

# Agenda

## Ordinary Council Meeting

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

- Date:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026
- Time:** 5:30 PM
- Location:** Council Chambers Darrandirra  
Level 1, Civic Centre  
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin
- Webcasting:** [MS Teams Link to Webcast](#)

Simone Saunders

Chief Executive Officer



**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor Peter Styles (Chair)

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 Patrik Ralph

Councillor Sam Weston

**OFFICERS**

Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr

General Manager Corporate, Natalie Williamson

General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy

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**WEBCASTING DISCLAIMER**

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**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

**2 THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**

**4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**4.1 Apologies**

**4.2 Leave of Absence Granted**

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**5 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE**

**5.1 Electronic Meeting Attendance Granted**

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**6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**

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Ordinary Council Meeting - 27 January 2026

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**8.2 Moving Confidential Items into Open**

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Nil

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Nil

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Nil

**12 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS**

Chinese New Year Blessing performed by the Chung Wah Society

Save Lee Point Presentation

Defence Housing Australia Presentation

**13 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

## 14 ACTION REPORTS

### 14.1 REVIEW OF PRIVACY POLICY

**Author:** Executive Manager Corporate and Customer Service

**Authoriser:** General Manager Corporate

**Attachments:**

1. Privacy Policy - Track Changes [↓](#)
2. Privacy Policy - Revised Version [↓](#)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Review of Privacy Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the Privacy Policy 2501.100.E.R presented as **Attachment 2**.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Privacy Policy 2501.100.E.R.

#### KEY ISSUES

- Privacy Policy 2501.100.E.R. is due for review in February 2026.
- A review of the Policy has been undertaken with some minor wording and formatting changes however remains substantially unchanged.

<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>Section 206 (3) <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> requires Council to adopt a privacy policy to protect members and staff of council from undue intrusion into their private affairs.</p> <p>City of Darwin’s Privacy Policy is set out to protect private information not only for members and staff of council but all participants interacting with Council. The policy applies the Information Privacy Principles set out in the <i>Information Act 2002</i>.</p> <p>Council’s Privacy Policy 2501.100.E.R. was reviewed as part of the review cycle with the track changed policy at <b>Attachment 1</b>. Review cycle for the Privacy Policy will be four years unless legislative or operational changes require an earlier review.</p> <p>The review has identified some wording changes using Council’s style guide and add more examples around collection, use and disclosure of personal information. The consolidated, clean version of the policy is at <b>Attachment 2</b> for adoption.</p>	
<p><b>PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b></p> <p>At the 27 February 2024 meeting Council resolved:</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION ORD070/24</b></p> <p>3. THAT the report entitled Review of Privacy Policy be received and noted.</p> <p>4. THAT Council adopt the Privacy Policy at <b>Attachment 2</b>.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED 10/0</b></p>	
<p><b>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</b></p>	<p>6 Governance Framework 6.4 Accountability</p>
<p><b>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p><b>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</b></p>	<p><b>Legislation:</b> <i>Local Government Act 2019(NT)</i> <i>Information Act 2002 (NT)</i></p> <p><b>Policy:</b> NA</p>
<p><b>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT &amp; COMMUNICATION</b></p>	<p><b>Engagement Level:</b> Consult <b>Tactics:</b> Document review and meeting <b>Internal:</b> Senior Leadership Team <b>External:</b> NA</p>
<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b></p>	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).</p>



# Privacy policy

## Policy No. 2501.100.E.R

### 1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out City of Darwin’s commitment to information privacy and its intent to comply with the provisions of the *Information Act 2002* (NT) (the Act) and the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT).

### 2 Scope

This policy covers all personal information collected and held by the City of Darwin through engagement with the public, Elected Members and City of Darwin [staff/workplace participants](#).

### 3 Policy statement

City of Darwin [as a public sector organisation under the Act](#), collects and manages personal information in the course of performing its role, functions and objectives to protect all people from undue intrusion into private affairs. The way in which City of Darwin manages personal information is governed by the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) as outlined in the Act ~~and the Local Government Act 2019 (NT)~~.

To achieve this, City of Darwin applies 7 Guiding Principles:

- **Transparency**— Darwin is an aware and informed community.
- **Value**— there is demonstrable value for the community in providing their personal information to City of Darwin.
- **Collection limitation**— personal information is collected only when it is necessary for the performance of City of Darwin functions.
- **Safety first**— where personal information must be collected, it is securely stored and de-identified wherever possible, before ~~u~~Use or disclosure.
- **Fair decisions**— lawful decisions about the collection and handling of personal information are made by City of Darwin, and the decisions reflect community values and expectations.
- **Accountability**— privacy by design is supported for all initiatives involving personal information, privacy impact assessments are conducted, and City of Darwin’s ~~s~~ privacy posture is regularly reviewed.
- **Agility**— City of Darwin adapts and responds to changes in legislation, public policy, technology, the information economy and ~~the emerging body of~~ privacy best practice.

In the development of new initiatives and projects, City of Darwin will consider privacy impacts through Privacy [Threshold and](#) Impact Assessments or other analysis.

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<del>43</del>	<del>ORD070/24</del>	<del>27 February 2024</del> <del>27 February 2024</del>	<del>27 February 2026</del> <del>27 February 2026</del>
		2024	February 2026

Responsible Officer: General Manager Corporate

*Electronic version current. Uncontrolled copy valid only at time of printing.*



### 3.1 Collecting personal information

When collecting personal information, City of Darwin will take all reasonable steps to ensure that customers are aware of the information to be collected, purpose, whether it is required by law, and the consequences, if any, of not providing the information.

City of Darwin may collate in an official capacity, statistical information from the personal information it collects. This information may be used by City of Darwin and other government bodies to assist in providing services and facilities, including open data. These statistics will not reveal an individual's identity.

City of Darwin may collect personal information in a number of ways, including but not limited to:

- directly in documents such as application forms, statutory declarations, or by verbal or written correspondence
- through collection of imagery (still and moving) and/or voice recording
- through contact with Elected Members or [staff/workplace participants](#)
- from third parties such as government bodies
- through partnerships with private bodies (e.g. contractors, stakeholders).

### 3.2 Use and disclosure of personal information

City of Darwin, acting in an official capacity, may use personal information in a number of ways to carry out City of Darwin's functions, including but not limited to:

- to provide information about City of Darwin's services
- to determine and provide appropriate services and facilities
- to administer and manage processes such as issuing permits, animal registration, rates, parking, and development proposals
- to administer and make enquiries on Elected Member, personnel and recruitment matters
- to enforce City of Darwin's interests.

City of Darwin will not use or disclose personal information to third parties except in certain circumstances, including but not limited to:

- where the individual has consented to the release
- to lessen or prevent serious harm
- where disclosure is required/permitted by law
- to enable Elected Members to refer requests for assistance to City of Darwin or other agencies
- to enable City of Darwin or a third party to provide services.

Individuals may request access to or correction of personal information the City of Darwin holds about them in line with the provisions of the Act.

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Responsible Officer: General Manager Corporate

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Where City of Darwin requires a third party to collect, ~~u~~Use or disclose information to perform City of Darwin functions, the third party will be bound by, and fully aware of their obligations to, the provisions of the Act and IPPs.

Where lawful and practical, City of Darwin may give customers the option of remaining anonymous, and will explain any potential consequences when supplying information or entering into transactions with City of Darwin.

An individual may request City of Darwin to inform them of the personal information it holds, where it holds the information and how it collects, holds, ~~u~~Uses and discloses the information.

City of Darwin will take all reasonable steps to suppress personal information from publicly available material in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT).

Contact details for telephones and e-mail addresses provided to ~~staff workplace participants for work purposes~~ acting in an official capacity, may be disclosed. ~~No private contact details will be disclosed.~~

Personal information of City of Darwin ~~staff~~ employees workplace participants may be used ~~for~~ to contact ~~staff~~ in emergency situations and natural disasters.

### 3.3 City of Darwin Libraries

City of Darwin Libraries may collect personal information ~~from members of the public.~~ in This information is collected in order to provide an all-inclusive public library service, including lending ~~and~~ in-house services and to advise members on all facilities, services, programs, collections, special events and activities so that individual's needs are met. The only information collected is provided by members when joining the library.

By applying to become a member of the Library, members are ~~consenting to~~ providing consent to share their personal information ~~being disclosed to~~ with the Northern Territory Government for the ~~sole~~ purpose of addition to and maintenance of a shared database.

This database is shared by libraries throughout the Northern Territory (LINNet) and provided by Northern Territory Library and Information Services (NTLIS). NTLIS allows authorised access to this information to authorised staff in all libraries in LINNet. This information sharing helps City of Darwin to provide services such as interlibrary loans to patrons throughout the Territory.

City of Darwin Libraries will only ~~u~~Use or disclose the personal information collected for the purposes stated above, unless ~~u~~Use or disclosure is ~~required and~~ authorised by law.

### 3.4 Data security of personal information

City of Darwin will take reasonable steps to protect the personal information it holds from misuse and loss and from unauthorised access, modification or disclosure.

City of Darwin has an information security framework to protect personal information which may be stored physically or in electronic form.

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Responsible Officer: General Manager Corporate

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City of Darwin ~~staff workplace participants~~ have access to personal information required to act in their official capacity. ~~on a need-to-know basis.~~

City of Darwin will take all reasonable steps to maintain held information is accurate, complete and up to date.

City of Darwin will not ~~transfer share~~ personal information unless:

- the transfer is authorised ~~or required~~ by law
- the recipient is subject to laws substantially similar to the IPPs
- City of Darwin has taken reasonable steps to ensure that the information will not be held, used or disclosed by the person to whom it is transferred in a manner that is inconsistent with ~~this policy~~ the IPPs under the Act.

### 3.5 Privacy complaints

City of Darwin will maintain a privacy complaints function through a dedicated Privacy Champion role. If not resolved internally, complaints can be escalated through an external appeals process. Information about complaints management will be made available on the City of Darwin's s website.

## 4 Definitions

**Access** means providing an individual with personal information about themselves, which may include inspecting or making copies of the information.

**Collection** means gathering, acquiring or obtaining personal information regardless of the source or the method used.

**Consent** means expressed or implied agreement. In order to consent, an individual must be informed and have the ability to understand and communicate their consent.

**Disclosure** means releasing personal information about an individual to someone outside of the organisation whereby City of Darwin will no longer have control over the information.

~~City of Darwin staff includes all employees and workers, contractors, volunteers and all others who perform work on behalf of City of Darwin.~~

**Personal Information** is information that discloses a person's identity, or from which a person could be identified. City of Darwin information is not personal information where a person's identity is disclosed only in the context of having acted in an official capacity for City of Darwin, and no other personal information is disclosed.

**Use** means the handling of personal information by City of Darwin.

Privacy policy - 2501.100.E.R

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Workplace participant means employees, volunteers, work experience placements, contractors, consultants, and labour-hire of Cit of Darwin.

## 5 Legislative references

Information Act 2002 (NT)

Local Government Act 2019 (NT)

## 6 Procedures and related documents

N/A

[2510.010.IR Privacy Management Framework](#)

[6230.100.E.R Data Policy](#)

[2005.100.I.R Records Management Policy](#)

## 7 Responsibility / application

The General Manager Corporate is accountable for the operation of this policy. The Privacy Champion is appointed by the Chief Executive Officer to provide awareness, advice and support for staff in meeting City of Darwin’s privacy obligations. The Privacy Champion also serves as an escalation point for privacy queries and complaints.

This policy applies to Elected Members, City of Darwin [Staff/workplace participants](#), City of Darwin [Library members](#), ratepayers and residents of the Darwin municipality and all people who utilise the services ~~of, or of~~ transact business with City of Darwin.

This policy will be reviewed every ~~two~~four years or as required.

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City of Darwin workplace participants have access to personal information required to act in their official capacity.

City of Darwin will take all reasonable steps to maintain held information is accurate, complete and up to date.

City of Darwin will not share personal information unless:

- the transfer is authorised by law
- the recipient is subject to laws substantially similar to the IPPs
- City of Darwin has taken reasonable steps to ensure that the information will not be held, used or disclosed by the person to whom it is transferred in a manner that is inconsistent with the IPPs under the Act.

### 3.5 Privacy complaints

City of Darwin will maintain a privacy complaints function through a dedicated Privacy Champion role. If not resolved internally, complaints can be escalated through an external appeals process. Information about complaints management will be made available on the City of Darwin’s website.

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*Information Act 2002 (NT)*

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## 6 Procedures and related documents

2510.010.IR Privacy Management Framework

6230.100.E.R Data Policy

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## 7 Responsibility / application

The General Manager Corporate is accountable for the operation of this policy. The Privacy Champion is appointed by the Chief Executive Officer to provide awareness, advice and support for staff in meeting City of Darwin’s privacy obligations. The Privacy Champion also serves as an escalation point for privacy queries and complaints.

This policy applies to Elected Members, City of Darwin workplace participants, City of Darwin library members, ratepayers and residents of the Darwin municipality and all people who utilise the services of or transact business with City of Darwin.

This policy will be reviewed every four years or as required.

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**14.2 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MOTIONS 2026**

**Author:** Manager Advocacy and Policy

**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:** 1. [2026 National General Assembly Discussion Paper](#) ↓

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report entitled Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly Motions 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the following motion to be put to the National General Assembly 2026:

*'This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish and fully fund a National Infrastructure Investment Program that provides sustained, needs-based Federal investment in stormwater and drainage systems across urban, regional and rural Australia to reduce localised and catchment-wide flood risk, and delivers targeted funding for key road infrastructure upgrades to strengthen the resilience of freight routes and critical supply chains, including bridges, culverts and flood-prone road corridors.'*

3. THAT Council endorse the following motion to be put to the National General Assembly 2026:

*'This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to annually fund and deliver the Community Energy Upgrades funding program to further support emissions reduction, improve energy performance and support the transition renewable electricity.'*

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the proposed motions. This will enable the motions to be put to the Australia Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly 2026, which will influence Australian Government policy on issues of strategic importance to the future of City of Darwin.

**KEY ISSUES**

- The 2026 ALGA National General Assembly will be held on 23-25 June 2026 in Canberra.
- The theme for this year's Assembly is 'Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United'.
- Two motions are proposed, to request the continuation of the Community Energy Upgrades Funding Arrangements, and for a National Infrastructure Investment Program to fund stormwater and drainage upgrades and deliver targeted funding for key road infrastructure upgrades to strengthen the resilience of freight routes and critical supply chains.

**DISCUSSION**

City of Darwin usually attends the annual ALGA National General Assembly held in Canberra in June-July. This event is the largest gathering of Local Government in Australia, including Principal Officers, Executive Leadership and Elected Members from over 250 Local Governments across Australia.

This year’s event will be held from 23-25 June 2026 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra.

