



city of  
**PALMERSTON**  
*'A Place for People'*

**2021  
2022**  
ANNUAL REPORT



City of Palmerston acknowledges the Larrakia people as the Traditional Custodians of the Palmerston region. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future leaders and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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**FRONT COVER**

**Top:** Palmerston Multicultural Festival, 2020

**Bottom left:** Suburban Sounds, 2022

**Bottom right:** Reggie and Friends Adopt a Park, 2020

This document has been printed on recycled material.

## TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT

We are pleased to present our stakeholders, customers and community with the City of Palmerston Annual Report for 2021-22. This report highlights our progress and performance against the objectives, strategies and actions we committed to deliver in the annual Municipal Plan and Budget and our Community Plan.

The City of Palmerston 2021-22 Annual Report has been developed in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019 (NT) and provides a transparent account of our performance for the financial year and includes Council's Audited Financial Statements.

## OUR VISION

Our community is at the heart of everything we do. In 2018, we worked with the community to develop the City of Palmerston Community Plan which provides the vision to guide our work for the next ten years.

This annual report is a key tool to communicate what we are delivering to achieve the community vision of A Place for People where:



**Palmerston is a welcoming, vibrant, family-friendly city that fosters diversity and unity**



**everyone belongs, and everyone feels safe.**

Our vision recognises the importance of valuing and investing in the natural environment, balancing economic considerations, and focussing on innovation to enable social transformation in Palmerston.

The Community Plan defines this vision and outlines our priorities, which are shaped by the community members who were directly involved in creating it. The Community Plan gives our community, businesses and stakeholders certainty about what they can expect from Council over the ten year life of the Plan.

Each year, the Community Plan informs the development of Council's Municipal Plan and Budget. The Municipal Plan is Council's 'action plan' on the services, programs, events, facilities and infrastructure that will be delivered in the financial year.

This Annual Report describes the programs and initiatives delivered throughout the year to achieve the commitments of the Community Plan and Municipal Plan 2021-22. This report tells us where we are performing well and where we can do things better in helping the community realise its vision.

# OUR STORY.

## WRITTEN BY THE COMMUNITY

- Palmerston began with creation and the dreamtime.
- The Larrakia are the first people of Palmerston.
- Jumping forward many thousands of years to 1982, our place became known as Palmerston.
- This quiet, peaceful town saw children playing on the streets, while the town was growing fast. The commissioning of the Water Tower in the early days stamped the centre of Palmerston and left a legacy that we are all connected to today. As development progressed and the City of Palmerston expanded into bush areas, we saw people from many countries moving into the area and making Palmerston their home. Culture, painting and food were all central to our community as was friendship and tight knit families.
- We are grateful for the pioneers of Palmerston who not only built our city but ensured natural bush areas were retained.

Growth has happened quickly for Palmerston with some planning decisions positive, others negative. During this fast growth, our community has also grown. Modern social challenges have also emerged – putting pressure on our community. All the while new developments and construction continue.

The heart and soul of Palmerston however remains: our community spirit emerged when Cyclone Marcus arrived, with people in the street and in their neighborhoods helping each other.

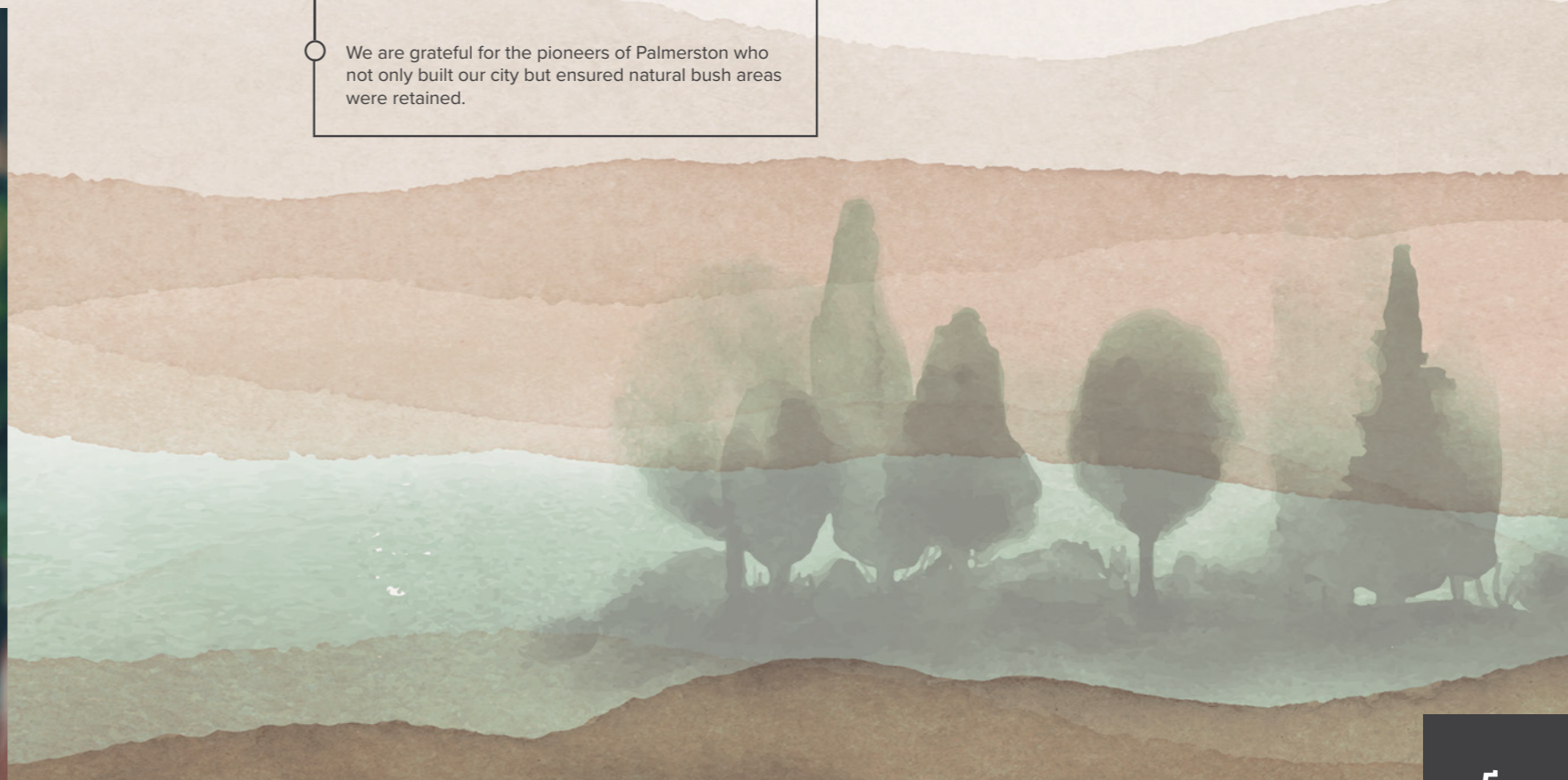
Now we are in a place of opportunity.

The future will be written by the people who live in Palmerston.

Family values will determine everything we do, and we will find new hope in the voices of our children and young people. We will celebrate the richness of our diversity, acknowledge our heritage, heal the past and work as active citizens, under the leadership of the City of Palmerston to create "A Place for People".



Palmerston Multi-Cultural Festival, 2019





## OUR CITY

City of Palmerston is the Northern Territory's youngest city and has experienced strong growth over a short period of time.

Palmerston was first built in 1980 and is about 20 kilometres south east of the Northern Territory's capital Darwin.

It became its own municipality in 1985 before being declared a city in 2000.

The city has a population of almost 40 000 people in 2021 living in 18 suburbs. Thirteen per cent of the Palmerston community are Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**CITY OF  
PALMERSTON  
MUNICIPALITY**

# OUR CITY

**37,247**

RESIDENTS LIVE IN PALMERSTON



LAND AREA

**56.41**  
KM<sup>2</sup>



**14,535**

HOMES IN PALMERSTON



**2.8**

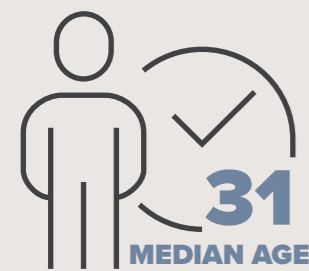
PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD

75% OF HOUSEHOLDS ARE FAMILIES



AVERAGE  
**1.9**

CHILDREN PER FAMILY



**31**

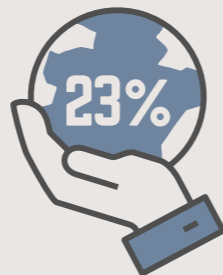
MEDIAN AGE



OVER

**25%**

OF POPULATION AGED 0 - 14 YEARS



**23%**

OF PEOPLE SPEAK A NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT HOME



**1,648**

BUSINESSES REGISTERED IN PALMERSTON



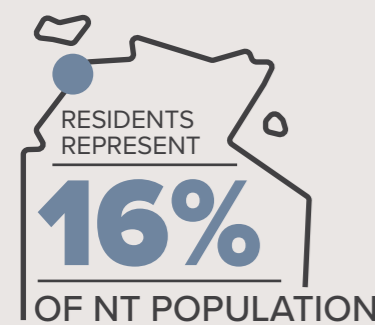
**20,695**

PEOPLE WORK IN PALMERSTON



MEDIAN WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME

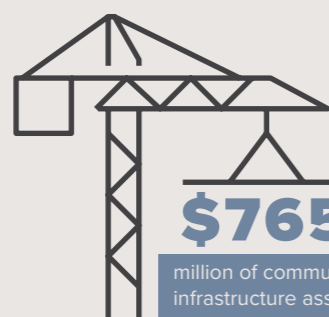
**\$2,199**



RESIDENTS REPRESENT

**16%**

OF NT POPULATION



**\$765**

million of community infrastructure assets

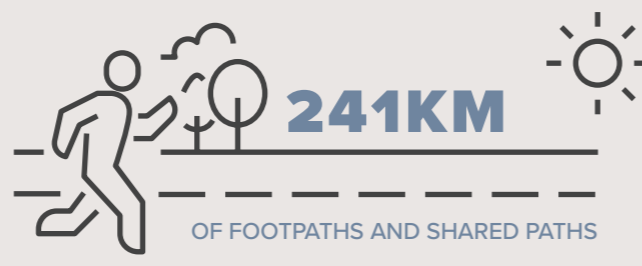


**288**

hectares of open space parks and gardens



**15 LAKES**



**241KM**

OF FOOTPATHS AND SHARED PATHS

# OUR YEAR 2021-22

INJECTED **\$29 MILLION** INTO ECONOMY



87% of this amount went to local businesses and subcontractors

SOURCED **12.5 MILLION** IN EXTERNAL GRANT FUNDING



INVESTED

**\$10.2**  
MILLION

on new or renewing community assets



**32,500**

PEOPLE ATTENDED

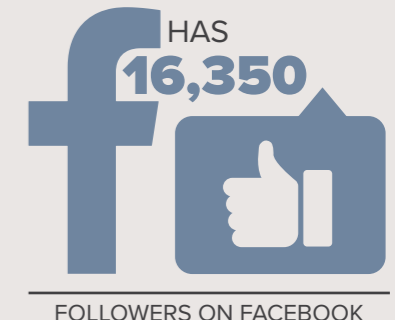
**103**

COMMUNITY EVENTS HOSTED BY COUNCIL



**10,182**

PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN LIBRARY PROGRAMS



HAS

**16,350**

FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK



KEPT

**2,429**

tonnes of waste from going into landfill



HIRED OUT COMMUNITY SPACES FOR PEOPLE TO USE ON...

**7,728 OCCASIONS**



**198,990**

attended events and activities at Council facilities



RESURFACED

**7.8KM**

OF SINGLE LANE ROADS



RANGERS CALLED OUT TO HELP

**2770 TIMES**

7.6 CALL OUTS EACH DAY

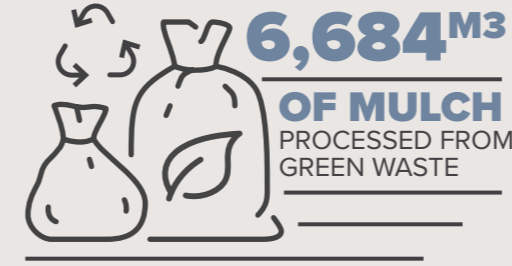


REPAIRED AND RESURFACED

**1.2KM**

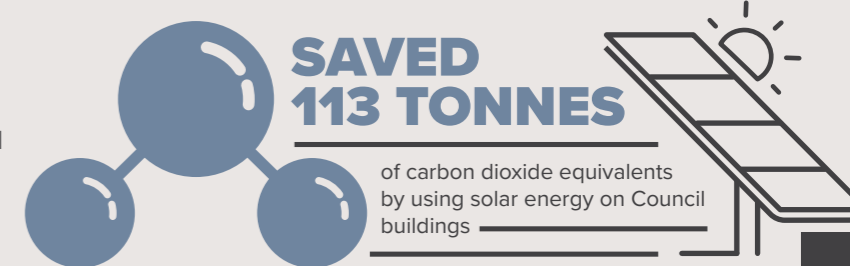
OF PATHWAYS

BUILT **1.8KM** OF NEW PATHWAYS



**6,684M<sup>3</sup>**

OF MULCH PROCESSED FROM GREEN WASTE



SAVED **113 TONNES**

of carbon dioxide equivalents by using solar energy on Council buildings

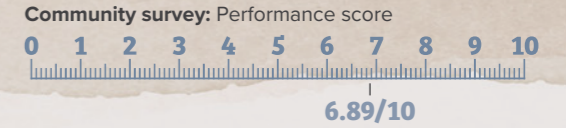
# COMMUNITY

## PLAN SCORECARD.

We conduct a community satisfaction survey each year to check in on Council's overall performance.

### FAMILY AND COMMUNITY | pages 24 to 33

Palmerston is a safe and family friendly community where everyone belongs.



Objectives	Measures of Success	Highlights	Success	Looking forward
1.1 We focus on families	More people attend Council events and engage in community activities	Increased the number of community events for the people of Palmerston	5,800 young people attended Palmerston Youth Festival	Continue delivery of high quality free events
1.2 The wellbeing of our community is a focus for all of our work	Reduce crime and violence	Initiated the inaugural Palmerston Christmas Lights Competition	13,964 people attended Christmas Wonderland	Free venue hire for the community
	Increased partnerships to address crime	Major refurbishment of Tiverton Park Playground	Delivered 103 community events	Construct Ninja Obstacle Course
	Increased access to Council facilities and resources for community activities for all members of our community	Launched the Palmerston Play Space Strategy	Delivered 382 library programs	Commence Stage 1 Zuccoli Community Hub
		Won the Most Outstanding Stall and Best Government Stall at the Darwin Show	75,534 items borrowed from Library	
			\$543,447 of in-kind support	

### VIBRANT ECONOMY | pages 34 to 39

Palmerston is a destination city for employment, it is a place where businesses are encouraged to set up and grow.



Objectives	Measures of Success	Highlights	Success	Looking forward
2.1 Improve Palmerston's image	People of Palmerston choose to shop local and retail shop spaces are full	Supported local business through Buy Local Policy and Support Local campaigns	Injected \$29 million in Palmerston's economy with 87 per cent going to local businesses	Implement Palmerston Local Economic Plan
2.2 Palmerston's economic future is bright	Palmerston's population is growing and employment rates increase	Launched Palmerston Local Economic Plan	Sourced \$12.5 million in government grant funding	Municipality boundary extension
	More tourists visit Palmerston	Provided advice on 39 planning applications and 4 strategic planning matters	\$421,501 in myPalmerston vouchers claimed with a transaction value of \$2.51 million	Continue to participate in the NT Planning process
	More funds available for Council to invest in the community	Provided free parking to support residents and local business		
	There are more businesses located in Palmerston	Secured government funding to fast track and increase the projects Council delivered		

Suburban Sounds, Palmerston Youth Festival, 2022

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY | pages 40 to 47

In Palmerston we celebrate our cultures in a way that values our diversity.



Objectives	Measures of Success	Highlights	Success	Looking forward
3.1 To celebrate our rich culture and diversity	Council consults with and includes the needs of people in its programs and planning	Increased opportunities for the community to participate in events that celebrate culture and diversity	Hosted 26 culture and diversity events	Develop Palmerston Creative Industries Plan
3.2 Recognise and support diversity through our partnerships and leadership	Foster and promote arts and culture within our community and improve awareness of our local history	Acknowledgement of Country and Statement of Inclusion added to website Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible framework endorsed Launched Light Up Palmerston initiative New mural on the Palmerston Library wall to celebrate International Women's Day	350 guests attended the Australia Day Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony 260 new Australians welcomed as citizens 5 events held to celebrate International Women's Day 500 people attended Fab on Frances event	Continue to host and support more events, programs and services that celebrate our culture and diversity Implement Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Framework Implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY | pages 56 to 65

Palmerston is an environmentally friendly, liveable city that promotes renewable practices and sustainability.



Objectives	Measures of Success	Highlights	Success	Looking forward
5.1 Reduce our footprint on the environment	The amount of recycling increases and littering decreases	Launched Palmerston Sustainability Strategy	37.5% kerbside collection recycling rate	Implement Sustainability Strategy
5.2 Palmerston is a cool, shaded green city	Increase the areas shaded by trees	Carried out successful weed management of Palmerston Lakes	3000 native trees distributed through the National Tree Day and Royal Darwin Show	Renovate Archer Waste Management Facility
5.3 Encourage personal action and taking a leadership role	Reduction in businesses using packaging and wrapping Improved performance in actively protecting and enhancing environmental assets and Council infrastructure while supporting local businesses and industry in sustainable land use Improved performance in committing to effective and responsible city planning that balances and meets residential and commercial needs in our community	Completed Civic Centre Solar Shade project that is projected to save 96 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year Revitalisation of Marlow Lagoon Indigenous Plant Use Garden in consultation with Larrakia expertise	86 residents provided topsoil and grass seed through Verge Assistance program 52 tonnes of waste collected in Pre-Cyclone Clean Up with 43% recycled 6,684 green waste processed to mulch (m3)	Tree planting programs introduced to look at mitigating known heat sinks and improving walkability Reduce printed material and where possible print only on recycled paper

## A FUTURE FOCUS | pages 48 to 55

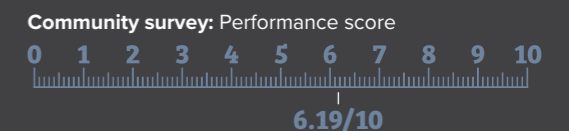
Palmerston is an innovative city that can sustain itself through the challenges of the future.



Objectives	Measures of Success	Highlights	Success	Looking forward
4.1 We support and foster innovation	Council consults with and includes the needs of people in its programs and planning	Released \$15 million contract for SWELL infrastructure project	\$10.2 million spent on new and upgraded community assets	Construction of the \$15 million SWELL project
4.2 Infrastructure is fit for purpose	Foster and promote arts and culture within our community and improve awareness of our local history	Opened Gulwa Recording Studio – the first of its kind for the NT Partnership with NT Government to deliver \$2 million FiberSense technology Received Crown Lease to progress Zuccoli Community Hub Completed redevelopment of Gray Community Hall	Resurfaced 7.8 km of roads Processed 125 stormwater pre-approval requests and 80 clearance requests for new houses 7,728 bookings in Council venues 198,990 visits to Council venues	Management of new assets within municipal boundary extension Provide residents access to live project systems ArcGIS and Emergency Management Dashboard Transition all forms to online Refurbish Driver Resource Centre

## GOVERNANCE | pages 66 to 73

Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.



Objectives	Measures of Success	Highlights	Success	Looking forward
6.1 Ensure we have a leading governance model	Community are satisfied that Council values and encourages participation in Council activities and is committed to delivering the highest possible levels of service and community engagement	Endorsed increased customer services hours to 7.30am – 5.30pm	Employ 83 staff Spent \$282,976 on employee training	Implement Enterprise Resource Planning systems to deliver services more efficiently and effectively
6.2 Community is at the centre	Community are satisfied that Council is committed to ensuring its systems and processes support the organisation to deliver the best possible outcomes	Provided training to upskill all employees at Council	118 staff completed training \$76,267 provided in grants, sponsorship, donations	Expand data reporting processes to broader range of Council assets
6.3 Healthy working partnerships	Community are satisfied that Council values its people and culture of our organisation and is committed to continuous improvement and innovation while seeking to reduce service costs through increased efficiency	Reviewed five policies and introduced four new ones Held 23 Ordinary Council Meetings Held two Council to the Community Meetings		Deliver governance, reporting and compliance training Audit policy framework, human resource management systems, data analytics and reporting
	Community are satisfied that Council is showing corporate and social responsibility, ensuring the sustainability of Council assets and services and undertaking effective planning and reporting of Council performance to the community	Provided grants, donations, in-kind support and sponsorship for local residents and businesses		

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



The Palmerston community has done a brilliant job of supporting each other while facing the continued challenges and disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to thank each and every one of you for your resilience, kindness and support during this time.

I also want to thank the City of Palmerston staff for your commitment and positive approach to managing these challenges and still delivering outstanding outcomes for the community. Your dedication has meant that Council has achieved many strategic and operational goals in 2021-22, in addition to managing the many challenges presented by COVID-19.

On the 28 August 2021, Palmerston residents elected the 10th Palmerston Council. I am proud to be leading this future focused and optimistic Council. We are committed to a strategic approach to achieve the vision and objectives of the Community Plan which was developed by the people of Palmerston.

Strengthening our city's economy is of utmost importance to the Palmerston community. City of Palmerston was proud to endorse its first Local Economic Plan developed in collaboration with the Northern Territory Government. The 10 year plan provides current businesses with confidence for the future. It also attracts and encourages development for new businesses providing them an understanding of the long term economic priorities of Council.

We took another step forward with Council receiving a Crown Lease from the Northern Territory Government for the proposed Zuccoli and surrounds community hub site. This important social infrastructure initiative will include a community centre, children's library, dog park, skate park, community garden and playground. The first stage of this major project commenced in June 2022 with construction of a dog park, pump track, toilet facilities and a parking space.

We were extremely excited to release the tender for the \$15 million SWELL (Swimming, Wellness, Events, Leisure and Lifestyle) project. This is Palmerston's largest infrastructure project to date and is set to transform the current aging Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre into a leisure hub. The SWELL project will include upgrading the 50-metre pool, a toddlers zero depth and play pool, an events area, basketball half court, aquatic play structure, and new accessible toilets and change rooms. The tender was awarded in July 2022.

With over 60 sites containing playgrounds across the municipality, a strategic approach is essential for best practice management of these important points of social and community activation. This year Council endorsed a Play Space Strategy to provide a coordinated and robust approach to playground planning. The strategy will guide investment over the next 10 years, with a commitment to quality play spaces that are welcoming, creative and accessible to all.

I was thrilled to open the Gulwa Community Recording Studio in April 2022. This highly anticipated recording studio is the first of its kind in the Northern Territory. The inclusive multi-purpose space is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment that can be used for sound and video recording, mixing and production, broadcasting, skills training, and as an event space.

Our commitment to deliver our Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Framework was highlighted this year with an Acknowledgment of Country and Statement of Inclusion and Diversity added to the City of Palmerston website. This is an opportunity for Council to show respect for Traditional Owners and the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country, in particular the Larrakia People.

Another highlight for the year was discovering an area of Marlow Lagoon was an Indigenous Plant Use Garden. The condition of this little-known feature has deteriorated over decades owing to fire, weeds and storm damage. Council is working with Larrakia expertise to revitalise this space to better reflect and preserve the value of more than 40,000 years of accumulated botanical knowledge.

As we celebrate the achievements of 2021-22, the next year fills me with excitement as our strong government partnerships and strategic planning will see a number of major projects and initiatives delivered to further grow and strengthen our city as A Place for People.

Athina Pascoe-Bell

# CEO'S MESSAGE



I am proud of the City of Palmerston Council and staff for overcoming another year of challenges posed by COVID-19 to continue to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits for the Palmerston community. This annual report shows we are successfully delivering on the goals and objectives of the Community Plan while maintaining financial sustainability.

We continued to support local business and residents in times of economic uncertainty through a number of initiatives designed to reduce costs and support spending in local businesses. We were pleased to offer the community continued free parking, free facility hire and free entry to Palmerston pool.

We welcomed the return of myPalmerston, providing customer discount vouchers to shop locally. The program actively promotes economic growth and stability within the Palmerston community and as at 30 June 2022 injected \$421,507 into the economy, driving a total transaction value of \$2.51 million.

Our strategic priority for continued growth of Palmerston was supported with approval of the unincorporated areas of Wishart, Erlundie, Kirkland and Tivendale to join our municipality from 1 July 2022. This will no doubt increase the sustainability of Palmerston and support the expansion and continuation of delivery of quality services to these areas.

We are passionate about achieving positive outcomes for the community through partnerships with the Northern Territory Government and Australian Government. We would like to acknowledge the support of both governments to deliver a number of key projects including SWELL, FiberSense, and the first stage of the Zuccoli and surrounds Community Hub.

Endorsement of the Palmerston Sustainability Strategy highlights Council's commitment to progressing sustainable development in Palmerston. The strategy seeks to preserve our natural assets, reduce our collective impact and evolve our practices so that liveability and opportunities for future generations are not compromised.

City of Palmerston is committed to driving the local economy and spent more than \$10.2 million on infrastructure and capital works in the city, which included:

- Refurbishment of Tiverton Park creating a state-of-the-art destination playground with a new 20m flying fox, all ages and all ability play equipment and an interactive climbing frame.

