

## Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018



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### **Acknowledgements**

Council would like to thank all who provided input into the preparation of the Draft of the City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018: At Work – In the Community.

Council would like to acknowledge those working within Council, living in our local community and the many departments, organisations and groups who collectively inspire each other to live sustainably and make a difference.

Council hopes that by working together towards the goals in this strategy and by undertaking the actions nominated, we can all play a part in making the City of Palmerston a more sustainable place to work, live and play.



### What is Sustainability? What Does Sustainable Mean?

The terms Sustainable and Sustainability are used to describe many different approaches toward improving our way of life.

Sustainability does not have a rigid definition. Sustainability meaning is related to context and means long lasting. Here are some views of what Sustainability can encompass:

- Sustainability means renewing resources at a rate equal to or greater than the rate at which they are consumed
- Sustainability means creating an economic system that provides for quality of life while renewing the environment and its resources
- A sustainable community is one that resembles a living system where all of the resources (human, natural and economic) are renewed and in balance for perpetuity
- Sustainability is creating a world where everyone can have fulfilling lives and enjoy a rich level of well-being within the limits of what nature can provide
- Sustainability means taking the long-term view of how our actions affect future generations and making sure we don't deplete resources or cause pollution at rates faster than the earth is able to renew them
- Some of the many uses of the word sustainable include: Sustainable Business / Sustainable Development / Sustainable Agriculture / Sustainable Living / Sustainable Community
- Sustainability means living within the resources of the planet without damaging the environment now or in the future
- Sustainability is an attempt to merge ecology and economy into one system
- Sustainability means living a life of dignity in harmony with nature

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As the largest City outside the capital, Palmerston is rapidly developing as the major centre in the Northern Territory's Greater Darwin region.

Although town planning and urban development are the domain of the Northern Territory Government, Council is an active advocate on behalf of the community to ensure that planning and development plans proposed for the new suburbs, schools, within the businesses and industries municipality, are of the highest standard.

There is a keen community expectation that the new developments will –

- Deliver high conservation and protection of local natural and cultural assets;
- 2. Provide protection of water conservation and water quality;
- 3. Meet the required attention to fire management and weed control;
- 4. Ensure the retention of large areas of habitat;
- 5. Sustain and enhance the current pristine air quality of the area.

Additionally, Council requires the built environment to meet the highest standards of climate change requirements, cyclone protection and water sensitive urban design.

The City of Palmerston, population of 32,000, is forward thinking. With an anticipated increase of 1,000 people per year over the next 10 years, the Sustainability Strategy is designed to meet the demands of a modern 'City of the Future'.

Council is increasingly noted for its response to contemporary environmental issues. The Strategy will continue to build on this reputation and will meet the challenges of climate change by addressing both mitigation and adaptation applications to the wide range of local government functions.

The Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018 provides the framework for the City of Palmerston to deliver more effectively the requirements of Council's operations and to support the actions required by the community.

Council acknowledges the assistance and advice provided by the Community, Culture and Environment Committee and wishes to thank all staff and community members who have contributed in any way to the development of the Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018.

Having a vision and a strategy, that is proactive, inspiring and obvious, is the way to improve the gains that need to be made.

This way we can engage memorable, enduring action within council and with our community for the betterment of the City of Palmerston.

#### Ian Abbott JP

#### Mayor



City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018

#### The City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy **2013-18: At Work – in the Community**, outlines Council's sustainability agenda for the next five years. Sustainability is at the intersection of all the parts of governance and as such is a key document that sits within the aspirations of the overall City of Palmerston Municipal Plan 2013-18 and City of Palmerston CBD 2030 Master Plan. The Strategy will inform and support Council's strategic objectives and commitment to the principles of sustainability.

The strategy provides direction for Council to improve the sustainability of its own work practices while also engaging with the community to adopt sustainable principles and practices at home, in business and with community activities. Several successful programs and projects already developed within Council have been incorporated into the new strategy. These include the work undertaken by Planet Footprint in 2012 where water and energy use were benchmarked on the 2005/06 financial year and have been adopted in the strategy as the baseline date.

#### Key objectives of the strategy are:

- Provide leadership in environmental sustainability, at work and in the community.
- Provide sustainable current and future Council services.
  - Provide financially sustainable Council
     Operations

• Manage existing and new Council assets within a sustainable framework.

**Executive Summary** 

- Reduce Council's ecological footprint (by means of resource efficiencies, addressing climate change, water conservation issues, air quality and by protecting natural habitats)
- Facilitate sustainable behaviour change across Council.
- Through partnerships, engage and educate the Palmerston Community to achieve sustainability.

Council's strategy provides both challenging and achievable short, medium and long term outcomes. It is designed to inspire and ensure the City of Palmerston provides leadership by example, as a 'City of the Future' and as a City that increasingly engages with the community to achieve practical and achievable sustainable outcomes.

A summary of the 10 priority areas that Council will action are listed here, with greater detail of many, through key actions and the complete list of targets, actions and timeframes in Leading Actions for Council to Achieve Key Priorities.

## 1. Sustainable policy, leadership and reporting

 Including strategic action: Sustainable principles and actions will be embedded in Council policies and operational plans to ensure Council is - a City of the Future within the Northern Territory.

#### 2. Financial sustainability

- Including strategic action: Manage Council finances for long term viability of actions within the strategy, operational needs and the maintenance and replacement of Council assets.
- 3. Climate Change, greenhouse and energy
  - Including strategic action: Develop a strategy for adaptation to climate change in 2014
  - Set long term corporate reduction of 15% within existing facilities and services by 2020
  - Employ best practice climate change, greenhouse and energy reductions when developing new facilities and services.

