



# MINUTES

## Showgrounds Advisory Committee

Held on Tuesday 3 September 2024

Civic Centre, Council Chambers  
24 Stuart Highway, Katherine NT 0850

## 1 ATTENDANCE

### 1.1 PRESENT

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Councillor Peter McDougall (Chair)
- Councillor Jeremy Trembath
- Anna Kerwin
- Mark Robertson
- Kylie Leonhardt
- Leanne Bugg

#### OFFICERS

- Amanda Haigh - Manager Governance and Risk
- Brett Kimpton - Manager Environment and Municipal
- Ianna Lalim - Administration Officer (Minute Taker)

### 1.2 APOLOGIES

Tia Solloway apology for the meeting was noted.

## 2 OPENING OF THE MEETING

Councillor McDougall declared the Showground Advisory Committee - 3 September 2024 open at 5:35 pm.

## 3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil conflicts declared.

## 4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

### 4.1 MINUTES OF THE KATHERINE SHOWGROUNDS AND MULTI-PURPOSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 2 MAY 2023

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION** ShAC-2024-1

**Moved:** Mark Robertson; **Seconded:** Kylie Leonhardt

That Council confirm the minutes of the Katherine Showgrounds and Multi-purpose Advisory Committee held on 2 May 2023 as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED 6|0**

FOR: Councillor McDougall, Councillor Trembath, Anna Kerwin, Mark Robertson, Leanne Bugg and Kylie Leonhardt  
AGAINST: Nil

## 5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

### 5.1 ACTION UPDATE

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION** ShAC-2024-2

**Moved:** Councillor Trembath; **Seconded:** Anna Kerwin

That the Showgrounds Advisory Committee receive and note the Action update.

**CARRIED 6|0**

FOR: Councillor McDougall, Councillor Trembath, Anna Kerwin, Mark Robertson, Leanne Bugg and Kylie Leonhardt  
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

Noted that the register contains nothing completed as issues are recurring and ongoing.

Request for more information about the action register raised. Tree maintenance is always ongoing, aging infrastructure to be considered regarding the light towers.

Oval Light Towers do not pass Australian standards for show jumping. In their condition lighting was insufficient and interstate judges would have declined the event. Due to the age of these towers, replacement parts are difficult to source. Noted that if alternatives are sourced then the Katherine District Show Society should be consulted to ensure new infrastructure would comply with necessary standards. Lights should be audited and this takes place annually before the show with issues often raised prior by user groups.

The Katherine Dirt Kart Club had previous interest in a grant to support planting of trees around the Showgrounds track. Taken on notice.

The Katherine Dirt Kart Club raised questions about their Council accounts. Taken on notice.

## **6 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE - SHOWGROUNDS AND MULTI-PURPOSE CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ShAC-2024-3**

**Moved:** Councillor Trembath; **Seconded:** Kylie Leonhardt

1. That the Showgrounds Advisory Committee receive and note the Terms of Reference for the Showgrounds and Multi-Purpose Centre Advisory Committee.
2. That the Committee resolves to meet quarterly rather than bi-monthly.

**CARRIED 6|0**

FOR: Councillor McDougall, Councillor Trembath, Anna Kerwin, Mark Robertson, Leanne Bugg and Kylie Leonhardt  
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

Committee members were unaware of the Terms of Reference despite having been in place. Terms of Reference are now due for review. The discrepancies between the document stipulations and how the Committee truly functions were noted.

The Committee agreed to a quarterly schedule of meetings.

Councillors and user group members who are not appointed to the Committee are allowed to attend as observers but they do not have voting rights. Also noted that having a single representative allows for consistency.

The meeting allows all members to cross paths and come to an understanding but as issues arise in between meetings they can be discussed directly.

As no revisions were suggested the second officer recommendation was withdrawn.

Request for Katherine Dirt Kart Club access code to conduct working bees. Taken on notice.

