AGENDA

RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2026

09:00am

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1. NOTICE OF MEETING

I hereby give notice that a Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting will be held on:

Date:	12th October 2026
Time:	09:00am
Location:	Council Chambers
	22 Cameron Road, Batchelor NT 0845

Any member of the Committee who may have a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest regarding any item of business to be discussed at a Risk Management and Audit Committee 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 Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting will be open to the public.

The meeting will be recorded for minuting purposes only.



Acting Chief Executive Officer

AGENDA

RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BATCHELOR

ON MONDAY 12th OCTOBER 2026 at 09:00am.

The Chairperson, Mr Robert Annis-Brown, will declare the meeting open at 09:00am and welcome 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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson	Robert Annis-Brown
Independent Member	Karl Hell
Deputy President	Chris Whatley
Councillor	Sharon Beswick

STAFF PRESENT

Acting Chief Executive Officer	Natasha Chapman

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Date:	12th October 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.
Attachments:	**Nil.**

PURPOSE

This report is to table for Committee's records, any apologies and requests for leave of absence received from Members of the Risk Management and Audit Committee for the meeting held 12th October 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee receive and notes the apologies of_____ absence for the Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting held on the 12th October 2026.

Moved:

Seconded:

COMMENT

The committee can choose to accept the apologies or requests for leave of absence as presented or not accept them. Apologies or requests for leave of absence that are not accepted by the committee will be recorded as absence without notice.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

Section 98 *Local Government Act 2019.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

Nil.

5. ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE.

Date:	12th October 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.
Attachments:	**Nil.**

PURPOSE

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee acknowledge and accepts _____ attendance to the meeting of 12th October 2026 via electronic means.

Moved:

Seconded:

COMMENT

The *Local Government Act 2019* provides for a member who is not physically present at a meeting is taken to be present at the meeting if:

(a) the member's attendance at the meeting by means of an audio or audio-visual conferencing system is authorised in accordance with a council resolution establishing a policy for attendance in such a manner.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

Section 98 *Local Government Act 2019.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

Nil.

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

Date:	12th October 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.
Attachments:	**Nil.**

PURPOSE

Members are required to disclose an interest in a matter under consideration by the Committee at a meeting of a committee 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 Committee by disclosure as soon as possible after the matter is raised. Under disclosure, the Member must abide by the decision of Committee on whether he/she shall remain in the meeting and/or take part in the vote on the issue. The committee may elect to allow the Member to provide further and better particulars of the interest prior to requesting him/her to leave the Chambers.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee receives the following declarations of interest as listed for the Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting held 12th October 2026.

Moved:

Seconded:

COMMENT.

Not applicable.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

Conflict of Interest – Code of Conduct.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

Not applicable.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

7.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

Date:	12th October 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	**Draft Public Minutes from 10th August 2026**

PURPOSE

Public Minutes from the meeting held on 10th August 2026 are to be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Minutes of the Risk Management and Audit Committee held on 10th August 2026 be confirmed by the Risk Management and Audit Committee as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved:

Seconded:

BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Nil.

COMMENT

Nil.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Section 101 *Local Government Act.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

7.1 ATTACHMENT: DRAFT PUBLIC MINUTES FROM 10th AUGUST 2026

MINUTES

RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY 10TH AUGUST 2026

10:00am

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DRAFT

1. NOTICE OF MEETING

I hereby give notice that a Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting was held on:

Date:	10th August 2026
Time:	10:00am
Location:	Council Chambers
	22 Cameron Road, Batchelor NT 0845

Any member of the Committee who may have a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest regarding any item of business to be discussed at a Risk Management and Audit Committee 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 Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting was open to the public.

The meeting was recorded for minuting purposes only.

Chapman

Acting Chief Executive Officer

DRAFT

MINUTES

RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BATCHELOR ON

MONDAY 10TH AUGUST 2026 at 10:00am.

The Chairperson, Mr Robert Annis-Brown, declared the meeting open at 10:00am 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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson	Robert Annis-Brown
Independent Member	Karl Hell
Deputy President	Chris Whatley
Councilor	Sharon Beswick

STAFF PRESENT

Acting Chief Executive Officer	Natasha Chapman
Acting Corporate Services Manager	Luke Ackland

DRAFT

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Date:	10th August 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.
Attachments:	Nil.

PURPOSE

This report is to table for Committee's records, any apologies and requests for leave of absence received from Members of the Risk Management and Audit Committee for the meeting held 10th August 2026.

NIL

5. ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE.

Date:	10th August 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.
Attachments:	Nil.

PURPOSE

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

NIL

DRAFT

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

Date:	10th August 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.
Attachments:	Nil.

PURPOSE

Members are required to disclose an interest in a matter under consideration by the Committee at a meeting of a committee 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 Committee by disclosure as soon as possible after the matter is raised. Under disclosure, the Member must abide by the decision of Committee on whether he/she shall remain in the meeting and/or take part in the vote on the issue. The committee may elect to allow the Member to provide further and better particulars of the interest prior to requesting him/her to leave the Chambers.

RESOLUTION: RMAC2026/08/10/001

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee received NO declarations of interest for the Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting held 10th August 2026.

Moved: **DP Whatley**

Seconded: **Member Hell** **Carried**

DRAFT

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

7.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

Date:	10th August 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	**Draft Public Minutes from 1st June 2026**

PURPOSE

Public Minutes from the meeting held on 1st June 2026 are to be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

RESOLUTION: RMAC2026/08/10/002

That the Public Minutes of the Risk Management and Audit Committee held on 1st June 2026 be confirmed by the Risk Management and Audit Committee as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: **Clr Beswick**

Seconded: **DP Whatley** **Carried**

Discussion Points:

- JLT presentation to Council - dates TBC
- Add LGANT benchmarking into actions
- Add Grant funds to actions - start new financial year

DRAFT

8. BUSINESS ARISING

8.1 BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Date:	10th August 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide the Risk Management and Audit Committee with a summary of the business arising from the previous meeting and actions taken.

RESOLUTION: RMAC/2026/08/10/003

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee confirm the business with the following inclusions arising from the meeting held on 1st June 2026.

a) Benchmark of delegations

b) Investments funds to include grant funds

Moved: **DP Whatley**

Seconded: **Clr Beswick** **Carried**

Discussion Points:

- Query whether Asset disposal regulations are being applied

DRAFT

9. OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 INCIDENTS AND CLAIMS – MAY TO JULY 2026

Date:	10th August 2026
Author:	Luke Auckland, Acting Corporate Services Manager
Attachments:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide the Risk Management and Audit Committee with updates on any incidents or claims in the period May 2026 to July 2026.

RESOLUTION: RMAC2026/08/10/004

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee receives and notes the report entitled Incidents and Claims – May to July 2026.

Moved: **DP Whatley**

Seconded: **Clr Beswick** **Carried**

9.2 JUNE 2026 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Date:	10th August 2026
Author:	Luke Ackland, Acting Corporate Services Manager
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide the Risk Management and Audit Committee with an update on the Council's financial position as at 30 June 2026.

