



AGENDA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
26TH JUNE 2025

Contents

1.	NOTICE OF MEETING	3
2.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	4
3.	PERSONS PRESENT	4
4.	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	5
5.	ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE	6
6.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF	7
7.	REPORTS REQUIRING DECISIONS OF COUNCIL	8
7.1	CERTIFICATION OF THE ASSESSMENT RECORD	8
7.2	2025-26 DECLARATION OF RATES AND CHARGES.	10
7.2	ATTACHMENT 1. DECLARATION OF RATES AND CHARGES	13
7.2	ATTACHMENT 2. GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NO. S25	16
7.3	2025-26 FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE	17
7.3	ATTACHMENT: FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE 2025-26	19
7.4	2025-26 BUDGET	24
7.4	ATTACHMENT 2025-26 BUDGET	26
7.5	2025-26 SHIRE PLAN	33
7.5	ATTACHMENT: SHIRE PLAN 2025-26	35
7.5	ATTACHMENT: PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSES	88
8.	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	98
8.1	USE OF THE COMMON SEAL – DISCHARGE AN87	99
9.	DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL SECTION OF THE COUNCIL	99
10.	RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC	99
11.	CLOSURE OF MEETING	99

1. NOTICE OF MEETING

I hereby give notice that a Special Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: 26th June 2025
Time: 3.00 pm
Location: Council Chambers
22 Cameron Road, Batchelor NT 0845

Any member of Council 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 Special Meeting of Council will be open to the public and will adhere to COVID Safety Plan requirements, including wearing a mask, appropriate physical distancing, and health, and hygiene requirements.

The meeting will be recorded for minuting purposes only.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SHILL', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chief Executive Officer.

AGENDA

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BATCHELOR

ON 26TH JUNE 2025

The Official Administrator of the Council, Mr. Mark Blackburn, will declare the meeting open at 3:00 pm 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

Official Manager

Mr. Mark Blackburn

STAFF PRESENT

Chief Executive Officer

Sharon Hillen

Corporate Services Manager

Shaun Hardy

Council & Community Services Manager

Emma Dunne

Executive Services Coordinator

Stacey Shooter

VISITORS PRESENT

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Date:	26 th June 2025
Author:	Sharon Hillen, 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 Special Meeting held on 26th June 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the apologies of..... absence for the Special Meeting held 26th June 2025.

Moved:

Seconded:

COMMENT

The council 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 Council will be recorded as absence without notice.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Section 95 *Local Government Act 2019*

1.07 Council Meetings Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

5. ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

Date:	26 th June 2025
Author:	Sharon Hillen, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

PURPOSE

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Council acknowledges and accepts attendance to the meeting of 26th June 2025 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 95 *Local Government Act 2019*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

Date: 26th June 2025

Author: Sharon Hillen, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

Members 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 must abide by the decision of Council on whether he/ she shall remain in the meeting and/ or take part in the vote on the issue. The Council 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 Council receives the declarations of interest as listed for the Special Council Meeting held 26th June 2025.

Moved:

Seconded:

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Sections 114 and 119 *Local Government Act 2019*

Conflict of Interest – Code of Conduct

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

7. REPORTS REQUIRING DECISIONS OF COUNCIL

7.1 CERTIFICATION OF THE ASSESSMENT RECORD

Date:	26 th June 2025
Author:	Sharon Hillen, Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To accept the Certification of the Assessment Record before declaring the Rates and Charges for the 2025-26 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council;

a) notes the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in accordance with Regulation 29 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, certifies that, to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information, and belief, the Assessment Record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the Coomalie Community Government Council area; and

b) accepts the signed Certification of the Assessment Record as included in this report and tabled at the Special Council Meeting of 26th June 2025.

Moved:

Seconded:

BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Previous Decisions

RESOLUTION 2024/05/21/009

That Council;

a) notes the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in accordance with Regulation 29 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, certifies that, to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information, and belief, the Assessment Record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the Coomalie Community Government Council area; and

b) accepts the signed Certification of the Assessment Record as included in this report and tabled at the Ordinary General Meeting of 21st May 2024.

Moved: **Clr. Freeman**

Seconded: **Clr. McClymont**

Carried 5/0

COMMENT

The Certification of the Assessment Record by the Chief Executive Officer must be received and accepted by Council prior to the 2025-26 Rates Declaration and Budget being adopted.

The signed certification will be tabled at the Special Council Meeting of 26th June 2025.

CONSULTATION

- Corporate Services Manager

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Section 29 Local Government (General) Regulations 2021

29 Assessment record and record of rates

(1) Before a council adopts its budget for a financial year, the CEO must:

- (a) check all available records to ensure that all rateable land is recorded in the assessment record; and*
- (b) certify, in writing, to the council that, to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief, the assessment record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the area.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

7.2 2025-26 DECLARATION OF RATES AND CHARGES.

Date:	17 th June 2025
Author:	Sharon Hillen, Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	2025-26 Declaration of Rates and Charges Gazettal Notice on Conditional Rating

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval to Declare the Rates and Charges for the 2025-26 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report entitled Declaration of Rates and Charges 2025-26;
- b) declares to raise \$1,762,018.05 in General Rates and Charges for the 2025-26 financial year to be paid in four (4) instalments due on:

1. 26th September 2025
2. 28th November 2025
3. 30th January 2026
4. 27th March 2026

and;

- c) declares to publish the notice as per section 241(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Moved:

Seconded:

BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Previous Decisions

RESOLUTION 2025/05/20/015

That Council receives and notes the remaining timetable of the Shire Plan and Budget 2025-26 as amended. (RMAC meeting to be included in the table).

Moved: Official Manager

Seconded: Official Manager

Carried

RESOLUTION SPECIAL2025/05/06/005

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report titled Draft Shire Plan 2025-26; and*

b) endorses the Draft Shire Plan 2025-26, as amended to reflect all rates values to two decimal places, a revised reserves table, a long-term financial plan by function, updated tilt tray labour costs, and no status column of priority projects, be released and submissions invited via Council's website, social media and newspaper over a period of 21 days; and

- c) this decision be moved into open business at the time of the media release of the Draft 2025-26 Shire Plan.*

Moved: Official Manager

Seconded: Official Manager

Carried

RESOLUTION 2024/05/21/010

That Council;

a) receives and notes the report entitled Declaration of Rates and Charges 2024-25;

b) declares to raise \$1,694,248 in General Rates and Charges for the 2024-25 financial year to be paid in four (4) instalments due on:

- 27th September 2024;*
- 29th November 2024;*
- 31st January 2025; and*
- 28th March 2025*

and

c) declares to publish the notice as per section 241(1) of the Local Government Act 2019.

Moved: Clr. McClymont

Seconded: Clr. Noble

Carried 5/

COMMENT

Pursuant to Sections 237 – 241 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Council must declare the Rates and Charges intended to be raised for the year and be included in the 2025-26 Budget and Annual Shire Plan. Council must also publish a notice of its declaration on its website and in a newspaper circulating in the area within 21 days of the declaration being made.

During the budget and Shire Plan workshop on 3rd June 2025, rating options for the 2025-26 financial year were considered and a draft rates declaration inclusive of a 4% increase in rates and charges was approved for public consultation at the 15TH April OGM.

The Departments response to Council was that legal advice should be obtained before finalising the Rate Declaration. Council engaged HWL Ebsworth to provide legal advice and suggested updates were incorporated.

The expected revenue raised from general rates is **\$1,248,201.05**. This does not include any revenue fluctuations associated from changes in the number of rateable properties prior to levying rates for the year. The expected revenue from mining tenements and pastoral leases reflects the Gazetted differential rates and minimums for 2025-26 provided by the Minister.

Waste charges have been increased by 4% for the 2025-26 financial year resulting in expected revenue of **\$513,817.00**.

The Risk Management and Audit Committee met on 10th June 2025 to review the 2025-26 Shire Plan and Rates Declaration. The Risk Management and Audit Committee recommends to Council to adopt the rates declaration, budget and Shire Plan 2025-26.

The attached 2025-26 Rates Declaration has four instalment dates included for Council's consideration.

CONSULTATION

- Chief Executive Officer
- 21-day Public Submission Period – Community consultation.
- Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet Compliance Team – received minimal technical advice.
- Legal Advice – HWL Ebsworth

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- *Local Government Act 2019*
- *1.11 Rating Policy*
- Ministerial Gazette - Attached

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has prepared a balanced budget for 2025-26 based on the rates revenue assumptions listed above. Expected total revenue raised from Rates and Charges is **\$1,762,018.05** with **\$1,248,201.05** being raised from rates and **\$513,817.00** from waste charges.

Council engaged Lawyers HW Ebsworth for \$2,200 and noted the advice to finalise the attached FINAL version of the rates declaration 2025-2026.

7.2 ATTACHMENT 1. DECLARATION OF RATES AND CHARGES

DECLARATION OF RATES AND CHARGES 2025-26

COOMALIE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2019



Notice is given pursuant to Section 241 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (**the Act**) that the following rates and charges were declared by Coomalie Community Government Council ("**Council**") at an Ordinary Council meeting held on 26th June 2025 pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Act in respect of the financial year ending 30 June 2026. (A copy of the assessment record is available for inspection, free of charge, at any of the Council's public offices. A person may apply to the Council for the correction of an entry in the assessment record.)

Rates

Pursuant to section 237 of the Act, Council declared that in respect to the financial year ending 30 June 2026 it intends to raise, for general purposes by way of rates, the amount of **\$1,248,201.05**

Pursuant to section 226 of the Act, the basis of rates is differential valuation-based charges (**differential rates**) with differential minimum amounts (**minimum amounts**) being payable in application of each of those differential rates.

Pursuant to section 227 of the Act, Council adopted the unimproved capital value (as it appears on the valuation roll prepared by the Valuer-General under the *Valuation of Land Act 1963*) as the basis of the assessed value of allotments in the Council area.

For the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 below:

- (a) "Plan" means Survey Plan CP 5479, a copy of which is accessible on the Council's website and available for inspection at the Council's public office; and
- (b) "Ward" means a ward as described on the Plan and not a "ward" as defined in the Act.

1. Batchelor Township Ward and Adelaide River Township Ward

In respect of allotments of rateable land within those parts of the council area described on the Plan as Batchelor Township Ward and Adelaide River Township Ward and classed as "Residential" or "Commercial" in the council assessment record, a differential rate of **0.00813822** multiplied by the assessed value of each allotment with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being **\$1,289.60** multiplied by the greater of:

- i. the number of separate residential parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use on each allotment pursuant to section 226(5) of the Act; or
- ii. the number 1 (one).

If an allotment is divided into separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use, a minimum amount may consist of a set amount to be multiplied by the number of separate parts or units.

2. Batchelor Rural Ward, Adelaide River Rural Ward, Coomalie Tortilla Ward and Lake Bennett Ward

In respect of allotments of rateable land within those parts of the council area described on the Plan as Batchelor Rural Ward, Adelaide River Rural Ward, Coomalie Tortilla Ward and Lake Bennett Ward and classed as "Residential" or "Commercial" in the council assessment record, a differential rate of **0.00299397** multiplied by the assessed value of each allotment with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being **\$1,088.00** multiplied by the greater of:

- i. the number of separate residential parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use on each allotment pursuant to section 226(5) of the Act; or
- ii. the number 1 (one).

3. Pastoral leases under the *Pastoral Land Act*

In respect of allotments of land which are held under a pastoral lease, as defined in section 3 of the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*, a rate of **0.000789** multiplied by the assessed value of such land with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being **\$970.61**.

4. Mining tenements

In respect of allotments of land which are occupied under a "mining tenement" as defined in the Act, a rate of **0.008960** multiplied by the assessed value of such land with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being **\$2,297.21**.

Note:

- i. Contiguous leases or reasonably adjacent tenements held by the same person are to be rated as if they were a single tenement.
- ii. If the owner of the mining tenement is also the owner of another interest in the land (**other interest**) then:
 - (A) if the rate calculated in accordance with this paragraph 4 is less than or equal to the rate payable for the other interest - no rate is payable for the mining tenement; or
 - (B) if the rate calculated in accordance with this paragraph 4 for the mining tenement (**amount A**) is greater than the rate payable for the other interest (**amount B**) - the rate payable for the mining tenement is the difference between amount A and amount B.

Charges

Pursuant to section 239 of the Act, Council declared the following charges for the purpose of kerbside garbage collection provided, or which council is willing and able to provide.

Council intends to raise **\$513,817.00** by these charges.

5. Residential Allotments - Waste

In respect of allotments classed as "Residential – not vacant" in the council assessment record, where Council is willing and able to provide the service, a charge of **\$563.00** per annum per allotment.

The service provided is a kerbside collection of the contents of one 240 litre bin per week.

6. Commercial Allotments - Waste

In respect of allotments classed as "Commercial" in the council assessment record, where Council is willing and able to provide the service, a charge of **\$1,160.00** per annum per allotment. This includes businesses operating food, commercial or accommodation businesses.

The service provided is a kerbside collection of the contents of one 240 litre bin twice per week.

7. General Waste Management

In respect of all allotments which are not liable for charges under paragraph 5 or 6 above, a charge of **\$265.00** per annum per allotment for access to the Council's waste management facility for the purpose of depositing waste from the allotment, regardless of whether or not the facility is used.

8. Payment

The Council determines that the rates and charges declared under this declaration are all due and payable in four (4) approximately equal instalments on the following dates:

- 1. 26th September 2025**
- 2. 28th November 2025**
- 3. 30th January 2026**
- 4. 27th March 2026**

Interest Rate for late payment

The relevant interest rate for the late payment of rates and charges is fixed in accordance with section 245 of the Act at the rate of **18% per annum** which is to be calculated on a daily basis. Instalments falling due on a weekend or public holiday may be paid by the following business day, without incurring any penalty.



Sharon Hillen
Chief Executive Officer
Coomalie Community Government Council



Northern Territory of Australia

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Northern Territory of Australia

Local Government Act 2019

Notice of Rateability of Conditionally Rateable Land for 2025-2026 Financial Year

I, Steven Mark Edgington, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development, under section 219(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* (the *Act*), give notice that conditionally rateable land is rateable as follows:

- (a) land held under a pastoral lease is rateable as specified in Schedule 1;
- (b) subject to paragraph (c), land occupied under a mining tenement is rateable as specified in Schedule 2;
- (c) if an environmental (mining) licence is required under Part 5A, Division 4, Subdivision 3 or 7 or section 313 of the *Environment Protection Act 2019* to conduct the commercial production of minerals on land occupied under a mining tenement, the mining tenement is conditionally rateable as specified in Schedule 2 only if an environmental (mining) licence has been granted under that Act.

S. M. EDGINGTON

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development

Dated 24 April 2025

7.3 2025-26 FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE

Date:	17 th June 2025
Author:	Sharon Hillen, Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	2025-26 Fees and Charges Schedule

PURPOSE

For Council to approve the 2025-26 Fees and Charges Schedule, an appendix to the Coomalie Community Government Council Shire Plan 2025-26.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council;

- a) adopts the 2025-26 Fees and Charges; and
- b) publishes the 2025-26 Fees and Charges on its website.

Moved:

Seconded:

BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Previous Decisions

RESOLUTION CONF2025/04/15/020

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report titled Fees and Charges 2025-26 as amended; and*
- b) endorses the proposed Fees and Charges for 2025-26 in principle, to be included in the draft Shire Plan 2025-26.*

Moved: Official Manager

Seconded: Official Manager

Carried

RESOLUTION 2024/05/21/011

That Council;

- a) adopts the 2024-25 Fees and Charges; and*
- b) publishes the 2024-25 Fees and Charges on its website.*

Moved: **Clr. McClymont**

Seconded: **Clr. Freeman**

Carried 5/0

COMMENT

Council is required to adopt the Fees and Charges to be included in the Shire Plan and Budget for the financial year and advertise for public comment for 21 days. Public consultation was open between 8th May 2025 to 29th May 2025. The changes made to the final Fees and Charges Schedule are highlighted in **YELLOW**.

CONSULTATION

- Council
- Corporate Services Manager

- Council and Community Services Manager

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Section 201(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2019*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE

2025-26

SERVICE DESCRIPTION	UNIT	FEE		GST
EQUIPMENT CHARGES				
Chairs (70 Blue)	Per Chair Per Day	\$2		Y
Chairs (White) – price/chair (On application, subject to CEO approval)	Per Day	\$5		Y
Chairs (White) – price/10 chairs (On application, subject to CEO approval)	Per Day	\$45		Y
Table (20)	Per Day	\$5		Y
Large Trailer (NOT car trailer)	Per Day	\$60		Y
Hire of equipment over long weekends		2x Per Day Charge		
VENUE HIRE				
Community Centre/Ovals/Facilities	Refundable Bond	\$120		N
	Half Day	\$50		Y
	Full Day	\$75		Y
Chambers /Conference Room	Half day	\$50		Y
	Full day	\$95		Y
Adelaide River Access Shed Key Deposit	Refundable	\$70		N
Storage fee (insurance borne by hirer)	Per Pallet	\$30		Y
PLANT HIRE CHARGES INCL OPERATOR		Rate Payer	Non-Rate Payer	
Tilt Tray	Per Hour	\$225	\$260	Y
Transport costs	Per Km	\$7	\$8	Y
Portable Toilet Trailer - daily rate per day	Daily rate – per day	\$700	\$730	Y
Portable Toilet Trailer - weekly rate per day	Weekly rate – per day	\$580	\$615	Y
Portable Toilet Trailer - Refundable Bond	Per Hire	\$615	\$650	N

SERVICE DESCRIPTION	UNIT	FEE	GST
ADMINISTRATION FEES			
Rate Search		\$148	Y
Advertising Community Directory		\$75	
Advertising in Newsletter	2 column x 10 lines	\$70	Y
	¼ page	\$185	Y
	½ page	\$270	Y
	Full page	\$363	Y
Photocopying - A4 Per Sheet	Black and White	\$0.25	Y
	Colour	\$0.35	Y
Photocopying - A3 Per Sheet	Black and White	\$0.35	Y
	Colour	\$0.50	Y
Laminating	A4 Per Sheet	\$1.50	Y
Scanning and emailing	Per Page	\$1	Y
	A3 Per Sheet	\$1	Y
Document Binding	Up to 30 pages	\$14	Y
	31-50 pages	\$23	Y
	Over 50 pages	\$28	Y
Administrative Coordination Fee	Per Hour (or part thereof)	\$54	Y
Printing of Shire Plan	Black and White	FREE	N
MARKET FEES (Pay Coordinator on site)			
Market Insurance	Per Day	\$6	Y
Powered Market Site Fee	Per Day	\$6	Y
COOMALIE ART SHOW			
Entry Fee (maximum of 3 pieces/artist)	Per Item	\$25	Y
BATCHELOR POOL			
Mon, Thu, Fri 3-6pm. Sat 1-6pm. Sun 12-6pm.			
General Admission:			
Adult		FREE	
Children (under 4 free)		FREE	
Pensioners		FREE	
POOL BOOKINGS			
Group Entry – School and Community Groups	Per Child	\$2	Y
	Per Adult	\$5	Y
Hirer to leave pool in neat and tidy condition.			

SERVICE DESCRIPTION	UNIT	FEE	GST
CEMETERY FEES			
Burial Plot (outright allocation) – non-refundable			
Adult	Per Burial	\$3,090	Y
Child	Per Burial	\$1,545	Y
Double Burial Plot (outright allocation)			
First Burial	Per Burial	\$3,090	Y
Second Burial	Per Burial	\$1,545	Y
Interment of Ashes – Plot or Niche wall			
Adult		\$370	Y
Child		\$185	Y
Reservations (Plot or Niche wall) – <i>refundable on cancellation less cancellation fee</i>	Per Site	\$370	Y
10% Cancellation Fee	Per Site	\$37	Y
Exclusive Rights Fee	Per Site	\$1,000	Y
ROAD SERVICE FEES			
Reinstatement of damaged road pavement		At Cost	Y
Permit to work on road reserve		\$307	Y
DOG REGISTRATION CHARGES - Town and Rural (Registration period Sep - Aug)			
Dog registered between September - August FULL fee	Per Dog	\$43	N
Dog registered between March - August PART fee	Per Dog	\$32	N
Concession card holders	50% discount *		
Desexed dogs	50% discount *		
* only one discount can be claimed per dog			
IMPOUNDED DOG FEES			
Initial impoundment fee	Registered Dog	\$115	N
	Unregistered Dog	\$215	N
Sustenance Fee for each day kept in pound		\$80	N
VET CLINIC			
Desex Male (Cat/Dog)	Concession Card FREE	\$100	Y
Desex Female (Cat/Dog)	Concession Card FREE	\$200	Y
Consult Checkup	Concession Card FREE	\$65	Y
Vaccination C3		\$65	Y
Vaccination C5		\$100	Y
Flea and Tick prevention		\$20	Y
Wormer	Total Price dependant on weight of dog x unit price	\$6	Y
Vaccination F3 (feline)		\$65	Y

SERVICE DESCRIPTION	UNIT	FEE	GST
WASTE MANAGEMENT FEES			
Wheelie Bin Purchase 660L	Per Bin	\$390	Y
Wheelie Bin Purchase 240L	Per Bin	\$132	Y
Residential Waste			
General Waste up to 1 Tonne		FREE	N
Green Waste up to 1 Tonne		FREE	N
White Goods (incl degassed fridges)	Per Item	FREE	N
Fridges requiring degas	Per Item	\$100	Y
Tyres			
Standard Sedan	Per Tyre	\$15	Y
All-terrain/small tractor	Per Tyre	\$50	Y
Truck/large tractor	Per Tyre	\$100	Y
Waste Oil (motor oils, hydraulic oil, NO cooking oils)			
Residents		FREE (up to 100L)	N
Non-residents or over 100L	Per 20L	\$22	Y
Commercial Waste			
Steel (Clean)		FREE	
Soil (Clean; by arrangement)		FREE	
Mattresses (Per item all sizes)		\$45	Y
Couch or lounge		\$45	Y
Green Waste (Clean - Minimum Fee)		\$40	Y
Green Waste (Clean per tonne)		\$60	Y
Green Waste (contaminated – minimum fee)		\$80	Y
Green Waste (contaminated – per tonne)		\$190	Y
General Waste (all vehicles per tonne)		\$170	Y
Green Waste (Contaminate with green waste)		\$220	Y
Construction Waste (by Appointment only)		\$220	Y
Optional Commercial Kerbside Pickup 660L (subject to Service Level Agreement in place)	Per Bin	\$3,042	Y
Mulch Sales			
Residential – Domestic quantity		FREE	N
Commercial	Cubic metre	\$33	Y
<i>Disclaimer: Disposal of listed items (tyres, batteries and sump oils) are subject to Council obtaining an Environmental Protection Licence.</i>			

IMPOUNDED VEHICLE FEES			
Towage	Per occasion	At Cost	Y
Storage	Per week	\$52	Y
Administration	Per occasion	\$94	Y
Advertisement costs	Per ad	\$145	Y
Inspector's costs	Per occasion	\$234	Y
Council vehicle use	Per occasion	\$20	Y
SALE OF IMPOUNDED VEHICLES			

Administration	Per occasion	\$94	Y
Advertisement costs	Per ad	\$145	Y
Inspector's costs	Per occasion	\$234	Y
Council vehicle use	Per occasion	\$20	Y

COOMALIE COMMUNITY BUS				
Bus - bus must be refuelled prior to return	Per Day	\$200	\$220	Y
Bus - refuel if returned not full	Per Litre	\$5	\$5	Y

INTERNAL USE ONLY – PLANT USE FEES INCL OPERATOR				
	Per Unit	Rate Payer	Non-Rate Payer	GST
5T Tipper	Per Hour	\$215	\$245	Y
3T Tipper	Per Hour	\$205	\$235	Y
Backhoe	Per Hour	\$285	\$310	Y
Tilt Tray	Per Hour	\$225	\$260	Y
Bobcat	Per Hour	\$105	\$120	Y
Attachments to Bobcat	Per Hour	\$10	\$25	Y
Transport costs	Per Km	\$5	\$6	Y
Tractor	Per Hour	\$115	\$130	Y
Tractor	Per Day	\$625	\$675	Y
Slasher	Per Hour	\$35	\$45	Y
Utility	Per Hour	\$105	\$115	Y
General labour	Per Hour	\$100	\$115	Y

7.4 2025-26 BUDGET

Date:	26 th June 2025
Author:	Sharon Hillen, Chief Executive Officer Shaun Hardy, Corporate Services Manager
Attachment:	2025-26 Budget Tables

PURPOSE

To adopt the 2025-26 Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council;

- a) adopts the 2025-26 Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan; and
- b) publishes the Budget on Council's website and in a newspaper circulating generally in the area and notify the Agency in writing in accordance with section 203(4) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Moved:

Seconded:

BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Previous Decisions

RESOLUTION 2024/05/21/013

That Council;

- a) adopts the 2024-25 Budget; and*
- b) publishes the Budget on Council's website and in a newspaper circulating generally in the area and notify the Agency in writing in accordance with section 203(4) of the Local Government Act 2019.*

Moved: *Clr. McClymont*

Seconded: *Clr. Freeman*

Carried 5/0

COMMENT

Council is required to adopt a balanced budget for the financial year and advertise for public comment for 21 days. Public consultation was open from 23rd April 2024 to 13th May 2024.

Public consultation was open between 8th May 2025 to 29th May 2025. The changes made to the final 2025-26 Budget are highlighted in **YELLOW**.

CONSULTATION

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development
- Manager Corporate Services

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Part 10.5 of the *Local Government Act 2019*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As reflected in the following prescribed tables.

7.4 ATTACHMENT 2025-26 BUDGET

Table 1.1 Annual Budget Income and Expenditure

	2025-26 Budget \$
OPERATING INCOME	
Rates	1,248,201
Charges	513,817
Fees and Charges	145,536
Operating Grants and Subsidies	1,544,627
Interest / Investment Income	190,000
Commercial and Other Income	76,848
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	3,719,029

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	
Employee Expenses	1,531,668
Materials and Contracts	2,002,807
Elected Member Allowances	67,772
Elected Member Expenses	33,600
Council Committee Allowances	50,000
Council Committee Expenses	7,000
Other Expenses	25,400
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	3,718,247
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	782
Depreciation	1,598,564
NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(1,597,782)

Table 1.2 Annual Operating Position

	2025-26 Budget \$
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(1,597,782)
<i>Remove</i> NON-CASH ITEMS	
Less Non-Cash Income	
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	1,598,564
TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS	1,598,564
<i>Less</i> ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	
Capital Expenditure	1,622,000
Borrowing Repayments (Principal Only)	0
Transfer to Reserves	162,500
Other Outflows	0
TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	1,784,500
<i>Add</i> ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	
Capital Grants Income	532,000
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	595,000
Other Inflow of Funds	0
Transfers from Reserves	781,500
TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	1,908,500
NET BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	124,782

Table 2.1 Capital Expenditure and Funding

By class of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2025-26 Budget \$	2026-27 Budget \$	2027-28 Budget \$	2028-29 Budget \$
Buildings	0			
Community Assets and Other Structures	544,500			
Motor Vehicles	70,000			
Plant and Equipment	25,000			
Roads Infrastructure	982,500	410,185	431,773	431,773
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	1,622,000	410,185	431,773	431,773

TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY:	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	NOTES
Capital Grants Income	532,000	410,185	431,773	431,773	Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Grant (\$260,000) + WARM (\$104,500) + Roads to Recovery (\$167,500)
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	595,000				Community Benefit Grant – Helipad (\$180,000) + Community Places for People Grant - Cemetery Carpark Precinct (\$415,000)
Operating Income and Subsidies	400,000				NT Operational Grant – Sealing Batchelor Roads (\$200,000) + Cemetery Carpark (\$200,000)
Reserves	95,000				Twin cab ute (\$70,000) + ride-on lawnmower (\$25,000)
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	1,622,000	410,185	431,773	431,773	

Table 3.1 Budget by Planned Major Capital Works

Class of Assets	By Major Capital Project*	Total Prior Year(s) Actuals \$	Current Financial Year Budget \$	Total Planned Budget \$	Expected Project Completion Date
Buildings	Nil	0	0	0	0
Community Assets	WaRM 2025-26 Adelaide River Transfer Station	0	104,500	104,500	30/06/2026
	Footpaths, street and park lights, play equipment and helipad at Adelaide River	0	440,000	440,000	30/06/2026
Motor Vehicles	Replace 2 single cab utes with one twin cab 4x4 ute	0	70,000	70,000	31/12/2025
Plant & Equipment	One heavy duty ride-on mower	0	25,000	25,000	31/12/2025
Roads	Roads to Recovery and Federal Assistance Grants		982,500	982,500	30/06/2026
	TOTAL	0	1,622,000	1,622,000	

Long-Term Financial Plan 2025 - 2029 - Operating Budget

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
ADMINISTRATION				
Income	2,176,832	2,263,905	2,354,461	2,448,640
Expenditure	1,389,855	1,445,449	1,503,267	1,563,398
Net Profit/(Loss)	786,977	818,456	851,194	885,242
CEMETERIES				
Income	5,200	5,408	5,624	5,849
Expenditure	5,097	5,300	5,512	5,732
Net Profit/(Loss)	104	108	112	117
COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS				
Income	8,600	8,944	9,302	9,674
Expenditure	52,936	55,053	57,256	59,546
Net Profit/(Loss)	-44,336	-46,109	-47,954	-49,872
COMMUNITY LIBRARIES				
Income	44,620	46,405	48,261	50,191
Expenditure	67,738	70,448	73,265	76,196
Net Profit/(Loss)	-23,118	-24,043	-25,004	-26,005
COMMUNITY SERVICES				
Income	129,720	134,909	140,305	145,917
Expenditure	118,165	122,892	127,807	132,920
Net Profit/(Loss)	11,555	12,017	12,498	12,998
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
PARKS AND GARDENS				
Income	624	649	675	702
Expenditure	396,344	412,198	428,686	445,833
Net Profit/(Loss)	-395,720	-411,549	-428,011	-445,131
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES				
Income	10,585	11,008	11,449	11,907
Expenditure	106,725	110,994	115,434	120,051
Net Profit/(Loss)	-96,140	-99,986	-103,985	-108,144
REGULATORY SERVICES				
Income	5,720	5,949	6,187	6,434
Expenditure	121,329	126,182	131,229	136,479
Net Profit/(Loss)	-115,609	-120,233	-125,043	-130,044
ROADS				
Income	664,076	690,639	718,265	746,995
Expenditure	693,132	720,857	749,692	779,679
Net Profit/(Loss)	-29,056	-30,218	-31,427	-32,684
BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES				
Income	832	865	900	936
Expenditure	71,178	74,025	76,986	80,066
Net Profit/(Loss)	-70,346	-73,160	-76,086	-79,130
STREETLIGHTING				
Income	0	0	0	0

Expenditure	19,760	20,550	21,372	22,227
Net Profit/(Loss)	-19,760	-20,550	-21,372	-22,227
SWIMMING POOL				
Income	2,080	2,163	2,250	2,340
Expenditure	123,297	128,229	133,358	138,692
Net Profit/(Loss)	-121,217	-126,066	-131,108	-136,353
WASTE MANAGEMENT				
Income	650,140	676,146	703,191	731,319
Expenditure	464,453	483,031	502,352	522,446
Net Profit/(Loss)	185,687	193,114	200,839	208,873
WEED AND FIRE MANAGEMENT				
Income	20,000	20,800	21,632	22,497
Expenditure	88,240	91,770	95,440	99,258
Net Profit/(Loss)	-68,240	-70,970	-73,808	-76,761
TOTAL INCOME	3,719,029	3,867,790	4,022,502	4,183,402
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,718,247	3,866,978	4,021,657	4,182,523
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)	782	812	845	879

Council Reserves

RESERVE	Opening Balance at 1 July 2025	Budget Transfer from Reserve	Budget Transfer to Reserve	Projected Balance at 30 June 2026
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED				
Election Expenses Reserve	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Waste Management Reserve*	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Asset Renewal Reserve**	\$200,000	\$95,000	\$100,000	\$205,000
Disaster Recovery Reserve***	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Batchelor Playground	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED				
Tied Grant Funds	\$595,000	\$595,000	\$0	\$0
Disaster Recovery Reserve***	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Total	\$986,500	\$781,500	\$162,500	\$367,500

* Waste Management Reserve will increase as commercial waste income is received. Council may utilise funding to seek an investigation to assess the Post Closure Restoration requirements for future budgets and inform the internally restricted Waste Management Reserves. Transfers include \$20,000 for the Co-contribution to WaRM Grant Round 5. \$30,000 consultancy to determine Waste Management Facility Restoration Funds required for reserves.

** Asset Management Reserve may be drawn on to fund grant co-contributions where grants address renewal or replacement of existing assets. Transfers include the purchase of an Industrial Ride-on Mower (\$25,000) and a twin cab 4x4 work ute (\$70,000).

***Note Council resolved to double the statutory required allocation of \$25,000 to Disaster Recovery Reserve which is why this reserve appears in both the internally and externally (statutory) restricted reserve categories.

7.5 2025-26 SHIRE PLAN

Date:	26 th June 2025
Author:	Sharon Hillen, Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Shire Plan 2025-26

PURPOSE

For Council to approve and adopt the Shire Plan 2025-26.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council;

- a) adopts the Shire Plan 2025-26 in accordance with section 35 of the *Local Government Act 2019*; and
- b) provides the Agency with a copy of the Shire 2025-26 Plan in accordance with section 35 of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Moved:

Seconded:

BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Previous Decisions

RESOLUTION 2024/05/21/014

That Council;

a) adopts the 2024-25 Shire Plan as amended in accordance with section 35 of the Local Government Act 2019; and

b) provides the Agency with a copy of the 2024-25 Shire Plan in accordance with section 35 of the Local Government Act 2019.

Moved: *Clr. McClymont*

Seconded: *Clr. Freeman*

Carried 5/0

COMMENT

In accordance with section 35 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act), a Council must adopt its Shire Plan no later than 30 June each year. Section 34 of the Act outlines that the Shire Plan must include the Council's service delivery plan, the Council's Budget, long-term financial plan and any other long-term community or strategic plans adopted by the Council.

Section 35 of the Act details the steps a Council must take prior to adopting a shire plan. To meet these requirements, the below timetable was approved to guide the drafting and adopting of the Council's Shire Plan and Budget 2025-26.

SHIRE PLAN AND BUDGET 2025-26 TIMETABLE

Date	Meetings/ Workshops	Drafting Stage
Tue 6 May	Special Council Meeting	Draft Shire Plan and Budget
Thu 8 May	Public Consultation Period Starts (21 Days)	NT News, social media and Website
Tue 20 May	Council Meeting	Draft Shire Plan and Budget
Thu 29 May	Public Consultation Period Finishes	Draft Shire Plan and Budget
Tue 3 Jun	Workshop to review feedback – Official Manager and Executive Leadership Team	Review Feedback
Tue 10 June	Tabled public comments with RMAC	RMAC Recommended
Thu 26 June	Special Council Meeting	Final Shire Plan and Budget Adopted
Mon 30 Jun	Final Shire Plan and Budget due to the Minister	

COMMUNICATION PLAN

The following actions have been taken to prepare and release the Coomalie Shire Plan 2025-26:

- The Official Manager was provided a draft copy of the Shire Plan 2025-26 on 23rd of April 2025, more than 6 days prior to the Special Meeting held on the 6th of May 2025 to approve the Final Draft for Public Comment.
- A media release and the draft Shire Plan were loaded on the Councils website and links to the documents sent to the Department of Local Government and Council's Risk Management and Audit Committee Members for feedback.
- An advertisement was placed in the NT News on Friday 2nd May 2025.
- 25 Show Bags containing the Draft Shire Plan were distributed at the Batchelor Town and Country Markets on the 12th of May 2025.
- Links to the Media Release and Draft Shire Plan were sent as a media alert to the Stop Press newsletter subscribers.
- COTA NT Coomalie Branch also distributed the links to its subscribers and posted the media release on their Facebook page.
- A receipt acknowledgement process and register has been established to capture the submissions as they arrive.
- Public Submissions closed on the 23rd of May, and 5 submissions were received by the close of business, with one formal letter received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development.
- A workshop with the Official Manager took place on the 3rd of June 2025 to discuss the comments and some changes were made accordingly.
- The DRAFT copy of the Shire Plan was sent to independent members of the RMAC during the public submission period.
- The submissions and proposed response was tabled at the 10th of June RMAC Meeting.

- Changes were made to the FINAL Copy of the Shire Plan as attached. Recent changes are highlighted in **YELLOW**.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Part 3.3 of the *Local Government Act 2019*
- Councils Strategic Plan 2023-27
- Accessibility, Connectivity and Mobility Strategy

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil



COOMALIE SHIRE PLAN 2025-2026



Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY	38
COUNCIL LOGO	38
	36

INTRODUCTION	39
OFFICAL MANAGER MESSAGE	40
CEO MESSAGE	41
ABOUT COOMALIE	42
YOUR COUNCIL.....	43
COUNCIL COMMITTEES.....	44
ELECTED MEMBER ALLOWANCES	45
REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES.....	46
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	47
PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK	48
COMMUNITY-FOCUSED FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP IN COOMALIE SHIRE'S 2025-26 BUDGET.....	50
BUDGET AT A GLANCE	51
BUDGETED OPERATING INCOME.....	51
BUDGETED OPERATING EXPENDITURE	52
LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025–2029.....	58
RESERVES MANAGEMENT.....	61
Impact of the New Reserves Policy on Community Projects.....	62
RATING STRATEGY	63
DECLARATION OF RATES AND CHARGES 2025-26	65
PRIORITY PROJECTS – IN STRATEGIC PLAN CATEGORIES.....	68
ORGANISATION STRUCTURE.....	71
SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN	73
APPENDICES	77
APPENDIX 1- STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	78
APPENDIX 2 - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE	79
APPENDIX 3 - LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK.....	84

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Coomalie Community Government Council, acknowledge the Kungarakan and Warai peoples as the Traditional Owners and ongoing custodians of the land commonly referred to as Coomalie. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging. We recognise their continuing connection to the land, waters, and culture of this region. We extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in or visiting the Coomalie area.

This acknowledgement reflects the Council's commitment to fostering respect, recognition, and ongoing relationships with the First Peoples of this land, aligning with our vision of connecting community and our mission to focus on the diverse priorities of Coomalie, including its cultural heritage.

COUNCIL LOGO

The logo designed by Sue Heyson is a significant emblem for the Coomalie Community Government Council, proudly displayed on papers, uniforms, buildings, and facilities. It represents various aspects of the Coomalie community's identity and values through its carefully chosen symbols:



- **Grain:** Symbolizes the farming industry, reflecting the agricultural heritage and economic base of the region.
- **Book:** Represents education, highlighting the importance of learning and growth within the community.
- **Spade:** Denotes the mining industry, acknowledging the role of natural resources in Coomalie's economy.
- **Water:** Signifies recreation, emphasizing the recreational opportunities available in the area.
- **Palm Frond:** Represents conservation, indicating a commitment to preserving the local environment.
- **Horns:** Symbolize cattle and livestock, which are integral to the local agricultural practices.

This logo not only enhances community pride but also encapsulates the diverse social, economic, environmental, and cultural priorities that define Coomalie. Its presence on uniforms and facilities reinforces a sense of unity and identity among residents and visitors alike, aligning with the Council's mission to connect the community through its unique landscape and heritage.

INTRODUCTION

The Coomalie Shire Plan 2025-2026 is Coomalie Community Government Council's comprehensive guide for Elected Members, Community, and Staff, encompassing all essential information for the upcoming financial year. This Plan serves as a central resource, detailing the Council's governance structure, service functions, priority projects, and budget.

The Plan incorporates the Council's Service Delivery Plan, highlighting key milestones that will drive the implementation of our Strategic Plan 2023-2027. It seamlessly integrates all aspects of Council operations, including the annual rates strategy, fees and charges, and the legislative framework within which Council operates.

As we enter the third year of our long-term Strategic Plan 2023-2027, the focus remains on elevating service standards across the region and optimising the use of all available Council resources. This Plan reflects our commitment to transparency, accountability, and community-centric service delivery.

By consolidating this information into a single, accessible document, Council aims to enhance communication, streamline operations, and foster a more connected and informed community.

Our vision of ***"Connecting Community, driven by the unique Coomalie landscape"*** continues to guide our efforts. Council remains dedicated to our mission of focusing on the diverse social, economic, environmental, and cultural priorities of the Coomalie Region.

This Shire Plan 2025-2026 is a testament to our ongoing commitment to stability, advocacy, sustainability, and community wellbeing and resilience. It serves as a roadmap for the year ahead, ensuring that our actions align with the needs and aspirations of the Coomalie community.

The Coomalie Community Government Council's planning framework for 2025-26 has been significantly strengthened, enhancing the Council's ability to ensure long-term sustainability while improving service delivery and upgrading community infrastructure. With the review of key policies in 2025 and the adoption of the Asset Management Strategy and associated Asset Management Plans, the Council has established a robust foundation for effective governance and resource allocation.

This comprehensive approach integrates long-term asset and financial management, forecasting future service delivery needs and the capacity of assets to meet those needs on short, medium, and long-term bases. The enhanced planning framework will enable the Council to better prioritise projects, manage risks, and allocate resources efficiently, ultimately leading to improved service standards and infrastructure upgrades that align with the community's needs and the region's unique landscape.



OFFICIAL MANAGER MESSAGE



As the Official Manager of Coomalie Community Government Council, I am pleased to present this message for the Shire Plan 2025-26. The past year has presented some challenges, which in turn presents significant opportunities to Council.

During my tenure, I have worked with the senior management to focus on addressing a number of irregularities and compliance issues. establishing a strong foundation of compliance and financial stability. We have updated all Council policies, ensuring they align with contemporary practice and legislative requirements. These initiatives will prudently serve an incoming Council well in coming years.

A key achievement has been the development of a comprehensive asset management planning framework. This, coupled with the establishment of financial reserves, will assist prioritising future capital works programs and unexpected challenges.

Considerable effort has been invested in building relationships with the new government, particularly the Treasurer and other Ministers. These connections will be necessary in addressing legacy issues such as “paper roads” and advancing major infrastructure projects. Notable among these are the Adelaide River Road Reserve upgrade and the much community valued Batchelor Pool which is well past its useful life.

Community safety has been identified by the community as a priority. Council continues to work with the Police, Neighbourhood Watch and the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure to implement strategic initiatives to respond to community concerns. Council has allocated additional resources for street lighting maintenance and replacement in this year’s Shire Plan. The trialling of solar street lighting in Adelaide River may provide a cost-effective solution to improving street lighting across the townships of Adelaide River and Batchelor.

The Shire Plan and Budget will contribute to the stability and growth of our small but significant local government authority. Coomalie is the gateway to the Top End and Litchfield National Park, and we have much to offer in terms of local and regional economic development through the connecting and social infrastructure we provide.

Council continues to work with the NT Government and the Australian Government to improve industry roads in the rural area. These roads are wealth generating infrastructure and supports our local economy. This year funds have been allocated to scoping the works required to improve accessibility for our two local abattoirs.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Chief Executive Officer and all of the staff at the Council for their unwavering support and commitment to serving the local communities. Your dedication has been instrumental in navigating these challenging times and setting a positive course for the future. I wish you all the very best in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Mark Blackburn'.

Mark Blackburn, Official Manager

CEO MESSAGE



As the CEO of Coomalie Community Government Council, I am pleased to present our operational forecasts for the coming year, which align with and complement the strategic direction set by our Official Manager.

Our focus for the upcoming period is on delivering key Town Priorities outlined in Council's Strategic Plan as well as improving the standard of our existing core and agency services. We have identified several crucial infrastructure projects within Council's remit that will significantly enhance our community's quality of life and safety.

Infrastructure Improvements: One of our primary objectives is to reseal the local road network in both Batchelor and Adelaide River. This project is in line with advice from the newly adopted Asset Management Plans and will improve road safety and reduce long-term maintenance costs, ensuring our residents and visitors can travel comfortably throughout our region.

Environmental Management: We are committed to becoming a regional leader in land management on Council controlled land. To achieve this, we will be allocating more resources to weed and fire management. This initiative is crucial not only for environmental conservation but also for reducing fire hazards and protecting our unique landscapes.

Risk Management and Asset Planning: Our team will be developing strategies to address and eliminate risks identified in our risk register. We will also continue implementing our Asset Management Plans, providing a long-term framework for cyclical maintenance, refurbishment, replacement, and renewal of our ageing assets.

Service Delivery Enhancements: We aim to improve our service delivery standards in parks and gardens, ensuring our community spaces remain inviting and well-maintained. Additionally, we will continue to enhance our regulatory services and implementing the recently completed Tree Audit, keeping our residents safe as they enjoy our uniquely shaded and peaceful landscapes.

Future Planning: Looking ahead, we recognise the need to develop asset management plans for streetlights and our stormwater drainage systems. These plans will ensure we can effectively maintain and upgrade these critical infrastructure elements in the future.

Waste Management: Waste management remains high on our agenda. We will be focusing on increasing recycling efforts and implementing principles of the circular economy to reduce waste and promote reuse.

As we move forward, we understand there is more work to be done. Our team is committed to continuous improvement and addressing the evolving needs of our community. We look forward to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to achieve these objectives and create a thriving, sustainable future for the Coomalie Region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SHILL', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sharon Hillen, Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT COOMALIE

Coomalie Community Government Council is a local government area in Australia's Northern Territory, situated approximately 75 kilometres south of Darwin. The Council governs an area of 2,056 km² with a population of 1,431 as of this year's ABS population statistics for the populations usual place of residence.

Our region encompasses the townships of Adelaide River and Batchelor, the residential estate of Lake Bennett, and surrounding rural areas including Camp Creek, Collett Creek, Coomalie Creek, Darwin River Dam, Eva Valley, Finnis Valley, Robin Falls, Rum Jungle, Stapleton, and Tortilla Flats.

Coomalie's boundaries extend from Manton Dam in the north to the **Daly River Road** in the south, and from the Adelaide River in the east to Litchfield National Park in the west. The area is bordered by Litchfield Council to the north, unincorporated Northern Territory to the east, Victoria Daly Regional Council to the south, and Litchfield National Park to the west.

Our economy is diverse, with significant contributions from agriculture, horticulture, and mining. The region's tropical climate, with high humidity and rainfall, supports the cultivation of various crops including grains, bananas, rambutans, mangoes, and other tropical fruits.

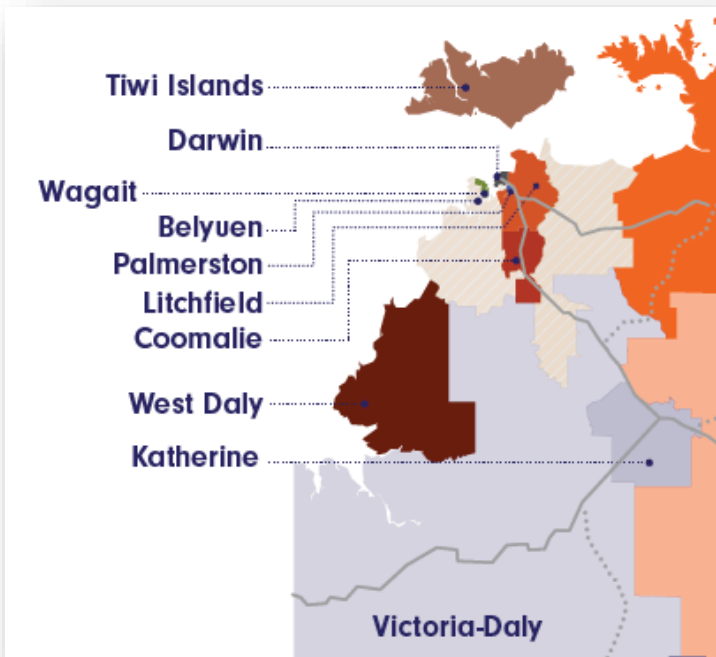
Coomalie is also known for its natural beauty, with Litchfield National Park offering numerous recreational opportunities such as hiking trails, bird watching, and stunning waterfalls.

MAP 1. Coomalie Shire Location Map. Resource of LGANT

Established on October 4, 1990, Coomalie Community Government Council held its first election on May 2, 1991. The Council is dedicated to

serving the community and holds Ordinary General Meetings on the third Tuesday of every month. The Council will enter its 10th Term following the 2025 Local Government Elections in August.

Our current vision, "Connecting Community, driven by the unique Coomalie landscape," reflects our commitment to fostering a strong sense of community while embracing the distinct natural environment that defines our region. This vision guides our efforts in focusing on the diverse social, economic, environmental, and cultural priorities of Coomalie.



YOUR COUNCIL

Council Administration

As of 22 July 2024, the Coomalie Community Government Council was placed under official management, as directed by the then Minister for Local Government, Chansey Paech, through Government Gazette No. S69. This action was taken under section 318(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*. The following appointments were made:

- Mark Blackburn was appointed to manage the affairs of the Council.
- Cathryn Hutton was appointed to investigate and report to the Minister by 14 March 2025 on the conduct of the suspended members, as well as the overall affairs and financial position of the Council.

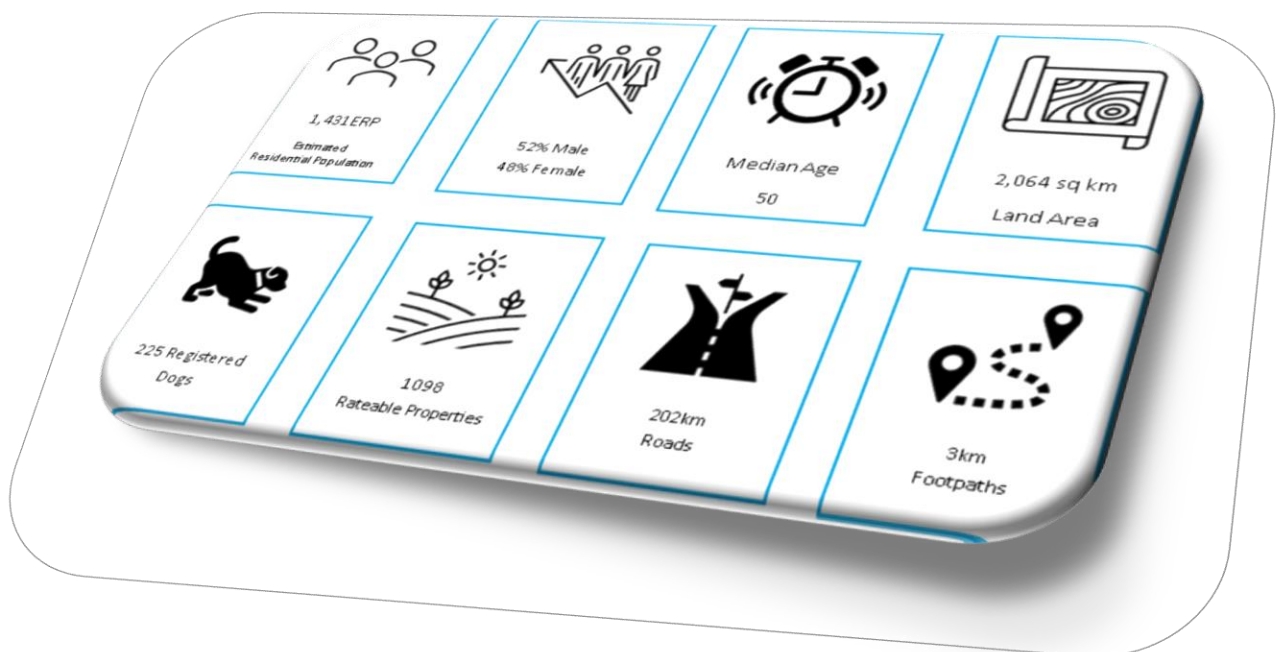
Council Structure

The Coomalie Local Government Area (LGA) is divided into three wards:

1. Coomalie Rural Ward
2. Batchelor Town Ward
3. Adelaide River Ward

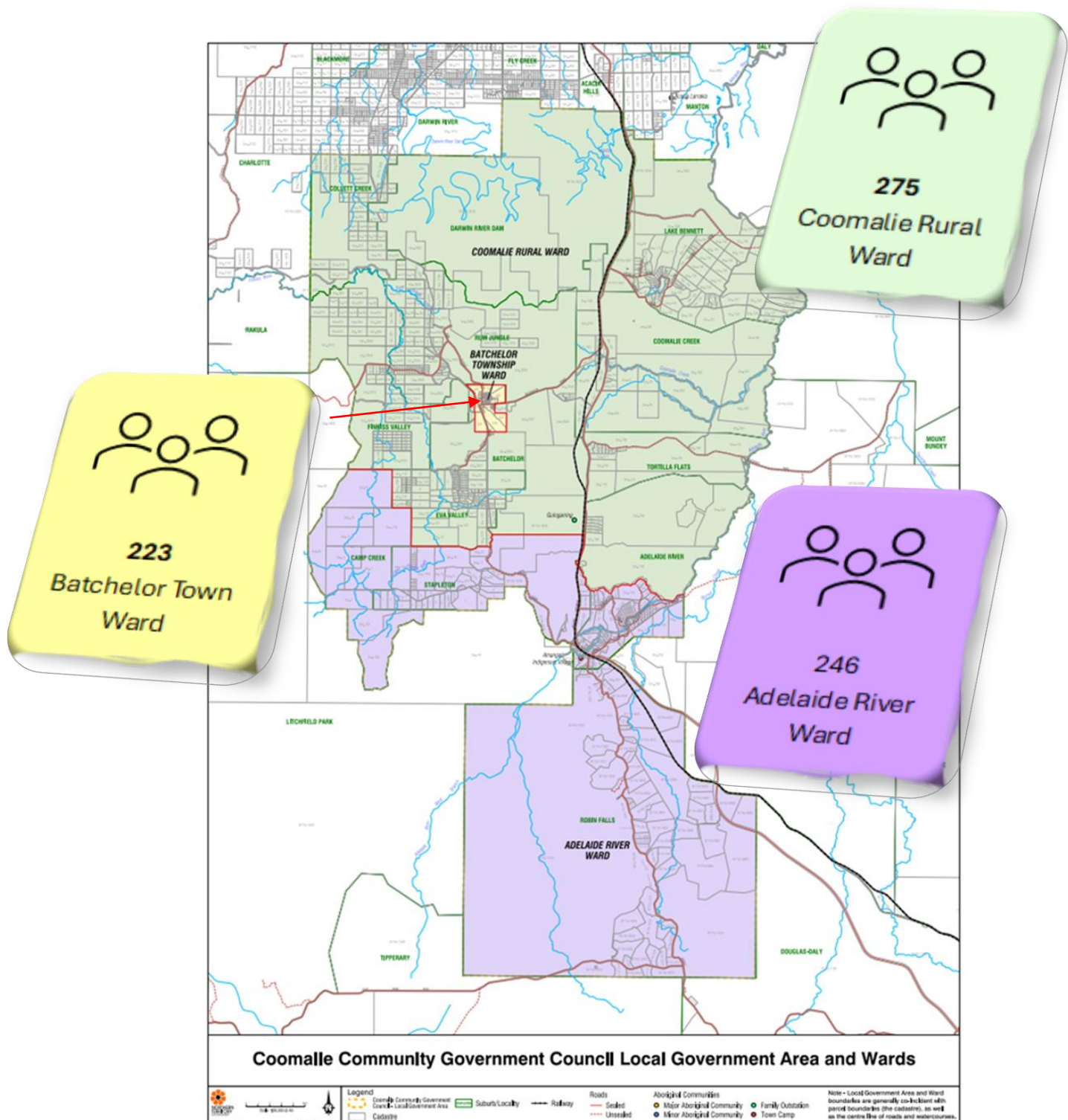
The wards are represented by two elected members, each serving a four-year term. The next Local Government Election is anticipated in August 2025. Prior to the election, all Council positions will be vacated, and a “Caretaker Period” will commence in July, in accordance with the Council’s Caretaker Policy and the Local Government Act 2019. During this period, no significant changes to Council business can be undertaken.

Following the election, the new Council will hold an internal meeting to elect the Principal Member (President) and Deputy Principal Member (Deputy President).



THE COOMALIE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The NT Electoral Roll as at 6 December 2024 has **744** enrolled, an increase of 16.32%.



COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Coomalie Council Committees include two formal committees with Council approved Terms of Reference:

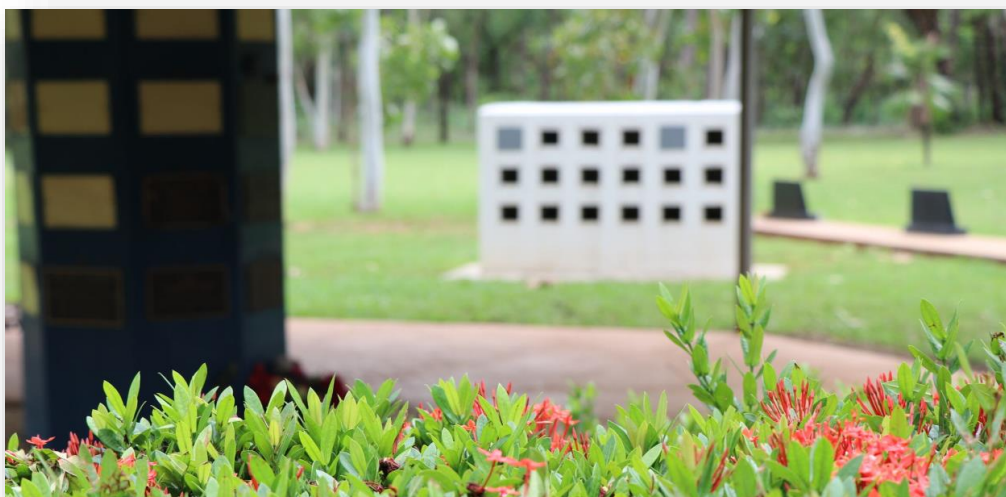
1. Risk Management and Audit Committee

- Composition: Two independent members (Chair and one independent committee member), and two Elected Members.
- Meeting frequency: a minimum of four times a year.
- Purpose: To discuss the annual budget, long-term financial planning, and the Council's Risk Management Framework.
- Allowances: The Chair receives a committee allowance and some travel costs. The independent Committee Member receives a sitting fee to cover preparation time pre-meetings and attendance at meetings (Chairperson \$800 and Member \$400).

2. Coomalie Bush Cemetery Board

Council manages and controls the public cemetery called Coomalie Bush Cemetery. The full Council forms the Coomalie Bush Cemetery Board a formal committee of Council (*Section 82 Local Government Act 2019*).

- Composition: Full Council and the CEO (manager of the Public Cemetery).
- Meeting frequency: Twice annually.
- Purpose: To discuss the management of the Coomalie Bush Cemetery, developments, and compliance under the *Burial and Cremations Act 2022*.
- Highlights for the coming year:
 - The Board will need to ~~workshop~~ adopt a new Cemetery Policy and the Cemetery Plan;
 - The Cemetery Precinct Power, Pathways and Parking Project will be completed in this financial year.



ELECTED MEMBER ALLOWANCES

Elected members of local government councils receive allowances to assist them in conducting their functions under the Local Government Act 2019. These allowances are designed to compensate council members for their time and effort in fulfilling their roles, covering costs associated with attending meetings, phone and internet usage, home office supplies, and servicing constituents. The specific amounts and conditions for these allowances are determined annually by the NT Government's Remuneration Tribunal and may vary depending on the council and the member's position (e.g., Principal Member, Deputy Principal Member, or Councillor).

The NT Government's Remuneration Tribunal determines allowances for elected members of local government councils. As from 13 February 2025, the Tribunal set new rates for Councillor Allowances. For the Coomalie Community Government Council, the allowances are structured as follows:

ALLOWANCE	PRESIDENT	DEPUTY PRESIDENT	COUNCILLOR
Annual Base	\$7,462	\$7,462	\$29,848 (\$7,462 p/c)
Principal Allowance	\$23,000	NIL	
Extra Meeting		\$10,000	\$40,000 (\$10,000 p/c)
Other Expense			
Professional Development	\$ 5,000	\$5,000	\$20,000 (\$5,000 p/c)
Travel/Accom.	\$ 1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Totals	\$36,662	\$23,662	\$91,048
TOTALs 2025-2026 = \$151,372			

- **Base Allowance:** This covers activities preparation, attendance at regular Council meetings, social functions as Council representatives, constituency responsibilities, and Council representation outside the municipality.
- **Electoral Allowance:** This is provided to assist council members with electoral matters and can be used at the discretion of individual members.
- **Extra Meeting Allowance:** This is paid for attending special meetings, such as Council Advisory Committee meetings, as specified in the council's policy.
- **Professional Development Allowance:** This is available for attending appropriate training courses or conferences that sustain a member's professional competence.
- **Travel and Accommodation Allowance:** This covers expenses related to travel and accommodation for council-related duties. It is expected that the President and Deputy President and a Councillor would attend one or both annual Local Government Association Conferences according to a decision of Council.

REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Local government elected members and staff participate in various agency and community and regional committees, working groups, and advisory committees to ensure effective representation, collaboration, and decision-making. These roles allow them to represent community views, provide leadership, and contribute to strategic planning on issues such as infrastructure, services, and regulatory matters. By engaging with diverse stakeholders, they address specific local needs, oversee projects, and foster cooperation between councils, government agencies, and the community. This involvement helps ensure that decisions are informed by a broad range of perspectives and align with the best interests of the local population.

Principal Member/ Official Manager

- Top End Regional Organisation of Councils
- Adelaide River Emergency Management Committee
- Batchelor Emergency Management Committee

The Chief Executive Officer is an approved representative on the following committees and groups:

- Top End Regional Organisation of Councils
- Adelaide River Emergency Management Committee
- Batchelor Emergency Management Committee
- Darwin Water Supply Infrastructure Community Reference Group
- Top End Regional Coordination Committee
- LGANT Representative on the Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Community
- Public Library Strategic Development Group

Manager, Corporate Services is an approved representative on the following committees and Groups:

- Local Government Cyber Security Review Working Group

Manager Council and Community Services is an approved representative on the following committees and groups:

- Finnis and Reynolds River Catchment Group
- Adelaide River Emergency Management Committee
- Batchelor Emergency Management Committee
- TOPROC Animal Welfare Working Group

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Council works in partnership with several local community and business organisations communicating and coordinating better service delivery in the region:

- Adelaide River Community Craft Markets
- Adelaide River Railway Heritage Precinct
- Adelaide River School
- Adelaide River Show Society
- AFL NT
- Australasian Cemeteries & Crematoria Association
- Batchelor Town and Country Markets
- Batchelor Museum Development Association Inc.
- Batchelor Adelaide River & Tortilla Volunteer Fire Brigade
- Bowls NT
- Coomalie Community Watch
- Council of the Ageing Australia (COTA)
- Finniss Reynolds Catchment Management Group
- Fire and Emergency Response Group
- Ironbark Aboriginal Corporation
- Kungarakana and Warai Peoples
- Lake Bennett Body Corporate Group
- Lake Bennett Community Association Inc.
- Litchfield Regional Tourism Inc.
- Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)
- Member for Daly
- Member for Lingiari
- Neighbourhood Watch NT
- Royal Life Saving Society NT
- Rum Jungle Bowls Club
- Rum Jungle Mine Stakeholder Group
- Sports Education Development Australia (SEDA)
- Tennis NT
- Top End Regional Organisations of Council (TOPROC)
- Tourism Top End

Council maintains strong communication and coordination with Northern Territory Government agencies, including:

- Adelaide River School
- Batchelor Area School
- Adelaide River Health Clinic
- Batchelor Health Clinic
- Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
- Bushfires NT
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet
- Department of Housing, Local Government & Community Development
- Department of Lands, Planning & Environment
- Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
- Environmental Health – Public Health
- Library & Archives NT
- NT Environmental Protection Authority
- NT Grants Commission
- NT Health
- NT Land Corporation
- NT Police, Fire & Emergency Services
- Office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption NT
- Parks and Wildlife

Council maintains strong communication and coordination with the Commonwealth Government agencies including:

- Australian Taxation Office
- Dept. Health - Aged care and National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIS)
- Dept. of Infrastructure Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts
- Dept. of Veteran Affairs
- National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)



PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The planning and reporting framework remains in place, ensuring that the organisational structure supports the Council's commitment to good governance, effective resource planning, and transparent operations. This framework includes:

- Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (approved by Council)
- Shire Plan 2025-2026 (approved by Council)
- Operational Plans (Approved by Executive Management Team)

This hierarchical planning structure allows for clear alignment between the Council's strategic goals and day-to-day operations, facilitating efficient use of resources and effective service delivery to the Coomalie community. Key performance indicators and service highlights are reported to Council on a biannual or quarterly basis.

PLAN	LEAD-ROLE	REPORTING SCHEDULE
Strategic Plan 2023-2027	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Report• CEO reports to Council Biannually
Shire Plan 2025-2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service Plan• Budget 2025-2026• Long Term Financial Plan	CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CEO Reports to Council Quarterly• 2 x Budget Reviews
Operational Plan	Executive Management Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report to CEO Monthly
Work Plans	Senior Management Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports to Managers Weekly



COMMUNITY-FOCUSED FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP IN COOMALIE SHIRE'S 2025-26 BUDGET

Coomalie Shire's 2025-26 budget reflects a commitment to balancing fiscal responsibility with community advancement, prioritising service continuity while navigating rising operational costs. Council is planning a balanced budget (\$782 surplus), demonstrating resilience through targeted revenue growth and disciplined expenditure management.

Revenue Growth Anchored in Collaboration

Operating income rises to **\$3.72 million** (+\$167 thousand from 2024-25), driven by:

- 52% growth in interest and investment income, reflecting improved returns.
- 89% increase in commercial and other income, reflecting improved use of assets.
- 4% increases in rates and fees, guided by the Local Government Cost Index, to minimise community burden while maintaining service standards.
- Capital grant carryovers, ensuring continuity for critical infrastructure projects such as road sealing and waste management facility upgrades.

Investing in Core Services Responsibly

Operating expenditure reaches **\$3.72 million** (+\$780 thousand from 2024-25 when removing depreciation), strategically allocated to high-impact areas:

- 58% surge in materials/contracts costs, primarily addressing waste management demands as population pressures grow.
- 4% wage increases, ensuring retention of skilled local staff to deliver frontline services.
- Insurance cost adjustments, safeguarding community assets against emerging climate risks and cyber security risks.

Long-Term Sustainability through Asset Management

The budget confronts ageing infrastructure challenges with:

- **\$1.59 million depreciation allocation** incorporating an asset revaluation from 2023, reflecting rigorous asset renewal planning to meet community expectations.
- **Operating surplus preservation**, enabling future capital reinvestment without compromising service delivery.

Community Impact

This financial framework directly supports Coomalie's strategic asset management planning, priority projects and improvements in weed, fire and vegetation management services through:

- **Waste strategy enhancements**, improving recycling across the Coomalie region and engaging in the Top End region economy.
- **Road hierarchy implementation**, prioritising road safety upgrades for industry roads, black spots and pedestrian safety.
- **Reserve maintenance**, protecting funds for emergent community needs like disaster resilience, replacement of aged fleet and Council election commitments.

By maintaining a positive operating ratio, the Council positions itself to capitalise on major regional projects such as the Rum Jungle Rehabilitation and Manton Dam Return to Service projects, ensuring residents benefit from economic growth while preserving the community's unique character.

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Table 1.1 Annual Budget Income and Expenditure

	2025-26 Budget \$
OPERATING INCOME	
Rates	1,248,201
Charges	513,817
Fees and Charges	145,536
Operating Grants and Subsidies	1,544,627
Interest / Investment Income	190,000
Commercial and Other Income	76,848
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	3,719,029

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	
Employee Expenses	1,531,668
Materials and Contracts	2,002,807
Elected Member Allowances	67,772
Elected Member Expenses	33,600
Council Committee Allowances	50,000
Council Committee Expenses	7,000
Other Expenses	25,400
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	3,718,247
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	782
Depreciation	1,598,564
NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(1,597,782)

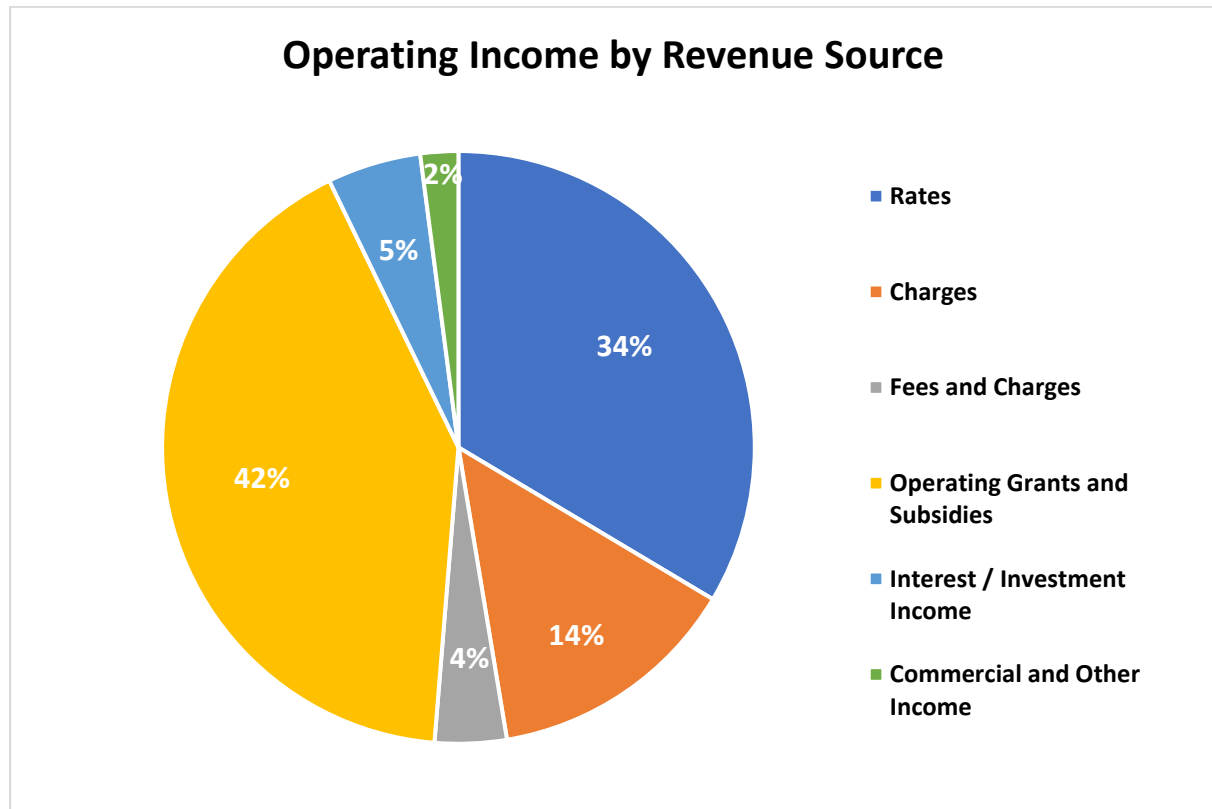
BUDGET AT A GLANCE

BUDGETED OPERATING INCOME

Council has recognised an increase in Operating Income from \$3.6 million in 2024-25 to \$3.7 million in 2025-26, an overall increase of \$168,189 (4.7%).

Revenue Increases

- Rates: A 4% increase, maintaining the trend from 2024-25 to ensure adequate funding of Council's operational service areas.
- Fees and Charges: A 4% increase, again maintaining the trend from 2024-25.
- Other Revenue Streams: Increases in areas such as investment interest, commercial waste and the lease of an asset.



The Coomalie Shire's proposed 4% rate increase for 2025-26 is essential to maintain service delivery standards and leverage government grants effectively, ensuring alignment with strategic priorities amid rising operational costs. With grants and subsidies accounting for 42% of revenue, the rate rise strengthens Council's capacity to fund infrastructure upgrades and meet co-contribution requirements for competitive funding programs, such as disaster resilience grants. This increase, consistent with the 2024-25 Local Government Cost Index adjustments, ensures financial sustainability while enabling Council to capitalise on major regional projects. By maintaining a balanced budget and demonstrating fiscal responsibility, the rate adjustment positions the Shire to secure additional grant funding, addressing ageing assets and compliance obligations without compromising service levels.

BUDGETED OPERATING EXPENDITURE

The Council has allocated a \$139,795 increase in Operating Expenditure for 2025-26, rising from \$3.6 million to \$3.7 million, to address critical cost pressures and maintain service delivery standards. Key drivers include a 58% surge in Materials and Contracts costs, driven by escalating waste management service fees and rising insurance premiums, alongside Employee Expenses adjustments

reflecting a 4% wage increase and higher superannuation contributions. Additionally, Elected Member Allowances have been revised in line with the Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal’s latest determination. These adjustments ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, safeguard workforce retention, and mitigate risks associated with service disruptions, while aligning expenditure with the Shire’s strategic priorities and grant co-funding obligations.

Expenditure Summarised

- Materials and Contracts: A 58% increase due primarily to a significant increase in waste management service costs and insurance premiums.
- Employee Expenses: Adjustments to factor in a 4% increase in wages and salaries and a superannuation increase.
- Elected Member Allowances: Adjustments as per NT Remuneration Tribunal Determination.
- Expenditure by Service Area: Administration (37%); Roads (19%); Waste Management (12%); Parks and Gardens (11%); and Buildings and Facilities (8%).

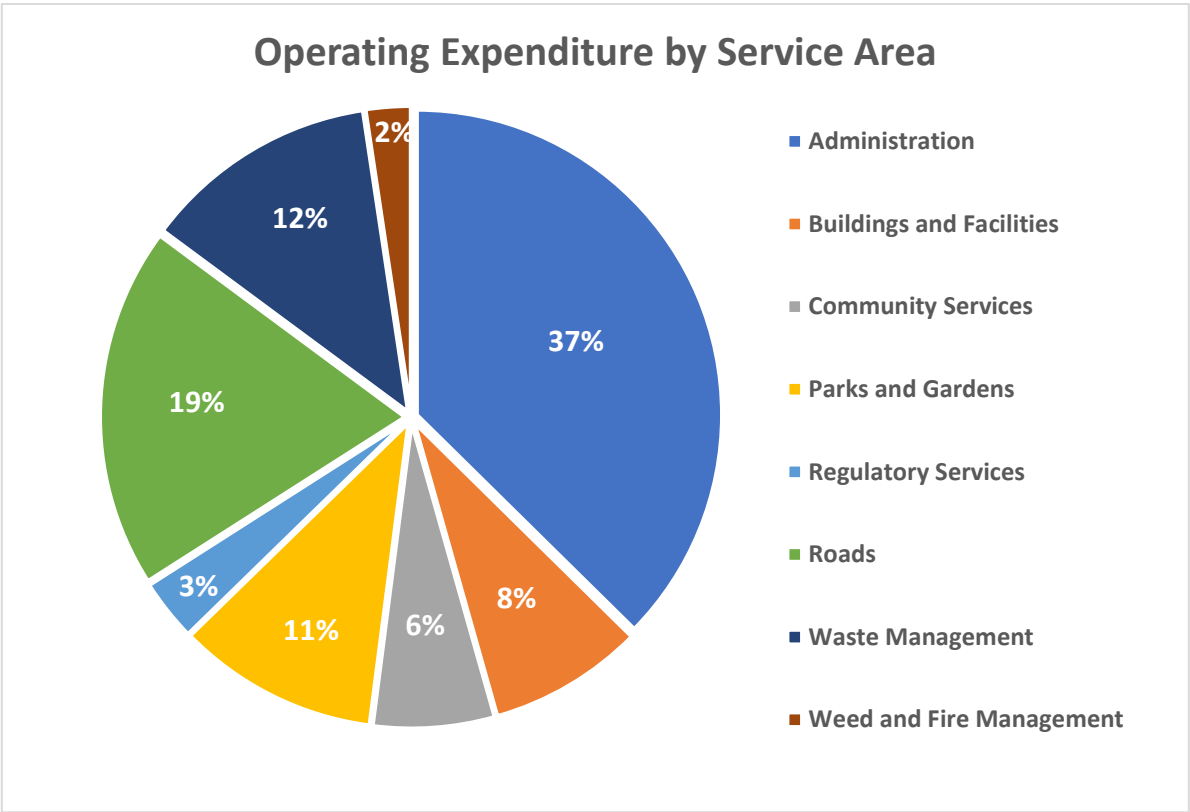


Table 1.2 Annual Operating Position

	2025-26 Budget \$
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(1,597,782)

Remove NON-CASH ITEMS	
Less Non-Cash Income	
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	1,598,564
TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS	1,598,564
Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	
Capital Expenditure	1,622,000
Borrowing Repayments (Principal Only)	0
Transfer to Reserves	162,500
Other Outflows	0
TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	1,784,500
Add ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	
Capital Grants Income	532,000
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	595,000
Other Inflow of Funds	0
Transfers from Reserves	781,500
TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	1,908,500
NET BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	124,782

Table 2.1 Capital Expenditure and Funding

By class of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE **	2025-26 Budget \$	2026-27 Budget \$	2027-28 Budget \$	2028-29 Budget \$
Buildings	0			
Community Assets and Other Structures	544,500			
Motor Vehicles	70,000			
Plant and Equipment	25,000			
Roads Infrastructure	982,500	410,185	431,773	431,773
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE*	1,622,000	410,185	431,773	431,773

TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY: **	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	NOTES
Capital Grants Income	532,000	410,185	431,773	431,773	Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Grant (\$260,000) + WARM (\$104,500) + Roads to Recovery (\$167,500)
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	595,000				Community Benefit Grant – Helipad (\$180,000) + Community Places for People Grant - Cemetery Carpark Precinct (\$415,000)
Operating Income and Subsidies	400,000				NT Operational Grant – Sealing Batchelor Roads (\$200,000) + Cemetery Carpark (\$200,000)
Reserves	95,000				Twin cab ute (\$70,000) + ride-on lawnmower (\$25,000)
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	1,622,000	410,185	431,773	431,773	

Capital Expenditure: An estimated increase to approximately \$1.6 million, focusing on:

- Continued road infrastructure maintenance and sealing works
- Further investigations into Industry Roads
- Renewal of community infrastructure
- Grant Funding and Capital Projects

Continued pursuit of grant opportunities, including:

- Roads to Recovery program renewal is entering year two in 2025-26, with year 1 of the 5-year program and part of year 2 expended in 2024-25 to undertake the stabilisation and re-sheeting works on Haynes and Strickland Roads. The remaining funds and some Federal Assistance Grant funding will be capitalised for the re-seal of 7 kilometres of urban roads in Batchelor.
- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program allocations are expected to continue with Council considering projects in the Adelaide River and Batchelor Sporting precincts, focusing on playgrounds, lighting and reducing urban decay.
- Immediate Priority Grants for social infrastructure upgrades and other capital projects are no longer available.

Table 3.1 Budget by Planned Major Capital Works

Class of Assets	By Major Capital Project*	Total Prior Year(s) Actuals \$	Current Financial Year Budget \$	Total Planned Budget \$	Expected Project Completion Date
Buildings	Nil	0	0	0	0
Community Assets	WaRM 2025-26 Adelaide River Transfer Station	0	104,500	104,500	30/06/2026
	Footpaths, street and park lights, play equipment and helipad at Adelaide River	0	440,000	440,000	30/06/2026
Motor Vehicles	Replace 2 single cab utes with one twin cab 4x4 ute	0	70,000	70,000	31/12/2025
Plant & Equipment	One heavy duty ride-on mower	0	25,000	25,000	31/12/2025
Roads	Roads to Recovery and Federal Assistance Grants		982,500	982,500	30/06/2026
	TOTAL	0	1,622,000	1,622,000	

2025-26 Budget by Function

FUNCTION	OPERATING BUDGET			CAPITAL BUDGET		
	Revenue (\$)	Expenditure (\$)	Surplus/ (Deficit) (\$)	Revenue (\$)	Expenditure (\$)	Surplus/ (Deficit) (\$)
ADMINISTRATION	2,176,832	1,389,855	786,977	-	-	-
CEMETERIES	5,200	5,096	104	-	-	-
COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS	8,600	52,936	(44,336)	-	-	-
COMMUNITY LIBRARIES	44,620	67,738	(23,118)	-	-	-
COMMUNITY SERVICES	129,720	118,165	(11,555)	-	-	-
PARKS AND GARDENS	624	396,344	(395,720)	95,000	95,000	-
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	10,585	106,725	(96,140)	-	-	-
REGULATORY SERVICES	5,720	121,329	(115,609)	-	-	-
ROADS	664,076	693,132	(29,056)	982,500	982,500	-
BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES	832	71,178	(70,346)	440,000	440,000	-
STREETLIGHTING	0	19,760	(19,760)	-	-	-
SWIMMING POOL	2,080	123,297	(121,217)	-	-	-
WASTE MANAGEMENT	650,140	464,453	185,687	104,500	104,500	-
WEED AND FIRE MANAGEMENT	20,000	88,240	(68,240)	-	-	-
TOTALS	3,719,029	3,718,247	782	1,622,000	1,622,000	0

NET PROFIT/(LOSS)	782
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LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025–2029

The Coomalie Council's Long-Term Financial Plan for 2025–2029 is shaped by significant uncertainties, particularly regarding the level and consistency of annual grant funding from both the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments. The Council's financial sustainability is heavily reliant on stable, long-term grant arrangements. Any changes to these funding streams could seriously impact the Council's ability to deliver essential services to its communities.

Key Assumptions and Influences

- **Continuation of Core Services:** The Council plans to maintain all current core services throughout the period of the plan.
- **Community Postal Service:** The interim Community Postal Service will not be funded beyond the current financial year.
- **Grant-Funded Services:** Only those community services with a proven record of recurrent grant funding are included in the Plan, with the expectation that such funding will continue. However, with recent NT and Federal Governments, there is uncertainty around future grant programs, which are vital to fund community infrastructure improvements.
- **Cost Indices:** The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) now provides an annual Local Government Cost Index (LGCI), which tracks changes in the cost of goods and services for local governments. The LGCI based on Local Government spending in the 2023-24 financial year was 3.8%, which Council has rounded to 4% as the basis of future year budget increases. This informs the Council's financial assumptions while acknowledging that local government costs often differ from general inflation figures.
- **Income and Expenditure Growth:** The Shire Plan and Budget for 2025-26 financial year, assumes a 4% annual increase in most income streams and a corresponding increase in most expenditure categories, based on LGCI trends.
- **Asset Management:** The adoption of the Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan and related documents will play a crucial role in shaping future financial planning. This Plan are designed to help the Council address the challenges of funding asset lifecycle costs through existing revenue sources, such as rates and grants. However, grant funding remains uncertain and often insufficient for long-term infrastructure needs. The introduction of specified reserves will also serve to enable the implementation of strategic asset management.
- **Ageing Assets:** Managing and maintaining ageing assets is a growing challenge, exacerbated by the lack of comprehensive lifecycle planning. The Council is committed to implementing robust long-term strategies to identify funding needs and to make sustainable infrastructure management a central objective. As these asset management plans are rolled out, both the Council and the community can expect significant changes in long-term financial planning and priority setting.
- **Capital Works:** Planned capital works include upgrades to road infrastructure, supported by Roads to Recovery grant funding, as well as updates to plant and equipment.

In summary, while the Council is committed to maintaining core services and improving infrastructure, its long-term financial planning is constrained by uncertainties in government grant funding and the challenges of managing ageing assets. The implementation of strategic asset management and careful financial planning will be essential to ensure the ongoing sustainability and service delivery capacity of the Council over the coming years.

Long-Term Financial Plan 2025- 2029 - Operating Budget

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
ADMINISTRATION				
Income	2,176,832	2,263,905	2,354,461	2,448,640
Expenditure	1,389,855	1,445,449	1,503,267	1,563,398
Net Profit/(Loss)	786,977	818,456	851,194	885,242
CEMETERIES				
Income	5,200	5,408	5,624	5,849
Expenditure	5,097	5,300	5,512	5,732
Net Profit/(Loss)	104	108	112	117
COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS				
Income	8,600	8,944	9,302	9,674
Expenditure	52,936	55,053	57,256	59,546
Net Profit/(Loss)	-44,336	-46,109	-47,954	-49,872
COMMUNITY LIBRARIES				
Income	44,620	46,405	48,261	50,191
Expenditure	67,738	70,448	73,265	76,196
Net Profit/(Loss)	-23,118	-24,043	-25,004	-26,005
COMMUNITY SERVICES				
Income	129,720	134,909	140,305	145,917
Expenditure	118,165	122,892	127,807	132,920
Net Profit/(Loss)	11,555	12,017	12,498	12,998
PARKS AND GARDENS				
Income	624	649	675	702
Expenditure	396,344	412,198	428,686	445,833
Net Profit/(Loss)	-395,720	-411,549	-428,011	-445,131
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES				
Income	10,585	11,008	11,449	11,907
Expenditure	106,725	110,994	115,434	120,051
Net Profit/(Loss)	-96,140	-99,986	-103,985	-108,144
REGULATORY SERVICES				
Income	5,720	5,949	6,187	6,434
Expenditure	121,329	126,182	131,229	136,479
Net Profit/(Loss)	-115,609	-120,233	-125,043	-130,044
ROADS				
Income	664,076	690,639	718,265	746,995
Expenditure	693,132	720,857	749,692	779,679
Net Profit/(Loss)	-29,056	-30,218	-31,427	-32,684
BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES				
Income	832	865	900	936
Expenditure	71,178	74,025	76,986	80,066
Net Profit/(Loss)	-70,346	-73,160	-76,086	-79,130

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
STREETLIGHTING				
Income	0	0	0	0
Expenditure	19,760	20,550	21,372	22,227

Net Profit/(Loss)	-19,760	-20,550	-21,372	-22,227
SWIMMING POOL				
Income	2,080	2,163	2,250	2,340
Expenditure	123,297	128,229	133,358	138,692
Net Profit/(Loss)	-121,217	-126,066	-131,108	-136,353
WASTE MANAGEMENT				
Income	650,140	676,146	703,191	731,319
Expenditure	464,453	483,031	502,352	522,446
Net Profit/(Loss)	185,687	193,114	200,839	208,873
WEED AND FIRE MANAGEMENT				
Income	20,000	20,800	21,632	22,497
Expenditure	88,240	91,770	95,440	99,258
Net Profit/(Loss)	-68,240	-70,970	-73,808	-76,761
TOTAL INCOME	3,719,029	3,867,790	4,022,502	4,183,402
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,718,247	3,866,978	4,021,657	4,182,523
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)	782	812	845	879

RESERVES MANAGEMENT

In accordance with Council's new Reserves Policy adopted in February 2025, the Coomalie Community Government Council is committed to transparent and responsible management of its financial reserves as part of the 2025-26 Shire Plan. The Policy establishes a clear framework for the inclusion and use of both internally and externally restricted reserves within the annual budget.

Internally Restricted Reserves are funds set aside by Council for specific, approved purposes. Access to these reserves requires a formal decision of Council, ensuring that funds are only used for their intended objectives and that any allocation is subject to rigorous oversight and justification.

Externally Restricted Reserves are established in response to statutory requirements and are generally governed by directives from relevant statutory bodies. These reserves are not available for general use and can only be deployed for the purposes specified by the external authority. An example is the Disaster Recovery Reserve, which is mandated by the Northern Territory Government through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) and the NT Grants Commission. This ensures that Council is prepared to respond to emergencies and disasters in accordance with funding agreements.

By distinguishing between internally and externally restricted reserves, Council enhances its financial governance, supports long-term sustainability, and ensures compliance with legislative and statutory obligations. The inclusion of these reserves in the 2025–26 budget reflects Council's ongoing commitment to prudent financial management and the delivery of essential services to the Coomalie community.

RESERVE	Opening Balance at 1 July 2025	Budget Transfer from Reserve	Budget Transfer to Reserve	Projected Balance at 30 June 2026
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED				
Election Expenses Reserve	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Waste Management Reserve*	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Asset Renewal Reserve**	\$200,000	\$95,000	\$100,000	\$205,000
Disaster Recovery Reserve***	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Batchelor Playground	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED				
Tied Grant Funds	\$595,000	\$595,000	\$0	\$0
Disaster Recovery Reserve***	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Total	\$986,500	\$781,500	\$162,500	\$367,500

* Waste Management Reserve will increase as commercial waste income is received. Council may utilise funding to seek an investigation to assess the Post Closure Restoration requirements for future budgets and inform the internally restricted Waste Management Reserves. Transfers include \$20,000 for the Co-contribution to WaRM Grant Round 5. \$30,000 consultancy to determine Waste Management Facility Restoration Funds required for reserves.

** Asset Management Reserve may be drawn on to fund grant co-contributions where grants address renewal or replacement of existing assets. Transfers include the purchase of an Industrial Ride-on Mower (\$25,000) and a twin cab 4x4 work ute (\$70,000).

***Note Council resolved to double the statutory required allocation of \$25,000 to Disaster Recovery Reserve which is why this reserve appears in both the internally and externally (statutory) restricted reserve categories.

Impact of the New Reserves Policy on Community Projects

The new Reserves Policy adopted by Coomalie Council in February 2025 introduces a structured approach to managing both internally and externally restricted reserves, which has several implications for community projects:

Enhanced Financial Stability and Planning

- The policy ensures that funds are set aside specifically for future needs, providing a financial buffer that supports the continuity and sustainability of community projects, even during periods of economic uncertainty or unexpected expenses.
- By clearly defining the purpose and use of each reserve, the Council can strategically allocate resources to priority community initiatives, capital works, and infrastructure improvements.

Clearer Funding Pathways

- Internally restricted reserves allow the Council to earmark funds for specific community projects, with access requiring a formal Council decision. This process ensures that projects are funded transparently and in line with community priorities.
- Externally restricted reserves, governed by statutory requirements, ensure that certain community projects—such as those related to disaster recovery or infrastructure funded by grants—are delivered in compliance with legal and funding agreements.

Improved Accountability and Donor Confidence

- The policy demonstrates responsible financial management, which can enhance confidence among community members, donors, and funding bodies that resources are being managed prudently and for their intended purposes.
- Regular review and reporting on reserve balances and their use provide transparency and accountability, further supporting trust in Council's stewardship of community funds.

Flexibility and Responsiveness

- While reserves are set aside for specific purposes, the policy allows for flexibility. Internally restricted reserves can be reallocated by Council resolution if priorities change, enabling the Council to respond to emerging community needs or opportunities.
- The policy also supports the use of reserves in exceptional circumstances, such as emergencies, ensuring that community projects can continue or adapt as needed.

In summary, the new Reserves Policy strengthens the Council's ability to fund, plan, and deliver community projects by providing a stable, transparent, and flexible financial framework that aligns with both community priorities and statutory obligations

RATING STRATEGY

Social and Economic Impact Statement of Rating Strategy

Each year Council is guided by its Long-Term Financial Plan, Strategic Plan and the Shire's economic data when considering options and setting rates and charges. For 2025-26, Council's primary goal is to ensure adequate revenue is raised to maintain and renew assets and to meet increasing community demand for services.

Council's recently reviewed and adopted Rating Policy guides Council in its decision-making regarding rates. Council is committed to levying rates in a consistent, transparent and equitable manner, whilst ensuring that both financial and social considerations have been considered when determining the most appropriate rate mix.

COOMALIE HOUSEHOLD DATA*	
Median weekly household income	\$1,134
Households with a mortgage	16%
Median weekly mortgage repayments	\$350
Households renting	19%
Median weekly rent	\$218

**Regional Development Australia Northern Territory Community Profile*

Principles of the Rating Policy 2.11

Council will levy its rates in accordance with the following principles:

Administrative Simplicity - The rating system and methodology used by the Council should be easy to apply, understand and comply with. It must ensure that the methodology used makes it difficult to avoid paying rates and that it is practical and cost effective to administer.

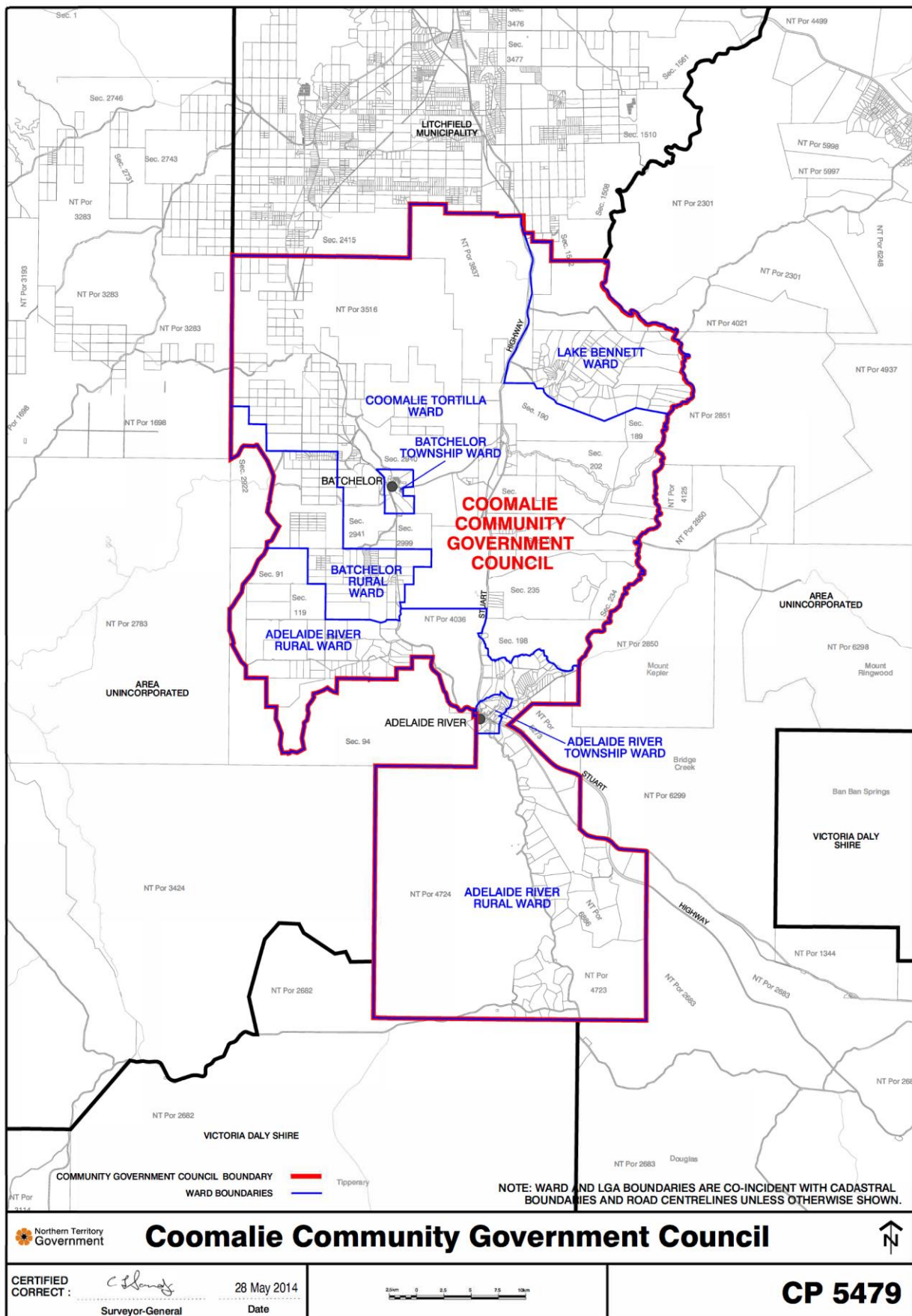
Economic Efficiency - The rating methodology and rate mix must consider and account for whether the impact of the rate burden between the differential categories will have a significant negative effect on economic behaviour.

Equity - The rating methodology and rate mix must be considered fair and equitable. It must consider the benefits received by the ratepayer as well as the ratepayer's capacity to pay. Council levies rates based on Unimproved Capital Value (UCV), the value of land excluding the value of any improvements, including buildings. This value is set by the Valuer-General of the NT. A minimum rate is applied to all rating classes.

Council aims to keep increases to a minimum, but at the same time to improve its own source revenue and to provide a fair and equitable structure for all ratepayers within the Shire.

For the purposes of rates, Council's boundary is as defined in Survey Plan CP 5479 (see following page).

The Plan makes reference to 7 "wards" as described on the Plan, as opposed to Council's 3 wards for election purposes, which are reflected in the Coomalie Local Government Area section of this plan (Page 9).



DECLARATION OF RATES AND CHARGES 2025-26

COOMALIE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2019



Notice is given pursuant to Section 241 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (**the Act**) that the following rates and charges were declared by Coomalie Community Government Council ("**Council**") at an Ordinary Council meeting held on 26th June 2025 pursuant to Chapter 11 of the *Act* in respect of the financial year ending 30 June 2026. (A copy of the assessment record is available for inspection, free of charge, at any of the Council's public offices. A person may apply to the Council for the correction of an entry in the assessment record.)

Rates

Pursuant to section 237 of the *Act*, Council declared that in respect to the financial year ending 30 June 2026 it intends to raise, for general purposes by way of rates, the amount of **\$1,248,201.05**

Pursuant to section 226 of the *Act*, the basis of rates is differential valuation-based charges (**differential rates**) with differential minimum amounts (**minimum amounts**) being payable in application of each of those differential rates.

Pursuant to section 227 of the *Act*, Council adopted the unimproved capital value (as it appears on the valuation roll prepared by the Valuer-General under the *Valuation of Land Act 1963*) as the basis of the assessed value of allotments in the Council area.

For the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 below:

(c) "Plan" means Survey Plan CP 5479, a copy of which is accessible on the Council's website and available for inspection at the Council's public office; and

(d) "Ward" means a ward as described on the Plan and not a "ward" as defined in the *Act*.

1. Batchelor Township Ward and Adelaide River Township Ward

In respect of allotments of rateable land within those parts of the council area described on the Plan as Batchelor Township Ward and Adelaide River Township Ward and classed as "Residential" or "Commercial" in the council assessment record, a differential rate of **0.00813822** multiplied by the assessed value of each allotment with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being **\$1,289.60** multiplied by the greater of:

- iii. the number of separate residential parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use on each allotment pursuant to section 226(5) of the *Act*; or
- iv. the number 1 (one).

If an allotment is divided into separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use, a minimum amount may consist of a set amount to be multiplied by the number of separate parts or units.

2. Batchelor Rural Ward, Adelaide River Rural Ward, Coomalie Tortilla Ward and Lake Bennett Ward

In respect of allotments of rateable land within those parts of the council area described on the Plan as Batchelor Rural Ward, Adelaide River Rural Ward, Coomalie Tortilla Ward and Lake Bennett Ward and classed as "Residential" or "Commercial" in the council assessment record, a differential rate of **0.00299397** multiplied by the assessed value of each allotment with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being **\$1,088.00** multiplied by the greater of:

- iii. the number of separate residential parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use on each allotment pursuant to section 226(5) of the *Act*; or

- iv. the number 1 (one).

3. Pastoral leases under the *Pastoral Land Act*

In respect of allotments of land which are held under a pastoral lease, as defined in section 3 of the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*, a rate of **0.000789** multiplied by the assessed value of such land with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being **\$970.61**.

4. Mining tenements

In respect of allotments of land which are occupied under a "mining tenement" as defined in the Act, a rate of **0.008960** multiplied by the assessed value of such land with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being **\$2,297.21**.

Note:

- iii. Contiguous leases or reasonably adjacent tenements held by the same person are to be rated as if they were a single tenement.
- iv. If the owner of the mining tenement is also the owner of another interest in the land (**other interest**) then:
 - (C) if the rate calculated in accordance with this paragraph 4 is less than or equal to the rate payable for the other interest - no rate is payable for the mining tenement; or
 - (D) if the rate calculated in accordance with this paragraph 4 for the mining tenement (**amount A**) is greater than the rate payable for the other interest (**amount B**) - the rate payable for the mining tenement is the difference between amount A and amount B.

Charges

Pursuant to section 239 of the Act, Council declared the following charges for the purpose of kerbside garbage collection provided, or which council is willing and able to provide.

Council intends to raise **\$513,817.00** by these charges.

5. Residential Allotments - Waste

In respect of allotments classed as "Residential – not vacant" in the council assessment record, where Council is willing and able to provide the service, a charge of **\$563.00** per annum per allotment.

The service provided is a kerbside collection of the contents of one 240 litre bin per week.

6. Commercial Allotments - Waste

In respect of allotments classed as "Commercial" in the council assessment record, where Council is willing and able to provide the service, a charge of **\$1,160.00** per annum per allotment. This includes businesses operating food, commercial or accommodation businesses.

The service provided is a kerbside collection of the contents of one 240 litre bin twice per week.

7. General Waste Management

In respect of all allotments which are not liable for charges under paragraph 5 or 6 above, a charge of **\$265.00** per annum per allotment for access to the Council's waste management facility for the purpose of depositing waste from the allotment, regardless of whether or not the facility is used.

8. Payment

The Council determines that the rates and charges declared under this declaration are all due and payable in four (4) approximately equal instalments on the following dates:

- 5. 26th September 2025**
- 6. 28th November 2025**
- 7. 30th January 2026**
- 8. 27th March 2026**

Interest Rate for late payment

The relevant interest rate for the late payment of rates and charges is fixed in accordance with section 245 of the Act at the rate of **18% per annum** which is to be calculated on a daily basis. Instalments falling due on a weekend or public holiday may be paid by the following business day, without incurring any penalty.



Sharon Hillen
Chief Executive Officer
Coomalie Community Government Council

PRIORITY PROJECTS – IN STRATEGIC PLAN CATEGORIES

Key Responsibilities of the Coomalie Community Government Council

Service Delivery and Community Support

- Provide essential community services such as waste management, animal control, and community library services.
- Maintain and manage sporting and recreational facilities, including ovals, swimming pools, and community clubs, making them available for public and private use.

Infrastructure and Asset Management

- Oversee the planning, maintenance, and development of local infrastructure, including roads, public buildings, and council-owned assets.
- Manage the Council's fleet, plant, and equipment to ensure effective service delivery.

Governance and Compliance

- Administer and enforce Council by-laws and ensure compliance with relevant legislation, including the *Local Government Act 2019*.
- Conduct regular Council meetings and ensure transparent decision-making processes.

Strategic Planning and Community Development

- Develop and implement strategies to sustain and nurture the rural lifestyle and quality of life for residents, focusing on long-term stability and sustainability.
- Promote social, economic, environmental, and cultural development within the Coomalie region.

Financial Management

- Prepare and manage annual budgets, financial reports, and ensure responsible allocation of resources for community benefit.
- Secure and manage funding for local infrastructure and services, including advocating for direct federal and state funding.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Plan and coordinate emergency preparedness and response activities in accordance with Council policy.

Human Resources and Organisational Culture

- Provide internal services related to human resources management, workplace health and safety, and organisational governance.

The Council's vision is to foster an involved community, maintain and develop infrastructure, provide core services, promote investment, and ensure accessibility, all while capitalising on the region's natural advantages.

Council has identified the following priority projects in 2025-26, however, is required to find additional resources to implement most of the projects listed below.

Goal 1 Stability	<i>Strong, transparent and accountable governance to achieve quality service delivery</i>
Priority Project	Location
Complete Operational Plan	All Locations
Develop a two-way Communication Strategy	All Locations
Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	All Locations
Develop a Workforce Development Plan	All Locations
Develop a Volunteer Strategy and communication plan	All Locations
Develop a Professional Development Plan for Elected Members	Batchelor

Goal 2 Advocacy	<i>Advocate responsibly and vigorously for the interest and wellbeing of our community.</i>
Priority Project	Location
Install an approved Helipad	Adelaide River
Upgrade Industry Roads	Haynes, Stricklands, Meneling and Perreau Roads
Adelaide River Road Reserve Completion Project	Adelaide River
Administer the installation of signs in DLI signage bays	Batchelor
Investigate undeveloped roads addressing the primary access to rural sub-divisions	Collete Creek

Goal 3 Sustainability	<i>Implement comprehensive and innovative planning for sustainable service delivery across social, economic, environmental and culture spheres.</i>
Priority Project	Location
Implement the Asset Management Strategy and associated plans	All Locations
Develop an Economic Development Plan	Adelaide River and Batchelor
Review Waste Management Plan	All Locations
Upgrade School Safety Zone	Adelaide River and Batchelor Schools
Upgrade the Pool	Batchelor
Enhance fishing and recreational opportunities at Rum Jungle Lake and Adelaide River Reserve.	Adelaide River and Batchelor
Continue resealing of urban roads	Batchelor
Develop a Weed Management Plan for Coomalie LGA	All Locations
Implement the 2025 Tree Audit	Batchelor & Adelaide River

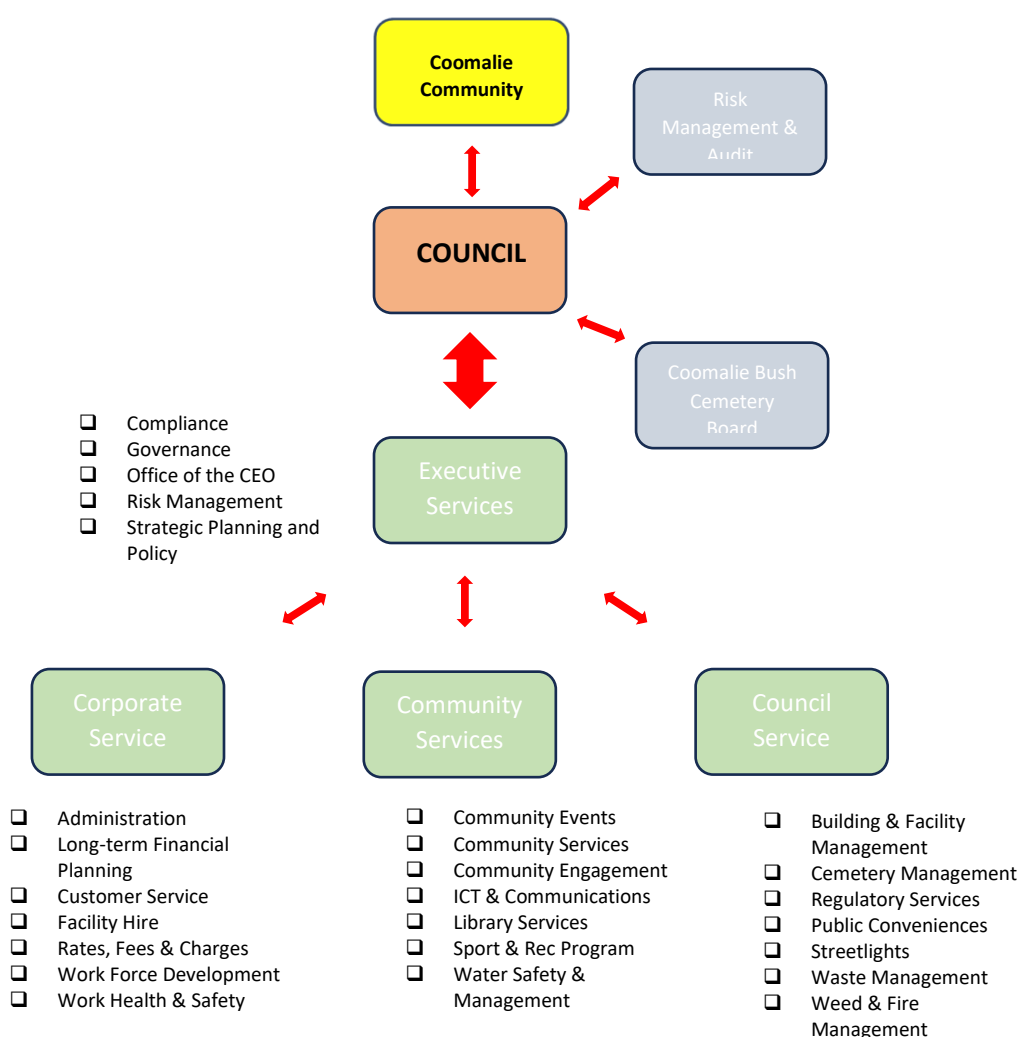
Goal 4 Community Wellbeing and Resilience	Demonstrate strong support for community wellbeing
Priority Project	Location
Address Crime Prevention Through Environmental Designs (CPTED) issues identified in Community safety Audit	Adelaide River and Batchelor
Batchelor Precinct and Partnership Program – Master Planning and feasibility.	Adelaide River and Batchelor
Develop a Service Standard for Councils Parks, Gardens and Reserves	All Locations
Upgrade School Safety Zone	Adelaide River and Batchelor Schools
Upgrade the Pool	Batchelor
Enhance fishing and recreational opportunities at Rum Jungle Lake and Adelaide River Reserve	Adelaide River and Batchelor
Upgrade floodways in rural areas	Chinner Road, Heather Lagoon Road and Owen Lagoon Road
Provide formal access from Health Clinics to helipads	Adelaide River and Batchelor
Conduct a Stormwater drainage audit	Adelaide River and Batchelor
Develop a Culture and Diversity Plan	All Locations
Develop a “Keeping Place” in conjunction with the Community Library Service	Adelaide River and Batchelor

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

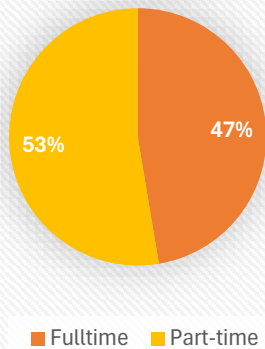
The Coomalie Community Government Council's organisational structure remains aligned with the Council's Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and the current Shire Plan. The structure continues to support the Council's vision of "Connecting Community, driven by the unique Coomalie landscape" and its mission to focus on the diversity of social, economic, environmental, and cultural priorities of Coomalie.

The organisation maintains its four business units:

- Executive Leadership
- Community Services
- Corporate Services
- Council Services



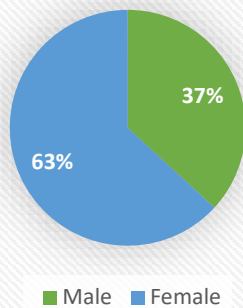
Employment Type Distribution



This structure enables the Council to effectively deliver its service functions and priority projects as outlined in the Strategic and Shire Plans. Each business unit has specific responsibilities that contribute to the overall goals of stability, advocacy, sustainability, and community wellbeing and resilience.

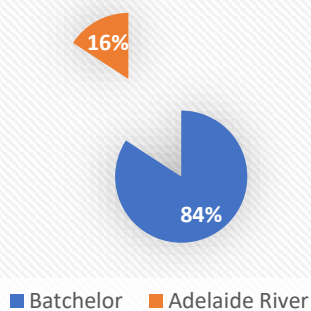
Council will maintain its current level of full-time equivalents (FTE) at 14.6, offering a flexible work environment with most positions being part-time to deliver frontline services. The Council currently employs 9 full-time staff and 12 part-time staff, with no casual positions.

Gender Distribution



In line with the Council's commitment to a fair and safe workplace, all employment practices adhere to the Council's HR Policy and the Equal Opportunity Act. This ensures that the Council provides an inclusive, diverse, and equitable work environment for all employees. The People and Culture Coordinator, working within the Corporate Services unit, is responsible for providing advice and delivering People and Culture initiatives that support these principles.

Total Employees by Location



SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN

The table in the following pages outline all the service delivery functions carried out in Coomalie Shire. The functions align with the structure of the organisation to deliver core, agency and advocacy services.

Core Services include typical local government services such as roads, waste management and administration. **Agency Services** are generally funded by government departments with the Council acting as an agent for the government. **Advocacy Services** are generally associated with projects or services that are currently not delivered. Council recognises the community need and benefit and advocates on the community's behalf.

CORE SERVICE FUNCTION

		ADELAIDE RIVER	BATCHELOR	LAKE BENNETT	RURAL
ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent leadership on behalf of the community. Well-developed strategic and corporate planning based on consultation. Information about Council and Community regularly made available in Council communications including notice boards, Stop Press Digital, social media, community directory and website. Annual budgets and long-term financial plans. Financial performance and management reports. Annual Report (annual financial statements and audits). Statutory returns – Australian Taxation Office, Local Government Grants Commission, Australian Bureau of Statistics. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CEMETERIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficiently maintained Bush Cemetery in Adelaide River. Recognise and determine management of other burial grounds and administer the Cemetery Management Committee. Memorial gardens management, maintenance and installation of memorial plaques. 	✓	✓			
COMMUNITY SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support local community groups and events. Coordinate and support annual civil and community events. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	
PARKS & GARDENS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mowing and slashing programs. Watering of grassed areas. Playground and outdoor seating maintenance Improving liveability through maintaining green spaces. Well maintained fleet of plant, vehicles, and equipment to support service delivery. Implementation of Asset Management Plans 	✓	✓			
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of public conveniences. Manage and maintain Sullage Dumping Points. Install all ability access toilets. 	✓	✓		✓	

REGULATORY SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce Dog By-Laws and General By-Laws. Community education program. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
ROADS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade street signs and traffic management infrastructure. Roads, footpaths, and stormwater asset maintenance programs are managed and maintained according to the Asset Management Policy and Plans. Road and footpath construction project programs. Wet Season spraying and slashing of roads and open space reserves. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Precinct management in Adelaide River and Batchelor towns. Buildings, facilities, and fixed assets are in a fit-for-purpose condition and managed and maintained according to Council Asset Management policy and Planning. Cyclical maintenance such as test and tag, aircon cleaning; fire safety and pest management Contract manage and monitor the period contracts relating to Cleaning Services, trade services. Open spaces are managed and maintained to an approved standard. 	✓	✓		✓
STREETLIGHTING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streetlighting upgrade programs Community street lighting is in a fit-for-purpose state. Conduct Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design in Hotspots. 	✓	✓		
SWIMMING POOL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming pool is maintained and operated in a safe and culturally appropriate manner. Support learn to swim education and awareness. 		✓		
WASTE MANAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NTEPA Landfill site management and compliance. Domestic and commercial kerb side waste collection. Implement Councils Waste Management Strategy 2022-2027. Increase education and awareness in recycling, reusing, and reducing waste. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
WEED AND FIRE MANAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage gamba and declared weeds in the Coomalie Region. Maintain fire breaks on Council assets. Undertake fuel reduction burns on Council assets where necessary. Provide local education and awareness. Partner with the NTG Gamba Fire Mitigation Program addressing strategic hotspots in the region. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

AGENCY SERVICE FUNCTION

	ADELAIDE RIVER	BATCHELOR	LAKE BENNETT	RURAL
COMMUNITY LIBRARIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide printed, video and spoken word lending materials for community use. • Local history resources. • Free Internet access and Library E-resources • Provide community engagement events 	✓	✓		
SPORT AND RECREATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of a Community Services Coordinator and Officer. • Develop & deliver Active Regional Remote Community Program in partnership with the Northern Territory Government, implementing year two of a five-year agreement. • Provide After School Programs/Sports and School Holiday Programs. • Coordinate and support structured sporting events. • Coordinate community events and fun activities. • Consult with peak bodies and community groups about annual priorities. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
SENIORS SUPPORT SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and coordinate Senior Events • Host the Annual Seniors Christmas Party • Coordinate the Coomalie Seniors Month activities. • Provide Monthly Seniors Mystery Tours. • Support COTA NT Coomalie Branch by providing facilities and transport to events on request 	✓	✓		

ADVOCACY SERVICE FUNCTION

REGIONAL

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with the NTG to develop interests in the NT Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline. • Represent the Coomalie Region at the Top End Economic Growth Committee. • Continue development within the Shire. • Develop industry sector roads in the region. • Identify all gazetted, unformed roads that appear on maps but have not been built. • Work with NTG Planners to review current town planning frameworks. 	✓
EXPANSION OF SENIORS SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with Territory and Commonwealth Governments to establish social infrastructure and services for Seniors. 	✓
EXPANSION OF YOUTH SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with Territory and Commonwealth Governments to establish youth support services in the region. 	✓
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with the Commonwealths CDP Service Providers to deliver community projects which enhance work readiness in the region. 	✓
RUM JUNGLE REHABILITATION PROJECT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with project partners to ensure local economic benefits are realised. • Consult with the community about the long-term opportunities the project will bring. • Work with Mining and Energy Department to implement the Rum Jungle Lake Borrow Pit Project 	✓
DARWIN WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the development of the road network in and around water infrastructure. • Advocate for increased water supply for Adelaide River and Batchelor to promote land release. 	✓
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve and expand fall back from Darwin for evacuation shelters. • Work in partnership with NTG regarding emergency waste management. • Represent Council at the Local Emergency Management Committees of Adelaide River and Batchelor 	✓

APPENDICES

Strategic Plan

1. Coomalie Shire Council Strategic Plan 2023-2027

Page 42

Fees and Charges

2. 2025-26 Fees and Charges Schedule

Page 43

Legislation

3. Legislative Framework

Page 48



APPENDIX 1

COOMALIE SHIRE STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

Vision

Connecting community, driven by the unique Coomalie landscape.



Mission

To focus on the diversity of the social, economic, environmental, and cultural priorities of Coomalie.



Goals

1. Stability
2. Advocacy
3. Sustainability
4. Community Wellbeing and Resilience.

Council recognises the importance of good governance and clear direction for its operation, to ensure the limited resource available are utilised effectively and efficiently. The strategic plan defines the area of interest and its goals and strategies define what Council aims to achieve.

Councils strategic plan is a long term plan and will ensure Council can realistically meet its goals and strategies over the 4 year time frame, noting that this plan will straddle this term of Council and a new Council to be elected in 2025.

The 2023 - 2027 Strategic Plan is available on Councils website by visiting <https://www.coomalie.nt.gov.au/council-publications>



APPENDIX 2 - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE

2025-26 Steel Clean



SERVICE DESCRIPTION	UNIT	FEE		GST
EQUIPMENT CHARGES				
Chairs (70 Blue)	Per Chair Per Day	\$2		Y
Chairs (White) – price/chair (On application, subject to CEO approval)	Per Day	\$5		Y
Chairs (White) – price/10 chairs (On application, subject to CEO approval)	Per Day	\$45		Y
Table (20)	Per Day	\$5		Y
Large Trailer (NOT car trailer)	Per Day	\$60		Y
Hire of equipment over long weekends		2x Per Day Charge		
VENUE HIRE				
Community Centre/Ovals/Facilities	Refundable Bond	\$120		N
	Half Day	\$50		Y
	Full Day	\$75		Y
Chambers /Conference Room	Half day	\$50		Y
	Full day	\$95		Y
Adelaide River Access Shed Key Deposit	Refundable	\$70		N
Storage fee (insurance borne by hirer)	Per Pallet	\$30		Y
PLANT HIRE CHARGES INCL OPERATOR		Rate Payer	Non-Rate Payer	
Tilt Tray	Per Hour	\$225	\$260	Y
Transport costs	Per Km	\$7	\$8	Y
Portable Toilet Trailer - daily rate per day	Daily rate – per day	\$700	\$730	Y
Portable Toilet Trailer - weekly rate per day	Weekly rate – per day	\$580	\$615	Y
Portable Toilet Trailer - Refundable Bond	Per Hire	\$615	\$650	N

SERVICE DESCRIPTION	UNIT	FEE	GST
ADMINISTRATION FEES			
Rate Search		\$148	Y
Advertising Community Directory		\$75	
Advertising in Newsletter	2 column x 10 lines	\$70	Y
	¼ page	\$185	Y
	½ page	\$270	Y
	Full page	\$363	Y
Photocopying - A4 Per Sheet	Black and White	\$0.25	Y
	Colour	\$0.35	Y
Photocopying - A3 Per Sheet	Black and White	\$0.35	Y
	Colour	\$0.50	Y
Laminating	A4 Per Sheet	\$1.50	Y
Scanning and emailing	Per Page	\$1	Y
	A3 Per Sheet	\$1	Y
Document Binding	Up to 30 pages	\$14	Y
	31-50 pages	\$23	Y
	Over 50 pages	\$28	Y
Administrative Coordination Fee	Per Hour (or part thereof)	\$54	Y
Printing of Shire Plan	Black and White	FREE	N
MARKET FEES (Pay Coordinator on site)			
Market Insurance	Per Day	\$6	Y
Powered Market Site Fee	Per Day	\$6	Y
COOMALIE ART SHOW			
Entry Fee (maximum of 3 pieces/artist)	Per Item	\$25	Y
BATCHELOR POOL			
Mon, Thu, Fri 3-6pm. Sat 1-6pm. Sun 12-6pm.			
General Admission:			
Adult		FREE	
Children (under 4 free)		FREE	
Pensioners		FREE	
POOL BOOKINGS			
Group Entry – School and Community Groups	Per Child	\$2	Y
	Per Adult	\$5	Y
Hirer to leave pool in neat and tidy condition.			

SERVICE DESCRIPTION	UNIT	FEE	GST
CEMETERY FEES			
Burial Plot (outright allocation) – non-refundable			
Adult	Per Burial	\$3,090	Y
Child	Per Burial	\$1,545	Y
Double Burial Plot (outright allocation)			
First Burial	Per Burial	\$3,090	Y
Second Burial	Per Burial	\$1,545	Y
Interment of Ashes – Plot or Niche wall			
Adult		\$370	Y
Child		\$185	Y
Reservations (Plot or Niche wall) – <i>refundable on cancellation less cancellation fee</i>	Per Site	\$370	Y
10% Cancellation Fee	Per Site	\$37	Y
Exclusive Rights Fee	Per Site	\$1,000	Y
ROAD SERVICE FEES			
Reinstatement of damaged road pavement		At Cost	Y
Permit to work on road reserve		\$307	Y
DOG REGISTRATION CHARGES - Town and Rural (Registration period Sep - Aug)			
Dog registered between September - August FULL fee	Per Dog	\$43	N
Dog registered between March - August PART fee	Per Dog	\$32	N
Concession card holders	50% discount *		
Desexed dogs	50% discount *		
* only one discount can be claimed per dog			
IMPOUNDED DOG FEES			
Initial impoundment fee	Registered Dog	\$115	N
	Unregistered Dog	\$215	N
Sustenance Fee for each day kept in pound		\$80	N
VET CLINIC			
Desex Male (Cat/Dog)	Concession Card FREE	\$100	Y
Desex Female (Cat/Dog)	Concession Card FREE	\$200	Y
Consult Checkup	Concession Card FREE	\$65	Y
Vaccination C3		\$65	Y
Vaccination C5		\$100	Y
Flea and Tick prevention		\$20	Y
Wormer	Total Price dependant on weight of dog x unit price	\$6	Y
Vaccination F3 (feline)		\$65	Y

SERVICE DESCRIPTION	UNIT	FEE	GST
WASTE MANAGEMENT FEES			
Wheelie Bin Purchase 660L	Per Bin	\$390	Y
Wheelie Bin Purchase 240L	Per Bin	\$132	Y
Residential Waste			
General Waste up to 1 Tonne		FREE	N
Green Waste up to 1 Tonne		FREE	N
White Goods (incl degassed fridges)	Per Item	FREE	N
Fridges requiring degas	Per Item	\$100	Y
Tyres			
Standard Sedan	Per Tyre	\$15	Y
All-terrain/small tractor	Per Tyre	\$50	Y
Truck/large tractor	Per Tyre	\$100	Y
Waste Oil (motor oils, hydraulic oil, NO cooking oils)			
Residents		FREE (up to 100L)	N
Non-residents or over 100L	Per 20L	\$22	Y
Commercial Waste			
Steel (Clean)		FREE	
Soil (Clean; by arrangement)		FREE	
Mattresses (Per item all sizes)		\$45	Y
Couch or lounge		\$45	Y
Green Waste (Clean - Minimum Fee)		\$40	Y
Green Waste (Clean per tonne)		\$60	Y
Green Waste (contaminated – minimum fee)		\$80	Y
Green Waste (contaminated – per tonne)		\$190	Y
General Waste (all vehicles per tonne)		\$170	Y
Green Waste (Contaminate with green waste)		\$220	Y
Construction Waste (by Appointment only)		\$220	Y
Optional Commercial Kerbside Pickup 660L (subject to Service Level Agreement in place)	Per Bin	\$3,042	Y
Mulch Sales			
Residential – Domestic quantity		FREE	N
Commercial	Cubic metre	\$33	Y
<i>Disclaimer: Disposal of listed items (tyres, batteries and sump oils) are subject to Council obtaining an Environmental Protection Licence.</i>			

IMPOUNDED VEHICLE FEES			
Towage	Per occasion	At Cost	Y
Storage	Per week	\$52	Y
Administration	Per occasion	\$94	Y
Advertisement costs	Per ad	\$145	Y
Inspector's costs	Per occasion	\$234	Y
Council vehicle use	Per occasion	\$20	Y
SALE OF IMPOUNDED VEHICLES			
Administration	Per occasion	\$94	Y

Advertisement costs	Per ad	\$145	Y
Inspector's costs	Per occasion	\$234	Y
Council vehicle use	Per occasion	\$20	Y

COOMALIE COMMUNITY BUS				
Bus - bus must be refuelled prior to return	Per Day	\$200	\$220	Y
Bus - refuel if returned not full	Per Litre	\$5	\$5	Y

INTERNAL USE ONLY – PLANT USE FEES INCL OPERATOR				
	Per Unit	Rate Payer	Non-Rate Payer	GST
5T Tipper	Per Hour	\$215	\$245	Y
3T Tipper	Per Hour	\$205	\$235	Y
Backhoe	Per Hour	\$285	\$310	Y
Tilt Tray	Per Hour	\$225	\$260	Y
Bobcat	Per Hour	\$105	\$120	Y
Attachments to Bobcat	Per Hour	\$10	\$25	Y
Transport costs	Per Km	\$5	\$6	Y
Tractor	Per Hour	\$115	\$130	Y
Tractor	Per Day	\$625	\$675	Y
Slasher	Per Hour	\$35	\$45	Y
Utility	Per Hour	\$105	\$115	Y
General labour	Per Hour	\$100	\$115	Y

APPENDIX 3 - LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Local Government Act 2019 provides the framework for the development of annual Municipal, Regional or Shire Plans and Budgets. Specifically:

33 Meaning of municipal, regional or shire plans

- (1) Each council must have a plan for its area.
- (2) The plan for a council is:
 - (a) for a municipality – the municipal plan; and
 - (b) for a region – the regional plan; and
 - (c) for a shire – the shire plan.
- (3) A council's municipal, regional or shire plan:
 - (a) must be accessible on the council's website; and
 - (b) must be available for inspection at the council's public office; and
 - (c) must be available for purchase from the council's public office at a fee fixed by the council.

34 Contents of municipal, regional or shire plan

- (1) A municipal, regional or shire plan
 - (a) must include:
 - (i) a service delivery plan for the period to which the plan relates; and
 - (ii) the council's budget and any amended budget; and
 - (b) must include, or incorporate by reference:
 - (i) any long-term, community or strategic plan adopted by the council or a local authority and relevant to the period to which the plan relates; and
 - (ii) the council's long-term financial plan; and
 - (c) for a regional plan – must take into account the projects and priorities for the area identified by a local authority or authorities; and
 - (d) must define indicators for judging the standard of the council's performance.
- (2) A municipal, regional or shire plan incorporates a plan or assessment by reference if it refers to the plan or assessment and includes a link or reference to a webpage on which the plan or assessment is accessible.

35 Municipal, regional or shire plans

- (1) A council must, by resolution, adopt its municipal, regional or shire plan between 1 March and 30 June in each year.
- (2) The council must give a copy of the plan to the Agency by the latter date mentioned in subsection (1).
- (3) Before the council adopts its municipal, regional or shire plan for a particular year, the council must:
 - (a) at a meeting of the council, approve a draft of the plan; and
 - (b) make the draft plan accessible on the council's website and make copies available for public inspection at the council's public offices; and
 - (c) publish a notice on its website and in a newspaper circulating generally in the area inviting written submissions on the draft plan within a period (at least 21 days) from the date of the notice; and
 - (d) consider the submissions made in response to the invitation and make any revisions to the draft the council considers appropriate in the light of the submissions.
- (4) A copy of the draft of the plan must be provided to the members of the council at least 6 business days before the meeting referred to in subsection (3)(a).
- (5) Although the council's budget forms part of its municipal, regional or shire plan, this section does not apply to the adoption of the budget or of an amended budget.
- (6) The adoption of a budget, or of an amended budget, operates to amend the municipal, regional or shire plan so that it conforms with the most recent budget of the council.

36 Core services

- (1) The Minister may, by Gazette notice, advise a council as to the services that, in the Minister's view, are services that the council should, as a priority, provide.
- (2) The council must consider the advice when adopting and renewing its plan. 200 Long-term financial plan (1) A council must prepare and keep up-to-date a long-term financial plan. (2) A long-term financial plan must relate to a period of at least 4 years.
- (3) A long-term financial plan must contain:
 - (a) a statement of the major initiatives the council proposes to undertake during the period to which the plan relates; and
 - (b) the projected statement of income and expenditure for each financial year of the period to which the plan relates; and

(c) any other matters prescribed by regulation. (4) The council must provide the Agency with a copy of its long-term financial plan by 30 June in the year preceding the first financial year to which the plan relates.

201 Annual budgets

(1) A council must prepare a budget for each financial year.

(2) The budget for a particular financial year must:

(a) outline:

- (i) the council's objectives for the relevant financial year; and
- (ii) the measures the council proposes to take, during the financial year, towards achieving those objectives; and
- (iii) the indicators the council intends to use as a means of assessing its efficiency in achieving its objectives; and

(b) contain the projected statement of income and expenditure for the financial year, differentiating between operating and capital expenditure; and

(c) list the council's fees for services and the estimates of revenue from each of those fees; and

(d) state the amount to be allocated to the development and maintenance of infrastructure for the financial year; and

(e) state the amount the council proposes to raise by way of rates, and set out the rates structure, for the financial year; and

(f) include an assessment of the social and economic effects of its rating policies; and

(g) state the allowances for members of the council for the financial year and the amount budgeted to cover payment of those allowances; and

(h) separately provide for a budget for each local authority established by the council (if any); and

(i) include any other information required by any guidelines that the Minister may make or as prescribed by regulation; and

(j) be in a form required by any guidelines that the Minister may make or as prescribed by regulation.

202 Budget not to be for deficit

A council must not budget for a deficit except in accordance with the regulations. 203 Adoption of budget or amended budget

(1) A council must adopt its budget for a particular financial year on or before 30 June in the previous financial year.

(2) Subject to subsection

(3), a council may, after adopting its budget for a particular financial year, adopt an amended budget. (3) An amended budget must not have the effect of:

(a) increasing the amount of an allowance for the financial year for the members of the council; or

(b) changing the amount of an allowance for the financial year for members of a local authority established by the council except in accordance with any guidelines made by the Minister.

(4) As soon as practicable after adopting its budget or an amended budget for a particular financial year a council must:

(a) publish the budget or amended budget as adopted on the council's website; and

(b) notify the Agency in writing of the adoption of the budget or amended budget; and

(c) publish a notice in a newspaper circulating generally in the area informing the public that copies of the budget or amended budget may be downloaded from the council's website or obtained from the council's public office.

(5) If an amended budget is published on the council's website, the budget as previously adopted must remain published on the council's website clearly indicating that the budget has been superseded by an amended budget.

(6) The council's budget and any amended budget forms part of the council's municipal, regional or shire plan.

NOTES

Coomalie Community Government Council

22 Cameron Road

Batchelor NT 0845

ABN: 86 643 539 250

Ph: 08 8976 0058

Email: mail@coomalie.nt.gov.au

7.5 ATTACHMENT: PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Council: Coomalie Community Government Council

Released on: 08/05/2025

Submission closes: 29/05/2025

Our Ref: 2024/1567-12~004

Ms Sharon Hillen
Chief Executive Officer
Coomalie Community Government Council
PO Box 20
BATCHELOR NT 0845

Email: mail@coomalie.nt.gov.au

Dear Ms Hillen,

Re: Feedback on Council's draft 2025–26 Annual Plan out for Public Consultation

Every year the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development as the Agency responsible for regulating the Local Government sector, provides feedback on the draft Annual Plan and budget (draft plan) published by councils.

Although the general public are invited to make a written submission on the draft plan, this letter is not a formal submission on Coomalie Community Government Council's (Council) draft plan. Rather, it is a contribution to support the Council to meet its legislative obligations in relation to its planning and budgeting process under the *Local Government Act 2019* (Act).

Provided at **Attachment A** are sections in the draft plan recommended for review by the Council. Please note, the feedback on the draft plan does not include any assessment or comment on the Council's rates declaration. Council is encouraged to seek its own legal advice in relation to its rates declaration.

Once the Council has considered any written submissions and the final plan and budget is ready to be adopted, it is recommended the Council separately resolves to:

1. Declare the rates (under sections 237 and 238 of the Act).

NOTE: before the Council can adopt the budget, the CEO must check the rate records and certify in writing to the Council that to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief, the assessment record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the area (Regulation 29).

2. Adopt the budget (under section 203 of the Act).
3. Adopt the regional plan (under section 35(1) of the Act).

Under the Act the Council must adopt its 2025-26 Annual Plan including the budget on or before 30 June 2025. It is important to note that the Act does not provide the Minister or DHLGCD with the power to defer or waive the stipulated 30 June date.

Should you have any queries in relation to this feedback please email lg.compliance@nt.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

The Sustainability and Compliance Team

Draft Annual Plan Feedback

Feedback - for amendment to the budget for compliance

1. On page 17, under “Annual Budget Income and Expenditure”, the annual budgets for Committee allowances and expenses have not been listed in Table 1.1. Section 201(2)(g) of the Act requires that Council state the allowances for members of the council for the financial year and the amount budgeted to cover payment of those allowances. Please amend the table to include these line items as per Budget Guideline 5 to ensure compliance under the Act.

Feedback for consideration

2. On page 21, under “Table 2.1 Capital Expenditure and Funding”, The current and outer financial year budget columns do not contain the corresponding financial years within the headings. It is recommended the column headings are amended to assist readers with understanding the capital expenditure and funding allocation (i.e. Change to 2026-27 and 2027-28 instead of OFY 1 and OFY 2).


SHIRE PLAN 2025-26

FEEDBACK RECEIVED

CATEGORY	FEEDBACK	RESPONSE
1. Strategic Plan	<p>Dear Coomalie Shire Council,</p> <p>Re: Feedback on the 2025-26 Coomalie Shire Plan</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft 2025-26 Shire Plan. In conjunction with a reading of Council's Strategic Plan 2023-27 and the Annual Report 2023-24, please find my comments and feedback below.</p> <p>In considering my comments, please be aware that I am fully cognisant of the fact that Council has a limited budget and many responsibilities, most of which are basic services that cannot be neglected. That proposing additional initiatives presents a difficult challenge that must be accommodated within existing budget and human resources.</p> <p>I believe however, that creative planning that includes closer collaboration with interested and skilled members of the community to provide unremunerated support via committees, and the accessing of grants (in collaboration with local organisations) that may not have been considered previously, progress into new areas can be made.</p> <p>Delivering on the Strategic plan 2023-2027</p> <p>As stated (p. 4), the aim of the 2025-26 Plan is to drive implementation of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027. Some reporting is provided in the Annual Report 2023-24 on Priority Projects and a basic status of progress against the Strategic Plan KPI is given. Could interested residents have access to more detailed (and if possible more regular reporting) by Council against Priority Projects and KPI?</p>	<p>1. Delivering on the Strategic Plan 2023-2027</p> <p>As per the Planning and Reporting Framework mentioned in the Draft Shire Plan on page 15, the reporting schedule is detailed, and reports are available on Councils website via the Monthly Public Agendas of Councils. The most recent report to Council on the Strategic Plan is attached.</p> <p>2. Annual Budget – Income and expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As is required by the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i>, Council receives a detailed monthly financial report in the Public Agenda of the Ordinary Meeting of Council; two annual budget reviews and an audited financial statement and annual report. - 66% of Councils annual income is derived from grants; the Council operation subscribes to government and philanthropic NGO's data bases which provide up to date notification of new funding opportunities. Councils' priority projects in the Draft Shire Plan assist the operation to focus its resources on seeking external funds to deliver on the priorities not funded in the annual budget. Unfortunately, government grants are competitive and often oversubscribed. The current Council Operation is well versed in applying and receiving various grants from several agencies. The quarterly report on the Priority Project usually mentions any grants

	<p>Annual budget – income and Expenditure</p> <p>Can we see a breakdown of the revenue from grants? What variety of grant programs does the Council apply for? Are there opportunities to apply for others that may (in particular) address social and cultural objectives?</p> <p>Reconciliation Action Plan</p> <p>Council should develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (possibly under <i>Goal 4 Community Wellbeing and Resilience</i>) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build stronger relationships local Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities in the Shire; • show respect through cultural celebrations and protocols; • provide opportunities for local Aboriginal residents; and • contribute to Closing the Gap objectives. <p>In consultation with the Aboriginal community, goals could include objectives about: increasing Aboriginal employment in the Shire; developing partnerships/collaborations with the Kungarakan and Warai community and peak Aboriginal bodies; increasing procurement from Aboriginal businesses; and developing Council-sponsored community activities (e.g. celebrate NAIDOC week) that encourage Aboriginal engagement, truth-telling and respect.</p> <p><i>Shire Logo (p.3)</i>: In the interests of cultural inclusion and respect, it would be good to see in the description of the Shire logo some indication of Aboriginal values/priorities (if local Kungarakan and Warai representatives are supportive). Consultation with local Aboriginal elders could assist in expanding/editing some of the descriptions accordingly (e.g. possibly the 'water' and 'palm frond' statements).</p> <p>Environmental sustainability</p> <p>1. The Coomalie region has significant environmental values. Does Council have a Strategy related to environmental sustainability? Will council develop a strategy (and establish</p>	<p>applied for. Council also approves the operation to make applications and reports to Council appear in the agenda highlighting links to the Strategic and Shire Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council lists several projects of a social and cultural nature in the Shire Plan Priority Projects. This creates a focal point for Council resources to apply for grants in a structured manner. <p>3. Reconciliation Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council does not have a reconciliation plan. This significant body of work would need to be considered by the newly elected Council. However as per the acknowledgement in the front of the Shire Plan, Council recognises the Native Title Holders and Traditional Owners of the country Council operates on. The acknowledgement of country also prefaces each Ordinary Council Meeting. Council is working closely with the Kungarakan and Warai people and seeks their support for various funding applications and programs. Council is committed to the development of Culture and Diversity Plan as an action in the current Strategic Plan. Please note that any plan adopted by Council generally requires public consultation and feedback before formal adoption. - Shire Logo – your suggestion is noted. <p>4. Environmental Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noted. The formation of a new committee would be a matter for the new Council - Waste Management
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	<p>partnerships) to address environmental objectives for the Shire?</p> <p>2. Under Goal 3 Sustainability there is an action to 'Develop a Weed Management Plan for Coomalie LGA' – has such a plan been developed? Will there be public consultation on related strategies, activities and processes?</p> <p>3. <i>Environmental sustainability committee</i>: I understand there was previously a Council committee looking at environmental management? I would like to see a committee re-established to develop strategies and actions to progress environmental sustainability for the Shire. There are a number of rural residents that are particularly interested in this issue (with related expertise) and I am sure there would be sufficient public uptake to support a committee.</p> <p>4. <i>Waste management</i>: I, and others, strongly encourage Council to continue the development of recycling initiatives and additional improvements to the recycling facility at the Adelaide River dump. Also, as rate payers, I believe rural residents should be entitled to kerbside waste pick-up, just as Adelaide River and Batchelor residents are. I assume the bins at Burrell Creek are already picked up by Council – can this route be expanded?</p> <p>5. <i>Weed and fire management</i> (p.21): Can we have a report on related activities, including the strategies employed and an evaluation of their success?</p> <p>Emergency management What is Council's strategy to address the increase in fires and arson in the Shire? Can Council develop some actions to encourage a reduction in incidents over time? For example, develop awareness raising activities; information sharing and the development of educational</p>	<p>Council is implementing the Coomalie Waste Management Strategy and is actively working with the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NTEPA) to obtain licences for both the Adelaide River Transfer Station and the Batchelor Waste Management Facility. These licences will enable Council to expand the range of recyclable and reusable materials it can process, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill in accordance with the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act. Currently, Council's services are limited to items that do not require a licence; scheduled waste requires specific licensing.</p> <p>Purple Bins at Burrell Creek and Dorat Road - The purple bins at Burrell Creek and Dorat Road are managed by the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, not by Council.</p> <p>Rural Kerbside Pick-Up - Providing a rural kerbside pick-up service presents significant logistical challenges for both landholders and contractors, and the cost of delivering such a service would be prohibitive.</p> <p>- Weeds and Fire Management Council has a dedicated Weeds and Fire Management function within its Shire Service Delivery Plan (Page 18), with staff reporting quarterly to Council on service delivery in these areas. Council recognises its responsibilities as a landholder under various legislative frameworks and has steadily increased its awareness and resourcing for environmental management, particularly in weeds and fire management. Recent efforts have focused on ensuring compliance and adopting best practices. Funding for Weed Management - Council has secured a funding agreement with the Department of Lands, Planning</p>
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	<p>programmes in collaboration with Bushfires NT; and the nomination of a Councillor to the NT Bushfires Council Vernon Arafura Committee. Thank you for your consideration of my feedback. Kind regards,</p> 	<p>and Environment to develop a comprehensive Weed Management Plan for the Shire. This work will occur in the new financial year.</p> <p>5. Emergency Management</p> <p>- Council has two roles with regard to fire management – an advocate for the region and a landholder who undertakes season fire management activities.</p> <p>- Both elected members and CEO are members of the Batchelor and Adelaide River Local Emergency Management Committees. These committees are a function of the Northern Territory Police, who take command of any emergency management situation. Generally, this committee responds to wet season issues with floods and cyclones. Both committees have Local Emergency Plans which are available on the www.pfes.nt.gov.au website under publications.</p> <p>- Council has raised fire as an increasing concern for life and property in the Coomalie Region due to the invasive Gamba Grass and lack of property maintenance in some areas.</p> <p>- Council has a role under the Local Government Act and its subsequent By-laws Section 13 Land to be cleared regarding plants, grass or weeds, however generally only applies these laws to urban household blocks. Council relies on the NTG Agencies to inform rural landholders of their obligations under the Weeds and Bushfires Acts.</p>
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		<p>- The Council CEO is a member of the Bushfire NT Council and recently the Official Manager of Council has approved the CEO to maintain representation of Council on that Council. Your comments will tabled at the next meeting of the Bushfires NT. TBC</p>
3. Rates & services	<p>Dear Coomalie Shire Council,</p> <p>We are writing to lodge a formal objection to the 2025–2026 Draft Shire Plan, on the grounds of ongoing lack of transparency, financial strain due to rate increases, and the inequitable delivery of services — particularly for residents in the rural Adelaide River ward.</p> <p>Despite repeated community feedback over recent years, residents still experience a lack of genuine transparency in how decisions are made, how funds are allocated, and how performance is measured. The plan's high-level summaries and limited detail do not give ratepayers a clear understanding of what outcomes they can expect, especially in remote and rural areas.</p> <p>The proposed 4% annual increase — the maximum allowable — is excessive, particularly for those living on fixed incomes, such as pensioners. These residents are not receiving a 4% increase in their income, and the cumulative burden of yearly maximum increases is unsustainable. The plan does not explain how efficiencies have been sought before passing costs onto ratepayers.</p> <p>For residents of the rural Adelaide River ward, the return on our rates remains minimal. The Draft Shire Plan outlines core service functions such as waste management, infrastructure maintenance, and community development, yet many of these services are either entirely absent or inconsistently delivered in our area. This</p>	<p>1. Lack of Detail and Transparency</p> <p>Coomalie Council is committed to maintaining transparency and providing detailed information about its operations and decision-making processes. In accordance with Council's Planning and Reporting Framework (Page 15), comprehensive quarterly reports on the Shire Plan and biannual reports on the Council's Strategic Plan are prepared and included on the public agenda for the Council meeting following the end of each reporting period.</p> <p>Additionally, Council publishes a detailed Annual Report and an independently audited Financial Statement each year. These documents are made available to the public on Council's website, ensuring residents have access to clear and accurate information about Council's performance and financial management.</p> <p>To further support transparency, Council receives and reviews a monthly financial report that outlines the previous month's expenditure and financial position in detail. This regular reporting ensures that both Council and the community are kept informed</p>

	<p>discrepancy needs urgent attention, as rural communities continue to be overlooked despite paying increasing rates year after year. We concede that reductions in services are part of rural living, however it is then expected that we do not have to pay for them.</p> <p>We also note a lack of identified strategies in regards to the environmental sustainability of the Shire, in particular, a functioning recycling sorting facility, appropriate and through weed management and encouraging compliance with current regulations and proper installation and maintenance of firebreaks throughout the Shire. Bushfires NT has identified a stretch of Dorat Road as a high arson target; what is the Council's action plan for reducing the level of arson currently impacting members of the community.</p> <p>In conclusion, this draft plan continues to reflect a top-down approach that fails to acknowledge many of the lived realities of rural residents. I urge the Council to revise the plan with a renewed focus on transparency, financial fairness, and equitable rate applications based on actual core service delivery.</p>	<p>about the ongoing financial health and activities of the Shire.</p> <p>1. Rates Increase to 4%</p> <p>The proposed 4% increase in rates for Coomalie Shire in 2025–26 is necessary to ensure a balanced budget and to meet rising costs associated with maintaining current service levels and essential infrastructure projects. It is important to clarify that these rates are not a service fee but function as a form of tax, similar to other property taxes levied by local governments across Australia. Unlike a direct fee-for-service, which would only charge users for specific services rendered, rates are a general taxation mechanism that supports the collective provision of public infrastructure and services—such as roads, parks, waste management, and community safety initiatives—that benefit all residents, regardless of individual usage. Rural landholders in Coomalie Shire benefit from being part of a unique rural and regional lifestyle, with access to maintained infrastructure and services that underpin the area's distinctive character and quality of life. This shared investment in the community ensures the continued growth, sustainability, and enjoyment of the region's rural lifestyle for all landholders and residents.</p> <p>2. Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>Waste Management Strategy and Licensing - Council is implementing the Coomalie Waste Management Strategy and is actively working with the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NTEPA) to obtain licences for both the Adelaide River Transfer Station and the</p>
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		<p>Batchelor Waste Management Facility. These licences will enable Council to expand the range of recyclable and reusable materials it can process, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill in accordance with the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act. Currently, Council's services are limited to items that do not require a licence; scheduled waste requires specific licensing.</p> <p>Purple Bins at Burrel Creek and Dorat Road - The purple bins at Burrel Creek and Dorat Road are managed by the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, not by Council.</p> <p>Rural Kerbside Pick-Up - Providing a rural kerbside pick-up service presents significant logistical challenges for both landholders and contractors, and the cost of delivering such a service would be prohibitive.</p> <p>Weeds and Fire Management - Council has a dedicated Weeds and Fire Management function within its Shire Service Delivery Plan (Page 18), with staff reporting quarterly to Council on service delivery in these areas. Council recognises its responsibilities as a landholder under various legislative frameworks and has steadily increased its awareness and resourcing for environmental management, particularly in weeds and fire management. Recent efforts have focused on ensuring compliance and adopting best practices.</p> <p>Funding for Weed Management - Council has secured a funding agreement with the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment to develop a comprehensive Weed Management Plan for the Shire. This work will occur in the new financial year.</p> <p>Sustainability Initiatives- Council is committed to sustainability by improving energy efficiency across its operations and gradually integrating renewable energy systems into its infrastructure. These initiatives aim to</p>
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		<p>reduce Council's environmental footprint and lower long-term service delivery costs.</p> <p>Collaboration and Strategic Participation - Council collaborates with the NTEPA to enhance local waste management services and participates in several environmental committees, contributing to the development of sector-wide and agency strategic directions to improve environmental outcomes for the community.</p>
4. Rates, Finances & other	<p>Comments on the Draft Coomalie Shire Plan 2025-2026</p> <p>G'day Mark, Sharon and other members of the council team. Hope all are good. Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the latest iteration of the Coomalie shire plan.</p> <p>Before I begin my comments I'd like to start with a general question. What happens to the comments you receive?</p> <p>In previous years I have made detailed comments on the annual plan, but received no feedback, nor saw any evidence for how the council had responded to comments from myself or others I know who also provided feedback. It's a little disheartening.</p> <p>I believe common practice when running a public consultation on a plan is to tabulate comments and then give an indication of how each were addressed. The tabulation can then be made publicly available for interested parties (i.e. those who bothered to comment). At least that's the way I've always done it.</p> <p>So I'm interested to hear how comments you receive from residents and ratepayers are treated and influence the final draft of the plan.</p> <p>First of all, on page 9 of the plan there is a map designating three Wards (Batchelor Town, Coomalie Rural and Adelaide River). But</p>	<p>Dr Alan Roe</p> <p>1. Shire Plan Work Program</p> <p>Council receives the feedback and sends an acknowledgement of receipt. A response is drafted and deliberated over by Council at an Ordinary General Meeting and changes to the Draft are determined and approved by Council. Once approved a response is sent to the respondent addressing the issues raised and if they relate to any changes in the Draft.</p> <p>Feedback is tabulated and report to Council in the public agenda. Please see the agenda for June OGM at</p> <p>2. Reference To Wards</p> <p>Following the receipt of your question on the Rates declaration Council has sought legal advice on the declaration and it has been amended accordingly</p> <p>3. The Waste Management Services</p> <p>The Waste Management Services fees increases are specifically related to the Kerbside Pick at Batchelor, Adelaide River and Lake Bennett Body Corporate. Council went to public tender for this service and through the procurement process and has resulted in the increase in costs (See Tender Page on Council website) . All costs are</p>

	<p>then on Page 30, 'Declaration of rates and charges', there is reference to Batchelor Rural Ward, Adelaide Rover Rural Ward, Coomalie Tortilla Ward and Lake Bennet. What is the relationship of these latter wards to the former? Could there be greater internal consistency in the plan?</p> <p>On page 16, I note that there is a projected increase of 58% for Core Services expenditure. This is attributed in large part to 'waste management service fees' (page 19). Since this constitutes a very significant increase, it would be good to have further detail on what these costs are for, and whether alternatives exist for obviating them. Does the Shire currently sub contract aspects of waste management services?</p> <p>On page 20, I'm interested in the \$780,000 Transfer from Reserves that contributes to the projected operating surplus. Page 27 provides an overview of opening balance reserves held by the Council in July 2025, and basically indicates that by the end of the year, most of the internally restricted reserves will have been spent. How sustainable is this position, when payment back into reserves is significantly less?</p> <p>Page 23 highlights that management of 'Parks and Gardens' seems to place a very high burden on the operating budget (almost 10% of the total). Why is this cost so expensive when compared to other community services and even infrastructure? It is clearly an area of the operating budget that attracts little income...</p> <p>On page 33 and Page 34 there seems to be confusion with the allocation of priority projects to different goals. Goal 2 (Advocacy) lists a number of infrastructure projects which have nothing to do with advocacy. Access to resources with which to build the infrastructure may be the result of advocacy, but they are not advocacy projects.</p> <p>Likewise, under Goal 3 some of the projects have little to do with sustainability and are better placed under other goals (which they are).</p>	<p>covered by the associated fees at item 5&6 of the Rates Declaration.</p> <p>4. Reserves A significant proportion of the Reserves to be spent in the 2025-26 financial year (\$595,000) are tied grants relating to specific projects these projects are delivered within timeframes in executed funding agreements. Some of the grants require cash contributions from Council these amounts are termed Internally restricted Reserves and relate to projects with tied funding. The development of a reserve ensures there is a clear framework for inclusion and use of the reserve. Previously the funds were simply listed as cash at bank. The reserve process provides structure and purpose to these funds. Council expects that additional funds will be added annually, and the reserves will grow over time. However, through good financial management and asset planning there will be expenditure from the reserves annually. Comment on Asset Management Plans include further comment on sustainability of Council</p> <p>5. Parks and Gardens Council manages large areas of parks and gardens across the Shire on behalf of community as core service. The costs include mowing, irrigation; tree management and facility management and maintenance. The municipal staff are also allocated to this function along with a majority of Councils fleet.</p> <p>6. Advocacy Projects The sustainability of council identified by the short fall in Asset Management Plan requires advocacy with the other two levels of government to sustain and resource the future management and maintenance of Councils assets. At the time of writing the projects listed under advocacy have no funding allocated. Council advocates by meeting with</p>
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	<p>On Page 38, the table describing Core Service Function indicates that Buildings and Facilities are provided to the 'Rural'. Could this be clarified? Which rural area of the Coomalie shire receives buildings and facilities services?</p> <p>On Page 40, I'm not sure that all the 'advocacy service functions' described are actually advocacy. This may need a review.</p> <p>As for the proposed 4% rate rise, I appreciate we live in an economy impacted by inflation. Obviously the council needs to balance the books and operate within its means. However, I'm not certain I fully agree with the current prioritization of services and budgetary allocation. I hope a future elected membership will do some serious work and undertake a robust review of financial priorities, explore potential additional sources of income and not just fall back on raising rates on ratepayers as the default way of balancing the books.</p> <p>Thanks again for this opportunity to comment</p> <p>Cheers</p>	<p>relevant Ministers writing letters, applying for grants etc. With regard to the DLI project "Signage Bay's Council advocates and represents the tourism and business sectors which will benefit from this government manage and funded project. Council has a representative on the Project Management team who advocates on behalf of community to ensure the location, content and design is aligned to community needs and benefit. Regarding undeveloped roads council is currently advocating for the three levels of government to address the legacy issue of "Paper Roads".</p> <p>7. Sustainability Projects Goal 3 is largely related to asset management with many assets reaching end of life it is essential that Council develop action relating to these assets to ensure they do not impact on the sustainability of the Council.</p> <p>8. Service Delivery Plan Noted. Council manages some road side infrastructure in the rural area including including bus shelters, picnic grounds and reserves with facilities and other infrastructure.</p> <p>9. Advocacy Services Council advocates for these services and partnerships on behalf of community.</p> <p>10. Rates Rates Increase - Coomalie Council is increasing its rates by 4% to responsibly address the risks associated with ageing assets and fleet, as highlighted in recent asset management planning. This modest rate rise is essential for ensuring efficient and effective control of these deficits and maintaining core services. Council's financial sustainability is particularly important given its significant dependency on grants from other levels of government, with more than half of its operational and capital expenditure funded externally. As grant funding is often uncertain and tied to specific</p>
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		projects, a low rate increase will help Council remain effective and sustainable into the future by providing greater budget stability and supporting long-term planning.
5. Rates	<p>Dear Mark</p> <p>We have reviewed Council's 2025-2026 Shire Plan (Plan) and note yet another rate increase.</p> <p>Our property is located off Daly River Road in the Adelaide River Rural Ward. Whilst we appreciate costs are always rising everywhere, quite frankly we feel like we're being taken advantage of to pay for services provided for the residents of Batchelor and Adelaide River townships.</p> <p>When we purchased our property, it wasn't even part of the Coomalie Shire, so paying rates was not something we had to budget for. We, along with neighbouring landowners, lodged an objection with Council at the time but feel like we were not listened to.</p> <p>The Plan states that the rating methodology and rate mix "must be considered fair and equitable" and "must consider the benefits received by the ratepayer".</p> <p>Since the absorption of our area into the Coomalie Shire we have received very minimal services for the rates paid.</p> <p>The road network we use to access our property – Stuart Hwy, Dorat Road, and Daly River Road - is not managed by Coomalie Shire, but is the responsibility of the NT Government.</p> <p>We must provide our own infrastructure for water and power and take our own rubbish away.</p> <p>The only service we receive is a place for the depositing of rubbish. Under the Plan this service is charged at a rate of \$265.00 per annum and yet, with the proposed increase our rates are set to rise to over \$1,600.00 per annum. This seems extreme to be able to put rubbish in a bin, don't you think?</p>	<p>Waste Management Strategy and Licensing - Council is implementing the Coomalie Waste Management Strategy and is actively working with the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NTEPA) to obtain licences for both the Adelaide River Transfer Station and the Batchelor Waste Management Facility. These licences will enable Council to expand the range of recyclable and reusable materials it can process, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill in accordance with the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act. Currently, Council's services are limited to items that do not require a licence; scheduled waste requires specific licensing.</p> <p>Purple Bins at Burrell Creek and Dorat Road - The purple bins at Burrell Creek and Dorat Road are managed by the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, not by Council.</p> <p>Rural Kerbside Pick-Up - Providing a rural kerbside pick-up service presents significant logistical challenges for both landholders and contractors, and the cost of delivering such a service would be prohibitive.</p> <p>Weeds and Fire Management - Council has a dedicated Weeds and Fire Management function within its Shire Service Delivery Plan (Page 18), with staff reporting quarterly to Council on service delivery in these areas. Council recognises its responsibilities as a landholder under various legislative frameworks and has steadily increased its awareness and resourcing for environmental management, particularly in weeds and fire management. Recent efforts have focused on ensuring compliance and adopting best practices.</p> <p>Funding for Weed Management - Council has secured a funding agreement with the Department of Lands, Planning and</p>

	<p>With the Adelaide River rubbish tip only open on some days and for limited hours depositing of rubbish is usually via the four small bins outside the rubbish tip, which in our experience is grossly inadequate. These bins are often overflowing and as a result rubbish is regularly strewn around the area by crows. A terrible eyesore for both locals and tourists. We raised this previously with Council 2 years ago. We've seen no change.</p> <p>Assessment of rates based on UCV for the rural regions is unfair and unjustified. We propose a fairer system would be that rates for the minimally serviced rural area be a lower flat rate capped in line with services provided.</p> <p>The Plan notes that upgrading the Batchelor Pool is a major project for Council. Apart from group bookings, why is there no cover charge for entry/use of the pool? We're not aware of any other jurisdiction that does not have a fee for this, and it would seem only reasonable, especially if the pool needs upgrading. Why are we paying for others to use a pool?</p>	<p>Environment to develop a comprehensive Weed Management Plan for the Shire. This work will occur in the new financial year.</p> <p>Sustainability Initiatives- Council is committed to sustainability by improving energy efficiency across its operations and gradually integrating renewable energy systems into its infrastructure. These initiatives aim to reduce Council's environmental footprint and lower long-term service delivery costs.</p> <p>Collaboration and Strategic Participation - Council collaborates with the NTEPA to enhance local waste management services and participates in several environmental committees, contributing to the development of sector-wide and agency strategic directions to improve environmental outcomes for the community.</p> <p>Rates Increase - Coomalie Council is increasing its rates by 4% to responsibly address the risks associated with ageing assets and fleet, as highlighted in recent asset management planning. This modest rate rise is essential for ensuring efficient and effective control of these deficits and maintaining core services. Council's financial sustainability is particularly important given its significant dependency on grants from other levels of government, with more than half of its operational and capital expenditure funded externally. As grant funding is often uncertain and tied to specific projects, a low rate increase will help Council remain effective and sustainable into the future by providing greater budget stability and supporting long-term planning.</p> <p>Coomalie Council recognises the concerns of rural ratepayers about the distribution of services. While the townships of Batchelor and Adelaide River do have visible facilities, Council's responsibilities and funding cover the entire Shire, including rural areas. Essential services such as road maintenance, weed and fire management, waste management, and compliance</p>
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		with legislative requirements are delivered across both towns and rural localities. Council's ability to fund these services is limited, as only about a third of its revenue comes from rates, with the majority dependent on grants from other levels of government, which are often tied to specific projects and not guaranteed year to year. The recent 4% rate increase is necessary to address the risks of ageing assets and rising costs throughout the Shire, ensuring that all residents—urban and rural—benefit from safe, sustainable, and compliant infrastructure and services into the future.
6. Rates	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>██████████ here, part owner of ██████████ who has some issues with the Coomalie Shire Draft Plan.</p> <p>I will not be subtle, as I am seriously displeased. At least the old Council has been dissolved.</p> <p>However, that does not mean this Council and its plan passes the pub test for people living south of the Adelaide River in the previously unincorporated area.</p> <p>Here it goes:</p> <p>1. It is annoying and insulting to keep referring to the Coomalie Council area as being bordered south by Adelaide River township, while the map shows it goes down south to Daly River Road. Coomalie Shire clearly had incorporated us a few years back rather slyly, in the dark of night so to speak, and without proper consultation (most of us only found out after the event as we barely have anything to do with Coomalie Council or even events in Adelaide River). It obviously was simply to increase the Shire's rate revenue to maintain infrastructure and services we have little to nothing to do with nor are we served by any, except the waste removal facilities for which we all pay separately to</p>	<p>DRAFT SHIRE PLAN 2025-2026 FEEDBACK RESPONSE Received 28th May 2025 Ingrid Witte</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Shire Location description Noted – text changed to read 'south to Daly River Road'. Pending legal advice Adelaide River Ward Noted. The Local Government Representational Committee lead by the NTG will conduct community consultation before June 2026. Rates Increase Rates Increase - Coomalie Council is increasing its rates by 4% to responsibly address the risks associated with ageing assets and fleet, as highlighted in recent asset management planning. This modest rate rise is essential for ensuring efficient and effective control of these deficits and maintaining core services. Council's financial sustainability is particularly important given its significant dependency on grants from other levels of government, with more than half of its operational and

	<p>contribute to a tidy surplus without good recycle opportunities to be offered.</p> <p>2. On page 8 it states that there are 6 councillors apparently "representing" the wards. One ward is referred to as the Adelaide River Ward apparently on account of electoral enrolment, but which is skewed heavily towards Adelaide River township and does not allow us adequate representation on the grounds of NOT being an "urban" environment. Although the plan refers to an Adelaide River RURAL Ward as a separate entity for rate paying. At least we seem to be more fairly treated in that regard, so we do not, and should not pay the same rates as townships for the properties. Again: we receive no Shire services out here whatsoever! There is no difference regarding services to for example Tipperary Station. This was clearly an unfair hostile takeover, which has disenfranchised a lot of residents down here.</p> <p>3. My biggest concern and outrage now though is reserved to your rates and rate increases of 4 % which you mentioned having to happen every year, independent of inflation, because "you will need it in the future"?!! That sounds rather unfair to the rate payers! People also will have less disposable income and will have to deal with it in the future the way everything is going and the Council is obviously expecting. So there will be ever greater discrepancies in what people have in their wallet and what they are expected to dish out in rates! The Plan states the average age of residents in the council to be 50 already. The population is ageing and I do not believe this Shire to become a boom place to live and work and attract young people any time soon. So this planned continual increase does not speak of fairness to any rate payer.</p>	<p>capital expenditure funded externally. As grant funding is often uncertain and tied to specific projects, a low rate increase will help Council remain effective and sustainable into the future by providing greater budget stability and supporting long-term planning.</p> <p>Coomalie Council recognises the concerns of rural ratepayers about the distribution of services. While the townships of Batchelor and Adelaide River do have visible facilities, Council's responsibilities and funding cover the entire Shire, including rural areas. Essential services such as road maintenance, weed and fire management, waste management, and compliance with legislative requirements are delivered across both towns and rural localities. Council's ability to fund these services is limited, as only about a third of its revenue comes from rates, with the majority dependent on grants from other levels of government, which are often tied to specific projects and not guaranteed year to year. The recent 4% rate increase is necessary to address the risks of ageing assets and rising costs throughout the Shire, ensuring that all residents—urban and rural—benefit from safe, sustainable, and compliant infrastructure and services into the future.</p> <p>4. Weeds and Fire Management Weeds and Fire Management - Council has a dedicated Weeds and Fire Management function within its Shire Service Delivery Plan (Page 18), with staff reporting quarterly to Council on service delivery in these areas. Council recognises its responsibilities as a landholder under various legislative frameworks and has steadily increased its awareness and resourcing for environmental management, particularly in weeds and fire management. Recent efforts</p>
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	<p>4. I looked at the budget and there is NO service that is provided for us in the so-called Adelaide River Rural Ward. Dorat Road is not even a council road! Even to take the "bus" we would have to drive into the township! There is no maintenance you undertake out here either for parks or recreation. Hence, I can only assume our rates pay for a pink elephant called the Batchelor Pool, which cost a lot, but does not receive much revenue! There is one example to save money by closing it down or charge entry. And where does a ride on mower assist the residents along Dorat Road? You rationally and objectively have to admit that we are unfairly charged compared to residents living in areas the Council actually serves. We seem to be treated like the goose laying golden eggs for the benefit predominantly of a township (Batchelor) which is off the beaten track for us residents down here and does not even provide us with a decent grocery or hardware store because it simply is too small a community. For most services we all have to drive further, straight north on the Stuart Highway! Council ought to really re-evaluate the 4% annual rate increases and its asset management. For what do we really pay?</p> <p>4. Apparently the budget only sets aside 2% for weed and fire management. Considering the importance of the issue, this seems very small and completely insufficient. Where is that money used? Now this would be something we could actually need. So, will we get assistance like free weed killer from Council to manage gamba? Or is that also only going to the "townships" maintenance? Given the danger of fire management....how will Council help us? I would like to know how Council is assisting to make us more "resilient" down here. Maybe by regular compulsory education sessions to effect behavioural changes of</p>	<p>have focused on ensuring compliance and adopting best practices.</p> <p>Funding for Weed Management - Council has secured a funding agreement with the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment to develop a comprehensive Weed Management Plan for the Shire. This work will occur in the new financial year.</p> <p>5. Community Services Budget</p> <p>This is an agency funded program, however the partnership with the NTG requires some contribution by council usually a co-contribution is attributed to power, water and other underlying services which support the delivery of the program. This is consistent with Local Government service delivery who considers these services are of benefit to community which align with Council</p>
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	<p>people to respect other people's properties and to not commit arson in the rural areas? Just an idea.</p> <p>5. As a minor grudge: on page 23 in the budget under Community Services it says there is a \$11,555 deficit. It should read the opposite as revenue.</p> <p>Regards A disenfranchised [REDACTED]</p>	
6. Commercial Waste Charges	<p>Hi Sharon</p> <p>I have a concern about your plan regarding the green waste charges.</p> <p>In the plan they are rather ambiguous. I thought charging per cubic capacity was illegal and you have charges of \$22.00 and \$33.00 per cubic metre.</p> <p>What is the charge for ratepayer and or commercial waste? There is no differential.</p> <p>Are these the standard fees per load or how are they going to be allotted.</p> <p>When is the weighbridge going to be up and running and what are the charges for that.</p> <p>The weighbridge was going to be working approx 18 months ago.</p> <p>These charges will have a large impact on the estate and not having a defined charge it is hard for us to plan and budget into the future</p> <p>When are these charges going to be commenced?</p> <p>cheers [REDACTED]</p>	<p>At its April Ordinary General Meeting, Council reviewed and determined new waste management fees in preparation for the installation of a weighbridge at the Batchelor Waste Management Facility. While these proposed fees and charges—based on research and benchmarking against other Northern Territory councils—were not included in the Draft Shire Plan 2025–2026 due to a transposition oversight, Council has taken steps to ensure they are now incorporated in the final version.</p> <p>Procurement for the supply, freight, and construction of the weighbridge is already underway, and installation is expected to be completed before the end of the financial year. The newly approved commercial dumping fees and charges now appear in the official Fees and Charges Schedule within the Shire Plan 2025–2026. This update ensures greater transparency and allows commercial operators to plan accordingly for the coming year.</p> <p>If you have any further questions regarding the new waste management fees, please contact Council for more information.</p>

	Both cubic meter rates and tonnage rates will appear in the Shire Plan to manage the transition to the new weighbridge. NOTE in the F&C Schedule about transition from one to the other.
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8. 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

8.1 USE OF THE COMMON SEAL – DISCHARGE AN87.

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51(1) (b) information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.

9. DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL SECTION OF THE COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

That Council move the following items into Open:

Moved:

Seconded:

10. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION

That Council 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

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at