

# 2022 | ANNUAL 2023 | REPORT



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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.

City of Palmerston is committed to embracing diversity and eliminating all forms of discrimination within our facilities and welcome all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or faith.



Trent Lee & William Hewitt, First Ordinary Council Meeting, Civic Plaza, 2023

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Chinese Lion Dancers, Multicultural Festival, Goyder Square, 2023

# WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT

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. The City of Palmerston's Vision is to create *A Place for People* through the delivery of projects, programs, services and infrastructure. This annual report highlights our progress and performance against the objectives, strategies and actions we committed to deliver in the Community Plan and the Municipal Plan and Budget.

The City of Palmerston 2022-23 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.

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 outlines Council's programs and initiatives delivered throughout the year to achieve the outcomes and objectives of the Community Plan and Municipal Plan 2022-23. This report shows the community where we are performing well and our future priorities for helping the community realise its vision. This annual report also contains the audited financial statements for the City of Palmerston.

# STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

City of Palmerston has a strong foundation of strategic planning that provides vision and direction for the Council, community and businesses. The Framework is underpinned by a strong commitment to community engagement with the Community Plan being developed by the people of Palmerston. The Planning Framework is supported by a strong governance structure and enables Council to be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances, while remaining focused on the long term goals and priorities of the city.





Reconciliation week storytime,  
Palmerston Library, 2022

# 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”*.

# 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.



**40,471**

RESIDENTS LIVE IN PALMERSTON

**72KM<sup>2</sup>**

LAND AREA

**15,118**

HOMES IN PALMERSTON



**AVERAGE OF 2.7**

PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD

**AVERAGE OF 1.9**

CHILDREN PER FAMILY

**MEDIAN AGE**

OF 31 YEARS

**RESIDENTS REPRESENT 16%**

OF NT POPULATION



**13%**

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

**OVER 27%**

OF POPULATION AGED 0 – 19 YEARS

**23%**

OF PEOPLE SPEAK A NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT HOME



**22%**

OF POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS



**MEDIAN**

WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME \$2,269



**288 HECTARES**

OF OPEN SPACE PARKS AND GARDENS

**15**

LAKES



# OUR YEAR 2022-23



**INJECTED \$32.3 MILLION INTO THE ECONOMY**



**INVESTED \$17 MILLION ON NEW OR RENEWING COMMUNITY ASSETS**



**89% OF 2022/23 TOTAL EXPENDITURE WENT TO LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SUBCONTRACTORS**



**17,428 FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK**



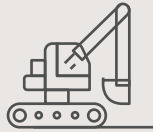
**SOURCED \$5.3 MILLION IN EXTERNAL GRANT FUNDING**



**277,344 ATTENDED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT COUNCIL FACILITIES**



**DELIVERED 567 LIBRARY PROGRAMS ATTENDED BY 11,453 PEOPLE**



**RESURFACED 4.8 KILOMETRES OF ROADS**



**HIRED OUT COMMUNITY FACILITIES ON 8,528 OCCASIONS**



**REPAIRED 240 SECTIONS OF PATHWAYS**



**RANGERS CALLED OUT TO HELP 2721 TIMES – 7.5 CALL OUTS EACH DAY**



**FIXED 331 STREET LIGHTS**



**CONSTRUCTED 140 DRIVEWAYS**



**DELIVERED 104 COMMUNITY EVENTS**

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It was fantastic to see the community get back to 'the new norm' in 2022-23 as the COVID-19 pandemic came to an end. Council's Municipal Plan for 2022-23 had a focus on community, sustainability and innovative practices to make Palmerston an attractive and liveable city as well as a prime investment opportunity.

We are proud to present this annual report to showcase to the community how we have delivered on our commitments in the Community Plan to enhance Palmerston as *A Place for People*.

The 10th Palmerston Council is committed to engaging and listening to the community and this year we convened three new advisory committees for areas of significant importance to the community:

- Community Safety Advisory Committee
- Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee
- Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee.

A strong message we get from the community through the annual Community Satisfaction Survey is that the greatest concern is safety issues. The Community Safety Advisory Committee is one of many initiatives to support positive outcomes in this space, including:

- advocacy for alcohol management and policing
- investment in improved public lighting
- youth programs and events
- public places management and security patrols
- new Animal Management By-laws
- management of laneways
- continued investment in social infrastructure to support community activation and social connectedness.

The Palmerston community reminded us how much they love the community events program with great attendance at the 104 free events delivered for the community to enjoy. Our major event for the year, the Youth Festival,

once again delivered an amazing program that was embraced by over 7,000 young people of Palmerston.

The Zuccoli Community Hub is a major social infrastructure project for City of Palmerston and it was great to see so many dogs and their owners enjoying the first stage of the project, the Zuccoli Dog Park. We look forward to the next stage being delivered in 2023-24, a skate park and pump track.

Construction for the Swimming Wellness Events Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL) upgrade commenced in August 2022 and we are all excited with anticipation for the opening. Several major milestones were reached including the completion of all civil works, pool pump building and tanks, and significant progress on the construction of the half basketball court and shade facilities. We look forward to opening the facility in December 2023.

Council continues its commitment to the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible (IDA) Policy Framework to increase community inclusion and representation across Council. The first strategy to be developed under the IDA Framework was the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan, adopted by Council in September 2022. Other key initiatives to support the IDA Framework in 2022-23 included:

- Three Council facilities are now Welcome Here spaces to improve visibility and inclusivity for our LGBTQIA+ community.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags were permanently installed in Council Chambers for the first time as a visible symbol of respect and commitment towards reconciliation.
- Upgrade to the Marlow Lagoon Basket Swing to include a shade structure, rubber soft fall and all ability access path.
- Hosting a dedicated Christmas All Abilities Evening as part of Christmas Wonderland.

An important addition to our strategic planning framework this year was the adoption of the Creative Industries Plan 2023-2027. The Plan

reflects the City of Palmerston's commitment to supporting the creative sector as a vital contributor to the local economy and wellbeing of the community.

Our partnerships are vital to support the delivery of our annual program and I would like to thank all of our partners, stakeholders and community members for your support this year. In particular, I would like to thank the Australian Government and Northern Territory Government for continued support in delivering our program.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the committed team of Councillors, Executive Leadership Team and all Council staff for their hard work to deliver the results outlined in this report which show that the community really is the focus of everything we do. I look forward to continuing this work in 2023-24 to achieve the community's vision of *A Place for People*.

*Alhina*



# CEO'S MESSAGE

In 2022-23 City of Palmerston made significant progress in delivering outcomes of the Community Plan with ongoing high quality programs, events and services as well as major social infrastructure projects.

It has been another challenging year for the community with high cost of living caused by a range of factors including supply chain pressures, a tight labour market and high energy costs. At City of Palmerston, we were able to support the community with continued free parking, free facility hire, and a hold on Council's fees and charges whilst maintaining high quality service levels.

Council is passionate about environmental sustainability and this year we commenced delivery of the Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026, which included the following initiatives:

- design work for the upgrade to the Archer Waste Management Facility (AWMF) to improve recycling outcomes
- Tyre Stewardship Australia accreditation
- ongoing reduced greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiencies and solar generation projects
- ongoing tree planting and greening programs.

Community is at the centre of everything we do and connecting with our community is essential to our success. We strengthened our approach to communication with the adoption of the Communications Strategy and Social Media Strategy to connect, inform and educate the community in a timely and appropriate manner.

Each year we rely on feedback from the Community Satisfaction Survey to understand community views on our services, programs and

facilities to inform future planning. It was great to see an increase in all key result areas this year, with a few highlights including:

- Christmas Wonderland
- Youth Festival
- Lakes Management
- Library Services
- Waste Management.

Animal Management is another highly valued and vital service for the community. Rangers provides a range of initiatives to help the community manage pets safely and to improve their wellbeing. This includes microchipping, registration and desexing programs, call-out services, animal education and stakeholder support. Council continued its work on reviewing and updating the Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws and look forward to the implementation in 2024-25 to further improve animal management outcomes.

City of Palmerston is committed to driving the local economy and spent more than \$17 million on infrastructure and capital works in the city, which included:

- SWELL construction
- Ninja Obstacle Course in Hobart Park, a first-of-its-kind for Palmerston and will provide for fun and challenging play experiences for all ages
- refurbishment of the Palmerston Library public amenities
- construction of new dog pound facilities
- maintenance and renewal of assets including driveways, pathways, roads, stormwater and street lighting.

And of course, we have all been excited to see the SWELL facility start to take shape. The SWELL project is Palmerston's largest infrastructure project to date and is set to transform the current aging Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre into a modern aquatic and leisure precinct. SWELL is expected to be officially opened in December 2023 with free access to the community.

Our Financial Statements show that the Council has a strong Strategic Planning Framework supported by a robust governance structure to ensure the Council is sustainable and successful as it delivers on its vision for *A Place for People*.

I am excited to continue to work with the Council and staff to deliver for the community in 2023-24 and I would like to express sincere thanks to all staff and Elected Members for the hard work and dedication to achieve these impressive outcomes in 2022-23.



# OUR ELECTED MEMBERS

The Council consists of the Mayor and seven Councillors who represent the entire city. Council elects one Councillor to serve as Deputy Mayor for a term of five months at a time.

Residents elect their Council every four years, with the 10th Palmerston Council elected by residents on the 28 August 2021.



## MAYOR ATHINA PASCOE-BELL

Athina moved to Palmerston in 2004 with her husband, who was in the Defence Force at the time. They bought their home in Marlow Lagoon just a few months after arriving and decided this was the place to raise their family, with their two children born in Palmerston.

Athina has been the mayor for over 5 years, following a 20-year career as a spatial science professional, 5 years in the private sector and 15 years in the public. Her career provided her with 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. Athina's other interests include being a Scout leader, sewing, arts and crafts.

Athina has enjoyed watching our community grow and transform, to be inclusive, offer social connections, and significant infrastructure improvements that everyone in the community can use and enjoy.



## COUNCILLOR AMBER GARDEN

Amber has been a Territorian since 2003 and purchased a property in Farrar in 2010. Amber has over 17 years' experience in human resources, team management, workplace health and safety and administration across a range of public and private industries including construction, local government, health and research. After being re-elected to her position on Council in 2021, and with over nine years' experience working in local government administration, she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience of Council meeting processes, financial reporting and governance requirements under the *Local Government Act*. Amber is passionate about ensuring her local community is active and vibrant through improving animal management, safety, and accessibility to make it a liveable city for all to enjoy.

Deputy Mayor: 18 April 2022 to 11 November 2022



## **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*.

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## **COUNCILLOR DAMIAN HALE**

Damian came to the Northern Territory in 1974 and has lived in Maningrida, Katherine and Darwin. Damian has prior experience in politics in the Northern Territory holding the position of Federal Member for Solomon from 2007 to 2010. Damian spent nine years working for the Australian Workers Union. He is now Director with a local indigenous owned NDIS Provider, Balanced Coordination Support Services known as Balcor. He lives with his partner Maria in the Palmerston suburb of Gunn.

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## **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.



## **COUNCILLOR DANIELLE EVELEIGH**

Elected in 2021, Danielle has been a resident of the Palmerston community for over 18 years. She brings both public and private sector experience to Council, holds a Bachelor of Business and has a background in human resources management, industrial relations and change management. Danielle aims to use her skills and experience to support continued growth and development for the Palmerston community. Danielle has a young family and is passionate about Palmerston being a welcoming and safe space for people of all ages and backgrounds. Danielle is an active community member with a passion for diversity, disability and mental health. Danielle holds roles as a board member with the Top End Women's Legal Service and is the NT Coordinator for Walking off The War Within. Since being elected, Danielle has taken on the role of Chair of City of Palmerston Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee.

Deputy Mayor: 8 June 2023 to 1 January 2024

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## **COUNCILLOR LUCY MORRISON**

Lucy is passionate about her position as an elected member and assisting the people of Palmerston with community matters. She is dedicated to her role and is eager to involve more youth in sports, arts and local activities in the community, acknowledging the positive outcomes of healthy living and an active lifestyle.

Lucy has lived in the Northern Territory since 2008 after moving to Palmerston from Queensland. She has more than 16 years' experience in the media industry and started her career as a print journalist working for newspapers in Queensland and the Northern Territory. Lucy then steered her career into communications, public relations and media advising. Over this term Lucy will continue to work towards the beautification of parks, greening the city, lake management and supporting community events, as well as assisting community members with council matters.

Deputy Mayor: 12 November 2022 to 7 June 2023

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## **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*



# EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

As per the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019, Council employs a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and delegates responsibilities to carry out the day to day functions of Council. The CEO is responsible for the overall administration of Council and works closely with the Elected Members to ensure Council's goals and objectives are met. The CEO is supported in his responsibilities by a Deputy Chief Executive Officer and four General Managers who, with the CEO, form Council's Executive Leadership Team (ELT). The ELT lead 97.55 budgeted staff and operate across five key areas: Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Infrastructure, Community, People and Place, Finance and Governance.



**LUCCIO CERCARELLI**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Responsibilities 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

**Responsibilities include:**

- Partnerships
- Strategic Projects
- Marketing and Communication
- Organisational Culture and Development
- Engagement
- People
- Customer Experience
- Safety and Wellbeing



**ANNA INGRAM**  
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

**Responsibilities include:**

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



**NADINE NILON**  
GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE

**Responsibilities include:**

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



**WATI KERTA**  
DIRECTOR FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

**Responsibilities include:**

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

# OUR OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

City of Palmerston is the Northern Territory's youngest and second largest city, located 20 kilometres south-east of the capital Darwin. It is a vibrant, modern city with a median age of 31. 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 has vast opportunities in agribusiness, health, energy and minerals, international education and training and defence.

Palmerston is a place where families lay down their roots and build a home, where businesses can grow and the sense of community is strong. The city is near major health, education and transport infrastructure, such as the port and railway, a university campus and a new, modern hospital, making Palmerston an ideal location for investment. The Palmerston Local Economic Plan provides a 10 year strategy for supporting the business community to maximise these opportunities.

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:

- 1 Family and community
- 2 Vibrant economy
- 3 Cultural diversity
- 4 A Future focus
- 5 Environmental sustainability
- 6 Governance

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 grew its area by 30% on 1 July 2022 with the new changes to the municipal boundary increasing from 56km<sup>2</sup> to 72km<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 have included the management of these assets for 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 (65%), an increase from 60% last year and 47% in 2021.**

City of Palmerston initiated the Palmerston Safety Advisory Committee this year to provide advice to Council about strategies, programs and initiatives which improve the safety, wellbeing and interests of the Palmerston community.

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.

Some of the programs that can influence the safety of our community that Council has already delivered on and continues to drive are:

- advocating for the community regarding alcohol management and policing
- convening the Palmerston Safety Advisory Committee
- management of laneways
- investment in improved public lighting through the Dark Spot program
- youth programs and events
- public places management and security patrols
- new Animal Management By-laws
- continued investment in social infrastructure to support community activation and social connectedness.

In 2022-23 the community experienced financial pressures through increased cost of living. Council was pleased to be able to support the community with continued free parking, free facility hire for non-commercial users, and a hold on Council's fees and charges including dog registration fees and the waste service charges.

# OUR 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 635 participants, of which 600 were over the phone and 35 completed via the online questionnaire.

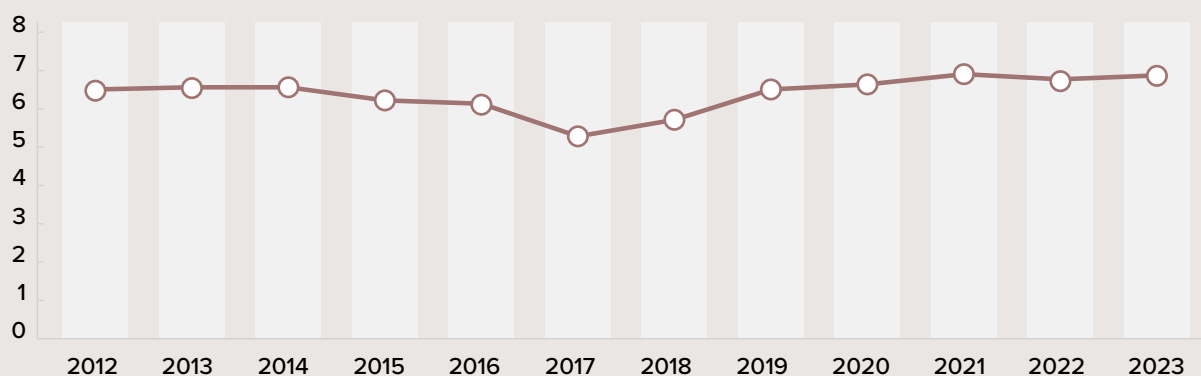
The community satisfaction survey results have had a generally upward trend projection since 2017, as per the graph below. In 2021, the highest scores were recorded, with 2023 recording the second highest score.

Council's overall performance rating score was 6.89/10 compared to 6.74/10 in 2022. The rating of 6.89 is the second highest rating in the past twelve years, behind 2021.



Construction workers,  
SWELL construction, 2022

## OVERALL SCORE TREND



Compared to 2022, the results for the 2023 Survey have recorded an increase in scores for all six Community Plan Key Outcome Areas. The six areas are: Family and Community, Vibrant Economy, Cultural Diversity, A Future Focus, Environmental Sustainability and Governance. The area that scored the highest was Cultural Diversity (7.39) and the area that scored the lowest was Governance (6.43), however Governance scored the greatest increase from 2022 with +0.24 increase.

| Key Area                     | 2019           | 2020           | 2021           | 2022           | 2023           | Change       |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Family and Community         | 6.68           | 6.80           | 7.16           | 6.89           | 6.96           | +0.07        |
| Vibrant Economy              | 6.01           | 6.28           | 6.55           | 6.24           | 6.44           | +0.20        |
| Cultural Diversity           | 7.04           | 7.21           | 7.50           | 7.31           | 7.39           | +0.08        |
| A Future Focus               | 6.70           | 6.84           | 7.02           | 6.70           | 6.84           | +0.14        |
| Environmental Sustainability | 7.16           | 7.33           | 7.36           | 7.08           | 7.29           | +0.21        |
| Governance                   | 6.01           | 6.17           | 6.52           | 6.19           | 6.43           | +0.24        |
| Net Promoter Score           | -9             | -4             | -6             | -13            | -18            | -5           |
| <b>Average Performance</b>   | <b>6.56/10</b> | <b>6.77/10</b> | <b>7.02/10</b> | <b>6.74/10</b> | <b>6.89/10</b> | <b>+0.15</b> |

The survey identified our top two highest performing services as:

- Kerbside Waste Collection (rating of 8.09)
- Providing libraries and library services to the community (8.06).

The two lowest scoring measures were:

- Supporting and attracting new and existing businesses (5.96)
- Providing you with the opportunity to comment on Council’s decision making and interact with Council (6.14).

The two measures that had statistically significant increases were:

- Providing you with the opportunity to comment on Council’s decision making and interact with Council (increase of 0.42)
- Maintaining lakes (increase of 0.79).

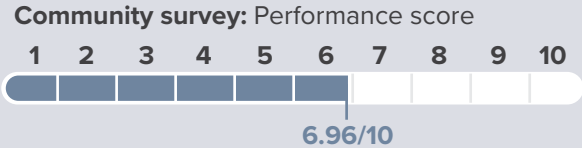
Council is committed to continual improvement and genuinely listening and responding to the community. The feedback received through this survey is highly valued and used by the Council to inform future planning and responding to areas of concern.