The theme for this year’s Assembly is ‘Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United’ and will focus on opportunities for councils to work with the next Federal Government to deliver local solutions that will help them deliver on their vision for the nation. ALGA is seeking motions from member Councils. Motions are due to ALGA by 27 February 2026 and should cover one of the following themes:

- Intergovernmental relations
- Financial sustainability
- Roads and infrastructure
- Emergency management
- Housing and planning
- Closing the Gap
- Jobs and skills
- Climate change
- Environment
- Cyber security

The motions recommended are based on Elected Member feedback.

City of Darwin officers will prepare commentary to support the submission of the motions and will consult with Elected Members who had input into the motions.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

N/A

<b>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</b>	6 Governance Framework 6.2 Roles and Relationships
<b>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	N/A
<b>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</b>	N/A
<b>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT &amp; COMMUNICATION</b>	N/A

<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b></p>	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).</p>
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**Stronger Together:  
Resilient. Productive. United**

**2026  
National  
General  
Assembly  
Discussion Paper**  
National Convention Centre Canberra



**ALGA**  
Australian Local  
Government Association

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is pleased to convene the 32nd National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), to be held in Canberra in June 2026.

As convenor of the NGA, the ALGA Board warmly invites all councils to send representatives to this important national event.

The NGA is the premier national gathering of local governments. It gives councils a chance to come together, share ideas, debate motions, and strengthen the relationship between local government and the Australian Government.

This discussion paper contains essential information for Australian councils considering submitting motions for debate at the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

It is recommended that all councils and delegates intending to attend the 2026 NGA familiarise themselves with the guidelines for motions contained in this paper.

## **KEY DATES**

24 October 2025 | Opening of Call for Motions

27 February 2026 | Acceptance of Motions closes

## **TO SUBMIT YOUR MOTION**

**VISIT: [ALGA.COM.AU](https://alga.com.au)**

## **ALGA AND THE NGA – WORKING FOR YOU**

Established 1947, ALGA is a federation of member state and territory associations. Its mission is to achieve outcomes for local government through advocacy with impact, and maximise the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of councils and our communities.

Since 1994, the NGA has raised the profile of local government on the national stage, showcasing the value of councils and demonstrating – particularly to the Australian Government – the strength and value of working with local government to deliver on national priorities.

Debate on motions was introduced to the NGA as a vehicle for councils from across the nation to canvas ideas. Outcomes of these debates (NGA Resolutions) can be used by councils to inform their own policies and priorities, as well as their advocacy when dealing with federal politicians.

At the same time, they help ALGA and its member state and territory associations gain valuable insight into council priorities, emerging national issues, and the level of need and support for new policy and program initiatives.

Given ALGA's structure, Constitution, and resources, the NGA resolutions do not bind ALGA. However, NGA resolutions are carefully considered by the Board to determine ALGA's policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

This is your NGA, and ALGA is pleased to act as the convenor. ALGA's policies and priorities will continue to be determined by the ALGA Board in the interests of all councils.

We encourage councils to consider the topics and guidance in this paper as you develop your motions.

**The ALGA Board thanks all councils for attending the NGA 2026 and those who submit motions for debate.**

## SUBMITTING MOTIONS

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) gives you and your council an important opportunity to influence the national policy agenda.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Secretariat has prepared this short discussion paper to help you identify motions that address the NGA 2026 theme of “Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United.” This theme encourages debate on how councils across Australia can become more resilient, contribute to the nation’s productivity agenda, and present a united voice to the federal government on key issues in the national sphere.

We encourage you to read all the sections of the paper. We have included guiding questions to assist in developing your motion, but you do not have to respond to every question. You can address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper with your motion.

Your NGA motion should focus on how local governments can work in partnership with the Australian Government to address the challenges our communities face or seize the opportunities that are national priorities.

Each year the Secretariat receives a high volume of motions. Councils are encouraged to submit only their highest-priority motions and ensure it meets the criteria below. Multiple motions on a similar topic may be re-written into a single strategic motion, and councils will be invited by the Secretariat to put their council name to the proposal.

## HOW TO SUBMIT

- Each motion requires a contact officer, a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council.
- You can lodge motions electronically using the online portal available at [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au)
- **Motions should be received no later than 11:59 pm AEST on Friday 27 February 2026.**

## WHO CAN SUBMIT A MOTION

- Any council that is a financial member of their state or territory local government association can submit a motion.
- We will not accept motions submitted on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members or gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.

## CRITERIA FOR MOTIONS

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and debate it on the floor of the NGA, you must meet the following criteria:

- > Submit a new motion that has not been debated at an NGA in the preceding two years as found in previous business papers on the ALGA website.
- > Ensure your motion is relevant to the work of local government across the nation, not focused on a specific location or region, unless the project has national implications.
- > Align your motion with the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association.
- > Propose a clear action and outcome on a single issue, calling on the Australian Government to take action. Motions covering more than one issue will not be accepted.
- > Ensure the motion does not seek to advantage one or a few councils at the expense of others.
- > Avoid being prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

## WRITING TIPS

Motions should seek the NGA's support for a particular action or policy change at the federal level which will assist local governments to meet local community needs.

- > Start with: "This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...".  
Be concise, clearly worded, and unambiguous.
- > Use the background section of the form to help delegates understand your issue.
- > Keep your motion to 100 words, the national objective to 100 words, and the key arguments to 150 words.

## PROCESS OF SELECTION

The ALGA Secretariat will review motions for quality control and consistency with the criteria.

- > With the agreement of the relevant council, we may edit motions to ensure consistency.
- > If we have any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, we will raise these with the nominated contact officer.
- > Where there are multiple motions on a similar issue, the Secretariat may combine them into a single overarching strategic motion and invite the council to attach their name to the strategic motion.
- > Motions that reflect existing ALGA policy will be noted in the Business papers—but will not be included for debate, as they have already been covered in existing ALGA advocacy and policy positions.

The ALGA Board provides final decision on which motions are included in the Business paper.

- > The ALGA Board and state and territory local government associations will review all submitted motions to determine their eligibility.
- > The ALGA Board will consider the importance and relevance of the issue to local government and whether the motions meet all the criteria.
- > The ALGA Board will refer any motion primarily concerned with local or state issues to the relevant state or territory local government association and it will not include it in the NGA Business Papers.

## WHO WILL SPEAK TO THE MOTION AT NGA?

We expect any council that submits a motion to be present at the National General Assembly to move and speak to the motion. The decision on the speaker is at the discretion of the council.

## AFTER THE NGA

The resolutions of the NGA will be referred to the relevant federal Minister as an outcome of the NGA.

Resolutions passed at the NGA do not become binding policy on ALGA, with policy positions to remain at the discretion of the ALGA Board.

All NGA resolutions will be published on [www.NGA26.com.au](http://www.NGA26.com.au).

As the host of the NGA, ALGA will communicate resolutions to the relevant Australian Government Minister and publish Ministerial responses as they are received on the ALGA website.

## **OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER**

- > It is important to complete the background section of the submission form. Do not assume NGA delegates will know the background of the proposal. This section helps all delegates to understand your motion and informs decision making. Please note, motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- > Keep motions practical, focussed and can be implemented. This ensures that relevant Australian Government Ministers can respond thoughtfully and promptly. Avoid complex motions with multiple points that require cross-portfolio implementation.
- > If there are any questions about a motion, ALGA will contact the nominated officer. With the council's agreement, these motions may be edited before being included in the NGA Business Papers.
- > Debate will follow the rules published in the Business Papers and will focus on the strategic motions.

## SETTING THE SCENE

In the face of evolving challenges and opportunities, local governments around Australia stand at the forefront of driving resilience and productivity. Local governments know we are stronger together and the importance of unity across all levels of government. The theme for this year's NGA, **Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United**, underscores the pivotal role councils play in shaping the nation's future and delivering national priorities.

As the backbone of local communities, councils are uniquely positioned to implement place-based solutions that address both local needs and national priorities. This year's NGA encourages debate on how councils can enhance their resilience, contribute meaningfully to the nation's productivity agenda, and present a cohesive voice to the federal government on critical issues.

By fostering collaboration and innovation, local governments can lead the way in creating sustainable and thriving communities.

The 2026 NGA provides you - the elected representatives of Australia's local councils and communities - with the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers, ensuring that the voices of local communities are heard at the national level.

In this context, this year's call for motion focusses on ten priority areas:

- Financial sustainability
- Emergency management
- Housing and planning
- Roads and infrastructure
- Closing the Gap
- Jobs and skills
- Environment
- Cyber security
- Climate change
- Intergovernmental relations.

# 1. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Financial sustainability is the biggest challenge facing Australia's local governments which is why it remains one of ALGA's top priorities. Sustainably funded, councils can play a key role delivering local solutions to national priorities.

The 2025 Parliamentary inquiry interim report into local government sustainability confirmed that the role of councils has evolved and expanded over time, putting significant pressure on local government budgets. It is critical the Federal Government reinstates and finalises the Parliamentary inquiry into local government sustainability.

For almost one in four councils, federal Financial Assistance Grants make up at least 20 per cent of their annual operating revenue. This funding is untied, meaning it can be used to address local priorities.

Over the past 30 years, the value of Financial Assistance Grants as a percentage of Commonwealth taxation revenue has dropped from 1% in 1996 to just 0.5% today. To address this, ALGA is advocating for a **return to 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue for local government over the next three years.**

ALGA also proposes five new, untied funding streams to be distributed to all councils on a formula basis, including:

- \$1.1 billion per year for enabling infrastructure to unlock housing supply,
- \$500 million per year for community infrastructure,
- \$600 million per year for safer local roads,
- \$900 million per year for increased local government emergency management capability and capacity, and
- \$400 million per year for climate adaptation.

Additionally ALGA advocates for permanent, full membership of National Cabinet, the Council on Federal Financial Relations and the Local Government Ministers' Forum to ensure local perspectives are considered in national decision making.

*What are the opportunities to address financial sustainability across councils, and support their capacity to deliver local solutions to national priorities?*

*Are there improvements to be made to existing federal funding programs and arrangements that would support improved local government financial sustainability?*

## 2. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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The frequency, duration, and severity of natural disasters in Australia are a major concern for local governments.

Between 2019 and 2023, 434 of Australia's 537 councils faced natural disasters. Since 2020, 346 councils have dealt with at least two or more natural disasters. These numbers highlight that Australia will likely face more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters in the future, as noted by the 2025 Australian National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA). Regional communities, which have the least capacity to plan and respond to natural disasters, are often hit the hardest. However, the NCRA also warns that even areas that have never experienced disasters will face one at some point as the climate continues to warm.

More frequent disasters will further strain emergency services and disaster response and recovery efforts at all levels of government. Natural disasters currently cost Australia \$38 billion per year in direct physical damage, economic disruption, and social impacts, affecting millions of people. This figure is forecast to rise to approximately \$73 billion by 2060.

Councils are crucial in supporting their communities during and after disasters, but do not have enough funding to carry out these functions. They are already stretched thin, with many councils facing financial instability, and the increasing frequency of disasters has a cumulative financial impact.

Investing more in disaster prevention and resilience, as well as boosting local government emergency management response funding, will save money in the long run and better protect lives, homes, and businesses. Every dollar spent on reducing the impact of climate-related disasters saves the government up to \$8 in the long term.

ALGA is asking for \$900 million per year to help councils improve their disaster response and resilience. They also want the Commonwealth to fully implement the recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and other major reviews, including the Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (the Glasser Review) and the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (the Colvin Review)

The Independent Reviews by Colvin and Glasser support a strategic shift towards disaster risk reduction and resilience. The Colvin Review recommended a major capacity uplift for local government and an enhanced national training and exercise regime which tests and builds local government capability. However, while ALGA notes the need to invest in risk-reduction and resilience-building initiatives, embedding recovery at all points along the emergency management continuum, should always be at the front of mind for all levels of government. ALGA's response to these Reviews reiterated the need for a sustainable funding model for disasters through a non-competitive pathway, and dedicated funding for local government.

Councils are encouraged to draw on their practical experience of the improvements that could be made to better support them in preparing, responding to, and recovering from, natural disasters.

Please note that many aspects of emergency management are state or territory responsibilities, and your motions should focus on how the Australian Government could assist.

*What new programs, or improvements to existing programs, could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to improve the current natural disaster management systems to further assist in recovery and build resilience?*

*How can the Government best support Australian councils to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters?*

## 3. HOUSING AND PLANNING

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Australia is experiencing an affordable housing crisis, with a lack of housing supply impacting on homeowners and renters.

The crisis is leading to more people experiencing homelessness and struggling with housing insecurity and affordability.

In many jurisdictions, local government performs a key role in zoning and approving housing and delivering enabling infrastructure. However, councils are often unfairly blamed for delays in housing approvals when most applications that meet the requirements are processed quickly and efficiently.

One of the biggest barriers to building more homes is a lack of funding for enabling infrastructure, including the roads, power and water connections necessary for new developments.

The National Housing Accord – which ALGA is a signatory to on behalf of local government – sets an ambitious national target of 1.2 million new, well-located homes over the next five years. According to ALGA's research, it will cost at least \$5.7 billion to build the infrastructure needed to meet the national housing target. This is in addition to the existing funding gaps for local government infrastructure, which is estimated to be between \$50-\$55 billion for replacing infrastructure in poor condition (2024 National State of the Assets Report).

The 2024 Addressing the Housing Crisis: Unlocking Local Government's Contribution Report by Equity Economics found that 40% of surveyed local governments have reduced new infrastructure developments due to insufficient funding for enabling infrastructure required to support new housing, further exacerbating the housing crisis.

