

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026

katherine.nt.gov.au
08 8972 5500

KATHERINE
TOWN COUNCIL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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.

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this document may include the images of people who are deceased.



JAWOYN • DAGOMAN • WARDAMAN

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OUR VISION

Katherine is a place of opportunities. We celebrate diversity as we live, work, learn and grow together.

OUR MISSION

Together, we will work effectively today to shape our exceptional future tomorrows.

OUR VALUES

- Embrace diversity
- Foster a strong sense of community
- Show respect for people, the environment and culture.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Annual Report explains what Katherine Town Council delivered from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. It reports on our progress against the commitments in the 2025/2026 Municipal Plan and provides an account of Council's services, projects, finances and governance during the year.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)* and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* and *Guideline 6 – Annual Report*. It includes Council's audited financial statements and the information required to demonstrate how public funds and community assets have been managed.

The 2025/2026 financial year included a change of Council following the Northern Territory local government elections in August 2025. This report covers the work delivered across the full year and acknowledges the contribution of both the outgoing and incoming Councils.



1 OUR YEAR

A YEAR OF TRANSITION, RESILIENCE AND DELIVERY

The 2025/2026 financial year was a significant one for Katherine. A newly elected Mayor and Councillors took office in September 2025, bringing a fresh direction and a strong focus on listening to the community, understanding Council's financial position and getting the basics right.

It was also a year that tested Katherine's resilience. Flooding in March 2026 affected homes, businesses, roads and public places across the town. Council supported the response and recovery by restoring waste services, opening a temporary waste transfer station, coordinating verge collections for flood-damaged goods, replacing lost bins and helping the community begin the clean-up.

At the same time, Council delivered and progressed major projects. The redeveloped Katherine Aquatic Centre reopened to the community in November 2025, the Civic Centre refurbishment continued through its design phase, planning advanced for the Zimin Drive Shared Pathway, and Council secured $1.607 million to design a future regional sports, recreation and community precinct.

The year also marked the beginning of Katherine's Centenary celebrations. Council worked with the community-based Centenary Working Group and local organisations to develop a program that celebrates the town's history, people and community spirit.







MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

JOANNA HOLDEN



It has been an honour to serve as Mayor of Katherine since the Northern Territory Local Government elections in September 2025. While this Council has only been together for part of the reporting year, I'm proud of how quickly the elected members and Council staff came together to get on with the job. Our teamwork has helped us achieve a lot in a relatively short time.

It's been a busy year with plenty of challenges, but also a lot to be proud of. A real highlight was reopening the Katherine Aquatic Centre after its major refurbishment. It has been fantastic to see the community enjoying the upgraded facility. We also celebrated Katherine's Centenary with a memorable program of events that brought people together to celebrate our history, our community and everything that makes Katherine such a special place.

I'd like to thank our Acting Chief Executive Officer and all Council staff for the support and guidance they provided to the new Council throughout its first year. Their hard work, knowledge and commitment made the transition smooth. While operating for 10 months without a substantive CEO has been a challenge for Council, staff have continued to deliver services and projects for our community.
The flooding in March tested our community and our organisation. Council staff responded quickly, working alongside volunteers and the Northern Territory Government to clean up affected areas, remove waste and repair important community infrastructure, including the Katherine Showgrounds in time for the Katherine Show.

We also continued to support our community in practical ways through initiatives like the Welcome to the Wet campaign, including our first Native Plant Giveaway and the temporary waiver of waste disposal fees to help residents prepare for the wet season.

Like every council, we've also had to work through some significant challenges this year, including flood damage to Council infrastructure, the ongoing Fair Work Australia matter relating to staff performance payments and a substantial increase in Council's waste management liability.

I'd like to thank my fellow elected members, our Council staff, volunteers, community groups, local businesses and government partners for everything you've contributed over the past year. Katherine is a great place because people genuinely care about our community, and I look forward to continuing that work together.

Mayor Joanna Holden
Katherine Town Council

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CASEY ANDERSON



This reporting period marked a significant transition for Council, with the election of a new Mayor and Councillors following the 2025 Local Government elections. I acknowledge the contributions of both outgoing and incoming Elected Members, whose commitment to serving the community continues to shape Katherine's future.

In March, flooding significantly impacted our community. Many Council staff were managing the effects on their own homes while continuing to deliver essential services and support recovery efforts. Working with the Northern Territory Government, contractors, volunteers and community organisations, Council helped restore services, repair damaged infrastructure and support community recovery. This response highlighted the strength of our partnerships and the resilience of the Katherine community. A key achievement was restoring the Katherine Showgrounds in time for major community events such as Territory Day, the Katherine Show and local rodeos, ensuring Katherine remained a destination for residents and visitors.

Alongside the flood recovery, Council progressed key operational priorities throughout the year. The Katherine Aquatic Centre officially opened with a community pool party event, and we delivered upgrades to local roads and essential infrastructure. We also continued engaging with residents on future planning initiatives and supported local organisations through grants, partnerships and fee waiver programs that strengthen community connections and contribute to Katherine's social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

The flood response showed what Council can achieve when our work is visible, but much of our progress happens quietly. This year prompted reflection on how we operate day-to-day, and we are strengthening our systems, processes and governance to better meet community expectations. We know we have more to do, and we are committed to steady, long-term improvement guided by community feedback.

As Katherine marks its 100-year centenary in 2026, this milestone provides an opportunity to pause, reset and realign our long-term direction. It is a reminder of our responsibility to plan for the next century by strengthening the link between strategic planning, service delivery, infrastructure needs and financial capacity.

With this renewed focus, we remain committed to careful planning, responsible financial management and targeted investment in essential infrastructure and community priorities to support Katherine's long-term sustainability.

I sincerely thank our staff for their dedication and professionalism. Their support during challenging times reflects the values at the core of our organisation. I also thank our Elected Members, partners, volunteers and the wider community for their ongoing support throughout the year.

When Council and community work together, we achieve far more than we could alone. While challenges will continue to arise, this year has demonstrated Katherine's ability to adapt, persevere and move forward with confidence. I am proud of what we have achieved together and optimistic about the opportunities ahead as we continue building a strong, connected and resilient future for Katherine.

Casey Anderson
Acting Chief Executive Officer

KATHERINE AT A GLANCE



Median age
33
years

25.5%
of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Non-Indigenous: 61.2%
Not stated: 13.2%

50+ Council staff

3600+
Rateable properties

Male population
51.6%

Female population
48.4%

***Source**: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census (LGA: Katherine, NT)*



2 OUR COUNCIL



COUNCIL'S ROLE

Local government is the level of government closest to the community, and much of Council's work is part of everyday life in Katherine.

Katherine Town Council is responsible for services and infrastructure that keep the town running. This includes maintaining local roads, managing waste, caring for parks and public spaces, supporting community facilities such as the library and aquatic centre, and helping ensure public health and safety standards are met.

Council also plans for Katherine's future by identifying infrastructure needs, supporting growth and advocating to the Northern Territory and Australian governments for funding and services that benefit the community.

Some issues raised with Council fall outside local government responsibilities, including policing, housing and major health services. In these cases, Council advocates on behalf of the community and works with the agencies responsible.

> **"LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS THE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT CLOSEST TO THE COMMUNITY, AND MUCH OF COUNCIL'S WORK IS PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE IN KATHERINE."**

HOW WE PLAN, DELIVER AND REPORT

Council operates within a planning and governance framework designed to make decisions transparent, accountable and financially responsible.

ELECTED MEMBERS SET THE DIRECTION, STAFF DELIVER THE WORK, AND COMMUNITY INPUT HELPS SHAPE PRIORITIES AND DECISIONS.



- The Katherine 2027 Strategic Plan sets the longer-term direction.
- The Municipal Plan and Budget set out what Council will deliver and how it will be funded each year.
- Operational plans and work programs guide day-to-day delivery.
- The Annual Report explains what was achieved and how Council performed.



THE 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS



The Northern Territory local government elections were held in August 2025, and the results for Katherine Town Council were formally declared on 8 September. Mayor Joanna Holden and Councillors Kathryn Whitehouse, Jim King, Mel Doyle, Toni Tapp Coutts, Kathy Glass and Anjali Palmer were sworn in on 23 September 2025.

The election brought an entirely new Council to Katherine. The first Ordinary Meeting of the 13th Katherine Town Council was held following the swearing-in ceremony, beginning a four-year term.

Photo: declaration of results, swearing-in ceremony and first Council meeting.









13TH TERM OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL



MAYOR JOANNA HOLDEN

Term: Elected 2025 to the 13th Katherine Town Council

0439 501 348
records@ktc.nt.gov.au

ATTENDED

Ordinary Meetings of Council: 10/10
Special Meetings of Council: 10/10
Advisory Committee, Assessment Panel & Working Group Meetings: 19
External Committee Meetings: 18
Community Engagements: 70
Council & Civic Events: 17
Elected Member Information Sessions (EMIS): 16/16
Professional Development: 5
External Delegate Meetings (LGANT General Meetings): 1



DEPUTY MAYOR
MEL DOYLE

Term: Elected 2025 to the 13th Katherine Town Council

ATTENDANCE

Ordinary Meetings of Council: 10/10

Special Meetings of Council: 10/10

Advisory Committee, Assessment Panel & Working Group Meetings: 4

External Delegate Meetings (LGANT General Meetings): 2

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagements: 17

Council & Civic Events: 18

GOVERNANCE

Elected Member Information Sessions (EMIS): 15/16

Professional Development: 4



COUNCILLOR
KATHRYN WHITEHOUSE

Term: Elected 2025 to the 13th Katherine Town Council

ATTENDANCE

Ordinary Meetings of Council: 9/10

Special Meetings of Council: 9/10

Advisory Committee, Assessment Panel & Working Group Meetings: 7

External Committee Meetings: 2

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

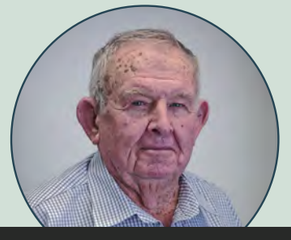
Community Engagements: 11

Council & Civic Events: 12

GOVERNANCE

Elected Member Information Sessions (EMIS): 14/16

Professional Development: 3



COUNCILLOR
JIM KING

Term: Elected 2025 to the 13th Katherine Town Council

ATTENDANCE

Ordinary Meetings of Council: 10/10

Special Meetings of Council: 9/10

Advisory Committee, Assessment Panel & Working Group Meetings: 7

External Committee Meetings: 2

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagements: 13

Council & Civic Events: 12

GOVERNANCE

Elected Member Information Sessions (EMIS): 14/16

Professional Development: 5



COUNCILLOR
TONI TAPP COUTTS

Term: Elected 2025 to the 13th Katherine Town Council

ATTENDANCE

Ordinary Meetings of Council: 9/10

Special Meetings of Council: 6/10

Advisory Committee, Assessment Panel & Working Group Meetings: 5

External Committee Meetings: 0

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagements: 15

Council & Civic Events: 14

GOVERNANCE

Elected Member Information Sessions (EMIS): 15/16

Professional Development: 5



COUNCILLOR
KATHY GLASS

Term: Elected 2025 to the 13th Katherine Town Council

ATTENDANCE

Ordinary Meetings of Council: 9/10

Special Meetings of Council: 9/10

Advisory Committee, Assessment Panel & Working Group Meetings: 4

External Committee Meetings: 0

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

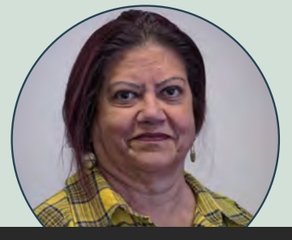
Community Engagements: 14

Council & Civic Events: 14

GOVERNANCE

Elected Member Information Sessions (EMIS): 15/16

Professional Development: 4



COUNCILLOR
ANJALI PALMER

Term: Elected 2025 to the 13th Katherine Town Council

ATTENDANCE

Ordinary Meetings of Council: 10/10

Special Meetings of Council: 9/10

Advisory Committee, Assessment Panel & Working Group Meetings: 7

External Committee Meetings (LGANT General Meetings): 1

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagements: 18

Council & Civic Events: 15

GOVERNANCE

Elected Member Information Sessions (EMIS): 16/16

Professional Development: 6

ELECTED MEMBER PORTFOLIOS



MAYOR JOANNA HOLDEN

INTERNAL
- Administrative Review Committee (Chair)
- Audit and Risk Management Committee
- International Day of People with Disability Awards Assessment Panel
- Christmas Light Judging Assessment Panel
- Centenary of Katherine 2026 Working Group

EXTERNAL
- LGANT Board
- Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct Ltd (KRCP)
- NT Grants Commission
- Nitmiluk National Park Board of Management
- Delegate LGANT GENERAL Meetings



DEPUTY MAYOR
MEL DOYLE

INTERNAL
- Community Grants Assessment Panel
- Citizen of the Year Assessment Panel
- Katherine Community Safety Action Group (co-chair)
- Christmas Light Judging Assessment Panel
- Centenary of Katherine 2026 Working Group

EXTERNAL
- Delegate for LGANT General Meetings



COUNCILLOR
KATHRYN WHITEHOUSE

INTERNAL
- Audit and Risk Management Committee
- Katherine Sportsground Advisory Committee
- Community Grants Assessment Panel
- Citizen of the Year Awards Assessment Panel
- International Day of People with Disability Awards Assessment Panel
- Christmas Light Judging Assessment Panel

EXTERNAL
- Katherine Division of the Development Consent Authority



COUNCILLOR
JIM KING

INTERNAL
- Administrative Review Committee
- Katherine Sportsground Advisory Committee (Chair)
- Katherine Showgrounds Advisory Committee

EXTERNAL
- Katherine Division of the Development Consent Authority
- Minister's Advisory Council for Senior Territorians (MACST)



COUNCILLOR
TONI TAPP COUTTS

INTERNAL
- Community Grants Assessment Panel
- International Day of People with Disability Awards Assessment Panel
- Centenary of Katherine 2026 Working Group

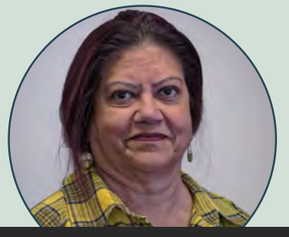
EXTERNAL
- Nil



COUNCILLOR
KATHY GLASS

INTERNAL
- Nil

EXTERNAL
- Nil



COUNCILLOR
ANJALI PALMER

INTERNAL
- Katherine Showgrounds Advisory Committee (Chair)
- Citizen of the Year Awards Assessment Panel
- Katherine Community Safety Action Group
- Audit and Risk Management Committee (Alternate member)

EXTERNAL
- Delegate for LGANT General Meeting

KEEPING OUR COMMITMENTS

	COMMITMENT	OUTCOME / PROGRESS (TO JUNE 2026)
MAYOR **JOANNA HOLDEN**	Provide free entry to the Katherine Aquatic Centre during December 2025 and January 2026.	Delivered following the opening of the redeveloped Aquatic Centre.
DEPUTY MAYOR **MEL DOYLE**	Establish a Business and Tourism Working Group.	Completed. Existing representative bodies and community mechanisms - particularly the re-establishment of the Chamber and its board - provide adequate avenues for engagement.
COUNCILLOR **ANJALI PALMER**	Establish the Katherine Community Safety Action Group (KCSAG).	Substantially delivered. Terms of Reference developed, Expressions of Interest called.
COUNCILLOR **TONI TAPP COUTTS**	Undertake a town signage audit and improve roundabout beautification.	Sign audit completed with improvements identified; beautification planning underway.
COUNCILLOR **KATHRYN WHITEHOUSE**	Partner with the Department of Corrections to support maintenance of public spaces.	Completed. Correctional work crews now assisting with maintenance and flood recovery activities.
COUNCILLOR **JIM KING**	Improve road safety through No Road Trains signage on Zimin Drive and Google Maps updates.	In progress, with approvals and coordination continuing.
COUNCILLOR **KATHY GLASS**	Review Waste Management Facility opening hours to help reduce illegal dumping.	A three-month trial commenced on 25 May 2026 and will run until 25 August 2026, following a Council decision on 24 February 2026 (OMC-2026-32). **Trial opening hours:** Monday to Sunday: 8:00am–4:00pm Public holidays: 8:00am–4:00pm Closed: Good Friday and Christmas Day

ACKNOWLEDGING THE 2021–2025 COUNCIL



The 2025/2026 financial year marked the transition between two elected Councils. Katherine Town Council acknowledges the service of the outgoing Council, whose members continued to lead and represent the community through July and August 2025 before the Local Government elections were declared 8th September 2025.

The outgoing Council comprised Mayor Lis Clark, Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn, and Councillors Madeleine Bower, Amanda Kingdon, Peter McDougall, Kerrie Mott and Jeremy Trembath.

During the final two months of their term, Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillors Bower, Kingdon, McDougall and Mott each attended two Ordinary Meetings of Council, while Councillor Jeremy Trembath attended one Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn and Councillors Bower, McDougall, Mott and Trembath also attended one Special Meeting of Council.

OUR ORGANISATION

Council delivers services through several key areas. Each has a distinct role, but all contribute to delivering services to the community and supporting the day-to-day running of the organisation.

OUR PEOPLE

Council's workforce delivers services across a wide range of professional, technical, operational and community-facing roles. During a year of significant change, staff maintained normal services while supporting the new Council, relocating offices, progressing major projects and responding to the March floods.

KATHERINE COMMUNITY

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
- SPORTSGROUNDS
- SHOWGROUNDS
- ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

WORKING GROUPS

- CENTENARY OF KATHERINE 2026
- WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW
- KATHERINE COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION GROUP

ELECTED MEMBERS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

OFFICE OF THE CEO

Supports good governance and ensures Council operates efficiently, ethically and in line with community priorities. The team supports Elected Members, meetings, committees, planning, reporting, risk and advocacy.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Provides frontline services through Customer Service, the Katherine Public Library and the Visitor Information Centre.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Keeps the community informed and supports communication, marketing, events and community consultation.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Plans, delivers and manages roads, drainage, public facilities, recreation spaces, the cemetery and capital projects.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Builds a capable, engaged and resilient workforce through human resources, payroll, training, wellbeing and workplace health and safety.

FINANCE

Manages budgeting, reporting, accounts, grants and financial operations so public funds are managed responsibly.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Delivers waste, regulatory services, public-space maintenance, airport services, and support for emergency management.

CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

Supports Council through ICT, rates, records, insurance, legal services, facility leasing and by-laws.