# COMMUNITY PLAN SCORECARD



Multicultural Festival,  
Goyder Square, 2023

# 1. FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

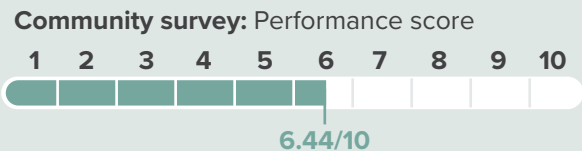


Pages 27 to 37

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   | Launched the popular Zuccoli Dog Park  | Over 7,000 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  | Constructed Palmerston's first Ninja Warrior Course  | 13,086 people attended Christmas Wonderland                | Free venue hire for the community                  |
|   | Increased partnerships to address crime  | Increased the number of community events for the people of Palmerston                                    | Delivered 104 community events                             | Implement new Animal Management By-Laws            |
|   | Increased access to Council facilities and resources for community activities for all members of our community | Won the Most Outstanding Stall and Best Government Stall at the Darwin Show for the second year in a row | Delivered 567 library programs attended by 11,453 people   | Delivery of half basketball court at Marlow Lagoon |
|   |  | Second draft of the Animal Management By-Laws  | 149,984 people visited the Palmerston Library              | Delivery of Skate Park / Pump track at Zuccoli Hub |

# 2. VIBRANT ECONOMY

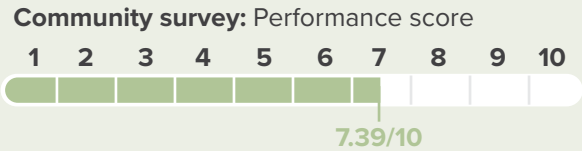


Pages 38 to 45

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                                    | Injected \$32.3M million in Palmerston's economy with 89 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          | Commenced Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee   | Sourced \$5.3million in government grant funding  | Local Business Survey                              |
|  | More tourists visit Palmerston  | Started implementing Palmerston Local Economic Plan                                  | Provided advice on 53 planning applications   | Vibrant Economy website                            |
|  | More funds available for Council to invest in the community               | Provided free parking to support residents and local business                        | Removed graffiti from 154 locations   | Continuation of free parking                       |
|  | There are more businesses located in Palmerston                           | Secured government funding to fast track and increase the projects Council delivered |   | No Alfresco Dining fees                            |
|  |   |  |   | Ongoing sponsorship of community events            |
|  |   |  |   | Continue to participate in the NT Planning process |

# 3. CULTURAL DIVERSITY

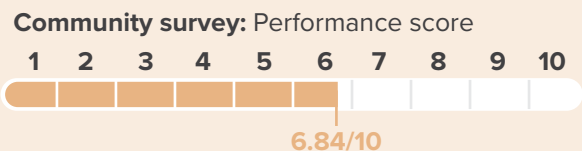


Pages 46 to 53

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

| Objectives  | Measures of Success   | Highlights  | Success  | Looking forward  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <p>3.1 To celebrate our rich culture and diversity</p> <p>3.2 Recognise and support diversity through our partnerships and leadership</p> | <p>Council consults with and includes the needs of people in its programs and planning</p> <p>Foster and promote arts and culture within our community and improve awareness of our local history</p> | <p>Increased opportunities for the community to participate in events that celebrate culture and diversity</p> <p>Disability Inclusion and Access Plan adopted</p> <p>Two Council facilities became Welcome Here spaces</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags displayed in Council Chambers for first time</p> <p>Upgrade to the Marlow Lagoon Basket Swing to include a shade structure, rubber soft fall and all ability access path</p> | <p>Hosted 46 culture and diversity events</p> <p>300 guests attended the Australia Day Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony</p> <p>Over 200 people attended National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day</p> <p>350 people celebrated International Women's Day</p> <p>500 people enjoyed Multicultural Festival</p> | <p>Develop Reconciliation Action Plan</p> <p>SWELL public art project</p> <p>Develop Library Masterplan</p> <p>Continue to host and support more events, programs and services that celebrate our culture and diversity</p> <p>Implement Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Framework</p> <p>Implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plan</p> |

# 4. A FUTURE FOCUS



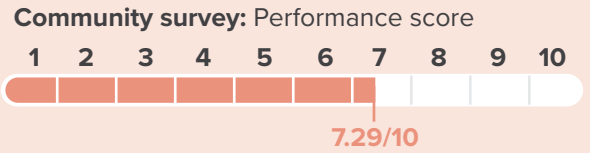
Pages 54 to 63

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

| Objectives   | Measures of Success   | Highlights  | Success   | Looking forward   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>4.1 We support and foster innovation</p> <p>4.2 Infrastructure is fit for purpose</p> | <p>Council consults with and includes the needs of people in its programs and planning</p> <p>Foster and promote arts and culture within our community and improve awareness of our local history</p> | <p>Commenced construction for the SWELL project</p> <p>Partnership with NT Government to deliver \$2 million FiberSense technology</p> <p>Commenced Enterprise Resource Planning project</p> <p>Endorsed Creative Industries Plan 2023-2027</p> | <p>Resurfaced 4.8 km of roads</p> <p>Fixed 223 potholes</p> <p>Processed 185 driveway plans</p> <p>Constructed 140 new driveways</p> <p>8,528 bookings in Council venues</p> <p>277,344 attended activities at Council venues</p> | <p>Completion of the \$19.4 million SWELL project</p> <p>Launch Fibersense technology</p> <p>Enterprise Resource Planning</p> <p>Ongoing maintenance and renewal of assets</p> <p>Review of Car Parking Strategy</p> <p>Implement Palmerston Creative Industries Plan</p> |



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

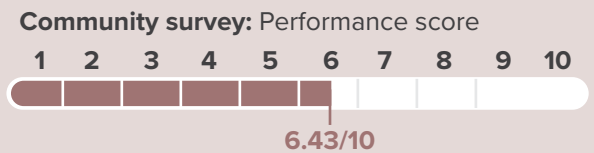


Pages 64 to 73

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                | Recycling increases and littering decreases   | Commenced implementing Palmerston Sustainability Strategy              | 277 tonnes of waste collected in Pre-Cyclone Clean Up with 43% recycled | Continued lake management to minimise weeds               |
| 5.2 Palmerston is a cool, shaded green city                | Increase the areas shaded by trees  | Successful weed management of Palmerston Lakes                         | Planted 383 trees   | Implement Sustainability Strategy                         |
| 5.3 Encourage personal action and taking a leadership role | Reduction in businesses using packaging and wrapping  | E-waste recycling bins at Civic Plaza and Palmerston Library           | 20% reduction in water usage in past 2 years                            | Archer Waste Management Facility Upgrade                  |
|  | Protecting and enhancing environmental assets and Council infrastructure while supporting local businesses and industry in sustainable land use | Battery and mobile phone recycling at Archer Waste Management Facility | 757 tonnes recyclable material collected through Archer Waste Facility  | Develop Weed Management Plan and Bushfire Management Plan |
|  | Effective and responsible city planning that balances and meets residential and commercial needs  | Accreditation with Tyre Stewardship Australia                          |   | Upgrading irrigation infrastructure for water efficiency  |

# GOVERNANCE



Pages 64 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:  | Increased customer services hours to 7.30am – 5.30pm   | Employ 95 staff  | Expand data reporting to broader range of Council assets               |
| 6.2 Community is at the centre                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Values participation in Council activities and is committed to the highest possible levels of service and engagement</li> <li>Ensures its systems and processes support the organisation to deliver the best possible outcomes</li> </ul>   | Provided training to upskill all employees at Council  | \$215,722 on employee training   | Implement updated Strategic Risk Register, policy and framework        |
| 6.3 Healthy working partnerships              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Values its people and culture and is committed to continuous improvement and innovation while seeking to reduce service costs through increased efficiency</li> <li>Shows corporate and social responsibility, ensuring the sustainability of Council assets and services and undertakes planning and reporting of Council performance</li> </ul> | Reviewed 13 Council policies   | 95 staff completed training  | Continued engagement through communication and consultation strategies |
|   |  | Held 22 Ordinary Council Meetings  | 3 new Advisory Committees  | Deliver governance and compliance training                             |
|   |  | Held 2 Council to the Community Meetings   | 5 Freedom of Information requests  | Development of Talent Attraction Strategy                              |
|   |  | Provided grants, donations, in-kind support and sponsorship for local residents and businesses | Provided \$180,905 in grants, scholarships and sponsorships to 30 community groups and 139 individuals |  |

# t.

## 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



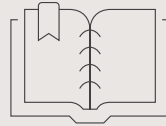
Performance, Christmas Wonderland, Library community room, 2022

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

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



**DELIVERED 567 LIBRARY PROGRAMS ATTENDED BY 11,453 PEOPLE**



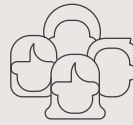
**149,984 VISITS TO THE PALMERSTON LIBRARY**



**95,620 ITEMS BORROWED FROM THE LIBRARY**



**DELIVERED 104 COMMUNITY EVENTS**



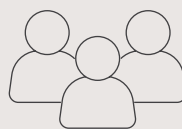
**OVER 7,000 YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDED PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL**



**13,086 PEOPLE ATTENDED PALMERSTON CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND**



**LAUNCHED ZUCCOLI DOG PARK**



**550 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE PALMERSTON CHILDREN'S WEEK EVENT**



**3,150 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE HALLOWEEN GHOSTLY GATHERING EVENT**



**660 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE BREKKIE IN THE PARK EVENTS**



**70 PEOPLE ATTENDED CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS**



**5,764 DOGS REGISTERED**



**CONSTRUCTED PALMERSTON'S FIRST NINJA OBSTACLE COURSE**



Christmas Wonderland,  
Goyder Square, 2022

## WE FOCUS ON FAMILIES

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

### BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

In 2022-23, City of Palmerston delivered another successful community events and activities program that was embraced by the Palmerston community. Altogether there were 104 events and activities 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
- Territory Day fireworks
- Palmerston Youth Festival
- Brekkie in the Park
- On Frances Series
- Egg-cellent Easter
- National Families Week event.

### CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND AND ALL ABILITIES EVENING

City of Palmerston was pleased to welcome back Christmas Wonderland to Goyder Square. The event ran nightly from Saturday 17 December to Saturday 24 December 2022 from 5.00pm to 9:30pm, with free entry for everyone to attend. A total of 13,086 people attended over the period.

On 16 December 2022, the night before the official opening of Christmas Wonderland, City of Palmerston hosted a dedicated Christmas All Abilities Evening. It was open to invited community members with diverse abilities along with their friends, families and caregivers, including community organisations and NDIS agencies. This event aligned with the CoP's commitment to inclusion and aligns with the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan (DIAP) and the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework (IDA).

During the Christmas All Abilities Evening, the Christmas Wonderland display welcomed close to 250 visitors who may require wheelchair access and sensory considerations such as reduced flashing lights and lowered sounds and music. There was also increased disability parking available around Goyder Square and a dedicated drop off zone. Baby Ballerinas in their tutus charmed the audience with their beautiful spins and turns in an evening performance.

Christmas Wonderland featured many of the traditionally popular items including the Christmas Train, snow machine and Santa's House, as well as new interactive elements such as the Augmented Reality to ensure a fresh and unique experience for the community.



Baby Ballet, Community Room,  
Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2023

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMPETITION

City of Palmerston hosted the highly popular Community Christmas Lights Competition for a second year. Entrants were in the running for several prizes including Best Illuminated House, Best Sustainably Decorated House, People's Choice Award, and a random draw. 17 Palmerston residents entered their house in the first two categories, and we had a total of 116 votes for the People's Choice Award.

## CHILDREN'S WEEK EVENT

Children's Week 2022 was held on 25 October, with 29 community stalls and over 550 people attending the event. Families enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and the opportunity to celebrate. Activities included cuddly animal petting zoo, nutritious snacks, science activities, jumping castle, screen printing with Larrakia Nation and performances from Palmerston Library (Storytime) and Baby Ballet.

## 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:

- 21 August 2022, Hobart Park Johnston - 150 attendees
- 11 September 2022, Flinders Park Durack - 180 attendees
- 21 May 2023, Gray Hall outdoor area - 210 attendees
- 25 June 2023, Tiverton Park Moulden - 120 attendees.

## CITY OF PALMERSTON WINS TWO YEARS IN A ROW AT THE ROYAL DARWIN SHOW

The Royal Darwin Show provides a meaningful community engagement opportunity with a large and diverse audience, allowing City of Palmerston to showcase exciting projects and services that are on offer in the municipality. For the 2022 Royal Darwin Show, City of Palmerston presented 'Palmerfun', winning both titles of 'Most Outstanding' and 'Best Government stall' for the second year in a row. The Palmerfun stall included a variety of elements including a sand pit, rock painting, Ranger station and story time. Free tree saplings were also given away as part of the Yellow Brick Road which establishes our commitment towards the environment and sustainability.

## CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS

Throughout June 2023, Council successfully collaborated with three renowned local artists to deliver art workshops as part of the Creative Industries Plan 2023 – 2027. Artists' Aly de Groot, Janie Andrews and Sachi Hirayama hosted a series of 16 different arts workshops at Durack Community Arts Centre. The diverse range of activities offered included various weaving techniques, mosaic creation and origami making, providing participants with opportunities to explore different art forms. The workshops received an overwhelmingly positive response, with more than 70 residents ranging in age from 8 to 80 years actively taking part.

## HALLOWEEN - GHOSTLY GATHERINGS

For the third year running, Ghostly Gatherings was held on 29 and 30 October in partnership with Event Cinemas and Gateway Shopping Centre. The activities included face-painting and roving characters. Approximately 3,150 people visited Event Cinemas to view the Haunted House in the Max Lounge area, which is almost a 38 per cent increase on attendance from last year. This year the community had the opportunity to enter a Best Dressed Competition by posing at the selfie station and uploading their images to #palmyghost22 using their social media accounts. Three prizes were available to be won, with the Best Dressed winners winning \$100 and two double passes.

## OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- 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.



Live at the Lake,  
Sanctuary Lakes, 2023



**Council Staff, Palmerston Library, 2022**

## **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 2022-23, there were 149,984 visits to the Palmerston Library and 95,620 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 2022-23 the library delivered 567 library programs and events that were attended by 11,453 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:

- National Simultaneous Storytime – held annually in May where libraries read the same story at the same time across Australia.
- School holiday programs – varied and engaging activities held each school holidays including movie screenings, art and craft, animal encounters and Drumming Monkey performances.
- Outreach – Home Library Services for those in the community unable to attend the library for any reason, and Incursions, taking library programs out to Early Childhood services throughout the Palmerston area.
- Late Nights in the Library – new program for all adults on Friday night when the library is open late. Activities included Origami earring making, trivia, friend speed dating, murder mystery night and musical bingo.
- International Games Month - Held in November, International Games Month is an initiative to reconnect communities through their libraries around the educational, recreational, and social value of all types of games.
- Christmas Activities – Christmas Storytime, a festive morning of dress ups, songs, books and photos with Santa, and Christmas Craft week.
- Good Dog Storytime - therapy dogs Quinton and Sugar from Good Dogs Animal Assisted Interventions Therapy Dog Services participated in a Storytime.
- Chess and Boardgame Club - In partnership with a young Palmerston resident, Palmerston Library launched the new Chess and Boardgame Club held on Wednesday afternoons.

# 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. In 2022 Council endorsed a Play Space Strategy to provide a coordinated and robust approach to playground planning.

In September 2022, City of Palmerston undertook an audit of all local, major, and regional playgrounds against the features and amenities identified within Council's Play Space Strategy. The Audit findings are being used to inform playground improvements including maintenance and capital spend to progressively achieve conformance with the Play Space Strategy. Some focal areas emerging from the audit include:

- replacement of sand with softfall
- shade over play spaces
- access paths and ancillary amenities to facilitate all abilities access
- potable water in play spaces
- bike parking facilities.

Play space programs undertaken in 2022-23 aligned with the Play Space Strategy as well as stated objectives from the Community and Municipal Plan are discussed below.

## NINJA OBSTACLE COURSE

Construction of the Ninja Obstacle Course in Hobart Park was completed in June 2023. The Ninja Obstacle Course provides for enhanced and challenging play experiences suitable for all ages. Although the park did not officially open until July 2023, Council completed the majority of construction and preparation in the 2022/23 period. Council recognise and thank the Northern Territory Government for co-contributing to the funding of this project. With future investment it is envisaged that Hobart Park will become a Regional Park under the Play Space Strategy hierarchy.

## NEW SHADE STRUCTURES

Two new shade structures have been installed for Shadforth Park and Dillon Park. Shading play spaces caters for a more enjoyable and longer lasting experience of the city's parks. Council recognise and thank the Federal Government for co-contributing to the funding of these projects.



## MARLOW LAGOON BASKETBALL HALF COURT

Council is committed to providing and maintaining a network of play spaces that appeal to and enable people of all ages and abilities in our community to play, socialise and be active outdoors. It has been identified that the construction of a new outdoor basketball facility would further enhance play experiences. A community consultation process was undertaken and identified Marlow Lagoon Recreation Reserve as the preferred location for a new Basketball half court. The Marlow Lagoon Basketball Half Court is planned to be completed in 2023.

## ALL ABILITIES ACCESS

All abilities access improvements undertaken include new access pathways at Marlow Lagoon and Tracy Park as well as improved access to William Kirkby Jones play space.

## POTABLE WATER

Council has identified the provision of potable water to play spaces as a priority. Improved access to potable water has been provided to a number of play spaces including Joan Fejo, Hobart Park and Marlow Lagoon. Further installation of potable water will be ongoing.

## ZUCCOLI DOG PARK

The new Zuccoli Dog Park opened in May 2023. The park boasts the following facilities and has been very well embraced by dog owners across Palmerston:

- fully fenced dog park area
- active and quiet dog play areas featuring both water play area and dog activity equipment in both areas
- shade structures.



Dogs in water play, Zuccoli  
Dog Park, Zuccoli, 2023

## PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

City of Palmerston delivered the third Palmerston Youth Festival over seven days between 10-16 July 2022 with an investment of \$300,000 from the Northern Territory Government and the City of Palmerston contributing \$50,000 towards the festival. Within this \$350,000 is \$25,000 in prize money. Youth under 25 represent 39% of the Palmerston Community and approximately 7,000 young people participated in or attended events across the week, an increase in attendance of 2000 since 2019.

The program involved two major events and five smaller events that were delivered in partnership with various community organisations and groups. The Festival also included eight competitions with 60 young people sharing in the overall prize pool and concluded with over a thousand people watching the first ever drone display in the Northern Territory.

Festival highlights included:


- High youth attendance and engagement with over 7000 people participating/attending the 2022 Palmerston Youth Festival across seven days of events and activities. This was up from 5800 in 2021.
- Events and activities were designed to be free, accessible, inclusive and to cater to a broad range of interests including culture, music, sports, arts, hobbies, and technology.
- Delivery of the Festival included partnerships between City of Palmerston and several community groups and organisations.

## URBAN JAMS

The City of Palmerston's major Youth Week event, Urban Jams, was an incredibly successful event with over 500 young people coming together to celebrate. Urban Jams was held at the Palmerston Recreation Centre on 14th April, with a wide range of activities available for young people to participate in including; a 3 x 3 Basketball hosted by Darwin Salties and Palmerston and Regional Basketball Association, learn skateboarding skills with the Build Up Skateboarding Crew, puppet making with Anna Thompson, gaming, virtual reality, and a game development showcase with Level Up esports, screen printing, and jewelry making with Taleena from Larrakia Nation. Local barbers Edwin and Munashe were on hand providing free haircuts and there was a delicious feed cooked up by the YMCA and their young people.

## 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.



Live at the Lake,  
Sanctuary Lakes, 2023

# ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Pets are important members of the family and Council works to improve animal wellbeing and safety across the community. Rangers provide an afterhours call out service seven days a week to help the community manage pets safely and to improve their wellbeing. Over the reporting period, Council received a total of 586 afterhours calls relating to animals, of which 436 were provided to a ranger for action. Additionally, to the afterhours requests Rangers responded to 2721 customer queries during 2022-23 period, equating to 7.5 customer responses every day of the year. Of which, 1477 were customer requests on animal related matters, 490 public place matters, 224 reports of abandoned vehicles, 193 overgrown property concerns, 115 Parking and 222 other regulatory matters.

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.

## **\$10 DESEX AND MICROCHIP DECEMBER PROGRAM**

The 2022-23 desexing scheme proved again to be a successful and popular program. The program offers \$10 desexing, microchipping and registrations to the pet owners of Palmerston. In 2022, the \$10 charge also included registration of animals new to Palmerston. By providing community access to financially subsidised pet desexing, Palmerston will see a decrease with the number of stray, abandoned or unwanted animals within the community and also supports responsible animal ownership. As with previous years, within the first few weeks of advertising, the campaign was at capacity with 108 animals allocated a spot. Some key statistics of the program included 77% dogs and 23% cats, 49% of the animals required a microchip and 53% of dogs registered through the program did not hold a previous registration.

On the successful efforts of the campaign, the Regulatory Services team were nominated for the 2022 Australian Pet Welfare Foundation Award for Council. The nomination provides recognition of the huge success and vital service for the welfare and supported-positive pet ownership solutions for our Palmerston community.

## **ANIMAL EDUCATION AND STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT**

Rangers facilitated community dog walks throughout the municipality. The purposes of the dog walks were to engage dog owners and encourage exercising and providing a healthier life for dogs. The dog walking routes have included Woodroffe, Zuccoli, Driver, Johnston, Gunn, Rosebery and Durack with a total attendance of 109 people and 81 dogs, with an average attendance of five people per walk.

City of Palmerston rangers attended Palmerston Indigenous Village with engagement officers from Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC). The purpose of these visit is to provide access to limited veterinary care including pet treatment for internal and external parasites, microchipping and desexing. During the visit a total of 31 animals were treated with anti-parasitic medication and 15 were desexed or microchipped along with general support and engagement around access to veterinary services.

## **OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

- In collaboration with RSPCA, Rangers supported three free microchipping days, with many animals accepting free registration for new animals to the Palmerston municipality.
- Dangerous Dog Handling Course - Dog Force Australia, ran a dangerous dog handling course with rangers, primarily focusing on animal behaviour, and how to manage a situation when an animal may or has attacked.
- Rangers reunited 237 dogs with their owners.
- Municipal-wide overgrown vacant lot audit was undertaken with 264 lots within the Palmerston area audited for overgrown grass and actioned for works.
- Regulatory Services have received the second draft of the Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws, Officers have recently provided content to update the current website to inform community members of the by-law community consultation outcomes. By-Laws can be expected to be out for consultation during 2023.



Council Rangers,  
Civic Plaza, 2023

# COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The 2023 Survey showed slight increases for each of the measures in Family and Community, except one, and an overall result of 6.96/10, up by 0.07 on 2022. The one measure that decreased was only slightly by 0.01 for 'Hosting enough quality community events' which was still the highest scoring measure at 7.53.

The lowest performing aspect was "advocating for the community in planning issues" which has a score of 6.19/10, a slight increase from 6.12 in 2022.

| Measure   | 2019           | 2020           | 2021           | 2022           | 2023           | Change       |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Managing Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre | 6.86           | 7.08           | 7.31           | 6.86           | 7.02           | +0.16        |
| Maintaining parks and playgrounds               | 7.26           | 7.34           | 7.27           | 6.99           | 7.03           | +0.04        |
| Providing and maintaining community halls       | 6.80           | 6.59           | 7.10           | 6.93           | 6.98           | +0.05        |
| Managing the Palmerston Recreation Centre       | 6.69           | 7.02           | 7.41           | 7.09           | 7.15           | +0.06        |
| Hosting enough quality community events         | 6.78           | 6.70           | 7.52           | 7.54           | 7.53           | -0.01        |
| Advocating for the community in planning issues | 5.76           | 5.99           | 6.38           | 6.12           | 6.19           | +0.07        |
| Providing animal management services            | 6.63           | 6.91           | 7.14           | 6.72           | 6.85           | +0.13        |
| <b>Overall:</b>                                 | <b>6.67/10</b> | <b>6.80/10</b> | <b>7.16/10</b> | <b>6.89/10</b> | <b>6.96/10</b> | <b>+0.07</b> |

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023–24

- Continued delivery of high quality free outdoor events including the popular On Frances series, Pride Festival, FlicNics and Live at the Lake.
- Continued 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.
- Youth-friendly events with the Palmerston Youth Festival, celebrating NT Youth Week, *How to Adult* program and ongoing programs at the Recreation Centre.
- Completion of the Swimming Wellness Events Leisure Lifestyle (SWELL) major facility upgrade and largest single capital project undertaken by Council.
- Delivery of the skate park and pump track for Zuccoli Community Hub.
- Design of the upgrade for the new modern Driver Community Hall.
- Implementation of the Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws.

