



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**



VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL DISCLAIMER

No responsibility is implied or accepted by the Victoria Daly Regional Council for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or committee meetings.

The Victoria Daly Regional Council disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or committee meetings.

Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or committee meeting does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without detracting in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or officer of the Victoria Daly Regional Council during the Course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Victoria Daly Regional Council.

The Victoria Daly Regional Council advises that anyone who has any application lodged with the Victoria Daly Regional Council shall obtain and should only rely on **WRITTEN CONFIRMATION** of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Victoria Daly Regional Council in respect of the application.

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

Brian Hylands
Chief Executive Officer



The meeting opened at 9:08am

1. Present

Elected Members Present

Mayor (Chair) - Walangeri Ward
Deputy Mayor- Daguragu Ward
Councillor - Pine Creek Ward
Councillor - Milngin Ward
Councillor - Timber Creek Ward

Brian Pedwell
Georgina Macleod
Yvette Williams
Andrew McTaggart
Deborah Jones

Staff Present

Chief Executive Officer
Director of Corporate and Community Services
Media and Communications Officer
Manager of Governance and Executive Services

Brian Hylands
Trudy Braun
Kim Maskell
Keira Townsend
(minutes secretary)

Guests

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
VDRC Audit and Risk Management Committee
Walangeri Ngumpinku Aboriginal Corporation
Representative
NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services
Deputy Chief Officer, Country Fire Authority,
Victoria
Assistant Commissioner, Qld Fire and Emergency
Services
Emergency Management Consultant, AFAC

Karen Hocking
John De Koning
Michelle Hann
Gavin Thompson
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 Uiibo, 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

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.

Mayor Brian Pedwell