



BUSINESS PAPER

Late Reports

Ordinary Council Meeting

Thursday, 19 February 2026

Date: Thursday, 19 February 2026

Time: 8:00 AM

Location: Winton Shire Council Board Room

Louise Knol
Chief Executive Officer

13 Decisional Reports 365747
13.11 Crack Up Sisters Support Request: April-May 2026 Performances 365747

18 Confidential Section 365750
18.3 Application to the Residential Application Fund Round 2 AND PURCHASE OF
LOT 662/sp343254 365750

13 DECISIONAL REPORTS**13.11 CRACK UP SISTERS SUPPORT REQUEST: APRIL-MAY 2026 PREFORMANCES****File Number:** 202509**Author:** Louise Knol, Chief Executive Officer**Authoriser:** Louise Knol, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**Meeting Date:** 19 February 2026**Corporate and Operational Plan Consideration**

Stream	Sub Stream	Organisational Responsibility	Strategy/Planning Area
3 - Securing Our Future	Business & Tourism	Chief Executive Officer	Economic Development – Cultural Tourism

Budget Reference: 2025-2026 Operational Budget - Sponsorship**SUMMARY**

The Crackup Sisters are an established, award-winning cultural tourism offering based in Winton. The production company has recently constructed the Dustarena as a dedicated performing arts and cultural base in Winton. The venue is scheduled to open on the ANZAC Day long weekend, aligning with the launch of the 2026 tourist season for Crackup Sisters productions.

The Crackup Sisters have requested support from Winton Shire Council to enable connection of amenities at the Dustarena site, specifically the new amenities/toilet block (“The Dunnyies”), including plumbing works and any associated fees or charges.

Following the presentation to the February 2026 Councillor Workshop, further scoping and cost confirmation is required in consultation with the Crackup Sisters prior to a formal report being presented to Council for consideration.

To ensure adequate amenities are available for patrons attending performances in the coming months, an interim request is presented for Council’s consideration to support the provision of portable amenities while the permanent connections are scoped and costed.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the report.

1. That Council provide support to the Crackup Sisters ABN production company being the use of Council’s portable amenities for performances during April and May 2026 with the value being \$2,283.00 as per Council’s 2025-2026 Schedule of Fees and Charges; and
2. That Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the authority to finalise, negotiate and execute a Sponsorship Agreement on behalf of Council, including approving any minor amendments that do not materially change Council’s financial commitment or risk exposure.

REPORT

The iconic and award winning Crackup Sisters have been operational for 17 years with their home-base in Winton since 2021. The Crackup Sisters are a cultural tourism product, namely a performing troupe touring over 70,000 kilometres annually performing to over 250,000 across Australia and employing an average of 40 artists annually. The Dustarena is the latest addition to the Crackup Sisters product offering. The arena is an outdoor purpose-built venue for contemporary live performances in Winton and has been supported by the Queensland Government.

The Dustarena launch is scheduled for the ANZAC Day long weekend and the opening weekend of the 2026 tourism season. Along with the launch of this new venue in Winton, a new weekly show, The Dusty Hour will be presented every Tuesday and Saturday until the end of the tourism season in October.

The Crackup Sisters have requested support from Winton Shire Council to enable connection of amenities at the Dustarena site, specifically the new amenities/toilet block ("The Dunnyies"), including plumbing works and any associated fees or charges. Following the presentation to the February 2026 Councillor Workshop, further scoping and cost confirmation is required in consultation with the Crackup Sisters prior to a formal report being presented to Council for consideration.

To ensure adequate amenities are available for patrons attending performances in the coming months, an interim request is presented for Council's consideration to support the provision of portable amenities while the permanent connections are scoped and costed.

The request for the use of Council's portable amenities is outlined in the table below and totals \$2,283.00 in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025-2026. The performance on the 1 May is for the Queensland Music Festival Winton's performances which are at the Dustarena and North Gregory Hotel.

Miscellaneous	Days	Qty	Unit Price	Amount
Double Portaloo April 24-27	4	1	\$200/day	\$800.00
Double Portaloo May 1	1	1	\$200/day	\$200.00
Double Portaloo May 23	1	1	\$200/day	\$200.00
Single Portaloo May 9	1	1	\$113/day	\$113.00
Single Portaloo May 20	1	1	\$113/day	\$113.00
Single Portaloo May 30	1	1	\$113/day	\$113.00
Portaloo Delivery		6	\$124.00	\$744.00

The Dustarena launch is expected to significantly increase the visibility of the Crackup Sisters' season launch and full 2026 program across priority tourism markets, converting awareness into visitation and overnight stays. Marketing and promotional activity will target intrastate and interstate audiences, particularly South East Queensland and northern New South Wales, building on established travel patterns for the Anzac Day long weekend.

Tourism Impact Modelling for the Crackup Corner Cultural Tourism Precinct, the project is forecast to attract approximately 3,500 visitors, including:

- 3,000 domestic overnight visitors
- 400 domestic day visitors
- 100 international visitors

Domestic and international overnight visitors are projected to stay an average of three nights, generating an estimated \$1.686 million in total visitor expenditure. This includes:

- \$1.611 million from domestic overnight visitors
- \$60,800 from domestic day visitors
- \$14,400 from international visitors

Expenditure assumptions are informed by Tourism Research Australia 2024 Tourism Profile data and applied through the REMPLAN Tourism Impact Model.

Increased visitation will deliver direct economic benefits across accommodation, hospitality, retail, fuel and tourism services in Winton, while also strengthening the town's position as a key cultural destination within Outback Queensland.

The project will also deliver long-term community and legacy outcomes through the establishment of the Dustarena as a permanent cultural tourism asset. The venue will support ongoing programming, local employment, volunteer participation and skills development, contributing to regional resilience and recovery following the 2025 March flood event and also the December-January 2026 flood events.

The Crackup Sisters' investment in Winton demonstrates a strong commitment and belief in the future of cultural tourism in Winton and broader Outback Queensland. The Sister's product expansion in Winton meets the strategic objectives of the Winton Shire Council Economic Development Strategy; Arts Cultural and Creative Industry RAPAD Region Workforce Development Plan; Winton Shire Council Arts and Cultural Strategy and Sponsorship Policy and Guidelines.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This matter is considered Risk Level Low 4 in accordance with Council's Risk Assessment Tool.

18 CONFIDENTIAL SECTION**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 275 of the Local Government Act 2012:

18.3 Application to the Residential Application Fund Round 2 AND PURCHASE OF LOT 662/sp343254

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 254J (3) - g of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government;.