# 2.

## VIBRANT 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:

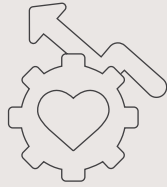
- Improve Palmerston's image
- Palmerston's economic future is bright



Local food vendor, Christmas Wonderland, Goyder Square, 2022

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

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



**INJECTED \$32.3 MILLION INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY**



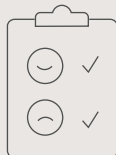
**125 HECTARES OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (PARKS, ROAD VERGES AND DRAINS) KEPT CLEAN BY COUNCIL CONTRACTORS**



**89% OF 2022/23 TOTAL EXPENDITURE WENT TO LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SUBCONTRACTORS**



**SOURCED \$5.3 MILLION IN GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDING**



**PROVIDED ADVICE ON 53 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS**



**29 TONNES OF WASTE WERE COLLECTED FROM COUNCIL PUBLIC WASTE BINS**



**REMOVED GRAFFITI FROM 154 LOCATIONS ACROSS THE MUNICIPALITY**



Mayor addressing crowd at Citizenship Ceremony, Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2023

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

For the 2022-23 period, Council provided advice as the Local Authority on 53 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:

- NT Planning Commission Planning Reform Phase 2 – Stage 1 Planning Reform
- Northern Territory Draft Water Plan.

### ZUCCOLI - PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT - SUBDIVISIONS:

Development of Zuccoli is continuing at a rapid pace with over 150 residential properties, 1 commercial property and 2 parks released to the community. These consisted of:

- Zuccoli Village development (Phase 3.6) - 57 new properties.
- Zuccoli Aspire development (Stage 3C) -50 new properties.
- Zuccoli Village Development (Phase 3.7) - 50 residential properties
- Zuccoli Aspire Stage 4D.1 – 1 commercial property.
- Zuccoli Village Phase 3 – 2 Parks P22 and P23.





Local Palmerston Business,  
mypalmerston, 2022

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP 101

In response to the expressed need from our community members for support in business skills, Council launched a series of Entrepreneurship workshops aimed at helping individuals start and grow successful businesses. Through conversations with local business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs, we have identified a strong desire for practical guidance and resources to help turn ideas into viable businesses. The workshop series is designed to meet this need by providing expert instruction, peer support, and practical exercises that address key topics such as business planning, marketing, and finance. Workshops were held at the Durack Community Arts Centre.

## 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 29.0 tonnes of waste were collected from Council public waste bins in 2022-23. This is a reduction of approximately 4 tonnes from 2021-22 where 34.4 tonnes of waste were collected.

Council acts quickly to remove graffiti to help provide a clean and safe neighbourhood for our residents. In 2021-2022 Council entered into a funded agreement with Northern Territory Government (NTG) to remove identified graffiti on NTG public assets within the Palmerston Municipal Boundary (for example roads and footpaths). In 2022-23 Council responded to and removed graffiti across 154 locations across the municipality. Council commits to removing offensive graffiti on Council property within 24 hours and non-offensive graffiti within 5 working days.

# 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 has commenced delivery of 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.

## VIBRANT ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2022-23 Council established the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee (VEAC) to provide advice to Council relating to actions and priorities of the Palmerston Local Economic Plan. VEAC established priority actions of a local business survey to gain greater understanding of the challenges and needs of local businesses and the development of a vibrant economy website to support and attract local business development.



Local Palmerston Business, mypalmerston, 2022

## BOOSTING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

City of Palmerston injected \$32.3 million into the economy in 2022–23 to boost the local economy and create local jobs. Approximately 87 per cent of this amount went to local business, contractors and organisations.

In 2022-23 contracts awarded to local businesses included:

- Public Litter Bin
- Hobart Park Ninja Obstacle Course
- Playground Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of park infrastructure and amenities
- Irrigation installation, maintenance and repair
- Mowing and Slashing Services
- Land Conservation Management (including weed and fire)

- Annual Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up
- Grounds Maintenance
- Landscape Maintenance
- Maintenance of Fire Equipment Buildings and Facilities
- Street Sweeping and Path Cleaning
- Archer Waste Transfer Station Upgrade Design
- Christmas Wonderland Event
- FiberSense Technology - Installation and Monitoring

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 \$5.3million in grant funding from the Northern Territory and Australian Governments for the following projects:

| Grant  | \$ million |
|--|------------|
| Federal Assistance Grant – General and Roads | 2.9        |
| Public Library                               | .6         |
| FiberSense Technology                        | .6         |
| Local Government Immediate Priority Grants   | .4         |
| Youth Festival (2022 and 2023 funding)       | .6         |
| Goyder Security                              | .1         |
| Various other projects                       | .01        |

# COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The 2023 Survey returned a result of 6.44/10 overall for Vibrant Economy, an increase of 0.20 on 2022.

Awareness of Council's slogan has increased by 4.82% this year to 48.43%, which is the highest score for the last five years and an increase of 12% since 2019. The Community's agreement that Palmerston is 'A Place for People' has increased by 0.14 points to 6.70/10. There was an increase in agreement that Council has a long-term vision for Palmerston economy, increasing by 0.33 to 6.67. The measure of 'Supporting and attracting new and existing business' continues to be one of the lowest scoring measures at 5.96, a slight increase from 5.83 in 2022. Council is undertaking a business survey in 2023-24 to further understand the needs of the business community.

| Measure   | 2019           | 2020           | 2021           | 2022           | 2023           | Change       |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Awareness of Council's slogan 'A Place for People'</b>                       | 36.62%         | 42.74%         | 40.28%         | 43.61%         | 48.43%         | +4.82%       |
| <b>Agreement that:</b><br>Palmerston is 'A Place for People'                    | 6.83           | 6.80           | 6.83           | 6.56           | 6.70           | +0.14        |
| <b>Agreement that:</b> Council has a long-term vision for Palmerston economy    | 5.95           | 6.37           | 6.70           | 6.34           | 6.67           | +0.33        |
| <b>Performance in:</b><br>Supporting and attracting new and existing businesses | 5.25           | 5.68           | 6.11           | 5.83           | 5.96           | +0.13        |
| <b>Overall:</b>   | <b>6.01/10</b> | <b>6.28/10</b> | <b>6.55/10</b> | <b>6.24/10</b> | <b>6.44/10</b> | <b>+0.20</b> |

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023–24

- Implementation of the Palmerston Local Economic Plan (PLEP).
- Delivery of the Palmerston Business Survey to gain greater understanding of the challenges and needs of local businesses.
- Development of a Palmerston Vibrant Economy website to support and attract local business development.
- Convening the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee to improve relationships with the business sector and provide advice to Council.
- Increased and ongoing participation and engagement with industry groups such as PRBA, property Council and Chamber of Commerce.

Prescriptions



Local Palmerston Business,  
myPalmerston, 2022

# P.

## 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

International Day of People with Disability, Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2022



## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

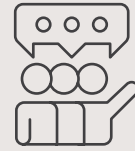
Palmerston's rich mosaic of cultures and diversity was recognised by City of Palmerston by:



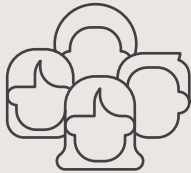
**HOSTED 46 EVENTS  
CELEBRATING CULTURE  
AND DIVERSITY**



**300 GUESTS ATTENDED  
AUSTRALIA DAY FLAG RAISING  
AND CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY**



**OVER 200 PEOPLE  
ATTENDED PRIDE ON  
FRANCES**



**OVER 500 PEOPLE ENJOY  
THE MULTICULTURAL  
FESTIVAL**



**170 PEOPLE CELEBRATED  
THE INTERNATIONAL MEN'S  
DAY BREAKFAST**



**OVER 350 PEOPLE ATTENDED  
INTERNATIONAL WOMENS  
DAY EVENTS**



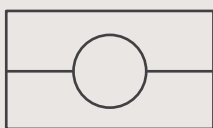
**OVER 200 PEOPLE ATTENDED  
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND  
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
CHILDREN'S DAY**



**DISABILITY INCLUSION  
AND ACCESS PLAN  
ADOPTED**



**PALMERSTON RECREATION  
CENTRE, LIBRARY AND CIVIC  
BUILDING REGISTERED 'WELCOME  
HERE' SPACES**



**FOR THE FIRST TIME, ABORIGINAL  
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAGS  
PERMANENTLY DISPLAYED INSIDE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

# 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 46 events in 2022-23.

The range of events included:

- Citizenship ceremonies throughout the year
- Bilingual Storytime
- International Women's Day
- Harmony Day
- Refugee Week celebrations
- Drag Queen Storytime
- Palmerston Pride
- NAIDOC Week celebrations
- Palmerston Seniors Day
- Australia Day Awards presentation
- Australia Day Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony
- International Men's Day event
- Multicultural Festival
- Youth Week events.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD)

The City of Palmerston in partnership with STEPS Multicultural Group, Level Up, and the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet organised a week-long series of events to celebrate International Women's Day, with approximately 350 people attending across the week. The activities were held in accordance with the United Nations' theme #Cracking the Code: Innovation for a gender equal future. The week-long program included ten events:

- International Women's Week Launch
- Art Jam - Introduction to Watercolours
- Hire a Grandma - Story Time in the Library
- Larrakia Cultural Event
- Embracing and Celebrating Women and Culture in Palmerston
- IWD - Game Jam
- Geeksquad - She n' D
- Australia Reads - Reading Hour Celebrating Women Writers
- Get Fit with Belgravia Leisure at Palmerston Pool
- Late Nights at the Library - Boss Babe Bingo.



Refugee Week storytime, Palmerston Library, 2023



## AUSTRALIA DAY

The Australia Day Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony was held at the Palmerston Recreation Centre on Thursday 26 January 2023. This special event attracted approximately 300 guests. The Ceremony incorporated performances by the Macondo dance group from Colombia and the ZimDarwin dance group from Zimbabwe, as well as highlighting the Australian Defence Force Tri Service who performed the raising of the Australian National Flag as Fiona Wake sang the Australian National Anthem. We welcomed 42 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 Rose Thulung Rajbhandari, the Palmerston Young Citizen of the Year Amy Stripling and the Palmerston Community Event of the Year Community for Community – Be Brave, Make change. Reconciliation Family Fun Day

## PALMERSTON PRIDE

Pride by Day was celebrated in the lead up to Palmerston's Pride on Frances Street Party. Day time activities included a Rainbow Storytime hosted by local rainbow legend Ace R L, Pride connections, Writer's Workshop by Clare Bizley, Comedy Workshop by Colin Southcote and Rainbow Bingo hosted by Drag Territory. Approximately 90 people attended the day of celebrations across the Palmerston Library and Recreation Centre. Following Palmerston Pride Day activities, celebrations carried on into the evening from 5.00-9.00pm with Pride on Frances Street party. Pride on Frances came alive with a diverse range of performers entertaining a crowd of 200 people over the evening. The lineup for the night were DJ C Crater, DJ Sarah Mac and Jigsaw Collective band with Darwin Divine Dancers, and Chris Southcote as the host for the evening.

## HARMONY DAY

On 21 March 2023, Council worked in partnership with organisations from across Palmerston to deliver a full day of workshops and events for Harmony Day. The day of celebration included:

- Welcome to Country
- STEPS choir and dance group
- Multicultural lunch
- Lantern-making workshops with the Vietnamese Family Association
- Mandala Art workshops
- Bark Painting with Dingo Cockatoo
- Painting with Janie Andrews
- VR sessions
- Cross-Cultural Awareness workshop.

## MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Over 500 people enjoyed this successful event celebrating cultural diversity in the Palmerston community in April 2023, with 20 different acts performing from different cultural community groups, including:

- Chung Wah Society Lion Dance
- Australian Vietnamese Family Association
- Russian Speaking Community NT
- STEPS Group
- Tai Chi group
- Bailamos Darwin
- Nepalese Association NT
- Colombian Traditional dance
- Darwin Doce Pares Eskrima - Filipino Martial Arts
- Puja & Cultural Association of NT Inc.

Food vans included culinary delights from Nepal, Greece, Thailand. Stallholders included: Multicultural Council NT, Zimbabwe community, STEPS Group and the Australian Vietnamese Family Association.

## INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY

International Men's Day celebrations were held on 19 November 2022. Approximately 170 people came to the Palmerston Recreation Centre to celebrate the men and boys in our lives. Multiple stallholders attended to share information and awareness about available services, including Mates in Construction, Palmerston Men's Shed, Cancer Council NT (Northern Territory), STEPS NT and Headspace. Activities included a free breakfast, free haircuts, free blood pressure checks, live music, didgeridoo lessons and fire making workshops. Local sporting organisations Palmerston and Regional Basketball Association and Football without Borders collaborated to offer free sporting activities in the stadium.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

On the 2 December 2022 City of Palmerston hosted this inaugural red-carpet event to acknowledge International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD), aligning with Council's newly adopted Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DIAP). The event was a great success with laughter, music, dancing, and magic. The theme was to dress fancy and attendees were certainly dressed in their finest as they enjoyed the celebrations with friends, family, and carers.

## CONNECTING THROUGH DIVERSITY

City of Palmerston Library continued to offer diversity in its programming, and hosting Bilingual and Auslan Storytime sessions as well as Drag Queen Storytime as part of its inclusive approach to engaging the community.

Two Bilingual Storytime sessions were delivered including a Tagalog (Phillipines) Storytime as part of Harmony Day celebrations and a Bahasa (Indonesia) Storytime hosted by STEPS with morning tea as part of Refugee Week celebrations.

City of Palmerston Library hosted a special Storytime in AUSLAN, to celebrate the National Week of Deaf People (NWPD) in September. The crowd of 85 people thoroughly enjoyed the session.

In June 2023 the Palmerston Library hosted Rainbow Storytime as part of the Palmerston Pride Event. This inclusive program celebrates diversity and the LGBTQ+ community, and was hosted by Ace R L. The audience was treated to an interactive performance with live music on the ukulele and a diverse range of books.



International Day of People with Disability, Palmerston Recreation Centre, 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.

## INCLUSIVE, DIVERSE AND ACCESSIBLE POLICY FRAMEWORK

City of Palmerston continues to deliver actions under the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible (IDA) Policy Framework, in an effort to increase community inclusion and representation across all facets of Council. The Framework documents the ideas and priorities provided by Palmerston community members to continuously work towards creating a place of equal access within our public domain, services, and programs.

## DISABILITY INCLUSION AND ACCESS PLAN

The first strategy to be developed under the IDA Policy Framework was the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan, which was adopted by Council in September 2022. 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 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.

## WELCOME HERE PROJECT

The Palmerston Recreation Centre, Palmerston Library and City of Palmerston Civic Building are now registered 'Welcome Here' spaces, indicated by the Welcome Here stickers at the front of our buildings. The Welcome Here Project aims to improve visibility and inclusivity for our LGBTQIA+ community and is the new Safe Place Project. The Safe Place Project started in 1992 in response to high levels of street-based violence towards LGBTIQ people.

## GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY TRAINING

Council partnered with Northern Territory Aids and Hepatitis Council (NTAHC) to provide Gender and Sexual Diversity Training for Council staff and community services. The training aligns with Council's Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework and supports individuals and workplaces on how to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Intersex (LGBTI) Inclusive.



Chinese Lion Dance, Ordinary Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 2023



CBS recipients Palmerston Cricket Club, Palmerston, 2023

## **ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAGS INSTALLED IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

City of Palmerston engaged the Palmerston Men's Shed to build and install four new flagpole holders and flag poles in order to, for the first time, fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags permanently inside Council Chambers. City of Palmerston is committed to taking steps to demonstrate its recognition of First Nations people and commitment towards reconciliation. Flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in Council Chambers alongside the Australian and Northern Territory flags is a visible symbol of respect and commitment towards reconciliation, and aligns to City of Palmerston's IDA Framework Principles.

## **NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY**

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day celebration was held on Thursday 4 August in Tiverton Park, Moulden with over 200 community members attending. The event was arranged by Palmerston Child and Family Centre and Kentish.

## **ORANGE SKY CBD SERVICE**

City of Palmerston continues to partner 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 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 ANZAC Day, Pride Week and Hemochromatosis Day.

# COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The overall score for Cultural Diversity increased by 0.08 points to 7.39/10 compared to 2022.

The highest performing aspect of the measure was 'Providing libraries and library services to the community' which averaged 8.06/10. The largest increase in score from 2022 was for 'providing recognition and support to our indigenous and multicultural community', improving by +0.23 to 7.09.

The lowest performing aspect was 'Promoting art and culture' which has a score of 6.86/10.

| Measure  | 2019           | 2020           | 2021           | 2022           | 2023           | Change       |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Supporting culturally diverse events   | 7.02           | 7.14           | 7.59           | 7.47           | 7.55           | +0.08        |
| Promoting art and culture (e.g. public art, murals, paving etc.)                 | 6.28           | 6.56           | 7.07           | 6.87           | 6.86           | -0.01        |
| Providing libraries and library services to the community                        | 8.20           | 8.27           | 8.16           | 8.04           | 8.06           | +0.02        |
| Providing recognition and support for our indigenous and multicultural community | 6.68           | 6.88           | 7.18           | 6.86           | 7.09           | +0.23        |
| <b>Overall:</b>  | <b>7.04/10</b> | <b>7.21/10</b> | <b>7.50/10</b> | <b>7.31/10</b> | <b>7.39/10</b> | <b>+0.08</b> |

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023–24

- Development of the City of Palmerston Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Ongoing implementation of the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework for Palmerston and the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan.
- Convening the Palmerston Wellbeing Advisory Committee to provide advice to Council about strategies, programs and initiatives which increase access, inclusion and participation of people from the community.
- Delivery of the Palmerston Creative Industries Strategy for the sustainable growth and development of Palmerston's creative sector.
- Development and finalisation of the Library Masterplan.
- Events and programs to celebrate and acknowledge diversity, including:
  - » Library programs such as Drag Queen and Bilingual Storytime
  - » Multicultural festival to celebrate all of Palmerston's cultural community
  - » Citizenship Ceremonies
  - » Pride Festival
  - » Harmony Day
  - » NAIDOC Week
  - » International Women's Day
  - » International Men's Day.

# 4.

## A 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:

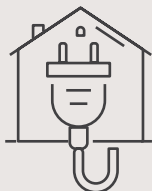
- We support and foster innovation
- Infrastructure is fit for purpose

Band recording music,  
Gulwa Recording Studio,  
Palmerston Library, 2023



## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

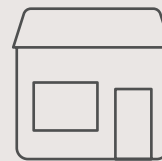
City of Palmerston upgraded facilities and introduced innovative technology and initiatives to improve the lives of residents, such as:



**COMPLETED LAYING  
60KM OF FIBER OPTIC  
CABLE**



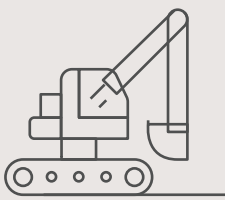
**COMPLETED ZUCCOLI  
COMMUNITY HUB REGIONAL  
DOG PARK**



**HIRED OUT COMMUNITY  
FACILITIES ON 8,528  
OCCASIONS**



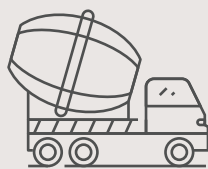
**277,344 ATTENDED  
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES  
AT COUNCIL FACILITIES**



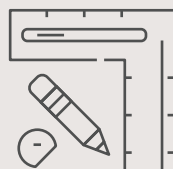
**RESURFACED 4.8  
KILOMETRES OF  
ROADS**



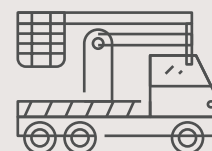
**FIXED 223  
POTHOLES**



**COMPLETED MAINTENANCE TO  
240 SECTIONS OF PATHWAYS**



**PROCESSED 185  
DRIVEWAY PLANS**



**CONSTRUCTED 140  
NEW DRIVEWAYS**



**INSTALLED 39 NEW  
STREET LIGHTS**



**FIXED 331 LIGHTING  
FAULTS**



**98.5% STREET LIGHTS  
WORKING AT 30 JUNE 2023**



Zuccoli Dog Park,  
Zuccoli, 2023

## 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

The Master Plan for the Zuccoli and surrounds Community Hub, incorporates an off-leash dog park, walking trails, a skate park and pump track, a playground, children's boutique library, community centre and a garden of reflection. The project has an estimated cost of \$20 million and is anticipated to be delivered over a 5-year period, commencing in 2022. The first stage of the hub, was the Zuccoli Dog Park which was completed and opened for community use in May 2023.

The second stage of the Community Hub will be the Skate Park and Pump Track. Prior to works commencing on Stage 2 of the Hub, the design of the civil, landscaping, open space structures and related infrastructure (excluding the buildings) will occur. A Geotechnical assessment of the site was undertaken to inform the Civil Design. The Civil Design tender was released in the 2022/23 Financial year.

### FIBERSENSE

A total of 60km of fiber optic cable has been laid throughout Palmerston CBD and Tiger Brennan Drive. FiberSense has completed 100% of the cable installation and splicing for the project within the road network. City of Palmerston is continuing to work with FiberSense to implement the Pilot Program and bring to life the real-world benefits of the service to the community.

FiberSense uses underground fibre optic cables and state-of-the-art technology to detect vibrations from machinery, vehicles, pedestrians and more. The vibrations are converted into data that CoP will be able to use for planning and improvements to the city. With this level of detail, Council can better plan for future growth and make improvements so that Palmerston continues to be *A Place for People* by being safe, welcoming, and livable.





Art Jam, Palmerston Youth Festival,  
Durack Community Arts Centre, 2022

## CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PLAN

City of Palmerston adopted a new Creative Industries Plan 2023-27 in March 2023. This plan outlines the strategic vision of Palmerston to support and grow its creative industries, with a focus on its existing cultural assets throughout this development. The Creative Industries Plan is a culmination of extensive community consultation and research into the needs and opportunities for the city's creative industries. It contains a range of objectives to support the growth and long-term sustainment of the creative sector, including:

- Encouraging the utilisation of Palmerston's existing open spaces, parks, lakes and other natural assets for creative programs, events, and activities.
- Supporting the distinct cultural and creative elements of Palmerston.
- Investing in and increasing access to creative development workshops, employment opportunities and platforms for positive promotion for a range of ages and abilities.
- Supporting the existing and fostering new partnerships between creative industries, Northern Territory organisations and local businesses to maximise financial resourcing and stimulate new economic opportunities.

The Creative Industries Plan reflects the City of Palmerston's commitment to supporting the creative sector as a vital contributor to the local economy and wellbeing of the community.

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES (MC) WORKSHOPS

The MC program is an initiative that aligns with the newly launched Creative Industries Plan. By offering free workshops for local creatives, the program empowers participants with the skills and knowledge needed to become successful MCs. This is a great way to encourage people to engage in the community and build their employable skills. The program's focus on practical training is a great way to ensure that participants have hands-on experience and can put their learning into practice. The workshops are led by experienced MCs, Sarah Reuben and Brent Watkinson. The participants have since performed as MC at other Council events including International Women's Week, and Palmerston Youth Festival.

