MEETING NOTES

Katherine Community Safety Action Group (KCSAG)

Held on Thursday 15 October 2026

At 12:00 pm

Civic Centre, Committee Room
29 Crawford Street, Katherine NT 0850

1 ATTENDANCE

1.1 PRESENT

ACTION GROUP MEMBERS

– Mayor Joanna Holden
– Deputy Mayor Mel Doyle
– Councilor Anjali Palmer
– Annie Hesse, Resident
– Antony King, Resident
– Christine Butler, Resident
– Denis Hannah, Business Owner
– Jennifer Duggan, Senior
– Natalie Ellis, Youth

OFFICERS

– Casey Andreson - Acting Chief Executive Officer
– Brett Kimpton - Manager for Environment and Municipal
– Shena Damayanti - Executive Assistant
– Andrea Stari - Governance Officer

1.2 APOLOGIES

– Mayor Joanna Holden
– Samantha Phelan, Resident

2 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

2.1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Each group member introduced themselves, outlined their reasons for joining the group, provided a brief overview of their current connection to Katherine, highlighted the experience and expertise they would bring, and discussed key community safety priorities.

Deputy Mayor Mel Doyle

Provided an update on the Bodhi Bus initiative and its potential introduction to Katherine supported by bilingual television message.
Messaging about community expectations and by-laws breaches and penalties.
Discussed the ongoing review of local by-laws.
Highlighted the use of television CBD messaging and community awareness campaigns to promote safety initiatives.

Action Required: Review and strengthen community messaging and signage to improve awareness and understanding of local by-laws, community expectations, and the penalties associated with non-

compliance. Identify and develop opportunities to engage and collaborate with service providers and key stakeholders to promote community expectations, public safety, and community well-being through coordinated communication and education initiatives.

Jennifer Duggan

Provided an overview of Neighbourhood Watch activities, including opportunities to strengthen local participation through initiatives such as the “Adopt-a-Park” program in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch groups.
Emphasised the importance of strengthening community connections and returning to basic community values to support safer neighbourhoods.

Action Required: Explore and identify opportunities that strengthen community connectedness through events, activities, and engagement initiatives. Facilitate and invite community safety organisations to participate in these opportunities to promote their services, increase community awareness, and provide information on programs and initiatives that support personal safety, home security, and neighbourhood watch principles. Encourage community participation and shared responsibility to help build safer neighbourhoods and a stronger, more connected community.

Denis Hannah

Raised concerns regarding litter control and the need to maintain community cleanliness.
Reported issues relating to residents taking or using other people rubbish bins.
suggest a community awareness campaign focused on litter prevention and responsible waste management.

Action Required: Deliver a targeted litter prevention and education campaign to increase awareness of community expectations, Council by-laws, and penalties for littering offences. Undertake a review of public waste infrastructure, including the location, design, and capacity of bins, to improve amenity and accessibility. Explore strategies to prevent vandalism and damage to waste receptacles while promoting community pride and responsible waste disposal behaviours.

Christine Butler

Encouraged community members to utilise the Snap, Send and Solve platform to improve reporting, response times, and resolution outcomes.
Raised concerns regarding service delivery and maintenance of footpaths.
Discussed low security workers camps and opportunities to support workers in developing skills and community engagement.
Highlighted ongoing issues with lack of bins around CBD litter along local roads.

Action Required: Develop and implement a community awareness campaign promoting the use of Snap Send Solve as an easy and effective tool for reporting vandalism, maintenance issues, and other local concerns. Educate residents on how the platform works, the types of issues that can be reported, and the benefits of timely reporting in helping Council respond efficiently and maintain safe, clean, and well-managed public spaces.

Anjali Palmer

Shared information regarding community gardens, including examples from New South Wales. Highlighted the value of community gardens and shared spaces in fostering social connections. Discussed strategies to increase community engagement and participation.

Action Required: Explore and identify opportunities to strengthen community connectedness by fostering meaningful social connections and increasing community participation. Develop and implement strategies that encourage engagement across all sectors of the community, build social inclusion, and enhance residents' sense of belonging. This action will align with and support initiatives being led by Jenny Duggan, ensuring a coordinated and collaborative approach to achieving shared community outcomes.

Antony King

Raised concerns about community members feeling unsafe in public spaces e.g. lighting and transportation in Katherine particularly with the Bus Operators.
Highlighted challenges associated with the local workforce in health and the impact on community wellbeing.

Action Required: Explore initiatives to enhance public safety, including improved lighting, identify vulnerable groups during high-risk periods, and investigate opportunities to support the wellbeing and resilience of the local workforce.

