

Agenda

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

- Date:** Tuesday, 28 April 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)

Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Councillor Nicole Brown

Councillor Shani Carson

Councillor Kim Farrar

Councillor Julie Fraser

Councillor Edwin Joseph

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

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

WEBCASTING DISCLAIMER

The City of Darwin is live webcasting the Open Section of Ordinary Council Meetings. Audio-visual recording equipment has been configured to avoid coverage of the public gallery area and the City of Darwin will use its best endeavours to ensure images in this area are not webcast. However the City of Darwin expressly provides no assurances to this effect and in the event your image is webcast, you will by remaining in the public gallery area be taken to have given the City of Darwin a non-exclusive licence to copy and broadcast your image worldwide for no reward.

Order of Business

1	Acknowledgement of Country	5
2	The Lord’s Prayer	5
3	Meeting Declared Open	5
4	Apologies and Leave of Absence	5
5	Electronic Meeting Attendance	5
6	Declaration of Interest of Members and Staff	5
7	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	5
8	Moving of Items	5
9	Matters of Public Importance / Lord Mayoral Minute	5
10	Public Question Time	5
11	Petitions	5
12	Deputations and Briefings	5
13	Notices of Motion	6
13.1	Notice of Motion - Council Request to Commonwealth for a Senate Inquiry into the DHA Lee Point Project	6
14	Action Reports	35
14.1	Application for Exceptional Development Permit - 159 Mitchell Street, Larrakeyah - Proposed Child Care Centre.....	35
14.2	Nomination to Darwin Regional Weeds Working Group	41
15	Receive & Note Reports	49
15.1	Monthly Financial Report - March 2026	49
15.2	Quarterly Performance Report - January to March 2026 (Q3)	62
15.3	Review of Council Meeting Agenda Papers.....	72
15.4	Advisory Committee Open Meeting Minutes.....	76
16	Correspondence	95
16.1	Incoming Correspondence - Heritage Council Northern Territory - Gun Turret East Point.....	95
17	Reports of Representatives	100
18	Questions by Members	100
19	General Business	100
20	Date, time and place of next Ordinary Council Meeting	100
21	Closure of Meeting to the Public	101
22	Adjournment of Meeting and Media Liaison	103

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

4.3 Leave of Absence Requested

5 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

5.1 Electronic Meeting Attendance Granted

5.2 Electronic Meeting Attendance Requested

6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting - 31 March 2026

8 MOVING OF ITEMS

8.1 Moving Open Items into Confidential

8.2 Moving Confidential Items into Open

9 MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / LORD MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

11 PETITIONS

Nil

12 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

Nil

13 NOTICES OF MOTION**13.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCIL REQUEST TO COMMONWEALTH FOR A SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE DHA LEE POINT PROJECT**

- Attachments:**
1. **Draft Report Summary Evaluation of Three Darwin Sites** [↓](#)
 2. **Independent Report: Defence Housing Australia Proposed Project at Lee Point and its Potential for Addressing Homelessness** [↓](#)
 3. **Draft Correspondence to Federal Ministers, Member and Senator and Northern Territory Chief Minister and Minister** [↓](#)

I, Councillor Julie Fraser, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 28 April 2026, I will move the following motion:-

MOTION

1. THAT Council approve the letter at **Attachment 3** to be sent to the Commonwealth Government. Including the following recipients;
 - (a) Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, Senator Murray Watt
 - (b) Federal Minister responsible for Defence Housing Australia, Matt Keogh MP
2. THAT Council approve to provide a copy of the letter to the following recipients;
 - (a) Member for Solomon, Luke Gosling MP
 - (b) Australian Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy
 - (c) Northern Territory Chief Minister, Lia Finocchiaro
 - (d) Northern Territory Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment, Joshua Burgoyne

REASON:

This motion calls upon Council to request the Commonwealth Government consider a Senate inquiry into the DHA Lee Point housing project and pause clearing works while the inquiry is undertaken.

Over the past six months community members have attended numerous Council meetings raising concerns about the location of the DHA Lee Point project. Only one candidate in the recent Nightcliff By-Election did not support a moratorium at Lee Point for a new Lee Point Area Plan. That candidate received 20% of the primary votes. Recently, Traditional Owner Lorraine Williams as part of a community delegation presented to Council and requested this country Lee Point / Binybara be protected.

Prior to 2020, less than 15% of Darwin northern suburb residents (most affected) were aware of the project. DHA (as a developer) ran the community consultation in 2014/15 despite this being a clear conflict of interest.

The report at **Attachment 1** by (8) Darwin Community Groups, rated the Lee Point site poorly on all aspects: i.e. social, environmental, economic and governance. The independent report at **Attachment 2**, found the DHA Lee Point housing project would do little or nothing to address homelessness or housing affordability in Darwin. Furthermore, the project is in direct conflict with City of Darwin's Greening Darwin Strategy.

No government report is available to justify having defence housing located at Lee Point compared to other Darwin sites.

There is no immediate need to provide housing lots at Lee Point given many housing lots are available closer to the defence bases. Currently the Department of Defence is divesting NT assets including land attached to Berrimah Defence Base. This land could be made available to Defence Housing Australia for their development.

Having a Senate inquiry would allow much needed scrutiny on this federal government project and an opportunity for the Darwin community to have their say.

Signed by me at Darwin this 22 April 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Fraser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

COUNCILLOR JULIE FRASER

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

In this section information is provided by officers to facilitate decision-making:

- Facts and data
- Background context and historical information relating to the NOM
- What the next steps would be if the motion is passed, for example “a council report will be prepared and presented by 28 February 2023”

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or pricing has been obtained for this motion:

Public consultation requirements	The Darwin Regional Area Plan 2015 details Lee Point as an area for planned urban and per-urban development. Public exhibition and consultation was held during development of the Darwin Regional Area Plan 2015 and the Lee Point Planning Principles and Area Plan.
External consultant advice	N/A
Legal advice / litigation	<p>Legislation to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Government Act and Council’s role - Subdivision Guidelines - Planning Act, Regulations and Planning Scheme - Area Plans <p>The EPBC Act - the environmental and engineering approvals that have been obtained, including the EPBC Approval Variation 27 July 2025.</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 - in late March 2024 the Federal Environment Minister dismissed the application made under this Act.</p>
Impacts to existing projects	City of Darwin’s Greening Strategy highlights an action to ‘Support community activities that enhance and protect the urban forest and biodiversity.’
Impact to FTE	N/A
Budget reallocation	If further stages of Lee Point are developed, then City of Darwin will receive rates income from the residents.
Capital investment	N/A
Officer time preparing the report requested in this motion	1 hour
Officer time in receiving and preparing this Administration Comment	1 hour

Administration comment further information:

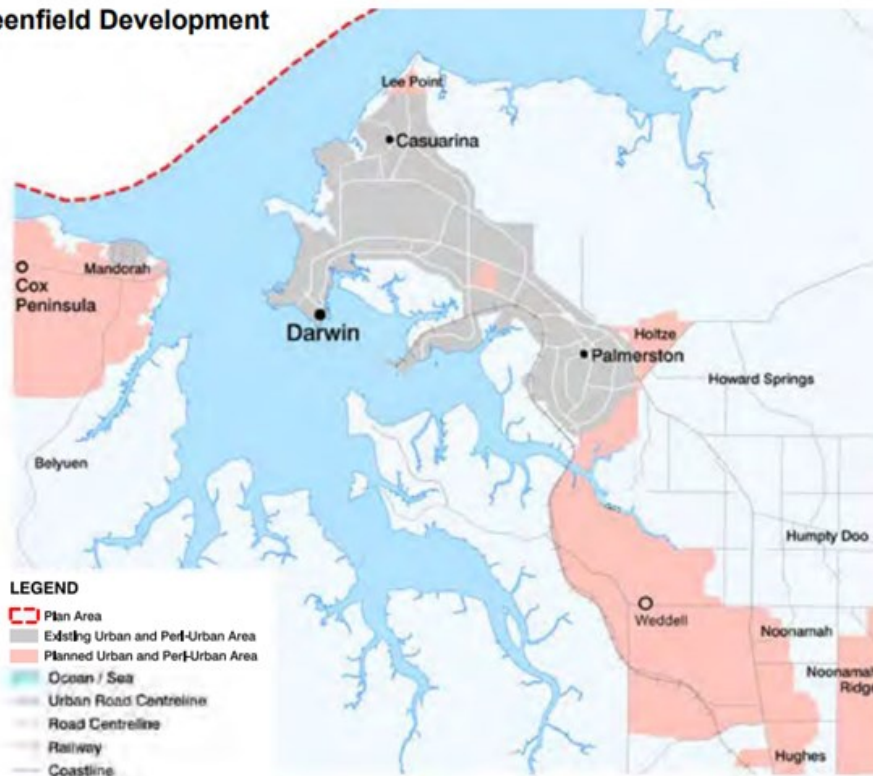
As per the Local Government Act 2019 NT, a local government council is constituted for each area to be responsible for the government and management of the area at the local level.

Developers are guided by the Subdivision Development Guidelines and City of Darwin’s Variation 14.

The Northern Territory Planning Scheme 2030 is the rule book for land use and development in the Northern Territory. The Minister for Planning in the Northern Territory makes and changes planning rules. The Development Consent Authority is an independent authority appointed by the Minister to make decisions on development applications including subdivisions.

The approved Darwin Regional Land Use Plan 2015 details Lee Point as an area for planned urban and peri-urban development that has already been through public consultation.

Greenfield Development



There is an approved Lee Point Planning Principles and Area Plan where future development within the Lee Point area is to:

- Preserve and integrate areas and items of environmental and heritage
- Significance
- Provide compact interconnected neighbourhoods as an extension to the
- existing northern suburbs
- Provide a mixed use village centre that integrates services to the local
- community while maximising opportunities for tourism
- Provide a range of housing options and lot sizes to cater for diverse household types
- Provide an appropriate built form that maximises site opportunities
- Provide adequate land for education and community facilities

An amendment to the NT Planning Scheme (PA2014/0922) to introduce zone Future Development (FD) to Lot 4873, Town of Nightcliff, and to rezone Lot 9370, Town of Nightcliff, from zone Specific Use Darwin No. 26 (SD26) to FD was considered by the Darwin Development Consent Authority in August 2015. The amendment also proposed to amend Part 8 of the NT Planning Scheme to include the Lee Point Area Plan

and Planning Principles to facilitate the Lee Point Master-Planned Urban Development. The Minister for Lands and Planning approved the amendment to the NT Planning Scheme on 27 August 2015.

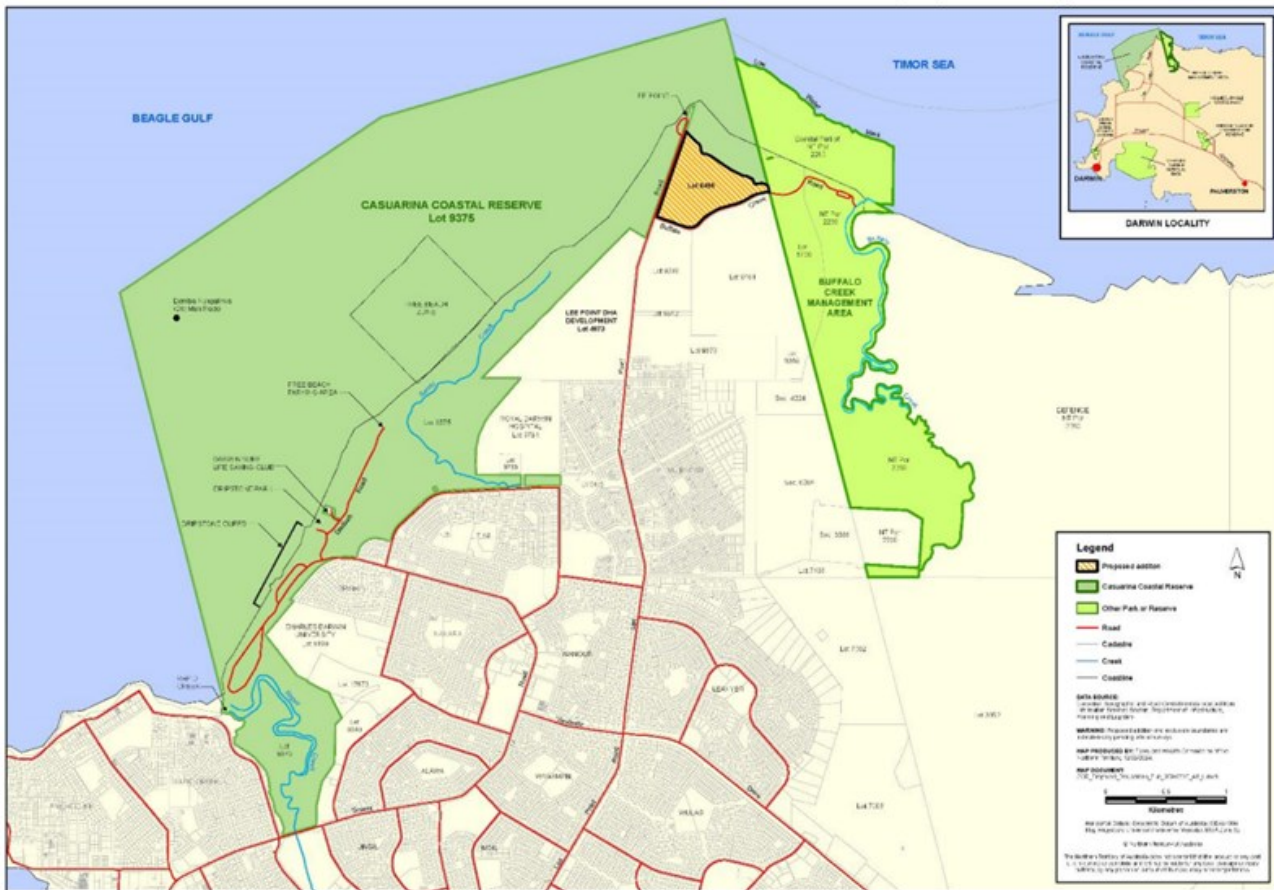
Development Permit DP18/0409B for DHA subdivision

- DP18/0409B was issued on 30 November 2018 for the purpose of subdivision to create 513 lots in two stages. Subsequently, Development Permit DP18/0409B was issued on 14 July 2022 for the purpose of relocating lot 488, deleting one public open space lot of 450m², boundary realignments to lots 49, 50, 178, 179, 319 & 320, and reconfiguring the staging to allow the subdivision to occur in five stages.
- Extension of time DP18/0409A, DP18/0409C and DP18/0409D were issued on 17 November 2020, 27 October 2022 and 01 December 2023, respectively and extended the period of the permit. DP18/0409 is now valid until 30 November 2027 with works required to be substantially commenced before 30 November 2025.
- All condition precedents relevant to Stage 1 were satisfied in July 2023, allowing for the construction of Stage 1. Condition precedents 1 to 5 concerning the endorsement of plans for Stage 2 and 3 have been addressed, and the endorsed plan for Stage 2 and 3 has been issued.
- DP18/0409E was issued on 22 April 2025 for the purpose of to allow "Stage 1" works to be completed in 2 stages.
- An extension of time to DP18/0409E for a period of 2 years was lodged on 8 October 2025 and heard at the Darwin DCA meeting held on 17 October 2025. The DCA's decision is in the process of being finalised. Minutes are recorded during the meeting and are made publicly available approximately within one week after the meeting date.

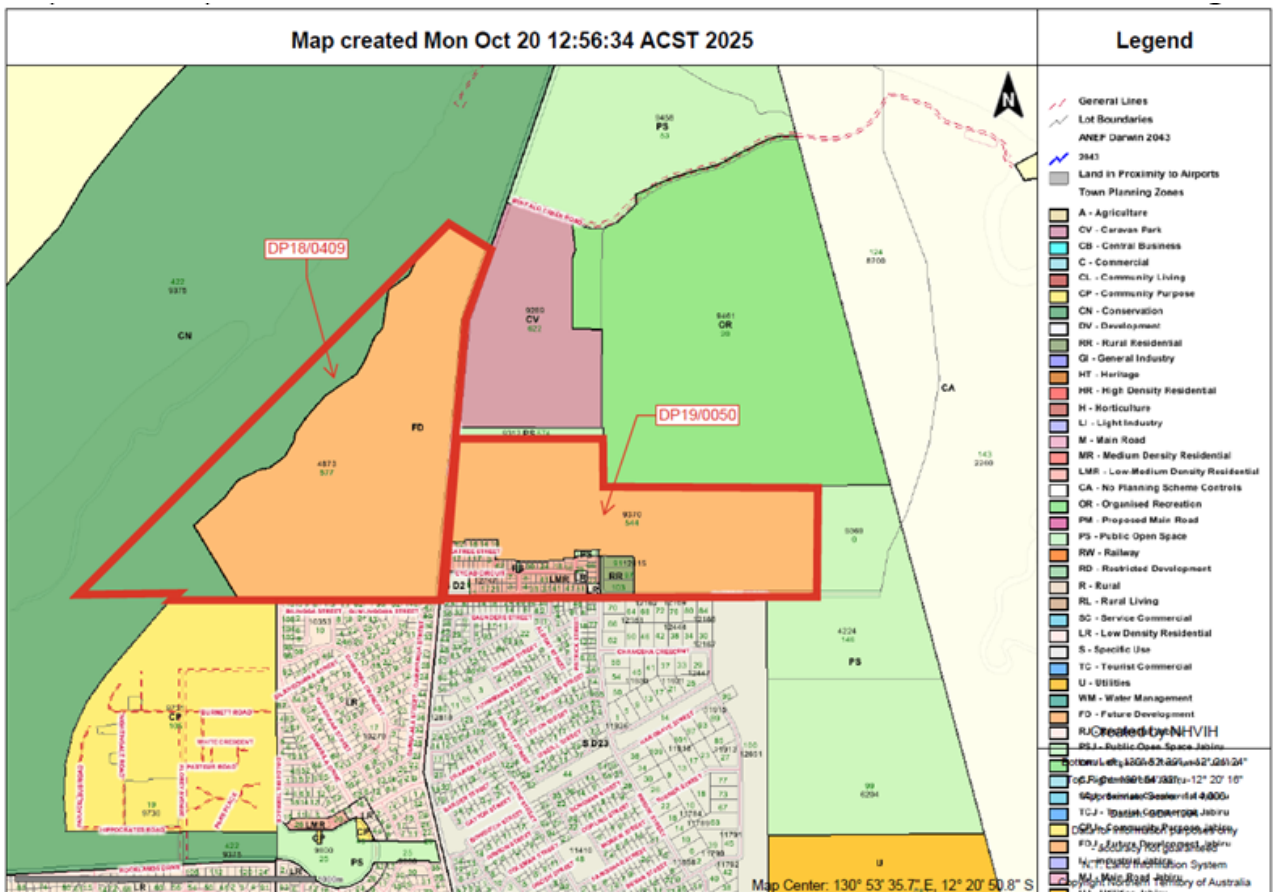
Development Permit DP19/0050 for DHA subdivision

- On 27 February 2019, DP19/0050 was issued for the purpose of subdivision to create 282 lots in five stages.
- On 22 January 2021, DP19/0050A was issued which extended the base period of DP19/0050 to 27 February 2023.
- During 2021 and 2022, the proponent commenced works with the area identified as Stage 1A, with a part 5 certificate of compliance issued on 16 November 2022.
- On 28 February 2025, DP19/0050B was issued to extend the period of DP19/0050 by 4 years, and DP19/0050 (and any subsequent variations) will now lapse on 27 February 2029.
- On 28 February 2025, DP19/0050C was issued to vary Condition 13 of Development Permit DP19/0050 for the purpose of amending the subdivision plan and associated staging.

In 2024, the Casuarina Coastal Reserve was declared a national park and has been expanded to include an additional 34 ha of bushland (Lot 9458). Formal declaration under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976 (TPWC Act) ensures the ongoing protection of the area. The Reserve protects about 1500 ha of coastal habitats between the estuaries of Rapid Creek and Buffalo Creek and adding this piece of land to the Reserve benefits conservation because it is home to dry monsoon rainforest, endangered Black-footed Tree-rat and Croton habrophyllus, the host plant for the endangered Atlas Moth. By bringing management of the Reserve and the new area of land under the TPWCA, the land will be managed by Parks and Wildlife in perpetuity, with improved powers to manage the land for its conservation, cultural and recreational values. Casuarina Coastal Reserve is the most highly visited park or reserve in the Northern Territory, attracting over 1,411,000 visits annually.



As per the map below, Lot 9375 will remain a Conservation zone, Lot 9461 will be Organised Recreation zone, Lot 9289 is a Caravan Park and Lot 9458 is Public open Space.



Attachment 1: Preliminary evaluation of three Darwin sites for Defence and community housing-Draft Report Summary

Attachment 1

Preliminary evaluation of three Darwin sites for Defence and community housing – Draft Report Summary

The below “**Summary**” is an excerpt from the Preliminary evaluation of three Darwin sites for defence and community housing – Draft Report.

The (28 page) Draft Report was sent to the Australian Government late July 2025 by (8) stakeholders; Environment Centre of the NT (ECNT), Larrakia – Danggalaba Traditional Owners, Landcare NT, Birdlife Top End, NT Field Naturalists, PAn – Planning Action Network, Biodiversity Watch and Friends of Lee Point.

The stakeholders called for the Lee Point defence housing project to be relocated to a suitable site.

The Draft Report assesses three sites, Berrimah (Northcrest), Holtze and Lee Point, but acknowledges there are other sites that should be evaluated as well.