## CREATIVE BUSINESS 101

City of Palmerston offered a free workshop for creatives to improve their business skills facilitated by Britt Guy from Creative Accomplice. Participants learnt how to create a bio, websites, social media presence, and the elevator pitch. They learnt about getting an ABN, and how to set up their bookkeeping. They also learnt how to apply for grants and tenders, setting up contracts and insurance. The workshop another initiative driven by the Creative Industries Plan 2023-27.

# 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 SWELL project is Palmerston’s largest infrastructure project to date and is set to transform the current aging Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre into an aquatic and leisure precinct including a refurbished 50m pool with improved accessibility, heated program pool, an adventure play zone, warm water pool, half basketball court, events area, upgraded amenities and plenty of shade.

Construction works commenced on 22 August 2022, and was on track to achieve the the proposed completion date for late 2023. The works are progressing in line with program and several major milestones were reached including the completion of all civil works and services, pool pump building and tanks, installation of Mythra Pool System, and significant progress on the construction of the ½ basketball court and shade facilities.

City of Palmerston is committed to strengthening the connection between people and place. This has driven the design for the refurbishment of Hall 2 and the Gym in the Aquatic Centre. The refurbishment is intended to create a more usable community space that provides open connectivity between Hall 2 and the Gym. The refurbishment has been expanded to include replacement of roof. The design was completed in the

2022/23 financial year with works expected to commence in October 2023. The refurbishment works and roof replacement are scheduled for completion at the same time as the leisure precinct. Once complete the centre will provide an accessible connected fitness and public space where people can come together.

## **GULWA COMMUNITY RECORDING STUDIO**

The Council run recording studio was opened in the Palmerston Library 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. Throughout the year, the Gulwa Community Recording Studio has hosted many different artists recording their music including Dave Garnham and the Reasons to Live, Crystal Robins and the Nepalese Association Band. In June 2023 the Palmerston Library hosted two free programs in Gulwa, teaching participants how to record podcasts and voice overs. These workshops were hosted by Brent Watkinson who has worked in radio for 10 years and will help to encourage Palmerston community to pursue work in the sector and introduce them to experts already working in the industry. After recent flooding in their community, the people from Pidgeon Hole were staying in Howard Springs and attending the Wulagi School campus. After hearing that the students had written a song the Council reached out to offer the Gulwa Community Recording Studio for them to record in. The students had great fun recording their songs over two days.



SWELL construction, 2023



Durack Community Arts Centre, 2022

## 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 2022-23:

|  | Number of bookings | Number of hours  | Number of attendees | In kind support  | CoP usage       | Revenue         |
|--|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Durack Community Art Centre                  | 601                | 3087.5           | 9,979               | \$40,060         | \$18,720        | \$1,280         |
| Palmerston Recreation Centre Community Rooms | 2421               | 6288             | 59,558              | \$92,550         | \$29,960        | \$28,260        |
| Palmerston Recreation Centre Stadium         | 2828               | 6953             | 136,587             | \$195,675        | \$9,165         | \$5,370         |
| Palmerston Library Community Room            | 785                | 2114.5           | 19,994              | \$26,980         | \$13,640        | \$3,280         |
| Driver Family Resource Centre                | 676                | 2619.5           | 10,285              | \$50,320         | \$2,070         | \$0             |
| Gray Community Hall                          | 977                | 4078             | 39,535              | \$69,670         | \$12,855        | \$31,580        |
| Gulwa Community Recording Studio             | 240                | 790              | 1,406               | \$0              | \$2,320         | \$12,010        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>8528</b>        | <b>25,930.50</b> | <b>277,344</b>      | <b>\$475,255</b> | <b>\$88,730</b> | <b>\$81,780</b> |

## 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 2022-23, Council resurfaced 4.8 kms of main roads. Resurfacing works were undertaken on McKinnon Road, Temple Terrace, and all of Driver Avenue. City of Palmerston also repaired other smaller sections of local roads and carried out the repair of 223 potholes to improve access and safety for residents and visitors in Palmerston.

A total of 310 pathway sections were identified as requiring maintenance works with 240 sections completed and 11 in progress. Works undertaken include the replacement of cracked concrete panels, investigations and sinkhole rectifications, and the replacement pit lids, bollards, and fences.

This financial year has seen the completion of the following New Pathway projects:

- Pastry Wilson Park
- President Park
- Moulden Stone Park
- Marlow Lagoon Dog Park
- Turnstone Park
- Sirius Street and Woodroffe Avenue
- Tulagi Road
- Carallia Pathway
- Renewal of a pathway at the intersection of Temple Terrace and Baldwin Drive, Woodroffe
- A new connecting link at Triller Court, Bakewell
- A new pathway connecting the McInnis Court laneway to President Park, Driver.
- The upgrade of the Tiverton carpark, Moulden.
- Renewal of a pathway in Joan Fejo Park, Rosebery
- Renewal of a pathway at Alexandra Court and Kentia Grove, Durack.

## DRIVEWAYS

Council received and processed 185 driveway plans, pre-approval requests and constructed 140 driveways. Zuccoli featured the highest demand for the financial year with 171 driveway plan pre-approvals and the construction of 136 driveways.

## 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 162 stormwater plan pre-approval requests and 121 stormwater clearance requests for new houses. Zuccoli featured the highest request totals for the financial year, with 149 pre-approvals and 117 stormwater clearance requests. Stormwater plan pre-approval and clearance requests increased from the previous financial year, up 37 and 41.

Stormwater networks 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, additionally, 8 damaged pits were reinstated and 263 section of the stormwater network were repaired.



Council Staff, 2023

## DARK SPOT PROGRAM

Programs have been developed for street lighting and continues to deliver beneficial outcomes including safety improvements and energy efficiencies for the community. The Dark Spots and Lighting Maintenance Programs ensure Palmerston is a safe family friendly city.

Dark Spot lighting projects undertaken in 2022-23 include:

- 14 street lights installed at Mannikan Court, Bakewell
- 9 new street lights installed throughout Turnstone Park
- 13 new street lights installed at Broadarrow Circuit, Woodroffe
- 3 new street lights at the intersection of Temple and Essington
- 6 new light fitting upgrades at the intersection of Georgina Crescent and Callanan
- Designs have been completed for Stockwhip Drive, Allamur Court, Harrison Park and Essington Park.

## LIGHTS

Council continues to improve the safety, and amenity of the city by actively monitoring and managing the street lighting network to optimise operations.

Light fault rectifications for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022:

- 421 light faults were reported (approx. 8% of 5391 total lights)
- 359 faults were rectified completely in the same year (85% of faults in this period)

The active management of the street light network has resulted in a significant improvement in network operations for the 2022 -2023 financial year when compared to the 2021 – 2022 financial year.

Light fault rectifications for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023:

- 336 light faults were reported (approx. 6% of 5391 total lights in inventory)
- 331 faults have been rectified completely (98% of faults in this period)
- 98.5% of streetlights were working as at 30 June 2023.

## 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 2022–23, including:

### PALMERSTON LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT

The refurbishment of the Palmerston Library public amenities has been completed and the Occupation Certificate has been issued. This provides fit for purpose, family friendly infrastructure for the community.

### DRIVER COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Driver Resource Centre was constructed in the mid 1980's as a Childcare Facility co-located with the adjacent Driver Primary School. The Centre no longer meets the needs of the Community and requires replacement. The design contract has been awarded to undertake a preliminary design, including a Needs Assessment for the replacement of the Driver Resource Centre with a modern Community Centre. The Needs Assessment and concept

design has been completed. City of Palmerston is currently carrying out community consultation to ensure the proposed designs are suitable to meet the needs of the community. The estimated cost for the project based on the initial draft concept is in the order of \$2.5 - 3 million.

### NEW DOG POUND FACILITY

Construction of the new Dog Pound Facility has been completed, Occupation Permit has been issued and the facility is being prepared for operational use. The new facility will provide a new parking area for users and 8 new kennels with improved security and animal play areas. The existing pound will also remain open until future stages are completed.

### ARCHER WASTE FACILITY UPGRADE

In the 2022-23 financial year, City of Palmerston has responded to previous community reports of this facility not meeting user needs and the decision was made to pursue design options to upgrade the facility for improved operation and safety. Council has been working with the current operators and consultants to facilitate this upgrade. It is estimated that works will commence in the dry season of 2024.

Christmas Wonderland performance, Library Community room, 2022



# COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The overall score for A Future Focus increased by 0.14 points to 6.84/10 compared to 2022. All ten scores increased for each measure.

The highest performing aspect of the measure was ‘Maintaining drainage facilities’ which averaged 7.35/10.

The lowest performing aspect was “How flexible is the City of Palmerston?” which has a score of 6.19/10, however this had the greatest increase from 2022, increasing by 0.30 points.

| Measure  | 2019           | 2020           | 2021           | 2022           | 2023           | Change       |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Performance in:</b>                                     |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Supporting innovation in the business community            | 5.65           | 6.04           | 6.38           | 6.19           | 6.28           | +0.09        |
| <b>How:</b>  |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Innovative is the City of Palmerston?                      | 5.95           | 6.08           | 6.45           | 6.09           | 6.35           | +0.26        |
| Flexible is the City of Palmerston?                        | 5.89           | 6.00           | 6.49           | 5.89           | 6.19           | +0.30        |
| <b>Performance in:</b>                                     |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Ensuring roads built by developers are fit for purpose     | 7.10           | 7.22           | 7.38           | 6.99           | 7.11           | +0.12        |
| Maintaining roads  | 7.31           | 7.51           | 7.49           | 6.93           | 7.10           | +0.17        |
| Ensuring footpaths built by developers are fit for purpose | 7.07           | 7.17           | 7.30           | 7.06           | 7.11           | +0.05        |
| Maintaining footpaths                                      | 6.95           | 6.99           | 7.06           | 6.89           | 6.94           | +0.05        |
| Providing shared pathways                                  | 6.81           | 6.92           | 7.08           | 6.83           | 6.98           | +0.15        |
| Maintaining shared pathways                                | 6.88           | 7.00           | 7.07           | 6.81           | 6.96           | +0.15        |
| Maintaining drainage facilities                            | 7.37           | 7.44           | 7.46           | 7.33           | 7.35           | +0.02        |
| <b>Overall:</b>  | <b>6.70/10</b> | <b>6.84/10</b> | <b>7.02/10</b> | <b>6.70/10</b> | <b>6.84/10</b> | <b>+0.14</b> |

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023–24

- Investing in programs for maintaining and renewing infrastructure and assets for the future including buildings, roads, pathways, laneways, parks, driveways, stormwater, drainage and lighting networks.
- Launch of the FibreSense Technology project to provide data regarding usage and movements of vehicles and people to inform evidence-based decision making for infrastructure investment.
- Continued planning and delivery of the Enterprise Resource Planning project to improve Council’s systems to deliver services more efficiently and effectively.
- Delivery of shared path, greening the city and public lighting programs in partnership with the NT Government.
- Delivery of the updated Car Parking Strategy.
- Focusing on *Making it Easy* for customers and continuous improvement.



## ENVIRONMENTAL 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



Tree planting program, Owsten Tce,  
Palmerston, 2023



## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

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



**KEPT 15 LAKES  
SUBSTANTIALLY CLEAR  
OF SALVINIA WEED**



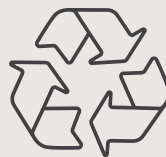
**20% REDUCTION IN  
WATER USAGE IN PAST  
2 YEARS**



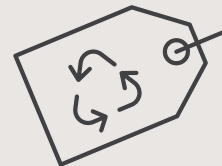
**PLANTED 383 TREES**



**46 RESIDENTS RECEIVED  
48 CUBIC METRES OF TOPSOIL  
THROUGH THE VERGE  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**



**INTRODUCED E-WASTE  
RECYCLING BINS AT CIVIC  
PLAZA AND PALMERSTON  
LIBRARY**



**INITIATED BATTERY AND  
MOBILE PHONE RECYCLING  
AT ARCHER WASTE  
MANAGEMENT FACILITY**



**RECYCLED 68% OF 1,187  
TONNES OF CO-MINGLED  
RECYCLING WASTE  
COLLECTED**



**COLLECTED 277 TONNES  
OF WASTE IN THE PRE-  
CYCLONE CLEAN UP WITH  
43% RECYCLED**



**3306 TONNES OF GENERAL  
WASTER RECEIVED  
AT ARCHER WASTE  
MANAGEMENT FACILITY**

**COLLECTED 757 TONNES OF RECYCLABLE MATERIAL THROUGH ARCHER WASTE  
MANAGEMENT FACILITY, MADE UP OF:**



**153 TONNES CARDBOARD  
547 TONNES STEEL  
29,800 LITRES OIL**

**1.9 TONNES MIXED GLASS /  
PLASTIC / ALUMINIUM  
55 TONNES BATTERIES.**

# REDUCE OUR FOOTPRINT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

## SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Council adopted the Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2022 which provides themes and priorities for 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 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, biological control and aquatic herbicide foliar spraying. Biological control relates to the introducing of Salvinia Weevils into the lakes, which eats only the Salvinia leaves. Council commenced spraying with the selective aquatic herbicide "Clipper" in 2022. This herbicide is formulated and approved for the control of selected floating, emergent and submergent aquatic weeds.

Additionally, Council placed an order for a new weed harvester in November 2021 which arrived and was commission in July 2022. The addition of the new weed harvester effectively doubled Council's weed harvesting capacity and expedited Salvinia lake cleaning.

Since the adoption of "Clipper" herbicide and the commencement of operation of the second weed harvester, Council has succeeded in cleaning and maintaining lakes that are substantially clear of Salvinia weed. The lakes have since been recognised as having high amenity value, improved habitat for wildlife and realise improved community satisfaction.

## IRRIGATION WATER USAGE

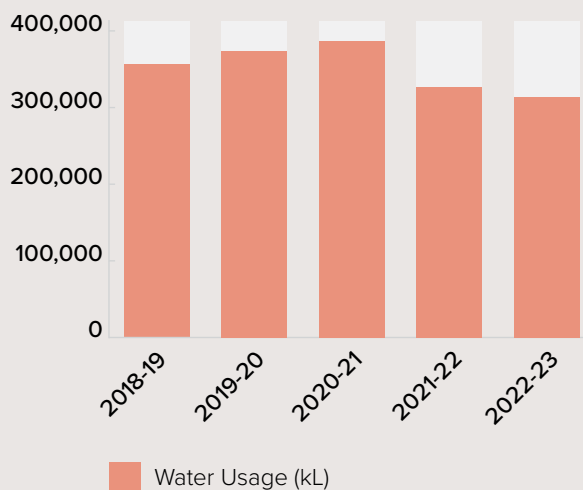
In 2022 Council adopted utility management software Azility which has contributed to improved irrigation management including leak detection and optimising of irrigation schedules.

Irrigation system improvement works completed in the reporting period included:

- Refurbishment of President Bore (Driver)
- Refurbishment Lake 8 & 9 irrigation system (Durack)
- Refurbishment Lake 4 irrigation system (Durack)
- Refurbishment of Reggie Park (Gunn) irrigation system
- New irrigation system Roberts Park (Gray)
- New submersible pump Goyder Square (CBD)
- Replacement of controllers, Backflow Prevention Devices (BPDs) and flow meters within the irrigation network across the municipality.

A historical review of irrigation water usage using Azility has found that Council achieved a 17% reduction in water usage in the 2021/2022 financial year. A further 3% reduction in water usage was achieved in 2022/2023 financial year. The graph below shows Council’s annual water consumption and the clear downward trend since 2020/2021.

### Water Consumption (kL)

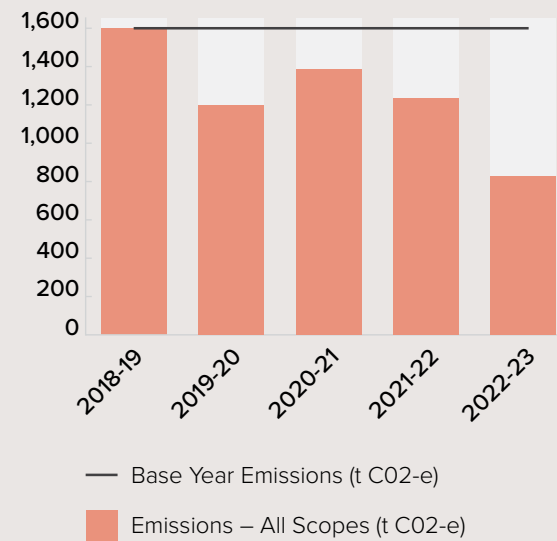


## GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The implementation of Azility utility management software has enabled Council to track greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Council GHG emissions since 2018-19 are presented in the graph below which demonstrates a trend of reduced GHG emissions aligned with Council’s Sustainability Strategy and Community Plan objectives. The observed reduction in GHG emissions is directly related to energy efficiency and solar generation projects which have included:

- upgrade of the street lighting network to energy efficient and smart LED lights
- installation of Solar Generation Systems on Council building including Library, Recreation Centre, Civic Centre and Gray Community Hall
- adoption of more efficient lighting in Council buildings and offices.

### Financial Quarter: 1, 2, 3, 4



## SOLAR POWER GENERATION

City of Palmerston maintains Solar Power Generation systems at the Civic Centre (94.4 kW solar system capacity), Palmerston Library (99.6 KW solar system capacity), Palmerston Recreation Centre (81 KW solar system capacity) and Gray Community Hall (7kW) to offset power demand. These systems reduce our footprint on the environment and save on operating costs.

Live and recent solar power generation information is available on Council's website at: <https://palmerston.nt.gov.au/operations/environment/councils-renewable-energy#library>

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 2023.

| Site                         | Solar Power Generation | Greenhouse Gas Savings (t CO2-e) | Trees Planted Equivalent |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Civic Plaza                  | 150                    | 150                              | 3363                     |
| Palmerston Library           | 205                    | 205                              | 4600                     |
| Palmerston Recreation Centre | 156                    | 161                              | 3501                     |
| Gray Hall                    | 0.55                   | 0.29                             | 13                       |

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

As part of fleet replacement, electric and hybrid vehicles are procured where operationally possible. Electric and hybrid vehicles are beneficial due to their lower emissions, which help combat climate change and improve air quality. City of Palmerston's vehicle fleet delete includes two fully electric and 12 hybrid vehicles, including a Hino Hybrid 300 series truck.



Hobart Park Shade

# PALMERSTON IS A COOL, SHADED, GREEN CITY

## 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.

In 2022-23 there were 383 trees planted. Tree planting programs included:

- Owston Avenue Beautification – 91 trees
- Woodlake Boulevard/ Sabal Place – 89 trees
- Lambrick Avenue – 54 native plants
- Lakeview Boulevard – 25 native plants
- Residential tree planting requests – 64 trees
- Operations Centre Beautification – 60 native plants.

In time, the increased canopy coverage is anticipated to assist in activating previously passive use areas and encourage greater pedestrian and bicycle commuting.

A healthy urban forest plays a critical role in maintaining the health and liveability within a city. Increasing the health, diversity and resilience of the urban forest enables the city to adapt to a changing climate, mitigate the effects of urban heat, and promotes ecological preservation.

## 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.

The Verge Assistance Program takes place during the dry season months. In 2022-23 a total of 46 residents received topsoil and grass seeds with 48 cubic metres of topsoil delivered overall. The Program is ongoing and residents continue to have an opportunity to apply throughout the year. Signage has been displayed across multiple Council facilities to increase awareness of the Program.

Council's Residential Tree Planting Program supports community members with appropriate tree planting on their verge or public open space. Media communication support in highlighting this initiative is ongoing with the focus being in the lead up to the Wet Season to optimise tree establishment. A total of 64 trees were planted through the program in 2022-23.

# ENCOURAGE PERSONAL ACTION AND TAKING A LEADERSHIP ROLE

## 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.

Archer Waste Management Facility is open 7 days a week from 8.00am to 6.00pm for Palmerston residents. A facility upgrade to improve safety and recycling outcomes is in the final design stage.

The following waste volumes were reported for the AWMF in 2022-23. For this year a diversion rate of 19% was achieved excluded waste oil.

| Waste Type  | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| General Waste (t)   | 3306     |
| Recyclable Materials (t)<br>(excludes waste oil recycled) | 757      |

| Recyclable Waste Type                                       | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| Paper / Cardboard (t)                                       | 153      |
| Steel / Metal (t)   | 547      |
| Batteries (t)   | 55       |
| Co-Mingled Recycle - Mixed glass / Plastic / Aluminium) (t) | 1.9      |
| Waste oil (L)   | 29,800   |

## DOMESTIC KERBSIDE COLLECTION

The following waste volumes were collected through Domestic Kerbside collection in 2022– 23.

| Waste Type                    | Quantity |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Kerbside General Waste (t)    | 9115     |
| Kerbside Recyclable Waste (t) | 1187     |

Of the 1187 tonnes of recycling material collected, 705 tonnes were recovered and sent to be recycled into new materials. The remaining 482 tonnes was contaminated or non-recyclable and sent to landfill as general waste. This makes our diversion rate 68.37%, a significant improvement from 38% in 2021-22.

## PRE-CYCLONE CLEAN UP

The annual pre-cyclone clean-up was undertaken over September and October 2022, 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, air conditioners, 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 2021 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.

## OTHER

Other notable initiatives undertaken by Council to support environment and sustainability objectives, reduce our environmental footprint and provide new opportunities for the community to recycle waste include:

### REBOOT YOUR LOOT

Reboot Your Loot was held 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.

### E-WASTE RECYCLING

Council has introduced e-waste recycling bins at Civic Centre and Palmerston Library. This initiative aims to promote responsible electronic waste management and provide accessible recycling options. By facilitating the proper disposal of e-waste, Council is contributing to a cleaner environment, resource conservation, improved public health, and increased awareness of responsible waste disposal among Palmerston residents.

### BATTERY RECYCLING POINTS

Council has recently initiated battery and mobile phone recycling at Archer Waste Management Facility, with additional accessible community drop off points at Civic Centre, Palmerston Library and Palmerston Recreation Centre. By recycling these types of batteries, Council is contributing to the conservation of natural resources, reducing energy consumption, and reducing environmental impact associated with battery and mobile phone production.

