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26 June 2025

Leslie Manda  
Executive Director  
Local Government and Community Development  
[LGLaw.CMC@nt.gov.au](mailto:LGLaw.CMC@nt.gov.au)

Dear Leslie

**KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT TRANCHE 2 PART C PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

On behalf of Katherine Town Council, I commend the Northern Territory Government on giving priority to legislative reform of the local government sector to improve the standard of elected member conduct and professionalism to strengthen public trust and increase community engagement in council decision-making.

Council is pleased to provide the attached submission in response to Discussion Paper Part C for consideration in developing amendments to the *Local Government Act 2019*. Council has no objections to this submission being published.

As outlined in the attached submission, Council has been dealing with the inappropriate behaviour of one elected member within the current code of conduct breach arrangements, with little success in satisfactorily resolving the issue. The poor behaviour, and the inability to adequately manage it, has strained relationships between elected members and impacted significantly on their ability to operate in harmony, wasted significant resources and hindered the Chief Executive Officer undertaking their role in a professional, respectful manner.

These instances have also highlighted limitations in the existing legislative framework for holding elected members accountable to a standard that the community expects of its council officials.

Council strongly supports a mandated code of conduct framework that sets out the principles and standards of behaviour expected of councillors and mayors when carrying out their roles, responsibilities and obligations as elected representatives for their communities. By adhering to a consistent set of behaviours, councillors will increase public confidence in local government and their decisions.

While Council generally supports the proposed amendments, it would be appropriate for the NT Government to undertake the heavy lifting and provide adequate funding in relation to implementing and maintaining the framework, rather than shifting costs and administrative burden to Councils and ratepayers, given the need for councils to provide their own core council services to communities.



**KATHERINE**  
TOWN COUNCIL

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Council looks forward to the next stage of the legislative amendment process following community consultation. If you have any questions regarding Council's submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ingrid Stonhill', written in a cursive style.

Ingrid Stonhill  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

