



CITY OF PALMERSTON

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16



The success and great
movement for what we
have done in this year.

www.palmerston.nt.gov.au



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Members of the public
may submit feedback via:

palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au

In writing to the Chief Executive Officer,
PO Box 1 Palmerston NT 0831

Online feedback form - go to

Contact Us on Council's website www.palmerston.nt.gov.au

All images courtesy of City of Palmerston

The City of Palmerston
acknowledges the Larrakia people as
the Traditional Owners of all the land
and waters of the greater Darwin and
Palmerston region.

CONTENTS



VISION AND MISSION	4
CITY OF PALMERSTON – OUR CITY	5
MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR	8
MESSAGE FROM THE CEO	10
CITY OF PALMERSTON – OUR COUNCIL	12
CITY OF PALMERSTON – OUR STAFF	20
STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS	22
YEAR AT A GLANCE – HIGHLIGHTS	22
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	24
STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK	28
MEASURING PERFORMANCE	29
1 COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL WELLBEING	30
1.1 HEALTHY COMMUNITIES	30
1.2 SAFE COMMUNITIES	36
1.3 ARTS AND CULTURE	40
1.4 RECREATION	46
1.5 COMMUNITY BENEFIT SCHEME	50
2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	52
2.1 TOURISM	52
2.2 LOCAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY	54
2.3 CITY PLANNING	58
3 ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE	60
3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	60
3.2 ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE	62
3.3 WASTE	66
4 GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION	68
4.1 RESPONSIBILITY	68
4.2 SERVICE	74
4.3 PEOPLE	76
4.4 SYSTEMS	82
GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	87



VISION AND MISSION



OUR VISION
A place for people



OUR MISSION
Improving the safety of all our citizens

Maintaining our own identity

Providing services, facilities and amenities to support the community's needs

Developing and maintaining our reputation for being clean and green

We will achieve this through:
Delivering to our community high quality value for money services that meet their diverse needs



OUR VALUES
We are committed to:

Teamwork

Commitment and Accountability

Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency

Quality Resources

A Culture of Continuous Improvement



OUR CITY

The second largest city in the NT, Palmerston is a young, vibrant regional hub with a fast-growing future. Located 20kms from the Territory's capital Darwin, Palmerston is a diverse community with many young families calling the city home, along with defence personnel and a range of local businesses.

The city boasts more than 34,000 residents, four shopping centres, a well utilised regional library, a GP Super Clinic, a swimming and fitness centre, a recreation centre and gymnasium, a number of sporting grounds dotted in and around the city and a water park, proving it has come a long way since welcoming its first resident 34 years ago.

Palmerston is currently undergoing a significant period of infrastructure growth and development, with Council adopting a detailed Master Plan for the city centre to be rolled out over the next 20 years. Designed to accommodate Palmerston's growing population and reinvigorate the City Centre, work on the first stage of the Master Plan commenced at the end of 2013. The redevelopment of the city centre has seen its major open space transform into a vibrant new social hub where residents are able to meet, relax and enjoy Palmerston's tropical lifestyle. The redevelopment of The Boulevard will create a bustling new main street for Palmerston. For more information on Palmerston's strong plans for the future of the City Centre visit www.palmerston.nt.gov.au.

The growth of Palmerston continues to expand with a number of major projects underway or recently completed:

➔ Gateway Shopping Centre	\$300M
➔ Boulevard Plaza Mixed Use Development	\$200M
➔ Palmerston Regional Hospital	\$150M
➔ Tiger Brennan Drive Duplication	\$88M
➔ Woolworths Bakewell	\$20M
➔ Bellamack Special School	\$21M

The NT and Federal Governments have committed to the construction of a new hospital facility which will be located on the outskirts of the city, servicing residents in both Palmerston and the rural area. It is anticipated the hospital will be completed in 2018.

With a projected population of 42,000 by 2021, accelerated growth is high on the region's agenda with four suburbs under construction including the rapid expansion of existing suburbs Bellamack and Johnston, and new residential developments Zuccoli and The Heights, Durack.

A must-see for families is the city's water park which is free to use. Take on the six-lane speed slide challenge, or enjoy the toddler's wet area with a shallow wading pool and water activities. Teenagers will also love the refurbished skate park conveniently located next door. Palmerston is home to an 18-hole golf course and a six-screen cinema complex. Palmerston provides a green retreat, with a wealth of picturesque open spaces providing the ideal location for a quiet BBQ or leisurely morning walk. The many kilometres of well-kept bike paths are worth a visit for eager riders looking to explore the region. The city is serviced by the new \$50M Rydges Palmerston Hotel and Quest Serviced Apartments, and when it comes to cuisine, Palmerston caters for a wide range of tastes, from boutique restaurants and cafes to popular chain outlets.

With a strong plan in place for the region's future growth, the City of Palmerston proves to be 'A Place for People'.

28 YEARS

AVERAGE AGE

12,759

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

34,652

PEOPLE

53KM²

PALMERSTON AREA COVERS



\$350M

AND OVER OF
MAINTAINED ASSETS

2

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AREAS

25.6%

OF POPULATION UNDER 15 YEARS

4.3%

OF POPULATION OVER 64

126

DEFINED PARKS

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



IAN ABBOTT

Mayor - City of Palmerston

The development of the city centre in accordance with the Palmerston City Centre Master Plan continued to be a priority for Council. The completion of the Goyder Square redevelopment has seen life brought into the CBD, the area has played host to a number of community events and programs. Goyder Square provides alfresco dining options for local businesses and of course a new convenient layout for the Palmerston Markets, which includes outdoor seating, an interactive water feature and a fenced playground. The Boulevard's transformation to Palmerston's bustling main-street, supporting new opportunities for restaurants, cafes and retail continued to progress, with a September 2016 completion date.

Palmerston has a rapidly growing reputation as a place

What an incredible year it has been for the City of Palmerston. I am extremely proud to bear witness to the growth that has occurred in our beautiful City over the past 12 months, along with the exciting projects that are underway or progressing through the necessary planning process.



where events are recognised as a valuable part of our vibrant and diverse community. This past year saw a new focus for Council events; moving from delivering one major event, the Palmerston Festival, to a greater and diverse number of events. Through the year we activated spaces in our community, promoted economic growth by attracting visitors to our city, and provided a variety of entertainment for Palmerston residents. Some of the new and exciting events held included movie nights on the big screen in Goyder Square, the inaugural Indonesia Festival, the city wide Garage Sale Trail, and a dry season program of live jazz performances.

The City of Palmerston continued to grow rapidly with residential housing and open space being established in Zuccoli and The Heights, Durack with Johnston and Bellamack near completion. Council has closely monitored the development of these areas and, when considered necessary, has lobbied the NT Government to ensure these new suburbs are developed in line with good urban planning principles. Residential growth around Palmerston was supported by new shopping centres in Bakewell and Rosebery, a new hotel, and commercial developments. I look forward to seeing the completion of a special school in Bellamack, a new school in Zuccoli and a host of mixed use developments. This will create significant job opportunities for Palmerston residents and will increase the level of social infrastructure available. It was also pleasing to see the construction of the Palmerston Regional Hospital commence. The City of Palmerston has been fortunate to receive a number of untied financial grants this past year. Council

is extremely grateful for these allocations along with the “Roads to Recovery” funding and “Black Spot Programme” funding it has received from the Australian Government.

Council also acknowledges the financial support of \$2.5M received from the NT Government’s “Improving Strategic Local Infrastructure Program” to support The Boulevard redevelopment. It is reassuring to see the NT Government invest in our city centre and to share the vision outlined in the Palmerston City Centre Master Plan.

The NT Government has also provided details of a systematic upgrade to Palmerston roads over the next two years. This is an excellent initiative and will support many of the major projects currently under construction in Palmerston.

Our Community Benefit Scheme saw Council contribute \$132,924.82 to community groups, organisations and sporting clubs. Grants awarded varied from the development of a dementia-friendly garden at Joy Anderson Centre in Gray to the annual Palmerston RSL ANZAC Day celebrations.

A local by-election last year saw a new face on Council in Alderman Athina Pascoe-Bell, following Heather Malone’s resignation. We remember the contribution made by Heather who devoted considerable time and effort to the activities of Council and the community.

The City of Palmerston is shaping into a vibrant, modern regional capital. A city to be proud of, and reflects our vision as a ‘Place for People’.

Mayor - City of Palmerston



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

RICKI BRUHN

CEO - City of Palmerston

It has been another busy year for the City of Palmerston with the ongoing development of a number of major projects and planning for the future needs of our growing community.

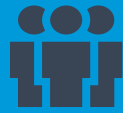
In 2015/16 Council maintained a strong focus on delivering the Palmerston City Centre Master Plan, which guides growth in a positive direction, enhances the existing City Centre structure and creates a well-planned and functional hub for the Palmerston area.

Council's major projects in the City Centre continued with the completion of the Goyder Square redevelopment at a cost of \$4.57M and the final stage of The Boulevard redevelopment to be completed during September 2016. Once completed the redevelopment will activate the CBD, create an identity for Palmerston and make it a more attractive place to live, work and play. The end of the financial year brought the outlay for City Centre projects to \$11M.

Private sector investment in the CBD was another sign of the increasing focus on growth for Palmerston. The construction of the Boulevard Plaza complex started in June. This \$200M investment will be the largest mixed use development in Palmerston to date, with a combination of residential, retail and commercial uses and further supports Council's vision laid out in the Palmerston City Centre Master Plan.

To continue the momentum of developing the CBD, and in accordance with Ministerial Guidelines for the disposal of property, Council released two CBD properties to the open market for development. These future mixed-use developments will need to satisfy the objectives of our Master Plan with a particular emphasis on creating residential opportunities in the CBD.

Car parking in the CBD is another critical issue and through the Master Plan and the Parking Strategy, this is



34,652

AT THE END OF JUNE 2015

Australian Bureau of Statistics Population Growth figures indicating that the population had reached 34,652 at the end of June 2015.



currently being addressed. Council is currently investigating opportunities to establish the first multi-deck carpark in the CBD to alleviate parking pressures both now and into the future.

The completion of The Heights, Durack Community Centre saw Palmerston provided with its first and only purpose built art and culture centre. The facility offers residents the opportunity to engage with art, support creative enterprises, and provides a valuable piece of social infrastructure for the residents of Palmerston.

Council has recently released its 'Community Infrastructure Plan 2016-2026' for public comment. This Plan has been prepared to ensure adequate community infrastructure is provided to accommodate the municipalities future growth.

To ensure the road network keeps pace with the rapid development, Council committed over \$4M and the NT Government \$57M on a series of road improvements in Palmerston, boosting safety and productivity. The investment by the NT Government into several arterial roads is significant and will cater for the future growth expected in the suburb of Zuccoli and the development of the Palmerston Regional Hospital.

The 2015/16 year saw Council introduce an Unimproved Capital Values (UCV) structure as a basis for all rating calculations within the City of Palmerston, as opposed to the previously applied 'flat residential rate' structure. Rates are fundamental in providing a wide range of Council services and maintaining facilities, from roads and footpaths to library services and community programs.

As Palmerston is the fastest growing municipality in the Territory, Council is mindful of the continued need to ensure these facilities are kept maintained for our community. To ensure all ratable assessments make a reasonable contribution toward maintaining the services and infrastructure within the City of Palmerston, Council set a 'minimum rate'. The new rating structure also assisted in spreading the rates burden more equitably across the community.

Council continues to provide a wide range of services and facilities which are well received by residents. Details of a cross-section of these services are provided throughout this Annual Report.

In conclusion, I acknowledge the direction and support I receive from our Elected Members and the dedication of our 80 staff members who, through their commitment and enthusiasm, continue as a team to achieve our ambitious goals for this great City.

Rishi Breen

Chief Executive Officer - City of Palmerston



OUR COUNCIL

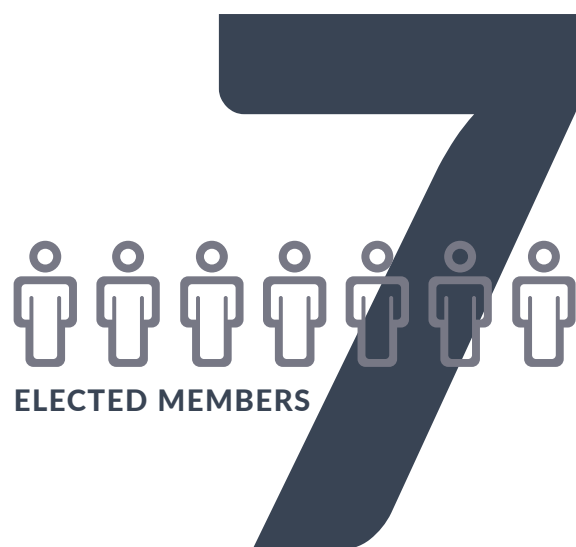
In accordance with the Local Government Act, Council is made up of seven elected members: a principal member holding the title of Mayor, and six elected members holding the title of Alderman.

Each year Council elects one Alderman to serve as Deputy Mayor for a term of 12 months. The City of Palmerston operates under a single (or 'no wards') system with each of the seven elected members representing the entire city.

With 19,133 electors as at 2015, this makes a ratio of one elected member for every 2,733 electors.

Shown in the photograph above are, from left to right: (back) Alderman Andrew Byrne, Alderman Paul Bunker, Alderman Geoff Carter, and (front) Alderman Athina Pascoe-Bell, Deputy Mayor Seranna Shutt, Mayor Ian Abbott and Alderman Sue McKinnon.

Over the course of 2015/16 Alderman Sue McKinnon completed her 12-month term as Deputy Mayor, following which Alderman Seranna Shutt was appointed Deputy Mayor.



Ian Abbott was first elected as Alderman to the Palmerston Town Council through a by-election held in August 1999.



IAN ABBOTT

Mayor - City of Palmerston

Ian Abbott was first elected as Alderman to the Palmerston Town Council through a by-election held in August 1999. Ian continued to hold the position of Alderman up to the March 2012 General Election where he was elected as Mayor.

During Ian's 16 years of service to local government in Palmerston, he has also served two terms as Deputy Mayor in 2003/04 and 2007/08.

Ian has previously represented Palmerston on the Development Consent Authority and maintains a keen interest in the growth and development of Palmerston - one of the fastest growing cities in Australia.

A passionate NT Thunder sponsor and supporter, Ian has been associated with numerous community and sporting groups in Palmerston and is always prepared to lend a hand by fundraising for local charitable organisations.

Ian fully represents his local community and has a particular interest in youth related issues and ensuring the survival of small community and sporting groups. Economic growth and the redevelopment of the Palmerston CBD are also important to Ian.

The creation of job opportunities and the development of a functional CBD is a key focus for Mayor Ian Abbott and the City of Palmerston.

MAYOR ABBOTT IS EX-OFFICIO ON ALL COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL BUT REPRESENTS COUNCIL PARTICULARLY AS A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES AND ORGANISATIONS:

PALMERSTON SAFE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

CEO PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL COMMITTEE

CITY OF PALMERSTON ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

CITY OF PALMERSTON INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

TOP END REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (TOPROC)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NT (LGANT)

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER)





“My aim as Alderman is to bring community and environmental perspectives to all Council decisions”

ALDERMAN MCKINNON REPRESENTS COUNCIL ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES AND ORGANISATIONS:

- ➔ PALMERSTON SENIORS ADVISORY GROUP (CHAIR)
- ➔ PALMERSTON SAFE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE (MEMBER)
- ➔ ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE (MEMBER)
- ➔ LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NT (ALTERNATE MEMBER)
- ➔ COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (CHAIR)
- ➔ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
- ➔ LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NT SETTLEMENT PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVE)

SUE MCKINNON

Deputy Mayor - City of Palmerston

11 April 2015 to 10 April 2016

Sue McKinnon was first elected to Council as an Alderman in March 2008 and re-elected at the 2012 Local Government Election. At its 7 April 2015 meeting Council elected Alderman McKinnon to serve as Deputy Mayor for a 12-month period commencing 11 April 2015.

‘My aim as Alderman is to bring community and environmental perspectives to all Council decisions. I focus on developing solutions to community issues which involve opening up access for the whole community to social, creative and recreational opportunities and activities.

Whilst in the Deputy Mayor role I was able to develop the following initiatives thanks to the support of my fellow Aldermen and Council Staff - Goyder Walking Trail, acknowledgement of Country, Welcome to Council Protocol, Refugee Welcome Zone, Palmerston Significant Tree Register, Community Infrastructure Plan (*draft*), expansion of Disability Access Reporting, bi-annual Council Meetings in a Community Venue, native Flora and Fauna Street Names in Zuccoli Stages 2-5, Public Question Time Policy and live matrix of all Palmerston Liquor Licence Applications’.

Alderman McKinnon is also involved as a volunteer on the following Committees:

- National Landcare Network (*NT Director*)
- Landcare NT (*Chair*)
- Friends of Mitchell Creek Catchment Landcare Group Inc (*Chair*)
- Territory Natural Resource Management Board (*Member*)
- Top End Native Plant Society (*Member*)

At its 5 April 2016 meeting, Council elected Alderman Shutt to serve as Deputy Mayor for a 12-month period.



SERANNA SHUTT

Deputy Mayor - City of Palmerston

11 April 2016 to date

Seranna Shutt joined the City of Palmerston Council on 5 November 2013 following a by-election. At its 5 April 2016 meeting Council elected Alderman Shutt to serve as Deputy Mayor for a 12-month period commencing 11 April 2016. Some of Seranna's highlights on Council have been supporting:

- Redevelopment of Goyder Square
- Breastfeeding Friendly Initiative
- 78% of rate payers not receiving a rate rise
- Increasing the overall amount of community grants provided to organisations
- Introducing the Online Community Directory
- Building a Better Neighbourhood Program
- Active participation in Council events such as the Palmerston Festival, FlicNics, Palmerston Fun Run, Australia Day and Picnics in the Park
- Producing a formal protocol for Welcome to Country and acknowledgement of our traditional owners and supporting its use
- Driving the development of a multi-level car parking in our CBD
- Adding colour to our CBD
- Increasing crossings and safety on Palmerston roads
- Actively investigating turning Palmerston into a smart city
- Increasing community development and events run by Council
- Developing City of Palmerston Arts and community infrastructure strategies
- Animal awareness days and supporting animal owners to be responsible pet owners

Seranna is always aiming to improve her professional skills and since being elected she has also completed a Diploma of Business Governance and a Certificate 4 in Professional Writing and Editing.

ALDERMAN SHUTT REPRESENTS COUNCIL ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES AND ORGANISATIONS:

COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

TOURISM TOP END

DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AUTHORITY (DCA) PALMERSTON DIVISION (ALTERNATE MEMBER)



“ I have been involved in
the Finance and Insurance Industry
for over 20 years ”

ALDERMAN BYRNE
REPRESENTS COUNCIL
ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

- ➔ **YOUTH INSPIRING PALMERSTON**
- ➔ **CITY OF PALMERSTON INTERNAL
AUDIT COMMITTEE**
- ➔ **DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AUTHORITY
(DCA) PALMERSTON DIVISION**
- ➔ **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**
- ➔ **GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION
COMMITTEE (CHAIR)**

ANDREW BYRNE

Alderman - City of Palmerston

Following the Local Government Election on 24 March 2012, Andrew Byrne was elected Alderman of City of Palmerston. Alderman Byrne served 12 months as the City's Deputy Mayor in 2013/14.

'I have been involved in the Finance and Insurance Industry for over 20 years. I moved to Palmerston with my young family in 2003.

I am the Vice President of the Palmerston Regional Business Association and I am involved with a number of sporting clubs. Palmerston is a vibrant city that is growing rapidly, I believe it is important to attract more business and develop infrastructure that keeps up with this growth.

We also need to support community groups and sporting clubs so our children have a choice of activities.

I hope being a part of Council I can play an active part in ensuring the success and development of these groups'.



“ I served 20 years in the Australian Defence Force and upon leaving in 1995 I settled with my family in Palmerston ”



PAUL BUNKER
Alderman - City of Palmerston

Following the Local Government Election on 24 March 2012, Paul Bunker was elected as Alderman for the City of Palmerston. Alderman Bunker also served for 12-months as the City’s Deputy Mayor in 2012/13.

‘I served 20 years in the Australian Defence Force and upon leaving in 1995 I settled with my family in Palmerston. I have three daughters who have all completed their schooling and grown up in Palmerston, with two still living here.

I have worked in the Real Estate industry since leaving the Defence Force and in 2010 established a Real Estate business locally employing local people. I have lived in numerous cities across Australia while serving in the Defence Force, but when I retired I decided to make Palmerston my home.

I believe in our City and have a real passion to drive future development and implementation of our City Centre Master Plan for the future. I am excited for the future of Palmerston and look forward to helping make it a city we can all be proud of’.

ALDERMAN BUNKER REPRESENTS COUNCIL ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES AND ORGANISATIONS:

- CEO PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL COMMITTEE
- ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
- TOP END REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (TOPROC)
- DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AUTHORITY (DCA) PALMERSTON DIVISION
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NT (LGANT)
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE (CHAIR)
- GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION COMMITTEE



“ I have been a strong supporter of the arts in our community ”

ALDERMAN CARTER REPRESENTED COUNCIL ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

- ➔ GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION COMMITTEE
- ➔ COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
- ➔ CEO PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL COMMITTEE
- ➔ PALMERSTON ANIMAL MANAGEMENT REFERENCE GROUP (CHAIR)
- ➔ LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NT (LGANT) ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

GEOFF CARTER

Alderman - City of Palmerston

Geoff Carter was appointed to Council as an Alderman in May 2007 having lived in Palmerston since 2002. He served as Deputy Mayor in 2011/12. At the local government election on 24 March 2012 he was re-elected as Alderman of City of Palmerston.

‘Since joining Council, I have been a strong supporter of the arts in our community. Historically I was the founding Bandmaster of the Australian Army Band Darwin and rose to the rank of Warrant Officer Class One in the Australian Army before retiring in June 2013.

I was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM) in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list in 1993 for services to military music. I play with the Arafura Wind Ensemble with whom I was Music Director from 2001 to 2010.

I also play (*infrequently now*) with the Darwin Symphony Orchestra. It is my endeavour to get, for Palmerston, a truly multifunction Entertainment Centre, which will support all levels and genre of the Arts in our great city.

I am also very keen to advance effective animal management within the city’.



“ I am very pleased that I can now represent the broader Palmerston community on the Council ”



ATHINA PASCOE-BELL

Alderman - City of Palmerston

Athina was sworn in as an Alderman of the City of Palmerston Council on 17 November 2015 following a by-election.

Athina currently combines Council duties with part-time work in the Northern Territory Government, as the Spatial Systems Development Manager for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, where she is the chair of the Scientific Data and Information Working group, and a member of the ICT Governance Committee. She also provides oversight of scientific databases and business systems that affect the performance of individual work units through to the whole department.

She has worked in the spatial industry for the last 18 years, 13 of which were in various roles in both the NSW and NT governments. She is also the mother of two children aged 4 and 8 years old.

'I have a large range of personal interests, including sewing, woodwork, camping, 4WDing, and bushwalking. I also have a keen interest in planning issues, equity and accessibility issues. Prior to joining Council, I had assisted various people in my own neighbourhood in addressing issues that affected our community. I am also the daughter and granddaughter of Greek migrants and spent all of my childhood involved in the running of my family's small businesses.

I believe these experiences in my childhood provide me with good grounding in the challenges faced by migrants in our community, and the running and day to day struggles of families that run small business.

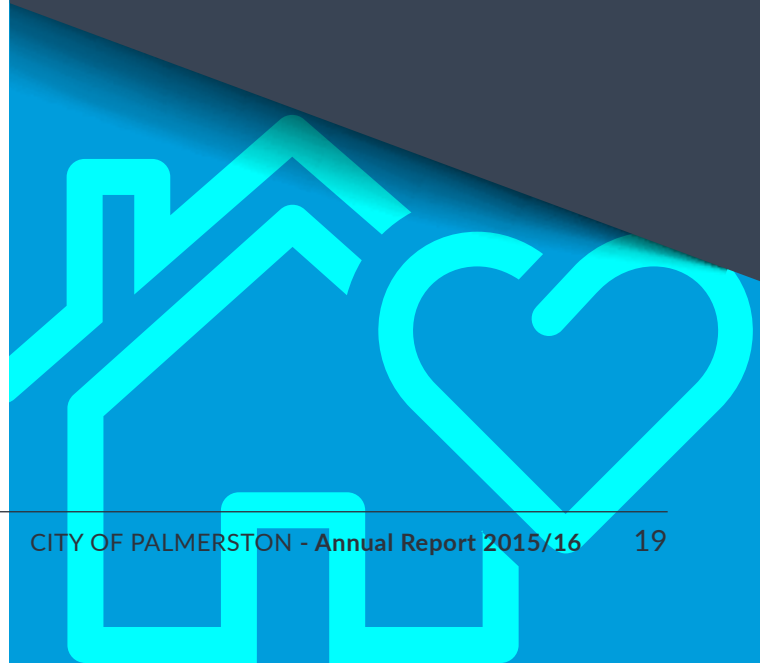
I've had a lot of contact with people from all walks of life through working in my parent's supermarket. I am very pleased that I can now represent the broader Palmerston community on the Council'.

ALDERMAN PASCOE-BELL REPRESENTS COUNCIL ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE



COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE



OUR STAFF

Approximately 80 staff members operate under the CEO's direction, divided amongst the Executive, Corporate and Community Services and the Technical Services departments.