## TYRE STEWARDSHIP AUSTRALIA ACCREDITATION

Council has recently achieved accreditation with Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA). TSA has been formed to implement the [National Tyre Product Stewardship Scheme](#) to promote the development of viable markets for end-of-life tyres.

This has the multiple benefits of transforming a waste product into a useful commodity, creating new industries and employment opportunities while also reducing the environmental harm caused by the illegal dumping of old tyres.

## ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE EDUCATION

City of Palmerston is working towards strengthening community engagement and education around waste diversion and minimisation. In support of this, City of Palmerston collaborated with Plastic Free July and the corresponding education resources that are a part of this membership are being used to promote waste minimisation and moving away from problematic and single use plastics. To date, these resources have been shared with the Palmerston Markets and other food and beverage vendors to encourage the use of reusable containers.

In March 2023, Council held a Library Storytime for Global Recycling Day focused on educating children and parents on what can be recycled in Palmerston.

Additionally, Council held Less Waste Talks with Lindsay Miles for World Environment Day on 5 of June and focused on the 2023 theme 'beat plastic pollution'. Lindsay, a renowned speaker, author, and plastic-free living advocate, offered insights, skills and ideas that encourage sustainable lifestyle and business practices.

## RECYCLING AND WASTE GUIDE

The Council's Recycling and Waste Guide has undergone a significant review and is now conveniently accessible through the Council website at: <https://palmerston.nt.gov.au/recycling-and-waste-guide> and on the City of Palmerston App. The updated guide not only includes new waste and recycling categories but also undergoes regular reviews to ensure currency and maximum convenience for residents. To enhance accessibility and user-friendliness, intuitive icons have been incorporated. Furthermore, the disposal options have been expanded to incorporate the Container Deposit Scheme and donation opportunities. The primary objective of this guide is to promote correct disposal and recycling practices by increasing accessibility and convenience for residents.

## WASTE CALENDARS

Council's Waste Calendars can be conveniently accessed by residents both online via the City of Palmerston website and at various Council locations throughout the municipality. Over the years, these calendars have gained significant popularity and continue to be in high demand, offering vital information on our key waste services.

## EARTH HOUR 2023

Council took part in Earth Hour 2023 on 25 March 2023. Earth Hour is an annual event that encourages individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential lights and electronics between 8:30-9:30PM to raise awareness of climate change and show support for a sustainable future.

## HOME COMPOSTING REBATE PROGRAM

The Home Composting Rebate 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. This initiative continues to be advertised at the Palmerston Markets and the City of Palmerston website, additionally "Council Initiatives" signage is displayed across multiple Council facilities to increase awareness of the Program. The Elected Members hold a compost bin raffle giveaway monthly at their Palmerston Market stall. This year a total of 38 applications were approved, with a total of 74 since the program began in January 2022.



Name the Harvester competition winners & Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell, Lake 5, Durack, 2022



# COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The 2023 Survey returned a result of 7.29/10 overall for Environmental Sustainability, an increase of 0.21 on 2022. Every measure in this outcome area increased, except for ‘kerbside waste collection’ which fell slightly but remained the highest score (8.09/10), in line with previous years.

The measure that received a statistically significant increase ‘maintaining lakes’ which increased by .79 to 7.00/10.

| Measure   | 2019           | 2020           | 2021           | 2022           | 2023           | Change       |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Providing opportunities for recycle and re-use through the pre-cyclone clean up | 7.56           | 7.77           | 7.76           | 7.56           | 7.73           | +0.17        |
| Managing gardens and nature reserves  | 7.27           | 7.34           | 7.36           | 7.09           | 7.16           | +0.07        |
| Maintaining lakes   | 7.12           | 7.15           | 6.93           | 6.21           | 7.00           | +0.79        |
| Increasing shading and greening the city  | 6.27           | 6.52           | 6.72           | 6.56           | 6.56           | 0.00         |
| Kerbside waste collection   | 8.02           | 8.33           | 8.28           | 8.14           | 8.09           | -0.05        |
| Providing and maintaining Archer Waste Management Facility                      | 7.78           | 7.87           | 7.95           | 7.74           | 7.96           | +0.22        |
| Promoting environmental sustainability  | 6.07           | 6.36           | 6.53           | 6.29           | 6.55           | +0.26        |
| <b>Overall:</b>   | <b>7.16/10</b> | <b>7.33/10</b> | <b>7.36/10</b> | <b>7.08/10</b> | <b>7.29/10</b> | <b>+0.21</b> |

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023–24

- Ongoing implementation of Council’s Lake Management Plan for continued effective weed management.
- Implementation of Council’s Sustainability Strategy to continue Council’s commitment to reducing its environmental impact.
- Ongoing greening and cooling of the city with ongoing investments in current and future budgets.
- Completion of the municipal Weed Management Plan and the Bushfire Management Plan.
- Development of an Irrigation Management Plan.
- \$250,000 to upgrading irrigation infrastructure for water efficiency.
- Annual pre-cyclone clean ups with continued promotion to support recycling.
- Delivery of the Archer Waste Management facility upgrade to promote greater recycling and meet future needs for the community.

# P.

## 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

City of Palmerston CEO,  
Council Chambers, 2023

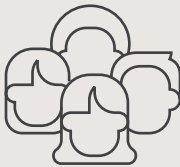


# MEASURES OF SUCCESS

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:



**HELD 22 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS**



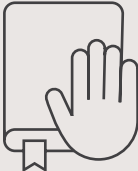
**EMPLOYED 95 STAFF**



**SPENT \$215,722 ON TRAINING EMPLOYEES**



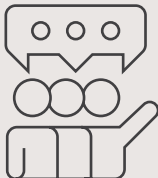
**89 EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATED IN TRAINING**



**REVIEWED 13 POLICIES**



**PROCESSED 5 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS**



**ESTABLISHED 3 NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEES**



**89 EMPLOYEES AT THE CITY OF PALMERSTON PARTICIPATED IN TRAINING**

# 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:

- 19 September Durack Community and Arts Centre
- 4 April Gray Community Hall

## COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE

In 2022-23 there were 22 Ordinary Council Meetings.

| Elected Members              | Attended |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell     | 21       |
| Councillor Amber Garden      | 19       |
| Councillor Ben Giesecke      | 19       |
| Councillor Damian Hale       | 20       |
| Councillor Sarah Henderson   | 21       |
| Councillor Lucy Morrison     | 17       |
| Councillor Danielle Eveleigh | 19       |
| Councillor Mark Fraser       | 20       |

## 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 \$3753.17 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              |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| Athina Pascoe Bell | Bachelor of Laws   | \$3,753.17         |
| Danielle Eveleigh  | Australian Local Government Women's Association Conference and AHRI Senior Leader Pathway Course | \$2,538.30         |
| Amber Garden       | World Business Ideas Forum 2023  | 2,690.00           |
| Sarah Henderson    | Australian Local Government Women's Association Conference                                       | \$1,790.52         |
| <b>Total</b>       |  | <b>\$10,771.99</b> |



Council staff, Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2022

## NUMBER OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

During the past financial year, Council considered a total of 54 confidential matters, 30 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 <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and <i>section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , 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. | 7  |
| This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and <i>section 51(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , 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 <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and <i>section 51(1)(c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , 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.  | 2  |
| This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and <i>section 51(1)(c)(ii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , 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 maintenance or administration of the law.   | 1  |
| This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and <i>section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , 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.  | 10 |
| This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and <i>section 51(1)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , 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 provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.   | 1  |

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

## 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.

Policies reviewed by Council in 2022–23 included:

- Elected Member Allowances and Expenses
- Rate Concession
- Procurement
- Edible Pocket Garden
- Investments
- Code of Conduct for Chief Executive Officer
- Fraud and Corruption
- Security Payments
- Lighting Up Palmerston
- Related Party Disclosure
- Privacy
- Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships
- Media

## 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 91 internal and external incidents were reported by employees in 2022–23, which mainly related to disruptive anti-social behaviour at or near Council facilities or members of the community requiring medical attention.

| Directorate            | Number of Incidents |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Community and Culture  | 73                  |
| Infrastructure         | 7                   |
| Finance and Governance | 1                   |
| Office of the CEO      | 10                  |

Worker’s Compensation claims in 2022–23:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Total Claims (new) | 2 |
| Open Claims        | 1 |
| 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. Civic Plaza has continued the extension of opening hours to our community implemented in July 2022 from 8.00am - 5.00pm to 7.30am – 5.30pm.

## 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 \$180,905 from an available pool of \$250,000 for Community Benefit Scheme funding in 2022/23. The funding supported 30 community groups and 139 individuals through grants, scholarships, sponsorships and representation support.

## 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 2022-23, 89 employees at the City of Palmerston participated in training.

Council contributed approximately \$215,722 to training for our employees, which included:

- various tertiary qualifications including certificates, diplomas, graduate certificates and bachelor's degrees
- Working with Cultural Differences
- Appropriate Workplace Behaviour
- Accidental Counselling
- Mental Health First Aid
- Contact Officer training
- WHS Management Plan
- Guardian IMS training
- Managing Workplace Conflict
- Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination
- Enterprise Agreement
- Capability Framework training
- First aid training
- Fire warden training
- Internal training, including:
  - » Recruitment and Merit Selection Process
  - » Purchase Order Training
  - » Budget training
  - » Leave Management
  - » Procurement
  - » ArcGIS
  - » Social media policy



## 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 2022–23.

There were five 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 2022–23:

| 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) | 0                           |
| Access to non-personal information held by Council only               | 5                           |



Council Rangers,  
Palmerston CBD, 2022

# 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. In 2022-23 Council established the following new Advisory Committees:

- Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee
- Community Safety Advisory Committee
- Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee

Council convened the following networks:

- Palmerston Seniors Network
- Palmerston Safe Communities Network
- Palmerston Animal Management Network
- Palmerston Kids Network
- Palmerston and Rural Youth Services

## 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:

- a. To monitor and review the integrity of the council's financial management
- b. To monitor and review internal controls
- c. To make recommendations to the council about any matters to committee considers require the council's consideration as a result of the committee's functions under paragraph (a) or (b).



Civic Plaza carpark,  
Palmerston CBD, 2022

# COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The 2023 Survey returned a result of 6.43/10 overall for Governance, an increase of 0.24 on 2022, and the greatest increase of the outcome areas. The Governance scores increased for all measures and significant increases were seen in the areas of effectiveness (0.35 increase) and interactivity with Council (0.42 increase).

This Key Outcome Area has seen two statistically significant increase measurables being:

- How effective is the City of Palmerston? (up 0.35 to a score of 6.59/10).
- Providing you with the opportunity to comment on Council’s decision making and interact with Council (up 0.42 to a score of 6.14/10).

| Measure   | 2019           | 2020           | 2021           | 2022           | 2023           | Change       |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>How:</b>   |                |                |                |                |                |              |
| Accountable is the City of Palmerston Council?  | 6.13           | 6.27           | 6.79           | 6.34           | 6.53           | +0.19        |
| Effective is the City of Palmerston Council?  | 6.22           | 6.41           | 6.68           | 6.24           | 6.59           | +0.35        |
| <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           | 6.14           | +0.42        |
| Achieving funding and getting things done by working in partnership with government and the community | 6.05           | 6.30           | 6.70           | 6.44           | 6.44           | 0.00         |
| <b>Overall:</b>   | <b>6.01/10</b> | <b>6.17/10</b> | <b>6.52/10</b> | <b>6.19/10</b> | <b>6.43/10</b> | <b>+0.24</b> |

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023–24

- Further engagement to the community through social media platforms, the website and face to face.
- Development of marketing and communication strategies for programs to increase community awareness.
- Increased involvement of the community in developing plans for the future, such as the Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Council community presence through public events and *Council to the Community Meetings*.
- Convening the Advisory Committees with community and stakeholder membership.
- Maintaining focus on healthy working partnerships with all levels of government.
- Completion and implementation of the updated Strategic Risk Register, Risk Policy and Framework, including delivery of Council’s internal audit program.
- Development of Council’s Talent Attraction Strategy to support recruitment and retention of staff.
- Ongoing training for staff on contemporary matters ensuring effective usage of resources.
- Implementation of the Digital Strategy to improve liveability in the city through accountable data-driven decision making.
- Continued increased opening hours to improve customer services.

# OUR COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE

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

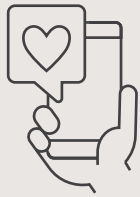
Council recognises the role the community plays in planning the future of the city, and the cornerstone of our approach is involving and fostering genuine and collaborative conversations with the community. We believe that by harnessing the collective intelligence of the community, we can be better placed to address intricate challenges and make better decisions.



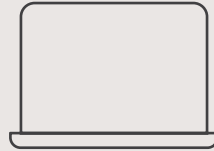
Civic Plaza, Palmerston  
CBD, 2022

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

City of Palmerston aimed to improve connection and engagement with the community through:



**28 MEDIA RELEASES  
WERE SENT TO MEDIA  
OUTLETS**



**124,637 USERS  
ON THE COUNCIL  
WEBSITE**



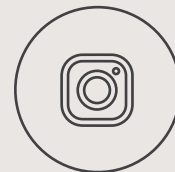
**COUNCIL WEBSITE  
PAGES VIEWED  
411,843 TIMES**



**COUNCIL PURPOSEFULLY  
CONSULTED THE COMMUNITY  
FOUR TIMES ON LARGE  
INITIATIVES**



**17,428 FACEBOOK  
FOLLOWERS**



**1,888 INSTAGRAM  
FOLLOWERS**



**2,013 LINKEDIN  
FOLLOWERS**

# 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, and social media (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn).

28 media releases were sent to media outlets with the intent to capture a wider audience organically through the news networks. 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 181 pieces of earned media was achieved. This included radio interviews, news articles, magazine articles, and features on broadcast (television). In addition to this, monthly radio interviews are negotiated

and organised in advance with ABC radio. The busiest period for earned media is during July – September when most of our events are held, and our Municipal Plan is released.

Council has a total of 17,428 followers on its Facebook page, which is an increase of 6% on followers in the last year. Council's Instagram page has 1,888 followers and LinkedIn has 2,013 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 2022-23, Council's website recorded 411,843 page views by 124,637 people visiting the website for information.

# STRATEGIC APPROACH

## COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

In the 2nd ordinary Council Meeting in July 2022, Council adopted the Communications Strategy 2022 upon the report of the outcomes of the community consultation. The strategy was designed to be dynamic and has been developed to provide a high-level strategic approach on who, what, how and why we communicate. The strategy aligns with other important council publications such as the Community Plan and the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework (IDA). The strategy will undergo a yearly review.

## 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. With an overall increase in followers across councils Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn of almost 10% collectively, social media will continue to remain an important communication tool for council. The 2023 Community Survey identified that 55% of people would prefer to receive communication from Council via social media.

In the Second Ordinary Council Meeting in August 2022, the Council's Social Media Strategy was adopted. The strategy was another way to allow genuine and organic engagement with the community. The strategy talks about connecting, informing, and educating the community in a timely and appropriate manner using social media as the platform. To compliment the strategy, council also endorsed a Social Media Policy in the same meeting.

# GENUINE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

City of Palmerston offers the opportunity to connect with the community via a number of platforms including social media, website, over the phone and face to face. Community members can send us a message, report issues and call where they will receive an almost immediate response.

Genuine community engagement is the cornerstone in delivering innovative projects, programs and other initiatives that the public value. We pride ourselves on transparent communication, active listening and incorporating diverse perspectives to forge a stronger connection with the community. *We are a place for people* and through fostering, administering, and acting on genuine community engagement activities, we can deliver what the community want and strengthen the trust between Council and the community.

Council facilitated specific community engagement activities in 2022-23 including:

## DRAFT MUNICIPAL PLAN 2023-24

Each year City of Palmerston release a plan of what the year ahead will look like based on the budget and feedback from the community. The plan shows our commitment to building and supporting a thriving community well into the future.

## SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY AND POLICY 2022

Council began engaging with the community regarding the use of Social media platforms for the purpose of connecting, informing and educating the community. In addition, a policy was developed to facilitate increased safety for staff and the community on social media platforms.

## PALMERSTON CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PLAN 2022-2027

Council developed a Creative Industries Plan which places a close focus on the creative arts in and around Palmerston. The consultation aimed to identified what the community wanted to see more of and ideas around how Council can facilitate that.

## COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY 2022

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. The results are reported in the Annual Report.

# OUR PEOPLE

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

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

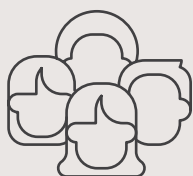
Council staff, 2022





These initiatives include:

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



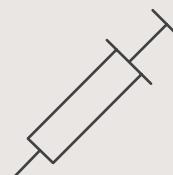
**EMPLOYS 95  
LOCAL PEOPLE**



**62% WORKFORCE IS  
FEMALE**



**21 EMPLOYEES BORN  
OVERSEAS**



**PROVIDED 44 STAFF  
WITH FLU SHOTS FREE  
OF CHARGE**

## OUR LOCAL STAFF

City of Palmerston employed 95 local people as full time, part time and casual employees as at 30 June 2023.

Council recruited 54 employees in 2022–23, while 41 employees left Council during the year.

## EMPLOYEE POSITION TYPE BY GENDER

| Status | Ongoing | Fixed Term | Casual | Total |
|--------|---------|------------|--------|-------|
| Male   | 7       | 28         | 1      | 36    |
| Female | 13      | 40         | 6      | 59    |

## DIVERSE WORKFORCE

### Diversity and age of workforce as at 30 June 2023

| Diversity of Age and Gender of Workforce | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| 18-24 years                              | 1    | 2      | 3     |
| 25-29 years                              | 4    | 8      | 12    |
| 30-34 years                              | 8    | 10     | 18    |
| 35-39 years                              | 7    | 17     | 24    |
| 40-44 years                              | 3    | 4      | 7     |
| 45-49 years                              | 3    | 8      | 11    |
| 50-54 years                              | 5    | 8      | 13    |
| 55-59 years                              | 3    | 1      | 4     |
| 60-64 years                              | 0    | 2      | 2     |
| 65-70 years                              | 1    | 0      | 1     |
| 70 + years                               | 0    | 0      | 0     |
|  | 35   | 60     | 95    |

### Salary breakdown as at 30 June 2023

| Employee by Salary    | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------------------|------|--------|-------|
| \$0 - \$64,445        | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| \$64,446 - \$70,682   | 1    | 6      | 7     |
| \$70,683 - \$76,940   | 8    | 12     | 20    |
| \$76,941 - \$81,491   | 6    | 8      | 14    |
| \$81,492 - \$89,358   | 7    | 10     | 17    |
| \$89,359 - \$97,185   | 2    | 10     | 12    |
| \$97,186 - \$106,344  | 1    | 2      | 3     |
| \$106,345 - \$115,000 | 3    | 2      | 5     |
| \$115,001 - \$130,000 | 3    | 4      | 7     |
| \$130,001 - \$160,000 | 3    | 1      | 4     |
| \$160,001 +           | 1    | 5      | 6     |
|                       | 35   | 60     | 95    |

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

### Number of employees born overseas by gender as at June 2023

Females born overseas 11

Males born overseas 10

## 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 LifeSurvey

| Survey Period       | Registered Participants<br>(includes labour hire) | Number of Respondents | Percentage of response | Net Promoter Score |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 9-23 September 2022 | 90  | 66                    | 73%                    | -1                 |
| 11-25 April 2023    | 99  | 72                    | 73%                    | --3                |

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 resources, safety 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 2022–23 these included:

- RUOK? Day Breakfast
- Mental Health Information Session
- Accidental Counselling training
- Mental Health First Aid training
- Biggest Morning Tea
- Safe Work Month Pizza and check-in
- Harmony Day
- various team building activities
- employee 'thankyou' cards and coffee vouchers
- Palmerfun Times monthly newsletter
- online learning management system for staff to access short courses in mental health and well-being.

# 2022-23 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The financial results for the 2022-23 financial year continues to demonstrate why City of Palmerston is the Place for People.



Council's revenue base consists of Rates and Charges of \$31.5 million, Operational Grants and Subsidies \$4.4 million, and \$1.6 million in Interest and Investment Income, with \$1 million from general Fees and Charges. These funds were used to deliver free parking to the city centre and the provision of free facilities for not for profit organisations. City of Palmerston continued to maintain its service delivery illustrated by the following initiatives for the community.

- Maintain 288 Hectares of open spaces
- Host 103 community events
- Deliver free library programs
- Weeklong Palmerston Youth Festival
- Christmas Wonderland
- 277 tonnes collected in the pre-cyclone clean up, with 43% of that recycled
- Provided \$180,905 in grants, scholarships and sponsorships to 30 community groups and 139 individuals
- Management of 15 Lakes

Council generated a net profit of \$12.4 million. This was largely due to the handover of \$6.8 million community infrastructure from subdivisions with assistance from \$9.9 million derived from capital grants income. This contributed to the successful delivery of \$17 million in capital infrastructure spending, delivering to the community the following significant projects:

- Zuccoli Dog Park
- Resurfaced 4.8 kilometres of roads
- Ninja Obstacle Course in Hobart Park, a first of it's kind for Palmerston and will provide for fun and challenging play experiences for all ages
- Refurbishment of the Palmerston Library public amenities
- Construction of new dog pound facilities

- Maintenance and renewal of assets including driveways, pathways, roads, stormwater, and street lighting.
- SWELL Construction (anticipated to open in December 2023)
- Design work for the upgrade of the Archer Waste Management Facility (AWMF) to improve recycling outcomes.

2022-23 saw \$32.3 million injected into the economy with 89% of this being spent with local business and subcontractors, a significant achievement.

City of Palmerston is financially well positioned to continue its delivery of services for the community showing a significantly higher result compared to last financial year. While there is an operating deficit of \$4.2 million (refer table below) which is a direct result of \$10.6 million in depreciation expenses (explained further below), a profit was achieved due to the advance receipt of the \$2.3 million 2023-24 Federal Assistance Grant Funding and increase grants income in 2022-23 for new or upgrade to assets. City of Palmerston received \$6.8 million, this relates to infrastructure assets transferred to City of Palmerston upon completion of the subdivision in Zuccoli, it adds to the capital assets portfolio to be maintained on behalf of the community, however this is non-cash.

Table 1 provides a summary of financial results compared to last year, and the full details of the Audited Financial Statements for 2022/23 financial year are available from pages 99 to 140 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, refer to Table 2. After these adjustments the net cash net operating surplus is \$3.3 million.