3 HIGHLIGHTS
2025/2026 in numbers

Animal Management

141 dogs impounded

259 Lifetime pet registrations on record

727 pets registered

KATHERINE CIVIL AIRPORT

a total of **7128** aircraft movements at the terminal

Katherine Library

19,556 visitors

696 School holiday program participants

3218 Free Wi-Fi sessions

WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

21,942 Tonnes
Received at the Waste Management Facility

2851 tonnes of kerbside rubbish

5175 tonnes of scrap metal

410 tonnes of commercial green waste

4 tonnes of cardboard recycled

FLOOD RECOVERY

1637 tonnes
Flood-damaged waste collected over just two weeks at the temporary waste transfer station

Customer Service

1627
Customer service requests received

93%
Requests resolved during the year

Katherine Visitor Information Centre (Vic)

5694 Bookings processed

$772,307 Value of bookings

$62,259
in hire subsidies supporting the community

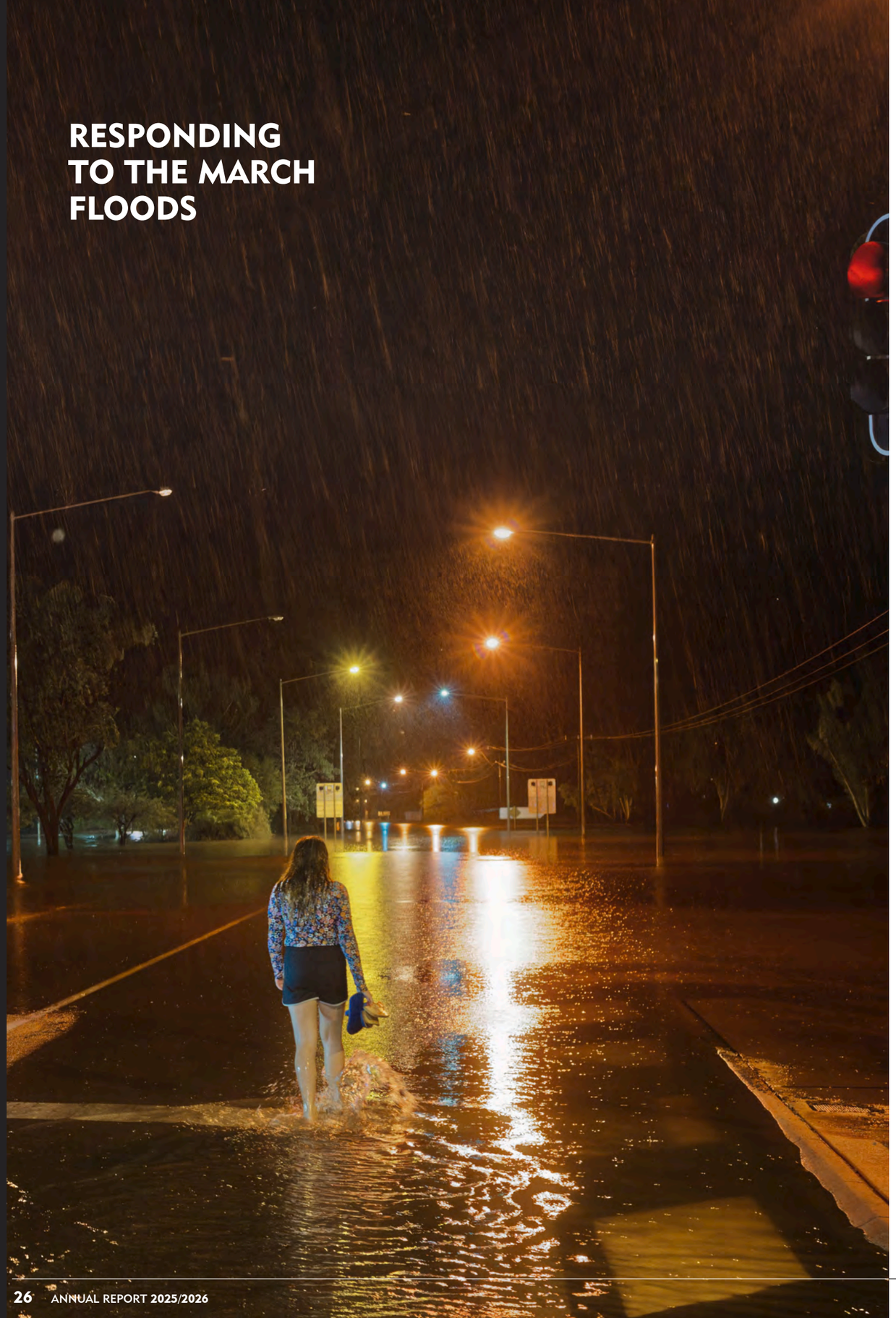
8
Major community consultation projects

293
property ownership transfers processed

31
Community events participated in and/or organised

117
households switched to EzyBill

RESPONDING TO THE MARCH FLOODS





OUR FOCUS WAS TO GET ESSENTIAL SERVICES BACK UP AND RUNNING AND HELP THE COMMUNITY RECOVER.







When floodwaters swept through Katherine in March 2026, they left behind more than damaged roads, parks and public spaces. Council's waste facility was inundated; community infrastructure was affected and many of the services people rely on every day were disrupted.

Our focus was to get essential services back up and running and help the community recover.

Working alongside the Northern Territory Government, contractors, volunteers and local organisations, Council quickly restored waste services, supported community clean-up efforts and began repairing damaged facilities. Every team played a part.

Just four months later, many of Council's facilities had reopened and the community was once again coming together for events like Territory Day and the Katherine Show. They were important milestones that showed how far Katherine had come in a short time.

The flood tested our community, but it also showed what can be achieved when people work together. Council is proud to have played its part in helping Katherine recover.

KATHERINE AQUATIC CENTRE – A NEW ERA FOR COMMUNITY RECREATION

The redeveloped Katherine Aquatic Centre reached practical completion and reopened to the public on 29 November 2025. The project transformed the former 43-year-old facility into a modern, accessible and family-friendly centre with upgraded pools, improved shade and public areas, a splash zone and a Changing Places facility. The Y Northern Territory was appointed to manage the centre, with local company HD Pumps providing specialist maintenance services. The project was supported by $10 million from the Australian Government, $162,000 for the Changing Places facility, $300,000 from the Northern Territory Government for design, and approximately $2 million from Katherine Town Council for additional features, project management and delivery.

A NEW COUNCIL FOR KATHERINE

The 2025 Northern Territory local government elections brought an entirely new Council to Katherine. Results were declared on 8 September and Mayor Joanna Holden and six Councillors were sworn in on 23 September. The new Council began its term by listening to the community, reviewing key decisions and setting a practical direction focused on core services, responsible financial management and the long-term needs of the town.





CIVIC CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

Council services relocated to 29 Crawford Street in September 2025 to allow the Civic Centre refurbishment to proceed. The project will address safety and compliance issues, replace the roof, improve accessibility, upgrade lighting, ventilation and technology, and create more functional spaces for customer service, staff and community use. The design and construct contract was awarded to Katherine-based Northern Building and Property Services for $4.582 million.



PLANNING THE FUTURE SPORTS AND RECREATION PRECINCT

Council secured $1,607,918 through the Australian Government's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program to develop a masterplan and shovel-ready designs for a regional sports, recreation and community precinct. The planning will explore the future of the Henry Scott Recreation Centre and better connections between indoor sport, the Aquatic Centre and the wider 29-hectare sports ground. The precinct already attracts more than 240,000 visits each year.



ZIMIN DRIVE SHARED PATHWAY

Council continued design, stakeholder engagement and approval work for the planned 5.7-kilometre shared pathway along Zimin Drive. The pathway is intended to improve safety and connections for people walking and cycling between the Stuart Highway, residential areas and the Katherine River corridor. The design has now been finalised and submitted for the approvals needed before construction can begin. Once those approvals are in place, Council expects to call for construction tenders, with works planned to start before the 2026 wet season.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-LED EVENTS

Council also strengthened its commitment to community-led events by expanding its Community Grants Program during the Centenary year. An additional $40,000 was allocated to support community organisations, sporting clubs and not-for-profit groups to deliver events and activities celebrating Katherine's 100th birthday, alongside the annual Community Grants Program. The investment helped local organisations create their own opportunities for people to come together, ensuring the Centenary was celebrated across the whole community, not just through Council-run events.





LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY

The new Council continued to use Your Say Katherine, surveys, meetings and face-to-face engagement to understand community priorities. Major engagement during the year included the Visitor Information Centre proposal, waste management, the 2026–2027 Municipal Plan, the future sports and recreation precinct, Zimin Drive and the Community Safety Action Group.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE



Building a capable, supported and engaged workforce remained a key focus throughout 2025/2026, with significant progress made in strengthening Council's people management practices and organisational capability.

At 30 June 2026, Katherine Town Council employed 32 full time, 7 part time, and 11 casual people. During the year, Council welcomed 15 new employees across a range of operational and professional roles, while women represented 70 per cent of the workforce.

Council continued to modernise its workforce systems by restoring payroll through Xero, improving recruitment and onboarding processes, introducing a structured performance review program and progressing a new Enterprise Agreement.

Key positions were filled across the organisation, including a dedicated Workplace Health and Safety Officer, while significant improvements were made to Council's safety systems, workforce planning, reporting and employee development.

Together, these initiatives have strengthened governance, improved employee confidence and positioned Council to attract, develop and retain a capable workforce to deliver services for the Katherine community.

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Council's Works team responded to significant challenges throughout 2025/2026 while continuing to maintain essential infrastructure and public spaces across the municipality.

The 2026 flood caused damage to approximately 5.9 kilometres of road network across 16 roads, requiring ongoing assessment, repairs and recovery planning.

Council also continued to address the high cost of vandalism, with more than $400,000 spent repairing damaged fencing, buildings, irrigation systems and public facilities, as well as removing graffiti and cleaning vandalised amenities.

To support the delivery of works across the municipality, Council engaged more than 100 contractors during the year, with around 70 per cent based in, or employing people from, the Big Rivers region—supporting local businesses while delivering projects and maintenance.

Council also invested approximately $78,000 in irrigation and bore repairs and maintenance to help keep parks, sporting facilities and public open spaces operating throughout the year.

Despite the impacts of flooding, vandalism and ongoing maintenance demands, Council's Works team continued to deliver essential services and maintain the infrastructure relied upon by the Katherine community.



KATHERINE'S CENTENARY

In 2026, Katherine marked 100 years since the town was officially gazetted. Council worked with the Centenary Working Group and community partners to deliver a program of events and activities that recognised local history and brought the community together.



















BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER



Bringing people together has always been an important part of Council's role, and this year was no exception. In 2025/2026, Council organised or participated in 31 community events, more than double the number delivered in the previous year as Katherine celebrated its Centenary.

The year featured everything from Australia Day, Clean Up Katherine and school holiday activities to Territory Day, the Katherine Show and the Centenary celebrations. These events gave residents and visitors opportunities to celebrate, connect, learn and enjoy everything that makes Katherine a great place to live.

The Centenary was a particular highlight, with a program of events that celebrated Katherine's rich history, recognised the people who have shaped our community and created lasting memories for future generations. The celebrations brought together local organisations, businesses, volunteers and the wider community, showcasing the strong community spirit that defines Katherine.

Council also continued to support community groups by promoting local events, providing event planning assistance and working with organisations to deliver activities that encourage participation, wellbeing and community pride. Together, these events strengthened community connections and contributed to a vibrant and welcoming Katherine.



4 OUR PERFORMANCE

THE WORK WE DELIVERED IN 2025/26 WAS GUIDED BY THE PRIORITIES SET OUT IN THE KATHERINE 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN:

STRONG LEADERSHIP
Ensuring transparent, accountable decision-making and responsive services

COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES
Supporting safe, inclusive spaces and everyday services people rely on

SPORTS AND CIVIC EVENTS
Maintaining and improving facilities that bring the community together

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE
Recognising and supporting Katherine's identity, history and culture

BIG RIVERS INTER-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION
Working with other levels of government to deliver outcomes for the region

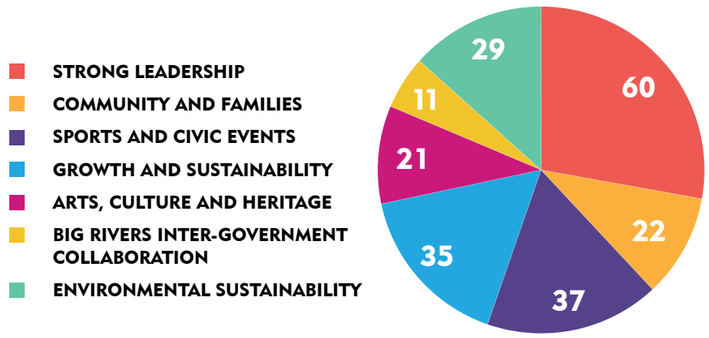
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
Managing resources responsibly and protecting the natural environment

GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY
Planning for infrastructure, economic development and future needs

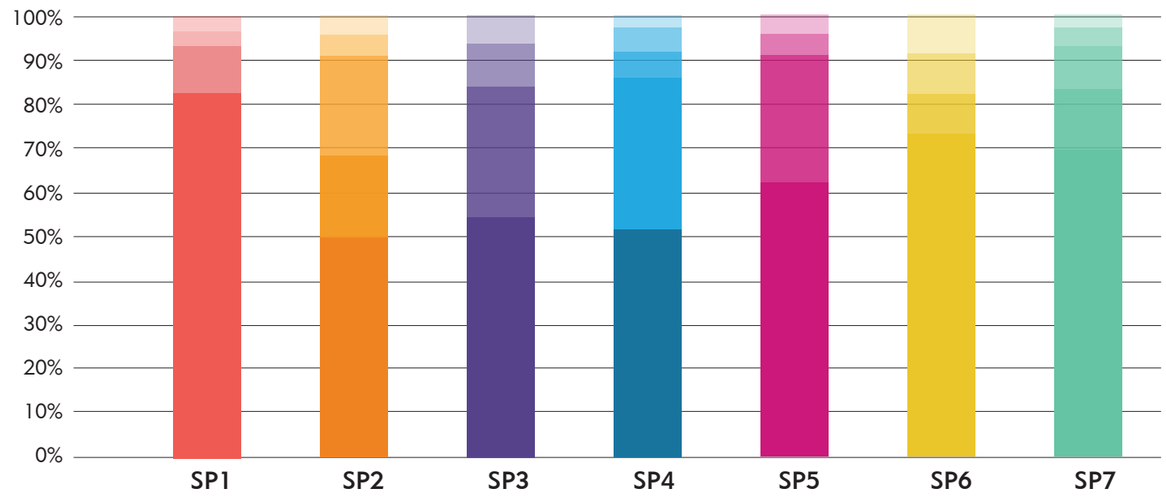
Each year, the Municipal Plan sets out what Council will deliver for the community, guided by the seven priorities of the Katherine 2027 Strategic Plan. This section reports on how we went.

The graphs give a snapshot of the year's work program. They show how the deliverables were spread across the strategic priorities and where each one stood at 30 June 2026: completed, in progress, deferred, not started or not completed. The tables in the following Deliverable track each deliverable in detail, with explanatory notes on progress and any work delayed or carried over into 2026–27.

DELIVERABLES BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY

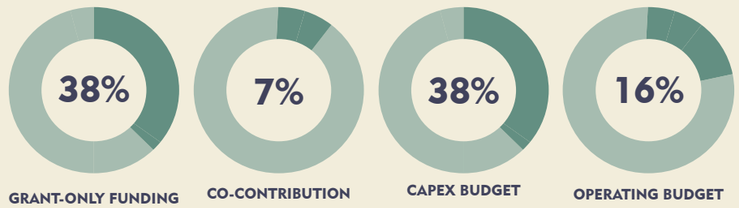


PROGRESS OF 2025/2026 DELIVERABLES



	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7
Not Delivered						1	
Not Completed	2	1	2	1	1		1
Not Started	2	1	4	2	1	1	1
Deferred		5		2			3
In Progress	6	4	11	12	6	1	4
Completed	50	11	20	18	13	8	20

DELIVERABLES BY FUNDING SOURCE



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.

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.1.1.1	**Report on Elected Member activities each month**	• Number of reported activities	• Elected Member activities were reported at each Ordinary Council Meeting, providing transparency about their participation in Council and community activities. Further details are provided in the Elected Members section.	Completed
1.1.1.2	**Organise Council meetings and special meetings**	• Number of meetings held	• Council held 12 Ordinary Meetings and 11 Special Meetings during the reporting period.	Completed
1.1.1.3	**Organise Elected Member information sessions**	• Number of Elected Member information sessions held • Total attendance by Elected Members	• Council held 16 Elected Member Information Sessions. Attendance is reported in the Elected Members section.	Completed
1.1.1.4	**Election campaign**	• Number of campaigns held	• Council delivered one campaign supporting the 2025 NT Local Government Election.	Completed
1.1.1.5	**Facilitate Induction program for newly Elected Members**	• Number of induction programs held	• Five induction and governance training programs were delivered following the 2025 Local Government Election.	Completed
1.1.1.6	**Provide Elected Members with professional development and training**	• Elected Member attend at least two professional development sessions • Elected Member survey undertaken • Number of Elected members attendance at LGANT Symposium's	• Elected Members completed one mandatory training program comprising six modules, one ICAC information session and one DHLGCD governance training program comprising five modules. Attendance at additional professional development is reported in the Elected Members section.	Completed
1.1.1.7	**Award Annual Perpetual Leadership Trophies for Katherine Schools**	• Number of trophies awarded • Number of participating schools	• Leadership trophies were awarded to students from eight Katherine schools, with 11 schools participating.	Completed
1.1.1.8	**Elected Members are supported in their role**	• 100% of Elected Members feel supported in their role	• All Elected Members in the 13th Council were supported through induction, governance training, workshops, briefings, new governance resources and a dedicated Governance Officer.	Completed

1.1.2 Ensure strong internal governance with updated policies and procedures in place

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.1.2.1	Workplace policies and Council By-Laws are reviewed regularly	• 100% of policies up-to-date	• Council reviewed 41 policies during the reporting period. • Five policies were rescinded following a policy review, with their content incorporated into other existing policies to eliminate duplication and improve the efficiency and consistency of the policy framework.	Completed
1.1.2.2	Ensure compliance with local government legislation	• Number of compliance issues raised	• Council completed the 2023–24 compliance review and continued to monitor legislative compliance throughout the year. Of 24 annual legislative requirements, 14 were met on time, eight were completed after the due date, and two were not applicable	Completed
1.1.2.3	Ensure compliance with other legislation applicable to Council	• Number of compliance issues raised	• Three compliance matters were identified and managed through the appropriate regulatory and organisational processes, including two incidents relating to Environment Protection Licence 298-03 and one employment remuneration matter.	Completed
1.1.2.4	Encourage presentations to Council on issues affecting the community	• Number of presentations	• Council welcomed 11 presentations from external organisations and community representatives on matters of interest to the Katherine community.	Completed

