

# Minutes

## Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 27 January 2026

Unconfirmed



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  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS DARRANDIRRA, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY  
CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN  
ON TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2026 AT 5:30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Lord Mayor Peter Styles (Chair)  
Deputy Lord Mayor Patrik Ralph  
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris  
Councillor Nicole Brown  
Councillor Shani Carson  
Councillor Kim Farrar  
Councillor Julie Fraser  
Councillor Edwin Joseph  
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris  
Councillor Mick Palmer  
Councillor Peter Pangquee  
Councillor Ed Smelt  
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:**

**GUESTS:**

Larrakia Nation, Edwin Fejo

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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

**3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**

**RESOLUTION ORD001/26**

Moved: Councillor Ed Smelt

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:39 pm.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**4.1 APOLOGIES**

Nil

**4.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED**

Nil

### 4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

**RESOLUTION ORD002/26**

Moved: Councillor Edwin Joseph

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

THAT a Leave of Absence be granted for Deputy Lord Mayor Patrik Ralph for the period 5 February 2026 to 20 February 2026.

**CARRIED 13/0**

## 5 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

### 5.1 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE GRANTED

**RESOLUTION ORD003/26**

Moved: Councillor Peter Pangquee

Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Patrik Ralph

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:

- Shani Carson
- Julie Fraser

**CARRIED 13/0**

### 5.2 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

Nil

## 6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

### 6.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

**RESOLUTION ORD004/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 114 and 115 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Deputy Lord Mayor Patrik Ralph, declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 14.2 – Community Feedback Outcome - Walkway 199 Lippia Court to Applegum Drive Karama.

Lord Mayor Peter Styles queried whether a perceived conflict of interest should be declared by Councillor Julie Fraser in relation to any association with the Friends of Lee Point group. Councillor Fraser advised that she is not a member of the group but disclosed that she had previously made monetary contributions to Friends of Lee Point.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**6.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF**

Nil

**7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION ORD005/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 2 December 2025 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**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 REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL DECISIONS - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**RESOLUTION ORD053/26**

Moved: Councillor Ed Smelt

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Review of Confidential Decisions – Ordinary Council Meetings and Council Committee Meetings be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve to move certain decisions at **Attachment 1**, made between 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2025 from Confidential to Open.
3. THAT Council approve to move certain decisions at **Attachment 2**, made between 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025 from Confidential to Open.
4. THAT Council approve to move certain decisions at **Attachment 3** for the Executive and Advisory Committees, made between October 2021 to 31 December 2025 from Confidential to Open.
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 9/0**

## **29.1 CORPORATE SERVICES QUARTERLY REPORT - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2025**

### **RESOLUTION ORD055/26**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

1. THAT the report entitled Corporate Services Quarterly Report - October to December 2025 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 9/0**

## **29.2 CYCLONE FINA RECOVERY UPDATE**

### **RESOLUTION ORD056/26**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT the report entitled Cyclone Fina Recovery Update 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 9/0**

## **29.3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY STEERING COMMITTEE CONFIDENTIAL MEETING MINUTES**

### **RESOLUTION ORD057/26**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Councillor Peter Pangquee

1. THAT the report entitled Advisory Committee and Information Communication Technology Steering Committee Confidential Meeting Minutes 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 9/0**

**9 MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / LORD MAYORAL MINUTE**

Nil

**10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Nil

**11 PETITIONS**

Nil

**12 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS**

**12.1 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS**

**RESOLUTION ORD006/26**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Peter Pangquee

THAT the Welcome to Country delivered by Edwin Fejo, be received and noted.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**13 NOTICES OF MOTION**

**13.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - CONFIDENTIAL BUDGET FORUM**

I, Councillor Mick Palmer, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 27 January 2026, I will move the following motion:-

**MOTION**

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT Council at the first Confidential Budget Forum on 3 February 2026, settle on at least two percentage options for indexation of next financial year's rates, fees and charges.
2. THAT such options are put to vote by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting immediately following the Confidential Budget Forum.