As per the *Local Government Act*, Council employs a Chief Executive Officer and delegates a number of authorities to carry out the day-to-day functions of Council.

The CEO is responsible for the overall administration of Council affairs and works closely with elected members to ensure Council goals and objectives are met.

The CEO is charged by the *Local Government Act* with the responsibility for managing Council's human resources in an effective and compliant manner.

Working at Council provides a number of career opportunities from waste management to healthy eating and nutrition specialisations, and staff are skilled professionals in each of their specialised areas.

Council's dedication to continuous improvement means a wide range of professional development and training opportunities are regularly offered.





STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS



COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING

- Council provided \$132,125 in financial support to 45 community groups and organisations through grants, donations, sponsorships and scholarships.
- Council partnered with PEET and Charles Darwin University to open the Durack Heights Community Centre. Palmerston's first dedicated art workshop community space.
- Palmerston hosted its first Citra Indonesia festival on Saturday May 7 in Goyder Square.
- Relocation of the Palmerston Markets to Goyder Square.
- 7 citizenship ceremonies held with 149 members of the community gaining citizenship.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The Boulevard Project Stage 2.1 completed.
- Goyder Square Stage 2 completed.
- Sale of two CBD properties for mixed use developments to be constructed in compliance with the Palmerston City Centre Master Plan.
- Incorporation of the Palmerston City Centre Master Plan into the Planning Scheme was lodged and considered by the Minister for Planning.
- Commissioning and operation of the 15-unit complex at 48 Odegaard Drive Rosebery.

JULY

15

Demolition works for Stage 2 of Goyder Square commenced

AUGUST

15

City of Palmerston won a Heart Foundation Local Government Award!

SEPTEMBER

15

Adelaide 36ers visit along with Townsville Crocs and Rain or Shine

OCTOBER

15



Palmerston joined the National Garage Sale Trail for the first time

NOVEMBER

15

City's Christmas Carols

DECEMBER

15

Stage 2 of the Goyder Square re-development completed

Goyder Square Christmas Tree lighting ceremony

YEAR AT A GLANCE



ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$4M loan for rehabilitation of the Archer landfill site approved by Minister for Local Government.
- Commenced construction of \$750,000 roundabout at Emery Avenue and Temple Terrace, improving traffic management and safety.
- Commenced construction of the Flockhart Drive pedestrian bridge.
- Received \$12.5M in gifted assets from new developments in Zuccoli.
- Successfully negotiated water and irrigation headworks in the Zuccoli development.
- 9,000 barramundi fingerlings released into Durack Lakes in cooperation with Department of Fisheries.



GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION

- Achieved an effective outcome in negotiation with NT Government and Power Water Corporation for the handover of street lighting assets to City of Palmerston.
- Tree Risk Management Plan takes effect.
- New Independent Chair appointed to the Risk Management and Audit Committee, Mr Iain Summers.
- Local Government Professionals Australia Management Challenge participants.
- Change from a 'flat rate' to an 'unimproved capital value' rate took effect.

JANUARY

16

CoP Library
The first library in the NT to offer unlimited loans

Australia Day Ceremony welcoming 36 New Australian citizens to Palmerston

FEBRUARY

16

City of Palmerston Arts Strategy community consultation commenced

MARCH

16

Barramundi Fingerlings released into Durack Lakes as part of a joint project of the City of Palmerston

APRIL

16

Hosted the first Freedom of Entry for the 8th/12th Regiment based at Robertson Barracks

MAY

16

10th
ANNIVERSARY
CoP Library
10th Anniversary

JUNE

16

The Heights, Community Centre completed - Palmerston's first and only purpose built art and culture centre

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REVIEW

In recent years, the City of Palmerston has progressively increased its operating income and also focused on limiting any increases in operating expenditure.

This was done to reduce our operating deficit and to enable council to eventually achieve an operating surplus. It was anticipated a budget surplus would be achieved in the 2015/16 budget, however this did not eventuate for a number of reasons.

SUMMARY

Description	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	% Change Budget to Actual	2016 Actual	2015 Actual Restated	% Change 2015 to 2016
Total Income	31,009,653	34,935,879	-11.2%	31,009,653	27,382,911	13.2%
Total Expenses	43,228,685	33,422,385	29.3%	43,228,685	32,907,966	31.4%
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(12,219,032)	1,513,494	-875%	(12,219,032)	(5,525,055)	121%

TOTAL INCOME
BUDGET TO ACTUAL

4.5M 
GRANTS DOWN BY

\$119K 
INVESTMENT INCOME UP BY

\$151K 
REIMBURSEMENTS UP BY

TOTAL INCOME
2015 TO 2016

2.8M 
RATES UP BY

\$351K 
GRANTS UP BY

\$354K 
REIMBURSEMENTS UP BY

TOTAL EXPENSES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL

8.3M 
MATERIALS, CONTRACTS
AND OTHER EXPENSES

\$612K 
EMPLOYEE COSTS UP BY

\$957K 
DEPRECIATION UP BY

TOTAL EXPENSES
2015 TO 2016

8.7M 
MATERIALS, CONTRACTS
AND OTHER EXPENSES

\$655K 
EMPLOYEE COSTS UP BY

\$855K 
DEPRECIATION UP BY

INCOME

Description	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	% Change Budget to Actual
Rates	24,608,512	24,325,269	1.2%
Statutory and User Charges	1,390,883	1,340,336	3.8%
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	3,235,393	7,766,786	-58.3%
Investment Income	1,154,651	1,035,025	11.6%
Reimbursements and Other Revenue	620,214	468,463	32.4%
Total Income	31,009,653	34,935,879	-11.2%

2016 Actual	2015 Actual Restated	% Change 2015 to 2016
24,608,512	21,723,750	13.3%
1,390,883	1,357,275	2.5%
3,235,393	2,883,463	12.2%
1,154,651	1,152,556	0.2%
620,214	265,867	133.3%
31,009,653	27,382,911	13.2%

Changes of more than 5% are explained below

RATES

In the 2015/16 financial year, Council introduced Unimproved Capital Values (UCV) as the basis for all rating calculations within the municipality. Council also set a minimum rate of \$1,177 to ensure all rateable assessments made a reasonable contribution toward maintaining the services and infrastructure within the City of Palmerston.

An increase of 1.9% on the minimum rate was applied across residential, commercial and industrial rateable areas. This change resulted in 90% of residential properties receiving only a \$22 increase in line with CPI. The remaining 10% of residential properties, which included vacant land owned by developers and individual properties valued over \$277,000, paid above the minimum rate of \$1,177. In addition, rates levied for Storage Sheds increased from \$315 minimum to \$1,177 minimum due to a change in classification to the Industrial Rate. Sports clubs were rated as Commercial for the first time in 2015/16.

To assist with the transition of introducing the UCV Based Rating Model, owner occupied residential properties above the minimum rate were eligible for a 50% concession on the amount payable above the minimum rate. As part of an ongoing concession, sports clubs are able to apply for a concession annually under council's Rate Concession Policy.





In April 2015, Council received a Pollution Abatement Notice (PAN) from the Environment Protection Authority over the previous Archer landfill site. This PAN requires Council to take a series of actions to manage landfill gases, leachate and rehabilitation/aftercare of the site. Waste Management charges were increased by \$50 from \$435 to \$485 in anticipation of this cost as well as to offset a 13.8% increase in Council costs for waste delivered to the Shoal Bay Waste Facility.

The City of Palmerston also continues to experience high levels of residential growth in the newly created suburbs of Bellamack, Johnston, Zuccoli and Durack Heights. During the 2015/16 financial year, an additional 478 residential assessments were created which provided additional rate revenue and waste charges.

The combination of these changes resulted in an increase in Rates Income from 2015 to 2016 of \$2.8M or 13.3%.

GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Grant Funding income forms the largest variance to budget of \$4.5M. This has occurred as anticipated grant funding income was not received in the 2016 year. These funds were not received due to government only making payment of these grants when projects are completed. These ongoing projects included:

 <u>THE BOULEVARD STAGE 2</u>	\$2.5M
 <u>BABAN PLACE STORMWATER</u>	\$0.9M
 <u>TEMPLE TERRACE / EMERY AVENUE</u>	\$0.5M
 <u>FLOCKHART DRIVE FOOTBRIDGE</u>	\$0.4M

City of Palmerston anticipates the grant funding for these projects will be received in the 2016/17 financial year as the projects are completed.

INVESTMENT INCOME

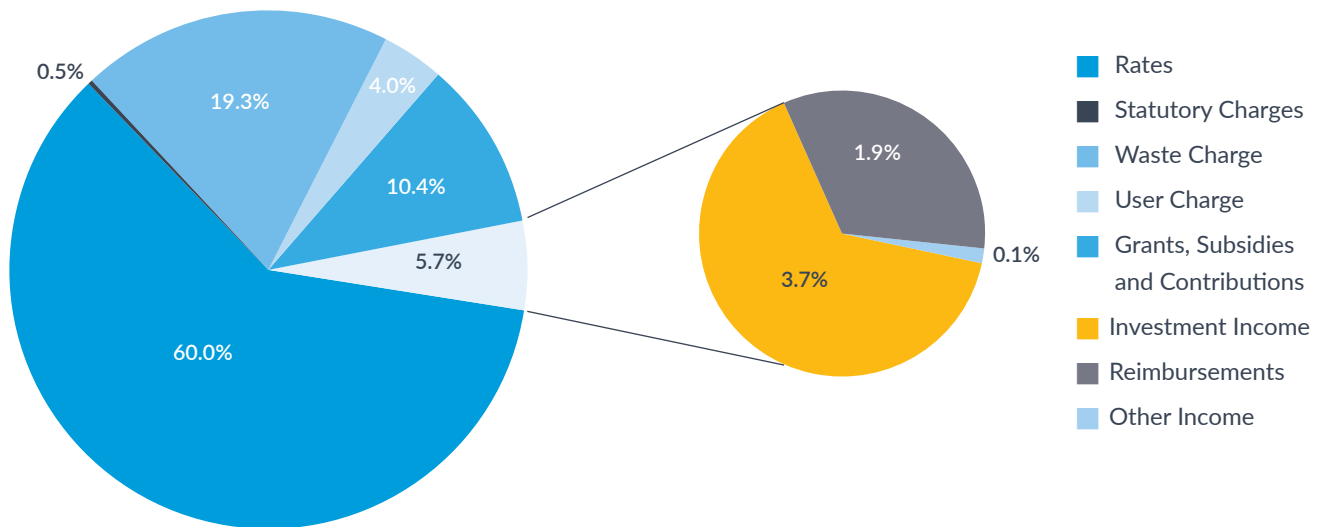
Investment Income budget for 2016 did not include bank interest, only investment interest. An improved cash flow to anticipated budget caused the positive variance to the budget.

REIMBURSEMENTS AND OTHER REVENUE

Other Revenue increased mainly due to staff acting in a higher position with another council. Income relating to this item was received but no budget adjustment was made.

In 2016 the amounts received in Reimbursements were significantly higher than in 2015 due to \$417,336 received from City of Darwin in Carbon Tax reimbursements. This reimbursement has been added to the Waste Management Reserve to assist in the funding of the PAN.

TOTAL INCOME 2015/16



EXPENSES

Description	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	% Change Budget to Actual
Employee Costs	7,384,937	6,772,302	9.0%
Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses	26,823,914	18,517,983	44.9%
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	9,019,834	8,062,100	11.9%
Total Expenses	43,228,685	33,422,385	29.3%

2016 Actual	2015 - Actual Restated	% Change 2015 to 2016
7,384,937	6,729,842	9.7%
26,823,914	18,043,730	48.7%
9,019,834	8,134,394	10.9%
43,228,685	32,907,966	31.4%

Changes of more than 5% are explained below

EMPLOYEE COSTS

The budget allowed for temporary staff vacancies to occur during the year which did not fully eventuate. Some new positions were also created during the year which increased wages, but reduced costs in other areas.

Employee Costs to budget increased due to a staff member being appointed Acting CEO in a neighboring council. Council continued to pay these wages which were reimbursed by the Litchfield Council. Income relating to this item was received but no budget adjustment was made to the expense line.

MATERIALS, CONTRACTS AND OTHER EXPENSES

The single largest variance in relation to expenses appears in the materials, contractors and other expenses area. The reason for this large variance is the full provision for the Pollution Abatement Notice (PAN) estimated at \$8.5M. In April 2015, Council received a Pollution Abatement Notice (PAN) from the Environment Protection Authority over the previous Archer landfill site. This PAN requires Council to take a series of actions to manage landfill gases, leachate and rehabilitation/aftercare of the site. These works will take a number of years to complete.

Considering the full estimated provision for the PAN has

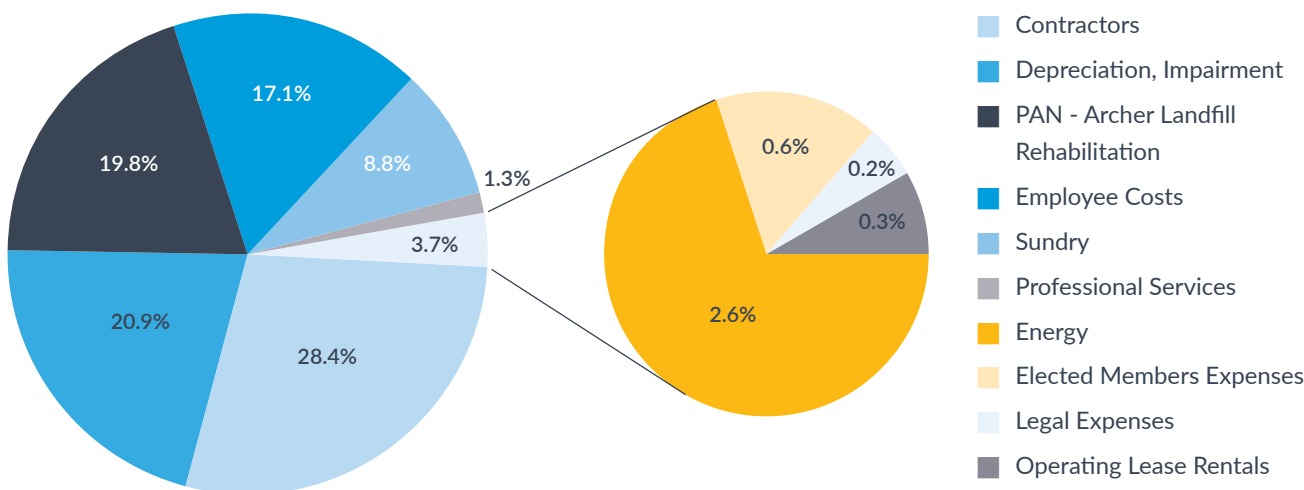
been made in this financial year, only small adjustments are anticipated in future years. This will allow for a reduced expenditure in future financial years which will greatly assist in achieving an operating surplus.

DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION AND IMPAIRMENT

The other major reason for the growing deficit is the increase in depreciation of \$885,440. The City of Palmerston, as the fastest growing council in the Northern Territory, continues to receive assets free of charge from developers each year as new suburbs are completed. This includes assets such as roads, storm water drainage, footpaths and parks. Depreciation is the cost of using these assets in a financial year. The more assets Palmerston owns the higher the value of depreciation. In the 2016-year Council received \$12.5M in gifted assets.

As a growing council, the City of Palmerston will continue to create assets like Goyder Square and receive gifted assets from new subdivisions in Zuccoli and Durack Heights. While this will continue to increase the depreciation expense, it also increases the number of Infrastructure assets held by the municipality. This infrastructure provides for the wide range of service delivery options available to residents in Palmerston.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2015/16



OTHER ITEMS

City of Palmerston continues to have a good current ratio at 3.75:1. This ratio represents the amount of times the organisation is able to pay out current liabilities with current assets. The optimal ratio is 1:1 or higher.

Council also holds \$14,321,638 in reserves in the 2016 financial year. These reserves are kept to ensure sustainable and responsible financial management of City of Palmerston, through consistent identification, administration and usage of externally and internally restricted reserves.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Annual Report plays an important role in Council's Strategic Planning Framework, providing a report on Council's activities and performance against the strategies outlined in Council's Municipal Plan, which was reviewed and updated in June 2016. It reports on the four Strategic Focus areas which cover the services and responsibilities of Council: Community and Cultural Wellbeing, Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure, and Governance and Organisation.



MEASURING PERFORMANCE

HOW WE MEASURE PERFORMANCE

PRIMARY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Council is very aware performance is 'in the eye of the beholder', and the satisfaction of the community is the primary measure of performance. No matter how well we think we are doing, it is the community's opinion that matters most. In Council's Municipal Plan 2015-2020, Council promised to use these measures as the primary reporting mechanism to the community, and this Annual Report 2015-2016 provides this. For this reason, wherever possible there is a survey score for a particular service or activity tied to each outcome. The survey has been conducted annually by Roy Morgan Research on behalf of Council since 2012 and the scores are used to determine overall performance of Council with regards to a particular outcome. With roughly 400 telephone interviews conducted completely at random, Council has no ability to influence the analysis of community satisfaction, thus providing an objective outcome the community can rely on.

Results from the survey are expressed with a numerical score. A score of 100 is equivalent of the community expressing its satisfaction with Council's performance, with scores higher than 100 expressing a rising degree of satisfaction, and scores below 100 indicating that Council needs to perform better. Council aims to have scores in all areas above 100. The public is strongly encouraged to provide feedback regarding this plan. The success of this plan is reliant on it matching the needs and addressing the concerns of the community! Email us at palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au or call (08) 8935 9922.

Council is very aware performance is 'in the eye of the beholder', and the satisfaction of the community is the primary measure of performance.

PERFORMANCE TABLE 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

		2013	2014	2015	2016
	<i>Sample size</i>	407	402	400	354
	<i>Projected population over 18</i>	18,678	19,588	19,588	22,354
1.1	HEALTHY COMMUNITIES	98.69	97.73	95.78	92.76
1.2	SAFE COMMUNITIES	86.79	84.93	77.14	74.17
1.3	ARTS AND CULTURE	109.70	111.91	107.45	109.11
1.4	RECREATION	118.18	114.69	111.82	114.02
2.1	TOURISM	n/a	85.75	84.25	85.36
2.2	LOCAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY	85.53	85.54	82.92	86.06
2.3	CITY PLANNING	n/a	89.41	80.22	85.03
3.1	ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	95.19	96.93	91.30	93.41
3.2	ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE	111.79	107.75	106.65	109.42
3.3	WASTE	129.94	133.40	129.25	136.45
4.1	RESPONSIBILITY	82.74	80.93	75.27	80.40
4.2	SERVICE	82.34	82.00	73.18	76.80
4.3	PEOPLE	94.51	94.38	88.20	88.48
4.4	SYSTEMS	92.26	92.69	93.54	93.06

1. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL WELLBEING

1.1 HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

We are committed to providing quality health and family support services to our community.

Healthy Lifestyle Programs
COPAL
(Childhood Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle) Program

Support and Advocacy:
Families, Youth and Seniors

Support and Advocacy:
Medical Facilities and Services

Support and Advocacy:
Disability Access

ENCOURAGING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

COPAL supports Palmerston children, through their families and communities, to be healthy now and stay healthy for life. The program works with children's biggest influences family, friends and peers across the places where children live, learn and play. COPAL works closely with local organisations to support ideas, information, activities and changes within our community that make healthy choices easier for you and your family.

LIFE LOOKS BRIGHTER OUTSIDE

The COPAL theme for 2015 highlights included geocaching - during the school holidays in September young people attended an introduction to geocaching workshop at the City of Palmerston Library. A geocaching expert was engaged to educate people on geocaching and encourage them to spend more time outdoors. It was great to see children working together as a team to find the caches.

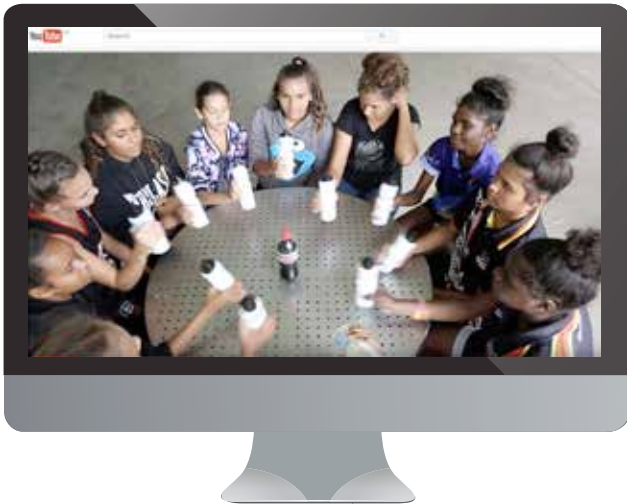
Primary school aged children had the opportunity to participate in an Outdoor Explorer Program. The children worked their way around Palmerston's parks to answer the questions at each location, all participants reported they had a lot of fun exploring Palmerston parks.

WATER. THE ORIGINAL COOL DRINK

The 2016 COPAL theme was launched in April with the COPAL Water Fun Day at Goyder Square. Families enjoyed many activities, including the Shark Water Slide, Bubbles with Magic Megan, fruity flavoured water and an upcycle project with the library. To further promote our theme, City of Palmerston engaged the services of Indigenous Hip Hop Projects to produce an educational video, the result was 'H2O is the Go'. The video was a huge success with well over 16,000 views so far on YouTube. Cancer Council Victoria is now using the clip as an education resource across Australia.

In order to ensure that COPAL leaves a lasting impression on the community of Palmerston and resources make a difference long after program has finished, the COPAL project has implemented three (3) new water bubblers in parks around Palmerston, a discovery garden at Harvest Corner, education sessions to students





on why water is the drink of choice and the smoothie bike and imagination playground continue to be available for loan for community groups.

The COPAL program will finish in December 2016, after 5 years of operation in Palmerston.

GETTING ACTIVE

Activate was held for its eleventh year in 2016, with a total of 15 physical activity suppliers and 348 participants taking part in the 8-week healthy lifestyle program. Even though registrations were down this year, feedback has been very positive and as always, we will listen to recommendations from participants and suppliers as we aim to improve the facilitation of the program each year.

Some feedback included;

'Was absolutely fantastic value for money and 8 weeks is a great time frame to really give an activity a go.'

'This was my first time so I loved every bit of it.'

'The variety of programs offered; great staff and ability to make new friends. The short, express sessions were good value.'

A suggestion for next year included;

'Online registrations, more advertising to catch a broader audience, include a boot camp and more varied times for the classes.'

The most popular classes in this year's program were Zumba, Tabata and Aqua Aerobics. Activities were located all around Palmerston, including Goyder Square, Woodroffe, Bakewell, Yarrowonga and Gray. Throughout the 8 weeks, there were 2203 individual instances of exercise completed.

Free exercise activities at Goyder Square is a new initiative in 2016 and kicked off with a Yoga Day Showcase in June. The

free activities not only provide exercise options for people whom may not have the opportunity to attend otherwise, but it also allows people to try activities they may not have tried before. This initiative is a way of keeping people active and trying new activities, in addition to the Activate program.

HARVEST CORNER COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Garden continues to thrive with a management committee committed to maintain not only the garden, but also promoting their values throughout the community. In 2016 the garden has hosted, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation, Jumanji FlicNics event, Brekkie in the Park as well as their social gathering and working bees each month.

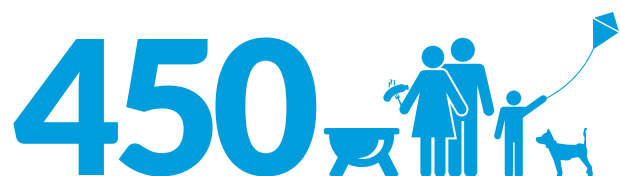
The Discovery Trail @ Harvest Corner was created in March 2016 as a special place children can play when they visit the community garden. Local bush foods were incorporated throughout the trail, with water features and fun stepping logs connecting the area. It is hoped that this space not only increases knowledge of local bush foods, but also encourages visitors to the garden to bring their kids along and spend time as a family.

The City of Palmerston continues to work closely with Harvest Corner to increase memberships, as well as raise their profile within the community.

BREKKIE IN THE PARK

This dry season the City of Palmerston and COPAL ran a series called 'Brekkie in the Park'. Families enjoyed free breakfast, outdoor activities and time together, while connecting with their local parks and helping our community live healthy and active lifestyles. The series was held on the first Sunday of each month, from May-September.

Three of the Brekkies were held during this financial year, the main idea behind the Brekkies is to showcase different, healthy ways to enjoy breakfast and get families out and about in the community, spending time together. We also showcased different businesses around Palmerston, which offer activities in line with the theme of each Brekkie.



PEOPLE ATTENDED BREKKIE IN THE PARK

WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE OF PALMERSTON

Young people represent a large portion of the city's population and, therefore, are a big focus for Council when planning facilities and programs within our municipality. We encourage our youth to be active in our community and provide a number of opportunities for young people to be involved in the future direction and planning for the city and its programs, activities and events throughout the year.

Throughout the 2015/16 financial year Council facilitated a range of exciting youth events and activities in collaboration with local community organisations, service providers and businesses. Events included the annual Palmy Pool Party at the Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre with over 500 attendees enjoying the fun filled evening. The regular school holiday youth activity programs have included a wide variety of activities including a 3 on 3 basketball competition, self-defence workshops and a breakdancing competition to name just some of the many engaging activities.

YOUTH INSPIRING PALMERSTON

Youth Inspiring Palmerston (YIP) is an advisory committee of Council made up of young people from Palmerston. YIP keeps Council informed on issues that are significant and important to young people in the City of Palmerston. YIP assists in making sure that both the services and the way the City of Palmerston goes about its business are as youth friendly and fair as possible. YIP aims to strengthen the leadership skills of

young people in Palmerston by providing opportunities and pathways to maximise their potential.