1.1.3 Improve transparency around issues affecting the community

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.1.3.1	**Maintain active membership on reference groups formed to deal with issues affecting the community**	• Number of reference groups in which Council participates	• Council maintained representation on seven external boards, committees and advisory groups, strengthening advocacy and partnerships on matters affecting Katherine and the Big Rivers region. Details are provided in the Elected Members section.	Completed
1.1.3.2	**Encourage and educate the community about the services that are provided by Council**	• Number of media releases	• 36 media releases were distributed and shared on the corporate website	Completed
1.1.3.3	**Host Pop Up Council information booths**	• Three (3) Pop Up Council information booths hosted • Number of people engaged at the Pop Up events	• Council hosted five Pop Up Council information booths during 2025/2026, providing opportunities to engage directly with a diverse cross-section of the Katherine community, including seniors, RAAF Base Tindal personnel and young people.	Completed
1.1.3.4	**Enhance distribution of information regarding council rates and charges**	• Complete a Ratepayer's Information Handbook	• Council improved communication about rates and charges through updated information resources, online content and targeted community communications, making it easier for ratepayers to understand their obligations and available services.	Completed
1.1.3.5	**Implement a rates calculator tool on Council's website**	• Rates calculator tool operational on Council's website • Number of page visits to the rates calculator tool • At least 50% positive feedback on rates calculator tool	• Rates calculator implemented for the public consultation period for the 2026/2027 delivery.	Completed
1.1.3.6	**Increase social media engagement**	• Total social media reach • Number of Council posts • Number of corporate platforms used • Number of comments and 'likes' by users • Number of subscribers / followers	• Social media engagement increased by 72% in the reporting period, 7919 followers, which is an increase of 39.4% on previous year, and shared 582 posts on Facebook and Instagram.	Completed
1.1.3.7	**Incorporate email campaigns to promote Council's educational initiatives**	• Number of email campaigns • Number of email subscribers	• Regular Mailchimp email campaigns were used to promote Council projects, services, consultations, events and community initiatives, helping keep residents informed and encouraging participation.	Completed
1.1.3.8	**Re-establish the bi-monthly community newsletter**	• Number of distributed newsletters	• Council distributed three e-newsletters, providing residents with regular updates on Council news, projects, events and community initiatives.	Completed
1.1.3.9	**Communicate the outcomes of council meetings by implementing post council meeting video briefings**	• Total social media reach	• Post-Council meeting video briefings were introduced to improve transparency by providing timely, accessible summaries of Council decisions and key outcomes, reaching 7919 followers	Completed

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

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.1.4.1	Support Elected Members to participate in community engagement forums	• Number of EM activities that relate to community engagement	• Refer to Elected members section	Completed
1.1.4.2	Use Your Say Katherine to inform and gather feedback on council projects and activities	• Number of aware visitors • Number of informed visitors • Number of engaged visitors • Number of projects and activities on Your Say Katherine	• Eight projects were published on Your Say Katherine, attracting 6,787 visitors. A total of 292 people contributed through questions, ideas or survey responses, and 81 registered on the platform.	Completed
1.1.4.3	Embed stakeholder engagement in infrastructure project management processes	• Number of fit-for-purpose templates in use • Number of stakeholder engagement activities undertaken • A Stakeholder Management Plan is created with each project	• Stakeholder engagement plans on standardised templates are included in project planning	Completed
1.1.4.4	Conduct stakeholder engagement training for staff	• Number of sessions held • Number of participants	• Two stakeholder engagement training sessions were held for staff and elected members.	Completed

1.2.1 Foster strong relationships with the Northern Territory and federal governments to ensure coordination and support for economic development initiatives affecting Katherine at the local level and in the Big Rivers region

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.2.1.1	**Advance economic development within Katherine and the Big Rivers region**	• Number of Council's projects supported by the NTG Rebuilding the Economy Strategy		Not Started
1.2.2.1	**Membership on external committees involved with community issues**	• Number of reference group memberships	• Council's external reference group memberships are reported in the Elected Members section.	Completed
1.2.2.2	**Improve compliance with Terms of References (ToRs) for Council's advisory committees**	• Total ToR-compliant meetings	• Ten meetings were conducted in accordance with their Terms of Reference: four Audit and Risk Management Committee meetings, one Administrative Review Committee meeting and five Katherine Centenary Advisory Committee meetings.	Completed
1.2.2.3	**Investigate options for increasing participation of user groups on committees**	• Number of participating user groups • Number of quorum-attained meetings	• Council engaged with the community through established communication channels and targeted working groups, including the Centenary, Community Safety and Waste Management working groups.	Completed
1.2.2.4	**Membership with Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)**	• Number of services utilised from membership	• Council used its LGANT membership for sector support and advocacy, and accessed Local Buy procurement arrangements.	Completed
1.2.3.1	**Identify partnership opportunities**	• Number of Chamber of Commerce meetings attended		Completed

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

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.3.2.1	Implement Council's Communications and Engagement Strategy	• Number of actions implemented as per the Communication and Engagement Plan	• Council implemented its Communications and Engagement Strategy, strengthening community engagement through improved communication channels, targeted consultation and increased opportunities for residents to participate in Council decision-making.	Completed
1.3.2.2	Provide Elected Member communication training	• Total attendance by Elected Members • Number of training sessions held	• Elected Members participated in communication training to strengthen community engagement, media awareness and confidence in representing Council.	Completed

1.3.3 Identify a number of tools to ensure our engagement is broad, inclusive and accessible to our diverse community

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.3.3.1	**Undertake communication preference tools survey and implement findings**	• Findings implemented • Total number of feedback provided by the community	• Council surveyed community communication preferences and implemented findings, including increased use of email communications. There were 56 responses.	Completed
1.3.3.2	**Redevelop Council's website**	• Website traffic increased compared to the previous website version	• Council launched a redeveloped website with improved navigation, accessibility and access to information, making it easier for residents to find Council services, projects and news.	Completed
1.3.3.3	**Enhance the customer request experience utilising new functionality on Snap Send Solve**	• Number of Snap Send Solve Requests submitted • Number of requests closed or reassigned • Number of meetings held with Snap Send Solve	• 2025/2026 Award Winners "Snapper Choice" and "Top Solver (2nd place)" Award to KTC by public vote.	Completed
1.3.3.4	**Grow the online Cemetery Search database**	• Number of headstones and plaques with photos on the website	• Thirty-five headstone and plaque records with photographs were added to the online Cemetery Search database.	Completed
1.3.3.5	**Improve awareness of and continually update Know Your Council Katherine and Katherine Life**	• Number of page visits • Update database quarterly	• Council trialled Municipal Plan reporting through the Know Your Council platform. The trial informed system development for 2026–27, but the reporting function was not fully implemented.	Completed
1.3.3.6	**Mobile engagement kiosk trial**	• Number of kiosk uses during trial • 20% increase in engagement	• Mobile engagement kiosks were used at Municipal Plan consultation activities, community events and other engagements to promote Your Say Katherine, EzyBill and Council fees and charges. Usage and engagement figures were not recorded.	Completed
1.3.3.7	**Increase online payments**	• Number of online payments	• Two campaigns were held to promote online rate payments	Completed

1.4.1 Continually improve services and our tourism offerings

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.4.1.1	Partner with Tourism Top End (TTE) and the Top End Visitor Information Centre	• Current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place • Number of collaborative outcomes	• Strengthened partnerships with Tourism Top End through familiarisation exchanges to support regional collaboration and promote Katherine.	Completed
1.4.1.2	Enhance tourism offerings in the off season	• Number of tourism offerings in the off season • 5% bookings increase from previous off season	• While the development of off-season tourism products is not a direct Council responsibility, Council will continue to support local tourism operators who provide off-season experiences through promotion, advocacy, and collaboration. This includes assisting with marketing opportunities, encouraging partnerships, and advocating for initiatives that strengthen Katherine's year-round visitor economy.	Not Completed
1.4.1.3	Encourage uptake in tourism memberships	• Number of tourism memberships	• We support Tourism Top Ends memberships by encouraging new and existing operators to become or continue being members.	Not Completed
1.4.1.4	Active participation and completion of agreed actions as part of the Big Rivers Region Destination Management Plan implementation team	• Number of meetings attended	• Attended meetings scheduled	Completed

1.4.3 Enhance customer experiences at our Visitor Information Centre

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.4.3.1	Implement and promote the new Visit Katherine website	• Visit Katherine website upgrade complete Number of website visits	• New website developed and launched in July 2026	Completed
1.4.3.2	Enhance the Katherine Visitor Information Centre facilities	• Number of improvements made to the Katherine Visitor Information Centre	• Completed five significant improvements to the Visitor Information Centre, enhancing presentation, accessibility and visitor experience.	Completed
1.4.3.3	Deliver visitor experiences for the Centenary of Katherine 2026	• At least three (3) experiences delivered	• Delivered five visitor experiences as part of the Centenary of Katherine 2026 program, celebrating the town's history, culture and community.	Completed

1.5.1 Collaborate with all three levels of government

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.5.1.1	Advocate for the long term strategic financial sustainability	• Number of advocacy occurrences	• Council advocated through LGANT sector submissions on waste, electricity and proposed legislative and regulatory changes.	Completed
1.5.1.2	Provision services and negotiate further extension of funding for the Binjari community	• Binjari Local Government services delivered	• Local Government services continued to be delivered in Binjari, including community management, waste collection, mowing, verge maintenance, firebreaks, weed control, irrigation repairs and roadside slashing. Four community events were delivered, with discussions continuing with the NT Government on future funding arrangements.	Completed
1.5.1.3	Collect samples for the Mosquito Monitoring Program	• Mosquito samples and collection sheets submitted to Medical Entomology every two weeks	• Council continued its mosquito surveillance program, monitoring 11 sites across the municipality. Samples were collected twice monthly, analysed by NT Health, and no mosquito-borne viruses were detected during the reporting period.	Completed

1.5.2 Have a grants officer to seek and coordinate grant funding

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.5.2.1	Refine grants management processes	• Number of grants submitted • Number of grants acquitted within funding agreement terms	• Map end to end process and document every stage to identify duplicate steps, inconsistent assessment practices, simplify application process and requirements by using online portals • 29 Grants submitted	Completed
1.5.2.2	Reform the Council Community Grant Program	• Number of community grant applications • Utilisation of the Community Grant Program fund • 100% of funding allocation awarded	• Review of existing program undertaken by analysing historical funding allocations, identifying community groups whom have benefited and those underrepresented, review success rates. Align grants with council's strategic plan. Develop clear eligibility and assessment critieria, introduce tiered funding streams and simplify the application process. Strengthen governance and transparency by including conflict of interest controls such as independent assessment panels, councillor conflict declarations and publish reports to the public of successful applicants, funding amounts and project outcomes	In Progress
1.5.2.3	Provide community education on how to apply to the Council Community Grants Programs	• At least two (2) information sessions held	• Two information sessions were held to assist potential applicants understand the community grants program.	Completed
1.5.2.4	Implement the Centenary of Katherine 2026 Community Grants Program	• Number of community grant applications • Utilisation of the Community Grant Program fund • 100% of funding allocation awarded	• Successfully implemented the Centenary of Katherine 2026 Community Grants Program, supporting local initiatives that celebrate Katherine's history, community and culture.	Completed

1.5.3 Pursue grants for new and upgraded infrastructure and programs

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.5.3.1	Seek funding for services and projects outside of Council budget	• Number of successful grant applications Number of grant applications submitted	• 27 grants secured from 29 grant submissions, totalling $6,950,470	Completed
1.5.3.2	Refine Council's Project Management Process to support funding applications	• Number of fit-for-purpose templates in use • 100% of grant applications utilising the Project Toolkit templates • Percentage of successful applications • Percentage of successful applications that were successfully completed • Number of Funder feedback sessions with comments logged	• 93% of grant applications were successful.	Completed
1.5.3.3	Budget for Council contribution for funding applications	• Number of funding applications using Council's contribution fund • Value of Council contribution to funding applications	• Council committed $2,881,692 in co-contributions toward external funding applications.	In Progress

1.5.5 Set a prosperous tone to encourage private sector investment

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
1.5.5.1	Tailor information on Katherine Life	• Number of website visits	• Website data updated twice yearly	In Progress
1.5.5.2	Promote Katherine Life as a resource for people considering investing and living in Katherine	• Number of Katherine Life promotional activities undertaken	• Quick links incorporated on Katherine Town Council new homepage.	Not Started



COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES

Katherine's best asset are the people of Katherine. Katherine is and continues to be a great place to live, work and raise a family.

2.1.1 Enhance road safety around schools

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.1.1.1	Undertake road safety audit to assess the current traffic and safety concerns in school zones, and identify potential measures that can be put into place	• Complete road safety audit at two (2) more schools • Number of identified recommendations completed	• Casuarina Street, McFarlane and Katherine High School completed in 2024/25, work on Giles Street school zone planned for 2027/28 as part of potential R2R funding.	Deferred

2.1.2 Provide safe and accessible public amenities throughout Katherine

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.1.2.1	Assess the condition of public amenities throughout Katherine and implement remediation where required	• Number of remediated public amenities	• The Lindsay Street amenities upgrade was completed, and condition and accessibility assessments were undertaken for other public amenities.	Completed
2.1.2.2	Provision of accessible public amenities in line with town planning requirements and current standards	• Number of accessibility infrastructure projects undertaken • Number of new facilities • Percentage of facilities that are compliant with current standards	• Accessibility improvements were completed at the Katherine Aquatic Centre, including a Changing Places facility and improved wheelchair access. Compliance across all facilities is to be confirmed.	Completed

2.1.3 Improve street lighting for safety

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.1.3.1	Assess present condition of street lighting and develop and implement a program of work for improvement	• Number of streetlights assessed • Number of streetlights remediated • 5% reduction in community Snap Send Solve requests for streetlight repair	• Council processed and rectified 133 streetlighting requests. Snap Send Solve reports increased from 55 in 2024–25 to 93 in 2025/2026, rather than achieving the targeted 5% reduction.	Completed
2.1.3.2	Undertake a solar street lighting trial	• Number of solar street lights • Number of issues raised during trial	• This project moved to 2026/27 financial year due to budget constraints	Deferred
2.1.3.3	Drive sustainable energy infrastructure for all future developments	• Number of sustainable energy infrastructure upgrades		In Progress

2.1.4 Develop a laneway management policy

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.1.4.1	Refine implementation of Council's Laneway Management Policy	• Number of laneway closure trials • Number of requests for additional laneway closures	• The laneway closure trial was deferred to 2026–27 due to budget constraints. One additional closure request was received.	Deferred
2.1.4.2	Assess and finalise the current laneway closure trials	• Number of laneways progressed from trial	• Deferred to 2026-27 with budget	Deferred

2.2.1 Foster growth for a recreational precinct that connects sports, culture and recreation

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.2.1.1	Secure funding for the Katherine Sports Precinct expansion to include AFL field, Conference and Evacuation Centre, improved gym facilities and undercover sports courts	• Successful rPPP stream 1 application		Completed
2.2.1.2	Seek funding to progress the Katherine Showgrounds Masterplan	• Funding sourced	• Identified in the Infrastructure and Asset Master Plan to be delivered in 2027-28.	Deferred

2.2.2 Support business and community leaders in promoting Katherine's competitive attributes

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.2.2.1	Make resources and data available to business and community groups promoting Katherine as a venue	• Number of businesses and community groups supported		In Progress

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

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.2.3.1	Provide an up-to-date calendar of free and accessible community events that cater for our diverse community	• Number of events held		Completed
2.2.3.2	Implement online facilities booking system and make information publicly accessible	• Number of public bookings via the online booking system • Number of ongoing bookings • Number of casual bookings	• No budget confirmed therefore implementation of an online facilities booking system was not delivered. Project feasibility, market research and business case presented to Leadership Team.	Not Completed

2.3.1 Support diversity by ensuring our communication and engagement is inclusive and accessible to all members of the community

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.3.1.1	Ensure council information is available in public spaces and service hubs	• Results of the annual marketing channel survey	• Communications included sharing information on community noticeboards, Facebook groups, and council facilities.	Completed
2.3.1.2	Use NTG agencies and community groups to share council news and information via Katherine Chain	• Number of communications shared through Katherine Chain	• Council shared news and updates through the Katherine Chain network, including 36 media releases.	Completed
2.3.1.3	Ensure Council's website meets accessibility standards	• Website conforms with accessibility standards	• Accessibility improvements were incorporated into the Council website redevelopment.	Completed

2.3.2 Improve disability access in town

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.3.2.1	Ensure infrastructure and projects incorporate disability access	• Number of new projects and remediated infrastructure adhering to disability access building codes	• Accessibility improvements included the Changing Places facility and wheelchair-access aprons at the Aquatic Centre and the Liberty Swing.	Completed
2.3.2.2	Consult with disability advocates in project stakeholder engagement activities	• Number of relevant projects Council sought feedback from disability advocates on	• Accessibility requirements were assessed through building certification processes, and a specialist accessibility consultant was engaged for the Katherine Aquatic Centre upgrade.	Completed

2.3.3 Welcome and connect the Defence community with the Katherine community

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.3.3.1	Partner with Defence on key issues connecting the Katherine Community and RAAF Tindal	• Attend Welcome to Tindal Expo • Number of Defence representatives on advisory committees • Number of military commemorative services supported by Council		In Progress



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

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.4.1.1	Provide a range of youth focused, free and accessible community events and programs	• Number of events held • Number of participants	• Council worked with schools to incorporate young people's ideas into youth-focused programs. Council secured NT Government funding for free pool entry during school holiday periods and special pool events.	Completed

2.4.2 Provide a platform for youths to have a voice

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.4.2.1	Support external youth led and focused advocacy programs and events	• Number of youth led/ focused programs and events supported • Number of youth led/ focused programs and events funded	• Council worked with schools to incorporate young people's ideas into youth-focused programs.	In Progress

2.4.4 Participate in the Katherine Youth Advisory Group

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
2.4.4.1	Participate in community led Katherine Youth Interagency Committee (KYIC)	• Number of meetings attended		Not Started

SPORTS AND CIVIC EVENTS

Prioritising sports infrastructure, community events, and branding of Katherine as a vibrant community is important to improving the liveability and positive attributes of Katherine.