**AMENDMENT**

**RESOLUTION ORD007/26**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Mick Palmer

1. THAT Council at the Confidential Budget Forum on 14 March 2026, settle on at least two percentage options for indexation of next financial year's rates, fees and charges.
2. THAT such options are put to vote by Council at the 31 March 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting immediately following the Confidential Budget Forum.

**CARRIED 12/1**

**RESOLUTION ORD008/26**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris  
Seconded: Councillor Mick Palmer

1. THAT Council at the Confidential Budget Forum on 14 March 2026, settle on at least two percentage options for indexation of next financial year's rates, fees and charges.
2. THAT such options are put to vote by Council at the 31 March 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting immediately following the Confidential Budget Forum.

**CARRIED 12/1**

**13.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - CYCLONE FINA LESSONS LEARNED**

I, Councillor Shani Carson, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 27 January 2026, I will move the following motion:-

**RESOLUTION ORD009/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson  
Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT Council receive a Lessons Learned Report on the response to Cyclone Fina, including consideration of:
  - (a) Community communication before, during and after the event
  - (b) Councils' preparedness and internal readiness
  - (c) Early recovery activities (including green waste, facilities and public updates)
  - (d) Coordination with NT Government
  - (e) Information provided to elected members.
2. Request the report identify practical improvements within Council's influence, including opportunities for community education, clearer public guidance and preparedness messaging, to strengthen community confidence.
3. THAT a Lessons Learned Report be presented to Council by May 2026.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**AMENDMENT****MOTION**

Moved: Councillor Peter Pangquee  
Seconded: Councillor Mick Palmer

1. THAT Council receive a Report on the response to Cyclone Fina, including consideration of:
  - (a) Community communication before, during and after the event
  - (b) Councils' preparedness and internal readiness
  - (c) Early recovery activities (including green waste, facilities and public updates)
  - (d) Coordination with NT Government
  - (e) Information provided to elected members.

2. Request the report identify practical improvements within Council's influence, including opportunities for community education, clearer public guidance and preparedness messaging, to strengthen community confidence.
3. THAT the Report be presented to Council by May 2026.

*With the consent of the mover the proposed amendment was withdrawn.*

### 13.3 NOTICE OF MOTION - CBD BUSINESS INITIATIVES

I, Councillor Sam Weston, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 27 January 2026, I will move the following motion:-

#### RESOLUTION ORD010/26

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston  
Seconded: Councillor Nicole Brown

1. THAT Council notes that Darwin CBD projects, including but not limited to infrastructure projects such as the Smith Street upgrades, can be disruptive and have the potential to negatively impact small businesses operating within the CBD.
2. THAT Council receive a report identifying some potential initiatives and low-cost options to support and assist businesses within the CBD.
3. THAT a report be presented to Council as part of the 2026/27 budget process for consideration.

**CARRIED 13/0**

### 13.4 NOTICE OF MOTION - DISABLED PARKING IN DARWIN CBD

I, Councillor Sylvia Klonaris, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 27 January 2026, I will move the following motion:-

#### RESOLUTION ORD011/26

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris  
Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Patrik Ralph

1. THAT Council note the City of Darwin Access Strategy 2025 – 2030 priority to enhance accessibility within our Municipality.
2. THAT a report is presented to Council identifying options for disabled parking fees and charges and includes a process for review and identification of locations and availability of designated disability bays within the CBD to support and assist permit holders.
3. THAT Council endorse for the report to include the provision of free parking in designated disability bays within the CBD, commencing 1 July 2026, with eligible permit holders using the pay stay app to access the free parking.
4. THAT the report be presented to Council as part of the 2026/27 budget process and include consideration for identifying key locations for additional disabled bays within the CBD.

