



# **GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL CONFIRMED MINUTES**

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting  
held on **Tuesday 27 January 2026**

in the Council Chambers,  
16-18 Anne Street, George Town,

commencing at **1:00 pm**.

*All documents presented, and recordings (audio) of this meeting are made available to the public in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, and Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.*

*The public are requested to pre-register if attending this meeting of Council.*

Shane Power  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

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**Meeting Commencing at 1:00 pm**

**Acknowledgement of Country**

*George Town Council acknowledges the palawa people from the litarimirina tribe from Port Dalrymple as the traditional custodians of the land.*

*We honour and give thanks for the caring of country, seas and skies of kinimathatakinta and surrounds.*

*We pay respect to the elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hope of pakana people in lutruwita.*

**AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The public is advised that it is **Council Policy** to record the proceedings of meetings of Council on digital media to assist in the preparation of Minutes, and to clarify any queries relating to the Minutes that is raised during a subsequent meeting under the section "Confirmation of Minutes".

The recording does not replace the written Minutes and a transcript of the recording will not be prepared.

All meetings of the Council shall be digitally recorded as provided for by Regulation 43 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 except for the proceedings of meetings or parts of meetings closed to the public in accordance with Regulation 17(2).

In accordance with the requirements of Council's Audio Recording of Council Meetings Policy GTC 1, members of the public are not permitted to make audio recordings of Council meetings.

*The community are requested to pre-register to attend this meeting of Council.*

*All documents presented, and recordings (audio) of this meeting are made available to the public in accordance with the above Act and Notice, and the standard applicable provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, and Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.*

*The Chairperson advised the meeting that:*

- (a) an audio is being made of the meeting; and*
- (b) all persons attending the meeting are to be respectful of, and considerate towards, other persons attending the meeting; and*
- (c) language and conduct at the meeting that could be perceived as offensive, defamatory or threatening to a person attending the meeting, or listening to the recording, is not acceptable.*

## **1 PRESENT**

Mayor Cr Greg Kieser, Chairperson  
Deputy Mayor Cr Greg Dawson  
Cr Winston Archer  
Cr Heather Ashley  
Cr Simone Lowe  
Cr Winston Mason  
Cr Jason Orr

### **1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cr Heather Barwick  
Cr Tim Harris

Director Operational Performance, Strategy & Engagement - Mr R Dunn

### **1.2 IN ATTENDANCE**

General Manager - Mr S Power  
Director Corporate & Community - Mrs C Hyde  
Director Infrastructure & Development - Mr A McCarthy  
Senior Executive Support and Governance Officer - Ms L Dickenson  
Administrative Assistant - Governance - Ms C Roach

## **2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16 DECEMBER 2026**

**Minute No. 001/26**

#### **DECISION**

Moved: Cr Dawson

Seconded: Cr Mason

That the Minutes of Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 16 December 2025 numbered 171/25 to 180/25 as provided to Councillors be received and confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

#### **VOTING**

For: Cr Kieser, Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

**3 LATE ITEMS**

Nil.

## **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

## **5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

### **5.1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME PROCEDURE**

*[Refer to Minute No. 243/16. The period set aside for public question time will be at least 15 minutes. Questions given on notice will be addressed first. Once questions on notice have been addressed, persons who have registered their interest to ask a question will be called to do so in the order in which they have registered. Persons attending Council meetings will have the opportunity to register their interest to ask a question without notice prior to the commencement of the meeting. Council staff will be on hand to assist with this process.]*

*Participants cannot ask more than 2 questions in a row with a maximum of 2 minutes per question. If a person has more than (2) questions, they will be placed at the 'end of the queue' and may, if time permits, ask their further questions once all other persons have had an opportunity to ask questions. Persons who have not registered their interest to ask a question will be given an opportunity to do so following all those who have registered. All questions must be directed to the Chairperson.*

*For further information on Council's Public Question Time Rules and Procedure, please refer to George Town Council Public Question Time Policy GTC13.*

*Questions asked and answers provided may be summarised in the Minutes of the meeting.*

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*Council requests that members of the public pre-register to attend meetings of Council.*

**5.2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Nil.

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**5.3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Commenced at: 1:06 pm

Concluded at: 1:06 pm

**5.4 RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*(Refer to Minute No. 425/00, which states in part, "that a copy of all written replies to questions from the Public Gallery be included in the following Council Agenda.")*

Nil.

