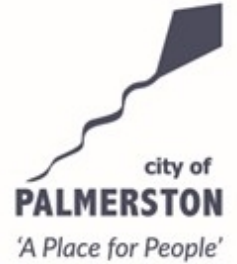


AGENDA



1st ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 7 APRIL 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 or at the Council Office located: Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston NT 0830.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew 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 17 March 2026 pages 12078 to 12091 be confirmed.

5.2 Business arising from previous meeting

6 MAYORAL REPORT

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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
26.1.1	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	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.
26.1.2	Rate Concession Assessment	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(b) 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 personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.
26.1.3	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	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.

26.1.4	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	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.
26.1.5	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	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 that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

10 PETITIONS

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

12 OFFICER REPORTS

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.1
Report Title:	Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 24 March 2026
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 7 April 2026
Author:	Executive Assistant to General Manager Community, Tonisha Nykamp
Approver:	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 of the Unconfirmed minutes from the Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 March 2026.

Key messages

- Community Wellbeing is a priority for City of Palmerston and the Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee is an avenue for Council to maintain awareness on current issues and actions to support the community.
- The reports on networks and updates highlighted strong wellbeing outcomes for City of Palmerston.
- The Advisory Committee agenda and unconfirmed minutes are available for viewing on Council's Website.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 24 March 2026 be received and noted.

2. THAT the unconfirmed Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee minutes as provided at **Attachment 12.1.1.1** to report entitled Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 24 March 2026 be received and noted.
3. THAT Council endorse the following recommendations made at the Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee meeting:
 - (a) THAT the CSWAC Committee provides the following feedback and recommendations to inform the finalisation of the Plan prior to Council consideration and community consultation:
 - (i) Consideration of an incentive for those who do the right thing by registering their animals.
 - (ii) Support and engagement through school visits.
 - (iii) Education on responsibilities of Council compared to animal welfare and other agencies.

Background

The Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee (CSWAC) was formally established by Council at its 1st Ordinary Meeting in December 2025. The Committee provides strategic advice to Council on a broad range of community, social, animal, and wellbeing issues that may influence the Palmerston By-Laws, Council services, and program development. It also provides advice on the implementation of the actions and priorities outlined in the City of Palmerston's Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy framework, assisting Council to identify, articulate, and respond appropriately to new and emerging issues. The Committee's work specifically contributes to achieving three key elements of the City of Palmerston Community Plan:

- fostering a welcoming, vibrant, and diverse city,
- ensuring that everyone in Palmerston feels they belong,
- and promoting community safety.

As per the Northern Territory *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act) and the Terms of Reference, the Committees are advisory in nature with no delegated authority and are intended to inform and make recommendations to Council on Committee related issues.

The Committee provides formal minutes and recommendations to Council for endorsement, ensuring that its advice informs Council's decision-making and strategic planning processes. This report presents the unconfirmed minutes from the inaugural meeting of the CSWAC and any recommendations arising from that meeting for Council's consideration.

Discussion

The Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, 24 March 2026 with the unconfirmed minutes provided at **Attachment 12.1.1.1**.

The inaugural meeting of the Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee (CSWAC) provided an opportunity for members to become familiar with the Committee's purpose, governance, and operating procedures.

The Advisory Committee were provided with a presentation on the Community Plan Health Check and asked to provide their feedback.

The Advisory Committee reviewed two (2) Receive and Note Reports: Community Services Update and Network Update.

The Advisory Committee reviewed and provided feedback and recommendations to inform the finalisation of the Animal Management Plan prior to Council consideration and community consultation.

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 relating to this Report.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

Details the risk any decision made from this Report may relate to or explain why there is no risk.

What legal information has been sourced to assist with a decision to be made from this Report.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:


- 1. Community Safety**
Failure of Council to effectively plan and deliver its role in community safety.
- 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:

- [Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework](#)

This report relates to the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework due to Council's engagement to the community in bringing people together with diverse



perspectives that increase the inclusiveness, diversity and accessibility of culture, services, and operations.

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. 20260324 UNCONFIRMED Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee Minutes - 24 March 2026 (1) [12.1.1.1 - 6 pages]

MINUTES



COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELLNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2026

The Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee 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

UNCONFIRMED



Minutes of Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting
 held in Council Chambers
 Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
 on Tuesday 24 March 2026 at 5:30pm.

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Lucy Morrison (Chair)
 Councillor Yolanda Kanyai
 Peter Fletcher, Department of Children and Families Representative
 A/Superintendent Siiri Tennosaar, Northern Territory Police Representative (*Proxy*)
 Sheryl Sephton, Community Organisations Representative
 Sakeasi Tawaketini, Community Organisations Representative (*via Audio/Audiovisual*)

STAFF

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Nadine Nilon
 Minute Secretary, Tonisha Nykamp

GALLERY

3 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 5:32pm.

3 APOLOGIES

Moved: Councillor Kanyai
Seconded: Siiri Tennosaar

1. THAT the apology received from Councillor Bayliss for 24 March 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT the apology received from Lindsey Newman for 24 March 2026 be received and noted.
3. THAT the apology received from Mayor Pascoe-Bell for 24 March 2026 be received and noted.
4. THAT the apology received from Katie Hatzismalis for 24 March 2026 be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSWAC11/01 - 24/03/2026

4 AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERRING

4.1 Request for audio/audiovisual conferencing

Nil

4.2 Audio/Audiovisual conferencing previously granted

THAT it be noted the following Committee Members have been granted attendance via Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing for this meeting in accordance with the policy:

Sakeasi Tawaketini

Initials: _____

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Committee members

Nil

5.2 Staff

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of minutes

Nil

6.2 Business arising from previous meeting

Nil

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 City of Palmerston Community Plan Health Check

Moved: Sheryl Sephton

Seconded: Peter Fletcher

THAT the presentation by Executive Manager Organisational Performance, Penny Hart and Governance Lead, Angie Torr on the City of Palmerston Community Plan Health Check be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSWAC11/02 - 24/03/2026

8 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

8.1 Moving confidential items into open

Nil

8.2 Moving open items into confidential

Nil

8.3 Confidential items

Nil

Initials: _____

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 Action reports

9.1.1 Animal Management Plan

Moved: Councillor Kanyai
Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

1. THAT Report entitled Animal Management Plan be received and noted.
2. THAT the CSWAC Committee provides the following feedback and recommendations to inform the finalisation of the Plan prior to Council consideration and community consultation:
 - a. Consideration of an incentive for those who do the right thing by registering their animals.
 - b. Support and engagement through school visits.
 - c. Education on responsibilities of Council compared to animal welfare and other agencies.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSWAC11/03 - 24/03/2026

9.2 Receive and note reports

9.2.1 Community Services Update

Moved: Sheryl Sephton
Seconded: Councillor Kanyai

THAT Report entitled Community Services Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSWAC11/04 - 24/03/2026

9.2.2 Network Update

Moved: Councillor Kanyai
Seconded: Siiri Tennaar

THAT Report entitled Network Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSWAC11/05 - 24/03/2026

Initials: _____

10 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Information

Nil

10.2 Correspondence

Nil

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

12 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Peter Fletcher

THAT the next Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 23 June 2026 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSWAC11/06 - 24/03/2026

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Moved: Councillor Kanyai
Seconded: Siiri Tennesaar

THAT the meeting of the Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee held in Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, Palmerston on 24 March 2026 closed at 6:32pm.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSWAC11/07 - 24/03/2026

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:32pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

Initials:

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.2
Report Title:	WHS Review - Psychological Safety of Elected Members
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 7 April 2026
Author:	Executive Manager People and Customer, Becky Saywell
Approver:	General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight

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 roll out of psychosocial safety and wellbeing initiatives for Elected Members.

Key messages

- City of Palmerston has obligations under the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011 (NT) to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of workers and other persons, including psychological health.
- Whilst Elected Members do not fall into the definition of 'workers' or 'officers', they are considered 'other persons' and are therefore owed a duty of care under section 29 of the WHS Act.
- A comprehensive review of City of Palmerston's Workplace Health and Safety systems confirms that existing arrangements are compliant with WHS legislative requirements for employees. However, these systems do not currently extend in a structured way to Elected Members.
- A review of the psychosocial risks relevant to Elected Members has been undertaken and identified the need to implement a structured psychosocial risk management framework, consistent with the Safe Work Australia Model Code of Practice: Managing psychosocial hazards at work (2022).

- The proposed initiatives, including training and access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), form part of a broader psychosocial risk management framework, which will include hazard identification, risk assessment, control measures and ongoing review.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled WHS Review - Psychological Safety of Elected Members be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve the implementation of psychosocial safety and wellbeing initiatives for Elected Members, including training and access to the Employee Assistance Program.
3. THAT a Psychosocial Safety and Wellbeing Framework for Elected Members is presented to Council by July 2026.

Background

Psychosocial hazards regulations came into effect in the Northern Territory on 1 July 2023, requiring the organisation to address and make amendments to all Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) policies and processes, including training and education. Psychosocial hazards may arise from the design or management of work, the work environment, or workplace interactions and behaviours, which may cause psychological or physical harm. City of Palmerston is responsible for managing risks and supporting its workers, by eliminating or minimising hazards where possible.

As a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking, City of Palmerston has primary duties under the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011 (NT). The Chief Executive Officer, as an officer of the PCBU, has due diligence obligations to ensure Council complies with those duties. Council must ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that the health and safety of workers and other persons, including Elected Members, is not put at risk from work carried out as part of Council's undertaking. Elected Members must also take reasonable care for their own safety, and that their acts of omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of others and comply with reasonable WHS instructions.

City of Palmerston has specific mechanisms and supports in place for identifying and mitigating psychosocial risks for employees; however, these do not currently exist in a structured way for Elected Members.

At the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting of 16 September 2025 Council made the following decision:

17.2 Work Health Safety Review

THAT Council conducts a Work Health and Safety review to assist Council in identifying and mitigating risks related to compromised psychological safety of Elected Members in addressing uncivil behaviour and a report come back to Council in the second ordinary meeting in March 2026.

CARRIED 8/0 11/18 – 16/09/2025

This report presents information on the WHS review of psychosocial safety and wellbeing for Elected Members.

Discussion

A comprehensive review of the City of Palmerston’s internal Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) policies and processes was undertaken in 2025. The review confirmed that the organisation’s systems of work are compliant with WHS legislation (the Work Health and Safety (national Uniform Legislation) Act 2011).


In response to Council’s decision, a further review was undertaken to identify potential risks relating to the psychosocial safety of Elected Members. Whilst Elected Members do not fall into the categories of ‘workers’ or ‘officers’ under WHS legislation, they are considered ‘others’, and as such have legal obligations under this legislation. Elected Members are responsible under WHS legislation to take reasonable care for their own health and safety, and to ensure that their actions or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of others. This includes taking proactive steps to prevent bullying, harassment and other unsafe behaviours in the conduct of their role.

It is acknowledged that psychosocial risks may arise for Elected Members due to the public nature of their roles, the responsibilities associated with decision-making, and the expectations of the community.

Potential hazards may include:

- exposure to aggressive or abusive behaviour;
- public scrutiny and reputational pressure;
- interpersonal conflict;
- emotional demands;
- bullying, harassment or intimidation;
- ethical pressures and decision-making stress; and
- exposure to complaints or investigations.

While these hazards have been identified, it is acknowledged that Council’s current controls for Elected Members are primarily administrative and reactive in nature. Further work is required to implement preventative and system-level controls to ensure alignment with contemporary WHS expectations and regulatory guidance.



To assist in mitigating a number of these risks, Elected Members participate in an ongoing annual training program. Many of these sessions provide the knowledge, skills and support required to assist Elected Members in managing the demands of their role and associated psychosocial risks. Since being elected, the 11th City of Palmerston Council has participated in several training sessions, including Code of Conduct training, media training and mock Council meetings.