**Table 1: Comparative years**

|   | As at<br>30-Jun-23<br>\$'000 | As at<br>30-Jun-22<br>\$'000 | Variance      |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Revenue                                   | 38,642                       | 35,797                       | 2,845         |
| Less: Expenditure                         | 42,782                       | 41,333                       | 1,449         |
| <b>Operating Deficit</b>                  | <b>-4,140</b>                | <b>-5,536</b>                | <b>1,396</b>  |
| Plus Other Income                         |                              |                              |               |
| Resources Free of Charge                  | 6,824                        | 3,160                        | 3,664         |
| Asset Disposals and FV Adjustments        | -128                         | -1,468                       | 1,340         |
| Grants received for new or upgrade assets | 9,914                        | 5,186                        | 4,728         |
| <b>Net Profit / (Deficit)</b>             | <b>12,470</b>                | <b>1,342</b>                 | <b>11,128</b> |

**Table 2: Budget versus Actuals – Net Profit/Surplus including Operational and Capital Analysis**

|   | As at<br>30-Jun-23<br>\$'000 | As at<br>30-Jun-22<br>\$'000 | Variance      |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Revenue                                   | 38,642                       | 35,797                       | 2,845         |
| Less: Expenditure                         | 42,782                       | 41,333                       | 1,449         |
| <b>Operating Deficit</b>                  | <b>-4,140</b>                | <b>-5,536</b>                | <b>1,396</b>  |
| Plus Other Income                         |                              |                              |               |
| Resources Free of Charge                  | 6,824                        | 3,160                        | 3,664         |
| Asset Disposals and FV Adjustments        | -128                         | -1,468                       | 1,340         |
| Grants received for new or upgrade assets | 9,914                        | 5,186                        | 4,728         |
| <b>Net Profit / (Deficit)</b>             | <b>12,470</b>                | <b>1,342</b>                 | <b>11,128</b> |

1. As per General Purpose Financial Statements

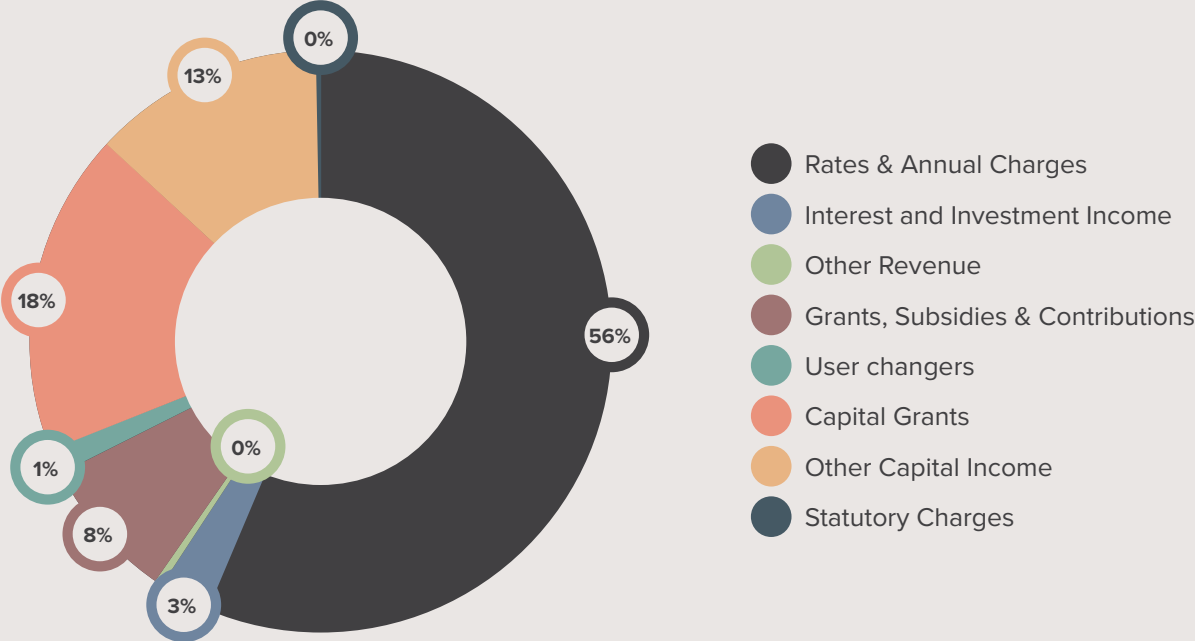
2. Non-cash adjustments include depreciation expense, prior year capital expense, gifted assets income and revaluations.

The improvement compared to budget is largely due to higher than anticipated interest from investments and early release of federal assistance grants. There was also cash savings of around \$1 million across capital and operational expenses largely due to utilities expenses being less than expected and net savings in capital expenditure.

# 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

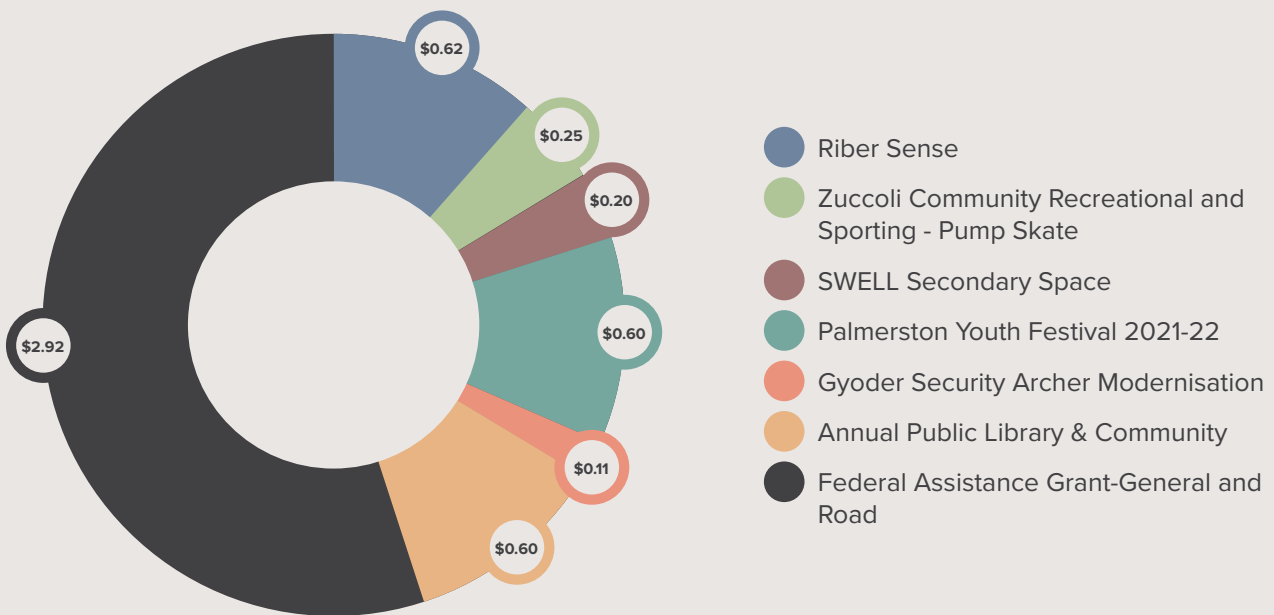
Overall operating revenue was above expected budget by \$2.5 million, this increase is mainly attributed to higher than anticipated early payment of the 2022-23 Federal Assistance Grant, The remaining income is due to increase in interest income from matured investments driven by interest rate increases 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. At the beginning of the financial year as at 30 June 2022, \$12.8M remained in grants liability and included \$7.5 million from Northern Territory Government for the Swimming, Wellness, Events, Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL) project and \$0.4 million for myPalmerston program. In 2022-23 Council received \$5.3 million from Commonwealth and the Northern Territory government as grants for both capital and operational expenditure. A total of \$13.5 million grants was spent in the 2022-23 financial year in line with scheduled programs and resulted in a closing balance of \$4.6 million in the grant liability account.

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

### Commonwealth and Territory Government Funding 2022-23 (in \$million)



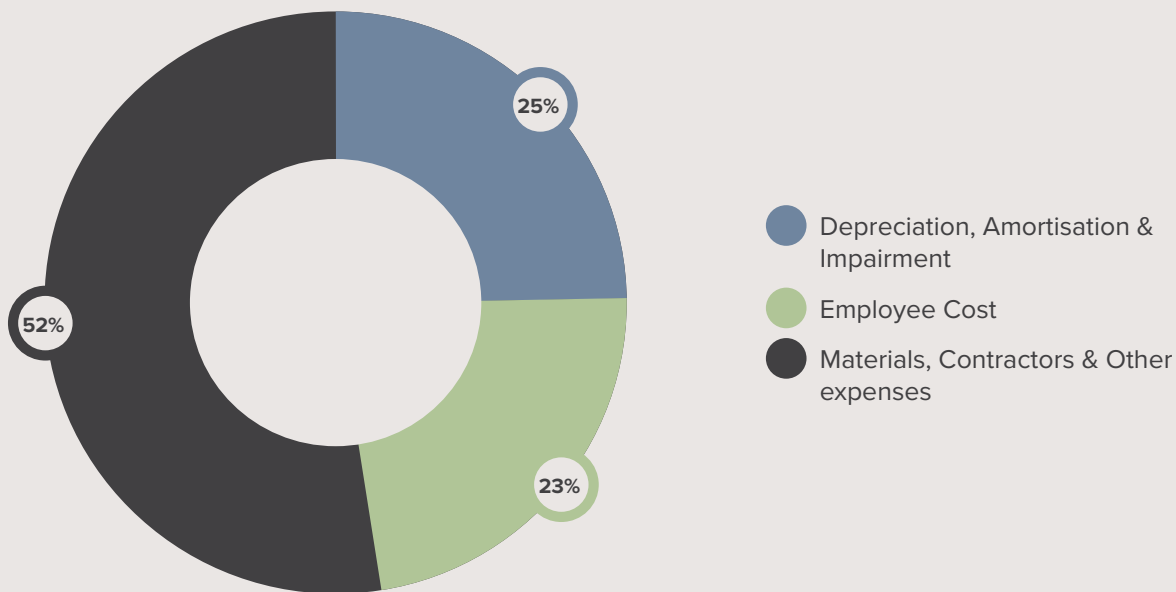
## OTHER CAPITAL INCOME

While a large component of the capital income is grant income, there is \$6.9 million of capital income recognised that is considered non-cash. Of this amount \$6.8 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.



## EXPENSES

The total expenditure incurred in 2022-23 was \$42.9 million, this includes \$10.6 million for depreciation, amortisation and impairment which makes up 25% of total expenditure.



## EXPENSES EXCLUDING NON-CASH EXPENDITURE

Overall expenses for 2022-23 is in line with budget expectations with cost savings identified across some areas of the Council. Although Employee costs of \$9.8 million appears to be well below budget, due to a number of vacant positions due to recruitment challenges, Council was able to maintain its service delivery through periodically filling vacant positions using labour hire through employment agencies, which is sitting in Material and Contractors. 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.

There were savings in other areas such as utilities due to increased use in solar leading to savings in electricity costs and water usage. 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

For 2022-23 the depreciation expenses of \$10.5 million was slightly below budget. This is mainly due to the value of the Stormwater and Drainage Infrastructure decreasing resulting in a decrease of \$0.3 million of depreciation compared to last year

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 \$0.52 million of expenditure has been treated in this way, only \$0.06 million was considered non-cash as it relates to prior year expenditure.

## ELECTED MEMBER ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

Elected Member Allowances are paid in accordance with the Local Government guidelines and all Electoral allowances are in line with budget however there is a savings of \$0.07 million due to meeting allowances and professional development allowances being lower than expected.

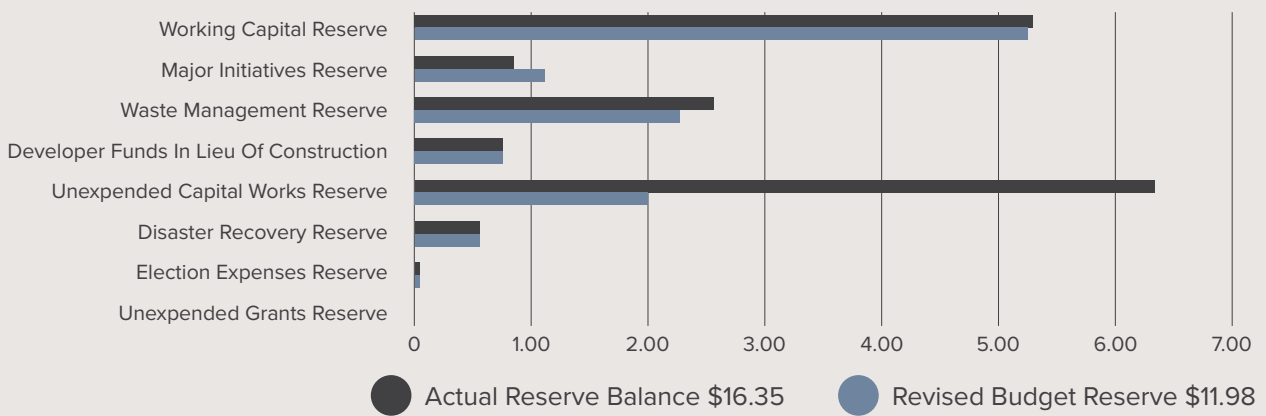
## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

While the budget for capital expenditure was \$29.6 million, \$11.5 million of this budget will be rolled over into 2023-24, with the true 2022-23 capital expenditure budget being \$18.1 million compared to an actual spend of \$17.3 million. Also taking into consideration the \$0.5 million of current year capital expenditure that related to completed assets that did not meet the definition of asset and were expensed. The true savings in capital expenditure is \$0.29 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 Reserve 2022/2023 (in \$ Millions)



Council held \$16.4 million in reserves as at 30 June 2023 (prior to taking into consideration the surplus). This is \$4.5 million above the revised budgeted reserve balance of \$11.9M. This directly relates to the capital projects that will be rolled over into 2023-24 financial year.

Note 9(b) of the Financial Statements provides the balances for the reserves, which shows that the Unexpended Capital Works Reserve contains \$6.5 million, these relate to Council's own contribution to the 2022-23 capital programs, which \$2 million was already recognised in the budget with the remaining to be rolled over into 2023-24 financial year and recognised in the 2023-24 Budget.

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 \$3.2 million operational surplus will be allocated to the following reserves:

- \$2,375,184 million advanced payment of the 2023-24 Federal Assistance Grants will be transferred to the Unexpended Grants Reserve, this funding was not expected until 2023-24 and has been committed to fund the projects included in the 2023-34 Municipal Plan.
- \$14,644 transferred to the Waste Reserve
- \$330,299 transferred to the Developer Contribution (FILOC) reserve as loan repayment for the Making the Switch initiative
- \$50,000 transferred to Election Reserve to budget for future election costs as required by the Financial Reserve Policy.
- \$150,000 transferred to the Working Capital Reserve to maintain the level at \$5 million taking into consideration future budget commitments.
- \$352,973 the balance of the surplus transferred to the Major Initiative Reserve.

The Unexpended Grants Reserve includes \$2.37 million an advanced payment of the 2023-25 Federal Assistance Grants. While these funds are untied and not for a specific project, they were not expected until 2023-24 and have been set aside to fund the projects included in the 2023-34 Municipal Plan.

# GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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## City of Palmerston

### General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### 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 2023; and
- are in accordance with the accounting and other records of Council.



**Luccio Franco Cercarelli**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Dated: 9 November 2023

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2023

| \$ '000  | Notes | 2023           | 2022           |
|--|-------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Income</b>  |       |                |                |
| Rates and Waste Charges  | 2a    | 31,515         | 29,813         |
| Statutory charges  | 2b    | 105            | 122            |
| User charges   | 2c    | 801            | 914            |
| Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating                                      | 2g    | 4,387          | 3,775          |
| Investment and interest income   | 2d    | 1,598          | 732            |
| Reimbursements   | 2e    | 13             | 1              |
| Other income   | 2f    | 223            | 440            |
| <b>Total income</b>  |       | <b>38,642</b>  | <b>35,797</b>  |
| <b>Expenses</b>  |       |                |                |
| Employee costs   | 3a    | 9,802          | 10,026         |
| Materials, contracts and other expenses  | 3b    | 22,428         | 20,338         |
| Depreciation, amortisation and impairment  | 3c    | 10,519         | 10,929         |
| Borrowing costs  | 3d    | 33             | 40             |
| <b>Total expenses</b>  |       | <b>42,782</b>  | <b>41,333</b>  |
| <b>Operating surplus / (deficit)</b>   |       | <b>(4,140)</b> | <b>(5,536)</b> |
| Physical resources received free of charge   | 2i    | 6,824          | 3,160          |
| Asset Disposal and Fair Value Adjustments  | 4     | (128)          | (1,468)        |
| Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets                             | 2g    | 9,914          | 5,186          |
| <b>Net surplus / (deficit)</b>   |       | <b>12,470</b>  | <b>1,342</b>   |
| <b>Other comprehensive income</b>  |       |                |                |
| <b>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</b>       |       |                |                |
| Changes in revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant and equipment       | 9a    | (2,590)        | -              |
| <b>Total amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</b> |       | <b>(2,590)</b> | <b>-</b>       |
| <b>Total other comprehensive loss</b>  |       | <b>(2,590)</b> | <b>-</b>       |
| <b>Total comprehensive income</b>  |       | <b>9,880</b>   | <b>1,342</b>   |

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

## Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2023

| \$ '000                                       | Notes | 2023           | Restated<br>2022 <sup>*</sup> | Restated<br>1 July 2021 <sup>*</sup> |
|---|-------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                 |       |                |                               |                                      |
| <b>Current assets</b>                         |       |                |                               |                                      |
| Cash and cash equivalent assets               | 5a    | 14,660         | 19,907                        | 10,844                               |
| Trade and other receivables                   | 5b    | 4,473          | 2,938                         | 2,378                                |
| Other financial assets (investments)          | 5c    | 14,508         | 18,513                        | 20,665                               |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                   |       | <b>33,641</b>  | <b>41,358</b>                 | <b>33,887</b>                        |
| <b>Non-current assets</b>                     |       |                |                               |                                      |
| Other non-current assets                      | 6     | 16,142         | 2,207                         | 4,024                                |
| Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment | 7a    | 561,881        | 565,677                       | 564,724                              |
| Investment property                           | 7b    | 5,800          | 5,700                         | 5,400                                |
| <b>Total non-current assets</b>               |       | <b>583,823</b> | <b>573,584</b>                | <b>574,148</b>                       |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                           |       | <b>617,464</b> | <b>614,942</b>                | <b>608,035</b>                       |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                            |       |                |                               |                                      |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                    |       |                |                               |                                      |
| Trade and other payables*                     | 8a    | 13,571         | 20,684                        | 14,825                               |
| Borrowings                                    | 8b    | 248            | 241                           | 235                                  |
| Provisions                                    | 8c    | 1,279          | 1,400                         | 1,390                                |
| <b>Total current liabilities*</b>             |       | <b>15,098</b>  | <b>22,325</b>                 | <b>16,450</b>                        |
| <b>Non-current liabilities</b>                |       |                |                               |                                      |
| Borrowings                                    | 8b    | 787            | 1,035                         | 1,276                                |
| Provisions                                    | 8c    | 1,815          | 1,698                         | 1,767                                |
| <b>Total non-current liabilities</b>          |       | <b>2,602</b>   | <b>2,733</b>                  | <b>3,043</b>                         |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES*</b>                     |       | <b>17,700</b>  | <b>25,058</b>                 | <b>19,493</b>                        |
| <b>Net assets*</b>                            |       | <b>599,764</b> | <b>589,884</b>                | <b>588,542</b>                       |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                                 |       |                |                               |                                      |
| Accumulated surplus*                          |       | 217,686        | 201,184                       | 201,373                              |
| Asset revaluation reserves                    | 9a    | 365,726        | 368,316                       | 368,316                              |
| Other reserves                                | 9b    | 16,352         | 20,384                        | 18,853                               |
| <b>Total Council equity*</b>                  |       | <b>599,764</b> | <b>589,884</b>                | <b>588,542</b>                       |
| <b>Total equity*</b>                          |       | <b>599,764</b> | <b>589,884</b>                | <b>588,542</b>                       |

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

(\*) Refer to Note 20 for restatement

## Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2023

| \$ '000  | Notes | Accumulated<br>surplus | Asset<br>revaluation<br>reserve | Other<br>reserves | Total<br>equity |
|--|-------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>2023</b>                                      |       |                        |                                 |                   |                 |
| Balance at the end of previous reporting period* |       | 201,184                | 368,316                         | 20,384            | 589,884         |
| <b>Restated balance*</b>                         |       | <b>201,184</b>         | <b>368,316</b>                  | <b>20,384</b>     | <b>589,884</b>  |
| Net surplus / (deficit) for year                 |       | 12,470                 | -                               | -                 | 12,470          |
| <b>Other Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)</b>        |       |                        |                                 |                   |                 |
| - Gain (Loss) on Revaluation of I,PP&E           | 7a    | -                      | (2,590)                         | -                 | (2,590)         |
| <b>Other comprehensive loss</b>                  |       | <b>-</b>               | <b>(2,590)</b>                  | <b>-</b>          | <b>(2,590)</b>  |
| <b>Total comprehensive income</b>                |       | <b>12,470</b>          | <b>(2,590)</b>                  | <b>-</b>          | <b>9,880</b>    |
| Transfers between Reserves                       |       | 4,032                  | -                               | (4,032)           | -               |
| <b>Balance at the end of period</b>              |       | <b>217,686</b>         | <b>365,726</b>                  | <b>16,352</b>     | <b>599,764</b>  |
| <b>2022</b>                                      |       |                        |                                 |                   |                 |
| Balance at the end of previous reporting period* |       | 202,789                | 368,316                         | 18,853            | 589,958         |
| Impact of correction of errors*                  | 20    | (1,416)                | -                               | -                 | (1,416)         |
| <b>Restated balance*</b>                         |       | <b>201,373</b>         | <b>368,316</b>                  | <b>18,853</b>     | <b>588,542</b>  |
| 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 loss</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>201,184</b>         | <b>368,316</b>                  | <b>20,384</b>     | <b>589,884</b>  |

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

(\*) Refer to Note 20 for restatement

## City of Palmerston

## Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2023

| \$ '000   | Notes | 2023           | 2022          |
|---|-------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>                   |       |                |               |
| <u>Receipts</u>   |       |                |               |
| Rates and Waste Charges                                       |       | 31,301         | 29,787        |
| Statutory Charges   |       | 105            | 94            |
| User Charges  |       | 881            | 456           |
| Grants, Subsidies and Contributions (operating purpose)       |       | 4,654          | 4,242         |
| Investment Receipts   |       | 535            | 735           |
| Reimbursements  |       | 13             | 1             |
| Other Receipts  |       | 93             | 428           |
| <u>Payments</u>   |       |                |               |
| Payments to Employees   |       | (9,977)        | (10,007)      |
| Payments for Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses            |       | (22,855)       | (18,065)      |
| Borrowing Interest Payments                                   |       | (33)           | (40)          |
| <b>Net cash provided by (or used in) operating activities</b> | 11b   | <b>4,717</b>   | <b>7,631</b>  |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                   |       |                |               |
| <u>Receipts</u>   |       |                |               |
| Amounts Received Specifically for New/Upgraded Assets         |       | 2,824          | 8,795         |
| Sale of Replaced Assets                                       |       | 300            | 310           |
| <u>Payments</u>   |       |                |               |
| Expenditure on Renewal/Replacement of Assets                  |       | (16,852)       | (6,257)       |
| Expenditure on New/Upgraded Assets                            |       | -              | (2,908)       |
| Net Receipts of Investment Securities                         |       | 4,005          | 2,152         |
| <b>Net cash provided (or used in) investing activities</b>    |       | <b>(9,723)</b> | <b>2,092</b>  |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>                   |       |                |               |
| <u>Payments</u>   |       |                |               |
| Repayments of Borrowings                                      |       | (241)          | (235)         |
| Repayment of Bonds & Deposits                                 |       | -              | (425)         |
| <b>Net cash provided by (or used in) financing activities</b> |       | <b>(241)</b>   | <b>(660)</b>  |
| <b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>                   |       | <b>(5,247)</b> | <b>9,063</b>  |
| plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents at beginning of period          |       | 19,907         | 10,844        |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents held at end of period</b>        | 11a   | <b>14,660</b>  | <b>19,907</b> |
| Additional Information:                                       |       |                |               |
| plus: Investments on hand – end of year                       | 5b    | 14,508         | 18,513        |
| <b>Total cash, cash equivalents and investments</b>           |       | <b>29,168</b>  | <b>38,420</b> |

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 2023

### 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 2023

### Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

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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 9 November 2023.