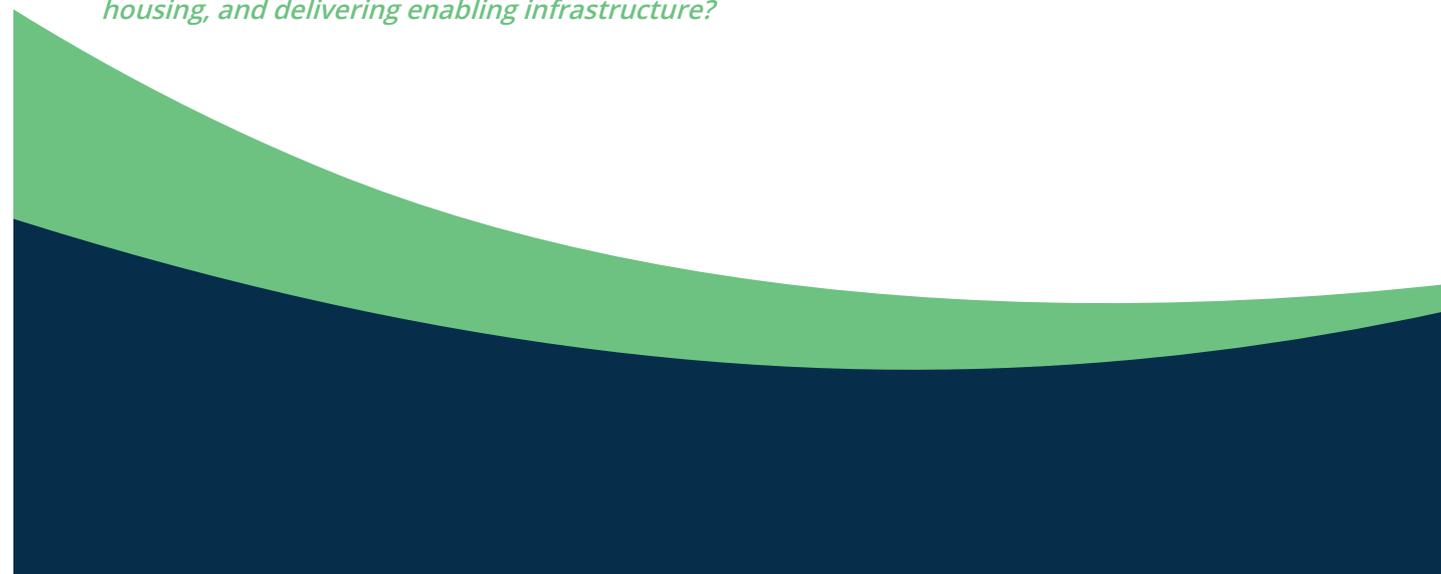
ALGA is calling for a new five-year, \$1.1 billion annual fund that would be provided to all councils to get the foundations right for increasing Australia's housing supply.

We are advocating for local governments to be provided with \$500 million per year for critical and community infrastructure and assets that will help create more liveable communities.

ALGA is also seeking a seat at the table for national discussions on housing policy, including full membership of National Cabinet and the Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council.

*What new programs and policies could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to support the provision of more affordable housing?*

*How can local governments be better supported in their role in planning and approving housing, and delivering enabling infrastructure?*



## 4. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Local governments are responsible for about one-third of Australia's public infrastructure, including local roads, buildings, facilities, airports, water and land.

According to ALGA's 2024 National State of the Assets report, Australia's councils manage over \$600 billion worth of assets and infrastructure, which is about ten times their annual revenue.

This makes local governments the most asset-intensive level of government. Councils manage local roads, which make up around 75% of the national road network, totalling more than 650,000 km. These roads serve every Australian and business daily, and are key to Australia's productivity.

### Safer roads

The unacceptable number of deaths and serious injuries on Australian roads has continued to rise every year since 2020.

Tragically, around half of all fatal road crashes occur on local roads in regional areas. During the 12 months ending August 2025 there were 1,353 road deaths, 4.3% higher than the same time in the previous year, according to national road safety data.

Effectively funding the maintenance and necessary safety upgrades of Australia's local road network is a big challenge, and despite recent increases in the federal Roads to Recovery funding, there is still a \$500 million per year shortfall, according to the 2023 Grattan Institute's Potholes and Pitfalls report.

ALGA is calling for \$600 million per year safer roads fund – with \$500 million for infrastructure improvements and \$100 million for road safety programs – to support all councils to play a more effective role reducing deaths on Australian roads.

### Community infrastructure

Local government libraries, playgrounds, bike paths and community centres are vital to the wellbeing and liveability of communities. However, many of these facilities need significant attention and upgrades.

According to ALGA's 2024 National State of the Assets report, around \$8.3 billion of local government buildings and facilities and \$2.9 billion of parks and recreation assets are in poor condition.

On a positive note, since 2021, the amount of local government buildings and facilities in poor condition has fallen from 10 per cent to eight per cent. This is the result of increased federal investment through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, from both the Coalition and Labor governments since 2020.

Unfortunately, this program has ceased and there is an urgent need for ongoing and significant community infrastructure. ALGA is proposing a \$500 million per year community infrastructure fund – to be provided to all councils – to build, (and importantly), maintain and upgrade the local facilities that make communities great.

*Are there new programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could adopt to improve the long-term sustainability of local government roads and community infrastructure?*

*Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could provide to improve the sector's capacity to manage local government infrastructure and to integrate these plans into long-term financial plans?*

*Are there opportunities for the Australian Government to support councils to invest in local infrastructure that will help address national priorities?*

## 5. CLOSING THE GAP

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Local governments play a crucial role in closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. ALGA is a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Partnership, which focuses on four priority reform targets and 19 socio-economic targets in areas like education, employment, health, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Local governments are uniquely positioned to support partnerships that address long-term service gaps and ensure their delivery. However, the Productivity Commission Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap found that Federal and state governments are not adequately supporting or involving local governments in these reforms.

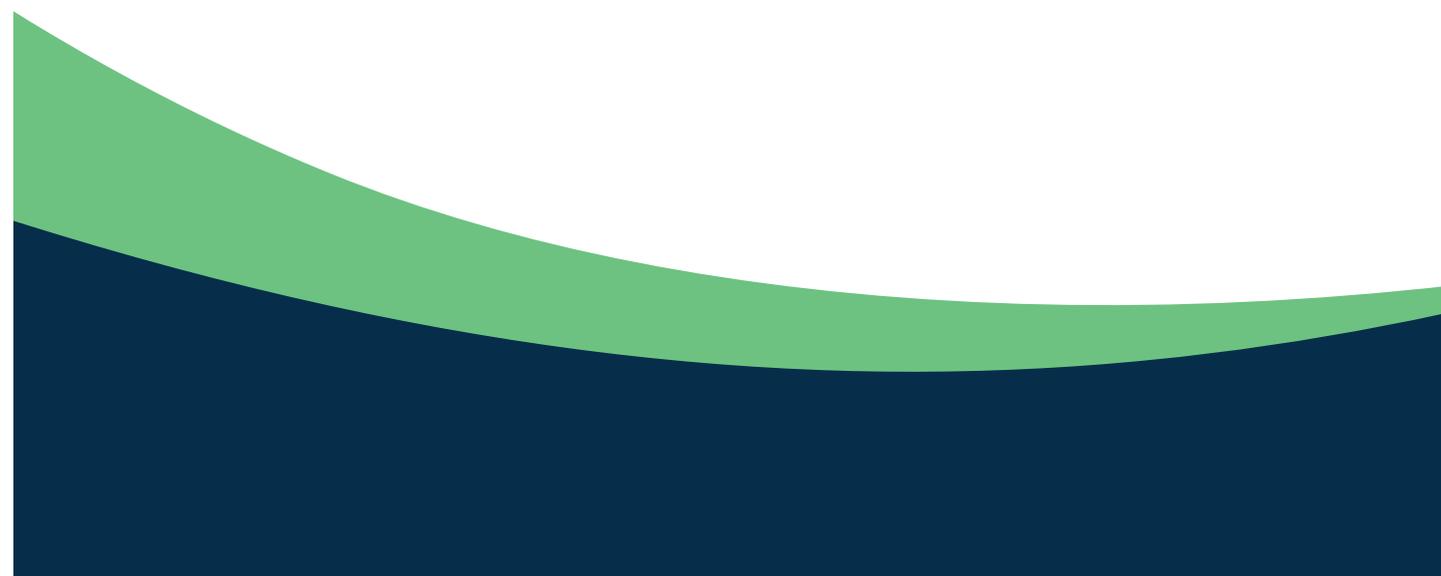
ALGA is calling for more resourcing and funding for local government, to support place-based initiatives or broader programs to enable councils to better facilitate and meet Closing the Gap objectives in their communities.

ALGA is also advocating for the Commonwealth to:

- Establish a national framework/set of protocols outlining which Federal Government departments/agencies should engage with local government in place-based initiatives, and planning for community-level projects or expenditure.
- Seek greater local government input in programs that impact on Closing the Gap targets to better shape programs with local knowledge and the needs of specific communities.
- Develop programs, with state and territory governments, to include funded support positions for local government coordination and partnership efforts (including member associations).
- Recognise councils with majority or all Aboriginal-elected members as key service delivery bodies in policy and program development.

*Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could adopt to assist local government to advance reconciliation and close the gap?*

*Are there practical programs or initiatives that local government and the Australian Government could introduce to maintain, build and strengthen the level of trust between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and governments?*



## 6. JOBS AND SKILLS

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Australia's jobs and skills crisis is significantly impacting local governments, which employ around 213,000 people nationwide. ALGA's 2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey found that nine out of ten Australian councils face jobs and skills shortages, hindering project and service delivery.

Town planners, building surveyors, and engineers are the most in-demand professions. These roles are crucial for supporting and enabling communities to become more resilient and to help boost local economic growth and national productivity. National priorities, such as increasing housing supply, cannot be achieved without local government support and the right professionals to undertake this work.

Several factors drive these skill shortages, including difficulty attracting young people to local government jobs, lack of available training courses, wage competition, and insufficient resources to upskill the current workforce. This includes access to training facilities for rural and remote councils, workplace supervisors, subject matter experts, and contextualized training resources.

Councils urgently need more federal funding to invest in workforce development and training programs, attract workers to regional areas, and address broader skills shortages in the national economy.

ALGA is calling for the Federal Government's National Skills Plan to acknowledge the vital role of local governments as employers in training and skills development. ALGA also seeks funding opportunities for council employees to access training for identified skills shortage areas, especially in regional and remote communities.

Additionally, it is important for the Commonwealth to undertake a national audit of institutions offering urban and land use planning, building surveyors, and engineering qualifications, and to identify more readily available pathways for regional and remote study.

*Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could implement that would enhance local government's capacity to attract and retain appropriately skilled staff now and into the future?*

*Are there programs or changes to existing programs that would increase local government's ability to employ apprentices and trainees?*

*Are there other initiatives that the Australian Government could provide to improve the sector's ability to plan and develop skills fit for the future?*

## 7. ENVIRONMENT

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Local governments play a crucial role in protecting our local environment including places, flora and fauna.

Councils spend more money on environmental protection than any other level of government. According to SGS Economics and Planning, councils spent \$6.75 billion in 2021-22 on biodiversity, biosecurity, water management, and waste management. By comparison, states and territories spent \$6.62 billion, and the Commonwealth allocated \$6.7 billion over the same period.

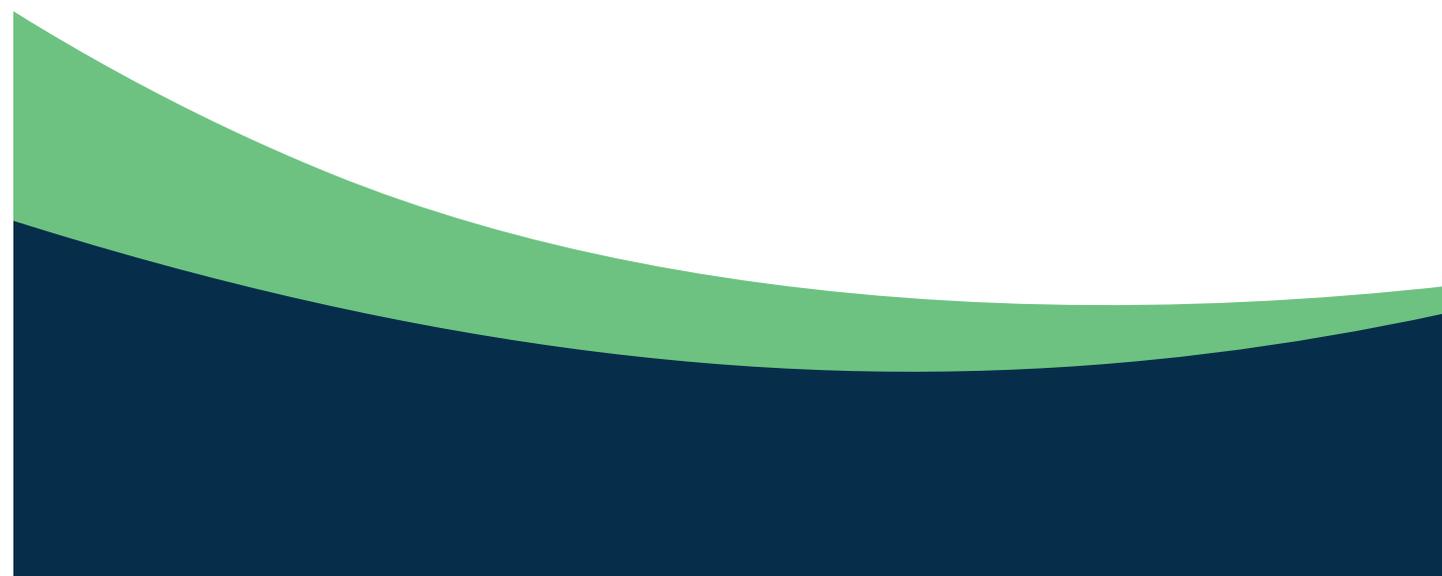
Local government is also key in improving waste management and resource recovery to reduce pollution, maintain communities and keep people healthy. However, as the Australian Government recently reported, we are running out of viable landfill space and circular economy solutions are required.

Local governments are ideal partners for on-the-ground action to deliver environmental priorities and outcomes, but they need better funding and support.

Councils bring a local, community-based and integrated approach to managing environmental issues, including weed and pest management, monitoring and protecting threatened species, contributing to water security and enhancing biodiversity.

ALGA is calling on the Federal Government to:

- Fund councils to support the delivery of national environmental outcomes. This includes outcomes stipulated in international conventions, threatened species action plans, matters of national, state, and local environmental significance, and any new obligations/expectations under reforms to the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.
- Fund local governments to manage environmental threats, including pests, weeds, and biosecurity threats.
- Ensure local government is appropriately recognised and engaged through environmental law reform processes.
- Seek agreement, under the National Water Initiative, on the overarching social, cultural, economic and environmental outcomes and goals for water on a national and holistic basis, and action planning and funding and achieve these outcomes and goals.



### Waste management and resource recovery

Collecting, treating, and disposing of waste costs local governments an estimated \$3.5 billion annually.

The 2022 National Waste report revealed waste generation has increased 20 per cent over the last 15 years (8.3 per cent coming from municipal waste). Although, recycling and recovery of Australia's core waste has increased by 57 per cent since 2006-07, Australia still has one of the lowest rates of recycling among OCED countries.

The responsibility and cost for waste reduction in Australia should be borne by industry, and not local governments.

Implementing mandatory product stewardship, including payments to local governments for any residual resource recovery services, would ensure producer responsibility is operationalised and reduce the cost and risk burden on councils.