2.2 GOVERNANCE AND INFORMATION PACK

Governance and Information pack provided, and members are required to send back their signed forms to Council by Friday, 23 October 2026.

2.3 BACKGROUND AND CURRENT INITIATIVES

Councillor Palmer informed the group of the background work currently being undertaken by council. A full-time governance working group officer has been appointed to support the administration and operation of councils working groups.

In June 2026, Council resolved to seek support for a short-term youth engagement program aimed at addressing periods of heightened risk young people. Since then, Council has worked with Aboriginal organisations and youth sector partners to develop a proposal.
At the community Safety Roundtable, Council presented a discussion paper outlining six key priorities:

- Safer public spaces: Assess locations where improved lighting, clearer sightlines, vegetation management, or CCTV may enhance community safety, and develop a staged implementation plan informed by police intelligence and community feedback.
- Improved community reporting: Explore the feasibility of a reporting tool to assist residents and frontline workers in reporting suspicious activity to the appropriate authorities and identifying recurring problem areas.
- Short-term youth emergency response: Seek support for supervised activities, meals, transport, and engagement with trusted Aboriginal youth workers during periods when young people may be at heightened risk.
- Youth night space: Investigate the establishment of a safe, supervised facility that provides activities and connects young people with mentoring, wellbeing, education, and employment support services.
- Stronger family support: Explore more coordinated and intensive assistance for families with complex needs, including opportunities to improve access to support services.
- Reducing alcohol-related harm: Work collaboratively with Aboriginal organisations, health services, police, and government agencies to identify evidence-based strategies, alongside treatment, rehabilitation, and family support initiatives.

The next Community Safety Roundtable meeting is scheduled for 23 October 2026. The Katherine Community Safety Action Group (KCSAG) will continue to receive updates on the progress of these discussions and related developments.

Regarding the Youth Emergency Response initiative, Kalano has provided a briefing to the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and is awaiting an invitation to submit a formal funding application.

The Katherine Town Council By-laws Consultation Paper is currently being drafted by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel. Once available, it will be presented to the group for discussion on the proposed amendments and the public consultation process.

2.4 GROUP OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Action Required: Review and strengthen community messaging and signage to improve awareness and understanding of local by-laws, community expectations, and the penalties associated with non-compliance. Identify and develop opportunities to engage and collaborate with service providers and key stakeholders to promote community expectations, public safety, and community well-being through coordinated communication and education initiatives.

2. Action Required: Explore and identify opportunities that strengthen community connectedness through events, activities, and engagement initiatives. Facilitate and invite community safety organisations to participate in these opportunities to promote their services, increase community awareness, and provide information on programs and initiatives that support personal safety, home security, and neighbourhood watch principles. Encourage community participation and shared responsibility to help build safer neighbourhoods and a stronger, more connected community.

3. Action Required: Deliver a targeted litter prevention and education campaign to increase awareness of community expectations, Council by-laws, and penalties for littering offences. Undertake a review of public waste infrastructure, including the location, design, and capacity of bins, to improve amenity and accessibility. Explore strategies to prevent vandalism and damage to waste receptacles while promoting community pride and responsible waste disposal behaviours.

4. Action Required: Explore and identify opportunities to strengthen community connectedness by fostering meaningful social connections and increasing community participation. Develop and implement strategies that encourage engagement across all sectors of the community, build social inclusion, and enhance residents' sense of belonging. This action will align with and support initiatives being led by Jenny Duggan, ensuring a coordinated and collaborative approach to achieving shared community outcomes.

5. Action Required: Explore initiatives to enhance public safety, including improved lighting, identify vulnerable groups during high-risk periods, and investigate opportunities to support the wellbeing and resilience of the local workforce.

6. Action Required: Exploring opportunities to engage with the Low Security Workers Camp to support initiatives that benefit the wider Katherine community. Promote Snap Send Solve to educate the public and enhance reporting through campaigns.

2.5 FUTURE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The working group agreed to meet monthly, during the second week of each month

3 GROUP MEMBER BUSINESS

3.1 GROUP MEMBER BUSINESS

Correspondence regarding Woolworths Katherine opening hours was noted for discussion.

The media release on Woolworth Trading Hours by KTC on 25th May 2025 will be incorporated into the business papers.

4 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Katherine Community Safety Action Group (KCSAG) - 15 October 2026 was declared closed at 12:55 pm.

The next Katherine Community Safety Action Group (KCSAG) will be held on 12 November 2026.