

Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 25 February 2025



Reports, recommendations and supporting documentation can be accessed via the City of Darwin Website at www.darwin.nt.gov.au, or contact Customer Service on (08) 8930 0300.

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS DARRANDIRRA, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY
CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN
ON TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 5:30PM**

PRESENT:

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis (Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris
Councillor Kim Farrar
Councillor Mirella Fejo
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris
Councillor Peter Pangquee
Councillor Morgan Rickard
Councillor Vim Sharma
Councillor Ed Smelt
Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe
Councillor Sam Weston

OFFICERS

Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders
General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr
General Manager Corporate, Natalie Williamson
General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy

APOLOGY:

Councillor Amye Un

GUESTS:

Nil

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We the members of City of Darwin acknowledge that we are meeting on Larrakia Country.

We recognise and pay our respects to all Larrakia people, Traditional Owners and Custodian Elders of the past and present.

We support emerging Larrakia leaders now and into the future.

We are committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.

2 THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.

Amen

Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe was not present at the commencement of the meeting.

3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

RESOLUTION ORD055/25

Moved: Councillor Ed Smelt

Seconded: Councillor Peter Pangquee

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:32 pm.

CARRIED 11/0

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION ORD056/25

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

THAT the apology from Councillor Amye Un, be received.

CARRIED 11/0

4.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Nil

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

Nil

5 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE**5.1 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE GRANTED****RESOLUTION ORD057/25**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 95 (3) of the *Local Government Act 2019*, the following Councillor(s) was granted permission for Electronic Meeting Attendance:

- Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe
- Councillor Vim Sharma

CARRIED 11/0

5.2 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

Nil

Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe joined the meeting at 5:33 pm.

6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**6.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS****RESOLUTION ORD058/25**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Peter Pangquee

1. THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 114 and 115 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Councillor Sam Weston, declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 28.7 - In-kind Request Parking and Events.
2. THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 114 and 115 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 28.7 - In-kind Request Parking and Events.
3. THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 114 and 115 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Councillor Sylvia Klonaris, declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 28.5 - Review of Walkway 83.

CARRIED 12/0

6.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**RESOLUTION ORD059/25**

Moved: Councillor Peter Pangquee

Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 January 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 12/0

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 January 2025 be confirmed subject to an administrative amendment on item 14.1 – Place Names Application - Marrara Gardens - Naming of Five Roads, that the proposed road name Kennons be amended to Kennon.

8 MOVING OF ITEMS**8.1 MOVING OF OPEN ITEMS INTO CONFIDENTIAL**

Nil

8.2 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS INTO OPEN

Nil

8.3 MOVING CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO OPEN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**28.1 CITY OF DARWIN PROPOSED TREE CANOPY COVERAGE TARGET****RESOLUTION ORD074/25**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Councillor Morgan Rickard

1. THAT the report entitled City of Darwin Proposed Tree Canopy Coverage Target be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse a minimum tree canopy coverage target of 35% by 2050 for City of Darwin controlled land.
3. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.
4. THAT the report remains confidential and that this decision and attachment be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 12/0

28.4 UPDATED FEES AND CHARGES 2024/25**RESOLUTION ORD078/25**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT the report entitled Updated Fees and Charges 2024/25 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the amended cemetery charges for 2024/25 as provided in **Attachment 3** to this report.
3. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.
4. THAT the reports remain confidential and that this decision and **Attachment 3** be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 11/1

28.5 REVIEW OF WALKWAY 83**RESOLUTION ORD079/25**

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Review of Walkway 83 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council note there have been two requests to purchase Walkway 83 between Vanderlin Drive and Amsterdam Circuit, Wagaman.
3. THAT Council note that consultation in relation to a potential sale was undertaken and the result are contained within this report.
4. THAT Council do not endorse selling Walkway 83 between Vanderlin Drive and Amsterdam Circuit, Wagaman.
5. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.
6. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 11/0

28.7 In-kind Request Parking and Events**RESOLUTION ORD087/25**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Mirella Fejo

1. THAT the report entitled In-kind Request Parking and Events be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve for an in-kind support waiver to the Darwin Services Club for the loss of one parking bay, equating to a cost of \$11,487 as calculated at 50% of value through the Parking Contribution Plan, to enable Darwin Services Club to fund and install one new accessible parking bay on The Esplanade.
3. THAT Council approve for an in-kind support waiver to the Darwin Services Club for the cost to relocate a loading bay adjacent to the Darwin Services Club from the west side to the east side of Knuckey Street.

