

# Agenda - Late Reports

## Ordinary Council Meeting

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I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:

**Date:** Tuesday, 2 December 2025  
**Time:** 5:30pm  
**Location:** Council Chambers Darrandirra  
Level 1, Civic Centre  
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin

Simone Saunders

Chief Executive Officer



**Order of Business**

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**16 CORRESPONDENCE****16.1 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - CYCLONE FINA**

**Author:** Manager Advocacy and Policy

**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. Jinson Charls MLA - Member for Sanderson - Cyclone Fina [↓](#)
2. Khoda Patel MLA - Member for Casuarina - Cyclone Fina [↓](#)
3. Brian O'Gallagher MLA - Member for Karama - Cyclone Fina [↓](#)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the report entitled Incoming Correspondence - Cyclone Fina be received and noted.

# Jinson Charls MLA

## Member for Sanderson



24/11/2025

Lord Mayor of Darwin  
GPO Box 84 Darwin NT

Dear Lord Mayor of Darwin,

I am writing on behalf of the constituents of Sanderson to request that the City of Darwin provide green waste roadside pickup as a matter of urgency.

In the aftermath of Cyclone Fina over the weekend, many residents have experienced significant damage, including large trees brought down onto properties, across sheds and fences, and in some cases even exposing underground power lines. I am sure you will agree that the efforts of the SES, along with the Territory spirit of mates helping mates, have been shining through during this challenging time.

While assisting on the ground in the suburbs of Wagaman, Anula, Wulagi, Marrara, and Berrimah yesterday, it became abundantly clear that the next step is now imperative.

As the Member for Sanderson, I implore the City of Darwin to take the next critical step and assist with the removal of green waste. Clear and prompt notification to residents should be made a priority so we can work together to help Darwin return to business as usual as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Jinson Anto Charls MLA  
Member for Sanderson



Shop 4, Northlakes Shopping Centre, 1 Links Rd Marrara NT 0812

Document Set ID: 5468412

Version: 1, Version Date: 24/11/2025

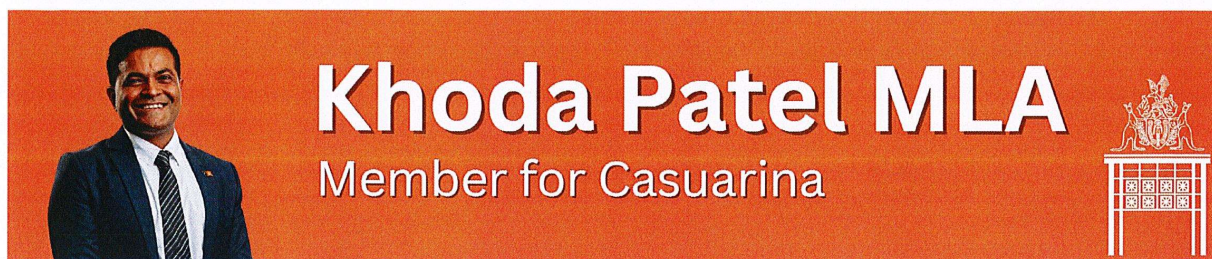


[electorate.sanderson@nt.gov.au](mailto:electorate.sanderson@nt.gov.au)



08 8999 6781





24/11/2025

**The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Darwin**  
**Darwin City Council**  
**GPO Box 84**  
**Darwin NT**

Dear Lord Mayor,

I am contacting you on behalf of residents in Casuarina, Nakara, Tiwi, Brinkin, Lee Point, Muirhead and Lyons to request urgent support from the City of Darwin in arranging a roadside green waste collection.

Cyclone Fina has caused widespread damage throughout our community. Many households are now dealing with fallen trees, debris across yards, damaged fences and sheds, and in some cases, exposed underground power lines. Throughout this difficult period, the outstanding work of the SES and the willingness of locals to support one another has been a real strength.

After spending time in the affected suburbs and speaking with residents, it is clear that a coordinated cleanup effort is now urgently required.