ALGA is advocating for the Federal Government to:

- Establish a mandatory product stewardship approach for waste materials and ensure product stewardship schemes include, and are effective, in regional and remote areas.
- Ban the importation and manufacturing of products containing identified contaminants.
- Prioritise national policy attention to waste streams with the highest potential to improve environmental outcomes, reduce costs to local government, and create economic opportunity.
- Introduce a 'local government impact assessment' into national waste policy and reform processes to ensure council interests are systematically incorporated into policy design.

*How could the Australian Government partner with local government to strengthen Australia's environmental services and infrastructure?*

*What new programs could the Australian Government partner with local government in to progress local regional and national objectives?*

*What actions and investments should the Australian Government prioritise to improve resource recovery rates?*

*What initiatives and approaches should the Australian Government take to improve waste, recycling and resource recovery in regional, rural and remote LGAs?*

*What are the most significant opportunities in the circular economy and how can the Australian Government engage with local governments to leverage these opportunities?*

## 8. CYBER SECURITY

Cyber security is a growing risk for all Australian governments and businesses, and councils are not immune. However many local governments are under-resourced and struggle to deal with increasingly sophisticated cyber threats and attacks.

Local governments manage large amounts of sensitive data about communities and community members, including private information from the aged care, health, and social services they deliver. Furthermore, most councils are responsible for managing critical infrastructure, including water, waste, power networks, and transport systems.

Councils need greater support to strengthen their cyber security preparedness and response capability, and protect valuable data.

ALGA is calling for greater funding and support from the federal government to improve cyber security capability and capacity across the local government sector.

*Drawing upon your council's experience, and your knowledge of other councils within your state or territory, are there programs and initiatives that the Australian Government could implement to help local government develop its digital technology services and infrastructure?*

*Are there actions the Australian Government could take to improve cyber security within the local government sector?*

## 9. CLIMATE CHANGE

The impacts of climate change – including from more frequent and severe natural disasters, coastal erosion and rising temperatures – are being felt right across every community.

Councils, being the closest government to communities, are crucial in creating a sustainable future and helping the Federal Government achieve net zero emissions by 2050. However, they need support to manage these impacts.

### Climate adaptation

Local governments are on the frontline of climate adaptation. They build public swimming pools to keep people cool, plant trees for shade, and upgrade stormwater systems to handle heavy rains. With their local knowledge and leadership, they play a vital role in addressing climate risks and seizing new opportunities from new industries and achieving national climate adaptation objectives.

Councils are already investing significantly in climate adaptation, but they need more support to match the scale of the challenges. ALGA's modelling shows that councils deliver \$0.8 to \$3.1 in benefits for every \$1 invested. A \$2 billion investment by 2030 could benefit local communities by \$2.2 to \$4.7 billion.

ALGA is calling for a new \$400 million per year climate adaptation fund, to be distributed across all councils to provide local, place-based solutions to Australia's changing climate.

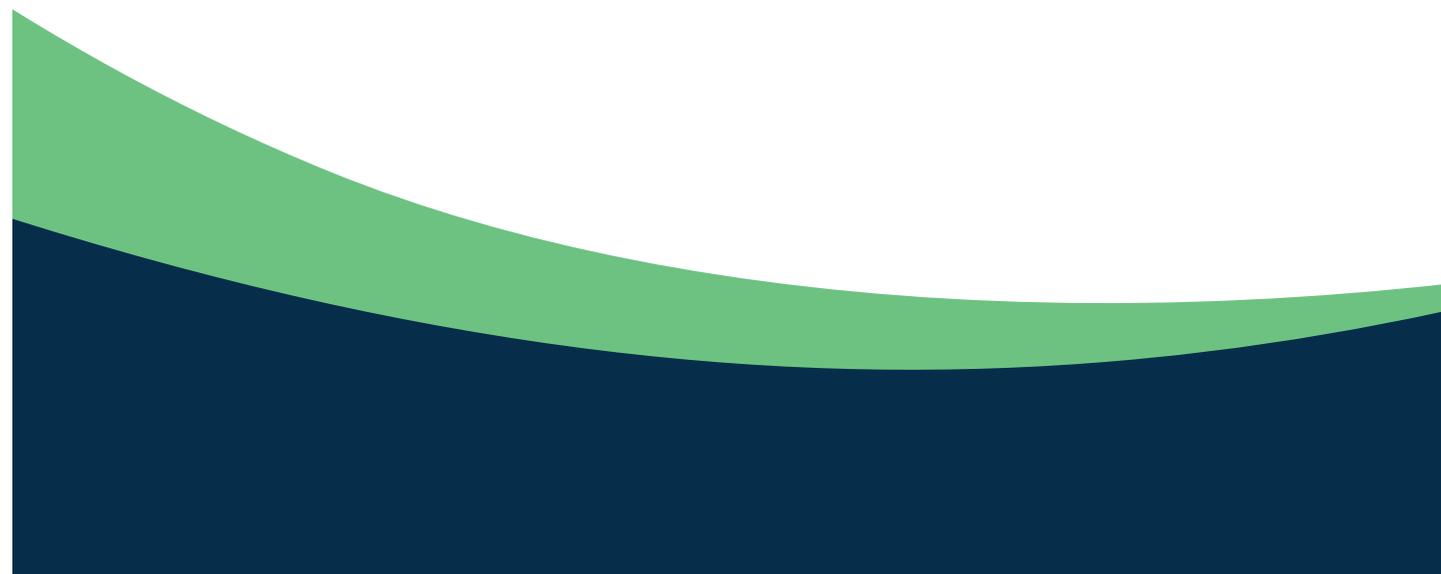
We are also asking the Federal Government to:

- Streamline and make it easier for local governments to undertake climate risk management. This should involve implementing a voluntary climate risk framework for local government which supports consistent climate risk assessment, reporting, decision making and expenditure.
- Develop, operate and maintain an information and data suite designed specifically for local government adaptation use (on an opt-in basis).

### Emissions reduction

The Australian Local Government Climate Review 2024 found that 86% of councils (out of 120 respondents) had an emissions inventory. However, they face barriers in reducing corporate emissions, such as internal resourcing (69%), funding (64%), and staff capability (40%).

While councils are committed to reducing emissions locally, they need more funding to avoid burdening ratepayers and to allow communities to benefit from low-emissions technologies sooner.



ALGA is asking the Federal Government to:

- Collaborate with local governments as part of a multi-level governance approach (per the Australian Government's pledge to the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships) to undertake strategic planning and prioritisation of net zero projects, infrastructure and service needs on a regional level.
- Fund emissions reduction plans with local governments across states and territories to facilitate a place-based approach to achieving net zero communities.
- Expand, and make more accessible, existing funding programs which enable local governments to reduce emissions and support community emissions reduction.
- Provide councils with accessible and nationally harmonised tools to maintain pace with trends in emissions measurement and reporting.
- Ensure local governments are compensated where emissions reduction processes place additional pressure on services and infrastructure (e.g, heavier EV truck impact on maintenance/standards of roads/bridges).

#### Renewable energy transition

Local governments are crucial partners in the transition to net zero. They engage with project proponents, negotiate community benefits, provide trusted information to residents, and manage the impacts of large projects on roads, housing, and local skills.

Councils strive to create a positive long-term legacy while balancing the immediate risks and impacts of the transition.

ALGA is asking the Federal Government to:

- Create a program of work dedicated to understanding local government experiences with renewable energy transition in their local area and region and develop specific supports for local governments.
- Establish a national approach and mechanism for cost recovery to local governments for the role of brokering benefits between project proponents and their communities, benefitting all Australians.
- Develop and maintain regional plans and a national map demonstrating zoning for prospective and proposed renewable energy projects and transmission corridors.

*Noting the Australian Government's approach to reducing emissions, are there partnerships, programs, and initiatives that local government and the Australian Government can form to achieve Australia's 2050 net zero emissions target?*

*What are the opportunities to support councils to increase community resilience to the impacts of climate change?*

*What support do councils need to ensure that renewable energy projects deliver lasting benefits to the communities that house them?*

*What are the most significant climate risks being faced by local governments and what approach should the Australian Government take to supporting councils?*

*What roles and responsibilities for emissions reduction and climate risk management is your council shouldering that should be primarily managed by other levels of government? How should this responsibility be shared or rebalanced?*

*What are the most significant emissions reduction opportunities for your council and what could the Commonwealth provide to enable you to implement these opportunities?*

## 10. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

ALGA has unique access and insight into government decision-making in Australia.

We represent local government at Ministerial Councils and forums on a range of key issues including transport, emergency management, energy, climate, environment, planning, culture and Closing the Gap.

At these meetings, ALGA's leaders provide a powerful and strong voice for councils and communities, and ensure local perspectives are considered in national policy development.

However, ALGA does not have a permanent voice on National Cabinet – the main forum linking all governments across the nation.

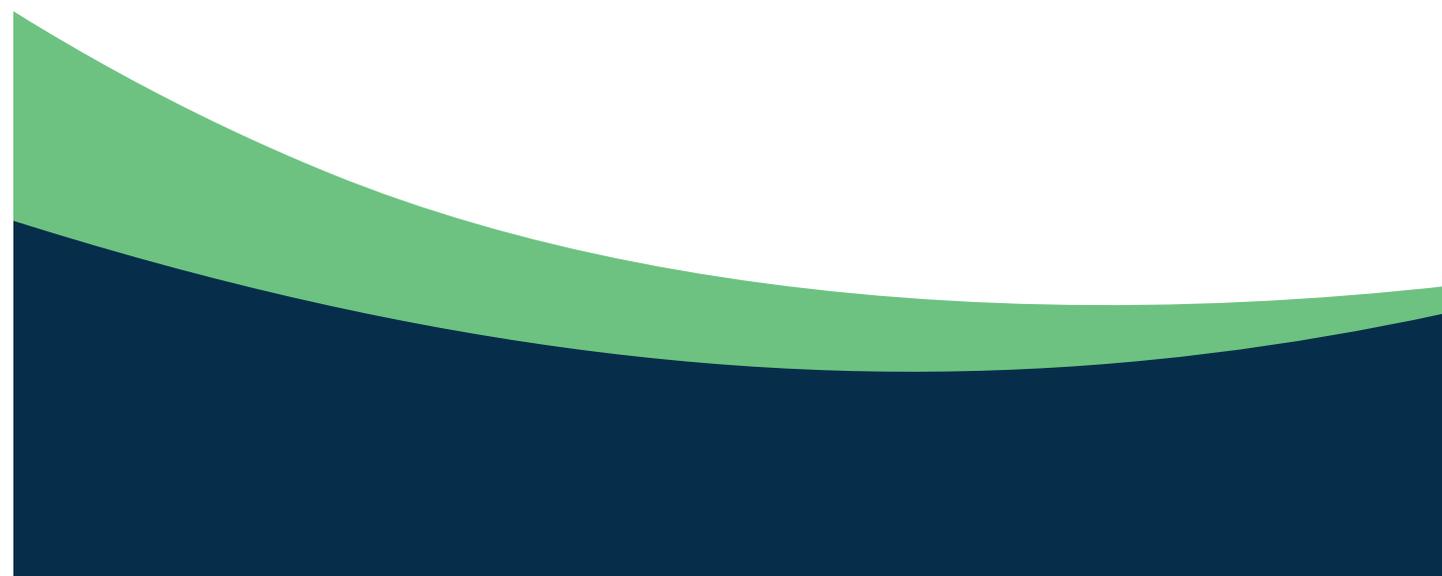
For almost 30 years, ALGA was a valued member and contributor to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). However, ALGA's membership did not carry over when COAG transitioned to National Cabinet in 2020, and ALGA now only attends one meeting each year as an observer. ALGA is also invited to attend one meeting per year of the Council on Federal Financial Relations.

ALGA is calling on the Federal Government to return ALGA as a full member of National Cabinet with ongoing membership and voting rights. This will enable local government leaders to provide local perspectives on national decision making and ensure the views of Australian communities are understood and considered.

We are also seeking full membership of the Local Government Ministers' Forum, which ALGA currently attends in an ex-officio capacity.

*Given the important role councils play delivering local solutions to national priorities, how can intergovernmental arrangements be further improved in Australia?*

*Are there new initiatives and programs that could be adopted to improve the level of cooperation and collaboration between the Australian Government and local government?*



## CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to read this discussion paper and your support for the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government.

A final reminder:

- Motions should be lodged electronically at [www.alga.com.au](http://www.alga.com.au) and received no later than **11.59pm AEST on 27 February 2026**.
- Motions must meet the criteria published in this paper.
- Motions should commence with the following wording: *'This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...'*
- Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- Motions should be practical, focussed and relatively simple.
- It is important to complete the background section on the form.
- Motions must not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
- When your council submits a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the 2026 National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.
- Resolutions of the National General Assembly do not automatically become ALGA's national policy positions. The resolutions are used by the ALGA Board to inform policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

**We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2026 National General Assembly in Canberra.**



**15 RECEIVE & NOTE REPORTS****15.1 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - JANUARY 2026**

**Author:** Manager Accounting Services  
Executive Manager Finance

**Authoriser:** General Manager Corporate

**Attachments:** 1. Monthly Financial Statements - January 2026 [↓](#)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the report entitled Monthly Financial Report – January 2026 be received and noted.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the financial position of Council for the period ended 31 January 2026.

Further, this report and the contents are required to be presented to Council in compliance with the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

**KEY ISSUES**

The Monthly Financial Report includes:

- Income Statement, which compares actual YTD income and expenditure against YTD budget.
- Fund Flow Statement (Monthly Operating Position), which outlines the effect on General Funds.
- Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet), which outlines what Council owns (assets) and what it owes (liabilities) at a point in time.
- Notes to the Balance Sheet, this includes further details on the Cash Balance, Trade Debtors, Trade Creditors, and a statement on Council's current payment and reporting obligations.
- Lord Mayor and CEO council credit card transactions.
- Investments, which provides details of treasury activities, investments as at month end.
- Procurement Reporting, which is a summary of contract variations and exempt procurement.
- Capital Expenditure and Funding, which compares YTD capital expenditure and funding against YTD budget.
- Planned Major Projects Capital Works, provides a high-level financial overview of our major projects at a point in time.

**DISCUSSION**

**January 2026 – Year to Date Results**

The year-to-date operating result until 31 January 2026 is a **deficit of \$6.4M compared to a Budgeted deficit of \$9M** as highlighted in the table below.

	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>(6,352)</b>	<b>(8,979)</b>	<b>2,627 Favourable</b>

The Net Operating Position reflects a favourable variance of \$2.6 million against the year-to-date revised budget. The result is mainly attributable to favourable variances in User Fees and Charges, Interest/Investment Income, and Employee Costs. These gains are partially offset by unfavourable variances in Materials, Contracts & Services and Depreciation.

Further details on material variances are outlined below.

**Income**

Total Operating Income is tracking above budget by \$3.6M (4.5% Favourable YTD variance).