## **6 GENERAL MANAGER'S DECLARATION**

I certify that with respect to all advice, information or recommendations provided to Council with this Agenda:

- the advice, information or recommendation is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation; and
- where any advice is given directly to Council by a person who does not have the required qualifications of experience, that person has obtained and taken into account in that person's general advice, the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person.



Shane Power  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 – SECTION 65**

#### **65. Qualified persons**

- (1) A general manager must ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council or a council committee is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation.
- (2) A council or council committee is not to decide on any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering such advice unless –
  - (a) the general manager certifies, in writing –
    - (i) that such advice was obtained; and
    - (ii) that the general manager took the advice into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
  - (b) a copy of that advice or, if the advice was given orally, a written transcript or summary of that advice is provided to the council or council committee with the general manager's certificate.

The General Manager advised that the following administrative amendments will be made to the unconfirmed minutes:

- Ms L. Distefano's question to be included; and
- Health and Wellbeing Committee member Laura Bajurny is from Project People.

**7 PLANNING AUTHORITY**

Nil.

## **8 OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER**

### **8.1 COUNCIL WORKSHOPS DECEMBER 2025**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** General Manager - Mr S. Power  
**REPORT DATE:** 23 December 2025  
**FILE NO:** 14.10

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**Minute No. 002/26**

#### **DECISION**

Moved: Cr Orr  
Seconded: Cr Mason

That Council:

1. Receives the report on the Council Workshops held on the 25 November, 9 December and 16 December 2025.

#### **VOTING**

For: Cr Kieser, Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr  
Against: Nil  
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

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**8.2 NORTHERN TASMANIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NTDC) FUNDING AGREEMENT 2026-2029**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** General Manager - Mr S. Power  
**REPORT DATE:** 24 December 2025  
**FILE NO:** 15.40

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**Minute No. 003/26**

**DECISION**

Moved: Cr Mason  
Seconded: Cr Lowe

That Council:

1. Endorse the revised Northern Tasmania Development Corporation Funding Agreement for 2026-2029; and
2. Authorises the General Manager and Mayor to execute the Northern Tasmania Development Corporate Members Agreement 2026-2029.

**VOTING**

For: Cr Kieser, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr  
Against: Cr Dawson  
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED 6 / 1

**9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Nil.

## **10 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY**

### **10.1 GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL AUDIT PANEL COMMITTEE CONFIRMED MINUTES**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Director – Corporate and Community – Mrs. C Hyde
<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	8 January 2026
<b>FILE NO:</b>	29.11

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*Director Corporate and Community entered the meeting at 1:17pm*

#### **Minute No. 004/26**

#### **DECISION**

Moved: Cr Mason  
Seconded: Cr Orr

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Audit Panel meeting held on 22nd October 2025 as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### **VOTING**

For: Cr Kieser, Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr  
Against: Nil  
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

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**10.2 REVIEW OF THE AUDIT PANEL CHARTER**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Director Corporate & Community - Ms C. Hyde  
**REPORT DATE:** 8 January 2026  
**FILE NO:** 29.11

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**Minute No. 005/26**

**DECISION**

Moved: Cr Orr  
Seconded: Cr Dawson

That Council:

1. Adopt the amended Audit Panel charter provided with this report.

**VOTING**

For: Cr Kieser, Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr  
Against: Nil  
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

*The Director Corporate and Community left the meeting at 1:21 pm.*

**11 STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Nil.

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## **12 OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