I ask that the City of Darwin move quickly to provide green waste pickup and communicate clearly with residents about the arrangements. This support will help families begin the recovery process and allow our community to get back on its feet as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

**Khoda Patel MLA**  
**Member for Casuarina**  
**Assistant Minister for Mining and Energy**  
Shop 3, Casuarina Village Shopping Centre,  
54 Bradshaw Terrace, Casuarina NT 0810  
PO Box 40175, Casuarina NT 0811  
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# Brian O'GALLAGHER MLA

MEMBER FOR KARAMA

Visible, Accessible, Serving our Community



Brian O'Gallagher MLA: Member for Karama  
Shop 27 Karama Shopping Centre,  
37 Kalymnos Drive, NT, 0812

25 NOV 2025

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Darwin  
Darwin City Council  
GPO Box 84  
Darwin, NT

Dear Lord Mayor

**Re: Cyclone Fina Waste Management clean up.**

I am writing on behalf of the constituents of my Karama Electorate to urgently request that the City of Darwin implement an immediate green waste roadside collection service in response to the severe aftermath of Cyclone Fina over the weekend.

Cyclone Fina has left many residents facing extensive damage, including large trees collapsing onto homes, sheds, and fences, as well as downed powerlines that caused prolonged power outages. While the SES and Territorians have shown remarkable resilience and community spirit, the scale of the clean-up is far beyond what residents can reasonably manage on their own.

After visiting Karama and Malak it is evident that the situation is critical and requires urgent intervention. As the Member for Karama, I strongly urge the City of Darwin to act without delay and support our community through the immediate removal of green waste. Clear, timely, and proactive communication to residents is essential so they can prepare and follow any instructions effectively.

The communication from Council during the Cyclone emergency has been confusing for residents. There were initial Council communications explicitly saying that Residents were not entitled to put Green Waste on their Verges. Many of these residents were busy on the Sunday cutting up Council Trees that had fallen onto the roads – and clearing road access for the neighbourhood only to see a notice that implied they couldn't store the cut up trees on their Verges. I understand that Council has subsequently amended this advice a number of days later.



Address: Shop 27, Karama Shopping Plaza

Document Set ID: 5471418  
PO BOX 507 KARAMA NT, 0813  
Version: 1, Version Date: 01/12/2025

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# Brian O'GALLAGHER MLA

MEMBER FOR KARAMA

Visible, Accessible, Serving our Community



Residents were also confused as to why they couldn't take their green waste to the Shoal Bay Tip on the Sunday – like they were able to do so after straight after Cyclone Marcus. It is notable that the Palmerston Council was able to do this.

Also in the lead up to the Cyclone the queues to get green waste to Shoal Bay were extremely long stretching all the way back to almost the Vanderlin Drive entrance. The main cause of this delay is the lack of a much longer dual lane entrance to the tip – where domestic users can freely enter the tip rather than queuing up behind the processing of commercial traffic. Please note - this is a recurring issue at Shoal Bay even outside of Emergency events.

Strategically, I urge Council to move to a system of providing 2 days free entry either side of a Cyclone Emergency for both commercial and domestic users. Council should provide funding for this (in partnership with Federal and NT Government Grants) as a basic community service.

For the record, and on behalf of our community, I thank all the Council frontline staff who have been involved in the Cyclone Emergency including the important role they now play in the Recovery Phase.

Our community is doing everything it can—but we need the City of Darwin to step in now to fix some of these major issues impeding our response capability. Coordinated action is vital to help Darwin recover safely and return to normal as quickly as possible.

Council needs to take the lead on resolving these issues as 'Waste Collection and Disposal' is core business of Council.

As a courtesy – I have also copied this letter directly to our 3 Waters Ward Councillors.