3.1.1 Hold events throughout the year that acknowledge themes that are important to our town and its residents, such as memorial days

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.1.1.1	Deliver a complete program of commemorative events as agreed in partnership with identified stakeholders	• Number of commemorative events held	• Council organised or participated in 31 community and commemorative events during the reporting period.	Completed
3.1.1.2	Implement overarching centenary theme into 2026 events	• Centenary theme developed and applied to marketing	• The Centenary theme was applied across major events, including the Centenary Sports Day, Street Parade and Territory Day celebrations.	Completed

3.1.2 Improve participation in user advisory groups and improve coordination of these groups on Council land

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.1.2.1	Consult with community reference groups on issues which affect them	• Number of advisory committee meetings complying with relevant Terms of Reference (ToRs)	• Council engaged working groups and community organisations in event planning. • Committee Meetings held: - 4 Audit and Risk Management Committee meetings - 1 Administrative Review Committee - 7 Centenary of Katherine 2026 Working Group	Completed
3.1.2.2	Work with all users to ensure maximum utilisation of facilities	• Number of user groups on advisory committees • Number of advisory committee attendances by user groups	• School holiday programs were delivered following the Katherine Aquatic Centre refurbishment.	Not Started

3.1.3 Develop key sporting infrastructure such as an all-weather/multipurpose sports arena

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.1.3.1	Incorporate indoor sports facilities in the design of the proposed Multipurpose Sports and Recreation Precinct	• Indoor sports courts incorporated in the proposed multipurpose sports and recreation hub	• Incorporated in tender documents	Completed

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

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.1.4.1	Funding for the Multipurpose Sports and Recreation Precinct which will include an AFL field, conference and evacuation centre, improved gym facilities and undercover sporting courts	• Successful rPPP stream 1 application	• Tender has been let for the design	Completed

3.2.1 Craft Katherine's personality and identity by playing to our strengths

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.2.1.1	Select imagery and key messaging for marketing communication material that promotes Katherine's points of difference	• Align with the Big Rivers Region Destination Management Plan		Completed
3.2.1.2	Source and commission updated digital assets (imagery, video footage, etc.)	• Number of digital assets in database	• Photo shoots were commissioned throughout the year using Katherine based photographers	Completed
3.2.1.3	Ensure consistent marketing and communication collateral reflect our brand	• Number of Council templates and forms compliant with our current corporate branding	• Graphic designers complied with the style guide	Completed

3.2.2 Capture Katherine's profile as a desirable travel destination for long and short stays

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.2.2.1	Develop and implement a Social Media Plan to promote Visit Katherine	• Increase booking value by 1% through Visit Katherine promotions	• A social media planner was engaged to create content for Visit Katherine social platforms	In Progress

3.2.3 Establish Katherine's presence through wayfinding signage

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.2.3.1	Upgrade signage to include centenary celebration theme	• Number of updated themed signage	• Temporary Centenary signage was commissioned and installed at corner of Pearce Street and Victoria Highway.	Completed
3.2.3.2	Implement interpretive signage in key locations	• Number of interpretive signage erected	• Two interpretive signs were installed at Roney Park and Maggie's Grave.	Completed

3.2.4 Collaborate with Tourism NT on its tourism strategy for the NT

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.2.4.1	Active participation and completion of agreed actions as part of the Big Rivers Region Destination Management Plan Implementation Team	• Number of meetings attended • Number of agreed actions delivered	• Formal participation has not commenced, however, Council represented Katherine at Tourism NT's July 2026 tourism brand consultation.	In Progress
3.2.4.2	Advocate for Centenary of Katherine 2026 to be incorporated into Tourism Top End marketing initiatives	• At least one Centenary of Katherine activity included in a Tourism Top End major marketing initiative	• At least one Centenary of Katherine activity was successfully included in a major Tourism Top End marketing initiative.	Completed

3.3.1 Investigate an accessible public bus on a continual loop to improve community mobility and access to key tourism points

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.3.1.1	Help facilitate the implementation of a bus service to key tourism destinations in partnership with a local provider	• Number of bus service bookings taken	• No bookings were taken because a local tourism bus service was not operating during the reporting period. Council will promote the service if established by a local operator.	In Progress
3.3.2.1	Finalise design and commence build of the Zimin Drive Shared Pathway	• 5.7kms of shared bicycle and pedestrian sealed pathway constructed		In Progress
3.3.2.2	Council endorse the Shared Pathway Strategy and undertake community consultation	• Completed Shared Pathways Strategy • Community consultation planned and initiated		Completed

3.3.3 Partner with Northern Territory Government to conduct a trial for new urban transport options

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.3.3.1	Advocate to the Northern Territory Government to deliver urban transport options	• Number of advocacy occurrences		Not Started

3.3.4 Make public toilets more accessible

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.3.4.1	Increase availability of accessible public toilets	• Two (2) toilets designed and erected		In Progress

3.3.5 Develop a parking strategy

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.3.5.1	Determine need, plan and develop more parking options in Katherine	• Parking Strategy document completed • Parking Strategy implemented • Number of parking options for caravans and RVs established		Not Started

3.4.1 Provide and maintain wayfinding signage

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.4.1.1	Implement RV and other wayfinding signage as required	• Number of updated wayfinding signage		Not Started

3.4.2 Support creating a vibrant CBD with updates to streets such as Railway Terrace and First Street

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.4.2.1	Review and implement the CBD Revitalisation Masterplan	• Number of infrastructure built as per the Masterplan	• Limited feasible projects remaining available Council land.	Completed

3.4.3 Enhance public spaces with placemaking and activation

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.4.3.1	Provide continually developing calendar of events	• Number of events held	• Council held 31 events were held across indoor and outdoor venues	Completed

3.4.4 Review shade and cooling potential of all facilities

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.4.4.1	Implement a tree data collection initiative within Katherine	• Number of community participation • Number of trees added to Council's database	• Council staff added 49 Trees to Data Base in 2025/2026	In Progress

3.4.5 Provide more drinking water access

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
3.4.5.1	Install cooled water bubblers in public spaces	• Number of new installations	• One new bubbler installed in Hot Springs Park	Completed

3.4.6 Explore expanding our public library to be a community hub that delivers community events and activities				
DELIVERABLE REF	**Municipal Plan Deliverable**	**Measures**	**Explanatory Note**	**Status**
3.4.6.1	Investigate options to relocate Katherine Public Library to improve accessibility and safety for all	• Successful rPPP stream 1 application	• Investigation into options to relocate the Katherine Public Library are continuing.	In Progress
3.4.6.2	Undertake library operations as per the funding agreement	• Achieve reporting and acquittal compliance	• Library operations were delivered in accordance with the funding agreement, with all required reporting and acquittals completed.	Completed

3.4.6 Explore expanding our public library to be a community hub that delivers community events and activities				
DELIVERABLE REF	**Municipal Plan Deliverable**	**Measures**	**Explanatory Note**	**Status**
3.4.6.3	Develop the library collection	• Increase library circulation by 10% • Achieve at least 18,000 items borrowed, returned, or renewed	• Library circulation impacted by flooding and service disruptions during 2026 and was subsequently down by 20% from the previous year. 14,376 items were borrowed during the 2026 year.	Completed
3.4.6.4	Increase community participation	• Increase annual library patronage by 15% • Achieve a target of 2,000 activity participants		In Progress
3.4.6.5	Partner with local organisations to enhance library services and programs	• At least three (3) local organisation partnerships established • Number of collaborative programs delivered • Number of participants	• Established partnerships with at least three local organisations and delivered collaborative programs, with participant numbers recorded.	Completed
3.4.6.6	Provide access to public computers and free public Wi-Fi	• Total computer usage time • Number of computer users • Total Wi-Fi usage • Number of times public Wi-Fi accessed	• Total computer usage time: 2,392 hours	Completed
3.4.6.7	Deliver library programs and events for our community	• Number of programs delivered • Number of events delivered • Total number of participants	• Number of computer users: 2,493, total Wi-Fi Usage: 113 days, 6 hours, 26 minutes and 2 seconds, number of times public Wi-Fi accessed: 3,152	In Progress
3.4.6.8	Young Territory Author Awards - Annual event	• Total entries received	• Outcomes were met because all planned activities were delivered, including regional recognition and a local presentation for the winner. Youth literacy promoted.	Completed



3.4.6 Explore expanding our public library to be a community hub that delivers community events and activities				
3.4.6.9	Themed book collection and donation drive	• Number of books collected, donated, and successfully distributed to community groups	• The Katherine Public Library Giving Tree distributed surplus donated books as gifts to local families experiencing hardship, with the number of books collected and distributed recorded.	Completed
3.4.6.10	Trial an exchange program with the Katherine District Hospital	• Trial undertaken • Number of library collection items provided • At least 80% positive feedback from hospital staff and patients received	• The Katherine District Hospital advised that this service would not be suitable.	Not Completed
3.4.6.11	Connect with local wellbeing services	• Number of partnerships established • Number of joint initiatives completed • At least 80% positive feedback from partner organisations	• Event held at the Katherine Hot Springs	In Progress
3.4.6.12	Digitise the newspaper collection	• Number of newspaper editions digitised • Frequency of online access	• The newspaper digitisation project commenced, but the proposal exceeded the available budget and did not proceed.	Not Completed

GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

Katherine must grow in a way that allows for sustained success. Infrastructure must be sustainable and support both expansion and liveability.



4.1.1 Develop a shared pathways strategy and potential projects

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.1.1.1	Deliver the Shared Pathway Strategy and Zimin Drive Shared Path Design	• 5.7kms of shared bicycle and pedestrian sealed pathway constructed • Completed Shared Pathways Strategy • Community consultation planned and initiated		Completed

4.1.2 Develop a project planning framework with hierarchy for shovel-ready projects

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.1.2.1	Introduce a feasibility review process to project planning framework	• Number of project proposals that have undergone a feasibility assessment before the start of the project		Completed
4.1.2.2	Audit infrastructure to identify locations requiring upgrades	• Number of audits undertaken of existing infrastructure • Number of upgrades identified through audit • Number of items listed as critical • Understanding of upgrade costs	• Internal Audit and Infrastructure map complete. All infrastructure assets listed and assessed.	Completed
4.1.2.3	Package of shovel ready projects that have supporting project toolkit documentation, to anticipate future funding opportunities	• Number of shovel ready projects	• Three projects were shovel-ready at 30 June 2026: Outback Outhouse Stage 2, Roundabout Beautification and the Waste Management Facility fit-out, which was funded for 2026–27.	Completed
4.1.2.4	Deliver new and upgraded infrastructure improvements	• Number of other infrastructure projects delivered	• Major projects delivered included the Lindsay Street amenities, Katherine Aquatic Centre and Animal Management Facility, together with smaller projects such as improvements to the Visitor Information Centre.	Completed
4.1.2.5	Deliver the Civic Centre Refurbishment	• 80% of project completed	• The project reached 15% completion against the 80% target due to contractor delays, flooding and delays in drawings and permits.	In Progress
4.1.2.6	Develop a RPT Apron proposal for upgrade at the Katherine Civil Airport	• Proposal complete (project plan to secure funding includes all costs to begin the works)		Completed
4.1.2.7	Install a machinery shed at the Waste Management Facility	• 100% completed		Completed
4.1.2.8	Complete Katherine Aquatic Centre Upgrade Stage 1	• 100% completed		Completed
4.1.2.9	Seek funding for Katherine Aquatic Centre Upgrade Stage 2	• Funding secured	• Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program surplus funding was available to fully fund the Katherine Aquatic Centre Stage 2 design, should Council decide to proceed.	Completed

4.1.3 Review Council's available land to consider potential utilisation opportunities

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.1.3.1	Undertake feasibility studies to determine the condition, limitations and opportunities for vacant council land	• Feasibility study completed		In Progress

4.1.4 Investigate an all-weather multipurpose facility

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.1.4.1	Design and develop an all-weather multipurpose facility pending RPPP funding success	• Successful rPPP stream 1 application	• Council's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program Stream 1 application was successful, with the funding agreement signed in May 2026.	Completed

4.2.1 Regularly update our workplace policies and procedures, and Council By-Laws

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.2.1.1	All policies and procedures are up-to-date	• 100% of policies up-to-date	• Reviewed 41 policies	Completed
4.2.1.2	Finalise review of the By-Laws	• By-law review complete	• The By-law review and public consultation were deferred to 2026–27 due to competing Council and drafting priorities.	Deferred
4.2.1.3	Finance policies and procedures are up-to-date and followed	• 100% of policies and procedures up-to-date • 0% of unapproved budgeted expenses	• Policies due for review were assessed, and gaps requiring new policies were identified. The percentage of current and unapproved expenditure results is to be confirmed.	In Progress
4.2.1.4	Educate the community regarding By-Laws	• Number of educational campaigns and initiatives promoting compliance with By-Laws	• Council delivered a range of community education initiatives promoting responsible pet ownership, seasonal preparedness and Council services through targeted campaigns, community events and Variable Message Sign messaging.	In Progress
4.2.1.5	Undertake By-Laws regulation	• Number of dogs impounded • Number of dogs returned to their owners or re-homed • Number of animal infringements issued • Total hours of regulatory patrols • Number of parking infringements issued • Number of verbal warnings given to drivers for parking related offences • Number of impounded vehicles • Total hours of parking patrols	• Council continued to deliver animal management and regulatory services, impounding 141 dogs, returning 44 dogs to their owners and rehoming 18 dogs. Regular regulatory and parking patrols were undertaken throughout the year to support community safety and compliance.	Completed

4.2.2 Keep up-to-date with workplace health and safety training and be safety conscious when carrying out tasks

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.2.2.1	Undertake WHS Audit to produce an Action Plan	• WHS audit completed Action Plan developed • 25% of actions completed	• WHS desktop audit completed. On-site audit still to be completed. Action plan to follow.	In Progress
4.2.2.2	Staff Wellness focus	• Ten staff wellness activities held • 20% staff participation in wellness activities	• Health insurance membership sign-up/Info Session delivered, active membership with EASA, Diphtheria and flu vaccincations delivered, support and assistance provided to staff after flood in March 2026.	In Progress

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

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.2.3.1	Digitise the Fees and Charges Schedule	• Fees and Charges Schedule digitisation complete • Number of page visits • Total Fees and Charges Schedule downloads	• The proposed digitisation of the Fees and Charges Schedule was not undertaken, as it was identified that maintaining the booklet format was the most appropriate approach to support equitable access for all users.	Not Completed

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

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.2.4.1	Develop the Audit and Risk Internal Audits Process	• Number of internal audits undertaken	• Completed 7 process reviews, resulting in identified and implemented process improvements.	Completed
4.2.4.2	Projects and initiatives undertake feasibility assessments prior to initiation and planning	• Number of business cases • Number of cost benefit analyses	• Project framework updated to include feasibility requirements for each project. Simple cost benefit analysis now completed as part of all project plans / business cases for each project	Completed
4.2.4.3	Comply with Council's procurement policy	• Number of Local Buy uses as a procurement method • Number of tenders issued • Number of requests for proposals issued • Number of conflicts of interest declared • 100% compliance with financial delegation limits	• Council used 16 Local Buy arrangements, issued 47 Requests for Quotes and seven Requests for Tender, and recorded 33 conflict-of-interest declarations and 41 annual returns of interest	Completed
4.2.4.4	Implement an asset management system	• Asset Management System implemented		Deferred
4.2.4.5	Deliver on the additional controls on the Corporate Risk Register	• Number of additional controls implemented	• Council implemented 45 additional controls during 2025/2026.	Completed
4.2.4.6	Prudent financial management for stronger returns for ratepayers	• Debtors reduced to 30 days • 0% of operating surplus and loss vs budget • Financial Current Ratio above 1.5	• Council developed a Long-Term Financial Plan to align budgets with strategic and operational priorities. Debtor days, budget variance and the current ratio are to be confirmed.	In Progress
4.2.4.7	Comply with financial legislative requirements	• Number of non-compliances • Number of internal controls • Number of integrity checks in a year	• Council monitored actual performance against the adopted budget, undertook budget reviews, maintained accounting and asset records, applied procurement controls and completed an independent audit. The number of non-compliances, controls and integrity checks is to be confirmed.	In Progress

4.3.1 Offer Council staff training and development opportunities

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.3.1.1	Training and development highlighted in annual review discussions, increased frequency of reviews with greater focus on career development	• 100% of reviews conducted • 100% of training hours recorded	• All scheduled reviews were completed.	In Progress

4.3.2 Celebrate our successes

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.3.2.1	Internal and external good news stories are regularly shared	• 30 good news stories shared in internal and/or external sources		In Progress
4.3.2.2	Council recognises achievements by submitting for awards	• Number of award submissions		In Progress
4.3.2.3	Implement years of service awards to recognise staff and increase staff retention	• Years of Service Awards program established • Formal exit interview process re-established - 70% of staff participate in exit interviews		Not Started

4.3.3 Provide the right conditions and right opportunities

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.3.3.1	Successful EBA negotiations	• New EBA formalised and enacted		In Progress

4.3.4 Enhance Katherine's liveability so that people want to live here

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.3.4.1	Strengthen workforce recruitment efforts by producing a Council recruitment video	• Video produced. • Number of views and shares of the video	• A staff-advocacy video was produced and shared as part of a new recruitment campaign, with 1770 views.	Completed

4.3.5 Support tertiary organisations in their workforce development offerings

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
4.3.5.1	Work with ISAAC NT to advocate on skill shortages	• 90% of work experience requests accepted		Not Started
4.3.5.2	Commence a trainee program partnering with GTNT and LGANT	• Two (2) traineeships offered • Two (2) traineeships completed	• A traineeship operated for part of 2025/2026 but ended before completion. Further traineeships were deferred due to budget constraints and will be reconsidered in the 2027–28 budget.	Completed



ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

We are proud to call Katherine home. We will promote and communicate our pride in Katherine with residents and visitors to attract people to our community and share Katherine's vibrancy.