##### 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 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.

## City of Palmerston

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

##### 3.2 Rates Revenue

Rates revenue is recognised at the commencement of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates at the end of the reporting period are classified as a current liability.

##### 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 2019. 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.

## City of Palmerston

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

##### (6) Infrastructure, property, plant and 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 |
|-----------|------------------|

## City of Palmerston

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### 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 |
|------------------|----------------|

#### 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 30/06/2023.

#### (8) Payables

##### 8.1 Goods and 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 and 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.

## City of Palmerston

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### 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 and 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 an 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.

## City of Palmerston

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

##### (14) GST implications

In accordance with UIG abstract 1031 "Accounting for the Goods and 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.

##### (15) 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.

##### (16) Disclaimer

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

#### Note 2. Income

| \$ '000  | 2023          | 2022          |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <b>(a) Rates and Waste Charges</b>                   |               |               |
| <b>General rates</b>                                 |               |               |
| Residential  | 20,126        | 19,584        |
| Commercial   | 2,416         | 2,350         |
| Industrial   | 2,078         | 995           |
| <b>Total general rates</b>                           | <b>24,620</b> | <b>22,929</b> |
| <b>Other rates (including service charges)</b>       |               |               |
| Waste Management Service                             | 6,895         | 6,884         |
| <b>Total other rates (including service charges)</b> | <b>6,895</b>  | <b>6,884</b>  |
| <b>Total rates</b>                                   | <b>31,515</b> | <b>29,813</b> |
| <b>(b) Statutory charges</b>                         |               |               |
| Animal registration fees and fines                   | 65            | 70            |
| Parking fines / expiation fees                       | 13            | 30            |
| Other licences, fees & fines                         | 27            | 22            |
| <b>Total statutory charges</b>                       | <b>105</b>    | <b>122</b>    |

## City of Palmerston

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 2. Income (continued)

| \$ '000   | 2023                 | 2022                |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>(c) User charges</b>   |                      |                     |
| Sundry  | 6                    | 5                   |
| Developer Charges   | 58                   | 191                 |
| Animal Control  | 50                   | 60                  |
| Rent and Hire of Council Equipment                                    | 320                  | 266                 |
| Library   | 41                   | 42                  |
| Rate Searches and Dog Registrations                                   | 278                  | 308                 |
| Licences and Permits  | 48                   | 42                  |
| <b><u>Total user charges</u></b>                                      | <b><u>801</u></b>    | <b><u>914</u></b>   |
| <b>(d) Investment and interest income</b>                             |                      |                     |
| Interest on investments   |                      |                     |
| - Banks and other   | 974                  | 175                 |
| - Interest on Overdue Rates and Charges                               | 178                  | 111                 |
| Investment property rental income                                     | 446                  | 446                 |
| <b><u>Total investment income</u></b>                                 | <b><u>1,598</u></b>  | <b><u>732</u></b>   |
| <b>(e) Reimbursements</b>   |                      |                     |
| Private works   | 13                   | 1                   |
| <b><u>Total reimbursements</u></b>                                    | <b><u>13</u></b>     | <b><u>1</u></b>     |
| <b>(f) Other income</b>   |                      |                     |
| Insurance and other recoupments - infrastructure, IPP&E               | -                    | 210                 |
| Sundry  | 223                  | 230                 |
| <b><u>Total other income</u></b>                                      | <b><u>223</u></b>    | <b><u>440</u></b>   |
| <b>(g) Grants, subsidies and contributions</b>                        |                      |                     |
| Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets              | 9,914                | 5,186               |
| <b>Total amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets</b> | <b>9,914</b>         | <b>5,186</b>        |
| Other grants, subsidies and contributions                             | 4,387                | 3,775               |
| <b>Total other grants, subsidies and contributions</b>                | <b>4,387</b>         | <b>3,775</b>        |
| <b><u>Total grants, subsidies, contributions</u></b>                  | <b><u>14,301</u></b> | <b><u>8,961</u></b> |
| The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 12.      |                      |                     |
| <b>(i) Sources of grants</b>  |                      |                     |
| Commonwealth government   | 820                  | 2,819               |
| Territory Government  | 13,478               | 6,140               |
| Other   | 3                    | 2                   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>14,301</b>        | <b>8,961</b>        |



## City of Palmerston

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 2. Income (continued)

| \$ '000   | 2023    | 2022    |
|---|---------|---------|
| <b>(h) Conditions over grants and 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>   | 12,836  | 9,363   |
| <b>Less:</b>  |         |         |
| <i>Expended during the current period from grants received in previous reporting periods</i>  |         |         |
| Government Grants   | (9,113) | (2,863) |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | (9,113) | (2,863) |
| <b>Plus:</b>  |         |         |
| <i>Amounts received in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions</i>   |         |         |
| Government Grants   | 860     | 6,336   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | 860     | 6,336   |
| <b>Unexpended at the close of this reporting period</b>   | 4,583   | 12,836  |
| <b>Net increase (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period</b>  | (8,253) | 3,473   |
| <b>(i) Physical resources received free of charge</b>   |         |         |
| Roads and Pavement  | 1,505   | 773     |
| Stormwater drainage   | 3,767   | 1,448   |
| Street Lights   | 583     | 246     |
| Footpaths, Cycleways and Driveways  | 536     | 234     |
| Other - Gifted Assets   | 433     | 459     |
| <b>Total physical resources received free of charge</b>   | 6,824   | 3,160   |

## City of Palmerston

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 2. Income (continued)

| \$ '000   | as at 30/06/22  |                      | Movements      |  | as at 30/06/23  |  |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|--|-----------------|--|
|   | Opening Balance | 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                                       | —               | 1,357                | (1,357)        |  | —               |  |
| Grants Commission grant - roads funding   | —               | 1,560                | (1,560)        |  | —               |  |
| Public Library Annual funding   | —               | 593                  | (593)          |  | —               |  |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>—</b>        | <b>3,510</b>         | <b>(3,510)</b> |  | <b>—</b>        |  |
| <b>Specific purpose (recurrent)</b>   |                 |                      |                |  |                 |  |
| myPalmerston Local Business Voucher Scheme                                      | 402             | —                    | (402)          |  | —               |  |
| Palmerston Seniors Forum  | —               | 2                    | (2)            |  | —               |  |
| Australia Day   | —               | 3                    | (3)            |  | —               |  |
| Palmerston Targeted Youth Grant - lake skates & passion 22/23                   | 5               | —                    | —              |  | 5               |  |
| Palmerston Youth Festival 2021-22   | —               | 300                  | (300)          |  | —               |  |
| Palmerston Youth Festival 2022-23   | —               | 300                  | —              |  | 300             |  |
| Goyder Security 2022-23   | 90              | —                    | (90)           |  | —               |  |
| Goyder Security 2023-24   | —               | 100                  | —              |  | 100             |  |
| Economic Development Champion   | 80              | —                    | (80)           |  | —               |  |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>577</b>      | <b>705</b>           | <b>(877)</b>   |  | <b>405</b>      |  |
| <b>Total other grants</b>   | <b>577</b>      | <b>4,215</b>         | <b>(4,387)</b> |  | <b>405</b>      |  |
| <b>Grants specifically for new/upgraded assets</b>                              |                 |                      |                |  |                 |  |
| <b>Specific purpose (recurrent)</b>   |                 |                      |                |  |                 |  |
| Custom Holding Animal Pen   | 110             | —                    | —              |  | 110             |  |
| Palmerston Youth Drop In & Emergency  | 1,034           | —                    | —              |  | 1,034           |  |
| Various Asset Improvements  | 346             | —                    | —              |  | 346             |  |
| Fiber Sense Technology  | 15              | 623                  | (638)          |  | —               |  |
| Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program 3                              | 412             | —                    | (239)          |  | 173             |  |
| Archer Waste Management Facility  | 275             | —                    | (172)          |  | 103             |  |
| Archer Recycling Modernisation Grant  | —               | 10                   | —              |  | 10              |  |
| Greening, Cooling, Lighting and Pathways  | 2,565           | —                    | (913)          |  | 1,652           |  |
| Local Government Immediate Priority Grant (IPG) - Zuccoli Community Hub 2022-23 | —               | 250                  | —              |  | 250             |  |
| Local Government Immediate Priority Grant (IPG) - SWELL Secondary Space 2022-23 | —               | 200                  | —              |  | 200             |  |
| Swimming Wellness Events Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL)                          | 7,500           | —                    | (7,201)        |  | 299             |  |
| <b>Total grants specifically for new/upgraded assets</b>                        | <b>12,257</b>   | <b>1,083</b>         | <b>(9,163)</b> |  | <b>4,177</b>    |  |

## Note 3. Expenses

| \$ '000                   | Notes | 2023  | 2022  |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>(a) Employee costs</b> |       |       |       |
| Salaries and wages        |       | 7,262 | 7,515 |
| Employee leave expense    |       | 1,263 | 1,184 |

## City of Palmerston

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 3. Expenses (continued)

| \$ '000  | Notes | 2023          | 2022          |
|--|-------|---------------|---------------|
| Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions                               | 17    | 891           | 858           |
| Workers' compensation insurance  |       | 160           | 178           |
| Other  |       | 226           | 291           |
| <b>Total operating employee costs</b>  |       | <b>9,802</b>  | <b>10,026</b> |
|  |       |               |               |
| Total Number of Approved Full Time Equivalent Employees at the end of reporting period |       | 96            | 92            |
|  |       |               |               |
| <b>(b) Materials, contracts and other expenses</b>                                     |       |               |               |
| <b>(i) Prescribed expenses</b>   |       |               |               |
| Auditor's remuneration   |       |               |               |
| - Auditing the financial reports   |       | 50            | 47            |
| - Other auditors   |       | 37            | 26            |
| Bad and doubtful debts   |       | 53            | 132           |
| Elected members' expenses  |       | 324           | 320           |
| Minimum Lease Payments   |       | 29            | 23            |
| <b>Subtotal - prescribed expenses</b>  |       | <b>493</b>    | <b>548</b>    |
| <b>(ii) Other materials, contracts and expenses</b>                                    |       |               |               |
| Contractors  |       | 12,182        | 10,704        |
| Energy   |       | 898           | 1,057         |
| Legal expenses   |       | 487           | 270           |
| Professional services  |       | 1,418         | 1,919         |
| Sundry   |       | 6,950         | 5,840         |
| <b>Subtotal - other material, contracts and expenses</b>                               |       | <b>21,935</b> | <b>19,790</b> |
| <b>Total materials, contracts and other expenses</b>                                   |       | <b>22,428</b> | <b>20,338</b> |

**(c) Depreciation, amortisation and impairment****(i) Depreciation and amortisation**

|  |  |               |               |
|--|--|---------------|---------------|
| Land improvements                                      |  | 812           | 693           |
| Buildings and other structures                         |  | 745           | 684           |
| Infrastructure   |  |               |               |
| - Stormwater drainage                                  |  | 2,309         | 3,114         |
| - Roads and Pavement                                   |  | 3,243         | 3,247         |
| - Kerbs and Guttering                                  |  | 254           | 250           |
| - Footpaths, Cycleways & Driveways                     |  | 1,232         | 1,197         |
| - Water and Irrigation                                 |  | 602           | 616           |
| - Street Lights  |  | 837           | 811           |
| Plant and equipment                                    |  | 122           | 13            |
| Furniture and fittings                                 |  | 146           | 101           |
| Motor Vehicles   |  | 217           | 203           |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  |  | <b>10,519</b> | <b>10,929</b> |
| <b>Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment</b> |  | <b>10,519</b> | <b>10,929</b> |

## City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 3. Expenses (continued)

| \$ '000                      | 2023      | 2022      |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>(d) Borrowing costs</b>   |           |           |
| Interest on loans            | 33        | 40        |
| <b>Total Borrowing costs</b> | <b>33</b> | <b>40</b> |

## Note 4. Asset Disposal and Fair Value Adjustments

| \$ '000   | 2023         | 2022           |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment</b>        |              |                |
| <b>(i) Assets renewed or directly replaced</b>              |              |                |
| Proceeds from disposal                                      | 136          | 310            |
| Less: carrying amount of assets sold                        | -            | (111)          |
| <b>Gain (loss) on disposal</b>                              | <b>136</b>   | <b>199</b>     |
| <b>(ii) Assets surplus to requirements</b>                  |              |                |
| Less: carrying amount of assets sold                        | (364)        | (1,270)        |
| <b>Gain (loss) on disposal</b>                              | <b>(364)</b> | <b>(1,270)</b> |
| <b>Fair value adjustments</b>                               |              |                |
| Investment property - fair value increase / (decrease)      | 100          | 300            |
| Revaluation decrements expensed                             | -            | (697)          |
| <b>Total fair value adjustments</b>                         | <b>100</b>   | <b>(397)</b>   |
| <b>Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets</b> | <b>(128)</b> | <b>(1,468)</b> |

## Note 5. Current assets

| \$ '000                                      | 2023          | 2022          |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <b>(a) Cash and cash equivalent assets</b>   |               |               |
| Cash on hand at bank                         | 7,660         | 10,898        |
| Short term deposits and bills, etc.          | 7,000         | 9,009         |
| <b>Total cash and cash equivalent assets</b> | <b>14,660</b> | <b>19,907</b> |

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 5. Current assets (continued)

| \$ '000   | 2023          | 2022          |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <b>(b) Trade and other receivables</b>            |               |               |
| Rates - general and other                         | 2,368         | 1,898         |
| Accrued revenues                                  | 1,193         | 129           |
| Debtors - general                                 | 42            | 470           |
| GST recoupment                                    | 919           | 416           |
| Prepayments                                       | 18            | 59            |
| Sundry  | 4             | 1             |
| Animal Control                                    | 98            | 76            |
| Parking and Traffic                               | 17            | 21            |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                   | <b>4,659</b>  | <b>3,070</b>  |
| Less: Expected Credit Losses                      | (186)         | (132)         |
| <b>Total trade and other receivables</b>          | <b>4,473</b>  | <b>2,938</b>  |
| <b>(c) Other financial assets (investments)</b>   |               |               |
| Term Deposits Over 90 Days                        | 14,508        | 18,513        |
| <b>Total other financial assets (investments)</b> | <b>14,508</b> | <b>18,513</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.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 6. Non-current assets

| \$ '000                                       | 2023          | 2022         |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Other non-current assets</b>               |               |              |
| <b>Other</b>                                  |               |              |
| Capital works-in-progress                     | 16,142        | 2,207        |
| <b>Total other</b>                            | <b>16,142</b> | <b>2,207</b> |
| <b>Total other non-current assets</b>         | <b>16,142</b> | <b>2,207</b> |
| <b>Work in Progress Reconciliation</b>        |               |              |
|   | <b>2023</b>   | <b>2022</b>  |
| Opening Work In Progress                      | 2,207         | 4,024        |
| Less: Capitalised prior year Work In Progress | (426)         | (2,828)      |
| Less: Expensed prior year Work In Progress    | (59)          | (573)        |
| Net Work In Progress from prior year          | 1,722         | 623          |
| Capital Expenditure for this year             | 17,306        | 10,286       |
| Add: Transfer from land improvements          | 732           | -            |
| Less: Capitalised this year                   | (3,159)       | (7,965)      |
| Less: Expensed this year                      | (459)         | (737)        |
| Net Work In Progress this year                | 14,420        | 1,584        |
| <b>Closing Work In Progress</b>               | <b>16,142</b> | <b>2,207</b> |

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

(a) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

|  | Fair Value Level | as at 30/06/22 |              |                          |                 |                               |               |                        |                                |                         |   | as at 30/06/23                                  |               |                  |                          |                 |         |  |  |  |  |
|--|------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|---------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------|--|--|--|--|
|  |                  | AI Fair Value  | AI Cost      | Accumulated Depreciation | Carrying amount | Asset Additions New / Upgrade | Gifted Assets | WDV of Asset Disposals | Depreciation Expense (Note 3c) | Adjustments & Transfers | Revaluation Decrements to Equity (ARR) (Note 9) | Revaluation Increments to Equity (ARR) (Note 9) | AI Fair Value | AI Cost          | Accumulated Depreciation | Carrying amount |         |  |  |  |  |
| Land - community   | 3                | -              | -            | -                        | -               | -                             | -             | -                      | -                              | -                       | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | -       |  |  |  |  |
| Land - other   | 3                | 134,438        | -            | -                        | 134,438         | -                             | -             | -                      | -                              | -                       | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | 134,438 |  |  |  |  |
| Land improvements  | 3                | 16,675         | -            | (7,455)                  | 9,220           | 41                            | (1)           | (812)                  | (1,764)                        | -                       | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | 17,559  |  |  |  |  |
| Buildings and other structures                             | 3                | 35,431         | -            | (12,499)                 | 22,932          | 1,057                         | (121)         | (745)                  | 642                            | -                       | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | 48,563  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Infrastructure</b>                                      |                  |                |              |                          |                 |                               |               |                        |                                |                         |   |   |               |                  |                          |                 |         |  |  |  |  |
| - Stormwater drainage                                      | 3                | 257,621        | -            | (71,328)                 | 186,293         | 34                            | (19)          | (2,309)                | (268)                          | (13,217)                | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | 227,460 |  |  |  |  |
| - Roads and Pavement                                       | 3                | 167,394        | -            | (53,109)                 | 114,285         | 276                           | (33)          | (3,243)                | (3)                            | -                       | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | 169,117 |  |  |  |  |
| - Kerbs and Guttering                                      | 3                | 24,791         | -            | (8,043)                  | 16,748          | -                             | -             | (254)                  | -                              | -                       | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | 25,066  |  |  |  |  |
| - Footpaths, Cycleways & Driveways                         | 3                | 66,382         | -            | (21,856)                 | 44,526          | 722                           | (160)         | (1,232)                | 143                            | -                       | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | 67,502  |  |  |  |  |
| - Water and Irrigation                                     | 3                | 18,326         | -            | (9,492)                  | 8,834           | 165                           | (47)          | (602)                  | 78                             | -                       | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | 19,627  |  |  |  |  |
| - Street Lights  | 3                | 35,203         | -            | (8,590)                  | 26,613          | 484                           | (23)          | (837)                  | 10                             | -                       | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | 36,244  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant and equipment  |                  |                | 303          | (217)                    | 86              | 251                           | -             | (122)                  | 611                            | -                       | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | 1,608   |  |  |  |  |
| Furniture and fittings                                     |                  |                | 2,177        | (1,165)                  | 1,012           | 144                           | -             | (146)                  | -                              | -                       | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | 2,321   |  |  |  |  |
| Motor Vehicles   |                  |                | 1,197        | (507)                    | 690             | 412                           | (24)          | (217)                  | (113)                          | -                       | -   | -   | -             | -                | -                        | -               | 1,372   |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Total Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment</b> |                  | <b>756,261</b> | <b>3,677</b> | <b>(194,261)</b>         | <b>565,677</b>  | <b>3,586</b>                  | <b>(428)</b>  | <b>(10,519)</b>        | <b>(664)</b>                   | <b>(13,217)</b>         | <b>10,627</b>                                   | <b>745,576</b>                                  | <b>5,301</b>  | <b>(188,996)</b> | <b>561,881</b>           |                 |         |  |  |  |  |
| Comparatives   |                  | 735,919        | 9,960        | (181,155)                | 564,724         | 11,125                        | (1,374)       | (10,929)               | -                              | -                       | -   | 756,261   | 3,677         | (194,261)        | 565,677                  |                 |         |  |  |  |  |

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

(b) Investment property

|                                  | Asset movements during the reporting period |          |                          |                 |                               |  |               |          |                          |                 |
|----------------------------------|---|----------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------|----------|--------------------------|-----------------|
|                                  | as at 30/06/22                              |          |                          |                 |                               | as at 30/06/23   |               |          |                          |                 |
| \$ '000                          | At Fair Value                               | At Cost  | Accumulated Depreciation | Carrying amount | Asset Additions New / Upgrade | Revaluation Increments/ Decrements to P&L - Investment Properties (Note 4) | At Fair Value | At Cost  | Accumulated Depreciation | Carrying amount |
| Buildings and structures         | 5,700                                       | -        | -                        | 5,700           | -                             | 100  | 5,800         | -        | -                        | 5,800           |
| <b>Total investment property</b> | <b>5,700</b>                                | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b>                 | <b>5,700</b>    | <b>-</b>                      | <b>100</b>   | <b>5,800</b>  | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b>                 | <b>5,800</b>    |
| Comparatives                     | 5,400                                       | -        | -                        | 5,400           | -                             | 300  | 5,700         | -        | -                        | 5,700           |



## City of Palmerston

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

##### (c) Valuation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and 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.

## City of Palmerston

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

##### 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: 1 July 2022
- Valuer: Asset Val Pty Ltd

##### Buildings & Other Structures

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2023
- Valuer: Assetic Australia 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: 1 July 2022
- Valuer: Asset Val Pty Ltd

###### *Water & Irrigation*

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2022
- 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 2023

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

#### Investment Property

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2023.
- Valuer: Herron Todd White (Northern Territory) Pty Ltd

### Note 8. Liabilities

| \$ '000                                  | Notes | 2023<br>Current | 2023<br>Non Current | 2022<br>Current<br>Restated | 2022<br>Non Current |
|--|-------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>(a) Trade and other payables</b>      |       |                 |                     |                             |                     |
| Unearned Grant Income                    |       | 4,583           | –                   | 12,836                      | –                   |
| Goods and services                       |       | 5,739           | –                   | 3,723                       | –                   |
| Rent received in advance                 |       | 38              | –                   | 37                          | –                   |
| Rates received in advance*               | 20    | 1,879           | –                   | 1,623                       | –                   |
| Other Payables                           |       | 19              | –                   | –                           | –                   |
| Accrued expenses - employee entitlements |       | 403             | –                   | 317                         | –                   |
| Accrued expenses - other                 |       | 783             | –                   | 2,119                       | –                   |
| Deposits, retentions and bonds           |       | 127             | –                   | 29                          | –                   |
| <b>Total trade and other payables*</b>   |       | <b>13,571</b>   | <b>–</b>            | <b>20,684</b>               | <b>–</b>            |

(\*) Refer to Note 20 restatement

#### (b) Borrowings

|                         |            |            |            |              |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Loans                   | 248        | 787        | 241        | 1,035        |
| <b>Total borrowings</b> | <b>248</b> | <b>787</b> | <b>241</b> | <b>1,035</b> |

All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council

#### (c) Provisions

|   |              |              |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Employee entitlements (including oncosts) | 1,159        | 247          | 1,327        | 340          |
| Future reinstatement / restoration, etc.  | 120          | 1,568        | 73           | 1,358        |
| <b>Total provisions</b>                   | <b>1,279</b> | <b>1,815</b> | <b>1,400</b> | <b>1,698</b> |

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 9. Reserves

| \$ '000                                | as at 30/06/22  |                         |           |             | as at 30/06/23  |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
|  | Opening Balance | Increments (Decrements) | Transfers | Impairments | Closing Balance |
| <b>(a) Asset revaluation reserve</b>   |                 |                         |           |             |                 |
| Land - other                           | 117,472         | —                       | —         | —           | 117,472         |
| Land improvements                      | 135             | 3,477                   | —         | —           | 3,612           |
| Buildings and other structures         | 9,438           | 6,413                   | —         | —           | 15,851          |
| Infrastructure                         |                 |                         |           |             |                 |
| - Stormwater drainage                  | 138,967         | (13,217)                | —         | —           | 125,750         |
| - Roads and Pavement                   | 64,407          | —                       | —         | —           | 64,407          |
| - Kerbs and Guttering                  | 3,576           | —                       | —         | —           | 3,576           |
| - Footpaths, Cycleways & Driveways     | 23,428          | —                       | —         | —           | 23,428          |
| - Water and Irrigation                 | 10,822          | 737                     | —         | —           | 11,559          |
| Motor Vehicle                          | 71              | —                       | —         | —           | 71              |
| <b>Total asset revaluation reserve</b> | <b>368,316</b>  | <b>(2,590)</b>          | <b>—</b>  | <b>—</b>    | <b>365,726</b>  |
| Comparatives                           | 368,316         | —                       | —         | —           | 368,316         |

| \$ '000                                     | as at 30/06/22  |                 |                   |                 | as at 30/06/23  |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|   | Opening Balance | Tfrs to Reserve | Tfrs from Reserve | Other Movements | Closing Balance |
| <b>(b) Other reserves</b>                   |                 |                 |                   |                 |                 |
| Developer Funds Reserve                     | 2,104           | —               | (1,350)           | —               | 754             |
| Unexpended Capital Works Reserve            | 5,415           | 6,513           | (5,415)           | —               | 6,513           |
| Unexpended Grants and Contributions Reserve | 780             | —               | (780)             | —               | —               |
| Election Expenses Reserve                   | 50              | —               | —                 | —               | 50              |
| Disaster Recovery Reserve                   | 500             | —               | —                 | —               | 500             |
| Waste Management Reserve                    | 2,924           | —               | (600)             | —               | 2,324           |
| Major Initiatives Reserve                   | 1,415           | —               | (500)             | —               | 915             |
| Working Capital Reserve                     | 7,196           | —               | (1,900)           | —               | 5,296           |
| <b>Total other reserves</b>                 | <b>20,384</b>   | <b>6,513</b>    | <b>(10,545)</b>   | <b>—</b>        | <b>16,352</b>   |
| Comparatives                                | 18,853          | 3,168           | (1,637)           | —               | 20,384          |

## 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 expended 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.

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.

## City of Palmerston

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 9. Reserves (continued)

##### 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   | 2023         | 2022          |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| <p>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.</p> |              |               |
| <b>Cash and financial assets</b>  |              |               |
| Unexpended amounts received from Government   | 4,583        | 12,836        |
| <b>Total cash and financial assets</b>  | <b>4,583</b> | <b>12,836</b> |
| <b>Total assets subject to externally imposed restrictions</b>  | <b>4,583</b> | <b>12,836</b> |

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 11. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows

| \$ '000  | Notes | 2023          | 2022          |
|--|-------|---------------|---------------|
| <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     | 14,660        | 19,907        |
| <b>Balances per Statement of Cash Flows</b>  |       | <b>14,660</b> | <b>19,907</b> |
| <b>(b) Reconciliation of change in net assets to cash from operating activities</b>  |       |               |               |
| <b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>   |       | 12,470        | 1,342         |
| <b>Non-cash items in income statements</b>   |       |               |               |
| Depreciation, amortisation and impairment  |       | 10,519        | 10,929        |
| Fair value adjustments   |       | (100)         | 397           |
| Non-cash asset acquisitions  |       | (6,824)       | (3,160)       |
| Grants for capital acquisitions treated as investing activity  |       | (9,914)       | (5,186)       |
| Net (gain) loss on disposals   |       | 228           | 1,071         |
|  |       | <b>6,379</b>  | <b>5,393</b>  |
| <b>Add (less): changes in net current assets</b>   |       |               |               |
| Net (increase)/decrease in receivables   |       | (1,007)       | (692)         |
| Change in allowances for under-recovery of receivables   |       | (54)          | 132           |
| Net increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables  |       | (516)         | 2,857         |
| Net increase/(decrease) in unpaid employee benefits  |       | (85)          | 33            |
| Net increase/(decrease) in other provisions  |       | -             | (92)          |
| <b>Net cash provided by (or used in) operations</b>  |       | <b>4,717</b>  | <b>7,631</b>  |
| <b>(c) Non-cash financing and investing activities</b>   |       |               |               |
| <b>Acquisition of assets by means of:</b>  |       |               |               |
| Physical resources received free of charge   | 2i    | 6,824         | 3,160         |
| Amounts recognised in income statement   |       | <b>6,824</b>  | <b>3,160</b>  |
| <b>Total non-cash financing and investing activities</b>   |       | <b>6,824</b>  | <b>3,160</b>  |
| <b>(d) Financing arrangements</b>  |       |               |               |
| <b>Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:</b>   |       |               |               |
| Corporate credit cards   |       | 100           | 100           |

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 2023

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).

| \$ '000 | Notes | INCOME      |             | EXPENSES    |             | OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT) |             | GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME |             | TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT) |             |          |         |         |
|---------|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|----------|---------|---------|
|         |       | 2023 Budget | 2023 Actual | 2022 Actual | 2023 Budget | 2023 Actual                 | 2022 Actual | 2023 Budget               | 2023 Actual | 2022 Actual                               | 2023 Actual |          |         |         |
|         |       | 29,279      | 35,142      | 460         | 22,765      | 22,828                      | 1,134       | 6,515                     | 12,314      | (674)                                     | (2,166)     | (2,478)  | -       | -       |
|         |       | 580         | 645         | 25,905      | 1,074       | 1,058                       | 21,712      | (494)                     | (413)       | 4,193                                     | (110)       | (241)    | 33,814  | 42,049  |
|         |       | 2,975       | 3,658       | 3,549       | 2,351       | 2,557                       | 1,997       | 624                       | 1,101       | 1,552                                     | (2,184)     | (2,658)  | 350,647 | 362,864 |
|         |       | 7,264       | 7,113       | 7,081       | 6,735       | 6,686                       | 5,978       | 529                       | 427         | 1,103                                     | (375)       | (172)    | -       | -       |
|         |       | 250         | -           | 573         | 1,184       | 386                         | 749         | (934)                     | (386)       | (176)                                     | (250)       | -        | 32,629  | 32,313  |
|         |       | 15,199      | 8,679       | 3,481       | 8,868       | 9,342                       | 9,827       | 6,330                     | (663)       | (6,346)                                   | (15,106)    | (8,551)  | 185,744 | 175,510 |
|         |       | 2           | 1           | 6           | 65          | 54                          | 6           | (63)                      | (53)        | -   | (2)         | (1)      | -       | -       |
|         |       | -           | -           | -           | -           | -                           | -           | -                         | -           | -   | -           | -        | 14,630  | 2,206   |
|         |       | 55,549      | 55,238      | 41,055      | 43,042      | 42,911                      | 41,403      | 12,507                    | 12,327      | (348)                                     | (20,193)    | (14,301) | 617,464 | 614,942 |

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

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

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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.



## City of Palmerston

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### 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 3.25% and 5.1% (2022: 0.4% and 2.94%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 174 days and an average interest rate of 4.44% (2022: 156 days and 0.81%).

###### Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

##### Receivables - rates and 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% (2022: 8%). 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 and 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 and 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 and 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 2023

## 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 on existing loans.

**Carrying Amount:**

Approximates fair value.

**Liabilities - leases****Accounting policy:**

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

| \$ '000                             | Due < 1 year  | Due > 1 year<br>& ≤ 5 years | Due > 5 years | Total<br>Contractual<br>Cash Flows | Carrying<br>Values |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>2023</b>                         |               |                             |               |                                    |                    |
| <b>Financial assets</b>             |               |                             |               |                                    |                    |
| Cash and cash equivalents           | 14,660        | -                           | -             | 14,660                             | 14,660             |
| Receivables                         | 3,722         | -                           | -             | 3,722                              | 3,722              |
| Other financial assets              | 14,508        | -                           | -             | 14,508                             | 14,508             |
| <b>Total financial assets</b>       | <b>32,890</b> | <b>-</b>                    | <b>-</b>      | <b>32,890</b>                      | <b>32,890</b>      |
| <b>Financial liabilities</b>        |               |                             |               |                                    |                    |
| Payables*                           | 7,071         | -                           | -             | 7,071                              | 7,071              |
| Current borrowings                  | 248           | -                           | -             | 248                                | 248                |
| Non-current borrowings              | -             | 787                         | -             | 787                                | 787                |
| <b>Total financial liabilities*</b> | <b>7,319</b>  | <b>787</b>                  | <b>-</b>      | <b>8,106</b>                       | <b>8,106</b>       |
| <b>2022</b>                         |               |                             |               |                                    |                    |
| <b>Financial assets</b>             |               |                             |               |                                    |                    |
| Cash and cash equivalents           | 19,907        | -                           | -             | 19,907                             | 19,907             |
| Receivables                         | 2,595         | -                           | -             | 2,595                              | 2,595              |
| Other financial assets              | 18,513        | -                           | -             | 18,513                             | 18,513             |
| <b>Total financial assets</b>       | <b>41,015</b> | <b>-</b>                    | <b>-</b>      | <b>41,015</b>                      | <b>41,015</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>       |

(\*) Refer to Note 20 for restatement

## City of Palmerston

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 13. Financial instruments (continued)

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

| \$ '000              | 2023                       |                | 2022                       |                |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
|                      | Weighted Avg Interest Rate | Carrying Value | Weighted Avg Interest Rate | Carrying Value |
| Fixed interest rates | 2.78%                      | 1,035          | 2.78%                      | 1,276          |
|                      |                            | <b>1,035</b>   |                            | <b>1,276</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.

#### 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              | 2023       | 2022       |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| As at 1 July         | 132        | -          |
| Provisions           | 54         | 132        |
| <b>As at 30 June</b> | <b>186</b> | <b>132</b> |

## City of Palmerston

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 14. Capital expenditure and investment property commitments

| \$ '000  | 2023          | 2022          |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <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  | 16,799        | 23,238        |
|  | <b>16,799</b> | <b>23,238</b> |
| <b>These expenditures are payable:</b>   |               |               |
| Not later than one year  | 16,799        | 15,245        |
| Later than one year and not later than 5 years   | -             | 7,993         |
|  | <b>16,799</b> | <b>23,238</b> |
| <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  | 88            | 11,572        |
| Other Maintenance Contracts  | 163           | 378           |
| Landscaping and Mowing   | 139           | 3,992         |
| Civil Works  | 158           | 289           |
| Other  | 420           | 7,672         |
|  | <b>968</b>    | <b>23,903</b> |
| <b>These expenditures are payable:</b>   |               |               |
| Not later than one year  | 968           | 7,380         |
| Later than one year and not later than 5 years   | -             | 16,523        |
|  | <b>968</b>    | <b>23,903</b> |

## City of Palmerston

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## Note 15. Financial indicators

| \$ '000   | Amounts<br>2023 | Indicator<br>2023 | Indicators |        | Benchmark |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|------------|--------|-----------|
|   |                 |                   | 2022*      | 2021*  |           |
| <b>Current Ratio*</b>   |                 |                   |            |        |           |
| Current assets less externally restricted assets                      | 33,641          | 2.23              | 1.85       | 2.06   | > 1.50    |
| Current liabilities   | 15,098          |                   |            |        |           |
| <b>Rate Coverage Percentage</b>                                       |                 |                   |            |        |           |
| Rate revenues   | 24,620          | 50.70%            | 55.95%     | 60.97% | > 60.00%  |
| Total revenues (Operating & Capital)                                  | 48,556          |                   |            |        |           |
| <b>Rates and Waste Charges Outstanding</b>                            |                 |                   |            |        |           |
| Rates and Waste charges outstanding                                   | 2,368           | 7.51%             | 6.37%      | 5.67%  | < 5.00%   |
| Rates and Waste charges collectable                                   | 31,515          |                   |            |        |           |
| <b>Operating Ratio</b>  |                 |                   |            |        |           |
| EBTIDA (Earnings before tax, interest, depreciation and amortisation) | 6,411           | 16.59%            | 15.18%     | 11.72% | > 0.00%   |
| Operating Revenue   | 38,642          |                   |            |        |           |
| <b>Own Revenue</b>  |                 |                   |            |        |           |
| Own funding   | 34,255          | 88.65%            | 89.45%     | 91.37% | > 60.00%  |
| Total operating revenue   | 38,642          |                   |            |        |           |
| <b>Interest Cover Ratio</b>   |                 |                   |            |        |           |
| EBTIDA (Earnings before tax, interest, depreciation and amortisation) | 6,411           | 194.27            | 135.83     | 87.56  | > 4.00    |
| Borrowing Cost (Interest)   | 33              |                   |            |        |           |
| <b>Asset Sustainability Ratio</b>                                     |                 |                   |            |        |           |
| Capital Expenditure   | 17,306          | 164.52%           | 98.76%     | 52.00% | > 89.00%  |
| Depreciation  | 10,519          |                   |            |        |           |
| <b>Debt Service Ratio</b>   |                 |                   |            |        |           |
| EBTIDA (Earnings before tax, interest, depreciation and amortisation) | 6,411           | 22.81             | 19.80      | 14.30  | > 2.00    |
| Borrowing costs (Principal and interest)                              | 281             |                   |            |        |           |
| <b>Cash Expense Ratio</b>   |                 |                   |            |        |           |
| Cash & Cash equivalents   | 14,660          | 0.45              | 1.27       | 1.04   | > 0.25    |
| Total Expenses (less Depreciation & Borrowing costs)                  | 32,230          |                   |            |        |           |

(\*) Refer to Note 20 for restatement

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

## 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  | 2023         | 2022         |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Future minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases as at 30 June, are as follows:</b> |              |              |
| Not later than one year  | 730          | 702          |
| Later than one year and not later than 5 years   | 493          | 663          |
|  | <b>1,223</b> | <b>1,365</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                        | 11        | 45        |
| Later than one year and not later than 5 years | -         | 11        |
| Later than 5 years                             | -         | -         |
|  | <b>11</b> | <b>56</b> |

## Note 17. Superannuation

Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (10.5% in 2022/23; 10% in 2021/22). 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.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

### Note 17. Superannuation (continued)

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#### **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.

### Note 18. Contingencies and assets/liabilities not recognised in the balance sheet

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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**

The 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.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

### Note 19. 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   | 2023         | 2022         |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| <b>The compensation to key management personnel comprises:</b>    |              |              |
| Salaries, Allowances, and Other Short-Term and Long-Term Benefits | 1,529        | 1,500        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1,529</b> | <b>1,500</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.

##### (iv) Outstanding Amounts

As at 30 June 2023, 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 2022 to 30 June 2023.

| Remuneration                    | Actual CEO                 | Acting CEO  | Acting CEO                   | Acting CEO  | Acting CEO   |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|--|
|                                 | Luccio Franco Cercarelli   | Amelia Vellar   | Anna Ingram                  | Nadine Nilon  | Wati Kerta   |
| Dates                           | 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023 | 3 Feb 2023,<br>24 Feb 2023 - 10<br>March 2023<br>16 June 2023 | 7 Sept 2022 - 8<br>Sept 2022 | 1 July 2022 - 3 July<br>2022<br>22 Sept 2022 - 30<br>Sept 2022<br>25 Nov 2022 - 1<br>Dec 2022<br>18 Jan 2023<br>24 May 2023<br>13 June 2023 - 15<br>June 2023 | 9 Aug 2022 - 15<br>Aug 2022<br>31 Aug - 2 Sept<br>2022 |
| Short Term Benefits<br>(1)      | \$360,317                  | \$3,471   | \$1,083                      | \$12,899  | \$4,179  |
| Non cash benefits               | \$22,234                   | \$98  | \$0                          | \$0   | \$3  |
| Other Long term<br>benefits (2) | \$13,296                   | \$243   | \$25                         | \$403   | \$123  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>\$395,847</b>           | <b>\$3,812</b>  | <b>\$1,108</b>               | <b>\$13,302</b>   | <b>\$4,305</b>   |

(1) Short Term Benefits include employer funded superannuation contributions

(2) Other long term benefits include Long Service Leave Accruals for the 2022/23 financial year



## City of Palmerston

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Note 20. Restatement of prior year comparatives

The Council is committed to improving the financial year end process and to achieve accurate financial reporting. Council management reviewed prior year financial information during the year ended 30 June 2023 and identified error within the 2022 comparative figures.

The Council assessed the errors and the impact to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023. 2022 comparative figures have been restated under AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimate and Errors.

The Council's review of the financial information identified that Council rates had been recognised on a cash basis in 2021 and in prior financial years. As a result as rate payers can obtain a refund of any such monies a liability should be recognised for rates paid in advance.

The Council has identified Rates in advance of \$1,415,844 that should have been recognised as liability at 1 July 2021 rather than as income on a cash basis. These rates were recognised appropriately in income in the year ended 30 June 2022, with the exception that the closing liability balance was not adjusted to reflect the error in the opening balance at 1 July 2021.

A closing balance of Rates in advance of \$1,622,577 should have been recognised at 30 June 2022, however an amount of \$206,733 had been already recognised as rates in advance as at 30 June 2022. An adjustment of \$1,415,844 has been made therefore to reflect the error in the liability at 30 June 2022. There was no impact on the comparative comprehensive income statement or cash flow since rates had been appropriately recognised as revenue during that period and there were no associated change in cashflow for the yearended 30 June 2022.

#### Financial Statement Presentation

##### Statement of Financial Position Extract as at 1 July 2021

| \$'000                           | As reported<br>on 30-Jun-21 | Adjustment | As restated<br>on 1-Jul-21 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Liabilities</b>               |                             |            |                            |
| Trade and other payables         | 13,409                      | 1,416      | 14,825                     |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b> | 15,034                      | 1,416      | 16,450                     |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>         | 18,077                      | 1,416      | 19,493                     |
| <b>Net assets</b>                | 589,958                     | (1,416)    | 588,542                    |
| <b>Equity</b>                    |                             |            |                            |
| Accumulated surplus              | 202,789                     | (1,416)    | 201,373                    |
| <b>Total Equity</b>              | 589,958                     | (1,416)    | 588,542                    |

##### Statement of Financial Position Extract as at 30 June 2022

| \$'000                           | As reported<br>on 30-Jun-22 | Adjustment | As restated<br>on 30-Jun-22 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Liabilities</b>               |                             |            |                             |
| Trade and other payables         | 19,268                      | 1,416      | 20,684                      |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b> | 20,909                      | 1,416      | 22,325                      |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>         | 23,642                      | 1,416      | 25,058                      |

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 20. Restatement of prior year comparatives (continued)

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|                     |         |         |         |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Net assets</b>   | 591,300 | (1,416) | 589,884 |
| <b>Equity</b>       |         |         |         |
| Accumulated surplus | 202,600 | (1,416) | 201,184 |
| <b>Total Equity</b> | 591,300 | (1,416) | 589,884 |



# 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 2023, 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 2023
- 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.

## Emphasis of matter – Restatement of comparative balances

We draw attention to Note 20 to the Financial Report, which states that the amounts reported in the previously issued 30 June 2022 Financial Report have been restated and disclosed as comparatives in this Financial Report. Our opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

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### 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.

### 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.aasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.aasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

KPMG

Luke Snowdon  
Partner  
Darwin  
9 November 2023









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