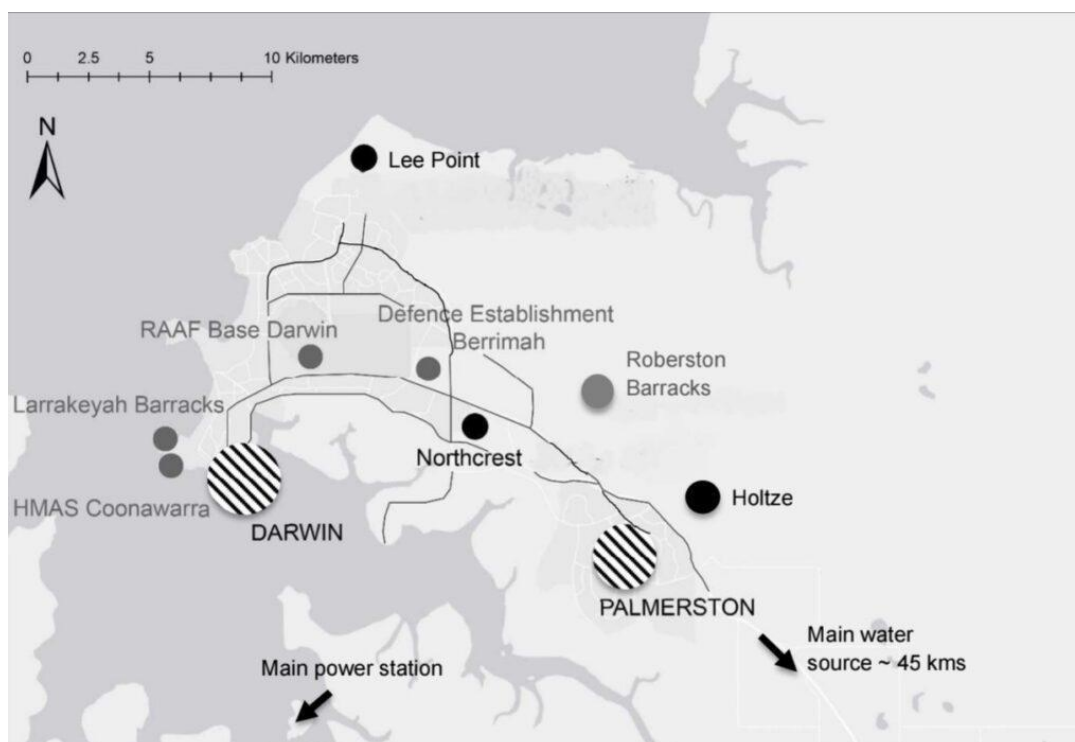


Fig. Location of defence bases in relation to Darwin CBD, Palmerston CBD, Northcrest, Holtze and Lee Point sites, main water source, power station and key roads.

¹ [ATT-A-Lee-Point-DHA-independent-housing-report.pdf](#)

*An unabridged copy of the report at Attachment 1 is available on request.

Attachment 1: Preliminary evaluation of three Darwin sites for Defence and community housing-Draft Report Summary

Summary from Draft Report – July 2025

Australia (and Darwin) is suffering from a lack of affordable houses/dwellings and a wildlife extinction crisis.

The taxpayer is currently underwriting a \$400M Defence and community housing project at Lee Point, Darwin. To date, this project has produced high-cost lots and no affordable housing. In addition to being an unproductive use of taxpayer money, it will have a significant impact on natural and cultural heritage.

No report is available that investigates other housing sites/options. This has prompted concerned community groups to undertake an evaluation of other sites/options for consideration by the Australian Government.

This evaluation, while guided by sustainability principles from Infrastructure Australia, has been simplified due to limited time and resources. It compares three Darwin sites – Berrimah (Northcrest), Holtze and Lee Point, and briefly lists other options.

Findings to date* are summarised in the table below.

* In November 2025, Friends of Lee Point advised the Minister for Environment and Water, Senator Murray Watt, that the findings in the table below had not changed and additional information could be found at: [Relocating and rescoping the Lee Point defence housing project](#)

The findings are also published at: <https://saveleepoint.org.au/july-31-draft-report-for-3-darwin-sites-summary/>

¹ [ATT-A-Lee-Point-DHA-independent-housing-report.pdf](#)

*An unabridged copy of the report at Attachment 1 is available on request.

Attachment 1: Preliminary evaluation of three Darwin sites for Defence and community housing-Draft Report Summary

Rating table - three Darwin sites for defence and community housing

ASPECT	Berrimah	Holtze	Lee Point	Comments (for more detail refer to Appendices)
Social				
Affordable housing	Fair?	Good	Very Poor	Berrimah and Holtze are well located for affordable housing. Lee Point is not well located, has expensive lots and no affordable housing.
Community wellbeing	Good	Good	Poor	Berrimah and Holtze are close to frequent public transport and near defence bases and parks. Lee Point project adversely impacts on community's enjoyment of Lee Point plus has problems of traffic congestion, school location, biting insects, sewage odours.
Cultural heritage	?	?	Very Poor	Berrimah and Holtze is still being assessed. The Lee Point project is strongly opposed to by the Larrakia people (traditional owners) of Darwin.
Environmental				
Natural heritage	Very Good?	Fair?	Very Poor	Berrimah has no clearing impact. Holtze clears habitat but retains some connecting habitat. The Lee Point project clears over half the old-growth trees from Lee Point significantly impacting on Darwin's last wildlife corridor (Darwin's biodiversity), and threatens endangered species.
Carbon emissions	Very Good	Fair	Very Poor	Lee Point results in increased car travel (emissions) for defence personnel. Also see Natural heritage above.
Economic				
Cost of Living	Good?	Good	Poor	Berrimah and Holtze are well located for affordable housing, public transport and near Darwin's main defence base. Lee Point is not, resulting in increased travel costs and possibly a second car. Lee Point high-cost lots excludes low to middle income people access to the government's "help to buy" scheme.
Cost effectiveness	Fair	Good	Poor	Berrimah is privately owned, Holtze mostly government owned and Lee Point government owned. Berrimah and Holtze are well located to main infrastructure and frequent public transport services. Lee Point is at the end of the water, electricity, road grid, and likely to trigger significant upgrades in the grid.
Opportunities for business	Fair	Fair	Poor	Berrimah and Holtze are located near CBDs that may help stimulate CBD growth. The Lee Point project reduces potential eco-tourism opportunities from nature and cultural activities at Lee Point.
Governance				
Community engagement	Fair	Good	Very Poor	Berrimah and Holtze Area Plans were created independently and Lee Point Area Plan was created by the developer (DHA). For Lee Point, most Darwin residents did not know about housing at Lee Point prior to 2020 and are now opposed to it. Larrakia (traditional owners of Darwin) want the housing to go elsewhere. City of Darwin have called for the Lee Point Area Plan to be independently and comprehensively redone.

¹ [ATT-A-Lee-Point-DHA-independent-housing-report.pdf](#)

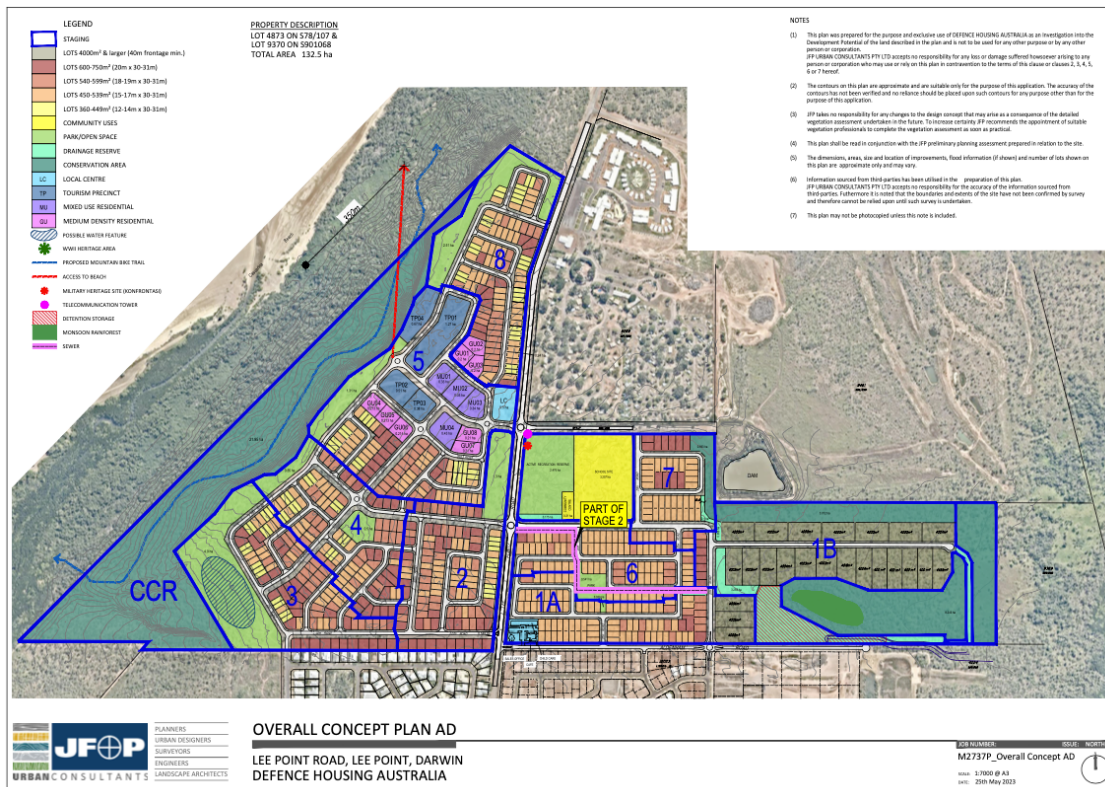
*An unabridged copy of the report at Attachment 1 is available on request.



The Defence Housing Australia's proposed housing development at Lee Point, Darwin, and its potential for addressing homelessness.

March, 2024.

A report prepared for the Friends of Lee Point Inc.
 Author: Dr. Catherine Holmes, Ph.D.



Disclaimer

Catherine Holmes Consulting (CHC) has prepared this report for the benefit of the Friends of Lee Point Inc. (the Client). Due care and diligence have been taken in collecting, analysing and presenting the information. The report has been prepared by CHC based on the agreed project scope and publicly available information provided by the client, relevant literature and information provided by expert stakeholders. The report is provided in good faith. CHC will not be held liable for any loss or other consequences arising out of this report.

Acknowledgments

CHC is extremely grateful to the key stakeholders that shared their expert opinions and respective organisational positions on the Defence Housing Australia's Lee Point development, and more generally, on social and affordable housing. Specifically, thanks are extended to: Peter McMillan (CEO) and Michael Byrne (Regional Coordinator) from NT Shelter; Sarah Thurgood (Chief Operations Officer) from Venture Housing; Michael Berto (CEO) from Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation; and Skye Thompson (CEO) from Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory Aboriginal Corporation.

About the author

Catherine Holmes Consulting (CHC) assembles multidisciplinary teams of expert practitioners to undertake research and program and service design, development and evaluation in the Northern Territory, and more broadly, North Australia. CHC's professional practice has focused on a range of topics linked to marginalised, disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, in particular Indigenous Australians that experience homelessness.

Dr. Catherine Holmes, the Director of CHC, holds two higher research degrees - a Doctor of Philosophy (which examined the lived experience of homelessness in Darwin and its implications for health) and Master of Science (Honours) (which investigated the World Health Organization's Healthy Marketplace Program; a program that applies a settings approach to health promotion). She also holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Health) and an Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Health and Building Surveying) and is trained in mediation and governance. She is an Adjunct Associate Professor with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and has held many governance positions in the community and social services sectors.

Catherine is an accomplished research leader and strategist, committed to workforce capacity building, social justice and sustainable development. Her expertise, formal education and extensive grounded experience have culminated in a depth and breadth of knowledge of the complex dynamic between socio-cultural, economic, political and geographic contexts that shape the lives of communities and define policy and service provision. She has been engaged in research and evaluation projects for over two decades relating to homelessness as it intersects with domestic, family and sexual violence, incarceration, education and employment and health, in its broadest sense. Her lifework has had a significant impact on homeless populations and the service sector, growing the evidence-base and making a strong contribution to policy reforms and program (re)design and delivery.

Executive summary

Defence Housing Australia (DHA) proposes to develop land at Lee Point in Darwin, also known as Binybara by the Larrakia; the traditional owners of the Greater Darwin land and sea areas. The development will span 132.5 hectares, requiring the clearing of up to 110 hectares of land, which includes natural tropical savanna woodlands, as well as a former defence facility that has since been removed with natural revegetation occurring. It will accommodate 800 new homes, including detached houses, townhouses and apartments, of which around 25% (200) will be used to house Defence families. In addition to residential land use, the development will include retail, tourism and community purpose areas.

The development has continued to be met with opposition from environmental and community groups, including the Friends of Lee Point Inc. (FLP). With Lee Point known for its natural beauty and rich biodiversity, concerns relate to: the destruction of natural tropical savanna woodlands which form an integral part of Darwin's only remaining functional wildlife corridor; the adverse consequences for threatened and/or endangered species; and a number of socio-economic and cultural heritage issues.

In correspondence from Minister Plibersek to Senator Lidia Thorpe, Senator for Victoria, regarding DHA's development at Lee Point, Minister Plibersek refers to the housing crisis in the Northern Territory (NT), noting one in 20 people are homeless, and that in Darwin itself there is only a one percent rental vacancy rate. Under these circumstances, Minister Plibersek noted it was important to acknowledge that the DHA development will provide 800 new homes in Darwin, as well as a community hub. In the event the decision-making process to support the DHA's Lee Point development has been influenced by its potential to ameliorate homelessness in Darwin, the FLP determined that this potential should be examined more closely.

In response, a research project was undertaken to: review and/or critique relevant literature and documentation (on the development, homelessness and housing policy); provide background information to, and consult, key stakeholders to gather their expert opinions; analyse the information; and prepare a brief report presenting any findings.

The research found that homelessness rates in the Northern Territory and Darwin continue to be the highest in the country, with a significant over-representation of Aboriginal people in all categories of homelessness. In the Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield Local Government Areas there were 1,965 homeless people counted at Census 2021, with a further 680 people in other marginal housing. Coupled with the high homelessness rates in the greater Darwin area, there is an acute and well documented shortage of social/public and affordable housing. In the electorate of Solomon, it is estimated there are 44,418 households with 17.3% of renters currently experiencing rental stress and 37.1% mortgage stress. That equates to 7,684 and 16,479 households, respectively, in housing stress in Solomon alone.

In relation to public housing in Darwin and Palmerston, the demand far exceeds the supply, and depending on the number of bedrooms required by an applicant, the 'general' wait period can be up to 10 years and the 'priority' wait period can be up to 8 years. As at December, 2023, there was a total of 3,629 current applications for public housing in

Darwin and Palmerston and there were 97 vacant homes. The NT Government had allocated 69 'general' public houses and 143 'priority' public houses in both Darwin and Palmerston in 2023.

The DHA's Lee Point development does not propose to include any social or affordable housing as part of the zoning mix. Given the significant rates of homelessness in the greater Darwin area, the high number of households experiencing rental and mortgage stress, the deficit of social/public housing together with the existing substantial demand for housing and the increase in rental costs, the Lee Point development will do little, if anything at all, to directly address homelessness and housing stress for households on low to medium incomes; those most at risk of experiencing housing crisis. Further, given the current housing crisis and demand for social and affordable housing, the DHA development is highly unlikely to indirectly deliver affordable housing in the broader community for a growing number of households experiencing housing stress. Yet the development will displace homeless people that currently utilise the Lee Point area.

The current DHA development is at odds with community expectations and the Commonwealth and Territory governments' own policy mandates concerning social and affordable housing. It is clear there is a growing appetite for, and interest in, reforms to land use zoning across governments, the non-government sector and private enterprise that create mandatory provisions for affordable and social housing (referred to as Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning) in new greenfield and large infill residential development as a key driver for addressing Australia's housing crisis.

While there is no current requirement in the NT Planning Scheme for Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning, the Lee Point development presents an important opportunity for the Commonwealth Government (the owner of the DHA entity – a major residential developer) to mandate the allocation of a proportion of all new dwellings and retail/commercial space at Lee Point for the purpose of social and affordable housing and associated non-government social and community sector services and supports. This opportunity aligns with the policy priorities of both the Commonwealth and Territory governments and will add real housing stock, benefiting households with the greatest needs.

Contents

BACKGROUND	6
PROJECT RATIONALE AND SCOPE	7
METHODS	7
FINDINGS	8
A SNAPSHOT OF HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTRALIA, THE NT AND DARWIN	8
FORMS OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE NT	8
HOMELESSNESS IN THE DARWIN, PALMERSTON AND LITCHFIELD LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS (LGAs)	9
HOMELESS PEOPLE LIVING AT THE DHA'S LEE POINT DEVELOPMENT SITE	10
SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING AVAILABILITY	11
THE IMPACT OF THE DHA LEE POINT DEVELOPMENT ON HOMELESSNESS	12
MANDATED INCLUSIONARY ZONING (MIZ)	13
POLICY AND PLANNING REFORMS	14
CONCLUSION	16
REFERENCES	18

Figures

Figure 1: Categories of homelessness, by state and territory, Census 2021	9
Figure 2: The number of homeless people in the NT, by category, Census 2021	9
Figure 3: Census 2021, homeless numbers in the Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield LGAs, by operational group and in other marginal housing	10
Figure 4: Wait times for public housing in Darwin and Palmerston as at 31st December, 2023 (general and priority only)	12

Background

Defence Housing Australia (DHA) proposes to develop land at Lee Point in Darwin, also known as Binybara by the Larrakia; the traditional owners of the Greater Darwin land and sea areas. The development is located in the northern suburbs, 17 kilometres from the Central Business District, and is being promoted by DHA as a "...*thriving residential community for Defence families, the local community and visitors to Darwin*"¹, offering seaside living. The development will span 132.5 hectares, requiring the clearing of up to 110 hectares of land, which includes natural tropical savanna woodlands, as well as a former defence facility that has since been removed with natural revegetation occurring.

According to DHA, over its lifespan, the development will accommodate 800 new homes, including detached houses, townhouses and apartments, of which around 25% (200) will be used to house Defence families.² In addition to residential land use, the development will include retail, tourism and community purpose areas. They describe a Main Street precinct that will "*offer a tourism activity centre containing restaurants, cafes, hotels, self-contained apartments and retail shops...*", and in Muirhead North, a community hub "*will include a primary school, child-care facility and sports facilities...*".¹

In 2023, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, approved a variation to the approval conditions of the development under the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Despite the variation, the development has continued to be met with opposition from environmental and community groups, including the Friends of Lee Point (FLP). Concerns relate to the destruction of natural tropical savanna woodlands at Lee Point, celebrated for its natural beauty and rich biodiversity. The development site links Casuarina Coastal Reserve with the Shoal Bay Coastal Reserve and is integral to Darwin's only remaining functional wildlife corridor, which provides a 27km passage for the movement of land animals (FLP, 2023).³ The Lee Point area provides habitat and breeding grounds for threatened and/or endangered species, such as the Gouldian Finch, the Black-footed Tree Rat, the Flat Back Sea Turtle and a number of migratory Birds. Other community concerns include: increased CO² emissions; the lack of comprehensive planning for the site; social impacts, including traffic congestion and the loss of public access to the woodlands; limited consultation with the community; the impact on the cultural heritage of the Larrakia; and the cost burden to the tax payer.

According to DHA, they have "*obtained the necessary approvals, consents, permits and other authorisations as required by Commonwealth and Northern Territory law, including clearance for the proposed development by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority*". DHA have voluntarily stopped land clearing while an application to preserve and protect the site on Aboriginal cultural heritage grounds is being considered by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.⁴

¹ See <https://www.dha.gov.au/development/residential/lee-point>

² The Auditor-general, 2020, Auditor-General Report No.31 2019–20 Management of Defence Housing Australia, https://www.anao.gov.au/sites/default/files/Auditor-General_Report_2019-2020_31.pdf

³ FLP, 2023, *Lee Point: protecting critical habitat and Darwin's last wildlife corridor*, <https://saveleepoint.org.au/lee-point-protecting-critical-habitat-and-darwins-last-wildlife-corridor/>

⁴ See <https://www.dha.gov.au/development/residential/lee-point>

Project rationale and scope

The FLP was established in 2020 as a non-profit Darwin community group with its main aim being to conserve the natural beauty and biodiversity of Lee Point/Binybara. They have been active in raising community awareness about the environmental, social and cultural values that will be lost if the DHA development progresses and have advocated to stop the development and explore suitable alternative sites that meet DHA's needs.

In correspondence from Minister Plibersek to Senator Lidia Thorpe, Senator for Victoria, regarding DHA's development at Lee Point, Minister Plibersek refers to the housing crisis in the Northern Territory (NT), noting one in 20 people are homeless, and that in Darwin itself there is only a one percent rental vacancy rate. Under these circumstances, Minister Plibersek noted it was important to acknowledge that the DHA development will provide 800 new homes in Darwin, as well as a community hub. The correspondence went on to provide information about the approval process for the development, as well as work being undertaken to improve Indigenous heritage outcomes under legislation.⁵

In the event the decision-making process to support the DHA's Lee Point development has been influenced by its potential to ameliorate homelessness in Darwin, the FLP determined that this potential should be examined more closely. In response, CHC was contracted to: review and/or critique relevant literature and documentation (on the development, homelessness and housing policy); provide background information to, and consult, key stakeholders to gather their expert opinions; analyse the information; and prepare a brief report, including any findings. The project had a very tight timeframe.

Methods

In addition to a review of relevant literature and documents, consultations were undertaken between Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th March, 2024, with key stakeholders involved in addressing homelessness and housing affordability in Darwin and the NT. They included:

- Peter McMillan (CEO) and Michael Byrne (Regional Coordinator) from NT Shelter;
- Sarah Thurgood (Chief Operations Officer) from Venture Housing;
- Michael Berto (CEO) from Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation; and
- Skye Thompson (CEO) from Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory Aboriginal Corporation.

Stakeholders were provided with background information and questions to guide the consultations in advance. No commentary was made or sought on the merits of the DHA Lee point development with regard to the concerns of environmental and community groups, except to acknowledge that they existed. Consultations took approximately one hour each. Guiding questions included:

- How can new housing developments (such as the Lee Point development) address homelessness?

⁵ Copy of correspondence from The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP to Senator Thorpe, Senator of Victoria regarding DHA's development at Lee Point, 4 October, 2023.

- Which homeless groups are likely to gain direct and/or indirect benefits through new housing developments (such as Lee Point)?
- In what way/s do/should new housing developments incorporate social, community and affordable housing?
- Where new housing developments incorporate social, community and affordable housing, what support or other services should be located within the community hub (or within close proximity)?
- Are there examples of best practice in this space in the NT or elsewhere?

All stakeholders consented to their names being included in this report.

Findings

A snapshot of homelessness in Australia, the NT and Darwin

At the 2021 Census, there were 122,494 people across Australia counted as being homeless. At the time of the count, COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were in force in many jurisdictions so the number of people that ordinarily live rough (considered to be experiencing primary homelessness, such as living in the Long Grass) were in temporarily and supported accommodated (a different form of homelessness).⁶ It's also worth noting that while counting methods have improved, the net undercount for First Nations people in the homeless population, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), was 17.4%.⁷

In 2021, the NT again had the highest rate of homelessness in the country (564 people per 10,000), totalling just over 13,100 people, at a rate 12 times the national average of homelessness. Indigenous people are significantly over-represented in this population, at a rate of 1,865 per 10,000 people, accounting for between 87% - 92% of all homeless people.⁶

To put this into perspective, the NT had 11% of Australia's homeless population. The jurisdiction with the next highest homelessness rate was in Victoria at 47 per 10,000 people, and the lowest rate was in WA, where it was 37 per 10,000 people. These rates and numbers exclude an additional 5,200 people in the NT that were counted as living in 'other marginal housing', such as other crowded dwellings, other improvised dwellings and in caravan parks.