Kindest Regards,

Brian O'Gallagher MLA  
Member for Karama



Address: Shop 27, Karama Shopping Plaza

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PO BOX 507 KARAMA NT, 0813  
Version: 1, Version Date: 01/12/2025

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## 16.2 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE - CYCLONE FINA

**Author:** Manager Advocacy and Policy

**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. Jinson Charls MLA - Member for Sanderson - Cyclone Fina [↓](#)
2. Khoda Patel MLA - Member for Casuarina - Cyclone Fina [↓](#)
3. Brian O'Gallagher MLA - Member for Karama - Cyclone Fina [↓](#)

### RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Outgoing Correspondence – Cyclone Fina be received and noted.



Civic Centre  
Harry Chan Avenue  
Darwin NT 0800

GPO Box 84  
Darwin NT 0801

P 08 8930 0300  
E [darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au)

**Jinson Anto Charls MLA**  
Member for Sanderson  
Shop 4, Northlakes Shopping Centre  
1 Links Rd Marrara NT 0812

Reference: Doc ID 5468412

Dear Mr Jinson Charls MLA

Thank you for your letter dated 24 November requesting City of Darwin provide green waste roadside pickups as a matter of urgency.

I also am aware of your comments in Parliament on Tuesday, that there was no facility available for residents to dump green waste on Sunday, that residents had to put green waste from their properties on the verge, that people risked fines if doing so, and that verge pickups are not part of the City of Darwin's response plan. These comments do not reflect the facts of the coordinated recovery response underway.

City of Darwin is undertaking post cyclone response and recovery operations in conjunction with other Northern Territory Government (NT Government) agencies as part of the whole of government response to Cyclone Fina led by the NT Government as emergency lead.

Regarding concern about the unavailability of a green waste facility on Sunday, and indeed into Monday morning, this concern is best directed to the NT Government. Under the plan informing the response, being the Northern Territory Emergency Waste Plan, the NT Government is responsible for the standing up of emergency waste management sites and leading communication about these sites. I understand there was some delay on the part of NT Government, due to traffic management arrangements, in making the Hidden Valley site operational, whereby delaying communications to the public and stakeholders including local government.

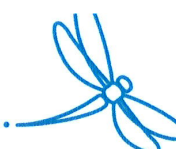
City of Darwin, in partnership with the NT Government, has a structured and prioritised clean-up program underway. Our teams have completed a significant volume of assessments and clearing of council roads and are now, supported by contracted operators, working systematically across the municipality to clear verges of storm-related debris.

Road and verge clean-up efforts are being prioritised based on:

- Safety risks, such as blocked roads, damaged infrastructure, hazards
- Access requirements for emergency services and essential utilities
- High-traffic areas near schools, commercial centres and key community facilities
- Residential streets, progressing suburb by suburb

This coordinated approach ensures resources are deployed efficiently and that the most critical areas are addressed first. While the full clean-up will take time due to the scale of debris across Darwin, residents can expect to see crews actively working through their suburbs now and throughout the weeks ahead.

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City of Darwin manages approximately 90% of the Darwin road network with 475km of roads, 221 parks, 630km of footpaths and walkways, 22,000 driveways, 150 playgrounds and sporting ovals and 1,500 acres of green space. The clean up and disposal of green waste is significant and early indications are 170,000 tonnes of green waste need to be dealt with. Shoal Bay has a maximum capacity to manage 2,500 tonnes in a month and normal volumes are 1,500 tonnes per month. Therefore, the continuation of the Hidden Valley site is critical for the NT Government to adequately manage ongoing disaster recovery and debris.

On green waste specifically, City of Darwin is not planning a community-wide green waste pickup service. Such a service would have a massive cost burden on ratepayers and would not be eligible for Commonwealth disaster recovery funding as a council-led activity.

To help reduce the community impact of green waste on verges I encourage you to share the message with residents to not place any waste, including green waste, from their property onto the verge. Residents have the option to take their green waste to the Hidden Valley green waste emergency management site, and household waste other than green waste is now being accepted at Shoal Bay.

I note your concern about potential fines for residents putting green waste on verges. For clarity, please note that at no point has City of Darwin sought to penalise residents for responsibly managing storm waste. This is consistent with City of Darwin having a recovery focus, not an enforcement focus, at this time.