4. THAT Council note that an in-kind support waiver of \$26,340 for works permits and parking bay hire for the upgrade of the premises at 70 The Esplanade was requested by Darwin Services Club and that this request was not supported by Council vote on 28 January 2025.
5. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.
6. THAT the documents remain confidential and that the decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 10/0

29.1 2023/2024 Year End Funds Position

RESOLUTION ORD089/25

Moved: Councillor Ed Smelt

Seconded: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

1. THAT the report entitled 2023/2024 Year End Funds Position be received and noted.
2. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.
3. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 12/0

29.2 Active Transport Audit

RESOLUTION ORD090/25

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Active Transport Audit be received and noted.
2. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.
3. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 12/0

29.3 Review of Speed Limits Around High Pedestrian Activity Areas

RESOLUTION ORD091/25

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Councillor Mirella Fejo

1. THAT the report entitled Review of Speed Limits Around High Pedestrian Activity Areas be received and noted.
2. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.
3. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 10/1

9 MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / LORD MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

11 PETITIONS

Nil

12 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

Nil

13 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

14 ACTION REPORTS**14.1 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT POLICIES****RESOLUTION ORD060/25**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Cemetery Management Policies be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the Multiple Burial Policy at **Attachment 1**.
3. That Council adopt the Exclusive Rights of Burial Policy at **Attachment 2**.

CARRIED 12/0**14.2 COR INFINITUS MEMORIAL PROPOSAL****RESOLUTION ORD061/25**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

1. THAT the report entitled Cor Infinitus Memorial Proposal be received and noted.
2. THAT Council notes that the final positioning and design of the Cor Infinitus Memorial is still subject to design approval by City of Darwin officers in accordance with policy and procedures.
3. THAT Council approve the installation of a Cor Infinitus Memorial adjacent to the Darwin Oval Carpark, the Esplanade.

CARRIED 12/0

14.3 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MOTIONS 2025

RESOLUTION ORD062/25

Moved: Councillor Ed Smelt

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT the report entitled Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly Motions 2025 be received and noted.

2. THAT Council endorse the following motion to be put to the National General Assembly 2025:

"This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to review regional waste processing to identify opportunities for more innovative waste processing approaches by councils, including waste aggregation and transfers to more advanced recycling facilities and alternative technology facilities including waste to energy"

3. THAT Council endorse the following motion to be put to the National General Assembly 2025:

"This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reinstate the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, based on a national funding formula, to provide ongoing financial assistance for the delivery of community infrastructure that reduces the burden on resource limited local governments to prepare competitive grant applications"

4. THAT Council endorse the following motion to be put to the National General Assembly 2025:

"This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise the important role of local government in the delivery of key early years supports and provide funding to local government authorities for new and upgraded infrastructure, additional childcare places, growing a local skilled workforce and increasing affordability of services in the delivery of early childhood education and care, playgroups and toy libraries"

5. THAT Council endorse the following motion to be put to the National General Assembly 2025:

"This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a publicly-funded residential care operator in Australia, with the first facilities built in regional areas of high need in partnership with aged care providers."

CARRIED 12/0

15 RECEIVE & NOTE REPORTS

15.1 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - JANUARY 2025

RESOLUTION ORD063/25

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Councillor Morgan Rickard

THAT the report entitled Monthly Financial Report – January 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED 12/0

15.2 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2024 (Q2)**RESOLUTION ORD064/25**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

THAT the report entitled Quarterly Performance Report – October to December 2024 (Q2) be received and noted.