Forms of homelessness in the NT

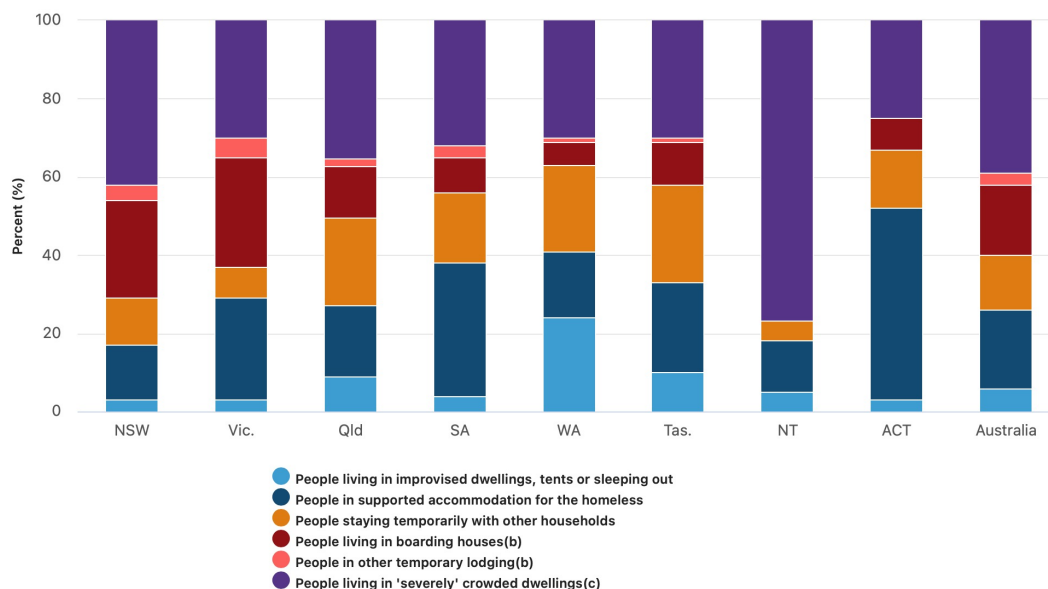
As shown in the **Figure 1**, at the 2021 Census, the NT had the largest proportion of their homeless people living in 'severely crowded dwellings', where a household needs four or more additional bedrooms, with the next largest cohort in 'supported accommodation', most likely as a result of COVID-19 pandemic measures.⁵ Homeless people are highly mobile and move in and out of different categories of homelessness. These numbers can

⁶ ABS, 2023, *Estimating Homelessness: Census*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release#:~:text=122%2C494%20people%20were%20estimated%20to%20be%20experiencing%20homelessness%20at%20the,increase%20of%201.6%25%20from%202016>

⁷ ABS, 2023, *Estimating homelessness: Census 2021. Housing statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2021*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-experiencing-homelessness#:~:text=Aboriginal%20and%20Torres%20Strait%20Islander%20Australians%20have%20been%20under%20enumerated,Strait%20Islander%20peoples%20was%2017.4%25>.

also be skewed as people often report they usually live with family when they are living rough, potentially inflating the 'severely crowded dwellings' category.

Figure 1: Categories of homelessness, by state and territory, Census 2021



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Estimating Homelessness: Census 2021

The number of people in each homeless category in the NT at the 2021 Census is presented in **Figure 2** (excluding people living in other marginal housing).⁸

Figure 2: The number of homeless people in the NT, by category, Census 2021

Category of homelessness	No. of people
People living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out	662
People in supported accommodation for the homeless	1,769
People staying temporarily with other households	653
People living in boarding houses	62
People in other temporary lodgings	44
People living in 'severely' crowded dwellings	9,904
TOTAL	13,094

Homelessness in the Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield Local Government Areas (LGAs)

The 2021 Census reported that in Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield LGAs, there were 1,965 homeless people and a further 680 people in other marginal housing, as presented in **Figure 3**.⁹ Almost half of all people living rough in the NT were located in these LGAs,

⁸ ABS, 2023, *Estimating Homelessness: Census*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release#state-and-territories>

⁹ ABS, 2023, *Homeless operational groups and other marginal housing, by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, 2021*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release#data-downloads>

with approximately half of all the homeless people in these LGAs in supported accommodation for the homeless on Census night (noting the Census data limitations relating to the COVID-19 pandemic measures and the net undercount of First Nations peoples).

Figure 3: Census 2021, homeless numbers in the Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield LGAs, by operational group and in other marginal housing

Homelessness operational groups				
Category	Darwin LGA	Litchfield LGA	Palmerston LGA	All homeless persons
People living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out	273	20	37	330
People in supported accommodation for the homeless	945	0	69	1,014
People staying temporarily with other households	198	74	98	370
People living in boarding houses	0	0	0	0
People in other temporary lodgings	10	9	0	19
People living in 'severely' crowded dwellings	136	69	27	232
All homeless persons	1,562	172	231	1,965
Other marginal housing				
People living in other crowded dwellings	331	121	86	538
People in other improvised dwellings	0	27	19	46
People who are marginally housed in caravan parks	34	62	0	96
All marginally housed persons	365	210	105	680

Homeless people living at the DHA’s Lee Point development site

There has been a long history of pushing Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness to the margins of the settlement, which has continued to the present day. The homeless population in the greater Darwin area is highly visible and they are commonly regarded by the mainstream population as problematic. They are generally perceived by the broader community as: adversely affecting amenity levels in public spaces; irresponsible; choosing a morally corrupt lifestyle; a source of contagion; neglectful of their children; and engaging in unhealthy social behaviours, including alcohol abuse and fighting.¹⁰

The DHA’s Lee Point development site is on the urban fringe of Darwin. At the site there is a permanent camp occupied by at least one homeless person which has been

¹⁰ Holmes, C & McRae-Williams, E. 2008. *An investigation into the influx of Indigenous ‘visitors’ to Darwin’s Long Grass from remote NT communities – Phase 2. Being undesirable: law, health and life in Darwin’s Long Grass*, National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund, Tasmania.

established for more than three years. There are a further four distinct camps that are intermittently occupied by groups of up to six people (predominantly occupied in the dry season). In addition, there are two camps located approximately 100m from the development site, both used generally during the dry season. There is evidence to suggest that one of these camps is used more regularly throughout the year and is occupied by a larger group of up to 12 people.

Social and affordable housing availability

On the housing continuum, there is an acute and well documented shortage of social/public and affordable housing in the NT. The NT Government (undated publication) notes:

...there are significant affordability challenges in the NT and very limited supply of rental properties on the market that are considered to be affordable and appropriate for people on income support payments. Low to moderate income families that seek housing solutions in the private market often face considerable rental stress (p.10).¹¹

With 36,207 households renting through social and private rentals, NT Shelter estimate that one quarter of all low to moderate income earners are in rental stress, where more than 30% of their income is allocated to rent.¹² According to Everybody's Home, in the electorate of Solomon, (which covers the Darwin LGA and most of the Palmerston LGA), there are 44,418 households with 17.3% of renters currently experiencing rental stress and 37.1% mortgage stress. That equates to 7,684 and 16,479 households, respectively, in housing stress in Solomon alone.¹³

Social housing (often referred to as public housing) is a critical component of the housing matrix in the NT and generally accommodates households on the lowest incomes. The NT Government reported they allocated 69 'general' public houses and 143 'priority' public houses in both Darwin and Palmerston in 2023. As at December 31st, 2023, they had 1,196 'general' applications for public housing in Darwin and 475 in Palmerston. In addition, there were 1,021 'priority' applications in Darwin and 392 in Palmerston. Depending on the number of bedrooms required, the wait times vary, although tend to be longer the fewer the bedrooms required (i.e. the highest demand is for 1 bedroom dwellings), as depicted in **Figure 4**. There were 97 vacant homes in the two areas, which included dwellings undergoing vacancy assessments, maintenance, major upgrades and that were available to allocate. At the same point in time, there was a total of 3,629 current applications for public housing.¹⁴

¹¹ NTG Dept. of Local Government, Housing and Community Development, undated, *A home for all Territorians. Northern Territory Housing Strategy 2020 – 2025*, https://tfhc.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/765433/nt-housing-strategy-2020-2025.pdf

¹² See <https://ntshelter.org.au/policy-statements/>

¹³ Everybody's Home, *Financial Stress Map NT*, <https://everybodyshome.com.au/financial-stress-map-northern-territory/>

¹⁴ NT Government, 2024, *Public housing wait times*, <https://nt.gov.au/property/public-housing/apply-for-housing/apply-for-public-housing/waiting-list>

Figure 4: Wait times for public housing in Darwin and Palmerston as at 31st December, 2023 (general and priority only)

Estimated wait times for public housing (years)						
Region	General wait times			Priority wait times		
	1 bedroom	2 bedroom	≥3 bedroom	1 bedroom	2 bedroom	≥3 bedroom
Darwin/Casuarina	8-10	4-6	4-6	6-8	4-6	4-6
Palmerston	8-10	4-6	2-4	6-8	4-6	2-4

According to SQM Research, as at February 2024, the vacancy rate of all dwellings in Darwin was 1.5%. Between March 2023 and March 2024, asking rents for houses increased by an average of 0.7% and for units 9.4%.¹⁵

The impact of the DHA Lee Point development on homelessness

The Lee Point development does not propose to include any social or affordable housing. Given the significant rates of homelessness in the greater Darwin area, the high number of households experiencing rental and mortgage stress, the deficit of social/public housing together with the existing substantial demand for housing and the increase in rental costs, the Lee Point development will do little, if anything at all, to directly address homelessness and housing stress for households on low to medium incomes; those most at risk of experiencing housing crisis. These households are unlikely to be able to afford market rent or secure mortgages over new land/house packages at the site, particularly given current interest rates. Further, it is unlikely that any housing that is freed up in the greater Darwin area by households relocating to the new Lee Point development will be within the reach of low to medium income households in need of social and affordable rental properties.

This finding was universally shared among expert stakeholders, who made comments such as:

Adding supply [of housing] is theoretically positive. But we all know, homelessness isn't solved by additional housing in the private market. Eligibility of access is key as to whether it [the development] will impact on homelessness.

If Lee Point is a development of 800 dwellings, with no allowance for social, affordable or disability-specific housing, I don't see it would make an impact on homelessness rates. It would only impact on the private market, not homelessness and not affordable housing.

¹⁵ SQM Research, 2024, *Residential vacancy rates*, https://sqmresearch.com.au/graph_vacancy.php?region=nt%3ADarwin&type=c&t=1

The development could, in theory, free up houses in the private market along the housing continuum. But it will not be affordable to homeless people and is unlikely to make a difference given the current context.

[There will be] zero impact on homelessness. It may alleviate a little bit of the vacancy pressure - that's plausible. Equally, if we grow our economy and increase our population in the way the government is hoping to, we will need housing for key workers. There will be negligible impact of the development unless there is designated social and affordable housing.

[The development] doesn't free up affordable houses. In the NT, 770 households are in properties with NRAS* entitlements that are coming off... Once discontinued, these households need to pay full market rent. We will effectively lose 700 affordable houses in the system now. The need is so high here.

*National Rental Affordability Scheme is a commonwealth scheme in which rent assistance is provided to participants making housing more affordable.

While the development will not reduce homelessness in any tangible way, it will further displace people that are already homeless living permanently and/or periodically at, or within close proximity, of the site.

Mandated inclusionary zoning (MIZ)

Expert stakeholders had consistent and strong views that all new greenfield or major infill developments, such as Lee Point, can only address social and affordable housing needs through mandated inclusionary zoning (MIZ), whereby a minimum floor area or proportion of dwellings are specified for that purpose. Stakeholders contend that there are several planning incentives and concessions that have seen MIZ applied successfully in other jurisdictions in Australia and abroad, such as no or low interest loans, GST-free purchasing, allotment size variations, the easing of setbacks and developer contributions etc. They argued that MIZ is essential if the NT and Darwin are to address the current and projected housing crisis. Their views were expressed through statements such as:

It [the Lee Point development] can only address social and affordable housing if the principle of mandated inclusionary zoning is applied.

DHA do not see themselves as a community, social or affordable housing provider. That doesn't mean they shouldn't. There should be an expectation [for MIZ] on the Commonwealth given the housing crisis. The Minister points out, quite rightly, that the vacancy rates are very low here... DHA will sell the blocks to the private market on a commercial basis. There is no incentive for them to sell houses at 75% or 80% of market value unless there was pressure to do so and an expectation to do so.

I can't see a direct impact on homelessness unless there are specific measures built into the development conditions.

Stakeholders maintained they had been advocating for MIZ to be embedded into the NT Planning Scheme and relevant Territory and Commonwealth legislation, particularly when government entities are the developer. Their comments on MIZ included:

There should be a policy in place that requires a proportion of any new development to have provision for social, affordable and disability-specific housing. Looking at demographics of the area and other factors, it should be a primary consideration and should be around 15%. The unmet need in social housing space is significant... and wait times are significant.

DHA is owned by the federal government. They are a serious developer and it [MIZ] should be mandated in all their developments across Australia.

[MIZ must be] mandated in planning instruments. It's the only way to include people in houses [in new developments] that need it. Unless it's mandated and considered up front, how will the situation change?

Stakeholders reasoned that government land (whether owned by the Territory or the Commonwealth) released for development should have a higher percentage of MIZ than privately owned land. Aligning with other jurisdictions, some stakeholders maintain that a minimum MIZ for social and affordable housing of 15% should apply to greenfield and major infill developments, as well as 15% of retail/commercial space to accommodate place-based non-government sector support services to facilitate better outcomes. Others argue the need in the NT is far greater and advocate for MIZ of 10% social housing and 30% affordable housing:

40% should be sub-market given the huge waiting lists we have for public housing in the Territory and the huge need for affordable housing, including key workers that cannot afford market rent.

Stakeholders also maintain there must be clarity on the expectations of developers on MIZ for it to be properly costed and managed. The need for housing at different price points was raised and there was a shared view that the market cannot solve the NT's housing crisis. One stakeholder noted the importance of scattering MIZ of social and affordable housing throughout new subdivisions to better mirror the broader society, support inclusion and diversity and foster social cohesion.

Policy and planning reforms

The views of stakeholders regarding the potential of MIZ and/or planning, land use and zoning reforms to achieve social and affordable housing outcomes are supported by and reflected in government strategies, research reports and by special interest groups. For example, in 2007, the Planning Institute Australia's position statement acknowledged housing affordability as a major social and economic problem confronting all levels of government, the community and the private sector and argued that innovative affordable housing projects and strategies were essential. They advocated for new urban land releases to include affordable housing targets and for all jurisdictions to review and amend

their planning and development control legislation to include affordable housing.¹⁶ Similarly, the Community Housing Industry Association (2018) stated:

State and territory governments should implement mandatory inclusionary zoning with a default target of 15 per cent social and affordable housing in all new developments on private land above a certain size. Where government land is sold, rezoned or otherwise made available for residential development, reserving 30 per cent for social and affordable housing would address one of the major barriers to affordable supply — land (p.21)¹⁷

In research undertaken by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI), Curren *et al.* (2018) reviewed major inclusionary zoning schemes overseas and in Australia. They reported that in NSW, there had been a focus on affordable rental housing, and in SA, on homes for sale. In NSW, voluntary planning incentives had provided a small proportion of affordable rental homes in the Sydney suburbs of Canada Bay, Leichhardt, Ryde and Penrith, although the dwellings were only required to remain affordable, at 80% of the market rent, for 10 years. In SA, 15% of all housing in significant residential developments was for affordable housing. From 2005-2015, 5,485 affordable homes were delivered, amounting to 17% of the total housing supply in the state. The authors conclude that the schemes in SA and NSW are modest in contrast to international practice and highlighted the potential of extending inclusionary planning approaches across Australia; mandating affordable housing when land is rezoned for residential use, when planning rules are varied or following significant infrastructure investment. They observed that planning system tools can support affordable housing supply and that additional funding or subsidies are required for homes to be accessible by households on low and very low incomes. Further, they noted that voluntary planning incentives can encourage affordable housing inclusion within the existing planning and development control framework.¹⁸

A new National Housing and Homelessness Plan is under development by the Commonwealth Government and aims to build on existing housing initiatives. In relation to the effect of planning, land use and zoning on the housing system, the Commonwealth's National Housing and Homelessness Plan Issues Paper, released in 2023, acknowledges that some states and territories have planning that supports the delivery of social and affordable housing. The Issue Paper notes that under the National Housing Accord (planned to commence mid-2024), signatories have agreed to support the target to build 1 million, well-located homes over 5 years from 2024. To achieve this target, the jurisdictions will: expedite zoning, planning and land release for social and affordable housing; and work with local governments to deliver planning and land-use reforms. In addition, the *"Australian Government is identifying whether suitable Commonwealth land can be released for housing to assist as part of the contribution to*

¹⁶ Planning Institute Australia (PIA), 2007, *Affordable Housing National Position Statement*, PIA, ACT.

¹⁷ Community Housing Industry Association, 2018, *National Plan for Affordable Housing*, <https://www.communityhousing.com.au/our-advocacy/research-reports/>

¹⁸ Gurrán, N., Gilbert, C., Gibb, K., van den Nouwelant, R., James, A. and Phibbs, P. 2018. *Supporting affordable housing supply: inclusionary planning in new and renewing communities*, AHURI Final Report No. 297, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Limited, Melbourne

delivering social and affordable housing" (p. 73).¹⁹ Similarly, the NT Government's Housing Strategy 2020 – 2025 has a stated strategic objective to strengthen access for Territorians to a range of housing options, including social and affordable housing, private rental and home ownership. To achieve this, the then Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development proposed to work with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to "*consider opportunities through the strategic land use and area planning process for the NT Planning Scheme to support increased supply of social and affordable new housing*" (p.23).²⁰

In a 2021 report prepared by Dick Guit for the NT Government, *Bringing Land to Market - an independent review of the Land Development Processes, Land Under Development and Titled Land*, 23 recommendations were made. Recommendation 7 related to land for affordable and social housing and is reproduced below:

Government to provide Titled Land (through Crown land developments) at a discounted price to affordable and social housing providers, with a covenant that building must commence within a specified timeframe. The extent to which this option is exercised would be subject to a policy position by the Northern Territory Government (p.26).²¹

The Constellation Project, founded by Australian Red Cross, Centre for Social Impact, Mission Australia and PwC Australia, has a vision to end homelessness in a generation. In their Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning National Framework 2023, they found their modelling of the implementation of MIZ in Australia had the potential to create up to 160,000 social and affordable rental homes in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne by 2036. They note that while MIZ is not a substitute for public investment in social and affordable housing, they point to the widespread support for the inclusionary zoning principle by economists, think tanks and influential developers and argue that governments should be using it in Australia. Their National Framework, aligning with the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (commenced in July 2018) and the National Housing Accord (commencing mid-2024), aims to provide consistency and clarity to its application across Australia.²²

Conclusion

The DHA's Lee Point development does not provide for social or affordable housing as part of the zoning mix. Given this, it will have no positive impact on homelessness rates in Darwin. Yet the development will displace homeless people that currently utilise the Lee Point area. Further, given the current housing crisis and demand for social and affordable housing, the DHA development is highly unlikely to indirectly deliver

¹⁹ The Commonwealth Dept. of Social Services, 2023, *The National Housing and Homelessness Plan Issues Paper*, <https://engage.dss.gov.au/developing-the-national-housing-and-homelessness-plan/developing-the-national-housing-and-homelessness-plan-issues-paper/>

²⁰ NTG Dept. of Local Government, Housing and Community Development, undated, *A home for all Territorians. Northern Territory Housing Strategy 2020 – 2025*, https://tfhc.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/765433/nt-housing-strategy-2020-2025.pdf

²¹ Guit, D. 2021, *Bringing Land to Market. An independent review of the Land Development Processes, Land Under Development and Titled Land*, NTG

²² The Constellation Project, 2023, *Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning National Framework 2023*, <https://theconstellationproject.com.au/projects/mandatory-inclusionary-zoning/>

affordable housing in the broader community for a growing number of households experiencing housing stress.

The current DHA development is at odds with community expectations and the Commonwealth and Territory governments' own policy mandates. It is clear there is a growing appetite for, and interest in, reforms to land use zoning across governments, the non-government sector and private enterprise that create mandatory provisions for affordable and social housing in new greenfield and large infill residential development as a key driver for addressing Australia's housing crisis.

While there is no current requirement in the NT Planning Scheme for MIZ, the Lee Point development presents an important opportunity for the Commonwealth Government (the owner of the DHA entity - a major residential developer in Australia) to mandate the allocation of a proportion of all new dwellings and retail/commercial space at Lee Point for the purpose of social and affordable housing and associated non-government social and community sector services and supports. This opportunity aligns with the policy priorities of both the Commonwealth and Territory governments and will add real housing stock, benefiting households with the greatest needs.