YIP members worked with Council on initiatives throughout the 2015/16 year including the planning and delivery of the 'Palmy Pool Party', Council's school holiday activity programs, the Palmerston Carols event and a range of community organised initiatives such as the Grow Well Live Well community consultations.

Council thanks the YIP members for their dedication, advice and contributions to making Palmerston a greater place to live for all.

PALMERSTON AND RURAL YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

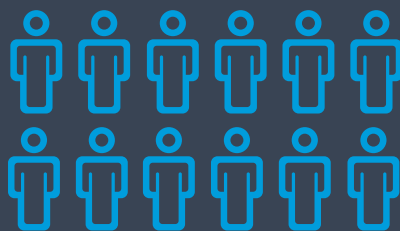
Since 1996, Council has convened the Palmerston and Rural Youth Services (PARYS) Network. The PARYS Network provides a forum for workers in the youth sector to discuss local youth issues and develop strategies to deliver a range of services for Palmerston and rural young people aged 12-25.

Council facilitates meetings approximately every six weeks for workers from community and government agencies who have regular contact with young people, and representatives of agencies which provide and/or fund services for young people.

All youth workers/service providers are welcome to attend the meetings and be part of the network. Other community members who have an interest in addressing youth issues are also welcome to participate.

+12

YIP MEMBERS



1510

STUDENTS FROM 7 SCHOOLS RECEIVED SUGARY DRINKS EDUCATION SESSIONS



348

ACTIVATE PARTICIPANTS

WORKING WITH SENIORS

The Palmerston seniors' community, although small in comparison to other demographics, is very active in our community. This year seniors have played an integral role in creating a vibrant and strong community through their commitment to local clubs and community groups, delivery of Seniors month events including the Palmerston Seniors Fortnight, which is partly sponsored by Council and delivered by Palmerston and Rural Seniors Committee; and by providing community feedback to Council through avenues such as the Seniors Forum and Palmerston Seniors Advisory Group.

PALMERSTON SENIORS ADVISORY GROUP AND FORUM

The Palmerston Seniors Advisory Group is an advisory group to the City of Palmerston and an advocacy body for the senior community on issues relating to seniors in the Palmerston municipality.

The group aims to identify and progress strategies addressing the issues explored and discussed at the Annual Seniors Forum, and other issues as they are introduced throughout the year.

The Palmerston Seniors Forum is the main annual event held in Palmerston for seniors to meet and discuss issues of concern, plus share experiences, thoughts and knowledge. It also provides an opportunity for the Palmerston Seniors Advisory Group and the City of Palmerston to hear directly from our seniors. The Palmerston Seniors Forum was

rescheduled to August 2016, to form part of Seniors Month activities and events.

PALMERSTON AND RURAL SENIORS MONTH EVENTS

The Palmerston and Rural Seniors Month provides seniors with a range of opportunities to stay active, keep fit, try new things, meet people and stay socially connected. Seniors Month in Palmerston is also a time to celebrate the positive aspects of ageing and say thank you to our older people for their commitment to the community. For many years the Palmerston and Rural Seniors Week Planning Committee has coordinated a week of special events to celebrate Senior's Month for residents of Palmerston and surrounding rural areas. The City of Palmerston has contributed to the costs of some activities and provided administrative support to the Seniors Week Committee.

During 2015 Senior's Month events in Palmerston took place over two weeks, between Sunday 9 and Sunday 23 August, and included a great range of events such as a Larrakeyah Naval Base tour, motorcycle rides and BBQ at Marlow's Lagoon, mini golf at Gardens Park Golf Links, a sunset cruise and much more.

Council's Community Development Team assisted the Planning Committee with becoming an incorporated body so that they could formalise their committee, create a governance structure that improved delivery of their annual program and allow them to apply for funding through

210/2015

SENIOR PARTICIPANTS ACROSS SEVEN
DAYS OF EVENTS FOR SENIORS WEEK

MEMBERS OF THE
SENIORS ADVISORY GROUP

+12



470

CHILDREN, PARENTS,
GRANDPARENTS AND
GRANDCHILDREN
ATTENDED THE CHILDREN'S
WEEK EVENT

peak grant bodies. Early in 2016 the Palmerston and Rural Seniors Week Planning Committee successfully applied for funding from Council's Community Benefits Scheme to assist the group to plan and deliver two weeks of activities for Palmerston and Rural seniors during August 2016. The ability of the Committee to take full responsibility for, and grow this annual event is applauded by Council.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN PALMERSTON

Council continues to work with the community sector to coordinate a number of activities that best reflect children and families' priorities.

PALMERSTON KIDS NETWORK

The Palmerston Kids Network (PKN) is a committed network of workers representing organisations who provide services and programs to children (0-12 years) and their families living in Palmerston. The network meets bi-monthly and is committed to: sharing information about programs and initiatives, showcasing best practice, discussing identified gaps and needs in Palmerston, building relationships and making connections, participating in community engagement and capacity building, as well as taking opportunities to lobby, advocate and influence policy.

The following Stakeholders participate on a regular basis: Australia Breastfeeding Association, Autism NT and SA, Catholic Care NT, Centrelink, Child Birth Association, CoP - Health and Wellbeing, Library, Darwin Toy Library, Dawn House, Department of Education, Department of Families and Communities, Early Childhood Intervention, Early Childhood Australia NT, FAST, Gray Family Centre, Kentish Family Day care, Kidsafe NT, Kids Matter, Larrakia Nation, Multicultural council NT, Melaleuca Refugee Centre, NAPCAN, Palmerston Child and Family Centre, Palmerston Child and Family Early Learning Centre, Palmerston Community Care Centre, Palmerston Family and Cultural Centre, Playgroup Association of the NT, Red Cross, Royal Life Saving Society, Save the Children: Good Beginnings, GWLW, HIPPY Programme, Scallywags Childcare Centre, Somerville, Team Health, The Smith Family, YMCA. Members of this Network, form the Working Group for the Children's Week Activity.

CHILDREN'S WEEK 2015

The City of Palmerston in collaboration with the community

sector providers coordinated the annual Children's Week event, which is celebrated throughout Australia during the fourth week in October. The theme for the Children's Week was based on Article 3 UN Rights of the child: 'All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.' Children's Week celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood. It is also a time for children to demonstrate their talents, skills and abilities.

A free event was organised for parents, children and grandparents. A Children's Week working group was established in early August the group members included: The Smith Family, Good Beginnings, Early Childhood Australia, Somerville, Catholic Care NT, Mental Illness Fellowship, Palmerston Child and Family Centre, Kids Matter, Gray Primary School, NT Swim Survive Royal Life Saving (RLSS), Red Cross, Road Safety, COPAL, Moulden Park Primary and Kentish Life Long Learning and Care Inc. A total of 214 adults and 256 children aged 0-5 year of age attend the Children's Week event.

GROW WELL LIVE WELL

The City of Palmerston is committed as a partner organisation in a strategic collaboration who have agreed to start working together in a new way to improve how well children and young people grow up in Palmerston. We realise that one organisation or government department by itself cannot have all the answers and that we all need to work together to respond to social issues within the community that are impacting the development and experiences of children and young people.

Grow Well Live Well is not just another Palmerston based community group. While many groups that work together will likely achieve some change and success, the collective impact approach is more ambitious. It aims for change to be sustained over time in both the community and in the way government and community organisations work with and for the Palmerston community.

One of the central parts of a collective impact approach is community led action. In 2015 Grow Well Live Well became much more visible within Palmerston as community and service provider consultations began. Genuine community voice can be a tricky thing to capture so we used a number of strategies to help us gather information to get a clear picture of the issues that are important to community members. A

'State of Palmerston's Children and Young People' report will be produced in the coming year and will provide a picture of growing up and living in Palmerston. The report and community consultation information will be used to plan short and long term strategies for children and young people in the Palmerston area.

NATIONAL FAMILIES WEEK

The City of Palmerston held a Circus Workshop at Goyder Square as part of National Families Week.

The event was held on Sunday 15 May with support from Community Service Providers. National Families Week is a time to celebrate with your family, make contact with your extended family and friends, and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community.

The Workshop was held under a marquee, with ten circus artists engaging with over 200 people who attended, helping them to master the skills of juggling, plate spinning, big bubble making, stilt walking and many other fun activities. Community Service providers hosted other interactive games, stalls and a sausage sizzle.



200

**CHILDREN, PARENTS,
GRANDPARENTS AND
GRANDCHILDREN
ATTENDED THE NATIONAL
FAMILIES WEEK EVENT**



1.2 SAFE COMMUNITIES

We are committed to ensuring the safety and security of our community.

Animal Management
 Cyclone Disaster and
 Emergency Management
 Regulatory Services
 Street Lighting
 Support and Advocacy:
 Emergency Services
 Support and Advocacy: Crime
 Prevention and Law Enforcement
 Support and Advocacy:
 Injury Prevention

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND INJURY PREVENTION

PALMERSTON SAFE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Council coordinates the Palmerston Safe Communities Committee (PSCC). We work in partnership with the NT Government, businesses and the community to reduce and prevent injuries, accidents and crime. The PSCC is committed to promoting the safety and well-being of Palmerston residents and visitors; applying the World Health Organisation Safe Communities Framework in the Palmerston municipality.

Three PSCC sub committees have identified areas they would like to focus on and have already met to start to work on these throughout 2016/17.

- 1 **Community Safety** Community Safety, Personal Safety, Party Safety
- 2 **Getting Around Safely** Public Transport, Motorised Mobility Booklet, Vulnerable Road Users
- 3 **Home Safety** Pool Safety, Learning to Swim, CPR Awareness

PIPES AND DRAINS

The City of Palmerston proudly supported the NT Water Safety 'Stay out of Pipes and Drains' campaign. Council again provided funding to the Royal Life Saving Society Australia to support the safety promotion message and to purchase new banners, slap bands with USB's and magnets for use in educational sessions.

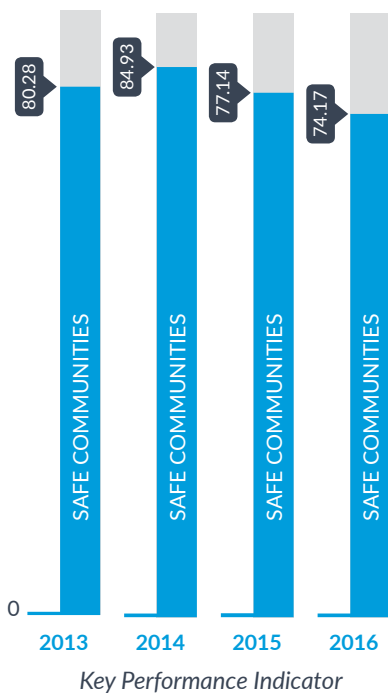
WHITE RIBBON DAY

The Mayor and the CEO led the City of Palmerston employees in support of White Ribbon Day, by recording themselves taking the oath – I will stand up, speak out and act to prevent men's violence against women. This recording was shown on the Goyder Square TV and promoted through Facebook.

BUILDING BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAM

The Building Better Neighbourhoods Program is about turning strangers into neighbours and streets into neighbourhoods, making neighbourhood's safe, fun and friendly places to live. It's about Palmerston residents taking the time to take part in small and local acts of neighbourliness. For some that may mean a first wave or smile, a chat over the fence, inviting a neighbour over for a cuppa or holding a neighbourhood barbeque. Put simply, it's about going one step further in getting to know those 'next door'.

'Good Neighbours, Make Great Neighbourhoods', when people make the choice to be a good neighbour, individuals, families and neighbourhoods benefit. We know that when Australian communities foster connection and everyday 'neighbourliness', they are soon safer, stronger and more resilient. Besides this, our neighbourhoods



85



CHILDREN, PARENTS,
GRANDPARENTS AND
GRANDCHILDREN ATTENDED
THE NEIGHBOUR DAY
ACTIVITIES



COMMUNITY
BBQ SUPPORTED 25
COMMUNITY EVENTS

provide a great chance for us to meet people who are different from us, which can help us learn how to connect with a variety of people.

To support the Building Better Neighbourhoods Program, Neighbour Day events were organised. This year Neighbour Day fell on Easter Sunday, the City of Palmerston ran two community events, one in the Library Community Room and one at Gray Community Hall. The Mayor became an Ambassador for Neighbour Day and was in attendance at both events. On the day, the Mayor had his photo taken for the official Neighbour Day website and recorded a promotional video to be shown on the Goyder Square TV.

COMMUNITY BBQ TRAILER

The Community BBQ Trailer continues to be free and available for use by members of the community, local organisations and groups to support activities and programs that directly benefit residents of the City of Palmerston.

The Community BBQ Trailer was used by a number of community groups throughout the year. Some of these include:

- Men's Shed
- Palmerston and Rural Seniors
- Sids and Kids
- Local dance and calisthenics groups
- The Defence Force

- NT Multiple Births Association
- Lions Club
- Brekkie in the Park events
- Girl Guides

The Building Better Neighbourhoods Program through the Community BBQ creates an opportunity for members of the community and community groups to build better relationships with the people who live around us, strengthening our community through social interaction.



RANGER SERVICES

Ranger Services are responsible for Public Places By-Law activities such as abandoned vehicles, untidy allotments and litter. This includes Animal Management By-Laws relating to lost or stray animals, aggressive dogs, licensing and annual registration. Signage By-Laws, such as 'sandwich boards' temporary banners and election signs are administered by Ranger Services section. They also take responsibility for traffic regulation under the NT Traffic Act and the Australian Road Rules.


Indigenous Village in partnership with an NGO Animal Management in Remote and Rural Indigenous Communities (AMMRIC) and Ark Animal Hospital.

Long grass audits on vacant blocks are conducted annually on the completion of the wet season. Notices are sent to property owners requiring them to slash overgrown blocks that may continue to become a fire hazard or harbour vermin. The Rangers section was also involved in city centre and suburban traffic management including timed parking, loading zones, footpath obstructions and ensuring disabled



6,016
REGISTERED DOGS

72 DOGS REHOMED
WITH RSPCA, TOP
END REHOMING
GROUP, DARWIN
ANIMAL RESCUE
GROUP AND PAWS



618
DOGS IMPOUNDED
(461 BEING RELEASED BACK
TO OWNERS)

Ranger Services maintained its proactive approach to achieving Council's objective of maintaining a safe, secure and amenable environment for Palmerston residents with an ongoing focus on compliance and education as well as law enforcement. Dog registration audits are conducted on an annual basis following the new registration year.

Close working relationships with the community have been maintained through education programs and regular Animal Management Reference Group meetings conducted throughout the year. The focus being on the continuing development of a Domestic Animal Management Plan in line with the anticipated introduction of new Palmerston Animal Management By-Laws legislation.

Dog health programs are conducted bi-annually at Palmerston

parking bays were only used for the purpose they were intended. This included the enforcement of time-restricted car parking within the privately owned Palmerston Shopping Centre via a contract agreement.

CYCLONE DISASTER AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Cyclones are predominant in the Top End during the wet season and preparation is key. In conjunction with the annual Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up, Council representatives participated in a number of information sessions held by various departments of the NT Government in preparation for the upcoming cyclone season.

Internally, a review is conducted of Council's Cyclone Counter Disaster Plan and updated accordingly. Council staff attends

compulsory training sessions in relation to the plan and relevant staff also form part of Council's Cyclone Reference Group.

· *Tips on how to prepare for a cyclone including emergency plans and kits, can be found at www.securent.nt.gov.au*

STREET LIGHTING

Park lights are important for communities as they provide a secure environment to walk along footpaths during dark hours. Council undertook eight audits for lights in all of our parks during night time at an interval of six weeks; a total of 435 lights were found to be faulty and were repaired.

Four old and rusty light poles were replaced with new poles. Forty old park lights across various suburbs were replaced by energy efficient LED flat panel lights.



153

INFRINGEMENT NOTICES ISSUED FOR DOG RELATED OFFENCES

1708



INFRINGEMENTS FOR
PARKING RELATED OFFENCES

168

 ABANDONED VEHICLE
COMPLAINTS ACTIONED

1.3 ARTS AND CULTURE

We are committed to the fostering and promotion of arts and culture within our community, the awareness and promotion of our local history, and advocacy for increased cultural resources.

Library Programs and Services
 Events
 Public Artwork
 Support and Advocacy: Arts and Culture Programs
 Support and Advocacy: Community Groups, Events and Attractions

Council understands that quality of life in our community is improved through the provision of a range of arts and cultural initiatives.

Although 2014/15 experienced an increase in the number and range of services Council provided in this area, we still see a significant drop in community satisfaction. A review of our promotion of initiatives and services may help us turn this around next year.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

It has been a year of innovation at the City of Palmerston Library with a number of developments aimed at improving our facilities and how we deliver services to our community.

In addition to the regular programs the library delivers, including computer classes, story time, KAT in the Park and school holiday events, the library collaborated with Tactile Arts creating a program of contemporary and educational art workshops for our community. These workshops range from henna hand painting to beading and crochet.

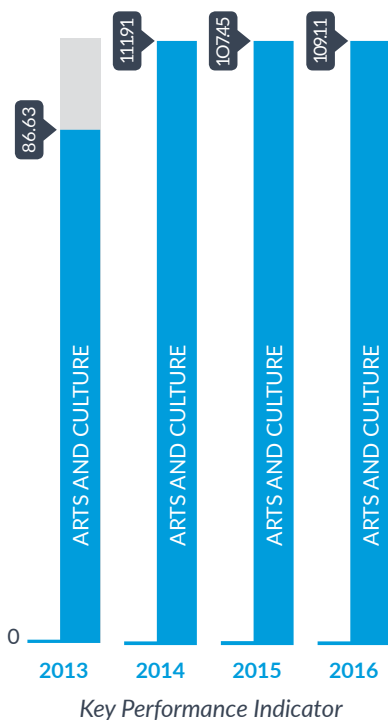
With community engagement and communication at the forefront of our minds, we entered the world of social media, joining Facebook in August 2014.

With over 550 likes, the library is well on the way to ensuring communication is available on a range of platforms. In line with innovation, the library also became the first library in the NT to implement PrinterOn, a mobile printing service which allows users to access printing facilities remotely from their device whether in the library or at home.

The library also completed a comprehensive stocktake of the entire physical collection in 2015. Over 50,000 items were checked individually by a team of dedicated staff to ensure the best possible service for our community.

Post stocktake, library staff also added an additional eBook platform to our collection. Wheelers eBook platform was identified as an important diversification to our e-resource provision.

This platform provides access to a number of authors and titles not available on our existing eBook platform.



146,000

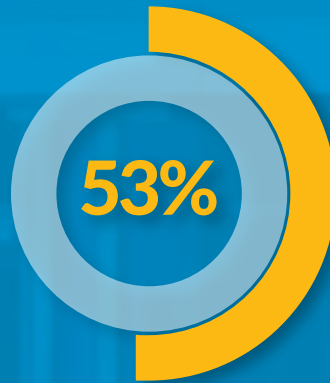


PEOPLE VISITED THE LIBRARY



190,314

LIBRARY ITEMS WERE BORROWED



OF THE PALMERSTON
POPULATION ARE
LIBRARY MEMBERS



HOURS WERE SPENT
ON THE LIBRARY
PUBLIC COMPUTERS

11,788



PEOPLE ATTENDED
OUR PROGRAMS

274

PROGRAMS WERE
DELIVERED WHICH
EQUALS ONE EVERY
WEEKDAY FOR THE
WHOLE YEAR

Council recognises the valuable contribution of art and culture to a flourishing, innovative and cohesive community and aims to contribute to a positive community and cultural identity for residents of Palmerston through facilitating, supporting and encouraging:

- Artistic expression through a variety of mediums by a diverse range of community members.
- Opportunities to build community pride and the capacity of community groups and residents.
- The increase of art and culture resources and the enhancement of places and spaces.
- Artists within Palmerston with a focus on permanent and temporary public art.
- Initiatives supporting Palmerston's commitment as a Refugee Welcome Zone, including Palmerston's migrant community.

Some arts and culture highlights from 2015/16 include:

PALMERSTON ARTS STRATEGY 2016-2021

The Palmerston Arts Strategy 2016-2021 has been collaboratively designed with the diverse communities of Palmerston and developed by expert arts consultants Jenny Kerr and Lorna Secrett. The Strategy demonstrates Council's commitment to arts and culture and builds on the city's strategic urban planning by providing a strategic action framework for dynamic and meaningful arts initiatives, inviting the community to both lead the way and participate. The Strategy has identified four outcomes which are supported by a detailed five-year action plan; the outcomes being:

- ➔ **OUTCOME ONE:**
To secure partnerships with sector stakeholders
- ➔ **OUTCOME TWO:**
To increase participation and engagement in arts, culture and heritage
- ➔ **OUTCOME THREE:**
To improve places and spaces
- ➔ **OUTCOME FOUR:**
To communicate the value of arts, culture and heritage

Three arts projects are outlined to provide a focus to achieve the Strategy Outcomes.

- 'Voices of Palmerston', a multi arts, multi-cultural project to engage all ages to collect and tell the stories of Palmerston people.

- Public arts enhancement and activation of the streetscape and public open space focusing on the CBD, particularly Goyder Square.
- Creative enterprise activation, focusing on collaborative planning for management and use of The Heights, Durack Community Centre.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Height's Durack Community Centre building, landscaping and car park was completed in May 2016. The building was officially opened by joint partners City of Palmerston, Charles Darwin University and PEET Limited on Thursday 9 June. The Community Centre has been architecturally designed as an Arts Centre and looks upon the manicured lawns and lake of Charles Darwin University. Council is currently in negotiations with artists, arts workers and arts providers to develop an exciting and refreshing program of art and culture activities for 2016/17. The Centre was launched and opened for arts practise on Saturday 20 August. Council looks forward to Palmerston families and residents engaging with the arts and enjoying workshops, art classes and opportunities for cultural and social interaction within the Centre.

GOYDER CHRISTMAS TREE AND LIGHTING CEREMONY

The nine-metre-high Christmas tree was once again installed in Goyder Square in December 2015. This coincided with the completion of Stage 2 of the redevelopment of the City Centre. Renowned local artist, Techy Masero, created a beautiful display of over 30,000 lights and dozens of hand crafted traditional Christmas decorations. The tree, a form of temporary public art, has become a source of community pride and Christmas spirit for Palmerston residents to celebrate and enjoy. The tree lighting ceremony was well attended by the community who were entertained with carolling by local bands, singers and community groups.

PALMERSTON CAROLS

City of Palmerston hosted the city's annual carols event to celebrate the 2015 festive season on Saturday 5 December. Palmerston Carols is a community celebration involving as many community performances and school choirs as possible and aims to wish residents and families with young children a happy holiday season. The community embraced the event with approximately 900 people in attendance. Many children and families, a large range of ages and nationalities attended and the Palmerston Recreation Centre provided an excellent air conditioned venue on an extremely humid



Harmony Day Football Festival

evening which greatly increased the comfort of the audience and performers.

HARMONY DAY FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

Harmony Day promotes the message that everyone belongs. It is a day of cultural respect and a day to celebrate Australia's diversity. For the second time, Council worked with a small group of stakeholders to organise a Harmony Day Football Festival held in Gray. This festival consisted of football (soccer) games, cultural performances, information and services stalls, kid's art activities, games and fun. The Festival promotes the forging of links and assists building relationships between community groups and services building capacity and creating opportunities for connection.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Council partnered for the first time with City of Darwin and United Nations Association of Australia NT to participate in the Top End's International Women's Day Walk and Expo. The holding of the joint event at the symbolic location of the Northern Territory's Parliament House showed solidarity that we all stand together to celebrate the achievements of women in the Northern Territory and support gender equality throughout all aspects of NT life.

The event was successful with 30 stall holders, four performances, and speakers including a key note speaker, a well organised walk, smoking ceremony with Welcome to Country and morning tea and refreshments. Whilst difficult to gauge the level of participation from Palmerston residents, it was a valuable relationship building and strengthening project for the City of Palmerston.

TOP END REFUGEE WEEK

As a result of Palmerston's commitment as a Refugee Welcome Zone, and in recognition that many newly arrived migrants and refugees live within the Palmerston municipality, Melaleuca Refugee Centre decided to hold their annual Top End Refugee Day event at Goyder Square. This was held on Saturday 18 June and was supported through Council's Community Grants program and the Community Development, Mayor's Office and Media Projects teams. The event consisted of a Citizenship Ceremony, information stalls, food stalls, kid's games and activities, mini soccer games and a diverse multi-faceted cultural performance program. The event was a successful celebration of cultural diversity and belonging.

FLICNICS

In 2015/16 continued to encourage social health and well-being through the opportunity for Palmerston residents to gather together and enjoy free family friendly movies under the stars. The program continued at Sanctuary Lakes for the first part of the financial year and proved popular with approximately 200-300 people attending each night, once a month. The FlicNics program also provides the opportunity for two community groups per evening to hold fundraising food stalls. In April 2016 the FlicNics program relocated to the large TV screen in Goyder Square. This relocation has allowed Council to expand the program to show free family movies every Saturday night and has reduced the programs human resource requirements resulting in greater cost efficiency. The location allows families to enjoy the outdoor life style the Territory is known for.