### **12.1 MATTERS OF INVOLVEMENT - MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS**

**REPORT DATE:** 19 January 2026

**FILE NO:** 14.11, 14.15

<b>Mayor Cr Greg Kieser</b>		
<b>December</b>	11	Presented award at South George Town Primary School end of year assembly
	11	Attended Bell Bay Response Team
	11	Presented award at Port Dalrymple School end of year assembly
	12	Opened the Art Exhibition - Christmas Traditions Near & Far at the Jim Mooney Gallery
	12	Attended and presented at the Christmas Carnival
	16	Chaired Council Workshop
	16	Chaired Ordinary Council Meeting
	17	Attended the NTARC Launch
	17	Tamar FM Interview
	17	Attended Dining with Friends – Christmas event
	20	Opened the Carols by Candlelight
<b>Deputy Mayor Cr Greg Dawson</b>		
<b>December</b>	12	Attended and judged at the Christmas Carnival
	16	Attended Council Workshop
	16	Attended Ordinary Council meeting
<b>January</b>	19	Spoke at the Tamar Valley Folk Festival Community Event on behalf of Council
<b>Cr Jason Orr</b>		
December	11	Attended the George Town Chamber of Commerce's Christmas drinks.
	12	Attended and judged at the Christmas Carnival
	16	Attended the Launceston Chamber of Commerce's Christmas drinks with the Premier

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**Minute No. 006/26**

**DECISION**

Moved: Cr Mason  
Seconded: Cr Ashley

That the information report from the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors on Matters of Involvement be received and the information noted.

**VOTING**

For: Cr Kieser, Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr  
Against: Nil  
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

**13 PETITIONS**

Nil.

## **14 NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

### **14.1 GTC-14 RATES AND CHARGES POLICY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

**Moved:** Cr Archer

Council commence public consultation of Council policy *GTC-14-RATES AND CHARGES*.

The consultation will include the possibility of discontinuing the use of Averaged Area Rating methodology for the 2026/27 financial year, and any other part of the policy that is of interest to the public.

**Reason:**

- Sound financial management.
- Integrity of future Rates Resolutions.

*Director of Corporate and Community entered the meeting at 1:32pm*

### **DECISION**

Moved: Cr Archer

Seconded: Cr Lowe

Council commence public consultation of Council policy *GTC-14-RATES AND CHARGES*.

The consultation will include the possibility of discontinuing the use of Averaged Area Rating methodology for the 2026/27 financial year, and any other part of the policy that is of interest to the public.

### **VOTING**

For: Cr Archer and Cr Lowe

Against: Cr Kieser, Cr Ashley and Cr Mason

Abstained: Cr Dawson and Cr Orr

LOST 2 / 5

## **15 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE**

### **Cr Archer** **(16 December 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting)**

*Cr Archer asked if a planning permit would be required for the Community Energy Upgrade project?*

*The Director Infrastructure and Operations took the question on notice.*

### **Response**

Planning permits will be required for this project. Council will run the planning process at the same time as the tender process to ensure grant milestones are met.

## **16 COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **16.1 GEORGE TOWN HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE MINUTES 6 OCTOBER 2025**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Director – Corporate and Community – Mrs Cheryl Hyde
<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	8 January 2026
<b>FILE NO:</b>	14.7

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#### **Minute No. 007/26**

#### **DECISION**

Moved: Cr Dawson  
Seconded: Cr Ashley

That Council:

1. Notes the Minutes of the George Town Health and Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 6 October 2025 as an accurate record of that meeting.

#### **VOTING**

For: Cr Kieser, Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr  
Against: Nil  
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

## **17 CLOSED MEETING**

### **17.1 INTO CLOSED MEETING**

**Minute No. 008/26**

#### **DECISION**

Moved: Cr Dawson

Seconded: Cr Ashley

That Council move into closed meeting at 1:47 pm to discuss the following items:

#### **Agenda Item 17.2 Minutes of the Closed Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 December 2025**

*As per the provisions of Regulation 40(6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.*

#### **Agenda Item 17.3 Leave of Absence**

*As per the provisions of Regulation 47 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.*

#### **VOTING**

For: Cr Kieser, Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

**18 CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2:00pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Kieser', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Cr Greg Kieser  
MAYOR**