RESOLUTION: RMAC2026/08/10/005

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee receives and notes the report entitled June 2026 Monthly Finance Report.

a) Table 2.1 to be recirculated to RMAC committee with updated Capital Grants Income

b) Table 1.1 to be recirculated to RMAC committee with updated Operating Grants and Subsidies

Moved: **DP Whatley**

Seconded: **Clr Beswick** **Carried**

Discussion Points:

- Query on the YTD Capital Grants Income $857k compared to Budget $249k
- Expansion of Commercial and Other Income (include Waste) – discussion of reporting against each service delivery function at quarterly reports. Query on the internal staff qualifications relating to financial oversight

9.3 LONG TERM FINANCIAL AND SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING REPORT REVIEW

Date:	10th August 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide the Risk Management and Audit Committee with the opportunity to discuss the long-term financial and sustainability planning requirements of the organisation moving into the 2026/2027 financial year.

RESOLUTION: RMAC/2026/08/10/006

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee;

a) receives and notes the report entitled Long Term Financial and Sustainability Planning; and

b) recommends that Council consider the following options:

- Investigate independent financial assessment which includes grant funding to have completed
- Consider in-house accountant/contract through accountant/shared service with other Council
- Metered charge for public water
- Fee for non-residents residential waste charge
- Charge for dump points in Batchelor and Adelaide River

notes future revenue through Rum Jungle Project

Moved: **DP Whatley**
Seconded: **Clr Beswick** **Carried**

Action Items:

- Take depreciation out of functions and add as a separately reported expenses to each function
- Employee expenses to be moved into each function lines as a separately reported line
- More detailed asset management plans for each service function
- Asset register
- Check Rum Jungle agreement clause that gravel pit and road is returned to current state

Procedural Note:
DP Whatley left the meeting at 11:17am.
DP Whatley returned at 11:19am.

9.4 REVIEW POLICY 1.15 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Date:	10th August 2026
Author:	Luke Ackland, Acting Corporate Services Manager
Attachment:	**1.15 Risk Management Policy**

PURPOSE

To seek the Risk Management and Audit Committee's recommendation to Council to update Council Policy 1.15 Risk Management Policy.

RESOLUTION: RMAC2026/08/10/007

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee;

a) receives and notes the report entitled Review of Council Policy 1.15 Risk Management Policy; and

b) defers Council Policy 1.15 Risk Management Policy review, until October 2026 RMAC meeting to include test case and benchmarking of policy against other LGA's.

Moved: **Clr Beswick**

Seconded: **DP Whatley** **Carried**

DRAFT

9.5 REVIEW POLICY 1.14 RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Date:	10th August 2026
Author:	Luke Ackland, Acting Corporate Services Manager
Attachment:	1.14 Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference Policy

PURPOSE

To seek the Risk Management and Audit Committee's recommendation to Council to update Council Policy 1.14 Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference Policy as part of its scheduled review prior to the policy's review date of January 2027.

RESOLUTION: RMAC2026/08/10/008

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee;

a) receives and notes the report entitled Review of Council Policy 1.14 Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference Policy; and

b) recommends to Council to amend Council Policy 1.14 Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference Policy, ahead of its scheduled review date of January 2027, to include the minor amendments at sections 2. Scope, 3. Definitions, 501 Risk Appetite, and 5.4 Monitoring and Review

Moved: **Clr Beswick**

Seconded: **Member Hell** **Carried**

DRAFT

9.6 COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2026

Date:	10th August 2026
Author:	Luke Ackland, Acting Corporate Services Manager
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to facilitate the Risk Management and Audit Committee's (RMAC) self-assessment of its performance against the Terms of Reference (TOR) for 2025–26, in line with Council Policy 1.14 and section 86 of *the Local Government Act 2019* (NT).

This report provides the framework and rating scale for members to complete the assessment. The assessment is to be completed individually by each RMAC member and returned to the Council's Executive Services Coordinator by Wednesday 30 September 2026, so that a consolidated report can be prepared and presented at the October 2026 RMAC meeting

RESOLUTION: RMAC2026/08/10/009

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee;

a) receives and notes the report titled Committee Performance Review 2026; and

b) confirms members will complete the individual member self-assessment using the framework and rating scale provided, with amendments and returns the completed assessment to the Council's Executive Services Coordinator by Wednesday 30 September 2026.

Moved: **DP Whatley**

Seconded: **Clr Beswick** **Carried**

Discussion Points:

- Committee to review specific risk assessments against previous agenda items completed (i.e. Long-Term Financial planning)
- Circulate DRAFT minutes to committee members before being published online within the 10 business days
- Chair to meet with auditor

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 Batchelor Brumbies and Council Risk

MOTION:
RESOLUTION: RMAC2026/08/10/010

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee;

a) acknowledges that there is a potential risk for the Council, community and stakeholders and recommends that Council remove all of the horses; and

b) recommends that Council formally writes to the CEO of Department of Land, Planning and Environment, NT Police, Department of Health, Careflight, and the local member to seek their direct assistance in removal of horses.

Moved: **DP Whatley**

Seconded: **Clr Beswick** **Carried**

Discussion Point:

- Contact Litchfield Council regarding their horse issue on Jenkins Road

11. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

RESOLUTION: RMAC2026/08/10/011

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

Moved: **Clr Beswick**

Seconded: **DP Whatley** **Carried**

Procedural Note:
The meeting was closed to the public at 12:28pm.

DRAFT

11.1 CONFIRMATION OF CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

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.

11.2 DRAFT RISK REGISTER

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulation 51(1) For section 293(1) of the Act, the following information is prescribed as confidential:(c) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to:
(iv) subject to subregulation (3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person

Procedural Note:
Acting Corporate Services Manager left the meeting at 12:42pm.

11.3 INSURANCE CLAIM PROGRESS REPORT

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

12. DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL SECTION OF THE COUNCIL

NIL

13. RE-OPENING OF THE MEETING

RESOLUTION: RMAC2026/08/10/015

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

Moved: **Member Hell**

Seconded: **DP Whatley** **Carried**

Procedural Note:
The meeting was reopened to the public at 12:52pm.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next Risk Management and Audit Committee meeting will be held at Batchelor on Monday **12th October 2026** at 10:00am.

15. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting was closed at 12:53pm.

8. BUSINESS ARISING

8.1 BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Date:	12th October 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide the Risk Management and Audit Committee with a summary of the business arising from the previous meetings and actions taken.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee confirm the business arising from the meeting held on 10th August 2026.