GARAGE SALE TRAIL - REBOOT YOUR LOOT

For the first time the City of Palmerston joined the National Garage Sale Trail with our 'Reboot Your Loot' car park sale in October. The Garage Sale Trail began in Bondi, NSW in 2010. It was an idea to combat illegal dumping - 'Don't Dump It Sell It'. The program has grown from one Council and 126 garage sales in 2010 to a healthy partnership with over 133 Councils and more than 8,000 garage sales registered in Australia in 2015. The event added value to Councils commitment to support recycling, re-use and minimisation education initiatives. Palmerston had over 40 community members register to participate in the Reboot Your Loot sale and they spent the morning selling used and preloved items. Palmerston Lions Club assisted staff with parking and Palmerston Kiwanias hosted the BBQ. The most popular items on the day for sale were kid's toys, homewares and fishing gear.

AUSTRALIA DAY CITIZENSHIP AND FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

The ceremony was held on Tuesday 26 January 2016 at the Palmerston Recreation Centre and commenced with the traditional raising of the Australian Flag by the Australian Defence Force - Tri Service. This year's ceremony was led by the Mayor of Palmerston as the presiding officer authorised by the Australian Government. Alderman Sue McKinnon performed the Master of Ceremonies duties.

Palmerston welcomed 36 new Australians who affirmed their commitment to Australia and received their citizenship certificates. Palmerston residents and guests of the new citizens also affirmed their commitment to Australia by taking part in an Australian Citizenship Affirmation Ceremony. Shellie Morris sang two verses of the National Anthem in English followed in Gundjeihmi language. A major feature of Australia Day is always the presentation of the Student Citizen Awards, Palmerston Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year and Event of the Year Awards.

These awards are presented to local achievers for their outstanding contribution to our community. Four students from Durack, Gray Primary Schools and Mackillop and Palmerston Christian Colleges were presented with Student Citizen Awards. Ten nominations were received for the Community Event of the Year for City of Palmerston. This award was won by Palmerston Senior Songsters. Eight nominations were received for the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year for City of Palmerston.

The young Citizen was won by Venaska Cheliah with the Citizen of the Year being won by Rachel Fosdick. Another positive outcome was the live broadcast of the City of Palmerston Australia Day event by ABC radio throughout the Northern Territory.



Garage Sale Trail



Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony



Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony



Freedom of Entry



CITRA Indonesia



Jazz in the Square



FREEDOM OF ENTRY

City of Palmerston granted Freedom of Entry and approval to Exercise the Freedom of Entry to the 8th/12th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery, Robertson Barracks on Saturday 16 April 2016 at Goyder Square. A Senior Police officer from the Palmerston Police acted in the capacity of the City Marshall. The Honorary Colonel, the host officer inspected the parade before exercising their right to the City. The Mayor of Palmerston, Mr Ian Abbott was a guest on the dais on the day. A number of community members lined the streets of Palmerston to watch the 'Granting of Entry' and the 'Exercise the Freedom of Entry' to the city.

CITRA INDONESIA

A brand new initiative in 2016, a small cultural celebration that exposed and promoted Indonesian culture. Citra Indonesia aimed to strengthen relationships between local residents of Palmerston and the Indonesian community, bringing the community together to celebrate the unique and diverse culture and lifestyle that exists in Palmerston.

City of Palmerston had the opportunity to work in partnership with Balai Indonesia Inc., Indonesian Consulate and Indonesia University students from CDU to host the event on Saturday May 7. The celebration included an entertainment program featuring traditional and contemporary Indonesian dances that reflect the richness and diverse Indonesian culture. Ancient dance traditions such as K2J Kolintang Group (from Jakarta), Parahiyangan Angklung and dance group (Jakarta) and Cindy Onekore song and dance group (Ende/Flores, NTT) were performed. Local schools, Indonesian dance groups and solo artists also performed.

NEW INITIATIVES IN GOYDER SQUARE

In 2016 two new initiatives were introduced to Goyder Square. Trivia in the Square was held on two nights, over two weeks, it was very successful and enjoyed by many families and has led to the planning for two more. The Trivia nights provided a free community event for the whole family and the chance to win some great prizes.

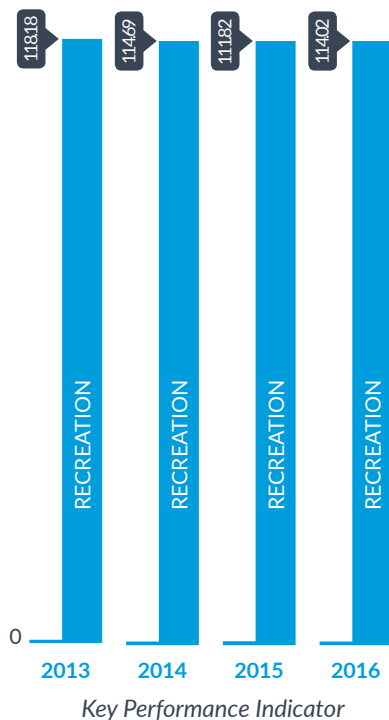
The Trivia Master held 4 rounds with one round being sung, this added a difference to Trivia which was very well received by all attendees. Jazz in the Square is the other new initiative for the square.

Jazz kicked off on Sunday 19 June with a local live Jazz trio setting the scene for a relaxing Sunday afternoon in Goyder Square, this event provides free music for the community every fortnight until the end of September. The community are invited to bring their rugs and chairs and to relax on the main central lawn area and enjoy the amazing atmosphere.

1.4 RECREATION

We are committed to providing quality recreation and sporting facilities, parks, gardens, playgrounds and open spaces for the benefit of our community.

Sporting, Recreational and Leisure Facilities and Programs
Walking and Cycling Infrastructure
Parks, Gardens and Playgrounds
Streetscapes and Open Spaces
Support and Advocacy: Increased Recreational Infrastructure



Although well over our target of 100 indicating general satisfaction by the community for recreational facilities and offerings in the city, it is pleasing to see an improvement in our score for this year.

Council maintains approximately 126 parks, gardens, playgrounds, reserves and open spaces for use by residents and visitors along with a broad expanding network of cycling and walking paths, several community centres, one swimming pool and recreational centre.

WALKING AND CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURES

Council manages approximately 40km of cycle path asset and 163km of footpath. A significant amount of maintenance and capital works have been carried out on footpaths this past 12 months. Some of the major pathway works include:

- New footpath section has been installed to join Northern side carpark of Marlow Lagoon to the culvert located to the East of the Lagoon. Level of footpath section in Marlow Lagoon between two art structures have been raised to mitigate flooding and water ponding issue over the footpath.
- Replacement of 2630m² of concrete and asphalt on paths along laneways, parks and road reserves.
- Installation of 280m of 1.5m wide footpath in various locations along road reserve and 210m of 1.5m wide footpath in parks and open spaces under the disability access program.
- Installation of six new and replacement of ten non-compliant pram crossings in various locations.
- Weekly sweeping of all pathways in the City Centre and monthly sweeping of footpaths in other suburbs.

PARKS GARDENS AND PLAYGROUND, STREETSCAPES AND OPEN SPACES

The Open Space Section of the Technical Services department manages trees, parks, gardens, playgrounds, irrigation systems and capital work projects to maintain and improve the cities open space network.

Asset construction and renewal is another core function of Council and some capital improvements during this 2015/16 year have been:

- New shade sails were installed over play equipment at Fish River Park in Gunn and at Patterson Park in Bakewell.
- BBQs, water fountains and shaded picnic facilities were constructed at Dunbar Park in Gray, Haydon Park in Rosebery, and Tiverton Park in Moulden.
- Provision of an all abilities playground and shade sail at Tracey Park in Woodroffe.
- Irrigation systems were replaced at Bill Lewis Park, Flora McLaren Park and Ida Scott Park in Bakewell, a section of Golden Grove Park in Rosebery at the Recreation Centre lawns, the first median on Chung Wah Terrace, Gager Park in Gunn, Bowman Park and Prism Park in Woodroffe and important improvements were made to the system at Tracey Park in Woodroffe as well.
- Installation of 10 x Telemetry irrigation controllers at Ida Scott Park, Lambrick Avenue x 4, Marlow Lagoon Recreation Area x 3, Lindsay Bore, and Flora McLaren Park.
- Irrigation controller cabinets were progressively replaced with new stainless steel to increase longevity. New cabinets were provided to Marlow Lagoon, Lambrick Avenue x 4, Eric Asche Park in Farrar, Flora McLaren Park in Bakewell, Gager Park in Gunn and Prism Park in Woodroffe.
- Lightning protection was installed at irrigation controllers and electrical switchboards at Lake 10 in Durack, Woodroffe Bore, Phyllis Uren Park in Farrar and at Sanctuary Lakes in Gunn.

Tree planting continued this year through the wet season with trees provided at Sanctuary Lakes, Golden Grove Park, Eric Asche Park, Joan Fejo Park and various road reserves.

186

**MOWING
CONTRACT
INSPECTIONS**



147

**ROUTINE PARK
SAFETY/CONTRACT
INSPECTIONS**



663

**PLAYGROUND
INSPECTIONS BY
CONTRACTORS**



pump and housing was installed at Lake 1 in Durack





235
TREES PLANTED



310
INSTANCES OF REMEDIAL TREE
WORK COORDINATED BY STAFF

Officers continue to refine and implement the Street Tree Pruning Program coordinating contractors to attend to every street tree in each suburb to provide pedestrian and vehicular clearance and sight lines, and identify to Council officers where further work may be required, that allows officers to determine how the work may be prioritised.

Assessing development proposals for the open space section continues as Zuccoli and Durack are further expanded.

Four new parks were handed over to Council's maintenance in 2015/16 and incorporated into existing maintenance contracts including the large William Kirkby Jones Park in Zuccoli that has proven to be extremely popular with residents due to the large variety of play equipment, BBQ and relaxed setting.

Council have employed two permanent staff members to check and repair the cities irrigation systems. The employees have been steadily assessing irrigation system performance and feeding back information that will determine future capital work priorities.

The lakes in Durack and Gunn supply water to a very large area of grass and gardens. 2015/16 saw the replacement of an outdated pump arrangement that needed monthly maintenance to keep operational. A modern energy efficient pump and housing was installed at Lake 1 in Durack and has been highly successful to the point that staff have hardly had to attend since its installation.

A major highlight for the 2015/16 year has been the completion of the Goyder Square redevelopment, delivering a major improvement to the amenity of Palmerston Central Business District. Together with the works being carried out on The Boulevard, redevelopment of the Square also marks a key deliverable in the implementation of the Palmerston City Centre Master Plan. With broad open spaces and eye-catching geometry, the Square has hosted the revitalised Palmerston Friday Night Markets and a variety of activities and events over the 2016 dry season.



302
TREE ENQUIRIES FROM
RESIDENTS



200

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
(APPROXIMATELY)



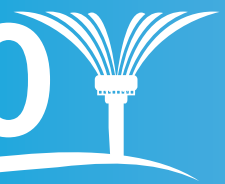
107

IRRIGATION LOCATIONS
REQUIRING ATTENTION
REPORTED BY RESIDENTS

917

IRRIGATION REPAIRS
UNDERTAKEN

120



HECTARES OF IRRIGATED GRASS
(APPROXIMATELY)

1.5 COMMUNITY BENEFIT SCHEME

Council actively supports initiatives which benefit the community.

We allocate funds annually to enable a community benefit scheme to provide financial support by way of grants, donations, scholarships and sponsorships. In 2015/16 Council issued the following community grants, donations and sponsorships:

COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT GRANTED	PROJECT TITLE
Life Education	\$2,000	Palmerston Youth Education
Palmerston 50+ Club	\$500	Annual Seniors Christmas Celebration
Riding for the Disabled	\$5,300	Purchase of shipping container for secure storage
Role Models and Leaders Australia	\$10,000	Support for Palmerston Girls Academy programs
Alzheimer's Australia NT	\$8,000	Development of Dementia-Friendly Garden
Sids and Kids	\$2,000	NT Walk 2 Remember
Special Children's Christmas Party	\$1,000	Special Children's Christmas Party 2015
Camp Quality Radio Auction	\$758.18	Camp Quality Radio Auction - fundraising
Bump Bub and Beyond Expo	\$7,000	Delivery of Bump Bub and Beyond Expo
Somerville Community Services	\$4,000	Delivery of three free community events for children and families
The Smith Family	\$2,000	Progressive Dinner to promote community service organisations to families
Amity Community Services	\$500	Support for migrant employment program
Darwin Community Arts Inc.	\$2,000	Fusion Multicultural music concert
Crime Stoppers NT	\$5,000	Crimestoppers 2016 Campaign
Palmerston Touch Football Australia	\$12,000	Touch Football NT Titles
Autism NT	\$2,000	Annual luncheon - fundraising
Helping People Achieve Inc.	\$1,353	Impact Day 2015 - provision of materials to enable community service program
Lung Foundation- BodyFit	\$4,750	Lungs in Action Palmerston
Australia Day Council NT Inc.	\$2,000	Australia Day Family Fun
Clean Up Australia Ltd	\$1,363.64	Support for Clean Up Australia Day
Palmerston and Rural Seniors Committee	\$12,000	Palmerston Seniors Fortnight
Palmerston Rugby Union Club	\$6,500	Purchase of new scrum machine for club use
Mackillop Catholic College	\$400	Purchase of award (Cup) for interschool sports challenge
Athletics NT	\$10,000	Palmy 5K Fun Run and Walk
YMCA of the Top End	\$2,500	Copz vs Kidz Basketball Challenge
Neighbourhood Watch NT	\$2,000	Ima the Safety House's Birthday Fun
Greek Traditional Dancing Group	\$500	Purchase of performers' shirts
Palmerston RSL	\$10,000	2016 ANZAC Day
Gray Primary School	\$500	NAIDOC Day
Top End Orienteers	\$1,500	Permanent Orienteering Course
Melaleuca Refugee Centre	\$7,500	World Refugee Day celebration
Arafura Wind Ensemble	\$6,000	Performances and practices 2016/17

COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT AWARDED	PROJECT TITLE
Charles Darwin University Foundation	\$2,500	COP Conservation Land Management Scholarship
Charles Darwin University Foundation	\$3,000	CDU Scholarships (3)



ANNUAL
SCHOOL
AWARDS



SCHOLARSHIPS

32

ORGANISATIONS/CLUBS
SUPPORTED THROUGH
THE PROGRAM

OF GRANTS AWARDED
FOR THE 2015/16
FINANCIAL YEAR
WERE AWARDED TO
COMMUNITY GROUPS
AND CLUBS

\$1200
TO ANNUAL
SCHOOL AWARDS

SCHOOL COMMUNITY AWARDS

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT AWARDED	PROJECT TITLE
Palmerston Christian School	\$100 each	Annual School Awards 2015/16
Woodroffe Primary School		
Rosebery Primary School		
Mackillop College		
Sacred Heart Primary School		
Good Shepherd		
Gray Primary School		
Rosebery Middle School		
Moulden Park Primary School		
Durack Primary School		
Driver Primary School		
Palmerston Senior College		

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.1 TOURISM

We are committed to supporting tourism throughout our region.

*Town and Business Signage
Accommodation
Support and Advocacy: Tourism Organisations and Operators
Support and Advocacy: Government initiatives*

This is a relatively new indicator for Council, in only its third year of measurement, and the trend upwards is likely due to the renewed activation occurring within the Central Business District, particularly Goyder Square where regular events and activities are held during the dry season.

Though Council does not play a primary role in the tourism industry, it seeks to influence and facilitate the growth of tourism through advocacy and support, as well as ensuring that by-laws related to town and business signage, car parking strategies and recreational infrastructure allow for growth.

Palmerston is a young city, and as such, is seeking to become a destination for visitors rather than just a residential area. Initiatives such as the City Centre Master Plan will play a major role in ensuring the infrastructure supports the growth of business and is capable of attracting the tourism industry.

In the past year we have seen the beginning of a number of new and exciting projects that will support the growth of business and tourism such as the rapid progress visible at the new Gateway Shopping Centre in Yarrowonga, completion of the first two stages of The Boulevard and the opening of Goyder Square, and the opening of the new Rydges Hotel behind the Palmerston Sports Club (*the Hub*) and Bellamack Shopping Centre.

GOYDER SQUARE TV

The Goyder Square TV is a large format screen mounted on the Palmerston Library which continues to play a strategic role in communicating with and attracting residents and visitors to Palmerston's Central Business District.

The screen also provides the City of Palmerston with a unique opportunity to link the city with other parts of Australia for a national experience, and with the wider international community to celebrate global events of cultural and community significance and entertainment value.

Community groups and local businesses are encouraged to approach Council to produce tailored and professional advertisements for their events and service offerings.





Palmerston is a young city,
and as such, is seeking
to become a destination
for visitors rather than just
a residential area.

2.2 LOCAL BUSINESS

We are committed to ensuring local businesses and industry receive the support they need in order to grow and prosper within our region.

Transport Infrastructure
Local Purchasing and Procurement
Support and Advocacy Government Funding Initiatives
Support and Advocacy: Training and Employment Initiatives
Support and Advocacy: Industry Organisations

Council recognises that in order to support local business and industry and to promote continual growth it needs to effectively communicate its strategies and initiatives. Council needs to partner with local business groups to influence the growth of the city. In this spirit, Council continues to participate in the Palmerston Regional Business Association (PRBA) and work on improving partnerships. The past year has seen the development of a car parking strategy and planned new developments as part of our City Centre Master Plan which will invite new commercial and retail businesses back into the heart of our city. Additionally, residential opportunities will aim to make city living an affordable reality for Territorians.

As part of the City Centre Master Plan, The Boulevard is being upgraded to become Palmerston's main-street, supporting new opportunities for restaurants, cafes, retailers and inner city living. Stage 1 and 2 of The Boulevard upgrade are now complete, and included:

- Installation of traffic lights with pedestrian crossing at the Chung Wah Terrace intersection
- Construction of new road pavement and asphalt
- Removal of the roundabout at The Boulevard-Palmerston Circuit intersection adjacent to Goyder Square, as well as the roundabout adjacent to the Quest.
- Installation of two pedestrian zebra crossings
- Widening of The Boulevard adjacent to Goyder Square
- Improved parking bays
- Shared bicycle and pedestrian path
- Installation of new LED street lighting
- Landscaping to integrate The Boulevard with Goyder Square

Together with the completion of Goyder Square, Council's investment in renewing the CBD is calculated to attract visitors and investment into the City Centre.

Road maintenance is one of the core functions of Council's Technical Services department, and it plays an important role in promoting commerce and visitation to the city. We constantly monitor our roads and carry out necessary maintenance activities to rectify any identified defects.





205
VANDALISED
SIGNS
REPAIRED



450
POTHOLES
REPAIRED

7,220m²
SPRAY
SEALING OF
ROADS



Major highlights of works carried out on roads are:

- Constructed a new pedestrian crossing with a refuge island along Lambrick Avenue
- Constructed a new roundabout at Temple Terrace/ Emery Avenue intersection
- Reconstruction of 396m² of road
- Profiling and asphaltting of 6,669m² of road
- Completion of four monthly sweeping of all minor and local access roads and quarterly sweeping of all sub-arterial roads
- Replacement of 62m length of kerb
- Replacement of 239 damaged signs
- Replacement of 41 faded street signs
- Started using an electronic speed detection device, which detects and displays the speed of oncoming vehicles and also provides the traffic-speed statistics. It is being moved across various school zones and roads, where Council has assessed to have speeding concerns.

LOCAL PROCUREMENT

As the chart shows below, Council's focus on local procurement wherever possible has been quite effective during the 2015/16 year.

LOCATION	SUM	%
ACT	\$5,581	0.02
NSW	\$1,820,909	5.28
NT	\$22,147,204	64.17
QLD	\$6,191,310	17.94
SA	\$1,091,250	3.16
TAS	\$6,082	0.02
VIC	\$3,060,964	8.87
WA	\$172,337	0.50
NZ	\$15,600	0.05
TOTAL	\$34,511,238	100

Council recognises that in order to support local business and industry and to promote continual growth it needs to effectively communicate its strategies and initiatives.



2.3 CITY PLANNING

We are committed to effective and responsible city planning which balances and meets both residential and commercial needs in our community.

City of Palmerston City Centre Master Plan Implementation
 Public Land Use
 Support and Advocacy: NT Government Planning and Development Control

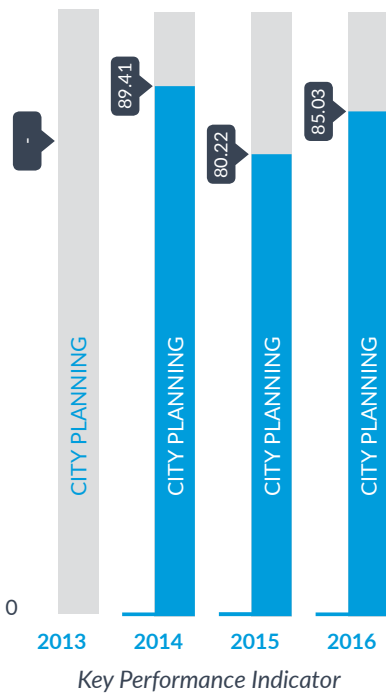
Local Government in the Northern Territory does not have planning authority, unlike in other states. This means there are limited means by which Council is able to influence planning matters within the municipality. While the performance score has improved for 2015/16, Council recognises that it needs to continue to work collaboratively with the Northern Territory Government to influence planning outcomes for the city.

As with Local Business and Industry, Council continues to refine its plans and strategies with regards to City Planning. This past year has seen major progress in the implementation of Council's Palmerston City Centre Master Plan with the completion of Goyder Square Stage 2, encompassing Frances Mall, Goyder Square and the water tower park. The result is an exciting public space in the City Centre that has supported a wide range of activities including an outdoor dry season cinema schedule called FlicNics, the Friday night markets, and a performance area and recreational area which has been used for civic events from jazz concerts to military processions. Large shade trees continue to grow rapidly, and the grassed areas and water feature create a refreshing oasis for residents and workers in the City Centre during the day. Lighting has energised the area at night and provides opportunities for the City Centre to grow into an active and safe space for alfresco dining and other activities by night.

In addition, 2015/16 saw the completion of Stage 2 of the Boulevard, bringing the vision of a "high street" for Palmerston closer to fruition. Stage 3 is anticipated to be completed in September 2016, and is the final stage of construction.

Council representatives continue to work with the Department of Education and Catholic Education on the new Catholic primary school being planned for the Zuccoli suburb, as well as a variety of smaller projects spread throughout the municipality.

Council continues to work closely with developers and NT Government planners as new suburbs are developed. Where possible, Council has sought to influence and persuade stakeholders to provide outcomes which benefit the community as a whole. Council's decision to employ its own professional planning officer to ensure Council provides expert advice and feedback to the Northern Territory Planning Authority on planning applications and planned developments has resulted in a number of significant successes in this area, and has enabled Council to continue its strategic vision for the CBD.





PALMERSTON CITY CENTRE Master Plan



Council continues to work closely with developers and NT Government planners as new suburbs are developed.

3. ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

*Climate Change Impact Reduction
Greenhouse Emissions Measurement and Reduction
Energy and Water Resource Management Initiatives
Support and Advocacy: Planning and Development Controls
Support and Advocacy: Community Action, Education and Organisations
Support and Advocacy: Conservation and Biodiversity*

The City of Palmerston is committed to Sustainability and Greening Palmerston. Council’s Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018: At Work-In the Community has been developed to enable the city to achieve excellence in the management of environmental and climate change responsibilities and to work with the community to enable a sustainable future for the city as a whole. It takes into consideration risks to city assets and operations from natural hazards and climate change to improve performance and resilience.

The Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government reviewed the draft strategy and noted it as a comprehensive and visionary document addressing the wide range of challenges facing the City of Palmerston community and the implications of challenges for all areas of the city’s activities and functions.

Measuring progress of the strategy is based on 10 key priorities, strategic directions and targets over the five-year plan and quarterly activities are linked through quarterly Key Performance Indicator Reporting.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout the year, participation in a variety of community, Council and staff environmental initiatives enabled many of the key priorities of the Sustainability Strategy to be achieved.

Two achievements of note this year were the City of Palmerston being nominated as a finalist in the “Best NRM Story” category at the 2015 Northern Territory Natural Resource Management Awards and hosting the ‘Taking Sustainable Palmerston Forward’ a free public forum at which Professor Andrew Campbell and Mark Wiltshire were guest presenters.

In addition, Council completed the refitting of a large portion of the Civic Centre building with LED lights, taking the next of a series of steps to achieve greater energy efficiency and reduce carbon consumption in Council operations.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS

Council annually participates in Clean Up Australia Day, Earth Hour, the Mobile Muster (*recycling of old unwanted mobile phones*) in November, Close the Loop (*recycling of printer cartridges*), Sustainability Week and World Environment Day in June, and engages with local organisations and schools throughout a variety of opportunities during the year.

In March of this year the City of Palmerston partnered with the Northern Territory Government, NT Fisheries and the Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT (AFANT) in the release of barramundi fingerlings into various lakes in Palmerston. Around 9,000 fingerlings were released and three new recreational fishing zones were approved by Council.

A commitment was made by Council to construct fishing platforms and associated infrastructure at these locations thereby encouraging families to partake in more land based fishing activities. To give the fingerlings the best chance, Council carries out regular water quality monitoring to ensure the health and vitality of our waterways is maintained.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The City of Palmerston continues to experience strong growth and development. Part of maintaining the balance between nature and urban development is continuing to have strong working relationships with the various developers of newer suburbs to ensure the retention of important assets that benefit the community and the environment.

The City of Palmerston
continues to experience
strong growth
and development.



3.2 ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

We are committed to maintaining and developing community assets and infrastructure which meet the needs of our community.