#### 4. Local natural environment

- Including strategic action: Manage Council's parks and reserves for long term gains through increased protection and promotion of biodiversity corridors, habitat diversity and cultural values.
- Identify and plan carbon storage opportunities.

#### 5. Water conservation and water quality

 Including strategic action: Reduce Council's water consumption within existing facilities and services by 5% by 2015

- Set long term target of 15% reduction in Council's water consumption within existing facilities and services by 2020
- Employ best practice in water conservation when developing new facilities and services.
- 6. Resource recovery, waste and recycling
- Including strategic action: 10% of City of Palmerston municipal waste to be recovered, recycled and/or diverted from going to Shoal Bay Landfill by 2015.

#### 7. Buildings, infrastructure and Planning

- Including strategic action: Ensure maintenance and renewal of existing assets are undertaken to meet energy and water efficiency outcomes.
- Ensure new Council infrastructure is undertaken in a sustainable manner and meet ESD guidelines

#### 8. Education and community engagement

• Including strategic action: Increase Council and community awareness across environmental issues, with a strong focus to reduce water and energy consumption.

#### 9. Sustainable communities

 Including strategic action: Increase community networks and partnerships to enable community participation in sustainable activities.

#### **10. Sustainable Business**

 Including strategic action: Continue to expand local business participation in sustainable activities, through shared information and potential partnership opportunities. These 10 key priority areas include targets, high level strategic actions that are supported by and will be delivered across all Council operational action plans, programs and projects. The strategy provides guidance and summarizes Council's strategic direction towards a more sustainable environment.

The key priority areas and main targets are the leading actions that Council will take to achieve the medium and long term outcomes in its drive to improve the environment, the health and the well-being of the organisation and community.

Over the next five years, Council will continue to invest in sustainability initiatives that will have many positive outcomes for the organisation and community. Benefits will include greater biodiversity protection and development across the City, sustainable management of Council assets, improved amenity and financial savings for Council and residents, through better resource use. Strengthening and promoting healthy sustainable work and lifestyle choices is a benefit of the strategy.

The strategy is not intended to outline all of the

sustainable actions that Council will implement over the next five years. The Strategy is expressed in terms that will allow flexibility to incorporate new and as yet unknown Government programs and grants; to take up opportunities through new advancements in technology and science and will allow for increased best practice to be incorporated over time.

With the advent of new suburbs, schools and industrial developments, a greater awareness and response from Council is anticipated in terms of maintaining the high level of clean air in Palmerston is retained. Council will ensure matters of traffic safety, minimising fumes, dust suppression and fire management are appropriately addressed by the Northern Territory Government, Industry and Developers.

The strategy is a living document and maintains a 'quadruple bottom line' approach to being more sustainable. Council recognises that things change over time and through its design the Strategy will be able to incorporate change and introduce into new opportunities.

Therefore Council will review the actions annually and adjust accordingly.



Sanctuary Lakes



City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018

### Introduction

The strategy outlines Council's sustainability agenda for the next five years. It is a key document for informing and supporting Council's strategic objectives and commitment to the principles of sustainability. The strategy sets the direction for Council to improve the sustainability of the organisation, community and the environment.

It is important that Council and the community work together with actions that ensure the local ecology survives and thrives, as the challenge is big. Equally a reduction in water and energy consumption is a high priority for the City of Palmerston.

The Strategy is contemporary in its outlook and takes into consideration the effects of rising water and energy costs, climate change and the future growth within Palmerston. Council's response to sustainability for the organisation requires workplace behaviour change. The Strategy provides the opportunity for Council to continue its conversation with the community for sustainable outcomes. Both Council and community will need to work together to achieve sustainable actions and the Strategy provides 10 key priority areas for action:

- 1. Sustainable policy, leadership and reporting
- 2. Financial sustainability
- 3. Climate Change, greenhouse and energy
- 4. Local natural environment
- 5. Water conservation and water quality
- 6. Resource efficiency, waste and recycling
- 7. Buildings, infrastructure and planning

- 8. Education and community engagement
- 9. Sustainable communities
- 10. Sustainable business

These 10 key priority areas include targets and high-level strategic actions that are supported by and will be delivered through all Council operations, strategies, programs and projects. Council has set some ambitious short, medium and long-term goals. Targets and milestones are attached to Council's longer-term goals.

This strategy is based on practical and achievable actions. Many are affordable within annual budgets and others will require external funding to complete. They include corporate measures to improve the sustainability of Council operations and services as well as community sustainable activities.

Over the next five years, Council will continue to invest in sustainability initiatives across the organisation, thus achieving added benefits for the community. Financial sustainability is at the front and centre of all strategic actions, as is a strong commitment to achieve the range of nationally expected responses to the likely impacts of climate change. Benefits expected include more efficient resource use and sustainable management of Council's assets, biodiversity, and improved greater local amenity including clean air, reduction of water consumption, and energy increased community relationships and a healthy lifestyle for the Palmerston community.



City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018

### Council's Sustainability Vision

Council has become increasingly aware of the need to take a leadership role in developing a sustainability strategy for the organisation and in partnership with its local community.

Within the Environment and Infrastructure Section of Council's Municipal Plan 2013-2018, sustainability is specifically expressed as a strong focus across environmental assets and infrastructure and waste categories. Of particular significance is environmental sustainability as stated below:-

#### **Environmental Sustainability**

Council is committed to actively protecting and enhancing the environmental assets and infrastructure of the City of Palmerston, while supporting local businesses and industry in sustainable land use.



- Climate Change Impact Reduction
- Greenhouse Emissions Measurement and Reduction
- Energy and Water Resource Management Initiatives
- Support & Advocacy: Planning and Development Controls
- Support & Advocacy: Community Action, Education and Organisations
- Support & Advocacy: Conservation and Biodiversity
- Primary Performance Measure: Community Satisfaction Survey Waste Collection.