Moved:

Seconded:

Action Requested	Officer Responsible	Progress
RMAC recommendation to Council to write to stakeholders regarding Batchelor horses	CEO	Completed. Recommended to Council at August 2026 OGM. Correspondence sent.
RMAC Performance Self-assessments and report.	CEO	Completed. In October 2026 agenda.
Recommendation to Council to amend RMAC Terms of Reference before review date of January 2027	CEO	In Progress. To go to a Council OGM before January 2027.
Review of Risk Management Policy	CEO	To present at February 2027 meeting
Adjustments to Long-Term Financial Plan tables to clearly identify employee and depreciation expenses	CSM	In Progress
Investigation of independent financial assessment options; consideration by Council of alternative revenue streams suggested by RMAC	CEO	Not yet commenced. Independent financial assessment to align with development of Financial Management Plan and Strategic Plan.
LGANT Benchmarking of delegations	CEO/CSM	In Progress
Grant funds table to be included in finance reports from start of new FY	CEO/CSM	Completed – included in monthly finance reports.

Council to consider developing a Financial Management Plan in line with the new Strategic Plan starting 2027 Resolution RMAC2026/06/01/005	CEO/ Council	Not yet commenced. To commence with Strategic Plan work.
JLT Consultation at OGM	A/CEO	Completed – Information session on 7th September 2026

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

CCGC Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

9. OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 INCIDENTS AND CLAIMS – AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER 2026

Date:	12th October 2026
Author:	Luke Auckland, Acting Corporate Services Manager
Attachments:	**Nil**

PURPOSE

To provide the Risk Management and Audit Committee with updates on any incidents or claims in the period August 2026 to September 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee receives and notes the report entitled Incidents and Claims – August to September 2026.

Moved:

Seconded:

COMMENT

In the period August 2026 to September 2026, the following has been reported:

Incidents

	Near miss	Reportable incident	First Aid administered	Medical attention	Property damage	Other	**Total Incidents**
Property Damage						1	**1**
Injury							**0**
Aggressive behaviour						2	**2**

The reported incidents relate to:

- 2 incidents at the Batchelor Library involving children with weapons - Police reports lodged and meeting scheduled with BIITE senior staff.
- Incident involving unapproved camping at one of Council's outdoor facilities.

1/3 incidents have been investigated and resolved.
2 pending incidents requiring further investigation and meeting with stakeholders.

Claims

	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	**Total Claims**	Actions Completed	Actions Outstanding
In Progress			1	**1**	Liability accepted by insurer	Claim closure/finalisation

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

CONSULTATION

JLT – Insurance Broker
GIO – Insurer
WALGA – Industrial Relations Advisor
NT Police – Batchelor Station

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

9.2 AUGUST 2026 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Date:	15th August 2026
Author:	Luke Ackland, Acting Corporate Services Manager
	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide the Risk Management and Audit Committee with an update on the Council's financial position as at 31st August 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee received and notes the report entitled August 2026 Monthly Finance Report.

Moved:

Seconded:

BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The monthly financial report Income and Expenditure Statement compares the actual income and expenditure to budget at two levels, firstly for the year to date (YTD), and secondly for the full year budget. Comparatives to full year are relevant if the income and expenditure is linear, otherwise the YTD budget comparison provides a clearer position. Ideally, the budget is accurately phased so that the amount allocated each month will match the pattern of income and expenditure.

COMMENT

Operating Income and Expenditure

Council's operating income is slightly higher than YTD, resulting from:

- An insurance reimbursement payment received within July 2026 for expenses from 2025/2026 financial year. This may require an adjustment to the end of 2025/26 FY accounts during audit processes.
- Commencement of charges for waste disposal at both the Adelaide River and Batchelor Waste Management Facility for all commercial users of the facilities, including local and non-local commercial users.
- Other revenue streams are slightly less than YTD, specifically investment and interest income is lower than YTD because of term deposit maturity dates.

Operating expenditure is less than YTD with the main variances resulting from:

- Some employee costs are recognised as payable from the beginning of the financial year however not yet expended. For example, training and uniforms costs are recognised from the beginning of the year as an employee could access training from 1 July 2026, even if it isn't spent immediately. Additionally, several positions within the organisation remain unfilled and therefore full salary budget is not being utilised currently.

- A portion of Elected Member Professional Development allowances are recognised as payable from 1 July 2026, even if not spent immediately, resulting in lower YTD expenditure.
- Depreciation expenses are lower than YTD budget, resulting from the changes in total assets held at the end of the last financial year. An adjustment to depreciation expense will be made at the first budget review based on the 2025/26 depreciation expenses.

Other expenses are higher than YTD budget as a result of the engagement of an external accountant to assist with the completion of the annual audit and preparation of the annual audited financial statements. It is intended to cover this expenditure by the underspent wages for the period with an adjustment at the first budget review.

Capital Works

- Adelaide River Oval - Driveway work completed.
- Adelaide River Cemetery Precinct works – Car parking/road upgrades completed.
- New Dual Cab Ute has been collected from the dealership (CONF2026/02/17/020).

Investments

- At 31 August 2026, Council held $2.7M in term deposits.
- At 31 August 2026, Council's cash at bank contained $1.38 Million of tied funding.
- Of the tied funding, $962k is grant funding for programs and projects.

Grants

Council received the following grant funding in August 2026:

- Financial Assistance Grants 2026-27 Quarter 1 Payment – Roads $38,376.
- Financial Assistance Grants 2026-27 Quarter 1 Payment - General Purpose $6,970.
- Council received notification of the2026/27 Financial Assistance Grant allocation, with a total allocation of $813,956 ($753,522 Roads and $60,434 General Purpose). This is an increase of $81,704 from the 2025/26 allocation.
- Final payment for LRCIP (Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program) Phase 4. Projects were completed last FY $136,165.

Rates

- 2026/27 Rates and Charges were issued in August 2026 with the first instalment due 25 September 2026.
- Any ratepayer who has not met their 2025/26 or earlier years rates obligations are considered in arrears in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019*.
- At 31 August 2026, Council's overdue rates are worth $476k. The overdue rates balances relate to rates and charges from previous financial years and continue to accrue interest until payment is received.
- At 31 August 2026, $192k is arrears from 2025-26 rates and charges, and $284k is arrears from previous financial years.
- At 31 August 2026, there are 19 properties that have a rates credit due to direct debit or payment plans being in place. The total of these applied credits is $18k.

Tax

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

- Pay As You Go (PAYG Withholdings) have been lodged with the Business Activity Statements (BAS) each month. The August PAYG Withholdings were submitted with the Business Activity Statement in September 2026.

- Business Activity Statements have been lodged by the due dates. The August BAS was lodged by the due date of 21st September 2026.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Regulation 17 *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

Certification by the CEO to the Council

Council Name:	COOMALIE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL
Reporting Period:	31-August-26

That, to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief:
(1) The internal controls implemented by the council are appropriate; and
(2) The council's financial report best reflects the financial affairs of the council.