Roads, Bridges, Footpaths and Car Parking
 Council Buildings and Facilities
 Stormwater Infrastructure
 Support and Advocacy: Traffic Management and Road Safety
 Support and Advocacy: Territory and Federal Infrastructure and Land

Council remains well above its target of 100 in this area, and is trending upwards. Council maintains over \$350M worth of assets on behalf of the community and is continually aiming to improve how well we do it.

UNIT COMPLEX 48 ODEGAARD DRIVE, ROSEBERY

The City of Palmerston has developed a 15-unit complex at 48 Odegaard Drive, Rosebery. The units have been head-leased to the Department of Housing under the NT Government's Real Housing for Growth Initiative which allows eligible key workers to access rental properties at 30% below market rate. The unit complex comprises seven 2 bedroom villas and eight 3 bedroom townhouses.

The project has constructed an asset for the City of Palmerston that will provide a low risk, guaranteed revenue stream into the future.

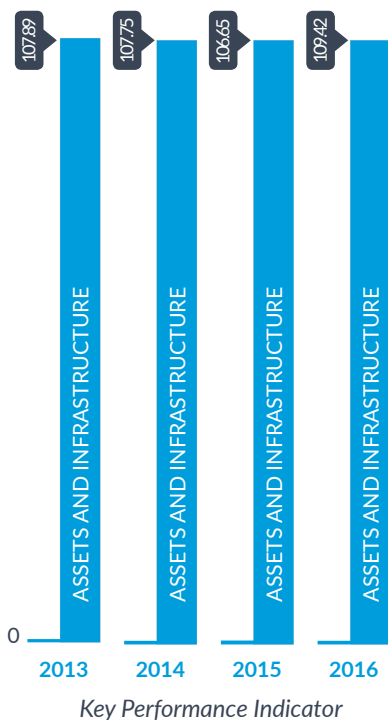
STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Periodic inspection and maintenance of stormwater infrastructure is critical for the safety of properties and lives. Stormwater infrastructure throughout the municipality was inspected in accordance with the Risk Based Infrastructure Manual to check safety, blockage and damage. All of the secured stormwater structures were inspected three times during the year to check the safety conditions of structures. Necessary repair work was carried out as required. Other major works carried out on stormwater infrastructure include:

- Replacement of 113 stormwater pit lids, replacement of 20 stormwater pit lintels and reinstatement of 11 dislodged lids.
- Cleaning of 14 blocked stormwater pipes in various locations.
- Inspected all major open drains and cleaned drains in Joan Fejo Park, Rosebery Drain, Maluka Drain and Marlow Lagoon Drain.
- 256 stormwater connections to Council's infrastructure were permitted in various locations.

CAR PARKS

Council maintains 12 car parks. This year, the car park in front of Memorial Park in CBD was resurfaced and new line-marking was installed. Potholes and pavement issues in all car parks were regularly monitored and rectification works carried out as required.





33
SIGNAGE REQUESTS

224 
ENQUIRIES RELATED TO TREES

 **68**
GENERAL ROAD ENQUIRIES

49 
VERGE REQUESTS 





Council carried out weekly sweeping of City Centre car parks, Sanctuary Lake Car Park and Marlow Lagoon Car Park. Monthly sweeping of Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre Car Park and quarterly sweeping of Joan Fejo Car Park, Gray Community Hall car park and Driver Resource Centre car park was undertaken.

BRIDGES

Council owns and maintains all the road bridges, culverts and footbridges located within its road reserves and open spaces. A new footbridge along Flockhart Drive, worth \$450,000, was installed under the Federal Government's Black Spot program. One of the Marlow Lagoon Park timber footbridges that was in poor condition was removed and a rock filled embankment with concrete pathway and safety rails was installed. In-house level 1 routine maintenance bridge and major culvert inspections were carried out.

LAND

Council is a major landowner in the Central Business District of Palmerston. During 2015/16, Council determined to sell two blocks of land in the CBD for development in line with the Palmerston City Centre Master Plan:

- Lot 10029/Part Lot 9608 (a 1,400m² vacant lot and carpark between the Quest and the library).
- Lot 10024 (a 1,400m² vacant grassed lot adjacent to the Recreation Centre and across the street from McDonalds).

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

In the year 2015/16, regular audits of fire services, air conditioning services, RCD tests, testing and tagging of appliances and pest control were also carried out. Some of the highlights of works undertaken in buildings and facilities are summarised below:

- A new exeloo was installed and opened for public use in Goyder Square in April 2016.
 - At the Swimming and Fitness Centre, crimsafe security screens were installed on the windows of the building. Front roller door was

Council is a major landowner in the Central Business District of Palmerston.

replaced, irrigation system around the buildings were repaired. Filter sand and laterals of two of the filter units were replaced and the cracked flange stub at pump station was replaced. Maintenance works were carried out on pump one.

- In the library, renovation works were undertaken in the foyer. New furniture, power points and servery window on the café side were installed. Motion activated sensor lights were installed at the courtyard and all the non-working air-conditioning controllers were replaced.
- At the Civic Plaza, stage 1 re-roofing work was completed. 40 numbers of existing 72W fluorescent lights were replaced with Thorn LED T bar lights. High wall cleaning and all external windows were cleaned, leaking water main was repaired at the car park. Design documents including architectural, mechanical, electrical and structural design of proposed ground floor alteration was completed.
- At Driver Resource Centre, exterior painting of the building was carried out, renovation to toilets were done and new bathroom fixtures were installed.
- At Gray Community Hall, old ceiling tiles were replaced with plasterboards to make the air-conditioning efficient and, carpark lights were replaced with Solar LED Lights.
- In the Recreation Centre, the backboard of the basketball hoop was replaced, air-conditioner HRU filters were replaced.

DEVELOPMENTS

One of the principle roles of the Technical Services team is Design Approval and Acceptance of Gifted Assets from Major Developments in the City of Palmerston. When developments occur around the city, such as the new stages being rolled out in The Heights, Durack or Zuccoli, Council works hard to ensure that the roads, parks, stormwater infrastructure and other infrastructure being turned over to Council's care and control (*called "gifted assets", and described further in Council's annual financial statements*) meet the standards set out in its Subdivisional Guidelines. This ensures that the useful lives of these assets are in line with community expectations. As reported in the Annual Roads Return, 2.54kms of roads was gifted to City of Palmerston. This brings the total length of roads under the ownership of the City of Palmerston to 197.05kms.

During the 2015/16 year, a total of \$12,548,115 in gifted assets were received by Council, compared with \$3,029,867 for 2014/15:

GIFTED ASSET	2016	2015
Land	\$3,080,000	\$480,000
Land Improvements	\$669,035	\$783,841
Roads and Pavement	\$2,542,901	\$657,617
Footpaths and Cycleways	\$1,234,022	\$176,797
Kerb and Gutter	\$444,366	\$58,520
Stormwater Drainage	\$4,498,141	\$664,857
Water and Irrigation	\$79,650	\$208,235

3.3 WASTE

We are committed to providing comprehensive and effective waste management services to our community.

Kerbside Waste Collection and Recycling
Hard and Green Waste Facilities
Support and Advocacy: Recycling, Re-Use and Minimisation
Support and Advocacy: Education Initiatives

We have received a very high indicator score again this year, this is not surprising given that we continue to offer the same services as in previous years. We received over 2,100 customer requests related to waste and 480 of these were due to waste bins not being picked up. Council provides just over 2.1M household bin services a year. Our complaint/request rate is 0.23%.

Less waste makes for a better City. Council provides services to make it easier to recycle and has a range of waste and recycling 'pick up and drop off' arrangements along with provision of specific education information and designated days to assist residents, such as the pre-cyclone clean-up.

The City of Palmerston operates the Archer Waste Transfer Station which is situated off Elrundie Avenue and access is free to all residents of Palmerston.

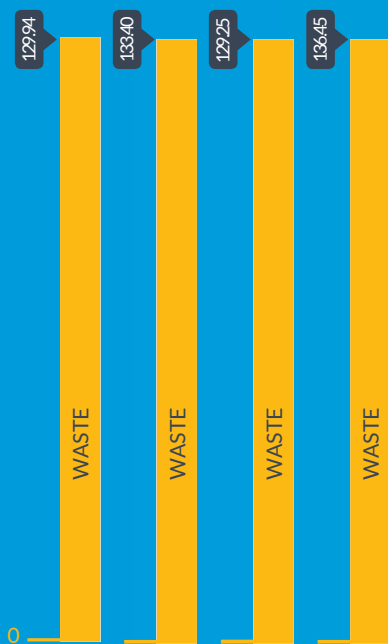
The City of Palmerston continues to offer a twice weekly general waste kerbside collection and a fortnightly recycle kerbside collection for single dwellings. Unit complexes have four collections per week for general waste and a weekly recycle collection. Our focus each year is to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill.

In 2014/15 our monthly average of kerbside waste going to landfill was 628 tonnes. In 2015/16 that figure increased to 666 tonnes. In comparison, our average monthly kerbside tonnage being recycled for the 2014/15 year was 143 tonnes. This figure decreased in 2015/16 to 134 tonnes.

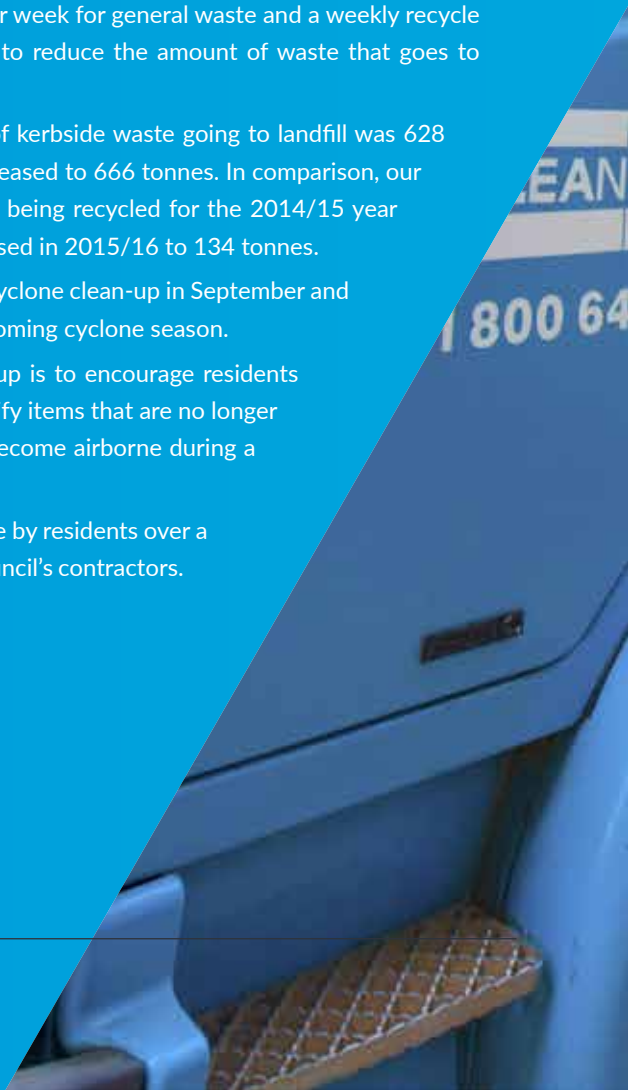
Each year Council conducts a pre-cyclone clean-up in September and October in preparation for the upcoming cyclone season.

The aim of the pre-cyclone clean-up is to encourage residents to look around their yard and identify items that are no longer of use that have the potential to become airborne during a severe storm or cyclonic event.

These items are placed on the verge by residents over a weekend and then collected by Council's contractors.

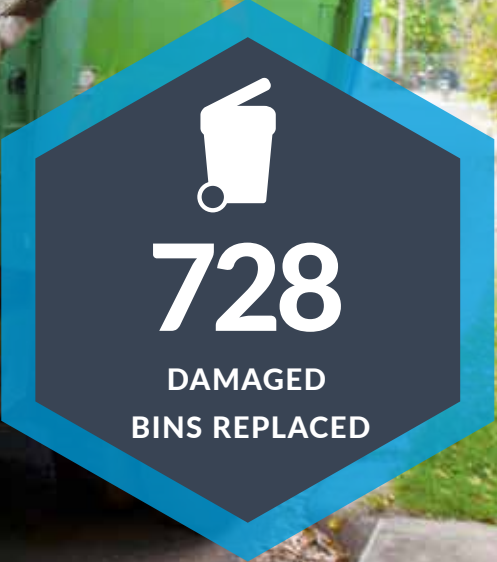


Key Performance Indicator





504
NEW WASTE
CONNECTIONS



115t
OF WASTE COLLECTED
DURING PRE-CYCLONE
CLEAN UP



4. GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION

4.1 RESPONSIBILITY

We are committed to corporate and social responsibility, the sustainability of Council assets and services and the effective planning and reporting of Council performance to the community.

Elected Member Accountability to the Community
Governance, Strategy, Legislation and Policy
Business Planning and Performance Reporting Frameworks
Financial Sustainability and Asset Management
Risk Management and Workplace Health and Safety

The 2015/16 year saw the departure of Alderman Heather Malone on 18 August 2015. Following a by-election, Alderman Athina Pascoe-Bell was elected to Council.

Council continues to publish the decisions made at every Council meeting in the local newspaper in a timely manner, giving increased visibility to decisions which effect residents and businesses. Agendas and Minutes for all Council and committee meetings continue to be posted on Council's website along with Council strategic plans and annual reports.

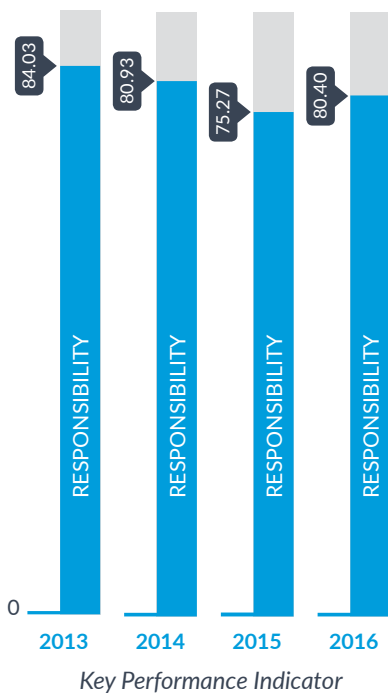
Council has also recently reviewed its public question time procedure for Council meetings and requested that a review of Council's consultation policy be presented to the Governance and Organisation Committee.

For more information regarding access to information, Council strategy or policy, or elected member accountability visit www.palmerston.nt.gov.au

ELECTED MEMBER ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE COMMUNITY

As well as attending regular Council meetings, Aldermen participate on a number of committees of Council which provide governance to the strategies and operations of Council.

Right are the Council and committee meetings held under this structure, together with attendance details for elected members.



COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE

TOTAL MEETINGS HELD FOR 2015/16



ELECTED MEMBER

ATTENDED

Mayor Ian Abbott	27	
Deputy Mayor Seranna Shutt	31	
Alderman Sue McKinnon	32	
Alderman Paul Bunker	32	
Alderman Andrew Byrne	32	
Alderman Geoff Carter	28	
Alderman Athina Pascoe-Bell <i>(appointed 17 November 2015)</i>	22 (100%)	

COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE

MEETINGS CALLED 2015/16	11
MEETINGS POSTPONED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM	0
MEETINGS HELD 2015/16	11

COMMITTEE MEMBER

ATTENDED

Alderman Sue McKinnon <i>(Chair)</i>	10	
Deputy Mayor Seranna Shutt	11 (100%)	
Alderman Geoff Carter	9	
Alderman Athina Pascoe-Bell <i>(appointed 17 November 2015)</i>	6 (100%)	

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE

MEETINGS CALLED 2015/16	11
MEETINGS POSTPONED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM	1
MEETINGS HELD 2015/16	10

COMMITTEE MEMBER

ATTENDED

Alderman Andrew Byrne <i>(Chair)</i>	9	
Deputy Mayor Seranna Shutt	10	
Alderman Paul Bunker	9	
Alderman Geoff Carter	9	

GOC
127

DECISIONS MADE

CCE
243

DECISIONS MADE

EDI
155

DECISIONS MADE

COUNCIL
761

DECISIONS MADE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE

MEETINGS CALLED 2015/16	11	ELECTED MEMBER	ATTENDED
MEETINGS POSTPONED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM	2	Alderman Paul Bunker (<i>Chair</i>)	9 ■
MEETINGS HELD 2015/16	9	Alderman Andrew Byrne	8 ■
		Alderman McKinnon	9 ■
		Alderman Athina Pascoe-Bell <i>(appointed 17 November 2015)</i>	6 ■

**The Mayor is an ex-officio voting member of Community, Culture and Environment, Governance and Organisation, Economic Development and Infrastructure committees*

Periodically, discussions and decisions made by Council are done in sessions closed to the public, as stipulated under the Local Government Act and associated Regulations. The City of Palmerston is committed to ensuring there are time limits

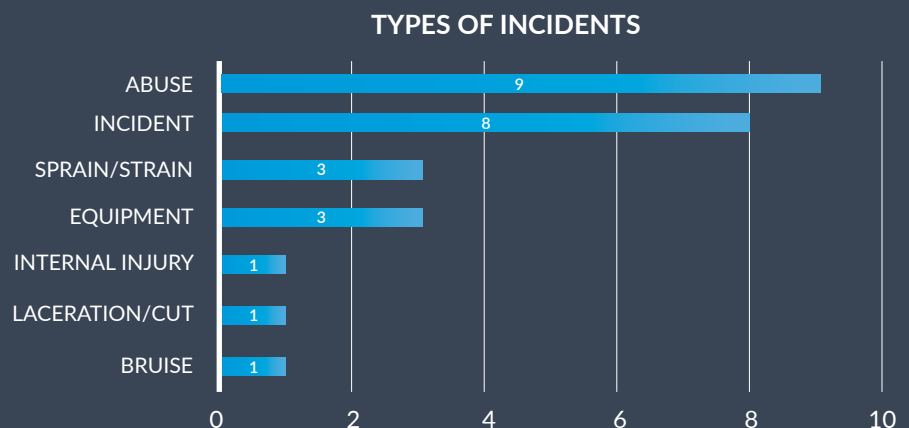
placed on confidential matters, and that wherever possible these decisions are brought into the open and accessible by the public. The following chart shows the number of confidential items, and the reason why it was confidential.

NUMBER OF INSTANCES	39
Grounds for Exclusion	
(a) 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;	2
(b) information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer	20
(c) (i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person	11
(c) (iv) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the interests of the council or some other person	2
(e) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential	4
Number of Matters Released in 2015/16	26
Number of Matters Remaining in Confidence 2015/16	31

The City of Palmerston continues to stress the importance of work Health and Safety among staff.

Team meetings continue to have a WHS as agenda items. Furthermore, Council participated in Work Health and Safety month in 2015 by running a safe work poster competition.

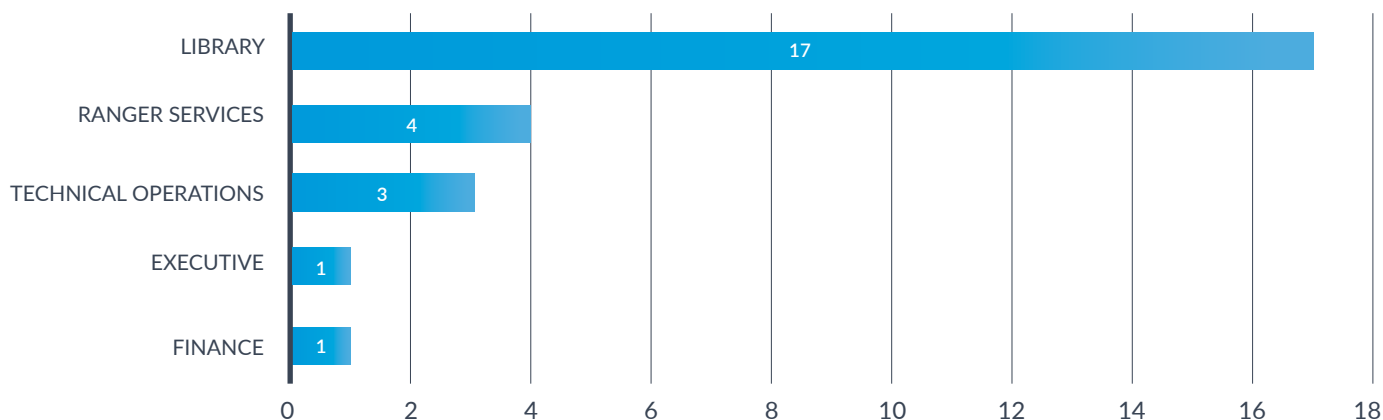
The competition was valuable as it involved all of Council.



26 incident/accident reports were documented by City of Palmerston staff for the financial year 2015/16, abuse being the most reported by staff (2 instances by Rangers and 12 by the Library).

Overall there was 47% decrease in total incidents over 2015/16 financial year (compared to 42 incidents for the previous year).

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS PER WORK AREA



Library still has the most reported incidents but is down 52% over the previous year (compared to 29 incidents for the previous year).

The City of Palmerston received 3 workers compensation claims over the 2015/16 financial year, this is an increase of 3 over the previous period.

INFORMATION AND PRIVACY

The City of Palmerston believes that the responsible handling of personal information is a key aspect of democratic governance and is strongly committed to protecting an individual's right to privacy. Accordingly, Council is committed to full compliance with its obligations under the Northern Territory Information Act.

The City of Palmerston will only use personal information within Council, or disclose it outside Council, for the purpose for which it was collected or as allowed under the Act.

For example, where you have consented or where the other purpose is related to the purpose for collection and you would reasonably expect this to occur. Some de-identified personal information may be used for policy development and social planning, but not in a way that reduces privacy. Council may disclose personal information to our contractors for the purpose of carrying out their duties. For example, if you make a complaint or a request for work to be carried out, such as repairs to a driveway or footpath outside your house,

Council may ask the contractor to contact you to arrange a suitable time for the work to be done. Wherever possible, Council will take every reasonable measure to protect your privacy. However, there may be some instances in which your anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

For example, if you make a complaint about a neighbour, you may be required to provide evidence in court if the matter cannot be resolved without legal action.

Another important part of the Northern Territory Information Act is the ability for members of the public to make application for A) access to personal information about themselves; and/or B) access to information about the operations of Council. These requests are commonly known as Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, and is a key component to transparent and open government.

Where requests are not in conflict with privacy principles protecting other members of the community, or other restrictions found within the Information Act, these requests are provided as quickly as possible. More details about how this can be done can be found on Council's website.

In addition, members of the public have the ability to make requests or seek redress for grievances through the office of the Northern Territory Ombudsman's office. The following chart shows the total number of issues dealt with for all three of these categories during 2015/16.

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF REQUESTS ACTIONED 2015/16
Access to Personal Information held by Council	0
Access to Other Information held by Council	1
Ombudsman Requests	2

TENDERS AWARDED

\$ VALUE OF CONTRACT	CONTRACT NUMBER	SERVICE PROVIDED	SUPPLIER
\$78,570.00	TS2015/08	Dog Pound Cleaning and Dog Feeding Services	PAWS Darwin
\$135,509.50	TS2015/11	Cleaning of City of Palmerston Buildings and Facilities	Ezko Property Services Pty Ltd
\$3,107,303.80	TS2016/01	The Boulevard - Stage 2	Mark Cundall Earthmoving Pty Ltd
\$408,902.11	TS2016/02	Flockhart Drive Pedestrian/ Cycle Bridge	Norbuilt
\$125,271.88	TS2016/04	City of Palmerston Civic Plaza Roof Replacement - Stage 1	Timber and Steel Constructions Pty Ltd
\$645,397.10	TS2016/05	Temple Terrace/Emery Avenue Roundabout	JLM Civil Works Pty Ltd

The City of Palmerston will only use personal information within Council, or disclose it outside Council, for the purpose for which it was collected or as allowed under the Act.



4.2 SERVICE

We value and encourage participation in Council activities by the community, and are committed to delivering the highest possible levels of service and community engagement.

Customer Service Standards
 Community Engagement and Voter Participation
 Governance and Participation on Council Advisory Groups
 Open Government and Transparency Initiatives

Council continues to put a great amount of effort into delivering a superior level of customer service and attempts to engage with the community in many ways to understand our community and enable Council to make decisions in the best interest of the community. You can see from above that our survey score does not reflect this and indicates that although Council is now reversing the trend upwards, it needs to take greater steps in 2016/17 in this area to meet the needs of our residents.

Council employs a Customer Service Request system which enables the organisation to better record, track and report on requests. This system caters for unpredictable staff absences and ensures that requests are acknowledged quicker and responded to in an appropriate timeframe. Residents and ratepayers can access this system directly from Council's website.

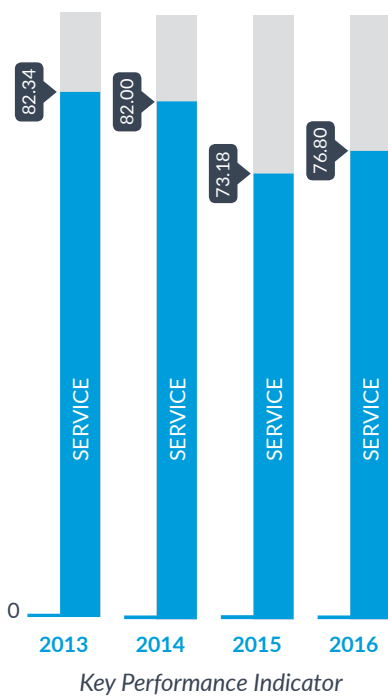
Everyone in our organisation will directly serve our customers, or support someone who does. All of our staff are trained in the importance of professional, responsive and personalised service that we want to deliver.

We are committed to:

- Consult with you on all key initiatives
- Explain By-laws and procedures clearly
- Provide assistance in a courteous and responsive manner
- Apply high standards of fairness and ethical behaviour
- Continuous improvement and the collection of data to do this

The 2015/16 year saw a number of community consultations occur, most importantly around the development of the 2016-2021 Municipal Plan and Annual Budget. This exercise included social media, publishing individual submissions, holding Council Meetings in venues around the community, and information nights regarding the proposed Draft Municipal Plan and Budget during the Friday night markets in Goyder Square. If you have any suggestions for improving our level of service, we would love to hear from you.

Following the resignation of Alderman Heather Malone in August 2015, a by-election was held in Palmerston. With 55% of 19,133 enrolled electors participating, Athina Pascoe-Bell was elected to fill the vacancy. The participation rate of electors is similar to that experienced during the 2013 by-election as well as the 2012 general election.



WORKING WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS

In 2015/16, City of Palmerston joined the Common Services Joint Venture (CSJV) started by a number of Tasmanian and Western Australian Councils seeking to reduce operational costs while improving efficiencies. This group acts as a local government market for the buying and selling of primarily professional services in areas such as financial administration, IT services, town planning and asset management and various specialty services which it is common for smaller Councils to normally access via expensive consultancies. In the Northern Territory, the CSJV now includes West Arnhem Regional Council, Litchfield Council, Coomalie Community

regarding issues relating to seniors in the Palmerston municipality.

Palmerston Safe Communities Committee (PSCC) works in partnership with Council and the NT Government, businesses and the community to reduce and prevent injuries, accidents and crime. The PSCC is committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of Palmerston residents and visitors.

Animal Management Reference Group serves to facilitate consultation and co-operation between the City of Palmerston and its stakeholders in the development of domestic animal management policy.

Palmerston and Rural Youth Services (PARYS) Network provides a forum for workers in the youth sector to discuss



Government Council and Wagait Shire Council as members. During the 2015/16 financial year, City of Palmerston sold specialty services to Brighton Council (Tasmania) and West Arnhem Regional Council, and purchased services from Litchfield Council.

The 2015/16 year also saw Palmerston work closely with City of Darwin to represent local government in the Northern Territory to negotiate the handover of street lighting assets from Power Water Corporation. Faced with unrealistic increases in street lighting charges, an effective and reasonable outcome was reached for the handover to occur on 1 January 2018. This represented considerable savings for City of Palmerston and local governments across the Northern Territory. Council runs a number of advisory groups that residents can join and provide advice to Council. These include:

Youth Inspiring Palmerston (YIP) is an advisory committee to Council made up of young people from Palmerston. YIP keeps Council informed on issues that are significant and important to young people in the City of Palmerston.

Seniors Advisory Group is an advisory group to the City of Palmerston and an advocacy body for the senior community

local youth issues and develop strategies to deliver a range of services for Palmerston and rural young people in the 12-25 year age group. The network has existed since 1996. Council facilitates meetings approximately every six weeks for workers from community and government agencies who have regular contact with young people, and representatives of agencies which provide and/or fund services for young people. All youth workers/service providers are welcome to attend the meetings and be part of the network. Other community members who have an interest in addressing youth issues are also welcome to participate.

Palmerston Kids Network is a committed network of workers representing organisations who provide services and programs to children (0-12years) and their families living in Palmerston. The network meets regularly and is committed to sharing information about programs and initiatives, showcasing best practice, discussing identified gaps and needs in Palmerston, building relationships and making connections, participating in community engagement and capacity building, as well as taking opportunities to lobby, advocate and influence policy.

4.3 PEOPLE

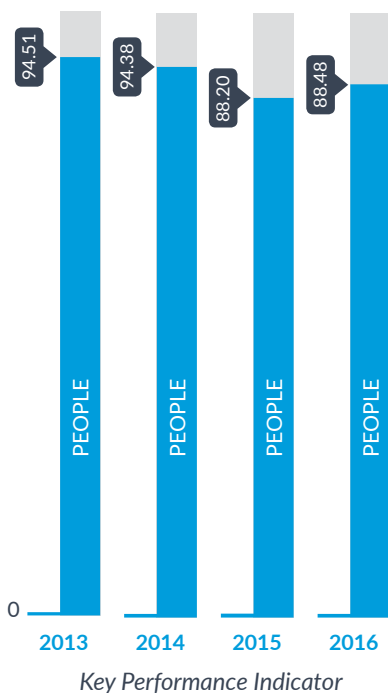
We value our people, and the culture of our organisation. We are committed to continuous improvement and innovation whilst seeking to reduce the costs of Council services through increased efficiency.

Human Resources and Workforce Development
 Training and Development of Elected Members
 Cost Reduction and Efficiency Initiatives
 Continuous Improvement, Benchmarking, Research and Innovation

Council remains committed to workforce development and continuous improvement. Without a skilled and dedicated workforce, Council would not be able to meet its commitments to the community and deliver effective and efficient services. The staff at City of Palmerston consistently outranks all other Northern Territory local governments in its ratio of employees (80) per capita (37,000 residents) at 1 staff member for 462.5 residents. With such a lean organisation, ensuring staff turnover is low and morale is high is of primary concern in order to consistently deliver excellent service to the community.

The human resources department was busy throughout the year continuing to review and update all our human resource policies and guidelines. These documents provide guidance and clarity to all levels of Council staff in regards to industrial relations and payroll. Training was rolled out to all managers and employees regarding their entitlements in accordance with the current City of Palmerston Enterprise Agreement. Employees at City of Palmerston enjoy access to a large number of benefits, including reduced price membership at Council's recreation facilities, salary continuance insurance cover, excellent training and development opportunities, salary packaging options, superannuation contribution matching, and professional membership fees. Council seeks to be an employer of choice within the region.

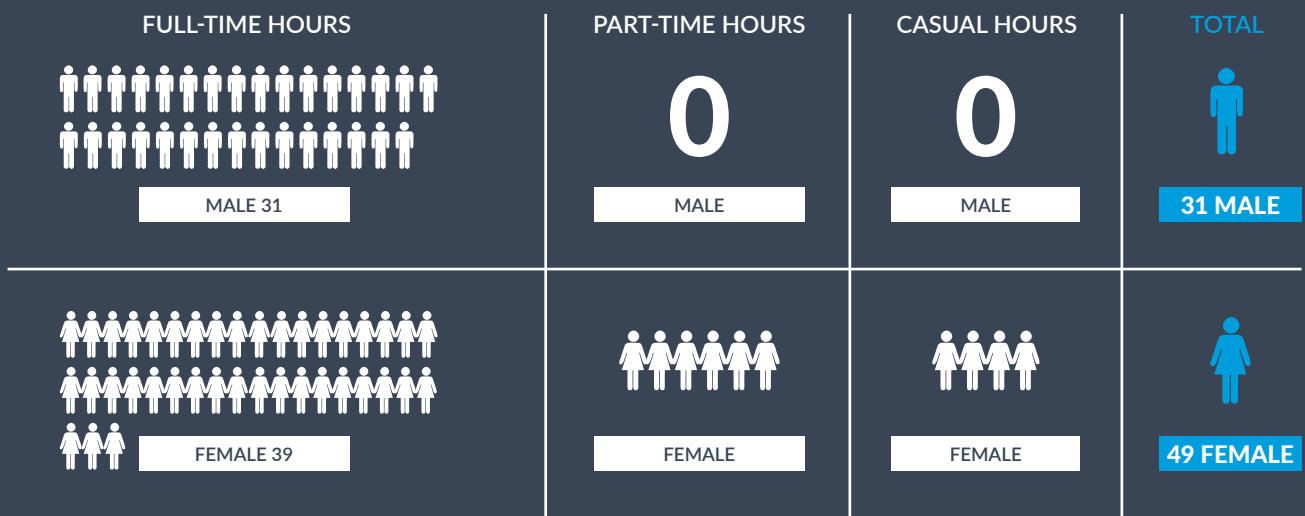
A cloud based HRMS (*human resource management system*) was introduced to improve the management of employee information and processes such as leave approvals, performance reviews, registers of access and benefits, recruitment administration, and a variety of other processes necessary for managing a modern business. This system will continue to be rolled out through 2016/17. An internal newsletter that uses multimedia continues to improve communication within Council; all departments of Council are making regular contributions and staff are enjoying the monthly read. Additionally, the process of digitising employee files, payroll records and WHS records continues in accordance with the retention and disposal schedule.



TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	(AS 30 JUNE 2016)
Person	80
FTE (Full Time Equivalent)	73.64

STAFFING CHANGES	JUL 15-SEPT 15	OCT 15-DEC 15	JAN 16-MAR 16	APR 16-JUN 16	2015/16
Recruited to Council	7	5	6	5	23
Separated from Council	5	7	5	2	19

EMPLOYMENT TYPE



EMPLOYEE BY POSITION

STATUS	ONGOING	FIXED-TERM	CASUAL	TOTAL
Male	23	8	0	31
Female	40	5	4	49
				80

DIVERSITY OF AGE AND GENDER OF WORKFORCE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
18 -24 yrs	1	4	5
25-29 yrs	1	10	11
30-34 yrs	5	8	13
35-39 yrs	5	4	9
40-44 yrs	6	5	11
45-49 yrs	6	8	14
50-54 yrs	2	3	5
55-59 yrs	3	4	7
60-64 yrs	2	1	3
65-70 yrs	1	1	2
70 + yrs	0	0	0
			80

EMPLOYEE BY SALARY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
\$0-\$60,728	1	7	8
\$60,729 - \$66,605	4	13	17
\$66,606 - \$72,502	3	6	9
\$72,503 - \$76,791	8	5	13
\$76,792 - \$84,204	4	12	16
\$84,205 - \$91,580	1	2	3
\$91,581 - \$100,210	4	2	6
\$100,211 - \$115,000		1	1
\$115,001 - \$130,000		1	1
\$130,001 - \$160,000	3	0	3
\$160,001+	3	0	3
			80

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BORN OVERSEAS

TOTAL 18



NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES BORN IN AUSTRALIA

TOTAL 62



There were 224 instances of training for the 2015/16 period, up from 137 the previous year.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Office of the Commissioner for Public Interest Disclosure

0
MATTERS
REPORTED

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

NEW	RESOLVED	TOTAL
0	0	0

FAIR WORK COMMISSION

0	0	0
---	---	---

OTHER

During the 2015/16 year, the Director of Corporate and Community Services served on secondment to Litchfield Council as the Acting CEO. During this time the Manager Community Development acted as Director Community Services, and the Finance Manager acted as Director of Corporate Services as responsibilities were redistributed. During this time, significant opportunity existed for staff in both areas to take on responsibilities and new professional development options. It is a credit to the staff that the assistance provided by Palmerston to support its neighbours in Litchfield went largely without issues.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING FOR STAFF

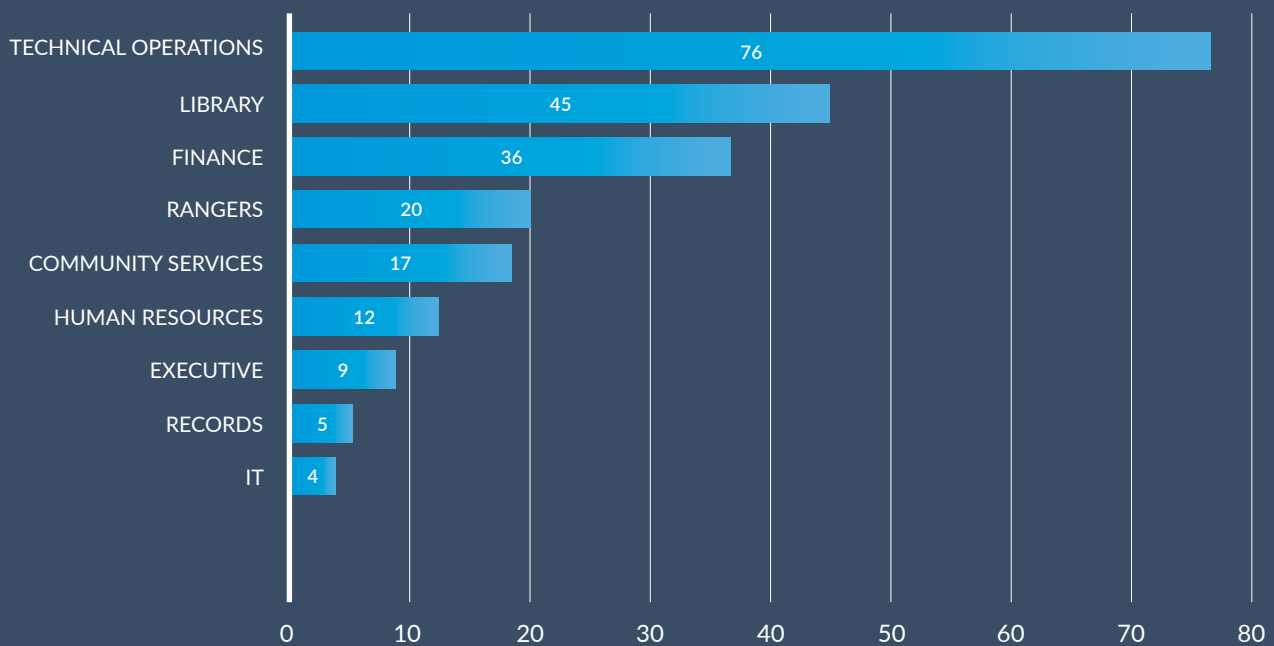
There were 224 instances of training for the 2015/16 period, up from 137 the previous year. The main reason for the 48% increase in training was due to City of Palmerston providing Anti-Discrimination and Whistle Blowing Training to all available employees.

See graph on next page...





NUMBER OF TRAINING ACTIVITIES BY DEPARTMENT 2015-2016

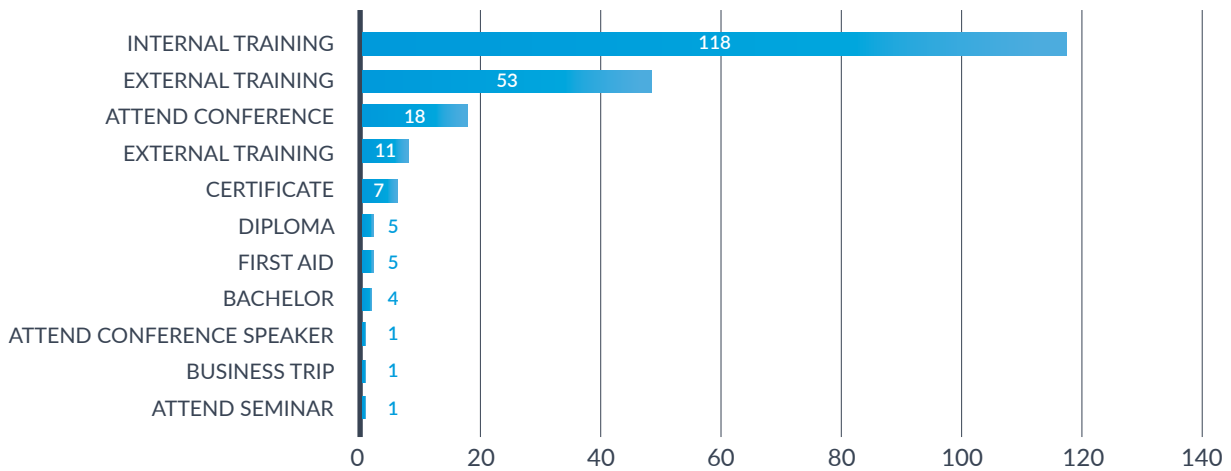


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

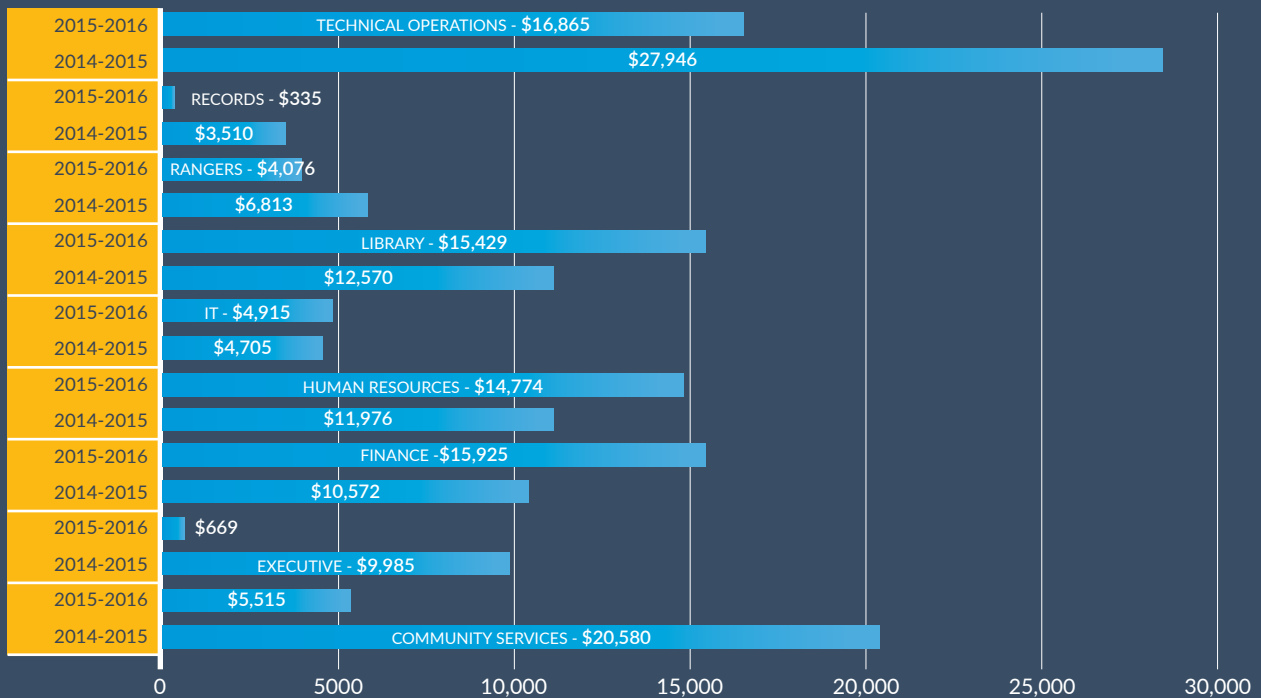
In accordance with Section 71 of the Local Government Act and the Ministerial guidelines for Council Member Allowances, City of Palmerston Elected Members may access an allowance to attend appropriate and relevant conferences or training courses which sustain a member's professional competence by keeping the member informed of, and able to comply with, development in professional standards applicable to their role as a Council member.

In 2015/16 City of Palmerston Elected Members could access an amount of up to \$3,653.68 which included all associated costs such as travel, conference fees, meals and accommodation. *See graph to the right...* ▶

TYPE OF TRAINING UNDERTAKEN 2015-2016



APPROXIMATE AMOUNT SPENT BY DEPARTMENT COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEAR 2015-2016



ACTIVITY	VENUE	DATES	NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS ATTENDING
Certificate IV in Professional Writing and Editing	Training.gov.au	2015/16 financial year	1
2015 Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar in Japan	Tokyo and Yamato Takada City (Japan)	1 - 11 November 2015	1
2 nd Annual Cloud Services in Local Government Summit	Sydney	26 - 28 July 2016	1

4.4 SYSTEMS

We are committed to ensuring the systems and processes of Council support the organisation in delivering the best possible services to the community.

*Internal Business
Processes and Service Levels
Financial and
Administrative Services
Information and Communication
Technology Services*

All Council services rely on Council's "behind the scenes" systems and processes; the administrative and technical support services including finance and information technology. Council relies heavily on a dependable administrative support group to deliver everything from providing library services to rubbish removal in our city centre. The change of Council's Enterprise Resource System (ERP) in 2014 saw major improvements to the way internal administrative support works. Internal processes like leave requests, timesheets, procurement and invoice approvals are now fully automated.

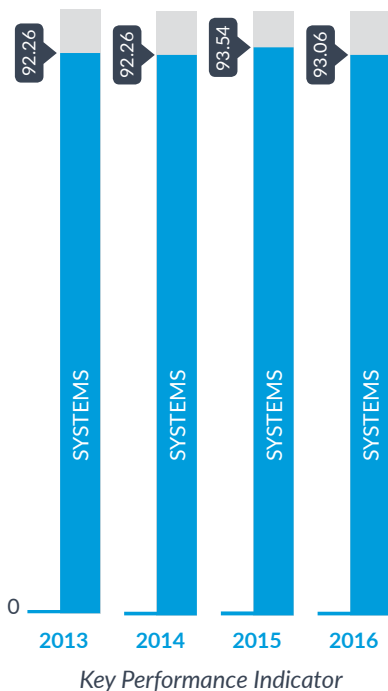
City of Palmerston has been able to improve the governance on essential financial functions and introduced new systems to cater for the growing organisation. Besides the development of a Customer Service Request system to support our commitment to our customers, City of Palmerston has implemented a Contracts system and has improved financial reporting systems significantly. Financial reports are now automated reducing the risk for human error and increasing the ability to report on different items more efficiently.

External auditors of Council have identified fewer items in the review of internal processes due to the change and have been satisfied with the process improvements the organisation has made over the last twelve months.

Overall the new ERP has resulted in:

- Less printing
- Less manual handling
- Reduced process times
- Reduction in training time for new staff
- Increased governance
- Increased reporting reliability, and
- Better auditing results

Improvements begun in 2015/16 and continuing into the next financial year include asset management and geospatial analysis, and the preparation of datasets to be released for public access on the national Open Data platform maintained by the Federal Government, National Map.



Council has also adopted the Better Practice Model (BPM) developed for the Local Government Association of South Australia, which tailors the Deloitte control self-assessment framework for internal controls into a broader enterprise risk management framework. This provides Council with an industry best practice foundation upon which to develop and maintain risk management across all facets of the organisation. A vital component of this change has been the appointment of an internal auditor to manage the process of assessments and audits of both financial and non-financial risks. It also allows Council to work closer with neighbouring Councils using the BPM, namely City of Darwin and Litchfield Council. The status of Council's risk register is reported to the Internal Audit Committee.

The use of a Managed ICT Service at the beginning of July 2014 continues to deliver an impressive level of stability within Council's ICT environment, with reduced outages and increased reliability of systems. The 2015/16 financial year

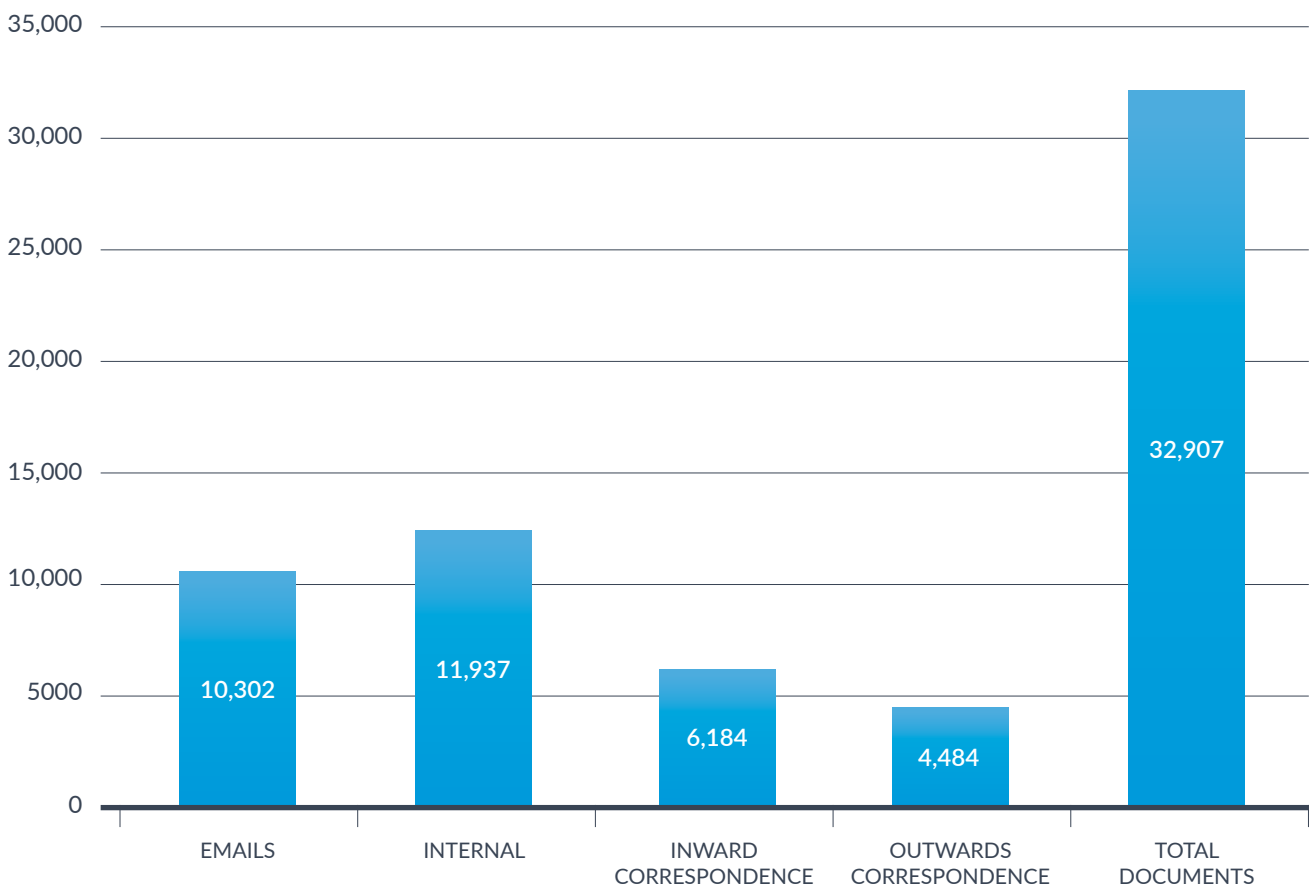
saw the bulk of Council's line of business systems moved into an offsite datacentre accessed through redundant fibre networks, with data replication dramatically improving business continuity during any future disaster. This has allowed Council to focus on strategic development focused on serving the future needs of the organisation.