Statutory charges show a favourable variance of \$0.8 million, driven by higher parking compliance volumes. Growth has moderated since December, with performance stabilising and only small month-to-month movements.

User fees and charges show a favourable variance of \$1.2M, largely driven by increased revenue from the Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility. This outcome reflects higher commercial weighbridge income arising from higher volume of disposal materials.

Interest and investment income exceeded the monthly budget by \$1.3M, driven by the timing and management of external borrowings, which resulted in higher cash balances. These higher cash holdings enabled a greater level of investment capital than originally budgeted.

**Expenditure**

Total Expenses are over budget by \$1M (1% Unfavourable YTD Variance).

Employee costs report a positive variance to budget of \$2.6M reflecting timing of employee entitlements and vacancies. Some of this positive variance is offset through the use of contract labour to cover positions.

Materials, contracts, and services have an annual budget of \$67M across a broad range of operational expenditure categories. As of January, consolidated YTD expenditure is \$2.6M above budget, creating an unfavourable variance. This variance is primarily driven by costs associated with Tropical Cyclone Fina recovery works, including emergency response activities, clean-up operations and expenditure occurred on damaged assets and infrastructure. Expenditure variance will continue to escalate as costs are processed. Assessment of damage, insurance recoveries, and disaster funding reimbursements is underway, and a budget variation will be submitted to reflect the confirmed treatment and funding requirements.

Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment expenses are tracking above YTD budget, primarily due to the increase in the re-valuation of pathways and transport assets recognised in June 2025. Depreciation is a non-cash expense, and an adjustment will be proposed in a future budget review.

Interest expenses show a positive variance of \$1.3M due to loan offsets been utilised against the variable loans.

**Statement of Fund Flows**

The variances are related to a mismatch in the timing of projects and budget profiles, and the reasons described above under the operating statement commentary.

Capital expenditure and Transfers from Reserves relates to timing of capital projects.

**Cash and Investments Note A**

City of Darwin has achieved 4.35% on weighted average interest rate on its end of month cash and investment portfolio of \$114M (excluding loan offset \$43.2M). This result represents a continued outperformance against the Bloomberg AusBond 90-Day Bank Bill Index benchmark of 3.87%.

Compliance remained strong during the month, with no investment policy breaches recorded. All investments were maintained within approved credit, term, and counterparty limits.

**Accounts Receivable (Trade Debtors) Note B**

This section provides the aged debtors outstanding for general debtors and infringements.

**Accounts Payable (Trade Creditors) Note C**

Accounts Payable owing at end of month at the time of reporting. City of Darwin recognises the liability of invoices once goods are receipted as received.

**Procurement Reporting**

Under the Local Government (General) Regulations, Council is required to disclose the following on the City of Darwin website:

- contract variations:
  - where a tender was not required, however the total cost exceeds \$100,000, or
  - where a contract requiring a tender is varied by 10%.
- exempt procurement greater than \$100,000.

**Contract Variations**

There were zero reportable contract variations for January 2026.

**Exempt Procurement**

Vendor	Supply	Cost	Applicable Exemption
Darwin Entertainment Centre	Tripartite Five Year Grant Funding Agreement (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029)	\$374,000.00	Reg 38(1)(h) Only one supplier available
NT Recycling Solutions	Recyclables Processing	\$207,421.50	Reg 38(1)(h) Only one supplier available
J.A.M Builders Pty Ltd	Undertake repair works associated with damage to buildings cause by TC Fina (13 jobs)	\$178,475.00	Reg 38(1)(g) natural disaster
Infosurety Pty Ltd	Software licence for CrowdStrike 3 years (cyber security)	\$644,745.81	Reg 38(1)(d) the renewal of existing licence

<p><b><u>Certification by the CEO to the Council</u></b></p> <p>That, to the best of the CEO’s knowledge, information and belief:</p> <p>(1) The internal controls implemented by the council are appropriate; and</p> <p>(2) The council’s financial report best reflects the financial affairs of the council.</p> <p><i>D.Saunders</i></p> <p>CEO Signed</p> <p>18 February 2026</p>	
<p><b>PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b></p> <p>N/A</p>	
<p><b>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</b></p>	<p>6 Governance Framework</p> <p>6.3 Decision Making and Management</p>
<p><b>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</b></p>	<p>Part 2 Division 7 the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> require that a monthly financial report is presented to Council each month setting out:</p> <p>(a) the actual income and expenditure of the council for the period from the commencement of the financial year up to the end of the previous month; and</p> <p>(b) the most recently adopted annual budget; and</p> <p>(c) details of any material variances between the most recent actual income and expenditure of the council and the most recently adopted annual budget.</p> <p>Regulation 17(5) Part 2 Division 7 the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> require that the monthly report must be accompanied by:</p> <p>(a) a certification, in writing, by the CEO to the council that, to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief:</p> <p>(i) the internal controls implemented by the council are appropriate; and</p> <p>(ii) the council's financial report best reflects the financial affairs of the council; or</p> <p>(b) if the CEO cannot provide the certification – written reasons for not providing the certification.</p> <p>The report is compliant with the requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i>.</p>
<p><b>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT &amp; COMMUNICATION</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b></p>	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).</p>
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Income Statement For the Period Ended 31 January 2026	2025/26			
	YTD			FY Revised Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Operating Income</b>				
Rates	47,078	46,946	132	80,478
Charges	6,068	6,066	2	10,398
Statutory Charges	2,782	1,963	819	3,136
User Fees and Charges	18,599	17,392	1,207	29,648
Operating Grants and Subsidies	3,112	3,068	44	4,515
Interest / Investment Income	3,528	2,246	1,282	3,851
Commercial & Other Income	1,632	1,550	82	2,588
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>82,799</b>	<b>79,231</b>	<b>3,568</b>	<b>134,615</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Employee Expenses	22,839	25,450	2,611	43,720
Materials, Contracts & Services	43,020	40,383	(2,637)	67,231
Elected Member Allowances	394	485	91	832
Elected Member Expenses	42	45	3	45
Council Committee Allowances	6	12	6	20
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	21,855	19,563	(2,292)	33,536
Interest Expenses	995	2,272	1,277	5,664
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>89,151</b>	<b>88,210</b>	<b>(941)</b>	<b>151,048</b>
<b>Budgeted Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>(6,352)</b>	<b>(8,979)</b>	<b>2,627</b>	<b>(16,433)</b>
Capital Grants Income	95	1,896	(1,801)	5,392
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(6,257)</b>	<b>(7,083)</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>(11,042)</b>

Statement of Fund Flows Monthly Statement of Operating Position For the Period Ended 31 January 2026	2025/26			
	YTD			FY Revised Budget \$'000
	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Net Operating Result from Income Statement</b>	<b>(6,352)</b>	<b>(8,979)</b>	<b>2,627</b>	<b>(16,433)</b>
<b><u>Add Non Cash Items</u></b>				
Add Back Depreciation (Non-Cash)	21,855	19,563	2,292	33,536
Add Back Other Non-Cash Items	-	-	-	2,100
<b>Total Non Cash Items</b>	<b>21,855</b>	<b>19,563</b>	<b>2,292</b>	<b>35,636</b>
<b><u>Less Additional Outflows</u></b>				
Repayment of borrowings & advances	(4,533)	(3,549)	(984)	(6,084)
Capital Expenditure	(26,451)	(49,695)	23,245	(71,237)
<b>Total Additional Outflows</b>	<b>(30,984)</b>	<b>(53,245)</b>	<b>22,261</b>	<b>(77,321)</b>
<b><u>Add Additional Inflows</u></b>				
Capital Grants Income	95	1,896	(1,801)	5,392
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	107	299	(191)	512
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	18,289	40,467	(22,178)	52,214
<b>Total Additional Inflows</b>	<b>18,491</b>	<b>42,661</b>	<b>(24,170)</b>	<b>58,117</b>
<b>Net Increase (-Decrease) in Funds</b>	<b>3,011</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,011</b>	<b>0</b>

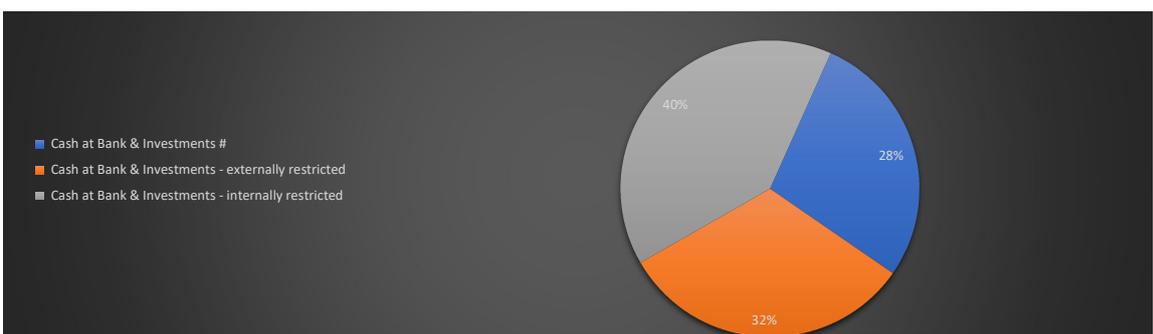
Statement of Financial Position as at 31 January 2026	2025/26		
	Actual \$'000	Note	FY Revised Budget \$'000
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at Bank & Investments	44,345	A	18,360
Cash at Bank & Investments - externally restricted	50,741	A	28,675
Cash at Bank & Investments - internally restricted	63,357	A	51,498
Trade & Other Receivables	5,626	B	16,260
Rates & Charges Receivables	28,014		-
Inventories	294		273
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>192,377</b>		<b>115,066</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	1,380,257		1,325,094
Lease Right of Use Assets	1,353		-
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>1,381,609</b>		<b>1,325,094</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,573,986</b>		<b>1,440,160</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade Payables & Other Payables	8,422	C	22,573
Accruals	4,354		-
ATO & Payroll Liabilities	708	C	-
Rates Revenue struck (in advance)	39,431		-
Borrowings	4,057		6,975
Provisions	6,114		7,886
Lease Liabilities	663		950
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>62,334</b>		<b>38,384</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade & Other Payables	7		-
Borrowings	73,713		68,411
Provisions	46,274		53,799
Lease Liabilities	797		599
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>120,791</b>		<b>122,810</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>183,125</b>		<b>161,194</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,390,862</b>		<b>1,278,966</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated Surplus	277,631		331,495
Asset Revaluation Reserve	999,133		867,298
Other Reserves	114,098		80,173
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>1,390,862</b>		<b>1,278,966</b>

\*Please note that these reports are unaudited management financial reports. Information contained in the reports were current as at the date of the reports and may not reflect any event or circumstances which occurred after the reports were completed.

**Monthly Balance Sheet Report (Notes to the Statement of Financial Position)  
as at 31 January 2026**

**Note A. Details of Cash and Investments Held**  
*Investments Report attached, which provides details of treasury activities, investments as at the end of the Month. City of Darwin has achieved 4.35% on weighted average interest rate (excluding Cash on Call) on its January 2026 cash and investment portfolio of \$114M (excluding \$43.2M Variable Loans Surplus/Offset). There have been no investment policy breaches in this month. The Investment Reports include surplus cash funds that are placed against variable loans. These funds are considered 'at call' as they can be accessed in short time frames.*

Cash at Bank & Investments	\$'000
Cash at Bank & Investments #	44,345
Cash at Bank & Investments - externally restricted	50,741
Cash at Bank & Investments - internally restricted	63,357
<b>Total Cash at Bank &amp; Investments</b>	<b>158,444</b>



# Cash at Bank & Investments includes Cash on Call of \$43.2M

Note B. Statement of Trade Debtors*	Past Due 1 – 30 Days	Past Due 31 – 60 Days	Past Due 61-90 Days	Past Due 90+ Days	Total *
Other Trade Receivables and Other Receivables	\$ 3,721,108	\$1,228,733	\$86,090	\$589,910	\$5,625,841
<b>Total Trade and Other Receivables</b>	<b>\$ 3,721,108</b>	<b>\$1,228,733</b>	<b>\$86,090</b>	<b>\$589,910</b>	<b>\$ 5,625,841</b>

Note C. Statement on Trade Creditors*	Past Due 1 – 30 Days	Past Due 31 – 60 Days	Past Due 61-90 Days	Past Due 90+ Days	Total*
General Trade Creditors	- 4,333,742.43	- 607.80	-	- 30,297.87	- 4,364,648.10
ATO & Payroll Liabilities	383,716	318,033	9,556	2,876	708,430
Other Trade Payables & Other Payables	-\$4,057,520	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$4,057,520
<b>Total Trade and Other Payables</b>	<b>-\$8,007,547</b>	<b>\$317,425</b>	<b>\$9,556</b>	<b>-\$33,173</b>	<b>-\$7,713,739</b>

**Note D. Statement on Australian Tax Office (ATO) and Payroll Obligations**  
*The Council has met its payment and reporting obligations for GST, Fringe Benefits Tax, PAYG withholding tax, superannuation, and insurance for the month January 2026.*

\*Please note that these reports are unaudited management financial reports. Information contained in the reports were current as at the date of the reports and may not reflect any event or circumstances which occurred after the date the reports were completed.

