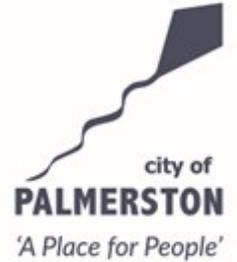


# AGENDA

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## 2nd ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2026

The Ordinary Meeting of City of Palmerston will be held in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT 0830 commencing at 5:30 PM.

Council business papers can be viewed on City of Palmerston's website [palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://palmerston.nt.gov.au) or at the Council Office located: Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston NT 0830.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Walsh", is positioned above a horizontal line.

ANDREW WALSH  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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# 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

## 2 OPENING OF MEETING

## 3 APOLOGIES

## 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

### 4.1 Elected members

### 4.2 Staff

## 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

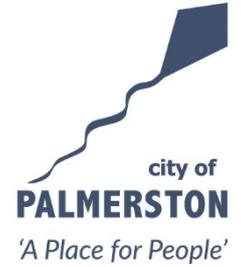
### 5.1 Confirmation of minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 February 2026 pages 12010 to 12031 be confirmed.

### 5.2 Business arising from previous meeting

## 6 MAYORAL REPORT

# MAYORAL REPORT



2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	6.1
<b>Report Title:</b>	Mayoral Update Report - January 2026
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 17 February 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Acting Mayor, Damian Hale

## Community plan

Governance: Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

## Purpose

This Report provides an overview of events the Acting Mayor has attended in January 2026 on behalf of Council.

## Key messages

- As the principal member of Council, the Acting Mayor undertakes regular activities and attends events to speak on Council's behalf.
- This Report provides context on several events that were attended by the Acting Mayor, on Council's behalf.

## Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Mayoral Update Report - January 2026 be received and noted.

## Discussion

As the principal member of Council, the Acting Mayor undertakes regular activities and attends events on behalf of Council.

An overview of events attended by the Acting Mayor during the month of January 2026 is as follows:

- Palmerston Rugby Union Club 2025 Season Presentations.
- Meeting with Lutheran Care.
- ABC Radio Interview.
- Australia Day Cocktail Party 2026.
- Unveiling of the Official Portrait of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Administrator of the Northern Territory.

- Australia Day Ceremony 2026.
- Reception to farewell the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM, 23rd Administrator of the Northern Territory.

### Australia Day Cocktail Party 2026

The Australia Day Cocktail Party 2026, held on Thursday 22 January 2026, brought together approximately 58 guests to celebrate outstanding community contributions in Palmerston. Distinguished attendees included The Honourable Marie-Clare Boothby, Attorney-General, representing the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory; Mr Luke Gosling OAM MP; and Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, along with City of Palmerston Councillors Wayne Bayliss, Mark Fraser and Yolanda Kanyai, and 2025 Citizen of the Year Mr Rodney Greenwood. The evening recognised seven Citizen of the Year nominees, two Young Citizen of the Year nominees, and five Community Event or Group of the Year nominees, acknowledging their valuable contributions to strengthening community spirit and connection.



Jennie Copley, one of the Citizen of the Year nominee & Acting Mayor Hale.

## Australia Day Ceremony 2026

Australia Day 2026 in Palmerston was marked by a meaningful community celebration at the Palmerston Recreation Centre, bringing together residents, leaders and families to reflect, respect and celebrate. The ceremony welcomed 34 new Australian citizens from 20 different countries, highlighting the city's rich cultural diversity, while also recognising outstanding community contributions through the Palmerston Australia Day Awards. The event honoured Citizen of the Year Balachander Mohanraj, Young Citizen of the Year Joshua Harrington, and Community Event of the Year recipient the Tamil Society of the Northern Territory, celebrating the dedication, volunteerism and civic pride that continue to make Palmerston a vibrant and inclusive community.



Acting Mayor Hale, Joshua Harrington Young Citizen of the Year, and Helen Summers

### Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

### Budget and resource implications

There are no budget or resource implications relating to this Report.

### Risk, legal and legislative implications

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications relating to this Report.

### Attachments

Nil

## 7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### 7.1 Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Membership

THAT the presentation by Mary Watson, Chief Executive Officer for Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) on LGANT Membership be received and noted.

## 8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)

## 9 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

### 9.1 Moving confidential items into open

### 9.2 Moving open items into confidential

### 9.3 Confidential items

THAT pursuant to Section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and section 51(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following confidential items:

Item	Confidential Category	Confidential Clause
24.1	External Presentation Request	51(1)(c)(ii) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(ii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.
26.1.1	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	51(1)(a) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting

		as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, 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.
26.1.2	Council Property Agreements and Contracts	51(1)(c)(i) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.
26.1.3	Shared Services	51(1)(e) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to 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.
26.1.4	Review of Confidential Matters	51(1)(c)(iv) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.
26.2.1	Shared Services	51(1)(e) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may

		close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to 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.
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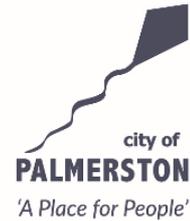
## 10 PETITIONS

## 11 NOTICES OF MOTION

### 11.1 Councillor Attendance at Ticketed Events and Conferences

1. THAT the Notice of Motion received from Mayor Pascoe-Bell, entitled 11.1 Councillor Attendance at Ticketed Events and Conferences be received and noted.
2. THAT a draft Council Policy on Elected Member attendance at ticketed events and conferences is prepared and presented for Council's consideration at the Second Ordinary Meeting in April 2026.

# NOTICE OF MOTION



*Note: Notices of Motion must be received by the Chief Executive Officer 5 clear days prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be moved.*

<b>COUNCIL MEETING DATE</b>	Tuesday, 17 February 2026
<b>ELECTED MEMBER</b>	Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Council Policy – Elected Member attendance at ticketed events and conferences

## CONFIDENTIAL

Confidential:  Yes  No

*If you selected yes to this being Confidential, please select the relevant Clause: Choose a Clause.*

## BACKGROUND

The newly formed 11<sup>th</sup> Council has been blessed with active and engaged members, which is beneficial for the community with members actively seeking out opportunities to engage and learn more about governance, the role of local government and the issues that impact our municipality.

With this has come an abundance of interest in attending various events and conference which brings value and knowledge into the Council, however, some of which may come at a significant cost to council and rate payers, particularly where travel and accommodation is required in addition to event or conference fees, while some local events, such as the monthly meetings of the Palmerston Regional Business Association are minimal such as free to less than \$50.

With many of the more expensive events and conferences occurring on an annual or by-annual basis, there is ample opportunity for access to these events and conferences to be offered on a rotational basis over a 4-year council term. For example, The Australia Local Government Association National General Assembly occurs every year in Canberra and the Developing North Australia Conference occurs every two years in a different locality each time.

Following discussions at the last two council meetings, it has been agreed in principal that attendance at major ticketed events and conferences should be limited the mayor, as council's representative or the mayor's representative, and up to a maximum of two additional councillors, which should be rotated each time events and conferences come around.

It has also been acknowledged that councillors should utilise their professional development allowance to attend any event and conference that increase their knowledge and skills in relation to local government, the amount of which is sufficient to cover costs for 1-2 events or conferences requiring travel and accommodation each year, or several local events and conferences that do not require travel and accommodation.



## OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Notice of Motion is to establish a Council Policy that clearly articulates policy on attendance at ticketed events and conferences, over and above a councillor's utilisation of Professional Development Allowance.

The policy should consider

- That councillors are encouraged to first utilise their Professional Development Allowance where feasible, unless they identify a specific use for their Professional Development Allowance, such as the Australian Institute of Company Director's Course or similar governance training.
- A nominal financial limit on local events and conferences to allow attendance at local events and conferences, for example tickets of less than \$50 each or free attendance.
- Limiting the number of councillors in addition to the mayor, or mayor's representative, who can attend larger, significant or more expensive events and conferences.
- Recording and reporting on the names of members who have attended previous events or conferences when considering attendance for the next event or conference.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

THAT a draft Council Policy on Elected Member attendance at ticketed events and conferences is prepared and presented for Council's consideration at the Second Ordinary Meeting in April 2026.

## SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
ATHINA PASCOE-BELL

Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
12/02/2026

Date



# 12 OFFICER REPORTS

# COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	12.1.1
<b>Report Title:</b>	Community Funding Program Grant Application - Landcare NT Incorporated
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 17 February 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Community Services Manager, Laura Hardman
<b>Approver:</b>	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

## Community plan

Environmental Sustainability: Palmerston is an environmentally friendly, liveable city that promotes renewable practices and sustainability.

## Purpose

This report seeks Council endorsement for the community initiative proposed by Landcare NT Incorporated, to facilitate Bio-Education programs across Four (4) Palmerston schools during Semester 1, 2026, with the support of the Community Funding Program.

## Key messages

- Council supports initiatives that benefit the Palmerston community through the Community Funding Program.
- Landcare NT Incorporated has applied for \$11,000 under the Environmental Initiatives category to deliver the Bio-Education program in four (4) Palmerston primary schools.
- The Bio-Education program is intended to engage primary school students with the unique biodiversity of the Top End through direct interaction with local environmental experts.
- The program aligns with the City of Palmerston Community Plan outcomes of Environmental Sustainability.
- \$103,044.45 remains in the Community Funding Program grant budget for the 2025/26 financial year, including \$20,000 for Environmental Initiatives.

## Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Community Funding Program Grant Application - Landcare NT Incorporated be received and noted.
2. That Council endorse Option One (1) – Full funding at a cost of \$11,000 to support Landcare NT's Bio-Educational program delivery across Palmerston primary schools during Semester 1 2026 through the Community Funding Program 2025/2026 financial year.

## Background

The Community Funding Program (CFP) is the City of Palmerston's grant funding initiative that supports individuals, groups, and organisations in delivering programs and projects that provide positive outcomes for the Palmerston community and align with Council's vision as A Place for People.

The following opportunities are available for eligible applicants:

- Individual and Team Representation Support
- Community Grants, Environmental Initiatives and Sponsorship
- Annual School Awards
- Graffiti Removal Grants

Landcare NT Incorporated is a not-for-profit organisation and the peak body supporting community environmental groups across the Northern Territory. In Palmerston, Landcare NT supports both established and emerging groups, such as Friends of Mitchell Creek and the Palmerston Conservation Group, demonstrating a strong local presence and community partnerships.

The 2024/25 funding acquittal has been received. Seven events were held in Palmerston during the funding period.

## Discussion

Landcare NT Incorporated has applied for \$11,000 through the Community Funding Program to deliver the Bio-Education environmental education program in Palmerston during the 2025/26 financial year. The program aims to engage primary school students with the unique biodiversity of the Top End through direct interaction with local environmental experts.

All required supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed as part of the assessment process. Financial quotes have been received to support the application.

The Bio-Education program brings qualified local environmental specialists into primary schools to engage, educate, and inspire students about the Top End's biodiversity. Delivery is supported through established partnerships with NT Fisheries and Biosecurity, who will facilitate several program modules. The program is aligned with the primary school

curriculum and aims to foster environmental awareness, stewardship, and long-term positive behavioural change among students.

Delivery is proposed across various Palmerston primary schools during school hours in Semester 1, 2026, targeting middle to upper primary students, with an expected participation of approximately 240 students.

Further information is provided at **Attachment 12.1.1.1**.

## Option 1

*Full Funding - \$11,000 (Recommended)*

City of Palmerston offers a grant for the full amount at a cost of \$11,000. This option allows the program to be delivered as proposed, maximises student participation and educational impact, and demonstrates strong alignment with the City of Palmerston's strategic priorities, especially environmental sustainability.

## Option 2

*Partial Funding - \$5,500 (Not Recommended)*

City of Palmerston provides partial funding at a cost of \$5,500. This option is not recommended as, it may result in fewer schools participating, reduced modules, or fewer delivery hours, thereby diminishing the overall community impact. Option 3

*No Funding (Not Recommended)*

The option is not recommended due to the valuable opportunity this project presents to Palmerston young people.

## Consultation and marketing

- The applicant was consulted during the preparation of this Report.
- Manager Sustainability

## Policy implications

- Community Funding Program Policy.
- Community Funding Guidelines.

## Budget and resource implications

The Community Funding Program has the remaining funds for the 25/26 financial year, all Ex. GST. (to the value of)

- \$48,044.45 for Grants, Individual Representation, Graffiti and School Awards.
- \$35,000 for Sponsorship, with \$95,000 committed to multiyear agreements.
- \$20,000 for Environmental Initiatives.

## Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

**6. Governance**

Failure to effectively govern funding allocation and community investment.

**7. Environmental Sustainability**

Failure of Council to clearly articulate, plan for and deliver prudent and responsible environmental ambitions.

## Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- [Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026](#)
- [City of Palmerston Community Plan](#)

## Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer, declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## Attachments

1. Community Funding Program Grants environmental initiatives Sponsorship Submission [12.1.1.1 - 3 pages]

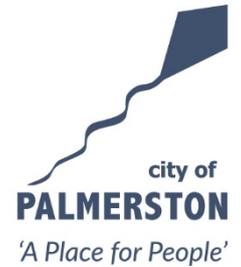
## Community Funding Program - Grants, environmental initiatives & Sponsorship : Submission #10

Funding type sought:	Community grant
Organisation's name	Landcare NT Incorporated
Organisation type	Incorporated not-for-profit
ABN: (if applicable):	32 7715 676 40
Details	
Provide details of your organisation	<p>Landcare NT works with community Landcare groups and associations to maintain and improve the health and resilience of the natural environment and working landscapes. Landcare NT builds knowledge and skills in sustainable land and water management, supports local environmental projects, and strengthens community capacity across urban, rural and remote NT regions.</p> <p>In the Palmerston region Landcare NT are the peak body for all Landcare groups including the established Friends of Mitchell Creek and the emerging Palmerston Conservation Group.</p>
Provide details of the proposed activity	<p>The core goal of the Bio-Education program is to get local experts (in botany, entomology, biodiversity and Top End habitats) into primary schools to engage with, educate, and inspire students. The program aims to broadcast the unique biodiversity of the Top End, and inspire and motivate students to explore, investigate, conserve and advocate for this unique part of the world. The skills and connections students make</p>

	<p>to their local wildlife and habitats will give them the skills and passion to care for the broader natural world across the span of their lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engage and educate students</li> <li>• help to create educated, compassionate and engaged students who care about and for the Top End’s biodiversity and natural world</li> <li>• the program is aligned with the school curriculum.</li> <li>• It promote the partnerships with NT Fisheries and Biosecurity, who will deliver education modules.</li> <li>• Potential promotion of the City of Palmerston program, Hooked on Palmerston, during one of the modules.</li> </ul>
Provide details of previous activities held by the organisation	<p>BioEd was successfully delivered across nine Palmerston primary schools in Term 4, 2025. Two of those schools – Zuccoli Primary School and Forest Parade School – have already sent out expressions of interest to participate again in BioEd’s 2026 Program.</p> <p>BioEd’s 2024 program was a pilot and ran with two core modules – flora and fauna. This year BioEd has expanded to offer three additional modules - Invasive Species &amp; Habitat Health, Climate Resilience, and Water Resources. Semester 1 of 2025 saw these additions trialled across City of Darwin primary schools.</p>
What are the intended objectives of this activity, and how will you evaluate its success?	Through student and teacher surveys and positive engagement scores
Date	Semester 1 2026
Venue	Various Primary schools across the Palmerston Catchment
Time	School Hours
Expected number of attendees	240
Target audience	Middle to Upper Primary School Students
Total activity cost	11000

Amount requested through the Community funding program	11000
Is the amount requested excluding GST?	Yes
Value of other funding sources	\$35,000 but most of this covers the Darwin and Litchfield school catchment zones.
Evidence of registration as a community group, not-for-profit, or incorporated body	<a href="#">INCOPORATION CERTIFICATE Landcare NT.pdf</a> (1.02 MB)
Evidence of appropriate Certificate of currency for applicable insurances	<a href="#">Certificate of Currency Association Liability.pdf</a> (71.92 KB)
Minutes of the Committee meeting that document the decision to apply for CFP funding	<a href="#">LANDCA~1.DOC</a> (194.63 KB)
A detailed budget, including all income and expenditure including in-kind contributions	<a href="#">CoP Grant Budget Jan 2026.pdf</a> (140.71 KB)
Copies of quotations for all products and services listed in the budget	<a href="#">LCNT Quote - Jan2026.pdf</a> (140.75 KB)
A copy of the organisation's most recent audited financial statement (for applications over \$10,000)	<a href="#">Financial Statements 2025 - Audited (signed).pdf</a> (4 MB)
City of Palmerston's support will be publicly acknowledged in the following ways:	Social media post, Website, Promotional material
Signed	
Date signed	2026-01-23

# COUNCIL REPORT



## 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	12.1.2
<b>Report Title:</b>	Darwin International Film Festival in Palmerston
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 17 February 2026
<b>Author:</b>	City Activation Manager, Matthew McNamara
<b>Approver:</b>	General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight

## Community plan

Family and Community: Palmerston is a safe and family friendly community where everyone belongs.

## Purpose

This Report seeks Council approval of a three (3) year partnership proposal from Darwin International Film Festival to deliver annual festival screenings in Palmerston from 2026 to 2028.

## Key messages

- Darwin International Film Festival demonstrated successful delivery in Palmerston, with the festival completing two family friendly screenings in 2025 at Goyder Square.
- A three (3) year partnership has been requested, representing a progression from a one-year pilot to a significant cultural investment, enabling improved planning and delivery.
- The proposed partnership aligns with Council's strategic objectives by supporting cultural diversity, First Nations storytelling and the activation of public spaces through accessible and high-quality events.
- Hosting Darwin International Film Festival in Palmerston contributes to increased visitation, activation of Goyder Square and flow on economic benefits for local businesses.

## Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Darwin International Film Festival in Palmerston be received and noted.

2. THAT Council endorses a three (3) year partnership with Darwin International Film Festival for the delivery of two (2) free, family-friendly screenings in Palmerston annually from 2026 to 2028.

## Background

Darwin International Film Festival (DIFF) is an 11-day annual festival of film and film-related events occurring in mid-late September. It was founded in 2010 by the Darwin Film Society (DFS), a not-for-profit community organisation committed to promoting film culture in the NT.

In 2025 DIFF was held in Palmerston for the first time over two consecutive Saturdays in September. The family friendly film screenings were a local success with positive feedback provided to the organisers indicating that the atmosphere at both events was relaxed and light-hearted, and anecdotal feedback from DIFF and Council staff and volunteers at the events was positive.

DIFF have provided a proposal for a continued three-year proposal to solidify the festival in Palmerston making it a staple in the annual events calendar for the city. Council's City Activation team's role in the agreement will continue to be as the key contact for the collaboration and the conduit between Council's parks staff and the organisers regarding access and complying with food safety standards and requirements.

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Council Meeting of Tuesday 17 June 2025 Council made the following decisions:

### **13.1.9 Darwin International Film Festival in Palmerston**

**Moved:** Councillor Morrison  
**Seconded:** Councillor Henderson

1. THAT the Report entitled Darwin International Film Festival in Palmerston be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses the event partnership proposal as outlined at Attachment 13.1.9.1 contained in this report entitled Darwin International Film Festival in Palmerston for the purpose of delivering two screenings in Goyder Square as part of the Darwin International Film Festival in September 2025 for \$7,000.

**CARRIED (5/0) -10/1940 -17/06/2025**

## Discussion

Darwin international Film Festival (DIFF) presents a proven and scalable opportunity for City of Palmerston to continue its partnership with an established Northern Territory cultural institution.



Following the successful delivery of two (2) free, family-friendly screenings in Goyder Square as part of the 2025 Festival, Darwin Film Society has proposed a three (3) year partnership with City of Palmerston, commencing in 2026. The inaugural edition of the DIFF in Palmerston was well received and professionally delivered with feedback highlighting the value of accessible cultural programming delivered locally.

The proposed three (3) year partnership reflects a shift from an initial pilot in 2025 to a medium-term collaboration focused on improving the event quality, audience experience and community reach. The proposal outlines a staged increase in investment aligned with clear enhancements to delivery, improved screening technology, additional venue activation, expanded food and entertainment offerings and stronger engagement with local business, schools and creatives.

Continuation of this partnership would enable City of Palmerston to consolidate its position as a cultural destination within the Top End, while providing certainty for planning and promotion to Darwin Film Society for future years. The festivals ongoing focus on Southeast Asian cinema, First Nations storytelling and local creative development aligns closely with City of Palmerston's Creative Industries Plan.

Hosting DIFF screenings in Palmerston will continue to generate broader economic and social benefits, including increased visitation to the Palmerston CBD, patronage of local businesses and the activation of Goyder Square.

## Consultation and marketing

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- City Activation Officer
- Events Lead

In preparing this Report, the following external parties were consulted:

- Darwin International Film Festival

## Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

## Budget and resource implications

The proposed partnership with DIFF will need to be included in the 2025/26 (and beyond) Arts (Programming) operational budget. The 2026/27 consideration of \$8,000 represents a modest increase on the previous year and reflects the enhanced service delivery and event quality. Any decision would need to be incorporated in the 2026/27 budget development process.

The partnership value increases to \$9,000 in the second year and \$10,000 in the final year of the proposed agreement, and these amounts would be built into future budgets if approved.

## Risk, legal and legislative implications

Advancing the initiatives set out in the Creative Industries Plan remains essential to supporting and growing creative communities in Palmerston. Entering into a multi-year partnership with DIFF strengthens Council's commitment to inclusive cultural participation, while providing certainty and continuity of delivery.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

**3. Economic Development**

Failure to articulate, provide and promote the value proposition for Palmerston as an economic centre to attract investment.

**4. Inclusion, Diversity and Access**

Failure to balance meeting needs of Palmerston's cultural mosaic.

## Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- [Creative Industries Plan 2023-2027](#)

The proposed partnership aligns with the Creative Industries Plan by supporting the activation of public spaces through high-quality cultural programming and strengthening opportunities for community participation in the arts. The continuation of DIFF screenings in Palmerston contributes to the Plan's objectives to grow the local creative industry, support cultural expression and maximise the use of existing places and spaces for unique and accessible events.

The partnership also supports Council's Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework by delivering free, family-friendly events that celebrate cultural diversity and increase First Nations and regional storytelling. A multi-year approach enables sustained delivery, improved planning and stronger outcomes aligned with Council's long-term place-making and community development objectives.

## Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## Attachments

Nil

# COUNCIL REPORT

## 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	12.1.3
<b>Report Title:</b>	2025-26 Second Budget Review
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 17 February 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Executive Manager Financial Performance, Jeffrey Guilas
<b>Approver:</b>	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta

## Community plan

Governance: Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

## Purpose

This Report seeks Council approval for the Second Budget Review of the current financial year 2025/26 to ensure that the budget is aligned with operational realities and any changes in financial circumstances.

## Key messages

- Council's 2025/26 Second Budget Review is a consolidation of the council decisions, adjustment and movements in the budgets to better allocate resources across departments.
- The Second Budget Review is compliant with Section 202 of the Local Government Act 2019, which prohibits budgeting for a deficit except in accordance with the regulations specified in Section 10 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021.
- A total of \$921,179.81 is recommended for allocation to Cyclone Fina response which consists of:
  - \$801,179.81 in savings from various capital projects
  - \$120,000 in savings from operating expenditure
- A \$500,000 transfer from the Disaster Recovery Reserve to Cyclone Fina response as per Council decision 11/0148.
- The items presented in the budget review has no material impact on the published Long-Term Financial Plan.

- Once the Second Budget Review movements are adopted by the Council, the amended budget will be published on the Council's website.

## Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled 2025-26 Second Budget Review be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the 2025/26 Second Budget Review, including movements between capital and operational expenditure, and the associated transfers from reserve as presented in **Attachment 12.1.3.1** of report entitled 2025-26 Second Budget Review.

## Background

Council adopted the 2025/26 Municipal Plan and Budget at the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 June 2025.

At the Ordinary Council meeting of 20 January 2026, Council made the following decisions:

### **12.1.1 Cyclone Fina - Update January 2026**

1. *THAT Report entitled Cyclone Fina - Update January 2026 be received and noted.*
2. *THAT an update on Cyclone Fina is provided to the Second Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 February 2026.*
3. *THAT Council note that further consideration of revised capital and operational budget to accommodate expenditure for Cyclone Fina recovery will be included in the Second Budget Review provided to the Second Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 February 2026.*

**CARRIED (6/0) - 11/0179 - 20/01/2026**

Further Council Decisions that are referred to in this report are found at Table 1 - Prior Council Decisions.

Budget reviews occur to enable the Council to consider current requirements against the Original Budget to ensure the Council is delivering on the services outlined in the 2025/26 Municipal Plan and Budget and grant commitments made to funding bodies.

Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, require Council to review the budget twice a financial year, however City of Palmerston currently undertakes three budget reviews per financial year. The First Budget review 2025-26 was presented to Council on 14 November 2025.

The purpose of this report is to present the Second Budget Review 2025/26 movements and seek the Council's endorsement to adopt the amended budget and provides Council with an update on Cyclone Fina as per Council Decision - 11/0179.

# Discussion

## *Cyclone Fina Update*

Cyclone Fina recovery activity has continued to progress, with more than 100 additional tasks logged since the update provided to Council on 20 January 2026. As at 30 January 2026, over 1,110 jobs had been recorded in the emergency management system, with more than 55% closed. All remaining tasks have been allocated to staff or contractors for action, noting that a number of completed works are pending administrative confirmation to enable invoicing.

Initial estimates remains the same, which indicate total recovery costs may exceed \$2 million, with approximately \$1.4 million assessed as potentially eligible under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), subject to eligibility confirmation and Council's required co-contribution.

In response to the emerging financial impacts, Council considered interim funding arrangements at its Ordinary Meeting of 9 December 2025, approving up to \$500,000 from the Disaster Recovery Reserve and authorising the use of existing operational and capital budgets pending a revised budget.

A significant component of this second Budget review was reviewing capital and operational budget to accommodate expenditure for Cyclone Fina recovery.

## *2025-26 Budget Review movements*

Council's 2025/26 Second Budget Review incorporates Council decisions identified in Table 1, together with movements in income and expenditure outlined in Tables 2 to 4.

The adjustments detailed in this report introduce minimal disruption to the 2025/26 operational and capital budgets and plans, while responding to the recovery works required as a result of Cyclone Fina. Adjustments in the capital program relate to reduction in scope or quantity, all projects for 2025/26 are still progressing. The proposed budget amendments are designed to have no impact on overall service delivery levels.

Table 1: Council decisions

<b>Council Decisions</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget Implication</b>
10/1987 – 15/07/2025	Allocate \$5,000 for Gray Community Hall design work
11/0148 – 9/12/2025	Transfer \$500,000 to Emergency Ops budget from Disaster Recovery Reserve for Cyclone Fina response

A review of income and expenditure budget was undertaken, and the recommended movements are found in Tables 2 to 4 below.

Individual details of these movements are provided in Attachment **12.1.3.1**. Movements between departments, cost centres, expenditure items, and between capital and operational expenditure, have been recommended to provide a more accurate reflection of current budget projections and to support improved program management. These adjustments have no net impact on the overall budget position.

Table 2: Summary of operating income and expenditure movements

Department	Movements in operating income and expenses
Aquatic Centre	Include income of \$260,000 for share of income from SWELL operation.
Library Services	Increase public library grant income by \$18,162 to align with the actual grant received and include \$5,500 for aged care reform grant. These additional grants will be utilised for library furniture and equipment.
Parking and ranger	Increase long grass expense of \$6,623 with corresponding increase in long grass recovery income.
Information technology	Increase in telecommunication charges of \$16,100 due to afterhours monitoring that was not included in the original budget and \$86,250 in software licenses due to significant increase in prices by software provider.
Roads	Decrease in the consultancy budget of \$15,000 and increase of \$179,517 in road maintenance.
Animal management	Decrease of \$11,867 in Animal Sterilisation Program.

Table 3: Department, cost centres and expenditure items movements

Directorate	Movements between departments, cost centres, and accounts
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reallocate \$80,000 tree watering budget to tree maintenance</li> <li>• Reallocate \$120,000 savings in mowing and landscaping to Cyclone Fina</li> </ul>
People and Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reallocate \$50,000 advertising budget from Marcomms to People &amp; Customer.</li> <li>• Reallocate \$30,000 consultant budget in People &amp; customer from recruitment to professional services cost centre</li> <li>• Reallocate \$25,000 advertising budget to consultant.</li> </ul>
Finance and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reallocate \$9,000 stationery budget to People &amp; customer stationery budget of \$5,260 and subscription of \$3,740</li> </ul>

Table 4: Movements between capital income and expenditure, and operational expenditure

Project/Activity	Movement between categories
Cyclone Fina	Reallocate total savings of \$801,179.81 from various capital projects for Cyclone Fina response.
Airconditioning project	Move \$25,000 from Library Building Capital Works to Recreation Centre Renewal Program.
SWELL Energy Efficiency project	Increase capital grants income of \$158,400 and corresponding increase in capital expense.

### *Long-Term Financial Plan*

The increase in operating income along with the movements in capital income, capital expenditure, operational expenditure, and reserve movement have no material impact on Council's adopted Long-Term Financial Plan, therefore the 2026-2035 LTFP has not been amended. The LTFP is currently being reviewed as part of the 2026-27 budget development process.

## Consultation and marketing

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- Executive Leadership Team.
- Senior Leadership Team.
- Budget Officers.

## Policy implications

All reserve movements are compliant with the Financial Reserve Policy.

## Budget and resource implications

The budget and resource implications are detailed in the body of this Report and the attachments.

## Risk, legal and legislative implications

Council has implemented interim funding measures to manage the financial impacts of Cyclone Fina while longer-term funding arrangements are being finalised. The timing and quantum of DRFA reimbursements remain uncertain, creating ongoing cash-flow and budgetary pressure, and necessitating close monitoring of expenditure and a comprehensive review and reprioritisation of the 2025–26 operational and capital budgets.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

**2. Financial Sustainability**

Failure of Council to be financially sustainable to deliver key services and infrastructure for the community.

**6. Governance**

Failure to effectively govern.

## Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- [Long Term Financial Plan](#)

## Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## Attachments

1. Net Movement, Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Reserve Movement 2025-26 [**12.1.3.1** - 4 pages]

<b>STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>				
Description	Original Budget \$	1st Review Increase/ (Decrease) \$	2nd Review Increase/ (Decrease) \$	Revised Annual Budget \$
<b>Operating Income</b>				
Rates	28,976,123	-	-	28,976,123
Charge	8,932,422	-	-	8,932,422
Fees & Charges	964,282	38,137	12,123	1,014,542
Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	3,560,023	1,272,738	18,162	2,305,447
Interest & Investment Revenue	1,729,151	12,760	-	1,741,911
Other Income	41,960	-	260,000	301,960
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>44,203,961</b>	<b>1,221,841</b>	<b>290,285</b>	<b>43,272,405</b>
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>				
Employee Costs	13,690,358	144,301	-	13,546,057
Materials & Contractors	14,594,804	43,067	1,324,598	15,962,469
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	12,306,000	-	-	12,306,000
Elected Members Allowances	474,105	-	-	474,105
Elected Members Expenses	383,370	-	-	383,370
Professional Services	2,015,627	61,000	-	2,076,627
Auditor's Remuneration	55,886	-	-	55,886
Bad and Doubtful Debts	-	-	-	-
Utilities	2,427,946	-	-	2,427,946
Legal Expenses	315,700	-	-	315,700
Telephone & Other Communication Charges	196,678	-	16,100	212,778
Donations, Sponsorships & Grants	255,000	-	-	255,000
Software, Hardware, Stationery, Subscriptions	1,461,804	50,198	86,250	1,598,252
Insurance	769,519	-	-	769,519
Borrowing Costs	309,806	-	-	309,806
Other Expenses	2,274,641	66,200	164,517	2,505,358
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>51,531,244</b>	<b>76,164</b>	<b>1,591,465</b>	<b>53,198,873</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>- 7,327,283</b>	<b>- 1,298,005</b>	<b>- 1,301,180</b>	<b>- 9,926,468</b>
<b>Capital Income</b>				
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	150,000	-	-	150,000
Developer Contributions	200,000	-	-	200,000
Asset Income	3,000,000	-	-	3,000,000
Grants received	659,025	1,608,744	158,400	2,426,169
<b>Capital Income</b>	<b>4,009,025</b>	<b>1,608,744</b>	<b>158,400</b>	<b>5,776,169</b>
<b>Net SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) transferred to Equity Statement</b>	<b>- 3,318,258</b>	<b>310,739</b>	<b>- 1,142,780</b>	<b>- 4,150,299</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>				
Land Purchase	-	-	-	-
Asset Purchase	2,080,000	3,198,512	14,540	5,263,972
Asset Upgrade	4,521,949	2,242,788	628,240	6,136,497
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>6,601,949</b>	<b>5,441,300</b>	<b>642,780</b>	<b>11,400,469</b>
Less Non-Cash Expenditure	- 12,306,000	-	-	- 12,306,000
Plus Gifted Assets	3,000,000	-	-	3,000,000
<b>NET CAPITAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>- 614,207</b>	<b>- 5,130,560</b>	<b>- 500,000</b>	<b>- 6,244,768</b>
Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Less Repayment of Borrowings	- 512,203	-	-	- 512,203
Reserve Movement	1,126,410	5,130,560	500,000	6,756,970
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**NET BUDGET MOVEMENTS**

<b>OPERATIONAL INCOME</b>		
<i>Department</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Movement</i>
Aquatic Centre	SWELL operation income	\$ 260,000.00
Library services	Grant income for Public Library	\$ 18,162.00
Library services	Grant income for Aged Care Reform	\$ 5,500.00
Parking and other ranger services	Increase income in long grass slashing	\$ 6,623.00
	<b>Total Operational Income Adjustment</b>	<b>\$ 290,285.00</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL EXPENSE</b>		
<i>Department</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Movement</i>
Information Technology	Increase in telecommunication charges	\$ 16,100.00
Information Technology	Increase in software licenses	\$ 86,250.00
Roads	Decrease in consultants budget for Roads	-\$ 15,000.00
Library services	Increase in contractors budget for Roads maintenace	\$ 179,517.00
Library services	Increase in furniture and equipment budget funded thourgh grants	\$ 23,662.00
Open space	Move fromm tree watering to tree maintenance	\$ 80,000.00
Open space	Move from tree watering to tree maintenance	-\$ 80,000.00
Animal Management	Decrease in Animal Sterilisation Program	-\$ 11,867.00
Parking and other ranger services	Increase in slashing of long grass	\$ 6,623.00
Marketing and Communications	Move advertising budget from Marcomms to People and Customer	-\$ 50,000.00
People and Customer	Move advertising budget from Marcomms to People and Customer	\$ 50,000.00
People and Customer	Move consultants budget in People and Customer from recruitment to professional services cost centre	-\$ 30,000.00
People and Customer	Move consultants budget in People and Customer from recruitment to professional services cost centre	\$ 30,000.00
Marketing and Communications	Move advertising to consutant in Marcomms	-\$ 25,000.00
Marketing and Communications	Move advertising to consutant in Marcomms	\$ 25,000.00
GM finance and Governance	Move stationery budget from GMFG to People and customer stationery and subscription budgets	-\$ 9,000.00
People and customer	Move stationery budget from GMFG to People and customer stationery and subscription budgets	\$ 5,260.00
People and customer	Move stationery budget from GMFG to People and customer stationery and subscription budgets	\$ 3,740.00
Open space	Move savings in mowing budget to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 120,000.00
Emergency Ops	Move savings in mowing budget to Cyclone Fina	\$ 120,000.00
Open space	Move savings in landscaping budget to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 50,000.00
Emergency Ops	Move savings in landscaping budget to Cyclone Fina	\$ 50,000.00
Emergency Ops	From various capital projects to Cylone Fina	\$801,179.81
Gray Community hall	Include budget for Gray Community Hall required design work CD 10/1987 - 15/07/2025	\$ 5,000.00
Emergency Ops	Transfer from Disaster recovery to emergency operation (Cyclone Fina) CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0148 - 9/12/2025	\$ 500,000.00
	<b>Total Operational Expense Adjustment</b>	<b>\$ 1,591,464.81</b>

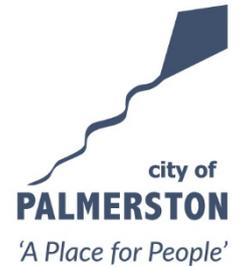
## ATTACHMENT 12.1.3.1

<b>CAPITAL INCOME</b>		
<i>Department</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Movement</i>
Sustainability program	Grant funding-Solar panel battery installation	\$ 158,400.00
	<b>Total Capital Income Adjustment</b>	<b>\$ 158,400.00</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENSE</b>		
<i>Project</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Movement</i>
Aquatic Centre Renewal	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 26,113.92
Recreation Centre Renewal	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 25,000.00
Depot Renewals	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 3,270.30
Civic Centre Building Alterations	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 39,920.00
Driver Resource Centre Renewals	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 10,240.00
Library Building Capital Works	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 22,992.00
Dark Spots - Kilgour Lane	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 47,940.00
All Ability Access	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 29,739.92
Driveway replacements	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 18,405.03
Reseal Program	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 250,000.00
Stormwater Renewals & Upgrades	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 40,751.80
Ambon Park Stromwater Infrastructure Renewals	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 33,719.00
Joan Fejo Playground Renewals	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 18,282.50
Ambon Park - Soft Fall Renewal	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 94,000.00
Irrigation Refurbishment	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 23,016.43
Cunningham Park Water meter Installation	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 25,000.00
Odegaard Drive Unit Complex	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 17,788.92
Marlow Lagoon Masterplan	Reallocation of capital projects to Emergency Ops for response to Cyclone Fina	-\$ 75,000.00
Library Building Capital Works	Move budget from library to recreation centre for airconditioning project	-\$ 25,000.00
Recreation Centre Renewal	Move budget from library to recreation centre for airconditioning project	\$ 25,000.00
Sustainability program	Grant funding-Solar panel battery installation	\$ 158,400.00
	<b>Total Capital Expense Adjustment</b>	<b>-\$ 642,779.81</b>
<b>RESERVES</b>		
<i>Reserve</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Movement</i>
Disaster recovery reserve	Transfer from Disaster recovery to emergency operation (Cyclone Fina) CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0148 - 9/12/2025	500,000.00
	<b>Total reserve Adjustment</b>	<b>\$ 500,000.00</b>
		<b>\$ -</b>

## Statement of Reserves - Budget Movements 2025/26

OTHER RESERVES	Balance as at 30 June 2025 \$	Original Budget 2025/26 to Reserves \$	Original Budget 2025/26 from Reserves \$	1st Review 2025/26 to Reserves \$	1st Review 2025/26 from Reserves \$	2nd Review 2025/26 to Reserves \$	2nd Review 2025/26 from Reserves \$	Balance at the YTD 2025/26 \$
<b>Externally Restricted Reserves</b>								
Unexpended Grants Reserve	1,430,338	-	-	(1,430,338)	-			-
<b>Externally Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>1,430,338</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,430,338)</b>	<b>-</b>			<b>-</b>
<b>Internally Restricted Reserves</b>								
Election Expenses Reserve	200,000	-	(200,000)	-	-			-
Disaster Recovery Reserve	500,000	-		-	-		(500,000)	-
Unexpended Capital Works Reserve	2,424,098	-		-	(2,424,098)			-
Developer Funds In Lieu Of Construction	2,137,942	627,871	(200,000)	-	-			2,565,813
Waste Management Reserve	3,439,396	-	(284,743)	-	(926,124)			2,228,529
Asset Renewal Reserve	-	-	-	-	-			-
Major Initiatives Reserve	-	-	-	-	-			-
<b>Internally Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>8,701,436</b>	<b>627,871</b>	<b>(684,743)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,350,222)</b>			<b>4,794,342</b>
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>								
Working Capital Reserve	4,995,227	80,462	(1,150,000)		(350,000)			3,575,689
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>	<b>4,995,227</b>	<b>80,462</b>	<b>(1,150,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(350,000)</b>			<b>3,575,689</b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>15,127,001</b>	<b>708,333</b>	<b>(1,834,743)</b>	<b>(1,430,338)</b>	<b>(3,700,222)</b>			<b>8,370,031</b>

# COUNCIL REPORT



2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	12.1.4
<b>Report Title:</b>	Darwin Fringe Festival in Palmerston
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 17 February 2026
<b>Author:</b>	City Activation Manager, Matthew McNamara
<b>Approver:</b>	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

## Community plan

Family and Community: Palmerston is a safe and family friendly community where everyone belongs.

## Purpose

This Report seeks Council endorsement for the arts festival initiative proposed by Darwin Fringe Incorporated for the Darwin Fringe Festival 2026 events in Palmerston.

## Key messages

- Darwin Fringe Incorporated has proposed a one (1) year pilot partnership to deliver Darwin Fringe Festival events in Palmerston in the third weekend of July 2026.
- The proposal was initially received through the Community Funding Program and referred to City Activation for management as an event partnership, consistent with Council's approach to comparable cultural events such as Darwin Festival, Darwin International Film Festival and the Darwin Symphony Orchestra.
- The recommended delivery model positions the Festival at Gray Community Hall for this inaugural year.
- The Festival program is artist driven and open access, with a mix of ticketed performances and free community activities. This ensures a commitment to prioritising Palmerston based artists and creatives.
- Trialling Festivals such as Darwin Fringe aligns with City of Palmerston's Creative Industries Plan 2023-2027.

## Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Darwin Fringe Festival in Palmerston be received and noted.

2. THAT Council endorse Option Three (3) for event partnership funding at a cost of \$20,000 to support the Darwin Fringe Festival 2026 to be held in Palmerston.

## Background

Darwin Fringe Festival has long been part of Darwin's cultural fabric, first appearing in the 1980s as a club-style offering as part of the Bougainvillea Festival (now Darwin Festival). It became a space for experimentation and collaboration, responding to the Territory's rapidly growing creative landscape. By 2015 a festival group relaunched Darwin Fringe as an open-access, independent arts festival featuring over 20 events and a dedicated team.

Being a multi arts community festival, Fringe programming prioritises new, experimental, bold work, unique and important voices, showcasing diverse narratives, profiling local arts, highlighting regional artists, contributing to cultural diversity and/or offering audience development.

The festival has expanded year by year since becoming an open access independent arts festival, by 2022 Darwin Fringe became an independent incorporated entity after being auspiced by Brown's Mart for many years. It is now governed by a board of volunteers and in 2024 the incorporated body received Charity status and Deductible Gift Recipient. Today, Darwin Fringe is a keystone event on the Territory's arts calendar, recognised for fostering grassroots creativity and providing crucial stepping stones for artists across disciplines, showcasing the Top End's creative heartbeat.

Palmerston is a city that is home to a range of visual and performing artists and creative professionals. By working with Fringe Festival to bring a program to Palmerston at the Gray Community Hall there is potential to elevate these local artists and talents through the festival while also playing host to a range of Territory and interstate produced shows.

## Discussion

Darwin Fringe Incorporated has submitted a partnership proposal to City of Palmerston to trial the delivery of Darwin Fringe Festival events in Palmerston for 2026. The proposal is for a one-year pilot program, allowing Council to test audience demand, operational feasibility and community outcomes before considering any future expansion or longer-term commitment.

The proposal was initially submitted through City of Palmerston's Community Funding Program. Following internal assessment, the application was referred to City Activation for management and consideration as an event partnership, to ensure consistency with Council's approach to comparable scaled events.

This approach aligns with how Council manages established cultural partnerships such as Darwin Festival, Darwin International Film Festival and performances by the Darwin Symphony Orchestra, which are delivered through partnership agreements rather than assessed solely as Community Funding Program grant applications. The proposal has therefore been considered through a partnership and activation lens, with a focus on strategic alignment, risk management and community activation outcomes.

Festival organisers have advised of their intention to apply for the appropriate liquor licence to enable the sale of alcohol at selected ticketed events. Any liquor service would be subject to approval by the relevant regulatory authority and compliance with all applicable legislative and Council requirements.

Security services are proposed as part of the event delivery model, with licensed security personnel engaged to support patron safety and responsible service practices. All liquor licensing, security and event management arrangements would be required to progress through Council's standard approval and compliance processes prior to delivery.

#### *Event Scheduling and Venue Availability*

Festival organisers have confirmed flexibility with event delivery dates between 17 and 21 July 2026, subject to availability at Gray Community Hall. This flexibility enables Council to manage existing bookings while accommodating the Festival within the preferred timeframe. Council officers are ensuring that no existing bookings at Gray Community Hall are displaced or adversely impacted.

#### *Venue Location Considerations*

Council Officers and Festival organisers initially explored the potential delivery of events within the Palmerston CBD, as part of Council's broader place activation objectives. Following further assessment, it was agreed that for the inaugural year, delivery at Gray Community Hall presents the most suitable and logistically efficient option.

This recommendation is based on first year operational considerations. Gray Community Hall provides an appropriately scaled indoor venue that supports controlled delivery, management of production requirements and effective audience development in a pilot year.

While Goyder Square and other CBD locations remain a strong strategic aspiration for future years, Festival organisers have advised that outdoor delivery would require significantly higher infrastructure investment, including temporary fencing enclosures to enable ticketed access and additional security measures. These factors would have increased the project budget and complexity in the inaugural year. Palmerston Recreation Centre was considered less suitable due to the size of the venue.

#### *Event Program and Community Outcomes*

Darwin Fringe operates as an open-access festival, with the final program determined through an artist-driven application process. Applications are currently open, with the final program expected to be confirmed by late February 2026.

Festival organisers have committed to working collaboratively with Council Officers to prioritise programming that reflects Palmerston's community, including opportunities for Palmerston based artists and creatives. The anticipated program includes a mix of ticket and free activities, such as:

- Theatre, cabaret, dance and comedy performances
- Free daytime workshops
- Free morning and afternoon events aimed at children and families
- Artist talks and community engagement sessions

Events are proposed to be scheduled across each day, with daytime community-focused activities and evening ticketed performances.

In addition, proposed partner contributions include:

- *NT Writer's Centre*, funding and delivering a local writers' artist talk
- *Darwin Community Arts OUT Rural Program*, delivering a free community dinner
- Volunteer coordination to help on site around the events including front of house
- Excitement for locals through community arts and cultural development.

These activities form part of a broader multi-day program and strengthen the festival's local cultural and social impact.

#### *Partnership Benefits and Ticket Allocation*

The Festival has proposed a range of complimentary ticket allocations for Council use, including opening and closing night events and general program access. These allocations remain flexible and negotiable to align with Council expectations and stakeholder engagement needs.

### Option 1 (Not Recommended)

#### *No Funding*

City of Palmerston provides no financial contribution to the delivery of Darwin Fringe Festival events in Palmerston.

The option is not recommended due to the benefit Darwin Fringe Festival events bring to the Palmerston community. It is unlikely that the event will occur in Palmerston without support.

### Option 2 (Not Recommended)

#### *Lower Tier Funding*

City of Palmerston offers a partial funding contribution of \$10,000.

This option is not recommended as it would constrain the scale and quality of the inaugural program. Based on the Festival's proposal, a \$10,000 contribution would likely limit delivery to one (1) or two (2) days, with most programming required to be fully ticketed.

At this funding level, community access, local participation opportunities and broader engagement outcomes are likely to be diminished. The reduced scope would limit Council's ability to effectively test audience demand, community benefit and operational feasibility – weakening the value of the pilot year and reducing the overall return on Council's investment.

## Option 3 (Recommended)

### *Mid-Tier Funding*

City of Palmerston provides a funding contribution of \$20,000.

This option is recommended as it aligns with the Festival's proposed medium-tier budget and enables delivery of a three (3) day pilot program in Palmerston. This funding level supports a balanced mix of ticketed performances and free or low-cost community activities, including workshops and daytime programming.

A \$20,000 contribution allows the Festival to attract quality performers, support artist fees and deliver a diverse program that engages families, young people and local creatives. It provides sufficient scale to meaningfully test audience demand and operational delivery whilst maintaining a controlled risk profile.

## Option 4 (Not Recommended)

### *High Tier Funding*

City of Palmerston provides a funding contribution of \$30,000.

This option is not recommended for the inaugural year. While the Festival has proposed that this funding level would enable a four (4) day program, the additional day would likely fall outside the peak weekend period and may not attract sufficient attendance in a first-year context.

Although a higher contribution would allow increased artist fees and expanded marketing, the incremental benefit does not proportionally increase community outcomes or return on investment for a trial year.

## Consultation and marketing

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- City Activation Officer
- Community Services Manager
- Community Services Lead
- Community Services Officer

In preparing this Report, the following external parties were consulted:

- Darwin Fringe Festival Director

## Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this report.

## Budget and resource implications

Funding for the recommended option would be accommodated within existing Community Funding Program allocations for the 2025–26 financial year.

The Community Funding Program has the following remaining funds for the 25/26 Financial Year:

- \$48,044.45 for Grants, Individual Representation, Graffiti and School Awards
- \$35,000 for Sponsorship, with \$95,000 committed to multiyear agreements
- \$20,000 for Environmental Initiatives.

## Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

- 4. Inclusion, Diversity and Access**  
Failure to balance meeting needs of Palmerston’s cultural mosaic.
  
- 6. Governance**  
Failure to effectively govern.

## Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- [Disability Inclusion Access Plan 2022-2025](#)
- [Creative Industries Plan 2023 - 2027](#)

## Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer, declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## Attachments

Nil

# COUNCIL REPORT

## 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	12.1.5
<b>Report Title:</b>	11th Council - Review of Delegations
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 17 February 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Executive Manager Organisational Performance, Penny Hart
<b>Approver:</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Walsh

## Community plan

Governance: Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

## Purpose

This Report seeks Council review of delegations to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT).

## Key messages

- Pursuant to sections 40(1) and 40(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT) (the Act) Council delegates powers and functions to the CEO to act on behalf of them to ensure the timely delivery of programs, services and operations.
- Pursuant to section 41 of the Act and Regulation 99 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* (the Regulations), Council must review any delegations of its functions and powers within six months after a local government general election.
- In addition, if Council delegates the power to enter into contracts, it must set a threshold limit within the first six months of its term.
- Current delegations cover financial matters and authorisations under the Act and Council by-laws.
- Delegations must be revoked before they can be replaced.
- This report recommends that new delegations to the CEO are approved.

## Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled 11th Council - Review of Delegations be received and noted.
2. THAT effective 18 February 2026, Council revokes all delegations to the Chief Executive Officer.
3. THAT effective 18 February 2026, pursuant to Section 40 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT), Council hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer its powers and functions set out in the schedule below, subject to all actions being undertaken in compliance with all relevant legislative, procedural and policy provisions:

Section/Legislation	Delegation
<i>Local Government Act 2019</i> (NT)	All of the powers and functions of the Council that can be delegated, including, for the avoidance of doubt, the power to appoint authorised persons under section 183 of the Act.

4. THAT effective 18 February 2026, pursuant to section 183 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT), Council appoints the person that holds the position of Chief Executive Officer as an authorised person subject to all actions being undertaken in compliance with all relevant legislative, procedural and policy provisions and unless earlier revoked, the appointment will cease and be deemed revoked upon the cessation of employment with City of Palmerston.
5. THAT effective 18 February 2026, pursuant to section 40 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT), Council hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power and authority to exercise all powers of the Council under the following by-laws, subject to all actions being undertaken in compliance with all relevant legislative, procedural and policy provisions:

By-laws	Exclusions
<i>City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024</i>	By-law 48, determining fees
<i>Palmerston (Public Places) By-Laws 2001</i>	By-law 5(1)(a), determinations for charges and fees
<i>Palmerston (Signs, Hoardings and Advertising) By Laws 1999</i>	By-law 6(1), determination of charges and fees

6. THAT effective 18 February 2026, pursuant to section 40 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT), Council hereby:
  - a) determines that the contract threshold value for the purposes of s40(6) of the Act, is \$5,000,000.00; and
  - b) delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the following powers to incur financial liabilities subject to all actions being undertaken in compliance with all relevant legislative, procedural and policy provisions and budget approval:

Type	Amount
Credit Card	\$5,000
Purchase approval and contract threshold value pursuant to section 40(3)(f) and (6) of the Act	\$5,000,000
Payment Approval	Unlimited
Cheque signatory	Unlimited
Investment signatory	Unlimited

## Background

A delegation is when Council or the CEO authorises another person or entity to exercise certain statutory powers or functions on their behalf, while retaining overall responsibility for those powers. The original decision-maker does not give up the power permanently; they simply allow someone else to exercise it within defined limits.

Delegations are central to effective governance because they allow:

- timely decision-making
- operational efficiency
- clear separation between strategic (Council) and operational (administrative) roles.

Under section 40 of the Act, Council may delegate its powers and functions to:

- the CEO
- a council committee
- a local authority
- a local government subsidiary.

It is noted that City of Palmerston does not have local authorities or a local government subsidiary.

### 2021 review

A review of Council's delegations took place in June 2021 in preparation for the commencement of the new *Local Government Act 2019* (NT) that came into effect on 1 July 2021.

The delegations were reviewed at the 6 October 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting and the following decision was made:

#### ***Tenth Council Review of Delegations***

1. *THAT Report entitled Tenth Council Review of Delegations be received and noted.*
2. *THAT effective 6 October 2021 Council revoke all delegations to the Chief Executive Officer.*

3. THAT effective 6 October 2021 pursuant to Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2019 Council hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer its powers and functions set out in the schedule below, subject to all actions being undertaken in compliance with all relevant legislative, procedural and policy provisions:

Section	Delegation
Section 183	Appointment of authorised persons
The powers and functions of the Council under the Local Government Act	2019 All of the powers and functions of the Council that are able to be delegated.

4. THAT effective 6 October 2021 pursuant to section 183 of the Local Government Act 2019, Council appoints Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Franco Cercarelli as an authorised person subject to all actions being undertaken in compliance with all relevant legislative, procedural and policy provisions and unless earlier revoked, the appointment will cease and be deemed revoked upon the cessation of employment with City of Palmerston.
5. THAT effective 6 October 2021 pursuant to section 40 of the Local Government Act 2019, Council hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the following financial delegations subject to all actions being undertaken in compliance with all relevant legislative, procedural and policy provisions and budget approval:

Type	Amount
Credit Card	\$5,000
Purchase Order Approval	\$5,000,000
Payment Approval	Unlimited
Cheque signatory	Unlimited
Investment signatory	Unlimited

6. THAT effective 6 October 2021 pursuant to section 40 of the Local Government Act 2019, Council hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power and authority to exercise all powers of the Council under the Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 1999 excluding By-law 5(2) subject to all actions being undertaken in compliance with all relevant legislative, procedural and policy provisions.
7. THAT effective 6 October 2021 pursuant to Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2019 and in light of Australian Government and Northern Territory Government requirements for the COVID-19 response, Council hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer its powers and functions as set out sections 66 of the Local Government Act 2019, by-law 71 of the Palmerston (Public Places) By-Laws 2001 being the power to determine opening times of Council's offices and facilities and the opening times of the Library until such time as the Australian Government or Northern Territory Government have declared the emergency has ended.

8. *THAT effective 6 October 2021 pursuant to Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2019 and in light of Australian Government and Northern Territory Government requirements for the COVID-19 response, Council hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to cancel or amend programs, service levels, budgeted council events and third party events held on council property under license, permit, or any other agreement until such time as the Australian Government or Northern Territory Government have declared the emergency has ended.*

**CARRIED 10/36 - 5/10/2021**

In addition to the standard delegations, authority was delegated to the CEO to manage Council facilities, programs and events during the COVID-19 response.

## 2022 review

The delegations by council were reviewed again at the 6 September 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting and the following decision was made:

### 13.1.1 - Review of Delegations

1. *THAT Report entitled Review of Delegations be received and noted.*
2. *THAT effective 7 September 2022 Council revoke the following delegations to the Chief Executive Officer:*
  - a. *THAT effective 6 October 2021 pursuant to section 40 of the Local Government Act 2019, Council hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the following financial delegations subject to all actions being undertaken in compliance with all relevant legislative, procedural and policy provisions and budget approval:*

Type	Amount
Credit Card	\$5,000
Purchase Order Approval	\$5,000,000
Payment Approval	Unlimited
Cheque signatory	Unlimited
Investment signatory	Unlimited

- b. *THAT effective 6 October 2021 pursuant to Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2019 and in light of Australian Government and Northern Territory Government requirements for the COVID-19 response, Council hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer its powers and functions as set out sections 66 of the Local Government Act 2019, by-law 71 of the Palmerston (Public Places) By-Laws 2001 being the power to determine opening times of Council's offices and facilities and the opening times of the Library until such time as the Australian Government or Northern Territory Government have declared the emergency has ended.*

- c. THAT effective 1 July 2021 pursuant to Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2019 and in light of Australian Government and Northern Territory Government requirements for the COVID-19 response, Council hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to cancel or amend programs, service levels, budgeted council events and third party events held on council property under license, permit, or any other agreement until such time as the Australian Government or Northern Territory Government have declared the emergency has ended.
3. THAT effective 7 September 2022 pursuant to section 40 of the Local Government Act 2019, Council hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the following financial delegations subject to all actions being undertaken in compliance with all relevant legislative, procedural and policy provisions and budget approval:

Type	Amount
Credit Card	\$5,000
Purchase approval and contract threshold	\$5,000,000
Payment approval	Unlimited
Cheque signatory	Unlimited
Investment signatory	Unlimited

**CARRIED 10/505 – 6/09/2022**

The delegations related to COVID-19 provisions were revoked and a language update was made to the ‘Purchase approval’ delegation to provide clarity that the \$5 million limit also applied to entering into contracts, not just purchases of goods and services.

This report provides Council with information regarding the legislated requirement for review of delegations at the start of the 11<sup>th</sup> Council term.

## Discussion

Council’s primary role is to provide strategic leadership, policy direction and oversight, while the CEO is responsible for day-to-day administration and operational implementation.

In practical terms, delegations enable day-to-day operational decisions to be made efficiently, protect Council from governance risk by clearly defining authority and support good governance, transparency and accountability. The delegations made by Council to the CEO ensure that they can continue to act on behalf of the Council in an effective and efficient manner.

There are no new powers or functions recommended. The proposed delegations are outlined in more detail below.

## Revocation of delegations

Council must revoke all previous similar delegations to the CEO prior to authorising new delegations to ensure that the current delegations are clear. This revocation process only applies to these general overarching delegations to the CEO of powers and functions under the Act. It does not impact individual Council decisions where Council has, for example, delegated power to the CEO to finalise a specific property lease or delegated another power or function to another staff member.

## Powers and functions

Council delegates powers and functions to the CEO to act on behalf of them to ensure the timely delivery of programs, services and operations. Powers range from entering into contracts regarding mowing open spaces, to approving bank investments and issuing regulatory orders for enforcement. Without delegations, Council would be required to consider high levels of operational business through Ordinary Council Meetings in order to make decisions.

It is recommended that Council continues to delegate its powers under the Act to the CEO.

Even though councils have broad delegation powers, important limits apply. Council cannot delegate:

- the power to impose rates or charges
- decisions that require a council resolution, except in very limited circumstances
- the power to enter into contracts above the council's adopted threshold value pursuant to section 40(3)(f)
- any delegation that duplicates or overrides the CEO's statutory functions
- certain non-arm's-length transactions, unless specifically allowed by the Act.

## Authorised persons

Under section 183 of the Act, Council has the power to appoint authorised persons to assist in delivery of its responsibilities under the Act, Regulations and Council's by-laws. Council appoints the CEO as an authorised person.

It has been standard practice for Council to also delegate the power to appoint authorised persons to the CEO as an operational matter. This allows for timely commencement of new staff, for example Rangers, who are required to be authorised persons to implement Council's by-laws.

It is recommended that Council delegate its power to appoint authorised persons to the CEO.

## By-laws

Delegating powers under the by-laws from Council to the CEO is a sound, lawful and well-established governance practice that supports effective administration, compliance and service delivery. By-law enforcement is inherently operational in nature, involving routine decisions, compliance actions and statutory processes. By-law matters also often require prompt action, including:

- issuing infringements or notices
- responding to public safety risks
- granting permits or approvals
- enforcing compliance timeframes.

Requiring Council resolutions for such decisions would be impractical and would significantly slow enforcement and service delivery. CEO delegation enables timely and efficient decision-making, ensuring the organisation can respond quickly to issues affecting community safety and amenity.

It has been standard for Council to delegate all of its powers under by-laws to the CEO, excluding the ability to determine fees and charges, which Council sets each year through its budget development.

A review of the current delegation was undertaken and listing of the by-laws and specific sections in each relating to determining fees and charges is recommended to clarify exclusions to the delegations.

Of the five by-laws, only three contain powers that can be delegated:

- *City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024*
- *Palmerston (Public Places) By-Laws 2001*
- *Palmerston (Signs, Hoardings and Advertising) By Laws 1999.*

The *Palmerston (Charges) By-laws 1994* establish that Council may determine charges and fees in relation to its functions.

The *Palmerston (Procedures for Meetings) By-Laws 2003* provide Council the power to determine its meeting dates and manage Council and committee business, which should remain with Council.

## Financial delegations

It has been standard practice for Council to delegate financial powers to the CEO to enable the operations of the organisation. Financial delegations clarify the transactions the CEO can authorise, many of which would otherwise require the approval of Council, creating timeliness and efficiency issues for everyday business.

There are limits in the Act on the Council's power of delegation. For example, where powers to incur financial liabilities are delegated, Council must fix reasonable limits on the delegate's authority by resolution. Standard practice is to set clear monetary limits and identify any conditions or procedures.

In addition, section 40(6) of the Act provides that Council must, within the first 6 months of its term, determine by resolution the threshold value for power to enter into a contract pursuant to section 40(3)(f). The recommendations below include setting this threshold.

The following limits are recommended for delegations to the CEO, noting that all transactions must be undertaken within the requirements of legislation and Council policies and procedures:

Type	Amount	Note
Credit Card	\$5,000	This limit is also applied to staff credit cards and purchasing is undertaken in accordance with policy and procedures.
Purchase approval and contract threshold value pursuant to section 40(3)(f) and 6 of the Act	\$5,000,000	Purchases are undertaken in accordance with the Act and procurement guidelines in the Regulations, and the Procurement Policy and procedures.
Payment approval	Unlimited	To allow approval of payments from Council's bank accounts to suppliers.
Cheque signatory	Unlimited	To approve the issuing of cheques on behalf of the organisation.
Investment signatory	Unlimited	To approve investment of Council funds.

Within the context of an annual budget of \$51.4 million in 2025/26, major outsourced service contracts and a significant capital works program, it is considered reasonable and appropriate that the CEO holds a purchase approval and contract delegation limit of up to \$5 million. This represents less than 10% of the annual budget, which is proportionate to Council's financial scale and risk profile. It enables timely decision-making, avoids repeated delays caused by excessive escalation to Council and ensures that projects and services can proceed without disruption.

The Chief Executive Officer's other financial delegations are unlimited on the condition it is within budget.

## Consultation and marketing

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- Executive Assistant to the CEO
- Executive Leadership Team

The following external parties were consulted in preparing this Report:

- Legal – Mills Oakley

## Policy implications

Delegated authority is to be undertaken in compliance with Council policies and procedures.

## Budget and resource implications

Separate delegations made by the Chief Executive Officer and/or Council to Council staff contain financial delegations for the purpose of community benefit expenditure on goods and services.

## Risk, legal and legislative implications

Council must:

- adopt delegations by formal resolution
- review delegations regularly (section 41 of the Act)
- set or confirm contract threshold values within the first 6 months of each term.

Council can only act in two ways, by resolution or through others acting on its behalf. If Council did not delegate powers and functions to the CEO, the organisation would be at risk of not being able to undertake effective administration in a timely manner.

A decision made by a delegate is legally taken to be a decision of Council or the CEO:

- Council or the CEO remains accountable for the decision
- delegations must be in writing and properly recorded
- delegates must act within the scope and limits of the delegation.

Under the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* (NT) the CEO keeps and maintains a register of all powers and functions delegated by Council to the CEO, and a register of delegations by the CEO to staff.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

**2. Financial Sustainability**

Failure of Council to be financially sustainable to deliver key services and infrastructure for the community.

**6. Governance**

Failure to effectively govern.

## Strategies, framework and plans implications

There are no strategy, framework or plan implications for this Report.

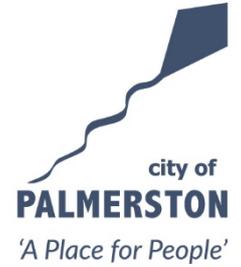
## Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## Attachments

Nil

# COUNCIL REPORT



## 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	12.2.1
<b>Report Title:</b>	Play Space Strategy Update and Community Consultation Results
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 17 February 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Executive Manager Environment, Katie O'Neill
<b>Approver:</b>	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Nadine Nilon

## Community plan

Family and Community: Palmerston is a safe and family friendly community where everyone belongs.

## Purpose

This report provides Council with an update on the delivery of the Palmerston Play Space Strategy, along with a summary of recent playground consultation.

## Key messages

- Council's Play Space Strategy continues to be implemented with a focus on the five (5) Strategic Priority Areas.
- Capital works for 2025/26 are either underway or complete.
- Public consultation was recently undertaken to determine community perceptions, identify gaps in service provision, and guide upcoming capital works programs.
- Consultation was delivered through an online survey, social media posts, and face-to-face interviews (at community events). 67 people completed the online survey, with a further 28 in-person interviews.
- Many respondents felt their local playground needs improvement, with 22 describing its condition as 'average', 16 as 'poor', and 12 as 'very poor'.
- Common themes on suggested improvements were increased shading, improvement in soft fall, and increased diversity of play options especially for older, aged and teenaged children.
- The consultation outcomes aligned with the current objectives and priorities of the Play Space Strategy and will be used to inform future works.

## Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Play Space Strategy Update and Community Consultation Results be received and noted.

## Background

Council's Palmerston Play Space Strategy (the Strategy) was adopted at the First Ordinary Council Meeting in February 2022. The Strategy provides a consistent and coordinated framework for planning playgrounds across the City's open space network. Progress updates are reported to Council annually, aligned where possible with the anniversary of the Strategy's adoption.

The most recent update was presented to Council at the First Ordinary Council Meeting in July 2025. That report identified the following priority projects for the subsequent 12-month period:

- Woodroffe Park Playground Renewal Program.
- Ambon Park Softfall Replacement.
- Sanctuary Lakes Lighting Upgrade.
- Joan Fejo Park Senior Playground and Exercise Equipment Renewals.
- President Park All-abilities Swing Set, Shade and Footpath upgrades.

This report provides an update on the status of these priority projects, along with an overall progress update on the implementation of the Strategy since the last Council report. To realign reporting with the Strategy's anniversary date, this report is being presented six (6) months after the July 2025 update. As a result, many of the identified priority projects are still in the development and construction phase.

This report also presents the outcomes of the Palmerston Playground Public Consultation Program conducted in late 2025. The findings from this consultation will inform the development of future playground renewal and upgrade programs.

## Discussion

The Strategy continues to be implemented with a focus on progress of the five (5) Strategic Priority Areas:

1. Implementation of the play space planning framework.
2. Enhancement of the diversity and quality of play experiences and environments.
3. Increased community engagement and access to information.
4. Improved connectivity and linkages.
5. Improved maintenance and allocation of resources.

The key actions identified in the July Council report are progressing as planned and are expected to be delivered prior to the end of the 2025/26 Financial Year (FY). Completion of these actions will make a significant contribution to the achievement of the Strategic Priority Areas listed above. **Table 1** provides an overview of playground upgrade and renewal works undertaken over the past six (6) months and outlines how these works support the Strategic Priority Areas.

Table 1: Recent Playground Works and Links to Strategic Priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA	DEFINITION	WORKS PROGRESSED LAST SIX (6) MONTHS	STATUS/TIMELINE
1. Implementation of the planning framework	The Strategy’s planning framework is based on classifications of play spaces according to a standard hierarchy of regional, major and local play spaces. To meet the requirements of these classifications, each play space must achieve baseline amenity. A 2022 Play Space Audit found that many regional and major classified play spaces lacked key amenities, including shade, seating, rubber soft fall, and bike racks.	<p>Rubber soft fall at Joan Fejo Senior Play Area.</p> <p>Shade at President Park to be installed over new swing.</p> <p>Shaded picnic area and shade over playgrounds to be installed at Woodroffe Park as part of the upgrade.</p>	<p>Joan Fejo – Due to be complete by May 2026.</p> <p>President Park – due to be complete by April 2026.</p> <p>Woodroffe Park- due to be complete by mid-2026.</p>
2. Increasing the diversity and quality of play experiences.	Increasing diversity of play options including those for older children and teenagers.	<p>New outdoor exercise equipment at Joan Fejo.</p> <p>All-abilities swing set at President Park.</p> <p>New zipline at Woodroffe Park.</p> <p>Zuccoli Community Hub pump track.</p>	<p>Joan Fejo – Due to be complete by May 2026.</p> <p>President Park – due to be complete by March/April 2026.</p> <p>Woodroffe Park- due to be complete by June 2026.</p> <p>Pump track on schedule to be complete February 2026.</p>
3. Increase Community Involvement and Participation	Identifying opportunities to engage the community in playground design.	Palmerston Playground Public Consultation – November 2025	Complete (see results of consultation detailed below)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA	DEFINITION	WORKS PROGRESSED LAST SIX (6) MONTHS	STATUS/TIMELINE
		Woodroffe Park concept design consultation	Woodroffe Park – consultation complete
4. Improve Connectivity and Linkages	Review path access to play spaces to enhance accessibility.	Wheelchair accessible footpath at President Park to connect playground to existing path network.	President Park – due to be complete by April 2026.
5. Improve Maintenance and Resourcing	Review the level of resourcing to deliver higher quality spaces more responsive to community needs.	Sanctuary Lakes Lighting Upgrade.  Ambon Park stormwater infrastructure upgrade and soft fall replacement.  Hobart Park public toilet (with mural), seating and shade structures.	Sanctuary Lakes lighting design complete, with works to be complete by end of June 2026.  Ambon Park – complete.  Hobart Park – on track for February completion.

### Palmerston Play Space Public Consultation

In November 2025, a comprehensive public consultation program on City of Palmerston play spaces and playgrounds was undertaken, with the results to guide the forward planning of renewals and upgrades. The overarching objectives of the consultation were to understand how often local and neighbourhood parks are used, gauge community perceptions of these spaces and identify any issues or gaps.

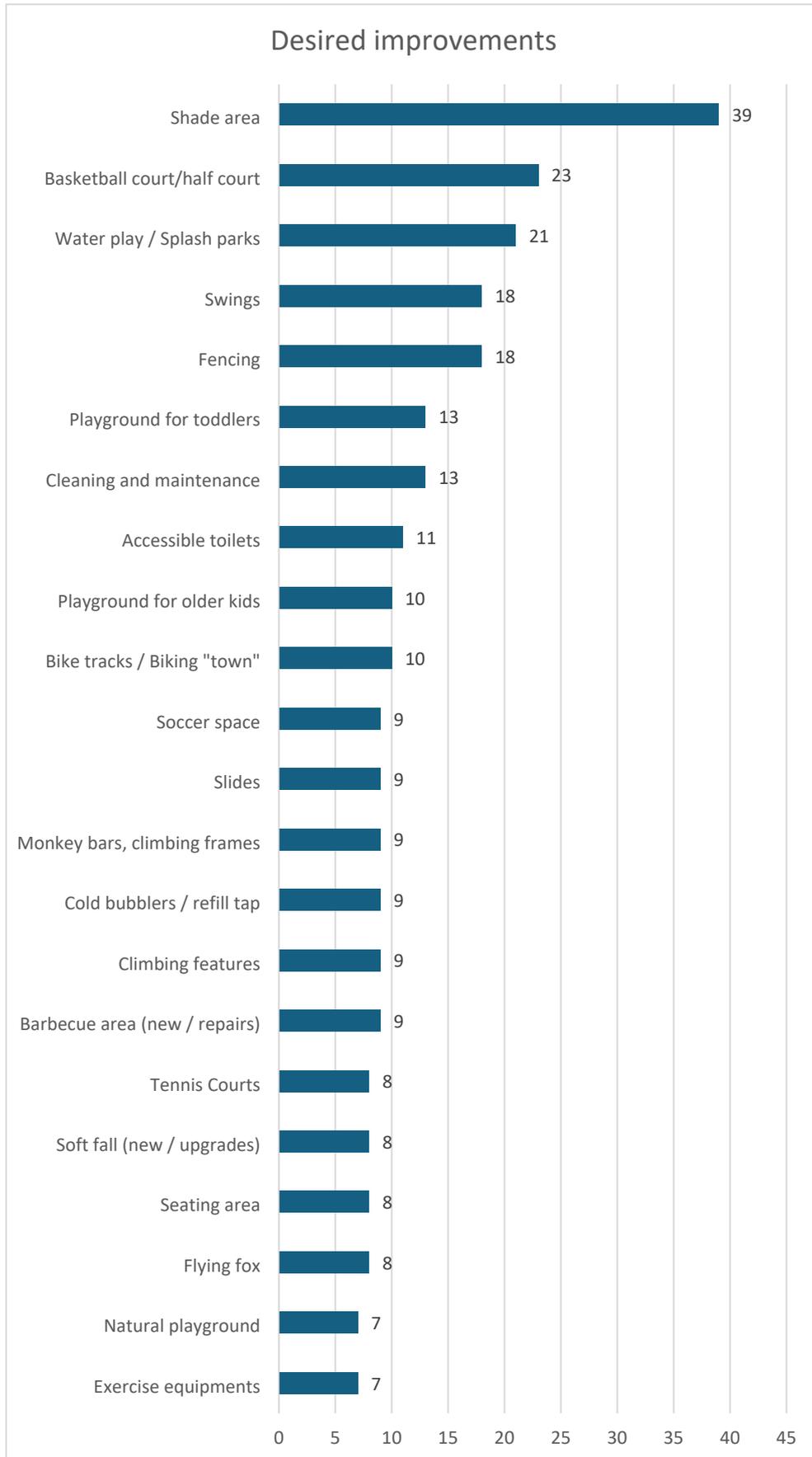
Consultation was delivered through a dedicated online survey, social media posts, and in-person interviews at community events. A summary of the results is as follows:

- A total of 67 people completed the survey, with a further 28 in-person interviews.
- 37 different playgrounds were nominated by residents as their closest local play space, indicating a wide geographical span of responses across the municipality.
- Sanctuary Lakes, Pritchardia Park, Tracey Park, Widdup Park, Willing Park, Hayden Park and Bill Lewis Park were each named as the nearest playground by multiple respondents.

- Among the respondents (including face-face interviews), five (5) reported 'never' visiting their nearest playground, 10 reported visiting daily, 24 attended a few times per week, 13 visited weekly, and 16 visited rarely.
- When rating the quality of their local playground 17 of the online survey respondent's selected 'good', 22 'average', 16 'poor', and 12 'very poor'. Sanctuary Lakes and Hayden Park received the highest number of positive ratings overall.
- Pritchardia Park and Widdup Park were identified as 'very poor' by more than one (1) respondent. Responses indicated that Pritchardia Park had obsolete, unused infrastructure that is too close to the road. Widdup Park was identified as having poor infrastructure, no shade, poor quality sand soft fall, and limited shaded seating areas.
- Sand soft fall was mentioned as an issue at several parks, including Rosebery, Phyllis Uren, President, Joan Fejo, Hayden, Buckingham and Pretty Park. Concerns around sand soft fall included reduced quality over time and safety issues such as hidden needles and glass.
- The most requested improvements were (full list in **Figure 1** below):
  - Shade (39 respondents).
  - Basketball/half-court facilities (23).
  - Waterplay elements (21).
  - Swings (18).
  - Fencing (18).

### *Consultation Summary*

Several respondents felt that their closest playground needs upgrading, with only 22 people describing its overall quality as 'average'. In addition, 16 said they rarely use their nearest playground, indicating that improvements are needed to make it more accessible and functional.



**Figure 1: Requested Improvements**

## Utilising Consultation Results to Guide Future Works

Community feedback strongly aligns with Council's Play Space Strategy, with increased amenity, particularly shade, identified as a priority (39 responses). This aligns with current activities, including continuing the current playground shading program, including shade structures at Flynn Park (over the new all-abilities swing), Bill Lewis Park, and MacAulay Park.

Community concerns regarding sand soft fall further reinforce Council's ongoing commitment to installing rubber soft fall where feasible. To maximise funding efficiency, soft fall upgrades are being coordinated with other park infrastructure works. For example, rubber soft fall is currently being installed as part of projects at Joan Fejo, Woodroffe and President Park. Bill Lewis and MacAulay Parks have been identified for capital works improvements in the 2027/28 financial year, and these works will include the replacement of sand soft fall with rubber.

Consultation also highlighted a need for more play opportunities for older children, particularly sporting features. While not all play spaces can meet every need, there is an opportunity to address this demand by revitalising an underutilised site.

Widdup Park was identified during the consultation as being not fit for purpose and requiring improvements. Widdup Park is also well suited for increasing the variety of play features due to its size, proximity to Driver Secondary School, and existing infrastructure. A redesign of Widdup Park will commence in the 2026/27 financial year, beginning with concept designs and costings to support community consultation before commencing works within available budgets. There are likely to be a number of proposed elements that are unable to be delivered without additional (external) funding. Some challenges exist with the park, due to access being predominantly via laneways. Improved access considerations may also form part of the concept planning process.

The consultation also identified Pritchardia Parks was another park having outdated or not fit for purpose equipment. Pritchardia Park, on Woodroffe Avenue in Driver, comprises outdated and underutilised exercise equipment. An option assessment and consultation with neighbouring residents will be undertaken to inform future works.

There are no current plans to install a new half-court basketball court. In 2023, consultation occurred prior to the Marlow Lagoon court which identified Marlow Lagoon as the preferred location and with limited community interest of additional courts where there's potentially suitable locations. Where there is a location considered suitable for renewal or upgrades, and there is the potential for a half-court, this would be identified and consulted on specific to the location at that time. For example, when consultation occurs for Pritchardia Park, the option of a half-court will be included in the consultation as there are no nearby courts in Durack. Widdup Park currently has a half-court.

**Table 2** below provides a summary of capital works programs proposed for the 2026/27 financial year (FY) based on current budget projections.

Table 2: Proposed works for the 2026/27

PARK	COMMENTS	PROPOSED 2026/27 ACTIVITIES AND APPROXIMATE COST
Kintore Park, Gunn	Existing swing is at end of useful life and sand soft fall requiring replacement. Was identified as a potential project in 2025/26, however sufficient funding is not available.	Sand soft fall replacement with rubber soft fall and swing replacement - \$120,000.
Widdup Park, Driver	Possible area for redevelopment with a focus on older and teenage children and sporting activities (i.e. tennis walls, soccer goals, redevelopment of existing basketball court)	<p>Stage 1: Widdup Park Play Space Concept Designs, costings and consultation - \$50,000</p> <p>Stage 2: Widdup Park Play Space Renewal- \$500,000 with possible funding sourced for remaining works.</p>
Sister Frederick Mangan Park (on Flynn Circuit), Rosebery	All-abilities swing set was installed late 2023, area is currently unshaded.	Shade structure to be installed - \$80,000
Pritchardia Park, Durack	Exercise equipment only. Consultation indicating that this site is in poor condition and underutilised.	<p>Stage 1: Options assessment and consultation to be undertaken to determine possible activation of this area (given site constraints including proximity to busy road).</p> <p>Stage 2: Incorporate works into 2027/28 program.</p>
Bill Lewis Park North, Bakewell	No shade on the playground. Several of the seating areas are not shaded. Sand soft fall throughout.	Plan for shade installation and soft fall replacement in 2027/28 program – cost approximately \$150,000.
McAulay Park, Rosebery	Net tower only, in poor condition, large sand footprint, and no shade.	<p>Stage 1: Install of new climbing equipment, or multi-aged play alternative – review to occur with consultation to be undertaken.</p> <p>Stage 2 - Install of soft fall and shade, with replacement of equipment – potential \$250,000 renewal and upgrade in 2027/28.</p>

## Consultation and marketing

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- Senior Leadership Team.
- Executive Leadership Team.
- Open Space Team Leader.
- Open Space Officer.
- Senior Project Manager.
- Marketing and Communications Manager.
- Marketing and Communications Lead.