5.1.1 Support the street art series and art organisations

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.1.1.1	Support community partners in the delivery of art installations and art related events	• Number of community partnerships • Number of art installations funded • Number of art related events supported		In Progress

5.1.2 Support development of an arts trail

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.1.2.1	Partner with stakeholders to support the development of an arts trail	• At least one (1) stage of the arts trail developed	• An internal market analysis was undertaken and decided that the budget required to develop an arts trail would be significant and not an option for delivery in 2025/2026.	Not Completed

5.1.3 Encourage knowledge of our art history, such as the Katherine Prize being the longest-running arts prize in the NT

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.1.3.1	Partner with identified stakeholders to deliver art, cultural, and historical based services and events	• Operational funding provided • Number of services and events delivered collaboratively		In Progress
5.1.3.2	Celebrate 50 years of the Katherine Prize	• Number of community participants • Katherine Prize 50th anniversary celebrated		Completed
5.1.3.3	Incorporate the winning Katherine Centenary Logo in marketing opportunities	• Number of times that the winning Katherine Centenary Logo was used in marketing materials		Completed

5.2.1 Include multicultural activities in our event planning

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.2.1.1	Provide an up-to-date calendar of free and accessible community events that cater for our diverse community	• Number of events held		Completed
5.2.1.2	Hold citizenship ceremonies	• Number of citizenship ceremonies held		Completed
5.2.1.3	Partner with and financially support the Katherine Multicultural Festival	• Operational funding provided		Completed

5.2.2 Support culturally-appropriate facilities

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.2.2.1	Take account of cultural considerations when designing and renovating Council facilities	• Number of Council's facilities that incorporate cultural considerations in their design		In Progress
5.2.2.2	Create bilingual signage	• Number of Council's signs that incorporate bilingual alternative wording	• 1 new bilingual sign installed at Roney Park (Welkum)	Completed

5.2.3 Support cultural training and Indigenous employment

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.2.3.1	Partner with Indigenous employment organisations and agencies to create training and employment opportunities within Council	• Twelve (12) Indigenous trainees and staff hired through employment organisations		In Progress

5.2.4 Support NAIDOC Week events

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.2.4.1	Support of the NAIDOC Committee and associated events through committee participation as requested, the provision of facility usage for events and event participation.	• Number of committee meetings attended by representative • Number of events supported		Completed

5.2.5 Celebrate culturally important days

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.2.5.1	Support and partner with identified stakeholders to hold events	• Number of events held	• Council waived fees and provided in-kind support for NAIDOC events.	Completed
5.2.5.2	Promote and support Indigenous heritage within the Centenary celebrations	• Incorporate Indigenous-led content or partnerships in at least three (3) Centenary events or initiatives	• Council collaborated with NAIDOC organisers to incorporate Indigenous-led content into Centenary activities. The number of initiatives is to be confirmed.	In Progress

5.2.6 Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.2.6.1	Implement the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)	• RAP complete		In Progress

5.3.1 Support the restoration and promotion of Katherine's historical sites

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.3.1.1	Partner with community groups to restore and promote Katherine's historic sites	• Number of historic site community group partnerships • Number of historic sites supported through restoration and promotion		Completed

5.3.2 Create opportunities and partnerships to develop the arts culture and heritage sector

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.3.2.1	Provide operational support to Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre	• Operational funding provided	• Council paid the partnership contribution, maintained its membership and hired the venue for Council meetings and civic and community events.	Completed
5.3.2.2	Provide funding and associated prize money for the annual Katherine Prize event	• Funding provided		Completed
5.3.2.3	Council to take carriage of the Katherine Museums' Operations	• Compliance with Historical Society agreement • Number of visitors • Café is operational • Number of asset upgrades and repairs	• Council did not assume operation of the Katherine Museum during the reporting period. However, the externally funded accessibility and visitor-experience project was completed, including accessible pathways, protective fencing and improvements to movement and heritage displays.	Completed

5.3.3 Increase participation at cultural facilities and help facilitate events

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.3.3.1	Celebrate the Centenary of Katherine	• Number of events supported • Number of diverse events	• Council coordinated three major events and partnered in nine with other organisations.	Completed

5.3.4 Capture opportunities for collaborative marketing plans with other sectors

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
5.3.4.1	Identify co-marketing opportunities through reference groups	• Number of co-marketing opportunities supported	• Nine	Not Started



BIG RIVERS INTER-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION

Council will lead regional collaboration. Collaboration will better assist the region to both address challenges and strengthen connection between people and resources available to the region.

6.1.1 Collaborate with the Big Rivers regional councils

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
6.1.1.1	Partner with Roper Gulf Regional Council and Victoria Daly Regional Council	• Number of collaborative outcomes	• Council achieved four collaborative outcomes with Victoria Daly Regional Council, including shared facilities, venue hire and knowledge sharing. A planned International Women's Day collaboration was cancelled due to the March 2026 flood.	Completed

6.1.2 Highlight Katherine's role as a central hub in the Territory, providing services to the broader neighbouring regions

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
6.1.2.1	Seek infrastructure funding to enable Katherine's capacity to host regional events and conferences	• Number of grants sought focused on event infrastructure development • Number of central activities held in Katherine on behalf of the Big Rivers region		In Progress
6.1.2.2	Consult with identified stakeholders to develop a new Airport Masterplan to meet future regional needs	• Number of workshops and consultation sessions with stakeholders	• This project was put on hold after initial consultations were held.	Completed
6.1.2.3	Incorporate key messaging about Katherine's identity as a service hub to the Big Rivers region in presentations and communications	• Number of key messages that identify Katherine as a service hub to the Big Rivers region		Completed

6.1.3 Investigate a regional waste management facility hub

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
6.1.3.1	Advocate and investigate partnerships for regional waste management	• Number of partnerships investigated	• Council discussed waste charges with LGANT as one potential partnership opportunity. The number of partnerships investigated is to be confirmed.	Completed



6.2.1 Work in partnership with the Big Rivers regional councils on primary issues affecting the region

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
6.2.1.1	Membership on Big Rivers Region of Councils (BRROC)	• Number of BRROC meetings • Number of issues raised through BRROC	• BRROC not active	Not Delivered

6.2.3 Work with NTG on its Big Rivers Regional Economic Growth Plan

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
6.2.3.1	Maintain partnership with NTG towards economic development within Katherine and the Big Rivers region	• Number of economic development outcomes		Not Started

6.2.4 Investigate the maximum capacity of Katherine's population growth to better manage financial resources and strategise our priorities

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
6.2.4.1	Advocate to government agencies on Katherine's Land Use Plan	• Number of advocacy occurrences	• Council undertook at least 11 advocacy activities on matters including hospital relocation, cemetery planning, energy infrastructure consultation, youth crime prevention, evacuation facilities, flood-resilient waste infrastructure, roads, bridges, airport infrastructure and land access.	Completed





6.3.1 Advocate for the interests of our community

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
6.3.1.1	Advocate for the interests of the Katherine community	• Number of media releases • Number of Council interactions with government agencies seeking action	• Council advocated through two media releases and associated interviews for a community safety initiative.	Completed

6.3.4 Membership on regional committees

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
6.3.4.1	Memberships on Regional Committees	• Number of external regional committee memberships held	• 3 memberships on Regional Committees: LEC, Jawoyn rPPP, Big Rivers Reducing Crime Committee.	Completed

6.3.5 Develop an elected member-led advocacy agenda on key areas of concern including housing, homelessness, liveability, native title

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
6.3.5.1	Elected Members' memberships on external committees	• Number of external committees Elected Members are appointed to	• Elected members appointed to six external committees : Mayor Holden - NT Grants Commission, Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct Ltd (KRCP), Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT), Nitmiluk National Park Board of Management Councillor Whitehouse - Katherine Division of the Development Consent Authority, Councillor Jim King - Katherine Division of the Development Consent Authority, Minister's Advisory Council for Senior Territorians (MACST)	Completed

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Our unique environment will be celebrated, maintained and protected.



7.1.3 Engage residents with a community education program to encourage sustainable practices that minimise their footprint

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.1.3.1	Provision new bin roll outs including serial number and hot stamps	• Number of new bins provisioned • Number of new bin requests	• Council completed most of the kerbside bin rollout in July 2025 and followed up on outstanding deliveries. Education packs and bin-lid identification supported the transition to the new service. New-bin and request figures are to be confirmed.	Completed
7.1.3.2	Implement an informational page on Council's website about proper waste disposal	• Number of website visits	• Council launched a dedicated waste services webpage and introduced bin lids with disposal guidance to improve community awareness of correct waste disposal.	Completed
7.1.3.3	Kerbside waste truck wrap and customer service roll out	• Kerbside waste truck wrapped • Total social media reach • Number of customer service calls received related to waste services	• Council continued to support residents throughout the transition to the new kerbside waste service, responding to enquiries and working with the service provider to resolve issues. We also designed the truck wrap.	Completed

7.1.4 Provide opportunities for the community to repurpose, recycle and reuse all types of resources, reducing our landfill waste

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.1.4.1	Encourage residents and businesses to reduce waste and separate waste streams	• Number of campaigns conducted	• Council provided waste separation education at the Waste Management Facility, helping customers correctly sort and dispose of materials.	Completed
7.1.4.2	Investigate green waste collection opportunities	• Investigation report to Council	• Investigation of a green waste collection service was deferred to the Waste Management Working Group for future consideration in 2026/2027.	Deferred
7.1.4.3	Investigate a once-a-year wet season hard rubbish collection	• Investigation report to Council	• Council held two free waste disposal days before the wet season, waiving approximately $24,000 in disposal fees to help residents prepare their properties.	Completed

7.1.5 Install a Tip Shop at our waste facility, encouraging the reuse of goods

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.1.5.1	Operation of the Tip Shop	• Number of days the Tip Shop operated • Total social media reach	• The Tip Shop did not operate during the reporting period due to staffing constraints, limited reusable stock and the condition of the existing facility.	Not Completed

7.1.6 Raise awareness to keep our town litter-free

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.1.6.1	Promote community use of Snap Send Solve to report rubbish and illegal dumping	• Total snaps using the relevant incident report categories • Number of campaigns • Number of participants	• Clean up Australia 2026 - Snap Send Solve Campaign	Completed
7.1.6.2	Promote participation in Great Northern Clean Up and Clean Up Australia activities	• Total social media reach • Number of community partnerships • Number of participants		Completed

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

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.1.7.1	Review the Council Waste Management Strategy	• Number of actions achieved	• The Waste Management Working Group was formed to guide development of the Waste Management Strategy and support Katherine's long-term approach to waste services. The group will continue working toward these goals throughout the 2026/27 year.	In Progress
7.1.7.2	Compliance with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Licence	• Number of non-compliances	• Council secured a new 10 year EPA licence in August 2025. We recorded two non-compliances throughout 2025/2026.	Completed
7.1.7.3	Provide effective waste collection and disposal services	• Tonnage of residential waste collected • Tonnage of commercial waste collected	• Council accepted 21,942 tonnes of waste during 2025/2026, including kerbside collection, green waste, scrap metal and mixed commercial waste, supporting effective waste management across the municipality.	Completed

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

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.2.2.1	Establish the Native Plant Giveaway through Council's Greening Katherine initiative	• Native Plant Giveaway initiative established • Number of community participants • Number of partnerships • Number of plants given away	• Council launched the Native Plant Giveaway initiative, distributing 1,000 native plants to residents through the Welcome to the Wet event and promoting a greener Katherine 274 Households • 4 Community Organisations attended	Completed

7.2.3 Undertake activation projects to provide nature play spaces for kids of all ages

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.2.3.1	Develop Nature Play Parks	• Number of Nature Play Parks constructed	• The first project was completed at Roney Park, with design and scope of works progressing for a second location at Lockheed Park.	Completed

7.2.4 Encourage engagement with natural spaces in neighbourhoods

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.2.4.1	Campaign and educate residents and businesses regarding verge maintenance and responsibilities	• Number of campaigns held • Number of educational and campaign partnerships		In Progress
7.2.4.2	Provide outdoor community activities celebrating our green spaces	• Number of activities held outside		Completed

7.2.5 Provide cool and shaded spaces for the community

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.2.5.1	Erect shade structures in public spaces	• Number of spaces identified as requiring Shade structures • Number of shade structures erected		In Progress
7.2.5.2	Investigate solutions to cooling the Town Square	• Problem statement defined • Number of solutions investigated • Number of solutions delivered	• Misters were installed on 24 July 2026, immediately after the reporting period. A project plan and options analysis for redevelopment of the site were also completed.	In Progress
7.2.5.3	Provide shading along the Council footpath network	• Number of trees planted • Total estimate of carbon storage of trees planted	• Tree planting was undertaken in Council parks. The number of trees and estimated carbon storage are to be confirmed.	Completed

7.3.2 Monitor Council's monthly water-use

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.3.2.1	Council maintain an interest in PFAS contamination and monitoring	• Number of engagements with environmental agencies related to PFAS contamination level updates	• Monitor information provided.	Not Started
7.3.2.2	Monitor and report on all Council water usage and bore readings	• Bore water usage reported monthly • Number of water leaks resolved	• Council met all NT Government water reporting requirements through monthly reporting to Water Resources and monitored water consumption to identify leaks and improve water efficiency.	Completed

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

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.3.3.1	Implement the Irrigation Replacement Program	• Irrigation Replacement Program implemented • Number of locations irrigation is replaced • Value of replaced irrigation	• This program was deferred following the 2026 flood events.	Deferred
7.3.3.2	Provide community education on the vandalism of our irrigation systems within Council's parks and facilities	• Number of education measures • Value of items damaged	• Community information was shared on Facebook and exploring ways to incorporate the information on our website. • Vandalised irrigation estimate $7,000	Completed

7.4.1 Investigate platforms to transfer printable forms to online interactive forms

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.4.1.1	Digitise Council applications and permits to streamline processes, while enhancing the utilisation of digital platforms to improve access and efficiency for Council services.	• 25% increase in interactive council applications • Number of Ezy Bill registrations processed • Number of Snap Send Solve requests submitted • Increase Snap Send Solve community usage by 10%	• Council digitised 20 application forms, registered 117 ratepayers for EzyBill and received 1,004 Snap Send Solve reports, a 14.22% increase from the previous year.	Completed
7.4.1.2	Explore and implement strategies to streamline Council processes, reducing paper dependency and increasing operational efficiency through digital solutions.	• 5% reduction in printing • Review of potential greening measures conducted	• Digitisation reduced reliance on printed correspondence, with 5,297 letters, public notices and reminders distributed through the virtual mailroom.	Completed
7.4.1.3	Investigate ways to successfully distribute electronic Council agendas	• Number of requests to print council agendas • Number of suitable IT hardware for reading agendas provisioned by Council to Elected Members • Number of training sessions held to support Elected Members to use electronic council agendas	• Elected Members received training in accessing electronic agendas through the SharePoint portal, which recorded 396 agenda views. Printed agendas continued to be provided on request; the number requested and devices supplied are to be confirmed.	Completed

7.4.2 Reduce emissions of our vehicle fleet

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.4.2.1	Purchase electric hybrid vehicles where fit-for-purpose	• 100% of new corporate fleet are hybrid vehicles	• All new corporate fleet vehicles acquired during the reporting period were hybrid electric vehicles.	Completed
7.4.2.2	Investigate electric commercial ride-on mowers	• Market research undertaken • Plant is fit-for-purpose	• Investigation of electric mowers was deferred and will be reconsidered through future asset-renewal planning as technology develops.	Deferred

7.4.3 Gather data to implement more efficient and less wasteful work practices

DELIVERABLE REF	Municipal Plan Deliverable	Measures	Explanatory Note	Status
7.4.3.1	Trial battery-operated multi-purpose equipment to identify opportunities for more efficient and sustainable work practices.	• Trial complete • Number of practical applications for operational use identified	• The trial found that a mixed fleet of petrol and electric equipment was the most practical and reliable approach.	Completed



6

LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE REPORTING

Shared Services
Katherine Town Council continued to consider opportunities to deliver services efficiently through collaboration, shared arrangements, contracting and other service-delivery models where these provide value to the community.

Council adopted an updated Shared Services Policy in February 2026. The policy provides a framework for considering shared-service arrangements and ensuring any proposal is assessed against Council's operational requirements, financial position and responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 2019*.

While no formal shared-services arrangements were active during the 2025/2026 period, the Council continues to explore opportunities to improve service delivery through partnerships or outsourcing, where it benefits the community.

Advisory Committees & Delegations
Council uses advisory committees, review committees, assessment panels and working groups to draw on community knowledge, support good governance and provide advice on specific facilities, programs and matters under consideration. These bodies make recommendations to Council but do not have independent executive decision-making powers.
Committees and groups operating or active during the 2025/2026 reporting period included:
- Audit and Risk Management Committee
- Administrative Review Committee
- Community Benefit Assessment Panel
- Sportsgrounds Advisory Committee
- Showgrounds Advisory Committee
- Centenary of Katherine 2026 Advisory Committee
- Centenary of Katherine Working Group
- Waste Management Review Working Group
- Complaints Decision Notice Subcommittee, where required
- Katherine Community Safety Action Group

An Audit and Risk Management Committee is established under section 86 of the *Local Government Act 2019*. Its role includes monitoring Council's compliance with proper standards of financial management, the Local Government regulations and applicable accounting standards. The committee met four times, and its agendas and minutes are confidential.

Committee membership
- Independent Chair: Carolyn Eagle
- Independent Member: Ross Springolo
- Mayor Joanna Holden
- Councillor Kathryn Whitehouse
- Alternate Member: Councillor Anjali Palmer

The Sportsgrounds and Showgrounds Advisory Committees provide advice on the use and development of those facilities and include representatives of regular facility users and elected members. The committees did not meet during the year.

Showgrounds Advisory Committee
- Councillor Jim King (Chair)
- Councillor Kathryn Whitehouse
- Mark Robertson
- Tia Solloway
- Kylie Leonhardt
- Leanne Bugg
- Annabelle Keith
- Cameron Allen
- Nick Hobbs

Sportsground Advisory Committee
- Councillor Anjali Palmer (Chair)
- Councillor Jim King
- Allen Storey
- Nicolle Gadd
- Nicole Simmonds
- Lauren Chapman
- Sue Sinclair
- Karin Spain
- Karisa Morrison
- Nat Dillon
- Brodie Bishop

The Centenary of Katherine 2026 Advisory Committee continued to guide planning for Katherine's centenary, including events, infrastructure and funding opportunities. During the year, Council transferred the advisory committee to a Centenary of Katherine Working Group to support detailed planning and delivery as the celebrations approached.

A Waste Management Review Working Group was established to undertake a comprehensive review of its Waste Management Strategy to ensure long-term sustainability, compliance with NT EPA obligations, alignment with NT Government policy, and the delivery of modern, efficient waste services for the Katherine community. The current Katherine Waste Management Strategy 2021–2026 expires at the end of 2026. The Working Group will guide and support the development of a renewed Strategy that reflects current challenges, industry trends, new technologies, regulatory requirements and regional priorities. The Working Group membership is being finalised.

The Administrative Review Committee is convened when Council receives an eligible application for review of a Council decision. The Committee is established to review "reviewable decisions" as outlined in Part 18.1 of the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)*. A reviewable decision refers to a decision or order made by the Council or its officers, designated by the Act as eligible for review. The membership is Mayor Joanna Holden, Deputy Mayor Mel Doyle and Councillor Jim King. The committee met once during the year for the Review of decision for correction of record by application of rates.

Katherine Community Safety Action Group has been developed as a community-focused advisory group bringing together Council, residents, community organisations, Police, government agencies and key stakeholders. The group will provide a respectful and practical forum for sharing information, raising community concerns, improving communication, discussing local safety and wellbeing issues, and identifying practical, community-led ideas and opportunities. The Action Group membership is being finalised.

Community Consultation and Engagement
Council placed community consultation at the centre of its planning and decision-making during 2025/2026.

Your Say Katherine remained Council's main online consultation and project-update platform. Online engagement was supported by community pop-ups, stakeholder interviews, targeted surveys, public meetings, written submissions, social media, email updates and direct engagement with affected groups. Council's corporate website directs residents to Your Say Katherine for its community consultations and project updates.

Key consultations and engagement activities during the year included:

- **Draft Municipal Plan 2026–27, Budget and Fees and Charges**, providing the community with an opportunity to comment on Council's proposed services, projects, rates, budget and charges before the plan was adopted.
- **Proposed relocation of the Katherine Visitor Information Centre**, involving a community survey, a targeted tourism-industry survey, stakeholder interviews and a public pop-up session. Council received 161 community survey responses and, after considering the feedback and operational implications, resolved not to proceed with the proposed relocation at that time.
- **Future Katherine Sports and Recreation Precinct**, including early engagement to help guide a masterplan for the Katherine Sports Ground precinct and the future replacement of the Henry Scott Recreation Centre.
- **Katherine Centenary planning**, including ongoing engagement with the Centenary Working Group and other stakeholders on events and activities for Katherine's 100-year celebrations.
- **Shared Pathways Strategy**, involving consultation to help guide the planning, prioritisation and future development of Katherine's walking and cycling network.
- **Waste Management Review**, including engagement to inform future waste-management priorities and service planning.
- **Community Safety Action Group**, seeking community and stakeholder involvement in a coordinated approach to local safety issues.
- **Youth activities and school-holiday programming**, using community polling and targeted engagement to identify preferred activities for young people.