A/CEO Signed Chapman

Date Signed 14/09/2026

Table 1.1 Monthly Income and Expenditure Statement

	YTD Actuals $	YTD Budget $	YTD Variance $	Annual Budget $
OPERATING INCOME				
Rates	1,313,183	1,310,717	2,466	1,310,717
Charges	469,172	469,172	0	469,172
Fees and Charges	**62,705**	28,173	34,532	255,015
Operating Grants and Subsidies	704,879	709,893	(5,014)	1,676,452
Interest / Investment Income	22,504	36,334	(13,830)	218,000
Commercial and Other Income	29,627	15,178	14,449	91,059
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	**2,602,071**	**2,569,467**	**32,604**	**4,020,415**
OPERATING EXPENDITURE				
Employee Expenses	183,576	301,272	(117,696)	1,581,118
Materials and Contracts	514,775	470,577	44,198	2,323,983
Elected Member Allowances	18,993	30,252	(11,259)	176,116
Elected Member Expenses	0	0	0	5,400
Council Committee & LA Allowances	964	1,250	(286)	5,000
Council Committee & LA Expenses	0	0	0	0
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	230,610	266,428	(35,818)	1,598,564
Interest Expenses	0	0	0	0
Other Expenses	34,451	6,556	27,895	142,424
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	**983,369**	**1,076,335**	**(92,966)**	**5,832,605**
OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	**1,618,701**	**1,493,132**	**125,569**	**(1,812,190)**

Table 1.2 Monthly Operating Position

	YTD Actuals $	YTD Budget $	YTD Variance $	Annual Budget $
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	305,988	124,082	181,906	(1,812,190)
***Remove* NON-CASH ITEMS**				
Less Non-Cash Income	0	0	0	0
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	230,610	266,428	(35,818)	1,598,564
TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS	**230,610**	**266,428**	**(35,818)**	**1,598,564**
***Less* ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS**				
Capital Expenditure	277,714	156,466	121,248	644,790
Borrowing Repayments (Principal Only)	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Reserves	0	0	0	0
Other Outflows	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	**(277,714)**	**(156,466)**	**(121,248)**	**(644,790)**
***Add* ADDITIONAL INFLOWS**				
Capital Grants Income	136,165	0	136,165	585,990
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	497,500	104,500	393,000	104,500
Other Inflow of Funds	0	0	0	0
Transfers from Reserves	0	0	0	167,926
TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	**633,665**	**104,500**	**529,165**	**858,416**
NET BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	**2,205,262**	**1,707,594**	**497,668**	**0**

Table 2.1 Capital Expenditure and Funding
By class of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	YTD Actuals $	YTD Budget $	YTD Variance $	Annual Budget $
Buildings	0	0	0	0
Community Assets and Other Structures	0	0	0	104,500
Motor Vehicles	58,728	55,982	2,746	58,800
Plant and Equipment	0	0	0	0
Roads Infrastructure	218,986	100,484	118,502	481,490
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	**277,714**	**156,466**	**121,248**	**644,790**
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY:				
Capital Grants Income	136,165	0	136,165	481,490
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	295,459	104,500	190,959	104,500
Operating Income and Subsidies	0	0	0	0
Reserves	58,728	58,800	(72)	58,800
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	**490,352**	**163,300**	**327,052**	**644,790**

Table 3. Monthly Balance Sheet Report

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 August 2026	YTD Actuals $	Note Reference*
ASSETS		
Cash at Bank		**(1)**
Tied Funds	1,380,869	
Untied Funds	1,971,967	
Accounts Receivable		
Trade Debtors	47,427	**(2)**
Rates & Charges Debtors	2,091,582	
Other Current Assets	0	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**5,491,844**	
Non-Current Financial Assets	0	
Property, Plant and Equipment	16,628,030	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	**16,628,030**	
TOTAL ASSETS	**22,119,874**	
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	33,080	**(3)**
ATO & Payroll Liabilities	(12,867)	**(4)**
Current Provisions	109,537	
Accruals	0	
Other Current Liabilities	37,093	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**166,843**	**(5)**
Non-Current Provisions	0	
Other Non-Current Liabilities	0	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	**0**	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**166,843**	
NET ASSETS	**21,953,031**	
EQUITY		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	15,134,288	
Reserves	308,977	**(6)**
Accumulated Surplus	6,509,766	
TOTAL EQUITY	**21,953,031**	

Note 1. Details of Cash and Investments Held

$2,708,977 held in investments as at 31 August 2026 (details in table below).
Tied funds include grant/project obligations, current provisions and tied reserve accounts.

Investments Summary

As at 31 Augst 2026

Category	Balance	Rate	Interest Frequency	Maturity Date
Fixed Term Deposit	$300,000	4.44%	At Maturity	14/09/2026
Fixed Term Deposit	$400,000	5.10%	At Maturity	27/10/2026
Fixed Term Deposit	$300,000	4.50%	At Maturity	12/11/2026
Fixed Term Deposit	$350,000	4.52%	At Maturity	17/12/2026
Fixed Term Deposit	$400,000	5.19%	At Maturity	31/12/2026
Fixed Term Deposit	$400,000	5.09%	At Maturity	02/02/2027
Fixed Term Deposit	$250,000	5.20%	At Maturity	08/03/2027
Fixed Term Deposit	$308,977	5.25%	At Maturity	15/06/2027
TOTAL	**$2,708,977**			

Grants Summary

As at 31 August 2026

Date Received	Grant	Grant Amount	Funding Received to date	Council Contribution	Expended to date	Amount Remaining	Acquittal Due
Grants - TIED FUNDS							
3/05/2024	Immediate Priority Grant 2023-24 - Social Infrastructure	236,000.00	236,000.00	20,000.00	211,271.17	44,728.83	31/10/2026
27/06/2024	Community Place for People grant 2023-24	415,000.00	415,000.00	210,000.00	207,253.00	417,747.00	31/08/2026
17/01/2025	Black Spot 2023-24 - Haynes Rd	18,000.00	-	-	1,080.00	16,920.00	30/06/2026
17/01/2025	Black Spot 2023-24 - Niks Crossing	66,000.00	-	-	-	66,000.00	30/06/2026
17/01/2025	Black Spot 2024-25 - Miles/Solomon	150,000.00	-	-	-	150,000.00	30/06/2026
22/08/2025	Roads to Recovery 2025-26	459,120.00	459,120.00	-	359,030.91	100,089.09	31/10/2026
19/12/2025	Waste and Resource Management (WaRM) 2025-26	104,500.00	104,500.00	-	-	104,500.00	31/08/2027
10/04/2026	Gamba Litchfield Neighbours Project 2025-26	20,000.00	20,000.00	-	9,130.00	10,870.00	
16/06/2026	Regional and Remote Burial Areas Grant 20265-26	51,500.00	51,500.00	-	-	51,500.00	31/08/2027
9/07/2026	Seniors Month Grant 2026	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	-	31/10/2026
	Grant Totals:	**1,522,120.00**		**230,000.00**	**789,765.08**	**962,354.92**	
Subsidies - UNTIED FUNDS							
30/06/2026	Financial Assistance Grants 2026-27 Pre-Payment - General Purpose	32,555.00					15/11/2027
29/06/2023	Financial Assistance Grants 2026-27 Pre-Payment - Roads	600,018.00					15/11/2027
19/08/2026	Financial Assistance Grants 2026-27 Q1 Payment - General Purpose	6,970.00					15/11/2027
19/08/2026	Financial Assistance Grants 2026-27 Q1 Payment - Roads	38,376.00					15/11/2027
	Subsidies Totals:	**677,919.00**					

