



MINUTES
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
19th MAY 2026
5:00pm

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1. NOTICE OF MEETING

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

Date: 19th May 2026
Time: 5.00 pm
Location: Council Chambers
22 Cameron Road, Batchelor NT 0845

Any member of Council and staff who may have a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest regarding any item of business to be discussed at a Council meeting should declare that conflict of interest to enable Council to manage the conflict and resolve it in accordance with its obligations under the *Local Government Act 2019*.

The Ordinary Meeting of Council was open to the public and adhered to COVID Safety Plan requirements, including optional wearing a mask, appropriate physical distancing, and health, and hygiene requirements.

The meeting was recorded for minuting purposes only.



Natasha Chapman

Acting Chief Executive Officer.

RESOLUTION 2026/06/20/003

That the Public Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 19th May 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: Cllr. Roe

Seconded: DP Whatley

Carried 5/1

MINUTES

ORDINARY GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BATCHELOR

ON 19th MAY 2026

The President of the Council, Mr. Ross McGorman declared the meeting open at 5:00 pm and welcomed all in attendance.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land commonly referred to as Coomalie. I pay my respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

3. PERSONS PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

President	Ross McGorman
Deputy President	Chris Whatley
Councillor	Sharon Beswick
Councillor	Mae Mae Morrison
Councillor	Alan Roe
Councillor	Greg Strettles

STAFF PRESENT

Acting Chief Executive Officer	Natasha Chapman
Acting Corporate Service Manager	Luke Ackland
Council and Community Services Manager	Emma Dunne
Executive Services Coordinator	Terrill Forrest

VISITORS PRESENT

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Date: 19th May 2026

Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil.

PURPOSE

This report is to table for Council's record any apologies and requests for leave of absence received for the Ordinary General Meeting held on 19th May 2026.

NIL

5. ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

Date: 19th May 2026

Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil.

PURPOSE

This report is to table, for Council's record, any requests, and permissions for Electronic Attendance.

NIL

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Date: 19th May 2026

Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil.

PURPOSE

Members and Staff are required to disclose an interest in a matter under consideration by the Council at a meeting of the Council by:

1) In the case of a matter featured in an officer's report or written agenda item by disclosing the interest to the Council by disclosure as soon as possible after the matter is raised.

2) In the case of a matter raised in general debate or by any means other than the printed agenda of the Council by disclosure as soon as possible after the matter is raised. Under disclosure, the member or staff member must abide by the decision of Council on whether he/ she shall remain in the meeting and/ or take part in the issue. The Council may elect to allow the member or staff member to provide further and better particulars of the interest prior to requesting him/ her to leave the Chambers.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/001

That Council receives the declarations of interest as listed for the Ordinary General Meeting held 19th May 2026:

21.5 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT PROGRESS REPORT - President McGorman

21.5 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT PROGRESS REPORT – Clr. Beswick

Moved: Clr. Beswick

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

7. MOVING AGENDA ITEMS FROM PUBLIC TO CONFIDENTIAL

NIL

8. MOVING AGENDA ITEMS FROM CONFIDENTIAL TO PUBLIC

NIL

9. PETITIONS

NIL

10. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

10.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES OF 21ST APRIL 2026

Date: 19th May 2026

Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: [DRAFT Public Meeting Minutes of 21st April 2026](#)

PURPOSE

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 21st April 2026 are submitted to Council for confirmation that those Minutes are a true and correct record of the meeting.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/002

That the Public Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 21st April 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: Clr. Morrison

Seconded: DP Whatley

Carried

11. PRESIDENT REPORT

Date: 19th May 2026

Author: Ross McGorman, President

Attachment: [NIL](#)

PURPOSE

To update Council on the activities of the President since the last Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) for the period of April 2026 to May 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/003

That Council receives and notes the President's Report for the period of April 2026 to May 2026.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To update Council on the activities of the Chief Executive Officer since the last Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) for the period of April to May 2026.

RESOLUTION: 2026/05/19/004

That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officers Report for the period of April to May 2026.

Moved: Clr. Strettles

Seconded: DP Whatley

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Horse Sanctuary unavailable to assist this financial year – private property investigation.
- Shire Plan time frame - Council to consider draft handed out tonight. Special meeting ASAP as the deadline is 8th June to open for public consultation.
- Hook bins on order with an estimated 3-month construction time, should be expecting delivery by end of May.
- Road weight limit restrictions expected to be lifted as conditions permit over the next month. Communications will be issued when lifted.
- Vet day cancelled in Adelaide River due to lack of bookings received.