Actions to address climate change are being undertaken at a global, international, regional and local level. Council acknowledges that by taking local action to support national and international targets, local participation will provide greater health and wellbeing for the community.

The effects of our actions over the next 20 years will have a profound effect on our environment and it is with this knowledge and the understanding of the urgency to act that Council has set itself on the course of a Sustainability Strategy with clear actions and targets.



### **Policy Context**

Governments around the world have acknowledged the need to take urgent and sustainable actions in response to issues such unsustainable levels of consumption, climate change and global warming.

The common theme of the variety of uses of the concept of sustainability is a judgement on the likelihood on maintaining (sustaining) a targeted course of action. That is a judgement whether the activity - for example finance, organisation, social structures or environmental services- can endure under current management arrangements and resourcing levels.

The City of Palmerston is strengthening management structures to successfully deliver higher economic and social opportunities while simultaneously improving the environmental assets of Council.

The Council's sustainability goal is to provide opportunities for residents to live and work sustainably in their built and natural environments.

The Sustainability Strategy being developed by Council is leveraging off the policies of the Australian and Northern Territory Governments, the Australian and Northern Territory Local Government Associations and the economic, community and environmental assets of the area.

Additional references and works cited are listed at the end of this document.

#### **Australian Government**

The Australian Government's most significant policies and programs relevant to sustainability are incorporated under the umbrella of mitigation and adaptive actions to address the forecast impacts of climate change in Australia.

At an international level, the Australian Government announced on 9 November 2012 that Australia would participate in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes to develop a new international instrument by 2015 with implementation from 2020, commonly referred to as Kyoto Protocol Mark 11. (The original Kyoto Protocol terminated at the end of 2012). Australia's goal remains at 5% cut in GHG emissions from 1990 levels by 2020, with higher targets subject to further action by other countries.

Of particular relevance to Council in developing a Sustainability Strategy are the impacts of carbon pricing and the opportunities to benefit from credits generated through the Carbon Farming Initiative and resources available through existing Australian and Northern Territory Government Policies and Programs. The current Carbon Tax is expected to be changed or removed in the short term but the longer term view for sustainability is that carbon pricing or an environmental trading scheme (ETS) will be revisited in the Australian Government's Climate Change review proposed for 2015. The Australian Government commissioned Professor Ross Garnaut AO to examine the impacts of climate change on the Australian economy in 2009. A series of papers addressing developments across a range of topics including climate change science and impacts, emissions trends, carbon pricing, technology, land and the energy sector, were developed and subsequently updated in 2010. The final Garnaut Climate Change Review was then presented to the Australian Government on 31 May 2011. <u>http://www.garnautreview.org.au</u>

The Australian Government released Australia's Emissions Projections, 2010 in February 2011 and introduced a carbon price in Australia on 1 July 2012 to reduce emissions and meet the 2020 target it made to the Kyoto Protocol target of limiting emissions. With Federal Elections in 2013 changes are anticipated to be made to the current carbon pricing.

Australia releases official projections of its GHG emissions annually. The previous projections were released as part of Australia's Fifth National Communication on Climate Change, a report under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2010 and more recently Australia's Sixth National Communication on Climate Change (Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory) was released in 2013.

These documents are considered to be the Australian Government's most contemporary key documents in relation to Australia's response to the Kyoto protocol target and for the Australian economy and communities.

The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government's independent research and advisory body on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. On 3 March 2013 the Australian Government welcomed the findings of the Productivity Commission's detailed inquiry report into barriers to effective climate change adaptation. In the report's review, it was noted that governments, businesses and households can all act to manage the risks associated with climate change, and that some adaptation is already taking place.

There are various natural resource management opportunities for Councils to access support. The Australian Government's "Caring for our Country 2013-18" is one such program and sets out a broad framework for the management of productive landscapes.

Further, the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) has provided high-level policy advice with twelve policy guidance briefs delivered in 2012 – 13. The first tranche of policy guidance briefs was launched on 26 February 2013:

- 1. Building resilient coastal communities and ecosystems;
- 2. Ensuring Australia's urban water supplies under climate change;
- 3. Supporting decision-making for effective adaptation;
- 4. Adapting agriculture to climate change; and
- 5. Challenges of adaptation for local governments.

The complete set of Policy Guidance Briefs were launched at the NCCARF Climate Adaptation Conference in Sydney at the end of June 2013, on:

- 6. Adaptation and Indigenous communities: lessons and challenges
- 7. Climate-proofing Australia's infrastructure
- 8. Effective management of Australia's ecosystems under a variable and changing climate
- 9. Heat-stress planning and health
- 10. Emergency management and adaptation stress planning and health
- 11. Ensuring business and industry are ready for climate change
- 12. Policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks for adaptation

Additionally	Council	has	taken	into
consideration	the	Reports	of	the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPPC Fifth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2013 <u>http://www.ipcc.ch/</u> the 2013 Bureau of Meteorology Reports <u>http://www.bom.gov.au</u> and others including the Commonwealth Government State of the Environment Report 2011 <u>www.environment.gov.au</u>

#### **Northern Territory Government**

Northern Territory Climate Action Policy (2009) has an aspirational goal of 60% carbon emissions reduction by 2050, compared to 2007 emissions. The document proposed nine key elements which provided the focus for collaborative action including:

- 1. Government leadership on climate change.
- 2. A focus on green energy.
- 3. Land management.
- 4. Building green cities and towns.
- 5. Rethinking waste.
- 6. Expanding green business and industry.
- 7. Developing a green workforce.
- 8. Promoting green communities.
- 9. Living with change.