**CARRIED 13/0**

## 14 ACTION REPORTS

*Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris departed the meeting at 6:53 pm.*

*Lord Mayor Peter Styles departed the meeting at 6:53 pm.*

*Deputy Lord Mayor Patrik Ralph chaired the meeting at 6:53 pm.*

*Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris re-joined the meeting at 6:55 pm.*

*Lord Mayor re-joined the meeting at 6:57 pm.*

### 14.1 KAHLIN OVAL CRICKET TRAINING NETS LIGHTING UPGRADE

#### RESOLUTION ORD012/26

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT the report entitled Kahlin Oval Cricket Training Nets Lighting Upgrade be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the upgrade to the Kahlin Oval Cricket Training Nets Lighting to proceed as a gifted asset to City of Darwin on completion.
3. THAT Council approve funding of \$4,000 to Darwin Cricket Club to upgrade the electrical switchboard at Kahlin Oval Pavilion.
4. THAT delegation is provided for the CEO to enter into an agreement with the Darwin Cricket Club detailing project, certification and gifted asset handover requirements.

**CARRIED 13/0**

*Deputy Lord Mayor Patrik Ralph departed the meeting at 6:59 pm due to a declared conflict of interest.*

### 14.2 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK OUTCOME - WALKWAY 199 LIPPJA COURT TO APPELGUM DRIVE KARAMA

#### RESOLUTION ORD013/26

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT the report entitled Community Feedback Outcome - Walkway 199 Lippia Court to Applegum Drive Karama be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse an overnight closure of Walkway 199.

**CARRIED 12/0**

*Deputy Lord Mayor Patrik Ralph re-joined the meeting at 7:04 pm.*

*Councillor Nicole Brown departed the meeting at 7:05 pm.*

**14.3 SUBMISSION ON LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - STRATEGIC RESET****RESOLUTION ORD014/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

1. THAT the report entitled Submission on Land Development Corporation - Strategic Reset be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse City of Darwin's submission at **Attachment 1** to the Land Development Corporation - Strategic Reset: Discussion Paper at **Attachment 2**.

**CARRIED 12/0**

*Councillor Nicole Brown re-joined the meeting at 7:09 pm.*

*Councillor Julie Fraser departed the meeting at 7:09 pm.*

*Councillor Mick Palmer departed the meeting at 7:09 pm.*

*Councillor Julie Fraser re-joined the meeting at 7:11 pm.*

*Councillor Mick Palmer re-joined the meeting at 7:12 pm.*

*Councillor Sylvia Klonaris departed the meeting at 7:20 pm.*

**14.4 WELCOMING CITIES****MOTION**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Welcoming Cities be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse for City of Darwin to participate in the Welcoming Cities Network at the Committed level, as detailed in the report.

**AMENDMENT****RESOLUTION ORD015/26**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

1. THAT the report entitled Welcoming Cities be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse for City of Darwin to participate in the Welcoming Cities Network at the Committed level, as detailed in the report.
3. THAT a report be returned to Council at the conclusion of the 12-month period.

**CARRIED 13/0**

*Councillor Mick Palmer departed the meeting at 7:21 pm.*

*Councillor Sylvia Klonaris re-joined the meeting at 7:22 pm.*

**RESOLUTION ORD016/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Welcoming Cities be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse for City of Darwin to participate in the Welcoming Cities Network at the Committed level, as detailed in the report.
3. THAT a report be returned to Council at the conclusion of the 12-month period.

**CARRIED 11/1***Councillor Mick Palmer re-joined the meeting at 7:30 pm.***14.5 LEE POINT DEVELOPMENT - PRELIMINARY COSTING ESTIMATES FOR LEGAL ADVICE****RESOLUTION ORD017/26**

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Patrik Ralph

Seconded: Councillor Julie Fraser

1. THAT the report entitled Lee Point Development - Preliminary Costing Estimates for Legal Advice be received and noted.
2. THAT Council refer an amount of \$18,000 to the 2026/2027 budget process for the development of legal advice for the Lee Point Development as requested by Council Resolution 584/25.

In Favour: Members Kim Farrar, Julie Fraser, Edwin Joseph, Patrik Ralph and Ed SmeltAgainst: Members Jimmy Bouhoris, Nicole Brown, Shani Carson, Sylvia Klonaris, Mick Palmer, Peter Pangquee, Peter Styles and Sam Weston**LOST 5/8****14.6 PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE REPORT FOR THE SCOPE OF WORK REQUESTED BY A NOTICE OF MOTION LEE POINT DEVELOPMENT****RESOLUTION ORD018/26**

Moved: Councillor Julie Fraser

Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

1. THAT the report entitled Preliminary Cost Estimate Report for the Scope of Work Requested by a Notice of Motion Lee Point Development be received and noted.
2. THAT Council refer an amount of \$1 million to the 2026/2027 budget process to develop a business case and comprehensive report detailing the scope of works requested by Council Resolutions 585/25 and 586/25.

**LOST 0/13***Councillor Mick Palmer departed the meeting at 8:08 pm and did not return.*

**14.7 NOMINATION TO THE MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS****RESOLUTION ORD019/26**

Moved: Councillor Peter Pangquee

Seconded: Councillor Nicole Brown

1. THAT the report entitled Nomination to the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the nomination of Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris to the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**15 RECEIVE & NOTE REPORTS****15.1 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - DECEMBER 2025****RESOLUTION ORD020/26**

Moved: Councillor Peter Pangquee

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

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

**CARRIED 12/0**

**15.2 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 2025****RESOLUTION ORD021/26**

Moved: Councillor Peter Pangquee

Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

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

**CARRIED 12/0**

**15.3 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2025 (Q2)****RESOLUTION ORD022/26**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Councillor Nicole Brown

THAT the report entitled Quarterly Performance Report – October to December 2025 (Q2) be received and noted.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**15.4 TIER 2 BI-ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - JULY TO DECEMBER 2025****RESOLUTION ORD023/26**

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar  
Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT the report entitled Tier 2 Bi-Annual Performance Report – July to December 2025 be received and noted.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**15.5 ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY STEERING COMMITTEE OPEN MEETING MINUTES****RESOLUTION ORD024/26**

Moved: Councillor Nicole Brown  
Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

THAT the report entitled Advisory Committee and Information Communication Technology Steering Committee Open Meeting Minutes be received and noted.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**16 CORRESPONDENCE****16.1 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - HERITAGE COUNCIL - HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ESPLANADE****RESOLUTION ORD025/26**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston  
Seconded: Councillor Nicole Brown

THAT the report entitled Incoming Correspondence - Heritage Council - Heritage Significance of the Esplanade be received and noted.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**16.2 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - MINISTER FOR LANDS, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT - DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS****RESOLUTION ORD026/26**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston  
Seconded: Councillor Nicole Brown

THAT the report entitled Incoming Correspondence - Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment - Development Consent Authority Appointments be received and noted.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**17 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES****RESOLUTION ORD027/26**

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar  
Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

THAT the following Reports of Representatives be received and noted.

**17.1**

Councillor Kim Farrar reported on attending City of Darwin's Australia Day event on Monday, 26 January 2026, held on the Esplanade. It was a fantastic day, despite the weather. Congratulations to the Citizen of the Year recipients, particularly June Tomlinson, whose work with the Australasian Association of Genealogists and Record Agents (AAGRA) has helped many people reconnect with their family history, including Indigenous Territorians. Thank you to all officers involved for delivering such a wonderful event.

**17.2**

Councillor Sam Weston reported on attending the Geektacular event at the Casuarina Library on Saturday, 17 January 2026. The event was bigger and better than last year and was very well received. Councillor Sam Weston expressed hope that City of Darwin can put more time and resources into making the 2027 event even bigger. Thank you to officers, as events like this are not possible without their efforts.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS****18.1 SMITH STREET STREETScape IMPROVEMENT****RESOLUTION ORD028/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris  
Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Kim Farrar inquired about when they can expect to receive the list of variations for the Smith Street improvement project that was requested last year.

**Response**

General Manager Corporate, Natalie Williamson took the question on notice.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.2 MANGROVE BOARDWALK CLOSURE****RESOLUTION ORD029/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Kim Farrar queried why the mangrove boardwalk in East Point is currently closed to the public.