- Redevelopment of the much-loved Gray Community Hall to deliver a contemporary, versatile space catering to a wider audience.
- Commencement of the \$2 million FiberSense project in partnership with the Northern Territory Government.
- Construction of the Gulwa Community Recording Studio, supporting the creative arts industry in Palmerston.

Community is at the heart of everything we do and connecting with our community is essential to our success. We focused on improving our strategic approach to communication to strengthen our engagement with the community. We developed a draft Communications Strategy and draft Social Media Strategy to deliver consistent, transparent and accurate information to the community.

Our extensive, diverse and inclusive events program once again entertained the Palmerston community with 103 events delivered including Christmas Wonderland, Urban Jams, Live at the Lake, FlicNics and Palmerston Youth Festival to name a few.

We reinforced our commitment to customer service by endorsing the expansion of hours of customer service operation to increase the opportunity for customers to engage with us. The expanded hours commenced on 1 July 2022.

The Community Satisfaction Survey results are testament to the hard work of staff and Elected Members. The results show that 66% of respondents rate Council's overall performance as good or very good. The survey results provide valuable feedback from the community which we use to plan the continual improvement.

It is an immense privilege to lead such a committed and passionate community focused team who continually strive to improve our services. I would like to express sincere thanks to all staff and Elected Members for the delivery of an impressive program in 2021-22. I look forward to continuing our work to provide opportunities, growth and sustainability for all residents and visitors.

Luccio Cercarelli





# OUR ELECTED MEMBERS

The Council consists of the Mayor and seven Councillors who represent the entire city (Palmerston does not have divisible wards). Council elects one Councillor to serve as Deputy Mayor for a term of five months at a time.

The 10th Palmerston Council was elected by residents on the 28 August 2021. We welcomed two new Councillors and the return of Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell and five serving Councillors elected for another four year term.



**MAYOR  
ATHINA PASCOE-BELL**

Athina moved to Palmerston in 2004 with her husband, who was in the Defence Force at the time, and bought their home in Marlow Lagoon just a few months after arriving. They made Palmerston their home and decided this was the place to raise their family, with their two children born in Palmerston. Athina has a 20-year career as a spatial science professional, 5 years in the private sector and 15 years in the public service in both New South Wales and the Northern Territory. Her career experience provided her invaluable governance, policy, procedure and planning experience to bring to the role of Mayor. Athina is now studying towards a law degree to equip herself with the legal knowledge that will benefit the community.



**COUNCILLOR  
AMBER GARDEN**

Amber moved to the Territory from Queensland in 2003, and with her ever-supportive husband purchased a property in Farrar in 2010. Amber has over 15 years' experience in human resources and administration, mainly working in the construction industry. After being re-elected to her position on Council, and with nine years' experience working in local government administration, she brings knowledge and experience of Council meeting processes, financial reporting and requirements under the Local Government Act. Amber is passionate about improving animal management, safety, accessibility and communication with the community to make it a liveable city for all to enjoy.

Deputy Mayor: 25 March to 13 September 2021, 18 April to 30 June 2022



**COUNCILLOR  
SARAH HENDERSON**

Sarah is a hardworking community advocate and businesswoman who has been an active member of the Palmerston community for three decades. With her husband, she has brought up five children in Palmerston and now her grandchildren are being raised in this community. She has been actively involved in many different Palmerston community groups over the years. Sarah is a member of a range of committees and clubs, continuing to support the seniors of her community. Over this term Sarah aims to improve services, provide support to community members and to contribute to the sustainability goals of Palmerston.

Deputy Mayor: 22 September 2021 to 17 April 2022



**COUNCILLOR  
DANIELLE EVELEIGH**

As a Driver resident for over 17 years, and a newly elected Councillor, Danielle is committed to the Palmerston community and has a desire to contribute and represent others. With a background in human resource management and industrial relations, Danielle brings these attributes and skills to Council. She aims to use these skills to support positive change. Danielle is involved in an array of local groups and committees including the Top End Women's Legal Service, Walking off the War Within and Corrugated Iron Youth Arts. Since being elected, Danielle has been working to gain a greater understanding of the needs and concerns of the Palmerston community to learn how she can assist in keeping the community spirit as friendly and caring as she knows it.

Commenced 29 August 2021



**COUNCILLOR  
LUCY MORRISON**

Lucy has lived in the Northern Territory since 2008 after moving to Palmerston from Queensland. She has more than 15 years' experience in the media industry and started her career as a print journalist working for newspapers in the Northern Territory and Queensland. Lucy then steered her career into communications, public relations and media advising. Having previously worked in local government and currently working for NT Government, Lucy has extensive knowledge and understanding of government. Lucy is passionate about healthy living and enjoying an active lifestyle. She is eager to involve more youth in sports and local activities in the community. Over this term Lucy will continue to work towards the beautification of parks, greening the city, lake management and supporting community events.



**COUNCILLOR  
MARK FRASER**

Mark has joined local government after a long term interest in all tiers of politics. He sees this as his opportunity to give back to the Palmerston community after raising his family here. Mark has called Roseberry home for almost two decades. Mark would like to explore what support can be provided to the many Palmerston families impacted by FIFO employment to better cope with work life balances and raising a family. Mark believes Palmerston is well placed to capitalise on the multitude of emerging opportunities across a wide range of industry sectors. Palmerston needs to maintain its competent stewardship at Council to make the right decisions for all residents to ensure Palmerston continues to improve and always be A Place for People.

Commenced 29 August 2021



**COUNCILLOR  
BENJAMIN GIESECKE**

Ben was born in Melbourne but grew up in Adelaide. He moved to the Territory in 2004 where he began his career as a property professional after completing his Bachelor of Business (Property) degree. Ben bought his first home in Moulden in 2005, however he and his wife now live in Durack. Ben has forged a successful career in the property industry, with extensive experience in commercial and private valuations, negotiations, economics, real estate transactions and law, and investment properties. His extensive career experience provides him with a keen eye for detail. With Ben's active involvement with the local multicultural community, he is looking forward to the rest of his term as a Councillor working to ensure Palmerston really is a place for people.



**COUNCILLOR  
DAMIAN HALE**

Damian came to the Northern Territory in 1974 and has lived in Maningrida, Katherine and Darwin before settling with his partner in Gunn. Damian has prior experience in politics in the Northern Territory holding the position of Federal Member for Solomon from 2007 – 2010. Damian spent nine years working for the Australian Workers Union. He is now the Operations Manager for a local Indigenous company, Sacred Business Services.



**COUNCILLOR  
MICK SPICK**

Mick has lived in the Northern Territory since 2006. During his 11-year career in the Australian Army, Mick and his wife, Hannah, bought their home in Driver in 2016. Mick works in Indigenous health as an education and training officer. He's also a member of the Palmerston RSL and Palmerston Raiders RLFC. Mick's passion whilst serving on Council was for Palmerston to be the most liveable, sustainable and inclusive city in the Northern Territory.

Served until 28 August 2021



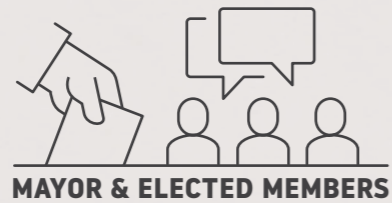
**COUNCILLOR  
DR TOM LEWIS**

Tom is a teacher, author and war veteran. A Northern Territory resident for 30 years, Tom served with the Australian Defence Force in the Iraq War and now writes history books and teaches at a local high school. Tom lives in Durack and is married with two daughters. In what spare time he has left, Tom enjoys playing tournament chess.

Served until 28 August 2021

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

In November 2021, City of Palmerston reviewed and updated the organisational structure, resulting in some departments being moved into different directorates, and new directorate titles being issued.



**LUCCIO CERCARELLI**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Service Profiles include:**

- Office of the Mayor and Elected Members
- Executive Support
- Council and Committee Services
- Business Performance and Improvement



- Advocacy
- Strategy and Insights
- Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships
- Strategic Organisational Planning

**AMELIA VELLAR**  
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Service Profiles include:**

- Partnerships
- Strategic Projects
- Marketing & Communication



- Organisational Culture & Development
- Engagement
- People
- Customer Experience
- Safety & wellbeing

City of Palmerston Staff, 2022



**ANNA INGRAM**



**COMMUNITY AND CULTURE**

**Service Profiles include:**

- Placemaking
- Arts & Culture Experience
- Recreation & Leisure
- Community Events
- Regulatory Services
- Library Services
- Community Health & Wellbeing
- Facility Management
- Community Development
- Local History & Heritage

**NADINE NILON**



**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Service Profiles include:**

- Fleet Management
- Asset Management
- Stormwater and Transport
  - Public Lighting
- Building Maintenance
- Infrastructure Design & Delivery
  - Project Management
- Waste & Resource Recovery Services
- Environmental Sustainability
  - City & Statutory Planning
    - Lake Management
- Resilience & Disaster Management
- Natural Environment Management
  - Parks & Open Spaces
  - Outdoor Workforce
  - Smart Cities & Innovation
  - Information Technology

**WATI KERTA**



**FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

**Service Profiles include:**

- External & Internal Audit Programs
- Economic Development
- Financial management
  - Governance
  - Procurement
- Property & Commercial
  - Corporate Reporting
- Information and Records Management
  - Risk Management



City of Palmerston Library Staff, Storytime, 2022

# Palmerston

## OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES.

Palmerston is a young and modern municipality, with a median age of 31. The second largest city in the Northern Territory, Palmerston is a regional hub with a promising future.

Rapid population growth coupled with a young demographic presents council with the challenge of growing and renewing essential family friendly infrastructure for Palmerston and surrounding communities.

### OPPORTUNITIES

Centrally located between the population centres of Darwin and its rural area, Palmerston is close to key industry growth sectors, including Defence and energy and minerals.

The city is near major health, education and transport infrastructure, such as the port and railway, a university campus and a new, modern hospital.

City of Palmerston continues to work to cater for the city's growth and demand on local infrastructure by delivering on the six outcomes of the Community Plan:

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

01

VIBRANT ECONOMY

02

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

03

A FUTURE FOCUS

04

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

05

GOVERNANCE

06

This gives Council the ability to tackle the challenges of governance, sustainability, decision making, relevance, efficiency and thereby engage meaningfully with its stakeholders.

Council embraces the opportunities to:

- maintain trust
- be sustainable
- attract and retain the right people for the right jobs
- make informed and timely decisions
- deliver the strategic vision for the city
- respond quickly to opportunities and challenges
- develop effective relationships with stakeholders
- respond to events that affect business continuity.

City of Palmerston staff have worked hard to develop positive relationships with the Northern Territory Government and Australian Government. This has supported Council to maximise the opportunity to work in partnership with both governments to fast track delivery of projects for the Palmerston community.

City of Palmerston will grow its area by 37% on 1 July with the new changes to the municipal boundary increasing from 56km<sup>2</sup> to 77km<sup>2</sup>. With this comes the addition of 11 new roads (5.46 km), over 3km of underground stormwater infrastructure and an estimated 60 streetlights. City of Palmerston will manage these assets for the future of the Palmerston community.

### CHALLENGES

The challenge for the City of Palmerston is to ensure it can sustain the growth and development whilst delivering to the lifestyle aspirations of the community, and still contribute to the Territory's overall success.

This year the community identified the following key challenge in council's annual customer satisfaction survey:

- when asked what the most important issues are in the local area, more than half of respondents named crime and safety issues (60%), an increase from 47% last year.

The team at City of Palmerston works very closely with a variety of external stakeholders such as Larrakia Nation, NT Police and the Department of Territory Families to assist and help reduce anti-social behaviour and crime within the CBD. These partnerships will continue, and we will look at opportunities to improve the current programs as well as develop others. Council is very fortunate to have such great working relationships with local youth services such as Palmerston and Rural Basketball Association (PaRBA), where we work with youth to guide them on a positive life path.

Programs impacting the safety of our community that Council has already delivered on and continues to drive are:

- the management of laneways through the existing Council policy with Council currently considering the closure of two laneways within the Municipality
- investment in improved public lighting
- youth programs

- public places management
- advocating for the community regarding alcohol management and policing.

There is also more work being done to deliver more public patrols in the city centre and suburban areas to target anti-social behaviour.

Another common issue raised in this year's survey was maintenance of the lakes. The City of Palmerston boasts 15 man-made lakes and one natural water body. Salvinia Molesta weed has posed a significant challenge for the City of Palmerston to manage. Council has been working closely with the Northern Territory Government Weeds Branch to ensure an ongoing successful management program is implemented and maintained.

Management of Salvinia is undertaken through mechanical harvesting and biological control. The biological control is a new program of introducing the Salvinia Weevil, which eats only the Salvinia leaves.

Council is now undertaking herbicide foliar spraying around the lake perimeter which is proving to be very successful in controlling the mature salvinia left around the lake edges. Dedication and constant follow up spraying will assist in controlling the issue into the future along with continuing manual removal via the weed harvesters.

To increase Council's ability to manage Salvinia weed, Council placed an order for a new weed harvester in November 2021 which is scheduled to arrive in July 2022. The addition of the new weed harvester will effectively double Council's weed harvesting capacity.

Late Skates, Palmerston Youth Festival, 2022



# PERFORMANCE.

## PERFORMANCE.

Council conducts a Community Satisfaction Survey each year to gain an understanding of the community's attitudes, perceptions and satisfaction of various facilities, events and services Council provides.

Council engaged external consultant Kantar to conduct the survey, with a total of 670 participants, of which 601 were over the phone and 69 completed via the online questionnaire.

Since 2017, there has been a generally upward trend in the community's overall satisfaction with Council's performance. Last year saw the highest overall score that has been recorded since the research commenced in 2012, with 70% of respondents rating Council as good or very good.

The overall results for the 2022 survey recorded a slight decrease in Council's performance rating score compared to 2021, with the rating decreasing to 6.74/10 compared with 7.02 in 2021 and aligning to the rating score of 6.77 in 2020. There were still 66% of the

community that rated Council's overall performance as good or very good. This was the third highest score since the start of the annual survey in 2012.

Compared to 2021, there were decreases in all of the scores for the six Community Plan Key Outcome Areas, again showing scores closer to the 2020 survey results. Cultural Diversity had the least reduction in score (-0.19), and Governance had the highest reduction (-0.33). This trend is consistent with other public sector surveys in other areas, with a general lower level of trust in government and higher expectations observed from respondents.

Key Area	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change
Family and Community	6.68	6.80	7.16	6.89	- 0.27
Vibrant Economy	6.01	6.28	6.55	6.24	- 0.30
Cultural Diversity	7.04	7.21	7.50	7.31	- 0.19
A Future Focus	6.70	6.84	7.02	6.70	- 0.32
Environmental Sustainability	7.16	7.33	7.36	7.08	- 0.28
Governance	6.01	6.17	6.52	6.19	- 0.33
Net promoter score	-9	-4	-6	-13	- 7
<b>Overall performance</b>	<b>6.56 / 10</b>	<b>6.77 / 10</b>	<b>7.02/10</b>	<b>6.74 / 10</b>	<b>- 0.29 </b>

The survey identified our top two highest performing services as:

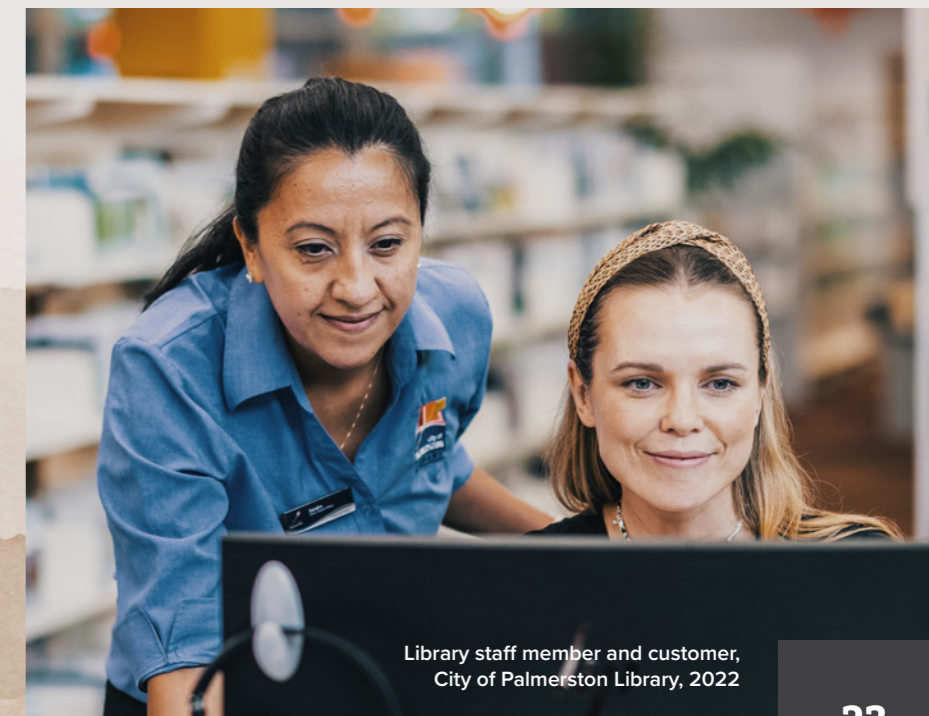
- kerbside waste collection (8.14/10)
- providing libraries and library services to the community (8.04/10).

The two lowest scoring measures were:

- providing you with the opportunity to comment on Council's decision making and interact with Council (5.72/10)
- supporting and attracting new and existing businesses (5.83/10).

Council is committed to continual improvement and genuinely listening and responding to the community. The feedback received through this survey is highly valued and used by the Council to inform future planning and responding to areas of concern.

Miiesha, Suburban Sounds, Palmerston Youth Festival, 2022



Library staff member and customer, City of Palmerston Library, 2022

# TO FAMILY

## AND COMMUNITY.

Palmerston is a safe and family friendly community where everyone belongs.

The people of Palmerston are the heart of our community and the focus of everything we do at the City of Palmerston.

Our strategies to maintain a safe, friendly and family city that supports the wellbeing of our community include engaging people in fun activities and bringing our community together.

When people feel safe, are secure and supported in their community, they participate actively and can fully enjoy what Palmerston has to offer.

### COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES:

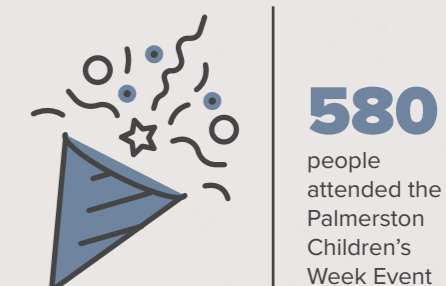
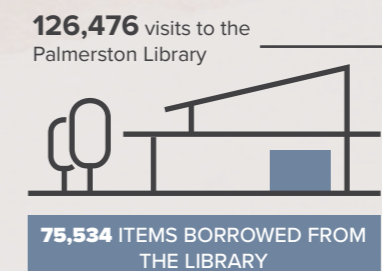
- We focus on families
- The wellbeing of our community is a focus for all of our work



Suburban Sounds, Palmerston Youth Festival, 2022

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

City of Palmerston increased the number of people enjoying Council events and services, including:



# WE FOCUS ON FAMILIES.

Palmerston is a place that offers sanctuary and a sense of belonging and engages young people, families and older Territorians.

## BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

In 2021-22, City of Palmerston delivered another successful community events program that was embraced by the Palmerston community. Altogether there were 103 events delivered for the community to enjoy.

The range of community events included:

- Urban Jams
- Christmas Wonderland
- Community Christmas Lights
- Children's Week event
- Ghostly Gatherings
- Live at the Lake
- FlicNics
- Palmerston Youth Festival
- Brekkie in the Park
- On Frances Series
- Easter Egg-perience

## CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

Following the success of the 2020 Christmas Wonderland, Council hosted the event again in 2021 over an eight-day period from 17 to 24 December. The Christmas spirit was high with community members joining Santa's Express Train for a magical journey featuring:

- magical snow tent
- fairy truss
- tulips galore light installation
- twinkle tunnel
- santa's house
- large candy cane light installation
- musical floor
- optic fibre lillies
- spectacular Goyder Square Christmas tree.

Despite two evenings being cancelled due to severe weather, the Christmas Wonderland event welcomed 13,964 people, an increase of 315 attendees from 2020.



Suburban Sounds, Palmerston Youth Festival, 2022



Christmas Wonderland, 2021

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

City of Palmerston hosted a new Community Christmas Lights Competition in 2021. This new initiative was established to encourage a sense of community pride and connectedness. Three prizes were awarded, including two \$500 registration prizes and a \$2,000 People's Choice Award. Palmerston residents embraced the initiative and a total of 23 Palmerston houses were shining bright. There was a total of 652 votes for the people's choice award, a great level of community engagement for the first year of the competition.



## CHILDREN'S WEEK EVENT

Children's Week is a national celebration that ran from 23 to 31 October 2021. City of Palmerston partnered with local community service organisations to coordinate the Palmerston Children's Week event on Tuesday 26 October. The event welcomed over 580 children and families, an increase of over 200 people from the previous year. The event included a range of free activities including animal petting zoo, jumping castles and face painting. There was also a strong focus on providing the opportunity for community members to connect with social services, with 25 organisations hosting information stalls.



Children's Week, 2019

## BREKKIE IN THE PARK

Brekkie in the Park events activate and showcase Palmerston's parks and playgrounds with engaging and fun activities for children and families. Each event offers families a free breakfast, a range of activities, and a chance to connect with their local parks and neighbours. It also provides the opportunity for City of Palmerston to build strong partnerships with community organisations who support the events. City of Palmerston's Rangers attend the events to offer free microchipping for all dogs and free registration to new dogs. Brekkie in the Park events were held at the following parks:

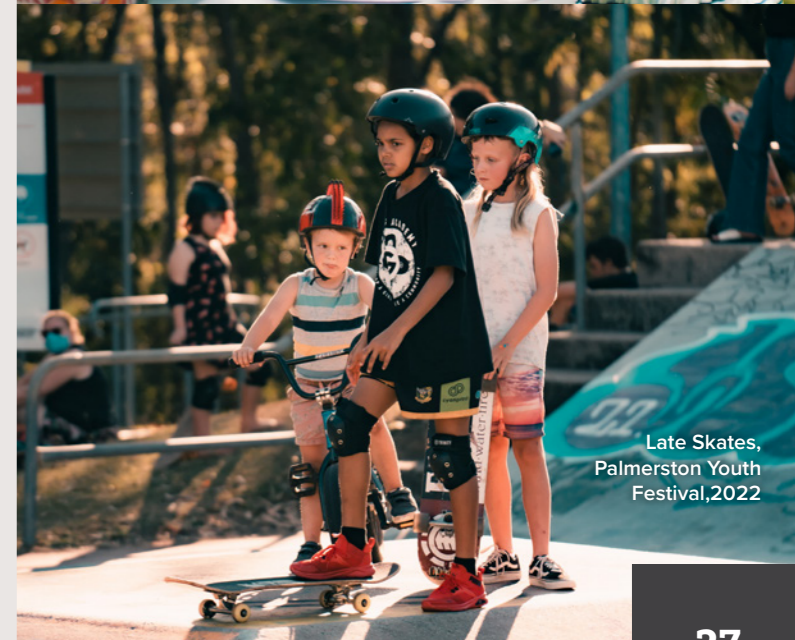
- Hobart Park, Johnston
- Sanctuary Lakes, Gunn
- Phyllis Uren Park, Farrar
- Tiverton Park, Moulden



Brekkie in the Park, 2020

## LATE SKATES AND BEST TRICK JAM

City of Palmerston supported Build Up Skateboarding to pilot a new skate program. With 180 young people attending Lates Skates over 12 weeks, the program was a hit with the Palmerston community. Participants were aged from 2 to 20 years and learnt new tricks and challenged themselves each week. A number of local skaters were mentored by Jack Dowden, owner of Build Up Skateboarding, to become skate instructors. Late Skates will conclude with a Best Trick Jam as a part of the Palmerston Youth Festival in July 2022. Young People and families provided feedback about their appreciation of the program.



Late Skates, Palmerston Youth Festival, 2022



### CITY OF PALMERSTON A HIT AT THE 70TH ANNUAL ROYAL DARWIN SHOW

The 70th Annual Royal Darwin Show was a rousing success, especially for the City of “Palmerfun” stall. Council’s “Palmerfun” stall won both the Most Outstanding stall, as well as Best Government stall award.

The Mayor and elected members attended the display which included rock painting, free coffee, free slushies, merchandise, competitions and a Storytime experience.

The focus was to engage with members of the community to increase awareness of the services Council provides for the people of Palmerston.

In addition to the many family friendly activities, there were also 2000 trees given away as part of our commitment to the environment and sustainability.

### OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Ghostly Gatherings – partnership with Event Cinemas, included free face painting, VR Experience, roving characters and haunted house. 2,260 attendees, increasing foot traffic to Gateway by 29%.
- School holiday programs – varied and engaging activities held each school holidays including movie screenings, art and craft, animal encounter and monkey performances.
- FlicNics – every Saturday evening from July to September families gathered between Goyder Square, Sanctuary Lakes and Durack Community Arts Centre to enjoy free outdoor movies under the stars.
- Live at the Lake – community members brought a rug and picnic to enjoy free live music performances once a month at Sanctuary Lakes throughout the dry season.

### LIBRARY SERVICES

The library connects the community and encourages the love of reading and activities that inspire learning and creativity. The library offers a range of services to suit all preferences and occasions including printing, scanning, computer and internet access, home services, eBooks, eAudio books, magazines, eMagazines, DVDs, graphic novels, spoken word, anime and manga. In 2021-22, there were 126,476 visits to the Palmerston Library and 75,534 items borrowed.

The library also delivers programs, activities and events for the whole community. Programs were delivered to increase inclusion and participation for older Territorians, youth, children, babies and parents, families and people who are culturally and linguistically diverse.

In 2021-22 the library delivered 382 library programs and events that were attended by 10,182 people.

Ongoing weekly programs included:

- Code Club
- Frillies Club
- Gadgets and Games Club
- Geek Squad
- Nurserytime
- School Holidays
- Storytime
- Get Tech Savvy

Special events and activities included:

- Halloween Scavenger Hunt – participants were encouraged to find the spooky images hidden throughout the library, encouraging them to explore different sections of the library.
- Christmas Storytime – a festive morning of dress ups, songs, books and photos with Santa. There were over 220 attendees.
- Christmas Craft Week - During the lead up to Christmas the library had a week of Christmas Craft provided by Zesty Productions and movie screening sessions. There were 124 children and 67 adults attend the sessions.
- Good Dog Storytime - therapy dogs Quinton and Sugar from Good Dogs Animal Assisted Interventions Therapy Dog Services participated in a Storytime session, with over 50 people attending.

## THE WELLBEING OF OUR COMMUNITY IS A FOCUS FOR ALL OF OUR WORK.

Council has strong partnerships and works in collaboration with those who provide social services to the community to better coordinate the delivery and effectiveness of these services. Council considers the social implications of all planning and decision making.

### PLAY SPACE STRATEGY

Palmerston is home to over 60 sites containing playgrounds across the municipality, offering important points of social and community activation. This year Council endorsed a Play Space Strategy to provide a coordinated and robust approach to playground planning. The Strategy will ensure that play experiences best support the development needs of children in Palmerston. The vision of the Strategy is that play is an important part of community life in Palmerston, with a commitment to quality play spaces that are welcoming, creative and accessible to all and positively contribute to the liveability of the city. The strategy will guide investment over the next 10 years, setting out priority areas and recommended actions. The Strategy was informed by a thorough process of community engagement to fully understand the needs and aspirations of the Palmerston community.



Tiverton Park, Moulden, 2022



### TIVERTON PARK PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

Tiverton Park has been completely transformed with a new state-of-the-art playground inspired by the students from Moulden Park Primary School. The refurbishment of the playground and surrounding park was completed in late October 2021 and includes a new 20m flying fox, the inclusion of all ages and all ability play equipment and an interactive climbing frame. The refurbishment turns Tiverton Park into a destination playground that will attract residents from across the municipality. The design for the refurbishment was inspired by the ideas and vision provided by the Moulden Park Primary School students. To reflect the contribution to the playground design, the Moulden Park Primary School student design work has been embossed on to the shade posts.

### NINJA OBSTACLE COURSE

Council developed concept designs for Hobart Park to ensure the siting of the Ninja Course integrates with the current and future park potential. This also included local consultation to understand any concerns or opportunities identified by adjoining residents.

Hobart Park will soon be the place to go to build your strength and agility and is set to be installed in late 2022.

### PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

The young people of Palmerston enjoyed the second Palmerston Youth Festival held between 10 - 16 July 2021. The event was coordinated and delivered by City of Palmerston with sponsorship from the Northern Territory Government and other local community groups and stakeholders. The Palmerston Youth Festival showcased seven events, two major and five bespoke, over seven days. In addition, there were 17 competitions worth \$25,000 in prize money that was shared among 80 young people. Approximately 5,800 young people participated in or attended events across the week.

### URBAN JAMS

Urban Jams is hosted by City of Palmerston at the Palmerston Recreation Centre one Friday a month. The events encourage young people to connect with service providers in Palmerston including Clinic 34, Young Carers and Catholic Care DAISY program. Youth organisations, programs and services are invited to have information stalls at the event to consult, inform and engage with young people. Six Urban Jams events were held this year with 1168 young people attending. Young people engaged in activities including sports and fitness, dance, music, art, gaming development, VR, esports, self-care, pamper room and culture. Free meals were provided and Larrakia Nation youth bus provides transport home.

### ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Pets are important members of the family and Council works to improve animal wellbeing and safety across the community. Rangers provide an after hours call out service seven days a week to help the community manage pets safely and to improve their wellbeing.

Council has introduced a number of initiatives to improve awareness around animal education and its rangers continued to educate pet owners on their responsibilities to keep their pets safe. Rangers responded to 2,770 customer queries during 2021-22, equating to 7.6 customer responses every day of the year.

### \$10 DESEX AND MICROCHIP DECEMBER PROGRAM

The greater Palmerston community experienced an influx of abandoned, stray or unowned animals in 2021, with all shelters, pounds and rehoming organisations operating beyond capacity. City of Palmerston offered a \$10 Desex and Microchip December program as an incentive for owners. Sixty seven animals underwent de-sexing through the scheme at the subsidised rate of \$10 for the procedure. Of these animals, 50 were dogs and 17 were cats; with 67 per cent already registered and 33 per cent registered specifically to benefit through the program. 61% of animals (both dogs and cats) were requiring a microchip at the time of being desexed. A further 72 animals were 'wait listed' for the scheme to undergo desexing with a local veterinarian in the first quarter of 2022.

### STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

On 7 March 2022, Council Rangers supported Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC) with direct education and community engagement at Palmerston Indigenous Village. A total of 37 animals were provided with tick treatment (collars, spot-on and oral medications). The purpose of these supportive in-kind veterinary treatment programs is to assist with education around registrations and the ehrlichiosis tick-borne virus present within Palmerston Indigenous Village.

### NEW DOG POUND

Construction work for a new dog pound facility commenced in June 2022. The new facility is located at the Council Depot and will provide a new parking area for users and 8 new kennels with improved security and animal play areas. The demolition of existing sheds has been completed and civil works are underway. Opening of the new facility is scheduled for late October 2022.

### OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

Pipes and Drains Campaign – awareness of the dangers of swimming or playing in pipes and drains in the wet season.

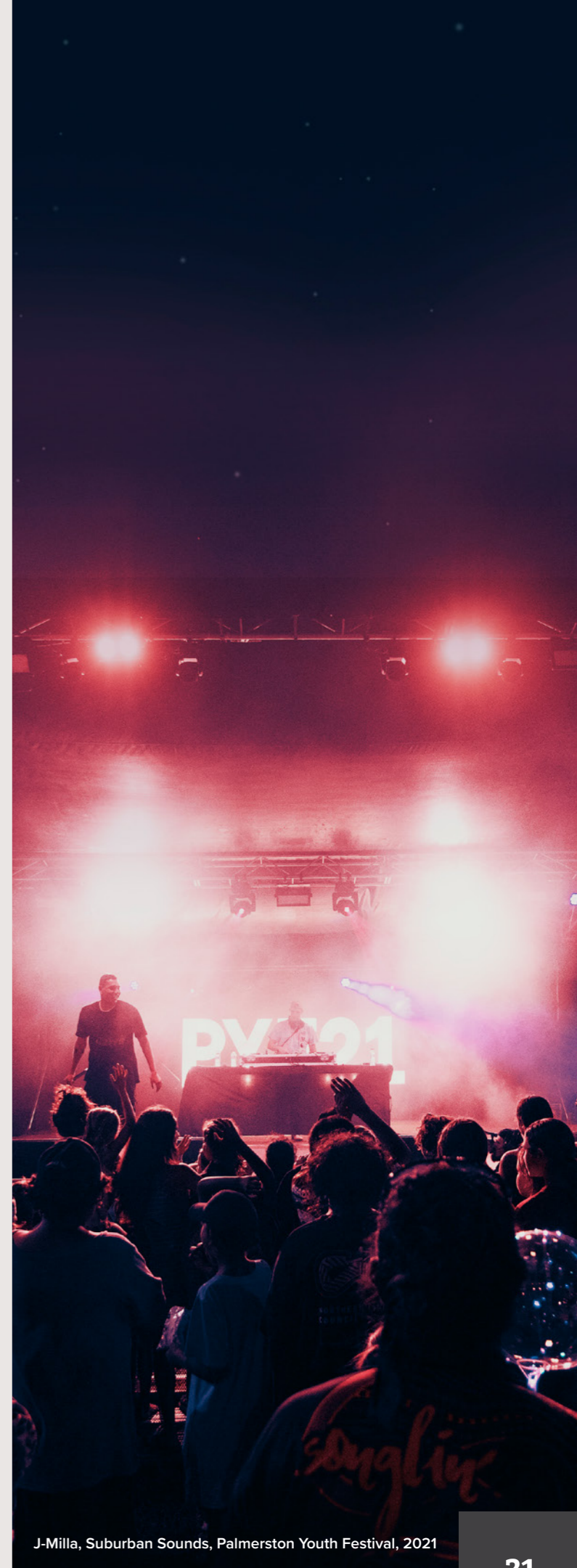
Get Active, Palmerston – a 15 week health and wellbeing program of low cost and free fitness options for residents and visitors. A total of 390 people registered.

Storm Phobia Workshop – to assist animal owners for dogs that display anxious behaviours during storms, attended by 14 dog owners.

Dog Walking Group – regular community group dog walks in different locations throughout the municipality. Participating Rangers offer advice on animal ownership.

Animal Management By-Law Review – staff completed drafting instructions for the new animal management By-Laws based on feedback from community consultation.

Joan Fejo Park and Marlow Lagoon Dog Park Amenity Project - prefabricated modular Exeloo toilet facilities were installed in early 2022. The toilet facilities will improve usability and visitor experiences for two of Palmerston's regional parks.



J-Milla, Suburban Sounds, Palmerston Youth Festival, 2021











## COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The 2022 survey returned a result of 6.89/10 overall for Family and Community, a decrease of 0.27 on 2021, but still higher than 2020, which was 6.80.

The highest performing aspect of the measure was 'hosting enough quality community events' which scored 7.54 and was the only measure with a slight improvement in 2021.

The lowest performing aspect was "advocating for the community in planning issues" which has a score of 6.12/10.

Measure	Score 2019	Score 2020	Score 2021	Score 2022	Change
Managing Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre	6.86	7.08	7.31	6.86	- 0.45 
Maintaining parks and playgrounds	7.26	7.34	7.27	6.99	- 0.28 
Providing and maintaining community halls	6.80	6.59	7.10	6.93	- 0.17 
Managing the Palmerston Recreation Centre	6.69	7.02	7.41	7.09	- 0.32 
Hosting enough quality community events	6.78	6.70	7.52	7.54	0.02 
Advocating for the community in planning issues	5.76	5.99	6.38	6.12	- 0.26 
Providing animal management services	6.63	6.91	7.14	6.72	- 0.42 
<b>Overall</b>	<b>6.67/10</b>	<b>6.80/10</b>	<b>7.16/10</b>	<b>6.89 / 10</b>	<b>- 0.27</b> 

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022-23

- Continued delivery of high quality free outdoor events including the popular On Frances series, Pride Festival, FlicNics and Live at the Lake.
- Free venue hire for the community to access Council venues such as the Recreation Centre, Library community rooms, Durack Community Arts Centre, Gray Community Hall and Driver Family Resource Centre.
- Completion of the Ninja Obstacle Course in Hobart Park.
- Commencement of Stage 1 of the Zuccoli Community Hub with the construction of a regional dog park. The new dog park will include a fully fenced perimeter with access gates, carpark, two dog activity areas, water play and dog activity equipment, shade structures, pathways and a public toilet. As a further deliverable, there will also be planning for the inclusion of a pump track. The pump track will be a looped trail with a circuit of rollers and banked turns, designed to be used by riders of bikes, scooters, skateboards and skates.



Tiverton Park, Moulden, 2022

## ECONOMY.

Palmerston is a destination city for employment, it is a place where businesses are encouraged to set up and grow.

Our vibrant economy and business sector contribute in many positive ways to the people of Palmerston.

When businesses in Palmerston thrive, our families also thrive and the number of jobs grow. This enables our community to set down roots and build our vibrant economy.

### COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES:

- Improve Palmerston's image
- Palmerston's economic future is bright

Local business, District North Kitchen, 2022

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

City of Palmerston supported local business, increased funding available and upgraded facilities to attract locals and tourists to visit by:

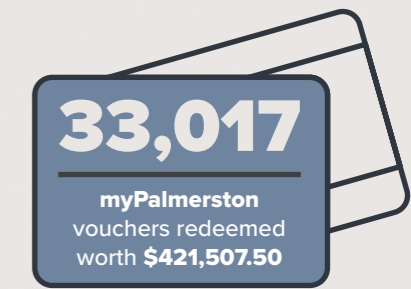
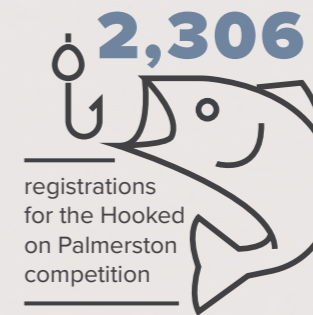
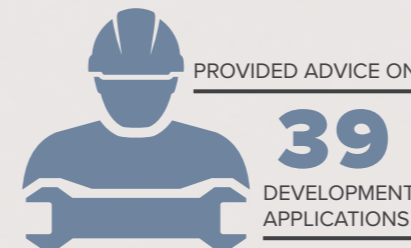
SOURCED  
**12.5 MILLION**  
IN GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDING



INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY



125 hectares of public open space (parks, road verges and drains) kept clean by Council contractors



# IMPROVE PALMERSTON'S IMAGE.

We promote 'employ local' and 'buy local' where possible. Palmerston is committed to its Buy Local criteria as part of its procurement for project contracts.

Improving our city's image will attract new residents to grow our population and draw in tourists to visit Palmerston and contribute to our economy.

## PLANNING RESPONSES

Council can influence positive future planning for Palmerston through contributions to the Northern Territory Planning processes. This is achieved by providing comment and submissions on both development applications and strategic planning matters.

In 2021-22, Council provided advice as the Local Authority on 39 development applications. This was supported by Council representation at several Development Consent Authority meetings.

Council provided strategic input on the following matters during the reporting period:

- Holtze to Elizabeth River Subregional Land Use Plan (HESLUP)
- Greater Holtze Area Plan
- NT Planning Commission Stage 2 Phase 1 of Planning Reform
- Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan.

## MYPALMERSTON

myPalmerston is an initiative that supports local businesses and residents by providing customer discount vouchers, subsidised by Council and the Northern Territory Government. City of Palmerston implemented the myPalmerston scheme to actively promote economic growth and stability within the Palmerston community during the challenging times experienced through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The initiative was welcomed back in 2022 with a total funding pool of \$600,000, provided in partnership with the Northern Territory Government based on a 2:1 investment. The myPalmerston voucher scheme for 2022 commenced on 14 March 2022 and as at 5 July 2022 there were a total of 33,017 vouchers redeemed worth \$421,507.50, with a total transaction value of \$2.51 million. The incentive saw 95 registered businesses and nearly 6000 registered customers.

## HOOKED ON PALMERSTON

The Hooked on Palmerston catch and release fishing competition embraces the Top End fishing lifestyle close to home for Palmerston residents in our local lakes. The competition encourages outdoor family activities and promotes responsible fishing practices. Palmerston's easily accessible and well-stocked lakes provide the perfect opportunity for



Local business, Troppo Pool Shop, 2022

all recreational fishers, from beginners to the avid angler, to participate for a chance to win a share of over \$10,000 in vouchers to spend at local businesses. The competition was very successful, with a total of 2,306 registrations. This initiative is another way that City of Palmerston provides support to local businesses.

## GRAFFITI, VANDALISM AND LITTER MANAGEMENT

To ensure the visual appeal of the city, Council maintains a litter collection program which includes the provision of public waste bins and routine and reactive litter collection processes. There is also a street and pathway sweeping program across the public space of the municipality. The frequency of waste bin and litter collection services ranges from daily to weekly depending on the location. Approximately 34.4 tonnes of waste were collected from Council public waste bins in 2021-22.

Council acts quickly to remove graffiti to help provide a clean and safe neighbourhood for our residents. Council commits to removing offensive graffiti on Council property within 24 hours and non-offensive graffiti within 5 working days. Council recognises that there can be significant financial barriers in the removal of graffiti from private property and provides assistance to residents who wish to remove the damage. In 2021-22, there was 1013.5 square metres of graffiti removed from our open space areas.

# PALMERSTON'S ECONOMIC FUTURE IS BRIGHT.

Palmerston has a long term vision to build and encourage a sustainable economy.

As a growing city we are sourcing alternative income streams such as government grants and program funding to make sure our local businesses and industry receive the support they need to grow and prosper in our region.

Our goal is to support residents and existing business as well as attract new businesses to Palmerston to grow our future economy.

## LOCAL ECONOMIC PLAN

City of Palmerston was proud to endorse its first Local Economic Plan developed in collaboration with the Northern Territory Government. The 10 year plan challenges everyone to work together to make Palmerston a destination City for employment and a place where businesses are encouraged to set up and grow.

The Local Economic Plan provides current businesses confidence for the future. It also attracts and encourages development for new businesses providing them an understanding of the economic priorities of Council long term.

## BOOSTING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

City of Palmerston injected \$29 million into the economy in 2021–22 to boost the local economy and create local jobs. Approximately 87 per cent of this amount went to local business, contractors and organisations.

In 2021-22 the following contracts were awarded to local businesses:

- Grounds Maintenance
- Landscape Maintenance
- Maintenance of Fire Equipment Buildings and Facilities
- Street Sweeping and Path Cleaning
- Cisco Licence Renewal
- Bitumen Reseal and Asphalt Overlay Program
- Zuccoli Dog Park Construction
- Archer Waste Transfer Station Upgrade Design
- Dog Pound Design
- Christmas Wonderland Event
- Annual Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up
- Construction of Swimming Pool Car Park Shade Structure
- FiberSense Technology - Installation and Monitoring
- New Gray Community Hall Construction
- Tiverton Park and Phyllis Uren Park Refurbishment Works
- Mowing and Slashing Services
- Playground Design, Supply, and Installation to replace damaged park infrastructure.






To add to the amount of money available and increase the number of programs and projects delivered in the city, Council applied for and received \$12.5 million in grant funding from the Northern Territory and Australian Governments for the following projects:

	\$ million
<b>Australian Government</b>	
Federal Assistance Grant - General and Roads	2.8
Gray community Hall	1.3
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	1.0
Roads to Recovery	0.4
<b>Total Australian Government Funds</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>Northern Territory Government</b>	
Swimming Wellness Events Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL)	5.0
Public Library	0.6
Fiber Sense Technology	0.5
MyPalmerston Voucher Scheme	0.4
Various other projects	0.5
<b>Total Territory Government Grants</b>	<b>7.00</b>

## COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The 2022 survey returned a result of 6.24/10 overall for Vibrant Economy, a decrease of 0.30 from 2021. Council's score had steadily increased in the previous three years to 6.55 in 2021, compared to 6.28 in 2020 and 6.01 in 2019.

Awareness of Council's vision 'A place for people' has increased slightly from 2021 by 4%, with 44% aware of the vision. Belief in this statement was fairly consistent with the previous year, with 57% agreeing that Palmerston is a place for people, and only 9% disagreeing.

Measure	Score 2019	Score 2020	Score 2021	Score 2022	Change
Awareness of Council's slogan 'A Place for People'	37%	43%	40%	44%	+ 4% 
<b>Agreement that:</b> Palmerston is 'A Place for People'	6.83	6.80	6.83	6.56	- 0.27 
<b>Agreement that:</b> Council has a long-term vision for Palmerston economy	5.95	6.37	6.70	6.34	- 0.36 
<b>Performance in:</b> Supporting and attracting new and existing business	5.25	5.68	6.11	5.83	- 0.28 
<b>Overall</b>	<b>6.01/10</b>	<b>6.28/10</b>	<b>6.55/10</b>	<b>6.24 / 10</b>	<b>- 0.30</b> 

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022–23

- Council will continue to work on the opportunities identified in the Palmerston Local Economic Plan to increase tourism, create opportunities with local growth industries and support local business.
- As of 1 July 2022, City of Palmerston's Municipal boundary will extend to include the areas of Elrundie, Wishart, Tivendale and Kirkland Road. The current and future businesses in the area will benefit from Council services, programs and facilities.
- Council will continue to ensure the community is involved in decision-making through community consultation and by reviewing development applications and providing comment to the NT Government on the community's behalf.



Temple Tce, Palmerston 2020

# 03 CULTURAL

## DIVERSITY.

In Palmerston we celebrate our cultures in a way that values our diversity.

Palmerston's rich mosaic of cultures is something to celebrate. Our community is strong and successful when we live in harmony and tap into the diverse mix of people and cultures to enrich our lives.

We all own the future of Palmerston and all people of Palmerston have the opportunity to contribute to their community.

### COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES:

- To celebrate our rich culture and diversity
- Recognise and support diversity through our partnership and leadership



Palmerston Multi-Cultural Festival, Cultural Showcase, 2022

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Palmerston's rich mosaic of cultures and diversity was recognised by City of Palmerston by:



# TO CELEBRATE OUR RICH CULTURE AND DIVERSITY.

With a focus on inclusion, the City of Palmerston delivers a range of services, events and activities to meet the needs of our diverse community.

## A PLACE FOR EVERYONE TO CELEBRATE

City of Palmerston hosted more events to celebrate culture and diversity with 26 events in 2021-22.

The range of events included:

- Bilingual Storytime
- International Women's Day
- Harmony Day
- Drag Queen Storytime
- Palmerston Pride
- Australia Day Awards presentation
- Australia Day Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony
- International Men's Day event
- Multicultural Festival

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD)

To celebrate IWD, City of Palmerston along with partners, held a program of events from 8 to 11 March 2022. The events honoured the achievements of women both past and present and brought attendees together to raise awareness about gender equality. Events included:

- International Women's Week and Women of Palmerston Portrait Exhibition Launch.
- Women's Weaving Circle with Norma Bengier and local Aboriginal artists who taught attendees how to weave in the traditional Aboriginal style.
- IWD Cultural Fusion of Fashion and Food featuring dance performances, cultural fashion, guest speakers and a lunch of multicultural dishes prepared by the STEPS students.
- IWD Women in Gaming afternoon was hosted by the young people of Level Up Esports.
- The IWD Community Forum #BreakTheBias, included an afternoon of interesting and inspiring conversation held at the Palmerston Library.



Palmerston Multi-Cultural Festival, Cultural Showcase, 2022

## AUSTRALIA DAY

The Australia Day Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony was held at the Palmerston Recreation Centre on Wednesday 26 January 2022. This special event attracted approximately 350 guests. The Ceremony incorporated the Australian Defence Force Tri Service who performed the raising of the Australian National Flag as Shalom Kaa sang the Australian National Anthem. We welcomed 36 new Australians as they affirmed their commitment to Australia and received their citizenship certificates. In addition, the Australia Day Awards were presented including the Palmerston Citizen of the Year Veronica Matipira, the Palmerston Young Citizen of the Year Isabelle Craven, and the Palmerston Community Event of the Year ZimPride.

## PALMERSTON PRIDE AND FAB ON FRANCES

Palmerston Pride Day was celebrated in the lead up to Palmerston's Fab on Frances Street Party. The day included a Lived Experience Forum, Drag Makeup Workshop, Drag Queen Storytime and Trivia. A highlight for the day was Riding for the Disabled bringing their Unicorns (therapy horses) to the celebration. City of Palmerston was awarded a \$5,000 Grant from the NT Government Office of Gender Equity and Diversity to facilitate the activities. About 190 people attended the day of celebrations across the Palmerston Library and Recreation Centre.

The celebrations carried on into the evening from 5.00pm - 9.30pm with Fab on Frances. Collaborating with Drag Territory, Fab on Frances came alive with a diverse range of performers entertaining a crowd of 500 people. The line up for the night included Darwin Divine Dancers, music DJ by KlitKat, lip-sync singing open mic opportunities and the master of ceremonies, Constantina Bush.

## HARMONY DAY

On 21 March 2022, Council worked alongside a collective of 13 individuals and organisations from across Palmerston to deliver a full day of workshops and events for Harmony Day. The day of celebration included:

- Welcome to Country
- Student Voice Positive Choice (SVPC) launched their song 'Stronger Together'
- Thelma White from the Zimbabwean Association shared her story of migration
- SVPC launched their Hearts of Kindness project
- A multicultural morning tea in partnership with STEPS
- A Larrakia Cross Cultural Workshop in partnership with Larrakia Nation
- An all-abilities drop-in basketball and soccer activities in partnership with Litchfield Football Club and PaRBA
- A Cultural Showcase where community groups and individuals were invited to showcase their traditional dress and / or perform.

## MIGRANT SWIMMING PROGRAM

In partnership with Melaleuca Australia, STEPS Australia, Royal Life Saving Society NT and Belgravia Leisure, City of Palmerston continues to deliver a Free Migrant Swimming Program to Palmerston residents. The program is an opportunity for migrants to learn the important skill of swimming as well as to develop new connections and friendships in a fun environment. There were 2 rounds of the program delivered with both sessions fully booked with 12 individuals completing the program.

## INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY

International Men's Day is celebrated on the 19 November each year and gives our community the opportunity to work together towards the day's six key objectives, which apply equally to all males irrespective of their age, ability, social background, legal status, race, beliefs, sexual orientation or gender identity. This is the third year of supporting local organisations to form a working group to provide a community event acknowledging and supporting the day. Our community breakfast saw 120 community members join us.

Six key objectives:

- Valuing male role models
- Acknowledging the contribution of men and boys
- Improving male health
- Tackling discrimination and disadvantage
- Fostering positive gender relations
- Making the world a safer place for everyone.

## CONNECTING THROUGH DIVERSITY

City of Palmerston Library diversified its programming and hosted Bilingual Storytime sessions and Drag Queen Storytime as part of its inclusive approach to engaging the community.

Two Bilingual Storytime sessions were delivered by local volunteers. The first was a Japanese Storytime with local Japanese lady Sachi Harayama. The session attracted 24 children and 19 adults. The second session was a Brazilian Portuguese Storytime with Filipe from Saltwater Samba. The session had attendance of 36 children and 29 adults.

Drag Queen Storytime (DQST) was held twice this year. The first session was held in October and had a Halloween theme. The Drag Queens dressed up in accordance with Halloween and read and sang spooky related books and songs. The total number of attendees was 27 children and 28 adults. The second DQST was a Christmas special and the Drag Queens once again looked their sparkly best and read and sang Christmas books and songs. The total number of attendees were 43 children and 37 adults.



International Women's Day, 2022

# RECOGNISE AND SUPPORT DIVERSITY THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIPS AND LEADERSHIP.

City of Palmerston has strong partnerships in the community which enable it to include diverse views and perspectives in its planning and decision making.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY AND STATEMENT OF INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Council has added an Acknowledgment of Country and Statement of Inclusion and Diversity to the City of Palmerston website. This is an opportunity for Council to show respect for Traditional Owners and the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country, in particular the Larrakia People. This statement was formed with guidance from Larrakia Nation. Our Inclusion and Diversity statement illustrates our organisations commitment to fostering a welcoming community that celebrates differences.

## INCLUSIVE, DIVERSE AND ACCESSIBLE POLICY FRAMEWORK

City of Palmerston has developed an Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible (IDA) Policy Framework to guide future practises for increased community inclusion and representation across all facets of Council. The IDA Framework has been developed with input from local community organisations including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, disability groups, seniors, youth groups, parents, and migrants and refugees living in Palmerston. The Framework allows the ideas and priorities provided by Palmerston community members to be documented to continuously work towards creating a place of equal access within our public domain, services, and programs.



Palmerston Water Tower, ANZAC Day, 2022

### DISABILITY INCLUSION AND ACCESS PLAN

The first strategy to be developed under the IDA Policy framework was the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan. City of Palmerston is committed to creating a community where every individual is given equal rights of access not only to council services, activities and facilities, but throughout the broader community. The draft Disability Inclusion and Access Plan was created to ensure that the principles of the IDA Policy Framework are actioned in a way that ensures that City of Palmerston and all of its services, activities and facilities offer equal access and opportunity for all people to participate in their community. The draft Plan was released for 60 days public consultation in March 2022 and will be presented back to Council in September.

### FOOTWEAR AT THE PALMERSTON RECREATION CENTRE

Following on from the Palmerston Library's successful introduction of providing free footwear to community members to provide equal access opportunities to all community members, the Palmerston Recreation Centre has now adopted the initiative. The Recreation Centre now has thongs available for purchase at \$1.50 per pair and supports Council's Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework and provides an equal opportunity for all community members to access the Library, Recreation Centre and other facilities.

### ORANGE SKY CBD SERVICE

The Northern Territory has the highest rate of homelessness in Australia, twelve times the national average. City of Palmerston has established a partnership with Orange Sky for the delivery of a free mobile laundry and shower service outside the Palmerston Recreation Centre. Whilst offering the laundry and shower services, the program enables Orange Sky to engage with people experiencing homelessness and connect them with other services to support their wellbeing.

### LIGHT UP PALMERSTON

To assist our community with spreading awareness within Palmerston, community groups and organisations can now request to light up various Council infrastructure to highlight special events, causes and days of significance, including lighting up the iconic Palmerston Water Tower. Requests for consideration include significant local and regional events, historic events, and events or causes of city, state, national or international significance. The tower was lit up this year for events such as RUOK Day, ANZAC Day and World Scleroderma Day.

### COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The overall score for Cultural Diversity decreased by 0.19 points to 7.31/10 compared to 2021, but still higher than 2020, which was 7.21/10.

The highest performing aspect of the measure was 'Providing libraries and library services to the community' which averaged 8.04/10.

The lowest performing aspect was 'Providing recognition and support for our indigenous and multicultural community' which has a score of 6.86/10. This area had the largest decrease of 0.32.

Measure	Score 2019	Score 2020	Score 2021	Score 2022	Change
Supporting culturally diverse events	7.02	7.14	7.59	7.47	- 0.12
Promoting art and culture (e.g. public art, murals, paving etc)	6.28	6.56	7.07	6.87	- 0.20
Providing libraries and library services to the community	8.20	8.27	8.16	8.04	- 0.12
Providing recognition and support for our Indigenous and multicultural community	6.68	6.88	7.18	6.86	- 0.32
<b>Overall</b>	<b>7.04/10</b>	<b>7.21/10</b>	<b>7.50/10</b>	<b>7.31 / 10</b>	<b>- 0.19</b>

### LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022-23

- City of Palmerston has commenced developing a Palmerston Creative Industries Plan to create a framework for arts, culture and the creative industries in our region for the next five years. The Palmerston Creative Industries Plan will gain input from the community, industry, and stakeholder groups. It will clearly outline the current situation, opportunities and challenges for City of Palmerston, alongside strategic priorities and an action plan that addresses them. A draft five-year Palmerston Creative Industries Plan 2022-2027 will be developed and presented to Council in August 2022 for consideration and endorsement of a period of community wide public consultation.
- Council will continue delivering on the principles in the adopted Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework (IDA), ensuring our programs and services consider all ages, abilities, and backgrounds in the community.





# 04A FUTURE

## FOCUS.

Palmerston is an innovative city that can sustain itself through the challenges of the future.

Our city is full of opportunities and we are a leading regional community in the Northern Territory.

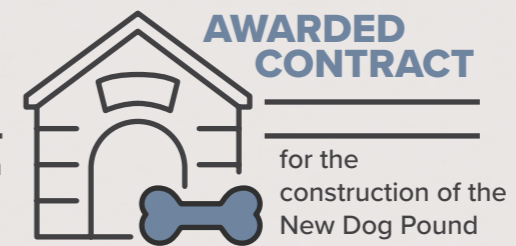
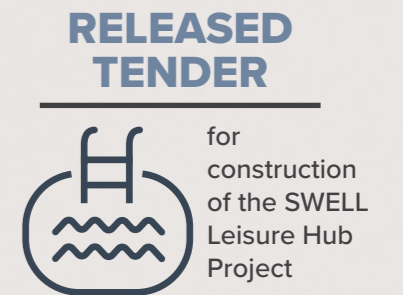
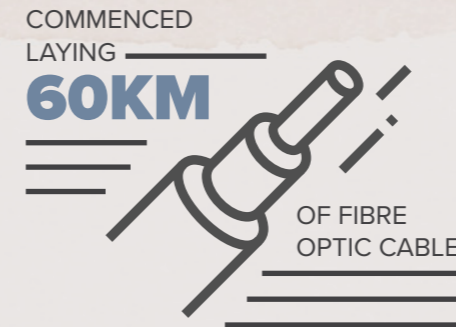
Palmerston is an inspirational city and we model best practice in smart cities to save money, increase efficiencies and stay focused on the future.

### COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES:

- We support and foster innovation
- Infrastructure is fit for purpose

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

City of Palmerston upgraded facilities and introduced innovative technology and initiatives to improve the lives of residents, such as:



Gulwa Community Recording Studio, City of Palmerston Library, 2022

# WE SUPPORT AND FOSTER INNOVATION.

City of Palmerston shows by example how people and businesses can embrace change and innovate to improve outcomes for our city.

## ZUCCOLI COMMUNITY HUB

City of Palmerston's Community Plan identifies the need for more social infrastructure to support the vision of A Place for People. Council is committed to delivering the community vision for the people of Palmerston through long term planning and strategy. In 2018, Council identified the Zuccoli Community Hub as a key social infrastructure initiative. A master plan for the site was finalised following community consultation in late 2021. The Zuccoli Community Hub will provide significant community and recreation infrastructure to improve the lifestyle and wellbeing of the Palmerston community. The Hub will include a community centre, children's library, dog park, skate park, community garden and playground.

In March 2022, Council received a Crown Lease for Lot 13503 and Lot 15612 (A) Zuccoli from the NT Government for developing the Community Hub. The overall cost of the Zuccoli Community Hub is estimated to be \$20 million and will be delivered in stages over a five-year period, subject to funding.

The first stage of the project started in June 2022 with construction of a regional dog park. The dog park received a funding allocation of \$350,000 from the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and \$250,000 from the Northern Territory Government (NTG). Council has committed to fund the balance of the Regional Dog Park project.

The Regional Dog Park Project includes a fully fenced perimeter with access gates, carpark, two dog activity areas, water play, shade structures, pathways and a public toilet.

Council has committed \$2.5 million towards the Community Hub development and will continue to advocate for external funding to support project delivery.

## FIBERSENSE IN 2021

The Northern Territory Government and City of Palmerston entered into a partnership to deliver FiberSense technology within Palmerston and Tiger Brennan Drive. The 60km of fiber optic cable will be able to detect vibrations in real time to understand and capture vehicular and pedestrian movements. The data will inform Council on locations of high usage areas to identify potential growth opportunities, as well as enhancing safety and liveability. The joint project will cost a total of \$2 million. Installation has commenced and is expected to be completed by September 2022.

Benefits of Fibersense:

- complements City of Palmerston Smart Cities project
- data will identify growth opportunities and provide a safer city for families
- a future focused method of asset protection
- innovative infrastructure with multiple uses.



Zuccoli and Surrounds Community Hub, Artist Impression, 2021

## CREATIVE DIGITAL PROGRAM

City of Palmerston collaborated with Larrikin Interactive, Level Up Esports and Purple Cookie to create three exciting opportunities for anyone interested in Video Game Development or Twitch Streaming. The Program provided an excellent stepping stone for those looking at a career in video game development. The program included:

- two-day video game development workshop with 16 participants
- one-day twitch streaming workshop with 14 participants
- nine-week game development program with 15 participants.

The program was booked out and highlighted a community interest in career opportunities in the video game development industry. With Australia offering major tax cuts for video game developers in 2021, City of Palmerston is leading the way in the Northern Territory by offering these programs to young creatives.

# INFRASTRUCTURE IS FIT FOR PURPOSE.

Council continues to work to forecast and respond to the predictability of change by planning the best use of our human, built and natural resources.

Our strategy is to continue to use innovation to adapt the use of our facilities and ensure they remain well suited and useful for the community to use.

## SWELL – SWIMMING WELLNESS EVENTS LEISURE LIFESTYLE

The \$15 million SWELL (Swimming, Wellness, Events, Leisure and Lifestyle) project is Palmerston's largest infrastructure project to date and is set to transform the current aging Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre into a leisure hub.

The SWELL project will include upgrading the 50-metre pool, a toddlers zero depth and play pool, an events area, basketball half court, new and improved accessible toilets and change rooms, and aquatic play structure.

The project is funded by the Australian Government, with \$5 million secured through the Building Better Regions Fund, alongside the Northern Territory Government and City of Palmerston.

In 2020, City of Palmerston consulted with stakeholders and the community on the revitalisation of the Centre, which included the presentation of the SWELL master plan for feedback.

The master plan outlined a mixed-use community recreation and leisure hub for people of all ages and abilities, with upgrades including a purpose built learn to swim pool, family-friendly activity features, and an adventure play zone unlike any others in the Top End. The proposal recorded a high level of support from the community and stakeholders.

The tender for construction and redevelopment of the facility closed in February and will be announced in July 2022. Construction is expected to take 14 months.

## GULWA COMMUNITY RECORDING STUDIO

City of Palmerston continues to invest in arts and culture to give the community, particularly young creatives, an opportunity to share their skills and express themselves through all art forms. The highly anticipated recording studio was delivered through a co-funding arrangement between Council and the Northern Territory Government. The Council run facility was opened in April 2022 and is the first of its kind in the Northern Territory. The inclusive multi-purpose space is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment that can be used for sound and video recording, mixing and production, broadcasting, skills training, and as an event space.



Palmerston Swimming Pool, 2022

## GRAY COMMUNITY HALL

Gray Community Hall is a much-loved community facility. The redevelopment completed in 2021 created a contemporary, versatile space catering to a wider audience. The multi-use facility is available for use community groups for activities and events and features:

- a main indoor function space
- a secondary indoor function space
- improved kitchen facilities
- veranda space with high ceiling fans
- internal access-compliant toilets.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Council provides a number of community venues that support community connectedness, engagement and wellbeing. The venues can be booked by the community for events, activities and gatherings. The following table shows the usage of the venues in 2021-22:

	Durack Community Art Centre	Palmerston Recreation Centre Community Rooms	Palmerston Recreation Centre Stadium	Palmerston Library Community Room	Driver Family Resource Centre	Gray Community Hall (Jan - Jun)	Palmerston Library Recording	TOTAL
Number of bookings	623	2547	2695	939	547	340	37	7728
Number of hours	2788	7087	6988.5	2618	2401	1263.5	152.5	23,298.5
Number of attendees	9251	50,864	102,272	13,807	13,550	9034	212	198,990
In kind support	\$59,340	\$150,800	\$223,212	\$42,850	\$50,960	\$16,285	0.00	\$543,447
CoP usage	\$12,620	\$35,520	\$13,740	\$16,450	\$1,440	\$2625	\$5,795	\$88,190
Revenue	\$160	\$8,560	\$510	\$720	0.00	\$2450	\$290	\$12,690

## MAINTAINING ROADS AND PATHWAYS

Council continues to improve the connectivity, safety and amenity of the city by repairing and resurfacing local roads and the pathway network.

In 2021–22, Council resurfaced 7.8 kilometres of roads and fixed 220 potholes to improve access and safety for residents and visitors in Palmerston.

Council upgraded 1.2 kilometres of pathways and built 1.8 kilometres of new pathways to improve connectivity for people to walk, ride, scoot, skateboard or wheelchair to services and amenities.

Major pathway projects included:

- Tiverton Park, Moulden
- Tiverton Court, Moulden
- Toupein Road, Yarrowonga
- Zenith Circuit, Woodroffe
- Constance Court, Moulden
- De Maestre Court, Moulden

## STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Council manages the effectiveness of the stormwater system through routine and responsive maintenance works including cleaning of open drains, drainage easements and pipe networks.

Council received and processed 125 stormwater plan pre-approval requests and 80 stormwater clearance requests for new houses.

Easement systems are a vital community service that assists in preventing unsafe conditions and property damage from heavy rain events. Council engaged property owners with stormwater easements within their properties to notify them of maintenance requirements, explain the functionality of the local system, and offer Council assistance, should it be needed.

In preparation for the wet season, Council undertook stormwater removal works of weed, silt and dirt from several pits. In addition, eight damaged pits were reinstated.

## DARK SPOT PROGRAM

Council's Dark Spot initiatives for 2021-22 included installation of new LED public lighting, increasing light coverage, addressing compliance requirements and enhancing safety for all users of roads and parks.

The following areas were upgraded under the program this year:

- Broadarrow Circuit, Woodroffe
- Davoren Circuit, Moulden
- Mannikan Court, Bakewell
- Constance Court, Moulden
- Jan Court, Moulden
- McGuire Circuit, Moulden
- Mason Court, Moulden
- De Mestre Court, Moulden
- Pollux Court and Woodroffe Avenue, Woodroffe
- President Park, Driver



LED Street lights, 2022



Sportsfest, Palmerston Youth Festival, 2022

## COUNCIL BUILDINGS

City of Palmerston has a number of large assets it manages to engage and interact with residents within our community.

Council has completed works on a number of Council buildings during 2021–22, including:

- carpet installation in the Community Rooms, Recreation Centre
- carpet renewal in the Mayor's office and Council Chambers
- airconditioning upgrade in Durack Community Centre
- replacement of 27 x Highbay lights in the Recreation Centre Stadium
- replacement compressor unit in the Recreation Centre Stadium
- airconditioning upgrade first floor of the Civic Plaza
- installation of split ducted style air conditioning system at Library Recording Studio.

## COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The overall score for A Future Focus decreased by 0.32 points to 6.7/10 compared to 2021. Despite the decrease, all scores except for one scored and remained above 6/10.

The highest performing aspect of the measure was 'Maintaining drainage facilities' which averaged 7.33/10.

The lowest performing aspect was "How flexible is the City of Palmerston?" which has a score of 5.89/10.

Measure	Score 2019	Score 2020	Score 2021	Score 2022	Change
<b>Performance in:</b> Supporting innovation in the business community	5.65	6.04	6.38	6.19	- 0.19
<b>How:</b> Innovative is the City of Palmerston?	5.95	6.08	6.45	6.09	- 0.36
Flexible is the City of Palmerston?	5.89	6.00	6.49	5.89	- 0.60
<b>Performance in:</b> Ensuring roads built by developers are fit for purpose	7.10	7.22	7.38	6.99	- 0.39
Maintaining roads	7.31	7.51	7.49	6.93	- 0.56
Ensuring footpaths built by developers are fit for purpose	7.07	7.17	7.30	7.06	- 0.24
Maintaining footpaths	6.95	6.99	7.06	6.89	- 0.17
Providing shared pathways	6.81	6.92	7.08	6.83	0.25
Maintaining shared pathways	6.88	7.00	7.07	6.81	- 0.26
Maintaining drainage facilities	7.37	7.44	7.46	7.33	- 0.13
<b>Overall:</b>	<b>6.70/10</b>	<b>6.84/10</b>	<b>7.02/10</b>	<b>6.70 / 10</b>	<b>- 0.32</b>

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022-23

- Construction of the SWELL (Swimming, Wellness, Events, Leisure and Lifestyle) project will commence in August 2022. SWELL is Palmerston's largest infrastructure project to date and is set to transform the current aging Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre into a leisure hub.
- City of Palmerston will grow its area by 37% on 1 July with the new changes to the Municipal Boundary increasing from 56km<sup>2</sup> to 77km<sup>2</sup>. With this comes the addition of 11 new roads (5.46 km), over 3km of underground stormwater infrastructure and an estimated 60 streetlights. City of Palmerston will manage these assets for the future of the Palmerston community.
- The Gulwa Community Recording Studio will offer residents the chance to try music recording, mixing, production, podcast recording, broadcasting, video production, and as a rehearsal, workshop and event space.
- The ongoing innovative and leading edge FiberSense technology will be aiming to deliver data from its Digital City and Digital Assets sensing platforms. This data will enable Council to better understand the current infrastructure usage demands of the community to plan for the future needs.
- Council will be providing residents the ability to directly access our live project systems such as ArcGIS (Council's mapping system) and our Emergency Management Dashboard.
- Transition to all permit, registration and licensing forms to be completed 'online' to allow for a smoother transaction from start to finish.
- Refurbishment of the Driver Resource Centre to meet the needs of the community.



SWELL, Artist Impression, 2020

## SUSTAINABILITY.

Palmerston is an environmentally friendly, liveable city that promotes renewable practices and sustainability.

We know that our climate is changing and we need to live within our means in Palmerston.

Our environment is important and we need to protect and enhance our green spaces while supporting others to do the same.

### COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES:

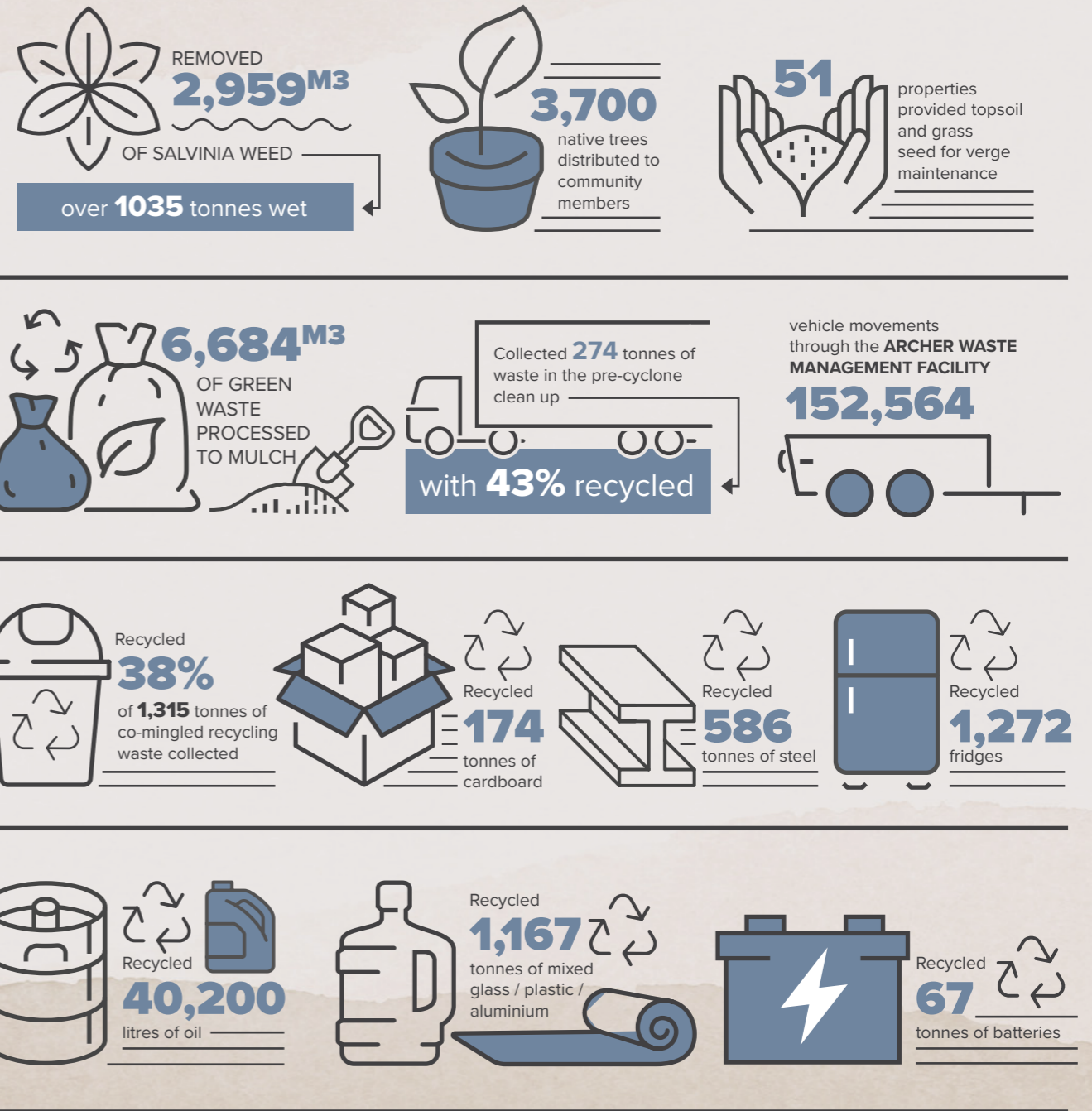
- Reduce our footprint on the environment
- Palmerston is a cool, shaded green city
- Encourage personal action and taking a leadership role



Weed Harvester, Durack Lakes, 2022

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

City of Palmerston reduced the impact on our environment and supported residents to do the same by:



# REDUCE OUR FOOTPRINT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

## SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

In February 2022 Council adopted the Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2022. The Strategy represents a continuation of Council's focus on progressing sustainable development in Palmerston. The Strategy supports objectives under the Community Plan and retains a focus on the environmental dimension of sustainability. It seeks to preserve our natural assets, reduce our collective impact and evolve our practices so that liveability and opportunities for future generations are not compromised.

An Action Plan 2022-2027 was developed to support and monitor the activities identified within the Sustainability Strategy. The Strategy and supporting Action Plan will inform and guide Council practices and initiatives to integrate sustainability both within Council operations and via Council's provision of community services, education and engagement. The draft Sustainability Strategy was presented to the community for consultation in October 2021. Community feedback was supportive of the strategy, highlighting sustainable practices existing within the community, the role of Council and what priorities are important.

The strategy is based on four themes to guide environmental sustainability:

- Protecting our urban ecology and natural environment
- Empowering and connecting our community
- Future focused on efficiencies
- Lead with purpose

The Sustainability Strategy is planned to be progressively implemented over a period of 10 years.

## PALMERSTON LAKES AND WEED MANAGEMENT

The City of Palmerston boasts 15 man-made lakes and one natural water body that are important ecological and aesthetic assets to the community. They also provide functional outcomes such as stormwater management and water quality treatment. The lakes are a great place for the community to meet and enjoy, and play an important part of the local ecosystem providing habitat for birds, fish and reptiles.

Salvinia Molesta is the most significant weed for City of Palmerston to manage. It is an aggressive aquatic weed that form dense mats over waterways. Council has been working closely with the Northern Territory Government Weeds Branch to ensure an ongoing successful management program in implemented and maintained.



Management of Salvinia is undertaken through mechanical harvesting and biological control. The biological control is a new program of introducing the Salvinia Weevil, which eats only the Salvinia leaves.

A breakdown of Salvinia removed from the Palmerston Lakes in 2021/22 is provided below:

Lake	Salvinia Removed
Durack Lake 1A and 1B	324 <sup>m3</sup>
Durack lake 4	186 <sup>m3</sup>
Durack Lake 5	257 <sup>m3</sup>
Durack Lake 6	753 <sup>m3</sup>
Durack Lake 7	348 <sup>m3</sup>
Durack Lake 8	569 <sup>m3</sup>
Durack Lake 9	390 <sup>m3</sup>
Sanctuary Lake A	24 <sup>m3</sup>
Sanctuary Lake B	78 <sup>m3</sup>
Sanctuary Lake C	30 <sup>m3</sup>
<b>Total Salvinia Weed Removed</b>	<b>2959m3</b>

Council is now undertaking herbicide foliar spraying around the lake perimeter once the lakes have been cleaned with the weed harvester. The herbicide being utilised is called "Clipper". This herbicide is formulated and approved for the control of selected floating, emergent and submergent aquatic weeds and algae. To date this practice is proving to be very successful in controlling the mature salvinia left around the lake edges. New primary salvinia continues to regrow. Dedication and constant follow up spraying will assist in controlling the issue into the future along with continuing manual removal via the weed harvesters.

To increase Council's ability to manage Salvinia weed, Council placed an order for a new weed harvester in November 2021 which is scheduled to arrive in July 2022. The addition of the new weed harvester will effectively double Council's weed harvesting capacity.

## SOLAR POWER GENERATION

The Civic Centre Solar Shade Structure was completed this year, providing sheltered car parks and solar power generation that offsets energy consumption from the Civic Centre. The solar installation includes 94.4 kW installed solar system capacity. Simulation results estimate the annual energy production to be 159 MWh, which would save 96 tonnes of CO2 emissions and be the equivalent to 4,402 trees planted.

Council also has solar generation systems installed at Palmerston Library (99.6 KW solar system capacity installed 24 September 2018) and the Palmerston Recreation Centre (81 KW solar system capacity installed 26 March 2019). These systems reduce our footprint on the environment and save on operating costs.

The table below shows the lifetime solar generation, greenhouse gas savings and equivalent trees planted for each solar system as at the end of June 2022.

Site	Electricity Generation (MWh)	Greenhouse Gas Savings (t CO2-e)	Trees Planted Equivalent
Civic Plaza	30.35	17.0	680
Palmerston Library	461.1	278.1	5395
Palmerston Recreation Centre	264.1	159.2	3090
Gray Hall	0.16	0.1	4

## REBOOT YOUR LOOT

Reboot Your Loot was held in August 2021 and May 2022 at the Civic Centre car park. The event aims to encourage reuse and recycling of pre-loved goods to a new home. It allows community members an opportunity to fundraise and provides a way for City of Palmerston to carry out waste education around issues of illegal dumping and encourages our community to purchase recycled items.



Durack Lakes, 2022

# PALMERSTON IS A COOL, SHADED, GREEN CITY.

## MARLOW'S LAGOON INDIGENOUS PLANT USE GARDEN

An area of Marlow's Lagoon has been identified as an Indigenous Plant Use Garden. The condition of this little-known feature has deteriorated over subsequent decades owing to fire, weed impingement and storm damage. In consultation with Larrakia expertise, Council is revitalising this space to better reflect and preserve the value of 40,000+ years of accumulated botanical knowledge.

## TREE PLANTING AND BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

Council has developed a three-year tree planting and landscape beautification program to improve canopy cover, urban biodiversity, open space amenity, and community wellbeing across the Palmerston municipality. The greening and cooling of Palmerston is an important strategy to enhance the overall image and appeal of the city. The program aims to plant 1000 trees throughout the municipality each year. In 2021-22 there were 924 trees planted.

In addition to its own planting programs, Council encourages community planting which resulted in 3000 native trees and plants being distributed to community members through the National Tree Day at Marlow Lagoon and the Royal Darwin Show.

The following community tree planting events were held this year:

- Roberts Park and McAulay Park with over 50 trees planted
- The 1st Palmerston Scout Troop planted 70 native 'Indigenous plant use' species at Marlow Lagoon Indigenous Plant Use Garden
- Tree planting ceremony at Gray Community Hall in recognition of the Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee with 27 'Indigenous plant use' trees planted
- Community Tree Planting event at Golden Grove Park with 52 trees planted.



Durack Lakes, 2022

The following parks and road reserves benefited from tree planting in 2021-22:

- Haydon Park – 10 trees
- Scenic Park – 17 trees
- Lindsay Park – 31 trees
- Mannikin Court – 34 trees
- MaCaulay Park – 21 trees
- Roberts Park – 37 trees
- Aquatic Centre / Tilston Avenue – 20 trees
- Elrundie Avenue – 16 trees
- Turnstone Park – 14 trees
- Ida Scott Park – 9 trees
- Shearwater Park – 7 trees
- Bridge Park – 6 trees
- Maluka Drive - Tomkinson Street Roundabout – 1 tree
- Maluka Drive – Miller Court Roundabout – 1 tree
- Buscall Avenue – Maurice Terrace – 4 trees
- Lambrick Avenue – Forrest Parade Roundabout – 4 trees
- Marlow Lagoon Dog Park – 14 trees
- Marlow Lagoon Entry Path – 9 trees
- Prism Park – 16 trees
- Gwyn Park – 13 trees
- Tiverton Park – 13 trees

## VERGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND RESIDENTIAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

The Verge Assistance Program and Residential Tree Planting Program continued to be enthusiastically accessed by residents this year and contributes to beautification and greening of the municipality.

Council's Verge Assistance Program provides residents with topsoil and grass seed delivered to their house for enhancing and maintaining their verges. The wet season round of the Verge Assistance Program was delivered in September 2021 and 51 property verges benefited from the scheme with a total of 144 cubic metres of topsoil being delivered. The dry season program provided 35 properties with topsoil and grass seed delivery.

Council's Residential Tree Planting Program supports community members with appropriate tree planting on their verge or public open space. A total of 162 trees were planted through the program.

# ENCOURAGE PERSONAL ACTION AND TAKING A LEADERSHIP ROLE.

## ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE GRANTS

City of Palmerston supports local community groups and individuals to deliver positive environment and sustainability outcomes through the Environmental Initiative Grants program. Council awarded two Environmental Initiatives grants totalling \$18,131 to community groups in 2021/2022.

The Gray Community Garden Inc (Harvest Corner) is a community group that was established as a shared space for Palmerston community members to undertake communal gardening. Harvest Corner provides opportunities for people to reconnect with nature, learn new skills, and increase interactions with other community members. Council provided Harvest Corner with a grant of \$16,131 to support re-establishment of Harvest Corner following the redevelopment of Gray Community Hall.

Wildcare is a not-for-profit organisation which provides a support network for carers of sick, injured and orphaned animals. The Show Bag project aimed to raise community awareness concerning the care and conservation of wild animals. City of Palmerston provided a grant of \$2,000 to support the project.

## ARCHER WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (AWMF)

Council's work to help and encourage Palmerston residents to recycle their waste through kerbside collection and management at the Archer Waste Management Facility is paying off with an increase in the amount of waste being recycled.

These continued efforts resulted in an increase in the amount of waste that is being recycled in 2021-22 by reducing the amount of contamination in recycle bins from incorrectly recycled waste.

Archer Waste Management Facility is open 7 days a week from 8.00am to 6.00pm for Palmerston residents. The facility was improved this year with a \$2.2 million redevelopment to install best practice waste management infrastructure.

There were 152,564 residential vehicle movements through the AWMF this financial year, an average of 418 per day.



Waste Type	Quantity
General Waste (t)	3,827
Recyclable Materials (t) (volume excludes waste oil recycled)	1,994
Green Waste Processed to Mulch (m3)	6,684
Green Waste Sold (m3)	2,013

This year for AWMF Palmerston residents achieved an overall diversion rate of 52 per cent. The following materials were recycled:

Recyclable Waste Type	Quantity
Paper / Cardboard (t)	174
Steel / Metal (t)	586
Batteries (t)	67
Mixed glass / Plastic / Aluminium) (t)	1,167
Waste oil (L)	6,700

## DOMESTIC KERBSIDE

The following waste volumes were collected through Domestic Kerbside collection in 2021 – 22.

Waste Type	Quantity (tonnes)
Kerbside General Waste	9,204
Kerbside Recyclable Waste	1,315

Of the 1,315 tonnes of recycling material collected, and then processed in a local Material Recovery Facility (MRF), approximately 502 tonnes were recovered and dispatched to repurposing facilities. The remaining 813 tonnes were contaminated or not recyclable and subsequently disposed of to landfill.

## PRE-CYCLONE CLEAN UP

The annual pre-cyclone clean-up was undertaken over September and October 2021, with the collection this year splitting the municipality into four zones. In total it took 28 days to collect across the zones, which were staggered to reduce amount of time waste was on verges.

The waste collected included household white goods, airconditioners, steel, bicycles, furniture and household materials and a total of 43 per cent of the waste was able to be recycled with 52 tonnes diverted from landfill.

The total volumes collected were:

Waste Type	Quantity (tonnes)
General Waste	156
Recycling*	121
<b>Total Material Collected</b>	<b>277</b>

\*Recycling tonnage included 60 tonnes of scrap metal, and 8.8 tonnes of whitegoods / appliances.

Compared to 2020 there was an increase in the total material collected and this increase is largely represented by an increase in the amount of recyclable material collected this year.



### RECYCLING BIN WRAP COMPETITION

The Student Voice Positive Choice (SVPC) 2021 Recycling Bin Wrap Competition involved 10 Palmerston schools in a recycling graphic design competition. The competition asked students to design a sticker that would inspire residents to improve their recycling practices at home. Judges chose three winning designs from the hundreds of entries submitted by the 10 competing schools. These designs were incorporated into 'recycle right' bin stickers that were distributed to 5000 families across Palmerston, to be placed on Council's yellow lid recycling bins. The stickers will reinforce correct recycling practices, with the aim of reducing contamination and increasing diversion rates.

### OTHER

- Home Composting Rebate Program – commenced in January 2022 to assist residents to access and establish home composting systems. A rebate of up to \$50 per household is available to purchase home composting items such as composting bins and worm farms. A total of 40 applications were approved since the program began in January 2022.
- Public Electric Vehicle Charger – two charging stations are available for public use at the Palmerston Recreation Centre.

### COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The 2022 survey returned a result of 7.08/10 overall for Environmental Sustainability, a decrease of 0.28 from 2021.

The highest performing aspect of the measure was 'Kerbside waste collection' with a rating of 8.14/10.

The lowest performing aspect was 'Maintaining lakes' which received the largest decrease of 0.72, resulting in a score of 6.21/10 in 2022 down from 6.93/10 in 2021.

Measure	Score 2019	Score 2020	Score 2021	Score 2022	Change
Providing opportunities for recycle and re-use through the pre-cyclone clean up	7.56	7.77	7.76	7.56	- 0.20
Managing gardens and nature reserves	7.27	7.34	7.36	7.09	- 0.27
Maintaining lakes	7.12	7.15	6.93	6.21	- 0.72
Increasing shading and greening the city	6.27	6.52	6.72	6.56	- 0.16
Kerbside waste collection	8.02	8.33	8.28	8.14	- 0.14
Providing and maintaining Archer Waste Management Facility	7.78	7.87	7.95	7.74	- 0.21
Promoting environmental sustainability	6.07	6.36	6.53	6.29	- 0.24
<b>Overall</b>	<b>7.16/10</b>	<b>7.33/10</b>	<b>7.36/10</b>	<b>7.08 / 10</b>	<b>- 0.28</b>

### LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022-23

- The renovated Archer Waste Management Facility will have a dedicated recycling shed, which will encourage and enable people to separate their waste to allow for greater recycling.
- Kerbside collection of household recyclable material will continue, with a new bin tagging program giving residents clear information on when their bins contain 'contaminated' rubbish.
- Tree planting programs will be ongoing and focus on mitigating known heat sinks, improving connectivity between public open spaces, improving the 'walkability' of our main transport links and increasing urban biodiversity.
- In addition to transferring all printable forms and permits to 'online' forms, Council will also be reducing the number of publications printed, and where possible, will be printing only on recycled paper stock. Council will be increasing forms of digital communications as a result of this.



# 06 GOVERNANCE.

Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

The City of Palmerston strives for continuous improvement to deliver the highest possible level of services to the community, recognising what the community values and valuing our employees.

Council is actively pursuing its communities' trust, through being open, accessible and accountable.

### COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure we have a leading governance model
- Community as at the centre
- Healthy working partnerships

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Council is committed to being open, transparent and accountable and valued our employees and partnerships in the community to provide best practice services and programs by:



Customer Experience staff member, Civic Plaza, 2022

# ENSURE WE HAVE A LEADING GOVERNANCE MODEL.

Council continued to work to be effective, accountable and courageous in trying new solutions so it can adapt to its changing operating environment.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Open to the public to attend, Ordinary Council Meetings are held in Council Chambers (Civic Plaza, City Centre) on the first and third Tuesday of every month, commencing at 5.30pm. A 30 minute public forum is held before each Council Meeting where the community can discuss any issue with Elected Members in an informal environment. Community members can also submit written questions to be answered during Council meetings.

Since 2018 City of Palmerston has held Council to the Community Meetings, taking the meeting to various facilities within the community. This initiative aims to increase community engagement with the Council. The program has received positive attendance and feedback.

This year the following Council to the Community Meetings were held:

- 15 March at Gray Community Hall
- 21 June at Durack Community and Arts Centre

## COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE

In 2021-22 there were 21 Ordinary Council Meetings.

Elected Members	Total number of Meetings	Total number of Meetings Attended
Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell	21	21
Councillor Amber Garden	21	20
Councillor Ben Giesecke	21	21
Councillor Damian Hale	21	18
Councillor Sarah Henderson	21	21
Councillor Dr Tom Lewis OAM	4	4
Councillor Lucy Morrison	21	21
Councillor Mick Spick	4	4
Councillor Danielle Eveleigh	17	16
Councillor Mark Fraser	17	17

Chief Executive Officer,  
Ordinary Council Meeting,  
Gray Community Hall,  
2022

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

In accordance with Section 71 of the *Local Government Act 2019* and the Local Government Guidelines 2: allowances for Council Members, Council's Elected Members were entitled to access a Professional Development Allowance of up to \$3734.50 during the financial year to attend appropriate and relevant conferences or training courses.

The purpose of this allowance is to sustain a member's professional competence by keeping them informed of, and able to comply with, development in professional standards applicable to their role as a Council member.

Elected Member	Reason	Total
Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell	Bachelor of Laws	\$3734.50

All Elected Members also participated mandatory governance training as required by the *Local Government ACT 2019*.

All eight Elected Members of the tenth Council successfully completed the modules below:

### Module 1

- roles and responsibilities
- Introduction to the code of conduct
- understanding conflict of interest

### Module 2

- Understanding Local Government
- Introduction to Council Finances
- Council Decision Making and Meeting Procedures

## NUMBER OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

During the past financial year, Council considered a total of 30 confidential matters, 20 items being released to the public record. The following chart shows the number of items remaining confidential and the grounds for exclusion:

This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.	3
This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.	3
This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.	3
This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.	1

A six monthly review is undertaken on the retainment and release of Confidential Items.



Construction of Gray Community Hall, 2021



Library staff member, City of Palmerston Library, 2022

### CONTINUOUS POLICY IMPROVEMENT

Council is committed to ensuring that its systems and processes deliver the best possible services and reviews Council's strategies and policies to achieve continuous improvement.

Internal strategies and policies reviewed by Council in 2021–22 included:

#### Reviewed

- Confidential Information
- Outdoor Dining
- Lighting Up Palmerston
- Public Benefit Concession for Commercial Ratepayers
- Alcohol Management

#### New

- Accountable Forms (Members and CEO)
- Gifts and Benefits (CEO)
- Rate Concession
- Rating Policy

### MANAGING EMPLOYEE SAFETY

Providing a safe workplace is a high priority for Council, which continues to monitor and respond to any safety incidents in the workplace to inform future policies and procedures.

A total of 75 internal and external incidents were reported by employees in 2021–22, which mainly related to disruptive anti-social behaviour at or near Council facilities or members of the community requiring medical attention. No reported incidents resulted in hospitalisations for the 2021-22 period.

Directorate	Number of Incidents
Community and Culture	67
Infrastructure	7
Finance and Governance	0
Office of the CEO	1

#### Worker's Compensation claims in 2021–22:

Total Claims (new)	0
Open Claims	0
Closed Claims	1

## COMMUNITY IS AT THE CENTRE.

The community is our priority and we encourage community members to actively participate in all aspects of our business. Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

### EXPANDING OUR CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

At City of Palmerston, we place our community at the centre of everything we do. We have multiple sites to interact and provide services to the community, with Civic Plaza providing the most customer service options.

Council is committed to providing an excellent customer experience and increasing the opportunity for customers to engage with us. Council endorsed the expansion in hours of operation at Civic Plaza from 8.00am - 5.00pm to 7.30am – 5.30pm. This will take effect on the 1 July 2022.

### COMMUNITY BENEFIT SCHEME (CBS)

City of Palmerston actively supports community organisations and groups to deliver community initiatives, programs and events which align with the Community Plan and benefit the Palmerston community. Council awarded a total of \$153,985 from an available pool of \$230,000 for Community Benefit Scheme funding in 2021/22. The funding supported 37 community groups and 62 individuals through grants, scholarships, sponsorships and representation support.

Some initiatives supported include:

- St John Ambulance NT to purchase required information technology equipment to support volunteers and youth cadets.
- Palmerston Men's Shed to upgrade electrical infrastructure at their venue to make it multifunctional and purpose built for

woodwork assembly.

- Palmerston Magpies Football Club to purchase training equipment to support participation in community sport.
- Palmerston Game Fishing hosted a Junior Angler clinic.
- Individuals to compete in representative sport for rugby, netball, touch football, athletics, hockey, soccer, tennis, basketball, claycourt competition and dance.

The 2021/2022 Community Benefit Scheme budget was on track to be expended, however pandemic restrictions impacted both travel for Representation Support opportunities and planned activities and events.

### TRAINING OUR STAFF TO BE THE BEST

City of Palmerston is committed to the continuous professional development and upskilling our employees to support them in their roles as they deliver services and projects to the community.

In 2021-22, 118 employees at the City of Palmerston underwent training.

Council contributed approximately **\$282,976** to training for our employees, which included:

- various tertiary qualifications including certificates, diplomas, graduate certificates and bachelor's degrees
- Mad Bad Sad Tears Abuse and Threats
- Cross Cultural Awareness
- Risk Management Framework
- Better Writing Intensive Course
- Capability Framework training
- First aid training
- Fire warden training
- Internal training, including:
  - Recruitment and Merit Selection Process
  - Purchase Order Training
  - Leave Management
  - Procurement
  - Code of Conduct.

## ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Members of the public who are unsatisfied with a matter that has been previously addressed by Council can seek further action through the Chief Executive Officer, Elected Members and the Mayor. Further action can also be taken through the office of the Northern Territory Ombudsman, which Council assists with and uses any requests to improve processes

There were nil requests to have decisions reviewed by the Ombudsman in 2021–22.

There were eight Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to the City of Palmerston in 2021–22 under the *Information Act*.

FOI requests are a key component of transparent and open governance and Council meets these requests as quickly as possible.

Members of the public can seek reviews of decisions made in response to FOI requests through Council and the Information Commissioner.

The following table shows the total number of requests dealt with in 2021–22:

Category	Number of requests actioned
Access to personal information held by Council only	0
Access to personal and non-personal held by Council (in same request)	6
Access to non-personal information held by Council only	2

## HEALTHY WORKING PARTNERSHIPS

City of Palmerston values the advice and input from a range of voices in our community and support a number of advisory groups and networks to provide advice directly to Council. A review of advisory committees was presented to Council on 15 March 2022. Council endorsed the following changes:

- Abolishment of the following Council Advisory Committees to be reformed as networks:
  - Palmerston Seniors Advisory Committee
  - Palmerston Safe Communities Committee
  - Palmerston Animal Management Committee
- Continuation of the following two networks:
  - Palmerston Kids Network
  - Palmerston and Rural Youth Services
- Establishment of the following new Advisory Committees:
  - Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee
  - Community Safety Advisory Committee
  - Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee
- Palmerston Seniors Network associated to the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee
- Palmerston Safe Communities Network and Palmerston Animal Management Network associated to Community Safety Advisory Committee

## RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Risk Management and Audit Committee (the Committee) is established as an Advisory Committee to the City of Palmerston.

The Committee is established by Council, pursuant to the *Northern Territory Local Government Act* (the Act) and the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations with the key functions of:

- To monitor and review the integrity of the council's financial management
- To monitor and review internal controls
- To make recommendations to the council about matters raised in the committee that may require council's consideration as a result of the committee's functions under paragraph (1) or (2).

## COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The 2022 survey returned a result of 6.19/10 overall for Governance, a decrease of 0.33 on 2021, but still a higher score than 2020, which was 6.17.

The highest performing aspect of the measure was 'Achieving funding and getting things done by working in partnership with government and the community' which scored 6.44/10.

The lowest performing aspect was 'Providing you with the opportunity to comment on Council's decision making and interact with Council' which has a score of 5.72/10, being comparable to the 2020 score.

Measure	Score 2019	Score 2020	Score 2021	Score 2022	Change
<b>How:</b> Accountable is the City of Palmerston Council?	6.13	6.27	6.79	6.34	-0.45
Effective is the City of Palmerston Council?	6.22	6.41	6.88	6.24	-0.44
<b>Performance in:</b> Providing you with the opportunity to comment on Council's decision making and interact with Council	5.63	5.71	5.90	5.72	-0.18
Achieving funding and getting things done by working in partnership with government and the community	6.05	6.30	6.70	6.44	-0.26
<b>Overall:</b>	6.01/10	6.17/10	6.52/10	6.19 / 10	-0.33

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022–23

- Council undertook a thorough review of our Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software requirements throughout 2021/22. ERP covers the systems that Council use to meet our regulatory and rating business requirements. In 2022/23 we will begin to implement improved systems that will allow Council to deliver services to the community more efficiently and effectively.
- Council implemented the Early Career Policy to benefit both the workforce and our community. Whilst we supported an informal graduate program in the past, Council is now formalising a more coordinated and robust program that will enable us to grow our own and work our way towards becoming an employer of choice. This program will be open to candidates of all ages and abilities.
- Council currently has consistent data reporting processes in place for limited assets which will now be extended across a range of other Council owned assets such as public roads, storm water drainage, public lighting, water irrigation and buildings. Having consistent asset management inspections in place results in strengthened and improved outcomes for future planning.
- In 2022–23, Council will offer training to Elected Members and staff on governance, reporting and compliance requirements in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019 and Guidelines. There will also be an audit of our current policy framework, human resource management systems, data analytics and reporting.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree planting, Roseberry, 2022

# OUR

## COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE.

### IN THIS SECTION:

- Involving our community

We are committed to working alongside our community in planning our city's future.

Council sees significant value in expanding the understanding of the community about Council's work and tapping into the 'wisdom of the crowd' to consider complex challenges and issues we face.

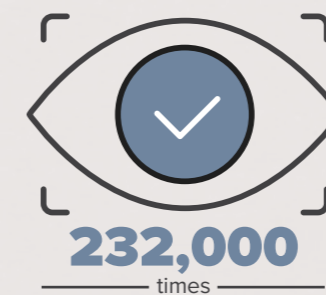
City of Palmerston Ranger, Palmerston CBD, 2022



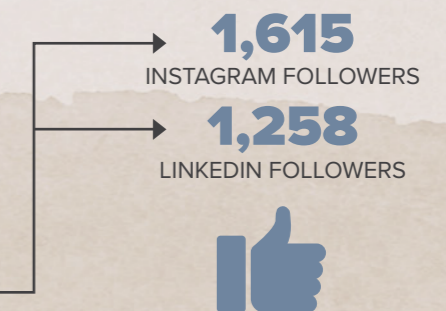
## MEASURES OF SUCCESS



Council website pages viewed



FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK





## SHARING INFORMATION

City of Palmerston continued to share information and raise awareness of the services Council provides through a range of communication channels including website, NT News advertisements and classifieds, television advertisements, local radio including Hot 100, Mix 104.9, ABC Darwin, Territory FM and First Nations radio, Off-the-Leash magazine, LG In focus magazine and social media (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn).

Council sent out 39 media releases to media outlets to help promote important news to residents and businesses. The releases include information about changes to programs and updates to services as well as announcing community events and consultation projects. From these media releases we received more than 792 mentions in mainstream media. The highest number of mentions was recorded in September 2021 and April 2022 at 96 and 98 respectively.

Council has a total of 16,350 followers on its Facebook page, which is an increase of 3,206 followers in the last year. Council's Instagram page has 1,615 followers and LinkedIn has 1,258 followers.

Council's website is designed to be responsive and mobile-friendly and is regularly modified and maintained. It hosts Council's latest news, project updates, general Council information, achievements and future events in Palmerston.

In 2021–22, Council's website recorded 232,000 page views by 29,000 people visiting the website for information.

## STRATEGIC APPROACH

### Communications Strategy

In the 2021 Community Satisfaction survey, respondents rated Council's performance for communication as 'poor'. Council recognises that establishing an improved strategic approach to communication is required given the growth in the community and the dynamic communication platforms available.

City of Palmerston does not have an existing Communications Strategy, therefore the need to implement one for the purpose of consistent, transparent and accurate information to the community is vital. In May 2022, Council endorsed a draft Communications Strategy to be released for community consultation. The strategy will guide how Council communicates with the community, whereby relevant, accurate, and engaging information is delivered in a timely manner across a variety of platforms.

### Social Media Strategy

City of Palmerston social media platforms are multi-disciplinary and act as an important communication tool for all teams across the organisation. The 2021 Community Survey identified that 46% of people would prefer to receive communication from Council via social media.

City of Palmerston developed a draft Social Media Strategy to help guide the quality of communication via social media to the community. The draft Strategy focuses primarily on ensuring that Council use our social media channels to connect, inform and educate. The draft Strategy was released for community consultation in June 2022.

## ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Engaging with the community to hear their thoughts and concerns continues to be a priority for the City of Palmerston. Community engagement helps the City of Palmerston to better serve the community by understanding and valuing their needs, aspirations and local knowledge.

Council engaged with the community on a number of key projects during 2021–22.

The aim of consulting with the community is to test ideas and concepts, and encourage feedback on different initiatives that can influence the lives of people and local business operations.

Council consulted the community on the following projects:

### Municipal Plan and Budget 2022-23

The Municipal Plan is a key publication with represents Council's strategic vision and outlines projects, events and service priorities for the year ahead.

### Play Space Strategy

Playgrounds and play spaces are an important part of the community and provide places to meet and opportunities for children to practice a range of social, emotional and cognitive skills.

### Sustainability Strategy

The Sustainability Strategy focuses primarily on the environmental pillar of sustainability and looks to preserve the natural assets, reduce the collective impacts and look for ways to evolve Council practices.

### Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework (IDA)

This policy aims to guide future practices for increasing community inclusion and representation across all facets of Council and creating a place of equal access within our public domains, services and programs.

### Disability Inclusion and Access Plan

This document meets the commitment of the IDA Framework to develop strategies and actions to achieve equity of access and inclusion in all areas of Council's responsibility for people living with a disability.

### Communications Strategy 2022-2023

The Communications Strategy was designed off the back of the 2020-21 Community Satisfaction Survey and aims to improve the quality of communication that Council provides to the community focusing primarily on relevant, accurate, timely and engaging information.

### Social Media Strategy 2022

To compliment the Communications Strategy, Council also endeavours to ensure the communication across the social media channels connect, inform and educate the audience.

### Palmerston Creative Industries Plan 2022-2027

Council is developing a revitalised Creative Industries Plan and this document will touch on all the creative arts in and around Palmerston. The initial consultation was requesting feedback on what the community wanted to see more of, do more and how Council can facilitate that.

### Zuccoli and Surrounds Community Hub

City of Palmerston was awarded a Crowne Lease from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, whereby Council proposed to build a multipurpose community hub servicing the Zuccoli community and the surrounding suburbs. The community hub will create a space where residents of the area can come together to relax, connect and share experiences.

### Community Satisfaction Survey 2021

Each year Council conducts a Community Satisfaction Survey to collect feedback from the community on how Council is performing through a series of questions about services that are provided. This rating is then reported in the Annual Report and informs Council's community report card.



City of Palmerston Open Space staff members, 2021

# PEOPLE.

## PEOPLE.

### Employer of choice

Council is an employer of choice, building a diverse and gender balanced workforce.

Council is committed to strengthening the skillsets of our people through personal development and organisation wide training initiatives.

These initiatives include:

- continuously upskilling all staff on new processes and policies
- leadership and management training
- improving workplace benefits packages, which offer employee support services such as health benefits, enhanced leave entitlements and salary sacrifice options.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS



City of Palmerston staff members, Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2022



## OUR LOCAL STAFF

City of Palmerston employs 83 local people as full time, part time and casual employees as at 30 June 2022.

Council recruited 32 employees in 2021–22, while 50 employees left Council during the year.

Employee position type by gender

Status	Ongoing	Fixed Term	Casual	Total
Male	11	18	0	29
Female	23	27	4	54

\*Please note that casual and part-time employees are assumed to work full-time hours.

## DIVERSE WORKFORCE

Diversity and age of workforce as at 30 June 2022

Diversity of Age and Gender of Workforce	Male	Female	Total
18-24 years	4	0	4
25-29 years	3	10	13
30-34 years	5	11	16
35-39 years	1	11	12
40-44 years	4	7	11
45-49 years	4	7	11
50-54 years	4	5	9
55-59 years	2	1	3
60-64 years	1	0	1
65-70 years	0	2	2
70 + years	1	0	1
	<b>29</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>83</b>

Salary breakdown as at 30 June 2022

Employee by Salary	Male	Female	Total
\$0 - \$64,445	0	4	4
\$64,446 - \$70,682	0	0	0
\$70,683 - \$76,940	6	12	18
\$76,941 - \$81,491	2	9	11
\$81,492 - \$89,358	8	6	14
\$89,359 - \$97,185	5	9	14
\$97,186 - \$106,344	3	3	6
\$106,345 - \$115,000	2	1	3
\$115,001 - \$130,000	0	5	5
\$130,001 - \$160,000	2	1	3
\$160,001 +	1	4	5
	<b>29</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>83</b>



City of Palmerston staff members, Staff tree planting day, Marlow Lagoon, 2021

Number of employees born overseas by gender as at June 2022

Females born overseas	14
Males born overseas	4

## EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION SURVEY

City of Palmerston conducts an employee survey every six months to keep a pulse on employee satisfaction and identify culture initiatives. In the reporting period, two surveys were conducted with the results below.

## EMPLOYEE LIFE SURVEY

Survey Period	Registered Participants (includes labour hire)	Number of Respondents	Percentage of response	Net Promoter Score
3-17 August 2021	98	77	79%	+4
21 March – 4 April 2022	93	69	74%	-7

Respondents were asked on their satisfaction on the following areas:

- expectations from them as an employee
- recognition
- communication with Executive Leadership Team
- team commitment
- future
- safety
- resources

Employees are satisfied in most areas, with communication, future and recognition identified as areas for improvement.

## EMPLOYEE WELLBEING

City of Palmerston conducted a number of initiatives to improve employee wellbeing and connections through human resources engagement activities.

In 2021–22 these included:

- Safe Work Month BBQ and check-in
- Harmony Day
- various team building activities
- employee 'thank you' cards and coffee vouchers
- Palmerfun Times monthly newsletter
- plant a tree day
- introduction of an online learning management system for staff to access short courses in mental health and well-being.

# 2021-22

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

City of Palmerston is financially well positioned to continue its delivery of services for the community and has generated a profit of \$1.3 million in the 2021-22 financial year, which is significantly higher compared to last financial year. While there is an operating deficit of \$5.5 million, a profit of \$1.3 million was achieved due to the increased grants income in 2021-22 for new or upgrade to assets. The earnings before tax, interest and depreciation and amortisation (EBITA) is \$5.4 million.

	As at 30 June 2022 \$'000	As at 30 June 2021 \$'000	Variance
Revenue	35 797	34, 369	1,428
Less: Expenditure	41,333	41,252	81
<b>Operating Deficit</b>	<b>(5536)</b>	<b>(6,883)</b>	<b>1347</b>
Plus Other Income			
Resources Free of Charge	3,160	3,327	(167)
Asset Disposals and FV Adjustments	(1468)	(1238)	(230)
Grants received for new or upgrade assets	5186	2383	2,803
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>(2,411)</b>	<b>3,753</b>

Full details of the Audited Financial Statements for 2021/22 financial year are available from pages 90 to 131 within the Annual Report.

To illustrate City of Palmerston's true financial performance, it is important to compare the budgeted to actual results after excluding non-cash income and expenditure and including capital expenditure. After these adjustments the budget savings are \$2.1 million, which includes the \$1.5 million cash net operating surplus.

	Original Budget 2021-22 \$'000	Revised Budget (RB) 2021-22 \$'000	Actuals (A) 2021-22 \$'000	A - RB Variance \$'000
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	<b>34,029</b>	<b>34,532</b>	<b>35,797</b>	<b>1,265</b>
Less: Operating Expenditure	42,139	41,660	41,333	327
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(8,110)</b>	<b>(7,128)</b>	<b>(5,536)</b>	<b>1,592</b>
Add Capital Income	16,781	5,602	6,878	1,276
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>8,671</b>	<b>(1,525)</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>2,867</b>
Less: noncash adjustments <sup>2</sup>	10,608	10,608	10,007	(601)
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit) after non-cash</b>	<b>19,279</b>	<b>9,083</b>	<b>11,349</b>	<b>2,266</b>
Less Capital Expenditure	20,390	9,480	9,231	(249)
Less Other repayments	235	235	588	353
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(1,346)</b>	<b>(632)</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>2,162</b>
Borrowings	1,000			
Reserve Movement	346	632	(1,530)	(2,162)
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1. As per General Purpose Financial Statements

2. Non-cash adjustments include depreciation expense, prior year capital expense, gifted assets income and revaluations.

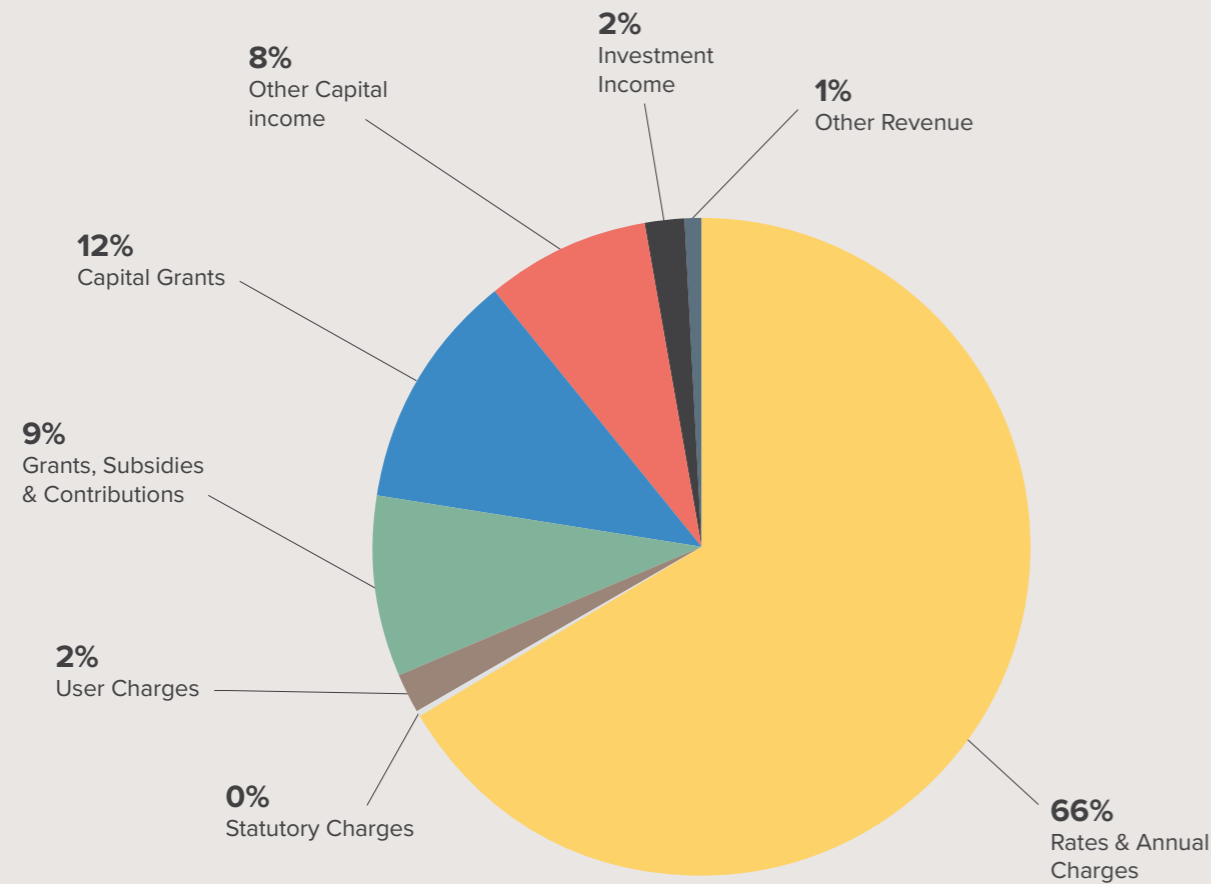
The improvement compared to budget is largely due to higher than anticipated rates income from new property development, interest from investments and early release of federal assistance grants. There was also cash savings of around \$1 million across capital and operational expenses, and a large portion of this related to waste management.

Aerial view of Bellamack, 2020

## REVENUE BY SOURCE

City of Palmerston's revenue largely comes from Rates and Annual Charges representing 73% or \$29 million of total revenue, followed by Capital Grants at 12% and Grants and Subsidies and Contributions at 10%.

## INCOME BY SOURCE



## REVENUE OTHER THAN GRANTS WITH PERFORMANCE OBLIGATIONS

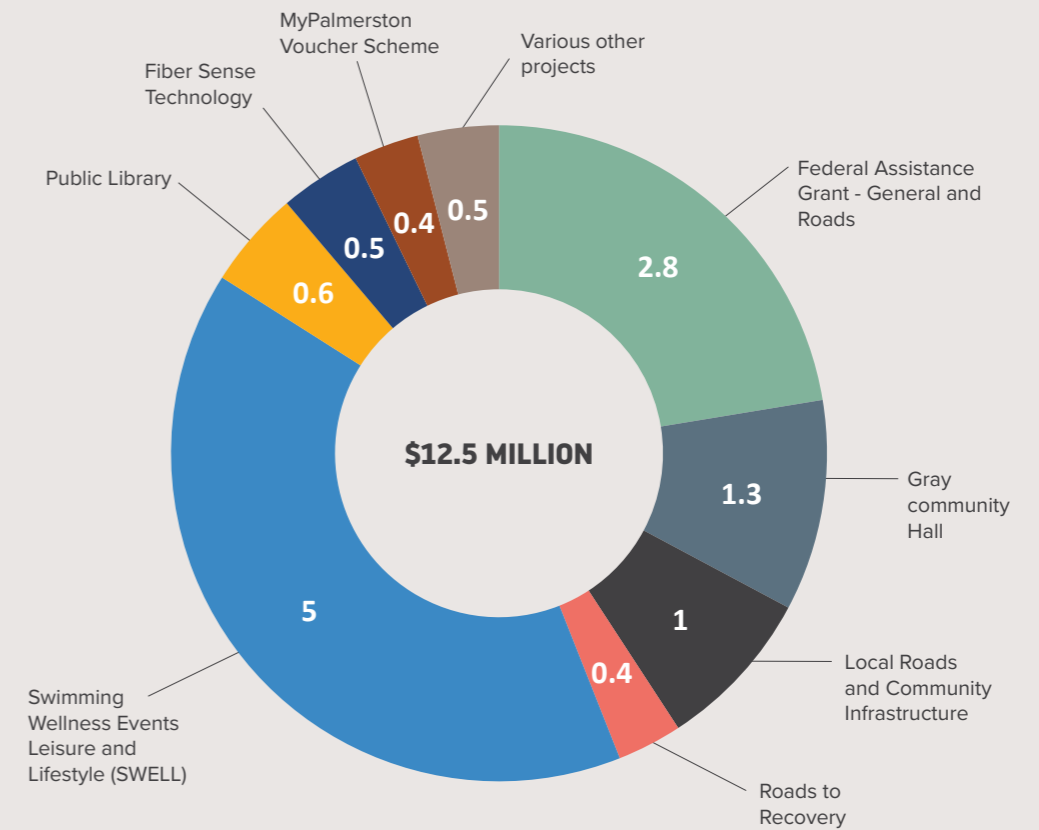
Overall operating revenue was above expected budget by \$1 million, this increase is mainly attributed to higher than anticipated early payment of the 2022-23 Federal Assistance Grant. The remaining income is due to rates revenue from subdivisions, higher development and planning fees, Investment income for the year is above budget primarily due to an increase in interest income from matured investments driven by interest rate increases by Reserve Bank of Australia.

## GRANTS WITH PERFORMANCE OBLIGATIONS

Council only recognises grants with performance obligation as income in the financial year the performance obligation was met, the majority of these grants are capital grants. In 2021-22 Council received \$12.5 million from Commonwealth and Northern Territory government grants and recognised \$6.4 million of this as income for the year. A further \$2.9M was recognised as income from grants received in the last financial year. As at 30 June 2022, \$12.8M remains in grants liability and includes, \$7.5 million from Northern Territory Government for the Swimming, Wellness, Events, Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL) project, \$0.4 million for myPalmerston program spent in 2022-23 financial year and other grants to be spent in the 2022-23 financial year in line with scheduled programs.

The graph below provides a breakdown of the various grant funding City of Palmerston receives.

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING 2021-22 (IN \$MILLION)

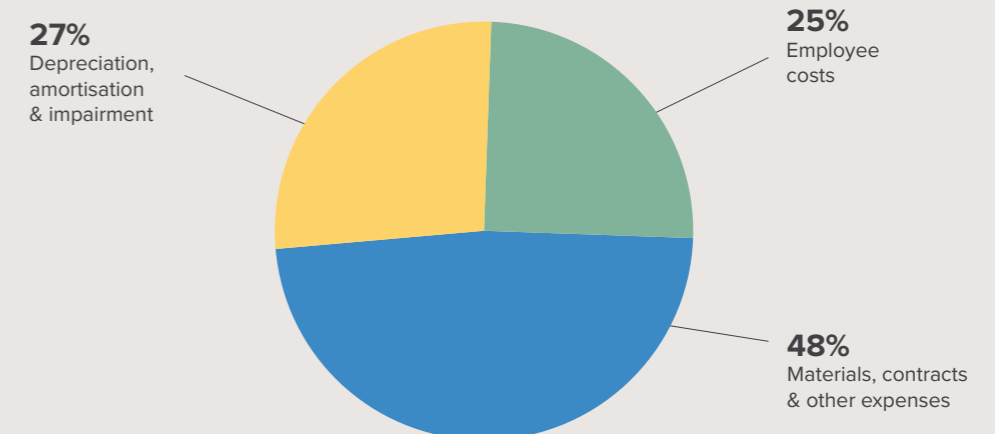


## OTHER CAPITAL INCOME

While a large component of the capital income is grant income, there is \$3.5 million of capital income recognised that is considered non-cash. Of this amount \$3.1 million are assets that were handed over to Council free of charge, which include roads from subdivisions and land for parks in which Council will own and maintain these community assets. The remaining \$300K relates to valuation increase of Council's investment properties.

## EXPENSES

The total expenditure incurred in 2021-22 was \$41.3 million, this includes \$10.9 million for depreciation, amortisation and impairment which makes up 27% of total expenditure.



## EXPENSES EXCLUDING NON-CASH EXPENDITURE

Overall expenses for 2021-22 is in line with budget expectations with cost savings identified across some areas of the Council. Employee costs of \$10.4 million was slightly below budget mainly due to vacant positions. Employee expenditure also includes the costs of positions periodically filled by labour hire through employment agencies due to recruitment challenges. This savings was offset by an increase in grants expense relating to City of Palmerston's contribution to myPalmerston. There were savings in other areas such as utilities due to increased use in solar leading to savings in electricity costs. Material and Contractors saw a slight savings which was largely due to waste management which was offset by expenses from capital construction works not meeting the definition of an asset.

## DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION AND IMPAIRMENT

There was a total of \$13.5 million non-cash expenditure which included depreciation, amortisation and impairment, devaluation, and non-capital expense.

For 2021-22 the depreciation expenses of \$10.9 million was slightly above budget. This is mainly due to several projects that were completed during the year that resulted in additional \$300K of depreciation.

When construction works are completed there are some expenditures that are not capitalised as they do not meet the definition of asset and therefore are expensed. A total of \$1.3 million of expenditure has been treated in this way, only \$571K is considered non-cash as it relates to prior year expenditure.

In addition as part of Council's four-year rolling revaluation cycle, Council engaged an independent certified valuer to do an assessment of fair value for streetlights. This assessment resulted in a decrease to the valuation of these assets by \$0.6 million that has been expensed in the profit and loss statement. The decrease is mainly due to revision of useful lives that reduce the post revaluation replacement cost.

## ELECTED MEMBER ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

Elected Member Allowances are paid in accordance with the Local Government guidelines and the 2021-22 results include allowances paid to the 9th Council and the 10th Council. All Electoral allowances are in line with budget however other allowances such as Elected Member Professional Development Allowances were not claimed for the year resulting in a slightly lower elected member expenditure for the year.

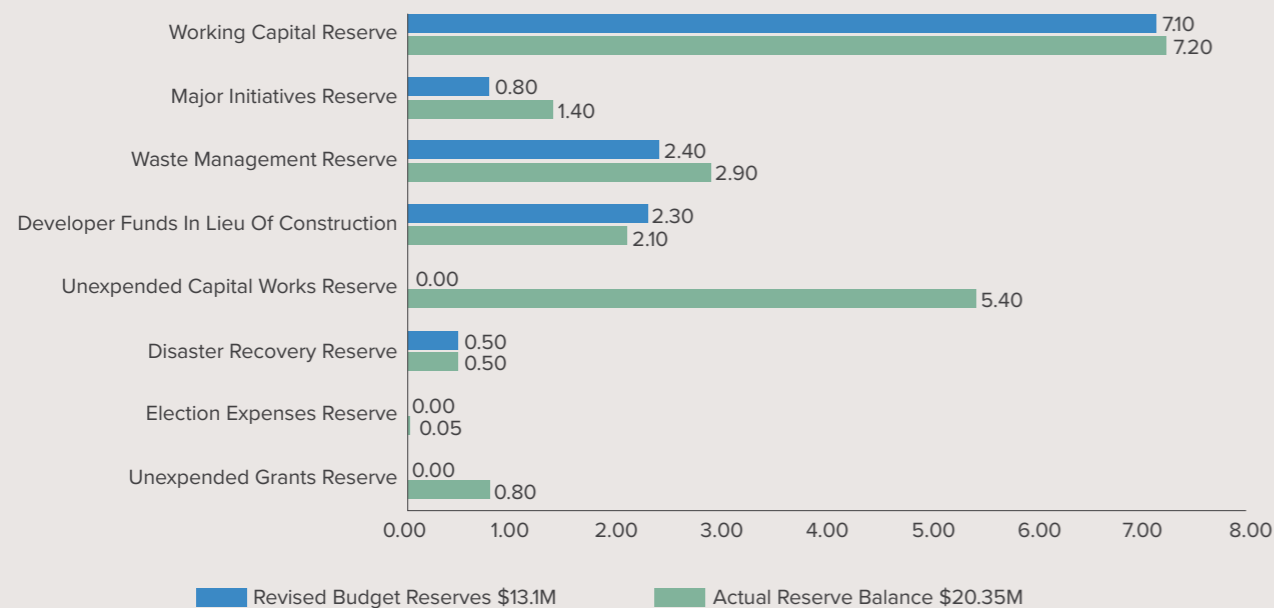
## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

After taking into consideration the projects rolled over into 2022-23, the expected 2021-22 capital expenditure was \$9.4 million compared to an actual spend of \$9.2 million.

## RESERVES

City of Palmerston allocates the accumulated cash surpluses within a financial reserve, structured in line with Council's Financial Reserve Policy. The use of reserve provides the community with greater clarity and transparency on the level of funds held by Council and how much funds are available to the Council for discretionary use.

## FINANCIAL RESERVES 2021/2022 (IN \$ MILLIONS)



Council held \$20.4 million in reserves as of 30 June 2022 and this is \$6.9 million above the revised budgeted reserve balance of \$13.5M. The increase in capital works rollover, waste management reserve and major initiatives reserve were the main attributes to the increase in the reserve balance as of 30 June 2022.

The Financial Reserve Policy allows for the net operational surplus identified at the end of the financial year to be transferred to the working capital reserve, or to a specific purpose reserve to be utilised against future projects. As a result, the budget savings of \$2.1 million inclusive of \$1.5 million operational surplus has been allocated to the reserves as follows:

- \$670,942 transferred to the Waste Reserve as the savings and additional income relating to waste must be returned to this reserve.
- \$42,872 transferred to the Developer Contribution (FILOC) reserve as the surplus available is related to this reserve and activities.
- \$779,817 transferred to the Unexpended Grants Reserve as it relates to unspent grants.
- \$50,000 transferred to Election Reserve to enable the reserve allocation for future election costs as required by the Policy.
- \$618,942, or the balance of the surplus, transferred to the Major Initiative Reserve to contribute to major capital projects, such as further stages of SWELL (container café, entry improvements), Driver Community Centre Upgrade, Zuccoli Community Hub and/or other projects as identified as major projects by Council (and subject to approved use of the funds by Council).

Note 9(b) of the Financial Statements provides the balances for the reserves, which shows that the Unexpended Capital Works Reserve contains \$5.4 million, these relate to Council's own contribution to the 2021-22 capital programs, which has been rolled over into 2022-23 financial year.

The Unexpended Grants Reserve includes \$0.78 million an advanced payment of the 2022-23 Federal Assistance Grants. While these funds are untied and not for a specific project, they were not expected until 2022-23 and have been set aside to fund the projects included in the 2022-23 Municipal Plan.



# GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

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## General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Chief Executive Officer's Statement

I, Luccio Franco Cercarelli, the Chief Executive Officer of City of Palmerston, hereby certify that the Annual Financial Statements:

- have been drawn up in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, the *Local Government Act 2019* and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* so as to present fairly the financial position of the Council and the results for the year ended 30 June 2022; and
- are in accordance with the accounting and other records of Council.



Luccio Franco Cercarelli  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: 27 October 2022

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2022

\$ '000	Notes	2022	2021
<b>Income</b>			
Rates	2a	29,813	29,340
Statutory Charges	2b	122	136
User Charges	2c	914	759
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	2g	3,775	2,966
Investment Income	2d	732	722
Reimbursements	2e	1	3
Other income	2f	440	443
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>35,797</b>	<b>34,369</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee costs	3a	10,026	9,808
Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses	3b	20,338	20,533
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	3c	10,929	10,865
Finance Costs	3d	40	46
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>41,333</b>	<b>41,252</b>
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>		<b>(5,536)</b>	<b>(6,883)</b>
Physical Resources Received Free of Charge	2i	3,160	3,327
Asset Disposal and Fair Value Adjustments	4	(1,468)	(1,238)
Amounts Received Specifically for New or Upgraded Assets	2g	5,186	2,383
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>		<b>1,342</b>	<b>(2,411)</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>			
<b>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</b>			
Changes in Revaluation Surplus - I,PP&E	9a	–	14,184
<b>Total Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>14,184</b>
<b>Total Other Comprehensive Income</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>14,184</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>		<b>1,342</b>	<b>11,773</b>

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2022

\$ '000	Notes	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash & Cash Equivalent Assets	5a	19,907	10,844
Trade & Other Receivables	5b	2,938	2,378
Other Financial Assets (Investments)	5c	18,513	20,665
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>41,358</b>	<b>33,887</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Other Non-Current Assets	6	2,207	4,024
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	7a	565,677	564,724
Investment Property	7b	5,700	5,400
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>573,584</b>	<b>574,148</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>614,942</b>	<b>608,035</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade & Other Payables	8a	19,268	13,409
Borrowings	8b	241	235
Provisions	8c	1,400	1,390
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>20,909</b>	<b>15,034</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Borrowings	8b	1,035	1,276
Provisions	8c	1,698	1,767
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,733</b>	<b>3,043</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>23,642</b>	<b>18,077</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>591,300</b>	<b>589,958</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus		202,600	202,789
Asset revaluation reserves	9a	368,316	368,316
Other reserves	9b	20,384	18,853
<b>Total Council Equity</b>		<b>591,300</b>	<b>589,958</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>591,300</b>	<b>589,958</b>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2022

\$ '000	Notes	Accumulated surplus	Asset revaluation reserve	Other reserves	Total equity
<b>2022</b>					
Balance at the end of previous reporting period		202,789	368,316	18,853	589,958
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		1,342	–	–	1,342
<b>Other Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)</b>					
- Gain (Loss) on Revaluation of I,PP&E	7a	–	–	–	–
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>1,342</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,342</b>
Transfers between Reserves		(1,531)	–	1,531	–
<b>Balance at the end of period</b>		<b>202,600</b>	<b>368,316</b>	<b>20,384</b>	<b>591,300</b>
<b>2021</b>					
Balance at the end of previous reporting period		206,259	354,132	17,794	578,185
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(2,411)	–	–	(2,411)
<b>Other Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)</b>					
- Gain (Loss) on Revaluation of I,PP&E	7a	–	14,184	–	14,184
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>14,184</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>14,184</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>(2,411)</b>	<b>14,184</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>11,773</b>
Transfers between Reserves		(1,059)	–	1,059	–
<b>Balance at the end of period</b>		<b>202,789</b>	<b>368,316</b>	<b>18,853</b>	<b>589,958</b>

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2022

\$ '000	Notes	2022	2021
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Rates		29,787	29,139
Statutory Charges		94	136
User Charges		456	823
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions (operating purpose)		4,242	2,966
Investment Receipts		735	722
Reimbursements		1	3
Other Receipts		428	2,709
<u>Payments</u>			
Payments to Employees		(10,007)	(9,730)
Payments for Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses		(18,065)	(23,006)
Finance Payments		(40)	(46)
<b>Net cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities</b>	11b	<u>7,631</u>	<u>3,716</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Amounts Received Specifically for New/Upgraded Assets		8,795	6,488
Sale of Replaced Assets		310	205
<u>Payments</u>			
Expenditure on Renewal/Replacement of Assets		(6,257)	(745)
Expenditure on New/Upgraded Assets		(2,908)	(4,493)
Net Purchase of Investment Securities		2,152	(11,500)
<b>Net cash provided (or used in) investing activities</b>		<u>2,092</u>	<u>(10,045)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
<u>Payments</u>			
Repayments of Borrowings		(235)	(227)
Repayment of Bonds & Deposits		(425)	(22)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities</b>		<u>(660)</u>	<u>(249)</u>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held</b>		<u>9,063</u>	<u>(6,578)</u>
plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents at beginning of period		10,844	17,422
<b>Cash and cash equivalents held at end of period</b>	11a	<u>19,907</u>	<u>10,844</u>
Additional Information:			
plus: Investments on hand – end of year	5b	18,513	20,665
<b>Total Cash, Cash Equivalents &amp; Investments</b>		<u>38,420</u>	<u>31,509</u>

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Contents of the Notes accompanying the General Purpose Financial Statements

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## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by Council in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

#### (1) Basis of Preparation

##### 1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations, the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2019*, the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 and other relevant Northern Territory legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue on 27 October 2022.

##### 1.2 Historical Cost Convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

##### 1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Council's accounting policies.

The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of these Notes.

##### 1.4 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

#### (2) The Local Government Reporting Entity

City of Palmerston is incorporated under the *NT Local Government Act 2019* and has its principal place of business at 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston. These financial statements include the Council's direct operations and all entities through which Council controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas have been eliminated.

#### (3) Income Recognition

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when control of the goods or services are transferred to the customer at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Council expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods and services. Performance obligations may be completed at a point in time or over time.

##### 3.1 Grants

The Council recognises grant revenues under *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (AASB 1058) or *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Council expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when a not-for-profit (NFP) entity enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the Council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the Council. In this case, the Council recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

#### 3.2 Rates Revenue

Rates revenue is recognised at the commencement of the rating period.

#### 3.3 Non-cash contributions

Non-cash contributions with a value in excess of the recognition thresholds as stated in Note 1 – 6.2 are recognised as revenue and as non-current assets. Non-cash contributions below the thresholds are recorded as revenue and expenses. Physical assets contributed to Council by developers in the form of road works, stormwater and park equipment are recognised as revenue when the development becomes "on maintenance" (i.e. the Council obtains control of the assets and becomes liable for any ongoing maintenance) and there is sufficient data in the form of drawings and plans to determine the approximate specifications and values of such assets. All non-cash contributions are recognised at the fair value of the contribution received on the date of acquisition.

#### 3.4 Developer Charges

Developers also pay infrastructure charges for the construction of assets, such as roads and stormwater drainage. Infrastructure charges are recognised as income when received.

#### 3.5 Rental income

Rental revenue from investment and other property is recognised as income on a periodic straight-line basis over the lease term.

#### 3.6 Interest and dividends

Interest received from term deposits is accrued over the term of the investment. No dividends were received during the reporting period.

#### 3.7 Sales revenue

Sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to the buyer, generally when the customer has taken undisputed delivery of the goods.

#### 3.8 Statutory and User Charges

Statutory and User Charges are recognised upon unconditional entitlement to the funds. Generally, this is upon lodgement of the relevant applications or documents, issuing of the infringement notice or when the service is provided.

#### (4) Cash, Cash Equivalents and other Financial Instruments

Cash Assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 2008. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition, except for trade receivables from a contract with a customer, which are measured at the transaction price. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments forms part of Note 13.

#### (5) Inventories

Council does not hold any inventories.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

**(6) Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment****6.1 Initial Recognition**

All assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held "ready for use". Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

**6.2 Materiality**

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each type of asset. In determining (and in annually reviewing) such thresholds, regard is had to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life.

Examples of capitalisation thresholds applied during the year are given below. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Furniture & Equipment	\$5,000
Plant & Equipment	\$5,000
Buildings & Other Structures	\$5,000
Roads	\$10,000
Footpaths and Bicycle ways	\$5,000
Kerb and Gutter	\$5,000
Motor Vehicles	\$5,000
Irrigation	\$5,000
Intangible Assets	\$10,000
Stormwater Drainage	\$10,000
Land Improvement	\$10,000

**6.3 Subsequent Recognition**

All material asset classes are revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. Significant uncertainties exist in the estimation of fair value of a number of asset classes including land, buildings and associated structures and infrastructure. Further detail of these uncertainties, and of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided at Note 7.

**6.4 Depreciation of Non-Current Assets**

Other than land, all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis which, in the opinion of Council, best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values of classes of assets are reviewed annually.

Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are listed below. Depreciation periods for infrastructure assets have been estimated based on the best information available to Council, as well as from an Engineering firm who undertook a review of the infrastructure assets in 2018. Extreme care should be used in interpreting financial information based on these estimates.

*Plant, Furniture & Equipment*

Furniture and Equipment	3 to 100 years
Motor Vehicles	5 to 10 years
Plant & Equipment	5 to 15 years

*Building & Other Structures*

Buildings	7.5 to 100 years
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## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

*Infrastructure*

Roads – Earthworks	100 years
Roads – Pavement	35 to 100 years
Roads – Seal	10 to 60 years
Roads - Other	35 to 100 years
Footpaths and Bicycle ways	15 to 100 years
Kerb and Gutter	30 to 100 years
Driveways	15 to 100 years
Irrigation	25 to 30 years
Stormwater Drainage	60 to 100 years
Streetlights	75 to 100 years

*Other Assets*

Land Improvement	3 to 100 years
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**6.5 Impairment**

Assets whose future economic benefits are not dependent on the ability to generate cash flows, and where the future economic benefits would be replaced if Council were deprived thereof, are not subject to impairment testing.

Other assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount (which is the higher of the present value of future cash inflows or value in use).

Where an asset that has been revalued is subsequently impaired, the impairment is first offset against such amount as stands to the credit of that class of assets in Asset Revaluation Reserve, any excess being recognised as an expense.

**6.6 Borrowing Costs**

Borrowing costs in relation to qualifying assets (net of offsetting investment revenue) have been capitalised in accordance with AASB 123 "Borrowing Costs". The amounts of borrowing costs recognised as an expense or as part of the carrying amount of qualifying assets are disclosed in Note 3, and the amount (if any) of interest revenue offset against borrowing costs in Note 2.

**(7) Investment property**

Investment property comprises land &/or buildings that are principally held for long-term rental yields, capital gains or both that is not occupied by Council.

Investment property is carried at fair value, representing an open-market value determined annually by external valuers.

Annual changes in the fair value of Investment Properties are recorded in the Income Statement as part of "Fair value adjustments".

Full valuations are carried out every year.

The last full valuation for Council's Investment Properties was dated 30/06/2022.

**(8) Payables****8.1 Goods & Services**

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 28 days after the month of invoice, but Council has extended its support to local businesses by continuing to pay earlier than 28 days. No interest is payable on these amounts.

**8.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits**

Amounts other than the Financial Assistance Grants, received in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

**(9) Borrowings**

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount is recognised in the income statement over the period of the borrowings using the effective interest method.

Borrowings are carried at their principal amounts which represent the present value of future cash flows associated with servicing the debt. Interest is accrued over the period to which it relates, and is recorded as part of "Payables".

**(10) Employee Benefits****10.1 Salaries, Wages & Compensated Absences**

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based oncosts) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based oncosts) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. Council does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

**10.2 Superannuation**

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees. Details of the accounting policies applied and Council's involvement with the schemes are reported in Note 17.

**(11) Provisions for Reinstatement, Restoration and Rehabilitation**

Council is in the final stages of taking remedial action regarding a pollution abatement notice over 240 Elrundie Avenue, Archer, NT. Costs associated with remedial action and after care management have been measured and recognised. After care management costs consist of a provision for thirty years potential monitoring. The provision is in accordance with AASB 137 – Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets. The after-care management plan provision estimate has been discounted over the period and is reviewed annually.

**(12) Leases**

Council Lease arrangements have been accounted for in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 16. In respect of finance leases, Council applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to its short-term leases of machinery and equipment (i.e., those leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date). It also applies the low-value assets recognition exemption to leases of office equipment that are considered to be low value. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

In respect of operating leases, where the lessor substantially retains all of the risks and benefits incident to ownership of the leased items, lease payments are charged to expense over the lease term

**(13) Construction Contracts**

Construction works undertaken by Council for third parties are generally on an agency basis where the third party reimburses Council for actual costs incurred, and usually do not extend beyond the reporting period. As there is no profit component, such works are treated as 100% completed. Reimbursements not received are recognised as receivables and reimbursements received in advance are recognised as "payments received in advance".

For works undertaken on a fixed price contract basis, revenues and expenses are recognised on a percentage of completion basis. Costs incurred in advance of a future claimed entitlement are classified as work in progress in inventory. When it is probable that total contract costs will exceed total contract revenue, the expected loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

**(14) Equity Accounted Council Businesses**

Council participates in cooperative arrangements with other Councils for the provision of services and facilities. Council's interests in cooperative arrangements, which are only recognised if material, are accounted for in accordance with AASB 128.

**(15) GST Implications**

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 "Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax"

- Receivables and Creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

**(16) Comparative Figures**

To ensure comparability with the current reporting period's figures, some comparative period line items and amounts may have been reclassified or individually reported for the first time within these financial statements and/or the notes.

**(17) Disclaimer**

Nothing contained within these statements may be taken to be an admission of any liability to any person under any circumstance.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 2. Income

\$ '000	2022	2021
<b>(a) Rates</b>		
<b>General Rates</b>		
Residential	19,584	18,905
Commercial	2,350	2,306
Industrial	995	947
Rates Received in Advance	–	245
Other	–	4
<b>Total General Rates</b>	<b>22,929</b>	<b>22,407</b>
<b>Other Rates (Including Service Charges)</b>		
Waste Management Service	6,884	6,933
<b>Total Other Rates (Including Service Charges)</b>	<b>6,884</b>	<b>6,933</b>
<b>Total Rates</b>	<b>29,813</b>	<b>29,340</b>
<b>(b) Statutory Charges</b>		
Animal Registration Fees & Fines	70	67
Parking Fines / Expiation Fees	30	16
Other Licences, Fees & Fines	22	53
<b>Total Statutory Charges</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>(c) User Charges</b>		
Sundry	5	13
Developer Charges	191	64
Animal Control	60	63
Rent and Hire of Council Equipment	266	265
Library	42	37
Rate Searches and Dog Registrations	308	280
Licences and Permits	42	37
<b>Total User Charges</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>759</b>
<b>(d) Investment Income</b>		
Interest on Investments		
- Banks & Other	175	162
- Interest on Overdue Rates and Charges	111	114
Investment Property Rental Income	446	446
<b>Total Investment Income</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>722</b>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 2. Income (continued)

\$ '000	2022	2021
<b>(e) Reimbursements</b>		
Private Works	1	3
<b>Total Reimbursements</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>(f) Other income</b>		
Insurance & Other Recoupments - Infrastructure, IPP&E	210	202
Sundry	230	241
<b>Total Other income</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>443</b>
<b>(g) Grants, Subsidies, Contributions</b>		
Amounts Received Specifically for New or Upgraded Assets	5,186	2,383
<b>Total Amounts Received Specifically for New or Upgraded Assets</b>	<b>5,186</b>	<b>2,383</b>
Other Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	3,775	2,966
<b>Total Other Grants, Subsidies and Contributions</b>	<b>3,775</b>	<b>2,966</b>
<b>Total Grants, Subsidies, Contributions</b>	<b>8,961</b>	<b>5,349</b>
The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 12.		
<b>(i) Sources of grants</b>		
Commonwealth Government	2,819	1,466
Territory Government	6,140	3,629
Other	2	254
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,961</b>	<b>5,349</b>

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 2. Income (continued)

\$ '000	2022	2021
<b>(h) Conditions over Grants &amp; Contributions</b>		
Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be expended for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet expended in accordance with those conditions, are as follows:		
<b>Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period</b>	9,363	5,411
<b>Less:</b>		
<i>Expended during the current period from grants received in previous reporting periods</i>		
Government Grants	(2,863)	(1,322)
<b>Subtotal</b>	(2,863)	(1,322)
<b>Plus:</b>		
<i>Amounts received in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions</i>		
Government Grants	6,336	5,274
<b>Subtotal</b>	6,336	5,274
<b>Unexpended at the close of this reporting period</b>	12,836	9,363
<b>Net increase (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period</b>	3,473	3,952
<b>(i) Physical Resources Received Free of Charge</b>		
Roads and Pavement	773	1,142
Stormwater Drainage	1,448	1,496
Street Lights	246	172
Footpaths, Cycleways and Driveways	234	282
Other - Gifted Assets	459	235
<b>Total Physical Resources Received Free of Charge</b>	3,160	3,327

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 2. Income (continued)

\$ '000	as at 30/06/21	Movements		as at 30/06/22
	Opening Balance Restated	Received/ Receivable	Expended	Closing Balance
<b>(j) Reconciliation of Government Grants</b>				
<b>Grants (with discretion on use)</b>				
<b>General Purpose (Untied)</b>				
Grants Commission Grant - General Purpose	–	1,233	(1,233)	–
Grants Commission Grant - Roads Funding	–	1,558	(1,558)	–
Public Library Annual funding	–	597	(597)	–
<b>Subtotal</b>	–	3,388	(3,388)	–
<b>Specific Purpose (Recurrent)</b>				
Territory Road Asset Grants - Johnston/Zuccoli	111	–	(111)	–
Youth Services & Resource Card	–	–	–	–
Roads to Recovery	102	722	(824)	–
Urban Jams	–	44	(44)	–
myPalmerston Local Business Voucher Scheme	–	402	–	402
Palmerston Seniors Forum	–	1	(1)	–
Palmerston Targeted Youth Grant - lake skates & passion 21/22	–	12	(12)	–
Palmerston Targeted Youth Grant - lake skates & passion 22/23	–	5	–	5
Palmerston Pride	–	5	(5)	–
Australia Day	–	2	(2)	–
Archer Waste Management Facility	90	–	(90)	–
Goyder Security	–	155	(65)	90
Economic Development Champion	–	80	–	80
<b>Subtotal</b>	303	1,428	(1,154)	577
<b>Total other grants</b>	303	4,816	(4,542)	577
<b>Grants Specifically for New/Upgraded Assets</b>				
<b>Specific Purpose (Recurrent)</b>				
LED Upgrade Library & Recreation Centre	2	–	(2)	–
Custom Holding Animal Pen	–	110	–	110
Palmerston Youth Drop In & Emergency	1,034	–	–	1,034
Various Asset Improvements	393	–	(47)	346
SCALE Grant Program	200	–	(200)	–
Gray Community Hall	–	1,310	(1,310)	–
Fiber Sense Technology	–	500	(485)	15
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program 1	16	54	(70)	–
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program 2	515	512	(1,027)	–
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program 3	–	412	–	412
Archer Waste Management Facility	400	–	(125)	275
Greening, Cooling, Lighting and Pathways	4,000	–	(1,435)	2,565
Electronic Speed Signs	–	59	(59)	–
Yarrowonga Road Pathway	–	14	(14)	–
Swimming Wellness Events Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL)	2,500	5,000	–	7,500
<b>Total Grants Specifically for New/Upgraded Assets</b>	9,060	7,971	(4,774)	12,257

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 3. Expenses

\$ '000	Notes	2022	2021
<b>(a) Employee costs</b>			
Salaries and Wages		7,515	7,571
Employee Leave Expense		1,184	930
Superannuation - Defined Contribution Plan Contributions	17	858	812
Workers' Compensation Insurance		178	170
Other		291	325
<b>Total Operating Employee Costs</b>		<b>10,026</b>	<b>9,808</b>
Total Number of Approved Full Time Equivalent Employees at the end of reporting period			
		92	90
<b>(b) Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses</b>			
<b>(i) Prescribed Expenses</b>			
Auditor's Remuneration			
- Auditing the Financial Reports		47	45
- Other Auditors		26	76
Bad and Doubtful Debts		132	3
Elected Members' Expenses		320	319
Minimum Lease Payments		23	20
<b>Subtotal - Prescribed Expenses</b>		<b>548</b>	<b>463</b>
<b>(ii) Other Materials, Contracts and Expenses</b>			
Contractors		10,704	10,612
Energy		1,057	1,040
Legal Expenses		270	388
Professional Services		1,919	2,019
Sundry		5,840	6,011
<b>Subtotal - Other Material, Contracts &amp; Expenses</b>		<b>19,790</b>	<b>20,070</b>
<b>Total Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses</b>		<b>20,338</b>	<b>20,533</b>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 3. Expenses (continued)

\$ '000	2022	2021
<b>(c) Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment</b>		
<b>(i) Depreciation and Amortisation</b>		
Land Improvements	693	650
Buildings & Other Structures	684	677
Infrastructure		
- Stormwater Drainage	3,114	3,106
- Roads and Pavement	3,247	3,218
- Kerbs and Guttering	250	247
- Footpaths, Cycleways & Driveways	1,197	1,102
- Water and Irrigation	616	608
- Street Lights	811	957
Plant & Equipment	13	27
Furniture & Fittings	101	80
Motor Vehicles	203	193
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10,929</b>	<b>10,865</b>
<b>Total Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment</b>	<b>10,929</b>	<b>10,865</b>
<b>(d) Finance Costs</b>		
Interest on Loans	40	46
<b>Total Finance Costs</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>46</b>

## Note 4. Asset Disposal and Fair Value Adjustments

\$ '000	2022	2021
<b>Infrastructure, Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</b>		
<b>(i) Assets Renewed or Directly Replaced</b>		
Proceeds from Disposal	310	205
Less: Carrying Amount of Assets Sold	(111)	(76)
<b>Gain (Loss) on Disposal</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>(ii) Assets Surplus to Requirements</b>		
Less: Carrying Amount of Assets Sold	(1,270)	(1,567)
<b>Gain (Loss) on Disposal</b>	<b>(1,270)</b>	<b>(1,567)</b>
<b>Fair Value Adjustments</b>		
Investment Property - Fair Value Increase / (Decrease)	300	200
Revaluation Decrements Expensed	(697)	-
<b>Total Fair Value Adjustments</b>	<b>(397)</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Net Gain (Loss) on Disposal or Revaluation of Assets</b>	<b>(1,468)</b>	<b>(1,238)</b>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

Note 5. Current Assets

\$ '000	2022	2021
<b>(a) Cash &amp; Cash Equivalent Assets</b>		
Cash on Hand at Bank	10,898	3,344
Short Term Deposits & Bills, etc.	9,009	7,500
<b>Total Cash &amp; Cash Equivalent Assets</b>	<b>19,907</b>	<b>10,844</b>

(b) Trade & Other Receivables

Rates - General & Other	1,898	1,665
Accrued Revenues	129	66
Debtors - General	470	75
GST Recoupment	416	404
Prepayments	59	98
Sundry	1	1
Animal Control	76	55
Parking and Traffic	21	14
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,070</b>	<b>2,378</b>
Less: Expected Credit Losses	(132)	-
<b>Total Trade &amp; Other Receivables</b>	<b>2,938</b>	<b>2,378</b>

(c) Other Financial Assets (Investments)

Term Deposits Over 90 Days	18,513	20,665
<b>Total Other Financial Assets (Investments)</b>	<b>18,513</b>	<b>20,665</b>

Amounts included in other financial assets that are not expected to be received within 12 months of reporting date are disclosed in Note 13.

Note 6. Non-Current Assets

\$ '000	2022	2021
<b>Other Non-Current Assets</b>		
<b>Other</b>		
Capital Works-in-Progress	2,207	4,024
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>4,024</b>
<b>Total Other Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>4,024</b>

Work in Progress Reconciliation

	2022	2021
<b>Opening Work in Progress</b>	4,024	4,409
Less: Capitalised prior year Work in Progress	(2,828)	(2,913)
Less: Prior year Work in Progress expensed	(573)	(320)
Add: Current year expenditure	1,584	2,848
<b>Closing Work in Progress</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>4,024</b>

Financial Statements 2022

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment & Investment Property

(a) Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

	as at 30/06/21				as at 30/06/22								
	Fair Value Level	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount	Asset Additions New / Upgrade	WDV of Depreciation Expense Disposals (Note 3c)	WIP Adjustments Transfers & Transfers (Note 4)	Revaluation Increments/ Decrements to P&L - Investment Properties (ARR) (Note 9)	Revaluation Increments to Equity (ARR) (Note 9)	Accumulated Depreciation	At Cost	Carrying amount
Land - Community	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land - Other	3	134,438	-	-	134,438	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	134,438
Land Improvements	3	16,613	1,228	(8,897)	8,944	1,683	(693)	696	(1,266)	-	(7,455)	9,220	9,220
Buildings & Other Structures	3	29,849	46	(10,688)	19,207	2,241	(56)	1,399	506	-	(12,499)	-	22,932
Infrastructure	3	254,038	1,569	(68,115)	187,492	1,475	(73)	-	513	-	(71,328)	-	186,293
- Stormwater Drainage	3	166,273	1,184	(51,286)	116,171	1,121	(816)	45	(129)	-	(53,109)	-	114,285
- Roads and Pavement	3	24,478	277	(7,793)	16,962	36	(250)	-	-	-	(8,043)	-	16,748
- Kerbs and Guttering	3	63,695	499	(20,132)	44,062	1,144	(27)	130	334	-	(21,856)	-	44,526
- Footpaths, Cycleways & Driveways	3	17,653	315	(9,128)	8,840	662	(120)	3	29	-	(9,492)	-	8,834
- Water and Irrigation	3	28,882	1,787	(3,246)	27,423	645	(18)	9	13	-	(8,590)	-	26,613
- Street Lights	3	-	307	(207)	100	-	(13)	-	-	-	(217)	303	86
Plant & Equipment		-	1,544	(1,064)	480	87	(101)	546	-	-	(1,165)	2,177	1,012
Furniture & Fittings		-	1,204	(599)	605	400	(111)	-	-	-	(507)	1,197	690
Motor Vehicles		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Infrastructure, Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</b>		735,919	9,960	(181,155)	564,724	9,494	(1,374)	2,828	(697)	-	(194,261)	3,677	565,677
Comparatives		724,823	6,886	(177,611)	554,098	5,292	(1,644)	2,913	-	14,184	(181,155)	9,960	564,724

(b) Investment Property

	as at 30/06/21		Asset movements during the reporting period				as at 30/06/22	
	At Fair Value	At Cost	Asset Additions New / Upgrade	WIP Transfers	Revaluation Increments/ Decrements to P&L - Investment Properties (Note 4)	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation
Buildings & Structures	5,400	-	-	-	300	5,700	-	-
<b>Total Investment Property</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,700</b>
Comparatives	5,200	-	-	-	200	5,400	-	5,400

\$ '000

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment & Investment Property (continued)

(c) Valuation of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment & Investment Property

Valuation of Assets

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various Accounting Standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a "level" in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Refer to Note 7a for the disclosure of the Fair Value Levels of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment Assets.

Information on Valuations

*Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of land* - Valuations of Crown land, community land and land subject to other restrictions on use or disposal, shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 3 valuation inputs, are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, but include adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset that are not directly or indirectly observable in that market, or the number and / or amount of observable adjustments of which are so great that the valuation is more fairly described as being based on level 3 valuation inputs.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of buildings, infrastructure and other assets - There is no known market for buildings, infrastructure and other assets. These assets are valued at depreciated current replacement cost. This method involves:

- The determination of the cost to construct the asset (or its modern engineering equivalent) using current prices for materials and labour, the quantities of each being estimated based on recent experience of this or similar Councils, or on industry construction guides where these are more appropriate.
- The calculation of the depreciation that would have accumulated since original construction using current estimates of residual value and useful life under the prime cost depreciation method adopted by Council.

This method has significant inherent uncertainties, relying on estimates of quantities of materials and labour, residual values and useful lives, and the possibility of changes in prices for materials and labour, and the potential for development of more efficient construction techniques. Accordingly, formal sensitivity analysis does not provide useful information.

Transfers between fair value hierarchy levels

In the course of revaluing Footpaths and Driveways, the nature of the inputs applied was reviewed in detail for each asset and where necessary, the asset reassigned to the appropriate fair value hierarchy level. Such transfers take effect as at the date of the revaluation.

Other Information

At 1 July 2004 upon the transition to AIFRS, Council elected pursuant to AASB 1.D5 to retain a previously established deemed cost under GAAP as its deemed cost. With subsequent addition at cost, this remains as the basis of recognition of non-material asset classes.

Upon revaluation, the current new replacement cost and accumulated depreciation are re-stated such that the difference represents the fair value of the asset determined in accordance with AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement: accumulated depreciation is taken to be the difference between current new replacement cost and fair value. In the case of land, current replacement cost is taken to be the fair value.

Highest and best use

All of Council's non financial assets are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use.



## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant &amp; Equipment &amp; Investment Property (continued)

**Transition to AASB 13 - Fair Value Measurement**

The requirements of AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement have been applied to all valuations undertaken since 1 July 2013 as shown by the valuation dates by individual asset classes below.

**Land**

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2019
- Valuer: Australis Asset Advisory Group Pty Ltd

**Land Improvements**

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2018
- Valuer: Asset Val Pty Ltd

**Buildings & Other Structures**

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2019
- Valuer: Australis Asset Advisory Group Pty Ltd

**Infrastructure***Roads & Pavements*

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2020
- Valuer: Assetic Australia Pty Ltd

*Kerbs and Guttering*

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2020
- Valuer: Assetic Australia Pty Ltd

*Footpaths, Cycleways and Driveways*

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2021
- Valuer: Assetic Australia Pty Ltd

*Stormwater Drainage*

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2018
- Valuer: Asset Val Pty Ltd

*Water & Irrigation*

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2018.
- Valuer: Asset Val Pty Ltd

*Street Lights*

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2021
- Valuer: Assetic Australia Pty Ltd

**Plant & Equipment**

- Basis of valuation: Cost

**Furniture & Fittings**

- Basis of valuation: Cost

**Motor Vehicles**

- Basis of valuation: Cost

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant &amp; Equipment &amp; Investment Property (continued)

**Investment Property**

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2022.
- Valuer: Herron Todd White (Northern Territory) Pty Ltd

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 8. Liabilities

\$ '000	2022		2021	
	Current	Non Current	Current	Non Current
<b>(a) Trade and Other Payables</b>				
Unearned Grant Income	12,836	–	9,060	–
Goods & Services	3,723	–	1,986	–
Rent received in advance	37	–	34	–
Rates received in advance	207	–	–	–
Accrued Expenses - Employee Entitlements	317	–	331	–
Accrued Expenses - Other	2,119	–	1,544	–
Deposits, Retentions & Bonds	29	–	454	–
<b>Total Trade and Other Payables</b>	<b>19,268</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>13,409</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>(b) Borrowings</b>				
Loans	241	1,035	235	1,276
<b>Total Borrowings</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>1,276</b>
All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council				
<b>(c) Provisions</b>				
Employee Entitlements (including oncosts)	1,327	340	1,317	317
Future Reinstatement / Restoration, etc	73	1,358	73	1,450
<b>Total Provisions</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,698</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,767</b>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 9. Reserves

\$ '000	as at 30/06/21				as at 30/06/22
	Opening Balance	Increments (Decrements)	Transfers	Impairments	Closing Balance
<b>(a) Asset Revaluation Reserve</b>					
Land - Other	117,472	–	–	–	117,472
Land Improvements	135	–	–	–	135
Buildings & Other Structures	9,438	–	–	–	9,438
Infrastructure					
- Stormwater Drainage	138,967	–	–	–	138,967
- Roads and Pavement	64,407	–	–	–	64,407
- Kerbs and Guttering	3,576	–	–	–	3,576
- Footpaths, Cycleways & Driveways	23,428	–	–	–	23,428
- Water and Irrigation	6,358	–	–	–	6,358
- Water Infrastructure	4,464	–	–	–	4,464
Streetlights					
Motor Vehicles	71	–	–	–	71
<b>Total Asset Revaluation Reserve</b>	<b>368,316</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>368,316</b>
Comparatives	354,132	14,184	–	–	368,316
<b>(b) Other Reserves</b>					
\$ '000	as at 30/06/21				as at 30/06/22
	Opening Balance	Tfrs to Reserve	Tfrs from Reserve	Other Movements	Closing Balance
Developer Funds Reserve	2,061	43	–	–	2,104
Unexpended Capital Works Reserve	4,590	825	–	–	5,415
Unexpended Grants and Contributions Reserve	213	780	(213)	–	780
Election Expenses Reserve	150	50	(150)	–	50
Disaster Recovery Reserve	500	–	–	–	500
Waste Management Reserve	3,143	670	(889)	–	2,924
Major Initiatives Reserve	615	800	–	–	1,415
Working Capital Reserve	7,581	–	(385)	–	7,196
<b>Total Other Reserves</b>	<b>18,853</b>	<b>3,168</b>	<b>(1,637)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>20,384</b>
Comparatives	17,794	6,546	(5,487)	–	18,853

## Purposes of Reserves

**Asset Revaluation Reserve**

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non current assets (less any subsequent impairment losses, where applicable).

## Externally Restricted Reserves

**Unexpended Grants and Contributions Reserve**

This reserve holds the balance of unexpended grants and contributions received from external contributors. The funds are held in this reserve until expensed in line with the funding conditions. External restrictions apply in line with the individual funding agreements.

AASB 1058 supersedes all the income recognition requirements relating to Council, previously in AASB 1004.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

### Note 9. Reserves (continued)

Under AASB 1058 the future timing of income recognition will depend on whether the transaction gives rise to a liability or other performance obligation related to an asset received by Council.

#### Internally Restricted Reserves

##### Election Expenses Reserve

This reserve shall be increased annually over the Council term. This reserve should not exceed \$150,000.

##### Disaster Recovery Reserve

This reserve shall be maintained at or near \$500,000. External funds received after the event for the purpose of disaster recovery shall be used to maintain the reserve on this level of funds.

##### Developer Funds Reserve

This reserve holds the balance of unexpended funds in lieu of construction received by developers.

##### Unexpended Capital Works Reserve

This reserve holds the balance of unexpended capital works funds that are requested to be carried forward to the following financial year.

##### Major Initiatives Reserve

This reserve will fund major initiatives for the future development of the City of Palmerston in line with identified major capital works, the Municipal Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan. Specific initiatives must be identified, and funds are to be allocated to those.

##### Waste Management Reserve

This reserve holds funds for the direct and indirect expenditures for the rehabilitation of the Archer landfill and for development of the Archer transfer station to accommodate expected future requirements.

#### Unrestricted Reserves

##### Working Capital Reserve

This reserve holds funds that have not been allocated to a specific purpose.

### Note 10. Assets Subject to Restrictions

\$ '000	2022	2021
The uses of the following assets are restricted, wholly or partially, by legislation or other externally imposed requirements. The assets are required to be utilised for the purposes for which control was transferred to Council, or for which the revenues were originally obtained.		
<b>Cash &amp; Financial Assets</b>		
Unexpended amounts received from Government	12,836	9,363
<b>Total Cash &amp; Financial Assets</b>	<b>12,836</b>	<b>9,363</b>
<b>Total Assets Subject to Externally Imposed Restrictions</b>	<b>12,836</b>	<b>9,363</b>

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

### Note 11. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows

\$ '000	Notes	2022	2021
<b>(a) Reconciliation of Cash</b>			
Cash Assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:			
Total Cash & Cash Equivalent Assets	5	19,907	10,844
<b>Balances per Statement of Cash Flows</b>		<b>19,907</b>	<b>10,844</b>

### (b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities

<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	1,342	(2,411)
<b>Non-Cash Items in Income Statements</b>		
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	10,929	10,865
Fair Value Adjustments	397	(200)
Non-Cash Asset Acquisitions	(3,160)	(3,327)
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as Investing Activity	(5,186)	(2,383)
Net (Gain) Loss on Disposals	1,071	1,438
	<b>5,393</b>	<b>3,982</b>
<b>Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets</b>		
Net (Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	(692)	(59)
Change in Allowances for Under-Recovery of Receivables	132	(246)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Trade & Other Payables	2,857	45
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Unpaid Employee Benefits	33	(3)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Other Provisions	(92)	(3)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations</b>	<b>7,631</b>	<b>3,716</b>

### (c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities

<b>Acquisition of assets by means of:</b>			
Physical Resources Received Free of Charge	2i	3,160	3,327
<b>Amounts recognised in Income Statement</b>		<b>3,160</b>	<b>3,327</b>
<b>Total Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities</b>		<b>3,160</b>	<b>3,327</b>

### (d) Financing Arrangements

**Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:**

Corporate Credit Cards	100	100
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The bank overdraft facilities may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

### Note 12(a). Functions

	Income, Expenses and Assets have been directly attributed to the following Functions / Activities. Details of these Functions/Activities are provided in Note 12(b).										TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT)		
	INCOME		EXPENSES		OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME				2022	2021	
	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	Actual	Actual	
\$ '000													
<b>Functions/Activities</b>													
General Public Services	26,904	25,905	21,241	21,712	21,427	4,193	4,630	(3,540)	(2,122)	(2,954)	42,049	38,516	
Public Order and Safety	612	460	1,215	1,134	1,165	(674)	(714)	(110)	—	—	—	—	
Economic Affairs	3,204	3,549	2,446	1,997	3,036	758	(844)	(2,365)	(2,615)	(1,641)	362,864	365,167	
Environmental Protection	7,201	7,081	6,463	5,978	5,800	738	1,223	(400)	(125)	(90)	—	—	
Housing and Community Amenities	—	573	1,028	749	717	(176)	(717)	—	(573)	—	32,313	32,823	
Recreation, Culture and Religion	4,611	3,481	9,252	9,827	9,088	(6,346)	(8,061)	(4,269)	(3,261)	(662)	175,510	171,529	
Social Protection	2	6	15	6	19	—	(17)	(2)	(6)	(2)	—	—	
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,206	—	
<b>Total Functions/Activities</b>	<b>42,534</b>	<b>41,055</b>	<b>41,660</b>	<b>41,403</b>	<b>41,252</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>(4,500)</b>	<b>(10,686)</b>	<b>(8,702)</b>	<b>(5,349)</b>	<b>614,942</b>	<b>608,035</b>	

Revenues and expenses exclude net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets and physical resources received free of charge.

## City of Palmerston

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

### Note 12(b). Components of Functions

The activities relating to Council functions are as follows:

#### GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES

General public services include administrative, legislative and executive affairs, financial and fiscal affairs, external affairs, governance and general services.

#### PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

Animal control, enforcement of local government regulations and emergency services.

#### ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

General economic, industrial development, roads and other business undertakings.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Waste management; pollution reduction; protection of biodiversity and landscape; and best practice management of the natural environment.

#### HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Street lighting and other community amenities.

#### RECREATION, CULTURE AND RELIGION

Public libraries, community centres, facilities and venues and other cultural services.

#### SOCIAL PROTECTION

Administration of social services and assistance delivered to seniors and diverse communities.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 13. Financial Instruments

**Recognised Financial Instruments****Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits****Accounting Policy:**

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost; interest is recognised when earned.

**Terms & Conditions:**

Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 0.4% and 2.94% (2021: 0.25% and 0.75%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 156 days and an average interest rate of 0.81% (2021: 181 days and 0.46%).

**Carrying Amount:**

Approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

**Receivables - Rates & Associated Charges****Accounting Policy:**

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

**Terms & Conditions:**

Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 8% (2021: 9%). Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State.

**Carrying Amount:**

Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

**Receivables - Fees & Other Charges****Accounting Policy:**

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

**Terms & Conditions:**

Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.

**Carrying Amount:**

Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

**Receivables - Other Levels of Government****Accounting Policy:**

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

**Terms & Conditions:**

Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of State and Federal Governments.

**Carrying Amount:**

Approximates fair value.

**Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals****Accounting Policy:**

Liabilities are recognised at amortised cost for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 13. Financial Instruments (continued)

**Terms & Conditions:**

Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

**Carrying Amount:**

Amortised cost

**Liabilities - Interest Bearing Borrowings****Accounting Policy:**

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate.

**Terms & Conditions:**

Secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable (describe basis); interest is charged at a fixed rate of 2.78% per annum.

**Carrying Amount:**

Approximates fair value.

**Liabilities - Leases****Accounting Policy:**

Accounted for in accordance with AASB 16 as stated in Note 17.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 13. Financial Instruments (continued)

\$ '000	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year & ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
<b>2022</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash & Cash Equivalents	19,908	–	–	19,908	19,908
Receivables	672	–	–	672	672
Other Financial Assets	18,513	–	–	18,513	18,513
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>39,093</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>39,093</b>	<b>39,093</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	6,188	–	–	6,188	6,188
Current Borrowings	241	–	–	241	241
Non-Current Borrowings	–	1,035	–	1,035	1,035
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>6,429</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>7,464</b>	<b>7,464</b>
<b>2021</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash & Cash Equivalents	10,844	–	–	10,844	10,844
Receivables	211	–	–	211	211
Other Financial Assets	20,665	–	–	20,665	20,665
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>31,720</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>31,720</b>	<b>31,720</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	4,315	–	–	4,315	4,315
Current Borrowings	235	–	–	235	235
Non-Current Borrowings	–	1,006	270	1,276	1,276
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>4,550</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>5,826</b>	<b>5,826</b>

The following interest rates were applicable to Council's Borrowings at balance date:

\$ '000	2022		2021	
	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value
Fixed Interest Rates	2.78%	1,276	2.78%	1,511
		<b>1,276</b>		<b>1,511</b>

**Net Fair Value**

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 13. Financial Instruments (continued)

**Risk Exposures**

**Credit Risk** represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Council is the carrying amount, net of any impairment. All Council investments are made in accordance with the Council's investment policy. Except as detailed in Notes 5 & 6 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

**Market Risk** is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor **currency risk** apply.

**Liquidity Risk** is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates. Council also has available a range of bank overdraft and standby borrowing facilities that it can access.

**Interest Rate Risk** is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate borrowings and investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

**Expected Credit Losses (ECL)**

Council uses an allowance matrix to measure expected credit losses for receivables from individual customers, which comprise a large number of small balances. Rates and annual charges are secured over subject land and an allowance for such receivables is made based on credit history.

Set out below is the movement in the allowance for expected credit losses:

\$ '000	2022	2021
As at 1 July	–	246
Provisions	132	–
Write off	–	(246)
<b>As at 30 June</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>–</b>

## Note 14. Capital Expenditure and Investment Property Commitments

\$ '000	2022	2021
<b>(a) Capital Commitments</b>		
<b>Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:</b>		
Other	23,238	3,466
	<b>23,238</b>	<b>3,466</b>
<b>These expenditures are payable:</b>		
Not later than one year	15,245	3,466
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	7,993	–
	<b>23,238</b>	<b>3,466</b>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

Note 14. Capital Expenditure and Investment Property Commitments (continued)

\$ '000	2022	2021
<b>(b) Other Expenditure Commitments</b>		
<b>Other non-capital expenditure commitments in relation to investment properties at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:</b>		
Waste Management Services	11,572	3,063
Other Maintenance Contracts	378	166
Landscaping and Mowing	3,992	3,858
Civil Works	289	1,154
Other	7,672	2,158
	<b>23,903</b>	<b>10,399</b>
<b>These expenditures are payable:</b>		
Not later than one year	7,380	5,571
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	16,523	4,828
	<b>23,903</b>	<b>10,399</b>

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

Note 15. Financial Indicators

\$ '000	Amounts 2022	Indicator 2022	Indicators 2021	Indicators 2020	Benchmark
<b>Current Ratio</b>					
Current Assets less Externally Restricted Assets	<b>41,358</b>	<b>1.98</b>	1.63	2.14	> 1.50
Current Liabilities	<b>20,909</b>				
<b>Debt Service Ratio</b>					
EBTIDA (Earnings before tax, interest, depreciation and amortisation)	<b>5,433</b>	<b>19.8</b>	14.3	17.6	> 2.0
Net Debt Service Cost	<b>275</b>				
<b>Rate Coverage Percentage</b>					
Rate Revenues	<b>22,929</b>	<b>55.95%</b>	60.97%	54.69%	> 60.00%
Total Revenues	<b>40,983</b>				
<b>Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding</b>					
Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding	<b>1,898</b>	<b>6.37%</b>	5.67%	5.08%	< 5.00%
Rates & Annual Charges Collectible	<b>29,813</b>				
<b>Operating Ratio</b>					
Operating Revenue less Operating Expenses	<b>5,433</b>	<b>15.18%</b>	11.72%	13.85%	> 0.00%
Operating Revenue	<b>35,797</b>				
<b>Own Revenue</b>					
Own funding	<b>32,022</b>	<b>89.45%</b>	91.37%	91.80%	> 60.00%
Total operating revenue	<b>35,797</b>				
<b>Interest Cover Ratio</b>					
EBTIDA (Earnings before tax, interest, depreciation and amortisation)	<b>5,433</b>	<b>135.83</b>	87.56	93.36	> 4.00
Interest Expense	<b>40</b>				
<b>Asset Sustainability Ratio</b>					
Capital Expenditure	<b>10,793</b>	<b>98.76%</b>	52.00%	80.00%	> 89.00%
Depreciation	<b>10,929</b>				

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 16. Leases

## Council as a lessor

## Leases Providing Revenue to the Council

Council owns various buildings, plant and other facilities that are available for hire or lease (on a non-cancellable basis wherever practicable) in accordance with the published revenue policy. Rentals received from such leases are disclosed as rent and hire of non-investment property in Note 2.

**(i) Investment Property**

Rentals received, and outgoings reimbursed, in relation to Investment Property are also disclosed in Note 2. These lease agreements, all of which are classified as operating leases, are made on a non-cancellable basis wherever practicable.

\$ '000	2022	2021
<b>Future minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases as at 30 June, are as follows:</b>		
Not later than one year	702	687
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	663	1,273
	<b>1,365</b>	<b>1,960</b>

**(ii) Lease Payment Commitments of Council**

Council has entered into non-cancellable operating leases for various items of computer and other plant and equipment.

No contingent rentals were paid during the current or previous reporting periods.

No lease imposes any additional restrictions on Council in relation to additional debt or further leasing.

Leases in relation to computer and office equipment permit Council, at expiry of the lease, to elect to re-lease return or acquire the equipment leased

No lease contains any escalation clause.

**Commitments under non-cancellable operating leases that have not been recognised in the financial statements are as follows:**

Not later than one year	45	45
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	11	56
Later than 5 years	-	-
	<b>56</b>	<b>101</b>

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 17. Superannuation

Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (10% in 2021/22; 9.50% in 2020/21). The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the following schemes:

**HOSTPLUS Superannuation Scheme**

HOSTPLUS Superannuation Fund (formerly Statewide Super) receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. No further liability accrues to the Council as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

**Contributions to Other Superannuation Schemes**

The Council also makes contributions to other superannuation schemes selected by employees under the "choice of fund" legislation. All such schemes are of the accumulation type, where the superannuation benefits accruing to the employee are represented by their share of the net assets of the scheme, and no further liability attaches to the Council.



## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 18. Contingencies &amp; Assets/Liabilities Not Recognised in the Balance Sheet

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but knowledge is considered relevant to the users of the financial report in making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of scarce resources.

## 1. Land under roads

As reported in the Financial Statements, Council is of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably for these assets to qualify for recognition, and accordingly land under roads has not been recognised in the reports.

## 2. Potential insurance losses

Council is a multi-purpose organisation providing a large range of building, parks infrastructure, playgrounds and other facilities accessible to the public. At any time, it is likely that claims will have been made against Council that remain unsettled.

Council insures against all known insurable risks using a range of insurance policies, each of which is subject to deductible "insurance excesses", the amount of which varies according to the class of insurance.

Council has recognised the potential losses arising from claims known at reporting date based on average historical net cost (including insurance excess) of similar types of claims. Other potential claims not reported to Council may have existed at reporting date.

Refer also to Note 19 (i).

## Note 19. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Events that occur after the reporting date of 30 June 2022, up to and including the date when the financial statements are "authorised for issue" have been taken into account in preparing these statements.

Council has adopted the date of receipt of the Auditors' Report as the appropriate "authorised for issue" date relating to these General Purpose Financial Statements.

Council is aware of the following "non adjusting events" that merit disclosure;

i) On 8th August 2022, City of Palmerston were issued with a summons for alleged breaches of the Northern Territory Work Health Safety Laws in relation to an incident with the weed harvester. The charges carry fines and penalties of up to \$7.09million. This matter is ongoing.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

## Note 20. Related Party Transactions

## Key Management Personnel

## Transactions with Key Management Personnel

Key Management Personnel include the CEO, Directors, General Managers and Elected Members.

The related parties of the Council include:

- the key management personnel (KMP) because they have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Council directly; and
- spouses, children and dependants who are close family members of the KMP and;
- any entities controlled or jointly controlled by KMP or controlled or jointly controlled by their close family members.

\$ '000	2022	2021
<b>The compensation paid to Key Management Personnel comprises:</b>		
Salaries, Allowances and Other Short-Term Benefits	1,500	1,295
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,295</b>

## i) Retirement Benefits

No retirement benefits have been made by the Council to KMP during the reporting year.

## (ii) Loans to Responsible Persons

No loans have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to KMP during the reporting year.

## (iii) Other Transactions

Other than the amount paid as taxpayers or residents (e.g. rates, swimming pool entry fees, etc.) no other transactions have been made with the KMP during the year.

City of Palmerston provides financial support to some not for profit organisations. Two of these organisations have an Elected Member on their current board. These financial arrangements existed prior to those board members becoming Elected Members, and the nature of those arrangements have remained unchanged.

## (iv) Outstanding Amounts

As at 30 June 2022, there were no outstanding amounts receivable from the Council's KMP.

## CEO REMUNERATION

Regulation 13(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations require Council, to include a disclosure of the total remuneration provided to each person appointed as the actual, acting or temporary CEO during the financial year. Below table provides the total remuneration paid to the actual and acting CEOs during 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Remuneration	Actual CEO Luccio Franco Cercarelli 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022	Acting CEO Nadine Nilon 22 June 2022 - 30 June 2022	Acting CEO Amelia Vellar 15 October 2021 - 21 October 2021
Short Term Benefits (1)	\$329,390	\$11,460	\$10,380
Non cash benefits	\$5,739	\$841	\$605
Other long term benefits (2)	\$7,203	\$ 277	\$261
Post employment benefits	-	-	-
Termination Benefits	-	-	-
Share Based Payments	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$342,332</b>	<b>\$12,578</b>	<b>\$11,246</b>

(1) Short Term Benefits include employer funded superannuation contributions

(2) Other long term benefits include Long Service Leave Accruals for the 2021/22 financial year



# Independent Auditor's Report

To the Chief Executive Officer of City of Palmerston

## Opinion

We have audited the **Financial Report** of City of Palmerston (the "**Council**").

In our opinion, the accompanying Financial Report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of City of Palmerston as at 30 June 2022, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards and the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019*.

The **Financial Report** comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022
- Statement of comprehensive income, Statement of changes in equity, and Statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- Notes including a summary of significant accounting policies
- Chief Executive Officer's Statement.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards*. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the *Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the Financial Report in Australia. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

## Responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer for the Financial Report

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for:

- the preparation and fair presentation of the Financial Report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements, *Australian Accounting Standards and the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019*.
- implementing necessary internal control to enable the preparation of a Financial Report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern and whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. This includes disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Council or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

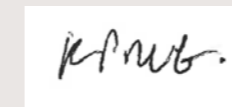
Our objective is:

- to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion.

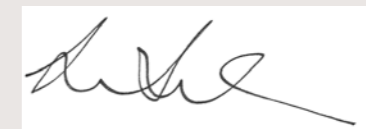
Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. They are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the Financial Report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report is located at the *Auditing and Assurance Standards Board* website at: [http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

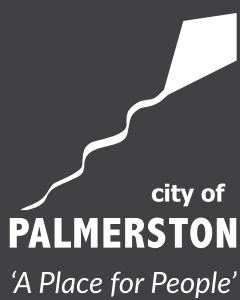


KPMG





Luke Snowdon  
Partner  
Darwin  
27 October 2022

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