References

- ¹ See <https://www.dha.gov.au/development/residential/lee-point>
- ² The Auditor-general, 2020, *Auditor-General Report No.31 2019–20 Management of Defence Housing Australia*, https://www.anao.gov.au/sites/default/files/Auditor-General_Report_2019-2020_31.pdf
- ³ FLP, 2023, *Lee Point: protecting critical habitat and Darwin’s last wildlife corridor*, <https://saveleepoint.org.au/lee-point-protecting-critical-habitat-and-darwins-last-wildlife-corridor/>
- ⁴ See <https://www.dha.gov.au/development/residential/lee-point>
- ⁵ Copy of correspondence from The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP to Senator Thorpe, Senator of Victoria regarding DHA’s development at Lee Point, 4 October, 2023.
- ⁶ ABS, 2023, *Estimating Homelessness: Census*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release#:~:text=122%2C494%20people%20were%20estimated%20to%20be%20experiencing%20homelessness%20at%20the,increase%20of%201.6%25%20from%202016>
- ⁷ ABS, 2023, *Estimating homelessness: Census 2021. Housing statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2021*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-experiencing-homelessness#:~:text=Aboriginal%20and%20Torres%20Strait%20Islander%20Australians%20have%20been%20under%20enumerated,Strait%20Islander%20peoples%20was%2017.4%25>.
- ⁸ ABS, 2023, *Estimating Homelessness: Census*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release#state-and-territories>
- ⁹ ABS, 2023, *Homeless operational groups and other marginal housing, by place of enumeration, Local Government Area, 2021*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release#data-downloads>
- ¹⁰ Holmes, C & McRae-Williams, E. 2008. *An investigation into the influx of Indigenous ‘visitors’ to Darwin’s Long Grass from remote NT communities – Phase 2. Being undesirable: law, health and life in Darwin’s Long Grass*, National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund, Tasmania.
- ¹¹ NTG Dept. of Local Government, Housing and Community Development, undated, *A home for all Territorians. Northern Territory Housing Strategy 2020 – 2025*, https://tfhc.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/765433/nt-housing-strategy-2020-2025.pdf
- ¹² See <https://ntshelter.org.au/policy-statements/>
- ¹³ Everybody’s Home, *Financial Stress Map NT*, <https://everybodyshome.com.au/financial-stress-map-northern-territory/>
- ¹⁴ NT Government, 2024, *Public housing wait times*, <https://nt.gov.au/property/public-housing/apply-for-housing/apply-for-public-housing/waiting-list>
- ¹⁵ SQM Research, 2024, *Residential vacancy rates*, https://sqmresearch.com.au/graph_vacancy.php?region=nt%3A%3ADarwin&type=c&t=1
- ¹⁶ Planning Institute Australia (PIA), 2007, *Affordable Housing National Position Statement*, PIA, ACT.
- ¹⁷ Community Housing Industry Association, 2018, *National Plan for Affordable Housing*, <https://www.communityhousing.com.au/our-advocacy/research-reports/>

¹⁸ Gurran, N., Gilbert, C., Gibb, K., van den Nouwelant, R., James, A. and Phibbs, P. 2018. *Supporting affordable housing supply: inclusionary planning in new and renewing communities*, AHURI Final Report No. 297, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Limited, Melbourne

¹⁹ The Commonwealth Dept. of Social Services, 2023, *The National Housing and Homelessness Plan Issues Paper*, <https://engage.dss.gov.au/developing-the-national-housing-and-homelessness-plan/developing-the-national-housing-and-homelessness-plan-issues-paper/>

²⁰ NTG Dept. of Local Government, Housing and Community Development, undated, *A home for all Territorians. Northern Territory Housing Strategy 2020 – 2025*, https://tfhc.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/765433/nt-housing-strategy-2020-2025.pdf

²¹ Guit, D. 2021, *Bringing Land to Market. An independent review of the Land Development Processes, Land Under Development and Titled Land*, NTG

²² The Constellation Project, 2023, *Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning National Framework 2023*, <https://theconstellationproject.com.au/projects/mandatory-inclusionary-zoning/>

Attachment 3: Draft Letter to the Federal Senators/Ministers/Member and NT Chief Minister/Minister

Dear Senator/Minister/Member/Chief Minister,

Request for Senate inquiry in the DHA Lee Point housing project

The City of Darwin Council recently considered concerns from Larrakia Traditional Owners and Darwin community regarding the Defence Housing Australia (**DHA**) project at Lee Point/Binybara.

Lee Point / Binybara is a crucial part of Darwin's last functional wildlife corridor and holds special cultural values for Larrakia people, the traditional owners of Darwin.

Council notes the summary report* at **Attachment 1** by Darwin Community Groups including (Environment Centre of the NT (ECNT), Larrakia – Danggalaba Traditional Owners, Landcare NT, Birdlife Top End, NT Field Naturalists, PPlan – Planning Action Network, Biodiversity Watch and Friends of Lee Point, rated the Lee Point site poorly on all aspects: i.e.. social, environmental, economic and governance. Furthermore, the independent report (Dr Catherine Holmes 2024¹) at **Attachment 2**, found the DHA Lee Point housing project would do little or nothing to address homelessness or housing affordability in Darwin.

No government report is available to justify having defence housing located at Lee Point compared to other Darwin sites. There is no immediate need to provide housing lots at Lee Point given the many housing lots available closer to the defence bases.

Council respectfully requests that the Commonwealth Government consider:

1. a senate inquiry into the DHA Lee Point housing project, including considering Defence land at Berrimah as an alternative site and
2. pause land clearing work at Lee Point while the inquiry is undertaken.

Council believes having a Senate inquiry would allow much needed scrutiny on this government project and an opportunity for the Darwin community to have their say.

Council respectfully requests a written response to this correspondence.

Yours sincerely,
Mayor
City of Darwin

¹ [ATT-A-Lee-Point-DHA-independent-housing-report.pdf](#)

*An unabridged copy of the report at Attachment 1 is available on request.

14 ACTION REPORTS

14.1 APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT - 159 MITCHELL STREET, LARRAKEYAH - PROPOSED CHILD CARE CENTRE

Author: Manager Planning and Place
Executive Manager Place and Economic Development

Authoriser: General Manager Innovation

Attachments: 1. Letter Submission - PA2026-0046 - 159 Mitchell Street [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Application for Exceptional Development Permit - 159 Mitchell Street, Larrakeyah - Proposed Child Care Centre be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the draft submission letter to the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment provided at **Attachment 1**.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Council to make a submission to an application for an Exceptional Development Permit (EDP) to facilitate a childcare centre, a prohibited use, on land zoned LMR (Low-Medium Density Residential) at 159 Mitchell Street, Larrakeyah.

KEY ISSUES

- The application is for a childcare centre, a prohibited use within Zone LMR, requiring demonstration that an EDP is preferable to rezoning under the Planning Act 1999 (the Act).
- The Central Darwin Area Plan, the applicable level of the Northern Territory Government's (NTG) statutory strategic framework does not identify the land as an area for change and continues to designate the site for low–medium density residential purposes.
- The proposal includes variations to landscaping requirements, which significantly restrict opportunities for deep soil zones and canopy tree planting.
- Technical advice identifies unresolved access and road safety issues relating to the location of the driveway.
- The submitted Traffic Impact Statement assesses the development in isolation and does not address cumulative traffic and parking impacts arising from surrounding land uses, including an adjacent commercial premises with activity likely to coincide with peak childcare periods.
- NTG's planning application process limits Council's visibility of community views, constraining Council's ability to form an informed assessment of residential amenity beyond built-form compliance.

DISCUSSION

EDP Process

Under the Act, rezoning is the primary mechanism for introducing new or expanded land-use rights. An EDP may only be granted where the Minister is satisfied that it is preferable than to amend the Planning Scheme.

If submissions are received from the public or local council, a hearing will be held by the NT Planning Commission on behalf of the Minister. The Planning Commission will report any issues raised through written submissions and at the hearing to the Minister for consideration.

While local government may make submissions, there are no third-party appeal rights, meaning the community’s and Council’s role concludes at the exhibition stage.

The site and proposal

The subject land is located at 159 Mitchell Street, Larrakeyah within a well-established inner-urban residential area characterised by detached dwellings and low-to-medium density residential development. Directly adjacent to the north-western boundary sits ‘The General’ a café restaurant.

The site is zoned LMR, which is intended to provide a range of low rise housing options that contribute to the streetscape and residential amenity in locations supported by community services and facilities. Along the northern side of Mitchell Street land is zoned HR (High Density Residential), a zone which allows multiple dwellings (apartments) up to eight storeys in height.

The application seeks approval for a two-storey child care centre accommodating up to 80 children, including indoor learning rooms, outdoor play areas, on-site parking and a new vehicle crossover to Mitchell Street.



Planning Assessment

Strategic planning context

The City of Darwin *Place and Liveability Plan 2050* articulates Council’s community-led vision for Darwin, with an emphasis on liveable neighbourhoods, equity, and evidence-based decision-making. While the Plan does not form part of the NTG statutory planning framework, it reflects Council’s role in representing community interests and promoting transparent, evidence-based planning processes.

The discretionary nature of EDPs, which allow deviation from strategic planning frameworks, limits alignment with Council's community-led and evidenced based planning objectives.

The Central Darwin Area Plan (CDAP), which was developed with input from the City of Darwin and its community, is the applicable level of the NTG statutory strategic framework for the site. The CDAP does not identify the land as an area for change and continues to designate the site for low–medium density residential purposes.

An EDP is intended to be applied only where it has been demonstrated to be preferable to consideration through an amendment to the NT Planning Scheme.

The City considers that the application does not warrant reliance on an EDP in preference to a rezoning process, which would enable broader strategic consideration and meaningful community input.

Development variations

Notwithstanding the above, a broader assessment of the proposal has been undertaken. The application seeks the following variations from the NT Planning Scheme:

- A front setback of 1.336 metres between the car parking area and the front boundary, in lieu of the required three-metre landscaped setback. This setback is required to be landscaped.
- Side and rear landscaped areas ranging from nil to one metre, in lieu of the required three metres.
- A side setback to 'The General' of 1.939 metres, in lieu of the required five metres.

The proposed variations to landscaping along all site boundaries significantly restrict opportunities for deep soil zones and canopy tree planting. This undermines neighbourhood amenity and limits opportunities for meaningful shade and urban cooling. The applicant advises that these variations arise from constraints associated with lot size, national childcare play space requirements, and car parking provisions under the NT Planning Scheme.

Traffic and Access Impacts

The application is supported by a Traffic Impact Statement (TIS), which concludes that traffic generated by the proposal would remain within the capacity of Mitchell Street and is not expected to result in significant delays or safety impacts. However, the TIS assesses the development in isolation and does not consider cumulative traffic and parking impacts associated with surrounding land uses, which is a concern.

In the absence of a cumulative assessment, there are concerns about potential pressure on kerbside use along Mitchell Street during peak drop-off and pick-up periods. Mitchell Street is not intended and should not function as a child-care drop-off environment due to traffic management and road safety considerations.

City of Darwin officers also recommend that a Road Safety Audit be undertaken to assess sightlines, interactions with buses, pedestrians and cyclists, vehicle access and manoeuvring, and the safety implications of the proposed bus stop relocation.

Conclusion

The proposed childcare centre is a prohibited use within Zone LMR, requiring demonstration under the *Planning Act 1999* that an EDP is preferable to consideration through a rezoning process that would allow broader strategic assessment and community input; the city is not satisfied that this has been demonstrated.

The proposal has not demonstrated sufficient strategic merit, acceptable landscaping and amenity outcomes, technical road safety certainty or cumulative impact assessment to support approval and the City of Darwin accordingly objects to the application.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

N/A

<p>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</p>	<p>2 A Safe, Liveable and Healthy City 2.2 By 2030, Darwin will be increasingly recognised as a liveable city</p>
<p>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>Budget/Funding: N/A</p>
<p>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</p>	<p>Legislation: <i>Northern Territory Planning Act 1999</i> Policy: N/A</p>
<p>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION</p>	<p>Engagement Level: Inform</p>
<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</p>	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. 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>



Civic Centre
Harry Chan Avenue
Darwin NT 0800
GPO Box 84
Darwin NT 0801
P 08 8930 0300
E darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au

NT Planning Commission
GPO Box 1680
DARWIN NT 0801
Via Email: ntpc@nt.gov.au

Please Quote: PA2026/0046

29 April 2026

Parcel Description: Lot 01212 Town of Darwin
159 Mitchell St, Larrakeyah

Proposed Development: Exceptional Development - Child care centre in 1 x 2 storey building

Thank you for the referral of the application for an Exceptional Development Permit (EDP). Pursuant to section 22(1) of the *Planning Act 1999*, the City of Darwin provides the following submission.

The City of Darwin considered the application at its Ordinary Meeting held on 28 April 2026 and resolved to object to the proposal due to the concerns outlined below:

- Exceptional Development Permit pathway**

The City is not satisfied that sufficient justification has been demonstrated to support reliance on an Exceptional Development Permit. The proposal raises strategic land use, amenity and infrastructure considerations that would be more appropriately assessed through an amendment to the Northern Territory Planning Scheme 2020, allowing for broader strategic consideration and community input.
- Landscaping and neighbourhood amenity**

Concerns are raised regarding the proposed variations to landscaping requirements along all site boundaries, which significantly restrict opportunities for deep soil zones and canopy tree planting. This undermines neighbourhood amenity and limits opportunities for meaningful shade and urban cooling.

Greening our neighbourhoods is a core of objectives of the City of Darwin Place and Liveability Plan and Greening Strategy, and the proposal fails to contribute positively to these adopted strategic objectives.
- Traffic assessment methodology and cumulative impacts**

The submitted Traffic Impact Statement considers the proposed development in isolation and does not assess cumulative traffic and parking impacts associated with existing surrounding land uses. In particular, the assessment fails to address the adjacent general store/café, which generates high levels of vehicle and pedestrian activity during morning periods that coincide with childcare drop-off peak times. This omission undermines the reliability of the traffic and safety conclusions.

darwin.nt.gov.au





In the absence of a cumulative assessment, the City is concerned about potential pressure on kerbside use along Mitchell Street during peak drop-off and pick-up periods. The City does not support Mitchell Street functioning as a child-care drop-off environment due to traffic and road safety considerations.

- **Access design and road safety**

City of Darwin Technical Services have identified unresolved access and road safety matters that require further assessment through a Road Safety Audit to confirm the proposal can operate safely. The audit should consider, but not be limited to:

- sightlines and visibility, including the presence of buses and parked vehicles
- potential conflicts between driveways, bus stops, pedestrians and cyclists
- turning movements and vehicle queuing
- driver decision making- under constrained conditions
- risks to vulnerable road users, and
- safety implications associated with the proposed relocation of the bus stop.

Given the above, the City of Darwin considers that the proposal has not demonstrated sufficient strategic merit, acceptable landscaping and amenity outcomes, technical road safety certainty or cumulative impact assessment to support approval and accordingly objects to the application.

If you require any further information in relation to this application, please feel free to contact City of Darwin's Innovation Team on 8930 0300 or darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au

Yours sincerely

ALICE PERCY

GENERAL MANAGER INNOVATION

darwin.nt.gov.au



14.2 NOMINATION TO DARWIN REGIONAL WEEDS WORKING GROUP

Author: Supervisor Councillor Governance

Authoriser: Manager Office of Council and CEO

Attachments: 1. [Nomination Form - Darwin Regional Weeds Working Group](#) ↓
2. [Terms of Reference - Darwin Regional Weeds Working Group](#) ↓

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Nomination to Darwin Regional Weeds Working Group be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the nomination of Councillor Julie Fraser to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory as the representative on the Darwin Regional Weeds Working Group.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to endorse the nomination to represent Local Government on the Darwin Regional Weeds Working Group.

KEY ISSUES

- City of Darwin received correspondence from the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) requesting nominations for the Darwin Regional Weeds Working Group on 30 March 2026.
- Requests for LGANT appointed representatives are reviewed at Council as they are received.
- Nominations are due to LGANT by Wednesday, 8 May 2026.
- Nominations require a resolution of Council.

DISCUSSION

LGANT has been invited by the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment to nominate a local government representative to join the Darwin Regional Weeds Working Group (DRWWG) which will help guide development of the Regional Weeds Strategy for the Darwin region to cover the period 2027-2032.

The DRWWG will review progress of the objectives in the Regional Weeds Strategy 2021-2026, and discuss regional weeds issues, find opportunities for collaboration and identify catchment and regional scale solutions.

The scope of the Darwin Regional Weeds Working Group includes the following local government areas:

- City of Darwin
- Litchfield Council
- City of Palmerston
- Wagait Regional Council
- Belyuen Community Government Council
- Coomalie Community Government Council
- West Arnhem Regional Council
- Tiwi Islands Regional Council
- Groote Archipelago Regional Council
- East Arnhem Regional Council (parts of)

There are no reporting links between this Group and the Gamba Eradication and Biodiversity Conservation (GEBC) Project Steering Committee, or the Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee.

An appropriate nominee will:

- bring experience and/or involvement with land or weed management for various land tenures in the Northern Territory
- bring unique knowledge and skills to the weed management planning process
- be willing to inform, educate, involve or seek the views of other stakeholders on regional weed issues
- demonstrate a genuine desire and ability to collaborate with others who may have competing interests or opposing viewpoints.

The nomination form is at **Attachment 1**.

The DRWWG will meet three times in 2026 to guide development of the Darwin Regional Weeds Strategy for 2027-2032 The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for late April.

The Terms of Reference for the DRWWG is at **Attachment 2**.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	6 Governance Framework 6.2 Roles and Relationships
BUDGET / FINANCIAL /	Budget/Funding: Yes

<p>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>Is Funding identified: Yes</p> <p>Council’s budget provides for Elected Member participation on external committees by way of extra meeting allowances.</p> <p>Existing Position No: Nil</p> <p>Contractor: Nil</p>
<p>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</p>	<p>Legislation: <i>Local Government Act 2019</i></p> <p>Policy: Meetings Policy Elected Member Expenses, Facilities and Support Policy</p>
<p>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION</p>	<p>Engagement Level: Inform</p> <p>Tactics: Nil</p> <p>Internal: Elected Members</p> <p>External: Nil</p>
<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</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>



PROCEDURES FOR LGANT REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

Background

Section 18 of LGANT's Governance Charter states:

1. From time to time the Association will be called to nominate delegates to external committees established by other spheres of Government under legislation.
2. The Board shall determine the membership of such committees in accordance with LGANT policy.
3. The Board will call for nominations to external committees as they arise.
4. Potential nominees will be supplied with a nomination pack and must complete the 'External Committee' nomination form.
5. The Board reserves the right to disregard a nomination if the 'External Committee' nomination form is not completed satisfactorily.

Nominations

Once the LGANT Board endorse a nomination, LGANT will advise the relevant committee. Often the final committee representatives are at the discretion of the Minister therefore LGANT cannot guarantee final membership.

The LGANT Board may remove its endorsement of a representative on a committee if that representative fails to deliver regular reports to LGANT, fails to consult with other councils, or misses committee meetings without just cause.

Representatives

LGANT committee representatives are required to represent the local government sector rather than their individual council during committee proceedings.

LGANT representatives are required to provide LGANT with regular reports. These reports include, but are not limited to, reports to the Board and to members at the General Meeting in April and November each year. These reports should include updates on current key issues, how representatives are ensuring input and feedback from other councils, as well as any other noteworthy items.

Sitting fees

LGANT does not pay representatives a sitting fee or travel related expenses for committee representation. Such fees, if any, will be administered by the secretariat managing the respective committee eg. the NTG.



NOMINATION FORM

DARWIN REGIONAL WEEDS WORKING GROUP

LGANT Nominations Close Friday 8 May 2026

Council Name:

1. Agreement to be nominated

I, _____ agree to be nominated as a member
 (Name in full)

of the **(DARWIN REGIONAL WEEDS WORKING GROUP)**.

I recognise and understand that as the LGANT representative I am:

- required to represent the sector, rather than my individual council, and
- provide regular reports to LGANT including written reports to the LGANT General Meetings and to the LGANT Board as requested.

I acknowledge that representation on this committee does not entitle me to sitting fees or travel related expense reimbursement from LGANT.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

2. Council confirmation of nomination

I, _____ the Chief Executive Officer
 hereby confirm that _____

was approved by resolution of Council to be nominated as a member of the **(DARWIN REGIONAL WEEDS WORKING GROUP)** at a meeting held on / /

Signature: _____ Date: _____

3. Nominee's contact details

Email address: _____

Mobile: _____



4. Nominee information

The following information is required to enable the LGANT Board to make an informed decision. If you would like to submit further information, please attach it to this form.

4.1 What is your current council position? _____

4.2 How long have you held your current council position? _____

4.3 Please list your educational qualifications:

4.4 What skills and experience do you have that is relevant to this committee?

4.5 Apart from your current position what other local government experience do you have relevant to this committee?



REGIONAL WEED WORKING GROUPS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 PURPOSE

The Regional Weed Working Groups (RWWG) are a forum providing an opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders in each region to meet, discuss and collaborate on regional priorities related to weed management. This includes the development and review of Regional Weeds Strategies. There is a RWWG established in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

2.0 FUNCTIONS OF THE GROUPS

The functions of each group are listed below

- ✓ To develop draft Regional Weeds Strategies in consultation with appropriate persons, groups or organisations, and with persons whose land may be affected by a declared weed infestation.
- ✓ To review progress of the objectives in the Regional Weeds Strategies
- ✓ To discuss regional weed issues, find opportunities for collaboration and identify catchment and regional scale solutions
- ✓ To provide advice to the Northern Territory Government on weed management issues and on other matters that may be requested from time to time
- ✓ To provide information back to their membership organisations on information presented in meetings
- ✓ To provide advice and recommendations regarding proposed weed declarations.

3.0 MEMBERSHIP

3.1. Composition

Regional Weed Working Groups are not statutory bodies. Membership should consist of a balance of representatives of multiple industry and stakeholder groups and the spectrum of land tenures in the region.

Members will represent a relevant stakeholder group and report back to that group. They should:

- bring experience and/or involvement with land or weed management for various land tenures in the Northern Territory
- bring unique knowledge and skills to the weed management planning process
- be willing to inform, educate, involve or seek the views of other stakeholders on regional weed issues



Department of
LANDS, PLANNING
AND ENVIRONMENT

- demonstrate a genuine desire and ability to collaborate with others who may have competing interests or opposing viewpoints
- seek to understand the perspectives and interests of other stakeholders.

The Chair position will rotate through membership and can be filled by DLPE if required.

3.2. Disclosure of interest

A member of the Committee who has or has had a direct or indirect proprietary or other pecuniary interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered by the working Group (other than an interest held in common with other landholders or users of land in the area) must, as soon as possible after the relevant facts have come to the member's knowledge, disclose the nature of his or her interest at the earliest opportunity.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP

4.1. Frequency

The Executive Officer, appointed by DLPE, will be responsible for calling meetings.

Agendas will be distributed one week prior to meetings.

Meetings will be held annually at a minimum, and may be held more often to consider targeted issues, such as the development of Regional Weed Strategies or Statutory Management Plans.

4.2. Meeting outcomes

The Working Group must keep records of its meetings, including:

- decisions, actions and approvals
- attendees and member absences
- disclosures of conflicts of interest and how the disclosure was managed by the Chair.

4.3. Out-of-session decision making

The Chair may seek determination of a matter out-of-session where the matter is not regarded as controversial and is so urgent it must be dealt with before the next scheduled meeting.

Consideration of issues out-of-session should be limited, given members will not have had the benefit of collectively discussing the matter.

A summary of responses and the outcome must be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting.

5.0 AMENDMENTS

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed when required.

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

Author: Manager Accounting Services
Executive Manager Finance

Authoriser: General Manager Corporate

Attachments: 1. Monthly Financial Report [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Monthly Financial Report – March 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 March 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

March 2026 – Year to Date Results

The year-to-date operating result until 31 March 2026 was a **deficit of \$9.5M compared to a Budgeted deficit of \$10.4M** as highlighted in the table below.

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	(9,505)	(10,435)	930 Favourable

The Net Operating Position reflects a favourable variance \$0.9M against the year-to-date revised budget. The result is mainly attributable to favourable variance in User Fees and Charges, Statutory Charges, Interest/Investment Income and Employee Expenses. These gains are partially offset by unfavourable variances in Material, Contract & Services and Depreciation expense.

Further details on material variances are outlined below.

Income

Total Operating Income is tracking above budget by \$3.3M (3.2% Favourable YTD variance).

Statutory charges show a favourable variance of \$1M, driven by higher parking compliance volumes. Growth has moderated since December, with compliance stabilising and only small month-to-month movements.

User fees and charges show a favourable variance of \$0.4M, largely driven by increased revenue from the Parking income.

Interest and investment income surpassed the YTD target by \$1.7M, This result was mainly influenced by the timing and management of external borrowings, which led to higher cash balances. The increased cash holdings allowed for a larger investment portfolio than initially budgeted.

Expenditure

Total Expenses are over budget by \$2.4M, a 2.1% YTD Unfavourable Variance.

Employee cost reports a positive variance to budget of \$3.3M reflecting timing of employee entitlements and vacancies. Some of this positive variance is offset through the use of contract labour and services to maintain delivery within budget.

Material, contract, and services have an annual budget of \$68M across a broad range of operational expenditure categories. As of March, consolidated YTD expenditure exceeded budget by \$4.3 million, resulting in 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. Assessment of damage, insurance recoveries, and disaster funding reimbursement is underway, and a budget variation will be submitted to reflect the confirmed treatment and funding requirements.

Depreciation, amortisation and impairment expenses are exceeding the YTD budget, mainly due to higher depreciation arising from the revaluation of pathways and transport assets recognised in June 2025. As these costs are non-cash in nature, a budget adjustment will be considered as part of a future budget review process.

Interest expenses shows 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 reason described above under the operating statement commentary.

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

Cash and Investments Note A

City of Darwin has achieved 4.44% on weighted average interest rate on its end of month cash and investment portfolio of \$109M (excluding loan offset \$42.7M). This result represents a continued outperformance against the Bloomberg AusBond 90-Day Bank Bill Index benchmark of 4.32%.

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 at the next Council meeting and 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 no reportable contract variations for March 2026.

Exempt Procurement

Vendor	Supply	Cost	Applicable Exemption
NT Recycling Solutions	Recyclables Processing	\$186,043.00	Reg 38(1)(i) only one supplier
Area9	Laptop Purchase	\$501,893.17	Reg 39(1)(f) under a contract facilitated by a procurement entity

During the reporting period purchases for Cyclone Fina Recovery work have been undertaken that are exempt from legislated procurement processes. These works as a total could be above \$100,000 for some contractors.

Certification by the CEO to the Council

That, to the best of the CEO’s knowledge, information and belief:

- (1) The internal controls implemented by the council are appropriate; and
- (2) The council’s financial report best reflects the financial affairs of the council.

D.Saunders

CEO Signed

23 April 2026

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
N/A	
STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	6 Governance Framework 6.3 Decision Making and Management
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	N/A
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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 (b) the most recently adopted annual budget; and (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>Regulation 17(5) Part 2 Division 7 the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 require that the monthly report must be accompanied by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a certification, in writing, by the CEO to the council that, to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the internal controls implemented by the council are appropriate; and (ii) the council's financial report best reflects the financial affairs of the council; or (b) if the CEO cannot provide the certification – written reasons for not providing the certification. <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>
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	N/A
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<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>

Income Statement For the Period Ended 31 March 2026	2025/26			
	YTD			FY
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Revised Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Operating Income</u>				
Rates	60,409	60,359	50	80,478
Charges	7,800	7,799	1	10,398
Statutory Charges	3,471	2,432	1,039	3,136
User Fees and Charges	23,654	23,208	446	30,572
Operating Grants and Subsidies	3,755	3,732	23	4,546
Interest / Investment Income	4,612	2,888	1,724	3,851
Commercial & Other Income	1,961	1,960	1	2,988
Total Income	105,662	102,378	3,284	135,970
<u>Operating Expenses</u>				
Employee Expenses	29,496	32,763	3,267	43,720
Materials, Contracts & Services	55,843	51,541	(4,302)	68,185
Elected Member Allowances	508	624	116	832
Elected Member Expenses	42	45	3	45
Council Committee Allowances	7	15	8	20
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	27,871	25,152	(2,719)	33,536
Interest Expenses	1,400	2,673	1,273	5,664
Total Expenses	115,167	112,813	(2,354)	152,002
Budgeted Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	(9,505)	(10,435)	930	(16,032)
Capital Grants Income	95	2,786	(2,691)	5,392
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(9,410)	(7,649)	(1,761)	(10,641)

Statement of Fund Flows Monthly Statement of Operating Position For the Period Ended 31 March 2026	2025/26			
	YTD			FY
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Revised Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Net Operating Result from Income Statement	(9,505)	(10,435)	930	(16,032)
Add Non Cash Items				
Add Back Depreciation (Non-Cash)	27,871	25,152	2,719	33,536
Add Back Other Non-Cash Items	0	0	0	2,100
Total Non Cash Items	27,871	25,152	2,719	35,636
Less Additional Outflows				
Repayment of borrowings & advances	(4,791)	(4,563)	(228)	(6,084)
Capital Expenditure	(36,458)	(57,084)	20,626	(69,197)
Total Additional Outflows	(41,249)	(61,647)	20,398	(75,281)
Add Additional Inflows				
Capital Grants Income	95	2,786	(2,691)	5,392
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	143	384	(241)	512
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	29,167	43,760	(14,593)	50,173
Total Additional Inflows	29,405	46,930	(17,525)	56,076
Net Increase (-Decrease) in Funds	6,522	0	6,522	400

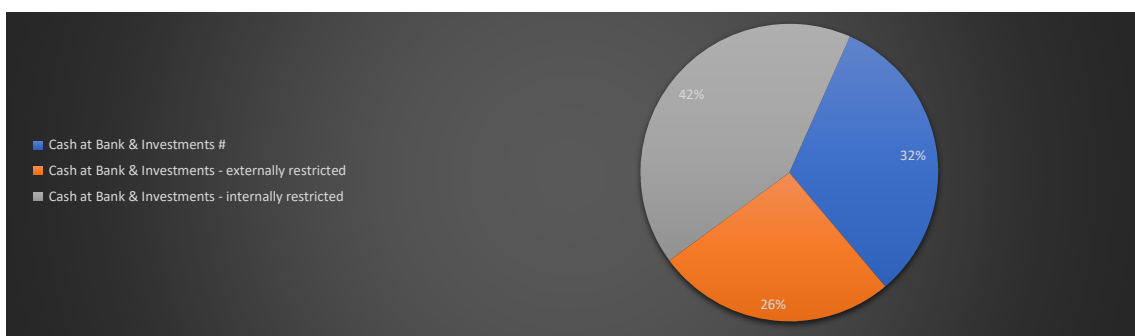
Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2026	2025/26		
	Actual \$'000	Note	FY Revised Budget \$'000
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank & Investments	49,022	A	18,760
Cash at Bank & Investments - externally restricted	39,662	A	28,818
Cash at Bank & Investments - internally restricted	63,558	A	53,395
Trade & Other Receivables	7,836	B	16,260
Rates & Charges Receivables	13,290		-
Inventories	314		273
Total Current Assets	173,682		117,506
Non-Current Assets			
Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	1,384,248		1,325,094
Lease Right of Use Assets	1,353		-
Total Non Current Assets	1,385,601		1,325,094
Total Assets	1,559,283		1,442,600
Current Liabilities			
Trade Payables & Other Payables	11,174	C	22,573
Accruals	3,964		-
ATO & Payroll Liabilities	432	C	-
Rates Revenue struck (in advance)	25,078		-
Borrowings	3,875		6,975
Provisions	6,414		7,886
Lease Liabilities	663		950
Total Current Liabilities	50,736		38,384
Non-Current Liabilities			
Trade & Other Payables	7		-
Borrowings	73,713		68,411
Provisions	46,286		53,799
Lease Liabilities	797		599
Total Non-Current Liabilities	120,803		122,810
Total Liabilities	171,539		161,194
NET ASSETS	1,387,744		1,281,406
Equity			
Accumulated Surplus	285,391		331,495
Asset Revaluation Reserve	999,133		867,298
Other Reserves	103,220		82,613
TOTAL EQUITY	1,387,744		1,281,406

*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 March 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 4.44% on weighted average interest rate (excluding Cash on Call) on its March 2026 cash and investment portfolio of \$109M (excluding \$42.7M 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 #	49,022
Cash at Bank & Investments - externally restricted	39,662
Cash at Bank & Investments - internally restricted	63,558
Total Cash at Bank & Investments	152,242



Cash at Bank & Investments includes Cash on Call of \$42.7M

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	\$4,925,316	\$1,983,014	\$687,347	\$240,133	\$7,835,810
Total Trade and Other Receivables	\$4,925,316	\$1,983,014	\$687,347	\$240,133	\$7,835,810

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	(\$7,032,346)	(\$79,611)	\$0	(\$4,317)	(\$7,116,274)
ATO & Payroll Liabilities	\$431,850				\$431,850
Other Trade Payables & Other Payables	(\$4,057,520)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$4,057,520)
Total Trade and Other Payables	(\$10,658,016)	(\$79,611)	\$0	(\$4,317)	(\$10,741,944)

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 March 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 MAR 2026**

Cardholder Name: CEO

Transaction Date	Amount \$	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
		NIL	
Total	-		

Cardholder Name: Lord Mayor

Transaction Date	Amount \$	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
		NIL	
Total	-		

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

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

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 March 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	16%	50%
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	39%	50%
	ANZ Banking Group Ltd	ANZ Banking Group Ltd	11%	50%
AA-	Suncorp Bank	ANZ Banking Group Ltd	10%	30%
	Bank of Queensland Ltd	Bank of Queensland Ltd	2%	30%
A-	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	2%	10%
	Great Southern Bank	Great Southern Bank	6%	10%
BBB+	Maitland Mutual Bank Ltd	Maitland Mutual Bank Ltd	1%	10%
	Heritage and People's Choice Limited	Heritage and People's Choice Limited	1%	10%
	Defence Bank Ltd	Defence Bank Ltd	1%	10%
Grand Total			100%	

Credit Rating - Maximum Portfolio Limit	% of Total	Policy Limit
AAA to AA-	87%	100%
A+ to A-	4%	60%
BBB+ to BBB	10%	30%
BBB-	0%	0%
Total	100%	

**INVESTMENT AND CASH AT CALL/OFFSET REPORT TO COUNCIL
AS AT
31 March 2026**

Instrument	Institution Category	Counterparty	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Credit Rating (LT)	Credit Rating (ST)	Inv Type	FRN ONLY (Maturity Date - last pmt)	Principal \$	%
INVESTMENT	MAJOR BANK	ANZ Banking Group Ltd	28 April 2026	4.25%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,098,395	1.51%
			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	3.69%
			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%
			27 October 2026	4.78%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,031,808	2.17%
			2 February 2027	4.82%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,000,000	2.15%
			9 February 2027	4.91%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,000,000	2.15%
		ANZ Banking Group Ltd Total							\$29,001,233	20.80%
		Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	31 March 2026	3.90%	AA-	A1+	BOS		\$5,914,388	4.24%
		Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd Total							\$5,914,388	4.24%
		National Australia Bank Ltd	14 April 2026	4.20%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,000,000	2.15%
		National Australia Bank Ltd Total	15 September 2026	4.20%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,167,935	1.55%
			29 September 2026	4.24%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,000,000	1.43%
		National Australia Bank Ltd Total							\$7,167,935	5.14%
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	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	2.38%
			10 November 2026	4.35%	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	3.59%
			1 December 2026	4.44%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,099,819	1.51%
			23 February 2027	5.35%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,000,000	1.43%
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd Total							\$36,345,855	26.07%
	MAJOR BANK Total								\$78,429,411	56.26%
	OTHER	Bank of Queensland Ltd	25 August 2026	4.78%	A-	A2	TD		\$3,000,000	2.15%
		Bank of Queensland Ltd Total							\$3,000,000	2.15%
		Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	29 May 2026	4.49%	A-	A-	FRN	28 November 2029	\$2,000,000	1.43%
		Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd Total							\$2,000,000	1.43%
		Great Southern Bank	14 April 2026	4.29%	BBB+				\$2,000,000	1.43%
			28 July 2026	4.28%	BBB+				\$2,000,000	1.43%
			11 August 2026	4.60%	BBB+				\$2,000,000	1.43%
		Great Southern Bank Total							\$8,315,522	5.96%
		Maitland Mutual Bank Ltd	11 May 2026	5.54%	BBB	A2	FRN	10 May 2027	\$2,000,000	1.43%
		Maitland Mutual Bank Ltd Total							\$2,000,000	1.43%
		Heritage and People's Choice Limited	19 January 2027	5.25%	BBB+				\$1,000,000	0.72%
		Heritage and People's Choice Limited Total							\$1,000,000	0.72%
		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%
	OTHER Total								\$18,315,522	13.14%
INVESTMENT Total									\$96,744,933	69.39%
VARIABLE LOAN SURPLUS	MAJOR BANK	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	31 March 2026	0.00%	AA-	A1+	General Surplus -I		\$10,000,000	7.17%
		Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd Total							\$10,000,000	7.17%
		National Australia Bank Ltd	31 March 2026	0.00%	AA-	A1+	General Surplus -I		\$14,643,900	10.50%
		National Australia Bank Ltd Total							\$14,643,900	10.50%
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	31 March 2026	0.00%	AA-	A1+	General Surplus -I		\$18,028,416	12.93%
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd Total							\$18,028,416	12.93%
	MAJOR BANK Total								\$42,672,316	30.61%
VARIABLE LOAN SURPLUS Total									\$42,672,316	30.61%
Grand Total									\$139,417,249	100%

N.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	\$12,020,133
NAB General Bank Funds	\$142,538
WBC General Bank Funds	\$322,435
Total Funds	\$151,902,355
Less Variable Loans Offset (Cash on Call)	-\$42,672,316
Total Investment & Cash (less offset)	\$109,230,039
Total Budgeted Investment Earnings	\$3,041,069
Year to Date Investment Earnings	-\$3,768,717
Weighted Ave Rate	3.08%
Weighted Ave Rate (excluding Cash on Call)	4.44%
BBSW 90 Day Rate	4.32%
Bloomberg AusBond (Bank Bill Index)	

Trust Bank Account \$454,279

Capital Expenditure For The Period Ended 31 March 2026	2025/26			
	YTD Actuals	YTD Revised Budget	YTD Variance	FY Revised Budget Current Financial Year Budget
	\$	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BY ASSET CLASS:				
Land and Improvements	0	0	0	0
Buildings and Structures (includes parking building)	20,928,232	27,521,703	6,593,471	29,935,172
Environmental	26,430	562,152	535,722	749,542
Stormwater Drainage	480,557	2,235,222	1,754,665	2,953,769
Roads & Pathways	3,709,272	7,492,825	3,783,553	9,575,838
Street & Public Lighting	306,758	934,867	628,109	1,229,818
Waste Management Infrastructure	5,747,222	6,537,848	790,626	8,616,769
Plant & Equipment	3,004,546	6,142,698	3,138,152	8,894,221
Parks, Playgrounds and Reserves	2,234,723	5,290,865	3,056,142	6,817,380
Public Art	20,000	366,084	346,084	424,478
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	36,457,740	57,084,264	20,626,524	69,196,987
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY*:				
Operating Income	2,634,127	10,755,651	8,121,524	12,025,621
Capital Grants	3,541,557	4,902,228	1,360,671	5,391,802
Transfer from Reserves	24,868,529	35,935,710	11,067,181	42,772,339
Borrowings	5,413,526	5,490,675	77,149	5,490,675
Sale of Assets (including trade-ins)	0	0	0	3,516,550
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	36,457,740	57,084,264	20,626,524	69,196,987

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

**Report on Planned Major Capital Works
For The Period Ended 31 March 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	6,711,708	9,781,253	47,600,000	37,818,747	30/06/2028
Buildings	Civic Centre Public Carpark/CBD Parking	4,867,700	13,576,258	18,443,958	30,000,000	11,556,042	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	5,604,520	6,140,337	6,000,000	(140,337)	31/05/2026
Waste Management Infrastructure	Shoal Bay Waste Management Site - Stage 7 Construction	198,906	142,702	341,609	8,750,000	8,408,391	30/06/2027
TOTAL		8,671,969	26,035,187	34,707,156	94,350,000	59,642,844	

15.2 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT - JANUARY TO MARCH 2026 (Q3)

Author: Manager Risk and Customer Experience
Executive Manager Corporate and Customer Service

Authoriser: General Manager Corporate

Attachments: 1. Strategic Plan Action Summary Q3 2025/26 [↓](#)
2. Municipal Plan Action Summary Q3 2025/26 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Quarterly Performance Report – January to March 2026 (Q3) be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council and the community on performance against adopted strategies and plans.

KEY ISSUES

- Of the 26 2025/26 Strategic Plan actions 25 are on track and one is not yet due.
- Of the 36 2025/26 Municipal Plan actions 31 are on track, one is under monitoring and four have been completed.

DISCUSSION

City of Darwin has continued to implement its strategic planning and performance reporting framework following the adoption of the *Darwin 2030: City for People. City of Colour.* Strategic Plan in July 2019.

This report provides quarter 3 (2025/26) highlights against the Strategic and Municipal Plans.

Strategic Plan - Quarter 3 Highlights

A total of 26 actions are active in 2025/26. Performance remains strong, with 25 actions on track and one not yet due. Full details are provided in **Attachment 1**.



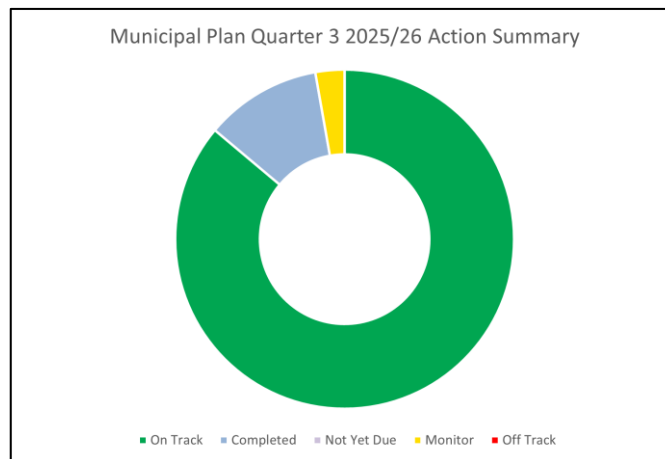
Highlights for the quarter include:

- Finalisation of new tenancy leases at Nightcliff Community Centre and West Lane Arcade.
- Delivery of a cane toad bust program at Jingili Water Gardens, with over 50 participants and 607 toads removed.
- Hosting of an event for International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
- Issuance of 250 small event permits and 29 comprehensive event permits in the quarter.

The action currently not due relates to the development of a Multicultural Framework, scheduled to commence in 2028/29.

Municipal Plan - Quarter 3 Highlights

The 2025/26 Municipal Plan includes 36 actions for delivery, including six under the Governance Framework. A detailed summary of performance is provided at **Attachment 2**. Of these actions 31 are on track, one is under monitoring and four have been completed.



<p>Highlights for the quarter include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalisation and release of the dry season Healthy Darwin program for commencement in April 2026. • Delivery of the 84th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin commemorative event. • Delivery of a range of programs through Families and Children’s Services, including a Harmony Day event at Malak Community Centre. • Completion of the pathway lighting program between the Darwin Ski Club and Bundilla Park. <p>There were six actions carried forward from the Municipal Plan 2024/25. Of these, four actions have been completed, and two actions remain on track against revised targets.</p>	
<p>PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION</p> <p>Not applicable. Each quarterly report is considered on its own merit.</p>	
<p>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</p>	<p>6 Governance Framework 6.4 Accountability</p>
<p>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>Budget/Funding: Nil Is Funding identified: Nil</p>
<p>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</p>	<p>Legislation: <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> Section 34 – Contents of municipal, regional or shire plan (1)(d) Municipal Plan must define indicators for judging the standard of the Council’s performance Policy: Darwin 2030 – <i>City for People. City of Colour.</i> Strategic Plan, Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.</p>
<p>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION</p>	<p>Engagement Level: Inform Internal: The actions contained within the Strategic Plan and 2025/26 Municipal Plan have been reviewed and Quarter 3 updates are provided by responsible Executive Managers and Managers. Hub General Managers approve performance and status updates for responsible actions as part of this reporting framework. External: Quarterly Performance Report: January to March 2026 (Q3) will inform the City of Darwin 2025/26 Annual Report and reporting is part of the open session of Council, so public at the time meeting agendas are issued for an Ordinary Meeting.</p>
<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</p>	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. 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>

STRATEGIC PLAN 2025/26 ACTION SUMMARY							
Strategic Direction (SD)	Target	Action	Responsible Executive Manager (EM)	Progress Comment	Action Status	Original Start Date	Expected End Date
Target: By 2030, a number of strategic infrastructure projects will be developed and delivered							
SD1	TAR1	Implement City of Darwin's Asset Management Framework	EM Infrastructure	2025/26 Q3 - Final draft asset management plans for asset categories transport and pathways prepared for Council review in 2026. Stormwater asset condition assessments ongoing with finalisation in April 2026.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2028
SD1	TAR1	Develop a Priority Infrastructure Plan	EM Technical Services	2025/26 Q3 - Asset surveys are ongoing and will contribute projects to capital works renewal-based programmes. The design of Lee Point Road Stage 2 is approaching 90% completion.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2028
SD1	TAR1	Increase utilisation of the City of Darwin's land and community assets	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - New tenancy in place at Nightcliff Community Centre. Applications have been received for a further tenancy in the Nightcliff Community Centre and for a lead tenant at Lyons Community Centre. These applications are being assessed. Sporting clubs have received keys to newly constructed sporting sheds. Lease agreement signed for new tenant in West Lane Arcade. Property team negotiating tenancies for vacant spaces at Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2028
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be increasingly recognised as a liveable city							
SD2	TAR2	Promote Darwin as a more attractive place to live and work	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - A Place and Liveability Communications Plan has been developed with a Place and Liveability Champions Program to commence shortly. A range of supporting initiatives have been devised, including potential tactical activations.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD2	TAR2	Work with the NT Government on a long term plan for Council to take on an increased role in planning decisions within the municipality	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - City of Darwin are planning to meet with the NT Planning Commission to discuss the Place and Liveability Plan and provide feedback on the NTPC Strategic Directions Planning Policy. City of Darwin provided comment on 17 Development Applications to the NTG in this quarter.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD2	TAR2	Increase utilisation of Darwin's beaches and foreshores	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - The Street Food Program commences on 1 April. Expressions of Interest were issued in mid February, and assessment and site allocation is nearing completion. The Esplanade has three approved vendors, including one operator providing a morning and lunch service from Tuesday to Saturday, which is a strong outcome for consistent daytime activation.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be recognised as a clean and environmentally responsible city							
SD3	TAR1	Facilitate forums for environmental service providers to share information and develop relationships within the sector and with other industries	EM Environment, Climate and Waste Services	2025/26 Q3 - Attended workshops to assist with determining models for a national rollout of kerbside EV charging and briefing on local government responsibilities for climate risk. This information will align future local forums with national initiatives and best practice.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD3	TAR1	Council will have zero net emissions from operations by 2030	EM Environment, Climate and Waste Services	2025/26 Q3 - Currently implementing energy efficiency upgrades at West Lane car park, Casuarina Library and Parap Pool	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030

SD3	TAR1	Deliver projects that will cool the Darwin City Centre	EM Environment, Climate and Waste Services	2025/26 Q3 - Completed further tree planting along median in Cavenagh St, extending in front of CDU campus. Developing an agreement with corporate sponsor to provide funding for city centre tree planting.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD3	TAR1	Ensure Council open spaces contribute to the city's biodiversity	EM Environment, Climate and Waste Services	2025/26 Q3 - Design for updated biodiversity interpretive signage at East Point and Duke Street rainforest is well underway, includes signage being developed by a Larrakia artist on bush tucker plants. Community Cane Toad Bust at Jingili Water Gardens was highly successful, with over 50 participants and 607 toads captured.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be recognised globally as a smart city							
SD4	TAR1	Support the development of business centres that foster industry engagement, collaboration and innovation across all markets	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - The grant funded Wayfinding and Signage project for the Smith Street Mall has been progressed with designs finalised for wayfinding, benches, bins and kiosks. These works should be completed by the end of April 2026. Collaborating with industry associations on a Generation Z visa grant program to attract more youth into the city centre for activation.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR1	Develop innovation hubs for our community and future generations	GM Innovation	2025/26 Q3 - Developing a Green Factor Tool with key stakeholders to add to the Liveability Toolkit. Place and Liveability Communications Plan developed. Place and Liveability Champions Program developed.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR1	Lead innovation for the city and facilitate relevant activities to support these initiatives	GM Innovation	2025/26 Q3 - Greater Darwin Brand Toolkit being developed. Innovative co-design LATM project for Koolinda and Chambers Crescent.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR1	Support life-long learning opportunities through the provision of STEAM programs	EM Library and Family Services	2025/26 Q3 - The January school holiday sessions were well attended and gave children and families fun, hands-on learning experiences. On 13 February, City of Darwin libraries hosted the International Day of Women and Girls in Science with Inspired NT, celebrating local women in science and encouraging young people to explore STEM pathways. STEAM Storytime at Karama Library continues to grow.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR1	Implement and evolve the #SmartDarwin and its pillars by 2030	GM Innovation	2025/26 Q3 - Data Insights Platform launched with a live city feature. Liveability Platform continues to be updated with new projects and news stories. Environmental sensor network now on the Data Insights Platform.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2026
Target: By 2030, Darwin will have attracted and retained more residents and will offer sustainable investment opportunities							
SD4	TAR2	Implement an Economic Development Plan for the city	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - A draft Economic Development Plan for 2026/27 is being developed.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR2	Develop an International Relations Program to leverage business growth and economic development opportunities for the city	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - Planning is underway for the 2026 Darwin Fusion and Sister Cities Cup. Considering options for an international visit to key Sister and Friendship Cities in late 2026.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR2	Promote Darwin as a great destination to live, work, study and invest	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - The quarterly International Relations email was distributed to all subscribers, celebrating initiatives such as Darwin Fusion 2025 and sharing key news and events that highlight the city's global connections and vibrant community. Meetings have been held with visiting diplomats.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030

SD4	TAR2	Support initiatives to increase the population of Darwin through engagement with business and industry, and all levels of Government	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - Follow up requests have been sent to the NT Planning Commission to discuss the Place and Liveability Plan and sustainable growth of Darwin. A number of advocacy papers have been submitted to both NTG and Federal Government.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR2	Support initiatives to grow the economy and retain people and jobs in Darwin	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - The Sponsorship Program supported a variety of events including NT Swimming Championships and Darwin Symphony Orchestra Concerts. City of Darwin hosted a stakeholder meeting to discuss opportunities for stakeholders to submit a grant application under the Visa Vibe 'Light Up Your Night-Time Outdoor Spaces' program. Provided feedback on the in-fill NTG paper. Issued 250 small event permits and 29 comprehensive event permits.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be recognised as an iconic destination							
SD5	TAR1	Deliver a City of Darwin events program and support other event programs that engage locals and attract visitors	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - Successfully delivered Australia Day and Bombing of Darwin. Australia Day was open to all the community to attend. Planning underway for the Jingili Water Festival and Darwin Show.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD5	TAR1	Partner with other stakeholders to grow the visitor economy of Darwin	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - Greater Darwin Brand Toolkit progressing well with brand options currently under development.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD5	TAR1	Support the promotion of Darwin as a cruise ship and yachting destination and as a home port for expedition ships	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - Provided a permit for cruise buses to drop off passengers at the Visitor Information Centre. Upgraded the web kiosk and moved one to the Esplanade for visitors. Data Insights Platform provides data on cruise passenger numbers in Live City supporting business in the City Centre. Continue to sit on the Cruise Working Group. Provided feedback on the NTG Visitor Economy Strategy.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural history							
SD5	TAR2	Deliver programs and services that create a cohesive, connected and culturally enriched community	General Manager Community	2025/26 Q3 - City of Darwin has continued to deliver programs and services that create a cohesive, connected and culturally enriched community, including Youth programs, Healthy Darwin and activity in partnership with YNT at our pools, STEAM Zones, Storytime and Fun Bus and the Lightbox Art program.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD5	TAR2	Promote Darwin as a destination known for its Aboriginal cultures and landmarks	EM Growth and Development Services	2025/26 Q3 - Discussions have been held with the Larrakia Nation as part of planning for Darwin Fusion, including a Welcome to Country and broader participation in the event. Consent has also been provided by the Larrakia Nation for the use of the name Garramilla for the International Food Fair.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD5	TAR2	Develop a City of Darwin Multicultural Framework	EM Community and Cultural Services	Not yet due.	Not yet due	01/07/2028	30/06/2030

MUNICIPAL PLAN 2025/26 ACTION SUMMARY								
Strategic Direction (SD)	Target	Action	Responsible Executive Manager (EM)	Progress Comment	Action Status	Start Date	End Date	
Target: By 2030, a number of strategic infrastructure projects will be developed and delivered								
SD1	TAR1	Deliver the 2025/26 capital works program	EM Infrastructure	2025/26 Q3 - Asset renewal programmes for stormwater, pathway replacement, playgrounds and road resurfacing projects scheduled for construction March - June.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026	
SD1	TAR1	Deliver the 2025/26 milestones for the new Civic Centre and Precinct Redevelopment Project	EM Infrastructure	2025/26 Q3 - Project milestones met for quarter. Construction works on time and within budget forecast. Works completed to date include, Lubeca core jump L4 to L5 & L5 to L6, scaffolding, formwork, steel reinforcement, L2 and L3 slab pours, forming and pouring of columns level 2, forming and pouring of in-situ walls to accommodate ramp concrete works.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026	
SD1	TAR1	Complete an expression of interest for partnership opportunities to deliver electric vehicle infrastructure across the Darwin municipality	EM Growth & Development	2025/26 Q3 - The EOI has undergone further review and refinement and is planned to be out out in the first half of 2026.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026	
SD1	TAR1	Develop asset management plans for asset categories street and public lighting, and stormwater drainage	EM Infrastructure	2025/26 Q3 - Asset condition data in process of collection. AMPs undergoing drafting.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026	
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be a safer place to live and visit								
SD2	TAR1	Deliver regulatory services including regulation of vehicles, animals and public places in line with legislative requirements	EM Regulatory Services	2025/26 Q3 - Regulatory Services continues to support the community through the regulation of vehicles, animals and public places in line with legislative requirements. This includes offering a series of free monthly workshops for residents to build their relationship with their animals, including barking matters programs, don't bite be polite, life with dogs, and animal education initiatives.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026	
SD2	TAR1	Deliver local area traffic management initiatives to improve movement, road safety and liveability	EM Technical Services	2025/26 Q3 - Community feedback received via the Liveability Platform on what features they would like in the upgrade of Koolinda and Chambers Crescent. LATM components for both projects are out to tender. Kids art competition successful with the Waters Ward Elected Members judging the winners. 10 art pieces will be added to infrastructure.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026	
SD2	TAR1	Deliver the 2025/26 street and public lighting and amenity projects	EM Technical Services	2025/26 Q3 - Making Mindil 2B is under contract. Works are currently being held up due to high ground water levels. The pathway lighting between Ski Club and Bundilla Park is completed. The Atkins Drive street lighting project tender closed on 27/03/2026.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026	
SD2	TAR1	Deliver an assertive outreach program in partnership with service providers	EM Community & Cultural Services	2025/26 Q3 - Assertive Outreach team continue to refine data collection and maintain strong working relationships across a wide variety of service providers. Terms of reference for a Community of Practice in Outreach have been established for a sector group which will be convened with NT Shelter and City of Darwin next quarter.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026	

Target: By 2030, Darwin will be a more active and healthy							
SD2	TAR3	Deliver the 2025/26 healthy and active community programs	EM Community & Cultural Services	2025/26 Q3 - The dry season Healthy Darwin program has been released and commences in April with a wide range of activity across the municipality including Women's Wellness Workshops, bellydancing, pre-natal exercise, aqua HIIT, golf and yoga.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD2	TAR3	Deliver 2025/26 Play Space Strategy annual funded actions	EM Community & Cultural Services	2025/26 Q3 - Continuing to upgrade and develop play spaces as per the strategy and where additional funding and resourcing is allocated. Water Ward Multigenerational Recreation Space Stage 1 construction has commenced.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be increasingly recognised as a liveable city							
SD2	TAR2	Deliver the access and inclusion infrastructure projects	EM Infrastructure	2025/26 Q3 - Works for projects at Casuarina Library and Nightcliff Foreshore underway.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD2	TAR2	Deliver the 2025/26 milestones for the Waters Ward Multigenerational Recreation Space	EM Infrastructure	2025/26 Q3 - Project milestones met, construction commenced for stage 1 enabling and procurement assessment for high thrills zone underway.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD2	TAR2	Deliver the 2025/26 annual events program, including the 2026 Bombing of Darwin event	EM Growth & Development	2025/26 Q3 - Bombing of Darwin was delivered including a collaboration with the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory to host free films for visitors and residents.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD2	TAR2	Enhance and maintain, parks and recreation facilities to meet community needs	EM Operations	2025/26 Q3 - Operation teams work has been coordinated and prioritised in the quarter in response to Cyclone Fina. Works continue to deliver ongoing maintenance and services to enhance and maintain, parks and recreation facilities to meet community needs.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be recognised as a clean and environmentally responsible city							
SD3	TAR1	Deliver the 2025/26 Greening Darwin Strategy annual funded actions	EM Operations	2025/26 Q3 - Annual greening targets remain ahead of schedule as of 31 March 2026 with 415 park and street trees planted, 180 customer request trees fulfilled, 15 CBD area hardscape trees planted, and 9,455 plants distributed through the native plant giveaway program.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD3	TAR1	Deliver the Stage 7 putrescible cell milestones at Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility	EM Infrastructure	2025/26 Q3 - Project milestones met, construction commenced.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD3	TAR1	Deliver the 2025/26 Climate Emergency Strategy annual funded programs	EM Environment, Climate and Waste	2025/26 Q3 - CSIRO continue with urban heat analysis of Robyn Lesley Park, Karama. Undertaking baseline heat analysis of area planned for Waters Ward Multigenerational Recreation Space. Hosted a display at the International Day for Women and Girls in Science event demonstrating how City of Darwin uses science to tackle Darwin's climate change challenges.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD3	TAR1	Explore advanced waste processing technologies to divert waste from landfill	EM Environment, Climate and Waste	2025/26 Q3 - A Waste to Energy presentation was delivered to Department of Mines. Scoping study brief has been developed in collaboration with relevant departments across NTG to assess viability of Waste to Energy from a territory wide cost benefit perspective.	On track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD3	TAR1	Identify priorities for more targeted greening along footpaths and shared paths	EM Operations	2025/26 Q3 - Priorities for targeted greening along footpaths and shared paths are being identified through the 10 Year Tree Planting Plan. The plan is under development.	Monitor	1/07/2025	30/06/2026

Target: By 2030, Darwin will be recognised globally as a smart city							
SD4	TAR1	Deliver 2025/26 outcomes from the ICT roadmap including milestones towards the customer relationship management system	ICT PMO Director	2025/26 Q3 - Customer Relationship Management system is currently in procurement, with formal evaluation and probity processes in progress.	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD4	TAR1	Deliver a data insights platform	GM Innovation	2025/26 Q3 - Completed. Available at https://smart.darwin.nt.gov.au	Completed	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
Target: By 2030, Darwin will have attracted and retained more residents and will offer sustainable investment opportunities							
SD4	TAR2	Deliver the 2025/26 international relations events program, including the new Sister Cities Cup event	EM Growth & Development	2025/26 Q3 - Darwin Fusion invitations to Ambassadors and Consul-Generals issued. Partnership and sponsorship discussions have commenced and will continue. Sponsorship has been confirmed with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD4	TAR2	Deliver an online liveability platform	GM Innovation	2025/26 Q2 - The Liveability Platform was launched in November and will be continually updated for the next 25 years.	Completed	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be recognised as an iconic destination							
SD5	TAR1	Deliver the Creative Strategy annual funded actions	EM Community & Cultural Services	2025/26 Q3 - Funded actions against the Creative Strategy are being delivered including creative workshops for Civic Centre Integrated Art and Design project (scheduled April), Arts Sector Connect workshops (April) and the release of the Public Art Story Map (May).	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity							
SD5	TAR2	Deliver the 2025/26 Community Grants Program	EM Community & Cultural Services	2025/26 Q3 - March round will be assessed and recommendations scheduled for a Council report in May. The March Community Grants round was advertised through a wide variety of channels including media release, postcard distribution and social media.	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD5	TAR2	Deliver funded actions against the Reconciliation Action Plan	EM Community & Cultural Services	2025/26 Q3 - Planning is underway for consultation and development of City of Darwin's new RAP to be finalised in 2027. An outline of timing and process for was presented and endorsed by Council in March.	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD5	TAR2	Deliver the 2025/26 Youth Strategy annual actions	EM Community & Cultural Services	2025/26 Q3 - Co Design items have been consolidated and are due for review by the Youth Advisory Committee at their next meeting.	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD5	TAR2	Deliver the communications, media and marketing annual program	EM Marketing Communications and Engagement	2025/26 Q3 - City of Darwin has continued to deliver a holistic marcomms program year-round, primarily focused on supporting community education and awareness and supporting engagement.	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD5	TAR2	Deliver annual library services and programs, including focus areas of literacy and continuation of online services and digital inclusion	EM Library and Family Services	2025/26 Q3 - Library programs continue to support digital inclusion and literacy. The Most Wanted Collection has been extended to Karama Library which features best-selling titles available on a short-term, no-renewal basis to ensure equitable and timely access to popular resources. Programs such as Tea and Tech to support senior community members to use personal devices, and workshops for staying safe online and understanding financial scams were delivered for digital literacy.	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD5	TAR2	Deliver family and children's outreach programs to improve family wellbeing and support children's development and foster community connections	EM Library and Family Services	2025/26 Q3 - Family & Children's Services team delivered the Fun in the Parks school holiday program in January, including rugby sessions, origami workshops and insect investigations. In March the Harmony Day event held at Malak Community Centre was attended by family groups including 50 babies, 265 children and 260 adults. Families enjoyed a sausage sizzle, world food taster café, petting zoo, workshops, dance displays and activities.	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026

Target: Vision and Culture							
SD1	TAR1	Proactive risk management in supporting operations and project delivery	EM Corporate & Customer	2025/26 Q3 - Proactive risk management remains ongoing.	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
Target: Roles and Relationships							
SD1	TAR1	Establish and maintain productive and positive relationships with First Nations organisations and implement memoranda of understanding	EM Community & Cultural Services	2025/26 Q3 - City of Darwin have continued a strong and positive working relationship with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation and have scheduled a review to update the MOU in the next quarter. A mtg is also scheduled for next quarter to confirm an MOU with Larrakia Development Corporation.	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD1	TAR1	Advocate Council's position at national and local levels for the benefit of the Darwin community	Chief Executive Officer	2025/26 Q3 - Targeted advocacy has been delivered in line with City of Darwin priority projects and strategic projects with Northern Territory Government and other agencies. Ongoing advocacy continues via ALGA, LGANT and CCCLM.	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
Target: Decision Making and Management							
SD1	TAR1	Deliver the 2025/26 Internal Audit program	EM Corporate & Customer	2025/26 Q3 - Fraud Framework Review and Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility Whole of Life Model Review finalised, with actions commenced.	On Track	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
Target: Accountability							
SD1	TAR1	Deliver unqualified 2024/25 City of Darwin Audited Financial Statements	EM Finance	2025/26 Q2 - Unqualified audit delivered. Annual Financial Statements endorsed by Council 28/10/2025.	Completed	1/07/2025	30/06/2026
SD1	TAR1	Deliver the 2024/25 Annual Report	EM Corporate & Customer	2025/26 Q2 - Completed. Endorsed by Council 28/10/2025.	Completed	1/07/2025	30/06/2026

15.3 REVIEW OF COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA PAPERS

Author: Manager Office of Council and CEO

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Review of Council Meeting Agenda Papers be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with a summary and outcomes of the forum held on 7 April 2026.

KEY ISSUES

- Elected Members, through a Notice of Motion requested a review of the meeting agenda papers including, the order of business, template headings of individual reports and the overall format.
- Agenda and Minute papers are legislated and governed by the *Local Government Act 2019*, *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* and relevant City of Darwin policies.
- Changes to reports and papers will incur a cost to Council.
- Elected Members have undertaken a workshop at the Confidential Forum on 7 April 2026.

DISCUSSION

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 October 2025, Council resolved through a Notice of Motion that a review be undertaken of the City of Darwin meeting agenda papers including the Order of Business, template headings of individual reports and the overall format to support transparent, efficient and informed decision making, with an Elected Member workshop and final report by April 2026.

A Confidential Forum was held on 7 April 2026 and the agenda included:

- Review the Order of Business including the legislative requirements
- Review the template headings of individual reports
- Review the overall format
- Elected Member feedback session.

Review the Order of Business including the Legislative requirements

The current Order of Business and agenda structure was presented outlining components that are required under legislation, established through Council policy or determined by previous Council decisions.

Elected Members were provided the opportunity to ask questions and offer feedback.

Review the Template Headings of Individual Reports

The current Action Report template was presented, including an outline of each section, the intent and purpose of individual headings.

Feedback from Elected Members centred on the inclusion on details of major risks associated with Council decisions.

Review the overall format

Several proposed changes and considerations relating to the structure and conduct of meetings were presented, including:

- Grouping similar items together and considering en bloc adoption where appropriate. For example, Elected Member attendance and Receive and Note reports
- The order of business and the desire for Action Reports to be earlier in the agenda
- Limiting questions on reports to briefing sessions and ensuring questions raised during meetings relate directly to the item under consideration
- Ensuring Reports of Representatives, Questions by Members and General Business align with the Meetings Policy.

These proposals aim to streamline meeting processes and support more focused deliberation.

Elected Member feedback session

Elected Members were invited to identify what is working well and opportunities for improvement in relation to Agenda Meeting Papers and Report Templates.

Feedback and key themes included:

- No late reports
- Improved communication processes
- Review of the Order of Business, including relocating Notice of Motions after Correspondence
- No questions to officers during the introduction of business items, with issues instead raised during debate

- Review of PDF formatting and file naming conventions
- Review of Question Time
- Inclusion of a risk matrix and timelines within reports
- Elected Members to email Councillor Support in advance of meetings.

Prioritisation and next steps

Following the workshop, and the desire to have the Action Reports early in the meeting, the Lord Mayor approved a change to the Order of Business, moving Notice of Motions after Correspondence.

Elected Members advised that adequate time is required to discuss and debate decisions of Council. Relocating Notice of Motions groups similar items together and supports a clearer meeting structure.

The revised meeting flow is: Formalities → Community Matters → Officer Reports and Decisions of Council → Elected Member Matters → Closure of Meeting.

A review and the associated changes to the Order of Business will be implemented within existing system access resources.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 28 October 2025 meeting Council resolved:

RESOLUTION ORD477/25

1. THAT Council note the issues raised by our community during the 2025 Local Government Elections for greater transparency and engagement by City of Darwin and Elected Members.
2. THAT Council requests a report for the implementation of an Annual Community Satisfaction Survey outlining the process, structure, costs and potential interactions with our current strategies and the new City of Darwin Customer Relationship Management system, with a final report by August 2026.
3. THAT Council requests officers review the City of Darwin meeting agenda papers including the Order of Business, template headings of individual reports and the overall format to support transparent, efficient and informed decision making, with an Elected Member workshop and final report by April 2026.
4. THAT Council requests officers to establish, maintain and regularly circulate a register tracking actions from Council Forum and Briefing meetings by December 2025.
5. THAT Council requests officers to publish answers to questions taken on notice during Open Council meetings with the online agenda and minutes when completed.

In Favour: Members Jimmy Bouhoris, Nicole Brown, Shani Carson, Kim Farrar, Julie Fraser, Edwin Joseph, Sylvia Klonaris, Peter Pangquee, Patrik Ralph, Ed Smelt, Peter Styles and Sam Weston

Against: Nil

CARRIED 12/0

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	6 Governance Framework 6.4 Accountability
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Budget/Funding: Is Funding identified: Costs for certain types of minor changes can be completed within current officer access parameters.

	<p>Existing Position No: Nil</p> <p>Contractor: InfoCouncil</p>
<p>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</p>	<p>Legislation: <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i></p> <p>Policy: Meetings Policy</p>
<p>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION</p>	<p>Engagement Level: Involve</p> <p>Tactics: Workshop with Elected Members on 7 April 2026.</p> <p>Internal: Elected Members General Managers</p> <p>External: InfoCouncil</p>
<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</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>

15.4 ADVISORY COMMITTEE OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Author: Supervisor Councillor Governance

Authoriser: Manager Office of Council and CEO

- Attachments:**
1. Unconfirmed Open Minutes Information Communication Technology Steering Committee 27 March 2026 [↓](#)
 2. Unconfirmed Open Minutes Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee 2 April 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 open minutes of the Advisory Committee meetings held in March and April 2026 to Council.

KEY ISSUES

- The unconfirmed open minutes of the Information Communication Technology Steering Committee of 27 March 2026 are included at **Attachment 1**.
- The unconfirmed open minutes of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee of 2 April 2026 are included at **Attachment 2**.

<p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>This report provides the minutes for the following committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Communication Technology Steering Committee Advisory Committee • Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee <p>Any recommendations that arise from the committee meetings will be presented to Council in a separate report.</p>	
<p>PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION</p> <p>At the 31 March 2026 meeting Council resolved:</p> <p>RESOLUTION ORD132/26</p> <p>THAT the report entitled Advisory and Audit Committee Open Meeting Minutes be received and noted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED 12/0</p>	
<p>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</p>	<p>6 Governance Framework 6.2 Roles and Relationships</p>
<p>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</p>	<p>Legislation: <i>Local Government Act 2019</i></p> <p>Policy: Meetings Policy Advisory and Other Committees Policy</p>
<p>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</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

Information Communication Technology Steering Committee Meeting

Friday, 27 March 2026

Unconfirmed



**CITY FOR PEOPLE.
CITY OF COLOUR.**

darwin.nt.gov.au

Information Communication Technology Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes

27 March 2026

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS DARRANDIRRA, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY
CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN
ON FRIDAY, 27 MARCH 2026 AT 9:00 AM**

PRESENT:

Chair Neil Glentworth
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris
Community Member Roland Chin
Community Member Tim Woods

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders
Executive Manager Corporate and Customer Services, Silke Maynard
ICT PMO Director, Peter Ferguson

APOLOGY:

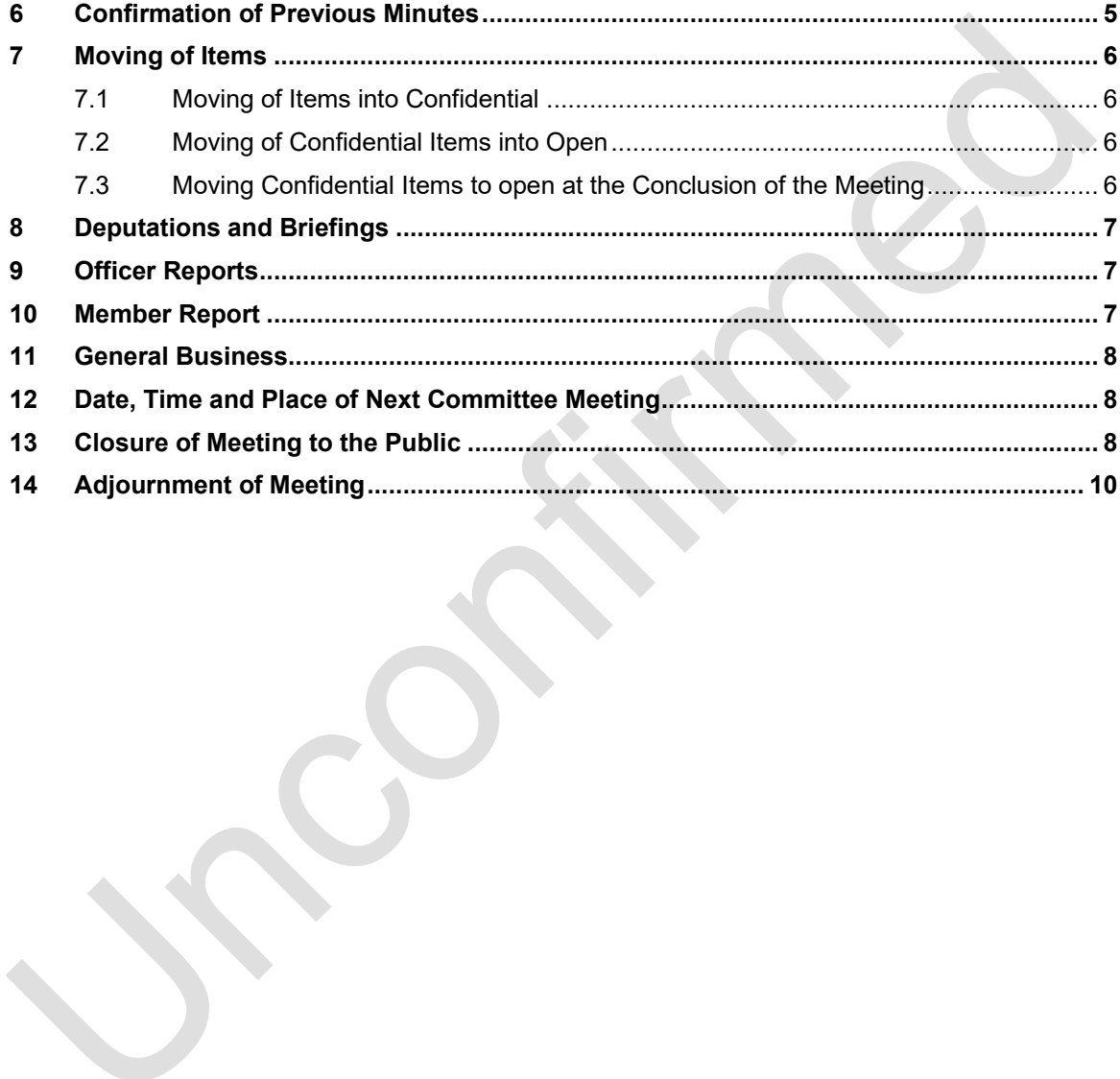
Community Member Sarah Hicks

GUESTS:

Lord Mayor Peter Styles

Order of Business

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



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 ISCCC001/26**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Community Member Roland Chin

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9:03 am.

CARRIED 4/0**3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****3.1 APOLOGIES****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ISCCC002/26**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Community Member Roland Chin

THAT an apology from Community Member Sarah Hicks be received.

CARRIED 4/0**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 ISCCC003/26**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris
Seconded: Community Member Roland Chin

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:

- Chair Neil Glentworth
- Member Tim Woods

CARRIED 4/0**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 ISCCC004/26**

Moved: Community Member Tim Woods
Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT the minutes of the Information Communication Technology Steering Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 4/0

Lord Mayor Peter Styles joined meeting at 9:05 am

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
18.1 RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI POLICY
<p>COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ISCCC008/26</p> <p>Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris Seconded: Community Member Tim Woods</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THAT the report entitled Responsible Use of AI Policy 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 <i>Local Government Act 2019</i>. 3. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED 4/0</p>
18.2 ICT ROADMAP UPDATE
<p>COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ISCCC009/26</p> <p>Moved: Community Member Roland Chin Seconded: Community Member Tim Woods</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THAT the report entitled ICT Roadmap 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 <i>Local Government Act 2019</i>. 3. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED 4/0</p>
18.3 OPERATIONAL AND EMERGING ICT RISKS
<p>COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ISCCC010/26</p> <p>Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris Seconded: Community Member Roland Chin</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THAT the report entitled Operational and Emerging ICT Risks 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 <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .	
3.	THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.	CARRIED 4/0
18.4 BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)		
COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ISCCC011/26		
Moved: Community Member Tim Woods		
Seconded: Community Member Roland Chin		
1.	THAT the report entitled Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) 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 <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .	
3.	THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.	CARRIED 4/0
18.5 FORWARD REPORT SCHEDULE		
COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ISCCC012/26		
Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris		
Seconded: Community Member Roland Chin		
1.	THAT the report entitled Forward Report Schedule 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 <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .	
3.	THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.	CARRIED 4/0

8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS

Nil

10 MEMBER REPORT

Nil

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

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

THAT the next Information Communication Technology Steering Committee be held on Friday, 26 June 2026, at 9:00 AM (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section), Council Chambers Darrandirra, Level 1, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin.

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee 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*:

18.1 Responsible Use of AI Policy

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Committee 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.

18.2 ICT Roadmap Update

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Committee 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.

18.3 Operational and Emerging ICT Risks

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iii) of the Local Government Act, and the Committee is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.

18.4 Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Committee 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.

18.5 Forward Report Schedule

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Committee 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.

14 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ISCCC005/26

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris
Seconded: Community Member Roland Chin

THAT the open section of the meeting be adjourned at 9:08 am.

CARRIED 4/0

THAT the open section of the meeting be resumed at 10:45 am.

THAT the chair declared the meeting closed at 10:45 am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Information Communication Technology Steering Committee Meeting held on 26 June 2026.

.....
CHAIR



Minutes

Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, 2 April 2026

Unconfirmed



**CITY FOR PEOPLE.
CITY OF COLOUR.**

darwin.nt.gov.au

**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, 2 APRIL 2026 AT 1:30 PM**

PRESENT:

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

OFFICERS:

Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services, Angela O'Donnell

APOLOGY:

Community Member Florence Henaway
Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistic Simon Gillam

NOT PRESENT:

National Disability Services NT Mick Fallon
Community Member Rajeev Thayil

GUESTS:

Chief Executive Officer, Autism NT, Niki Lehmann

Order of Business

1	Acknowledgement of Country	4
2	Meeting Declared Open	4
3	Apologies and Leave of Absence	4
4	Electronic Meeting Attendance	5
5	Declaration of Interest of Members and Staff	5
6	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	5
7	Moving of Items	6
7.1	Moving of Items into Confidential	6
7.2	Moving of Confidential Items into Open	6
7.3	Moving Confidential Items to open at the Conclusion of the Meeting	6
8	Deputations and Briefings	6
9	Officer Reports	6
9.1	Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program Launch	6
10	Member Reports	6
11	General Business	7
11.1	Update on Disability Permit Parking	7
12	Date, Time and Place of Next Committee Meeting	7
13	Closure of Meeting to the Public	7
14	Closure of Meeting	7

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 AAIAC011/26

Moved: Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick

Seconded: Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1:35 pm.

CARRIED 8/0

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC012/26

Moved: Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill

Seconded: Community Member Bryony Crowe

THAT an apology from Community Member Florence Henaway and from Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistic Simon Gillam 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 AAIAC013/26**

Moved: Community Member Bryony Crowe

Seconded: Community Member Lynne Strathie

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:

- Community Member Kim Caudwell

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 AAIAC014/26**

Moved: Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick

Seconded: Community Member Lynne Strathie

THAT the minutes of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5 February 2026 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 HIDDEN DISABILITIES SUNFLOWER PROGRAM LAUNCH

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC015/26

Moved: Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick

Seconded: Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill

THAT the report entitled Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program Launch be received and noted.

CARRIED 8/0

10 MEMBER REPORTS

Nil

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 UPDATE ON DISABILITY PERMIT PARKING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AAIAC016/26

Moved: Community Member Bryony Crowe

Seconded: Community Member Lynne Strathie

The Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services, Angela O'Donnell, provided a verbal update from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 31 March 2026 regarding the motion presented by Councillor Kim Farrar. The motion was unanimously endorsed by Council. A copy of the resolution was shared with the Committee.

CARRIED 8/0

12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the next Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee be held on Thursday, 4 June 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 AAIAC017/26

Moved: Community Member Ella McGugan-Wevill

Seconded: Building Advisory Services Alison Warwick

THAT the meeting be closed at 2:20 pm.

CARRIED 8/0

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2026.

.....
CHAIR

16 CORRESPONDENCE

16.1 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - HERITAGE COUNCIL NORTHERN TERRITORY - GUN TURRET EAST POINT

Author: Supervisor Councillor Governance

Authoriser: Manager Office of Council and CEO

Attachments: 1. Incoming Correspondence - Heritage Council Northern Territory - Gun Turret East Point [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Incoming Correspondence - Heritage Council Northern Territory - Gun Turret East Point be received and noted.

Heritage Council

Northern Territory

Postal address GPO Box 4198
Darwin NT 0801
Tel 08 8999 5039
Email heritagecouncil@nt.gov.au

Ms Simone Saunders
Chief Executive Officer
City of Darwin

Via email: angela.odonnell@darwin.nt.gov.au
Cc: Matt.Grassmayr@darwin.nt.gov.au

Dear Ms Saunders

I write in relation to an Application to Carry Out Work within the core heritage area of the WWII East Point Fortifications, submitted to the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (the Department) on 10 March 2026.

The proposed work relates to a submission from the Darwin Street Art Festival to City of Darwin to paint a mural on the already painted section of the No. 1 Gun Turret.

The Heritage Council's Notice of Decision pursuant to section 77 of the *Heritage Act 2011* is attached. This includes a Statement of Reasons and a Review Notice.

You will note that the application has not been approved.

The Council proposes two options to you as the applicant. The first option would be to change the nature of the art installation so that it does not involve painting the structure. A change may constitute exempt work and not require a work application. The second option would be to resubmit the application and address the reasons why the application was not supported. The Department can assist you in its preparation.

The Council appreciates that the Darwin Street Art Festival is not far away. If there is not sufficient time for this year, the Council is committed to working with you in preparation for next year's festival.

If you have queries about this matter, please contact Dr David Steinberg, Director Heritage Branch, on 8999 5083 or at david.steinberg@nt.gov.au.
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Walker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Randle Walker
Chairperson

10 April 2026

NOTICE OF DECISION

For a work approval in accordance with Part 3.2 of the *Heritage Act 2011*

Applicant	Simone Saunders, CEO, City of Darwin
Heritage place or object	No.1 Gun Turret, WWII East Point Fortifications
Location	East Point Reserve, Lot 5434 and part lot of 5775
Application	Application considered by Heritage Council 27 March 2026
Decision maker	Heritage Council

MATERIAL CONSIDERED

- Application to Carry Out Works to paint a mural on the No.1 Gun Turret in the core heritage area of the WWII East Point Fortifications submitted to the Department Lands, Planning and Environment by the City of Darwin on 10 March 2026.

THE DECISION

In accordance with section 75 and 76 of the *Heritage Act 2011* (the Act) the Heritage Council (Council) has decided **not** to approve the work outlined in the Application.

CONSIDERATIONS

Section 75 of the Act requires the decision maker to consider:

- the extent to which an application, if approved, would affect the heritage significance of the heritage place (section 75(1)(a))
- the extent to which the application if refused would affect the reasonable or economic use of the place or cause a person undue financial hardship (section 75(1)(b))
- the Heritage Council’s advice (section 75(1)(c))
- if the heritage place or object is, or is in, a sacred site – the advice of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (section 75(1)(d))
- other matters relating to the conservation, use and management of the place or object the decision maker considers relevant (section 75(1)(e)).

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The Council considered all matters under section 75 of the Act.

The proposed work to paint a mural on the already painted section of the No.1 Gun Turret within the core heritage area of the WWII East Point fortifications was not approved by the Council for the following reasons:

- the works are permanent (unless painted over again);
- the proposal will have a negative impact on the heritage significance of the place by detracting from the aesthetics of its brutalist industrial style;
- the proposal will have a negative impact on the heritage significance of the place by not being consistent with World War II camouflage;

- the process proposed by the applicant provides no effective mechanism to ensure that the selected artwork will be appropriate;
- the proposal is not part of a considered strategy to conserve, interpret and activate the East Point fortifications.

FURTHER ADVICE

Council recommends that the applicant might consider making the works temporary for the duration of the Street Art Festival (e.g. light projection, mural painted on camouflage netting) and for the artwork brief (theme) to be restricted to the significance and interpretation of Gun Turret No.1.

Council recommends that a new application could be submitted which addresses the reasons above. For example, perhaps the Council or Department can be consulted on the subject of the work.



Randle Walker
Chairperson, Heritage Council
10 APRIL 2026

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF REVIEW

You have a right to have this decision reviewed by the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Contact details are as follows:

Website: <https://ntcat.nt.gov.au>

Phone: 1800 604 622

Darwin:
The Met Building
CASCOM Building 5, Casuarina Village
Level 1, 13-17 Scaturchio Street
CASUARINA NT 0811

Alice Springs:
Westpoint Building
1 Stott Terrace
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870

17 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

18 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

19 GENERAL BUSINESS

20 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 26 May 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 Temporary Use of Car Park and Installation of Telecommunications Infrastructure

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

28.2 Extension of East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Member Terms

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.

28.3 Kerbside Collection

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

28.4 Nightcliff Oval Changerooms

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

28.5 Chan Ward By-Election

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.

28.6 Friendship and Sister City Cooperation

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

29.1 Corporate Services Quarterly Report - January to March 2026

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

29.2 Review of Nightcliff / Rapid Creek Shared Path Lighting

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

29.3 Advisory 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

Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 31 March 2026

Unconfirmed

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

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS DARRANDIRRA, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY
CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN
ON TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2026 AT 5:30 PM**

PRESENT:

Lord Mayor Peter Styles (Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris
Councillor Nicole Brown
Councillor Shani Carson
Councillor Kim Farrar
Councillor Julie Fraser
Councillor Edwin Joseph
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris
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

APOLOGY:

GUESTS:

Nil

Order of Business

1	Acknowledgement of Country	5
2	The Lord's Prayer	5
3	Meeting Declared Open	5
4	Apologies and Leave of Absence	5
5	Electronic Meeting Attendance	6
6	Declaration of Interest of Members and Staff	7
7	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	7
8	Moving of Items	7
9	Matters of Public Importance / Lord Mayoral Minute	8
10	Public Question Time	10
11	Petitions	10
12	Deputations and Briefings	10
13	Notices of Motion	11
	13.1 Notice of Motion - Accessibility and Free Parking for Disability Permit Holders	11
	13.2 Notice of Motion - Review of Council Owned Property	13
14	Action Reports	13
	14.1 Nomination to Northern Territory Heritage Council	13
	14.2 Reconciliation Action Plan Development	13
	14.3 Darwin Street Art Festival East Point Gun Turret Proposal.....	14
	14.4 Review of Financial Hardship Support Policy	14
	14.5 Review Council Delegations.....	14
	14.6 Appointments to the Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee and Risk Management and Audit Committee	16
	14.7 2nd Budget Review 2025/2026	16
	14.8 Review of Procurement Policy.....	17
	14.9 Planning Scheme Amendment - 133 Bagot Road Ludmilla	18
15	Receive & Note Reports	18
	15.1 Monthly Financial Report - February 2026.....	18
	15.2 Elected Member Allowance 2026/2027	18
	15.3 Advisory and Audit Committee Open Meeting Minutes.....	19
16	Correspondence	19
17	Reports of Representatives	19
18	Questions by Members	20
	18.1 Questions by Members Process.....	20
	18.2 Plover Nest Garamanuk Park.....	20
	18.3 Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre	21
	18.4 Pothole Maintenance.....	21
	18.5 Irrigation Schedules	21

18.6	Gamba Grass Mitigation.....	22
18.7	Bennett and Cavenagh Street Shade Structure.....	22
18.8	Chan Ward By-Election	23
18.9	Social Media Conduct	23
19	General Business.....	23
19.1	Notice of Motion Process	24
20	Date, time and place of next Ordinary Council Meeting.....	24
21	Closure of Meeting to the Public	24
22	Adjournment of Meeting and Media Liaison	26

Unconfirmed

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

<p>RESOLUTION ORD110/26 Moved: Councillor Peter Pangquee Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:38 pm.</p>	<p>CARRIED 12/0</p>
--	----------------------------

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 APOLOGIES

Nil

4.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Nil

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

RESOLUTION ORD111/26

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

1. THAT a Leave of Absence be granted for Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris for the period 23 June to 26 June 2026.
2. THAT a Leave of Absence be granted for Councillor Shani Carson for the period 22 June to 26 June 2026.
3. THAT a Leave of Absence be granted for Councillor Kim Farrar for the period 23 April to 28 April 2026.
4. THAT a Leave of Absence be granted for Councillor Mick Palmer for the period 26 May 2026.

CARRIED 12/0

5 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

5.1 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE GRANTED

RESOLUTION ORD112/26

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

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:

- Sylvia Klonaris

CARRIED 12/0

5.2 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

Nil

6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

6.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

RESOLUTION ORD113/26

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 114 and 115 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris, declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 28.2 – Reconciliation Advisory Committee Recommendation - Appointment of Community Members.
2. THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 114 and 115 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, during the Confidential Section of the Meeting, Councillor Patrik Ralph, declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 28.3 – Extension of Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Member Terms.

CARRIED 12/0

6.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLUTION ORD114/26

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Councillor Peter Pangquee

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 February 2026 and the Special Council Meeting held on 17 March 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED 12/0

8 MOVING OF ITEMS

8.1 MOVING OF OPEN ITEMS INTO CONFIDENTIAL

Nil

8.2 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS INTO OPEN

MOTION

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer

THAT item 28.5 – Budget Forum Outcomes be moved and considered in the open section of the meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders advised the Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer that moving item 28.5 into open would, in accordance with Section, 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, prejudice the interests of the council or some other person as community consultation has not commenced on the Draft Municipal Plan 2026/27.

8.3 MOVING CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO OPEN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

<p>28.1 PROPOSAL FOR FRIENDSHIP CITY AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF ATAMBUA</p>
<p>RESOLUTION ORD147/26</p> <p>Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris Seconded: Councillor Shani Carson</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THAT the report entitled Proposal for Friendship City Agreement with the City of Atambua be received and noted. 2. THAT Council do not enter into negotiations with the City of Atambua to become a Friendship City. 3. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i>. 4. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED 12/0</p>
<p>28.2 RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS</p>
<p>RESOLUTION ORD148/26</p> <p>Moved: Councillor Peter Pangquee Seconded: Councillor Nicole Brown</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THAT the report entitled Reconciliation Advisory Committee Recommendation - Appointment of Community Members be received and noted. 2. THAT Council appoints Jenna Cubillo and Nancy Helen Jeffrey as community representatives to the Reconciliation Advisory Committee for a two-year term from 31 March 2026 to 31 March 2028. 3. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i>. 4. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED 11/0</p>

28.3 EXTENSION OF ACCESS AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER TERMS**RESOLUTION ORD149/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT the report entitled Extension of Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Member Terms be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve extension of the terms for five current community representative members of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee to 30 June 2026:
 - Tiffany Brown
 - Kim Caudwell
 - Florence Henaway
 - Lyn Strathie
 - Rajeev Thayil.
3. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.
4. THAT the documents remain confidential, and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 11/0

28.6 2024/2025 YEAR END SURPLUS FUNDS ALLOCATION**RESOLUTION ORD153/26**

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Councillor Peter Pangquee

1. THAT the report entitled 2024/2025 Year End Surplus Funds Allocation be received and noted.
2. THAT \$368,000 in available surplus working capital at 30 June 2025 be recognised as a budget variation in 2025/2026 in accordance with Part 10.5 of the *Local Government Act 2019*.
3. THAT Council allocate the funds of \$368,000 to the Asset Renewal and Refurbishment Reserve.
4. 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*.
5. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 12/0

29.1 BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)**RESOLUTION ORD154/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

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

CARRIED 12/0**29.2 ADVISORY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE CONFIDENTIAL MEETING MINUTES****RESOLUTION ORD155/26**

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer
Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Advisory and Audit 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 12/0**9 MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / LORD MAYORAL MINUTE****9.1 GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT CHARTER****RESOLUTION ORD115/26**

Moved: Lord Mayor Peter Styles

THAT Council note the Governance and Management Charter as a reminder of Elected Member obligations and expected conduct for the Council Meeting.