A Territory 2030 – Strategic Plan 2009 was also developed at that time as a road map for future priorities to guide economic sustainability, health and wellbeing, the environment, and knowledge, creativity and innovation.

Following the 2012 Northern Territory Elections and a new Government, some changes and an update to these documents along with reshaped Departments to manage the portfolios got underway. Changes made included the introduction of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012 with Draft Environmental Guidelines out for comment in July 2013.

#### **Local Government**

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is meeting the Australian climate change projections which are based on international climate change research and from a large body of work undertaken in the Australian region, by implementing Position Papers and Discussion Documents. Current Australian projections have been generated from climate models and global warming estimates from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report. Local Government is reviewing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), which provides an update of knowledge on the scientific. technical and socio-economic aspects of climate change. AR5 includes three Working Group reports and a Synthesis Report.

The Australian Local Government Association adopted the Climate Change ALGA Position Paper and Discussion Document in 2010 which discusses local government's place in addressing climate change as well as identifying areas for action and next steps. ALGA identified the following:

- At a local level, local government will need to prepare for climate change and at the very least develop the capacity to protect its own assets and adapt to localised conditions.
- Local government has an important role in providing leadership and education to assist citizens and businesses to understand and accept their responsibilities to address climate change.
- Local service delivery needs to be improved in partnerships with governments, private sector and not for profit community organisations.

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) has worked with Councils over recent years to undertake climate change risk assessments for their municipality or shire with the following three project aims:

- 1. Undertake a risk assessment at the community level.
- 2. Initiate a community awareness program.
- 3. Develop an action plan for climate change adaptation.

Additionally, LGANT was represented in the development of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) Policy Guidance Brief No.5 "Challenges of Adaptation for Local Government."

#### **City of Palmerston.**

The Municipal Plan 2013-2018 sets the framework for Council to consider the development of the Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018: At Work – In the Community.

The Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018 will inform Council's participation for the next five years regarding corporate and community activities.

The Strategy follows on from other initiatives introduced by Council and shows a commitment to investigating and implementing environmental and climate change processes. These include:-

- A Draft Environmental Plan (2009) was received, considered but not adopted at that time
- Achieved Milestone 5 in the Cities for Climate Protection Australia Program, 2010
- Introduced the inaugural City of Palmerston 'Conservation and Land Management' Scholarship at Charles Darwin University, 2011
- Awarded the Northern Territory 2012 Keep Australia Beautiful 'Sustainable Cities'

- Finalist in National 2012 Keep Australia Beautiful 'Sustainable Cities Awards. Received commendation for Innovation in Environmental and Sustainability Initiatives.
- Connecting Earth Hour 2013 with information sheet on ways to reduce energy consumption at work, at home and in the community
- Linking Clean-Up Australia Day 2013 with a Lakes location to impart knowledge about the vegetation, bird life and water use in the local area.
- Conducted ten day e-Waste trial collecting televisions, computers and monitors



Mayor Ian Abbott receives National recognition for Council's Innovation in Environmental and Sustainability Initiatives.



Council Waste and Recycle Facility at Archer – Green Waste to Mulch for Residents



Students from Driver Primary School welcome Mayor Ian Abbott and ABC TV Gardening Australia host Costa Georgiadis to their gardening class.



Community participation in 2013 Clean-Up Australia Day



Council Weed Harvester working at Durack Lakes



Louise, Samantha and Alexandra Massey of Farrar 'lending a hand' at Palmerston's Durack Lakes site for 2013 Clean-Up Australia Day.



Bakewell Primary School students at the Depot providing a 'No Rubbish' message on Council storm water drain lids



City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018

### Key Issues for Council

Palmerston Municipal Plan 2013-2018 supports Council becoming a leader in sustainable practices through building a sustainable organisation, sustainable environment, sustainable community and sustainable economy.

Key strategic objectives for Council are defined in Council's Municipal Plan. This Plan specifically addresses environmental sustainability and recognises the importance of leading by example by providing leadership and governance.

The Sustainability Strategy sits beneath the Municipal Plan and sets out the broad actions Council will undertake to help achieve the overall Municipal Plan objectives over the next five years

The key objectives of the strategy are to reduce Council's ecological footprint by:

- Resource efficiencies, addressing climate change, water supply and water quality issues and protection of the local natural habitat)
- Provide leadership in environmental sustainability in our workplace and in our community
- Engage, educate and empower the City of Palmerston staff and community to ensure its sustainability into the future
- Deliver current and future Council services so they are sustainable

- Manage all Council assets in a sustainable manner, including
- The renewal of existing assets
- Advocate for sustainable initiatives and improvements on behalf of the community to government and non-government organisations; and
- Provide financial sustainability in Council operations

Council is applying the "Quadruple Bottom Line" (QBL) approach to the strategy ensuring good governance and financial sustainability within Council while embedding the sustainability of the environment for the future and well-being of the Palmerston community.



Priority Area	Aims
Sustainable policy, leadership and reporting	Sustainable principles and actions will be embedded in Council policies and operational plans to ensure Council is seen as a City of The Future with the Northern Territory.
Financial sustainability	Manage Council finances for long term viability of actions within the strategy, operational needs and the maintenance and replacement of Council assets
Climate Change, greenhouse and energy	Adaptation and building resilience in the Council and in the community to the impacts of climate change by implementing energy efficiencies
Local natural environment	Increased protection and promotion of biodiversity corridors, habitat diversity and cultural values. Health and well-being for residents of Palmerston.
Water conservation and quality	Set targets for water conservation and quality, water reuse for Council and within the community operations and services
Resource recovery, waste and recycling	Reduce, reuse and recycle to minimise amount of waste generated and sent to landfill from Council and community and maximise efficiency.
Buildings, Infrastructure and Planning	Council and community response to environmental sustainability principles of NT Government and developers of land-use planning, new developments and other existing infrastructure. Clear demonstration by council of best practice in redevelopment of Council assets and new infrastructure.
Education and community engagement	Council and community awareness and engagement in sustainable living and learning across environmental issues
Sustainable communities	Environmental and Healthy Communities sustainability linked for community well-being.
Sustainable Business	Support and where practicable partner businesses in the city to achieve best practice for their operations and services.