While matters relating to conduct between Elected Members may be addressed through the Code of Conduct framework, this operates separately from Council's obligations under Work Health and Safety legislation. Psychosocial risks must be proactively identified and managed through a structured risk management approach, rather than solely through complaint or conduct processes.

Following the recent review, and to further demonstrate Council's commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all individuals representing the organisation, training on Psychosocial Safety for Elected Members will be delivered in May 2026.

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which is currently available to staff, will be extended to Elected Members effect of immediately upon approval of this report. This service provides access to professional and confidential counselling to support mental health and wellbeing. Under this arrangement, Elected Members and their immediate family members will be eligible for up to five confidential counselling sessions per year.

Upon approval of this report, Council will consider implementing further control measures which will be included in the framework, such as:

- clear behavioural expectations and meeting protocols to support respectful interactions;
- structured processes for managing conflict and high-risk interactions;
- guidance for Elected Members in managing community engagement, including exposure to aggressive or inappropriate behaviour; and
- defined escalation pathways for psychosocial concerns.

These measures will support a preventative approach to psychosocial risk management.

The review has also informed the commencement of the development of a Psychosocial Safety and Wellbeing Framework for Elected Members which will formalise Council's approach to identifying and managing psychosocial risks

The framework will formalise Council's psychosocial risk management approach for Elected Members and may incorporate;

- a psychosocial hazard register with assessment methodology;
- control measures and responsibilities; and
- reporting processes and a reviewing mechanism.

This framework will align with WHS legislative requirements and recognised best practice and will support Council in maintaining an effective and resilient organisation aligned to its vision of “A Place for People.”

The framework is currently under development and will be presented to Council for endorsement before July 2026. Implementation of the framework, including the Elected Member new initiative, will be subject to Council approval through the 2026/27 Municipal Plan and budget process.

Consultation and marketing

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

- People and Customer Manager

The following external parties were consulted in preparing this Report:

- Belinda Beltz, The Belrose Group

Policy implications

The Code of Conduct for Elected Members governs the conduct of Councillors.

The Breach of Code of Conduct by Elected Member Policy sets out how Council manages complaints received in relation to a breach by an Elected Member.

Budget and resource implications

While initial training and EAP services are accommodated within existing budgets, the development and implementation of a Psychosocial Safety and Wellbeing Framework will be built into the 2026/27 budget development process as it was presented as a New Initiative of Councillor.

Risk, legal and legislative implications


Elected Members are vulnerable because they operate in a political role with no ‘manager’, are under public scrutiny and often experience online harassment or community conflict. Without psychological safety, stress, anxiety and burnout can increase. Confidence in their role can decline, particularly for newer Councillors or those from under-represented groups. If Councillors disengage, it reduces Council’s ability to function effectively.

By delivering training, education and developing a psychosocial safety and wellbeing framework for the current Elected Member group, this reduces risk.

The actions identified in this report will ensure City of Palmerston continues to comply with WHS legislation, specifically, the WHS Act section 29, ‘Other persons at the workplace.’

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

- 6. Governance**
Failure to effectively govern.



Failure to implement a structured psychosocial risk management approach may expose Council to legal and regulatory risk under WHS legislation, including where risks are known but not adequately controlled.

The initiatives outlined in this report represent an initial step, with further work required to ensure risks are systematically identified, assessed and managed in accordance with legislative requirements.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

The Elected Member Psychosocial Safety and Wellbeing Framework will be developed as a result of 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

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.2.1
Report Title:	Infrastructure Quarterly Report - January to March 2026
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 7 April 2026
Author:	Executive Assistant to General Manager Infrastructure, Monica Silva
Approver:	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 summarises the key activities undertaken by Infrastructure in the January to March 2026 quarter.

Key messages

- Library Café refurbishment is underway with completion expected in April 2026.
- Construction of the Zuccoli Pump Track was completed in February and opened to public on 4 March 2026.
- Hobart Park accessible toilet construction is complete and is open to public, along with additional tables, seating and shade structures.
- Play equipment upgrades at Joan Fejo Park and President Park have been delayed due to weather conditions and will be completed as soon as conditions allow.
- 52 low density residential lots and a new pedestrian-link park were titled in Zuccoli.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Infrastructure Quarterly Report - January to March 2026 be received and noted.

Background

Infrastructure provides a quarterly report to Council on key activities undertaken during the quarter and further works underway for the next quarter, aligned to the outcomes and objectives of the Community Plan and Municipal Plan.

Discussion

1. Family and Community

Objective 1.2: 'The wellbeing of our community is a focus for all our work'.

Play Space Strategy

Council's Play Space Strategy advocates the need for Council to upgrade and maintain our play spaces at a level required to proactively respond to community needs and expectations.

The following works were undertaken over the January to March quarter 2026.

Joan Fejo Playground

Work to renew the play and outdoor exercise equipment at Joan Fejo Park has been delayed due to recent wet weather. As part of this project, the six (6) existing exercise stations will be replaced. The new exercise equipment, which is manufactured overseas, has arrived in Australia and is ready for installation. The contractor will commence onsite works as soon as conditions are suitable.

President Park Upgrades

President Park works, which includes the installation of an all-ability swing, rubber soft fall and a new shade structure, has been delayed by the weather. The shade structure has been manufactured in-house by the contractor and is ready for install; works will commence when the weather and site conditions improve.

Hobart Park All-Access Public Toilet and Signage

Installation of the Hobart Park All Access Toilet and additional seating and shade structures, funded through an Australian Government grant, was completed this quarter. Directional signage was also installed using the same grant funding. The final stage of the project includes planting approximately 32 trees. These trees, to be planted at the end of March, will be supplied in the 28L sizing, providing immediate amenity to the site.



Figure 1: Completed Hobart Park Toilet and Signage

Playground Auditing

Playground auditing across Council's playgrounds commenced this quarter. The audits involve detailed safety inspections and impact attenuation assessments developed in accordance with Australian Standard AS4685 for Playground Equipment and Surfacing. The findings will identify each playground's compliance with the standards and support the development of a targeted works program to address any areas requiring upgrades or remediation.

Development Application Responses

This quarter Council provided advice and comment on six (6) development applications, including a 4-unit residential complex in Hedley Street in Durack.

4. A Future Focus

Objective 4.1: 'We support and foster innovation'

Subdivisions

Zuccoli Aspire (Stage 4B) has achieved practical completion, with titles issued for 52 low-medium density residential lots. This stage also delivers a new park and pedestrian link, enhancing the pathway connectivity to the Zuccoli Lake Park.

In the last quarter, 130 trees were planted across three (3) subdivision stages in Zuccoli, contributing to increased shades and improved streetscape for the growing community.

Earthworks are continuing at the eastern extent (Zuccoli Village) and the south-east corner of Zuccoli (Zuccoli Aspire Precinct), both aiming completion before the end of the wet season.

Civil works at Zuccoli Village Phase 3.9 continues with completion anticipated in the second quarter of 2026, delivering 40 new low-medium density residential lots.

Construction works of Guido Zuccoli Park, which features a water play area, is expected to commence in the second quarter of 2026.

Objective 4.2: 'Infrastructure is fit for purpose'.

Facilities

A total of 60 facility-related defects were identified and reported across the nine (9) Council buildings during the quarter, of which 27 have been completed. At the time of reporting, 33 remain outstanding.

During the quarter, an improved data capture process was implemented, incorporating facility-related reporting into the central CRM system. This has enhanced visibility across reporting channels, resulting in more accurate and consistent data collection. The increased transparency is expected to support more informed decision-making, improved prioritisation, and more effective management of facility maintenance activities moving forward.

Potholes

A total of 91 potholes were identified and reported during the quarter, of which 45 have been repaired. At the time of reporting, 46 remain outstanding.

Early 2026 has seen an exceptionally wet start to the year in Palmerston, with rainfall significantly exceeding long-term averages across January, February, and March. This continues a broader trend of above-average rainfall across the Northern Territory over the past three (3) years.

During the reporting period, 64 out of 78 days recorded rainfall, with over 1300mm recorded, which is about 25% above average. This has directly contributed to both an increased volume of pothole reports and an accelerated rate of pavement deterioration.

In response, a risk-based triaging approach has been critical in managing the network. Reported potholes have required more frequent reassessment, as deterioration rates have escalated rapidly under sustained wet conditions.

To address safety risks in a timely manner, repair methodologies have been adjusted during the quarter. In high-priority areas, temporary repair treatments have been implemented to enable faster intervention and risk mitigation, in place of standard best-practice methods which require drier conditions and longer delivery timeframes. This approach has allowed for more responsive management of critical defects, while acknowledging that some locations will require follow-up permanent repairs once conditions stabilise.

Black Spot Program

Following a review of the design, work on the Yarrowonga Road project has been deferred to 2026 following the wet season.

Signage

A total of 27 roadside signs were identified for repair or replacement during the quarter, with four (4) completed and 23 remaining outstanding at the time of reporting.

Throughout this period, a risk-based triaging approach has been maintained, with critical and safety-related signage prioritised for immediate repair or replacement. Lower-risk or non-critical signage has been deferred, providing an opportunity to review against Australian Standards and local guidelines.

A structured signage replacement program is being developed and is scheduled for rollout in April.

Pathways

A total of 26 new pathway-related reports were identified during the quarter, with 10 completed and 16 remaining outstanding at the time of reporting.

The majority of reported issues relate to slip hazards associated with sustained wet weather conditions, including organic buildup, debris, and surface contamination. In response, targeted clearing works have been undertaken in high-risk areas to maintain public safety and reduce immediate hazards.

New and Renewed Pathways

The Footpath Connectivity Program aims to enhance connections between key services, assets, and public open spaces. The program identifies and prioritises areas for upgrades and new pathways, with an annual review to ensure alignment with current priorities and budget availability.

A section of footpath on Raffles Road, Gray has been renewed, providing a wider path, improved pedestrian ramps and improved accessibility to two bus stops. Reinstatement of grass verges will be completed in suitable weather conditions.

Light Fault Rectification

This quarter, 76 (1.41% of total inventory) streetlighting faults were identified. 51 of the identified faults have been resolved and works are continuing to rectify the remaining 25 faults. Of these 25, six (6) of the faults are within target repair times, with the remaining faults scheduled for repair awaiting arrival of parts from suppliers.

Council is continuing to undertake scheduled night inspections and rectification works, with a total of 98.9% of streetlights working as of 21 March 2026.