## Policy implications

This Report provides the fourth annual update on the progressive implementation of the Play Space Strategy. The Play Space Strategy shall guide Council's strategic direction, planning, consultation, decision making, investment and maintenance of play spaces over the next 10 years.

## Budget and resource implications

Actual expenditure to date for the 2025/26 FY is as follows.

PROJECT	ACTUALS AND COMMITMENTS	REMAINING BUDGET
Woodroffe Park (100% grant funded)	\$9,810	\$590,190
Joan Fejo Park	\$313,435	\$35,565
Ambon Park (Stormwater and Soft Fall)	\$24,081	\$94,000
President Park	\$111,625	\$88,375
Hobart Park Public Toilet and Seating (100% grant funded)	\$328,328	\$44,866

The remaining budgets for Joan Fejo Park and President Park include contingency amounts as the projects are not complete, and a significant portion of the savings from Ambon Park and President Park are recommended to be reallocated to Cyclone Fina costs as part of the second budget review.

For the 2026/2027 financial year, the projected budget for Play Space Renewals and Upgrades is \$206,600 for upgrade activities (ie new shade structures, new equipment) and \$462,600 for renewal activities (ie equipment replacement, soft fall replacement).

Based on the projects identified, this would be broken down along the lines of the following, to be finalised following the adoption of the 2026/27 Municipal Plan and budget;

- Sister Frederick Mangan Park – shade structure.
  - \$80,000 upgrade.

- Kintore Park – swing and soft fall replacement.
  - \$120,000 renewal.
- Widdup Park – renewal and upgrade.
  - \$175,600 upgrade (concept plans, new shade, new equipment).
  - \$342,600 renewal works (soft fall replacement, equipment replacement).

In addition to the capital spend, Council’s annual operational budget for the maintenance of playgrounds and park amenities is in the order of \$220,000 annually (this spend excludes mowing, landscaping and public litter collection service contracts).

## Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

### 5. Infrastructure

Failure to plan, deliver and maintain fit for purpose infrastructure.

## Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- [Palmerston Play Space Strategy 2022](#).
- [Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026](#).

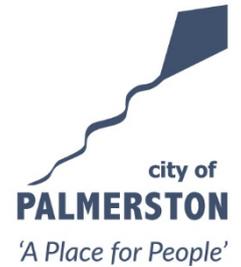
## Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## Attachments

Nil

# COUNCIL REPORT



2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	12.2.2
<b>Report Title:</b>	Sustainability Strategy Update
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 17 February 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Executive Manager Environment, Katie O'Neill
<b>Approver:</b>	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Nadine Nilon

## Community plan

Environmental Sustainability: Palmerston is an environmentally friendly, liveable city that promotes renewable practices and sustainability.

## Purpose

This report provides an update to Council on the overall delivery of the Sustainability Strategy and details the proposed priority sustainability actions for the remainder of the 2025/26 financial year (FY) and into the 2026/27 FY.

## Key messages

- The Sustainability Strategy was adopted by Council in February 2022, with a requirement for annual progress reporting on the anniversary of adoption. The last update was delivered in July 2025; this report has been brought forward by six (6) months to realign reporting with that anniversary date.
- The Strategy is continuing to be implemented with several priority initiatives undertaken in the past six (6) months including:
  - Adoption by Council of the Mitchell Creek Concept Plan.
  - Installation of lakebed aerators in Sanctuary Lakes, Lakes 1a and 1b, and Basin Lake.
  - Development of the Palmerston Dolostone Aquifer Assessment and Groundwater Use Action Plan.
  - Development of an Irrigation Management Plan and Irrigation Technical Specifications.
  - Successful application under the federal government Community Energy Upgrade Fund to install solar and battery storage at SWELL.

- To continue advancing the Strategy’s objectives, several additional priority actions have been identified for the remainder of the 2025/26 financial year (FY) and into the 2026/27 FY. These actions include:
  - Commencing the solar infrastructure upgrade project at SWELL.
  - Undertaking a review of irrigation service levels, with a report scheduled for Council in March.
  - Exploring sensor technology for Palmerston Lakes to enable automatic refilling at the onset of the dry season.
  - Developing a three-year planting program, beginning with a March 2026 planting event.
- As previously reported a complete review and update of the Sustainability Strategy will commence in 2026.

## Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Sustainability Strategy Update be received and noted.

## Background

Council’s Sustainability Strategy (the Strategy) was adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Council meeting of February 2022, as an organisational wide strategy designed to deliver on the environmental sustainability outcomes of the Community Plan. Progress on the delivery of the Strategy is reported to Council annually, ideally aligned with the anniversary date of the Strategy’s adoption.

The most recent update was presented to Council at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting of June 17, 2025. That report presented a list of high priority actions that were to be implemented in the 2025/26 Financial Year including:

- Implementation of energy audit findings.
- Finalisation of the Mitchell Creek Concept Plan.
- Development of an Irrigation Management Plan.
- Development of the Palmerston Dolostone Aquifer Report.
- Delivery of the Great Unwaste Community Education Campaign.

The following report provides an update on the status of these priority actions and provides the annual update of the overarching Strategy implementation. To realign reporting with the Strategy’s anniversary date, this report is being presented six (6) months after the July 2025 update. However, many of the priority actions identified in the last update to Council are either complete or significantly progressed. The following report also identifies the proposed sustainability priorities for the remainder of the 2025/26 financial year (FY) and into the 2026/27 FY.

## Discussion

The Strategy is framed around four (4) themes, presented below:

1. Theme One: Protecting our Urban Ecology and the Natural Environment.
2. Theme Two: Empowering and Connecting our Community.

3. Theme Three: Future Focused on Efficiencies.
4. Theme Four: Lead with Purpose.

In the past six (6) months, Council has made progress in delivery of priority outcomes within each theme through various completed and ongoing projects. A summary of the progress within each theme is provided below.

### Theme One: Protecting our Urban Ecology and Natural Environment

Theme One prioritises actions that help to preserve our natural environment, retain and enhance parks and greenspaces, and facilitate urban heat mitigation. The key projects that have contributed to the achievement of this theme over the past 6 months are as follows:

- The installation of lakebed aerators in Sanctuary Lakes, Basin Lake and Lake 1, as well as installation of an aerator fountain in Lake 7.
- Development and endorsement by Council of the Mitchell Creek Concept Plan.
- Development of the Palmerston Dolostone Aquifer Assessment and the Ground Water Action which will guide groundwater use allocations for Council's irrigation systems.

### Theme Two: Empowering and Connecting our Community

Theme Two relates to promoting and modelling sustainable behaviours to the community. The key projects that have contributed to the achievement of this theme over the past 6 months are as follows:

- Delivery of free waste education programs including an online National Recycling Week Campaign, the Great Unwaste Campaign (a food waste education program), and recycling information stalls at Council events.
- Delivery of the pre-cyclone clean-up program.
- Provision of home composting rebates to residents.
- The construction of the new recycling area at the Archer Waste Management Facility and installation of a cardboard compactor.

### Theme Three: Future Focused on Efficiencies

Theme Three focuses on continual improvements to Council's operations to reduce our environmental impacts. The priorities under this theme are to optimise resource consumption and increase waste diversion.

The key projects that have contributed to the achievement of this theme over the past 12 months are as follows:

- The successful application to the federal government Community Energy Upgrade Fund (CEUF) for a grant to install solar power and battery storage at SWELL.
- Installation of a pool blanket at the 50 m program pool at SWELL. This pool is a heated facilities pool, and the blanket will help maintain water temperature, reducing heat loss and lowering the amount of electricity required for heating.
- Development of Irrigation Technical Specifications and an Irrigation Management Plan to guide the sustainable use of water resources for irrigation of open spaces.

## Theme Four: Lead with Purpose

Theme four highlights Council’s commitment to modelling strong sustainability practices within its own operations while empowering the community to develop and carry out their own sustainability initiatives.

The key initiatives that have contributed to the delivery of this theme over the past 12 months include:

- Ongoing use of procurement assessment criterion that prioritise sustainability practices in supplier submissions.
- Ongoing purchase of hybrid vehicles for the passenger fleet and use of fuel efficiency criterion when selecting operational vehicles.

### Priority Sustainability Actions

Several key sustainability actions for the 2026 calendar year have been developed to achieve the objectives of the Strategy. Many of these actions are ongoing and will be delivered over consecutive years (with several already in progress).

Actions have been given a priority according are those that:

- Align strongly with the intended outcomes of key Council strategies, including the Community Plan and the Sustainability Strategy.
- Are project ready and straightforward to implement.
- Offer clear benefits, including financial, reputational, and regulatory compliance.

The status and next steps of priority sustainability actions are outlined in table 1 below.

*Table 1: Priority Sustainability Actions*

PROJECT	KEY MILESTONES DELIVERED	STATUS	NEXT STEPS	PRIORITY
Implementation of Energy Audit Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Installation of a pool blanket at the 50m program pool.</li></ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementation to be completed gradually, with actions prioritised when related projects come up and upgrades done when assets are due for replacement.</li></ul>	High

PROJECT	KEY MILESTONES DELIVERED	STATUS	NEXT STEPS	PRIORITY
SWELL energy efficiency program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEUF grant awarded to install solar power and battery storage at SWELL.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement for design and install to be completed by April 2026.</li> </ul>	High
Finalisation of the Mitchell Creek Concept Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final concept plans presented to Council for endorsement.</li> </ul>	Complete		N/A
Irrigation Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Irrigation Management Plan finalised; feedback received from SLT.</li> <li>Development of Irrigation Technical Specifications.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigation into irrigation service levels with a report to Council in March.</li> <li>Continuation of the Irrigation Controller Replacement Program.</li> <li>Investigation into sensors for Palmerston Lakes to undertake automatic refills on the onset of the dry season.</li> </ul>	High
Aquifer Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aquifer Health Assessment Report complete.</li> <li>Groundwater Use Action Plan complete.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outcomes embedded into the Irrigation Management Plan.</li> <li>Results to be presented to Council.</li> </ul>	Medium

PROJECT	KEY MILESTONES DELIVERED	STATUS	NEXT STEPS	PRIORITY
Great Unwaste Education Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four-week social media campaign designed to change behaviours around food wastage.</li> </ul>	Complete		Nil
3-year Planting Program (Greening Strategy).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual tree planting program, with the last planting event occurring in March 2025.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority areas for a 3-year planting program to be developed through a combination of previous tree planting data, on-ground assessments, and existing canopy mapping.</li> <li>March 2026 planting event.</li> </ul>	High
Aeration of Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sanctuary Lakes, Lake 1a and 1b, and Basin Lake completed.</li> <li>Fisheries grant applied for to install in Lakes 3 &amp; 4.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dependent on award of grant.</li> </ul>	Medium
Weed Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for Quote released to obtain seasonal weed spraying and fire mitigation services.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weed spraying and controlled burns to occur March 2026.</li> <li>Update of Weed Management Plan to incorporate survey results.</li> </ul>	Medium

PROJECT	KEY MILESTONES DELIVERED	STATUS	NEXT STEPS	PRIORITY
Fire Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Development of strategic plan for fire mitigation.	Medium

## Review and Update of the Strategy

As reported at the July update to Council, the Strategy was developed in 2022 and is due for review and update in 2026. An analysis of the themes and actions within the plan has commenced to determine their relevance and alignment with current organisational priorities. The reviewed and updated Strategy is to be presented to Council prior to end of the 2026 Calendar year.

## Consultation and marketing

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- Executive Leadership Team.
- Senior Leadership Team.
- Manager Sustainability.
- Team Leader Open Space.
- Environmental Officer.

## Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

## Budget and resource implications

The programs listed within this report are funded through the Operational and Capital budgets that relate to environmental and waste programs.

The 2025/26 budgets expended to date include:

PROJECT	ACTUALS AND COMMITTED EXPENDITURE	REMAINING BUDGET
Sustainability Programs	\$8,200	\$91,800
Pool Blanket	\$19,452.73	\$14,074.27
Irrigation Controllers	\$70,230.20	\$29,769.80
Aquifer Study (partially grant funded)	\$114,940.00	\$71,300.00
Mitchell Creek (partially grant funded)	\$100,000	Nil - complete
Lakebed Aerators (100% grant funded)	\$31,972.73	Nil - complete



Additionally, Council has been successful in obtaining a grant under the Community Energy Upgrade Fund, to install a PV and Battery Storage System at SWELL. This grant is \$264,000, which must be matched by Council, with a total \$528,000 to complete the project. Council funds will be sourced from the Sustainability Capital Works Program (including from the available funds in the table above), and as borrowing from the FILOC Cash Reserve as per Council resolution, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary meeting May 2025.

## Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

### 7. Environmental Sustainability

Failure of Council to clearly articulate, plan for and deliver prudent and responsible environmental ambitions.

## Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- [Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026](#)

This Report has been prepared to provide an update on progress of implementation of the Sustainability Strategy. The Sustainability Strategy guides Council's strategic direction, priorities and actions noting that community expectations, technology, risks and opportunities relevant to sustainable development are dynamic and that change may rapidly emerge.

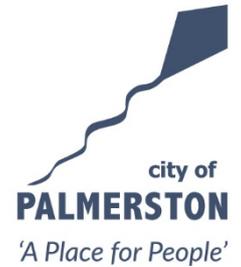
## Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## Attachments

Nil

# COUNCIL REPORT



## 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	12.2.3
<b>Report Title:</b>	Financial Report for the Month of January 2026
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 17 February 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Executive Manager Financial Performance, Jeffrey Guilas
<b>Approver:</b>	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta

## Community plan

Governance: Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Report is to present to Council the Financial Report for January 2026.

## Key messages

- This report presents the January 2025 financial report and is representative of the year-to-date income and expenditure as at 31 January 2026.
- The financial health check ratios indicate that overall Council is in a positive financial position.
- The revised budget for 2025/26, is the original budget published in the 2025/26 Municipal Plan plus the budget rolled over from 2024/25, and the 2025/26 first budget review.
- Operating income is \$41.88 million or 97% of the revised annual budget of \$42.98 million.
- Operating expenditure is \$27.55 or 53% of the revised annual budget of \$51.61 million.
- Operating surplus (excluding depreciation) is at \$21.51 million.
- Capital income is \$986,294 or 18% of the revised annual budget of \$5.62 million. Grants income is recognised when grant obligations are met, which is generally when capital expenditure is incurred.
- Capital expenditure is \$3.57 million or 30% of the revised annual budget of \$12.04 million. There is a further \$2.88 million in commitments where works have commenced or are awaiting payment, combined equates to 54% of the revised annual budget.

- The total cash and cash investments were \$26.12 million, which includes \$20.95 million in term deposits in various banking institutions with less than 12 months to maturity, and \$5.18 million in our general trading account.
- Rates debt receivables is \$9.86 million, which includes:
  - Debt for 2025/26 \$8.57 million, in which \$3.06 million is overdue after the third instalment
  - \$5.5 million not yet due for 2025/26
  - \$683,937.84 remains outstanding for 2024/25
  - A further \$590,450.21 of accumulated unpaid rates from prior years
  - Total outstanding interest on outstanding rates of \$16,846.63
- Total payments to creditors in January 2026 amounted to \$3.82 million, of which \$3.43 million (89.66%) was paid to local suppliers.
- Council is compliant with its statutory obligations such as Pay-as-You-Go Withholdings, Goods and Services Tax, and Superannuation Guarantee reporting.
- There was one (1) contract variation during December 2025 and January 2026 that met the criteria under Regulation 42 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021.

## Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Financial Report for the Month of January 2026 be received and noted.

## Background

In accordance with *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 - Part 2 (Division 7)*, the preceding month's Financial Report must be presented to Council. Regulation 17(1) of the General Regulation requires a monthly report from the Chief Executive Officer to provide the Council with the actual income and expenditure for the period; the most recently adopted annual budget; and details of any material variances between the most recent actuals and the most recently adopted annual budget.

The information below is provided to assist with the terminology used throughout the report.

Annual Budget for 2025/26 consists of:

- the total budget per the municipal plan for the 2025/26 financial year.
- the approved capital expenditure roll-over from 2024/25.
- the approved first budget review 2025/26.

Year-to-date actuals (YTD Actuals) is the actual income and expenditure from 1 July 2025 to the current reporting date, 31 January 2026.

This report should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Dashboard report found at **Attachment 12.2.3.1** which is a traffic-light reporting system highlighting the current health status and areas of interest to Council. Further details are then reported in the body of the report.
- Financial reports are included at **Attachment 12.2.3.2** presenting the financial position of Council as at 31 January 2026.

## Discussion

### Financial Health

The financial health check ratios provide Council with a quick snapshot of the Council's financial position.

- The January 2026 ratios are benchmarked against the forecast ratios as per the Municipal Plan. If the ratio indicates that Council is not on target, a detailed explanation is provided. The ratios show Council's ability to monitor the cashflows (in and out) and ensure that Council has sufficient cash to cover its obligations.
- The operating surplus ratio (operating surplus divide by operating income) of 35% which is in line with the Key Performance Indicator (KPI).
- The debt service ratio (net operating income divided by debt repayments plus interest) for January 2026 is 17.64, indicating that the Council has sufficient capacity to meet its loan obligations and is in line with the KPI.
- Rates collection currently sits at 78% of total rates revenue, which is lower at this stage of the year as rates were only levied on 28 July, with the first instalment due on 30 September and the second instalment due on 30 December. The collection percentage is expected to increase as remaining instalment payments are received.
- The current ratio (Current Assets divide by Current Liability) is 4.76 for January 2026 which demonstrates that Council has enough resources to meet its short-term obligations and is in line with the KPI.

### Operating Overview

The dashboard provides an overview of Council's operating income and expenditure for 2025/26 as at 31 January 2026. Refer to **Attachment 12.2.3.1**.

Total operating income as at 31 January 2026 is \$41.88 million, which is 97% of the revised annual budget of \$42.98, noting that this largely includes recognition of rates revenue when the rates notices are issued.

Total operating expenditure as at 31 January 2026 is \$27.55 million, this mainly consists of the following:

- \$7.64 million Employee Costs.
- \$6.13 million Materials & Contractors.
- \$7.18 million Depreciation (non-cash).
- \$2.51 million Other Expenses such as program running cost and training costs.
- \$1.47 millions in utilities
- \$0.65 million in Insurance expenses.

- \$1.21 million Professional services such as external consultants and management fee for Odegaard.
- \$0.76 million Software, Hardware, Stationery, and Subscription.

The \$3.24 million underspend in operating expenditure is largely due to invoices that are yet to be received and processed for services received in January.

## Capital Overview

The dashboard provides an overview of Council’s capital expenditure for 2025/26 as per **Attachment 12.2.3.1**.

### Capital Expenditures

The 2025/26 revised capital expenditure annual budget is \$12.04 million. This includes \$5.10 million capital budget from last financial year that was rolled over to the current financial year and \$0.34 million from 2025/26 first budget review.

The pie chart in the dashboard as per **Attachment 12.2.3.1** shows that out of the \$12.04 million capital expenditure budget, the actual capital expenditure is \$3.57 million which is 30% of the budget.

In addition to the \$3.57 million actual expenditure, there is a further \$2.88 million in commitments where works have commenced and/or are awaiting invoices for payment, or for capital budget roll-over. The current expenditure combined with the commitments presents 54% of expenditure against the revised annual budget.

### Capital Funding

Capital projects are funded by capital grants, Council contributions (operating surplus and financial reserves), and borrowings.

The table below provides a breakdown of the budgeted capital grants income for 2025/26 (A), grants that have been recognised as income (B), grants that have been received (C) and grants still yet to be received (D).

- Grants that have been received are recognised as a grant liability until the assessment of income criteria has been met such as meeting the grant agreement obligations.

CAPITAL PROJECT 2025/26	TOTAL GRANT INCOME FOR 2025-26 (A)	GRANT RECOGNISED AS INCOME (B)	GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED TO DATE (C)	GRANT FUNDS YET TO BE RECEIVED (A-C=D)
Pump Parks/skate parks Zuccoli	\$0.19M	\$0.19M	\$0.19M	
SWELL Carpark Upgrade	\$0.03M		\$0.03M	
SWELL Basketball Court Shade Structure	\$0.09M		\$0.09M	
Reseal Program	\$0.21M		\$0.21M	

Road Reconstruction (R2R)	\$0.45M		\$0.45M	
Black Spot - Bonson Terrace	\$0.04M	\$0.04M		\$0.04M
Black Spot - Yarrawonga Road	\$0.11M			\$0.11M
Hobart Park Exeloo and Park Upgrade	\$0.37M	\$0.13M	\$0.14M	\$0.23M
21/22 Custom Animal Holding Pens (LG IP Grant)	\$0.02M	\$0.01M	\$0.02M	
Water Aquifer Prevention Strategy	\$0.10M	\$0.10M	\$0.10M	
Archer Recycling Modernisation Project	\$0.03M	\$0.03M	\$0.03M	
Lakebed Aerators	\$0.03M	\$0.03M	\$0.03M	
Woodroffe Park Upgrades	\$0.60M		\$0.60M	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2.27M</b>	<b>\$0.77M</b>	<b>\$1.89M</b>	<b>\$0.38M</b>

## Cash and Investments

Trading Account: \$5.18 million.

Investments: \$20.95 million.

Annual Budgeted interest revenue: 1.26 million

Year to Date interest revenue: \$0.82 million.

<b>CASH AT BANK AND INVESTMENTS</b>				
<b>DURATION</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>VALUE (\$)</b>	<b>% OF TOTAL PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>LIMIT</b>
Cash at bank	1	\$5.18	NA	NA
<12months	10	\$20.95	100%	100%
Total	11	\$26.13	100%	100%

The investment portfolio is compliant with the Council Investments Policy.

- As at 31 January 2026 the Council held \$20.95 million in term deposits across three financial institutions.
- Cash held by Council in the National Australia Bank (NAB) trading account as at 31 January 2026 was \$5.18 million earning 3.70% interest per annum.
- Performance of our investments against our policy and details on our investments are provided in section 2.3 of the Investments Management Report at **Attachment 12.2.3.2**.

## Receivables

Council has \$12.50 million in Receivables, which is made up of the following.

- \$10.49 million in Rates and charges, including rates levied during 2025/26. Further explanation of the breakdown is detailed below is rates and charges.
- \$2.01 million in other receivables including infringements, sundry debtors, grants receivables, GST receivables and accrued interest receivables for Term Deposits.

### *Rates and charges*

- The dashboard at Attachment 12.2.3.1 highlights the rates levied for the 2025-26 financial year are \$38.11 million, of which \$29.56 million (78%) has already been collected and \$8.57 million (22%) is yet to be collected.
- Item 2.4 Debtors Control at Attachment 12.2.3.2 provides for the summary of the breakdown of the \$1.27million rates overdue for prior years
- The actual overdue amount for 2024-25 rates as at January 2026, is \$683,937.84 which is 2% of the total 2024-25 rates revenue.
- There is \$590,450.21 of overdue rates from prior years.
- 428 properties have outstanding rates for 2024-25 and prior
- 6040 Ratepayers have paid their 2025-26 rates in full.
- Total of 629 properties have either direct debit or payment arrangement in place.
- The Local Government Act 2019 (NT) allows Council to place an overriding statutory charge on a property where rates have been outstanding for at least six (6) months, which gives Council priority over other registered and unregistered mortgages, charges, and encumbrances except for a previously registered overriding statutory charge. Council currently holds overriding statutory charges on 87 properties for debts from 2018-19 and earlier.
- 18 Financial Hardship applications have been approved for the 2025/26 financial year. 16 are from the 2024-25 financial year and 2 are new applications.
- A balance of \$932,057 of rates received in advance is accounted for in the balance sheet as a liability as it relates payment of rates for a future period.
- Rates overdue for 2025-26 after the third instalment is \$3,067,034

### *Infringements*

- Total infringements outstanding is \$223,027 as at 31 January 2026, this consists of
  - Animals \$199,982
  - Public Place \$6,537 and
  - Parking \$16,508
- The graph in the dashboard at **Attachment 12.2.3.1** shows the total infringements issued and collected for the year until 31 January 2026.
  - Total Animal infringements issued for 2025-26 as at 31 January 2026 is \$49,620 and collected is \$2,397.
  - Parking infringements issued for 2025-26 as at 31 January 2026 is \$1,228, out of which \$388 has been collected.
  - Total Public Places infringements issued as at 31 January 2026 is \$142 and hasn't been collected yet.

### *Sundry Debtors*

Sundry Debtors as at 31 January 2026 is \$0.58 million as presented in **Attachment 12.2.3.2**. This balance includes \$375,000 that is expected to be received from Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, \$81,458.30 from Belgravia health, \$45,797.18 from Power and Water Corporation. The total also includes the amounts to be received relating to long grass and property maintenance. More details are available in section 2.4 Debtor Control Account.

## Trade Creditors Paid

- Total payments to creditors in January 2026 amounted to \$3.82 million, of which \$3.43 million (89.66%) were paid to local suppliers.
- During January 2026, the significant vendor payments consisted of \$ 0.44 million to City of Darwin, \$0.33 million to NT Electoral Commission, \$0.33 million to Australian Taxation Office - PAYG, \$0.27 million to Cleanaway Pty Ltd, \$0.23 million to N and M Klidas Nominees Pty Ltd, \$0.22 million to JLM Contracting Services, \$0.18 million to QuickSuper Clearing House, \$0.17 million to Arafura Tree Services and Consulting, \$0.17 million to Power Water and \$0.15 million to Veolia Environmental Service (Australia) Pty Ltd.

## Borrowings

Total external borrowings of \$6.96 million is made up of the following:

- Archer Land Fill Rehabilitation loan: The total amount borrowed from NAB was \$1.96 million with the balance as at 31 January 2026 being \$0.38 million. The interest rate is fixed at 2.78% for the duration of the loan and is paid on a quarterly basis. This loan was for 8 years and is due to conclude on 30 June 2027.
- SWELL loan: The \$5 million approved loan for the SWELL project was drawn down during December 2023 with a current balance as at 31 January 2026 of \$4.41 million. This is a 20-year loan with current variable interest rate of 4.88% with the principal being repaid quarterly. This loan is renegotiated every 5 years.

## Other Compliance matters

Council is compliant with payment and reporting of all tax liabilities as outlined below:

- Council has remitted \$1.73 million Year-to-Date (YTD) in Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) tax to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). The PAYG withholding tax is regularly reported to the Australian Taxation Office on a fortnightly basis by Council.
- The Business Activity Statement (BAS) balance for the month ended 30 December 2025 has been finalised and lodged in January 2026 as a Goods Services Tax refund of \$195,420. The refund is net of Fringe Benefit Tax 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of \$22,782. ATO refund was received in NAB on 27 January. The January 2026 BAS will be finalised and lodged in February 2026.
- Council has the required insurances to manage the current risk exposure.