Although City of Darwin is not planning to lead a community-wide green waste pickup service, including for the reason that this activity, if conducted by City of Darwin, would not be eligible for disaster recovery funding. We are engaging with the NT Government about further additional coordinated emergency waste management measures, such as public skip bins or assisted pickups for elderly or other vulnerable residents. We understand such services would be eligible for disaster recovery funding if led by the NT Government. I note that after Cyclone Marcus, the NT Government led the introduction of 110 skip bins for use by the community for clean-up efforts, however from experience we note skips may not be ideal due to the potential contamination of green waste in these bins.

Finally, noting that you published your letter to me on your social media before giving me the chance to respond, in future and as a matter of courtesy I would appreciate the opportunity to give you the facts prior to you broadcasting misinformed commentary about City of Darwin.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself, CEO Simone Saunders, or Manager Advocacy and Policy, Scott Walker, on 08 8930 0505 or [scott.walker@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:scott.walker@darwin.nt.gov.au)

Yours sincerely



**The Hon. Peter Styles**  
**Lord Mayor of Darwin**

27 November 2025

Sent via email – [electorate.sanderson@nt.gov.au](mailto:electorate.sanderson@nt.gov.au)

[darwin.nt.gov.au](http://darwin.nt.gov.au)





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**Khoda Patel MLA**  
Member for Casuarina  
54 Bradshaw Terrace  
Casuarina NT 0810

Reference: Document ID 5468575

Dear Mr Patel

Thank you for your letter dated 24 November requesting City of Darwin provide green waste roadside pickups as a matter of urgency.

City of Darwin is undertaking post cyclone response and recovery operations in conjunction with other Northern Territory Government (NT Government) agencies as part of the whole of government response to Cyclone Fina led by the NT Government as emergency lead.

City of Darwin, in partnership with the NT Government, has a structured and prioritised clean-up program underway. Our teams have completed a significant volume of assessments and clearing of council roads and are now, supported by contracted operators, working systematically across the municipality to clear verges of storm-related debris.

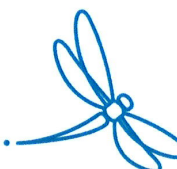
Road and verge clean-up efforts are being prioritised based on:

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- Residential streets, progressing suburb by suburb

This coordinated approach ensures resources are deployed efficiently and that the most critical areas are addressed first. While the full clean-up will take time due to the scale of debris across Darwin, residents can expect to see crews actively working through their suburbs now and throughout the weeks ahead.

City of Darwin manages approximately 90% of the Darwin road network with 475km of roads, 221 parks, 630km of footpaths and walkways, 22,000 driveways, 150 playgrounds and sporting ovals and 1,500 acres of green space. The clean up and disposal of green waste is significant and early indications are 170,000 tonnes of green waste need to be dealt with. Shoal Bay has a maximum capacity to manage 2,500 tonnes in a month and normal volumes are 1,500 tonnes per month. Therefore, the continuation of the Hidden Valley site is critical for the NT Government to adequately manage ongoing disaster recovery and debris.

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City of Darwin will clear verges of green waste as part of our coordinated and prioritised response. Residents have the option to take their own green waste to the Hidden Valley green waste emergency management site, and household waste other than green waste is now being accepted at Shoal Bay.

City of Darwin is not planning a community-wide green waste pickup service. Such a service would have a massive cost burden on ratepayers and would not be eligible for Commonwealth disaster recovery funding as a council-led activity.

Although City of Darwin is not planning to lead a community-wide green waste pickup service, including for the reason that this activity, if conducted by City of Darwin, would not be eligible for disaster recovery funding, we are engaging with the NT Government about further additional coordinated emergency waste management measures, such as public skip bins or assisted pickups for elderly or other vulnerable residents. We understand such services would be eligible for disaster recovery funding if led by the NT Government. I note that after Cyclone Marcus, the NT Government led the introduction of 110 skip bins for use by the community for clean-up efforts, however from experience we note skips may not be ideal due to the potential contamination of green waste in these bins.