## 6.2 GENERAL UPDATE - SHOWGROUNDS, KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL - 28 AUGUST 2024

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ShAC-2024-4**

**Moved:** Councillor Trembath; **Seconded:** Kylie Leonhardt

1. That the Showgrounds Advisory Committee receive and note:
  - a. The report containing major changes and challenges to the Showgrounds since its last meeting 2 May 2023.
  - b. The report containing Council publications for the new financial year 2024/2025 including its Municipal Plan and Fees and Charges.
  - c. The report of Council's recently launched platforms aimed at promoting community engagement and providing information about its facilities, including the Showgrounds.
2. That the Committee support the proposal submitted by ASHS (Australian Stock Horse Society) for a new commentary box and storage shed to be installed at the Showgrounds Campdraft arena (submitted for CBF grant).

**CARRIED 6|0**

FOR: Councillor McDougall, Councillor Trembath, Anna Kerwin, Mark Robertson, Leanne Bugg and Kylie Leonhardt  
AGAINST: Nil

### Discussion

Noted that issues regarding mowing of the bird breeding area resulted partly from confusion of ownership between Department of Lands and Planning and Council - it has been resolved that this is a Council area.

An issue with the Showgrounds large bore was identified late last year with efforts made to install a new bore beginning in February 2024. Installation and supply issues resulted in a period of dry ground for the oval that impacted the AFL season. Reports were received for injured players during this time but these could not be substantiated. AFLNT concurred that no formal reports were made, at least during the Committee member's time of June 2024 onward. The oval is now green and irrigation by the bore is currently controlled manually but will soon be under automatic control.

The Showgrounds is experiencing weed growth issues, particularly multiplication of Neem trees. Taken on notice.

It was asked that members and all users of the Showgrounds remain on formed roads and avoid driving

across green grass to minimise damage to the irrigation.

### 6.3 RESERVE MASTER PLAN - KATHERINE SHOWGROUND AND MULTI-PURPOSE CENTRE

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Kylie Leonhardt; **Seconded:** Anna Kerwin

1. That the Showgrounds Advisory Committee receive and note the Katherine Town Council Master Plan for the Katherine Showgrounds and Multi-Purpose Centre – Draft V1.
2. That the Committee confirm their approval of the Master Plan draft for Council's review.

#### Discussion

Comments made that the Master Plan is already outdated and the Committee would prefer to read it more closely before reaching a decision.

The Plan was tabled to the Committee in 2021 but did not go to Council. The Plan is therefore re-tabled to see how it compares to the current Showgrounds and inform Master Plan practicality. Noted that a Master Plan is beneficial for attracting funding and guiding development.

Issues were raised with past administration of the Plan.

Committee preferred to have time to review and provide feedback, and the Master Plan be tabled at the next meeting.

#### **AMENDMENT RESOLUTION ShAC-2024-6**

**Moved:** Mark Robertson; **Seconded:** Kylie Leonhardt

1. That the Showgrounds Advisory Committee review and provide feedback on the Master Plan for the Katherine Showgrounds and Multi-Purpose Centre – Draft V1.
2. That the Master Plan and feedback are tabled at the next meeting.

**CARRIED 6|0**

FOR: Councillor McDougall, Councillor Trembath, Anna Kerwin, Mark Robertson, Leanne Bugg and Kylie Leonhardt  
AGAINST: Nil

## 7 COMMITTEE MEMBER BUSINESS

### 7.1 OTHER BUSINESS

The Australian Stock Horse Society were able to run their draft despite issues with the late wet season but noted that as their event grows it is more difficult to accommodate the higher number of campers. Provision of camping water is a necessary work in progress for the Master Plan. A suggestion was made to install water tanks at the Showgrounds.

The Katherine District Show Society reported a successful show without incidents. They recorded more than 37000 attendees.

AFLNT reported more than 1200 people at their Showgrounds grand final game. It was coordinated with the Katherine Police, Council and communities with no incidents recorded. The season's game times were scheduled for daylight hours which assisted in alleviating intoxication issues at games. It is noted that it was a relatively short season.

## **8 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The Showground Advisory Committee - 3 September 2024 was declared closed at 6:31pm.

The next Showgrounds Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, 3 December 2024.