City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018

# The strategy is based on the following 10 key priorities, strategic directions and targets over the next five years.

- 1. Sustainable policy, leadership and Reporting.
  - Plan for Council's long-term financial future through stable rate percentage changes.
  - Manage Council finances for long-term viability, to have the ability to cover operational needs while allowing for appropriate asset replacement.
  - Maintain asset service levels through responsible renewal investment in our core assets

#### 2. Financial sustainability

- Plan for Council's long-term financial future through stable rate percentage changes
- Manage Council finances for long-term viability, to have the ability to cover operational needs while allowing for appropriate asset replacement.
- Manage asset service levels through responsible renewal investment in Council's core assets.

### **Council's Key Priorities**

- 3. Climate Change, greenhouse and energy:
- Develop a strategy for adaptation to climate change by 2014 and begin to implement the strategy
- Reduce Council's greenhouse emissions by 5% by 2015
- Set a long-term corporate reduction target of 15%by 2020

#### 4. Local Natural Environment

- Manage Council's open space for the long-term by increasing the connectivity of biodiversity
- Manage and increase areas of bushland within the municipality to improve the quality and quantity of habitat
- Continue to seek funding to increase biodiversity corridors
- Support organisations and schools within the municipality with their pursuits of caring for and enhancing the local environment

#### 5. Water conservation and quality

- 5% reduction in corporate consumption by 2015
- Long-term reduction target of 15% reduction in corporate consumption by 2020.
- Reduction of contaminants and litter entering waterways within the City of Palmerston by 2013-2014.
- 6. Resource recovery, waste and recycling
- 10% of City of Palmerston municipal waste to be recovered, recycled and diverted from going to Shoal Bay Landfill by 2015

#### 7. Buildings, Infrastructure and Planning

- Ensure the renewal of existing Council infrastructure is undertaken in a sustainable manner
- Implement ESD principles and develop improved ESD guidelines for all new Council building and major retro-fits.
- Seek suppliers 'green credentials' in carrying out work with Council

#### 8. Education and community engagement

 Provide increased opportunities for community awareness and engagement on current environmental issues, such as ways to reduce consumption of energy and water

- Continue to provide the monthly newsletter <u>TIPS, IDEAS and TECHNOLOGY for</u> <u>SUSTAINABLE LIVING</u> to staff and Aldermen and with a view to placing on Council's on-line media
  - Continue to provide information to the community in regards to known available community grants and programs.

#### 9. Sustainable communities

- Provide improved health, safety and well-being of the Palmerston community for a liveable City of the Future
- Develop partnerships to build community capacity to adapt to climate change
- Facilitate community networks and linkages to encourage adoption of sustainable activities
- Enhance community environmental awareness, action and networks by the development of Community Gardens

#### **10. Sustainable Business.**

- Increase local business partnerships for participation in sustainable activities
- Facilitate a business forum to inform and discuss ways to reduce energy and water consumption



City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018

#### The strategy is guided by Council's Municipal Plan 2013-2018 and is structured to provide a strategic, whole of Council approach to sustainability in Palmerston.

The strategy identifies the key areas for Council's direct sustainable actions to meet its key targets and provides the roadmap for achieving the targets. The main actions and many others that will come over time will be carried out through Council's day-to-day operational works and programs.

The Strategy will be the primary framework used for driving sustainable improvements across the organisation and encouraging

### Structure and Implementation

increased community participation in sustainable activities.

Funding to implement the sustainable actions across Council will be considered on an annual basis through Council's budget process. Funds will also be sought from Government and non-government sources where appropriate. Some programs will utilise volunteers and others will be delivered in partnership or with 'in-kind' support. To accelerate progress, some projects and programs will require additional Council funding to ensure Palmerston remains a viable municipality in the 'quadruple bottom line' sense





City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018

### **Responsibility & Accountability**

Critical to the success of the strategy will be the empowerment and involvement of the staff and broader community in adopting the principles and objectives of the strategy. Council will undertake a range of activities to reduce the environmental impact of its operations and will seek to multiply the benefits for the municipality through engaging the broader community to undertake similar activities and guiding principles.

The various policies, strategies and action plans that relate to the Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018 will be implemented, measured and reported through the relevant Council Sections, using existing reporting and measuring processes. The relevant sections and line managers will be responsible and accountable for the implementation of the different strategies, policies and action plans linked to the Strategy, in accordance with sustainability being embedded across the organisation.

The responsibility for delivering the actions, plans, projects and programs in the strategy is spread across the organisation and into the community.

Accountability for the various actions is similarly divided across Council using three quarterly performance reports per financial year.



Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden at Driver Primary School



Council's Elected Members and CEO discuss the community garden project with gardening guru, Costa Georgiadis



### **Monitoring & Evaluation**

Improved processes will be developed to link the measurement and reporting of each of the related action plans and the overall strategy. The strategy will be monitored every quarter and a report to Council made annually to review the actions taken during the year.