Finally, noting that you published your letter to me on your social media before giving me the chance to respond, in future and as a matter of courtesy I would appreciate you engaging with me directly about matters relating to City of Darwin.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself, CEO Simone Saunders, or Manager Advocacy and Policy, Scott Walker, on 08 8930 0505 or [scott.walker@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:scott.walker@darwin.nt.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

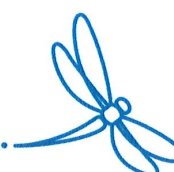


**The Hon. Peter Styles**  
**Lord Mayor of Darwin**

01 December 2025

Sent via email – [electorate.casuarina@nt.gov.au](mailto:electorate.casuarina@nt.gov.au)

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**Brian O’Gallagher MLA**  
Member for Karama  
Shop 27, Karama Shopping Plaza,  
Karama NT 0813

Reference: Doc ID 5471418

Dear Mr O’Gallagher

Thank you for your letter dated 25 November requesting City of Darwin provide green waste roadside pickups as a matter of urgency, querying Shoal Bay’s closure on Sunday after the cyclone, commenting on pre-cyclone queues to Shoal Bay, and suggesting free access days and further upgrades to Shoal Bay’s access road.

Your recent public commentary - in Parliament on Tuesday 25 November and on radio on Thursday 27 November - contained inaccuracies, selective framing, and unfounded criticism of City of Darwin Elected Members. These matters require correction.

### **Cyclone waste facilities**

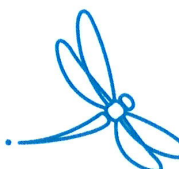
In Parliament, you noted that on Sunday after the cyclone, there was no facility available for residents to dispose of their green waste, that they had to put green waste on the verge, that they could be fined for doing so, and calling for City of Darwin and the Northern Territory Government (NT Government) to work together to ensure options for people, especially the elderly, to dispose of green waste. I will address these comments below.

### **Shared Council and Government responsibilities**

On radio, you argued that waste is a “core” responsibility of council. The presenter rightly drew your attention to the role of the NT Government as emergency lead and the conduit for disaster recovery funding. Your comments did not reflect the established responsibilities that apply and realities of disaster events and intergovernmental funding arrangements.

You also publicly questioned whether several City of Darwin Elected Members were in touch with the community or serving the community, specifically singling out Councillors Ed Smelt, Julie Fraser and Patrik Ralph. This political attack was made without evidence and was an unnecessary and unproductive distraction from what should be a constructive discussion between two partners facilitating a coordinated recovery effort. As a former Councillor, I would expect more respectful engagement from you.

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The radio interview concluded with your agreement that the NT Government and City of Darwin need to work together to lobby the Federal Government for appropriate funding arrangements – I agree with the position you finally got led to by the interviewer.

### **Shoal Bay access**

Regarding concern about the unavailability of a green waste facility on Sunday, and indeed into Monday morning, this concern is best directed to the NT Government. Under the plan informing the response, being the Northern Territory Emergency Waste Plan, the NT Government is responsible for the standing up of emergency waste management sites and leading communication about these sites. I understand there was some delay on the part of the NT Government, due to traffic management arrangements, in making the Hidden Valley site operational for green waste and communicating details to the public and stakeholders including local government.

On your call for two days free access to Shoal Bay pre- and post-cyclone, I note that Shoal Bay was open pre-cyclone and depositing green waste was free of charge for residents, however fees applied for depositing household waste other than green waste as per usual. Given that City of Darwin runs a pre-cyclone clean-up for household waste for all residents at no cost, the current arrangements in my mind are fair and reasonable. It is also worth noting that this year's pre-cyclone clean-up, which ran over six weeks and concluded in October, saw 818 tonnes of household waste collected by City of Darwin from across the municipality. Free access days for all types of waste would risk creating congestion at the critical facility which should be most accessible to residents trying to complete last minute preparations for cyclones.

Your suggestion of a longer dual-lane entrance to Shoal Bay is a practical one that I expect will be considered sooner rather than later if external funding can be identified. Like all critical assets, City of Darwin is constantly looking to make improvements. In 2020/21, a weighbridge upgrade was completed including improvements to the entrance road, as part of a facility-wide upgrade. After this, in 2022, you participated in a Councillor's tour of Shoal Bay and your report to Council on 25 October 2022 notes you "received a sense of the scale and complexity of what was happening and provided an overview of the operation".