**Response**

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr advised that the whole of East Point Reserve is closed to the public due to post-cyclone recovery.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.3 LAKESIDE DRIVE TRAFFIC CALMING WORKS****RESOLUTION ORD030/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Edwin Joseph requested an update on when works will begin on the road safety traffic calming measures planned along the section of Lakeside Drive between Gove Street and Dripstone Road, as identified in a recent traffic assessment.

**Response**

General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy confirmed that this section of Lakeside Drive does qualify for traffic-calming measures. However, the project has been added to a priority list and will be considered alongside other road projects for future funding. It will not be given priority over areas already identified. Based on the current Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) budget, these works are expected to be delivered in the 2034/35 financial year.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.4 CASUARINA AQUATIC AND LEISURE CENTRE****RESOLUTION ORD031/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris requested an update on the progress of the Expression of Interest for the Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

**Response**

General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy advised that City of Darwin officers are currently negotiating with interested parties.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.5 LYONS COMMUNITY CENTRE REPAIR WORKS****RESOLUTION ORD032/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris requested an update on the status of the Lyons Community Centre.

**Response**

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr advised the Lyons Community Centre has been repaired following damage from Cyclone Fina. However, it has since been broken into with damaged caused to amenities and walls, as such the centre has been closed again pending police investigation and further repairs.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.6 LYONS COMMUNITY CENTRE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST****RESOLUTION ORD033/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris requested an update on the status of the lease for the Lyons Community Centre.

**Response**

General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy advised that City of Darwin has recently released an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the space, but will need to follow up with the property team on the current status.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.7 CITY OF DARWIN CONTRACTORS****RESOLUTION ORD034/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris noted concerns from community members about the behaviour of contractors engaged by City of Darwin for the post-cyclone recovery and asked whether City of Darwin has changed contractors in recent months.

**Response**

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr confirmed there have been no changes to the mowing contractors. Post-cyclone recovery is still underway, with City of Darwin only two thirds of the way through the process. Most parks have returned to their regular mowing schedule. It was also noted that the wet season and the Christmas period made it difficult to source additional contractors during this time.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.8 POST CYCLONE CLEAN-UP COMMUNICATIONS****RESOLUTION ORD035/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris asked how City of Darwin is communicating post-cyclone clean-up efforts and timelines to the community beyond website updates. Specifically asking whether City of Darwin could arrange a television interview with Channel 9 News Darwin to reach residents who may not use social media or the internet.

**Response**

Executive Manager Marketing, Communications and Engagement, Emma Jane Edwards advised that, in addition to weekly website updates, the Lord Mayor will provide weekly updates on ABC Radio and bi-weekly on 360 with Katie Woolf. Media releases are also being issued, with the next one expected on Wednesday afternoon. These communications are supported by daily social media updates. With Channel 9 resuming operations in Darwin, they also receive weekly media releases and are offered opportunities for interviews and quotes; however, they have not taken up these offers to date.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.9 WATERS WARD COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY****RESOLUTION ORD036/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris requested an update on the timeline for the rescheduled Waters Ward Community Planting Day in Anula, noting that it was postponed due to Cyclone Fina.

**Response**

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr advised that no rescheduled dates have been confirmed at this stage. Contractors are currently working in Yanyula Park to clear debris. Once regional parks have been cleared of fallen trees and debris, officers will begin scheduling dates for City of Darwin's regular programs.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.10 CONTRACTORS DRIVING ON VERGES****RESOLUTION ORD037/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Mayor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris asked whether City of Darwin is regularly reminding contractors not to drive machinery on verges or greenspaces, following resident complaints of this occurring in Yanyula Park.