The implementation and monitoring process is outlined below





City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018

# Council will consult with the City of Palmerston staff and the Palmerston community in the delivery of the strategy.

Consultation will be undertaken in various forms including:

- A review of best practice sustainability programs, using examples from various Territory and Australian Councils;
- Aldermen and Executive Meetings
- Council staff
- Placing Draft City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018 on exhibition and inviting comment.
- Surveys and feedback gathered from material distributed in the local newspaper, Council processes and website and through stakeholder groups.
- The need to address climate change issues
- Innovative actions to reduce water, energy and waste consumption

### Stakeholder Consultation

- Managing Council assets in a sustainable manner
- Improving the sustainability of current Council services.
- More native and drought-tolerant vegetation in public places
- Advocating to Territory and Australian Governments on behalf of the community for improved sustainability outcomes.
- Community education and where possible, incentives, to encourage implementation of sustainable behaviours
- Increase community engagement

The DRAFT Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018 will be open for all staff and public comment for the month of December 2013. Following the outcome of response, the DRAFT Strategy will be modified where appropriate and implemented as a registered Council Document in February 2014



### Key Council Plans for Delivery

The strategy will be delivered through specific Council policies, strategies and action plans.

These policies, strategies and actions plans are available on Council's website:

www.palmerston.nt.gov.au

#### **Relevant key strategic documents**

- Municipal Plan 2013-2018: Continuously reviewed and updated over a 5 year period
- 2030 CBD Master Plan: Adopted by Council in 2012 and designed to be implemented over a 10 year period





Leading Actions for Council to Achieve Key Priorities

The following tables identify the leading actions of Council's sustainable direction. These leading actions are to be progressed through relevant Council policies, strategies and action plans and delivered through Council departments across the organisation.

The intent is to continue to embed the principles of sustainability into everything that Council does.

### **Objective 1: Sustainable policy, leadership and reporting**

Targets	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Output measure	Impact of Actions	Link to existing plans
1.1 Sustainable principles and actions will be embedded in Council policies and operational plans to ensure Council is seen	<b>1.1.1</b> Review, develop and embed the principles and practices of ecological sustainability in the decision-making and planning processes in Council's Municipal Plan, other leading documents and annual budget process.	2013-14	Council	Planning and decision-making processes to include consideration of ecological sustainability.	Culture change throughout organisation by making sustainability values a high priority.	Municipal Plan 2013-2018, CBD 2030 Master Plan and Annual Budget process.
as a City of the Future within the Northern Territory.	<b>1.1.2</b> Develop sustainability procedures, standards, checklists and guidelines including environmental education and community engagement procedures and then embed in all operational plans, strategies and capital works.	2013-14		Reporting mechanisms developed.	Council consistency in all of its procedures.	
	<b>1.1.3</b> Implementation of sustainable principles and practices at a Section level through Council's budget process.	2013-14	Department Managers	Council's Strategy Action Plan template to include a sustainable community engagement section.	Increased percentage of sustainable initiatives undertaken by Council.	Council Budget.

	<b>1.1.4</b> Advocate to Territory and Australian Governments for continuous improvement and commitment to sustainable initiatives, programs and funding.	Ongoing	Council	Sustainable activities undertaken by Council, reported upon by Section and collated in annual public report to Palmerston community.		
1.2 Increase Council's purchasing of green products so that 20% of Council's total purchasing expenditure is on green products.	<ul> <li>1.2.1</li> <li>Implement and periodically review the green purchasing component of Council's Tendering and Procurement Policy and guidelines to ensure:</li> <li>Green purchasing is built into Council's procurement practices and contracts;</li> <li>Staff and contractors have adequate knowledge on green products and good disposal measures;</li> <li>Suppliers have good environmental practices and social responsibility;</li> <li>Bulk purchase the volume of 'green goods' purchased and</li> <li>Policy remains up to date with technological improvements</li> </ul>	2014-2015	Corporate and Finance	The percentage of Council's purchasing budget spent on green products increases by 20%.	Less use of non-renewable resources. Reduction in Council resource use and waste created and less greenhouse emissions. Acknowledged as a responsible corporate organisation.	Municipal Plan 2013-2018

	<b>1.2.2</b> Purchasing system developed to preselected option for standard products.	2013	Corporate and Finance			
1.3 Report annually to the Palmerston Community on Council's sustainable	<b>1.3.1</b> Report on Council's sustainable actions Annually as part of an integrated Council Reporting System.	2014	Technical Services Corporate and Finance	Annual sustainability report produced (June)	Increased community knowledge of Council's activities and actions. Council decision-makers informed of Council's environmental performance.	Departmental reporting process.
achievements and progress towards the targets in this strategy.	<b>1.3.2</b> This reporting process will include: Development of measurement, Mechanisms throughout Council to report and measure all EDS Implemented and.	Annually		Clear and public reporting on Council's sustainable activities.	Council policies and procedures are socially responsible.	
	<b>1.3.3</b> Broad measurement of the environmental impacts of actions undertaken through this strategy and its supporting plans.	2014		Use data captured from report to feed into following year's action plan.	Increased community knowledge of Council's sustainable activities and actions	
	<b>1.3.4</b> Use the outcomes of this annual report to improve and update policies, practices, best practice and reporting to Council.	Ongoing			Council policies and procedures are socially responsible.	

### **Objective 2: Financial sustainability**

Targets	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Output measure	Impact of Actions	Link to existing plans
2.1 Plan for Council's long-term financial sustainability through programmed changes.	<b>2.1.1</b> Responsible long-term financial planning that supports achievement of Council's Sustainability Strategy.		Council	Long-term financial plan assumptions and strategies are reviewed including a stable annual rate change result.	Council continues to provide high quality Services and Infrastructure while making strong progress to achieving long-term financial sustainability.	Annual Budget. Council's long- term financial plan.
	<b>2.1.2</b> Continue advocacy for Territory and Australian Governments for funding and resource support for sustainable programs and projects.	Ongoing		Priorities raised with Territory and Australian Governments.	Steady progress to achieving a long term financially sustainable position.	
2.2 Manage Council finances for long- term viability to have the ability to cover operational needs while allowing for appropriate asset replacement.	<ul> <li>2.2.1 Develop annual budgets that are consistent with Council's long-term financial plans and ensure that obligations are recognised and provided for: <ul> <li>Investment strategies that protect Council financial assets;</li> </ul></li></ul>	Annual		Through responsible financial management Council ensures sufficient revenue to cover day to day expense and capital to maintain the asset base. Implementation monitored through guarterly reporting to	Council achieves Operating surplus position within the timelines contained in the long-term financial plan.	

2.3 Maintain assot	<ul> <li>expenses;</li> <li>Continuous provision of high quality community services and programs; and</li> <li>The development and implementation of enhanced measurement and reporting of sustainable actions and progress towards targets as part of Council's regular financial and budget monitoring and reporting processes.</li> <li>2.3.1</li> </ul>	Annually	Department Managers and	Appropriate funding	Community assets	Long-term financial plan
Maintain asset service levels through responsible renewal investment in Council core assets.	Annually review Council's Asset Management Plans, including the provision of funding to allow for renewal of core assets as part of Council's capital works program.	through budget and asset management processes	Managers and Council	provided in budgets annually for core asset renewal.	are maintained in safe and high standard for the medium and long term.	financial plan. Annual Budget. Asset Management Plans.

Targets	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Output measure	Impact of Actions	Link to existing plans
3.1 Develop a strategy for adaptation to climate change in 2014 and begin implementing the strategy.	<ul> <li>3.1.1 Develop a climate change strategy that includes: <ul> <li>Addressing risk management issues including adaptation, mitigation and litigation measures to minimise risks;</li> <li>Health and well-being considerations of community as a result of climate change;</li> <li>Developing and maintaining Council Infrastructure and operations; and</li> <li>Identifying financial implication for community.</li> </ul></li></ul>	2014	Technical Services, Corporate and Community	Climate Change Strategy developed which addresses actions indicated.	Council will have identified risks associated with climate change to date and developed appropriate responses.	Municipal Plan 2013- 2018
3.2	3.2.1					
Reduce Councils Greenhouse gas emissions by – 5%reduction in corporate emissions by 2015 Set a long- term corporate	<ul> <li>Continue actions such as:</li> <li>Install energy efficient lighting and cooling efficiencies in Council buildings;</li> <li>Fleet efficiencies in operational and commuter vehicles.</li> <li>Staff and community education on energy saving initiatives.</li> </ul>	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	Technical Services Corporate	Council Implement and monitor Energy Actions every quarter.	Council will have reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 25%.	

### **Objective 3: Climate change, greenhouse and energy**

reduction target by 15% 2020; (These targets are subject to increases in population and assets)	<ul> <li>Energy efficient appliances in Council facility maintenance.</li> <li>Advocate to relevant authorities the potential for reward schemes or incentives for residents who implement measurable power conservation initiatives.</li> </ul>	2014				
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### **Objective 4: Local Natural Environment**

Targets	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Output measure	Impact of Actions	Link to existing plans
4.1 Manage Council's open space for the long-term by increasing the connectivity of biodiversity and habitat corridors.	4.1.1 Continue to implement actions within Council's current open space programs. Develop an Open Space Policy.	2014-2015	Technical Services	Council's Open Space strategies are implemented.	Increased level of biodiversity and habitat connectivity throughout the municipality.	Municipal Plan 2013- 2018
	<ul> <li>4.1.2</li> <li>Develop Master Plans for major parks: <ul> <li>Marlow Lagoon</li> <li>Sanctuary Lakes</li> <li>Others</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Ongoing		Plans will direct redevelopment, maintenance and workflow for Council's leading Park areas.	Increased level of management and enhanced amenities.	
	<b>4.1.3</b> Continue to liaise with governments and non- government organisations with the management of areas of significance.	Ongoing		Continued documented communication with external organisations.	Improved biodiversity and quality of vegetation throughout Palmerston. Improved amenity and improved biodiversity value within Open Space.	
4.2 Continue to develop and deliver sustainable revegetation projects based throughout the City	<b>4.2.1</b> Development of Council Nursery at Archer to collect and propagate endemic seed and plants for all of Council's revegetation works.	Ongoing		Existing landscapes enhanced.	Reduction in community water use through the use of endemic plants.	

to ensure ecologically				
functional ecosystems	4.2.2	Ongoing	Improved	Build community
through:	Continue to work with local		biodiversity and	capacity, including
	community nurseries to		habitat across the	knowledge and skills on
The annual collection and	provide high quality endemic		community including	local native vegetation
propagation of locally	plants.		residential areas.	and propagation of
indigenous seed.				native species.
By providing education on	Update Street Tree species			
local EVC's for the	list			
broader community and				
local nurseries				

### **Objective 5: Water conservation and water quality**

Targets	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Output	Impact of Actions	Link to existing
<ul> <li>5.1 Reduce Council's water consumption by:</li> <li>5% reduction in corporate consumption by 2015.</li> <li>15% reduction in corporate consumption by 2020</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>5.1.1 <ul> <li>In accordance with the contemporary CRC information re efficiencies/reductions, renewable and offset, continue actions such as:</li> <li>Continue to improve Council's water-saving practices by investing in water efficiencies within Council operations and facilities.</li> <li>Capture, storage and re-use of stormwater where appropriate.</li> <li>Continue to use Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles in new Council assets and upgrades to existing Council assets where applicable and</li> <li>Encourage the uptake of WSUD principles by developers and community through planning processes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Ongoing	Technical Services	measure	Council will effectively manage our water resources, so that water reductions are reflected in reduced Power & Water bills. 20% Reduction in the water used in Open Spaces and Ovals.	plans         National and         Territory WSUD         Guidelines/plannin         g policies         implemented.