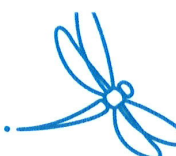
It seems to me that you had ample opportunity to make constructive comments about Shoal Bay in your three years as an Elected Member. Political sniping on the sidelines with the benefit of hindsight is unbecoming of a former Councillor and now Member of Parliament.

### **Current recovery operations**

City of Darwin is undertaking post cyclone response and recovery operations in conjunction with other NT Government agencies as part of the whole of government response to Cyclone Fina – again, led by the NT Government as emergency lead.

City of Darwin, in partnership with the NT Government, has a structured and prioritised clean-up program underway. Our teams have completed a significant volume of assessments and clearing of council roads and are now, supported by contracted operators, working systematically across the municipality to clear verges of storm-related debris.

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Road and verge clean-up efforts are being prioritised based on:

- Safety risks, such as blocked roads, damaged infrastructure, hazards
- Access requirements for emergency services and essential utilities
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- Residential streets, progressing suburb by suburb

This coordinated approach ensures resources are deployed efficiently and that the most critical areas are addressed first. While the full clean-up will take time due to the scale of debris across Darwin, residents can expect to see crews actively working through their suburbs now and throughout the weeks ahead.

City of Darwin manages approximately 90% of the Darwin Road network with 475km of roads, 221 parks, 630km of footpaths and walkways, 22,000 driveways, 150 playgrounds and sporting ovals and 1,500 acres of green space. The clean-up and disposal of green waste is significant and early indications are 170,000 tonnes of green waste need to be dealt with. Shoal Bay has a maximum capacity to manage 2,500 tonnes in a month and normal volumes are 1,500 tonnes per month. Therefore, the continuation of the Hidden Valley site is critical for the NT Government to adequately manage ongoing disaster recovery and debris.

City of Darwin will clear verges of green waste as part of our coordinated and prioritised response. Residents have the option to take their own green waste to the Hidden Valley green waste emergency management site, and household waste other than green waste is now being accepted at Shoal Bay.

### **Green waste pickup service**

City of Darwin is not planning a community-wide green waste pickup service. Such a service would have a massive cost burden on ratepayers and would not be eligible for Commonwealth disaster recovery funding as a council-led activity.

Although City of Darwin is not planning to lead a community-wide green waste pickup service, including for the reason that this activity, if conducted by City of Darwin, would not be eligible for disaster recovery funding, we are engaging with the NT Government about further additional coordinated emergency waste management measures, such as public skip bins or assisted pickups for elderly or other vulnerable residents. We understand such services would be eligible for disaster recovery funding if led by the NT Government.

I note that after Cyclone Marcus, the NT Government led the introduction of 110 skip bins for use by the community for clean-up efforts, however from experience we note skips may not be ideal due to the potential contamination of green waste in these bins.

### **Future engagement**

The City of Darwin is always willing to work constructively with Members of Parliament, and we expect future representations will be based on accurate information. We look forward to aligning with the NT Government on next steps for this recovery and to collaboratively prepare for future cyclones and other disaster events.

[darwin.nt.gov.au](http://darwin.nt.gov.au)






Finally, I note that you published your letter to me on your social media, and went on radio, before giving me the chance to respond, in future and as a matter of courtesy I would also appreciate you engaging with me directly about matters relating to City of Darwin. I'm sure that my fellow Elected Members who were personally attacked by you would feel similarly.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself, CEO Simone Saunders, or Manager Advocacy and Policy, Scott Walker, on 08 8930 0505 or [scott.walker@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:scott.walker@darwin.nt.gov.au)

Yours sincerely



**The Hon. Peter Styles**  
**Lord Mayor of Darwin**

02 December 2025

Sent via email - [electorate.karama@nt.gov.au](mailto:electorate.karama@nt.gov.au)