Policy and Procedure Compliance
Council continued its review of policies, procedures and governance documents during 2025/2026 to strengthen legislative compliance, clarify responsibilities and ensure its framework remained current and practical.

Council is required to review all statutory policies within six months of a Council election. During the reporting period, 28 statutory policies were successfully reviewed, demonstrating Council's commitment to maintaining a current and compliant policy framework. This achievement has strengthened governance practices, ensured policies remain relevant and aligned with legislative requirements, and supported effective decision-making across the organisation.

Policies adopted, reviewed or republished during the reporting period included:

- Accountable Forms
- Asset Revaluation Reserve
- Attendance at Meetings via Audio or Audio-Visual Conferencing System
- Audit and Risk Management Committee Charter
- Borrowing
- Breach of Code of Conduct
- Casting Vote
- CEO Code of Conduct
- Computer, Email, Internet and Telephone Use
- Confidential Information
- Conflict of Interest - CEO and Employees
- Corporate Uniform and Dress
- Council Delegates and Representation on External Organisations, including Community Groups
- Council Meeting Livestreaming
- Credit Card for Elected Members and CEO
- Delegation – CEO to Staff 2026-2029
- Elected Member Allowances and Support
- Elected Members Code of Conduct
- Elected Members Conflicts of Interest
- Employee Probation
- Entertainment and Hospitality
- External Complaints
- Facility and Equipment Hire
- Filling Casual Vacancies
- Gifts and Benefits - CEO and Employee
- Gifts and Benefits Received by Council Members
- Instrument of Delegation - Council to Chief Executive Officer
- Investment
- Meeting Administration
- Privacy
- Procurement
- Public Art
- Rate Concession
- Records Management
- Risk Management
- Shared Services
- Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record
- Terms of Reference - Administrative Review Committee
- Terms of Reference - Centenary of Katherine 2026 Community Action Group
- Terms of Reference - Katherine Community Safety Action Group
- Terms of Reference - Waste Management Strategy Review Working Group

This work included updating governance arrangements for elected members and employees, strengthening conflict-of-interest and gifts-and-benefits requirements, establishing clearer processes for code-of-conduct matters, and reviewing policies governing procurement, rates concessions, public access to information and Council meeting livestreaming.

Council also adopted updated terms of reference for working groups and maintained statutory registers, including registers of elected member conflicts and Audit and Risk Management Committee member conflicts.

ANNUAL REPORT COMPARISON OF ACTUAL PERFORMANCE AGAINST BUDGET

STATEMENT 1. COMPARISON OF ACTUAL PERFORMANCE AGAINST BUDGET

Table 1.1 Income and Expenditure Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2026	2025-2026 Original Budget $	2025-2026 Final Budget $	Actual Performance 2025-2026 $	Variation between Final Budget & Actuals 2025-2026 $	NOTES
OPERATING INCOME					
Rates	9,990,399	10,158,579	10,195,519	36,940	
Waste Charges	1,645,818	1,612,903	1,613,228	325	
Fees and Charges	2,525,689	2,766,259	2,419,427	(346,832)	1
Operating Grants & Subsidies	2,193,222	2,044,689	2,521,594	476,905	2
Bank & Investment Income	576,365	730,000	931,977	201,977	3
Other revenue	372,182	311,411	341,487	30,076	4
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	**17,303,675**	**17,623,841**	**18,023,232**	**399,391**	
OPERATING EXPENDITURE					
Employment Expenses	6,069,690	5,009,713	4,532,075	(477,638)	5
Materials & Contracts	8,350,845	7,932,671	7,742,523	(190,148)	6
Elected Member Allowances	275,520	312,000	229,419	(82,581)	7
Elected Member Expenses	55,000	54,500	17,851	(36,649)	8
Council Committee Allowances	29,615	54,500	18,356	(36,144)	
Council Committee Costs	8,360	22,592	14,060	(8,532)	
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	4,800,007	6,178,351	5,766,159	(412,192)	9
Interest Expenses	58,416	38,000	43,232	5,232	10
Other Expenses	-	12,552	84	(12,468)	
Finance Costs - Unwinding of WMF Discounting	465,321	650,000	1,035,596	385,596	11
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	**20,112,774**	**20,264,879**	**19,399,355**	**(865,524)**	
Operating Surplus / Deficit	(2,809,099)	(2,641,038)	(1,376,123)	1,264,915	

STATEMENT 2. REASONS FOR MATERIAL VARIATIONS BETWEEN THE FINAL BUDGET AND ACTUAL PERFORMANCE

NOTES

1. Weighbridge Fees down on budget
2. Additional Centenary Grants, Territory Day, Big Rivers, Free Pool Entry Grants
3. Term Deposits reinvested for 12 months to achieve higher interest rate returns up by 1.5% on prior year investments
4. Electricity & Water Recoveries from prior year captured in 25-26; Insurance Recovery of $88k
5. Variance driven by budgeted positions remaining unfilled and employee turnover, management actively recruiting to support service delivery
6. Payments made in 26-27 year due to late invoices received from suppliers, variance not due to cost savings
7. 11 payments in Financial year due to timing of payments (12th payment in 26-27 FY)
8. Elected Members savings due to reduced meeting costs, Mayor using own vehicle and not claiming travel
9. WMF Air Space Asset Depreciation recalculated due to extension of capping timeframe - saving of $300k
10. Loan Fees - Commitment Fees of $6k for each drawdown
11. WMF Unwinding Discounting - Increase due to larger provision balance, additional future rehabilitation obligations

Depreciation Expense, WMF Unwinding discount

Table 1.2 Annual Operating Position

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2026	2025-2026 Original Budget $	Final Budget FY 2026	Actual Performance 2025-2026	Variation between Final Budget & Actuals 2025-2026 $	NOTES
OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(2,809,099)	(2,641,038)	(1,376,123)	(1,264,915)	
less Non-Cash Income		-	-		
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	5,265,328	6,828,351	7,176,882	348,531	
TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS	**5,265,328**	**6,828,351**	**7,176,882**	**348,531**	**12**
Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS					
Capital Expenditure	**9,705,621**	**9,221,393**	**8,398,584**	-822,809	
Borrowing Repayments (Principal Only)	-	-	-	-	
Transfers to Reserves	-	1,000,000	1,500,000	500,000	
Other Outflows	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	**9,705,621**	**10,221,393**	**9,898,584**	**(322,809)**	
Add **ADDITIONAL INFLOWS**					
Capital Grants Income	5,191,029	4,550,121	4,421,460	(128,661)	
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	-	186,580	186,580	-	
Other Inflow of Funds	72,178	72,178	203,311	131,133	
Drawdown of Borrowings	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	
Transfers from Reserves	-	1,933,738	-	-	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	**7,263,207**	**8,742,617**	**6,811,351**	**(1,931,266)**	
NET BUDGETED OPERATING POSITION	13,815	2,708,537	2,713,526	4,989	

STATEMENT 3. TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR EACH COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Reconciliation of Compliance Operating Result to Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2026	Council Committee & LA Allowance	Council Committee and LA Expenses	Total $
Audit Committee	18,357	5,647	24,004
TOTAL	18,357	5,647	24,004

RECONCILIATION OF COMPLIANCE OPERATING RESULT TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2026	Actual Result
OPERATING DEFICIT IN COMPLIANCE REPORT	(1,376,123)
Add Capital Grant Income	4,421,460
Less Loss on disposal of Assets	(331,811)
TOTAL	2,713,526

7 GRANTS FUNDING



Grant funding plays an important role in helping Katherine Town Council deliver projects, services, and initiatives that go beyond what Council can achieve with its own resources.

External funding enables Council to invest in community infrastructure, improve public spaces and amenities, deliver events and programs, renew and upgrade assets, and support initiatives that contribute to Katherine's safety, wellbeing and liveability.

During 2025–26, Katherine Town Council received $6.95 million in grant funding from the Australian and Northern Territory governments and other funding bodies.

This investment supported the delivery and progression of a diverse range of projects and events, helping Council respond to community priorities, leverage its own investment and deliver lasting benefits for Katherine residents and visitors.

Total Grants Applied for **29**

This includes funding programs across multiple years such as: Visitor Information Centre, Library, Binjari, Mosquito monitoring

Total Grants Successful **27** Includes multi-year programs

Total Grants Acquitted by 30.06.2026 **12** Based on acquittals due by 30.06.2026

Grants yet to be acquitted for 30.06.2026 **15** Grant acquittal timeframes due after 30.06.2026

Some grants are multi-year programs with multiple small projects approved in overall program funding.

Grant Program Name	Project Description	Funding Body	Council Contribution FY25/26	Total Funding received FY25/26	Total Budget FY25/26
Public Libraries NT	Public Library Funding 2023-2028	Libraries & Archives NT	$86,058.05	$243,373.62	$329,431.67
Roads to Recovery 2024/2029 **Local Roads Community Infrastructure Program - Phase 4**	The Roads to Recovery (RTR) Program supports the construction and maintenance of the nation's local road infrastructure assets, which facilitates greater accessibility and improves safety, economic and social outcomes.	Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	$382,328.18	$183,501.00 $182,059.00	$747,888.18
Mosquito Monitoring Program Katherine Region - 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2030	Katherine Town Council - EFILE2025/9403 - EDOC2025/78874 - Mosquito Monitoring Program Katherine Region – 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2030	Department of Health	$0.00	$41,826.00	$41,826.00
Priority Community Infrastructure Program (PCIP)	Katherine Aquatic centre upgrade	Department Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications & Arts	$2,210,000.00	$3,800,000.00	$6,010,000.00
Binjari Local Government Services 2021-2026	Provision of local government services to the Binjari community	Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet	$0.00	$139,100.00	$139,100.00
Katherine Town Council - Visitor information Services Partnership Program 2025-2028 Visitor Information Services Partnership Program - Katherine Town Council	Katherine Visitor Information Funding 2025-2028	Department of Tourism and Hospitality	$120,948.00	$302,400.00	$423,348.00
Big Rivers Youth Activity Grant		Department of People, Sport and Culture	$0.00	$9,000.00	$9,000.00
2025-26 Financial Assistance Grants	2025-26 Financial Assistance Grants - General Purpose	NT Grants Commission	$0.00	$563,402.00	$563,402.00
2025-26 Financial Assistance Grants	2025-26 Financial Assistance Grants - Roads	NT Grants Commission	$0.00	$1,134,449.00	$1,134,449.00
Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program - Precinct Development and Planning	Katherine and Big Rivers Multipurpose Sport and Recreation Precinct	Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts	$0.00	$47,918.00	$47,918.00

Grant Program Name	Project Description	Funding Body	Council Contribution FY25/26	Total Funding received FY25/26	Total Budget FY25/26
Seniors Month Grants 2025	Katherine Mayoral Seniors Morning Tea	Department of People, Sport and Culture	$1,392.00	$2,000.00	$3,392.00
Visitor Experience Enhancement Program (VEEP) - Round 9	Katherine Museum Upgrade	Department of Tourism and Hospitality	$39,835.00	$38,962.50	$78,797.50
Australia Day 2026 Community Events Grant Program	Australia Day 2026 – Katherine's Stories, Citizens and Celebrations	National Australia Day Council	$3,868.03	$10,000.00	$13,868.03
Youth Vibe Holiday Grant	School holiday scooter skills, maintenance and competition.	Department of People, Sport and Culture	$7,506.41	$1,000.00	$8,506.41
Tourism Town Asset Program Round 5	Katherine Visitor Information Centre Colocation with GYRACC (Changed to Katherine Visitor Information Centre Improvements to Interpretive, Accessibility and Visitor Infrastructure)	Department of Tourism and Hospitality	$29,326.31	$87,978.92	$117,305.23
Australia Day Community Grant	Australia Day 2026 activities	Australia Day Council NT	$0.00	$1,500.00	$1,500.00
Big Rivers Youth Activity Grant	Katherine Aquatic Centre Free Entry 2025-26	Department of People, Sport and Culture	$0.00	$40,000.00	$40,000.00
NT Youth Week 2026	The Youth Week Markets 2026 will be a community event held at The Y. Katherine, running from 10am–2pm on Friday 9 April. The event invites young people aged 12–25 to design, organise, and host their own market stalls. These may include selling handmade products, artworks, or food, sharing information, busking-style performances. The event will also involve youth service providers, schools, and local organisations to promote engagement, creativity, and participation.	Northern Territory Government / Office of Youth Affairs	$430.91	$2,000.00	$2,430.91
AICD Governance Essentials for Local Government	Katherine Town Council will use a one-off $30,000 grant to fund attendance for council members and senior staff in the AICD Governance Essentials for Local Government course in 2025–26. The funding will be managed in line with NT regulations, used only for course fees, and fully acquitted by required deadlines, with any additional costs covered by Council. Variation : Expenditure of the grant is to occur by 30 November 2026, with a final acquittal due by 1 February 2027.	Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development	$0.00	$30,000.00	$30,000.00
Centenary of Katherine - Big River Flexible Funding	This grant supports community-focused initiatives celebrating the Centenary of Katherine, including the delivery of the Centenary Street Parade, associated event coordination and infrastructure, a micro-grant program for community organisations and schools, and the creation of a commemorative mural recognising the Centenary.	Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development	$0.00	$90,000.00	$90,000.00
Total			$2,881,692.89	$6,950,470.04	$9,832,162.93

8 GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Chief Executive Officer's Statement

I, Casey Anderson, Chief Executive Officer of the Katherine Town Council, certify that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief:

a) the General Purpose Financial Report has been properly drawn up in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), the *Local Government Act 2019*, and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* so as to present fairly the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2026 and the results for the year then ended; and

b) the General Purpose Financial Report is in accordance with the accounting and other records of the Council.

Casey Anderson
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Dated at Tuesday this day 27 of October 2026.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026	NOTE	2026 $	2025 $
INCOME			
Rates	3	10,195,519	9,540,384
Waste Charges	3	1,613,228	1,529,154
Statutory Charges	4	91,181	125,887
User Fees	5	2,328,246	2,200,501
Operating Grants, subsidies and contributions	6	2,521,594	2,766,722
Bank and Investment Income	7	931,977	1,278,531
Recoveries	**8**	**198,032**	**317,429**
Other Income	**9**	**143,455**	**487,531**
TOTAL INCOME		**18,023,232**	**18,246,139**
EXPENDITURE			
Employment Expenses	10	(4,532,075)	(5,030,164)
Materials and Contracts and Other Expenses	11	(7,742,523)	(6,774,789)
Elected & Committee Member Allowances		(229,419)	(251,772)
Elected Member Expenses & Committee Meeting Expenses		(50,267)	(64,479)
Depreciation and Amortisation	12	(5,766,243)	(6,052,880)
Finance Costs	13	(1,078,828)	(611,520)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**(19,399,355)**	**(18,785,604)**
OPERATING PROFIT OR (DEFICIT)		**(1,376,123)**	**(539,465)**
Loss on disposal of Assets	14	(331,811)	(255,502)
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	6	4,421,460	9,161,233
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		**2,713,526**	**8,366,266**
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Impairment Loss on revalued property		(772,954)	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		**1,940,572**	**8,366,266**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2026

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026	NOTE	2026 $	2025 $
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	15	5,861,499	3,924,008
Trade and other receivables	16	3,716,614	3,609,059
Other financial assets	15	22,352,843	22,163,684
Inventories	17	18,453	21,689
Prepayments		130,306	13,800
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		**32,079,715**	**29,732,240**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	18	140,631,792	135,906,192
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		140,631,792	135,906,192
TOTAL ASSETS		**172,711,507**	**165,638,432**
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	19	2,383,398	3,470,404
Provisions	20	567,054	608,956
Total current liabilities		**2,950,452**	**4,079,360**
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	21	2,000,000	-
Provisions- includes Landfill Provision	22	24,685,812	20,424,401
Total non-current liabilities		**26,685,812**	**20,424,401**
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**29,636,264**	**24,503,761**
Net assets		**143,075,243**	**141,134,671**
Equity			
Asset Revaluation Reserves	23	97,647,221	98,420,175
Other Reserves	24	14,651,024	13,151,024
Retained Earnings	25	30,776,998	29,563,472
Total Equity		**143,075,243**	**141,134,671**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Asset Revaluation Reserves ($)	Other Reserves ($)	Retained Earnings ($)	Total Equity
Balance at 1 July 2024	**98,420,175**	**13,151,024**	**21,197,206**	**132,768,405**
Comprehensive Income				
Net Surplus for the year	-	-	8,366,266	8,366,266
Total Comprehensive Income for the year	**-**	**-**	**8,366,266**	**8,366,266**
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2025	**98,420,175**	**13,151,024**	**29,563,472**	**141,134,671**

	Asset Revaluation Reserves ($)	Other Reserves ($)	Retained Earnings ($)	Total Equity
Balance at 1 July 2025	**98,420,175**	**13,151,024**	**29,563,472**	**141,134,671**
Comprehensive Income				
Net Surplus for the year	-	-	2,713,526	2,713,526
Impairment Loss on revalued Property	(772,954)	-	-	(772,954)
Total Comprehensive Income for the year	**(772,954)**	**-**	**2,713,526**	**1,940,572**
Transfer during the year from equity to reserve	-	1,500,000	(1,500,000)	-
Balance at 30 June 2026	**97,647,221**	**14,651,024**	**30,776,998**	**143,075,243**

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026	NOTE	2026 $	2025 $
Cash Flows from operating activities			
Receipts from Rates - general and other		11,175,851	10,875,015
Receipts from Fees and other charges		2,652,978	2,555,961
Grants utilised for operating purposes		2,548,868	3,043,394
Other revenue		589,700	584,527
Payments to employees		(4,599,854)	(5,055,287)
Payments for Materials, contracts & other expenses		(8,689,499)	(6,244,629)
Elected Member Expenses		**(851)**	-
Net cash from operating activities		**3,677,193**	**5,758,981**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment in term deposits		(189,159)	(3,571,266)
Expenditure on Renewal/Replacement of Assets		(9,269,194)	(10,154,309)
Amounts specially received for new and upgraded assets		4,420,739	8,550,886
Receipts from investment		1,227,872	794,286
Proceeds from Sale of Assets		70,040	45,145
Net cash used in investing activities		**(3,739,702)**	**(4,335,258)**
Cash flows from financing activities			
Borrowings Received	21	2,000,000	-
Net cash from financing activites		**2,000,000**	**-**
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		**1,937,491**	**1,423,723**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		3,924,008	2,500,285
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	**27**	**5,861,499**	**3,924,008**



9 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

For the Year ending 30 June 2026

NOTE 1. MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Reporting entity
Katherine Town Council (the 'Council') is domiciled in Australia. The Council's registered office is at Lot 1865 Stuart Hwy, Katherine NT 0850. These financial statements include the Council's direct operations and all entities through which Council controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas have been eliminated.