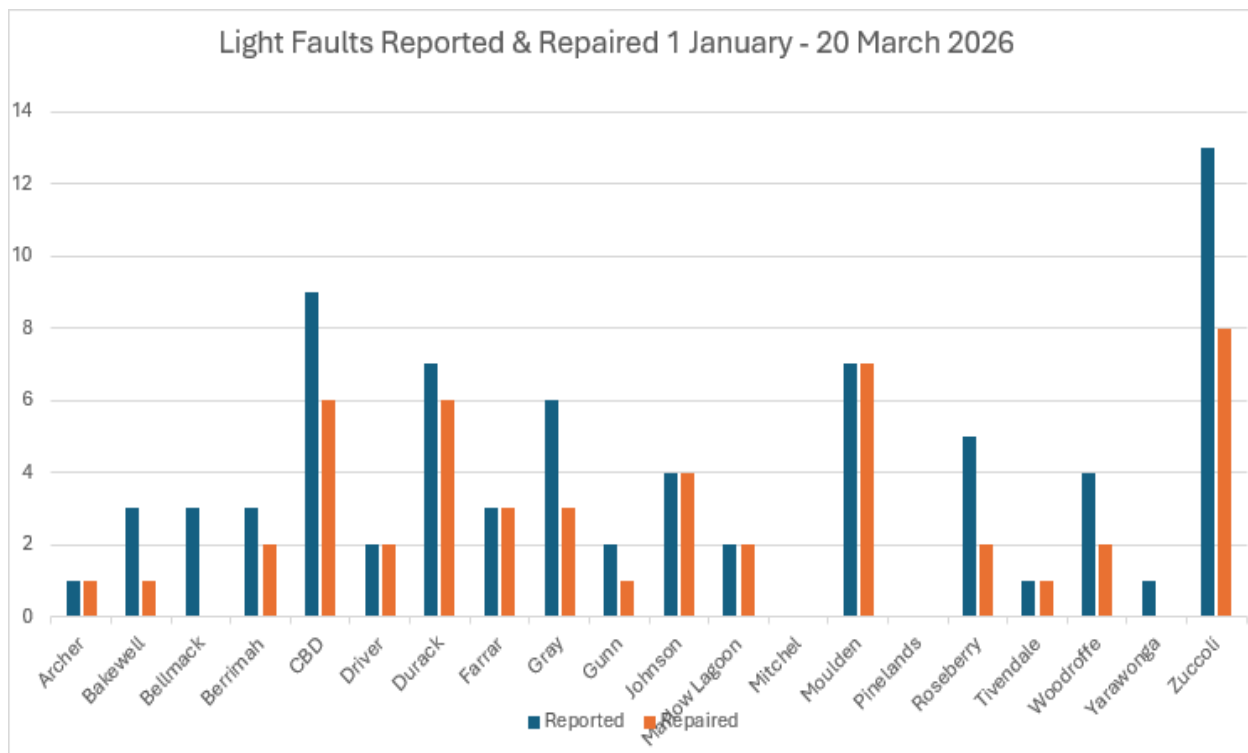


Figure 2: Light faults by suburb

Dark Spots Lighting Upgrade Program

Work is ongoing with Power and Water corporation to enable energisation of the completed works on Stockwhip Drive, Marlow lagoon. Partial energisation has been achieved, with remaining works still under assessment by PWC.

Work in the Fiveash Lane car park is with Council’s period contractor to progress. Construction is forecast to occur in May.

The works program for 2025/26 has been developed and includes work in:

- Sanctuary Lakes, Gunn.
- Rosebery Park, Rosebery.
- Palmerston Circuit, CBD.

Designs for lighting upgrades in Rosebery Park, Palmerston Circuit and Sanctuary Lakes are now complete with site work planned for 2026.

Private works - Driveways and Stormwater connections

104 applications were received for the quarter, covering 62 allotments, including 50 in Zuccoli, eight (8) in Durack, two (2) in Rosebery and one (1) each in Farrar and Driver.

The 97 applications consisted of the following:

- 27 driveway plan approval requests – 27 driveway plans approved, with 18 from Zuccoli, six (6) in Durack, and one (1) each in Driver, Rosebery and Farrar.
- 27 driveway construction requests – 24 requests were from the new properties in Zuccoli, two (2) in Durack, and one (1) in Driver. All driveways have been constructed.
- 22 stormwater plan approval requests - 22 stormwater plans approved, with 14 from new properties in Zuccoli, six (6) in Durack, and one (1) each in Rosebery and Farrar.
- 21 stormwater clearance requests – 19 clearance letters issued Zuccoli for new properties and two (2) in Durack.

Over the course of the last 12 months, Council has received 153 driveway plan applications, 141 stormwater plan applications, 124 driveway construction request and 99 stormwater clearance requests, bringing the total number of applications to 517.

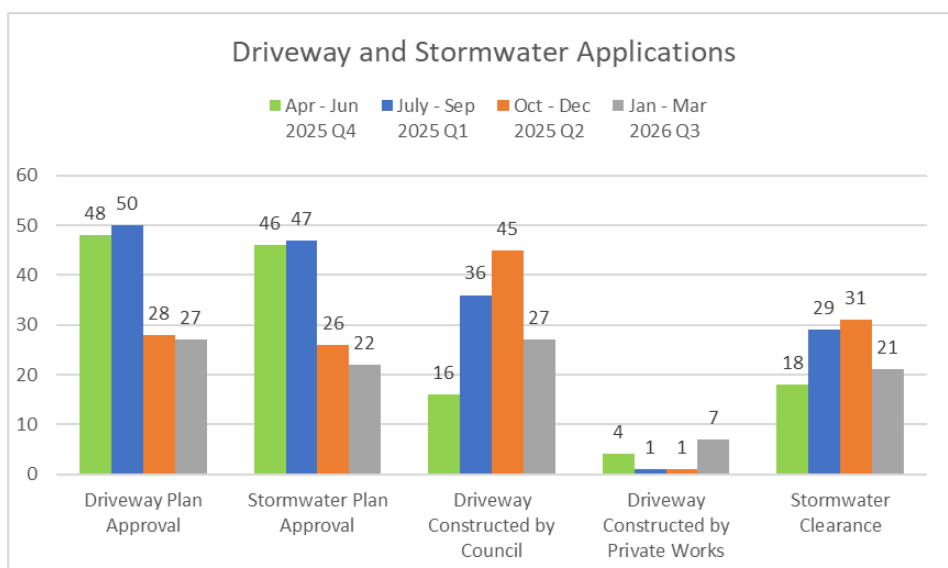


Figure 3: Data as of 18 March 2026

Council funds the construction of one (1) driveway per lot, through developers paying a fee in lieu of construction (FILOC). Second driveways, if approved, and stormwater connections are funded by the property owner.

Private Works - Work permits for work carried out by third parties on Council owned land

Council issues permits to third parties carrying out various works on and nearby Council owned land i.e. road reserves, parks and open spaces, and footpaths. This quarter Council issued 60 works on public places permits bringing the total number over the past 12 months to 232.

Stormwater

Ongoing condition inspections of stormwater assets, including drains, pipes, pits, and associated civil infrastructure, have been undertaken throughout the quarter to ensure continued functionality and serviceability.

A total of 17 new stormwater defects were identified during this period, with nine (9) completed and eight (8) remaining outstanding at the time of reporting.

The pre-wet season works program has proven effective, as reflected in stable reporting volumes throughout the quarter, with no significant increase in stormwater-related issues despite above-average rainfall conditions.

Stormwater Capital Program

No upgrade works were completed in the last quarter, issues have been identified in Harrison Circuit and Astrolabe Ct, Woodroffe for repair next quarter.

Irrigation Upgrades – Joan Fejo Park, Rosebery

This quarter irrigation upgrades were completed at Joan Fejo Park in Rosebery to improve the performance and reliability of the park’s watering system. The works included improvements to irrigation infrastructure and sprinkler coverage resulting in a more efficient watering practice.



Figure 4: Irrigation upgrade works at Joan Fejo Park, Rosebery

Zuccoli Community Hub – Stage 2

Stage 2 consists of the pump track, multi-sports court, skate park, the sensory walking path, shade structures, BBQ facilities and associated civil works, and is currently in progress.

- Civil earthworks for the entire Stage 2 area were completed earlier in 2025, including preparation for the pump track, multi-sports court and skate park.
- Work on the construction of the pump track reach Practical Completion on 3 February 2026 and the new facility was open to the public on 4 March.
- Installation of floodlights is outstanding and will require a significant period of dry weather to improve ground conditions and allow safe craneage of the light poles.
- Other Stage 2 elements include the skate park, basketball/multi-purpose court, and exercise equipment. Construction of these facilities will proceed as additional funding becomes available.



Figure 5: Pump Track open to public

Zuccoli Community Hub – Stage 3

Stage 3 consists of community facilities, including:

- Playground.
- Community hall and technology and community program buildings.
- Multi-purpose covered entrance, events spaces, formal gardens.
- Carpark

The tender for design of Stage 3 has been awarded to MODE DESIGN Corp. Pty Ltd. Work is underway on the design of the Stage 3 elements. A period of community engagement on the design is planned for the next quarter.

Library Café Construction

A contract for the refurbishment of the Library Café has been awarded. Works are underway with completion forecast in April 2026. The refurbishment will allow a tenant to operate a café from part of the library building.

SWELL Basketball court shade

Works have commenced to install shade sails over the half-basketball court at SWELL, the final upgrade at the facility to be delivered as part of the NTG Capital Funding Agreement.



Figure 6: SWELL Basketball shade installation

Capital Projects Expenditure and Delivery Summary 2025/26

The total approved Capital Expenditure Budget for 2025/26 is \$11.4 million.

The expenditure to March 2026 is \$4.15M, or 36% of the budget. A further \$3.07M, or 27% is committed in purchase orders and contracts.

A brief description and status of each project, and the 2025/26 budget can be found in **Attachment 12.2.1.1**.

Environment Sustainability

Objective 5.1: Community Plan: 'Reduce our footprint on the environment'

Objective 5.3: Community Plan 'Encourage personal action and taking a leadership role'.

Objective 5.2: Community Plan Palmerston is a cool, shaded, green City

Council's environmental and sustainability work continues to be guided by the City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2022, which sets the overall direction for reducing environmental impacts and strengthening long-term resilience across the municipality. The initiatives and activities outlined in this section demonstrate ongoing progress aligned with

the Strategy’s key focus areas and reflect Council’s continued commitment to delivering actions that support these priorities.

1. Protecting our urban ecology and natural environment.
2. Empowering and connecting the community.
3. Future focused on efficiency.
4. Leading with purpose.

1. Protecting our urban ecology and natural environment

A healthy urban environment relies on a balance between built infrastructure and green spaces that provide shade, cooling and ecological value across the city. Increasing the urban canopy, improving green corridors and enhancing the quality of public spaces contributes to a more climate-resilient and liveable Palmerston. The initiatives outlined in this section focus on understanding and improving these natural assets to support a greener urban landscape for the community.

Tree Canopy Analysis

An updated analysis of the urban canopy data commissioned in 2025 is currently underway to inform priority planting locations. This includes ground-truthing to identify trees lost during the previous dry season and as a result of Tropical Cyclone Fina. **Figure 7** identifies areas with limited shade where additional planting may provide the greatest benefit to the community and urban environment. The analysis will support Council’s recovery response to canopy loss and help guide future street and park planting programs to improve shade, reduce urban heat and strengthen the urban landscape.

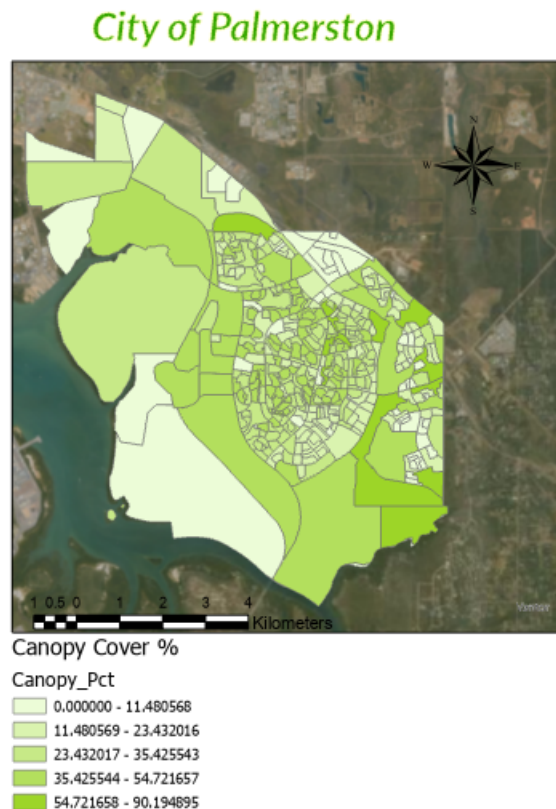


Figure 7: Tree canopy coverage across the City of Palmerston by ABS mesh block, showing areas of low to high canopy cover to support future tree planting planning.

