



MINUTES
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
20TH JANUARY 2026

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1. NOTICE OF MEETING.

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

Date: 20th January 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.

MINUTES

ORDINARY GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BATCHELOR
ON 20TH JANUARY 2026

The President of the Council, Mr. Ross McGorman declared the meeting open at 5:04 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 (via electronic means)
Councillor	Alan Roe
Councillor	Greg Strettles

STAFF PRESENT

Acting Chief Executive Officer	Natasha Chapman
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VISITORS PRESENT

Nil

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Date: 20th January 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 20th January 2026.

NIL

5. ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE.

Date: 20th January 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.

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/001

That Council acknowledges and accepts Clr. Morrison's attendance to the meeting of 20th January 2026 via electronic means.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Roe

Carried

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Date: 20th January 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 2026/01/20/002

That Council receives the declarations of interest as listed for the Ordinary General Meeting held 20th January 2026:

21.6 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT PROGRESS REPORT – Clr. Beswick

Moved: Clr. Strettles

Seconded: Clr. Roe

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 16TH DECEMBER 2025.

Date:	20 th January 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.
Attachments:	DRAFT Public Meeting Minutes of 16th December 2025.

PURPOSE

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 16th December 2025 are submitted to Council for confirmation that those Minutes are a true and correct record of the meeting.

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/003

That the Public Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 16th December 2025 be confirmed they are a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Morrison

Carried

11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Date: 20th January 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 December 2025 and January 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/004

That Council receives and notes the President's Report for the period of December 2025 to January 2026.

Moved: Clr. Strettles

Seconded: DP Whatley

Carried

12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT.

Date: 20th January 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 December 2025 to January 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/005

That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officers Report for the period December 2025 to January 2026.

Moved: Clr. Strettles

Seconded: Clr. Beswick

Carried

13. FINANCE REPORTS

13.1 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Date:	20 th January 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide a summary of the financial position of Council for the period ending 31st December 2025. 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 2026/01/20/006

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 December 2025.

Moved: Clr. Strettles

Seconded: Clr. Morrison

Carried

14. REPORTS REQUIRING DECISIONS OF COUNCIL.

14.1 ELECTED MEMBER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2025-26

Date:	20 th January 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Elected Member Professional Development Policy

PURPOSE

Council is committed to recognising the most appropriate types of conferences and training opportunities that enable a council member to develop capabilities in the member's role. Council will assist in the professional development of councillors by approval of attendance at appropriate conferences, seminars, meetings and development programs for the 2025/2026 year.

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/007

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the proposed Elected Member Professional Development Plan 2025-26;
- b) endorses the plan for the 2025-26 financial year;
- c) approves the attendance of ALL Councillors to the AICD Governance Essentials for LG and the use of the Professional Development Allowance for this course pending the confirmation of the cost of the course fits within the annual allowance allocation.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Roe

Carried

Discussion Points:

- ALGA conference attendance did not appear to hold significant value to Elected Members this year and Council would likely not consider sending a delegate to this event.
- Upcoming training appears valuable and Councillors are keen to undertake relevant training if it fits within the allocated annual Professional Development allowance.

14.2 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 'PA2025/0473'

Date: 20th January 2026
Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment: [Development Application Map](#)

PURPOSE

From time-to-time Council is required to provide comment on various developments within the Coomalie Region. This report requires Council to review the application and provide a written submission for the application.

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/008

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report titled Development Application 'PA2025/0473'; and
- b) provides a submission (as amended below) for the Development Application PA2025/0473 for the clearing of 44.44 hectares of native vegetation for hay production and nursery based on the conditions detailed in this report by the closing date of 6th February 2026:
 - Buffer zone size be larger than 20m (for example 50m) along the western boundary adjacent to the waterway and sensitive fauna sites and a carefully considered size for the remaining boundaries with adequate firebreaks.
 - Fire management plan to include a mineral earth firebreak around the pasture/clearing site.

Moved: Clr. Strettles

Seconded: Clr. Roe

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Significant consideration was given to the impact on the environment, neighbouring local amenities and fire management aspects of the application.

14.3 NOMINATION FOR THE MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Date:	20 th January 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To seek Council's nomination for membership to the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs (MACMA).

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/009

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report entitled Nomination for the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs;
- b) endorses Clr. Morrison to be nominated as a member for the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs; and
- c) requests the Chief Executive Officer submits the nomination by the closing date of 30th January 2026.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

Nominations:

President McGorman nominated Clr. Morrison – Clr. Morrison accepted the nomination.

15. REPORTS FOR RECEIVING AND NOTING.

15.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS FOR THE JANUARY OGM 2026.

Date: 20th January 2026
Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.
Attachments: [Actions for the January OGM 2026.](#)

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/010

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the Actions for the January OGM 2026; and
- b) remove items: #10 and #14.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Roe

Carried

15.2 COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS REGISTER.

Date: 20th January 2026
Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.
Attachments: [Complaints table.](#)

PURPOSE

To update Council on complaints and compliments received during December 2025 period.

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/011

That Council receives and notes the Complaints and Compliments Register during December 2025.

Moved: Clr. Morrison

Seconded: DP Whatley

Carried

15.3 COMMUNITY SERVICES 2nd QUARTERLY REPORT 2025-26

Date:	15 January 2026
Author:	Andrew Roberts, Community Services Coordinator
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a quarterly update of activities and programs provided to the community through the sport, recreation, and community development program for the second quarter from October to December 2025.

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/012

That Council receives and notes the Community Services 2nd Quarterly Report 2025-26.

Moved: Clr. Roe

Seconded: Clr. Beswick

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Low attendance at community tree planting program and what initiatives can be implemented to enhance attendance.
- Individual councillors can promote programs and events throughout the year to their constituents.

15.4 CORPORATE SERVICES 2nd QUARTERLY REPORT 2025-26

Date:	20 th January 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a quarterly update on financial, governance, administration and people and culture matters from the Corporate Services Unit.

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/013

That Council receives and notes the report entitled Corporate Services 2nd Quarterly Report 2025-26.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

15.5 COUNCIL SERVICES 2nd QUARTERLY REPORT 2025-26

Date:	20 th January 2026
Author:	Emma Dunne, Council and Community Services Manager
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To brief Council on the activities of the Council Services unit, including all municipal, compliance and regulatory actions, for the 2nd Quarter of 2025-26: October – December 2025.

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/014

That Council receives and notes the Council Services 2nd Quarterly Report of 2025-2026.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Beswick

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Vet Clinic Days provide a valuable service to the community and queries were raised regarding changes in attendance levels at the most recent clinic days.

16. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION.

16.1 INCOMING AND OUTGOING MAIL.

Date:	20 th January 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 December 2025 to January 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/015		
That Council receives and notes the items of incoming and outgoing correspondence as tabled for December 2025 to January 2026 period.		
Moved:	DP Whatley	
Seconded:	Clr. Morrison	Carried

17. COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

NIL

18. USE OF THE COMMON SEAL.

Nil

19. LATE ITEMS AND URGENT BUSINESS.

NIL

20. GENERAL BUSINESS.

20.1 MOTION: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON PROMOTING BATCHELOR

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/016

That Council seeks initial community engagement and suggestions on how Council can promote and establish Batchelor township as a day trip destination.

Moved: President McGorman

Seconded: Clr. Beswick

Carried

21. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS.

RESOLUTION 2026/01/20/017

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

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Morrison

Carried

Procedural Note:

The meeting was closed to the public at: 7:01 pm.

The confidential meeting opened at: 7:14pm.

21.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING 5TH DECEMBER 2025

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 CONFIRMATION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL MEETING MINUTES OF 16TH DECEMBER 2025.

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 REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL ACTIONS FOR THE JANUARY OGM 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.

21.4 AWARDING OF RFT2025-008 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A DUAL CAB UTILITY

CONFIDENTIAL: 51 (1) (c) (i) cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person

21.5 AWARDING OF RFT2025-009 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A BULK HOOK BINS

CONFIDENTIAL: 51 (1) (c) (i) cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person

21.6 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.

21.7 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

22. CONFIDENTIAL GENERAL BUSINESS

22.1 MOTION: ENGAGEMENT OF LEGAL ADVICE

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51

(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity

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

NIL

24. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

RESOLUTION CONF2026/01/20/026

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: President McGorman

Carried

Procedural Note:

The meeting was reopened to the public at 8:34pm.

25. NEXT MEETING.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council is scheduled to be held on **17th February 2026 at 5:00pm.**

26. CLOSURE OF MEETING.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm.