

Policy Code:			
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Responsible Officer:	Director City Growth and Operations		
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1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- preserve the network of laneways within the City, and
- guide decision making where a request to implement some form of treatment or closure of a laneway is received.

2 PRINCIPLES

The principles that apply to the management of laneways are:

- Council recognises the purpose and function that laneways were created and where practicable will retain laneways as a component of the pathway network
- Council will advocate for the engagement of all relevant government agencies that may impact on social behaviour issues and influence community responses and views
- The occurrence of anti-social and criminal behaviour is a community issue that may not be practical to address by laneway treatments or closures
- The implementation of temporary laneway treatments should not exceed twelve months without being reviewed by Council to assess effectiveness and costs
- A laneway that provides an overland stormwater flow path will not be considered for permanent closure
- Council recognizes that community expectations over time may change and that there will be different views within the community at any one time
- Wherever possible Council will seek to respond to the broad interests of the community when determining any treatment or closure of a laneway
- The permanent closure of a laneway within the road reserve requires the consent of the Minister for Local Government and the Minister responsible for the *Control of Roads Act*

3 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
Public Open Space (POS) Access Laneway	A laneway connecting a street to POS, and the land comprising the laneway is within the surveyed lot forming the POS
Street Access Laneway	A laneway connecting two streets and the land is a continuation of the road reserve
Laneway Category	A method to calculate the significance of the laneway based on the level of disruption to active transport activities and overland stormwater movement
Permanent Laneway Treatment	A modification of a laneway intended to remain in place for greater than twelve months that may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle chicane/s, • Lighting. Permanent closure is not a form of laneway treatment.
Temporary Part Time Closure	Typically involves daily closing of a laneway with locked gates typically between the hours of 9:00pm and 6:30am with the duration of the daily closing as determined by Council with a maximum period of twelve months. The time of closure will be assessed to suit the circumstances of the laneway.
Temporary Full Time Closure	The closure of the laneway with locked gates with the duration of closure as determined by Council with a maximum period of twelve months.
Permanent Closure	The closing of a laneway by the creation of a new lot that is defined by the boundaries of the abutting properties with the intent to dispose of the lot and consolidate into abutting properties
Active Transport	Relates to physical activity undertaken as a means of transport. It includes travel by foot, bicycle, motorised scooters, and non-motorised vehicles.
Relevant Government Agencies	NT Police Force, Territory Housing, Territory Families, and other agencies involved with the provision of social services
Public Utility Easement (Linear or Transverse)	An easement established in the interest of a public utility provider for the purpose of protecting an underground service/s located within (linear) or across (transverse) a laneway
Overland Stormwater Flow Path	Several laneways provide severe rainfall (1:100 yr) event overland flow paths to mitigate the risk of property inundation

4 POLICY STATEMENT

4.1 Rationale

- 4.1.1 The retention of laneways to enable active transport options is Council's preferred option.
- 4.1.2 Where social issues associated with anti-social or criminal activity are occurring within the vicinity of a laneway the initial response is to engage with relevant government agencies to identify reactive and proactive intervention options, prior to considering the use of laneway treatments.
- 4.1.3 The permanent closure of a laneway will be considered by Council in special circumstances where the closure of the laneway does not unreasonably impact on active transport options within the vicinity of the laneway. The impact assessment includes several information sources outlined in the Policy.

4.2 Laneway Application and Assessment Requirements

- 4.2.1 Landowner application to close a laneway
For Council to assess a laneway an application form must be completed by all abutting property owners. The form will include the following:
 - a) Reason for requesting closure of the laneway e.g. anti-social behaviour associated with use of the laneway
 - b) Details of incidents reported to NT Police providing dates and times
 - c) Period of occupancy of the property
 - d) Acknowledgment that a financial contribution will be paid to Council on request prior to instigation of a permanent closure where Council determines closure is possible
 - e) Acknowledgement that payment to Council is required for the portion of the closed laneway that may be amalgamated with their property prior, to undertaking the permanent closure following Ministerial consent for permanent closure (where required).

NOTE: Where an abutting property owner is the Northern Territory Government, Council will liaise directly with the relevant agency.

4.2.2 Information to be collected for report to Council

- 4.2.2.1 Where the completed application forms have been received from all property owners, Council will undertake the following actions:
 - a) Request information from NT Police relating to the vicinity of the laneway covering the most recent quarterly reporting period
 - b) Survey a minimum 20 properties within the immediate vicinity of the laneway
 - c) Install a CCTV camera at one end of the laneway for a period of not less than three weeks to obtain laneway usage data
 - d) Request information from relevant government agencies and non-government organisations on local issues
 - e) Calculate the Laneway Category using the approved methodology
 - f) Assess the laneway in respect of stormwater function
 - g) Obtain information on underground services within the laneway.

4.2.3 Consideration by Council

4.2.3.1 Where the above requirements and information have been completed Council will consider the appropriate action to be taken. The options that Council may consider are:

- a) Decline the request;
Where a request has been declined Council will not consider a further request within twelve months unless there is a demonstrable and significant change in circumstances from the original request.
- b) Request relevant government agencies and non-government organisations to provide responses to address the cause of the anti-social behaviour;
- c) Where the information indicates that a targeted strategy may assist in addressing the cause of the anti-social behaviour Council will advocate for responses from the relevant government agencies and non-government organisations.
- d) Consider a treatment commensurate with the identified issues;
- e) Where treatment does not involve trialling part-time closures, the treatment may be permanent. Where the Council approves the trialling of a part-time closure, the closures will occur for a maximum period of twelve months (from implementation).

4.2.4 Review by Council

4.2.4.1 Where Council has approved a trial treatment or facilitated a response by relevant government agencies and non-government organisations the following review periods will apply:

- a) Request relevant government agencies and non-government organisations to provide responses to address the cause of the anti-social behaviour.

4.2.4.2 Council will review the effectiveness of the responses no sooner than six months from implementation.

4.2.4.3 Where the responses have not achieved a positive outcome however the expectation is that the strategy/response may deliver reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour, the Council may defer a decision on the laneway for a further six month period.

4.2.4.4 At the conclusion of the initial six months or after twelve months where there is no demonstrable reduction in anti-social behaviour Council may consider permanent closure of the laneway subject to the required criteria being met.

- b) Consider a treatment commensurate with the identified issues;

Where the Council approves the trialling of a night-time closure, the closures will occur for a maximum period of twelve months (from implementation) before the effectiveness of the trial is assessed. During the trial the laneway use, and other relevant information will be collected.

4.2.4.5 Subject to the information collected, Council may choose to cease the treatment or extend the treatment for further period not exceeding twelve months.

4.3 Criteria for permanent closure of a laneway

- 4.3.1 Council may seek the permanent closure of a laneway where the following criteria are satisfied:
- The laneway does not provide an overland stormwater flow path; and
 - The Laneway Category is rated a Low or Medium; and
 - Agreement with abutting landowners ensures that the whole of the laneway will be disposed of through amalgamation with the abutting properties; and
 - The abutting landowners have acknowledged and agreed to the contribution to costs for the closure of the laneway and the payment for the portion of closed laneway (inclusive of easements where applicable) to be amalgamated with their property; and
 - The laneway use is less than 30 movements per day.
- 4.4 **Landowner contribution and purchase of land**
- 4.4.1 The cost to undertake the permanent closure of a laneway is between \$10,000 and \$12,000 and comprises survey, land titles and development costs.
- 4.4.2 Council will require each abutting landowner to contribute \$500 towards these costs. Payment will be required prior to instigating public consultation for the proposed closure.
- 4.4.3 Where a landowner has agreed to amalgamate a portion of the closed laneway with their property, the value of the closed portion will be calculated as follows:
- The value of the original property will be determined,
 - The combined (original plus portion of laneway) property will be calculated,
 - The amount to be paid will be the difference between the two values.
- 4.4.4 The values will be determined by a Certified Practising Valuer and subject to review by the Valuer General where required.

5 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- 5.1 City of Palmerston Laneway Classification Guidelines

6 REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- 6.1 *Local Government Act 2008*
6.2 *Local Government Act (Administration) Regulations 2008*
6.3 *Local Government Act (NT) 2008 Guidelines (Disposal of Property)*