Note 2. Statement of Trade Debtors

	Current	Past Due 1–30 Days	Past Due 31–60 Days	Past Due 61-90 Days	Past Due 90+ Days	Total
Commercial Waste	$ 33,588	$ 2,531		$ 22	$ 3,936	$ 40,077
Facility and Equipment Hire Fees					$ 266	$ 266
Regulatory Services						
Road permits					$ 602	$ 602
Sundry Debtors		$ 1,380		$ 686	$ 4,416	$ 6,482
TOTAL	**$ 33,588**	**$ 3,911**	**$ -**	**$ 708**	**$ 9,220**	**$ 47,427**

Note 3. Statement on Trade Creditors

	Current	Past Due 1 – 30 Days	Past Due 31 – 60 Days	Past Due 61-90 Days	Past Due 90+ Days	Total
AC Hall Services	400.00					400.00
Agentur Pty Ltd	1,200.00					1,200.00
Bunnings Building Supplies	447.39					447.39
CONSTRUCTION 101			6,600.00			6,600.00
Darwin Mazda ana Miles Road Holdings Pty Ltd	336.00					336.00
Integrated Land Information	34.50					34.50
Jacana Energy	1,828.47					1,828.47
Nexia Edwards Marshall NT	2,310.00					2,310.00
Oolloo Investments Pty Ltd	2,094.90					2,094.90
PowerWater - Bills	3,871.50					3,871.50
Roadside Services & Solutions Pty Ltd	550.55					550.55
Telstra	275.00					275.00
TGS Diesel & Hydraulic Service & Repair	773.74					773.74
VTG Waste & Recycling P/L	12,358.03					12,358.03
Total Accounts Payable	$26,480.08		$6,600.00			$33,080.08

Note 4. Statement on Australian Tax Office (ATO) and Payroll Obligations

Council is compliant with all payment, reporting and tax liabilities:
- PAYG Withholdings have been lodged by the due dates. The August 2026 PAYG Withholdings will be submitted with the Business Activity Statement prior to 21 September 2026.
- Business Activity Statements have been lodged by the due dates. The August 2026 BAS will be lodged prior to the due date of 21 September 2026.

Note 5. Current Ratio

The Current Ratio measures Council's ability to pay short-term obligations or those due within one year. A Current Ratio that is higher than 1.00 is considered acceptable in contemporary financial management terms. Council's Current Ratio as at 31 August 2026 is 4.27.

Note 6. Reserve Accounts

Internally Restricted	**Total ($)**
Asset Renewal Reserve	142,227
Batchelor Playground Reserve	2,750
Disaster Recovery Reserve	25,000
Election Expenses Reserve	14,000
Waste Management Reserve	100,000
Externally Restricted	
Disaster Recovery Reserve	25,000
TOTAL RESERVES BALANCE	**308,977**

Table 4. Member and CEO Council Credit Card Transactions for the Month

Cardholder Name: N CHAPMAN (A/CEO)

Transaction Date	**Amount $**	**Supplier's Name**	**Reason for the Transaction**
6/08/2026	$ 48.98	Shell Reddy Express	Fuel
10/08/2026	$ 260.93	Microsoft	Monthly Software Subscription
30/08/2026	$ 17.00	Darwin City	Car Parking for symposium
31/08/2026	$ 19.00	Darwin City	Car Parking for symposium
31/08/2026	$ 37.23	MailChimp	Monthly Software Subscription
Total	**$ 383.14**		

Staff Credit Card Transactions

Transaction Date	**Amount $**	**Supplier's Name**	**Reason for the Transaction**
3/08/2026	$639.78	DULUX DARWIN	Line paint-School sports
13/08/2026	$231.20	Australia Post	Stop Press Mail Out
13/08/2026	$115.50	RICHMOND CASTORS	Wheelie Bin
17/08/2026	$79.97	Outback Batteries	Battery
17/08/2026	$166.25	Ink Station	Ink Cartridges

18/08/2026	$3.40	Australia Post	Postage
20/08/2026	$469.83	ANIMAL CARE EQUIPM	PPE
21/08/2026	$3.40	Australia Post	Postage
21/08/2026	$713.74	Territory Wildlife Park	Seniors Tour
24/08/2026	$54.83	Ink Station	Ink Cartridges
28/08/2026	$97.00	FIRSTAIDPRO	WWC Renewal
31/08/2026	$19.00	Darwin City	Car Parking for symposium
Total	**$2,593.90**		

9.3 COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Date:	12th October 2026
Author:	Luke Ackland, Acting Corporate Services Manager
Attachment:	**Nil**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to detail the outcomes of the Risk Management and Audit Committee's (RMAC) self-assessment of its performance against the Terms of Reference (TOR) for 2025–26, in line with Council Policy 1.14 and section 86 of *the Local Government Act 2019* (NT).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee;

a) receives and notes the report titled Committee Performance Review2026; and

b) determines the following items will be a priority for the Committee for the next 12 months:

-

-

Moved:

Seconded:

BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS

RESOLUTION: RMAC2026/08/10/009
That the Risk Management and Audit Committee;
a) receives and notes the report titled Committee Performance Review 2026; and
b) confirms members will complete the individual member self-assessment using the framework and rating scale provided, with amendments and returns the completed assessment to the Council's Executive Services Coordinator by Wednesday 30 September 2026.
Moved: ***DP Whatley***
Seconded: ***Clr Beswick*** ***Carried***

COMMENT

The Committee was tasked with completing a self-assessment of the performance of the committee over the last 12 months based on the key responsibilities outlined in the Terms of Reference.
A standard framework using a 1–5 scale has been developed to score the assessment where:

1 – Not effective: Performance does not meet requirements; significant improvement needed.
2 – Needs improvement: Performance is below expectations in several areas.
3 – Satisfactory: Meets expectations; some improvements possible.
4 – Good: Exceeds expectations in several areas.
5 – Excellent: Best practice observed; consistently exceeds expectations.

Each committee member scores areas based on observation and evidence from 2025–26 (meetings attended, papers reviewed, discussions with management and auditors, etc.). Members also had the opportunity to add brief comments where they considered further explanation was needed

Staff collated the individual assessments and prepared the below consolidated report which includes averaged final ratings and a summary of performance.

1	2	3	4	5
Not Effective	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent

Criteria Area	Assessment Area	Final Rating
Committee Role		
	Evaluating and Monitoring the Councils Risk Control and Compliance frameworks	3
	Ensuring the Council meets its external accountability obligations outlined in the Local Government Act 2019 and Local Government (General) Regulations 2021.	4
	Assessing and monitoring the effectiveness of strategic and operational risk management functions, as well as the adequacy of internal control policies and procedures.	3
	Summarising the key issues discussed in each Committee meeting.	3
	Reporting annually on an overall assessment of the Council's risk, control and compliance framework, together with a summary of the work the Committee performed in conducting its responsibilities during the preceding year.	3
	Quality of recommendations reported to Council	4
	Oversee the internal audit process	3
	Review the quality of annual financial statements	3
	Evaluating management's responses to external audit recommendations and tracking the implementation of agreed-upon recommendations.	3
	Meeting with the external and relevant internal auditors at least once each year to receive direct feedback about any key risk and compliance issues and to provide feedback about the auditor's performance.	4
	Making recommendations to the Council on the appointment of external auditors.	2
	Assessing the adequacy of audit scope and coverage.	2
	The Council will provide Secretariat assistance to the Committee to fulfil its duties.	4
Membership		
	Maintain membership with diverse experience and expertise.	4
	Committee understanding of the organisation operations, culture and key risks.	4
	Membership Remuneration	3
	Number of Terminations	4
Committee Member Responsibilities		
Committee Meetings	The TOR states 2 meetings per year, however Council coordinates 4 meetings per year	5

Meeting Agenda Papers provided as scheduled	Agendas and meeting papers will be made available at least three (3) business days before a meeting.	4
Minutes	Minutes and action items will be distributed within ten (10) business days of the meeting.	3
Quorum	Number of meetings postponed due to Quorum.	5
Culture & Continuous Improvement	Is there ongoing professional development, learning, and improvement in committee processes?	3
Overall averaged score		**3**

Overall Summary of Performance

The Committee considers that its overall performance in 2025–26 has been:

☐ Not effective ☐ Needs improvement ☒ Satisfactory ☐ Good ☐ Excellent

Key strengths identified:

- Diverse membership
- Full attendance at all held meetings
- Good knowledge and input from members
- Governance
- Financial Management
- Elected Member Involvement
- Commitment, no meetings missed
- Professionalism

Key areas for improvement:

- Professional development for members
- Accurate finance reports
- More scrutiny of internal controls
- Separation of powers regarding operations - full understanding of their roles and responsibilities
- Elected member ongoing education:
    - **IPWEA: Infrastructure Asset Management Planning for Elected Members | Online**
      The Infrastructure Asset Management Planning for Elected Members course will build your capacity and confidence to be a champion of asset management, ensuring the delivery of sustainable services to your community.
      For full details and semester dates, visit here.
-
- New Revenue Streams
    - **Safer Local Roads Infrastructure**
        - A new funding round of the $200 million per year Safer Local Roads Infrastructure Program (SLRIP) will open to states and territory governments and local councils on 1 September, 2026.

Program | Closes 31 January 2027

- More information here.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Section 86 of the Local Government Act 2019

CCGC Policy 1.14 Terms of Reference Risk Management and Audit Committee

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

9.4 LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF PAPER ROADS

Date:	12th October 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	NIL

PURPOSE

To seek the Risk Management and Audit Committee's consideration and recommendations regarding the ongoing plan for addressing paper roads in the Coomalie Shire.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee;

a) receives and notes the report entitled Long-Term Management of Paper Roads; and

b) provides the following recommendations to Council:

1.

2.

Moved:

Seconded:

BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS

RESOLUTION: 2026/08/15/022
That Council;
a) receives and notes the report entitled Paper Roads Update Report;
b) asks the RMAC for consideration of the matter and provide a recommendation back to Council; and
c) request the Chief Executive Officer to investigate the responsibilities of NTG under the Land Titles Act and to elevate the matter to LGANT for advocacy in relation to obligations under Bushfires and Weed Management Acts
Moved: ***DP Whatley***
Seconded: ***Clr. Beswick*** ***Carried***

COMMENT

At the August 2026 OGM, Council received a paper roads progress report noting that the CEO had previously been attending regular meetings with NTG representatives and the Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure relating to several matters affecting the Coomalie region.

The November 2025 Correspondence Register included correspondence from the Federal Member for Lingiari, The Hon. Marion Scrymgour MP, seeking clarification of Council's intentions regarding some not gazetted paper roads in the north-western area of the Shire.

The Coomalie region has a significant number of paper roads that were established during developments that occurred prior to Council's existence. At the time of Council establishment, these paper roads were included in the transfer of assets to Council. Additionally, several subdivisions that were undertaken in the early years of Council did not have clear access standards applied to

developments, and this has also led to the formation of paper roads and incomplete or inadequate property access in some regions of the Shire.

The NT Government maintains the position that paper roads are not NT Government roads and are not responsible for the establishment or maintenance of such roads. Council has previously identified the 'survey and design of an appropriate road corridor to service the area north of Batchelor township to the Litchfield Council boundary' as a long-term roads strategy that continues to be listed in the NT Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline document.

Council does not include paper roads in its Register of Public Roads and therefore is unable to seek external funding for any road maintenance of paper roads.

The full extent of paper roads in the Coomalie Shire is currently not clear as no formal register exists and no mapping exercise to identify all existing paper roads has been undertaken. As Council operates on a small workforce with an increasing workload to meet community expectations, there is very limited resources available to undertake this body of work.

Council, at the August OGM, resolved to refer the matter for consideration by the Risk Management and Audit Committee to seek recommendations for further addressing the ongoing matter.

Additionally, Council resolved at the September OGM to submit a motion for LGANT consideration seeking advocacy for assistance from NT government to address the ongoing 'Paper Road' issues prevalent across the NT.

CONSULTATION

Acting Corporate Services Manager

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 2019 and Local Government (General) Regulations 2021

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil to receive the report.

9.5 2027 COMMITTEE WORKS SCHEDULE

Date:	12TH October 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

PURPOSE

To set the Risk Management and Audit Committee's meeting and works schedule for 2027.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee receives and notes the report entitled 2027 Committee Works Schedule.

Moved:

Seconded:

COMMENT

The Risk Management and Audit Committee's Terms of Reference stipulates that the committee will meet four times per year. The committee has some flexibility in the timing of the four meetings.

The Work Schedule is provided below to provide clarification to members of the reports that will be included in each meeting, in addition to any other reports that may arise from time to time.

Item	February 2027	May 2027	August 2027	October 2027
Incidents and Claims Report				
Budget Reviews				
Review Draft Shire Plan 27- 28				
Review Draft Budget 27 - 28				
Risk Management and Risk Register				
Review of Interim Audit Report				
Review of Draft Annual Report				
Review of Draft Annual Financial Statements				
Assessment of Committee Performance and Terms of Reference Review				
Proposed Meeting Dates and Report Schedule 2028				

The following schedule for the four Risk Management and Audit Committee meetings are proposed and align with deadlines of major documents to be tabled at the next Ordinary General Meeting of Council:

Meeting 1: 8th February 2027
Meeting 2: 10th May 2027
Meeting 3: 9th August 2027
Meeting 4: 11th October 2027

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

CCGC Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference

Local Government Act 2019

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

9.6 RESPITE AND RECOVERY FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

Date:	12th October 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	**Correspondence to Chief Minister**
	Correspondence to Prime Minister

PURPOSE

To provide the Risk Management and Audit Committee with a summary of the recent announcement of the NT Government's plan to establish a Respite and Recovery Facility in Batchelor.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee;

a) receives and notes the report entitled Respite and Recovery Facility Development; and

b)

Moved:

Seconded:

BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS

RESOLUTION: 2026/09/19/027
That Council;
a) receives and notes the report entitled Respite and Recovery Facility (Batchelor); and
b) does not support or approve the NT Government's decision to build a respite and recovery facility in entirety; and
c) advise the NT Government that Council endorsement of the letter previously sent to the Minister and request that the Government stop the proposed facility
d) lobby Federal and Territory Ministers to reverse decision.
Moved: ***DP Whatley***
Seconded: ***Clr Roe*** ***Carried***

COMMENT

On Wednesday 16 September 2026, the Northern Territory Government (NTG) announced the establishment of the NT Respite and Recovery Facility in Batchelor, to provide transitional accommodation for up to 150 people relocating from Darwin's YiSSA site and to operate as an emergency recovery centre as required.

NTG has issued a statement that Council will receive a $2 million grant for local roads, signage, and street lighting in Batchelor. The CEO of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet has verbally advised that the funds can be used for any community infrastructure within the town of Batchelor and are open to discussions with Council regarding the priorities for use of the funds.

Council Engagement

- Wednesday 16 September: Council officers were approached by media seeking comment on the announcement. Officers informed media that Council staff do not have authority to

respond, as only the President (or President's delegate) hold delegation to make public statements on behalf of Council.

- Thursday 17 September: The President sent correspondence to the Chief Minister outlining Council's position and key community concerns (copy attached).
- Thursday 17 September: The President attended a public community meeting in Batchelor regarding the proposed facility.
- Saturday 19 September: Council, at the September OGM, determined to issue further correspondence to the Prime Minister and other Federal Ministers.
- Friday 25 September: Correspondence finalised and issued as resolved above (copy attached).

Council has not yet received detailed operational, governance, or funding arrangements from NTG. Further media interest is expected as the planned October relocation date approaches.

CONSULTATION

Council

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 2019 and *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

9.6 ATTACHMENT 1: Correspondence to Chief Minister

COOMALIE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

22 Cameron Road Batchelor NT 0845
PO Box 20 Batchelor NT 0845
Phone: 08 8976 0058
Fax: 08 8976 0293
Email: mail@coomalie.nt.gov.au
Web: www.coomalie.nt.gov.au

17th September 2026

The Honourable Lia Finocchiaro
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory
GPO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801

Via email: chief.minister@nt.gov.au

Cc: Hon Robyn Cahill OAM, Minister for Children and Families
Hon Jo Hersey, Minister Disaster Recovery Fund

Dear Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro,

RE: Respite and Recovery Facility in Batchelor

I refer to your media release yesterday regarding the establishment of a Respite and Recovery Facility in Batchelor.

In that release you reference strengthening the role of Batchelor as a strategic and regional services hub. Batchelor is not a regional services hub and is not equipped to be. The fact that you inappropriately relocated hundreds of displaced people here earlier in the year is not an excuse to perpetuate the problem.

Batchelor is a historic mining town with an aged and vulnerable population. They are by and large self-sufficient, because the town itself has very limited resources, services, and amenity to provide for displaced and disadvantaged people. What do you expect the people relocated to Batchelor to do? They are in Darwin for a variety of reasons. To escape violence or to seek assistance for medical reasons, for sport or entertainment, or to visit family. None of this is available in Batchelor. There is not even public transport for anyone wanting to travel out of Batchelor for any services.

I understand the initial group relocated to the facility is about 130 people including approximately 40 children. Our school currently has 110 children so that's a significant increase in the population there. No doubt the Department will provide some extra support for the school but what about the effect on the existing students in Batchelor? I'm assuming many of the new students will be transient, so the effect and ongoing disruption on the existing student population will be significant.

We have a fabulous health clinic in Batchelor but it is already running at, or beyond, capacity. Another 130 clients, some of whom will be high needs, simply cannot be accommodated. We have no renal facilities. We have no counselling services. We have no transport. To relocate vulnerable people into this location is ridiculous and irresponsible. I simply do not accept that there is no Vacant Crown Land or alternative facilities close to Darwin, where these people want and need to be. To build a facility at Batchelor is simply an 'out of sight, out of mind' decision.

If some of these people can be accommodated in a remote location, and I don't agree they can be, has the government considered Jabiru as an option? I'm not sure what the services are there, but I understand the town is effectively closing down and surely has under-utilised facilities.

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The issues with the existing facility at Marrara need to be dealt with, so people can remain there. I understand the Commonwealth has offered a significant support package to allow that to happen. The current accommodation at Marrara is much better suited for people than what will be available in Batchelor. I am very concerned about the quality of the accommodation that will be provided by the relocated demountables. They are basically a small bedroom and are not suitable for full-time living. I also understand substantial security arrangements exist around the existing facility in Marrara. How is your government proposing to keep the occupants of the facility and the residents of Batchelor safe?

I don't know how many people you expect to relocate to Batchelor, but I believe it's initially between 130 and 150. I think the current facility at Marrara has over 300 people, so I'd expect the numbers seeking emergency accommodation in Batchelor to increase in the future. You also indicate that the area may be used for accommodating flood victims. There were about 300 people from Daly River in Batchelor earlier in the year. You can't seriously expect any facility in Batchelor to accommodate all those people. I also note you're proposing to use flood relief money to build this facility and don't see what you propose should be considered as flood relief.

The demountables you own in Batchelor should be relocated as emergency accommodation to identified high ground at Daly River. The community want them there. The situation regarding the flooding at Daly River is an ongoing issue. A solution to this problem is expensive and complicated, I'm sure. I suggest a starting point might be an amendment to the building code to allow occupation of single skin dwellings, rather than buildings that conform to the Australian building code, which is largely designed to keep houses warm in winter. A single skin structure would facilitate much cheaper buildings being built at Daly River and other areas of the Top End. Additionally, possibly more suitable buildings, such as simple portal frame structures that can largely be built by unskilled labour should also be investigated. It would need qualified tradesman to install power and plumbing services, but I would imagine significant savings in building costs and building time. If locals can be involved in the construction process some ownership and pride in the result would also follow.

I look forward to your prompt response to the concerns raised in this letter by Coomalie Community Government Council.

Yours faithfully,

Ross McGorman
President

9.6 ATTACHMENT 2: Correspondence to Prime Minister

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24th September 2026

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for Social Services
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Cc: Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher – Minister for Government Services
Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy, Minister for Indigenous Australians
Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price
Mr Luke Gosling OAM MP, Member for Solomon
Ms Marion Scrymgour MP, Member for Lingiari
Ms Selena Uibo MLA – Leader of the Opposition, Northern Territory
Mr Dheran Young MLA – Member for Daly

Dear Prime Minister and Minister Plibersek,

RE: Batchelor Respite and Recovery Facility

I write on behalf of the elected members of the Coomalie Community Council (Council) seeking your urgent assistance regarding the Northern Territory (NT) Government's decision to establish the new Northern Territory Respite and Recovery facility in Batchelor, in the Coomalie Local Government Area (Coomalie). If implemented, this action will have serious consequences for both the vulnerable people moved into the area and the Batchelor community.

Coomalie is a local government area of approximately 1,400 residents. Batchelor, Coomalie's primary township, lies more than 100km from Darwin. It has a population of around 380 residents and has limited public infrastructure and services.

The Council's concerns have been amplified by recent experiences during the March-April 2026 flood emergency, when parts of our region were impacted by severe weather with storms and flooding. During the emergency and with limited consultation with Council and the Batchelor community, the NT Government temporarily relocated approximately 500 flood evacuated residents from emergency accommodation in Darwin to Batchelor, doubling the town's population overnight.

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While our community responded with generosity and compassion, Council raised concerns about the pressure on limited local services, community safety, and the town's capacity to accommodate such a large influx of people for several months. Evacuees also raised concerns, noting the standard of overcrowded accommodation and overly restrictive security arrangements. Council acknowledges the financial support provided by the Australian Government at this time through the Disaster Recovery Payment, the Disaster Recovery Allowance, and the cost shared funding to the NT Government under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

While flood-affected residents have since been able to return home, the temporary accommodations remain in place, despite Council's formal requests to the NT Government for their removal. That experience demonstrated the practical challenges associated with rapidly increasing the local population and highlighted the importance of appropriate planning, consultation and resourcing.

On 17 July 2026, the NT Government announced the closure of the Yilli Short-Stay Accommodation (YiSSA) operated by Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation at Marrara, Darwin. YiSSA is an essential and major component of Darwin's homelessness accommodation system, particularly for Aboriginal people from remote communities visiting Darwin for health, family, legal or other reasons. On 16 September 2026, the NT Minister for Children and Families, Robyn Cahill, announced the establishment of the Northern Territory Respite and Recovery Facility in Batchelor, stating that residents at YiSSA would be transitioned to Batchelor before the Darwin facility closes on 11 October 2026.

This announcement has been met with deep concern by organisations advocating for the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Territorians. Danila Dilba Health Service (DDHS), Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory (AHNT), the North Australia Aboriginal Justice Agency and the Northern Australian Family Legal Service (NAAFLS) have all released statements condemning this plan. DDHS highlighted that the relocation of residents to Batchelor would be harmful, reducing access to primary healthcare such as renal dialysis and mental health services.

On 17 September, I wrote to the Chief Minister and Minister Cahill objecting to the decision and raising Council's concerns which are:

- The proposed relocation is inconsistent with the needs of the people it is intended to support. Many people using short-term accommodation in Darwin travel there to access specialised medical treatment, legal assistance, counselling, welfare services and other essential support. These services are not available in Batchelor.
- Batchelor has no public transport to Darwin and relocating vulnerable people away from critical services risks their isolation and may increase their hardship rather than reduce it.
- Operating the proposed facility at Batchelor would be unduly expensive and impractical. There is currently no available accommodation for staff in the township and a daily return drive from Darwin would cost about $70 in fuel.

Batchelor does not have the infrastructure to absorb a significant increase in population. The township is serviced by a small health clinic, school, general store, and other utilities, all of which already operate beyond capacity. The

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arrival of an additional 130 residents, some with complex support needs, would place considerable strain on local services and may negatively affect existing residents. We note that the Australian Government reportedly sought to support retention of the Darwin-based YiSSA facility through a financial contribution towards acquisition of the accommodation infrastructure. We respectfully request that the Commonwealth reconsider whether additional intervention may be warranted to explore alternatives that would allow vulnerable residents to remain in proximity to the health, education, legal, employment and social services upon which many currently rely.

We further note that the Northern Territory Government has announced it is utilising Commonwealth Flood Relief funding to develop the facility in Batchelor. We do not believe that the development can be justified as a flood relief facility given its location and primary function.

Specifically, we request that the Australian Government:

1. Engage directly with the Northern Territory Government regarding alternatives to the relocation proposal.
2. Consider whether additional Commonwealth assistance could assist in maintaining accommodation options within the Greater Darwin region
3. Request the Northern Territory Government to ensure meaningful consultation occurs with local government, Aboriginal organisations, service providers and residents before any permanent relocation proceeds.

Council is not seeking to avoid responsibility or participation in addressing the Territory's homelessness challenges and acknowledges the need to provide safe accommodation and support services to vulnerable Territorians. Rather, we are seeking a solution that is sustainable, consultative, properly planned, and fair to both the vulnerable people affected and the communities expected to host them.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and to work collaboratively with both governments to achieve an outcome that respects the needs of displaced residents while protecting the long-term wellbeing of the Batchelor community.

Yours sincerely,

Ross McGorman
President

9.7 CHAIR'S REPORT ON MEETING WITH COUNCIL'S AUDITOR

Date:	12th October 2026
Author:	Chair Annis-Brown
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide the Committee with a summary of the Chair's meeting with Council's auditor as agreed by the Committee at the June 2026 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee receives and notes the report entitled Chair's Report on Meeting with Council's Auditor.

Moved:

Seconded:

BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The Risk Management and Audit Committee identified the Chair should meet with Council's external auditor to understand how the annual auditor is progressing and if there were any concerns arising from the interim audit.

COMMENT

Robert Annis-Brown, Chair of RMAC, met with Auditor Noel Clifford on 21st August 2026 to receive any direct feedback on the current audit about any key risk and compliance issues. Noel explained the audit process had been going as planned and they envisaged completion within the agreed timeframe with no real concerning issues uncovered. He did mention a minor matter which they were going to comment upon being the Credit Card transactions undertaken by the CEO needing a confirmation and or oversight by a someone not reporting to the CEO acknowledging this would need to be someone on council or RMAC.

CONSULTATION

Risk Management and Audit Committee

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 2019 and *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

11. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

RECOMMENDATION

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

Moved:

Seconded:

Procedural Note:

The meeting was closed to the public at

11.1 CONFIRMATION OF CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

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.

11.2 DRAFT AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2025-26

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulation 51(1) For section 293(1) of the Act, the following information is prescribed as confidential:
(c) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to:
(iv) subject to subregulation (3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person

11.3 INSURANCE CLAIM REPORT

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

12. DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL SECTION OF THE COUNCIL

13. RE-OPENING OF THE MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

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

Moved:

Seconded:

Procedural Note:

The meeting was reopened to the public at

14. NEXT MEETING

The next Risk Management and Audit Committee meeting will be held at Batchelor on Monday 8th February 2027 at 10:00am.

15. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting was closed at_____.