A major result has been a growing emphasis on the role of "smart" technologies such as LED streetlights and mesh services as Council prepares to take over street light assets in the municipality from PowerWater Corporation beginning 1 January 2018. Ensuring that Council is able to respond to and embrace the increasing involvement of technology in civil infrastructure will continue in coming years.

RECORDS

Council manages an increasing amount of records generated internally or received from external sources, with 32,907 records being registered in 2015/16.

REGISTERED DOCUMENTS - 1 JULY 2015 TO 30 JUNE 2016



POLICY

City of Palmerston maintains a large suite of policies which govern the operations of Council, which are available to the public on its website. These are regularly reviewed and amended by Council to adjust to the changing requirements of legislation and the needs of the community. These policies currently include:

ADMINISTRATION

Privacy Statement Policy
AD02 - Media Policy

COMMUNITY

COMM03 - Community Consultation Policy

ELECTED MEMBERS

CC01 – Code of Conduct Elected Members
EM01 – Elected Members
EM02 – Elected Members Benefits and Support Policy
EM03 – Conflict of Interest
EM04 – Caretaker
EM05 – Political Involvement in Council Events

FINANCE AND RATING

FIN01 – Finance Policy
FIN02 – Financial Management
FIN03 – Annual Financial Statements
FIN04 – Procurement Policy
FIN06 – Investments
FIN07 – Financial Delegations
FIN08 – Internal Controls
FIN09 – Risk Management and Audit Committee
FIN10 – Fraud Protection Plan
FIN11 – Employee Entitlements
FIN12 – Asset Capitalisation
FIN13 – Asset Depreciation
FIN14 – Asset Revaluation
FIN15 – Asset Disposal
FIN16 – Computer Based Accounting
FIN17 – Rate Concession Policy
FIN18 – Grants, Donations, Scholarships
and Sponsorships
FIN19 – Reserve Policy
FIN20 – Borrowing Policy

FIN21 – Debt Collection Policy
FIN22 – Grant Income Policy
FIN23 – Credit Card Policy
FIN24 – Chart of Accounts Policy
FIN25 – Rating Policy
FIN26 – Key System Policy

MEETINGS

MEE01 – Access to Council and
Committee Meetings and Confidential Minutes
MEE02 – Committees of Council
MEE03 - Recording of Minutes

REGULATORY AND BY-LAWS

BL01 – Palmerston Animal Management By-Laws
BL02 – Palmerston Charges By-Laws
BL03 – Palmerston Procedures for Meetings By-Laws
BL04 – Palmerston Public Places By-Laws
BL05 – Palmerston Sign Hoardings and Advertising By-Laws
REG01 - Outdoor Dining
REG02 - Feral Cat Policy

ROADS AND STREETSCAPES

RS01 – Works on Council Verge
RS02 – Place Names

WASTE

TECH04 - Waste Management

In addition, a large number of internal administrative policies governing general administration, human resource administration and work health and safety obligations are maintained by the Chief Executive Officer.





GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

■ FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officer's Certificate	1
PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Statement of Comprehensive Income	2
Balance Sheet	3
Statement of Changes in Equity	4
Cash Flow Statement	5

Notes to, and forming part of, the Principal Financial Statements

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies	N1
Note 2 - Income	N9
Note 3 - Expenses	N12
Note 4 - Gain or Loss on Disposal of Assets	N14
Note 5 - Current Assets	N15
Note 6 - Non-Current Assets	N16
Note 7 - Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment and Investment Property	N17
Note 8 - Liabilities	N19
Note 9 - Reserves	N20
Note 10 - Assets Subject to Restrictions	N22
Note 11 - Reconciliation of Cash Flow Statement	N23
Note 12 - Functions	N24
Note 13 - Financial Instruments	N25
Note 14 - Expenditure Commitments	N27
Note 15 - Financial Indicators	N28
Note 16 - Operating Leases	N29
Note 17 - Prior Period Corrections	N30
Audit Report	

City of Palmerston

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2016**

OFFICER'S STATEMENT

I, Ricki Bruhn, the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Palmerston, hereby certify that the Annual Financial Statements:

(a) have been drawn up in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, the Local Government Act and the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations so as to present fairly the financial position of the Council and the results for the year; and

(b) are in accordance with the accounting and other records of Council.

Ricki Bruhn
(Chief Executive Officer)

14/10/2016
(date)

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Notes	2016	2015
		\$	\$
			Restated
INCOME			
Rates	2	24,608,512	21,723,750
Statutory Charges	2	158,095	162,591
User Charges	2	1,232,788	1,194,684
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	2	3,235,393	2,883,463
Investment Income	2	1,154,651	1,152,556
Reimbursements	2	588,146	185,299
Other Income	2	32,068	80,568
Total Income		31,009,653	27,382,911
EXPENSES			
Employee Costs	3	7,384,937	6,729,842
Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses	3	26,823,914	18,043,730
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	3	9,019,834	8,134,394
Total Expenses		43,228,685	32,907,966
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		(12,219,032)	(5,525,055)
Net Gain (Loss) on Disposal or Revaluation of Assets	4	(370,537)	(2,371,745)
Physical Resources Received Free of Charge	2	12,548,115	3,029,867
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) Transferred to Equity Statement		(41,454)	(4,866,933)
Gain on Revaluation of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment		-	41,682
Impairment (Expense)/Recoupment Offset to Asset Revaluation Reserve		-	-
Total Other Comprehensive Income		-	41,682
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		(41,454)	(4,825,251)

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

		2016	2015	2014
			Restated	Restated
ASSETS	Notes	\$	\$	\$
Current Assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5	5,083,730	15,510,614	12,106,050
Trade and Other Receivables	5	1,414,400	1,394,444	1,336,123
Other Financial Assets	5	12,500,000	7,500,000	20,500,000
		18,998,130	24,405,058	33,942,173
Non-Current Assets Held for Sale		2,547,748	-	-
Total Current Assets		21,545,878	24,405,058	33,942,173
Non-Current Assets				
Investment Property	7	6,529,825	6,611,463	-
Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	7	359,776,776	351,155,459	351,762,763
Work-in-Progress	6	4,401,123	736,287	1,568,038
Total Non-Current Assets		370,707,724	358,503,209	353,330,801
Total Assets		392,253,602	382,908,267	387,272,974
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Trade and Other Payables	8	3,880,099	3,094,002	2,868,081
Provisions	8	1,869,906	643,427	519,254
Total Current Liabilities		5,750,005	3,737,429	3,387,335
Non-Current Liabilities				
Provisions	8	7,811,891	437,678	327,229
Total Non-Current Liabilities		7,811,891	437,678	327,229
Total Liabilities		13,561,896	4,175,107	3,714,564
NET ASSETS		378,691,706	378,733,160	383,558,410
EQUITY				
Accumulated Surplus		140,882,161	134,576,926	127,060,085
Asset Revaluation Reserves	9	223,487,907	223,487,907	223,446,225
Other Reserves	9	14,321,638	20,668,327	33,052,100
TOTAL EQUITY		378,691,706	378,733,160	383,558,410

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

		Accumulated Surplus	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves	TOTAL EQUITY
		\$	\$	\$	\$
2016					
	Notes				
Balance at end of previous reporting period		134,576,926	223,487,907	20,668,327	378,733,160
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(41,454)	-	-	(41,454)
Other Comprehensive Income					
Transfers between reserves		6,346,689	-	(6,346,689)	-
BALANCE AT END OF PERIOD		140,882,161	223,487,907	14,321,638	378,691,706
2015					
Balance at end of previous reporting period		127,761,779	223,446,225	33,052,100	384,260,104
Adjustment to correct prior period error		(701,693)	-	-	(701,693)
Restated opening balance		127,060,086	223,446,225	33,052,100	383,558,411
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(4,866,933)	-	-	(4,866,933)
Other Comprehensive Income					
<i>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</i>					
Changes in revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		-	41,682	-	41,682
Transfers between reserves		12,383,773	-	(12,383,773)	-
BALANCE AT END OF PERIOD		134,576,926	223,487,907	20,668,327	378,733,160

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

		2016	2015
	Notes	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Rates - General and Other		24,599,260	21,502,833
Fees and Other Charges		1,357,624	1,330,467
Investment Receipts		1,243,775	1,498,983
Grants Utilised for Operating Purposes		3,235,393	2,885,406
Other Operating Receipts		554,268	97,313
Payments			
Employee Costs		(7,266,618)	(6,572,099)
Contractual Services and Materials		(17,621,702)	(17,463,285)
Other Operating Payments		(434,861)	(393,209)
Finance Payments		500,496	125,152
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities		6,167,635	3,011,561
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Sale of Replaced Assets		64,314	25,000
Net Disposal of Investment Securities		-	13,000,000
Payments			
Expenditure on Renewal/Replacement of Assets		(11,658,833)	(6,020,534)
Purchase of Investment Property		-	(6,611,463)
Net Purchase of Investment Securities		(5,000,000)	-
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities		(16,594,519)	393,003
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held		(10,426,884)	3,404,564
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period		15,510,614	12,106,050
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Period		5,083,730	15,510,614

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial report comprises general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (as they apply to local governments and not-for-profit entities), Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the Local Government Act and accompanying regulations. Material accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

Except for cash flow and rate setting information, the report has also been prepared on the accrual basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and liabilities.

Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of a financial report in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that effect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances; the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The Local Government Reporting Entity

All Funds through which the Council controls resources to carry on its functions have been included in the financial statements forming part of this financial report.

(b) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a Gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows.

(c) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, cash at bank, deposits available on demand with banks and other short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and bank overdrafts.

Bank overdrafts are reported as short term borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

(d) Trade and Other Receivables

Trade and other receivables include amounts due from ratepayers for unpaid rates and service charges and other amounts due from third parties for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Collectability of trade and other receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts that are known to be uncollectible are written off when identified. An allowance for doubtful debts is raised when there is objective evidence that they will not be collectible.

(e) Fixed Assets

Each class of fixed assets within either property, plant and equipment or infrastructure, is carried at cost or fair value as indicated less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Valuation of Assets

The following asset classes were valued by Australian Pacific Valuers (APV) effective 1 July 2013 at Fair Value:

- Land
- Land Improvements
- Buildings
- Infrastructure

All acquisitions made after the respective date of revaluation are recorded as described in section Initial Recognition below.

The asset classes Plant, Furniture and Equipment and Motor Vehicles were valued by Maloney's Field Services effective 1 July 2014 at Fair Value.

Initial Recognition and Measurement between Mandatory Revaluation Dates

All assets are initially recognised at cost and subsequently revalued in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

In relation to this initial measurement, cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition. 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 overheads.

Individual assets acquired between initial recognition and the next revaluation of the asset class in accordance with the mandatory measurement framework detailed above, are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation as management believes this approximates fair value. They will be subject to subsequent revaluation.

Revaluation

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of assets are credited to a revaluation surplus in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are recognised against revaluation surplus directly in equity. All other decreases are recognised in profit or loss.

Transitional Arrangements

During the time it takes to transition the carrying value of non-current assets from the cost approach to the fair value approach, the Council may still be utilising both methods across differing asset classes.

Those assets carried at cost will be carried in accordance with the policy detailed in the *Initial Recognition* section as detailed above.

Those assets carried at fair value will be carried in accordance with the Revaluation Methodology section as detailed above.

Land Under Roads

Effective as at 1 July 2008, Council elected not to recognise any value for land under roads acquired on or before 30 June 2008.

Land under roads acquired on or after 1 July 2008 has not been recognised as in the opinion of Council it is not possible to reliably attribute a fair value, and further that such value if determined would be immaterial.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including buildings but excluding freehold land, are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the individual asset's useful life from the time the asset is held ready for use.

When an item of property, plant and equipment is revalued, any accumulated depreciation at the date of the revaluation is treated in one of the following ways:

- a) Restated proportionately with the change in the gross carrying amount of the asset so that the carrying amount of the asset after revaluation equals its revalued amount; or
- b) Eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

Major depreciation periods used for each class of depreciable asset are:

Buildings	25 to 60 years	Road Furniture	20 to 40 years
Furniture and Equipment	3 to 10 years	Footpaths and Bicycle ways	30 to 50 years
Plant and Equipment	5 to 15 years	Kerb and Gutter	40 to 50 years
Roads		Motor Vehicles	5 years
Earthworks	100 years	Waste and Sewerage Infrastructure	20 to 30 years
Pavement	30 to 40 years	Stormwater Drainage	75 to 100 years
Seal	10 to 20 years	Land Improvement	15 to 50 years

The assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the statement of comprehensive income in the period in which they arise.

(e) Fixed Assets (Continued)

Capitalisation Threshold

Expenditure on assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisitions exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each asset class.

Buildings	\$5,000	Kerb and Gutter	\$10,000
Furniture and Equipment	\$1,000	Motor Vehicles	\$5,000
Plant and Equipment	\$5,000	Waste and Sewerage Infrastructure	\$10,000
Roads	\$10,000	Stormwater Drainage	\$10,000
Footpaths and Bicycle ways	\$5,000	Land Improvement	\$10,000

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

When performing a revaluation, the Council uses a mix of both independent and management valuations using the following as a guide:

Fair Value is the price that Council would receive to sell the asset or would have to pay to transfer a liability, in an orderly (ie unforced) transaction between independent, knowledgeable and willing market participants at the measurement date.

As fair value is a market-based measure, the closest equivalent observable market pricing information is used to determine fair value. Adjustments to market values may be made having regard to the characteristics of the specific asset. The fair values of assets that are not traded in an active market are determined using one or more valuation techniques. These valuation techniques maximise, to the extent possible, the use of observable market data.

To the extent possible, market information is extracted from either the principal market for the asset (*ie the market with the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset or, in the absence of such a market, the most advantageous market available to the entity at the end of the reporting period (ie the market that maximises the receipts from the sale of the asset after taking into account transaction costs and transport costs)*).

For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement also takes into account a market participant's ability to use the asset in its highest and best use or to sell it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

Fair Value Hierarchy

AASB 13 requires the disclosure of fair value information by level of the fair value hierarchy, which categorises fair value measurement into one of three possible levels based on the lowest level that an input that is significant to the measurement can be categorised into as follows:



Level 1

Measurements based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.



Level 2

Measurements based on inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.



Level 3

Measurements based on unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The fair values of assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market are determined using one or more valuation techniques. These valuation techniques maximise, to the extent possible, the use of observable market data. If all significant inputs required to measure fair value are observable, the asset or liability is included in Level 2. If one or more significant inputs are not based on observable market data, the asset or liability is included in Level 3.



(f) Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities (Continued)

Valuation techniques

The Council selects a valuation technique that is appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available to measure fair value. The availability of sufficient and relevant data primarily depends on the specific characteristics of the asset or liability being measured. The valuation techniques selected by the Council are consistent with one or more of the following valuation approaches:

Market approach

Valuation techniques that use prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

Income approach

Valuation techniques that convert estimated future cash flows or income and expenses into a single discounted present value.

Cost approach

Valuation techniques that reflect the current replacement cost of an asset at its current service capacity.

Valuation techniques

Each valuation technique requires inputs that reflect the assumptions that buyers and sellers would use when pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risks. When selecting a valuation technique, the Council gives priority to those techniques that maximise the use of observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. Inputs that are developed using market data (*such as publicly available information on actual transactions*) and reflect the assumptions that buyers and sellers would generally use when pricing the asset or liability and considered observable, whereas inputs for which market data is not available and therefore are developed using the best information available about such assumptions are considered unobservable.

(g) Impairment of Assets

In accordance with Australian Accounting Standards the Council's assets, other than inventories, are assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication they may be impaired.

Where such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount.

Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another standard (*e.g. AASB 116*) whereby any impairment loss of a revalued asset is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that other standard.

For non-cash generating assets such as roads, drains, public buildings and the like, value in use is represented by the depreciated replacement cost of the asset.

(h) Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Council prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the Council becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured, are recognised as a current liability and are normally paid within 30 days of recognition.

(i) Employee Benefits

Short-Term Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the Council's obligations for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (*other than termination benefits*) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (*undiscounted*) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled. The Council's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the statement of financial position. The Council's obligations for employees' annual leave and long service leave entitlements are recognised as provisions in the statement of financial position.

Other Long-Term Employee Benefits

Provision is made for employees' long service leave and annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations or service and employee departures and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any premeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the changes occur. The Council's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

(j) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Council has a present legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

Provisions are measured using the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(k) Leases

Leases of fixed assets where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not legal ownership, are transferred to the Council, are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised recording an asset and a liability at the lower amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease term.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease incentives under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight line basis over the life of the lease term.

(l) Rates, Grants, Donations and Other Contributions

Rates, grants, donations and other contributions are recognised as revenues when the local government obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions.

Control over assets acquired from rates is obtained at the commencement of the rating period or, where earlier, upon receipt of the rates.

Where contributions recognised as revenues during the reporting period were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the reporting date, the nature of and amounts pertaining to those undischarged conditions are disclosed in Note 2. That note also discloses the amount of contributions recognised as revenues in a previous reporting period which were obtained in respect of the local government's operations for the current reporting period.

(m) Superannuation

The Council contributes to a number of Superannuation Funds on behalf of employees.

Council contributes to both defined contribution plans and defined benefit plans.

(n) Current and Non-Current Classification

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be settled. The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be settled within the next 12 months, being the Council's operational cycle. In the case of liabilities where the Council does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months, such as vested long service leave, the liability is classified as current even if not expected to be settled within the next 12 months. Inventories held for trading are classified as current even if not expected to be realised in the next 12 months except for land held for sale where it is held as non-current based on the Council's intentions to release for sale.

(o) Rounding Off Figures

All figures shown in this annual financial report, are rounded to the nearest dollar.

(p) Comparative Figures

Where required, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

When the Council applies an accounting policy retrospectively, makes a retrospective restatement or reclassifies items in its financial statement, an additional (third) statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period in addition to the minimum comparative financial statements is presented.

(q) Pending Accounting Standards

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2016 reporting period.

- (i) AASB 7 Financial Instruments – Disclosures
- (ii) AASB 9 Financial Instruments
- (iii) AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers
- (iv) AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures

Standards containing consequential amendments to other Standards and Interpretations arising from the above - AASB 2010-7, AASB 2014-1, AASB 2014-3, AASB 2014-4, AASB 2014-5, AASB 2014-6, AASB 2014-7, AASB 2014-8, AASB 2014-9, AASB 2014-10, AASB 2015-1, AASB 2015-2, AASB 2015-3, AASB 2015-4, AASB 2015-5 and AASB 2015-6

Council is of the view that none of the above new standards or interpretations will affect any of the amounts recognised in the financial statements, but that they may impact certain information otherwise disclosed.

The Australian Accounting Standards Board is currently reviewing AASB 1004 Contributions. It is anticipated that the changes resulting from this review may have a material effect on the timing of the recognition of grants and contributions, but the financial consequences cannot be estimated until a revised accounting standard is issued.

The Australian Accounting Standards Board is currently reviewing AASB 1004 Contributions

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 2 - INCOME

		2016	2015
	Notes	\$	\$
RATES REVENUES			
General Rates			
Residential		16,327,669	14,768,116
Commercial		1,747,844	1,506,288
Industrial		486,591	406,892
Rates Received in Advance		21,245	135,823
Other		27,521	31,477
		18,610,870	16,848,596
Annual Charges			
Waste Management Service		5,997,642	4,875,154
		5,997,642	4,875,154
		24,608,512	21,723,750
STATUTORY CHARGES			
Animal Registration Fees and Fines		22,307	26,350
Parking Fines/Expiation Fees		66,169	70,720
Other Fines, Penalties and Expiations		69,619	65,521
		158,095	162,591
USER CHARGES			
Developer Charges		262,238	213,641
Animal Control		52,610	67,385
Rent and Hire of Council Equipment		359,087	345,342
Library		65,553	86,594
Rate Searches and Dog Registrations		299,159	331,159
Licenses and Permits		166,537	125,910
Sundry		27,604	24,653
		1,232,788	1,194,684
INVESTMENT INCOME			
Interest on Investments			
Banks and Other		613,311	1,068,002
Interest on Overdue Rates and Charges		121,566	84,554
Investment Property Rental Income		419,774	-
		1,154,651	1,152,556

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 2 - INCOME (CONT...)

		2016	2015
	Notes	\$	\$
REIMBURSEMENTS			
- For Private Works		33,678	142,118
- Other		554,468	43,181
		588,146	185,299
OTHER INCOME			
Insurance and Other Recoupments - Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment		26,721	71,127
Sundry		5,347	9,441
		32,068	80,568
GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS			
Other Grants, Subsidies and Contributions		3,235,393	2,883,463
		3,235,393	2,883,463
The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 12.			
SOURCES OF GRANTS			
Commonwealth Government		772,502	276,501
Northern Territory Government		2,154,197	2,211,750
Other		308,694	395,212
		3,235,393	2,883,463

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 2 - INCOME (CONT...)

	2016	2015
Notes	\$	\$
CONDITIONS OVER GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS		
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:		
Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period	4,535,655	4,369,984
Less: expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods		
Government Grants	(3,031,957)	(2,514,899)
Developer Contributions	(147,065)	(202,893)
Subtotal	(3,179,022)	(2,717,792)
Plus: amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions		
Government Grants	2,926,699	2,488,251
Developer Contributions	308,694	395,212
Subtotal	3,235,393	2,883,463
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period and held as restricted assets	4,592,026	4,535,655
Net increase (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period	56,371	165,671
PHYSICAL RESOURCES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE		
Land	3,080,000	480,000
Land Improvements	669,035	783,841
Roads and Pavement	2,542,901	657,617
Footpaths and Cycleways	1,234,022	176,797
Kerb and Gutter	444,366	58,520
Stormwater Drainage	4,498,141	664,857
Water and Irrigation	79,650	208,235
TOTAL PHYSICAL RESOURCES RECEIVED	12,548,115	3,029,867

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 3 - EXPENSES

		2016	2015
	Notes	\$	\$
EMPLOYEE COSTS			
Salaries and Wages		5,344,889	4,823,640
Employee Leave Expense		960,082	944,687
Superannuation - Defined Contribution Plan Contributions		598,117	528,573
Superannuation - Defined Benefit Plan Contributions		25,942	25,315
Workers' Compensation Insurance		94,736	94,548
Other		361,171	313,079
Total Operating Employee Costs		7,384,937	6,729,842
Total Number of Employees <i>(Full time equivalent at end of reporting period)</i>		73	71
MATERIALS, CONTRACTS AND OTHER EXPENSES			
Prescribed Expenses			
Auditor's Remuneration			
- Auditing the Financial Reports		31,613	31,882
- Other Auditors		2,209	3,000
Bad and Doubtful Debts		1,400	3,788
Elected Members' Expenses		257,695	241,958
- Minimum Lease Payments		143,344	116,369
Subtotal - Prescribed Expenses		436,261	396,997
Other Materials, Contracts and Expenses			
Contractors		12,292,376	11,413,656
Energy		1,116,595	1,081,717
Legal Expenses		69,777	153,449
Professional Services		547,425	1,269,181
Landfill Rehabilitation		8,580,541	-
Sundry		3,780,939	3,728,730
Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts and Expenses		26,387,653	17,646,733
		26,823,914	18,043,730

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 3 - EXPENSES (CONT...)

		2016	2015
	Notes	\$	\$
DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION AND IMPAIRMENT			
Depreciation	7		
Land		-	-
Land Improvements		1,052,085	1,033,072
Buildings		650,905	509,217
Infrastructure			
- Roads and Pavement		3,518,836	2,837,567
- Kerbs and Guttering		488,548	472,576
- Footpaths and Cycleways		593,935	558,356
- Stormwater Drainage		1,638,122	1,567,795
- Water and Irrigation		702,456	721,258
Other Assets		374,947	353,914
Less: Impairment Expense Offset to Asset Revaluation Reserve		-	80,639
		9,019,834	8,134,394
Investment Property expenses included above		70,175	-
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment		70,175	-

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 4 - ASSET DISPOSAL AND FAIR VALUE ADJUSTMENTS

		2016	2015
	Notes	\$	\$
INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT			
Assets Renewed or Directly Replaced			
Proceeds from Disposal		64,314	25,000
Less: Carrying Amount of Assets Sold		20,456	20,058
Gain (Loss) on Disposal		43,858	4,942
Assets Surplus to Requirements			
Proceeds from Disposal		-	-
Less: Carrying Amount of Assets Sold		402,932	2,376,687
Gain (Loss) on Disposal		(402,932)	(2,376,687)
FAIR VALUE ADJUSTMENTS			
Revaluation Decrements Expensed		(11,463)	-
		(11,463)	-
NET GAIN (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OR REVALUATION OF ASSETS		(370,537)	(2,371,745)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 5 - CURRENT ASSETS

		2016	2015
	Notes	\$	\$
CASH AND EQUIVALENT ASSETS			
Cash on Hand and at Bank		4,927,617	7,857,613
Short Term Deposits and Bills, etc		156,113	7,653,001
		5,083,730	15,510,614
TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES			
Rates - General and Other		606,814	597,562
Accrued Revenues		141,588	230,712
Debtors - General		83,140	33,336
GST Recoupment		244,486	178,540
Prepayments		57,745	104,612
Animal Control		118,856	116,289
Parking and Traffic		156,746	125,728
Sundry		10,213	11,453
Total		1,419,588	1,398,232
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Debts		5,188	3,788
		1,414,400	1,394,444
OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS			
Term Deposits over 90 days		12,500,000	7,500,000
		12,500,000	7,500,000
NON CURRENT ASSETS HELD FOR SALE			
Land Held for Sale		2,547,748	-
		2,547,748	-

At reporting date, the contract for sale of the below properties had been executed.