### **Objective 6: Resource recovery, waste and recycling**

Targets	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Output measure	Impact of Actions	Link to existing plans
6.1 10% of Palmerston's municipal waste to be recovered recycled and	<b>6.1.1</b> Implement all aspects of Council's Waste Management Contracts.	2015	Technical Services	Reduced weight of municipal waste recorded	Working towards extended life of Shoal Bay Landfill.	Municipal Plan 2013-2018
diverted from landfill by 2015	<b>6.1.2</b> Development of the Archer site for Waste and Recycling recovery.	Ongoing		Increased services available for community use recorded	Reduction in the use of non-renewable resources and materials through the reuse and recycling of materials.	
	<b>6.1.3</b> Develop a Council Waste Management Plan	2014		Plan developed to become Council Policy	Plan will direct all actions taken by Council	
6.2 10% of City of Palmerston generated construction and demolition waste to be recovered, recycled and/or diverted from	<b>6.2.1</b> Specifications developed for projects involving demolition to include the separation and diversion of recoverable materials where practicable.	2014-2015		Specifications developed to reflect recycling and recovery expected in City of Palmerston	Extended life of Shoal Bay Landfill. Increase in recycle materials recovered.	
landfill by 2016.	<b>6.2.2</b> Provision at extended Archer site for collection of demolition materials.	2014-2015		Increased uptake	Reduction in the use on non-renewable resources and materials through the reuse and recycling of materials.	

### **Objective 7: Buildings, infrastructure and planning**

Targets	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Output measure	Impact of Actions	Link to existing plans
7.1 Ensure the renewal of existing Council infrastructure is undertaken in a sustainable manner on an annual basis.	<b>7.1.1</b> Review and update Council's existing building ESD checklist and continue to develop ESD guidelines for the construction and retro-fit of Council building projects.	Ongoing	Technical Services	Checklist and guidelines approved and used by staff, as common practice.		
7.2 Continue to use ESD principles and develop improved ESD guidelines for all	<b>7.2.1</b> Develop and use climate change adaptation guidelines when planning new Council facilities.	Ongoing		Guidelines developed and used for all new Council facilities.	Increase in number of 'green' Council buildings.	
new Council buildings and major retro-fits from 2013.	<b>7.2.2</b> Establish a works program to progressively update existing Council facilities to operate at an agreed minimal environmental standard (e.g. dual flush, flow restrictors, energy efficient lighting).	Ongoing		Increase in number of 'green' Council buildings.		

### **Objective 8: Education and community engagement**

Targets	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Output measure	Impact of Actions	Link to existing plans
8.1 Increase opportunities for	8.1.1 Develop Community	2014-15	Technical Services			
community	Engagement with the		OCIVICES			
awareness and	Sustainability Action plan					
engagement in	and consider for inclusion:			Annual	Increased awareness on	
sustainable living and	An annual series of			Workshop/forum	key environmental issues	
learning and on	workshops/forums for residents based			series held with over 30 attendees.	amongst the Palmerston community.	
current environmental issues.	around sustainable living.	Ongoing		SU allendees.	community.	
	<ul> <li>In partnership with an external organisation, establish a program of home audits and incentive programs.</li> <li>Provide information</li> </ul>			Twenty home audits undertaken throughout the municipality.	Reduction in resource use and waste production amongst the community.	
	on current environmental issues such as climate change and importance to reduce water use.			Response within community survey.	Wider community understanding.	

### **Objective 9: Sustainable communities**

Targets	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Output measure	Impact of Actions	Link to existing plans
9.1 Facilitate community networks and linkages to encourage and enable community participation in sustainable activities.	<b>9.1.1</b> On behalf of the Palmerston community, continue to advocate to public transport providers for better transport services. In particular, provide a focus on marginalised and disadvantaged sections of the community.	Ongoing	CEO, Corporate, and Community and Technical Services	Territory Government with greater awareness of public transport issues affecting the Palmerston community.	Changes to public transport systems, increased use by Palmerston community.	Municipal Plan 2013-2018
	<b>9.2.1</b> Continue to promote social connectedness amongst parents of young children through existing Council projects and programs.	Ongoing		Parents gain knowledge and will have a support network through kindergartens, schools and groups where Council is providing programs.	Less transport emissions in Palmerston.	Copal Library Healthy Palmerston Safe
	<b>9.2.2</b> Include sustainability information/education to participants of these groups and other community organisations.	Ongoing		Increased knowledge for the whole of community and opportunity to participate in 'green' projects.	Minimised use of energy and water in individual households, contributing to the achievement of Council reduction targets.	Communities Youth Inspiring Palmerston

### **Objective 10: Sustainable Business**

Targets	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Output measure	Impact of Actions	Link to existing plans
10.1 Promote local business participation in sustainable activities by developing strategic partnerships, incentives	<b>10.1.1</b> Promote and recommend a range of water and energy programs available to reduce use.	2014-2015	Ongoing	Business sustainability programs established.	Reduced community water consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.	
and projects that help to reduce energy and water consumption by 15% By 2015.	<b>10.1.2</b> Provide sustainable information, and seek use of green cleaning products to keep toxic and waste out of waterways.	Ongoing	Technical Services			
	<b>10.1.3</b> Continue to expand networks such as the Palmerston Regional Business Association to share information and explore potential partnering opportunities.	Ongoing	CEO, Corporate and Community and Technical Services Directors			



City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018

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