**Response**

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr confirmed that one of the Emergency Operations Centre's (EOC) key roles is to liaise with contractors to ensure ground conditions are suitable for heavy machinery and to prevent damage to verges and parks during the wet conditions. This coordination affects how quickly debris can be cleared, as any ground damage would also need to be repaired. Officers are working to balance completing the clean up as quickly as possible while minimising further impact on the sites.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.11 DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT IN MALAK GREENBELT****RESOLUTION ORD038/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris inquired whether City of Darwin will seek insurance reimbursement for the damaged swing set and shade sail in the Malak greenbelt. Further requesting an update on when repairs to the swing set will commence.

**Response**

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr advised that the tree that damaged the shade sail has recently been felled. The site is now scheduled for debris removal, with contractors expected to attend this week to remove the damaged shade sail. A new shade sail was ordered on 24 December 2025, and City of Darwin will soon begin the insurance claim to recover costs.

Repairs to the swing set will take place once the new shade sail has been installed. The shade sail manufacturer is currently awaiting Section 40 and building approvals from the supplier before fabrication can begin.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.12 MALAK OVAL REOPENING****RESOLUTION ORD039/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris inquired when Malak Oval will be reopened for soccer clubs to recommence their regular training schedules for the upcoming season.

**Response**

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr advised that City of Darwin will prioritise the clean-up of East Point Reserve first, followed by Anula Greenbelt, with Malak Oval and other sporting ovals to be addressed afterwards. The estimated timeframe for beginning to reopen these sites is approximately four weeks. Fortunately, the sporting ovals require less work, as the playing surfaces are clear of trees, with the majority of clean-up focused on surrounding areas.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.13 MONITORING OF OVAL USEAGE****RESOLUTION ORD040/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris asked whether Council has any policies or processes in place to monitor oval usage, particularly for groups who may use the facilities more frequently than others, to ensure fair access for all. It was further noted that community concerns have been raised about frequent oval users not making bookings.

**Response**

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr explained that oval access is granted when a booking has been made. If users with a valid booking arrive and find the oval in use, they can contact City of Darwin, and Regulatory Services officers will attend. However, if no booking exists for that day or time the ovals cannot be restricted and remain open for general community use.

The Lord Mayor Peter Styles advised Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris to email any particular concerns to Councillor Support for investigation.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.14 MOWING CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE****RESOLUTION ORD041/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Shani Carson asked whether the current level of service provided under the mowing contract is acceptable, and whether any short-term improvements can be made, particularly at Garanmanuk (Turtle) Park, given its high community use. Further seeking clarification on how contractor performance is being monitored more broadly to ensure service standards are being met across the municipality.

**Response**

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr advised that the mowing contractors are managed daily by the Manager of Parks and Open Spaces, who has been working closely with them over recent months to return operations to the regular schedule. Under normal wet season conditions, Garanmanuk Park requires three mows to restore it to the required standard. The park also produces large volumes of clippings due to the grass species and requires an additional level of service annually called de-thatching to reduce clippings and remove thatch. As this is not part of the standard mowing schedule, it was not prioritised during the post-cyclone recovery period. Now that the regular mowing schedule is back on track, a de-thatching service for Garanmanuk Park will be scheduled.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.15 VERGE TREES REMOVAL PROCESS****RESOLUTION ORD042/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Shani Carson requested that officers clarify the process for notifying residents when verge trees are removed, particularly when removal is due to safety or other issues. Additionally, when trees are removed, can officers confirm whether contractors are required to return to grind stumps and remove roots, and what the typical timeframe is for this follow-up work.

There have been recent concerns from a resident about the removal of a street tree from a verge in Lyons, with the same resident reporting they received no prior notification or explanation for the removal.

**Response**

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr advised with cyclone related tree removal works focusing on high-priority verge trees, officers generally do not engage with residents unless there is a logistical reason, such as when a tree poses a risk of falling onto or damaging private property. For high-risk tree removals where no such concerns exist, the process involves removing the tree first, followed by stump grinding or root removal at a later stage.

Regarding the recent resident complaint, this tree had been assessed by a consulting arborist and identified as high-risk, making it eligible for immediate removal.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.16 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINATION PROCESS****RESOLUTION ORD043/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Julie Fraser requested an explanation of the formal process for the nomination and decision to choose successful nominees for City of Darwin's Australia Day Awards.

**Response**

General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy advised that this matter be raised under the confidential section of the meeting.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.17 CONSTITUENT EMAIL****RESOLUTION ORD044/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Julie Fraser inquired whether officers had any additional information or had responded to an email sent to Elected Members by a community member proposing the creation of cool urban islands as a potential heatwave mitigation strategy.

**Response**

General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy confirmed no relevant email was recorded in the internal records management system. Councillor Julie Fraser was advised to forward the correspondence to Councillor Support, noting that officers do not monitor Elected Member email accounts.

**CARRIED 12/0**

*Councillor Shani Carson departed the meeting at 8:42 pm.*

*Councillor Shani Carson re-joined the meeting at 8:43 pm.*

**18.18 CIVIC CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT****RESOLUTION ORD045/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Julie Fraser stated that a question had been raised at the October Ordinary Council Meeting regarding the Civic Centre redevelopment, specifically about the potential risks associated with a co-share agreement between City of Darwin and the commercial developer. Councillor Julie Fraser stated that the question had not been answered and sought clarification.

**Response**

The Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders advised that the question had been addressed. Noting an email had been distributed to all Elected Members outlining how the co-share agreement and building uses could potentially operate. Further, Elected Members are regularly updated through the Risk Management and Audit Committee (RMAC) reports presented to Council, as well as through historical documents available to Elected Members. If any further questions relating to risk arise, Councillor Julie Fraser was advised to email Councillor Support to enable officers to provide a response.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.19 ADVISORY COMMITTEES REVIEW****RESOLUTION ORD046/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Julie Fraser requested an update on when the next scheduled forum meeting will be held for Elected Members to review the functions and terms of reference for the Advisory Committees.

**Response**

The Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders advised that officers are continuing to finalise the schedule for forums and workshops. At this stage of the Council term, there are a number of competing priorities, including mandatory training for Elected Members, requested presentations from Defence Housing Australia (DHA) and Save Lee Point scheduled for February, ICAC training in March, and upcoming budget forums. Additionally, several motions from Elected Members require reports to be completed by specified dates, resulting in the need to reprioritise work.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**18.20 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE****RESOLUTION ORD047/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

**Question**

Councillor Kim Farrar asked whether the remaining Tuesdays not allocated to Council meetings, briefings, or forums could be used to schedule the required forums.

**Response**

The Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders advised Elected Members that the current meeting schedule is set within the existing budget. Under the adopted schedule, the first Tuesday of the month is allocated to forums, the second Tuesday is set aside, the third Tuesday is allocated to briefings, and the last Tuesday is reserved for Council Meetings. Scheduling to meet upcoming requirements is continuing to be reviewed in alignment with priorities and resources.

**CARRIED 12/0**

**19 GENERAL BUSINESS****19.1 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LORD MAYOR****RESOLUTION ORD048/26**

Moved: Councillor Peter Pangquee

Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

THAT Council appoint Councillor Ed Smelt as the Deputy Lord Mayor for the period 30 January 2026 to 29 May 2026.

**CARRIED 12/0**

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

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 24 February 2026, at 5:30 PM (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 the 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 Review of Confidential Decisions - Ordinary Council Meetings and Council Committee Meetings**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(I), 51(c)(ii) and 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 cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law and information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.

**28.2 Proposal for Temporary Use of Car Park**

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.

### **29.1 Corporate Services Quarterly Report - October to December 2025**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(a) and 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 about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual and information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to sub regulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

### **29.2 Cyclone Fina Recovery Update**

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 sub regulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

### **29.3 Advisory Committee and Information Communication Technology Steering Committee Confidential Meeting Minutes**

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.

**22 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON**

**RESOLUTION ORD049/26**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

THAT the open section of the meeting be adjourned at 8:47 pm.

**CARRIED 12/0**

THAT the open section of the meeting be resumed at 10:11 pm.

THAT the chair declared the meeting closed at 10:11 pm.

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 February 2026.**

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**CHAIR**