CARRIED 12/0

10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**10.1 COMMUNITY GARDENS****RESOLUTION ORD116/26**

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT the following Public Questions and responses as tabled from Mr Ian Hollingsworth regarding Community Gardens be received and noted.

Question

Will City of Darwin reconsider their treatment of community gardens in the Strategic Property Plan by reviewing and revising the tenancy relationship in current community garden lease agreements to a co-stewardship relationship, recognising community involvement in greenspace management by waiving service fees linked to areas occupied in current community lease agreements?

Considering the City of Darwin can foster sustainable community engagement in greenspace for urban food production, consistent with their Darwin 2030 Greening Strategy, Strategic Plan and best practice advice to Council that community gardens are core social infrastructure.

These changes would facilitate better direction of community gardens by the City of Darwin to support council initiatives. For instance the Jingili Community Garden could manage the council's community orchard adjacent to them in Jingili Water Gardens, with direction for the council and agents, without incurring fee and services changes.

Response

On the 27 February 2024, Council resolved that community garden organisations who reside on City of Darwin land pay for utilities in alignment with all other property lease and community use agreements and the Strategic Property Plan.

In August 2024, Council approved a Leasing and Licencing Policy that details the guiding principles and statements that inform the negotiating position of City of Darwin as new leases or licences are entered into with organisations using City of Darwin owned or managed land. Within this Policy it details that all tenants are required to pay a contribution towards utilities.

City of Darwin is supportive of community gardens on City of Darwin land including through provision of grants, sponsorship, promotion, and collaboration.

City of Darwin recognises the importance of community gardens and their contribution to place and liveability. We are committed to working with community gardens and to providing them opportunities for collaboration and sponsorship.

CARRIED 12/0**11 PETITIONS**

Nil

12 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

Nil

13 NOTICES OF MOTION

13.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - ACCESSIBILITY AND FREE PARKING FOR DISABILITY PERMIT HOLDERS

I, Councillor Kim Farrar, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 31 March 2026, I will move the following motion:-

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar
 Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT Council note the City of Darwin Access Strategy 2025 – 2030 priority to enhance accessibility within the municipality.
2. THAT Council approve free parking for disability parking permit holders within CBD on-street parking Zones A, B and C. Vehicles that are displaying a valid disability parking permit in Zones A, B, and C may park at no charge for the entire time the vehicle may lawfully remain in that bay.
3. THAT Council approve the below amendment to the parking conditions at item 8 in the Fees and Charges, once all signage upgrades has been installed and the community are advised through updates to the website and relevant social media platforms:

8. Disability Parking Permits

On-street – designated disability parking bays

All designated disability parking bays are free of charge.

Time extensions that apply under the *Australian Road Rules* do not apply in designated disability parking bays. The time on the sign is the maximum time that a vehicle can remain in that bay.

Off-street – designated disability parking bays

Vehicles displaying a disability parking permit may park in an designated disability parking bays in the City of Darwin off-street car parks all day free of charge, except for West Lane Car Park and Dragonfly Car Park. Vehicles displaying a valid permit may park in an accessible parking bay in either West Lane Car Park or Dragonfly Car Park for twice the time paid for.

On-street – other

All on-street parking pays that usually require payment are free of charge for disability parking permit holders.

A vehicle displaying an eligible disability parking permit may park in any on-street parking bay, that would usually require payment, free of charge.

Any extension of time that a disability permit holder is entitled to under the *Australian Road Rules* is also free of charge, for example:

Bay type	Payment required	Length of stay
15 minute bay	No	30 minutes
30 minute bay	No	2 hours
2P (2 hour bay)	No	4 hours
3P (3 hour bay)	No	6 hours
4P (4 hour bay)	No	8 hours

	No time limit	No	No time limit
4.	THAT Council approve the transfer of \$185,000 in funding, to offset the loss in revenue and to update the parking signage, from the On and Off-Street Parking Reserve in the 2026/27 budget.		
5.	THAT Council note the provision of free parking within the CBD for eligible disability parking permit holders will commence once all signage upgrades has been installed and the community are advised through updates to the website and relevant social media platforms		
6.	THAT Council approve for all disability parking permit holders registered with the City of Darwin to be sent a letter advising them of parking regulations and identifying the available accessible parking locations within the CBD.		

MOTION MOVED WITH AN AMENDMENT

RESOLUTION ORD117/26

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT Council note the City of Darwin Access Strategy 2025 – 2030 priority to enhance accessibility within the municipality.
2. THAT Council approve free parking for disability parking permit holders within CBD on-street parking Zones A and B. Vehicles that are displaying a valid disability parking permit in Zones A, and B may park at no charge for the entire time the vehicle may lawfully remain in that bay.
3. THAT Council approve the below amendment to the parking conditions at item 8 in the Fees and Charges.

8. Disability Parking Permits

On-street – designated disability parking bays

All designated disability parking bays are free of charge.

Time extensions that apply under the *Australian Road Rules* do not apply in designated disability parking bays. The time on the sign is the maximum time that a vehicle can remain in that bay.

Off-street – designated disability parking bays

Vehicles displaying a disability parking permit may park in an designated disability parking bays in the City of Darwin off-street car parks all day free of charge, except for West Lane Car Park and Dragonfly Car Park. Vehicles displaying a valid permit may park in an accessible parking bay in either West Lane Car Park or Dragonfly Car Park for twice the time paid for.

On-street – other

All on-street parking bays that usually require payment are free of charge for disability parking permit holders.

A vehicle displaying an eligible disability parking permit may park in any Zone A and Zone B on-street parking bay, that would usually require payment, free of charge.

Any extension of time that a disability permit holder is entitled to under the *Australian Road Rules* is also free of charge, for example:

Bay type	Payment required	Length of stay
15 minute bay	No	30 minutes
30 minute bay	No	2 hours

	2P (2 hour bay)	No	4 hours
	3P (3 hour bay)	No	6 hours

4. THAT Council approve the transfer of \$135,000 in funding, to offset the loss in revenue and to update the parking signage, from the On and Off-Street Parking Reserve in the 2026/27 budget.

5. THAT Council note the provision of free parking within the CBD for eligible disability parking permit holders will commence once all signage upgrades has been installed and the community are advised through updates to the website and relevant social media platforms.

6. THAT Council approve for all disability parking permit holders registered with the City of Darwin to be sent a letter advising them of parking regulations, instructions and identifying the available accessible parking locations within the CBD.

CARRIED 12/0

13.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - REVIEW OF COUNCIL OWNED PROPERTY

I, Councillor Sam Weston, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 31 March 2026, I will move the following motion:-

RESOLUTION ORD118/26

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston
 Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT Council approve the delivery of a presentation on the Strategic Property Plan and Review to ensure Elected Members are fully informed about Council owned property.

CARRIED 12/0

14 ACTION REPORTS

14.1 NOMINATION TO NORTHERN TERRITORY HERITAGE COUNCIL

RESOLUTION ORD119/26

Moved: Councillor Nicole Brown
 Seconded: Councillor Patrik Ralph

1. THAT the report entitled Nomination to Northern Territory Heritage Council be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the nomination of Councillor Julie Fraser to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory as the representative on the Northern Territory Heritage Council.

CARRIED 12/0

14.2 RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT**RESOLUTION ORD120/26**

Moved: Councillor Peter Pangquee

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT the report entitled Reconciliation Action Plan Development be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the proposed timeline and process for the development of City of Darwin's next Reconciliation Action Plan.

CARRIED 12/0

14.3 DARWIN STREET ART FESTIVAL EAST POINT GUN TURRET PROPOSAL**RESOLUTION ORD121/26**

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Darwin Street Art Festival East Point Gun Turret Proposal be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the proposed activity from Darwin Street Art Festival for East Point Gun Turret subject to:
 - I. Heritage Council approval
 - II. Final design approval by the Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee.

CARRIED 12/0

14.4 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP SUPPORT POLICY**RESOLUTION ORD122/26**

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Councillor Shani Carson

1. THAT the report entitled Review of Financial Hardship Support Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the revised Financial Hardship Support Policy 3041.100.E.R at **Attachment 1**.

CARRIED 12/0

14.5 REVIEW COUNCIL DELEGATIONS**MOTION**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT the report entitled Review Council Delegations be received and noted.
2. THAT Council, to Section 40(3)(b) of the Local Government Act delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the following power to incur financial liabilities:
 - (a) Any loan borrowings, entering mortgages, issuing of bonds or similar undertaking that constitute Minor Transactions as defined in the Borrowing Guidelines;
 - (b) Where Council enters a Fixed Purpose Contract and anticipated expenditure no more than \$10 million (ex GST);
 - (c) Where Council enters a Period Contract and no more than \$10 million expenditure (ex GST) is expected to occur in any year;
 - (d) Where Council enters a Panel Contract and anticipates expenditure no more than \$10 million for a project (ex GST) or no more than \$10 million (ex GST) per year for a service;
 - (e) Other circumstances where City of Darwin would create a financial liability of no more than \$10 million (ex GST).
3. THAT Council, pursuant to Section 40 of the Local Government Act restricts its delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, requiring council resolution to respond to:
 - (a) Planning matters that are high risk, high impact or matters of strategic importance.

AMENDMENT**RESOLUTION ORD123/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT the report entitled Review Council Delegations be received and noted.
2. THAT Council, to Section 40(3)(b) of the Local Government Act delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the following power to incur financial liabilities:
 - (a) Any loan borrowings, entering mortgages, issuing of bonds or similar undertaking that constitute Minor Transactions as defined in the Borrowing Guidelines;
 - (b) Where Council enters a Fixed Purpose Contract and anticipated expenditure no more than \$10 million (ex GST);
 - (c) Where Council enters a Period Contract and no more than \$10 million expenditure (ex GST) is expected to occur in any year;
 - (d) Where Council enters a Panel Contract and anticipates expenditure no more than \$10 million for a project (ex GST) or no more than \$10 million (ex GST) per year for a service;
 - (e) Other circumstances where City of Darwin would create a financial liability of no more than \$10 million (ex GST).
3. THAT Council required that any exercise of delegation by the Chief Executive Officer and delegates that results in a financial liability between \$5 million and \$10 million be reported to Council at the next available Ordinary Council Meeting and that such reporting include:

- (a) The nature and scope of the contract or procurement;
- (b) The total value of the financial commitment;
- (c) The procurement method used;
- (d) Any other relevant information to support transparency and oversight

4. THAT Council, pursuant to Section 40 of the Local Government Act restricts its delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, requiring council resolution to respond to:

- (a) Planning matters that are high risk, high impact or matters of strategic importance.

CARRIED 12/0

RESOLUTION ORD124/26

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT the report entitled Review Council Delegations be received and noted.
2. THAT Council, to Section 40(3)(b) of the Local Government Act delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the following power to incur financial liabilities:
 - (a) Any loan borrowings, entering mortgages, issuing of bonds or similar undertaking that constitute Minor Transactions as defined in the Borrowing Guidelines;
 - (b) Where Council enters a Fixed Purpose Contract and anticipated expenditure no more than \$10 million (ex GST);
 - (c) Where Council enters a Period Contract and no more than \$10 million expenditure (ex GST) is expected to occur in any year;
 - (d) Where Council enters a Panel Contract and anticipates expenditure no more than \$10 million for a project (ex GST) or no more than \$10 million (ex GST) per year for a service;
 - (e) Other circumstances where City of Darwin would create a financial liability of no more than \$10 million (ex GST).
3. THAT Council required that any exercise of delegation by the Chief Executive Officer and delegates that results in a financial liability between \$5 million and \$10 million be reported to council at the next ordinary council meeting and such reporting include:
 - (a) The nature and scope of the contract or procurement
 - (b) The total value of the financial commitment,
 - (c) The procurement method used and
 - (d) Any other relevant information to support transparency and oversight
5. THAT Council, pursuant to Section 40 of the Local Government Act restricts its delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, requiring council resolution to respond to:
 - (a) Planning matters that are high risk, high impact or matters of strategic importance.

CARRIED 12/0

14.6 APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL COMMITTEE AND RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**RESOLUTION ORD125/26**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer

1. THAT the report entitled Appointments to the Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee and Risk Management and Audit Committee be received and noted.
2. THAT Council appoint Councillor Peter Pangquee to the Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee to 30 September 2026.
3. THAT Council appoint Councillor Nicole Brown to the Risk Management and Audit Committee to 30 September 2027.

CARRIED 12/0

The Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer departed the meeting at 6:57 pm.

14.7 2ND BUDGET REVIEW 2025/2026**RESOLUTION ORD126/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson

Seconded: Councillor Nicole Brown

1. THAT the report entitled 2nd Budget Review 2025/2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council amend the 2025/2026 budget in accordance with Part 10.5 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, as detailed in report titled 2nd Budget Review 2025/2026 and associated attachments.

CARRIED 11/0

The Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer re-joined the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Councillor Nicole Brown departed the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Councillor Nicole Brown re-joined the meeting at 7:03 pm.

14.8 REVIEW OF PROCUREMENT POLICY

RESOLUTION ORD127/26

Moved: Councillor Peter Pangquee
 Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer

1. THAT the report entitled Review of Procurement Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the revised Procurement Policy at **Attachment 2**.

CARRIED 11/1

AMENDMENT

RESOLUTION ORD128/26

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris
 Seconded: Councillor Patrik Ralph

1. THAT the report entitled Review of Procurement Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the revised Procurement Policy at **Attachment 2**.
3. THAT a 30% local content weighting applies unless external funding guidelines or legislative requirements prevents its use.

In Favour: Members Julie Fraser, Edwin Joseph, Sylvia Klonaris and Patrik Ralph

Against: Members Jimmy Bouhoris, Nicole Brown, Shani Carson, Kim Farrar, Mick Palmer, Peter Pangquee, Peter Styles and Sam Weston

LOST 4/8

AMENDMENT

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Julie Fraser
 Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

1. THAT the report entitled Review of Procurement Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the revised Procurement Policy at **Attachment 2**.
3. THAT Council will apply a local economic benefit rating of up to 30% in procurement evaluations where appropriate to support local employment, industry participation and economic resilience provided that overall value for money is achieved.

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

Councillor Sam Weston departed the meeting at 7:22 pm.

Councillor Sam Weston re-joined the meeting at 7:23 pm

14.9 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT - 133 BAGOT ROAD LUDMILLA**RESOLUTION ORD129/26**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT the report entitled Planning Scheme Amendment - 133 Bagot Road Ludmilla be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the draft submission letter to the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment provided at **Attachment 1**, which constitutes an objection to the proposal.

In Favour: Members Julie Fraser, Edwin Joseph, Sylvia Klonaris, Patrik Ralph and Peter Styles

Against: Members Jimmy Bouhoris, Nicole Brown, Shani Carson, Kim Farrar, Mick Palmer, Peter Pangquee and Sam Weston

LOST 5/7

15 RECEIVE & NOTE REPORTS

Councillor Kim Farrar departed the meeting at 7:42 pm.

Councillor Kim Farrar re-joined the meeting at 7:44 pm.

15.1 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026**RESOLUTION ORD130/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson

Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

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

CARRIED 12/0

15.2 ELECTED MEMBER ALLOWANCE 2026/2027**RESOLUTION ORD131/26**

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar

Seconded: Councillor Patrik Ralph

THAT the report entitled Elected Member Allowance 2026/2027 be received and noted.

CARRIED 12/0

15.3 ADVISORY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE OPEN MEETING MINUTES**RESOLUTION ORD132/26**

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Councillor Peter Pangquee

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

CARRIED 12/0

16 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

17 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**RESOLUTION ORD133/26**

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar

Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

THAT the following Reports of Representatives be received and noted.

17.1

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris, attended the Greek Independence Day commemoration on 25 March 2026 at St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, where long-term Darwin residents were recognised, including Mr Petros Mihailou, the first Kalymnian Greek settler in Darwin, with MLA Jinson Charls also acknowledging the Greek community's contributions.

17.2

Councillor Patrik Ralph, accompanied by Councillor Kim Farrar, attended the Garuda Football Club 2026 All Training session at Wulagi Oval on 25 March 2026, where community members enjoyed a free BBQ and the handover of keys for a new Council-constructed storage shed to be shared by all sporting codes using the oval.

17.3

Councillor Julie Fraser, attended Lee Point on 29 March 2026, with the community, who have a choir, showing support for the protection of Lee Point and the importance of the area.

CARRIED 12/0

18 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**18.1 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PROCESS****RESOLUTION ORD134/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson

Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

Question

Councillor Sam Weston asked whether Questions by Members are still required to be submitted to Councillor Support by 10:00 am on the day of an Ordinary Council Meeting, in accordance with the procedure.

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders confirmed this is the procedure and advised that a question from Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris was received by email prior to 10:00 am for this Ordinary Council Meeting.

CARRIED 12/0

18.2 PLOVER NEST GARAMANUK PARK**RESOLUTION ORD135/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson

Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

Question

Councillor Edwin Joseph advised that a concerned constituent had raised the presence of plover eggs at Garamanuk Park in Lyons, and sought assurance that contractors are aware and that the nests will be protected during mowing works.

Response

The General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr advised that staff are aware of plovers nesting in the area and that cones have been placed around the nests to alert contractors and ensure they are avoided during mowing.

CARRIED 12/0

18.3 CASUARINA AQUATIC AND LEISURE CENTRE**RESOLUTION ORD136/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

Question

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris requested an update on the negotiations for the Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

Response

The General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy advised that negotiations are ongoing and requested that the matter be raised in the Confidential section of the meeting.

CARRIED 12/0**18.4 POTHOLE MAINTENANCE****RESOLUTION ORD137/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

Question

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris requested an update on City of Darwin's plans to commence resurfacing works across the municipality to address potholes, as the dry season approaches.

Response

The General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr responded and advised that teams are preparing for the upcoming dry season and are transitioning from reactive wet-season repairs to more complex resurfacing works. Currently, major potholes are typically addressed within two days. Roads requiring more extensive resurfacing will be scheduled for completion during the dry season.

CARRIED 12/0

18.5 IRRIGATION SCHEDULES**RESOLUTION ORD138/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

Question

Councillor Kim Farrar requested an update on watering schedules for City of Darwin parks, ovals and reserves, following constituent enquiries regarding irrigation operating during the day, and asked whether watering could be adjusted to evening hours.

Response

The General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr advised that watering schedules for sporting ovals are generally aligned with training and game days. For parks and greenbelts, post-cyclone survey works are ongoing across the municipality, with some irrigation systems being operated during the day to test and ensure equipment is functioning correctly.

CARRIED 12/0**18.6 GAMBA GRASS MITIGATION****RESOLUTION ORD139/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

Question

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris inquired what City of Darwin are doing to mitigate the excess growth of gamba grass in suburbs and on verges and nature strips.

Response

The General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr advised that Councillors with concerns relating to specific properties or locations may report these via Snap Send Solve for action by the Regulatory Services team. Further noting that gamba grass on privately owned, undeveloped land is generally managed by the Northern Territory Government, as the control and eradication are subject to Government regulations.

CARRIED 12/0

18.7 BENNETT AND CAVENAGH STREET SHADE STRUCTURE**RESOLUTION ORD140/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

Question

Councillor Mick Palmer inquired as to when the shade shelter removed from the corner of Bennett Street and Cavenagh Street will be reinstated.

Response

The General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy took the question on notice.

CARRIED 12/0**18.8 CHAN WARD BY-ELECTION****RESOLUTION ORD141/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

Question

Councillor Julie Fraser requested an update on the proposed dates and process for the Chan Ward by-election following the resignation of Ed Smelt.

Response

The Manager Office of Council and CEO, Gemma Perkins advised that officers are currently liaising with the Northern Territory Electoral Commission to confirm proposed dates, and that a report will be presented to the next Ordinary Council Meeting outlining the dates and potential options for Elected Members to consider.

CARRIED 12/0

18.9 SOCIAL MEDIA CONDUCT**RESOLUTION ORD142/26**

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson

Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

Question

Councillor Julie Fraser raised concerns regarding the tone and behaviour on community social media platforms and sought clarification on Council's awareness of the issue, actions taken to address it, whether any matters have been formally reported to the Chief Executive Officer or relevant authorities, and whether protocols are in place where online behaviour may pose a risk of harm.

Response

The Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders advised that formal complaints against Elected Members must be submitted using the approved Code of Conduct complaint form with supporting evidence. Criminal matters, including threats of violence, should be referred to the Northern Territory Police. Further advising that any discussion relating to specific Code of Conduct matters should be raised in the Confidential section of the meeting.

CARRIED 12/0

19 GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris departed the meeting at 8:09 pm.

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris re-joined the meeting at 8:12 pm.

19.1 NOTICE OF MOTION PROCESS**RESOLUTION ORD143/26**

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Mick Palmer

Councillor Julie Fraser raised concerns that motions submitted were not included in the agenda for the Ordinary Council Meeting, despite being tabled at the briefing held the previous week.

The Lord Mayor, Peter Styles advised that an email was issued on Thursday, 26 March 2026, notifying Councillor Julie Fraser that the motions were non-compliant due to required information and references to attachments. The email requested that the motions be refined and resubmitted by 10.00 am on Monday, 30 March 2026, for inclusion as late reports. As no revised motions were received, they were not included in the agenda.

CARRIED 11/1

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

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 28 April 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 Proposal for Friendship City Agreement with the City of Atambua

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

28.2 Reconciliation Advisory Committee Recommendation - Appointment of Community Members

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(a) 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.

28.3 Extension of Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Member Terms

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.

28.4 Unrecoverable Rate Debt Write Off

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(b) 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 personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer and information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

28.5 Budget Forum Outcomes

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.

28.6 2024/2025 Year End Surplus Funds Allocation

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) 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 subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other 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.

29.1 Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

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

29.2 Advisory and Audit 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 ORD144/26

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT the open section of the meeting be adjourned at 8:13pm.

CARRIED 12/0

THAT the open section of the meeting be resumed at 9:47pm.

THAT the chair declared the meeting closed at 9:47pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 April 2026.

.....
CHAIR

Unconfirmed