Lot 10024, 7 Palmerston Circuit, which has a carrying amount of \$935,000.

Lot 10029 and part Lot 9608, 14 The Boulevard and part 10 The Boulevard, which have a total carrying amount of \$1,612,748.

All land held for sale occurred by Council decision and is consistent with City of Palmerston's Policy and Northern Territory Local Government Legislation regarding disposal of real property.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 6 - NON CURRENT ASSETS

		2016	2015
	Notes	\$	\$
OTHER ASSETS			
Work in Progress			
Opening Balance		736,287	1,568,038
Additions		4,343,218	736,287
Transfers to Property, Plant and Equipment		(678,382)	(1,568,038)
		4,401,123	736,287



NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Fair Value Level	2015 \$				2016 \$			
		AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT	AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT
Land	2	121,101,000	3,843,000	-	124,944,000	117,786,000	7,690,252	-	125,476,252
Land Improvements	3	18,574,265	5,115,803	(10,168,250)	13,521,818	18,574,265	11,270,793	(11,220,335)	18,624,723
Buildings	3	24,334,274	533,799	(8,506,424)	16,361,649	24,334,274	1,369,086	(9,087,154)	16,616,206
Infrastructure									
- Roads and Pavement	3	103,737,256	20,868,091	(45,780,766)	78,824,581	103,737,256	23,844,420	(49,299,602)	78,282,074
- Kerbs and Gutter	3	31,432,458	1,562,124	(16,023,278)	16,971,304	31,432,458	2,006,490	(16,511,826)	16,927,122
- Footpaths and Cycleways	3	21,397,519	3,829,343	(10,358,900)	14,867,962	21,397,519	5,374,619	(10,952,835)	15,819,303
- Stormwater Drainage	3	125,941,658	14,804,299	(60,070,712)	80,675,245	125,941,658	19,338,488	(61,708,834)	83,571,312
- Water and Irrigation	3	9,062,699	1,548,400	(6,296,053)	4,315,046	9,062,699	1,701,625	(6,998,509)	3,765,815
Motor Vehicles	3	944,951	161,225	(725,714)	380,462	944,951	366,450	(1,006,882)	304,519
Plant and Equipment	2	118,500	-	(18,114)	100,386	118,500	125,337	(41,893)	201,944
Furniture and Fittings	2	592,490	221,775	(659,892)	154,373	592,490	286,275	(710,575)	168,190
Intangible Assets	2	-	57,950	(19,317)	38,633	-	57,950	(38,634)	19,316
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		457,237,070	52,545,809	(158,627,420)	351,155,459	453,922,070	73,431,785	(167,577,079)	359,776,776
Comparatives		460,806,410	44,072,064	(153,115,711)	351,762,763	457,237,070	52,545,809	(158,627,420)	351,155,459

This Note continues on the following pages.

NOTE 7 - INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Land		-	651,000	-	651,000	651,000	-	-	651,000
Buildings and Structures		-	5,960,463	-	5,960,463	5,949,000	-	(70,175)	5,878,825
TOTAL INVESTMENT PROPERTY		-	6,611,463	-	6,611,463	6,600,000	-	(70,175)	6,529,825
Comparatives		-	-	-	-	-	6,611,463	-	6,611,463

This Note continues on the following pages.

NOTE 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONT...)

	2015	CARRYING AMOUNT MOVEMENTS DURING YEAR								2016
	\$	\$								\$
	CARRYING AMOUNT	New/ Upgrade	Additions Renewals	Restructure	Disposals	Depreciation	Impairment	Transfers	Net Revaluation	CARRYING AMOUNT
Land	124,944,000	3,080,000	-	-	-	-	-	(2,547,748)	-	125,476,252
Land Improvements	13,521,818	6,386,384	177,866	-	(409,260)	(1,052,085)	-	-	-	18,624,723
Buildings	16,361,649	780,498	54,789	-	-	(580,730)	-	-	-	16,616,206
Infrastructure										
- Roads and Pavement	78,824,581	2,542,901	433,428	-	-	(3,518,836)	-	-	-	78,282,074
- Kerbs and Gutter	16,971,304	444,366	-	-	-	(488,548)	-	-	-	16,927,122
- Footpaths and Cycleways	14,867,962	1,328,727	216,549	-	-	(593,935)	-	-	-	15,819,303
- Stormwater Drainage	80,675,245	4,498,141	49,776	-	(13,728)	(1,638,122)	-	-	-	83,571,312
- Water and Irrigation	4,315,046	97,400	55,825	-	-	(702,456)	-	-	-	3,765,815
Motor Vehicles	380,462	205,625	-	-	(400)	(281,168)	-	-	-	304,519
Plant and Equipment	100,386	125,337	-	-	-	(23,779)	-	-	-	201,944
Furniture and Fittings	154,373	64,500	-	-	-	(50,683)	-	-	-	168,190
Intangible Assets	38,633	-	-	-	-	(19,317)	-	-	-	19,316
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	351,155,459	19,553,879	988,233	-	(423,388)	(8,949,659)	-	(2,547,748)	-	359,776,776
Comparatives	351,762,763	9,633,648	899,503		(2,396,743)	(8,053,755)	(80,639)	(651,000)	41,682	351,155,459

NOTE 7 - INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Land	651,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	651,000
Buildings and Structures	5,960,463	-	-	-	-	(70,175)	-	-	(11,463)	5,878,825
TOTAL INVESTMENT PROPERTY	6,611,463	-	-	-	-	(70,175)	-	-	(11,463)	6,529,825
Comparatives	6,611,463	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,611,463

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 8 - LIABILITIES

	Notes	2016		2015	
		Current	Non-Current	Current	Non-Current
TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES					
Goods and Services		189,956	-	442,066	-
Payments Received in Advance		48,890	-	-	-
Accrued Expenses - Employee Entitlements		-	-	697	-
Accrued Expenses - Other		2,837,267	-	2,336,771	-
Deposits, Retentions and Bonds		787,990	-	299,515	-
Other		15,996	-	14,953	-
		3,880,099	-	3,094,002	-
PROVISIONS					
Employee Entitlements (including oncosts)		696,129	503,992	643,427	437,678
Future Reinstatement/Restoration, etc		1,173,777	7,307,899	-	-
		1,869,906	7,811,891	643,427	437,678

Amounts included in provisions that are not expected to be settled within 12 months of reporting date.

"Movements in Provisions - 2016 year only (Current and Non-Current)"			Insurance Losses	Future Reinstatement	Other Provision
Opening Balance			-	-	-
Add: Unwinding of present value discounts			-	-	-
Additional amounts recognised			-	8,481,676	-
Closing Balance			-	8,481,676	-

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 9 - RESERVES

ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE		1/07/2015	Net Increments (Decrements)	Transfers, Impairments	30/06/2016
	Notes	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land		114,414,121	-	-	114,414,121
Land Improvements		7,303,658	-	-	7,303,658
Buildings		5,648,196	-	-	5,648,196
Infrastructure					
- Roads and Pavement		37,371,656	-	-	37,371,656
- Kerbs and Gutter		4,551,364	-	-	4,551,364
- Footpaths and Cycleways		4,192,922	-	-	4,192,922
- Stormwater Drainage		45,471,325	-	-	45,471,325
Waste Infrastructure		4,463,992	-	-	4,463,992
Investment Property		70,673	-	-	70,673
TOTAL		223,487,907	-	-	223,487,907
	Comparatives	223,446,225	41,682	-	223,487,907

OTHER RESERVES		1/07/2015	Transfers to Reserve	Transfers from Reserve	30/06/2016
Property Reserve		1,881,188	-	(982,226)	898,962
Plant and Equipment Reserve		511,404	-	(245,557)	265,847
Infrastructure Reserve		5,584,184	-	(3,683,350)	1,900,834
Developer Funds Reserve		4,118,287	306,005	(147,065)	4,277,227
Unexpended Capital Works Reserve		6,924,035	4,180,426	(6,924,035)	4,180,426
Unexpended Grants Reserve		352,479	2,927,699	(3,030,685)	249,493
Election Expense Reserve		150,000	-	(87,962)	62,038
Disaster Recovery Reserve		500,000	-	-	500,000
Strategic Initiatives Reserve		500,000	-	-	500,000
Community Grants Reserve		146,750	-	(46,750)	100,000
Waste Management Reserve		-	1,386,811	-	1,386,811
TOTAL OTHER RESERVES		20,668,327	8,800,941	(15,147,630)	14,321,638
	Comparatives	33,052,100	9,846,905	(22,230,678)	20,668,327

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 and available-for-sale financial assets.

Other Reserves

These are cash backed reserves and represent funds that are accumulated within the Council to meet anticipated future needs. In each case the amount relates to a perceived future requirement which is not currently a liability.

Property Reserve	The reserve holds funding for renewal, replacement or upgrading of existing assets and/or the establishment of new assets in line with Council's Asset Management Plan for Property.
Plant and Equipment Reserve	The reserve holds funding for renewal, replacement or upgrading of existing assets and/or the establishment of new assets in line with Council's Asset Management Plan for Plant and Equipment.
Infrastructure Reserve	The reserve holds funding for renewal, replacement or upgrading of existing assets and/or the establishment of new assets in line with Council's Asset Management Plan for Infrastructure.
Developer Funds Reserve	This reserve holds the balance of unexpended funds in lieu of construction received by developers. Restrictions to these funds apply in line with individual developer agreements.
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.
Unexpended Grants Reserve	This reserve holds the balance of unexpended grant funds that are requested to be carried forward to the following financial year.
Election Expense Reserve	The reserve will fund expenses related to Local Government elections and By Elections.
Disaster Recovery Reserve	This reserve will fund expenses occurred due to storms, storm surges, floods or any other natural disaster. The fund will enable City of Palmerston to recover from these disasters and return to operations.
Strategic Initiatives Reserve	This reserve will fund strategic initiatives for the future development of the City of Palmerston in line with the Municipal Plan and the Long-term Financial Plan. Specific initiatives have to be identified and funds have to be allocated to those.
Community Grants Reserve	This reserve is in line with the Grants, Scholarship and Sponsorship Policy (FIN18) of the Council and holds funds that have been committed to initiatives in line with that policy and have not been expensed at the End of Financial Year.
Waste Management Reserve	This reserve holds funds for the direct and indirect expenditures of the rehabilitation of the waste transfer site and development of the site to accommodate expected future requirements.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 10 - ASSETS SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS

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.

		2016	2015
	Notes	\$	\$
CASH AND FINANCIAL ASSETS			
Unexpended amounts received from Territory Government or other Institutions		249,493	352,479
Developer Funds for works in lieu of construction		4,277,227	4,118,287
		4,526,720	4,470,766
TOTAL ASSETS SUBJECT TO EXTERNALLY IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS		4,526,720	4,470,766

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 11 - RECONCILIATION TO CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

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 Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

		2016	2015
	Notes	\$	\$
Total cash and equivalent assets	5	5,083,730	15,510,614
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		5,083,730	15,510,614

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

Net Surplus (Deficit)		(41,454)	(4,866,933)
Non-cash items in Income Statement			
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment		9,019,834	8,134,394
Fair value adjustments		11,463	-
Net increase (decrease) in Unpaid Employee Benefits		118,319	232,250
Change in Allowances for Under-Recovery		1,400	3,788
Non-Cash Asset Acquisitions		(12,548,115)	(3,029,867)
Net (Gain) Loss on Disposals		359,074	2,371,745
Landfill Rehabilitation		8,481,676	-
		5,402,197	2,845,377
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets			
Net (increase) Decrease in Receivables		(21,356)	(62,109)
Net increase (decrease) in Trade and Other Payables		786,794	228,293
Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations		6,167,635	3,011,561

(c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities

Acquisition of assets by means of:			
- Physical resources received free of charge	2	12,548,115	3,029,867
Amounts recognised in Income Statement		12,548,115	3,029,867
		12,548,115	3,029,867

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 12 - FUNCTIONS

	REVENUES, EXPENSES AND ASSETS HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES														
	GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES			PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY			ECONOMIC AFFAIRS			ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES		
	BUDGET 2016 \$	ACTUAL 2016 \$	ACTUAL 2015 \$	BUDGET 2016 \$	ACTUAL 2016 \$	ACTUAL 2015 \$	BUDGET 2016 \$	ACTUAL 2016 \$	ACTUAL 2015 \$	BUDGET 2016 \$	ACTUAL 2016 \$	ACTUAL 2015 \$	BUDGET 2016 \$	ACTUAL 2016 \$	ACTUAL 2015 \$
OPERATING REVENUES															
Rates	18,354,649	18,610,870	16,848,596	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,970,620	5,997,642	4,875,154	-	-	-
Statutory and User Charges	272,150	249,911	232,825	569,185	492,197	527,053	270,000	397,408	318,660	-	760	6,584	-	-	-
Grants - NT Recurrent	734,856	734,856	691,350	-	-	-	4,235,729	835,729	846,288	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	-
Grants - NT Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants - Cwllth Recurrent	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,720,028	770,028	269,190	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants - Cwllth Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions and Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	421,000	308,694	391,712	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment Income	588,865	734,877	1,152,556	-	-	-	446,160	419,774	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reimbursements and Other Revenues	461,963	613,798	249,519	1,000	680	545	4,000	2,131	10,202	-	-	4,006	-	-	-
Total	20,412,483	20,944,312	19,174,846	570,185	492,877	527,598	7,096,917	2,733,764	1,836,052	5,980,620	6,008,402	4,885,744	-	-	-
OPERATING EXPENSES															
Employee Costs	4,544,480	4,753,271	4,449,713	543,000	576,593	598,436	355,182	378,798	349,257	-	-	-	-	-	-
Materials, Contracts and Other	3,580,446	3,086,537	3,959,043	283,225	193,474	282,067	2,540,265	3,652,837	2,619,258	5,432,051	13,828,885	5,120,742	745,500	599,968	868,523
Depreciation, Amortisation, Impairment	8,000,100	466,315	465,552	-	6,695	947	-	4,943,554	4,208,225	-	-	-	-	1,808,101	1,816,208
Total	16,125,026	8,306,123	8,874,308	826,225	776,762	881,450	2,895,447	8,975,189	7,176,740	5,432,051	13,828,885	5,120,742	745,500	2,408,069	2,684,731
TOTALS	4,287,457	12,688,189	10,300,538	(256,040)	(283,885)	(353,852)	4,201,470	(6,241,425)	(5,340,688)	548,569	(7,820,483)	(234,998)	(745,500)	(2,408,069)	(2,684,731)
TOTAL ASSETS UTILISED															
Total	25,732,621	25,610,211	25,610,211	57,694	57,694	25,591	264,817,806	257,808,825	257,808,825	55,042,554	55,042,554	55,042,554	55,042,554	55,042,554	55,042,554
OPERATING REVENUES															
Rates															
Statutory and User Charges	229,001	250,607	272,153										24,325,269	24,608,512	21,723,750
Grants - NT Recurrent	643,673	576,086	684,923				1,500						1,340,336	1,390,883	1,357,275
Grants - NT Capital													5,625,758	2,156,671	2,222,561
Grants - Cwllth Recurrent													-	-	-
Grants - Cwllth Capital													1,720,028	770,028	269,190
Contributions and Donations													-	-	-
Investment Income													421,000	308,694	391,712
Reimbursements and Other Revenues	1,500	3,605	1,595										1,035,025	1,154,651	1,152,556
Total	874,174	830,298	958,671				1,500						34,935,879	31,009,653	27,382,911
OPERATING EXPENSES															
Employee Costs	1,433,640	1,676,275	1,332,436												
Materials, Contracts and Other	5,892,996	5,458,327	5,186,412				9,500		3,886				6,876,302	7,384,937	6,729,842
Depreciation, Amortisation, Impairment		1,693,725	1,575,220						101,444				18,483,983	26,823,914	18,043,730
Total	7,326,636	8,828,327	8,094,068				9,500		105,330				8,000,100	9,019,834	8,134,394
TOTALS	(6,452,462)	(7,998,029)	(7,135,397)				(8,000)		(105,330)				33,360,385	43,228,685	32,907,966
TOTAL ASSETS UTILISED															
Total	44,721,219	44,721,219	45,135,797				45,135,797		1,881,708				1,983,152	392,253,602	382,908,267

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 13 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits

Accounting Policy: Carried at lower of cost and net realisable value; Interest is recognised when earned.

Terms and conditions: Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 2.55% and 3.90% (2015: 2.80% and 3.90%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 226 days and an average interest rates of 3.19% (2015: 89 days, 3.35%).

Carrying amount: Approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - Rates and Associated Charges (including legals and penalties for late payment)

Accounting Policy: Carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.

Terms and conditions: Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 18% (2015: 18%). Although 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: Carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.

Terms and conditions: Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Although 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: Carried at nominal value.

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 the Governments of the Commonwealth and State.

Carrying amount: Approximates fair value.

Note: Certain of the above receivables do not meet the definition of financial instruments, being statutory charges rather than arising from a contract. Accounting policies are reported here for purposes of completeness but they are excluded from the remainder of the Note.

Liabilities - Interest Bearing Loans

Accounting Policy: Carried at the principal amounts. Interest is charged as an expense as it accrues.

Terms and conditions: Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

Carrying amount: Approximates fair value.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 13 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

LIQUIDITY ANALYSIS

2016	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; < 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Cash and Equivalents	5,083,730	-	-	5,083,730	5,083,730
Receivables	510,543	-	-	510,543	510,543
Other Financial Assets	12,706,085	-	-	12,706,085	12,500,000
Total	18,300,358	-	-	18,300,358	18,094,273
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES					
Payables	3,880,099	-	-	3,880,099	3,880,099
Total	3,880,099	-	-	3,880,099	3,880,099
2015					
FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Cash and Equivalents	15,510,614	-	-	15,510,614	15,510,614
Receivables	517,518	-	-	517,518	517,518
Other Financial Assets	7,500,000	-	-	7,500,000	7,500,000
Total	23,528,132	-	-	23,528,132	23,528,132
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES					
Payables	3,094,002	-	-	3,094,002	3,094,002
Total	3,094,002	-	-	3,094,002	3,094,002

All financial instruments are categorised as loans and receivables. Note: Statutory receivables, such as rates, have been excluded from the above tables.

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 provision for doubtful debts. In accordance with regulations, all Council investments are made with authorised deposit taking institutions. Except as detailed in Notes 5 and 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. Liabilities have a range of maturity dates based on cash inflows.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Most of Council's financial instruments - both assets and liabilities - are at fixed rates. Any such variations in future cash flows will not be material in effect on either Council incomes or expenditures.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 14 - COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

		2016	2015
	Notes	\$	\$
CAPITAL COMMITMENTS			
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:			
Buildings		125,272	-
Roads and Footpaths		2,628,464	5,026,719
		2,753,736	5,026,719
These expenditures are payable:			
Not later than one year		2,753,736	5,026,719
Later than one year and not later than 5 years		-	-
Later than 5 years		-	-
		2,753,736	5,026,719
OTHER EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS			
Other non-capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:			
Waste Management Services		12,303,513	13,579,968
Landscaping and Mowing		3,467,210	2,972,526
Civil Works		868,158	2,751,332
Other		974,239	899,061
		17,613,120	20,202,887
Not later than one year		9,138,506	9,767,034
Later than one year and not later than 5 years		8,474,614	10,435,853
Later than 5 years		-	-
		17,613,120	20,202,887

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 15 - FINANCIAL INDICATORS

	2016	2015	2014	2013
CURRENT RATIO				
Current Assets - Externally Restricted Assets	2.96:1	5.33:1	8.75:1	10.67:1
Current Liabilities				

The current ratio is mainly used to indicate Council's ability to pay back its liabilities with its assets.

The higher the ratio, the higher the level of liquidity of Council. The optimal ratio is 1:1 or higher. Council is currently able to cover its current liabilities 2.96 times from its assets.

DEBT SERVICE RATIO				
Net Debt Service Cost	0:01%	0:01%	0:01%	0:01%
Operating Revenue*				
*as defined				

The debt service ratio measures the ratio of cash available for debt servicing to interest, principal and lease payments. Council does not currently have any debt of this nature.

RATE COVERAGE PERCENTAGE				
Rate Revenues	60.02%	61.53%	61.03%	56.64%
Total Revenues				

The ratio measure the amount of revenue generated by rates compared to total revenue.

RATES OUTSTANDING PERCENTAGE				
Rates Outstanding	3.16%	3.47%	2.39%	3.07%
Rates Collectible				

The ratio measure the amount of rates outstanding at year end compared to total rates revenue.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 16 - OPERATING LEASES

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 Council Equipment in Note 2.

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.

Lessees commitments under all non-cancellable lease agreements, including those relating to Investment Property, are as follows:

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Not later than one year	729,783	491,964
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	2,457,467	1,884,840
Later than 5 years	1,868,626	2,307,620
	5,055,876	5,055,876

Lease payment commitments of Council

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

Contingent rental payments exist in relation to the lease of one grader if utilisation exceeds 250 hours during any month.

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:

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Not later than one year	88,045	64,156
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	111,788	157,035
	199,833	221,191

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

NOTE 17 - PRIOR PERIOD CORRECTIONS

A reconciliation of land assets has been undertaken in the 2015/16 financial year, with assets that should have been recognised and derecognised in previous periods identified. Assets that should have been recognised amounted to \$5,840,000, (\$5,360,000 prior to 1 July 2014 and \$480,000 during the 2014/15 financial year). Assets that should have been derecognised (prior to 1 July 2014) amounted to \$6,061,693. As such, corrections have been made in accordance with AASB 108 - Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, to amend these prior period errors commencing 1 July 2014.

Effect of the above: 2014	Original Balance	Amount of Adjustment	Restated Balance
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	8,329,600	(190,337)	8,139,263
Total Expenses	31,203,000	(190,337)	31,012,663
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(6,059,704)	190,337	(5,869,367)
Loss on Disposal or Revaluation of Assets	(67,424)	(6,252,030)	(6,319,454)
Physical Resources Received Free of Charge	33,950,453	5,360,000	39,310,453
Net Surplus (Deficit)	27,823,325	5,550,337	33,373,662
Total Comprehensive Income	43,549,292	5,550,337	49,099,629
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	352,464,456	(701,693)	351,762,763
Total Non-Current Assets	354,032,494	(701,693)	353,330,801
Total Assets	387,974,667	(701,693)	387,272,974
Net Assets	384,260,103	(701,693)	383,558,410
Accumulated Surplus	127,761,778	(701,693)	127,060,085
Total Equity	384,260,103	(701,693)	383,558,410
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY			
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	27,823,325	(701,693)	27,121,632
Accumulated Surpluses	127,761,778	(701,693)	127,060,085
Total Equity	384,260,103	(701,693)	383,558,410
Effect of the above: 2015			
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	8,134,394	-	8,134,394
Total Expenses	32,907,966	-	32,907,966
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(5,525,055)	-	(5,525,055)
Physical Resources Received Free of Charge	2,549,867	480,000	3,029,867
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(5,346,933)	480,000	(4,866,933)
Total Comprehensive Income	(5,305,251)	480,000	(4,825,251)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	351,377,152	(221,693)	351,155,459
Total Non-Current Assets	358,724,902	(221,693)	358,503,209
Total Assets	383,129,960	(221,693)	382,908,267
Net Assets	378,954,853	(221,693)	378,733,160
Accumulated Surplus	134,798,619	(221,693)	134,576,926
Total Equity	378,954,853	(221,693)	378,733,160
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY			
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	(5,346,933)	480,000	(4,866,933)
Accumulated Surpluses	134,798,619	(221,693)	134,576,926
Total Equity	378,954,853	(221,693)	378,733,160

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
CITY OF PALMERSTON**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the City of Palmerston (the Council), which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2016, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the Cash Flow Statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information, and the Officer's Certificate.

Councillors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Councillors of the Council responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Local Government Act (NT) 2016* and for such internal controls as the Councillors determine are necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to Council's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Councillors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

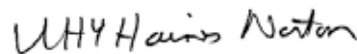
Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion,

- a) the Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2016, Chapter 10 part 10.6 Division 3 (the Act)*; and
- b) the financial report:
 - (i) has been presented, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of the Act;
 - (ii) is consistent with the Council's accounting records;
 - (iii) presents fairly, in all material respects, the Council's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations 2014*; and
- c) all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained; and
- d) there are no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements that have come to light during the course of the audit.



M.D. Nicholaeff
Partner



UHY Haines Norton
Chartered Accountants

Signed in Sydney on 14th October 2016



CONTACT US



Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace



08 8935 9922



palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au

www.palmerston.nt.gov.au

