

## Media Release

25 February 2026

### February Council Meeting wrap up

The Alice Springs Mayor and Councillors met on Tuesday 24 February 2026 for their monthly Ordinary Council Meeting. The following is a summary of some of the matters discussed. To see full Council reports and minutes visit the ASTC website. A full video of the meeting is available on Council's [website](#).

#### **Australia Day Citizenship and Awards Ceremony Date Change**

Elected Members have resolved to hold the annual Citizenship and Awards Ceremony on an alternative date within the Department of Home Affairs' approved window, rather than on 26 January. The ceremony will be scheduled on the closest workday either before or after 26 January, at the CEO's discretion.

The decision relates specifically to the timing of the formal Citizenship and Awards Ceremony and aligns with the flexibility provided under federal guidelines. Council remains committed to delivering respectful and meaningful citizenship ceremonies that appropriately recognise and welcome new Australian citizens in Alice Springs. Further details about the 2027 ceremony date will be confirmed and communicated in advance.

#### **Major Public Artwork to Anchor Regenerating the Alice Project**

After strong input from Todd Mall traders and the wider community, Council has decided to proceed with fabrication and installation of the Major Public Artwork *Resilience* by Edge Atelier as part of the Regenerating the Alice Town Centre project.

Traders told us they wanted something bold and welcoming - a feature that gives people a reason to pause, take a photo and spend more time in the Mall. *Resilience*, created by artist Francesca Partridge, is designed to do just that.

The piece will create a vibrant focal point and a genuine "Instagrammable moment" in the heart of town. The project is about supporting local businesses, encouraging foot traffic and adding energy to the Mall.

#### **Strengthening Oversight and Reducing Organisational Risk**

As part of Council's ongoing commitment to strong governance and risk management, Council has endorsed recommendations from the Risk Management and Audit Committee (RMAC) to adopt an updated Internal Audit Policy and Internal Audit Charter, and to endorse the Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2026.

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These documents clarify how Council's internal audit function operates, including its independence, scope and reporting lines. The Annual Plan identifies priority areas for review over the coming year to help identify risks early, strengthen internal controls and support sound financial management.

### **Council Moves to Support the Future of the Beanie Festival**

In recognition of the Alice Springs Beanie Festival's 30th anniversary — and recent public statements that this year may be its final event — Council will work with organisers and relevant agencies to explore what would be required to see the festival continue well into the future.

Council also formally congratulated the organising committee on reaching this milestone. Over three decades, the Beanie Festival has become one of Central Australia's most distinctive and well-loved events, bringing colour, creativity and visitors to Alice Springs each year. Its recent recognition as Centralian Event of the Year highlights the significant contribution it makes to our town's cultural and tourism calendar.

Officers will engage with Beanie Festival organisers and report back to Council with findings.

### **Council Adopts New Community Engagement Framework**

A new Community Engagement Policy and 2026 Operational Plan will guide how Council connects with residents on projects, services and key decisions, replacing the previous Community Consultation Policy adopted in 2005.

The updated framework marks a deliberate shift in approach — focusing on getting out into the community and meeting residents where they are, rather than relying solely on formal submissions or attendance at Council meetings.

It strengthens how engagement is planned, delivered and reported, helping ensure consultation is accessible, timely and fit-for-purpose, and that community feedback informs decision-making from the outset.

### **For further information contact:**

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