Palmerston Dolostone Aquifer – Groundwater Management

This quarter Council received the *Draft Palmerston Dolostone Aquifer Groundwater Use Plan* and the associated *Dolostone Aquifer Groundwater Assessment*. These documents provide a framework for the sustainable management of groundwater used for irrigation and lake refilling through Durack and Marlow Lagoon. Current assessments indicate that Council's groundwater extraction remains within sustainable limits, provided that appropriate extraction limits are applied to individual bores and usage continues to be carefully monitored. The plan also identifies areas within the aquifer that may support additional production bores to supplement irrigation supply. Council will continue to monitor its ground water extraction to ensure an integrated and sustainable approach to water management is maintained, supporting long-term sustainability objectives and the ongoing maintenance of Palmerston's parks, lakes and open spaces.

Lake Management – (Lake 5 and Basin Lake)

This quarter Council completed harvesting and maintenance works at Lake 5 and Basin Lake in Durack, significantly improving the condition and presentation of these artificial lakes within Palmerston's open space network. Lake maintenance was delayed due to the response to Tropical Cyclone Fina; however, it remains a priority, with all 18 Palmerston lakes continuing to be managed under a rotating maintenance schedule.



Figure 8: Lake management works at Basin Lake and Lake 5 contributing to improved water movement, environmental condition and the ongoing care of Palmerston's urban lake systems.

2. Empowering and connecting the community

Empowering and connecting the community focuses on supporting residents to take an active role in sustainability across Palmerston. Community-based initiatives such as the Home Composting Rebate Program and the Verge Maintenance Rebate provide practical opportunities for residents to reduce waste, improve local green spaces and contribute to a healthier urban environment. These initiatives help build community awareness and participation while supporting the broader outcomes of the Sustainability Strategy.

Home Composting Rebate Program

PERIOD	Q3-2024/2025	Q3-2025/2026
New eligible and approved applications	4	6
Total applications for life of the scheme	82	131

Figure 9: Home Composting Rebate Program

Verge Maintenance Rebate

PERIOD	Q3-2025/2026
New eligible and approved applications	26

Figure 10: Verge Maintenance Rebate

3. Future focused on Efficiency

Future focused on efficiency centres on improving how resources such as energy, water and waste are managed across Council operations. This focus area supports initiatives that improve resource efficiency, strengthen sustainable practices and support more effective use of Council facilities and services.

Note: The waste and energy data presented below relates to the October to December (Q2) 2025/26 reporting period. This approach ensures the report is based on confirmed data rather than estimated energy figures and noting that waste management reports are received in the month following the reporting period. Data for the January to March 2025/26 period will be included in the next Infrastructure Quarterly Report.

Archer Waste Management Facility – Waste Diversion by Stream

Quarter 2 (October–December) 2025/26 data from Archer Waste Management Facility shows an overall improvement in recyclable material recovery compared with the same period in 2024/25. The continued use of the cardboard compactor has supported more efficient processing and stronger capture of recyclable materials, contributing to higher diversion volumes across the facility.

Additionally, the facility experienced a significant increase in hard waste drop-offs ahead of Tropical Cyclone Fina. Weekday vehicle movements increased from an average of around 350 per day to 1,745 vehicles on the Friday before the cyclone. As a result, total monthly vehicle movements were approximately double the 2025 monthly average of 10,000 across both November and December.

	Paper & cardboard (tonnes)	Steel/metal (tonnes)	Mixed aluminium / glass / plastic (kg)	batteries (tonnes)
25/26 Q2	49	114.45	845.54	18.589
24/25 Q2	34.538	129.54	147.1	12.912

Figure 11: Waste materials collected at AWMF Q2-2025/2026

Recycling at Archer Waste Management Facility

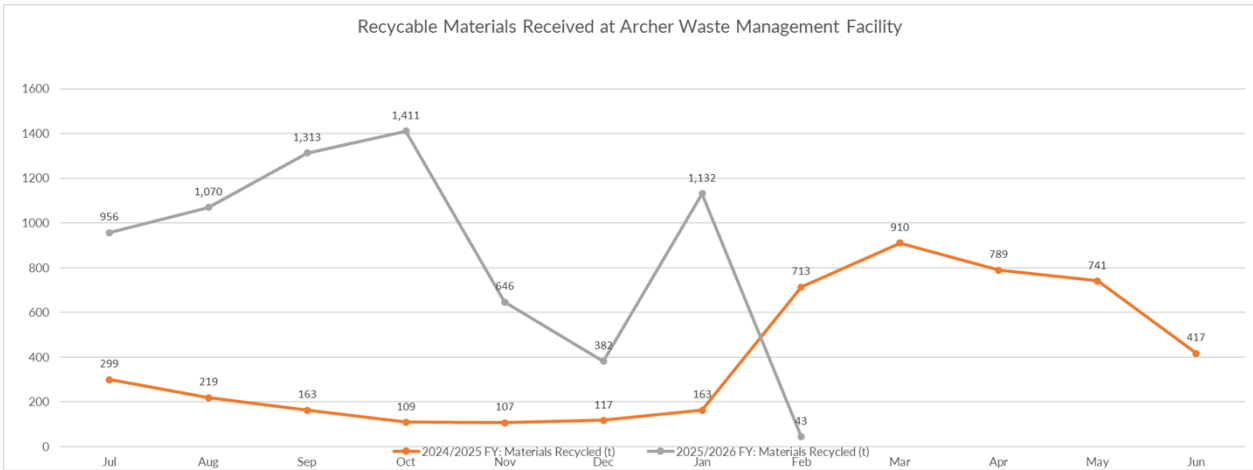


Figure 12: Total Recyclable Materials Received at Archer Waste Management Facility

The graph above compares total recyclable materials received at the Archer Waste Management Facility during Quarter 2 (October–December) 2025/26 with the same quarter in 2024/25. The chart shows variation in monthly recyclable volumes across October, November and December between the two (2) years, predominately reflecting user increases during Cyclone Fina preparation and clean up.

Reuse Shop – Archer Waste Management Facility (AWMF)

The reuse area at the Archer Waste Management Facility supports resource recovery by diverting reusable items from landfill and making them available to the community. Sales data indicates a substantial increase in activity, with transactions rising from 1,282 (January–December 2024) to 5,576 (January–December 2025).

Date	Number of Sales
January 2024 - December 2024	1282
January 2025 - December 2025	5576

Figure 13: Reuse area sales at Archer Waste Management Facility showing a significant increase in community reuse and material diversion from landfill

This significant uplift reflects increased community engagement in reuse practices and demonstrates the growing role of the reuse area in diverting materials from landfill. The increase in reuse activity aligns with the broader recycling trends observed at Archer, as reflected in **Figure 12**.

General Waste Volumes from Archer Waste Management Facility to Landfill

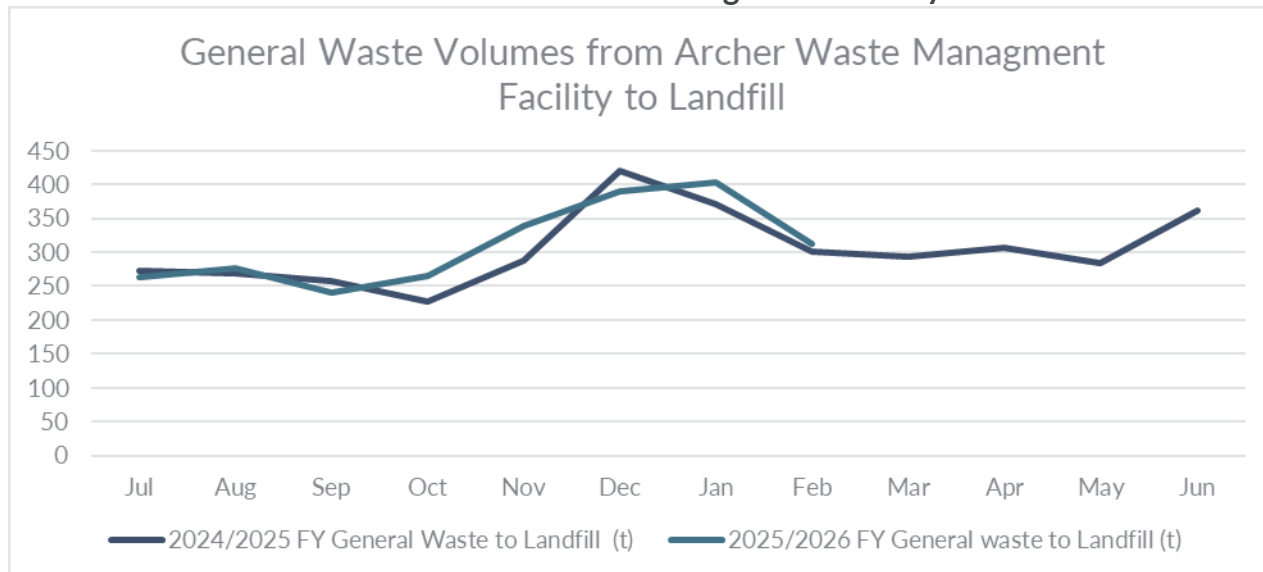


Figure 14: General Waste Volumes from Archer Waste Management Facility that end up in Landfill Q2-2024/2025 with 2025/26

The above chart compares general waste volumes transported from Archer Waste Management Facility to landfill during Quarter 2 (October–December) 2025/26 with the same period in 2024/25. The data shows that landfill volumes across the quarter remained consistent over the two (2) years, with similar monthly trends observed in October, November and December.

Both years recorded a gradual increase from October through to December, reflecting typical seasonal patterns during the festive period.

Kerbside Recycling Audit – Strengthening Waste Performance

Council completed a commingled kerbside recycling audit to assess material composition and contamination trends. A total of 305 recycling bins were sampled over three (3) days, with contents manually sorted and measured by material type. The audit found that 67.64% of material was correctly recycled and therefore recoverable. The remaining 32.36% was classified as contamination, which is consistent with rates reported nationally. According to the Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment’s *National Waste Report 2022*, kerbside recycling contamination rates across Australia range from 18% to 52%. The results of Council’s audit will establish an important baseline for future monitoring and will help guide targeted education efforts to increase resource recovery through the recycling stream.

Solar Power Generation – Recreation Centre, Palmerston Library, Civic Centre & Gray

Council continues to improve energy management across its facilities through renewable energy generation and targeted efficiency measures. Solar photovoltaic systems at key sites are helping reduce reliance on grid electricity, with performance varying according to building use and operating demand.

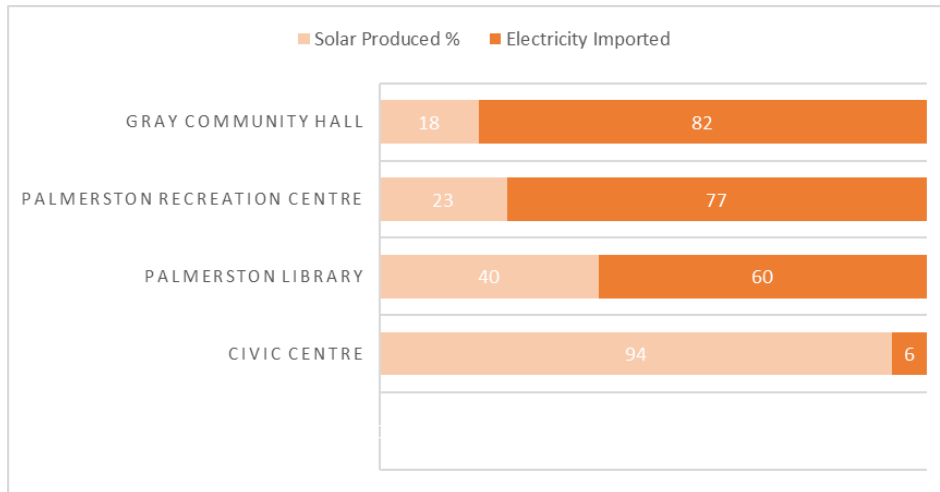


Figure 15: Total Energy Consumption: Solar Generation vs. Electricity Imported (Q2-2025/2026)

Council is also progressing the installation of a solar and battery storage system at SWELL, funded under the federal government’s Community Energy Upgrades Fund. This quarter a preliminary power load assessment was completed, and a structural suitability assessment of the roof is underway. Tender documents are in development which will be released in April 2026.