**Table 4. Member and CEO Council Credit Card Transactions for the Month  
For the Month Ended 31 January 2026**

Cardholder Name: CEO

Transaction Date	Amount \$	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
		NIL	
<b>Total</b>	-		

Cardholder Name: Lord Mayor

Transaction Date	Amount \$	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
		NIL	
<b>Total</b>	-		

**INVESTMENTS REPORT TO COUNCIL  
AS AT  
31 January 2026**

**Investment and Cash at Call/Offset Distribution by Term to Maturity**

Term to Maturity Policy Limits

There have been no breaches in Term to Maturity Policy limits for the month of January 2026

Term to Maturity Category	% of Total Portfolio	Term to Maturity (Policy Max.)	Term to Maturity (Policy Min.)
<b>Less than 1 Year</b>			
Term Deposits	62%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	4%		
Floating Rate Notes	2%		
General Surplus on Variable Loans	29%		
Bonds	0%		
<b>Less than 1 Year Total</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Greater than 1 Year less than 3 Years</b>			
Term Deposits	0%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	0%		
Floating Rate Notes	2%		
Bonds	0%		
<b>Greater than 1 Year less than 3 Years Total</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Greater than 3 Years</b>			
Term Deposits	0%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	0%		
Floating Rate Notes	1%		
Bonds	0%		
<b>Greater than 3 Years Total</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Greater than 5 Years</b>			
Term Deposits	0%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	0%		
Floating Rate Notes	0%		
<b>Greater than 5 Years Total</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>		

**Investment Distribution by Portfolio Credit Rating**

Portfolio Distribution Credit Rating Limits

There have been no breaches in Portfolio Credit Rating Limits for the month of January 2026

Credit Rating - Maximum Individual Limit	ADI	Counterparty	% of Total Portfolio	Individual Counterparty Limits of Total Investments	
AA-	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	11%	50%	
	National Australia Bank Ltd	National Australia Bank Ltd	17%	50%	
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	BankSA	0%	50%	
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	39%	50%	
	ANZ Banking Group Ltd	ANZ Banking Group Ltd	6%	50%	
	Northern Territory Treasury Corporation	Northern Territory Treasury Corporation	0%	50%	
	Macquarie Bank	Macquarie Bank	0%	30%	
	AA-	Suncorp Bank	ANZ Banking Group Ltd	12%	30%
	A-	Bank of Queensland Ltd	Bank of Queensland Ltd	2%	30%
	BBB+	Bank Australia Limited	Bank Australia Limited	0%	10%
BBB+	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	1%	10%	
	Bank of Queensland Ltd	Members Equity Bank Ltd	0%	10%	
BBB	Members Banking Group Limited t/as RACQ Bank	Members Banking Group Limited t/as RACQ Bank	1%	10%	
	Great Southern Bank	Great Southern Bank	6%	10%	
BBB	Maitland Mutual Bank Ltd	Maitland Mutual Bank Ltd	1%	10%	
	AMP Bank Ltd	AMP Bank Ltd	0%	10%	
	Heritage and People's Choice Limited	Heritage and People's Choice Limited	0%	10%	
	Defence Bank Ltd	Defence Bank Ltd	1%	10%	
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>100%</b>		
<b>Credit Rating - Maximum Portfolio Limit</b>			<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Policy Limit</b>	
AAA to AA-			86%	100%	
A+ to A-			4%	60%	
BBB+ to BBB			10%	30%	
BBB-			0%	0%	
<b>Total</b>			<b>100%</b>		

INVESTMENT AND CASH AT CALL/OFFSET REPORT TO COUNCIL  
AS AT

31 January 2026

Instrument	Institution Category	Counterparty	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Credit Rating (LT)	Credit Rating (ST)	Inv Type	FRN ONLY (Maturity Date - last pmt)	Principal \$	% Portfolio
<b>INVESTMENT</b>	<b>MAJOR BANK</b>	<b>ANZ Banking Group Ltd</b>	17 February 2026	4.30%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,000,000	2.15%
			3 February 2026	4.42%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,000,000	2.15%
			28 April 2026	4.25%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,098,395	1.50%
			10 November 2026	4.58%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,000,000	1.43%
			16 June 2026	4.32%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$5,143,874	3.69%
			12 May 2026	4.32%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$5,140,604	3.68%
			26 May 2026	4.27%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,055,409	1.47%
			1 December 2026	4.45%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,031,142	2.17%
			3 April 2026	4.64%	AA-	A1+	FRN	31 March 2028	\$500,000	0.36%
		<b>ANZ Banking Group Ltd Total</b>							<b>\$25,969,425</b>	<b>18.61%</b>
		Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	31 January 2026	4.35%	AA-	A1+	BOS		\$5,879,205	4.21%
		Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd Total							\$5,879,205	4.21%
		National Australia Bank Ltd	14 April 2026	4.20%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,000,000	2.15%
			15 September 2026	4.20%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,167,935	1.55%
			24 March 2026	4.20%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,097,732	1.50%
		National Australia Bank Ltd Total	29 September 2026	4.24%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,000,000	1.43%
		<b>National Australia Bank Ltd Total</b>							<b>\$9,265,667</b>	<b>6.64%</b>
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	17 February 2026	4.85%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,000,000	1.43%
			14 April 2026	4.28%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,000,000	2.15%
			21 April 2026	4.54%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,090,122	1.50%
			19 May 2026	4.31%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,025,399	1.45%
			21 July 2026	4.29%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,000,000	1.43%
			29 September 2026	4.09%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,299,709	1.65%
			29 September 2026	4.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,000,000	2.15%
			14 July 2026	4.29%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,000,000	2.15%
			20 October 2026	4.10%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,312,290	2.37%
			10 November 2026	4.33%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,322,667	2.38%
			13 October 2026	4.53%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,195,848	2.29%
			6 October 2026	4.45%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$5,000,000	3.58%
			1 December 2026	4.44%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,099,819	1.50%
		<b>Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd Total</b>							<b>\$36,345,855</b>	<b>26.05%</b>
	<b>MAJOR BANK Total</b>								<b>\$77,460,152</b>	<b>55.81%</b>
	<b>OTHER</b>	Bank of Queensland Ltd	10 February 2026	4.35%	A-	A2	TD		\$3,000,000	2.15%
		Bank of Queensland Ltd Total							\$3,000,000	2.15%
		Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	28 February 2026	4.49%	A-	A-	FRN	28 November 2029	\$2,000,000	1.43%
		Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd Total							\$2,000,000	1.43%
		Members Banking Group Limited t/as RACQ Bank	24 February 2026	5.15%	BBB+				\$1,600,000	1.15%
		Members Banking Group Limited t/as RACQ Bank Total							\$1,600,000	1.15%
		Great Southern Bank	14 April 2026	4.29%	BBB+				\$4,315,522	3.09%
			28 July 2026	4.28%	BBB+				\$2,000,000	1.43%
			11 August 2026	4.60%	BBB+				\$2,000,000	1.43%
		<b>Great Southern Bank Total</b>							<b>\$8,315,522</b>	<b>5.96%</b>
		Maitland Mutual Bank Ltd	10 February 2026	5.24%	BBB	A2	FRN	10 May 2027	\$2,000,000	1.43%
		Maitland Mutual Bank Ltd Total							\$2,000,000	1.43%
		Defence Bank Ltd	12 January 2027	4.70%	BBB	A2	TD		\$2,000,000	1.43%
		Defence Bank Ltd Total							\$2,000,000	1.43%
	<b>OTHER Total</b>								<b>\$18,915,522</b>	<b>13.56%</b>
<b>INVESTMENT Total</b>									<b>\$96,375,674</b>	<b>69.07%</b>
<b>VARIABLE LOAN SURPLUS</b>	<b>MAJOR BANK</b>	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	31 January 2026	0.00%	AA-	A1+	General Surplus -		\$10,000,000	7.17%
		Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd Total							\$10,000,000	7.17%
		National Australia Bank Ltd	31 January 2026	0.00%	AA-	A1+	General Surplus -		\$14,653,900	10.50%
		National Australia Bank Ltd Total							\$14,653,900	10.50%
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	31 January 2026	0.00%	AA-	A1+	General Surplus -		\$18,508,646	13.26%
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd Total							\$18,508,646	13.26%
<b>VARIABLE LOAN SURPLUS Total</b>	<b>MAJOR BANK Total</b>								<b>\$43,162,546</b>	<b>30.93%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>									<b>\$139,538,220</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*INV TYPE - FRN = interest rate is the 'Coupon Margin' established on issue date, this plus 3M BBSW provides the yield for the current coupon period.  
\*MATURITY DATE - FRN = the interest coupon payment date not actual FRN maturity date (paid every 91 days).

CBA General Bank Funds	\$17,500,445
NAB General Bank Funds	\$142,538
WBC General Bank Funds	\$321,734
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$157,502,937</b>
Less Variable Loans Offset (Cash on Call)	\$43,162,546
<b>Total Investment &amp; Cash (less offset)</b>	<b>\$114,340,390</b>
<b>Total Budgeted Investment Earnings</b>	<b>\$3,041,069</b>
<b>Year to Date Investment Earnings</b>	<b>\$2,992,276</b>
<b>Weighted Ave Rate</b>	<b>3.00%</b>
<b>Weighted Ave Rate (excluding Cash on Call)</b>	<b>4.35%</b>
<b>BBSW 90 Day Rate</b>	<b>3.87%</b>
<b>Bloomberg AusBond (Bank Bill Index)</b>	

Trust Bank Account \$454,279

Capital Expenditure For The Period Ended 31 January 2026	2025/26			
	YTD Actuals	YTD Revised Budget	YTD Variance	FY Revised Budget Current Financial Year Budget
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BY ASSET CLASS:</b>				
Land and Improvements	0	0	0	0
Buildings and Structures (includes parking building)	14,696,716	25,674,523	10,977,807	29,936,112
Environmental	22,073	431,146	409,073	749,542
Stormwater Drainage	467,037	1,674,391	1,207,354	2,953,769
Roads & Pathways	2,975,240	7,330,270	4,355,030	11,097,838
Street & Public Lighting	276,190	651,579	375,389	1,229,818
Waste Management Infrastructure	4,314,399	4,890,709	576,310	8,366,769
Plant & Equipment	1,671,311	5,269,569	3,598,258	10,299,479
Parks, Playgrounds and Reserves	2,007,750	3,457,065	1,449,315	6,178,870
Public Art	20,000	316,026	296,026	424,479
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>26,450,716</b>	<b>49,695,278</b>	<b>23,244,562</b>	<b>71,236,676</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY*:</b>				
Operating Income	2,191,084	9,122,252	6,931,168	13,441,085
Capital Grants	2,838,176	4,021,983	1,183,807	5,391,802
Transfer from Reserves	17,181,257	31,660,334	14,479,077	43,396,563
Borrowings	4,240,200	4,890,709	650,509	5,490,676
Sale of Assets (including trade-ins)	0	0	0	3,516,550
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING</b>	<b>26,450,716</b>	<b>49,695,278</b>	<b>23,244,562</b>	<b>71,236,676</b>

\*YTD Funding of expenditure is assumed to be consumed in line with YTD Capital Expenditure

\*\*\$1M moved from street & public lighting to roads & pathways due to category of assets expected to be capitalised

**Report on Planned Major Capital Works  
For The Period Ended 31 January 2026**

Class of Assets	By Major Capital Project	Total Prior Year(s) Actuals \$ (A)	YTD Actuals \$ (B)	Total Actuals \$ (C = A + B)	Total Planned Budget \$ (D)	Total Yet to Spend \$ (E = D - C)	Expected Project Completion Date
Buildings	Civic Centre and Plaza Precinct Development	3,069,545	4,778,881	7,848,425	47,600,000	39,751,575	30/06/2028
Buildings	Civic Centre Public Carpark/CBD Parking	4,867,700	9,545,297	14,412,998	30,000,000	15,587,002	30/06/2028
Buildings	Project Contingency	0	0	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	30/06/2028
Waste Management Infrastructure	Shoal Bay - Stage 2 Expansion Phase 1	535,817	4,182,821	4,718,638	6,000,000	1,281,362	31/03/2026
Waste Management Infrastructure	Shoal Bay Waste Management Site - Stage 7 Construction	198,906	131,578	330,484	8,750,000	8,419,516	30/06/2027
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>8,671,969</b>	<b>18,638,576</b>	<b>27,310,545</b>	<b>94,350,000</b>	<b>67,039,455</b>	

**15.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEE OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

**Author:** Supervisor Councillor Governance

**Authoriser:** Manager Office of Council and CEO

**Attachments:**

1. **Unconfirmed Open Minutes Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee 4 February 2026** [↓](#)
2. **Unconfirmed Open Minutes Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee 5 February 2026** [↓](#)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the report entitled Advisory Committee Open Meeting Minutes be received and noted.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Advisory Committee Open Minutes for meetings in February 2026 to Council.

**KEY ISSUES**

- The Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee Unconfirmed Open Minutes of 4 February 2026 are presented at **Attachment 1**.
- The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Unconfirmed Open Minutes of 5 February 2026 are presented at **Attachment 2**.

<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>This report provides the minutes for the following committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee</li> </ul> <p>Any recommendations that arise from the committee meetings will be presented to Council in a separate report.</p>	
<p><b>PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b></p> <p>At the 27 January 2026 meeting Council resolved:</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION ORD024/26</b></p> <p>THAT the report entitled Advisory Committee and Information Communication Technology Steering Committee Open Meeting Minutes be received and noted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED 12/0</b></p>	
<p><b>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</b></p>	<p>6 Governance Framework</p> <p>6.1 Vision and Culture</p>
<p><b>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p><b>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</b></p>	<p><b>Legislation:</b></p> <p><i>Local Government Act 2019</i></p> <p><b>Policy:</b></p> <p>Meetings Policy</p> <p>Advisory and Other Committees Policy</p>
<p><b>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT &amp; COMMUNICATION</b></p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b></p>	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).</p>

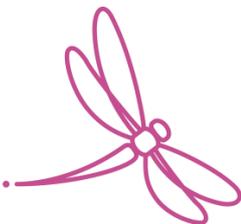


# Minutes

## Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 4 February 2026

Unconfirmed



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**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN  
DARWIN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN HISTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ELECTRICALLY VIA TEAMS  
ON WEDNESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 10:00 AM**

**PRESENT:**

Lord Mayor Peter Styles (Chair)  
Department of Veterans' Affairs Kacie Austin  
Darwin Military Museum Norm Cramp  
Darwin RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Gloster  
General Manager Community Matt Grassmayr  
Veterans Engagement and Support, NT Dept People, Sport and Culture Annette Rudd  
Aviation Historical Society of the NT Iain Summers  
Councillor Sam Weston

**APOLOGY:**

Tourism NT, Dept of Tourism and Hospitality Russel Wills  
Warrant Officer Class One/E9, Joint Operational Support Staff – Northern Territory Meika Wright

**GUESTS:**

Councillor Shani Carson

**Order of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Meeting Declared Open</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Apologies and Leave of Absence</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Electronic Meeting Attendance</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest of Members and Staff</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Moving of Items</b> .....	<b>5</b>
7.1	Moving of Items into Confidential .....	5
7.2	Moving of Confidential Items into Open .....	6
7.3	Moving Confidential Items to open at the Conclusion of the Meeting .....	6
<b>8</b>	<b>Deputations and Briefings</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Officer Reports</b> .....	<b>6</b>
9.1	Bombing of Darwin Day Update .....	6
<b>10</b>	<b>Member Reports</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>General Business</b> .....	<b>7</b>
11.1	General Business .....	7
<b>12</b>	<b>Date, Time and Place of Next Committee Meeting</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Closure of Meeting to the Public</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Closure of Meeting</b> .....	<b>8</b>

Unconfirmed

## 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*City of Darwin acknowledges that we are living and working on Larrakia Country. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region. We pay our respects to the Larrakia elders past and present and support emerging Larrakia leaders now and into the future. City of Darwin is committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.*

## 2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC001/26

Moved: Darwin RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Gloster

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.02 am.

**CARRIED 8/0**

## 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### 3.1 APOLOGIES

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC002/26

Moved: Darwin RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Gloster

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

THAT an apology from Tourism NT, Dept of Tourism and Hospitality Russel Wills and Warrant Officer Class One Meika Wright be received.