The Council is a not-for-profit entity and is primarily involved in managing local infrastructure, providing community services, fostering economic development, and facilitating community engagement.

Basis of preparation
a) Statement of compliance
This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations, the requirements of the Local Government Act 2019, the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 and other relevant Northern Territory legislations.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the council as of the date of the Chief Executive Officer's statement.

b) Basis of measurement
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for, where applicable, the revaluation of financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss, financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income and certain classes of property, plant and equipment.

c) Functional and presentation currency
These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Council's functional and presentation currency.

d) Use of judgements and estimates
The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 2.

Revenue recognition
Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when control of the goods or services are transferred to the customer at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Council expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods and services. Performance obligations may be completed at a point in time or over time.

a) Grants
The Council recognises grant revenues under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) or AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) when appropriate. In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Council expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when a not-for-profit (NFP) entity enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the council. In this case, the council recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

b) Rates revenue
Rates revenue is recognised at the commencement of the rating period.

c) Statutory and user charges
Statutory and User Charges are recognised upon unconditional entitlement to the funds. Generally, this is upon lodgement of the relevant applications or documents, issuing of the infringement notice or when the service is provided.

d) Sales revenue
Sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to the buyer, generally when the customer has taken undisputed delivery of the goods.

e) Interest
Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

f) Rental income
Rent income from investment properties is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Lease incentives granted are recognised as part of the rental revenue. Contingent rentals are recognised as income in the period when earned.

g) Other revenue
Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

Current and non-current classification
Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the Council's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in the Council's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

Cash, cash equivalents and other financial instruments
Cash assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Trade and other receivables
Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition, except for trade receivables from a contract with a customer, which are measured at the transaction price. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments forms part of note 26.

Financial instruments
a) Recognition and initial measurement

Trade receivables and other receivables are initially recognised when they are originated. All other financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognised when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

A financial asset (unless it is a trade receivable without a significant financing component) or financial liability is initially measured at fair value plus, for an item not at fair value through Profit or loss (FVTPL), transaction costs that are directly attributable to its acquisition or issue. A trade receivable without a significant financing component is initially measured at the transaction price.
b) Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial assets
On initial recognition, a financial asset is classified as measured at amortised cost or FVTPL. Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition unless the Council changes its business model for managing financial assets, in which case all affected financial assets are reclassified on the first day of the first reporting period following the change in the business model.

A financial asset is measured at amortised cost if it meets both of the following conditions and is not designated as at FVTPL:
- it is held within a business model whose objective is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows; and
- its contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Financial assets not classified as measured at amortised cost are measured at FVTPL. On initial recognition, the Council may irrevocably designate a financial asset that otherwise meets the requirements to be measured at amortised cost as at FVTPL if doing so eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch that would otherwise arise.

Financial assets – Subsequent measurement and gains and losses

Financial assets at FVTPL
These assets are subsequently measured at fair value. Net gains and losses, including any interest or dividend income are recognised in profit or loss.

Financial assets at amortised cost
These assets are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The amortised cost is reduced by impairment losses. Interest income, foreign exchange gains and losses and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Any gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

Financial liabilities – Classification, subsequent measurement and gains and losses
Financial liabilities are classified as measured at amortised cost or FVTPL. A financial liability is classified as at FVTPL if it is classified as held-for-trading. Financial liabilities at FVTPL are measured at fair value and net gains and losses, including any interest expense, are recognised in profit or loss. Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Interest expense and foreign exchange gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss. Any gain or loss on derecognition is also recognised in profit or loss.
c) Derecognition

Financial assets
The Council initially recognises loans and receivables and deposits on the date that they are originated. All other financial assets (including assets designated at fair value through profit or loss) are recognised initially on the trade date at which the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The Council derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows on the financial asset in a transaction in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred. Any interest in transferred financial assets that is created or retained by the Council is recognised as a separate asset or liability.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the statement of financial position when, and only when, the Council has a legal right to offset the amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Loans and receivables are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Such assets are recognised initially at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less any impairment losses.

Financial liabilities

The Council derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled, or expire. The Council also derecognises a financial liability when its terms are modified and the cash flows of the modified liability are substantially different, in which case a new financial liability based on the modified terms is recognised at fair value.

On derecognition of a financial liability, the difference between the carrying amount extinguished and the consideration paid (including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed) is recognised in profit or loss. Other financial liabilities comprise loans and borrowings, bank overdrafts and trade and other payables.

Bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the statement of cash flows.

d) Offsetting

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the statement of financial position when, and only when, the Council currently has a legally enforceable right to set off the amounts and it intends either to settle them on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Inventories

Inventories held in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average cost on a continual basis, after adjustment for loss of service potential. Inventories held in respect of business undertakings have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

a) Land under roads

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired prior to 1 July 2008 as an asset in accordance with AASB 1051 Land under Roads. Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 has not been recognised as in the opinion of Council it is not possible to reliably attribute a fair value, and further that such value if determined would be immaterial.

b) Initial recognition

All assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

c) Capitalisation and depreciation

All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held "ready for use". Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

d) Materiality

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each type of asset. In determining (and in annually reviewing) such thresholds, regard is had to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Capitalisation thresholds used by Council for a representative range of assets are shown below:

Infrastructure Buildings & Other Structures	$10,000
Plant and Equipment including IT	$5,000
Furniture and Fittings	$5,000
Infrastructure - Roads	$5,000
Infrastructure - Irrigation	$5,000
Infrastructure - Other (Carparks)	$5,000
Infrastructure - Footpaths and Cycleways	$5,000
Infrastructure - Stormwater and Drainage	$5,000
Infrastructure - Kerbing	$5,000
Road construction & reconstruction	$5,000
Software (internal or acquired)	$50,000
Outdoor Lighting	$5,000
WMF Air Space Asset - Tip Assets	$5,000

e) Subsequent recognition

All material asset classes are revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. For infrastructure and other asset classes where no active market exists, fair value is determined to be the current replacement cost of an asset less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired future economic benefits of the assets.

A full revaluation was performed on 31 December 2023 resulting in a revaluation surplus of $22,870,773.

f) Depreciation

Other than land, all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis which, in the opinion of Council, best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values of classes of assets are reviewed annually.

Depreciation periods for infrastructure assets have been estimated based on the best information available to Council, but appropriate records covering the entire life cycle of these assets are not available, and extreme care should be used in interpreting financial information based on these estimates.

Major Depreciation periods for each class of asset are listed below

		Useful Life in Years
Infrastructure - Roads	Seal	10-50
	Pavement	10-50
Infrastructure - Other (Carparks)	Seal	25
	Pavement	25
Infrastructure - Buildings & Other	External & Internal	10-50
Structures	Finishes, Plumbing	10-50
	Fencing	10-30
	Shading	10-30
	Electrical	10-50
	Fire	10-50
Infrastructure - Footpaths and Cycleways & Kerbing		10-50
Infrastructure - Irrigation		10-50
Infrastructure - Stormwater and Drainage		10-50
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment		2-50
Plant & Equipment - Tools & Power Tools		2-10
Plant & Equipment - Light and Heavy vehicles		3-10

g) Landfill asset

When a provision for landfill rehabilitation is recognised, a corresponding landfill asset (sometimes referred to as an airspace asset) is also recognised. This asset represents the future economic benefits associated with the landfill site and is initially measured at the same amount as the provision. The landfill asset is capitalised as part of property, plant and equipment and depreciated over the remaining life of the landfill site, which is based on the estimated capacity and closure date. The asset is subject to annual review for impairment and adjustments are made as necessary, in accordance with AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment.

Impairment

h) Financial assets

Financial instruments and contract assets

The Council recognises loss allowances for expected credit losses (ECLs) on financial assets measured at amortised cost. Loss allowances for trade receivables are always measured at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs. The Council measures loss allowances at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs, except for the following, which are measured at 12-month ECLs:

- bank balances for which credit risk (i.e. the risk of default occurring over the expected life of the financial instrument) has not increased significantly since initial recognition.

Loss allowances for trade receivables (including lease receivables) and contract assets are always measured at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs.

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition and when estimating ECLs, the Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis.

Based on the Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment, that includes forward-looking information. The Council assumes that the credit risk on a financial asset has increased significantly if it is more than 30 days past due. The maximum period considered when estimating ECLs is the maximum contractual period over which the Council is exposed to credit risk.

Measurement of ECLs

ECLs are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. Credit losses are measured as the present value of all cash shortfalls (i.e. the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract and the cash flows that the Council expects to receive). ECLs are discounted at the effective interest rate of the financial asset. Presentation of allowance for ECL in the statement of financial position

Loss allowances for financial assets measured at amortised cost are deducted from the gross carrying amount of the assets.

Credit-impaired financial assets

At each reporting date, the Council assesses whether financial assets carried at amortised cost are credit impaired. A financial asset is 'credit-impaired' when one or more events that have a detrimental impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset have occurred.

Evidence that a financial asset is credit-impaired includes the following observable data:

- significant financial difficulty of the borrower or issuer;
- breach of contract such as a default;
- the restructuring of a loan or advance by the Council on terms that the Council would not consider otherwise;
- it is probable that the borrower will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation; or
- the disappearance of an active market for a security because of financial difficulties.

Write-off

The gross carrying amount of a financial asset is written off when the Council has no reasonable expectations of recovering a financial asset in its entirety or a portion thereof.

i) Non-financial assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying amounts of its non-financial assets (other than inventories, contract assets and deferred tax assets) to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

For impairment testing, assets are grouped together into the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows of other assets or cash generating units (CGUs).

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less costs to sell. Value in use is based on the estimated future cash flows, discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset or CGU.

An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset or CGU exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss.

This financial report provides Council with oversight of waste and landfill obligations by providing monthly reports that track waste charges, waste management facility costs, depreciation and air space asset-related costs.

The capital project report identifies any delays with project delivery that may affect capital projects such as stormwater, drainage, irrigation and civic centre upgrades.

Trade and other payables

Goods and services

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 28 days after the month of invoice, but Council has extended its support to local businesses by continuing to pay earlier than 28 days. No interest is payable on these amounts.

Payments received in advance and deposits

Amounts other than grants received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Council has a present (legal or constructive) obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable the Council will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. If the time value of money is material, provisions are discounted using a current pre-tax rate specific to the liability. The increase in the provision resulting from the passage of time is recognised as a finance cost.

Landfill rehabilitation provision

The Council recognises a provision for the estimated costs of rehabilitating landfill sites in accordance with AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets. The provision is measured at the present value of expected future cash outflows required to settle the obligation, discounted using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and risks specific to the liability.

A corresponding asset is capitalised under Property, Plant and Equipment and depreciated over the remaining life of the landfill site, which is based on the estimated capacity and closure date. The site is estimated to be closed to further waste disposal in 2037. Changes in the provision due to revisions in estimates or discount rates are adjusted against the carrying amount of the related asset. If the asset is fully depreciated, adjustments are recognised in profit or loss.

The provision is reviewed annually and updated for changes in cost estimates, regulatory requirements, and discount rates.

Employee benefits

a) Salaries, wages and compensated absences

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based oncosts) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based on costs) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

Under the Katherine Town Council Enterprise Agreement 2016, an employee who, at the date of this agreement, may on termination, be paid 50% of their accrued sick leave (maximum entitlement of 59 days).

b) Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the employees nominated superannuation scheme.

Fair value measurement

When an asset or liability, financial or non-financial, is measured at fair value for recognition or disclosure purposes, the fair value is based on the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date; and assumes that the transaction will take place either: in the principal market; or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market.

Fair value is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming they act in their economic best interests. For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement is based on its highest and best use. Valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, are used, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and other similar taxes

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the tax authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority is included in other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the tax authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority.

Accounting standards issued

Council applied for the first time the amendments to Australian Accounting Standards that are effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2025:

- AASB 2023-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Lack of Exchangeability

The amendment had no impact on the accounting policies or disclosure requirements of the Council.

AASB 2026-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosures about Uncertainties in the Financial Statements is effective for the current reporting period. The amendments add illustrative examples accompanying AASB 136 Impairment of Assets and AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets and do not introduce additional recognition or measurement requirements. Council has considered the illustrative disclosures guidance in assessing the adequacy of its disclosures relating to impairment and the landfill rehabilitation provision, including the relevant assumptions and uncertainties.

A number of new accounting standards are effective for annual reporting periods beginning after 1 July 2026 and earlier application is permitted. However, the Council has not early adopted the following new or amended accounting standards in preparing these financial statements.

a) IFRS 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements

IFRS 18 will replace IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements and applies for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2027. The new standard introduces the following key new requirements.

- Entities are required to classify all income and expenses into five categories in the statement of profit or loss, namely the operating, investing, financing, discontinued operations and income tax categories. Entities are also required to present a newly-defined operating profit subtotal. Entities' net profit will not change.
- Management-defined performance measures (MPMs) are disclosed in a single note in the financial statements.
- Enhanced guidance is provided on how to group information in the financial statements.

In addition, all entities are required to use the operating profit subtotal as the starting point for the statement of cash flows when presenting operating cash flows under the indirect method.

The Council is still in the process of assessing the impact of the new standard, particularly with respect to the structure of the Council's statement of profit or loss, the statement of cash flows and the additional disclosures required for MPMs. The Council is also assessing the impact on how information is grouped in the financial statements, including for items currently labelled as 'other'.

NOTE 2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

a) Fair value measurement hierarchy

The Council is required to classify all assets and liabilities, measured at fair value, using a three level hierarchy, based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the entire fair value measurement, being: Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date; Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. Considerable judgement is required to determine what is significant to fair value and therefore which category or asset or liability is placed can be subjective.

The fair value of assets and liabilities classified as level 3 is determined by the use of valuation models. These include discounted cash flow analysis or the use of observable inputs that require significant adjustments based on unobservable inputs.

b) Estimation of useful lives of assets

The Council determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

c) Landfill rehabilitation provision

Close down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure and the removal of residual materials and remediation and rehabilitation of disturbed areas. Where these can be reliably estimated, close down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs and are carried at the net present value of estimated future costs.

Comparative figures

To ensure comparability with the current reporting period's figures, some comparative period line items and amounts may have been reclassified or individually reported for the first time within these financial statements and/or the notes.

NOTE 3. RATES

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
General Rates		
Residential	9,967,939	9,412,849
Other	227,580	127,535
TOTAL GENERAL RATES	**10,195,519**	**9,540,384**
		-
Waste management service	1,613,228	1,529,154
TOTAL RATES	**11,808,747**	**11,069,538**

NOTE 4. STATUTORY CHARGES

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Animal registration fees and fines	69,952	113,981
Parking fines/penalties	21,229	11,906
TOTAL STATUTORY CHARGES	**91,181**	**125,887**

NOTE 5. USER CHARGES

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Cemetery fees	106,432	112,583
Airport fees	506,180	464,154
Commission	100,030	129,214
Facility & equipment hire	370,409	12,288
Weighbridge fees	1,148,330	1,480,947
Additional bin charges	54,770	1,315
Sundries, Library and permit fees	42,095	-
TOTAL USER CHARGES	**2,328,246**	**2,200,501**

NOTE 6. GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Amounts received specifically for new and upgraded assets	4,421,460	9,161,233
Other grants, subsidies and contributions	2,521,594	2,766,722
TOTAL GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS	**6,943,054**	**11,927,955**

NOTE 6 CONTINUED – GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 31

Sources of grants	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Commonwealth government	5,830,371	9,073,617
Territory government	1,101,183	1,471,728
Other grants	11,500	1,382,610
	6,943,054	**11,927,955**

NOTE 7. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Interest on bank and other investments	931,977	1,278,531
TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME	**931,977**	**1,278,531**

NOTE 8. RECOVERIES

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Recoveries	198,032	317,429
TOTAL RECOVERIES	**198,032**	**317,429**

NOTE 9. OTHER INCOME

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Sales - general	40,993	49,431
Rental income (reclassified to User Charges)	-	387,130
Sundry	102,462	50,970
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	**143,455**	**487,531**

NOTE 10. EMPLOYEE COSTS

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Salaries and Wages	3,325,339	3,560,062
Employee leave expense	457,006	679,568
Superannuation	476,195	545,808
Wages Paid on Work Cover	214,107	-
Other	226,173	244,726
Less Workers compensation recoveries	(166,745)	-
TOTAL EMPLOYEE COSTS	**4,532,075**	**5,030,164**

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Total Number of Employees (Full time equivalent at end of reporting period)	32	43

NOTE 11. MATERIALS, CONTRACTS & OTHER EXPENSES

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Auditor's remuneration	62,075	70,547
Bad and doubtful debts	11,133	-
Contractors	4,011,880	3,081,300
Electricity, water and sewerage	1,034,164	1,099,995
Insurance	512,168	583,168
Fuel and registration	167,255	204,089
Telephone	128,920	109,220
Legal expenses	275,190	123,990
Parts, accessories, and consumables	745,249	620,673
Printing and stationery	49,531	60,242
Professional services	96,808	241,147
Advertising	40,692	57,277
Postage	16,214	14,503
Bank charges	21,814	21,773
Community grants	140,267	120,469
Subscription & registration	429,163	366,396
TOTAL MATERIALS, CONTRACTS AND OTHER EXPENSES	**7,742,523**	**6,774,789**

NOTE 12. DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Landfill rehabilitation asset	632,994	900,752
Improvements	629,624	662,337
Buildings and other structures	888,763	794,470
Infrastructure	3,117,692	3,221,238
Plant and equipment	378,524	343,544
Furniture, fixture and equipment	42,025	51,588
Other infrastructure	76,621	78,950
TOTAL DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION	**5,766,243**	**6,052,880**

NOTE 13. FINANCE COSTS

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Unwinding of discounting – landfill rehabilitation provision	1,035,596	611,520
Borrowing Cost	43,232	-
TOTAL FINANCE COSTS	**1,078,828**	**611,520**

NOTE 14. LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Loss on disposal of assets and others	(331,811)	(255,502)
TOTAL LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	**(331,811)**	**(255,502)**

NOTE 15. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on hand and at bank	5,861,499	3,924,008
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**5,861,499**	**3,924,008**
OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Term deposits	22,352,843	22,163,684
TOTAL OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS	**22,352,843**	**22,163,684**
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS	**28,214,342**	**26,087,692**

NOTE 16. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Rates - General and other	2,663,097	2,030,202
Accrued revenues	619,768	958,895
Debtors - general	316,946	301,533
Sundry	166,642	361,247
Less: Allowance for doubtful debts	(49,839)	(42,818)
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	**3,716,614**	**3,609,059**

NOTE 17. INVENTORIES

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Trading stock	18,453	21,689
TOTAL INVENTORIES	**18,453**	**21,689**

NOTE 18. INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Valuations of land and buildings

The basis of the valuation of land and buildings is fair value. The land and buildings were revalued on 31 December 2023 based on independent assessment by a Member of the Australian Property Institute having recent experience in the location and category of and buildings being valued.

