

# Minutes

## Special Council Meeting

Tuesday, 22 July 2025



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

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS DARRANDIRRA, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY  
CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN  
ON TUESDAY, 22 JULY 2025 AT 5:30PM**

**PRESENT:**

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis (Chair)  
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris  
Councillor Kim Farrar  
Councillor Mirella Fejo  
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris  
Councillor Mick Palmer  
Councillor Ed Smelt  
Councillor Amye Un  
Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe  
Councillor Sam Weston

**OFFICERS**

Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders  
General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr  
General Manager Corporate, Natalie Williamson  
Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development, Emma Struys

**APOLOGY:**

Deputy Lord Mayor Morgan Rickard  
Councillor Peter Pangquee  
Councillor Vim Sharma

**GUESTS:**

Nil

**Order of Business**

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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 Ed Smelt was not present at the commencement of the meeting at 5:32 pm.*

*Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe was not present at the commencement of the meeting at 5:32 pm.*

## 3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

### RESOLUTION SPE342/25

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

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

**CARRIED 8/0**

## 4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### 4.1 APOLOGIES

#### RESOLUTION SPE343/25

Moved: Councillor Mirella Fejo

Seconded: Councillor Mick Palmer

THAT the apologies from Deputy Lord Mayor Morgan Rickard, Councillor Peter Pangquee and Councillor Vim Sharma be received.

**CARRIED 8/0**

### 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 SPE344/25**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

THAT Council note that pursuant to section 95 (43) of the Local Government Act 2019, the following councillor(s) was granted permission for electronic meeting attendance:

- Amye Un

**CARRIED 8/0**

**5.2 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUESTED**

Nil

**6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF COUNCILLORS AND STAFF****6.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS**

Nil

**6.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF**

Nil

**7 MOVING OF ITEMS****7.1 MOVING OF OPEN ITEMS INTO CONFIDENTIAL**

Nil

**7.2 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS INTO OPEN**

Nil

### 7.3 MOVING CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO OPEN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Nil

## 8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

Nil

*Councillor Ed Smelt joined the meeting at 5:34 pm.*

*Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe joined the meeting at 5:34 pm.*

## 9 ACTION REPORTS

### 9.1 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION SERVICE AGREEMENT BUDGET VARIATION

#### RESOLUTION SPE345/25

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Councillor Mick Palmer

1. THAT the report entitled 2025 Local Government Election Service Agreement Budget Variation be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve the increase of the total budget for the Electoral Service Agreement with the Northern Territory Electoral Commission for the August 2025 Local Government Elections to \$720,000.
3. THAT Council approve \$250,000 to be carried forward from 2024/25 general fund savings to the Elections Reserve to fund the increase in budget in 2025/26.
4. THAT Council approve for the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract with the Northern Territory Electoral Commission for the 2025 Local Government Elections per **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2**.

**CARRIED 10/0**

*Administrative amendment – To add the wording ‘No campaigning at this site – pamphlet table provide for City of Darwin candidates only’ for both early voting centres listed in Annex 1 at Attachment 2.*

*Councillor Amye Un departed the meeting at 5:40 pm due to technical issues.*

#### RESOLUTION SPE346/25

Moved: Councillor Ed Smelt

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

That in accordance with Meetings Policy 0043100.E.R, the meeting be suspended at 5:53 pm for 10 minutes to allow for discussion on the report relating to 2025 Local Government Election Service Agreement Budget Variation.

**CARRIED 9/0**

**RESOLUTION SPE347/25**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe

That in accordance with Meetings Policy 0043100.E.R, the suspension of the meeting be extended at 6:03 pm for a further 10 minutes to allow for discussion on the report relating to 2025 Local Government Election Service Agreement Budget Variation.

**CARRIED 9/0**

**RESOLUTION SPE348/25**

Moved: Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe

Seconded: Councillor Mick Palmer

THAT in accordance with Meetings Policy 0043100.E.R, the meeting be resumed at 6:04 pm.

**CARRIED 9/0**

*Councillor Amye Un re-joined the meeting at 6:07 pm*

**10 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Nil

**11 QUESTION BY MEMBERS**

Nil

**12 GENERAL BUSINESS****12.1 CODE OF CONDUCT****RESOLUTION SPE349/25**

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Councillor Amye Un requested clarification on legal costs involved with a recent Code of Conduct dispute. Lord Mayor, Kon Vatskalis recommended the question to be raised in the next Confidential Ordinary Council meeting, in accordance with regulation 51 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations* and section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Councillor Amye Un acknowledged this advice.

**CARRIED 10/0**

### **13 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

**RESOLUTION SPE350/25**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Councillor Mirella Fejo

THAT the chair declared the meeting be closed at 6:12 pm.

**CARRIED 10/0**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Darwin held on 29 July 2025.**

.....  
**CHAIR**