## Contract Variations

CONTRACT VARIATIONS	NO OF VARIATIONS
Varied contract, after a quotation under regulation 34 has been accepted and the total cost of supplies exceeds \$100,000 but is less than \$150,000.	Nil
Varied contract, after a quotation under regulation 34 has been accepted or a public quotation under regulation 35 has	Nil

been accepted and the total cost of supplies exceeds \$150,000.	
Varied contract is entered into after a tender under regulation 36 has been accepted and the total cost of supplies exceeds the original tender cost by more than 10%.	Supplier: Allan King & Sons Construction Pty Ltd Contract: Zuccoli Hub Pump Track Construction Supplies Provided: Additional rollers on track and additional line marking. Original contract cost: \$928,623.45 ex GST Total contract cost of supplies is \$1,126,011.60 ex GST Percentage increase from original contract cost to total contract cost: 21.26%. Applicable provision: Section 42 (5)(a)

## Consultation and marketing

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- Finance team
- Governance team
- Infrastructure team.

## Policy implications

This report is in line with the reporting requirements under the *Local Government Act* and relevant Council Policies.

## Budget and resource implications

This Report provides an overview of the budget and resource implications.

## Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

2. **Financial Sustainability**  
Failure of Council to be financially sustainable to deliver key services and infrastructure for the community.
  
6. **Governance**  
Failure to effectively govern.

## Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- [Long Term Financial Plan](#)

## Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.



## Attachments

1. Dashboard [**12.2.3.1** - 2 pages]
2. EOM January 2026 [**12.2.3.2** - 25 pages]

As at 31 January 2026

# DASHBOARD

Financial Health Ratios	MP KPI	As at January 26	Status
Operating Surplus Ratio	> 0%	43%	On Track
Debt Service Ratio	> 2.0	17.64	On Track
Rates Collection	>95%	78%	Explanation Required There is still two rates instalments that are not yet due. To date 78% (\$29.56M) collected to date.
Current Ratio	> 1.5	4.76	On Track

**\$21.51 M**

Operating Surplus (excluding Depn)

Annual Budget is at \$3.68 M

**\$0.99 M**

Capital Income

Annual Budget is at \$5.62 M

**\$3.57 M**

Capital Expenditure

Annual Budget is at \$12.04 M

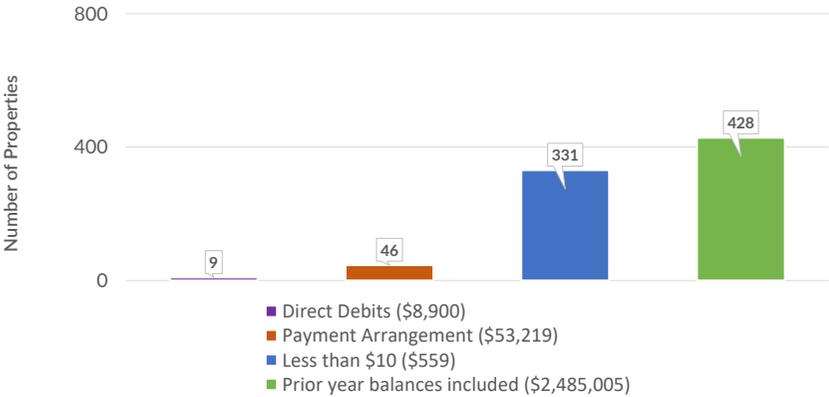
**\$26.12 M**

Cash Held

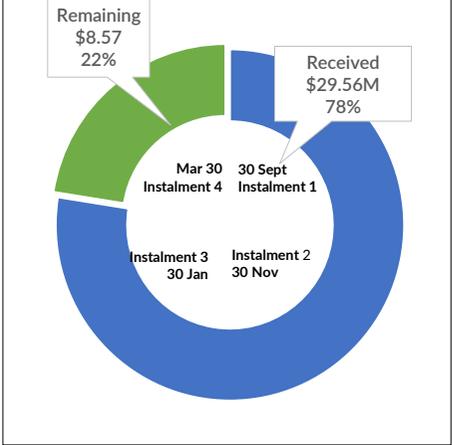
Legends

- On Track
- Explanation Required
- Off Track

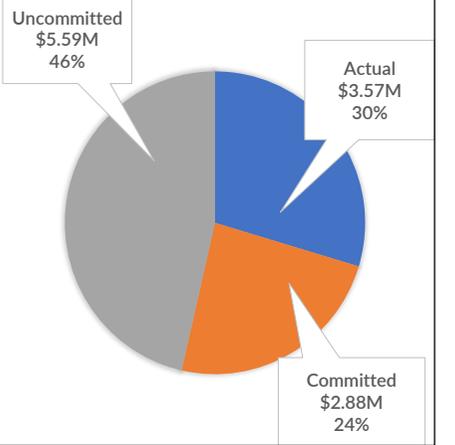
**Properties with Rates Outstanding**

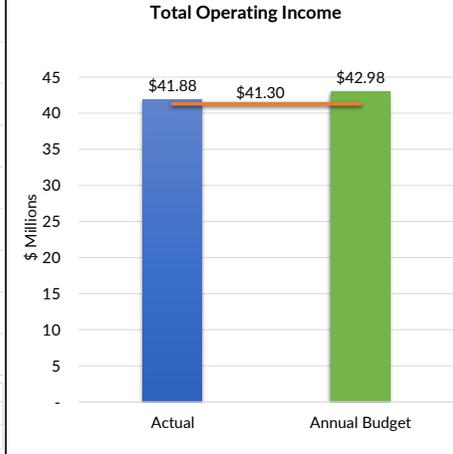
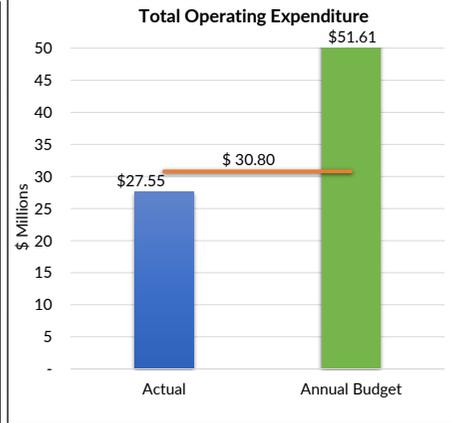
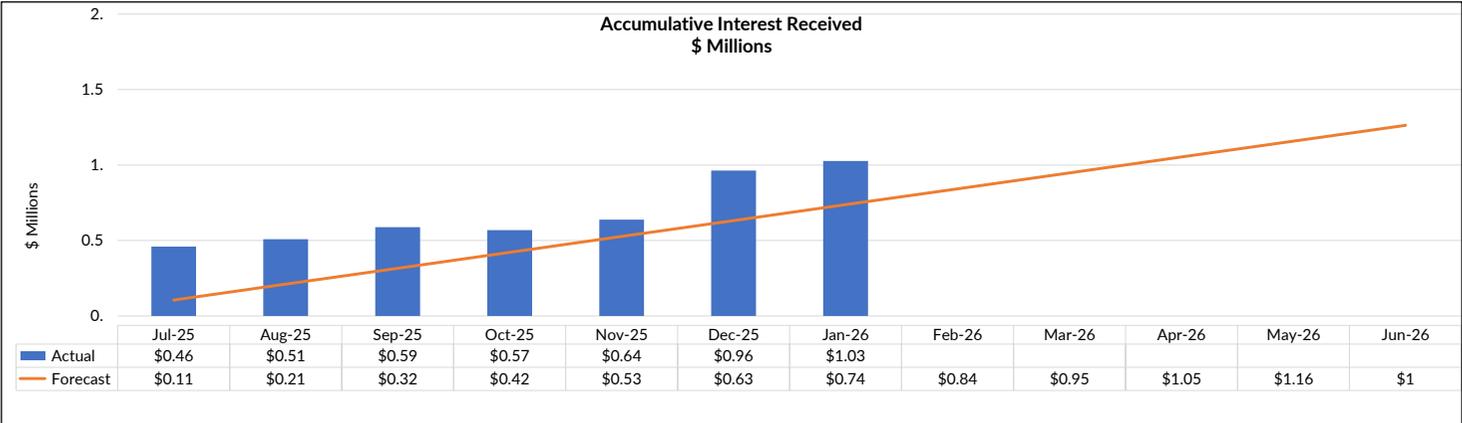
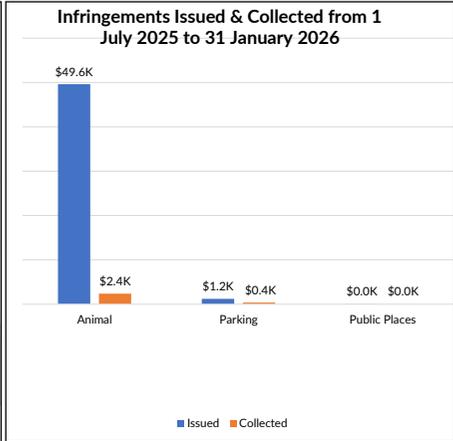
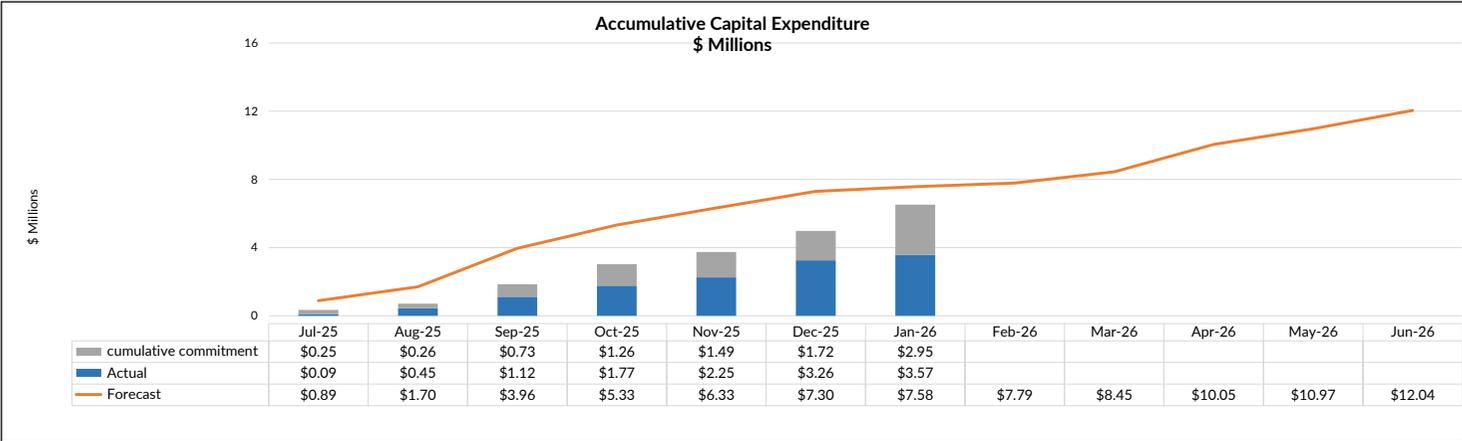


**Rates & Charges Collected**

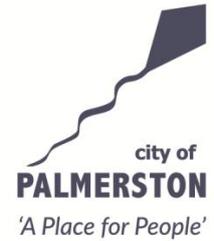


**Capital Expenditure**





# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS



JANUARY 2026

- 1. Executive Summary
- 2. Financial Results

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January 2026

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	2.9	Elected Member Expenses
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## Certification By Chief Executive Officer

I, Andrew Walsh, the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Palmerston, hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief:

- The internal controls implemented by Council are appropriate; and
- The Council's Financial Report for January 2026 best reflects the financial affairs of the Council.



Andrew Walsh  
Chief Executive Officer

Section 2  
Financial ResultsExecutive Summary as at  
% of year passed

31 January 2026

58.33%

**1.2 - Executive Summary**

Description	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actual \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
<b>Operating Income</b>						
Rates	28,976,123	29,086,345	100%	28,951,123	100%	
Charge	8,932,422	9,041,942	101%	8,932,422	101%	
Fees & Charges	1,002,419	853,126	85%	677,334	126%	1
Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	2,287,285	1,483,764	65%	1,692,218	88%	
Interest & Investment Revenue	1,741,911	1,304,242	75%	1,022,007	128%	2
Other Income	41,960	112,053	267%	25,127	446%	3
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>42,982,120</b>	<b>41,881,472</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>41,300,230</b>	<b>101%</b>	
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>						
Employee Costs	-13,496,550	-7,639,814	57%	-7,751,241	99%	
Materials & Contractors	-14,594,071	-6,131,687	42%	-8,664,841	71%	4
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	-12,306,000	-7,178,500	58%	-7,178,500	100%	
Elected Members Allowances	-523,612	-284,055	54%	-322,565	88%	5
Elected Members Expenses	-383,370	-332,712	87%	-367,153	91%	
Professional Services	-2,368,415	-1,027,646	43%	-1,392,481	74%	6
Auditor's Remuneration	-55,886	-200	0%	0	0%	
Utilities	-2,427,946	-1,468,339	60%	-1,370,259	107%	
Legal Expenses	-315,700	-180,309	57%	-184,239	98%	
Telephone & Other Communication Charges	-196,678	-146,257	74%	-145,274	101%	
Donations, Sponsorships & Grants	-255,000	-125,437	49%	-116,100	108%	
Software, Hardware, Stationery, Subscriptions	-1,266,214	-799,195	63%	-893,069	89%	7
Insurance	-769,519	-653,183	85%	-762,720	86%	
Borrowing Costs	-309,806	-153,069	49%	-233,746	65%	
Other Expenses	-2,338,641	-1,432,435	61%	-1,415,533	101%	
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>-51,607,409</b>	<b>-27,552,840</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>-30,797,724</b>	<b>89%</b>	
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-8,625,289</b>	<b>14,328,633</b>		<b>10,502,507</b>		
<b>Capital Income</b>						
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	150,000	113,197	75%	110,000	103%	
Developer Contributions	200,000	156,963	78%	100,000	157%	8
Asset Income	3,000,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Grants received	2,267,769	716,133	32%	839,544	85%	9
<b>Capital Income</b>	<b>5,617,769</b>	<b>986,294</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>1,049,544</b>	<b>94%</b>	
<b>Net SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) transferred to Equity Statement</b>	<b>-3,007,519</b>	<b>15,314,926</b>		<b>11,552,051</b>		

Section 2  
Financial ResultsExecutive Summary as at  
% of year passed

31 January 2026

58.33%

**1.2 - Executive Summary**

Description	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actual \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
Asset Purchase	-5,133,651	-1,954,995	38%	-3,459,590	57%	10
Asset Upgrade	-6,909,598	-1,616,580	23%	-4,194,745	39%	10
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>-12,043,248</b>	<b>-3,571,576</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>-7,654,335</b>	<b>47%</b>	
Less Non-Cash Expenditure	-12,306,000	-7,178,500	58%	-7,178,500	100%	
Plus Gifted Assets	3,000,000	0	0%	0	0%	
<b>NET CAPITAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-5,744,768</b>	<b>18,921,850</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,076,216</b>		
Less Repayment of Borrowings	-512,201	-297,885	58%	-298,784	100%	
Reserve Movement	6,256,970	0	0%	0	0%	11
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,623,965</b>		<b>10,777,432</b>		

**Notes**

The variance is due to the following:

1. Higher revenue from rate searches, infringements/impounding fees and contract than expected and income from SWELL Operations
2. Higher interest income received than expected
3. Receipt of insurance claims for Tom Price Park and income from Power Water to reinstate failed sewer trench
4. January invoices for vegetation, waste management, mowing, and maintenance yet to be received and processed
5. Vacancies in Elected Member positions during the initial months of this financial year
6. Invoices for counselling ,training, consulting ,report design and employee engagement survey yet to be received and processed
7. Invoices for software licenses, advertising, subscriptions and membership yet to be received and processed.
8. Funds in leu of construction received earlier than planned
9. Capital grant funds are linked to capital expenditure and only recognised as income when obligation is met
10. Some of projects are underway and in initial phase and expenditure yet to be incurred . Refer to 1.3 Capital expenditure for more details
11. Actual Reserves Movement will be recognised as part of end of year process



Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Section 2  
Financial Results  
31 January 2026  
58.33%

Budget Summary Report By Directorate as at  
% of year passed

### 1.3 - Operating Income

Description	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>						
Office of the CEO	532,608	299,242	56%	266,304	112%	1
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>	<b>532,608</b>	<b>299,242</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>266,304</b>	<b>112%</b>	
<b>People and Place</b>						
City Activation	300,000	45	0%	300,000	0%	
<b>People and Place</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>0%</b>	
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>						
Governance	0	52,341	0%	0	0%	2
GM Finance & Governance	70,000	49,621	71%	40,833	122%	3
Financial Services	1,095,618	862,328	79%	639,107	135%	4
Rates	29,193,496	29,325,436	100%	29,078,507	101%	
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>	<b>30,359,114</b>	<b>30,289,726</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>29,758,448</b>	<b>102%</b>	
<b>Community</b>						
Library Services	754,432	751,849	100%	720,154	104%	
Senior Citizens	2,000	2,000	100%	2,000	100%	
Animal Management	426,750	312,190	73%	346,761	90%	
Parking & Other Ranger Services	35,600	20,864	59%	21,417	97%	
<b>Community</b>	<b>1,218,782</b>	<b>1,086,904</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>1,090,332</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Infrastructure</b>						
Aquatic Centre	0	206,340	0%	0	0%	5
Civic Centre	166,587	97,176	58%	103,602	94%	
Gray Community Hall	10,000	3,103	31%	3,750	83%	6
GM Infrastructure	0	41,634	0%	0	0%	
Private Works	50,000	31,700	63%	29,167	109%	7
Recreation Centre	18,000	7,430	41%	10,500	71%	6
Roads & Transport	657,527	363,558	55%	328,764	111%	1
Subdivisional Works	115,000	29,209	25%	67,083	44%	8
Waste Management	8,971,382	9,042,833	101%	8,955,149	101%	
Odegaard Drive Investment Property	478,920	277,163	58%	284,682	97%	
Durack Heights Community Centre	4,200	5,704	136%	2,450	233%	9
Goyder Square	100,000	100,000	100%	100,000	100%	
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>10,571,616</b>	<b>10,205,849</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>9,885,146</b>	<b>103%</b>	
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>42,982,120</b>	<b>41,881,827</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>41,300,230</b>	<b>101%</b>	

#### Notes

The variance is due to the following:

1. Cashflowing of the financial assistance grants income
2. Income from Insurance claim refund for Tom Price Park
3. Due to higher rental income than expected
4. Higher interest income received than expected
5. Income from SWELL operations and is being considered as part of the Second Budget Review
6. Less than expected bookings for Gray and Rec centre community hall
7. Higher than expected year to date income from permit works on council reserves
8. Income received for the completed submission works, more to receive around the third and fourth quarter of this year
9. Higher income year to date from facility hire than anticipated

Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance



Section 2  
Financial Results

Budget Summary Report By Directorate as at  
% of year passed

31 January 2026

58.33%

**1.3 - Operating Expenditure**

Description	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>						
Councillors	-906,982	-616,768	68%	-689,718	89%	1
Office of the CEO	-955,426	-592,883	62%	-609,329	97%	
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>	<b>-1,862,408</b>	<b>-1,209,650</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>-1,299,047</b>	<b>93%</b>	
<b>People &amp; Place</b>						
GM People & Place	-618,498	-220,638	36%	-345,823	64%	2
Customer Experience	-370,789	-237,098	64%	-211,778	112%	2
People and Customer	-1,019,948	-551,834	54%	-593,174	93%	
Public Relations and Communications	-898,857	-486,368	54%	-542,782	90%	
Arts & Culture	-60,000	-4,004	7%	-35,000	11%	3
City Activation	-1,797,105	-1,169,699	65%	-1,074,058	109%	
<b>People &amp; Place</b>	<b>-4,765,196</b>	<b>-2,669,642</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>-2,802,615</b>	<b>95%</b>	
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>						
GM Finance & Governance	-595,379	-311,066	52%	-335,383	93%	
Records Management	-328,604	-180,574	55%	-188,390	96%	
Financial Services	-13,921,303	-8,014,172	58%	-7,987,401	100%	
Rates	-105,700	-41,712	39%	-50,283	83%	4
Governance	-1,535,389	-1,251,939	82%	-1,368,767	91%	
Information Technology	-1,935,648	-1,182,541	61%	-1,247,095	95%	
Fleet	-259,925	-73,107	28%	-111,912	65%	5
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>	<b>-18,681,948</b>	<b>-11,055,112</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>-11,289,231</b>	<b>98%</b>	
<b>Community</b>						
Community Development	-1,123,132	-439,020	39%	-620,366	71%	6
Diversity and Inclusion Activities	-34,000	-9,148	27%	-25,500	36%	7
Families & Children	-23,500	-16,097	68%	-12,150	132%	8
Health and Wellbeing Services	-12,000	-5,929	49%	-6,000	99%	
Library Services	-1,695,047	-877,337	52%	-977,445	90%	
Senior Citizens	-10,000	-9,635	96%	0	0%	
Youth Services	-27,000	-1,756	7%	-15,000	12%	9
GM Community	-365,108	-211,788	58%	-191,719	110%	
Safe Communities	-20,000	-8,180	41%	-10,000	82%	10
Animal Management	-95,617	-50,039	52%	-76,621	65%	11
Parking & Other Ranger Services	-883,578	-656,278	74%	-498,783	132%	12
<b>Community</b>	<b>-4,288,982</b>	<b>-2,285,206</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>-2,433,583</b>	<b>94%</b>	
<b>Infrastructure</b>						
Aquatic Centre	-1,523,736	-868,975	57%	-943,534	92%	
Civic Centre	-271,256	-150,435	55%	-154,850	97%	
Depot	-82,093	-41,027	50%	-47,880	86%	13
Driver Resource Centre	-36,894	-16,510	45%	-21,512	77%	14
Emergency Operations	-10,000	-344,579	3446%	-10,000	3446%	15
Gray Community Hall	-101,716	-54,421	54%	-68,065	80%	16
GM Infrastructure	-1,455,027	-806,687	55%	-843,534	96%	
Open Space	-6,047,484	-2,384,205	39%	-3,495,003	68%	17
Private Works	-116,481	-67,637	58%	-67,007	101%	

Section 2  
Financial Results

31 January 2026

58.33%

Budget Summary Report By Directorate as at  
% of year passed

### 1.3 - Operating Expenditure

Description	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
Recreation Centre	-347,299	-162,479	47%	-202,598	80%	17
Roads & Transport	-1,494,035	-998,823	67%	-866,284	115%	
Stormwater Infrastructure	-174,177	-114,644	66%	-68,000	169%	18
Street Lighting	-884,675	-582,451	66%	-469,746	124%	
Subdivisional Works	-25,000	-6,170	25%	-12,500	49%	19
Waste Management	-8,981,150	-3,539,224	39%	-5,420,888	65%	17
Odegaard Drive Investment Property	-123,003	-60,530	49%	-75,406	80%	17
Durack Heights Community Centre	-79,644	-33,748	42%	-52,447	64%	17
Goyder Square	-255,204	-100,685	39%	-153,993	65%	17
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>-22,008,875</b>	<b>-10,333,229</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>-12,973,246</b>	<b>80%</b>	
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>-51,607,409</b>	<b>-27,552,840</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>-30,797,724</b>	<b>89%</b>	

#### Notes

The variance is due to following:

1. Election Costs less than the allocated budget; please refer to 2.9 Elected Members Expense (Contractors)
2. Employee expenses related to GM People and Place been allocated to customer service department, this will be adjusted
3. Arts and Culture programs and events are expected to be expended in Quarters 3 and 4.
4. Slightly lower year to date legal and debt recovery costs than expected
5. Lower than expected cost on motor vehicle fuel, services and parts
6. Subscription and membership invoices are yet to be received, and grant payments dependent on the timing of applications from the community
7. Inclusion activities delayed due to review of Disability Inclusion Action Plan.
8. Higher year to date program running cost for Children's weeks but it is within the annual budget
9. Expenditure related to program running cost for health and well being services, youth services and safe communities are expected in later months
10. Lower than anticipated programming cost
11. Animal desexing program yet to commence, and rehoming invoice yet to be received.
12. Higher employee costs for the period, will be managed within overall budget
13. Awaiting cleaning, security, external consultant and contractors invoices
14. Awaiting cleaning and building maintenance invoices
15. Expenses related to Cyclone Fina , this will be addressed as part of the Second Budget Review, presented at this meeting
16. Awaiting cleaning and building maintenance invoices
17. Awaiting cleaning, security, external consultant and contractors invoices
18. Year-to-date stormwater maintenance costs are higher than expected due to the wet season, but overall expenditure remains within the approved annual budget.
19. Consultancy expenditure is expected later in the financial year.

Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Section 2  
Financial Results

31 January 2026

58.33%

Budget Summary Report By Directorate as at  
% of year passed**1.3 - Capital Income**

Description	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>						
Office of the Chief Executive	0	0	0%	0	0%	
<b>People &amp; Place</b>						
People & Place	0	0	0%	0	0%	
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>						
Financial Services	3,000,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Fleet	150,000	113,197	75%	110,000	103%	
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>	<b>3,150,000</b>	<b>113,197</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>103%</b>	
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>						
Animal Management	19,580	19,580	100%	19,580	100%	
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>	<b>19,580</b>	<b>19,580</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19,580</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Infrastructure</b>						
Aquatic Centre	2,892	2,892	100%	2,892	100%	
GM Infrastructure	100,000	114,940	115%	0	0%	
Open Space	1,309,956	513,620	39%	719,956	71%	1
Roads & Transport	808,864	38,624	5%	149,839	26%	1
Subdivisional Works	200,000	156,963	78%	100,000	157%	2
Waste Management	26,478	26,478	100%	26,478	100%	
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>2,448,189</b>	<b>853,516</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>999,164</b>	<b>85%</b>	
<b>CAPITAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,617,769</b>	<b>986,294</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>1,049,544</b>	<b>94%</b>	

Note: Capital Grants largely make up Capital Income. Grants are recognised when the grant obligations have been met, which is when expenditure on capital project has occurred.