13. FINANCE REPORTS

13.1 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Luke Ackland, Acting Corporate Services Manager Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide a summary of the financial position of Council for the period ending 30th April 2026. In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 – Part 2 Division 7*, the preceding month's financial report must be presented to Council. Regulation 17(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* requires a monthly report from the Chief Executive Officer to provide council with the actual income and expenditure for the year to date; the most recently adopted annual budget; and details of any material variances between the most recent actuals and the most recently adopted annual budget.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/005

That Council;

a) notes the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) certifies to the best of her knowledge, information, and the belief that the internal controls implemented by Council are appropriate, and that Council's financial report best reflects the financial affairs of Council; and

b) receives and notes the monthly financial report for April 2026.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Rates arrears (debtors) have increased as the 4th instalment has now passed and everything outstanding is now in arrears.

14. REPORTS REQUIRING DECISIONS OF COUNCIL

14.1 COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2026/27

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Luke Ackland, Acting Corporate Services Manager
Attachment:	COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2026/27

PURPOSE

To present the draft Community Engagement Plan 2026/27 for adoption by Council to strengthen meaningful, inclusive, and transparent engagement with residents, stakeholders, businesses, and community organisations across the Council area.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/006

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report entitled Council Community Engagement Plan 2026/27; and
- b) adopts the Community Engagement Plan 2026/27 with minor adjustments as discussed.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Roe

Carried 5/1

Against: Clr. Beswick

Discussion Points:

- Amendments to clearly identify additional stakeholders including critical service providers and emergency management committees and response groups.
- Engagement activities are identified as a minimum standard for Council to work to and can be increased depending on Council and the community's needs.
- Communication between Council and the community is a two-way process and the document captures mechanisms for ensuring this is followed.

14.2 AMENDED REQUEST TO INSTALL MEMORIAL PLAQUES AT RUM JUNGLE LAKE

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Photo of Memorial Rock, Rum Jungle Lake

PURPOSE

To seek Council's consideration for approval for the installation of a larger plaque for the last child, Janet, on the Litchfield Memorial Rock in place of the previously approved plaque.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/007

That Council;

a) receives and notes the report entitled Amended Request to Install Memorial Plaques at Rum Jungle Lake;

b) approves the change in plaque size to 30 cm x 20 cm for the last child of Gladys and Boyne Litchfield, Janet, to be installed at the base of the Litchfield Memorial Rock; and

c) reconfirms the replacement of the current plaque for Gladys Litchfield with a plaque sized 12 cm x 17 cm.

Moved: Clr. Strettles

Seconded: DP Whatley

Carried

14.3 ART SHOW STRATEGIC PLANNING REPORT

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer Andrew Roberts, Community Services Coordinator
Attachment:	Draft Art Show Marketing Plan

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a strategic assessment of the proposed 2026 Art Show and present options for ongoing event delivery, including consideration of an annual versus biennial event model, indicative budget projections, and a community engagement action plan to inform 2026/27 budget deliberations.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/008

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report entitled Art Show Strategic Planning;
- b) approves the Art Show to transition to a biennial event, commencing from 2027; and
- c) approves the Coomalie Bush and Beyond theme for the 2027 Art Show.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Current resourcing constraints and the capacity to deliver a high-quality event with the upcoming Council commitments were considered.
- Transition to a biennial event to allow increased promotion over the next 12-month period to re-engage the community.

14.4 COOMALIE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Andrew Roberts, Community Services Coordinator Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide Council with options regarding Christmas celebrations within the Coomalie Shire region.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/009

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report entitled Coomalie Christmas Celebrations;
- b) requests the Acting Chief Executive Officer to proceed with planning for 2026 Christmas Celebrations by coordinating a family-oriented afternoon/evening event in Batchelor incorporating Carols and Santa Run; and
- c) approves a \$200 donation to Adelaide River Show Society for the 2026 Children's Christmas Tree event.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Morrison

Carried 5/5

Clr. Morrison not present for vote.

Discussion Points:

- Desire to provide a whole of community event that combines multiple existing events in the Shire to be more inclusive for all community members.
- Goal is to coordinate multiple community groups to actively participate in the delivery of an inclusive event.

Procedural Notes:

DP Whatley left the meeting at 5.57pm and returned at 5:59pm.

Clr. Morrison left the meeting at 6:03pm and returned at 6:09pm.

14.5 CORPORATE CREDIT CARD ARRANGEMENT

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Luke Ackland, Acting Corporate Services Manager
Attachment:	Council Policy 2.5 Credit Cards Policy

PURPOSE

To seek Council approval to increase the credit card limit for the Acting Chief Executive Officer.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/010

That Council;

a) approves the increase in corporate credit card limit to \$4,000 for Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer; and

d) authorises the Corporate Services Manager to arrange the update of the credit card facilities in accordance with Council Policy 2.5 Credit Cards Policy.

Moved: **Clr. Beswick**

Seconded: **Clr. Strettles**

Carried

14.6 LGANT NOVEMBER 2026 CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To seek Council's approval of elected members to attend the LGANT Annual General Meeting and November 2026 Conference in Alice Springs on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th November 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/011

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report entitled LGANT November 2026 Conference Attendance;
- b) confirms the attendance of President McGorman, Deputy President Whatley, Clr. Beswick, Clr. Morrison and the CEO at the LGANT November 2026 Conference, including the dinner, in Alice Springs on 10th and 11th November 2026; and
- c) request the Acting Chief Executive Officer make all required bookings and registrations as early as possible in the 2026/27 Financial year with available professional development allowances.

Moved: Clr. Morrison

Seconded: Clr. Beswick

Carried 5/1

Against: Clr. Strettles

Discussion Points:

- Queries on value to the community for attending the conferences and what information/actions come back to the Councillors/operations from attendees.

14.7 REQUEST FOR MUNZ ROAD UPGRADE

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Luke Ackland, Acting Corporate Services Manager
Attachment:	Munz Road Map

PURPOSE

To consider a request from a ratepayer for the upgrade of Munz Road following cyclone damage, and to seek an increase in the road's tonnage weight limit to improve access for essential and freight vehicles.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/012

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report entitled Request for Munz Road Upgrade;
- b) does not approve the request to upgrade Munz Road to increase its tonnage weight limit, noting that works to bring the road back to a usable condition are already scheduled as part of routine road maintenance;
- c) requests the CEO to organise signage identifying varied load limits in the wet season; and
- d) notes upgrading of Munz Road may be considered in the future in accordance with planned management of roads

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: President McGorman

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Currently scheduled repair works on Munz Road discussed including contractor requirements for obtaining gravel and quality controls.
- Queries regarding procurement process and pricing through the period contract if resources are 'donated' by a landholder to the contractor/Council.

15. REPORTS FOR RECEIVING AND NOTING

15.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS FOR THE MARCH OGM 2026

Date: 19th May 2026

Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Attachments: [Actions for the March OGM 2026.](#)

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/013

That Council;

a) receives and notes the Actions for the May 2026 OGM; and

b) remove items: 8 and 12.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: President McGorman

Carried

Procedural Note:

Clr. Strettles left the meeting at 6:51pm and returned at 6:52pm.

15.2 COMPLAINTS, COMPLIMENTS AND SERVICE REQUEST REGISTER.

Date: 19th May 2026

Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: [Complaints, Compliments and Service Request tables.](#)

PURPOSE

To update Council on complaints, compliments and service requests received during April 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/014

That Council receives and notes the Complaints, Compliments and Service Request Register during April 2026.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Roe

Carried

15.3 NOTICE OF GAZETAL OF CONDITIONAL RATES 2026/27

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	NT Government Gazette

PURPOSE

To brief Council on the Notice of Rateability of Conditionally Rateable Land for the 2026/27 financial year.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/015

That Council receives and notes the report entitled Notice of Gazettal of Conditional Rates 2026/27.

Moved: Clr. Strettles

Seconded: Clr. Roe

Carried 5/5

Clr. Morrison not present for vote.

Procedural Note:

Clr. Morrison left the meeting at 6:58pm and returned at 6:59pm.

15.4 ELECTRICITY PRICING REFORMS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Correspondence – Jacana Energy

PURPOSE

To notify Council of the NT Government's electricity pricing reforms and the implications for Council's service delivery and budgeting into the future.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/016

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report entitled Electricity Pricing Reforms for Local Government and the budget implications of the changes currently scheduled to be implemented from 2026/27; and
- b) request Acting Chief Executive Officer to investigate grants and other opportunities to improve electricity cost efficiencies.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Roe

Carried

16. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION.

16.1 INCOMING AND OUTGOING MAIL.

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.
Attachment:	Incoming and outgoing correspondence tables.

PURPOSE

Council is provided with items of correspondence both received and sent during the months of April 2026 to May 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/017		
That Council receives and notes the items of incoming and outgoing correspondence as tabled for April 2026 to May 2026 period.		
Moved:	Clr. Morrison	
Seconded:	President McGorman	Carried

17. COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

NIL

18. USE OF THE COMMON SEAL.

18.1 USE OF THE COMMON SEAL: FORM 48 – DISCHARGE OF STATUTORY CHARGE

Date:	19 th May 2026
Author:	Terrill Forrest, Executive Services Coordinator
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To seek Council's approval for the use of its Common Seal on a Discharge of Statutory Charge form.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/018		
That Council, pursuant to Section 38(2)(a)(b) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> , authorises its Common Seal to be affixed to Section 83 Form 48 – Discharge of Statutory Charge for property AN227.		
Moved:	DP Whatley	
Seconded:	Clr. Roe	Carried

19. LATE ITEMS AND URGENT BUSINESS.

NIL

20. GENERAL BUSINESS.

20.1 MOTION: CHANGE OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING DAY AND TIME

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/019

That Council:

- a) changes the general meeting day and time to the third Saturday of each month commencing 10:00am; and
- b) endorses the change to Council Policy 1.07 Council Meetings Policy to reflect the new meeting day and time.

Moved: Clr. Beswick

Seconded: Clr. Morrison

Carried

20.2 MOTION: COUNCILLOR FINANCIAL TRAINING

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/020

That Council requests the Acting Chief Executive Officer to arrange financial training and contractor panel training from Karl Hell, Independent member of Council's Risk Management and Audit Committee.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

Discussion Point:

- Council will be reviewing the draft Shire Plan and Budget 2026/27 in coming weeks and seeking additional financial training to assist with reviewing the budget and ongoing monthly finance reports.

21. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/021

That Council close the meeting to the general public in accordance with Regulation 51 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

Moved: Cllr Strettles

Seconded: Cllr Morrison

Carried

Procedural Note:

The meeting was closed to the public at 7:31pm.

The confidential meeting opened at 7:46pm.

21.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL MEETING MINUTES OF 21ST APRIL 2026

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51(1)(e) information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest

21.2 REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL ACTIONS FOR THE MAY 2026 OGM

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51(1)(e) information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.

21.3 LIQUOR LICENCE APPLICATION – OLD MT BUNDY RODEO

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51(1)(c) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to:

- (i) Cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

21.4 PROPOSED LEASE OF SECTION 68 HUNDRED OF WATERHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51(1)(c) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to:

- (ii) Cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

Procedural Note:

President McGorman and Cllr. Beswick left the meeting at 7:56pm.

DP Whatley became the Chair at 7:56pm.

21.5 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT PROGRESS REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51(1)(f) subject to subregulation (2) – information in relation to a complaint of a contravention of the code of conduct.

Procedural Note:

President McGorman and Clr Beswick returned to the meeting at 8:12pm.

President McGorman resumed as Chair at 8:12pm.

Clr. Strettles left the meeting at 8:12pm and returned at 8:13pm.

22. CONFIDENTIAL LATE ITEMS

NIL

Procedural Note:

Council staff left the meeting at 8:13pm.

23. CONFIDENTIAL GENERAL BUSINESS

23.1 MOTION: UPDATE ON CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MATTERS

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51 (a) information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual; and
(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity

24. DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL SECTION OF THE COUNCIL.

NIL

25. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

RESOLUTION 2026/05/19/028

That Council re-opens the meeting to the general public in accordance with Regulation 51 of *the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Roe

Carried

Procedural Note:

The meeting was reopened to the public at 8:32pm.

26. NEXT MEETING.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council is scheduled to be held on **20TH JUNE 2026 at 10:00am.**

27. CLOSURE OF MEETING. .

The meeting closed at 8:33pm.