**CARRIED 8/0**

### 3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Nil

### 3.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

Nil

#### 4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

##### 4.1 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE GRANTED

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC003/26**

Moved: Darwin RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Gloster

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

THAT the Committee note that pursuant to Section 95 (43) of the *Local Government Act 2019*, the following member(s) was granted permission for Electronic Meeting Attendance:

- Department of Veterans' Affairs Kacie Austin
- Darwin Military Museum Norm Cramp
- Darwin RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Gloster
- Aviation Historical Society of the NT Iain Summers

**CARRIED 8/0**

##### 4.2 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

Nil

#### 5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

##### 5.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Nil

##### 5.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

#### 6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC004/26**

Moved: Darwin RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Gloster

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

THAT the minutes of the Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5 November 2025 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 8/0**

#### 7 MOVING OF ITEMS

##### 7.1 MOVING OF 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

**9 OFFICER REPORTS****9.1 BOMBING OF DARWIN DAY UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC005/26**

Moved: Darwin RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Gloster

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

THAT the verbal update on the Bombing of Darwin commemoration by the Manager International Relations & Sponsorship Jessica Fry be received and noted.

**CARRIED 8/0****10 MEMBER REPORTS****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC006/26**

Moved: Darwin RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Gloster

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

THAT the verbal Member Reports be received and noted.

Aviation Historical Society of the NT Iain Summers

- Updated its Bombing of Darwin video that is part of the introduction to the Darwin Aviation Museum as visitors arrive.
- Thanked the Lord Mayor for his involvement with the commemoration of the Vickers Landing on 10 December 2025.

Darwin Military Museum Norm Cramp

- Visitor numbers down at this time of the year.
- Upgraded a number of the display areas with works continuing.
- Currently working in conjunction with the Jewish community and NTG to establish a small monument to the victims of the Bondi terrorist attack.

Darwin RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Gloster

- Requested the Eternal Flame lighting is switched on for the Bombing of Darwin commemoration.
- Anzac Day march route will be changed this year to finish at The Esplanade.

Department of Veterans' Affairs Kacie Austin

- Minister for Veterans Affairs has announced the successful applicants for the 2025/26 Saluting their Service commemorative grants.
- Director of War Graves will be in Darwin for the Bombing of Darwin commemorations.

Veterans Engagement and Support, NT Dept People, Sport and Culture Annette Rudd

- Purple Poppy Day 21 February at Reg Hillier House from 10 am – 12 pm.
- Cor Infinitus ceremony planned to be held in the dry season.

**CARRIED 8/0**

**11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**11.1 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC007/26**

Moved: Darwin RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Gloster

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

THAT the following General Business be received and noted.

- Update on Cylone Fina's recovery works and priorities, including East Point Reserve provided by the General Manager Community Matt Grassmayr.
- Councillor Sam Weston informed that he has received positive feedback on the Cor Infinitus memorial.
- Lord Mayor informed that the Australian American Association plans to write to the Chief Minister for an update on the USS Peary.

**CARRIED 8/0**

**12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC008/26**

Moved: Darwin RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Gloster

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

THAT the next Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee be held on Wednesday, 6 May 2026, at 10:00 AM (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section),electronivcally via Teams.

**CARRIED 8/0**

**13 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**

Nil

**14 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC009/26**

Moved: Darwin RSL Sub-Branch Stephen Gloster

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

THAT the meeting be closed at 10.34 am.

**CARRIED 8/0**

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee Meeting held on 6 May 2026.

.....  
**CHAIR**

Unconfirmed

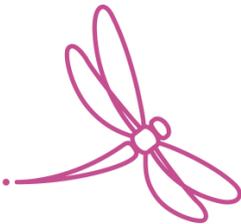


# Minutes

## Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, 5 February 2026

Unconfirmed



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**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN  
ACCESS AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM GUYUGWA (CASUARINA LIBRARY MEETING ROOM), 17  
BRADSHAW TERRACE, CASUARINA  
ON THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 1:30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick  
Community Member Tiffany Brown  
Council on the Ageing NT Cecilia Chiolero  
Community Member Bryony Crowe  
Community Member Florence Henaway  
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris  
Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill  
Community Member Lynne Strathie  
Community Member Rajeev Thayil

**OFFICERS:**

Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services, Angela O'Donnell

**APOLOGY:**

Community Member Kim Caudwell  
National Disability Services NT Laura Little  
Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistic Bernie Ingram

**GUESTS:**

Nil

**Order of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Meeting Declared Open</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Apologies and Leave of Absence</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Electronic Meeting Attendance</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest of Members and Staff</b> .....	<b>5</b>
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7.3	Moving Confidential Items to open at the Conclusion of the Meeting .....	6
<b>8</b>	<b>Deputations and Briefings</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Officer Reports</b> .....	<b>6</b>
9.1	Reconciliation Program .....	6
9.2	ALGA National Disability Inclusion Community of Practice .....	6
9.3	Update on Access Strategy Projects .....	6
<b>10</b>	<b>Member Reports</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>General Business</b> .....	<b>7</b>
11.1	General Business .....	7
<b>12</b>	<b>Date, Time and Place of Next Committee Meeting</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Closure of Meeting to the Public</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Closure of Meeting</b> .....	<b>8</b>

Unconfirmed

## 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*City of Darwin acknowledges that we are living and working on Larrakia Country. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region. We pay our respects to the Larrakia elders past and present and support emerging Larrakia leaders now and into the future. City of Darwin is committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.*

## 2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC001/26

Moved: Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick

Seconded: Community Member Lynne Strathie

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1:30pm.

**CARRIED 9/0**

## 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### 3.1 APOLOGIES

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC002/26

Moved: Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick

Seconded: Community Member Lynne Strathie

THAT an apology from Community Member Kim Caudwell, National Disability Services NT Laura Little and Department of Infrastructure, and Planning and Logistic Bernie Ingram be received.

**CARRIED 9/0**

### 3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Nil

### 3.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

Nil

#### 4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

##### 4.1 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE GRANTED

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC003/26**

Moved: Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick

Seconded: Community Member Bryony Crowe

THAT the Committee note that pursuant to Section 95 (43) of the *Local Government Act 2019*, the following member(s) was granted permission for Electronic Meeting Attendance:

- Councillor Sylvia Klonaris
- Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill
- Community Member Florence Henaway
- Council on the Ageing NT Cecilia Chiolero

**CARRIED 9/0**

##### 4.2 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

Nil

#### 5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

##### 5.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Nil

##### 5.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

#### 6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC004/26**

Moved: Community Member Lynne Strathie

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

THAT the minutes of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting held on 6 November 2025 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 9/0**

#### 7 MOVING OF ITEMS

##### 7.1 MOVING OF 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

**9 OFFICER REPORTS**

**9.1 RECONCILIATION PROGRAM**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC005/26**

Moved: Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick

Seconded: Community Member Bryony Crowe

THAT the report entitled Reconciliation Program be received and noted.

**CARRIED 9/0**

**9.2 ALGA NATIONAL DISABILITY INCLUSION COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC006/26**

Moved: Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

THAT the report entitled ALGA National Disability Inclusion Community of Practice be received and noted.

**CARRIED 9/0**

*Community member Florence Henaway departed the meeting at 2:03 pm and did not return.*

*Community member Rajeev departed the meeting at 2:15 pm and did not return.*

**9.3 UPDATE ON ACCESS STRATEGY PROJECTS**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC007/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Community Member Tiffany Brown

THAT the report entitled Update on Access Strategy Projects be received and noted.

**CARRIED 7/0**

**10 MEMBER REPORTS****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC008/26**

Moved: Community Member Bryony Crowe  
Seconded: Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick

THAT the following Member Reports be received and noted.

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

- Advised they have raised a Notice of Motion to Council on Disability Parking.

**CARRIED 7/0****11 GENERAL BUSINESS****11.1 GENERAL BUSINESS****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC009/26**

Moved: Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick  
Seconded: Community Member Bryony Crowe

THAT the following General Business be received and noted.

**CARRIED 7/0****12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING****RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the next Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee be held on Thursday, 2 April 2026, at 1:30 PM (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section), Meeting Room Guyugwa (Casuarina Library Meeting Room), 17 Bradshaw Terrace, Casuarina.

**13 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 (General) Regulations* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

**14 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC010/26**

Moved: Community Member Bryony Crowe  
Seconded: Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick  
THAT the meeting be closed at 2:36pm.

**CARRIED 7/0**

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting held on 2 April 2026.

.....  
**CHAIR**

Unconfirmed

**16 CORRESPONDENCE****16.1 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - LGANT - MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL TO THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Author:** Supervisor Councillor Governance

**Authoriser:** Manager Office of Council and CEO

**Attachments:** 1. Incoming Correspondence - LGANT to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development [↓](#)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the report entitled Incoming Correspondence - LGANT - Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development - Local Government Amendment Bill to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.



21 January 2026

Hon. Steven Edgington MLA  
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development  
Northern Territory Government  
[Minister.Edgington@nt.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Edgington@nt.gov.au)

Dear Minister Edgington,

### **REFERRAL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL TO THE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

I am writing to request your support for further assessment of Tranche 2 of the Local Government Amendment Bill (the Bill) by moving a motion in parliament to refer the Bill to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee (the Committee).

LGANT has seen great value in the work of the Committee. Its examination of previous Bills at a granular level has contributed to their improvement and promoted a deeper understanding of the proposed amendments through opportunities to hear from senior departmental staff at public hearings. The Committee has also provided invaluable opportunities for interested stakeholders to present their views, whether in support or otherwise. As a result, debate in the Legislative Assembly has been more robust, with the minutiae of the Bill already having been considered and reported on by the Committee, and a clearer understanding of the implications of certain amendments and why they should be supported or improved.

The passing of the Bill will have a significant impact on the local government sector. Through a collaborative approach, the Department has responded to many of the concerns raised throughout briefings and consultations. There remain, however, some key aspects of the Bill that we believe would benefit from an additional layer of scrutiny by the Committee.

One example is the Code of Conduct framework. We have worked closely with the Department to frame what we consider to be an efficient and ethical process that promotes procedural fairness and transparency, empowers decision-makers appropriately, and provides opportunities for improvement where stronger enforcement action is not required. We are of the view that the Committee is well-placed to test this framework and make any recommendations needed to ensure the Bill is unambiguous and able to be effectively operationalised.

We also believe that the Committee will be drawn to consider the open-endedness of the commencement of Parts 3 and 4 (Code of Conduct) which are currently proposed to commence on a day fixed by Gazette notice, but not later than 31 January 2028. This provision allows for an almost two-year delay from the date of introduction to the Legislative Assembly (currently set for 3 March 2026). This is well beyond the standard period. It would be disappointing for the sector to have such important and long-awaited reforms delayed.

In considering the timing of other major recent reforms, for example to the *Environment Protection Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) which is made up of seven separate Bills – all seven are set to commence within a 12-month period of the Reform Bill receiving Royal Assent (which occurred on 1 December 2025

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**A** 21 Parap Rd, Parap NT 0820  
PO Box 2075, Parap NT 0804

ABN: 35 662 805 503

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after passing Parliament on 28 November 2025). This includes the establishment of the new National Environment Protection Agency. Comparing these two scenarios and the gravity of the reforms, we would suggest that setting a commencement date of 31 January 2028 for Parts 3 and 4 of the Bill (should a Gazettal notice not be published) is disproportionate.

We would greatly appreciate your support in referring the Bill to the Scrutiny Committee to ensure the amendments set councils up for success and best serve the NT ratepayer. Given the speed with which Tranche 2 has been progressed by the Department, we are keen to see the positive changes proposed by the Bill take swift effect. Referral to the Committee will ensure that the Bill meets the criteria set out in the Legislative Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference and is therefore better positioned for timely implementation.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Pangquee', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Pangquee BM  
**President**

**16.2 NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION - CITY OF DARWIN 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION REPORT AND EXPENSES**

**Author:** Manager Office of Council and CEO

**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. City of Darwin 2025 Local Government Election Report [↓](#)
2. City of Darwin 2025 Local Government Itemised Election Expenses [↓](#)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the report entitled Northern Territory Electoral Commission - City of Darwin 2025 Local Government Election Report and Expenses be received and noted.



**Document version control**

Version Number	Description	Date
1.0	Draft	23/12/2025

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The latest version is accessible via the NTEC website at [ntec.nt.gov.au](http://ntec.nt.gov.au).



# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

## 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS City of Darwin

### ELECTION SUMMARY

The 2025 Local Government Elections were the periodic general elections for the Northern Territory’s local government councils, held every 4 years. The general elections included:

- 51 elections
- 138 elected positions
- 15 local government councils

The general elections for **CITY OF DARWIN** included the following elections:

- Election of mayor – 1 position
- Election of Chan Ward councillors – 3 positions
- Election of Lyons Ward councillors – 3 positions
- Election of Richardson Ward councillors – 3 positions
- Election of Waters Ward councillors – 3 positions

### KEY DATES

Event	Date
Nominations open	Friday 11 July
Close of electoral roll	Tuesday 22 July
Nominations close	Thursday 31 July, 12 noon
Declaration of nominations	Friday 1 August
Postal mail out commences	Monday 4 August
Early and mobile voting commences	Monday 11 August
Election day	Saturday 23 August
Deadline for receipt of postal votes	Friday 5 September
Distribution of preferences (final count)	
Declaration of election results	Monday 8 September
Campaign donation returns due	Saturday 1 November

### ENROLMENT

There were 51,716 City of Darwin electors eligible to vote in the 2025 Local Government Elections.

This is an increase of 656 electors (or 1.3%) from the previous general elections held in 2021.

# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Elector numbers by ward:

- Chan Ward: 12,684 (up 1.2% from 2017)
- Lyons Ward: 12,757 (down 3.5% from 2017)
- Richardson Ward: 12,813 (up 2.3% from 2017)
- Waters Ward: 13,462 (up 4.9% from 2017)

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

### Campaign overview

The 2025 Local Government Elections public awareness campaign unfolded in 3 phases: encouraging enrolment, promoting voter education and empowerment, and issuing a final call to action for Territorians to vote.

Running from 1 July until the declaration of results on 8 September, the campaign used TV, radio, digital and social media, signage, letterbox drops and print to raise election awareness.

The campaign aimed to equip all eligible voters with the knowledge and confidence to participate, while placing special emphasis on disengaged groups and those facing barriers including:

- seniors
- electors with English as an additional language
- electors living in remote communities.

### Website

The NTEC launched the election event webpage in June as the central hub for election information. During the campaign, the site recorded 883,018 views (71.3% from mobile devices and over 10,000 referrals from Meta platforms).

### Radio

The local radio campaign reached a total of 216,900 listeners across all phases, on a high rotation during peak listening times and delivered excellent cost efficiency.

### Print

With a large decline in print media options since the 2017 general elections, newspaper advertising for the 2025 Local Government Elections was largely restricted to statutory advertising requirements as prescribed under the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2021. These advertisements ran in the NT News and the Centralian Today.

However, further publications with a digital presence such as the Katherine Times was also engaged for location targeted aspects of the campaign.



# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

## Council engagement pack

Acknowledging the key role councils play in supporting elections, the NTEC developed a council resource pack to support voter, candidate and council staff information sharing and engagement. Councils were consulted on the draft resource pack and encouraged to provide images unique to each council area to be incorporated in the final version of the engagement pack. The council engagement pack included electronic resources such as social media content, videos, posters, flyers, email templates, forms and handbooks.

## Letterbox drop

A total of 67,807 election information flyers were distributed across the Northern Territory through targeted letterbox drops.

## Digital

The digital campaign reached 1.21million people with 288,000 views and 8,073 clicks. "Vote" advertisements had the biggest reach and lowest cost, while "Educate" and "Enrol" advertisements got the highest click rates.

Facebook in-stream videos generated the most clicks, while YouTube engagement was also strong with a 55% view-through rate.

## Social media

From 1 July to 23 August, the NTEC drove a Territory-wide social media campaign.

Paid ads delivered key messages with over 2 million impressions, while organic posts on LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook tackled misinformation and built community engagement.

Councils were also encouraged to share ready-made content on nominations, enrolment and voting, ensuring consistent local messaging. All activity lead back to the NTEC website as the single source of trusted election information.

## Emails/SMS

Direct messaging was a key communication tool during the elections, targeting electors who had provided email or mobile details through enrolment.

Messages were delivered via email and SMS on enrolment, early voting, remote mobile voting, and election day reminders.

A total of 179,146 SMS and 104,254 emails were sent to electors across the Territory.

## Large banners

Large-format banners promoted enrolment, early voting and election day across major council sites, with placements rotated to match key messages.



# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

## Corflute signs

NTEC branded corflute signs were distributed to councils to install to raise community awareness.

## Posters

Electronic posters tailored and culturally appropriate were distributed to councils and community organisations to distribute aiming to engage diverse groups, including people with disabilities, older voters and English as an additional language speakers, ensuring consistent communication across all audiences.

## Call centre

The NTEC call centre operated from 7 July to 23 August 2025, staffed by 3 officers who assisted electors with a wide range of enquiries. Most calls related to voting, enrolment, or lodging excuses for not voting.

In addition, the NTEC received significant volumes of enquiries via email, Facebook, and in person at its Darwin and Alice Springs offices.

## NOMINATIONS

A candidate information session was held at 4:30pm on Tuesday 15 July 2025 at the council chambers.

Nominations for City of Darwin elections included:

- 45 accepted nominations across all elections
- 11 dual candidates (who nominated for both mayor and councillor elections)
- no rejected nominations
- 2 withdrawn nominations (for one dual candidate).

Election	Accepted nominations (candidates)
MAYOR (one vacancy)	Kon VATSKALIS
	Peter STYLES
	Andrew John ARTHUR
	Vicki BONSON
	Leah POTTER
	Sylvia KLONARIS
	Robin LAWRENCE
	Sam WESTON
	Nicole BROWN
	Julie FRASER
	Amye UN
	Scarlet D'ARC
Edwin JOSEPH	



# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

CHAN WARD COUNCILLOR (3 vacancies)	Ed SMELT
	Julie FRASER
	Ellyane WALL
	Clarence CJ McCARTHY-GROGAN
	Peter PANGQUEE
	Manik GOWDA
	LENNY
	Gary STRACHAN
LYONS WARD COUNCILLOR (3 vacancies)	Mick PALMER
	Brett HAGAN
	Vicki BONSON
	Andrew LEE
	Mark BARNES
	Sam WESTON
	Scarlet D'ARC
	Amye UN
	Nicole BROWN
	Nick O'LOUGHLIN
RICHARDSON WARD COUNCILLOR (3 vacancies)	Edwin JOSEPH
	Jimmy BOUHORIS
	Peter STYLES
	Andrew John ARTHUR
	Yulita VILLANUEVA
	Shani CARSON
WATERS WARD COUNCILLOR (3 vacancies)	Mirella FEJO
	Robin LAWRENCE
	Sylvia KLONARIS
	Tekinder SINGH
	Manoli PAPATHOMAS
	Kim FARRAR
	Otto KAINULAINEN
	Patrik RALPH

Age and gender of candidates:

GENDER	Male	Female	Unspecified
Mayor	5	7	1
Councillor	19	11	2

AGE	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Mayor	-	-	2	2	4	5
Councillor	1	2	6	7	9	7



# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Note: Other demographic questions are not asked for on nomination forms

## VOTING SERVICES

### Postal voting

- Postal vote applications received 3,436
- Postal votes issued 3,285
- Postal vote applications rejected 151
- Postal votes returned 2,729
- Postal votes admitted to the count 2,227
- Postal votes rejected 502

Note: the number of votes admitted does not always equate to the number of votes recorded as postal votes in results webpage, as returned envelopes may be missing ballot paper or may include missorted ballot papers.

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- Multiple applications received from same elector (73)
- Insufficient/undeliverable postal address (47)
- Cancelled by elector (18)
- Application received too late (6)
- Not enrolled (4)
- Ordinary vote issued (3)

The reasons for rejecting (returned) postal votes were:

- Ordinary vote issued (188)
- Postal vote certificate dated after election day (95)
- Postal vote received after deadline (91)
- Postal vote certificate not signed (85)
- Returned to sender (42)
- Not correctly enrolled (1)

### Early voting

Early voting centre	Votes issued				Total
	Chan Ward	Lyons Ward	Richardson Ward	Waters Ward	
Alice Springs	12	10	9	6	37
Casuarina	2,318	490	4,436	3,462	10,706
Coolalinga	94	85	83	112	374
Darwin	1,350	3,410	460	545	5,765
Katherine	16	22	19	15	72



# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Palmerston	112	107	95	139	453
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,902</b>	<b>4,124</b>	<b>5,102</b>	<b>4,279</b>	<b>17,407</b>

Note the number of votes issued does not always equate to the number of votes counted

## Urban mobile voting

- Number of votes issued by the Darwin urban mobile team 514
- Number of votes issued by the Alice Springs urban mobile team 5
- Number of votes issued by the Katherine urban mobile team 1

## Election day voting

Election day voting centre	Votes issued				Total
	Chan Ward	Lyons Ward	Richardson Ward	Waters Ward	
Alice Springs	3	6	3	4	16
Casuarina*	432	126	1,917	804	3,279
Coolalinga	24	45	27	43	139
Darwin*	518	2,307	109	129	3,063
Katherine	4	5	6	6	21
Malak*	120	84	536	2,062	2,802
Nightcliff*	2,200	327	244	177	2,948
Palmerston	36	43	52	62	193
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,337</b>	<b>2,943</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>3,287</b>	<b>12,461</b>

Note the number of votes issued does not always equate to the number of votes counted

\*Voting centre located within council area

## Declaration voting

- Total number of declaration votes issued 117
- Declaration votes admitted to the count 106
- Declaration votes rejected from the count 11

The reasons for rejecting declaration votes were:

- Enrolled in a different council area (7)
- Could not be enrolled (3)
- Not signed (1)



# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

## ELECTION OUTCOMES

### Results: Election of mayor

Candidate	First preference votes
Kon VATSKALIS	6,226
Peter STYLES	6,786
Andrew John ARTHUR	1,061
Vicki BONSON	516
Leah POTTER	909
Sylvia KLONARIS	3,209
Robin LAWRENCE	196
Sam WESTON	2,908
Nicole BROWN	1,440
Julie FRASER	3,181
Amye UN	1,012
Scarlet D'ARC	457
Edwin JOSEPH	2,140
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,041</b>

- Quota required to be elected: 15,021
- Peter STYLES elected as mayor at count 12 (15,999 votes)

### Results: Election of councillors – Chan Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Ed SMELT	2095
Julie FRASER	1866
Ellyane WALL	780
Clarence CJ McCARTHY-GROGAN	552
Peter PANGQUEE	1019
Manik GOWDA	120
LENNY	333
Gary STRACHAN	720
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,485</b>

- Quota required to be elected: 1,872
- Elected councillors: Ed SMELT, Julie FRASER, Peter PANGQUEE



# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

## Results: Election of councillors – Lyons Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Mick PALMER	1350
Brett HAGAN	863
Vicki BONSON	398
Andrew LEE	257
Mark BARNES	331
Sam WESTON	1675
Scarlet D'ARC	352
Amye UN	656
Nicole BROWN	796
Nick O'LOUGHLIN	508
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,186</b>

- Quota required to be elected: 1,797
- Elected councillors: Sam WESTON, Mick PALMER, Nicole BROWN

## Results: Election of councillors – Richardson Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Edwin JOSEPH	1,769
Jimmy BOUHORIS	3,195
Peter STYLES	Elected as mayor
Andrew John ARTHUR	766
Yulita VILLANUEVA	238
Shani CARSON	2,390
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,358</b>

- Quota required to be elected: 2,090
- Elected councillors: Jimmy BOUHORIS, Shani CARSON, Edwin JOSEPH

## Results: Election of councillors – Waters Ward

Candidate	First preference votes
Mirella FEJO	962
Robin LAWRENCE	347
Sylvia KLONARIS	2,159
Tekinder SINGH	607
Manoli PAPATHOMAS	300
Kim FARRAR	1,248
Otto KAINULAINEN	137



# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Patrik RALPH	1,954
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,714</b>

- Quota required to be elected: 1,929
- Elected councillors: Sylvia KLONARIS, Patrik RALPH, Kim FARRAR

## Voter turnout

Based on the number of votes counted, the voter turnout for each election was:

- Mayor: 63.2% (compared to 66.5% at previous general elections in 2021)
- Chan Ward: 62.6% (compared to 65.9% in 2021)
- Lyons Ward: 60.9% (compared to 61.5% in 2021)
- Richardson Ward: 68.3% (compared to 73.0% in 2021)
- Waters Ward: 61.2% (compared to 65.8% in 2021)

## Informality

Election	No. of candidates	Total votes	Informal votes	%
Mayor	13	32,704	2,663	8.1%
Chan Ward	8	7,935	450	5.7%
Lyons Ward	10	7,770	584	7.5%
Richardson Ward	6	8,752	394	4.5%
Waters Ward	8	8,243	529	6.4%

## FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

All candidates in the 2025 Local Government Elections are required to submit a campaign donation return if they received:

- donations of \$200 or more
- loans of \$1,500 or more
- during the disclosure period of 1 July 2024 to 22 September 2025
- with no nil return required if these thresholds were not met.

By the due date of 1 November 2025, 6 City of Darwin candidates had submitted a campaign donation return.

All returns have been published on the NT Electoral Commission website.

# 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

## ELECTION COSTS

Expense category	Estimates	Actual
Advertising	46,053.04	57,897.96
Corporate	2,609.40	1,224.79
Destruction/rubbish removal	2,288.33	372.92
Information technology	36,605.21	32,685.38
Materials	45,112.15	46,492.41
Postage	27,914.90	23,831.57
Premises	12,804.96	4,239.80
Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements	42,954.81	28,304.22
Staff wages	436,784.67	424,016.33
Vehicle hire/charter	14,094.49	6,602.49
Sub-total	667,221.94	625,736.19
GST (10%)	66,722.19	62,573.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 733,944.13</b>	<b>\$ 688,309.81</b>

## ELECTION REVIEW MEETING

A post-election review meeting was held Monday 8 December 2025 at the City of Darwin.





Level 3, TCG Centre | 80 Mitchell St Darwin City | GPO Box 2419 DARWIN NT 0801  
T: 08 8999 5000 | E: [ntec@nt.gov.au](mailto:ntec@nt.gov.au) | ABN: 8408 5734 992 |

Simone Saunders  
Chief Executive Officer  
City of Darwin

Delivered via email: [Simone.Saunders@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:Simone.Saunders@darwin.nt.gov.au)

Dear Simone,

**RE: 2025 Local Government Council Elections – Invoice for costs and expenses of conducting the election**

Please find attached the invoice for costs and expenses associated with the conduct of the 2025 Local Government Elections specific to your council.

An attachment providing a breakdown of costs by category is also included with this correspondence.

The total cost for the conduct of the 2025 Local Government Elections \$2,163,274.23 (GST inclusive).

The cost specific to your council is \$688,309.81 (GST inclusive) comprising \$142,217.87 (GST inclusive) direct and \$546,091.94 (GST inclusive) apportioned costs and expenses.

The election report for your council will be provided by mid-January 2026.

Should you have any questions regarding the invoice please contact Bala Nair, Office Manager on (08) 99 7671 or via email at [bala.nair@nt.gov.au](mailto:bala.nair@nt.gov.au)

Yours sincerely



Kirsten Kelly  
NT Electoral Commissioner  
22 December 2025

[www.ntec.nt.gov.au](http://www.ntec.nt.gov.au)

<b>Actuals by category per council -City Of Darwin</b>		
<b>Expense category</b>		<b>Actual</b>
<b>Advertising</b>		<b>\$ 57,897.96</b>
<b>Corporate</b>		<b>\$ 1,224.79</b>
<b>Destruction/rubbish removal</b>		<b>\$ 372.92</b>
<b>Information technology</b>		<b>\$ 32,685.38</b>
<b>Materials</b>		<b>\$ 46,492.41</b>
<b>Postage</b>		<b>\$ 23,831.57</b>
<b>Premises</b>		<b>\$ 4,239.80</b>
<b>Staff travel/accommodation/reimbursements</b>		<b>\$ 28,304.22</b>
<b>Staff wages</b>		<b>\$ 424,084.65</b>
<b>Vehicle hire/charter</b>		<b>\$ 6,602.49</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>\$ 625,736.19</b>
<b>GST</b>	10.0%	\$62,573.62
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 688,309.81</b>

**17      REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**18      QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

**19      GENERAL BUSINESS**

Appointment of Deputy Lord Mayor

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

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 31 March 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

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 Asset Replacement and Refurbishment Reserve Transfer

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(i) and 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 information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person and 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.

#### 28.2 Reconciliation Advisory Committee - Appointment of Chair

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 Sponsorship Opportunity

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(d) 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 subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

#### 28.4 Waste and Resource Recovery

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.

#### 28.5 Proposed Telecommunications Facility

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 Asset Sustainability

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.

#### 30.1 Outgoing and Incoming Correspondence - Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development - Northcrest Housing Estate

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.

**22      ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON**

# 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 Smelt

Against: 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**

Unconfirmed