**Notes**

1. Variance is due to unspent grant funds not yet recognised as income
2. Income from Funds in leu of construction received earlier than planned



Approved by: Exec. Manager Financial Performance

Section 2  
Financial Results  
Budget Summary Report By Directorate as at 31 January 2026  
% of year passed 58.33%

**1.3 - Capital Expenditure**

	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Committed \$	% Committed of Annual Budget	YTD Actual + Committed \$	% YTD Actual + Committed of Annual budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>										
Office of the Chief Executive	0	0	0%	0	0.00%	0	0%	0	0%	
<b>People &amp; Place</b>										
Arts & Culture	-90,000	-21,870	24%	0	0%	-21,870	24%	-44,545	49%	1
<b>People &amp; Place</b>	<b>-90,000</b>	<b>-21,870</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-21,870</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>-44,545</b>	<b>49%</b>	
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>										
Information Technology	-817,967	-177,671	22%	-75,845	9%	-253,515	31%	-388,161	46%	2
Fleet	-417,377	-223,860	54%	-81,609	20%	-305,468	73%	-367,377	61%	3
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>	<b>-1,235,344</b>	<b>-401,531</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>-157,453</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>-558,984</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>-755,538</b>	<b>53%</b>	
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>										
Library Services	-493,294	0	0%	-367,834	75%	-367,834	75%	-437,310	0%	4
Animal Management	-19,580	-6,869	35%	0	0%	-6,869	35%	-19,580	35%	5
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>	<b>-512,874</b>	<b>-6,869</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-367,834</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>-374,702</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>-456,890</b>	<b>2%</b>	
<b>Infrastructure</b>										
Aquatic Centre	-72,228	-22,892	32%	0	0%	-22,892	32%	-42,000	55%	6
Civic Centre	-164,920	-3,000	2%	-55,825	34%	-58,825	36%	-80,000	4%	7
Depot	-369,986	-24,885	7%	-1,490	0%	-26,375	7%	-339,760	7%	8
Driver Resource Centre	-10,240	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	
GM Infrastructure	-1,084,366	-115,315	11%	-13,760	1%	-129,075	12%	-964,366	12%	9
Open Space	-3,601,595	-1,589,512	44%	-1,166,739	32%	-2,756,251	77%	-2,278,395	70%	10
Recreation Centre	-90,984	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	-35,000	0%	
Roads & Transport	-2,887,965	-319,348	11%	-979,034	34%	-1,298,382	45%	-1,119,893	29%	10
Stormwater Infrastructure	-184,800	-47,560	26%	0	0%	-47,560	26%	-39,296	121%	10, 11
Street Lighting	-747,557	-111,328	15%	-146,586	20%	-257,914	35%	-535,317	21%	11
Waste Management	-972,602	-907,467	93%	-271	0%	-907,738	93%	-972,602	93%	
Odegaard Drive Investment Property	-17,789	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>-10,205,031</b>	<b>-3,141,307</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>-2,363,705</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>-5,505,012</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>-6,397,361</b>	<b>49%</b>	
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>-12,043,248</b>	<b>-3,571,576</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>-2,888,992</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>-6,460,568</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>-7,654,335</b>	<b>47%</b>	

**Notes**

The variance is due to the following:

1. More funds expected to spent on Hobart Park placemaking project over the next few months
2. Tender assessment in progress for Enterprise resource planning project, professional services has been invoiced. Program to be developed for other IT projects
3. Orders for more vehicles has been placed and awaiting delivery, invoices yet to be received and paid
4. Tender for library shelving to progress and construction tender awarded for library café, expenses yet to be incurred
5. Vehicle suspension modified for 2 vehicles and more expenditure on equipment expected in coming months
6. Vacuum for 50m pool delivered. Program to be developed for remaining funds
7. Program to be developed for Civic centre building alterations and order placed for customer service desk, invoices yet to be processed
8. Design for the dog pound project underway, expected to be released early 2026 and work for incubators renewals yet to commence
9. Tender assessment for Zuccoli Stage 3 design in progress, and the water aquifer project contract awarded with consultations underway. No major expenditure is expected until these projects commence.
10. Variance is due to some projects are underway ,with the invoices yet to be received and processed
11. Projects are ongoing with expenditures expected to incur in coming months

  
Approved by: Exec. Manager Financial Performance

Section 2  
Financial ResultsCapital Expenditure & Funding as at 31 January 2026  
% of year passed 58.33%**1.4 - Capital Expenditure & Funding**

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Actuals</b>
Land & Buildings	4,836,131	1,680,484
Infrastructure (including roads, footpaths, park furniture)	5,248,163	1,372,464
Fleet	436,957	230,728
Other Assets (including furniture & office equip)	817,967	177,671
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>12,043,248</b>	<b>3,571,576</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY:</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Actuals</b>
Operating Income	4,722,057	694,659
Capital Grants	2,109,369	716,133
Transfers from Cash Reserves	5,211,822	2,160,783
Borrowings	0	0
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING</b>	<b>12,043,248</b>	<b>3,571,576</b>



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Balance Sheet as at  
% of year passed**2.1 - Balance Sheet**

Balance Sheet	YTD	
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash & cash equivalents		
<i>Cash on Hand</i>	1,355	Petty Cash
<i>Tied Funds</i>	5,175,488	Tied funds equals restricted reserve and unearned Grant income
<i>Untied Funds</i>		
Investments		
<i>Tied Funds</i>	6,049,696	Tied funds equals restricted reserve and unearned Grant income
<i>Untied Funds</i>	14,895,776	
Receivables		
<i>Rates and Charges</i>	10,484,977	
<i>Other Receivables</i>	2,012,352	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>38,619,645</b>	
<b>Non-Current Assets:</b>		
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	557,583,479	
Investment property	6,200,000	
Work in progress	4,081,242	
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>567,864,721</b>	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>606,484,366</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Payables	2,334,699	
Unearned Grant Income (AASB1058)	1,093,412	Unearned grant income
Borrowings	619,205	
Provisions	1,107,009	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>5,154,324</b>	
<b>Non-Current Liabilities:</b>		
Borrowings	4,177,226	
Provisions	2,097,445	
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>6,274,671</b>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>11,428,995</b>	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>595,055,371</b>	
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated Surplus	237,994,770	
Profit & Loss - current Year	11,669,840	
Net Reserves	5,197,648	
<i>Working Capital Reserve</i>	4,995,227	
<i>Net Transfers to &amp; from Reserves</i>	- 9,929,352	
<i>Unexpended Grant reserve</i>	1,430,338	Externally restricted reserve
<i>Election Reserve</i>	200,000	Internally restricted reserve
<i>Disaster reserve</i>	500,000	Internally restricted reserve
<i>Unexpended Capital works</i>	2,424,098	Internally restricted reserve
<i>Developer Funded reserve</i>	2,137,942	Internally restricted reserve
<i>Waste Reserve</i>	3,439,396	Internally restricted reserve
Revaluation reserves	340,193,113	
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>595,055,371</b>	



Approved by: Exec. Manager Financial Performance

Section 2  
Financial Results

Statement of Reserves as at 31 January 2026  
% of year passed 58.33%

**2.2 - Statement of Reserves - Budget Movements 2025/26**

OTHER RESERVES	Opening Balance \$ 01/07/2025	Original Budget 2025/26 to Reserves \$	Original Budget 2025/26 from Reserves \$	1st Review 2025/26 to Reserves \$	1st Review 2025/26 from Reserves \$	Projected Balance at YTD 2025/26 \$
<b>Externally Restricted Reserves</b>						
Unexpended Grants Reserve	1,430,338				(1,430,338)	-
<b>Externally Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>1,430,338</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,430,338)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Internally Restricted Reserves</b>						
Election Expenses Reserve	200,000		(200,000)			-
Disaster Recovery Reserve	500,000					500,000
Unexpended Capital Works Reserve	2,424,098				(2,424,098)	-
Developer Funds In Lieu Of Construction	2,137,942	627,871	(200,000)			2,565,813
Waste Management Reserve	3,439,396		(284,743)		(926,124)	2,228,529
Asset Renewal Reserve	-					-
Major Initiatives Reserve	-					-
<b>Internally Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>8,701,436</b>	<b>627,871</b>	<b>(684,743)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,350,222)</b>	<b>5,294,342</b>
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>						
Working Capital Reserve	4,995,227	80,462	(1,150,000)		(350,000)	3,575,689
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>	<b>4,995,227</b>	<b>80,462</b>	<b>(1,150,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(350,000)</b>	<b>3,575,689</b>
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>15,127,000</b>	<b>708,333</b>	<b>(1,834,743)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(5,130,560)</b>	<b>8,870,031</b>

  
Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Investments Management Report as at  
% of year passed

2.3 - Investment Management Report

COUNTERPARTY	RATING	AMOUNT	INTEREST RATE	MATURITY DATE	DAYS TO MATURITY	INSTITUTION TOTALS
AMP	S&P A2	\$ 2,000,000	4.10%	March 20, 2026	48	\$ 2,000,000.00
CBA	S&P A1+	\$ 3,370,472	4.38%	August 3, 2026	184	
CBA	S&P A1+	\$ 3,500,000	4.26%	April 22, 2026	81	
CBA	S&P A1+	\$ 3,500,000	4.31%	May 26, 2026	115	
CBA	S&P A1+	\$ 2,000,000	4.35%	June 23, 2026	143	\$ 12,370,472.32
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000	4.20%	October 9, 2026	251	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,575,000	4.25%	December 5, 2025	0	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000	4.70%	February 24, 2026	24	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 2,000,000	4.30%	June 22, 2026	142	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000	4.50%	December 24, 2026	327	\$ 6,575,000.00
		\$ 20,945,472			132	

Investment Distribution by Credit Rating		
Credit Rating	% of Portfolio	Counterparty Limit
A1 & A1+	90%	100%
A2	10%	60%
A3	0%	40%

Investment Distribution by Individual institution		
ADI	% of Total	Max Individual limit
National Australian Bank (NAB)	31%	60%
Commonwealth Bank (CBA)	59%	60%
AMP Bank Limited	10%	40%

Interest Income Year to Date	Amount
Total Year to Date Interest on Cash at Bank	\$ 248,820
Total Year to Date Investment Earnings	\$ 574,297
Total Year to Date Interest from internal loan	\$ 21,567
Total Year to Date interest penalty income	\$ 182,396
<b>Total YTD Interest Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,027,079</b>

Cash at bank & Investments	Amount
Trading Account	\$ 5,175,488
Short Term Investment	\$ 20,945,472
Petty Cash	\$ 1,355
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 26,122,316</b>



PROPERTY INVESTMENT						
PROPERTY ADDRESS	VALUATION BASIS	VALUE	INCOME YTD	EXPENSE YTD	NET PROFIT YTD	COMPARITIVE YTD YIELD AT CASH RATE OF 3.70%
48 Odegaard Drive, Rosebery	Fair Value	\$ 6,200,000	\$ 277,163	\$ 60,530	\$ 216,633	\$ 135,126

  
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Section 2  
Financial Results

Debtor Control Accounts as at  
% of year passed

31 January 2026  
58.33%

2.4 Debtor Control Accounts

RATES OUTSTANDING FOR THE CURRENT YEAR (Including interest)

Report Month	Debtor Rates & Charges	Current year Outstanding	Outstanding % of CY Rates	Current Year Overdue	Overdue % CY Rates	Total outstanding interest for all years	Payments Received in Advance
Jan-26	\$9,862,033	\$8,570,799	22.48%	\$3,067,035	8.0%	\$16,846.63	\$932,057
Jan-25	\$8,354,250	\$8,354,250	15.50%				\$843,536

RATES OVERDUE BY YEARS

	Total	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-2021	2019-20	2018 & Prior
Rates and Charges Overdue Amount (Incl. Interest)	\$1,274,388	\$683,938	\$309,033	\$147,880	\$70,303	\$31,726	\$15,507	\$16,001
	100%	53.7%	24.2%	11.6%	5.5%	2.5%	1.2%	1.3%
Number Of Properties (Cumulative)	428	428	204	91	47	26	11	7

INFRINGEMENTS

	Total	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020 & Prior
Animal Infringements	199,982	47,223	60,991	25,707	24,641	20,227	15,451	5,742
Public Places	6,537	142	3,139	139	1,632	1,485		
Parking Infringements	16,508	840	3,564	3,796	1,898	2,528	1,725	2,157
Net Balance on Infringement Debts	223,027	48,205	67,694	29,642	28,171	24,240	17,176	7,899
	100%	21.6%	30.4%	13.3%	12.6%	10.9%	7.7%	3.5%
Number of Infringements	1,352	125	294	283	232	201	143	74

SUNDRY DEBTORS:

	Total	Under 30 days	31 - 60 Days	61 - 90 Days	Over 90Days
	\$584,786.94	\$6,871.01	\$127,902.72	\$800.00	\$449,213.21
	100%	1.2%	21.9%	0.1%	76.8%

  
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SECTION 2  
Financial Results

Creditor Accounts Paid  
% of year passed

31 January 2026  
58.33%

2.5 - Creditor Accounts Paid

Vendor Number	Creditor Name	Creditor Payment Type	Amount \$	Notes
549	City of Darwin	General Creditors	440,780.38	
4269	NT Electoral Commission	General Creditors	332,528.11	
2	Australian Taxation Office - PAYG	General Creditors	329,609.00	
639	Cleanaway Pty Ltd.	General Creditors	266,566.24	
V01814	N and M Klidas Nominees Pty Ltd T/A Vrahos Contr	General Creditors	229,924.87	
5104	JLM Contracting Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	216,800.84	
V00318	QuickSuper Clearing House	Superannuation	178,444.58	
3936	Arafura Tree Services and Consulting	General Creditors	173,277.81	
54	Powerwater	Utilities	172,604.71	
V01904	Veolia Environmental Service (Australia) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	149,249.27	
3787	Top End Sounds Pty Ltd T/A Total Event Services	General Creditors	144,800.00	
V02309	Mousellis and Sons Pty Ltd	General Creditors	97,747.24	
V03556	Belgravia Health & Leisure Group Pty Ltd	General Creditors	90,187.90	
1607	Sterling NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	61,291.45	
V02814	Agon Environmental Pty Ltd	General Creditors	55,330.00	
V04789	ACECOM NT PTY LTD T/A ACECOM FIRE & SECURITY	General Creditors	53,102.34	
V01906	Darwin Automotive Pty Ltd (Darwin Motor Group)	General Creditors	51,097.46	
V00200	Red Earth Automotive Pty Ltd	General Creditors	42,482.93	
87	Industrial Power Sweeping Services Pty	General Creditors	38,995.33	
2587	Top End RACE	General Creditors	38,428.12	
V00228	Outback Tree Service	General Creditors	38,106.75	
V00295	Jacana Energy	Utilities	30,844.00	
V03609	VTG Waste & Recycling Pty Ltd	General Creditors	30,231.84	
V01118	Wilson Security Pty Ltd	General Creditors	30,008.31	
V02432	E3 Pro Pty Ltd	General Creditors	29,240.75	
V05981	Hydrilla Pty Ltd	General Creditors	25,826.90	
V00285	Palmerston & Litchfield Seniors Association Inc	General Creditors	25,000.00	
V05493	Enlocus Pty Ltd	General Creditors	23,166.00	
4190	National Australia Bank - Corporate Credit Cards	General Creditors	22,809.47	
V00368	iWater NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	22,465.76	
2977	Optic Security Group NT	General Creditors	20,533.91	
V02162	RMI Security - Conigrave Pty Ltd	General Creditors	18,902.90	
V05036	S.K Fencing Pty Ltd	General Creditors	18,535.00	
V05234	Mills Oakley	General Creditors	14,171.30	
5	Australia Post	General Creditors	11,887.27	
3438	NT Shade & Canvas Pty Ltd	General Creditors	11,628.10	
V03425	CSS Services Pty Ltd ITF Corporate Statagic System Trust	General Creditors	11,385.00	
V03973	AANT Salary Packaging	General Creditors	11,073.72	
V05852	Geografia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	10,857.00	
V01584	Salary Packaging Australia	General Creditors	10,143.39	
V05726	Neptune NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	10,073.56	
V04317	Randstad Pty Ltd	General Creditors	9,359.04	
V06076	Social Snaps	General Creditors	7,801.20	
V06128	Mammas Kitchen	General Creditors	7,667.50	
V04934	Fewmore Contracting	General Creditors	7,312.21	
V04561	Pete's Glass and Aluminium	General Creditors	7,073.40	
479	JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd	General Creditors	7,067.54	
V04381	Telstra Limited	General Creditors	7,043.05	

SECTION 2  
Financial Results

Creditor Accounts Paid  
% of year passed

31 January 2026  
58.33%

2.5 - Creditor Accounts Paid

Vendor Number	Creditor Name	Creditor Payment Type	Amount \$	Notes
V04802	AHG Building Contractors Pty Ltd	General Creditors	7,043.02	
V05252	Insync Surveys Pty Ltd	General Creditors	7,040.00	
V00120	Royal Life Saving Society (NT)	General Creditors	6,600.00	
V04798	Australian Radio Network Pty Limited	General Creditors	5,775.00	
V03776	Business Fuel Cards Pty Ltd	General Creditors	5,688.29	
V03363	Arccos Consulting Pty Ltd	General Creditors	5,445.00	
V04917	OverDrive Australia	General Creditors	5,438.16	
2336	Flick Anticimex Pty Ltd	General Creditors	5,183.17	
3313	Zip Print	General Creditors	4,846.38	
V04167	All About Party Hire	General Creditors	4,792.00	
V00271	NTIT (Fuji Xerox Business Centre NT)	General Creditors	4,693.13	
V03767	WRM Water & Environment Pty Ltd	General Creditors	4,675.00	
V04258	L H & P Gouldson Partnership	General Creditors	4,320.00	
V03971	Darwin Catering Company	General Creditors	4,318.00	
V01860	Hays Specialist Recruitment (Australia) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,935.46	
V06082	All Global Training	General Creditors	3,300.00	
V04812	RingCentral Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,217.08	
V00474	Lane Communications	General Creditors	3,011.15	
353	Otis	General Creditors	2,897.27	
V02328	Dale Austin - Dingo, Cockatoo Aboriginal Culture	General Creditors	2,860.00	
4007	The Ark Animal Hospital Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,733.62	
V05354	Cleaner The Crow Cleaning Service P/L	General Creditors	2,727.45	
V05934	Strategic Disaster Solutions	General Creditors	2,711.50	
4029	Totally Workwear Palmerston	General Creditors	2,693.00	
V05739	Assured Resilience Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,640.00	
V06095	Investigation Compliance & Enforcement Training Systems Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,600.00	
2186	Optus Billing Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,515.17	
V00250	Ward Keller	General Creditors	2,493.60	
V06138	N.T Compressed Air	General Creditors	2,354.00	
5114	S.E. Rentals Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,330.90	
V03000	Jess Cussen Graphic Design	General Creditors	2,310.00	
V02306	Well Done International Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,248.54	
V04001	The Youth Mill Pty Ltd - atf the Margaret Lim	General Creditors	2,090.00	
V04726	Hendrikus Wilhelmus Strik	General Creditors	1,972.54	
V04604	Stone Monkey Australia	General Creditors	1,947.60	
V01420	CENTRELINK (PAYROLL)	General Creditors	1,924.68	
5387	Odd Job Bob - Darren John Fillmore	General Creditors	1,801.80	
V06126		Refunds & Reimbursements	1,800.00	1
V06118		Refunds & Reimbursements	1,732.09	1
V06144		Refunds & Reimbursements	1,500.00	1
V03665	Bilske Investments Pty Ltd T/A Outback Pest Co	General Creditors	1,441.00	
V04876	Rachael's Designacake	General Creditors	1,441.00	
V04396	Apnic Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,424.50	
V05689	Department of Corporate and Digital Development	General Creditors	1,166.00	
V00907	University Avenue Veterinary Hospital	General Creditors	1,109.00	
4398	Quality Indoor Plants Hire	General Creditors	1,102.65	
V00193	Amcom Pty Ltd Acc no CN5439	General Creditors	1,085.70	
V04044	Deaf Connect t/a Deaf Services	General Creditors	1,074.56	

SECTION 2  
Financial Results

Creditor Accounts Paid  
% of year passed

31 January 2026  
58.33%

2.5 - Creditor Accounts Paid

Vendor Number	Creditor Name	Creditor Payment Type	Amount \$	Notes
V06125		Refunds & Reimbursements	1,000.00	1
V04531	Mulga Security Pty Ltd	General Creditors	946.44	
V01486	Brainium Labs Pty Ltd	General Creditors	907.50	
V05074	On Point Creative NT	General Creditors	900.00	
5508	Open Systems Technology Pty Ltd - CouncilFirst	General Creditors	812.50	
V02513	The Darwin City Brass Band Association Inc	General Creditors	800.00	
V00582	Ezko Commercial Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	763.84	
5036	Dormakaba Aust P/L T/as Territory Door Services	General Creditors	761.23	
V03073	Programmed Property Services	General Creditors	720.72	
2064	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	General Creditors	715.00	
V05989	Cool Kids and Co	General Creditors	700.00	
V06133		Refunds & Reimbursements	700.00	1
V05720	T&E Group Pty Ltd T/As Tin Car Detailing	General Creditors	660.00	
V02474	HMG - Heath Motor Group Pty Ltd (Isuzu)	General Creditors	655.42	
272	City Wreckers	General Creditors	616.00	
V05575	IFind Pipes 'n' Cables Pty Ltd	General Creditors	610.50	
V01890	Cathy Applegate	General Creditors	600.00	
V05105	Litchfield Welding	General Creditors	596.20	
V06132		Refunds & Reimbursements	593.28	1
V01739		Refunds & Reimbursements	590.00	1
2199	SBA Office National	General Creditors	537.27	
V02616	ELB Pty Ltd	General Creditors	528.00	
V06093	Zip Heaters (Aust) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	520.85	
V00091		Refunds & Reimbursements	518.00	1
V06119		Refunds & Reimbursements	518.00	1
V06142		Refunds & Reimbursements	517.16	1
215	Employee Assistance Services NT Inc (EASA)	General Creditors	516.85	
V05146	Teo Pellizzeri	General Creditors	500.00	
V06127		Refunds & Reimbursements	500.00	1
V04170	Keylog Pty Ltd	General Creditors	495.00	
V05606	Home Grown Lawn Mowing	General Creditors	470.00	
V02869	Tamsten Pty Ltd T/A Palmerston Veterinary Hospital	General Creditors	461.70	
256	The Bookshop Darwin	General Creditors	453.46	
4528	Miranda's Armed Security Officers Pty	General Creditors	451.00	
V01397		Refunds & Reimbursements	440.00	1
V02229	Studio B Designs	General Creditors	426.25	
V03834	Tabellarius Pty LTd TA Pack & Send	General Creditors	420.00	
V02035	Prayer Corby	General Creditors	400.00	
V05522	Tarnished Brass	General Creditors	400.00	
V04986	Bridge NT Pty Ltd T/A Bridge Toyota	General Creditors	377.37	
V05559	Annie Elizabeth Lange	General Creditors	375.00	
35	WINC Australia Pty Limited	General Creditors	361.28	
V06137	William King Panels Pty Ltd	General Creditors	330.00	
V00964	HD Enterprises Pty Ltd T/a HD Pumps	General Creditors	318.75	
3428	Bunnings Group Limited	General Creditors	317.40	
V05825		Refunds & Reimbursements	300.00	1
V02285	Territory Native Plants	General Creditors	290.28	
V00682	Leigh Dyson Plumbing	General Creditors	264.00	

SECTION 2  
Financial Results

Creditor Accounts Paid  
% of year passed

31 January 2026  
58.33%

2.5 - Creditor Accounts Paid

Vendor Number	Creditor Name	Creditor Payment Type	Amount \$	Notes
V00475	Outback Batteries Pty Ltd	General Creditors	261.00	
V00542	Industry Health Solutions	General Creditors	231.00	
4561	Bendesigns	General Creditors	220.00	
5713	Clean Fun T/A Darwin Outdoor Cinema Hire/Darwin Laundries	General Creditors	220.00	
V01810	Jacana Energy - Payroll Deductions	General Creditors	210.00	
V03262	WOW Wipes	General Creditors	158.73	
V01076	DJ's Peak Fitness	General Creditors	150.00	
18	Integrated Land Information System	General Creditors	138.00	
V02030	JAC Traders Pty Ltd T/a Brandit NT	General Creditors	137.12	
V00013		Refunds & Reimbursements	125.00	1
V02380		Refunds & Reimbursements	125.00	1
V02725		Refunds & Reimbursements	125.00	1
V06120		Refunds & Reimbursements	125.00	1
V06121		Refunds & Reimbursements	125.00	1
V06122		Refunds & Reimbursements	125.00	1
V06135		Refunds & Reimbursements	125.00	1
V02167	Sanity Music Stores Pty Ltd	General Creditors	121.95	
123	Kerry's Automotive Group - KAP Motors Pty Ltd	General Creditors	121.00	
V01708	SAM's Dance Studio	General Creditors	110.00	
V00022	Officeworks	General Creditors	98.50	
2294	Modern Teaching Aids Pty Ltd	General Creditors	96.69	
3788	HPA Incorporated	General Creditors	88.00	
V06143		Refunds & Reimbursements	85.00	1
V00075	Mercury Group of Companies Pty Ltd (T/A Fit2Work)	General Creditors	61.60	
V02390		Refunds & Reimbursements	55.00	1
V03367		Refunds & Reimbursements	55.00	1
V04223		Refunds & Reimbursements	55.00	1
V06129		Refunds & Reimbursements	55.00	1
V06139		Refunds & Reimbursements	50.00	1
V06140		Refunds & Reimbursements	50.00	1
V01938	Windcave Pty Limited	General Creditors	49.50	
V06069	Top End Print Pty Ltd	General Creditors	27.50	
V02545	Amazon Web Services Inc	General Creditors	5.13	
V05705	Central Animal Records	General Creditors	3.98	
			<b>\$ 3,823,958.4</b>	

Investments	-
Total Creditor Payments (excludes investments placed)	3,823,958.41
<b>Total Payments made to Local suppliers this month</b>	<b>3,428,517.78</b>
<b>Percentage of this month's payments made to local suppliers</b>	<b>89.66%</b>

Notes

- Names redacted to de-identify personal details

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

SECTION 2  
Financial ResultsCreditor Accounts Outstanding as at 31 January 2026  
% of year passed 58.33%**2.6 - Creditor Accounts Outstanding**

Creditor No.	Creditor Name	Amount \$	Notes
4190	National Australia Bank - Corporate Credit Cards	22,809.47	1
V01118	Wilson Security Pty Ltd	7,254.61	2
V06078		(55.00)	3
18	Integrated Land Information System	(345.00)	3
V00318	QuickSuper Clearing House	(16,836.79)	3
V00295	Jacana Energy	(63,949.41)	3

## Notes

1. Please note that NAB Credit relates to credit card end of month automatic payments waiting for invoices to be entered after reconciliation are completed.
2. Wilson Security credit relates to vendor issued credit note to be applied to outstanding invoices due next month.
3. Invoices to be paid in February.



Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Section 2  
Financial Results

Commercial Leases as at 31 January 2026  
% of year passed 58.33%

## 2.7 - Commercial Leases

Description	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
<b>Income</b>						
Library Services	12,000	0	0%	0	0%	1
GM Finance & Governance	70,000	49,621	71%	40,833	122%	2
Civic Centre	166,587	97,176	58%	97,176	100%	
<b>Income</b>	<b>248,587</b>	<b>146,797</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>138,009</b>	<b>106%</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>						
GM Finance & Governance	-12,000	-7,414	62%	-7,000	106%	
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-12,000</b>	<b>-7,414</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>-7,000</b>	<b>106%</b>	
<b>Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>236,587</b>	<b>139,383</b>		<b>131,009</b>		

**Notes**

1. An expression of interest for the library cafe is currently under assessment for tenancy
2. Due to higher rental income than expected

  
 Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

## 2.8 - Council Loans

### INTERNAL LOANS

Making the Switch Balances (FILOC)	
1st Withdrawal June 2019	640,000
2nd Withdrawal June 2020	2,583,849
Public lighting officer June 2020	114,000
<b>Project Cost taken from FILOC</b>	<b>3,337,849</b>
Repayments 2019/20	(200,000)
Repayments 2020/21	(313,615)
Repayments 2021/22	(321,849)
Repayments 2022/23	(330,299)
Repayments 2023/24	(338,971)
Repayments 2024/25	(346,950)
<b>Loan Balance at 1/07/2025</b>	<b>1,833,114</b>
Expected Repayments 2025/26	(357,004)
<b>Expected Loan Balance as at 30/06/2026</b>	<b>1,476,111</b>

Making the Switch (FILOC)					
Principal as of 1/7/2025	Principal Loan Repayments for 2025-26	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Interest for 2025-26	Interest YTD	Loan balance as of 31/01/2026
1,833,114	-357,004	-207,191	-35,154	21,567	1,625,923

The above table shows the total loan amount taken from the FILOC Reserve. The interest rate is fixed at 2.60% for the duration of the loan and is paid on a quarterly basis. The loan repayments will end in 2029. The final loan value for this project is \$3,223,849 not including employee costs for the Public Lighting Officer. External Loan - Archer Landfill Rehabilitation Balances

SWELL Loan (FILOC)	
<b>Project Cost taken from FILOC</b>	<b>400,000</b>
Repayments 2023/24	(80,000)
Repayments 2024/25	(80,000)
<b>Loan Balance at 1/07/2025</b>	<b>240,000</b>
Expected Repayments 2025/26	(80,000)
<b>Expected Loan Balance as at 30/06/2026</b>	<b>160,000</b>

SWELL Loan (FILOC)			
Principal as of 1/7/2025	Principal Loan Repayments for 2025-26	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Loan balance as of 31/01/2026
240,000	-80,000	-6,667	233,333

The above table shows the loan amount taken from the FILOC Reserve for SWELL construction. An amount of \$80K is repaid on yearly basis and no interest is charged. The loan repayments will end in 2028.

## 2.8 - Council Loans

### EXTERNAL LOANS

Archer Landfill Rehabilitation Balances (NAB)	
<b>Total Loan Amount</b>	<b>1,960,000</b>
Repayments 2019/20	(221,414)
Repayments 2020/21	(228,223)
Repayments 2021/22	(234,634)
Repayments 2022/23	(241,037)
Repayments 2023/24	(248,082)
Repayments 2024/25	(254,986)
<b>Loan Balance at 1/07/2025</b>	<b>531,624</b>
Expected Repayments 2025/26	(262,201)
<b>Expected Loan Balance as at 30/06/2026</b>	<b>269,423</b>

Archer Landfill Rehabilitation (NAB)					
Principal as of 1/7/2025	Principal Loan Repayments for 2025-26	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Interest for 2025-26	Interest YTD	Loan balance as of 31/01/2026
531,624	-262,201	-152,052	-12,172	4,667	379,572

The External Loan - Archer Landfill Rehabilitation is for a term of 8 years commencing 28 June 2019 and concluding 30 June 2027. The interest rate is fixed at 2.78% for the duration of the loan and is paid on a quarterly basis.

SWELL (NAB)	
<b>Total Loan Amount</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>
Repayments 2023/24	-187,500
Repayments 2024/25	-250,000
<b>Loan Balance at 01/07/2025</b>	<b>4,562,500</b>
Expected Repayments 2025/26	-250,000
<b>Expected Loan Balance as at 30/06/2026</b>	<b>4,312,500</b>

SWELL (NAB)					
Principal as of 1/7/2025	Principal Loan Repayments for 2025-26	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Interest for 2024-25	Interest YTD	Loan balance as of 31/01/2026
4,562,500	-250,000	-145,833	-263,362	126,834	4,416,667

The External Loan - SWELL is for a term of 20 years commencing 29 December 2023 and concluding 28 September 2043. The interest rate is variable for the duration of the loan and is paid on a quarterly basis. The current interest for January quarter 2026 quarter is 3.78%

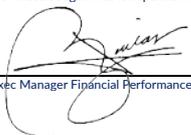
  
Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Section 2  
Financial Results  
Elected Member Expenses 31 January 2026  
% of year passed 58.33%

**2.9 - Elected Member Expenses**

Description	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>						
Superannuation	-49,507	-25,885	52%	-28,879	90%	1
Mayoral Allowance	-121,264	-71,429	59%	-70,737	101%	
Mayor Vehicle Allowance	-25,000	-14,725	59%	-14,583	101%	
Mayoral Professional Dev Allowance	-5,000	0	0%	-5,000	0%	
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	-17,200	-7,633	44%	-10,033	76%	
Elected Members Councillor Allowances	-179,095	-95,673	53%	-104,472	92%	2
Elected Members Professional Dev Allowance	-30,000	0	0%	-15,000	0%	
Elected Members Meeting Allowance	-70,000	-54,800	78%	-58,134	94%	
Information Technology Capital Entitlement	-16,000	-6,045	38%	-8,500	71%	3
Acting Mayor Allowance	-10,546	-7,864	75%	-7,226	109%	4
Contractors	-350,000	-312,209	89%	-350,000	89%	5
Stationery & Office Consumables	0	-508	0%	0	0%	
Printing & Photocopying Costs	-1,000	0	0%	-780	0%	
Other Sundry Expenses	-6,578	-4,743	72%	-1,790	265%	6
Food & Catering Costs	-9,000	-5,716	64%	-4,925	116%	
Course Seminar & Conference Registration	-10,557	-2,336	22%	-8,615	27%	7
Air Travel	-3,093	-3,849	124%	-118	3262%	
Travel Accommodation	-2,111	-2,721	129%	0	0%	
Travel Related Costs Other	-1,031	-631	61%	-925	68%	7
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>-906,982</b>	<b>-616,768</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>-689,718</b>	<b>89%</b>	

- Notes**  
The variance is due to following:
1. Superannuation for unfilled elected members positions during the initial months of this financial year.
  2. Vacancies in Elected Member positions occurred during the initial months of this financial year
  3. IT-related expenses are incurred based on the requirements of elected members
  4. Cashflowing of the allowance
  5. Invoice for the election expense received less than the budgeted amount.
  6. Cashflowing of expenditure
  7. Expenditure for these budget lines is dependent on the timing of seminars/ conferences attended and travel undertaken

Approved by:  Exec Manager Financial Performance

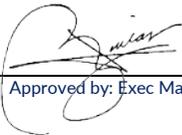
Section 2  
Financial Results

CEO Credit Card Transactions as at 31 January 2026  
% of year passed 58.33%

**2.10 - CEO Credit Card Transactions**

Cardholder Name: Andrew Walsh  
Cardholder Position: CEO  
Period 01/01/2026 to 31/01/2026

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

  
Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

# COUNCIL REPORT

## 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	12.2.4
<b>Report Title:</b>	Major Capital Projects Update
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 17 February 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Senior Project Manager, Richard Azzopardi
<b>Approver:</b>	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Nadine Nilon

## Community plan

Future Focused: Palmerston is an innovative city that sustains itself through the challenges of the future.

## Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to update Council on the status of current Major Capital Projects.

## Key messages

- Council has several major capital projects underway that have a planned, or contracted value, greater than \$1 million.
- The following projects have updates included as attachments of this report:
  - Zuccoli Community Hub.
  - Enterprise Resource Planning Project (ERP).
- Updates on other relevant projects additional to those listed are also included within this report with updates, these include:
  - Hobart Park Upgrade.
  - Woodroffe Park Upgrade.
  - Library Café.
  - SWELL Energy Upgrade program.

## Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Major Capital Projects Update be received and noted.

## Background

Council has a \$12.12M Capital Works Program in 2025/26. The Capital Works Program include a broad range of asset renewal programs along with major capital projects from planning and development stages to delivery.

Capital projects are any project where a Council asset is built or renewed. This can include new assets, such as a new shade over a playground, or replacement (also referred to as renewal of assets such as road resurfacing). Typically, Council's programs and projects are reported through specific project communications with updates provided in the quarterly and financial reports.

## Discussion

Updates on the following major capital projects are included as attachments to this report:

- Zuccoli Community Hub **Attachment 12.2.4.1.**
- Enterprise Resource Planning Project (ERP) **Attachment 12.2.4.2.**

Council is also progressing other relevant capital projects, with recent progress summarised below.

### Hobart Park Upgrades

The opening of the new public toilet is planned for 13 February. Installation of signage for the park and minor landscaping is pending. This project has a budget of \$450,000 and is 100% funded by the Australian Government.

### Woodroffe Park Upgrade

Procurement is underway to facilitate the work being delivered in the 2026 dry season, with a more detailed program to be determined by tender responses. This project has a budget of \$600,000 and is 100% funded by the Northern Territory Government.

### Library Café

Work on the Library Café refurbishment is underway with completion anticipated in April.

### SWELL Energy Upgrade Program

Council has been successful in obtaining a federal government grant under the Community Energy Upgrade Fund (CEUF). The grant has been awarded to install solar photo-voltaic cells and battery storage at SWELL, which will reduce electricity costs by up to \$70,000 annually. The budget for the project is \$528,000, with 50% contributed by Council, the remainder funded under the CEUF program. Works have commenced with a load profile assessment commissioned to determine typical electricity use at the site in a 24hr period. Following this a tender will be drafted and released for design and construct of the solar energy system.

## Consultation and marketing

Consultation occurs as relevant to each project and its status required during the preparation of this Report.

## Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

## Budget and resource implications

The projects are being delivered within the 2025/26 Capital Works Program. Individual budget updates are included with the current project summaries.

## Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

**5. Infrastructure**

Failure to plan, deliver and maintain fit for purpose infrastructure.

## Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- [Community Infrastructure Plan 2016-2026](#)

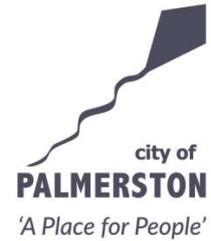
## Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## Attachments

1. Zuccoli Community Hub [12.2.4.1 - 3 pages]
2. Enterprise Resource Planning Project ( ER P) [12.2.4.2 - 2 pages]

# ZUCCOLI COMMUNITY HUB



## FEBRUARY 2026 UPDATE

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

#### Summary:

The Zuccoli Community Hub aims to provide an integrated multi-purpose precinct to meet open space, recreation and community needs for the rapidly growing Zuccoli and wider City of Palmerston communities. The Masterplan and Stage 1 are complete, with the Dog Park and Public Toilet open to the public. This report focusses on the current activities the Stage 2 Pump Track, and the design of Stage 3.

Website Link: <https://palmerston.nt.gov.au/operations/major-projects/zuccoli-and-surrounds-community-hub-construction-0>

#### Total budget and funding:

Stage	Prior Year Costs	Current FY Budget	Total Budget to Date	Current FY Actuals	Current FY Commitment	Remaining Budget
Masterplan	\$113,062	\$0	\$113,062	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stage 1 - Dog Park & Toilet	\$1,467,166	\$0	\$1,467,166	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stage 2 - Design	\$135,285	\$54,945	\$190,230	\$54,945	\$0	\$0
Stage 2 - Civil	\$676,905	\$125,118	\$802,023	\$125,118	\$0	\$0
Stage 2 - Walkway, Seating, BBQ	\$426,996	\$43,945	\$470,941	\$43,945	\$0	\$0
Stage 2 - Pump Track	\$0	\$1,175,591	\$1,175,591	\$880,064	\$275,728	\$19,799
Stage 3 - Design	\$0	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$0	\$450,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,819,414</b>	<b>\$1,849,599</b>	<b>\$4,669,013</b>	<b>\$1,104,073</b>	<b>\$725,728</b>	<b>\$19,799</b>

#### External Funding Sources (Stage 2):

- \$250,000 Northern Territory Government- Immediate Priority Grant (Pump Track).
- \$411,889 LRCI Phase IV.

#### Anticipated completion date:

- Stage 2 pump track – February 2026.
- Stage 3 design – 2026.

## STATUS UPDATE

### Current Contracts:

Activity	Status	Awarded contract value	Approved variations	Approved claims	Amount to claim
Stage 2 Pump Track Construction	Awarded	\$928,623	\$197,388	\$878,668	\$247,343
Stage 2 Turf Reinstatement	Awarded	\$27,992	-	-	\$27,992
Stage 3 Design	Awarded	\$450,000	-	-	\$450,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,378,623</b>	<b>\$162,651</b>	<b>\$878,668</b>	<b>\$725,728</b>

### Works to date summary:

#### Stage 2

Stage 2 includes the recreational facilities of the Zuccoli Community Hub and is being constructed in smaller stages as funding is available. A component of the walking trails and pathways, a BBQ and shade structure, and civil works were completed by mid-2025 as previously reported. The pump track is currently being constructed.

There is currently no funding available for the remaining Stage 2 works, including the skate park, multi-purpose court, exercise equipment and elevated walkway.

#### Progress in the past month:

- Rainfall in January 2026 was around 20% higher than average which has impacted progress.
- Construction of the pump track is ongoing. Asphalt and shaping of the track is complete with only the main access ramp outstanding.
- Irrigation lines have been installed and grassing has commenced.
- Shade structure installation completed.



Figure 1: Pump track construction - 28 January 2026

### Stage 3

Stage 3 incorporates all remaining elements of the site, with a focus on the community facilities, including the community hall, technology and community programs building, events space, covered entrance, gardens and carpark. This financial year, the design of these elements is being undertaken, with Council endorsing the scope of design activities in July 2025.

Progress in the past month:

- Award of tender for design works.

### Upcoming works:

Work progressing in the next month includes:

- Pump Track
  - Sealing of entry ramp with asphalt.
  - Completion of landscaping.
  - Energisation of BBQ.
  - Line-marking.
- Stage 3
  - Commencement of design.
  - Grant funding finalisation.
  - Borrowing process commencement.

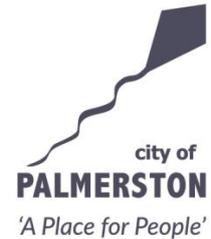
### Project risks:

Stage 2 Construction:

All works are sealed with primer, and the pump track has been asphalted. Recent heavy rainfall has left surrounding ground conditions too soft to support crane access required for floodlight installation, which is therefore likely to be deferred until ground conditions improve. This will not delay opening of the track to the public.

# ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING PROJECT

## FEBRUARY 2026 UPDATE



### PROJECT OVERVIEW

#### Summary:

City of Palmerston (CoP) requires effective software systems capable of delivering efficient and quality services to the community while meeting the organisation's internal corporate needs. An Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Project has been identified to enable a strategic approach to updating Council's existing system.

#### Project budget:

\$2 million over three (3) financial years

#### Funding source(s):

City of Palmerston

#### Completion date:

2026

#### Contractor:

Project/Procurement Management Support – Corporate Strategic Systems (CSS)

### STATUS UPDATE

#### Percentage complete:

25%

#### Actual costs to date (consultancy):

- FY24 - \$282,900.
- FY25 - \$494,784.
- FY26 - \$167,280.
- Total to date \$944,964.

### Works to date summary:

CoP currently uses several software systems to meet its core operational requirements, some of which have partial integration, and most operate independently. To mitigate these issues, CoP has made the decision to invest in an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project. CoP have engaged Corporate Strategic Systems (CSS) for the procurement stage of the project. An internal Project Control Group (PCG) has been established to provide direction and governance for the project.

An initial two-stage tender process was initiated with legal and probity support. The Expression of Interest (EOI) phase ran from 9 April to 21 May 2025. After evaluation, no submissions were progressed, and the CEO disbanded the tender panel.

In conjunction with CSS, a revised procurement process has been established including consideration of a best of breed selection process with focus on solutions for high-risk areas.

The full tender process commenced on 5 November 2025, supported by legal and probity advice, with submissions closing 8 December 2025.

Responses to the Tender were received and are now being evaluated by the Tender Assessment Panel. The assessment process consists of three (3) stages, and assessment is currently underway.

### Completed activities:

- Tender submissions closed 8 December 2025.

### Upcoming activities:

- Finalise tender assessment.

### Project risks:

The project is currently tracking 19 risks.

The top four (4) high rated risks are:

- Limited CoP staff – as CoP has a limited number of resources, if business resources or SMEs are not available to support project activities, project deliverables, timelines and overall cost may be impacted.
- Impact of change and training activities - if change management and training activities are not timely and appropriately managed, there is a risk that staff may not use the system.
- Insufficient funding – while funds have been set aside for the implementation of the new ERP system, if the tender quote is higher and additional funding is not available, there is the risk that scope may need to be cut.
- No suitable vendors submitting tender responses was identified as a major risk, however a number of responses to the tender was received and assessment is currently underway.

# COUNCIL REPORT

## 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	12.2.5
<b>Report Title:</b>	2026 National General Assembly Motions for Submission
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 17 February 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Executive Support Officer, Pania Withnall
<b>Approver:</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Walsh

## Community plan

Governance: Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

## Purpose

This Report provides Council with an update on the call for motions for submission to the 2026 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) and advises that no nominations were received by the required deadline.

## Key messages

- Council invited Elected Members to submit proposed motions for consideration at the 2026 National General Assembly.
- Proposed motions were required to be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer by close of business Wednesday, 4 February 2026.
- No nominations or proposed motions were received within the required timeframe.
- As a result, it is recommended that City of Palmerston does not be submit any motions for consideration at the 2026 National General Assembly.

## Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled 2026 National General Assembly Motions for Submission be received and noted.
2. THAT Council note that no nominations or proposed motions were received for submission to the 2026 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly.

## Background

At its Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 January 2026, Council resolved to invite Elected Members to submit proposed motions for consideration at the 2026 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (NGA), to be held from 23 to 25 June 2026 in Canberra.

Council further resolved that any proposed motions were to be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer by close of business Wednesday, 4 February 2026, to enable review and endorsement at the Second Ordinary Council Meeting in February 2026.

## Discussion

The Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly provides councils with an opportunity to contribute to national advocacy by submitting motions aligned with national local government priorities.

In accordance with Council's resolution and the prescribed timeframe, Elected Members were invited to submit proposed motions for consideration. No proposed motions were received by the specified deadline.

As no motions were submitted, and no significant matters have been proposed for Councils consideration for motions, it is recommended that City of Palmerston does not lodge any motions for debate at the 2026 National General Assembly.

## Consultation and marketing

There was no consultation or marketing required during the preparation of this Report.

## Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

## Budget and resource implications

There are no budget or resource implications arising from this Report.

## Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

- 6. Governance**  
Failure to effectively govern.

## Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework



## Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## Attachments

Nil

# COUNCIL REPORT

## 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	12.2.6
<b>Report Title:</b>	Palmerston Youth Festival 2026
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 17 February 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Events Lead, Sophie Walkington
<b>Approver:</b>	General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight

## Community plan

Family and Community: Palmerston is a safe and family friendly community where everyone belongs.

## Purpose

This Report seeks Council approval for the 2026 Palmerston Youth Festival program.

## Key messages

- The 2026 Palmerston Youth Festival is returning for its seventh year.
- The festival comprises seven events; two major and five bespoke over seven days.
- An array of competitions are open to young people throughout the week.
- The Northern Territory Government has provided grant funding of \$300,000 to City of Palmerston to deliver the Palmerston Youth Festival. The funding agreement expires after the 2026 Festival. City of Palmerston has committed \$50,000 towards the festival plus significant in-kind support and staff resources.
- The report provides details of the 2026 program including new events such as Deadly: NAIDOC Celebration, Palmerston Sports Carnival, The Biggest Experiment whilst options for Sunday's event are currently being explored.
- Returning events include Geekfest Top End, Creative Collective and Palmy's Got Talent.

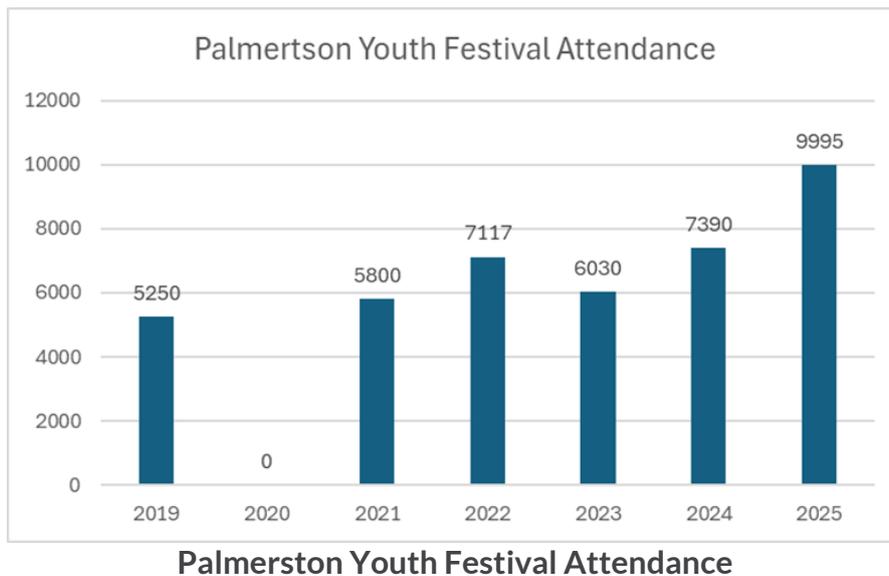
## Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Palmerston Youth Festival 2026 be received and noted.

## Background

The Palmerston Youth Festival was established in 2019 and has been successfully delivered in partnership with the Northern Territory Government. The 2025 festival was the most successful to date, attracting 9,995 attendees across the week-long celebration. Building on this momentum, the 2026 festival promises to deliver an even more dynamic and engaging program for the community.

Each year, the festival consists of two major events and five minor events over a seven-day period. City of Palmerston runs a series of competitions to encourage involvement resulting and awards \$15,000 worth of prizes to participants.



## Discussion

Council Officers are currently planning for the seventh Palmerston Youth Festival for Saturday 4 July to Friday 10 July 2026. The proposed festival activities include:

### Day 1: Geekfest Top End, Saturday 4 July 2026

Transend into the world of gaming, creativity and geek culture at Geekfest Top End. The blockbuster opening event of the Palmerston Youth Festival returns, the Northern Territory's longest-running geek convention will kick off for an afternoon of fandom, fantasy and fun. This all-ages celebration will take over the heart of Palmerston CBD, transforming the space to an immersive world of geek culture.

Across the afternoon, attendees can dive into a huge range of activities including arcade and board games, local game developer showcase, virtual reality experiences and interactive zones that spark imagination and creativity. Artist Alley returns, showcasing unique geek-inspired art and creations from local talent.

For the adventurous types, Medieval Land will be complete with sword fighting demonstrations, blacksmithing and leathercrafts that take you back to medieval times. The iconic Cosplay competition will be spotlighted and will reveal incredible new characters and creations. To further elevate the cosplay experience, a special cosplay guest will be joining

the festival, along with the much-loved return of the Cosplay Repair Station to keep everyone's costumes looking their best throughout the event.

With food trucks, entertainment and an array of surprises throughout the event, the atmosphere promises to be buzzing with the geek energy everyone adores.



Geekfest Top End 2025

### Day 2: Activation TBC, Sunday 5 July 2026

Council Officers are currently procuring options for a large-scale water-based play or inflatable activation designed to be a unique key attraction for the Top End. The activation will be designed to provide a family fun activity that encourages participation for all ages. Options being considered to include interactive elements, large scale attractions and ideally water play. Final decisions will be based on scale, suitability, safety and the overall value of the experience for the community.

### Day 3: The Biggest Experiment, Monday 6 July 2026

Watch out, Palmerston! The Biggest Experiment is here and ready to kick-start the week with a bang! The STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - themed event will be the first of its kind at the Palmerston Youth Festival. This exciting addition will feature a range of interactive activities and live demonstrations designed to inspire curiosity and creativity.

From DIY workshops where participants can build solar-powered cars to hands-on experiments in The Lab, The Biggest Experiment will make learning fun and engaging. Attendees will be so immersed in the excitement that they won't even realise how much they're learning.

## Day 4: Creative Collective, Tuesday 7 July 2026

Creative Collective is back at the Palmerston Youth Festival, bringing an exciting lineup of fresh creative experiences for the community. This vibrant program will spark imagination and innovation throughout the week with a dynamic mix of workshops and drop-in sessions spanning arts, music and design. These hands-on activities offer participants the chance to learn new skills or refine existing ones in an inclusive, inspiring environment. Attendees can expect fun options like dance classes, hair braiding, and clay workshops to name a few.

With a variety of drop-in activities available throughout the day and pre-booked workshops for those who want a deeper dive, Creative Collective ensures flexibility and accessibility for everyone.



Creative Collective 2025

## Day 5: Deadly: NAIDOC Celebration, Wednesday 8 July 2026

Deadly: NAIDOC Celebration will be a dedicated celebration of NAIDOC Week, hosted in Goyder Square. This event will provide an opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate and learn about the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The program will feature a diverse range of cultural experiences, including live performances by First Nations music artists, traditional arts such as weaving and interactive sports activities. Attendees will also enjoy cultural demonstrations such as animal handling and traditional cooking, offering a unique opportunity to connect with and appreciate First Nations heritage.

## Day 6: Palmerston Sports Carnival, Thursday 9 July 2026

Sport is a vital way for young people to connect, engage and build confidence. Leveraging the strong interest and participation in sports within our community, the Palmerston Youth Festival is excited to introduce Palmerston Sports Carnival. This event will feature a variety

of hands-on sporting activities designed to encourage teamwork, skill development, and fun. Activities will range from traditional games such as the egg-and-spoon race to interactive challenges that promote collaboration and physical well-being.

Palmerston Sports Carnival will be a family-friendly event that not only celebrates active lifestyles but also reinforces the importance of health and wellness among young people. Involvement and participation will be incentivised through a range of prizes. By incorporating sports into the festival program, City of Palmerston continues to foster inclusive opportunities for youth engagement and community connection.

### Day 7: Palmy's Got Talent, Friday 10 July 2026

Palmy's Got Talent will return to the Palmerston Youth Festival calendar as the second major event. Building on the success of 2025, which attracted 3,200 attendees to Goyder Square, the 2026 event will continue to showcase the emerging talent of the municipality. This event provides an important platform for young artists to demonstrate their skills through a talent competition.

Hosted in conjunction with the Palmerston Markets, the event will feature a vibrant mix of market stalls, family-friendly activities, and creative experiences for the whole community to enjoy. A key highlight will be the introduction of the Youth Make It Markets, providing young creators with an opportunity to sell their products and gain valuable exposure. The event will also include dedicated spaces such as the Teen Zone: a haven for games and social activities and the Creative Corner: an interactive hub for hands-on arts and crafts.