CARRIED 12/0

15.3 TIER 2 BI-ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - JULY TO DECEMBER 2024**RESOLUTION ORD065/25**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT the report entitled Tier 2 Bi-Annual Performance Report – July to December 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED 12/0

16 CORRESPONDENCE**16.1 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - POWER WATER - COMMUNITY BATTERY PROGRAM****RESOLUTION ORD066/25**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

THAT the report entitled Incoming Correspondence - Power Water - Community Battery Program be received and noted.

CARRIED 12/0

17 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**RESOLUTION ORD067/25**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe

THAT the following Reports of Representatives be received and noted.

17.1

The Lord Mayor, Kon Vatskalis reported on attending the 83rd Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin Commemorative Service and the USS Peary Memorial Service on Wednesday 19 February 2025. The event was well-organised and attended by over 820 school students, along with prominent figures such as Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles, Shadow Minister for Veteran Affairs Barnaby Joyce, Northern Territory Administrator Hugh Heggie, and Chief Minister Lia

Finocchiaro. Particular thanks were given to the Band of the 1st Brigade, the Darwin Chorale, the Australian Defence Force catafalque, and all international ambassadors who attended. It was a great day and congratulations to the officers for their efforts.

17.2

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris reported on attending the 83rd Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin Commemorative Service with fellow Councillors Sam Weston, Kim Farrar, Ed Smelt, Jimmy Bouhoris and Amye Un. Councillor Sylvia Klonaris thanked officers for their efforts, noting the large turnout and good organisation. The event was especially meaningful, allowing attendees to remember an important moment in Darwin and Australia's history with family members and school students.

17.3

Councillor Kim Farrar reported on attending 83rd Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin Commemorative Service. Councillor Kim Farrar expressed gratitude to all the officers for their efforts and mentioned how special it was to see so many school students and family members of descendants and survivors in attendance.

CARRIED 12/0

18 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

18.1 CARETAKER RESIDENCE PARAP

RESOLUTION ORD068/25

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

Question

Councillor Ed Smelt requested an update on the sale of the caretaker residence on Holtze Street, Parap.

Response

General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy advised the Property team has submitted the rezoning application through the Development Applications Online website. The decision is expected to take months, and at the appropriate time during the process community consultation will be undertaken.

CARRIED 12/0

18.2 BETTER SUBURBS PROJECTS

RESOLUTION ORD069/25

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

Question

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris requested an update on the progress of the Better Suburbs projects for

Richardson Ward for 2024/25, in particular the construction of the storage shed at Nakara Oval.

Response

General Manager Corporate, Natalie Williamson responded and advised that the tender for the construction of the storage shed at Nakara Oval has been released.

CARRIED 12/0

18.3 CASUARINA AQUATIC AND LEISURE CENTRE LANDSCAPING WORKS**RESOLUTION ORD070/25**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

Question

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris requested an update on the status of landscaping works at Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

Response

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr responded and advised that the Parks and Reserves team are developing a planting plan for Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre. All plants have been audited and will be planted in the new financial year once the plan is finalised.

CARRIED 12/0

19 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

20 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 25 March 2025, at 5:30pm (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section), Council Chambers Darrandirra, Level 1, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin.

21 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Regulation 8 of the Local Government Regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 99(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019*:

28.1 City of Darwin Proposed Tree Canopy Coverage Target

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

28.2 Extension on Lease Agreement

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

28.3 NT Cricket Turf Wicket Management Proposal

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

28.4 Updated Fees and Charges 2024/25

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

28.5 Review of Walkway 83

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

28.6 Outdoor Advertising

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(e) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with subject to subregulation 51(3) – information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.

28.7 In-kind Request Parking and Events

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

28.8 Disbursements - Persons Authorised

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iii) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on

balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.

29.1 2023/2024 Year End Funds Position

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

29.2 Active Transport Audit

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(e) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with subject to subregulation 51(3) – information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.

29.3 Review of Speed Limits Around High Pedestrian Activity Areas

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

22 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

RESOLUTION ORD071/25

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT the open section of the meeting be adjourned at 6:02 pm.

CARRIED 12/0

THAT the open section of the meeting be resumed at 8:34 pm.

THAT the chair declared the meeting closed at 8:34 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 March 2025.

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CHAIR