4. Lead with purpose

This quarter, Council continued to demonstrate leadership through proactive care of key public spaces across Palmerston. At the new Pump Track in Zuccoli, pressure washing, whipper snipping and litter collection works were undertaken prior to its official opening, to ensure the space remains clean, functional and inviting for residents. Additionally, several instances of graffiti removal at the Palmerston Library and Recreation Centre and pressure cleaning along the Boulevard in the CBD have improved the amenity of highly visible community areas.



Figure 16: Graffiti removed at Palmerston Library, restoring a clean and welcoming facade for the community.

These activities demonstrate Council’s ongoing commitment to responsible asset management and the proactive maintenance of public infrastructure. Through consistent

upkeep and timely intervention, Council supports safe, well-presented and resilient community environments across Palmerston.

6. Governance

Objective 6.1: 'Ensure we have a leading governance model'

During this quarter, a total of 666 cases were reported including:

- 560 by residents.
- 65 by CoP staff.
- 41 by contractors.

As of 19 March 2026, 434 were resolved, with 232 remaining outstanding.

Gunn recorded the highest number of resident reports with a total of 82 cases in this quarter, followed by Palmerston CBD with 67 and Durack with 65.

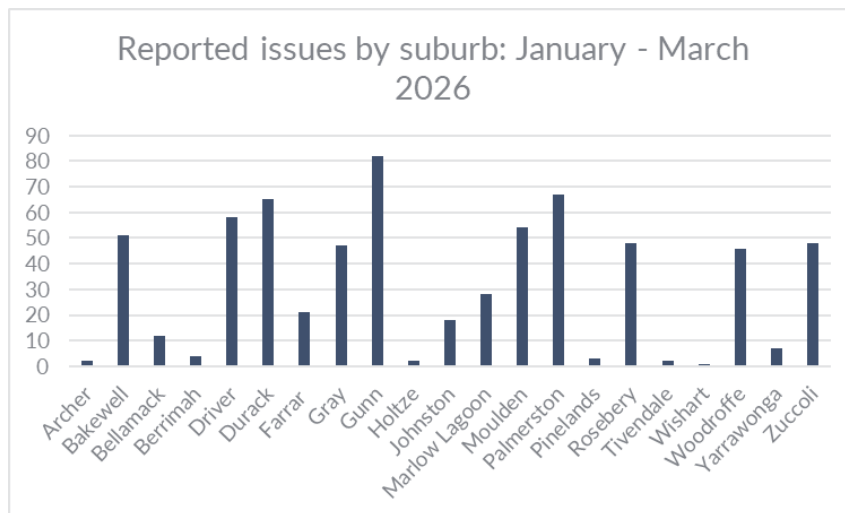


Figure 17: Data as of 19 March 2026

During this quarter most resident reports submitted to Council have related to issues and enquires concerning Public Places and Roads as shown in the graph below.

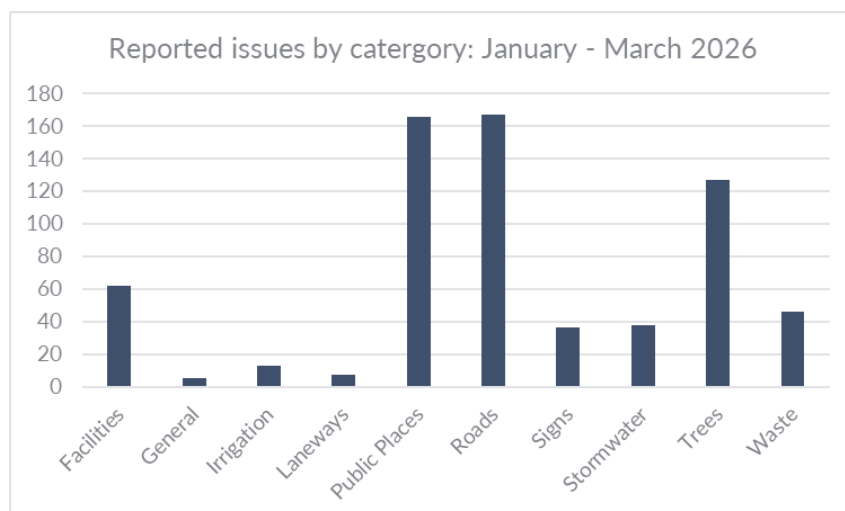


Figure 18: Data as of 19 March 2026

Consultation and marketing

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

- Executive Manager Projects and Civil Operations.
- Manager Civil Operations.
- Senior Project Manager.
- Executive Manager Environment.
- Manager of Sustainability.
- Environment Officer.
- Planning & Development Manager.
- Development Engineer.
- Planning & Permits Officer.
- Administration Assistant.

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

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. 2026 - Capital Projects [12.2.1.1 - 2 pages]

2026 Capital Projects

Project Title	Revised Annual Budget	YTD Actuals	Commitments	Total YTD (Actuals + Commitments)	Available Budget	Project Manager updates
Zuccoli Community Hub	\$ 1,849,599.94	\$ 839,342.92	\$ 991,686.50	\$ 1,831,029.42	\$ 18,570.52	Pump track open to public, Stage 3 design underway
Aquatic Centre Renewal	\$ 46,113.92	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 3,681.25	\$ 23,681.25	\$ 22,432.67	Vacuom for 50m pool delivered. People counter ordered
Aquatic Centre upgrades	\$ 96,592.00	\$ 3,592.00	\$ 85,027.27	\$ 88,619.27	\$ 7,972.73	SWELL Basketball Shade construction underway
Recreation Centre Renewal	\$ 90,984.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,984.00	Quotations for AC condenser under assessment
Depot Renewals	\$ 11,475.30	\$ 11,475.30	\$ -	\$ 11,475.30	\$ -	Automated gate completed.
Civic Centre renewal	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 55,824.80	\$ 58,824.80	\$ 66,175.20	Customer Experience desk upgrade pending. Quotation for lift component renewals under assessment
Driver Resource Centre Renewals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Budget reallocated to operational in 2nd budget review.
Library Building Capital Works	\$ 77,164.30	\$ -	\$ 42,866.00	\$ 42,866.00	\$ 34,298.30	Library shelving ordered
Durack Heights Community Art Centre	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Budget reallocated to operational in 1st budget review.
Dark Spots Program	\$ 363,050.00	\$ -	\$ 134,570.00	\$ 134,570.00	\$ 228,480.00	Kilgour Lane upgrade complete. Order placed for Fiveash Lane car park, design in progress for Sanctuary Lakes, Rosebery park and Palmerston Cct
Street Lighting Renewal	\$ 61,440.00	\$ 39,906.81	\$ -	\$ 39,906.81	\$ 21,533.19	5 damaged poles replaced in August
All Ability Access	\$ 30,260.08	\$ 520.16	\$ -	\$ 520.16	\$ 29,739.92	Program to be developed following review of DIAP
Driveway replacements	\$ 24,843.00	\$ 6,437.95	\$ 21,728.00	\$ 28,165.95	\$ (3,322.95)	As required
Developer Funded: Driveways	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 124,159.40	\$ 16,283.71	\$ 140,443.11	\$ 59,556.89	Work completed on request
Pathway Replacements	\$ 122,880.00	\$ -	\$ 122,311.83	\$ 122,311.83	\$ 568.17	Path in Raffles Road underway
New Pathways	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 66,644.55	\$ 11,560.82	\$ 78,205.37	\$ 101,794.63	New path in Mannikan Court underway
Laneway Renewals	\$ 51,200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,200.00	Program of work finalised, procurement underway
Reseal Program	\$ 1,119,356.57	\$ 1,978.60	\$ 639,550.00	\$ 641,528.60	\$ 477,827.97	Contract TS2024-15 executed. Work package 1 issued to contractor
Road Reconstruction	\$ 450,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 450,000.00	Not commenced
Traffic Calming & Pedestrian Safety	\$ 386,980.27	\$ 107,559.75	\$ 190,715.32	\$ 298,275.07	\$ 88,705.20	Bonson Terrace complete, Yarrawonga Road pending
Archer renewal and upgrades	\$ 972,601.69	\$ 907,737.81	\$ -	\$ 907,737.81	\$ 64,863.88	Major project complete. Minor renewals pending.
Tree Replacement Program	\$ 487,368.38	\$ 415,808.74	\$ -	\$ 415,808.74	\$ 71,559.64	Original 1600 trees still in the maintenance period. Planting scheduled for May
Sustainability Programs	\$ 291,927.00	\$ 19,196.09	\$ 7,908.64	\$ 27,104.73	\$ 264,822.27	Energy Audit complete, thermal pool blanket installed at SWELL. Planning for SWELL solar/battery underway.
Stormwater Renewals & Upgrades	\$ 110,329.20	\$ 47,560.00	\$ -	\$ 47,560.00	\$ 62,769.20	Ambon Park improvements complete. Archer culvert complete.
Woodroffe Park Upgrades	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 7,310.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 9,810.00	\$ 590,190.00	Concept plan completed. RFQ and tender packages under assessment
Park Infrastructure Renewal and Upgrades	\$ 537,717.50	\$ 2,660.00	\$ 428,260.00	\$ 430,920.00	\$ 106,797.50	Ambon Park softfall complete, Tenders awarded for Joan Fejo Park and President Park
Irrigation Refurbishment	\$ 166,844.85	\$ 80,158.63	\$ 14,150.00	\$ 94,308.63	\$ 72,536.22	Irrigation controllers purchased
Public Art	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 21,870.00	\$ -	\$ 21,870.00	\$ 68,130.00	Library bulkhead complete
IT - renewals and ERP	\$ 817,966.80	\$ 220,555.39	\$ 53,070.00	\$ 273,625.39	\$ 544,341.41	ERP tender under assessment
Fleet Purchases	\$ 417,377.27	\$ 265,603.37	\$ 132,517.27	\$ 398,120.64	\$ 19,256.63	3 vehicles on order
Odegaard Drive Unit Complex	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Budget reallocated in 2nd budget review.
Incubator Renewals	\$ 5,240.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,240.00	Not commenced
Dog Pound Project	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 14,900.00	\$ 3,938.00	\$ 18,838.00	\$ 331,162.00	Tenders under assessment

2026 Capital Projects

Project Title	Revised Annual Budget	YTD Actuals	Commitments	Total YTD (Actuals + Commitments)	Available Budget	Project Manager updates
Water Aquifer Preservation Strategy	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 126,890.00	\$ 1,810.00	\$ 128,700.00	\$ 71,300.00	Study complete. Actions pending.
Mitchell Creek & Escarpment Feasibility Study	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 31,190.00	\$ -	\$ 31,190.00	\$ (3,690.00)	Complete. Plan endorsed by Council
21/22 Custom Animal Holding Pens (LG IP Grant)	\$ 19,580.00	\$ 20,426.65	\$ -	\$ 20,426.65	\$ (846.65)	Complete
Hobart Park Exeloo and Park Upgrade	\$ 373,193.69	\$ 292,679.92	\$ 38,823.00	\$ 331,502.92	\$ 41,690.77	Shelter and toilet construction complete. Minor works pending.
Lakebed Aerators	\$ 31,973.10	\$ 31,972.73	\$ -	\$ 31,972.73	\$ 0.37	All lake bed aerators complete
Library Cafe Construction	\$ 397,309.80	\$ 5,314.50	\$ 366,933.60	\$ 372,248.10	\$ 25,061.70	Construction in progress
Marlow Lagoon Masterplan	\$ 75,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00	Not commenced
CBD CCTV Upgrade	\$ 141,600.00	\$ 141,600.00	\$ -	\$ 141,600.00	\$ -	Civic car park and Library CCTV complete
	\$ 11,400,468.66	\$ 3,878,051.27	\$ 3,365,716.01	\$ 7,243,767.28	\$ 4,156,701.38	



13 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 Information

13.2 Correspondence

13.2.1 LGANT Board meeting Communique

THAT correspondence dated 27 February 2026 entitled LGANT Board meeting Communique be received and noted.

From: LGANT CEO
Sent: Fri, 27 Feb 2026 04:17:44 +0000
To: **Council CEOs; **Mayors and Presidents
Cc: **Council CEO EAs; **Mayors and Presidents EAs; **LGANT Board;
**LGANTStaff; LGANT CEO
Subject: Correspondence - 25 February 2026 LGANT Board meeting Communique
Attachments: 25 February 2026 LGANT Board meeting Communique.pdf

Good afternoon members,

On behalf of our CEO, please find enclosed the LGANT Board meeting communique from 25 February 2026. We kindly request that you table this document at your next Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM). This will ensure ongoing and effective communication with our members regarding LGANT's recent activities.

Kind regards,



Ellen Worsfold | Executive Officer
Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
t: (08) 8944 9688 | m: 0406 223 454
e: ellen.worsfold@lgant.asn.au | w: www.lgant.asn.au
21 Parap Road, Parap NT 0820 | PO Box 2075, Parap NT 0804

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We are local. We connect.

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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25 FEBRUARY 2026 LGANT BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

The LGANT Board met for its first meeting of 2026 on Wednesday 25 February at the Vibe Hotel Darwin Waterfront.

The Board endorsed minutes from an out-of-session meeting on 15 December 2025 which was held to endorse a number of time critical committee appointments: NT Councils Discretionary Trust Advisory Committee, NT Planning Commission, NT Water Safety Advisory Council, and NT Place Names Committee.

The Board then heard from Reece Ravlich from the City of Darwin who provided an update on the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee in his capacity as the LGANT representative.

The Board approved the fourth tranche of LGANT's updated organisational policies, the CEOs new KPIs and position description, and the financial report. The Board also endorsed the updated Board meeting dates for 2026, and LGANT's new Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan.

The LGANT President provided an update on his activities since the last Board Meeting including his and the Vice President Regional and Shires' attendance at the ALGA Strategic Planning days held on 11 and 12 February 2025.

The Board noted the CEOs report (including a summary of her meetings and a marketing analytics report), the WALGA IR/HR service quarterly report, the forward Board calendar, activity on General Business motions, submissions, and incoming and outgoing correspondence.

The Board will next meet on 25 March 2026.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss these matters further, please reach out to Mary Watson, LGANT CEO, at mary.watson@lgant.asn.au or on 0417 864 183.

Alternatively, you can contact members of the LGANT Board:

President: Cr Peter Pangquee	City of Darwin	peter.pangquee@darwin.nt.gov.au	0419 858 636
Vice President Municipal: Cr Allison Bitar	Alice Springs Town Council	abitar@alicesprings.nt.gov.au	0491 055 224
Vice President Regional and Shires: Mayor Brian Pedwell	Victoria Daly Regional Council	brian.pedwell@vicdaly.nt.gov.au	0429 341 336
Municipal Director - City of Darwin nominated representative:	City of Darwin	sam.weston@darwin.nt.gov.au	0499 389 462

Cr Sam Weston			
Municipal Director: Mayor Joanna Holden	Katherine Town Council	joanna.holden@ktc.nt.gov.au	0428 717 044
Municipal Director: Cr Mark Fraser	City of Palmerston	councillor.fraser@palmerston.nt.gov.au	0411 224 670
Regional and Shires Director: Cr Peter Clee	Wagait Shire Council	peter.clee@wagait.nt.gov.au	0418 894 404
Regional and Shires Director Mayor Lynette De Santis	Tiwi Islands Regional Council	lynettejane.desantis@tiwiislands.nt.gov.au	0419 033 821
Regional and Shire Director: Mayor James Woods	West Arnhem Regional Council	james.woods@westarnhem.nt.gov.au	0497 919 225



13.2.2 Determinations of council and local authority member allowances

THAT correspondence dated 13 March 2026 entitled 13.2.2 Determinations of council and local authority member allowances be received and noted.

From: Preethi Thomas on behalf of "LGexecutive DHLGCD"
<LGexecutive.DHLGCD@nt.gov.au>
Sent: Thu, 12 Mar 2026 23:27:00 +0000
Cc: Hugh King; Rebecca Stavrou
Subject: Determinations of council and local authority member allowances
Attachments: tabled paper 629 - northern territory of australia remuneration tribunal report and determination no. 1 of 2026, determination of allowances for members of local councils, assembly members and.pdf, tabled paper 630 - northern territory of australia remuneration tribunal report and determination no. 1 of 2026, determination of allowances for members of local authorities, assembly members.pdf, Frequently Asked Questions - Council allowances.PDF

Good morning

Yesterday the Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal's 2026 Determinations of allowances for members of councils and local authorities were tabled in the Legislative Assembly (copies attached).

The Determinations apply from 1 July 2026.

Also attached is a Frequently Asked Questions document prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development. The Determinations are legally binding and the FAQs document provides guidance only.

Should you have any queries on the Determinations, please direct your enquiries to LG.Compliance@nt.gov.au.

Regards

Hugh King
A/Executive Director
Local Government and Community Development
Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development
Northern Territory Government

Floor 3, Jacana House, 39 Woods St, Darwin
GPO Box 4621, Darwin NT 0801



nt.gov.au

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ORIGINAL PAPER

No. 629
Laid on the Table
12 / 03 / 2026

**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

*Assembly Members and Statutory Officers
(Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*

**DETERMINATION OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF
LOCAL COUNCILS**

REPORT ON DETERMINATION NO. 1 OF 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

On 30 July 2025, pursuant to section 7B(1) of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006* (AMSORE Act), His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM, Administrator of the Northern Territory, issued a request to the Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) to inquire into and determine the allowance or allowances payable to a member of a local council.

The resulting Report and Determination must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly within six sitting days of receipt by the Minister.

Under section 7B(7) of the AMSORE Act, the allowances determined are effective from either:

- the next financial year if the report is made on or before 1 February; or
- from the financial year after the next financial year if the report is made after 1 February.

On 9 September 2025, individual letters were sent to each Council inviting submissions and offered to hold a discussion with each Council either in person or through a video link. On 13 September 2025, an advertisement was placed in the NT News to announce the inquiry and invite submissions.

One meeting was held with a Council.

The Tribunal received three submissions from the following Councils as well as the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT):

- City of Palmerston Council
- Wagait Shire Council
- Roper Gulf Regional Council

2. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE

The Tribunal received submissions requesting an increase to Professional Development Allowance. It is noted that the Professional Development Allowance is all inclusive and can include travel and accommodation costs. The Tribunal is aware of significant cost increases for travel, especially for regional areas of the NT, and has agreed to increase the Allowance to \$7,500 a financial year.

3. COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCE

The Tribunal has increased Councillors' allowance by 3% in recognition of movements in earnings within Australia as well as the NT.

4. MAYOR AND PRINCIPAL MEMBER ALLOWANCE

The Tribunal has increased the Mayoral Allowance by \$2,000 to recognise the increase in extra meeting activity allowance claimable by all other Elected Councillors.

The Tribunal has determined that on the basis of equity, the three Shire Council Mayors should receive the same Mayor Allowance which has now been set at \$32,686.

5. EXTRA MEETING / ACTIVITY ALLOWANCE

The Tribunal has increased the Allowance to a maximum of \$12,000 and recognised the Induction and Mandatory Departmental training should not be applied to the extra meeting allowance cap but has made it available through the Professional Development Allowance.

6. FUTURE INQUIRIES

The timing of the Local Council General Election has impacted the inquiry as some Councils are yet to be finalised and as a result, the Tribunal only received one submission from a city, regional and shire Council.

With this in mind, the Tribunal considers that further input will be provided as part of the next review once all Councils have been finalised.

The Tribunal appreciates the feedback received with any outstanding items being carried forward to the next Inquiry.



Mr Gary Higgins
Chairperson
Remuneration Tribunal



Ms Kezia Purick
Member
Remuneration Tribunal



Ms Lynne Walker
Member
Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 9 December 2025



**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

*Assembly Members and Statutory Officers
(Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*

**DETERMINATION OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS**

DETERMINATION NO. 1 OF 2026

Under section 7B of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*, the Tribunal determines as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

Municipal Councils are the following:

- Alice Springs;
- Darwin;
- Katherine;
- Litchfield; and
- Palmerston.

Regional Councils are the following:

- Barkly;
- Central Desert;
- East Arnhem
- Groote Archipelago;
- MacDonnell;
- Roper Gulf;
- Tiwi Islands
- West Arnhem;
- West Daly; and
- Victoria Daly.

Shire Councils are the following:

- Belyuen;
- Coomalie; and
- Wagait.

New Councils: any Councils newly constituted by the Minister for Local Government Councils are defined in the *Local Government Act 2019* as an area, and means the Local Council constituted for that area under section 14(b).

The role of Mayor is defined in section 58 of the *Local Government Act 2019* and is prescribed as:

- (1) The Principal Member of a municipal council is to have the title Mayor.
- (2) However:
 - (a) in the case of the council for the City of Darwin local government area – the principal member is to have the title Lord Mayor; and
 - (b) in the case of the Litchfield Council – the council may, by resolution, decide the principal member instead has the title President.
- (3) The Council may, by resolution, decide the principal member of a regional or shire council has the title Mayor or President.

Financial Year is the period from 1 July to the 30 June.

Deputy Mayor is defined in the *Local Government Act 2019*.

A Councillor is a member of a Local Council.

2. ALLOWANCES

The following annual allowances will apply from 1 July 2026 and will be paid fortnightly or monthly:

MAYORAL ALLOWANCE

Darwin	\$134,288
Palmerston	\$97,680
Alice Springs	\$94,560
Litchfield	\$88,320
Katherine and Regional	\$85,280

MAYOR – SHIRE COUNCILS

Coomalie	\$23,000
Belyuen	\$23,000
Wagait	\$23,000

Total Mayoral Allowance

Darwin	\$168,325
Palmerston	\$124,032
Alice Springs	\$118,716
Litchfield	\$112,476
Katherine and Regional	\$110,280
Shire Councils up to	\$32,686

DEPUTY MAYOR ALLOWANCE

Darwin	\$23,800
Palmerston	\$17,200
Alice Springs	\$16,500
Litchfield	\$16,000
Other Municipal and Regional	\$16,000

Deputy Mayor Total Allowance

Darwin	\$57,837
Palmerston	\$43,552
Alice Springs	\$40,656
Litchfield	\$40,156
Katherine and Regional	\$37,960

COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCE

Darwin	\$34,037
Palmerston	\$26,352
Alice Springs	\$24,156
Litchfield	\$24,156
Other Municipal and Regional	\$21,960

Shire Councils

Coomalie	\$7,686
Belyuen	\$7,686
Wagait	\$7,686

3. INCLUSIONS OF ALL ALLOWANCES

The Allowances are to cover:

- any cost to Councillors for attending meetings and activities of Council where these costs are not reimbursed by the Council;
- contribution towards phone and internet usage;
- contribution towards any home office and supplies; and
- allowance towards costs incurred in servicing constituents in Ward or Council Area:
 - Including, but not limited to:
 - donations;
 - organisation sponsorship;
 - membership fees;
 - patron expenses; and
 - constituent support.

4. EXTRA MEETING / ACTIVITY ALLOWANCE

4.1. An Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance of up to \$12,000 per financial year, may be accessed by all Councillors and Deputy Principal Members. The allowance may be accessed as follows:

- special meetings of full Council or established committees of Council;
- attendance at Local Authority Meetings within the Ward the member represents;

- attendance at any functions representing the Principal Member on official Council duties;
- attendance at functions/meetings as an invited representative of Council and with Council's approval; or
- attendance at any approved extra meetings of Council for planning, briefing or information sessions of council meetings.

The activity allowance may be paid as travel time when travelling to Council meetings and meetings of Local Authorities within the ward the Councillor represents, where the travel involves at least 50kms from home base (at least 100kms return). This activity Allowance is not to be included in the cap of \$12,000.

4.2. Allowances to be paid to eligible members (not including Principal Members) are:

- Fee for attendance at extra meetings or activities is the accumulated hours on any one day and are as follow:
 - up to 2 hours \$200
 - between 2 and 4 hours \$300
 - more than 4 hours \$500 (maximum payable for any one day)

4.3 Where a Councillor receives extra meeting allowance to represent the Mayor or Principal member at an official Council function, that extra meeting allowance will not be applied to the cap.

4.4 Where a Councillor attends the Executive Board of the Local Government Association of NT (LGANT) and receives an extra meeting allowance, that extra meeting allowance will not be applied to the cap.

4.5 Where a Councillor claims an allowance under 6.4, travel time is not to be included as part of the meeting allowance cap.

5. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE

5.1. The Professional Development Allowance is an inclusive allowance which covers costs associated with the Professional Development activities including registration and attendance fees, travel cost including vehicle allowance, travel allowances and travel time as specified in clause 4.2.

5.2. Any course or professional development activity must be specifically related to the role of the Councillor and be approved by the Council.

5.3. The amount available each year is based on a financial year allocation and calculated as follows:

- Following a general or by election, each elected member begins their term of office with a zero balance.
- From the first full calendar month after an election, members earn one-twelfth of the annual allocation for each month served per financial year.
- At the end of each financial year, up to 50% (or half), of the allocation unused can be carried forward to the next financial year.

5.4. The maximum annual amount allocated each financial year is as follows:

- for the 2025-2026 Financial Year: \$4,167; and
- for the 2026-2027 Financial Year: \$7,500.

- 5.5. Induction and Mandatory Departmental training can be claimed using the Extra Meeting Allowance “fee for attendance” rate and paid from the Professional Development Allowance. These amounts can be claimed after the completion of the necessary calendar months to cover the allocation.

6. VEHICLE ALLOWANCE

- 6.1. Vehicle Allowance will be available for travel undertaken by all Councillors when the travel:
- (a) exceeds 50kms from home base 100kms return;
 - (b) travel does not occur in a Council supplied and maintained vehicle;
 - (c) the Councillor is not in receipt of a motor vehicle allowance in Clause 7 below; and
 - (d) the vehicle allowance is capped at \$10,000.
- 6.2. Vehicle Allowance will be in the form of kilometre allowance which will be paid at rates set by the Australian Taxation Office each year, currently 88 cents per kilometre for 2024-25.
- 6.3. Vehicle Allowance will be available in the following circumstances, where travel is to and from:
- (a) statutory Council meetings;
 - (b) official Council approved meeting;
 - (c) approved functions representing the Principal Member;
 - (d) Local Authority Meetings within the ward the Councillor represents;
 - (e) all meetings of Council and their committees; or
 - (f) any additional activity where Extra Meeting/Activity Allowance has been approved.
- 6.4. When a kilometre reimbursement is paid, travel time will also be paid utilising extra meetings/activities rate. This payment is not to be included in the extra meetings/activities cap as specified in Clause 4.1.
- 6.5. The Vehicle Allowance Cap will not include:
- travel to and from Local Authorities Meetings within the Ward that the member represents; and
 - travel involved with Professional Development activities.

7. PROVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE


- 7.1. Principal Members of Municipal and Regional Councils are entitled to a Council maintained vehicle.
- 7.2. If Principal Members of Municipal and Regional Councils choose not to be provided with a Council maintained vehicle, they are entitled to Motor Vehicle Allowance, paid fortnightly or monthly, and will be:
- \$25,000 per year for Municipal Principal Members; or
 - \$40,000 per year for Regional Principal Members.
- 7.3. The Principal members of the Shire Councils may claim reimbursement in accordance with Clause 6.1.

8. TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

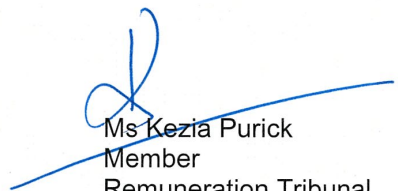
- 8.1 Principal Members, Deputy Principal Members and Councillors who are required to stay away from home overnight on approved Council business, will be entitled to Travel Allowance.
- 8.2 The applicable rates to be paid are found in Table 1 of [Taxation Determination TD 2025/4](#) or any subsequent Taxation Determination made in substitution of that Determination.

9. GENERAL


- 9.1. Pursuant to section 7B(7) of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*, the allowances determined are effective from either:
- the next financial year if the report is made on or before 1 February; or
 - from the financial year after the next financial year if the report is made after 1 February.



Mr Gary Higgins
Chairperson
Remuneration Tribunal



Ms Kezia Purick
Member
Remuneration Tribunal



Ms Lynne Walker
Member
Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 9 December 2025

ORIGINAL PAPER

No. 630
Laid on the table
12 / 03 / 2026

**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

*Assembly Members and Statutory Officers
(Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*

**DETERMINATION OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF
LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

REPORT ON DETERMINATION NO. 1 OF 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

On 30 July 2025, pursuant to section 7E(1) of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006* (AMSORE Act), His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM, Administrator of the Northern Territory, issued a request to the Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) to inquire into and determine the allowance or allowances payable to a member of a local authority.

The resulting Report and Determination must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly within six sitting days of receipt by the Minister.

Under section 7E(9) of the AMSORE Act, the allowances determined are effective from either:

- the next financial year if the report is made on or before 1 February; or
- from the financial year after the next financial year if the report is made after 1 February.

On 9 September 2025, individual letters were sent to each Local Government Council inviting submissions and offered to hold a discussion with each Council either in person or through a video link. On 13 September 2025, an advertisement was placed in the NT News to announce the inquiry and invite submissions

In their submissions to the Remuneration Tribunal for the Local Government inquiry, some Councils did mention Local Authorities, but no major items were canvassed.

2. CURRENT SITUATION

There are Local Authorities within ten Regional Councils and the number of Local Authorities in these Councils range from three to thirteen. The allowance for members to attend meetings was increased in the 2023 Inquiry.


The Tribunal considers that the existing allowances are appropriate.



Mr Gary Higgins
Chairperson
Remuneration Tribunal



Ms Kezia Purick
Member
Remuneration Tribunal



Ms Lynne Walker
Member
Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 9 December 2025



**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

*Assembly Members and Statutory Officers
(Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*

**DETERMINATION OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF
LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

DETERMINATION NO. 1 OF 2026

Under section 7E of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*, the Tribunal determines as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

'Local Authority' is defined in the *Local Government Act 2019* as established by a Council under section 76.

'The Chair of a Local Authority' is defined in the *Local Government Act 2019* as in section 98.

'A Member of a Local Authority' is defined in the *Local Government Act 2019* as a member of an audit committee, a council, a council committee of a local authority.

'Financial Year' is the period from 1 July to 30 June.

2. ALLOWANCES

The following allowance will be paid for each meeting of a Local Authority.

The Chair of a Local Authority will be paid as follows:

If the meeting is held up to 2 hours	\$300
If the meeting is held between 2 to 4 hours	\$450
If the meeting is held for more than 4 hours	\$600

A Member of a Local Authority will be paid as follows:

If the meeting is held up to 2 hours	\$200
If the meeting is held between 2 to 4 hours	\$300
If the meeting is held for more than 4 hours	\$400

3. GENERAL

3.1. Pursuant to section 7E(9) of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*, the allowances determined are effective from either:

- the next financial year if the report is made on or before 1 February; or
- from the financial year after the next financial year if the report is made after 1 February.



Mr Gary Higgins
Chairperson
Remuneration Tribunal



Ms Kezia Purick
Member
Remuneration Tribunal



Ms Lynne Walker
Member
Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 9 December 2025

Council Member Allowances 2026

Frequently Asked Questions



Council Member Allowances 2026

Document title	Council Member Allowances 2026
Contact details	Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development
Approved by	Beck Stavrou, Executive Director Local Government and Community Development
Date approved	9 February 2026
Document review	Annual
TRM number	38-F26-604

Version	Date	Author	Changes made
1.0	January 2026	Local Government and Community Development	
2.0	February 2026	Local Government and Community Development	Minor amendments

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Council Member Allowances 2026

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document has been prepared to reflect Report and Determination No. 1 of 2026 – Allowances for Members of Local Government Councils (the 2026 Determination). It is intended to assist councillors and council staff to understand how the allowances operate alongside the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act) and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* (the Regulations).

This document is explanatory only and does not form part of the Determination.

1. Overview

What is the 2026 Determination?

The 2026 Determination is made by the Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal under the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006* (AMSORE Act). It sets the annual allowances payable to councillors, deputy principal members and principal members of local government councils.

When does the 2026 Determination take effect?

The allowances apply from 1 July 2026, in accordance with section 7B(7) of the AMSORE Act.

2. Key Changes

The Tribunal has made the following key changes in the 2026 Determination:

- The Professional Development Allowance has increased to \$7,500 per financial year.
- Councillors' allowances have increased by 3 per cent.
- The Mayoral Allowance has increased by \$2,000 to recognise increased meeting and activity demands.
- The Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance cap has increased to \$12,000 per councillor per financial year.
- Induction and mandatory departmental training are not counted towards the Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance cap and are instead accessed through the Professional Development Allowance.

3. Allowances

Will the council need to make a decision to adopt the allowances?

No. A council decision is not required. The Determination sets the value of the Councillors Allowance, Deputy Principal Members Additional Allowance and Principal Members Additional Allowance.

The Determination shows an annual allowance, does that mean the full allowance is paid once per year?

No, the Determination sets the maximum annual allowances for each council. Allowances are to be paid fortnightly or monthly.

Do the deputy principal member and principal member also get the Councillor's Allowance?

Yes, the allowances determined for Deputy Principal Members Additional Allowance and Principal Members Additional Allowance are in addition to the Councillor's Allowance.

4. Coverage of Allowances

What can allowances be used for?

All allowances are intended to cover the following items, and other reasonable costs of a similar nature, incurred in the performance of council member duties:

- costs of attending council meetings and activities not otherwise reimbursed;
- phone and internet usage;
- home office costs and supplies; and
- reasonable costs associated with servicing constituents, including donations, sponsorships, memberships and patron expenses.

The Determination sets what is covered by all allowances, including a contribution towards routine expenses such as phone and internet usage. These costs are intended to be met from the allowances.

Items not covered as separate allowances

Councils must not pay separate allowances for matters already included in the Determination. However, this does not prevent a council, subject to its policies, from providing equipment (as a phone, computer or related devices) or reimbursing reasonable costs associated with the purchase of such equipment, where this does not constitute the payment of an additional allowance.

5. Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance

What is the maximum Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance?

The maximum allowance is \$12,000 per councillor per financial year.

Who can access this allowance?

All councillors and deputy principal members may access the allowance. The principal member is not entitled to this allowance.

What activities qualify?

Eligible activities include:

- special council or committee meetings;
- local authority meetings within the councillor's ward;
- approved functions representing the principal member;
- approved meetings attended as a council representative; and
- approved planning, briefing or information sessions.

How is the allowance calculated?

The allowance is calculated on total hours attended in a single day:

- up to 2 hours – \$200
- between 2 and 4 hours – \$300
- more than 4 hours – \$500 (maximum per day)

Is travel time included?

Travel time may be paid as part of the allowance for travel exceeding 50 kms from your home base (100 kms return). This travel time does not count toward the \$12,000 cap.

6. Professional Development Allowance

What is the Professional Development Allowance?

The Professional Development Allowance is an inclusive allowance to support councillors' professional development activities.

What is the annual amount?

The Professional Development Allowance is allocated on a financial year basis and calculated in accordance with section 5.3 of the Determination, with further detail provided in section 5.4 of the Determination. The standard (average) allowance available is \$7,500 per councillor per financial year.

What does it cover?

The Professional Development Allowance covers registration fees, travel, accommodation, vehicle costs, travel allowance and travel time associated with approved professional development. Any course or professional development activity must be specifically related to the role of the councillor and be approved by Council.

Can unused allowance be carried forward?

Up to 50 per cent of the annual allocation may be carried forward into the next financial year.

7. Vehicle Allowance

When can a councillor claim the Vehicle Allowance?

A councillor may claim the Vehicle Allowance when:

- travel exceeds 50 kms from home base.
- a council vehicle is not used; and
- the councillor is not receiving the Motor Vehicle Allowance for principal members.

What is the cap?

The Vehicle Allowance is capped at \$10,000 per financial year.

What rate applies?

Kilometres are reimbursed at the cents per kilometre rate set annually by the Australian Taxation Office.

8. Provision of motor vehicle

Who is entitled to a council vehicle?

Principal members of municipal and regional councils are entitled to a council-maintained vehicle.

Can a principal member choose an allowance instead?

Yes. A principal member may elect to receive a motor vehicle allowance instead of a council vehicle:

- \$25,000 per year for municipal principal members; or
- \$40,000 per year for regional principal members.

9. Travel Allowance

When is Travel Allowance payable?

Travel Allowance is payable when a councillor, deputy principal member or principal member is required to stay away from home overnight on approved council business.

Which rates apply?

Rates are set by the applicable Australian Taxation Office Taxation Determination in force at the time of travel.

10. Compliance and governance

Do councils have to follow the Determination?

Yes. Section 106 of the *Local Government Act 2019* requires allowances to be paid in accordance with the Tribunal's Determination.



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, 21 April 2026 at 5:30pm in the Gray Community Hall, Corner of Essington Avenue and Victoria Drive, Gray, 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



2nd ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 17 MARCH 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

UNCONFIRMED



Minutes of Council Meeting
held in Council Chambers
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
on Tuesday 17 March 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

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Walsh
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Nadine Nilon
General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta
General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl
General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight
Minute Secretary, Kate Roberts
Executive Assistant Community, Tonisha Nykamp

GALLERY

Nil members of the public
7 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 5.30pm.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

4.1 Elected members

Moved: Councillor Bayliss
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT the Declaration of Interest received from Mayor Pascoe-Bell for Item 12.1.5 be received and noted.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0286 - 17/03/2026

4.2 Staff

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of minutes

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hale
Seconded: Councillor Kanyai

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 March 2026 pages 12060 to 12069 be confirmed.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0287 - 17/03/2026

Initials: _____

5.2 Business arising from previous meeting

Nil

6 MAYORAL REPORT

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Hale

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

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0288 - 17/03/2026

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)

Nil

9 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

9.1 Moving confidential items into open

9.1.1 Leave of Absence Requests

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Hale

3. THAT the leave of absence request received from Councillor Morrison for 12 March 2026 to 16 March 2026 inclusive, for the reason of a holiday, be approved.
6. THAT the leave of absence request received from Acting Mayor Hale for 27 February 2026 to 4 March 2026 inclusive, for the reason of holiday, 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

Initials: _____

9.1.2 Request For Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Councillor Waters

3. THAT Council approve the request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing received from Councillor Morrison who will be physically prevented from attending a meeting for the period 12 March 2026 to 16 March 2026 inclusive, due to being on holiday.
5. THAT Council approve the request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing received from Acting Mayor Hale who will be physically prevented from attending a meeting for the period 27 February 2026 to 4 March 2026, due to holiday.
6. THAT this decision be moved to the open minutes following the Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing.

CARRIED (6/0) - 11/0198 - 20/01/2026

9.1.3 Leave of Absence Requests

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hale
Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

1. THAT the leave of absence request received from Deputy Mayor Hale for 5 March 2026 to 9 March 2026 inclusive, for the reason of holiday, 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

9.1.4 Request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Councillor Waters

1. THAT Council approve the request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing received from Deputy Mayor Damian Hale who will be physically prevented from attending a meeting on Tuesday 3 March 2026, due to holiday.
2. THAT this decision be moved to the open minutes following the Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0223 - 3/02/2026

Initials: _____

9.1.5 Leave of Absence Requests**Moved: Councillor Waters****Seconded: Councillor Bayliss**

3. THAT the leave of absence request received from Councillor Waters for 2 March to 6 March 2026 inclusive, for the reason of business travel, be approved.
6. THAT each decision be moved to the Open Minutes at expiry of the leave of absence.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0253 - 17/02/2026**9.1.6 Request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing****Moved: Deputy Mayor Hale****Seconded: Councillor Bayliss**

1. THAT Council approve the request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing received from Councillor Waters who will be physically prevented from attending a meeting on 3 March 2026, due to business travel.
2. THAT Council approve the request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing received from Councillor Waters who will be physically prevented from attending a meeting on 17 March 2026, due to business travel.
3. THAT Council approve the request for Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing received from Deputy Mayor Hale who will be physically prevented from attending a meeting on 3 March 2026, due to business travel.
4. THAT this decision be moved to the open minutes following the Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0254 - 17/02/2026**9.2 Moving open items into confidential**

Nil

9.3 Confidential items**Moved: Councillor Henderson****Seconded: Councillor Bayliss**Initials:

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
26.1.1	Council Committee Recommendations	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 that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.
26.1.2	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	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)(i) 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 cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.
26.1.3	Legal Advice	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)(d) 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 subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

Initials: _____

26.1.4	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	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)(i) 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 cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.
26.2.1	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	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)(i) 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 cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0289 - 17/03/2026

10 PETITIONS

Nil

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

Initials: _____

12 OFFICER REPORTS

12.1 Action reports

12.1.1 Laneway Closure Request – Astrolabe Court Woodroffe

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

1. THAT Report entitled Laneway Closure Request – Astrolabe Court Woodroffe be received and noted.
2. THAT following consideration of the Laneway Closure – Astrolabe to Emery Ave application received 20 December 2025, a temporary part-time closure treatment is implemented within the first quarter of 2026-27.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0290 – 17/03/2026

12.1.2 Council Policy Review - Procurement Policy

Moved: Councillor Waters
Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

1. THAT Report entitled Council Policy Review - Procurement Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the amended Procurement Policy at **Attachment 12.1.2.3**.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0291 – 17/03/2026

12.1.3 Risk Management and Audit Committee Open Minutes February 2026

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Hale

1. THAT Report entitled Risk Management and Audit Committee Open Minutes February 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT the unconfirmed Risk Management and Audit Committee minutes provided at **Attachment 12.1.3.1** to Report entitled Risk Management and Audit Committee Open Minutes February 2026 be received and noted.

Initials: _____

3. THAT Council adopts the recommendations from the Risk Management and Audit Committee meeting held Thursday 26 February 2026, as follows:
 - a. THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee recommend to Council that the following item can be removed from the Action Report at Attachment 10.1.1.1.
 - i. Risk Management & Audit Committee Annual Work Plan RMA11/005.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0292 - 17/03/2026

12.1.4 Council Policy Review – Alcohol Management Policy

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT Report entitled Council Policy Review – Alcohol Management Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the amended Alcohol Management Policy at **Attachment 12.1.4.3.** to Report entitled Alcohol Management Policy, with the following amendments:
 - a. Section 3 is amended to include:
 - i. Community Plan – Family and Community “Palmerston is a safe, friendly, family city...” – Measure of success: Reduce Crime specifically a reduction in alcohol fuelled violence; Strategy under objective 1.2 social implications.
 - ii. Amenity and Social Conditions of the area.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0293 - 17/03/2026

Mayor Pascoe-Bell declared a conflict of interest and left the Chamber at 5.40pm. Deputy Mayor Hale assumed the Chair.

Initials:

12.1.5 Community Funding Program Grant Application - Palmerston Magpies**Moved: Councillor Fraser****Seconded: Councillor Bayliss**

1. THAT Report entitled Community Funding Program Grant Application - Palmerston Magpies be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse payment of \$10,000 sponsorship through the Community Funding Program for 1 year with an option to review at the end of the funding period.
3. THAT Council request a review of the Community Funding Program Guidelines with a report for consideration to be provided by 2nd Ordinary Council meeting in June 2026.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0294 - 17/03/2026*Mayor Pascoe-Bell returned to the Chamber at 5.56pm and resumed the Chair.***12.1.6 Community Funding Program Grant Application - Palmerston Rovers Football Club Inc****Moved: Councillor Fraser****Seconded: Councillor Kanyai**

1. THAT Report entitled Community Funding Program Grant Application - Palmerston Rovers Football Club Inc be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse Option One (1) - The Palmerston Rovers Football Club Incorporated sponsorship application for \$10,000 through the Community Funding Program.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0295 - 17/03/2026Initials:

12.1.7 Appointment of Deputy Mayor - 12 April 2026 to 5 November 2026

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

1. THAT Report entitled Appointment of Deputy Mayor - 12 April 2026 to 5 November 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council appoint Councillor Bayliss as Deputy Mayor in accordance with the Appointment of Deputy Mayor Policy, for a period of 207 days from 12 April 2026 to 5 November 2026 inclusive.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0296 – 17/03/2026

12.2 Receive and note reports

12.2.1 Financial Report for the Month of February 2026

Moved: Councillor Bayliss
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

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

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0297 – 17/03/2026

12.2.2 Major Capital Projects Update

Moved: Councillor Waters
Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

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

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0298 – 17/03/2026

13 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 Information

Nil

Initials: _____

13.2 Correspondence

13.2.1 Call for Nominations - NT Heritage Council

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT correspondence dated 10 March 2026 entitled Call for Nominations - NT Heritage Council be received and noted.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0299 - 17/03/2026

14 REPORT OF DELEGATES

Nil

15 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hale
Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

1. THAT the question asked by Deputy Mayor Hale regarding E-Scooters at Sanctuary Lakes, and the response provided by the Chief Executive Officer be received and noted.
2. THAT the question asked by Councillor Fraser regarding E-Scooter concerns and education at schools, and the response provided by the Chief Executive Officer be received and noted.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0300 - 17/03/2026

16 GENERAL BUSINESS

16.1 Australian Institute of Company Directors Courses

Moved: Councillor Bayliss
Seconded: Councillor Kanyai

THAT Council seek information from the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory for further courses available to Elected Members in relation to Risk Management and Finance from the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0301 - 17/03/2026

Initials: _____

16.2 Appreciation to Civil Operations staff

Moved: Councillor Waters
Seconded: Councillor Fraser

THAT Council thank staff for their quick response to pot holes.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0302 - 17/03/2026

17 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 7 April 2026 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0303 - 17/03/2026

18 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

Moved: Councillor Bayliss
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

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) - 11/0304 - 17/03/2026

19 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

Moved: Councillor Kanyai
Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

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

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0305 - 17/03/2026

The meeting adjourned at 6.37pm.

The open section of the meeting closed at 6.37pm for the discussion of confidential matters.

Initials: _____



The closed section of the meeting reopened at 6.45pm.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.48pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

UNCONFIRMED

Initials: _____