Palmy's Got Talent will serve as a vibrant and inclusive celebration of youth creativity and will be the grand finale of the 2026 Palmerston Youth Festival, reinforcing the City's commitment to fostering local talent and community engagement.



Palmy's Got Talent 2025

## Consultation and marketing

List any consultation or marketing that has been done (spoken to relevant staff that this report or any decision made may affect).

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- Executive Leadership Team
- Events Officer

## Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

## Budget and resource implications

Under the current funding agreement, the Northern Territory Government (NTG) grant contribution is \$300,000 per year, with City of Palmerston contributing an additional \$50,000 per year. The funding agreement expires after the 2026 Palmerston Youth Festival. Future funding of the festival is currently being explored.

## Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

**4. Inclusion, Diversity and Access**

Failure to balance meeting needs of Palmerston's cultural mosaic.

## Strategies, framework and plans implications

There are no strategy, framework or plan implications for this Report.

## Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## Attachments

Nil



## 13 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### 13.1 Information

### 13.2 Correspondence

## 14 REPORT OF DELEGATES

## 15 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

## 16 GENERAL BUSINESS

## 17 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 3 March 2026 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

## 18 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

THAT pursuant to *section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

## 19 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

# MINUTES

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2026

The Ordinary Meeting of City of Palmerston held in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT 0830.

Council business papers can be viewed on City of Palmerston's website [palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://palmerston.nt.gov.au)

UNCONFIRMED



Minutes of Council Meeting  
held in Council Chambers  
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston  
on Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 5:30pm.

**PRESENT**

**ELECTED MEMBERS**

Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell (Chair)  
Deputy Mayor Damian Hale  
Councillor Lucy Morrison  
Councillor Mark Fraser  
Councillor Rob Waters  
Councillor Sarah Henderson  
Councillor Wayne Bayliss  
Councillor Yolanda Kanyai (*via Audio/Audiovisual*)

**STAFF**

Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Walsh  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Nadine Nilon  
Acting General Manager Finance and Governance, Glen Collins  
General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl  
General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight  
Minute Secretary, Pania Withnall

**GALLERY**

7 members of the public  
6 members of staff

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*City of Palmerston acknowledges the Larrakia people as the Traditional Custodians of the Palmerston region. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future leaders and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

## 2 OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:33pm

**Moved:** Councillor Henderson  
**Seconded:** Councillor Waters

THAT the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes for the Chinese New Year Blessing performed by the Chung Wah Society Lion Dance Troupe.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0203 - 3/02/2026**

The meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.

**Reconvene**

**Moved:** Councillor Bayliss  
**Seconded:** Councillor Morrison

THAT the meeting be reconvened.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0204 - 3/02/2026**

The meeting reconvened at 5:47pm.

## 3 APOLOGIES

Nil

## 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

### 4.1 Elected members

**Moved:** Councillor Henderson  
**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Hale

THAT the Declaration of Interest received from Deputy Mayor Hale for Item 26.1.2 be received and noted.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0205 - 3/02/2026**

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4.2 Staff

Nil

## 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### 5.1 Confirmation of minutes

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hale  
Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 January 2026 pages 11993 to 12004 be confirmed.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0206 – 3/02/2026

### 5.2 Business arising from previous meeting

Nil

## 6 MAYORAL REPORT

Nil

## 7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

## 8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)

Moved: Councillor Bayliss  
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

THAT the following public question from Mary Oliffe of Rosebery and response as tabled regarding proposed gate placement should fencing be implemented at Gray Community Hall be received and noted.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0207 – 3/02/2026

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## 9 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

### 9.1 Moving confidential items into open

#### 9.1.1 Confidentiality Review List - 20 August 2025 to 20 January 2026

The following Council Decisions were resolved to be moved to the Open Minutes of the 3 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting:

Resolution 10/1240 was incorrectly listed with matters to come out of confidential and has been removed from the list to correct the error. The correction will be considered by Council at the Ordinary Meeting Scheduled 17 February 2026.

#### 28.1 Council Representation

1. THAT General Business Item 28.1 is considered 'confidential pursuant to 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 as the matter comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to subject to subregulation (3) -prejudice the interests of the council or some other person;
2. THAT the Council receives and notes the general warning about representation of the Council under s 59 of the Local Government Act 2019 (NT) and Council's Media Policy.

**CARRIED 10/1382 -4/06/2024**

#### 27.1.2 Archer Waste Management Facility Operations Tender

1. THAT Report entitled Archer Waste Management Facility Operations Tender be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and award the Archer Waste Management Facility Management contract up to a total first-year annual value of up to \$1,882,202.
3. THAT the decision relating to Report entitled Archer Waste Management Facility Operations Tender be moved into the open minutes following the award of the contract for TS2023-05 Management of the Archer Waste Management Facility.

**CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1719 - 21/01/2025**

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**27.1.2 Library Cafe - Costings Report**

*Decisions 1 and 2 have been moved to the Open minutes of this meeting.*

3. THAT Council approves a budget of up to \$190,000 allocated from working capital reserve, to undertake the fit-out of the cafe space at Lot 6908, The Boulevard, with this project not commencing until the completion of the Expression of Interest (EOI) process and confirmation of a suitable cafe tenant, as outlined within Option 2 in this report.
4. THAT alternative options for funding the Library cafe refurbishment and fit-out are considered at the Second Budget Review for 2024-25.
5. THAT decisions 1 and 2 are moved into open.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1810 - 18/03/2025**

**27.1.4 SWELL Operations Update**

1. THAT Report entitled SWELL Operations Update be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve Option 2 of the proposed extension with a fee-for-service model with Belgravia Leisure Health & Leisure Group Pty Ltd.
3. THAT Council notes the application of regulation 38 (1) (k) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 as the procurement amount will exceed the threshold of \$150,000.

**CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1860 - 15/04/2025**

**27.1.2 Parking Policy**

1. THAT Report entitled Palmerston City Centre Parking Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT a draft Palmerston City Centre Parking Policy be presented at the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting in November 2025.

**CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1878 - 6/05/2025**

**27.1.1 Risk Management & Audit Committee Confidential Minutes 29 July 2025**

1. THAT Report entitled Risk Management & Audit Committee Confidential Minutes 29 July 2025 be received and noted.
2. THAT the unconfirmed confidential Risk Management and Audit Committee minutes provided at Attachment 27.1.1.1 to Report entitled Risk Management & Audit Committee Confidential Minutes 29 July 2025 be received and noted.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

3. THAT Council adopts the recommendations from the Risk Management and Audit Committee meeting held Tuesday 29 July 2025, as follows:
- a) THAT the following items be marked as complete and removed from the Debt Management Performance Audit Recommendations Register:
    - i. DM 4.2 – Infringement notices
    - ii. DM 4.3 - Lack of system segregation of duty controls.
  
  - b) THAT the Fraud and Corruption Action Plan controls/actions required are expanded to link to the key control recommendations and that recommendations for items to be closed include details on how the control risk has been addressed.
  
  - c) THAT a further report be presented to the Risk Management and Audit Committee in October 2025 once a review has been undertaken of the Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy and procedures.
  
  - d) THAT the internal audit plan be amended to refine the scope of IA6 - Contract Management Compliance to assess the efficiencies, effectiveness, progress mapping and internal control points of the proposed framework before implementation.
  
  - e) THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee recommend to Council that the following items can be removed from the Action Report at Attachment 19.1.2.1.
    - i. External Audit Update May 2025 RMA 10/215
    - ii. Fraud & Corruption Audit Update May 2025 RMA10/214
    - iii. Internal Audit Update May 2025 RMA 10/212
    - iv. Strategic Risk Update May 2025 RMA 10/211
  
  - f) THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee recommends that Council notes the following contained within report entitled External Audit Update - July 2025:
    - i. The interim audit identified 3 new audit findings as identified in BDO Interim Audit Management Letter as presented in Attachment 19.1.3.2.
    - ii. The 3 new audit findings from the interim audit have been included in the External Audit Observations Register at Attachment 19.1.3.3.
    - iii. The end of year audit will commence on 11 August as identified in the Annual Audit Plan at Attachment 19.1.3.1.
    - iv. Prior years' audit finding current status have been updated at 30 June 2025 as presented in Attachment 19.1.3.3.

**CARRIED (6/0) - 10/2030 - 19/08/2025**

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**27.1.1 Confidentiality Review List - 22 January to 19 August 2025**

1. THAT Report entitled Confidentiality Review List - 22 January to 19 August 2025 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses for the decisions listed in Attachment 27.1.1.1 to be moved to the Open Minutes of this meeting.
3. THAT Council endorses for the decisions listed in Attachment 27.1.1.2 to be retained on the confidentiality review list to be considered at the next review.
4. THAT Council endorses for the decisions listed in Attachment 27.1.1.3 to be retained in confidential indefinitely.

**CARRIED (6/0) - 10/2043 - 2/09/2025**

**24.1 NT Remuneration Tribunal - Local Government Members Allowances 2026**

THAT the confidential presentation by Gary Higgins, Chair, Lyn Walker and Kezia Purick, Members NT Remuneration Tribunal be received and noted.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/47 - 7/10/2025**

**25.1 2025 Local Government Election Concerns and Feedback**

1. THAT the Notice of Motion received from Mayor Pascoe-Bell, entitled 25.1 2025 Local Government Election Concerns and Feedback be received and noted.
2. THAT the Mayor writes to the Chief Minister and Minister for Local Government raising concerns identified during the 2025 local government elections.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/069 - 21/10/2025**

**26.1.2 2024-25 End of Year Allocation to Reserves**

1. THAT Report entitled 2024-25 End of Year Allocation to Reserves be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the end of financial year reserve movements for 2024-25 of:
  - Transfers to Reserve:
    - a. \$116,098 to Waste Reserves.
    - b. \$347,871 to FILOC Reserve - Making the Switch Loan.
    - c. \$50,000 transfer to Election Reserve.
    - d. \$80,000 to FILOC Reserve - SWELL Loan.
    - e. \$223,601 for Developer Contributions FILOC.
    - f. \$1,288,738 to Unexpended Grant Reserves for FA Grant.
    - g. \$141,600 to Unexpended Grant Reserves for CPTED.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

<p>h. \$219,567, net surplus to the Working Capital Reserve.</p> <p>3. THAT Council approve the allocation of funds in the 2025-26 budget from the Working Capital Reserve to fund the following strategic projects:</p> <p>a. Zuccoli Community Hub - \$200,000.</p> <p>b. Library Cafe Refurbishment - \$150,000.</p> <p>4. THAT the decision is moved to the open after the 2025-26 First Budget Review is presented to Council.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED (8/0) - 11/071 - 21/10/2025</b></p>
<p><b>26.1.5 LATE ITEM - ERP Procurement Assessment</b></p> <p>1. THAT late request item, report entitled ERP Procurement Assessment, be accepted and included in the 21 October 2025 Confidential Meeting agenda in Confidential Officer Reports for consideration.</p> <p>2. THAT this item is considered 'confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED (7/0) - 11/074 - 21/10/2025</b></p>
<p><b>26.1.5 ERP Procurement Assessment</b></p> <p>1. THAT Report entitled Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Procurement Assessment be received and noted.</p> <p>2. THAT Council endorse the exclusion of local content from the assessment criteria for the procurement of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Project, noting that removing this criterion supports an equitable evaluation process and enables Council to prioritise quality, capability and value for money in accordance with the Procurement Policy. THAT this decision is moved to open once the tender has been released. Councillor Morrison returned to the meeting at 6:50 pm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED (8/0) - 11/075 - 21/10/2025</b></p>
<p><b>26.2.2 Awarded Procurement for September 2025</b></p> <p>THAT Report entitled Awarded Procurement for September 2025 be received and noted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED (8/0) - 11/076 - 21/10/2025</b></p>

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**26.2.3 Confidential Finance and Governance Quarterly Report - July to September 2025**

THAT Report entitled Confidential Finance and Governance Quarterly Report - July to September 2025 be received and noted.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/077 - 21/10/2025**

**21 Leave of absence requests**

1. THAT the leave of absence request received from Mayor Pascoe-Bell for 6 December 2025 to 24 January 2026 inclusive, for the reason of Holiday, be approved.
2. *2. This decision has been moved to the Open Minutes of the 20 January 2026 Council Meeting.*
3. *3. This decision has been moved to the Open Minutes of the 9 December 2025 Council Meeting.*
4. THAT each decision be moved to the Open Minutes at expiry of the leave of absence.

**CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0102 - 4/11/2025**

**22 Request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing**

1. THAT Council approve the request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing received from Mayor Pascoe-Bell who will be physically prevented from attending a meeting for the period 6 December 2025 to 24 January 2026, due to Holiday.
2. THAT Council approve the request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing received from Deputy Mayor Hale who will be physically prevented from attending a meeting for the period 17 to 19 November 2025 due to Travel.
3. THAT this decision be moved to the open minutes following the Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing.

**CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0103 - 4/11/2025**

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**26.1.4 Risk Management and Audit Committee Confidential Minutes 23 October 2025**

1. THAT Report entitled Risk Management and Audit Committee Confidential Minutes 23 October 2025 be received and noted.
2. THAT the unconfirmed confidential Risk Management and Audit Committee minutes provided at Attachment 26.1.4.1 to Report entitled Risk Management and Audit Committee Confidential Minutes 23 October 2025 be received and noted.
3. THAT Council adopts the recommendations from the Risk Management and Audit Committee meeting held Thursday, 23 October 2025, as follows:
  - a. THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee recommends that Council accepts the following observations, in monitoring the integrity of the annual financial statements:
    - i. The external auditors unmodified opinion at Attachment 18.1.1.4 to Report entitled External Audit Observations - October 2025 states that the accompanying financial report of the Council, presents fairly, in all material respects, the Council's financial position as at 30 June 2025, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations.
    - ii. The 2024-25 EOY audit identified eight new audit findings as identified in BDO's Annual Completion Report as presented in Attachment 18.1.1.2 to Report entitled External Audit Observations - October 2025.
    - iii. The current status of the Audit finding have been updated as presented in Attachment 18.1.1.3 to Report entitled External Audit Observations - October 2025.
  - b. THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee recommend to Council that the four prior year audit findings and four 2023-24 audit findings be removed from the External Audit Observation Register.
 

2023-24 audit findings:

    - i. Adjustment of income that was incorrectly recognised in prior year period.
    - ii. Term deposit classification.
    - iii. Grant receivable recognition timing.
    - iv. Active assets included in the asset disposal listing.

Prior year audit findings:

    - i. Purchases and trade payables and payroll and other employment benefits.
    - ii. Property Plant and Equipment (PPE) revaluation.
    - iii. Property Plant and Equipment disclosure.
    - iv. Bank signatories.
    - v. Expected credit loss.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

c. THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee confirms that the draft Annual Report presented as Attachment 18.1.2.1 to Report entitled Annual Report 2024-25 and Annual Financial Statements presents an assessment of the City of Palmerston's performance against the objectives stated in council's Community Plan for the 2024/25 financial year.

d. THAT the 2024/25 financial statement presented as Attachment 18.1.2.2 to Report entitled Annual Report 2024-25 and Annual Financial Statements be accepted for inclusion in the 2024/25 Annual Report.

e. THAT the accompanying financial overview presented as Attachment 18.1.2.3 to Report entitled Annual Report 2024-25 and Annual Financial Statements be accepted for inclusion in the 2024/25 Annual Report.

f. THAT decision to Report entitled Annual Report 2024-25 and Annual Financial Statements is moved to the open minutes following the Council Meeting on 4 November 2025.

g. THAT the Internal Audit Plan at Attachment 18.1.3.1 to Report entitled Internal Audit Update - October 2025 is amended as follows:

i. IA6 Contract management compliance – commence in 2025-26

h. THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee recommend to Council that the management responses and associated actions arising from the Fraud and Corruption Performance Audit be accepted as complete, on the basis that all agreed actions have been implemented:

i. FC2 - The Deficiencies identified in controls surrounding financial delegations

ii. FC4 - Instances of non-compliance with the Procurement Policy and Procedure

iii. FC5.1 – Relocation – staff acknowledge their repayment obligations should they fail to meet the minimum service period, when in receipt of the relocation allowance

iv. FC7. 1 - ICT-Related control deficiencies observed – develop a register of ICT systems and system owners

v. FC8.1 Management should review the Strategic Risk Register to ensure consistency with the agreed risk matrix

vi. FC9.1 Audit logs and reporting to RMAC could be improved - Ensure that both internal and external audit finding registers clearly specify the responsible person and target completion date for each finding or recommendation.

i. THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee recommend to Council that the following items are removed from the Asset Management Improvement Plans as they have been presented as completed to previous Committee meetings as:

i. Building condition audits completed in 2023-24.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

ii. Re-classify 16 building assets (26 components) currently under 'Land Improvements' Financial class and subclass to 'Buildings & Other Structures' in Financial Statement Note 7a (i), completed in 2022-23.

j. THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee recommend to Council that the following items can be removed from the Action Report at Attachment 18.1.6.1 to Report entitled Action Report:

i. THAT the following items be marked as complete and removed from Internal Audit Update July 2025 RMA 10/229 - the Debt Management Performance Audit Recommendations Register:

- DM 4.2 - Infringement notices
- DM 4.3 - Lack of system segregation of duty controls.

ii. All actions from the 19.1.3 External Audit Update - July 2025 - RMA 10/231

k. THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee recommend to Council that a report come back to the Risk Management and Audit committee:

- i. With an update on a review of all the risk registers that are presented to the committee.
- ii. Advising of process of application of applying the risk matrix to ensure consistency.

l. THAT the Risk Management Audit Committee will provide feedback on the risk management plan at Attachment 18.2.1.1 to Report entitled Risk Management Plan by Sunday 02 November 2025.

m. THAT a report on the Enterprise Resource Planning gap analysis/business case be reported to Risk Management and Audit Committee out of session.

**CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0108 - 4/11/2025**

#### **29 Confidential General Business**

1. THAT General Business Item 29.1 is considered 'confidential' pursuant to 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 as the matter comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.

2. THAT Councillor Morrison Chair the Council Meeting being held on 18 November 2025.

3. THAT Councillor Morrison be Acting Mayor for 25 to 29 December 2025 inclusive.

**CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0110 - 4/11/2025**

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**21 Leave of absence requests**

1. THAT the leave of absence request received from Councillor Henderson for 22 December 2025 to 26 January 2026 inclusive, for the reason of Holidays, be approved.
2. THAT each decision be moved to the Open Minutes at expiry of the leave of absence.

**CARRIED (6/0) - 11/0130 - 18/11/2025**

**22 Request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing**

1. THAT Council approve the request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing received from Councillor Henderson who will be physically prevented from attending a meeting on 20 January 2026 for the period 22 December 2025 to 26 January 2026, due to Holiday.
2. THAT this decision be moved to the open minutes following the Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing.

**CARRIED (6/0) - 11/0131 - 18/11/2025**

**26.2.3 Awarded Procurement for October 2025**

THAT Report entitled Awarded Procurement for October 2025 be received and noted.

**CARRIED (6/0) - 11/0136 - 18/11/2025**

**26.1.1 Australia Day Awards Citizen of Year 2026**

1. THAT Report entitled Australia Day Awards Citizen of Year 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council awards Balachander Mohanraj as the 2026 Palmerston Citizen of the Year.
3. THAT the Council decision relating to the Report Entitled Australia Day Awards Citizen of Year 2026 be moved to open following the announcement of the award on 26 January 2026.
4. THAT the Mayor writes to all nominees acknowledging their contribution to the Palmerston community following the Australia Day Ceremony.

**CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0160 - 9/12/2025**

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**26.1.2 Australia Day Awards Young Citizen of the Year 2026**

1. THAT Report entitled Australia Day Awards Young Citizen of the Year 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council awards Joshua Harrington as the 2026 Palmerston Young Citizen of the Year.
3. THAT the Council decision relating to the Report Entitled Australia Day Awards Young Citizen of the Year 2026 be moved to open following the announcement of the award on 26 January 2026.
4. THAT the Mayor writes to all nominees acknowledging their contribution to the Palmerston community following the Australia Day Ceremony.

**CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0161 - 9/12/2025**

**26.1.3 Australia Day Awards Community Event or Group of the Year 2026**

1. THAT Report entitled Australia Day Awards Community Event or Group of the Year 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council awards The Tamil Society of the Northern Territory the 2026 Palmerston Community Group or Event of the Year award.
3. THAT the Council decision relating to the Report Entitled Australia Day Awards Community Event or Group of the Year 2026 be moved to open following the announcement of the award on 26 January 2026.
4. THAT the Mayor writes to all nominees acknowledging their contribution to the Palmerston community following the Australia Day Ceremony.

**CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0162 - 9/12/2025**

**26.2.1 Confidential Finance and Governance Quarterly Report - October to December 2025**

THAT Report entitled Confidential Finance and Governance Quarterly Report - October to December 2025 be received and noted.

**CARRIED (6/0) - 11/0200 - 20/01/2026**

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### 9.1.2 Leave of Absence Requests

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Hale  
**Seconded:** Councillor Bayliss

4. THAT the leave of absence request received from Mayor Pascoe-Bell for 26 January 2026 to 1 February 2026 inclusive, for the reason of personal leave, be approved.
5. THAT each decision be moved to the Open Minutes at expiry of the leave of absence.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0222 - 3/02/2026**

### 9.1.3 Leave of Absence Requests

**Moved:** Councillor Morrison  
**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Hale

6. THAT the leave of absence request received from Councillor Morrison for 23 January 2026 to 27 January 2026 inclusive, for the reason of a holiday, be approved.
5. THAT the leave of absence request received from Councillor Waters for 21 January 2026 to 24 January 2026 inclusive, for the reason of travel, be approved.
7. THAT each decision be moved to the Open Minutes at expiry of the leave of absence.

**CARRIED (6/0) - 11/0197 - 20/01/2026**

## 9.2 Moving open items into confidential

Nil

## 9.3 Confidential items

**Moved:** Councillor Morrison  
**Seconded:** Councillor Waters

THAT pursuant to Section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and section 51(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following confidential items:

Item	Confidential Category	Confidential Clause
24.1	External Presentation Request	51(1)(c)(ii)

Initials:

		This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(ii) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.
26.1.1	Appointment of Committee Member	51(1)(a) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(a) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, 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.
26.1.2	Legal Advice	51(1)(b) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(b) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.
26.1.3	Review of Confidential Matters	51(1)(c)(iv) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

	that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.
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CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0208 - 3/02/2026

## 10 PETITIONS

Nil

## 11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

## 12 OFFICER REPORTS

### 12.1 Action reports

#### 12.1.1 Gray Community Hall Update

Moved: Councillor Waters  
 Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT Report entitled Gray Community Hall Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0209 - 3/02/2026

Moved: Councillor Bayliss  
 Seconded: Councillor Henderson

2. THAT Council request that Northern Territory Government, Police and the Larrakia Nation conduct increased patrols when vulnerable groups are using the Gray Community Hall.
3. THAT a further detailed report and designs are presented to Council considering:
  - a. Lighting;
  - b. Laneway closure and exercise equipment decommissioning;
  - c. Option 5 - Fencing the entire perimeter;
  - d. Option 2 - Verandah Fence including laneway closure;
  - e. Gates and access;
  - f. Additional CCTV cameras at gate access points;
  - g. Allocation of funding through the 2026/27 budget development process.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

4. THAT Council allocates \$5,000 from the 2025/26 budget through the Second Budget Review to undertake the required design work.
5. THAT Council advocate with the Northern Territory Government for funding for safety improvements at Gray Community Hall.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0210 - 3/02/2026**

#### 12.1.2 2026 Developing North Australia Conference

**Moved: Councillor Fraser**  
**Seconded: Councillor Bayliss**

1. THAT Report entitled 2026 Developing North Australia Conference be received and noted.
2. THAT Council note the change of dates for the 2026 Developing Northern Australia Conference, which will now be held 5 August to 7 August 2026.
3. THAT Council updates the attendees and endorses Mayor Pascoe-Bell and Councillor Henderson to attend at the 2026 Developing Northern Australia Conference in Alice Springs accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0211 - 3/02/2026**

#### 12.1.3 Council Policy - Whistleblower Policy

**Moved: Councillor Fraser**  
**Seconded: Councillor Waters**

1. THAT Report entitled Council Policy - Whistleblower Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the Whistleblower Policy as at **Attachment 12.1.3.1** to Report entitled Council Policy - Whistleblower Policy.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0212 - 3/02/2026**

Initials:

## 12.2 Receive and note reports

### 12.2.1 People and Place Quarterly Report - October to December 2025

Moved: Councillor Morrison  
 Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

THAT Report entitled People and Place Quarterly Report - October to December 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0213 – 3/02/2026

## 13 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### 13.1 Information

Nil

### 13.2 Correspondence

Nil

## 14 REPORT OF DELEGATES

Moved: Councillor Fraser  
 Seconded: Councillor Waters

THAT the verbal report provided by Councillor Kanyai regarding the Tourism Top End January General Meeting be received and noted.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0214 – 3/02/2026

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## 15 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

**Moved:** Councillor Henderson  
**Seconded:** Councillor Fraser

1. THAT the question asked by Council Henderson regarding the verge rebate, and the response provided by the Chief Executive Officer be received and noted.
2. THAT the question asked by Councillor Fraser regarding Forest Parade development and the long-grass program update, and the response provided by the Chief Executive Officer and the General Manager Community be received and noted.
3. THAT the question asked by Councillor Waters regarding unfinished developments, and the response provided by the Chief Executive Officer be received and noted.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0215 - 3/02/2026**

## 16 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 16.1 Letter to Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment

**Moved:** Councillor Fraser  
**Seconded:** Councillor Bayliss

THAT the Mayor writes to the Northern Territory Government Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment to address longstanding unfinished suburban developments.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0216 - 3/02/2026**

### 16.2 Australia Day Celebrations

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Hale  
**Seconded:** Councillor Waters

THAT Council propose a review of the timing and request a shift from 1.00pm to earlier in the day for the Australia Day Celebrations and request a report back to the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting of April 2026.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0217 - 3/02/2026**

Initials:

## 17 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Hale  
**Seconded:** Councillor Fraser

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 17 February 2026 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0218 - 3/02/2026**

## 18 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

**Moved:** Councillor Waters  
**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Hale

THAT pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0219 - 3/02/2026**

## 19 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

**Moved:** Councillor Morrison  
**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Hale

THAT the meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes for a break.

**CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0220 - 3/02/2026**

The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

The open section of the meeting closed at 7:59pm for the discussion of confidential matters.

The closed section of the meeting reopened at 9:30pm.

**Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_



The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:30pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

UNCONFIRMED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials: