

AGENDA

Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday 27 November 2023

The Advisory Committee Meeting of the City of Palmerston will be held in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT 0830 commencing at 5:30 PM.



LUCCIO CERCARELLI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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A Place for People

- 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
- 2 OPENING OF MEETING
- 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
 - 3.1 Apologies
 - 3.2 Leave of Absence Previously Granted
 - 3.3 Leave of Absence Request
- 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
 - 4.1 Committee Members
 - 4.2 Staff
- 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
 - 5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting held on 25 September 2023 pages 17 to 21 be confirmed.
 - 5.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting
- 6 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
 - 6.1 City of Palmerston Economic Development Activities

THAT the presentation by Michael Cullen, Principal, Urbacity on City of Palmerston Economic Development be received and noted.
- 7 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS
 - 7.1 Moving Confidential Items into Open
 - 7.2 Moving Open Items into Confidential
 - 7.3 Confidential Items

Nil
- 8 OFFICER REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	8.1.1
REPORT TITLE:	Committee Schedule of Meetings 2024
MEETING DATE:	Monday 27 November 2023
AUTHOR:	Executive Assistant to General Manager Finance and Governance, Bertsie Taru
APPROVER:	Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report seeks the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee's recommendation of the schedule of meetings moving forward.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Terms of Reference provides the Committee with guidance on the operations of the Committee Meetings and Membership.
- The Terms of Reference state that meetings are to be held quarterly.
- The proposed schedule has been prepared for 2024 meetings to ensure that the Committee is able to meet its obligations under the terms of reference.
- The Committee may hold additional meetings as and when required in accordance with Legislation, By-laws, Policy and Terms of Reference
- Direction is sought from the Committee to recommend to Council on the meeting schedule moving forward.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Committee Schedule of Meetings 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee recommend to the Council:
 - a. The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee adopts the Committee meeting be held at 5.30pm in Chambers at Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston and on the following dates:
 - i. Monday 25 March 2024
 - ii. Monday 24 June 2024
 - iii. Monday 23 September 2024
 - iv. Monday 25 November 2024

BACKGROUND

The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee (Committee) is established as an Advisory Committee to the City of Palmerston.

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The Committee is established by Council pursuant Section 82(1) to the *Northern Territory Local Government Act (the Act)* and the *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations*.

The Committee's Terms of Reference was endorsed by Council in accordance with Section 83(4) of the *Local Government Act 2019* at the 2nd Ordinary Council meeting in March 2022. The Terms of Reference requires the Committee to meet quarterly, or more frequently as required.

This Report seeks the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee's endorsement of the meeting schedule moving forward and agreement on time and location.

DISCUSSION

The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Terms of Reference requires the Committee Meetings to be held quarterly. The proposed schedule is as follows:

1. Monday 25 March 2024
2. Monday 24 June 2024
3. Monday 23 September 2024
4. Monday 25 November 2024

The above dates have taken into consideration the dates and timing of other Council Committee meetings whilst ensuring that the Committee is able to meet its obligations under the terms of reference. It is proposed that these meetings are held at 5.30pm, however due to Members availability, an alternative time could be considered.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

There was no consultation required during the preparation of this Report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this Report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget or resource implications relating to this Report.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

6. Governance
Failure to effectively govern.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no environment sustainability implications for this Report.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	8.2.1
REPORT TITLE:	Business Survey Update
MEETING DATE:	Monday 27 November 2023
AUTHOR:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta
APPROVER:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report seeks to update Council on the progress of the business survey to help understand how we can attract, retain and support businesses within Palmerston.

KEY MESSAGES

- Two key actions in the Palmerston Local Economic Plan (PLEP) were identified as key priorities that would inform other future PLEP actions.
- One of these priority actions included the development and implementation of a business survey.
- The business survey not only would provide insight on how City of Palmerston can attract, retain and support local business, it also helps inform the direction of several actions within the Palmerston Local Economic Plan.
- The development of the Business survey was endorsed by the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee and later by Council as the priority actions from the Palmerston Local Economic Plan.
- Consultants were engaged to develop the survey questions and to conduct the survey.
- This report provides the Committee with an update on the status of the business survey.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report entitled Business Survey Update be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

At the council meeting of 18 May 2023, council endorsed the website and business survey activities as the priority focus for work towards actions contained in the Palmerston Local Economic Plan.

13.1.3 Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Minutes - 27 March 2023

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Morrison

3. THAT Council endorses the recommendations from the Palmerston Vibrant Economy Committee meeting held on 27 March 2023, being:

Priority Actions - Palmerston Local Economic Plan

- 1. THAT Report entitled Priority Actions - Palmerston Local Economic Plan be received and noted.*

2. THAT the Committee recommend to Council that the priority actions of the Palmerston Local Economic Plan for the next six months are:
 - a. Development of a website to support and promote Economic Development within Palmerston.
 - b. Conduct a business survey of businesses located within Palmerston.

CARRIED 10/799 - 18/04/2023

Council's Community Satisfaction surveys identified that the Palmerston community rated highly the importance of encouraging and supporting local businesses. The surveys also indicated that the community would like to see Council do more to promote Palmerston and grow the local economy. Economic health and prosperity are recognised as vital to supporting a successful and prosperous community. The Palmerston Community plan states 'When businesses thrive, families also thrive, and our city becomes more liveable'.

DISCUSSION

The objective of the survey would provide insight on how City of Palmerston can attract, retain, and support local businesses and at the same time aid to inform other actions in the PLEP such as:

- Incentivise commercial rental offerings in the City of Palmerston.
- Complete an audit of regulations in the City of Palmerston that impact business development and remove unnecessary regulation.
- Host a round table meeting of industry leaders to discuss business needs, priorities, and immediate actions to be delivering in Palmerston to support industry development.
- Deliver business support and capacity building services. Ensure tailored support for different business sizes, including sole operators.
- Facilitate grants for businesses to support online services or transition of business to new service offerings.
- Incentivise research and development and innovation activities in the City of Palmerston.

It should be clarified that the PLEP action - Incentivise commercial rental offerings in the City of Palmerston is not for Council to provide the incentives but for Council to understand the needs of business and to help advocate for incentive programs with the Territory and Commonwealth Government.

At the March 2023 Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting it was agreed that the business survey would be completed within 6 months, however Council was presented with challenges in securing resources to deliver this project. That said, City of Palmerston have engaged consultants, Action Research, to deliver the business survey and Urbacity, a specialist in urban planning and economist, was engaged to ensure that the business survey questions achieve our economic development objectives.

The first draft of the questions is at **Attachment 8.2.1.1** and are still being refined.

It has been considered that the survey should target sectors and the type of businesses that should be surveyed. It is proposed that the following be considered:

- Non-population based ANSIC groups, that are considered "footloose" businesses that are not tied to any particular location or country and can relocate to another place without effect from factors of production such as resources, land, labour, and capital - as they can setup anywhere.
- Businesses that have left Palmerston and moved to either Darwin, Litchfield, other Territory locations or Interstate.
- Less focus on businesses that are population based such as retailing, personal services, health as they are generally positioned there to service the community.

The proposed methodology for this survey / study is a mixed-method approach, including:

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- n=100 online surveys (an expected number) from the City undertaking a postcard mailout to all households and known businesses. The postcard will be designed by the City and include a QR code that links to the survey. The survey will include a prize draw.
- n=100 telephone surveys (guaranteed) with existing businesses in the City of Palmerston, using our own business lists
- n=25 telephone surveys (guaranteed) with businesses located outside of Palmerston but still within the NT that would either consider relocating their business to Palmerston or have moved out of the City of Palmerston.

As we are leading into Christmas, the business survey will now be conducted in early 2024 with the results presented at the next meeting in March 2024. This will provide some time to ensure that the business survey is finalised and that businesses are available to complete the survey.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- City Activation Manager

In preparing this Report, the following external parties were consulted:

- Action Research
- UrbaCity

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this Report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Consultancies were funded from within existing budget.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk that Council will be criticised for not achieving agreed timeframes, however the current economic and resource climate presented challenges in securing resources to deliver this project. Urbacity and Action Research are experienced in consultants in economic development and business surveys, respectively and have been engaged to ensure we achieve a return on our investment and meet the agreed objectives.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

3. **Economic Development**
Failure to articulate, provide and promote the value proposition for Palmerston as an economic centre to attract investment.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no environment sustainability implications for this Report.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

ATTACHMENTS

1. PROPOSED BUSINESS SURVEY QUESTIONS [8.2.1.1 - 5 pages]

PROPOSED BUSINESS SURVEY QUESTIONS

[A1. DECISION MAKER]

A1. Which if the following best describes your role in the business?

- I am solely responsible for making decisions in the business
- I share decision making about the business with others

If they are not the decision maker for the business, then the survey will not proceed

[A2. ROLE]

A2. Which of the following best describes your role within the business?

Business owner
CEO/Director
Other C-level role (e.g. CFO, COO, CIO)
General Manager
Other Senior Managerial Role
Something, else (please specify)

[A3. BUSINESS LOCATION]

A3. Which of the following Local Government Areas does your business operate within?

City of Palmerston	MAIN SAMPLE
Litchfield Council	
City of Darwin	MAX QUOTA OF n=25
Other (specify)	

[A4. LOCATED OUTSIDE OF CITY OF PALMERSTON]

A4. Did you/your business previously operate from the City of Palmerston?

Yes, previously operated from City of Palmerston
No, have never operated from City of Palmerston

[A5. CITY OF PALMERSTON CONSIDERATION]

A5. If you were to consider expanding or moving your business in the future, how likely would you be to move to or set-up an additional location in the City of Palmerston? Please use a 0 to 10 scale where 0 is not at all likely, and 10 is extremely likely.

[A6. REASONS]

A6. Why do you say that? What specifically about the City of Palmerston makes you rate your likelihood that way? Please be as descriptive as possible.

A. Current Business Perceptions & Sentiment

[B1. BUSINESS CONFIDENCE]

B1. How confident are you that the climate for doing business in your area will improve over the next 12 months? Please use a 0 to 10 scale where 0 represents a low level of confidence and 5 is a moderate level of confidence and 10 is a high level of confidence.

[B2. BUSINESS PERFORMANCE]

B2. How likely is it that there will be a significant positive improvement in the performance of your business in the next 12 months? Please use a 0 to 10 scale where 0 is not at all likely and 5 is moderately likely and 10 is extremely likely.

[B3. BUSINESS INVESTMENT]

B3. How likely is it that your business will make a major purchase in the next 12 months, such as office equipment, motor vehicles, commercial real estate or some other significant purchase? Please use a 0 to 10 scale where 0 is not at all likely and 5 is moderately likely and 10 is extremely likely.

[B4. RECENT EMPLOYMENT]

B4. In the last 12 months, have you created any additional employment including hiring additional employees or overtime for your current employees?

[B5. FUTURE EMPLOYMENT INTENTIONS]

B5. In the next 12 months, are you likely to take on any additional employees in your business, or create any additional overtime?

[B6. LOCAL BUSINESS PERCEPTIONS]

B6. When you think about business in your local area generally, does business activity seem to be picking up, or steady, or slowing down?

[B7. RECENT TURNOVER]

B7. In the last 12 months, has your business been affected by any downturn in turnover or have you been worried about possible downturn in turnover?

[B8. BUSINESS SITUATION]

B8. Which one of the following words best describes how you feel about your own business situation at present? I will read them out that I want you to choose the one word which best fits your current business feelings.

B. Business Strengths & Challenges

[C1. WHY CITY OF PALMERSTON]

C1. Why do you operate from the City of Palmerston area? What are the key things that made you choose this as a location to operate from? Please be as descriptive as possible.

[C2. TOP OF MIND STRENGTHS]

C2. Thinking about your business and the area in which it operates, what do you believe are the key strengths or benefits of operating from that location? Please be as descriptive as possible.

[C3. PROMPTED BUSINESS STRENGTHS]

C3. I am going to read out some potential things that other businesses have indicated are beneficial to them operating from a similar location. For each, please indicate whether this is a major benefit, a minor benefit or not a benefit for your business.

[C4. TOP OF MIND BUSINESS CHALLENGES]

C4. Thinking about your business and the area in which it operates, what do you consider to be the top three challenges for your business today? Please be as descriptive as possible.

[C5. PROMPTED BUSINESS CHALLENGES]

C5. I am going to read out some challenges that businesses can face. For each, please indicate whether this is a major challenge, a minor challenge or not a challenge for your business today.

Business operating costs
The availability of suitably trained staff
Supply chain issues – getting access to products and/or services
Seasonal business challenges
The size of the local market
The number of competitors offering similar products/services
The technology infrastructure (e.g. high speed internet)
Other infrastructure (e.g. roads, footpaths, parking)
The regulation and red tape requirements on business
The diversity of other businesses locally
Public safety and crime related issues
Availability of networking and other business assistance services
The availability of quality commercial business space to rent

C. Business Support Services

[D1. TOP OF MIND BUSINESS SUPPORTS]

D1. In what ways could the City of Palmerston better support your business? Please be as descriptive as possible.

[D2. PROMPTED BUSINESS SUPPORTS]

D2. I am going to read out some possible business support services that the City of Palmerston could provide your business. For each, please indicate whether this would be extremely useful, very useful, somewhat useful, or not at all useful to your business.

Assisting in obtaining grants or tax incentives for business investment
Providing workshops or training programs to improve our skills
Organising networking opportunities with other businesses
Providing advice on business planning and compliance
Listing businesses in local directories, and government websites, and feature local businesses on the Council website
Providing businesses access to research data, such as demographic profiles of the local area to help support decision making
Incentivising commercial rental offerings in the City of Palmerston
Develop infrastructure and services that enable and encourage business precincts
Promote the City of Palmerston and its benefits as a place to live and operate a business from
Incentivise research and development and innovation activities in the City of Palmerston
Advocate for the review of regulations in the City of Palmerston that impact business development
Improving public safety and security, and reduce crime
Invest in tourism related activities to attract further visitation to the City

[D3. BUSINESS SUPPORT PRIORITIES]

D3. Out of those business support services we just went through, which of those do you think should be the highest priority for the City of Palmerston to focus on? And your second priority? And your third priority?

Assisting in obtaining grants or tax incentives for business investment
Providing workshops or training programs to improve our skills
Organising networking opportunities with other businesses
Providing advice on business planning and compliance
Listing businesses in local directories, and government websites, and feature local businesses on the Council website
Providing businesses access to research data, such as demographic profiles of the local area to help support decision making
Incentivising commercial rental offerings in the City of Palmerston
Develop infrastructure and services that enable and encourage business precincts
Promote the City of Palmerston and its benefits as a place to live and operate a business from
Incentivise research and development and innovation activities in the City of Palmerston
Advocate for the review of regulations in the City of Palmerston that impact business development
Improving public safety and security, and reduce crime
Invest in tourism related activities to attract further visitation to the City
Something else (please specify)

[D4. BENEFITS GAINED]

D4. Why is [INSERT TOP PRIORITY] your top priority for the City of Palmerston to focus on? What benefits are you hoping to gain if this business support was available to you? Please be as descriptive as possible.

Z. Demographics

[Z1. YEARS OPERATING]

Z1. For how many years has your business been operating?

[Z2. NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES]

Z2. How many full-time equivalent (FTE) employees does your business employ?

[Z3. INDUSTRY]

Z3. Which of the following industries does your business operate within?

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
Mining
Manufacturing
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services
Construction
Wholesale Trade
Retail Trade
Accommodation and Food Services
Transport, Postal and Warehousing
Information Media and Telecommunications
Financial and Insurance Services
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
Administrative and Support Services
Public Administration and Safety
Education and Training
Health Care and Social Assistance
Arts and Recreation Services
Other Services (please specify)

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	8.2.2
REPORT TITLE:	Update on Economic Development Website
MEETING DATE:	Monday 27 November 2023
AUTHOR:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta
APPROVER:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report seeks to update the Committee on the progress the economic development website.

KEY MESSAGES

- Two key actions in the Palmerston Local Economic Plan (PLEP) were identified as key priorities as they have been identified as actions that would inform other future PLEP actions.
- These priority actions include the development of an economic development website and a business survey, update on the business survey is included in another report.
- The website aligns either fully or partially to several actions in the Palmerston Local Economic Plan.
- The website development was endorsed by the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee and later by Council as one of the priority actions from the Palmerston Local Economic Plan.
- A timeframe of six (6) months from the March 2023 Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting was established for completion of the website.
- The shell of the website has been developed and is in test mode, with a number of items still underdevelopment and was expected to be completed by November 2023. This has been slightly delayed and is now expected to be completed by December 2023.
- This report provides the Committee with an update on the development of economic development website.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report entitled Update on Economic Development Website be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

At the 18 April 2023 Ordinary Meeting Council endorsed the following recommendations from the Palmerston Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting held on 27 March 2023, being:

13.1.3 Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Minutes - 27 March 2023

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Morrison

3. THAT Council endorses the recommendations from the Palmerston Vibrant Economy Committee meeting held on 27 March 2023, being:

- *Priority Actions - Palmerston Local Economic Plan*
- 1. *THAT Report entitled Priority Actions - Palmerston Local Economic Plan be received and noted.*
- 2. *THAT the Committee recommend to Council that the priority actions of the Palmerston Local Economic Plan for the next six months are:*
 - a. *Development of a website to support and promote Economic Development within Palmerston.*
 - b. *Conduct a business survey of businesses located within Palmerston.*

CARRIED 10/799 - 18/04/2023

At the Palmerston Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting held on the 26 June 2023, a report was submitted to Council providing an update on the status of the Development of a website to support and promote Economic Development within Palmerston.

At the meeting held on the 25 September 2023 the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee noted that the expected completion date for Phase 1 of the website will be November 2023.

This report will provide the Committee with a further update.

DISCUSSION

The proposed economic development website is an investment and attraction tool and will offer resources to help businesses to evaluate relocation within or to the municipality which includes assessing the liveability of the region. This will also assist in encouraging individuals and families to live and work in the area.

Having the economic development website as a standalone website opens opportunities for search engine optimisation in the future and allows businesses to find information without having to navigate via the main council website. The most cost-effective and timely method of doing this is having a standalone URL but hosted by City of Palmerston's existing website.

At the last meeting it was reported that the website will be developed in 3 phases

- Phase 1: the strategic overview and the high level information to bring attention to the potential investor what Palmerston has to offer.
- Phase 2: tangible information for the potential investor such as contact details, business planning tools, incentive programs, available property listings within Palmerston makes it easier for the investor to make investment decisions.
- Phase 3: focuses on interaction with the end user.

The shell of the website has been developed and is in test mode, with a number of items still underdevelopment. The website has been structured so that overtime as Council gradually build the website in accordance- with the planned phases.

Content for part of Phase 1 has been collated and is currently being edited for the website, this process is behind the agreed timeframe and the first tranche of information is expected in 3 weeks which will enable the website to go live and will be circulated to the Committee.

A sample of some of the information available for the website is found at **Attachment 8.2.2.1**.

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CONSULTATION PROCESS

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- City Activation Manager

In preparing this Report, the following external parties were consulted:

- UrbaCity
- We Creative

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this Report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Consultancies were funded from within existing budget.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk that Council will be criticised for not achieving agreed timeframes, however the current economic and resource climate presented challenges in securing resources to deliver this project. Urbacity in collaboration with We Creative, an economic development partitioner and website designer, have been engaged to deliver the edited content for the website.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

3. **Economic Development**
Failure to articulate, provide and promote the value proposition for Palmerston as an economic centre to attract investment.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no environment sustainability implications for this Report.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Why Palmerston [8.2.2.1 - 5 pages]

Why Palmerston?



About the Palmerston Region

The City of Palmerston

The broader Palmerston region spans across 72km² of the NT (Northern Territory), and was first established in 1981. Palmerston is ideally located just 10kms from Howard Springs and 20kms from Darwin, and is an essential and fast-growing community in the NT. The City of Palmerston Council is focused on retaining Palmerston people, and encouraging and attracting families to the region by creating a safe, family-friendly community and lifestyle. The City of Palmerston believes in the need for sustainable growth and development, evidenced by the clear socio-economic benefits of investing in a cheaper, well-developed, and sustainable community.

The Opportunity to Grow

Approximately 15% of the NT's entire population lives in Palmerston with a current population of around 40,000.

Four key socio-economic factors differentiate the Palmerston region from neighbouring regions, making Palmerston a more attractive city for investment and growth:

1. **A young and growing population**
2. **Higher incomes**
3. **A growing labour force**
4. **Strong economic growth**

Palmerston is a well-established region with a large, growing, and young population making up a community that is ready and well-positioned to drive significant economic growth.



A place that welcomes and embraces its community - providing liveability, wellness, and safety for all through social and economic opportunities, infrastructure and amenities to meet community expectations.



A local economic and social hub for the region, with opportunities for residents and businesses to establish, grow, and develop.

Key Facts

MEDIAN AGE
31 years

POPULATION
40,000

SMEs
(SMALL MEDIUM ENTERPRISES)
1600

FAMILIES
10,000

NT GRP CONTRIBUTION
in 2022
6.6%

GRP CONTRIBUTION
(2014 - 2019)
\$266m

GRP 2022
\$1.72bn

15% of the NT's population resides in Palmerston

Over **72%** of the population work as a part of the labour force

Significant growth of **41%** in SME businesses in the past **15 years**

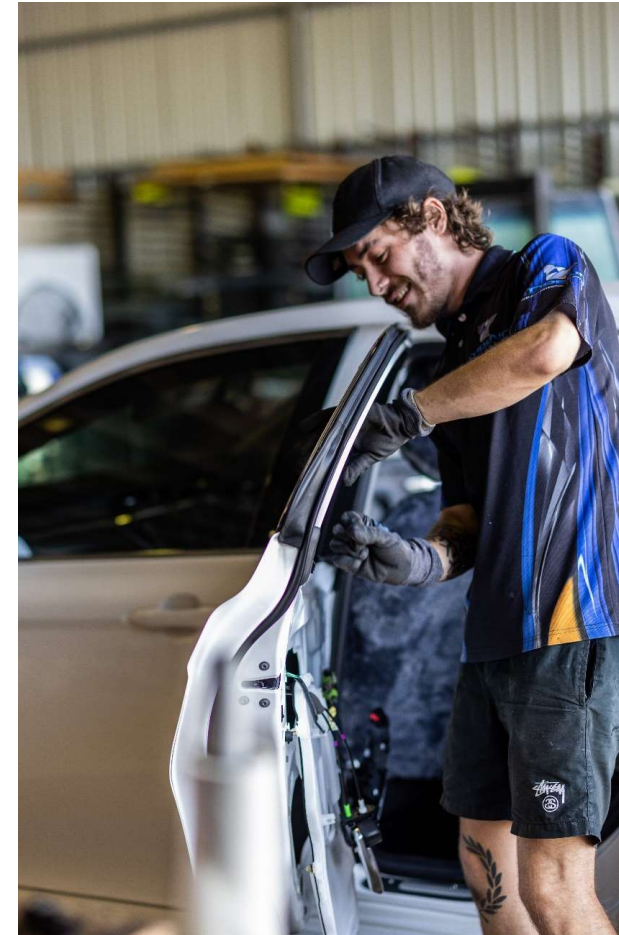
Palmerston's local economy has grown by **20% (\$266m)** between 2014 and 2019

50% GRP growth - **\$1.6bn** across **10 years**

50% of households are young families with children

4% annual growth in GRP for the past **5 years**

\$100m commitment to infrastructure over the next **10 years**





COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	8.2.3
REPORT TITLE:	Economic Development Activities
MEETING DATE:	Monday 27 November 2023
AUTHOR:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta
APPROVER:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta

COMMUNITY PLAN

Vibrant Economy: Palmerston is a destination city for employment, it is a place where businesses are encouraged to set up and grow. **Future Focused:** Palmerston is an innovative city that sustains itself through the challenges of the future.

PURPOSE

This Report seeks to update the Committee on the progress Economic Development activities.

KEY MESSAGES

- There has been progress made on the priority actions under the Palmerston Local Economic Plan (PLEP), being the development of a website and a business survey.
- The 2022-23 Annual Report has been finalised and showcases the contribution to the local economy through its investment in construction projects, various events and service delivery to the community.
- This report provides an overview to the Committee of the upcoming Christmas events, the SWELL grand opening and also provides overview of the support to the Community through its Community Benefit Scheme
- Council has allocated \$26.6 million to the Capital Works Programs in 2023/24. These programs included a broad range of asset renewal programs along with major capital projects from planning and development stages to delivery. This relates to the action in the PLEP 'Bring forward capital investment programs planned for the City of Palmerston.
- Over the last 12 months Council spent \$46 million with local suppliers out of the combined \$53 million Operational and Capital expenditure between that period presenting 87% significant investment to the continued support and growth of the local economy.
- This month City of Palmerston welcomed the new City Activation Manager, who will be leading the economic activities for the City of Palmerston
- Council has several major capital projects that are planned, contracted or underway and are included in this report and are as follows:
 - Swimming, Wellness, Events, Leisure, Lifestyle (SWELL) Construction
 - Driver Community Centre redevelopment
 - Zuccoli Community Hub – Future Stages
 - FiberSense
 - Enterprise Resource Planning Project (ERP)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report entitled Economic Development Activities be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

Local Economic Development is the transformation of an economy to balance the achievement of quality-of-life outcome supporting the wellbeing and liveability of the community and to build the capacity of the local community through attracting population growth and job growth, embracing innovation that supports the betterment of the community and supporting environmentally sustainable outcomes.

The City of Palmerston in the NT prides itself as a Place for People, this underpins the key driver of Economic Development. City of Palmerston attraction and retention its population to support the sustainable growth and the business opportunities available to bring in more wealth creation to further support its community's wellbeing and liveability.

This report is to provide an update on work done by Council that is focussed on economic development including an overview of capital projects which highlights Council's current and future investments to the City of Palmerston and how much is spent with local suppliers.

DISCUSSION

A summary of the actions completed and planned by Council to that promotes Economic Development include:

- A City Activation team has been established and is responsible for leading major city initiatives and programs that contribute to the development of a vibrant public realm, positioning the City of Palmerston as a City where people want to do business, live, work, invest, visit and create. The team has a range of portfolio areas that have a significant impact on the City, including major initiatives/projects; place making, economic development and public art and events. This team will be led by the newly established City Activation Manager, who commenced in November 2023 and will lead the economic activities for the City of Palmerston.
- There are over 100 events coordinated throughout the year by City of Palmerston for the community to engage in, including: Citizenship Ceremonies, children's, multi-cultural, youth, seniors, sport, health, environmental, art, music. library programs and events, stakeholder participation and community development opportunities.
- City of Palmerston continue to support Property Council NT and Palmerston Region Business Association (PRBA) and Chamber of Commerce through membership and participation at their events.
- Council provides funding through the Community Benefit Scheme (CBS) to eligible community groups and organisations to deliver activities, projects and services that benefit the Palmerston community. CBS funding for organisations includes sponsorships, donations, and grants, with Representation Support also available to individuals. In October, four (4) projects or activities were funded by CBS to benefit the Palmerston Community. This included, two (2) Individual Representation Support grants, one (1) Team Representation Support Grant, and one (1) Community Grant - Arafura Music Collective for \$4,320, to deliver the performance series - Connecting Community through Music. This will include two (2) performances at Gray Community Hall in November 2023 and March 2024. To date CBS has committed \$163,270 to support activities and events which benefit the Palmerston Community. 71% of the total budget for CBS in 2023/24 has now been allocated.
- The Economic Development Website and Business survey have been progressed and are reported separately as they are key activities for the actions within the Palmerston Local Economic Plan.
- The Current Investment into City of Palmerston through capital and operational budget is identified below.
- The 2022-23 Annual Report has been finalised and showcases the contribution to the local economy through its investment in construction projects, various events and service delivery to the community and is included in **Attachment 8.2.3.1**

A Place for People

Christmas Events

- City of Palmerston provides a range of activities for the community to celebrate Christmas and the festive season.
- City of Palmerston’s popular Christmas Wonderland returns to Goyder Square from Friday 15 until Saturday 23 December from 5:00pm – 9:00pm daily.
- Friday 15 December will be a Christmas Wonderland ‘low-sensory’ evening from 4:00pm - 8:00pm.
- The Trussmas tree will be installed in Goyder Square and will be lit on the opening night of Palmerston Christmas Wonderland, with entertainers in attendance.
- New elements this year at Christmas Wonderland include a Christmas market brought to Palmerston by Tactile Arts with 30+ stalls which will be held in the Palmerston Recreation Centre and a Santa’s Grotto in the Palmerston Library.
- The City of Palmerston Library will be running a Christmas Craft week which will include movies, and special Storytime sessions.
- City of Palmerston will be sponsoring the popular Mix 104.9 Christmas Lights competition which provides opportunity for advertising spaces to promote everything that City of Palmerston are doing over the Christmas period.
- To generate awareness of the range of Festive Season activities and events, a ‘Palmerston’s 12 days of Christmas’ marketing and communications campaign will be delivered.

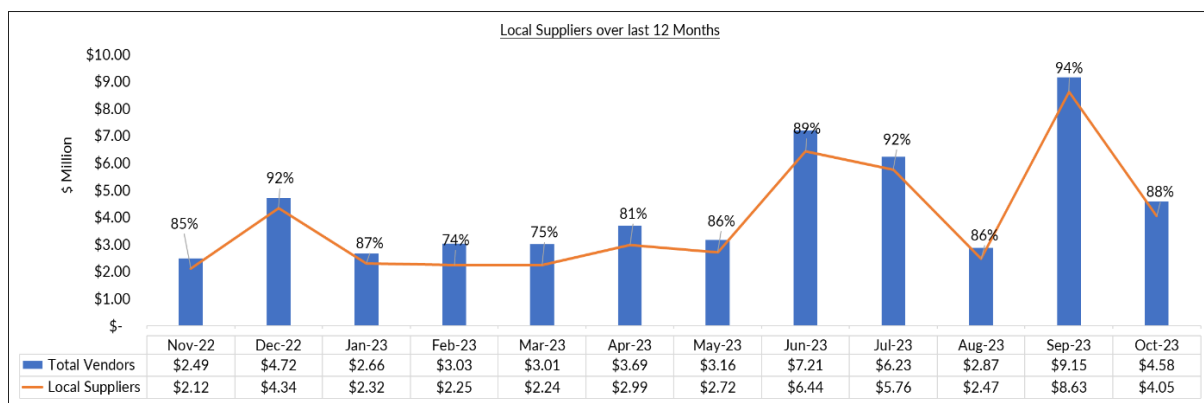
SWELL Grand Opening

The SWELL grand opening is scheduled for Sunday 17 December from 12 noon until 9pm. Included at the event will be a smoking ceremony, a variety of prizes and stalls, and plenty of SWELL activities to keep the whole family busy. Throughout the day, various activations within the SWELL facility will occur such as swimming competitions in the pool, water familiarisation demonstrations for babies between three and six months, CPR workshops, and semi structured basketball competitions by PaRBA (Palmerston and Regional Basketball Association) on the basketball court, in addition to a DJ and roving entertainment. This will ensure that there’s something for everyone to enjoy. Additionally, attendees can look forward to a mesmerising performance of synchronised swimming routines by the Syncettes designed to wow everyone in the audience. Aligning the opening with Christmas in Palmerston allows families to spend the day and night at some of Council’s best-run facilities and events. It is a fabulous opportunity to showcase everything that City of Palmerston offers to the community, visitors and potential residents.

Current investment

Local Spend

Over the last 12 months Council spent \$46.3 million with local suppliers out of the combined \$52.8 million Operational and Capital expenditure during that period presenting 88% significant investment to the continued support and growth of the local economy.



A Place for People

Capital Projects

Council’s current revised Budget allocates \$26.6 million to the Capital Works Programs in 2023/24. These programs included a broad range of asset renewal programs along with major capital projects from planning and development stages to delivery.

This relates to the action in the PLEP ‘Bring forward capital investment programs planned for the City of Palmerston.’

Capital projects are any project where a Council asset is built or renewed. This can include new assets, such as a new shade over a playground, or replacement (also referred to as renewal of assets such as road resurfacing).

Updates on the future major capital projects are included below.

SWELL Construction

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

Construction works commenced in August 2022 and is currently on schedule to be completed by December 2023. The works are progressing in line with program and a major milestone was reached with the installation of the Mythra Pool System. Further works progressed are the structure for the pool shade systems and delivery of the Adventure Playground from Canada.



Photos from the top-left to right: Bird’s eye-view SWELL and high ropes obstacle.
Photos from bottom-left to right: Water play area bird’s eye view of SWELL.

A Place for People

Zuccoli Community Hub – Dog Park

The Master Plan for the Zuccoli and Surrounds Community Hub incorporates an off-leash dog park, walking trails, a skate park and pump track, a playground, children’s boutique library, community centre and a garden of reflection. Stage 1 construction which comprised of a dog park featuring a duo of enclosed play spaces equipped with water play amenities, public restroom facilities, and provisional vehicle parking was completed in May 2023 along with Stage 2 which was the installation of Exeloo in June 2023.



Site Map and photos

Zuccoli Community Hub – Future Stages

The Master Plan for the Zuccoli and surrounds Community Hub incorporates an off-leash dog park (which is now open), walking trails, a skate park and pump track, a playground, library, community centre and a garden of reflection. The project has an estimate cost of \$20 million and is anticipated to be delivered over a 5-year period and commenced in 2022.

The Community Hub will be delivered in multiple stages, the first stage being the Dog Park which is now open. The current works are staged as follows:

- Dog Park - completed and opened for community use, including public toilet.
- Pump Track and Skate Park – civil design works for the entire site, including pump track and skate parks, has commenced, works planned for 2024. This stage is partially funded by the Northern Territory Government Priority Infrastructure Grant.
- Walking Trail & Shelters – subject to Council endorsement, this stage will occur concurrently with Stage 2, and would be funded by the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Phase 4.
- Playground and open space areas – not commenced.
- Library and Community Centre – not commenced.



Zuccoli Community Hub Concept Design

A Place for People

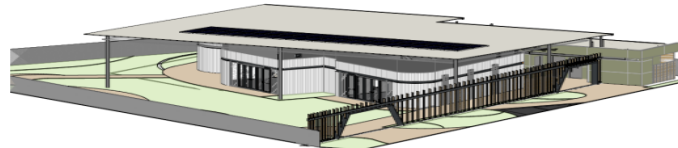
Driver Community Centre

The Driver Resource Centre was constructed in the mid 1980's as a Childcare Facility co-located with the adjacent Driver Primary School. The existing facility is reaching end of life and requires development to better address the needs of the community.

As a summary:

- The building is located on Lot 4196, 19 Driver Avenue Town of Palmerston.
- The lot is 2070 square metres but constrained by significant easements, leaving a 450 square metre (approximately) area available for construction of a building.
- The lot is zoned for Community Purpose.
- The building, owned by Council, is currently used by several groups, and has a main tenant in place who have sole use of some of the space.
- The Centre is no longer fit for purpose or meeting the current and projected needs of the community.

The estimated cost for the project based on the concept is in the order of \$2.5 - \$3 million.



Conceptual Design

FiberSense

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

A total of 60km of fiber optic cable has been laid throughout Palmerston Central Business District (CBD) and Tiger Brennan Drive. FiberSense has completed 100% of the cable installation and splicing for the project within the road network. CoP is continuing to work with FiberSense in relation to the implementation and usage of the data. A demonstration of the data usage was prepared for a workshop in October with a public launch of the product following this.

The initial system will include traffic data and asset protection i.e. excavation and works occurring in public domain. The system will also have the ability to re-enact/simulate events such as accidents with accuracy. Following the launch, work will continue as the next stages as per agreement to include things such as people movement in 2024.

Enterprise Resource Planning Project (ERP)

To successfully deliver services to the community, along with the internal corporate needs of the organisation, Council requires an effective system/s capable of delivering a prominent level of service.

The need for an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Project has been identified to enable a strategic approach to updating Council's systems.

The project has been split into the following stages:

- Project Development and Tender Preparation – interpretation of gap analysis, with development and issuing of public tender for the supply, installation, implementation and operational backup for new operating systems.
- Tender Award and Implementation – award of tender(s) for the implementation of system(s), including change management plan development and implementation.

The project is estimated to cost \$2 million, including project support, tender preparation, contract award and implementation. Council allocated a budget of \$1.1 million to project for 2023/24.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- Finance
- Infrastructure
- Community Development

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this Report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget or resource implications relating to this Report.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk that failure to deliver on these projects in the time frame specified may result in community dissatisfaction. City of Palmerston is actively working with relevant consultants and contractors to bring these projects to practical completion.

The construction sector is in a rapidly escalating economic phase combined with constrained resources, labour, and logistics. This increased the risks associated with costs and delays. These risks are being managed through identification from design analysis, refinement, and contractor / program management.

City of Palmerston has several major projects at various stages of development combined with delivery of capital and operational works programs. There is a risk that current Full Time Equivalent (FTE) allocations may not be adequate to successfully deliver the volume of significant projects, continued additional grant funding allocations, and annual programs in line with expectations. To mitigate these risks, a review of resourcing in the project management team is underway which may result in future requests for additional long and short-medium term resource allocation.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

3. **Economic Development**
Failure to articulate, provide and promote the value proposition for Palmerston as an economic centre to attract investment.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The benefits of these activities are numerous, including injecting investment into the community, enhancing the amenity of the local area; providing greater health and lifestyle choices, increasing social



A Place for People

diversion and youth engagement, local employment opportunities, improved public safety, increased waste recycling, and reducing the effects of heat and climate.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

ATTACHMENTS

1. COP Annual Report 2022-23 [8.2.3.1 - 144 pages]

2022 | ANNUAL 2023 | REPORT



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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



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

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Chinese Lion Dancers, Multicultural Festival, Goyder Square, 2023

WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT

Our community is at the heart of everything we do. In 2018, we worked with the community to develop the City of Palmerston Community Plan which provides the vision to guide our work for the next ten years. The City of Palmerston's Vision is to create *A Place for People* through the delivery of projects, programs, services and infrastructure. This annual report highlights our progress and performance against the objectives, strategies and actions we committed to deliver in the Community Plan and the Municipal Plan and Budget.

The City of Palmerston 2022-23 Annual Report has been developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)* and provides a transparent account of our performance for the financial year and includes Council's Audited Financial Statements.

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



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



everyone belongs, and everyone feels safe.

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

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

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

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

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





Reconciliation week storytime,
Palmerston Library, 2022

OUR STORY

WRITTEN BY THE COMMUNITY

Palmerston began with creation and the dreamtime.

The Larrakia are the first people of Palmerston.

Jumping forward many thousands of years to 1982, our place became known as Palmerston.

This quiet, peaceful town saw children playing on the streets, while the town was growing fast. The commissioning of the Water Tower in the early days stamped the centre of Palmerston and left a legacy that we are all connected to today. As development progressed and the City of Palmerston expanded into bush areas, we saw people from many countries moving into the area and making Palmerston their home. Culture, painting and food were all central to our community as was friendship and tight knit families.

We are grateful for the pioneers of Palmerston who not only built our city but ensured natural bush areas were retained.

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

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

Now we are in a place of opportunity.

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

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

OUR CITY

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

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

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

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



13%
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

OVER 27%
OF POPULATION AGED
0 – 19 YEARS

23%
OF PEOPLE SPEAK A
NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE
AT HOME



40,471
RESIDENTS LIVE IN
PALMERSTON

72KM²
LAND AREA

15,118
HOMES IN PALMERSTON



22%
OF POPULATION BORN
OVERSEAS



MEDIAN
WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD
INCOME \$2,269



AVERAGE OF 2.7
PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD

AVERAGE OF 1.9
CHILDREN PER FAMILY

MEDIAN AGE
OF 31 YEARS

**RESIDENTS
REPRESENT 16%**
OF NT POPULATION



288 HECTARES
OF OPEN SPACE PARKS
AND GARDENS

15
LAKES

OUR YEAR 2022-23



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



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



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



**17,428 FOLLOWERS ON
FACEBOOK**



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



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



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



**RESURFACED 4.8
KILOMETRES OF ROADS**



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



**REPAIRED 240 SECTIONS
OF PATHWAYS**



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



**FIXED 331 STREET
LIGHTS**



**CONSTRUCTED 140
DRIVEWAYS**



**DELIVERED 104
COMMUNITY EVENTS**

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alhina



CEO'S MESSAGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



OUR ELECTED MEMBERS

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

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



MAYOR ATHINA PASCOE-BELL

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

Athina has been the mayor for over 5 years, following a 20-year career as a spatial science professional, 5 years in the private sector and 15 years in the public. Her career provided her with invaluable governance, policy, procedure and planning experience to bring to the role of Mayor. Athina is now studying towards a law degree to equip herself with the legal knowledge that will benefit the community. Athina's other interests include being a Scout leader, sewing, arts and crafts.

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



COUNCILLOR AMBER GARDEN

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

Deputy Mayor: 18 April 2022 to 11 November 2022



COUNCILLOR BENJAMIN GIESECKE

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



COUNCILLOR DAMIAN HALE

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



COUNCILLOR SARAH HENDERSON

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



COUNCILLOR DANIELLE EVELEIGH

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

Deputy Mayor: 8 June 2023 to 1 January 2024



COUNCILLOR LUCY MORRISON

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

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

Deputy Mayor: 12 November 2022 to 7 June 2023



COUNCILLOR MARK FRASER

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

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

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



LUCCIO CERCARELLI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Responsibilities include:

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

- Business Performance and Improvement
- Advocacy
- Strategy and Insights
- Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships
- Strategic Organisational Planning



AMELIA VELLAR
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Responsibilities include:

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



ANNA INGRAM
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Responsibilities include:

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



NADINE NILON
GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE

Responsibilities include:

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



WATI KERTA
DIRECTOR FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

Responsibilities include:

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

OUR OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

City of Palmerston is the Northern Territory's youngest and second largest city, located 20 kilometres south-east of the capital Darwin. It is a vibrant, modern city with a median age of 31. Palmerston is a regional hub with a promising future.

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

OPPORTUNITIES

Centrally located between the population centres of Darwin and its rural area, Palmerston has vast opportunities in agribusiness, health, energy and minerals, international education and training and defence.

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

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

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

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

Council embraces the opportunities to:

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

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

City of Palmerston grew its area by 30% on 1 July 2022 with the new changes to the municipal boundary increasing from 56km² to 72km². With this comes the addition of 11 new roads (5.46 km), over 3km of underground stormwater infrastructure and an estimated 60 streetlights. City of Palmerston have included the management of these assets for the Palmerston community.

CHALLENGES

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

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

When asked what the most important issues are in the local area, more than half of respondents named crime and safety issues (65%), an increase from 60% last year and 47% in 2021.

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

The team at City of Palmerston works very closely with a variety of external stakeholders such as Larrakia Nation, NT Police and the Department of Territory Families to assist and help reduce anti-social behaviour and crime within the CBD.

These partnerships will continue, and we will look at opportunities to improve the current programs as well as develop others. Council is very fortunate to have such great working relationships with local youth services such as Palmerston and Rural Basketball Association (PaRBA), where we work with youth to guide them on a positive life path.

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

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

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

OUR PERFORMANCE

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

Council engaged external consultant Kantar to conduct the survey, with a total of 635 participants, of which 600 were over the phone and 35 completed via the online questionnaire.

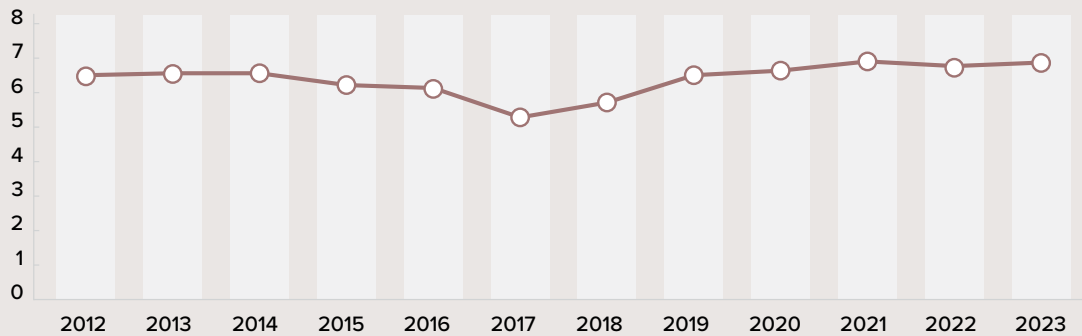
The community satisfaction survey results have had a generally upward trend projection since 2017, as per the graph below. In 2021, the highest scores were recorded, with 2023 recording the second highest score.

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



Construction workers,
SWELL construction, 2022

OVERALL SCORE TREND



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

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

The survey identified our top two highest performing services as:

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

The two lowest scoring measures were:

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

The two measures that had statistically significant increases were:

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

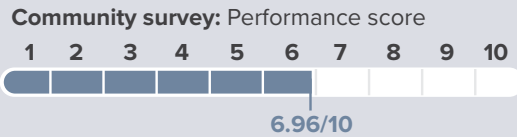
Council is committed to continual improvement and genuinely listening and responding to the community. The feedback received through this survey is highly valued and used by the Council to inform future planning and responding to areas of concern.

COMMUNITY PLAN SCORECARD



Multicultural Festival,
Goyder Square, 2023

1. FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

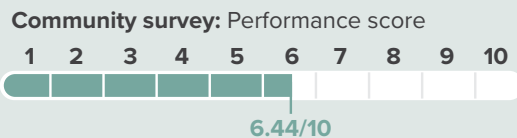


Pages 27 to 37

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

Objectives	Measures of Success	Highlights	Success	Looking forward
1.1 We focus on families	More people attend Council events and engage in community activities	Launched the popular Zuccoli Dog Park	Over 7,000 young people attended Palmerston Youth Festival	Continue delivery of high quality free events
1.2 The wellbeing of our community is a focus for all of our work	Reduce crime and violence	Constructed Palmerston's first Ninja Warrior Course	13,086 people attended Christmas Wonderland	Free venue hire for the community
	Increased partnerships to address crime	Increased the number of community events for the people of Palmerston	Delivered 104 community events	Implement new Animal Management By-Laws
	Increased access to Council facilities and resources for community activities for all members of our community	Won the Most Outstanding Stall and Best Government Stall at the Darwin Show for the second year in a row	Delivered 567 library programs attended by 11,453 people	Delivery of half basketball court at Marlow Lagoon
		Second draft of the Animal Management By-Laws	149,984 people visited the Palmerston Library	Delivery of Skate Park / Pump track at Zuccoli Hub

2. VIBRANT ECONOMY

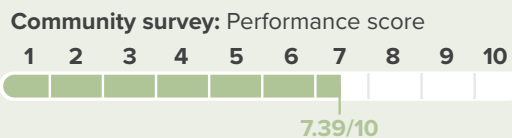


Pages 38 to 45

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

Objectives	Measures of Success	Highlights	Success	Looking forward
2.1 Improve Palmerston's image	People of Palmerston choose to shop local and retail shop spaces are full	Supported local business through Buy Local Policy	Injected \$32.3M million in Palmerston's economy with 89 per cent going to local businesses	Implement Palmerston Local Economic Plan
2.2 Palmerston's economic future is bright	Palmerston's population is growing and employment rates increase	Commenced Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee	Sourced \$5.3million in government grant funding	Local Business Survey
	More tourists visit Palmerston	Started implementing Palmerston Local Economic Plan	Provided advice on 53 planning applications	Vibrant Economy website
	More funds available for Council to invest in the community	Provided free parking to support residents and local business	Removed graffiti from 154 locations	Continuation of free parking
	There are more businesses located in Palmerston	Secured government funding to fast track and increase the projects Council delivered		No Alfresco Dining fees
				Ongoing sponsorship of community events
				Continue to participate in the NT Planning process

3. CULTURAL DIVERSITY

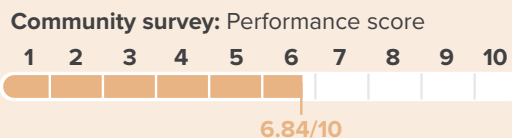


Pages 46 to 53

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

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

4. A FUTURE FOCUS



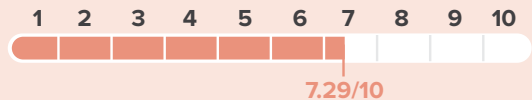
Pages 54 to 63

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Community survey: Performance score



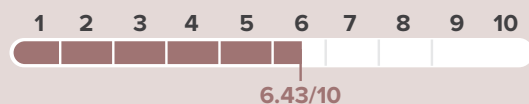
Pages 64 to 73

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

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

GOVERNANCE

Community survey: Performance score



Pages 64 to 73

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

Objectives	Measures of Success	Highlights	Success	Looking forward
6.1 Ensure we have a leading governance model	Community are satisfied that Council:	Increased customer services hours to 7.30am – 5.30pm	Employ 95 staff	Expand data reporting to broader range of Council assets
6.2 Community is at the centre	• Values participation in Council activities and is committed to the highest possible levels of service and engagement	Provided training to upskill all employees at Council	\$215,722 on employee training	Implement updated Strategic Risk Register, policy and framework
6.3 Healthy working partnerships	• Ensures its systems and processes support the organisation to deliver the best possible outcomes	Reviewed 13 Council policies	95 staff completed training	Continued engagement through communication and consultation strategies
	• Values its people and culture and is committed to continuous improvement and innovation while seeking to reduce service costs through increased efficiency	Held 22 Ordinary Council Meetings	3 new Advisory Committees	Deliver governance and compliance training
	• Shows corporate and social responsibility, ensuring the sustainability of Council assets and services and undertakes planning and reporting of Council performance	Held 2 Council to the Community Meetings	5 Freedom of Information requests	Development of Talent Attraction Strategy
		Provided grants, donations, in-kind support and sponsorship for local residents and businesses	Provided \$180,905 in grants, scholarships and sponsorships to 30 community groups and 139 individuals	

t.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES:

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



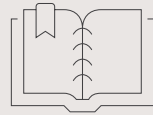
Performance, Christmas
Wonderland, Library
community room, 2022

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

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



DELIVERED 567 LIBRARY PROGRAMS ATTENDED BY 11,453 PEOPLE



149,984 VISITS TO THE PALMERSTON LIBRARY



95,620 ITEMS BORROWED TO THE LIBRARY



DELIVERED 104 COMMUNITY EVENTS



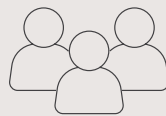
OVER 7,000 YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDED PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL



13,086 PEOPLE ATTENDED PALMERSTON CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND



LAUNCHED ZUCCOLI DOG PARK



550 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE PALMERSTON CHILDREN'S WEEK EVENT



3,150 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE HALLOWEEN GHOSTLY GATHERING EVENT



660 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE BREKKIE IN THE PARK EVENTS



70 PEOPLE ATTENDED CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS



5,764 DOGS REGISTERED



CONSTRUCTED PALMERSTON'S FIRST NINJA OBSTACLE COURSE



Christmas Wonderland,
Goyder Square, 2022

WE FOCUS ON FAMILIES

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

BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

In 2022-23, City of Palmerston delivered another successful community events and activities program that was embraced by the Palmerston community. Altogether there were 104 events and activities delivered for the community to enjoy.

The range of community events included:

- Urban Jams
- Christmas Wonderland
- Community Christmas Lights
- Children's Week event
- Ghostly Gatherings
- Live at the Lake
- FlicNics
- Territory Day fireworks
- Palmerston Youth Festival
- Brekkie in the Park
- On Frances Series
- Egg-cellent Easter
- National Families Week event.

CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND AND ALL ABILITIES EVENING

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

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

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

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



Baby Ballet, Community Room,
Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2023

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMPETITION

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

CHILDREN'S WEEK EVENT

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

BREKKIE IN THE PARK

Brekkie in the Park events activate and showcase Palmerston's parks and playgrounds with engaging and fun activities for children and families. Each event offers families a free breakfast, a range of activities, and a chance to connect with their local parks and neighbours. It also provides the opportunity for City of Palmerston to build strong partnerships with

community organisations who support the events. City of Palmerston's Rangers attend the events to offer free microchipping for all dogs and free registration to new dogs. Brekkie in the Park events were held at the following parks:

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

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

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

CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS

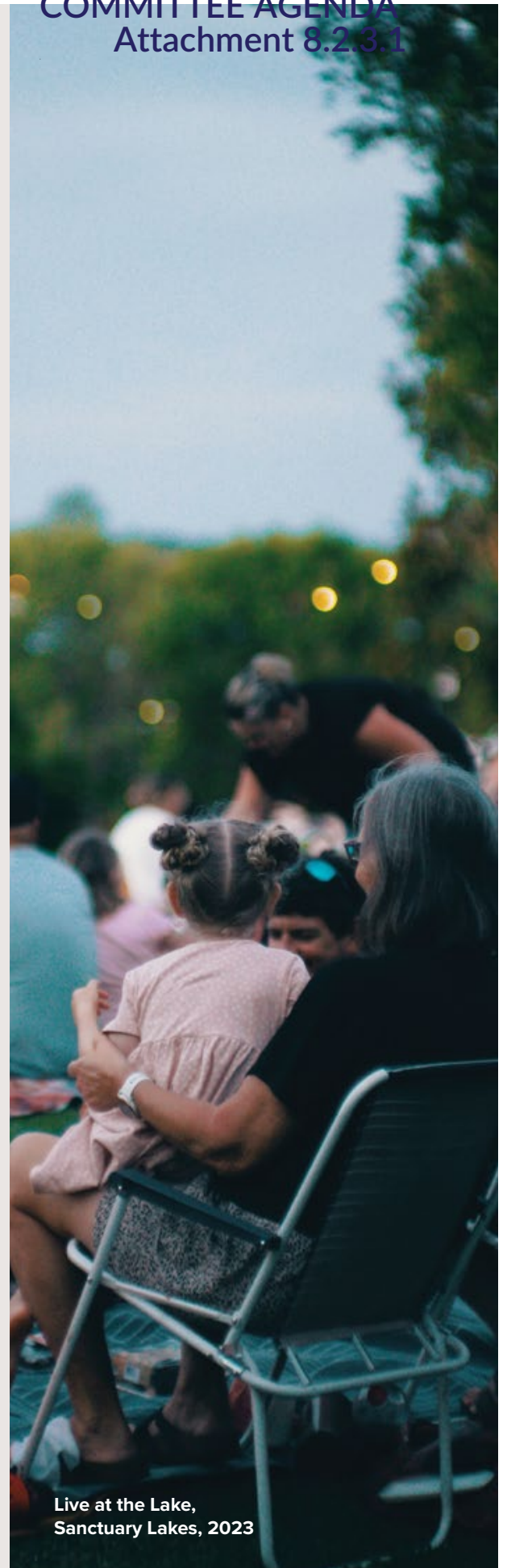
Throughout June 2023, Council successfully collaborated with three renowned local artists to deliver art workshops as part of the Creative Industries Plan 2023 – 2027. Artists' Aly de Groot, Janie Andrews and Sachi Hirayama hosted a series of 16 different arts workshops at Durack Community Arts Centre.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

HALLOWEEN - GHOSTLY GATHERINGS

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

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- FlicNics – every Saturday evening from July to September families gathered between Goyder Square, Sanctuary Lakes and Durack Community Arts Centre to enjoy free outdoor movies under the stars.
- Live at the Lake – community members brought a rug and picnic to enjoy free live music performances once a month at Sanctuary Lakes throughout the dry season.



Live at the Lake,
Sanctuary Lakes, 2023



Council Staff, Palmerston Library, 2022

LIBRARY SERVICES

The library connects the community and encourages the love of reading and activities that inspire learning and creativity. The library offers a range of services to suit all preferences and occasions including printing, scanning, computer and internet access, home services, eBooks, eAudio books, magazines, eMagazines, DVDs, graphic novels, spoken word, anime and manga. In 2022-23, there were 149,984 visits to the Palmerston Library and 95,620 items borrowed.

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

In 2022-23 the library delivered 567 library programs and events that were attended by 11,453 people.

Ongoing weekly programs included:

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

Special events and activities included:

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

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

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

PLAY SPACE STRATEGY

Palmerston is home to over 60 sites containing playgrounds across the municipality, offering important points of social and community activation. In 2022 Council endorsed a Play Space Strategy to provide a coordinated and robust approach to playground planning.

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

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

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

NINJA OBSTACLE COURSE

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

NEW SHADE STRUCTURES

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

MARLOW LAGOON BASKETBALL HALF COURT

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

ALL ABILITIES ACCESS

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

POTABLE WATER

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

ZUCCOLI DOG PARK

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

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



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

PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

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

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

Festival highlights included:

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

URBAN JAMS

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

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Pipes and Drains Campaign – awareness of the dangers of swimming or playing in pipes and drains in the wet season.
- Get Active, Palmerston – a 15 week health and wellbeing program of low cost and free fitness options for residents and visitors.



Live at the Lake,
Sanctuary Lakes, 2023

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

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

Council has introduced a number of initiatives to improve awareness around animal education and its rangers continued to educate pet owners on their responsibilities to keep their pets safe.

\$10 DESEX AND MICROCHIP DECEMBER PROGRAM

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

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

ANIMAL EDUCATION AND STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

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

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

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

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



Council Rangers,
Civic Plaza, 2023

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

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

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

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023–24

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

2.

VIBRANT ECONOMY

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

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

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

COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES:

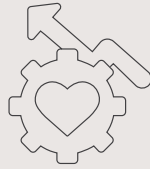
- Improve Palmerston's image
- Palmerston's economic future is bright



Local food vendor, Christmas
Wonderland, Goyder Square, 2022

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

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



INJECTED \$32.3 MILLION INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY



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



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



SOURCED \$5.3 MILLION IN GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDING



PROVIDED ADVICE ON 53 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS



29 TONNES OF WASTE WERE COLLECTED FROM COUNCIL PUBLIC WASTE BINS



REMOVED GRAFFITI FROM 154 LOCATIONS ACROSS THE MUNICIPALITY



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

IMPROVE PALMERSTON'S IMAGE

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

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

PLANNING RESPONSES

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

For the 2022-23 period, Council provided advice as the Local Authority on 53 development applications. This was supported by Council representation at several Development Consent Authority meetings.

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

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

ZUCCOLI - PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT - SUBDIVISIONS:

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

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



Local Palmerston Business,
mypalmerston, 2022

ENTREPRENEURSHIP 101

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

GRAFFITI, VANDALISM AND LITTER MANAGEMENT

To ensure the visual appeal of the city, Council maintains a litter collection program which

includes the provision of public waste bins and routine and reactive litter collection processes. There is also a street and pathway sweeping program across the public space of the municipality. The frequency of waste bin and litter collection services ranges from daily to weekly depending on the location. Approximately 29.0 tonnes of waste were collected from Council public waste bins in 2022-23. This is a reduction of approximately 4 tonnes from 2021-22 where 34.4 tonnes of waste were collected.

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

PALMERSTON'S ECONOMIC FUTURE IS BRIGHT

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

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

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

LOCAL ECONOMIC PLAN

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

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

VIBRANT ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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



Local Palmerston Business,
mypalmerston, 2022

BOOSTING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

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

In 2022-23 contracts awarded to local businesses included:

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

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

To add to the amount of money available and increase the number of programs and projects delivered in the city, Council applied for and received \$5.3million in grant funding from the Northern Territory and Australian Governments for the following projects:

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

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

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

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

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023–24

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



Local Palmerston Business,
myPalmerston, 2022

3.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

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

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

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

COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES:

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

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



MEASURES OF SUCCESS

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



**HOSTED 46 EVENTS
CELEBRATING CULTURE
AND DIVERSITY**



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



**OVER 200 PEOPLE
ATTENDED PRIDE ON
FRANCES**



**OVER 500 PEOPLE ENJOY
THE MULTICULTURAL
FESTIVAL**



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



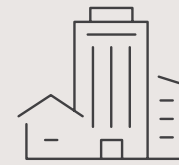
**OVER 350 PEOPLE ATTENDED
INTERNATIONAL WOMENS
DAY EVENTS**



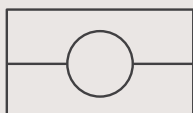
**OVER 200 PEOPLE ATTENDED
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
CHILDREN'S DAY**



**DISABILITY INCLUSION
AND ACCESS PLAN
ADOPTED**



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



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

TO CELEBRATE OUR RICH CULTURE AND DIVERSITY

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

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE TO CELEBRATE

City of Palmerston hosted more events to celebrate culture and diversity with 46 events in 2022-23.

The range of events included:

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

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD)

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

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



Refugee Week storytime,
Palmerston Library, 2023

AUSTRALIA DAY

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

PALMERSTON PRIDE

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

HARMONY DAY

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

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

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY

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

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

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

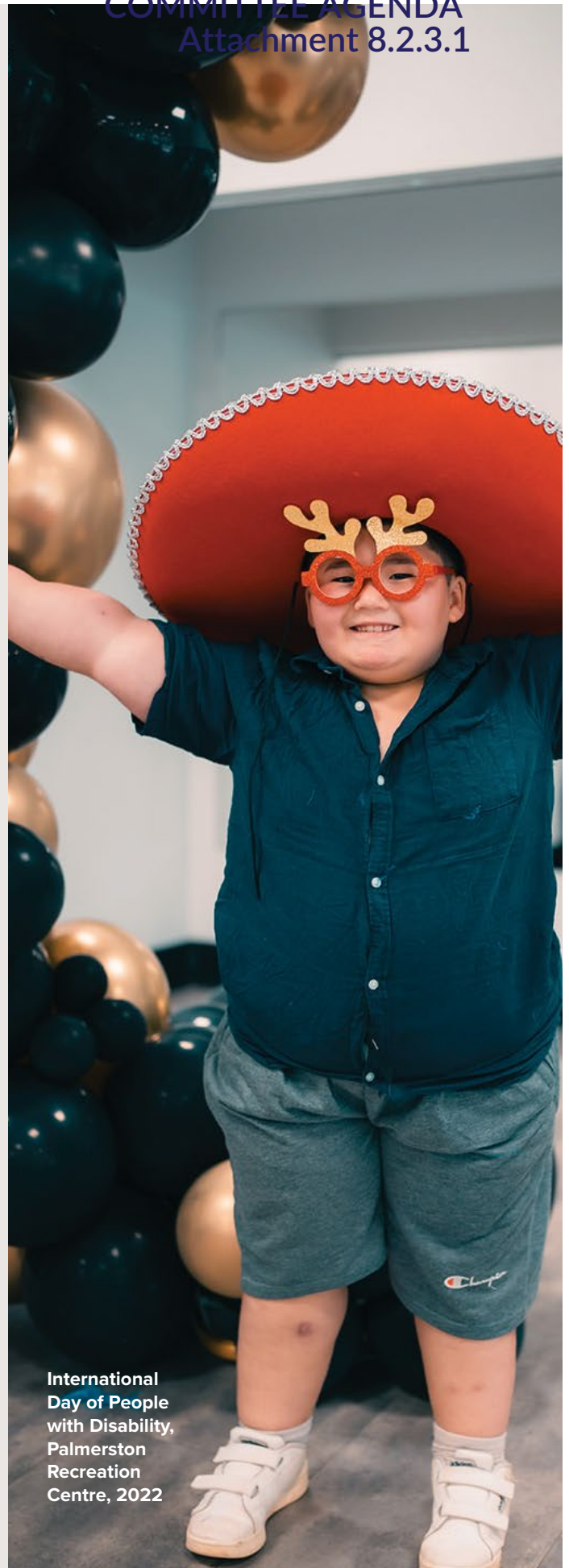
CONNECTING THROUGH DIVERSITY

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

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

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

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



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

RECOGNISE AND SUPPORT DIVERSITY THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIPS AND LEADERSHIP

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

INCLUSIVE, DIVERSE AND ACCESSIBLE POLICY FRAMEWORK

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

DISABILITY INCLUSION AND ACCESS PLAN

The first strategy to be developed under the IDA Policy Framework was the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan, which was adopted by Council in September 2022. City of Palmerston is committed to creating a community where every individual is given equal rights of access not only to council services, activities and facilities, but throughout

the broader community. The Disability Inclusion and Access Plan was created to ensure that the principles of the IDA Policy Framework are actioned in a way that ensures that City of Palmerston and all of its services, activities and facilities offer equal access and opportunity for all people to participate in their community.

WELCOME HERE PROJECT

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

GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY TRAINING

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



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



CBS recipients Palmerston Cricket Club, Palmerston, 2023

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAGS INSTALLED IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY

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

ORANGE SKY CBD SERVICE

City of Palmerston continues to partner with Orange Sky for the delivery of a free mobile laundry and shower service outside the Palmerston Recreation Centre. Whilst offering the laundry and shower services, the program enables Orange Sky to engage with people experiencing homelessness and connect them with other services to support their wellbeing.

LIGHT UP PALMERSTON

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

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

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

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

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

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023–24

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

4.

A FUTURE FOCUS

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

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

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

COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES:

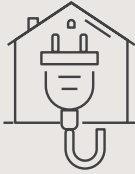
- We support and foster innovation
- Infrastructure is fit for purpose



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

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

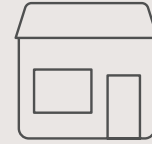
City of Palmerston upgraded facilities and introduced innovative technology and initiatives to improve the lives of residents, such as:



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



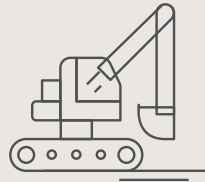
**COMPLETED ZUCCOLI
COMMUNITY HUB REGIONAL
DOG PARK**



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



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



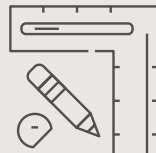
**RESURFACED 4.8
KILOMETRES OF
ROADS**



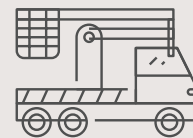
**FIXED 223
POTHoles**



**COMPLETED MAINTENANCE TO
240 SECTIONS OF PATHWAYS**



**PROCESSED 185
DRIVEWAY PLANS**



**CONSTRUCTED 140
NEW DRIVEWAYS**



**INSTALLED 39 NEW
STREET LIGHTS**



**FIXED 331 LIGHTING
FAULTS**



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



Zuccoli Dog Park,
Zuccoli, 2023

WE SUPPORT AND FOSTER INNOVATION

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

ZUCCOLI COMMUNITY HUB

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

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

FIBERSENSE

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

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



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

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PLAN

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

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

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

MASTER OF CEREMONIES (MC) WORKSHOPS

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

CREATIVE BUSINESS 101

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

INFRASTRUCTURE IS FIT FOR PURPOSE

Council continues to work to forecast and respond to the predictability of change by planning the best use of our human, built and natural resources. Our strategy is to continue to use innovation to adapt the use of our facilities and ensure they remain well suited and useful for the community to use.

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

SWELL – SWIMMING WELLNESS EVENTS LEISURE LIFESTYLE

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

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

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

GULWA COMMUNITY RECORDING STUDIO

The Council run recording studio was opened in the Palmerston Library in April 2022 and is the first of its kind in the Northern Territory. The inclusive multi-purpose space is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment that can be used for sound and video recording, mixing and production, broadcasting, skills training, and as an event space. Throughout the year, the Gulwa Community Recording Studio has hosted many different artists recording their music including Dave Garnham and the Reasons to Live, Crystal Robins and the Nepalese Association Band. In June 2023 the Palmerston Library hosted two free programs in Gulwa, teaching participants how to record podcasts and voice overs. These workshops were hosted by Brent Watkinson who has worked in radio for 10 years and will help to encourage Palmerston community to pursue work in the sector and introduce them to experts already working in the industry. After recent flooding in their community, the people from Pidgeon Hole were staying in Howard Springs and attending the Wulagi School campus. After hearing that the students had written a song the Council reached out to offer the Gulwa Community Recording Studio for them to record in. The students had great fun recording their songs over two days.



SWELL construction, 2023



Durack Community Arts Centre, 2022

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Council provides a number of community venues that support community connectedness, engagement and wellbeing. The venues can be booked by the community for events, activities and gatherings. The following table shows the usage of the venues in 2022-23:

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

MAINTAINING ROADS AND PATHWAYS

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

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

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

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

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

DRIVEWAYS

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

STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

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

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

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

In preparation for the wet season, Council undertook stormwater removal works of weed, silt and dirt from several pits, additionally, 8 damaged pits were reinstated and 263 section of the stormwater network were repaired.



Council Staff, 2023

DARK SPOT PROGRAM

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

Dark Spot lighting projects undertaken in 2022-23 include:

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

LIGHTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

COUNCIL BUILDINGS

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

Council has completed works on a number of Council buildings during 2022–23, including:

PALMERSTON LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT

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

DRIVER COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

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

NEW DOG POUND FACILITY

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

ARCHER WASTE FACILITY UPGRADE

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

Christmas Wonderland performance,
Library Community room, 2022



COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

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

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

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

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023–24

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

8.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

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

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

COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES:

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



Tree planting program, Owsten Tce,
Palmerston, 2023

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

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



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



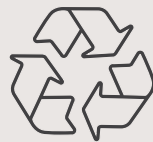
**20% REDUCTION IN
WATER USAGE IN PAST
2 YEARS**



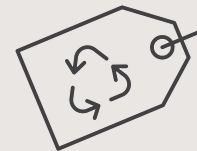
PLANTED 383 TREES



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



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



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



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



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



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

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



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

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

REDUCE OUR FOOTPRINT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

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

An Action Plan 2022-2027 was developed to support and monitor the activities identified within the Sustainability Strategy. The Strategy and supporting Action Plan will inform and guide Council practices and initiatives to integrate sustainability both within Council operations and via Council's provision of community services, education and engagement.

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

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

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

PALMERSTON LAKES AND WEED MANAGEMENT

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

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

Management of Salvinia is undertaken through mechanical harvesting, biological control and aquatic herbicide foliar spraying. Biological control relates to the introducing of Salvinia Weevils into the lakes, which eats only the Salvinia leaves. Council commenced spraying with the selective aquatic herbicide "Clipper" in 2022. This herbicide is formulated and approved for the control of selected floating, emergent and submergent aquatic weeds.

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

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

IRRIGATION WATER USAGE

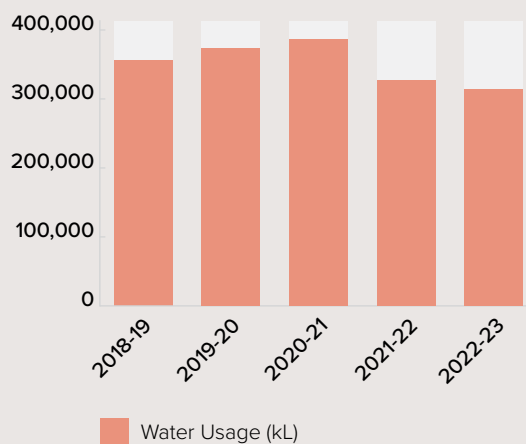
In 2022 Council adopted utility management software Azility which has contributed to improved irrigation management including leak detection and optimising of irrigation schedules.

Irrigation system improvement works completed in the reporting period included:

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

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

Water Consumption (kL)

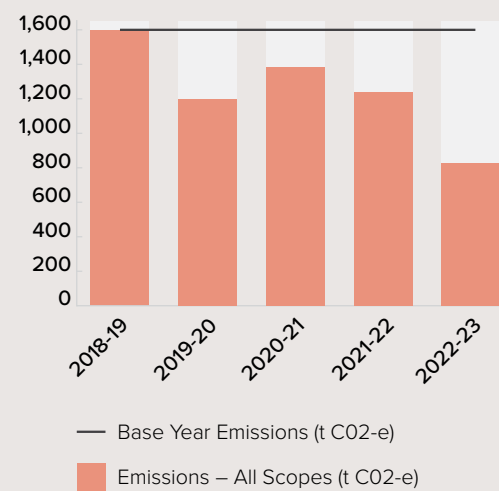


GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

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

Financial Quarter: 1, 2, 3, 4



SOLAR POWER GENERATION

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

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

The table below shows the lifetime solar generation, greenhouse gas savings and equivalent trees planted for each solar system as at the end of June 2023.

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

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

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



PALMERSTON IS A COOL, SHADED, GREEN CITY

TREE PLANTING AND BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

Council has developed a three-year tree planting and landscape beautification program to improve canopy cover, urban biodiversity, open space amenity, and community wellbeing across the Palmerston municipality. The greening and cooling of Palmerston is an important strategy to enhance the overall image and appeal of the city.

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

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

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

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

VERGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND RESIDENTIAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

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

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

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

ENCOURAGE PERSONAL ACTION AND TAKING A LEADERSHIP ROLE

ARCHER WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (AWMF)

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

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

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

Waste Type	Quantity
General Waste (t)	3306
Recyclable Materials (t) (excludes waste oil recycled)	757

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

DOMESTIC KERBSIDE COLLECTION

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

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

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

PRE-CYCLONE CLEAN UP

The annual pre-cyclone clean-up was undertaken over September and October 2022, with the collection this year splitting the municipality into four zones. In total it took 28 days to collect across the zones, which were staggered to reduce amount of time waste was on verges.

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

The total volumes collected were:

Waste Type	Quantity (tonnes)
General Waste	156
Recycling*	121
Total Material Collected	277

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

Compared to 2021 there was an increase in the total material collected and this increase is largely represented by an increase in the amount of recyclable material collected this year.

OTHER

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

REBOOT YOUR LOOT

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

E-WASTE RECYCLING

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

BATTERY RECYCLING POINTS

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

TYRE STEWARDSHIP AUSTRALIA ACCREDITATION

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

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

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE EDUCATION

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

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

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

RECYCLING AND WASTE GUIDE

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

WASTE CALENDARS

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

EARTH HOUR 2023

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

HOME COMPOSTING REBATE PROGRAM

The Home Composting Rebate commenced in January 2022 to assist residents to access and establish home composting systems. A rebate of up to \$50 per household is available to purchase home composting items such as composting bins and worm farms. This initiative continues to be advertised at the Palmerston Markets and the City of Palmerston website, additionally "Council Initiatives" signage is displayed across multiple Council facilities to increase awareness of the Program. The Elected Members hold a compost bin raffle giveaway monthly at their Palmerston Market stall. This year a total of 38 applications were approved, with a total of 74 since the program began in January 2022.



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

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

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

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

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023–24

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

5.

GOVERNANCE

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

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

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

COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES:

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

City of Palmerston CEO,
Council Chambers, 2023



MEASURES OF SUCCESS

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



**HELD 22 ORDINARY
COUNCIL MEETINGS**



**EMPLOYED 95
STAFF**



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



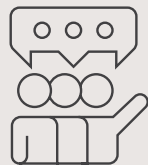
**89 EMPLOYEES
PARTICIPATED IN
TRAINING**



**REVIEWED 13
POLICIES**



**PROCESSED 5 FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION REQUESTS**



**ESTABLISHED 3
NEW ADVISORY
COMMITTEES**



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

ENSURE WE HAVE A LEADING GOVERNANCE MODEL

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

COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE

In 2022-23 there were 22 Ordinary Council Meetings.

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

In accordance with Section 71 of the *Local Government Act 2019* and the Local Government Guidelines 2: allowances for Council Members, Council's Elected Members were entitled to access a Professional Development Allowance of up to \$3753.17 during the financial year to attend appropriate and relevant conferences or training courses.

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

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



Council staff, Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2022

NUMBER OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

During the past financial year, Council considered a total of 54 confidential matters, 30 items being released to the public record. The following chart shows the number of items remaining confidential and the grounds for exclusion:

This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(a) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.	7
This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(b) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.	3
This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(i) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.	2
This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(ii) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.	1
This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.	10
This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(e) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.	1

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

CONTINUOUS POLICY IMPROVEMENT

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

Policies reviewed by Council in 2022–23 included:

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

MANAGING EMPLOYEE SAFETY

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

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

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

Worker’s Compensation claims in 2022–23:

Total Claims (new)	2
Open Claims	1
Closed Claims	1

COMMUNITY IS AT THE CENTRE

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

EXPANDING OUR CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

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

Council is committed to providing an excellent customer experience and increasing the opportunity for customers to engage with us. Civic Plaza has continued the extension of opening hours to our community implemented in July 2022 from 8.00am - 5.00pm to 7.30am – 5.30pm.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT SCHEME (CBS)

City of Palmerston actively supports community organisations and groups to deliver community initiatives, programs and events which align with the Community Plan and benefit the Palmerston community. Council awarded a total of \$180,905 from an available pool of \$250,000 for Community Benefit Scheme funding in 2022/23. The funding supported 30 community groups and 139 individuals through grants, scholarships, sponsorships and representation support.

TRAINING OUR STAFF TO BE THE BEST

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

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

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

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

ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PUBLIC

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

There were nil requests to have decisions reviewed by the Ombudsman in 2022–23.

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

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

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

The following table shows the total number of requests dealt with in 2022–23:

Category	Number of requests actioned
Access to personal information held by Council only	0
Access to personal and non-personal held by Council (in same request)	0
Access to non-personal information held by Council only	5



Council Rangers,
Palmerston CBD, 2022

HEALTHY WORKING PARTNERSHIPS

City of Palmerston values the advice and input from a range of voices in our community and support a number of advisory groups and networks to provide advice directly to Council. In 2022-23 Council established the following new Advisory Committees:

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

Council convened the following networks:

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

RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

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

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

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



Civic Plaza carpark,
Palmerston CBD, 2022

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

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

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

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

Measure	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change
How:						
Accountable is the City of Palmerston Council?	6.13	6.27	6.79	6.34	6.53	+0.19
Effective is the City of Palmerston Council?	6.22	6.41	6.68	6.24	6.59	+0.35
Performance in:						
Providing you with the opportunity to comment on Council’s decision making and interact with Council	5.63	5.71	5.90	5.72	6.14	+0.42
Achieving funding and getting things done by working in partnership with government and the community	6.05	6.30	6.70	6.44	6.44	0.00
Overall:	6.01/10	6.17/10	6.52/10	6.19/10	6.43/10	+0.24

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023–24

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

OUR COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE

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

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

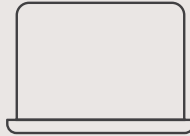


MEASURES OF SUCCESS

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



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



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



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



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



**17,428 FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS**



**1,888 INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS**



**2,013 LINKEDIN
FOLLOWERS**

SHARING INFORMATION

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

28 media releases were sent to media outlets with the intent to capture a wider audience organically through the news networks. The releases include information about changes to programs and updates to services as well as announcing community events and consultation projects. From these media releases 181 pieces of earned media was achieved. This included radio interviews, news articles, magazine articles, and features on broadcast (television). In addition to this, monthly radio interviews are negotiated

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

Council has a total of 17,428 followers on its Facebook page, which is an increase of 6% on followers in the last year. Council's Instagram page has 1,888 followers and LinkedIn has 2,013 followers.

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

In 2022-23, Council's website recorded 411,843 page views by 124,637 people visiting the website for information.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

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

SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY

City of Palmerston social media platforms are multi-disciplinary and act as an important communication tool for all teams across the organisation. With an overall increase in followers across councils Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn of almost 10% collectively, social media will continue to remain an important communication tool for council. The 2023 Community Survey identified that 55% of people would prefer to receive communication from Council via social media.

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

GENUINE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

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

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

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

DRAFT MUNICIPAL PLAN 2023-24

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

SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY AND POLICY 2022

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

PALMERSTON CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PLAN 2022-2027

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

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY 2022

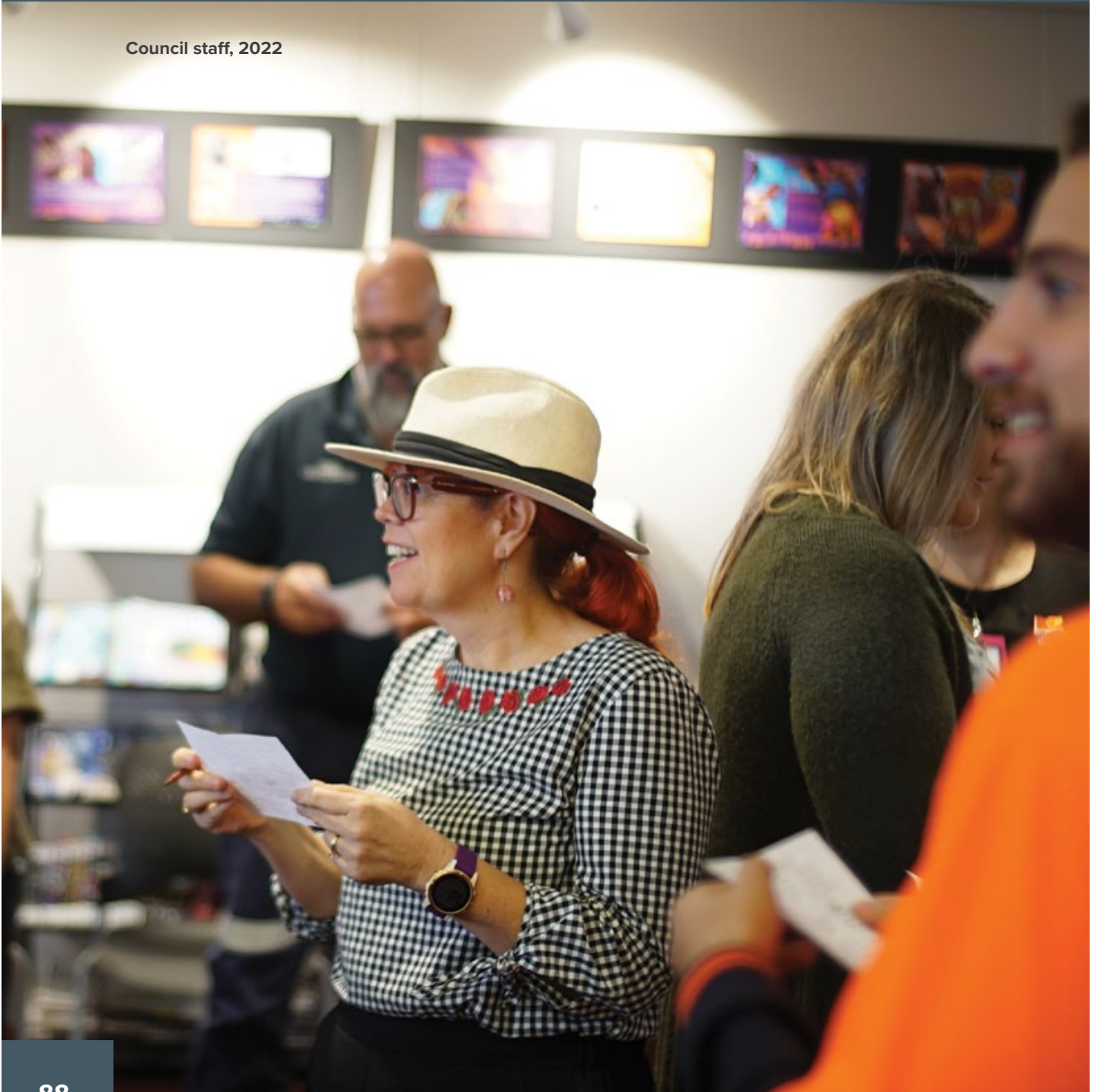
Each year Council conducts a Community Satisfaction Survey to collect feedback from the community on how Council is performing through a series of questions about services that are provided. The results are reported in the Annual Report.

OUR PEOPLE

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

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

Council staff, 2022



These initiatives include:

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



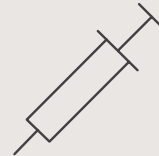
**EMPLOYS 95
LOCAL PEOPLE**



**62% WORKFORCE IS
FEMALE**



**21 EMPLOYEES BORN
OVERSEAS**



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

OUR LOCAL STAFF

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

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

EMPLOYEE POSITION TYPE BY GENDER

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

DIVERSE WORKFORCE

Diversity and age of workforce as at 30 June 2023

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

Salary breakdown as at 30 June 2023

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

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

Number of employees born overseas by gender as at June 2023

Females born overseas 11

Males born overseas 10

EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION SURVEY

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

Employee LifeSurvey

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

Respondents were asked on their satisfaction on the following areas:

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

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

EMPLOYEE WELLBEING

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

In 2022–23 these included:

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

2022-23 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 1 provides a summary of financial results compared to last year, and the full details of the Audited Financial Statements for 2022/23 financial year are available from pages 99 to 140 within the Annual Report.

To illustrate City of Palmerston's true financial performance, it is important to compare the budgeted to actual results after excluding non-cash income and expenditure and including capital expenditure, refer to Table 2. After these adjustments the net cash net operating surplus is \$3.3 million.

Table 1: Comparative years

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

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

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

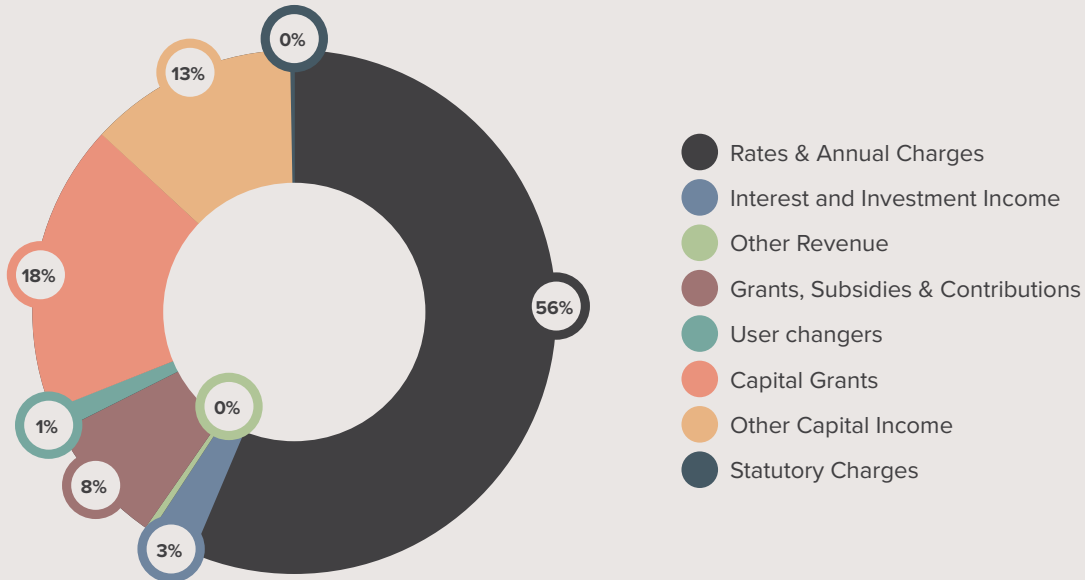
1. As per General Purpose Financial Statements
2. Non-cash adjustments include depreciation expense, prior year capital expense, gifted assets income and revaluations.

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

REVENUE BY SOURCE

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

Income by Source



REVENUE OTHER THAN GRANTS WITH PERFORMANCE OBLIGATIONS

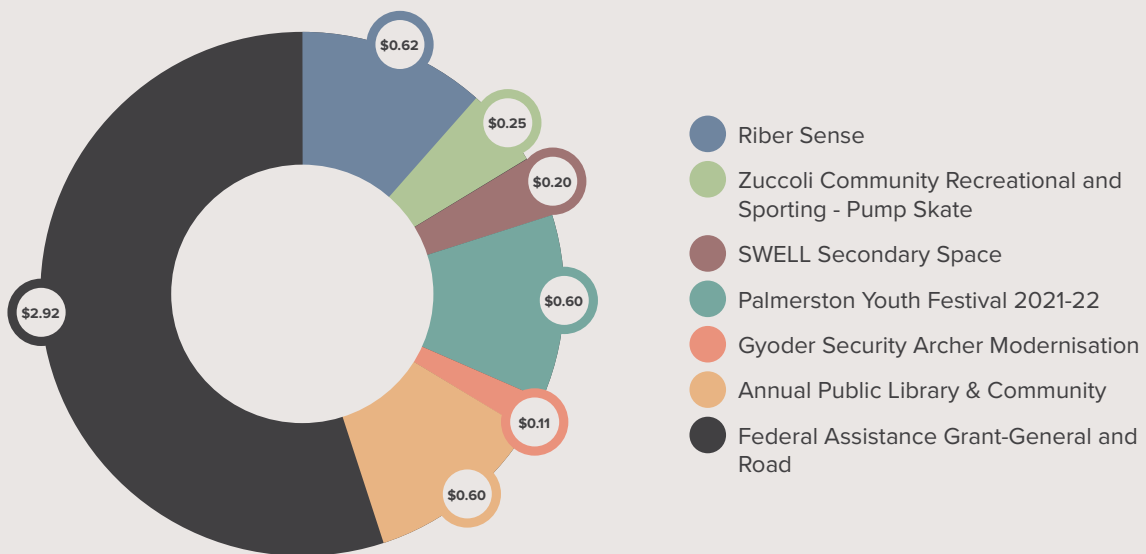
Overall operating revenue was above expected budget by \$2.5 million, this increase is mainly attributed to higher than anticipated early payment of the 2022-23 Federal Assistance Grant, The remaining income is due to increase in interest income from matured investments driven by interest rate increases by Reserve Bank of Australia.

GRANTS WITH PERFORMANCE OBLIGATIONS

Council only recognises grants with performance obligation as income in the financial year the performance obligation was met, the majority of these grants are capital grants. At the beginning of the financial year as at 30 June 2022, \$12.8M remained in grants liability and included \$7.5 million from Northern Territory Government for the Swimming, Wellness, Events, Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL) project and \$0.4 million for myPalmerston program. In 2022-23 Council received \$5.3 million from Commonwealth and the Northern Territory government as grants for both capital and operational expenditure. A total of \$13.5 million grants was spent in the 2022-23 financial year in line with scheduled programs and resulted in a closing balance of \$4.6 million in the grant liability account.

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

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

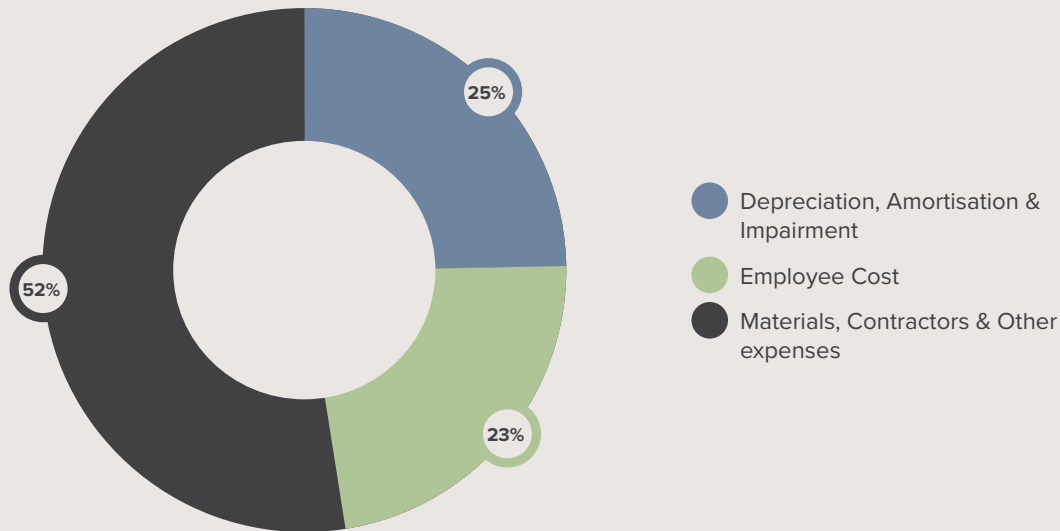


OTHER CAPITAL INCOME

While a large component of the capital income is grant income, there is \$6.9 million of capital income recognised that is considered non-cash. Of this amount \$6.8 million are assets that were handed over to Council free of charge, which include roads from subdivisions and land for parks in which Council will own and maintain these community assets.

EXPENSES

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



EXPENSES EXCLUDING NON-CASH EXPENDITURE

Overall expenses for 2022-23 is in line with budget expectations with cost savings identified across some areas of the Council. Although Employee costs of \$9.8 million appears to be well below budget, due to a number of vacant positions due to recruitment challenges, Council was able to maintain its service delivery through periodically filling vacant positions using labour hire through employment agencies, which is sitting in Material and Contractors. Material and Contractors saw a slight savings which was largely due to waste management which was offset by expenses from capital construction works not meeting the definition of an asset.

There were savings in other areas such as utilities due to increased use in solar leading to savings in electricity costs and water usage. Material and Contractors saw a slight savings which was largely due to waste management which was offset by expenses from capital construction works not meeting the definition of an asset.

DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION AND IMPAIRMENT

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

When construction works are completed there are some expenditures that are not capitalised as they do not meet the definition of asset and therefore are expensed. A total of \$0.52 million of expenditure has been treated in this way, only \$0.06 million was considered non-cash as it relates to prior year expenditure.

ELECTED MEMBER ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

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

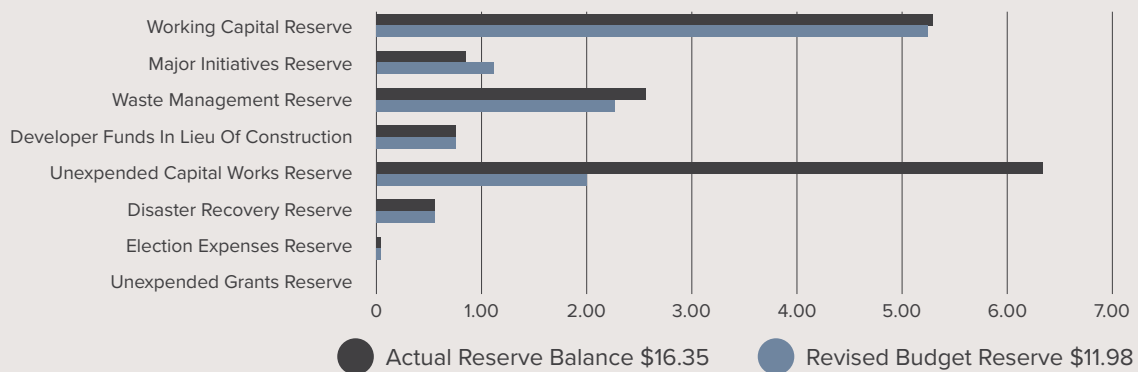
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

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

RESERVES

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

Financial Reserve 2022/2023 (in \$ Millions)



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

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

The Financial Reserve Policy allows for the net operational surplus identified at the end of the financial year to be transferred to the working capital reserve, or to a specific purpose reserve to be utilised against future projects. As a result, the \$3.2 million operational surplus will be allocated to the following reserves:

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

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

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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City of Palmerston

General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

Chief Executive Officer's Statement

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

- have been drawn up in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, the *Local Government Act 2019* and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* so as to present fairly the financial position of the Council and the results for the year ended 30 June 2023; and
- are in accordance with the accounting and other records of Council.



Luccio Franco Cercarelli
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dated: 9 November 2023

City of Palmerston

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

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

City of Palmerston

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2023

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

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

(*) Refer to Note 20 for restatement

City of Palmerston

Statement of Changes in Equity
for the year ended 30 June 2023

\$ '000	Notes	Accumulated surplus	Asset revaluation reserve	Other reserves	Total equity
2023					
Balance at the end of previous reporting period*		201,184	368,316	20,384	589,884
Restated balance*		201,184	368,316	20,384	589,884
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		12,470	-	-	12,470
Other Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)					
- Gain (Loss) on Revaluation of I,PP&E	7a	-	(2,590)	-	(2,590)
Other comprehensive loss		-	(2,590)	-	(2,590)
Total comprehensive income		12,470	(2,590)	-	9,880
Transfers between Reserves		4,032	-	(4,032)	-
Balance at the end of period		217,686	365,726	16,352	599,764
2022					
Balance at the end of previous reporting period*		202,789	368,316	18,853	589,958
Impact of correction of errors*	20	(1,416)	-	-	(1,416)
Restated balance*		201,373	368,316	18,853	588,542
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		1,342	-	-	1,342
Other Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)					
- Gain (Loss) on Revaluation of I,PP&E	7a	-	-	-	-
Other comprehensive loss		-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income		1,342	-	-	1,342
Transfers between Reserves		(1,531)	-	1,531	-
Balance at the end of period*		201,184	368,316	20,384	589,884

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

(*) Refer to Note 20 for restatement

City of Palmerston

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

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

City of Palmerston

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

Contents of the Notes accompanying the General Purpose Financial Statements

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City of Palmerston

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

Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

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

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

(1) Basis of preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

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

The financial report was authorised for issue on 9 November 2023.

1.2 Historical cost convention

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

1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

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

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

1.4 Rounding

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

(2) The local government reporting entity

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

(3) Income recognition

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

3.1 Grants

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

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

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

3.2 Rates Revenue

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

3.3 Non-cash contributions

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

3.4 Developer Charges

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

3.5 Rental income

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

3.6 Interest and dividends

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

3.7 Sales revenue

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

3.8 Statutory and User Charges

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

(4) Cash, cash equivalents and other financial instruments

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

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

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

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

(5) Inventories

Council does not hold any inventories.

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(6) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

6.1 Initial recognition

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

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

6.2 Materiality

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

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

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

6.3 Subsequent recognition

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

6.4 Depreciation of non-current assets

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

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

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

Plant, Furniture & Equipment

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

Building & Other Structures

Buildings	7.5 to 100 years
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City of Palmerston

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

Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Infrastructure

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

Other Assets

Land Improvement	3 to 100 years
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6.5 Impairment

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

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

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

6.6 Borrowing costs

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

(7) Investment property

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

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

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

Full valuations are carried out every year.

The last full valuation for Council's Investment Properties was dated 30/06/2023.

(8) Payables

8.1 Goods and services

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

8.2 Payments received in advance and deposits

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(9) Borrowings

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

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

(10) Employee benefits

10.1 Salaries, wages and compensated absences

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

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

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

10.2 Superannuation

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

(11) Provisions for reinstatement, restoration and rehabilitation

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

(12) Leases

Council Lease arrangements have been accounted for in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 16.

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

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

(13) Construction Contracts

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

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

City of Palmerston

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

Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(14) GST implications

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

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

(15) Comparative figures

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

(16) Disclaimer

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

Note 2. Income

\$ '000	2023	2022
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(a) Rates and Waste Charges

General rates

Residential	20,126	19,584
Commercial	2,416	2,350
Industrial	2,078	995
Total general rates	24,620	22,929

Other rates (including service charges)

Waste Management Service	6,895	6,884
Total other rates (including service charges)	6,895	6,884

Total rates

31,515	29,813
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(b) Statutory charges

Animal registration fees and fines	65	70
Parking fines / expiation fees	13	30
Other licences, fees & fines	27	22
Total statutory charges	105	122

City of Palmerston

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

Note 2. Income (continued)

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 2. Income (continued)

\$ '000	2023	2022
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(h) 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	12,836	9,363
Less:		
<i>Expended during the current period from grants received in previous reporting periods</i>		
Government Grants	(9,113)	(2,863)
Subtotal	(9,113)	(2,863)
Plus:		
<i>Amounts received in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions</i>		
Government Grants	860	6,336
Subtotal	860	6,336
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period	4,583	12,836
Net increase (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period	(8,253)	3,473

(i) Physical resources received free of charge

Roads and Pavement	1,505	773
Stormwater drainage	3,767	1,448
Street Lights	583	246
Footpaths, Cycleways and Driveways	536	234
Other - Gifted Assets	433	459
Total physical resources received free of charge	6,824	3,160

City of Palmerston

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

Note 2. Income (continued)

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

Note 3. Expenses

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

City of Palmerston

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

Note 3. Expenses (continued)

\$ '000	Notes	2023	2022
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	17	891	858
Workers' compensation insurance		160	178
Other		226	291
Total operating employee costs		9,802	10,026

Total Number of Approved Full Time Equivalent Employees at the end of reporting period		96	92
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(b) Materials, contracts and other expenses

(i) Prescribed expenses

Auditor's remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		50	47
- Other auditors		37	26
Bad and doubtful debts		53	132
Elected members' expenses		324	320
Minimum Lease Payments		29	23
Subtotal - prescribed expenses		493	548

(ii) Other materials, contracts and expenses

Contractors		12,182	10,704
Energy		898	1,057
Legal expenses		487	270
Professional services		1,418	1,919
Sundry		6,950	5,840
Subtotal - other material, contracts and expenses		21,935	19,790
Total materials, contracts and other expenses		22,428	20,338

(c) Depreciation, amortisation and impairment

(i) Depreciation and amortisation

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

City of Palmerston

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

Note 3. Expenses (continued)

\$ '000	2023	2022
(d) Borrowing costs		
Interest on loans	33	40
Total Borrowing costs	33	40

Note 4. Asset Disposal and Fair Value Adjustments

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

Note 5. Current assets

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

City of Palmerston

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

Note 5. Current assets (continued)

\$ '000	2023	2022
(b) Trade and other receivables		
Rates - general and other	2,368	1,898
Accrued revenues	1,193	129
Debtors - general	42	470
GST recoupment	919	416
Prepayments	18	59
Sundry	4	1
Animal Control	98	76
Parking and Traffic	17	21
Subtotal	4,659	3,070
Less: Expected Credit Losses	(186)	(132)
Total trade and other receivables	4,473	2,938

(c) Other financial assets (investments)

Term Deposits Over 90 Days	14,508	18,513
Total other financial assets (investments)	14,508	18,513

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

City of Palmerston

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

Note 6. Non-current assets

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

City of Palmerston

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

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

(b) Investment property

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

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

Valuation of assets

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

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

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

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

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

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

Information on valuations

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

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

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

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

Transfers between fair value hierarchy levels

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

Other information

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

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

Highest and best use

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

Transition to AASB 13 - Fair Value Measurement

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

Land

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

Land Improvements

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2022
- Valuer: Asset Val Pty Ltd

Buildings & Other Structures

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2023
- Valuer: Assetic Australia Pty Ltd

Infrastructure

Roads & Pavements

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

Kerbs and Guttering

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

Footpaths, Cycleways and Driveways

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

Stormwater Drainage

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2022
- Valuer: Asset Val Pty Ltd

Water & Irrigation

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2022
- Valuer: Asset Val Pty Ltd

Street Lights

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

Plant & Equipment

- Basis of valuation: Cost

Furniture & Fittings

- Basis of valuation: Cost

Motor Vehicles

- Basis of valuation: Cost

City of Palmerston

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

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

Investment Property

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

Note 8. Liabilities

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

(*) Refer to Note 20 restatement

(b) Borrowings

Loans	248	787	241	1,035
Total borrowings	248	787	241	1,035

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

(c) Provisions

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

City of Palmerston

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

Note 9. Reserves

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

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

Purposes of reserves

Asset Revaluation Reserve

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

Externally Restricted Reserves

Unexpended Grants and Contributions Reserve

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

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

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 9. Reserves (continued)

Internally Restricted Reserves

Election Expenses Reserve

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

Disaster Recovery Reserve

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

Developer Funds Reserve

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

Unexpended Capital Works Reserve

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

Major Initiatives Reserve

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

Waste Management Reserve

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

Unrestricted Reserves

Working Capital Reserve

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

Note 10. Assets subject to restrictions

\$ '000	2023	2022
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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.

Cash and financial assets

Unexpended amounts received from Government	4,583	12,836
Total cash and financial assets	4,583	12,836
Total assets subject to externally imposed restrictions	4,583	12,836

City of Palmerston

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

Note 11. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows

\$ '000	Notes	2023	2022
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(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 Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

Total Cash & Cash Equivalent Assets	5	14,660	19,907
Balances per Statement of Cash Flows		14,660	19,907

(b) Reconciliation of change in net assets to cash from operating activities

Net surplus/(deficit)		12,470	1,342
Non-cash items in income statements			
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		10,519	10,929
Fair value adjustments		(100)	397
Non-cash asset acquisitions		(6,824)	(3,160)
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as investing activity		(9,914)	(5,186)
Net (gain) loss on disposals		228	1,071
		6,379	5,393
Add (less): changes in net current assets			
Net (increase)/decrease in receivables		(1,007)	(692)
Change in allowances for under-recovery of receivables		(54)	132
Net increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		(516)	2,857
Net increase/(decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		(85)	33
Net increase/(decrease) in other provisions		-	(92)
Net cash provided by (or used in) operations		4,717	7,631

(c) Non-cash financing and investing activities

Acquisition of assets by means of:			
Physical resources received free of charge	2i	6,824	3,160
Amounts recognised in income statement		6,824	3,160
Total non-cash financing and investing activities		6,824	3,160

(d) Financing arrangements

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

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 12(a). Functions

Income, Expenses and Assets have been directly attributed to the following Functions / Activities. Details of these Functions/Activities are provided in Note 12(b).

Notes	INCOME		EXPENSES		OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME		TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT)	
	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Functions										
Public Order and Safety	29,279	35,142	22,765	22,828	6,515	12,314	(2,166)	(2,478)	—	—
General Public Services	580	645	1,074	1,058	(494)	(413)	(110)	(241)	33,814	42,049
Economic Affairs	2,975	3,658	2,351	2,557	624	1,101	(2,184)	(2,858)	350,647	362,864
Environmental Protection	7,264	7,113	6,735	6,686	529	427	(375)	(172)	—	—
Housing and Community Amenities	250	—	1,184	386	(934)	(386)	(250)	—	32,629	32,313
Recreation, Culture and Religion	15,199	8,679	8,868	9,342	6,330	(663)	(15,106)	(8,551)	185,744	175,510
Social Protection	2	1	65	54	(63)	(53)	(2)	(1)	—	(6)
Culture	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,630	2,206
Total functions	55,549	55,238	43,042	42,911	12,507	12,327	(20,193)	(14,301)	617,464	614,942

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

City of Palmerston

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

Note 12(b). Components of functions

The activities relating to Council functions are as follows:

GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES

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

PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

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

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Street lighting and other community amenities.

RECREATION, CULTURE AND RELIGION

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

SOCIAL PROTECTION

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 13. Financial instruments

Recognised financial instruments

Bank, deposits at call, short term deposits

Accounting Policy:

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

Terms & Conditions:

Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 3.25% and 5.1% (2022: 0.4% and 2.94%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 174 days and an average interest rate of 4.44% (2022: 156 days and 0.81%).

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - rates and associated charges

Accounting Policy:

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

Terms & Conditions:

Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 8% (2022: 8%). Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State.

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - fees and other charges

Accounting policy:

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

Terms and conditions:

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

Carrying amount:

Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - other levels of government

Accounting policy:

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

Terms and conditions:

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

Carrying amount:

Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - creditors and accruals

Accounting Policy:

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

City of Palmerston

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

Note 13. Financial instruments (continued)

Terms & Conditions:

Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

Carrying Amount:

Amortised cost

Liabilities - interest bearing borrowings

Accounting Policy:

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

Terms & Conditions:

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

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - leases

Accounting policy:

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

\$ '000	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year & ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
2023					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	14,660	—	—	14,660	14,660
Receivables	3,722	—	—	3,722	3,722
Other financial assets	14,508	—	—	14,508	14,508
Total financial assets	32,890	—	—	32,890	32,890
Financial liabilities					
Payables* ⁽¹⁾	7,071	—	—	7,071	7,071
Current borrowings	248	—	—	248	248
Non-current borrowings	—	787	—	787	787
Total financial liabilities*	7,319	787	—	8,106	8,106
2022					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	19,907	—	—	19,907	19,907
Receivables	2,595	—	—	2,595	2,595
Other financial assets	18,513	—	—	18,513	18,513
Total financial assets	41,015	—	—	41,015	41,015
Financial liabilities					
Payables* ⁽¹⁾	6,188	—	—	6,188	6,188
Current borrowings	241	—	—	241	241
Non-current borrowings	—	1,035	—	1,035	1,035
Total financial liabilities*	6,429	1,035	—	7,464	7,464

(¹) Refer to Note 20 for restatement

City of Palmerston

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

Note 13. Financial instruments (continued)

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

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

Net fair value

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

Risk exposures

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

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

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

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

Expected Credit Losses (ECL)

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

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

\$ '000	2023	2022
As at 1 July	132	-
Provisions	54	132
As at 30 June	<u>186</u>	<u>132</u>

City of Palmerston

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

Note 14. Capital expenditure and investment property commitments

\$ '000	2023	2022
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(a) Capital commitments

Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:

Other	16,799	23,238
	<u>16,799</u>	<u>23,238</u>

These expenditures are payable:

Not later than one year	16,799	15,245
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	-	7,993
	<u>16,799</u>	<u>23,238</u>

(b) Other expenditure commitments

Other non-capital expenditure commitments in relation to investment properties at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:

Waste Management Services	88	11,572
Other Maintenance Contracts	163	378
Landscaping and Mowing	139	3,992
Civil Works	158	289
Other	420	7,672
	<u>968</u>	<u>23,903</u>

These expenditures are payable:

Not later than one year	968	7,380
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	-	16,523
	<u>968</u>	<u>23,903</u>

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 15. Financial indicators

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

(*) Refer to Note 20 for restatement

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 16. Leases

Council as a lessor

Leases Providing Revenue to the Council

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

(i) Investment property

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

\$ '000	2023	2022
Future minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases as at 30 June, are as follows:		
Not later than one year	730	702
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	493	663
	<u>1,223</u>	<u>1,365</u>

(ii) Lease Payment Commitments of Council

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

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

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

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

No lease contains any escalation clause.

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

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

Note 17. Superannuation

Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (10.5% in 2022/23; 10% in 2021/22). The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the following schemes:

HOSTPLUS Superannuation Scheme

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

City of Palmerston

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

Note 17. Superannuation (continued)

Contributions to other superannuation schemes

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

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

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

1. Land under roads

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

City of Palmerston

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

Note 19. Related party transactions

Key management personnel

Transactions with key management personnel

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

The related parties of the Council include:

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

\$ '000	2023	2022
The compensation to key management personnel comprises:		
Salaries, Allowances, and Other Short-Term and Long-Term Benefits	1,529	1,500
Total	1,529	1,500

i) Retirement Benefits

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

(ii) Loans to Responsible Persons

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

(iii) Other Transactions

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

(iv) Outstanding Amounts

As at 30 June 2023, there were no outstanding amounts receivable from the Council's KMP.

CEO REMUNERATION

Regulation 13(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations require Council, to include a disclosure of the total remuneration provided to each person appointed as the actual, acting or temporary CEO during the financial year. Below table provides the total remuneration paid to the actual and acting CEOs during 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

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

(1) Short Term Benefits include employer funded superannuation contributions

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 20. Restatement of prior year comparatives

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

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

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

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

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

Financial Statement Presentation

Statement of Financial Position Extract as at 1 July 2021

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

Statement of Financial Position Extract as at 30 June 2022

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

City of Palmerston

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

Note 20. Restatement of prior year comparatives (continued)

Net assets	591,300	(1,416)	589,884
Equity			
Accumulated surplus	202,600	(1,416)	201,184
Total Equity	591,300	(1,416)	589,884



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Chief Executive Officer of City of Palmerston

Opinion

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

In our opinion, the accompanying Financial Report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of City of Palmerston as at 30 June 2023, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards and the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019*.

The **Financial Report** comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023
- Statement of comprehensive income, Statement of changes in equity, and Statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- Notes including a summary of significant accounting policies
- Chief Executive Officer's Statement.

Basis for opinion

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

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

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

Emphasis of matter – Restatement of comparative balances

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

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Responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer for the Financial Report

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for:

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objective is:

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

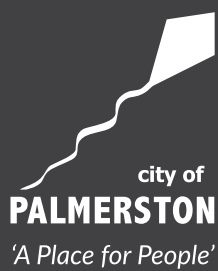
Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

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

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

KPMG

Luke Snowdon
Partner
Darwin
9 November 2023



 Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace

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9 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Information

9.2 Correspondence

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

11 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

THAT the next Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 25 March 2024 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

12 CLOSURE OF MEETING

THAT pursuant to *section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.



MINUTES

Vibrant Economy and Advisory Committee **Monday 25 September 2023**

The Advisory Committee Meeting of the City of Palmerston held in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT 0830

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COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting
held in Council Chambers
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
on Monday, 25 September 2023 at 5:30pm.

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Councillor Mark Fraser (Chair) Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell Brandon Evans, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet Representative Ruth Palmer, Property Representative Carmine Rauseo, Local Business Owner Representative
STAFF	Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta Acting General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight Minute Secretary, Bertsie Taru
GALLERY	Nil

Initials:

MINUTES VIBRANT ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 25 SEPTEMBER 2023

17



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COMMITTEE MINUTES

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

2 OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5.35 pm.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

Moved: Ruth Palmer
Seconded: Carmine Rauseo

1. THAT the apology received from Councillor Giesecke for 25 September 2023 be received and noted.
2. THAT the apology received from Mohan Kandasamy for 25 September 2023 be received and noted.

CARRIED VEAC10/24 – 25/09/2023

3.2 Leave of Absence Previously Granted

Nil

3.3 Leave of Absence Request

Nil

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

4.1 Elected Members

Nil

4.2 Staff

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Carmine Rauseo

THAT the Minutes of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting held on 26 June 2023 pages 12 to 16 be confirmed.

CARRIED VEAC10/25 – 25/09/2023

Initials: _____



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COMMITTEE MINUTES

5.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Nil

6 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

Louise McCormick entered the meeting at 5.35 pm

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Carmine Rauseo

THAT the presentation by Louise McCormick, Commissioner for Infrastructure NT, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics on Infrastructure NT be received and noted.

Louise McCormick left the meeting at 6.04 pm

CARRIED VEAC10/26 – 25/09/2023

7 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

7.1 Moving Confidential Items into Open

Nil

7.2 Moving Open Items into Confidential

Nil

7.3 Confidential Items

Nil

8 OFFICER REPORTS

8.1 Action Reports

8.1.1 Economic Development Activities

Moved: Ruth Palmer
Seconded: Carmine Rauseo

THAT Report entitled Economic Development Activities be received and noted.

CARRIED VEAC10/27 – 25/09/2023

Initials:



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COMMITTEE MINUTES

8.2 Receive and Note Reports

8.2.1 Update on Economic Development Website

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Brandon Evans

1. THAT Report entitled Update on Economic Development Website be received and noted.
2. THAT the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee notes that the expected completion date for Phase 1 of the website will be November 2023.

CARRIED VEAC10/28- 25/09/2023

8.2.2 Update on Business Survey

Moved: Carmine Rauseo
Seconded: Ruth Palmer

THAT Report entitled Update on Business Survey be received and noted.

CARRIED VEAC10/29 - 25/09/2023

9 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Information

Nil

9.2 Correspondence

9.2.1 Committee Resignation - Sue Shearer

Moved: Ruth Palmer
Seconded: Mayor Pascoe-Bell

1. THAT the Committee recommend to Council:
 - a. THAT the tabled correspondence received from Sue Shearer, representative of the Palmerston Regional Business Association, advising of her resignation as a member of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee be received and noted.
 - b. THAT Council writes to Sue Shearer on behalf of the Committee acknowledging her resignation and expressing its gratitude for her contribution.
 - c. THAT Council seeks nominations for the position of Business Association representative on the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee via a public call for Expressions of Interest.

CARRIED VEAC10/30 - 25/09/2023

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

Initials:

MINUTES VIBRANT ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 25 SEPTEMBER 2023 20



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COMMITTEE MINUTES

11 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved: Brandon Evans
Seconded: Mayor Pascoe-Bell

THAT the next Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting of Council be held on Monday, 27 November 2023 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED VEAC10/31 - 25/09/2023

12 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

Moved: Brandon Evans
Seconded: Ruth Palmer

THAT the meeting of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee held in Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, Palmerston on 25 September 2023 closed at 6.46 pm.

CARRIED VEAC10/32 - 25/09/2023

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.46 pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

Initials: