



**Victoria Daly**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# MINUTES

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2024  
AT 9:00 AM  
AT THE REGIONAL OFFICE - KATHERINE  
18 Pearce Street, Katherine NT 0850**



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brian Hylands', written over a faint circular stamp.

Brian Hylands  
**Chief Executive Officer**



*The meeting opened at 9:08am*

## **1. Present**

### **Elected Members Present**

Mayor (Chair) - Walangeri Ward	Brian Pedwell
Deputy Mayor- Daguragu Ward	Georgina Macleod
Councillor - Pine Creek Ward	Yvette Williams
Councillor - Milngin Ward	Andrew McTaggart
Councillor - Timber Creek Ward	Deborah Jones

### **Staff Present**

Chief Executive Officer	Brian Hylands
Director of Corporate and Community Services Media and Communications Officer	Trudy Braun
Manager of Governance and Executive Services	Kim Maskell
	Keira Townsend (minutes secretary)

### **Guests**

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet VDRC Audit and Risk Management Committee	Karen Hocking
Walangeri Ngumpinku Aboriginal Corporation Representative	John De Koning
NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services Deputy Chief Officer, Country Fire Authority, Victoria	Michelle Hann
Assistant Commissioner, Qld Fire and Emergency Services	Gavin Thompson
Emergency Management Consultant, AFAC	John Cawcutt
	Paul Considine (via Teams)

## **2. Apologies**

Nil

## **3. Presentations - Deputations - Petitions**

Emergency Services After Action Review - Discussion on how to improve emergency management operations in the future.

Presenters:

Gavin Thompson (Deputy Chief Officer, Country Fire Authority, Victoria)  
John Cawcutt (Assistant Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services)

Also in attendance:

Michelle Hann (NT Emergency, Executive Assistant)



Paul Considine (Emergency Management Consultant, AFAC via Teams)  
John De Koning (Chairperson, VDRC Audit and Risk Management Committee /  
Representative, Walangeri Ngumpinku Aboriginal Corporation)

- Concern raised about the Timber Creek 2023 flooding event not being included in the review.
- Concern raised about lack of training, knowledge of community, and resources for community police officers responding to emergency situations.

#### **4. Public Question Time**

#### **5. Disclosure of Interest - Councillors and Staff**

There were declarations of interest at this meeting.

Deputy Mayor Georgina Macleod and Cr Andrew McTaggart declared a material interest in item 10.1.4

#### **6. Confirmation of Minutes**

**Ordinary Council Meeting held on 30 January 2024**

**ITEM NUMBER 6.1.**

**OCM-2024/12 Resolution:** Carried (Deputy Mayor Georgina Macleod/Cr Yvette Williams)

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 30 January 2024 be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

#### **7. Call for Items of General Business**

- GB 1. Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) Program
- GB 2. NT News Article
- GB 3. Pest control

Action: These General Business Items to be added to the March 2024 OCM Agenda.

Action: All staff reports to Council are to be submitted via Doc Assembler in the proper format by the deadline provided in the 'CALL FOR REPORTS' email notification.



## 8. Mayoral Report

### Mayoral Report

#### ITEM NUMBER 8.1.

**OCM-2024/13 Resolution:** Carried (Deputy Mayor Georgina Macleod/Cr Deborah Jones)

- A. That the Mayoral Report is received and noted
- B. That Council endorses all travel and accommodation costs pertaining to the Mayor's duties.

- The Mayor highlighted how proactive the recent February PCLA meeting was.
- The Mayor discussed the Big Rivers Regional Community Engagement Group is seeking expressions of interest for membership .
- The Mayor has asked that Council's DRFA application be finalised as a matter of priority.
- The Mayor raised his concern about ongoing food security issues across VDRC communities.

## 9. CEO Update

### CEO Report

#### ITEM NUMBER 9.1.

**OCM-2024/14 Resolution:** Carried (Deputy Mayor Georgina Macleod/Cr Yvette Williams)

- A. That the CEO Report be received and noted.

## 10. Reports to Council

### 10.1. Reports for Council Decision

#### 10.1.1. 2024 National General Assembly (NGA) & Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG)

**OCM-2024/15 Resolution:** Carried (Cr Deborah Jones/Cr Andrew McTaggart)

- A. That the report 2024 National General Assembly (NGA) & Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) is received and noted.
- B. That Council endorses Mayor Brian Pedwell, Deputy Mayor Georgina Macleod, Cr Yvette Williams, CEO Brian Hylands to attend the 2024 *National*



*General Assembly of Local Government and the Australian Council of Local Government* at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from Tuesday 2 July 2024 to Friday 5 July 2024; and

- C. That Council approves the expenditure of associated travel and accommodation costs.

**10.1.2. 2024 Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT) Annual Conference**

**OCM-2024/16 Resolution:** Carried (Cr Yvette Williams/Cr Andrew McTaggart)

- A. That the report 2024 Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT) Annual Conference is received and noted.
- B. That Council endorses Mayor Brian Pedwell, Deputy Mayor Georgina Macleod, Cr Deborah Jones, CEO Brian Hylands, to attend the *2024 Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Conference and General Meeting in Darwin* from Thursday 18 April 2024 to Friday 19 April 2024; and
- C. That Council approves the expenditure of associated travel and accommodation costs.

**Big Rivers Region Organisation of Councils**

**ITEM NUMBER 10.1.3.**

**OCM-2024/17 Resolution:** Carried (Cr Andrew McTaggart/Cr Deborah Jones)

- A. That the Big Rivers Region Organisation of Councils report is received and noted
- B. Council endorses Terms of Reference and approves the Mayor and CEO to attend these meetings on behalf of Council.

Action: Minutes of the Big Rivers Region Organisation of Council's meeting held on 15 February 2024 to be added to the next OCM Agenda



## Update of the Reasonable Expenses for Travel and Accommodation Policy

### ITEM NUMBER 10.1.4.

Deputy Mayor Georgina Macleod and Cr Andrew McTaggart left the meeting at 10:12 am.

Deputy Mayor Georgina Macleod and Cr Andrew McTaggart returned to the meeting at 10:28 am.

**OCM-2024/18 Resolution:** Carried (Cr Yvette Williams/Mayor Brian Pedwell)

- A. That the Update of the Reasonable Expenses for Travel and Accommodation Policy report is received and noted
- B. Council does not approve the amendments to the Reasonable Expenses for Travel and Accommodation Policy (Council Members) attached to the report.
- C. Further advice to the CEO from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet is that it would be invalid to pay the mileage allowance as per the attached report.
- D. As per Section 109 of the Local Government Act, Council approves the following options for Councillors who have excessive mileage above the \$5000 cap created by the Remuneration Tribunal to be added to the Reasonable Expenses for Travel and Accommodation Policy
  - 1. Reimbursement of fuel expenses,
  - 2. Reimbursement of vehicle expenses via logbook;
  - 3. Provision of a Council vehicle for Councillors to travel to Council meetings and for attending conferences and functions approved by Council.

**OCM-2024/19 Resolution:** Carried (Mayor Brian Pedwell/Cr Deborah Jones)

- A. That Council requests a paper be put forward to LGANT regarding NT Remuneration Tribunals determination of allowances for members of Local Councils for 2024-25.

Meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.35am

Meeting resumed at 11.05am



## Remuneration Tribunal Report on Determination 2024-25

### ITEM NUMBER 10.1.5.

**OCM-2024/20 Resolution:** Carried (Mayor Brian Pedwell/Deputy Mayor Georgina Macleod)

- A. That the Remuneration Tribunal Report on Determination 2024-25 report is received and noted

Action: Write to the Remuneration Tribunal regarding 2024-2025 determination of insufficient mileage allowance.

## 10.2. Reports for Information

### Financial Report year to date 31 January 2024

#### ITEM NUMBER 10.2.1.

**OCM-2024/21 Resolution:** Carried (Cr Deborah Jones/Deputy Mayor Georgina Macleod)

- A. That the Financial Report year to date 31 January 2024 is received and noted

## 11. Action Items

### Action Item Report

#### ITEM NUMBER 11.1.

**OCM-2024/22 Resolution:** Carried (Cr Yvette Williams/Cr Andrew McTaggart)

- A. That the Action Item Report is received and noted
- B. That completed items be removed from the action items list.





## 12. Correspondence

### Correspondence Report

**ITEM NUMBER 12.1.**

**OCM-2024/23 Resolution:** Carried (Deputy Mayor Georgina Macleod/Mayor Brian Pedwell)

- A. That the Correspondence Report is received and noted

Action: Respond to correspondence from Minister Selena Uiho, Minister for Parks and Rangers, regarding rubbish from National Park visitors.

## 13. General Business

Due to time constraints, deferred to the next OCM.

## 14. Local Authority

### 14.1. Local Authority Minutes

**Pine Creek Local Authority Meeting held on 6 February 2024**

**ITEM NUMBER 15.1.1.**

**REPORT TYPE Local Authority Minutes**

**PREPARED BY Media and Communications Officer**

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**OCM-2024/24 Resolution:** Carried (Cr Yvette Williams/Mayor Brian Pedwell)

- A. That the minutes of the Pine Creek Local Authority Meeting held on 6 February 2024 be adopted as a resolution of Ordinary Council
- B. That the Pine Creek Local Authority identifies and endorses a project by resolution for funding through the Northern Territory Government's Election Commitment Funding and Pine Creek Local Authority Co-contribution
- C. That the PCLA agree to allocate \$5,000 towards the Pine Creek water gardens
- D. That the PCLA agree to allocate \$10,000 towards general foot path repairs
- E. That the PCLA agree to allocate \$10,000 towards beautification

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:45pm  
Meeting resumed at 2:08pm



## 15. Confidential

**Resolution:** Carried (Deputy Mayor Georgina Macleod/Cr Yvette Williams)

THAT pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and section 51(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

*The meeting moved into confidential session at 2:09 pm.*

### 15.1. Progress Report on Grant Applications

**Status 51(1)(c)(iv)** - *This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, Information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: subject to subregulation (3) - prejudice the interests of the council or some other person*

**Resolution:** Carried (Cr Andrew McTaggart/Cr Deborah Jones)

That pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and section 51(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be re-opened to the public.

*The meeting returned to open session at 3:15 pm.*

## 17. Next Meeting

The next Ordinary General Meeting of Victoria Daly Regional Council will be held 26 March 2024

*The meeting closed at 4.35pm*

This page and the preceding 9 pages are the minutes of the meeting of Ordinary Council held on 27 February 2024.

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Mayor Brian Pedwell