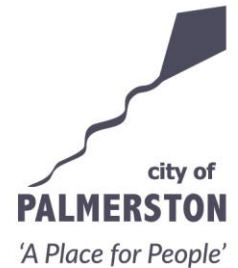


ABANDONED PERSONAL EFFECTS



COUNCIL POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction and guidance in relation to managing abandoned personal effects in the Palmerston municipality. The current legislative By-laws do not grant City of Palmerston the authority to deal with abandoned personal effects left in public places.

Notwithstanding this, City of Palmerston is granted broad powers under section 23 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act) “to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for, or in relation to, the performance of the council’s function”.

The policy underpins City of Palmerston’s Community Plan by satisfying the core outcome of ‘Family and Community’ by providing a safe and family friendly community where everyone belongs.

PRINCIPLES

City of Palmerston aims to deliver the council functions with regards to a family-friendly community, a liveable city, and to remain trusted by the community by protecting property and safety of the public.

City of Palmerston ensures our commitment of a safe, clean, tidy and family friendly community through responsible property ownership, and to maintaining an effective, fair, practical, and consistent approach to upholding community values and public expectations of council.

DEFINITIONS

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

TERM	DEFINITION
Abandoned Personal Effects	Items that are located <i>within or on</i> City of Palmerston property or building with no known owner or guardian of the property in proximity.
Authorised Person	Means a person appointed under Section 183 of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> . All rangers are appointed as authorised persons.

TERM	DEFINITION
Public Places	For the intent purposes of this document, a public place means any place or area owned, managed, or controlled by the CoP or under agreeable contract with another landowner to service that area by the CoP.

POLICY STATEMENT

Abandoned personal effects may be unsightly, may become a health and safety risk to community and may not meet or serve community values and public expectations of council.

Pursuant to section 23 of the Act, an Authorised Person may:

1.1. Issue a notice of intent

A notice of intent will be placed at the site of the abandoned personal effects stating the intent to impound and remove the property.

1.2. Impounding personal effects

An Authorised Person may impound abandoned personal effects from the location within the timeframes stated on the sign/notice.

1.3. Community safety

Council may arrange for the area to be cleared and cleaned of any other items such as perishables, broken or soiled items and litter than cannot or should not be impounded, stored and or held due to safety and health risks.

1.4. Storage of unclaimed personal effects

City of Palmerston may handle, transport, and store non-perishable property for a period of two (2) weeks to allow for the owner to come forward to claim the property.

1.5. Claiming impounded personal effects

If the property is claimed after impounding, collection will require a completed Statutory Declaration of ownership of the impounded property.

1.6. Disposal of unclaimed personal effects

Unclaimed personal effects may be disposed of after a two-week holding period.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Palmerston Community Plan



REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- Local Government Act 2019 (NT)

POLICY DETAILS

OWNER	Chief Executive Officer	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	General Manager Community
APPROVAL DATE	19 November 2024	NEXT REVIEW DUE	November 2027
RECORDS NUMBER	D605156	COUNCIL DECISION	10/1630