Impairment Assessment

Council undertook an assessment of the asset class – Infrastructure, Roads, buildings and other structures due to flood damage at 30 June 2026 in accordance with AASB 136 Impairment of Assets and AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement.

As a result of this assessment, impairment losses were recognised against the following asset classes:

- Roads
- Buildings and Structures
- Improvements

The impairment losses recognised during the year reflect reductions in the recoverable amount of specific assets arising from factors including flood damage, physical deterioration, condition assessments, changes in asset service potential, damage, obsolescence and/or revised engineering information.

Council assessed all remaining infrastructure, property, plant and equipment asset classes for assessment performed, no material impairment indicators were identified. Management assessed no material changes in fair value between the last valuation and 30 June 2026 that would require a full valuation or desktop indexation be performed for these asset classes. Accordingly, no impairment adjustment or revaluation movement has been recognised in respect of those asset classes during the reporting period.

The impairment losses recognised have been recorded within the relevant asset classes and are reflected in the carrying amounts disclosed in this note.

NOTE 18. INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Land	10,143,400	10,143,400
Improvements - at fair value	23,402,149	23,402,149
Improvements - at cost	935,423	857,486
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3,135,820)	(2,506,196)
	21,201,752	**21,753,439**
Building and other structures - at fair value	15,167,707	15,834,938
Building and other structures - at cost	14,136,587	433,625
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(4,784,893)	(4,100,914)
	24,519,401	**12,167,649**
Infrastructure - at fair value	78,014,241	78,697,268
Infrastructure - at cost	2,884,817	1,620,364
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(16,001,916)	(12,884,225)
	64,897,142	**67,433,407**
Plant and equipment - at fair value	2,376,236	2,376,236
Plant and equipment - at cost	1,694,820	1,530,734
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,903,657)	(1,525,970)
	2,167,399	**2,381,000**
Furniture, fixture and equipment - at fair value	400,757	400,757
Furniture, fixture and equipment - at cost	268,827	95,534
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(267,116)	(223,736)
	402,468	**272,555**
Other infrastructure - at fair value	1,853,727	1,853,727
Other infrastructure - at cost	132,722	111,947
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(442,193)	(365,572)
	1,544,256	**1,600,102**
Capital works-in-progress	491,844	7,494,755
Landfill asset*	15,264,130	12,659,885
	140,631,792	**135,906,192**

	Land $	Improvements $	Building and other structures $	Infrastructure $	Plant and equipment $	Furniture fixture and equipment $	Other infrastructure $	Capital works-in-progress $	Restated Landfill asset* $	Total $
2025										
Carrying amounts	9,583,400	23,505,673	12,289,593	68,097,186	2,191,914	178,957	1,706,496	923,558	12,515,416	130,992,193
Reclassifications		(1,477,375)	344,122	1,082,373	14,077	64,247	(27,444)			
Additions	560,000	530,263	395,597	1,475,087	540,146	82,019		6,571,197		10,154,309
Disposals		(142,784)	(67,193)		(21,593)	(1,080)				(232,650)
Depreciation		(662,338)	(794,470)	(3,221,239)	(343,544)	(51,588)	(78,950)		(900,752)	(6,052,881)
Depreciation written-off										
Additional assets revaluation									1,045,221	1,045,221
Remeasurement										
	10,143,400	**21,753,439**	**12,167,649**	**67,433,407**	**2,381,000**	**272,555**	**1,600,102**	**7,494,755**	**12,659,885**	**135,906,192**
2026										
Carrying amounts	**10,143,400**	**21,753,439**	**12,167,649**	**67,433,407**	**2,381,000**	**272,555**	**1,600,102**	**7,494,755**	**12,659,885**	**135,906,192**
Additions	-	77,940	6,723,544	926,020	58,803	171,939	20,772	419,566		8,398,583
Disposals			(577,226)							(577,226)
Impairment			(90,005)	(682,948)						(772,953)
Depreciation	-	(629,626)	(888,763)	(3,117,692)	(378,524)	(42,025)	(76,618)	-	(632,994)	(5,766,243)
Accumulated depreciation written back			206,200							206,200
Transfer in/out			6,978,002	338,354	106,120			(7,422,476)	3,237,239	-
Remeasurement									3,237,239	3,237,239
	10,143,400	**21,201,753**	**24,519,401**	**64,897,142**	**2,167,399**	**402,469**	**1,544,256**	**491,844**	**15,264,130**	**140,631,792**

NOTE 19. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Deposits retentions and bond	260,143	327,527
Payments received in advance	529,961	534,579
Trade and other payables	253,449	520,039
Accrued expenses wages	96,871	111,324
Accrued expenses other	1,242,974	1,976,935
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	**2,383,398**	**3,470,404**

NOTE 20. PROVISIONS

Current liabilities	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Employee entitlements (including on costs)	567,054	608,956
TOTAL PROVISIONS	**567,054**	**608,956**

NOTE 21. BORROWINGS

Non-Current liabilities	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Borrowings	2,000,000	-
TOTAL BORROWINGS	**2,000,000**	**-**

NOTE 22. LONG TERM PROVISIONS

Non-current liabilities	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Employee entitlements (including on costs)	21,738	33,162
Landfill rehabilitation provision	24,664,074	20,391,239
TOTAL LONG TERM PROVISIONS	**24,685,812**	**20,424,401**

Landfill Rehabiliation Provision

Council recognises a provision for the estimated future costs associated with the closure, capping, remediation and post-closure monitoring of its landfill facilities. The provision has been measured at the present value of the expected future cash outflows required to settle the obligation, based on the latest engineering assessment prepared by Resource Innovations. The provision is reviewed annually and adjusted to reflect changes in rehabilitation scope, timing of landfill closure, cost estimates, inflation assumptions and discount rates. During the 2025/26 financial year Council reassessed the landfill rehabilitation liability following an updated engineering review of the Katherine landfill cells and associated aftercare requirements. The provision is in accordance with AASB 137- Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

In accordance with Council's accounting policy for rehabilitation obligations

- the annual unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income;
- changes arising from revised discount rates and inflation assumptions are recognised as adjustments to the provision;
- changes arising from revised closure designs, rehabilitation scope or cost estimates are capitalised against the related landfill asset where the asset remains in use and depreciated prospectively over the remaining useful life of the asset; and
- where no related asset exists, adjustments are recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

At 30 June 2026 the entire rehabilitation provision of $24.664 million has been classified as non-current as rehabilitation activities are not expected to be settled within twelve months of reporting date.

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
At beginning of year	20,391,239	18,734,498
Unwinding of present value discount	1,035,596	611,520
Increase /(decrease) due to change in discount rate	(1,579,302)	197,998
Increase/ (decrease) due to change in inflation	(113,226)	-
Increase/ (decrease) due to change in cost forecasts	4,929,767	847,223
TOTAL PROVISION AT END OF YEAR	**24,664,074**	**20,391,239**

NOTE 23. ASSET REVALUATION RESERVES

	Net balance at 1 July 2025 ($)	Decrements	Balance at 30 June 2026 ($)
Land	9,583,400	-	9,583,400
Improvements	4,116,489	-	4,116,489
Buildings and other structures	15,057,132	90,006	14,967,126
Infrastructure	68,391,286	682,948	67,708,338
Plant and equipment	891,132	-	891,132
Furniture, fittings and equipment	380,736	-	380,736
TOTAL REVALUATION RESERVE	**98,420,175**	**772,954**	**97,647,221**

PURPOSES OF RESERVES

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non-current assets (less any subsequent impairment losses, where applicable)

NOTE 24. OTHER RESERVES

	2026 ($)	Increments	2025 ($)
WMF - Airspace Asset Reserve	6,462,862	-	6,462,862
Capital renewal reserve	6,487,647	1,500,000	4,987,647
Aquatic Centre Contingency Reserve	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Municipal election reserve	100,000	-	100,000
Council motion reserve	600,515	-	600,515
TOTAL OTHER RESERVES	**14,651,024**	**1,500,000**	**13,151,024**

PURPOSES OF RESERVES

Other reserves reflect the Council's determination to put aside funds for specific purposes.

NOTE 25 RETAINED EARNINGS

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Accumulated surpluses at the beginning of the financial year	29,563,473	21,197,206
Operating surplus (deficit) for the year	2,713,526	8,366,266
Transfers from Equity to Reserves	(1,500,000)	-
RETAINED EARNINGS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	**30,776,998**	**29,563,472**

NOTE 26. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial risk management objectives
All financial instruments are categorised as loans and receivables.

Accounting Policies - Recognised Financial Instruments

Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits

Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, interest is recognised when earned.

Terms & conditions: Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 3.90% and 5.35% (2025: 3.95% and 5.20%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 360 days and an Average interest rate of 4.57% (2025: 337 days, 4.32%).

Carrying amount: approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - Rates & Associated

Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms & conditions: Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 9% (2025:9%) Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State.

Carrying amount: approximates fair value

Receivables - Fees & other charges

Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms & conditions: Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of State and Federal Governments.

Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals

Accounting Policy: Liabilities are recognised at amortised costs for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.

Terms & conditions: Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

NOTE 26. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT (CONTINUED)

Liquidity Analysis

2026	Due 1 year $	Due 1 -5 years $	Due > 5 years $	Total Contractual Cash Flows $	Carrying Values $
FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	5,861,499	-	-	5,861,499	5,861,499
Other financial assets	22,352,843	-	-	22,352,843	22,352,843
Receivables	3,716,614	-	-	3,716,614	3,716,614
	31,930,956	-	**-**	**31,930,956**	**31,930,956**
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES					
Payables	2,383,398	-	-	2,383,398	2,383,398
Loan		2,000,000	-	2,000,000	2,000,000
	2,383,398	**2,000,000**		**4,383,398**	**4,383,398**

2025	Due 1 year $	Due 1 -5 years $	Due > 5 years $	Total Contractual Cash Flows $	Carrying Values $
FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	3,924,008	-	-	3,924,008	3,924,008
Other financial assets	22,163,684			22,163,684	22,163,684
Receivables	3,609,059	-	-	3,609,059	3,609,059
	29,696,751	-	**-**	**29,696,751**	**29,696,751**
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES					
Payables	3,470,404	-	-	3,470,404	3,470,404
	3,470,404	-	**-**	**3,470,404**	**3,470,404**

Net fair value
All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

Risk exposures:
Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Council is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for doubtful debts. Except as detailed in Note 16 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated with the Council's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk not currency risk apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates. Council also has available, a range of bank overdraft and standby borrowing facilities that it can access.
Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest revenue over the longer term in a risk-averse manner.

NOTE 27. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING SURPLUS TO NET

CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Total cash and equivalents and other current financial assets	5,861,499	3,924,008

b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year	2,713,526	8,366,266
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	5,766,243	6,052,880
Finance Cost – Unwinding interest Landfill	1,035,596	611,520
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as investing activity	(4,421,461)	(9,161,233)
Other non cash adjustments	(30,100)	(67,996)
Interest on term deposits	(1,227,873)	(794,286)
Net (gain)/loss on Disposals	331,811	255,502
Change in operating assets and liabilities		
Net increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	(53,326)	7,085
Net (increase)/decrease in receivables	(104,319)	(982,764)
Net Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(216,397)	1,434,656
Increase/(decrease) in prepayments	(116,507)	37,351
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	**3,677,193**	**5,758,981**

c) Financing Arrangements

Unrestricted access was available at balance sheet date to the following lines of credit:

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Borrowings – Loan for capital works	2,000,000	-
Bank overdrafts	100,000	100,000
Corporate credit cards	25,000	25,000
	2,125,000	**125,000**

The bank overdraft facilities may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

NOTE 28. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At 30 June 2026, Council was a party to legal proceedings relating to matters arising in the ordinary course of operations. The proceedings are at a preliminary stage and, based on legal advice obtained, Council is unable to reliably estimate the potential financial impact of the outcome. Accordingly, no provision has been recognised in the financial statements. Any liability arising from the proceedings will be recognised in the period in which the obligation becomes probable and can be reliably measured.

Council has insurance arrangements in place to mitigate potential exposures arising from certain claims and legal proceedings. Any liabilities arising from insured events are expected to be substantially recoverable, subject to policy terms and conditions.

NOTE 29. CONTINGENT ASSETS

Council has identified a contingent asset at 30th June, 2026. During the financial year, Council incurred expenditure relating to restoration works arising from declared natural disaster events. An application will be submitted under the relevant disaster recovery funding arrangements in 26-27. The claim, once submitted, will be subject to assessment and approval. As the entitlement to funding has not been confirmed, no receivable has been recognised.

Based on information available at 30 June 2026, Council consider it probable that a reimbursement will be received. However, as the entitlement has not been formally confirmed and the amount of recovery remains subject to review, no asset has been recognised in these financial statements.

BANK GUARANTEE

Council has no guaranteed loans and other banking facilities advanced to others.

NOTE 30. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:

	2026 ($)	2025($)
Capital expenditure	4,381,278	7,682,625

NOTE 31. INCOME, EXPENSES AND ASSETS HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

	INCOME	EXPENSES	OPERATING DIRECT	GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME	TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT)
2025					
General Public Services	11,791,885	5,020,897	6,770,988	747,441	33,248,436
Public Order & Safety	377,179	123,331	253,848	249,595	74,762
Housing & Community Services	1,226,022	1,241,242	(15,220)	350,157	17,809,102
Recreation &Culture	88,037	278,307	(190,270)	-	-
Sports & Recreation	6,886,889	3,190,735	3,696,154	6,255,584	39,879,161
Economic Affairs	3,454,752	5,323,462	(1,868,710)	2,559,962	54,585,022
Other purposes (Environmental Protection)	3,168,030	3,217,651	(49,621)	163,376	14,594,044
Community Services	414,578	645,481	(230,903)	347,402	5,447,905
Community Centre & Halls	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	**27,407,372**	**19,041,106**	**8,366,266**	**10,673,517**	**165,638,432**

	INCOME	EXPENSES	OPERATING DIRECT	GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME	TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT)
2026					
General Public Services	11,948,396	5,742,835	6,205,561	563,402	34,668,207
Public Order & Safety	93,151	85,868	7,283	-	77,954
Housing & Community Services	95,173	1,088,400	(993,227)	-	18,569,585
Recreation &Culture	23,000	392,816	(369,816)	23,000	-
Sports & Recreation	4,010,998	3,555,553	455,445	3,913,981	41,582,077
Economic Affairs	2,833,200	5,436,183	(2,602,983)	1,944,329	56,915,906
Other purposes (Environmental Protection)	3,113,192	2,931,365	181,827	254,969	15,217,237
Community Services	257,544	428,107	(170,563)	243,374	5,680,541
Community Centre & Halls	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	**22,374,652**	**19,661,127**	**2,713,526**	**6,943,054**	**172,711,508**

NOTE 32 ASSETS SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS

The uses of the following assets are restricted, wholly or partially, by legislation or other externally imposed requirements. The assets are recognised to be utilised for the purposes for which control was transferred to Council, or for which the revenues were originally obtained.

	2026 ($)	2025($)
Cash and financial assets		
Unexpended grants from:		
Non-reciprocal agreement	136,375	186,580

The following liabilities, included in Note 20, may be discharged from restricted assets in the first instance.

	2026 ($)	2025($)
Provisions	567,054	642,118
Provisions for landfill restoration	24,664,074	20,391,239

Non-reciprocal agreements of $136,375 (2025: $186,580) are restricted with the Northern Territory and/or the Commonwealth Government

NOTE 33 FINANCIAL INDICATORS

	2026	2025
CURRENT RATIO		
Current assets - externally restricted assets		
Current liabilities	10.83	7.29
RATE COVERAGE PERCENTAGE		
Rate revenues		
Total revenues	65.51%	60.67%
RATES AND ANNUAL CHARGES OUTSTANDING PERCENTAGE		
Rates and annual charges outstanding		
Rates and annual charges collectible	22.55%	18.34%

NOTE 34. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL DISCLOSURES

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel of the Council include the Mayor, Councillors and CEO (2025: Mayor, Councillors, CEO and certain officers) prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. In all, 12 persons were paid the following compensation;

	2026 ($)	2025 ($)
Salaries, allowances and other short-term benefits	817,393	1,468,378
Post-employment benefits	51,616	185,142
Long term benefits	41,054	16,608
	910,063	**1,670,128**

Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of total Remuneration provided to the CEO as required by General Instruction 2 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021:

CEO - Ingrid Stonhill	**2026 ($)**	**2025 ($)**
Salaries, allowances and other short-term benefits	309,757	311,771
Post-employment benefits	10,672	14,656
Total remuneration *	**320,429**	**326,427**

Appointment period - 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026

Acting CEO - Casey Anderson	**2026 ($)**	**2025 ($)**
Salaries, allowances and other short-term benefits	206,731	-
Post-employment benefits	32,967	-
Other long-term benefits	41,054	-
Total remuneration *	**280,752**	**-**

Appointment date - 8th September

NOTE 35 EVENTS AFTER REPORTING PERIOD

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2026 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the Council's operations, the results of those operations, or the Council's state of affairs in future financial years.



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Council of Katherine Town Council

Opinion

We have audited the ***Financial Report*** of Katherine Town Council ("***the Council***").

In our opinion, the accompanying Financial Report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2026, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards, the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019 and the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

The ***Financial Report*** comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026
- Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, Statement of changes in equity, and Statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- Notes, including material accounting policies

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards*. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the *Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the Financial Report in Australia. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Restriction on use

The Financial Report has been prepared to assist the Chief Executive Officer of the Council in complying with the financial reporting requirements of the *Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019* and *the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

As a result, the Financial Report and this Auditor's Report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter. Our report is intended solely for the Council and should not be used by parties other than the Council. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report, or on the Financial Report to which it relates, to any person other than the Council or for any other purpose than that for which it was prepared.

Other information

Other Information is financial and non-financial information in the Council's annual report which is provided in addition to the Financial Report and the Auditor's Report. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the Other Information.

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Our opinion on the Financial Report does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the Financial Report, our responsibility is to read the Other Information. In doing so, we consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the Financial Report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We are required to report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information and based on the work we have performed on the Other Information that we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report we have nothing to report.

Responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer for the Financial Report

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for:

- the preparation and fair presentation of the Financial Report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, *the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019* and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*
- implementing necessary internal control to enable the preparation of a Financial Report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern and whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. This includes disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objective is:

- to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. They are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the Financial Report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report is located at the *Auditing and Assurance Standards Board* website at: https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

KPMG

KPMG
Darwin
30 October 2026



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KATHERINE
TOWN COUNCIL