

AGENDA

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 1 October 2024

The Ordinary 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.

Council business papers can be viewed on the City of Palmerston website www.palmerston.nt.gov.au or at the Council Office located: Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston NT 0830.



LUCCIO CERCARELLI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



city of
PALMERSTON

A Place for People

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A Place for People

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 - 10.2 Moving Open Items into Confidential
 - 10.3 Confidential Items

THAT pursuant to Section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and section 51(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following confidential items:

Item	Confidential Category	Confidential Clause
27.1.1	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>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.
27.1.2	Confidential Restricted	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>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.
27.1.3	Confidential Restricted	<p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>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.</p> <p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(d) 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 subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.</p>
27.1.4	Matters Relating to Council Staff and or Elected Members	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>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.

11 PETITIONS

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

13 OFFICER REPORTS

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.1.1
REPORT TITLE:	NT Strategic Directions Planning Policy Discussion Paper
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 1 October 2024
AUTHOR:	Planning and Development Manager, Christopher Tickner
APPROVER:	General Manager of Infrastructure, Nadine Nilon

COMMUNITY PLAN

Future Focused: Palmerston is an innovative city that sustains itself through the challenges of the future.

PURPOSE

This Report provides Council with the draft submission to the NT Planning Commission (NTPC) on the Strategic Directions Planning Policy (SDPP) discussion paper, for endorsement.

KEY MESSAGES

- The NT Planning Commission has prepared a discussion paper to generate comment and suggestions that will assist the NT Planning Commission in developing a Strategic Directions Planning Policy (SDPP). The discussion paper is at **Attachment 13.1.1.2**
- The SDDP will form part of the Strategic Framework in the NT Planning Scheme 2020 and will be used to inform the creation and review of strategic land use plans and strategic policies. It will also be used in the consideration of planning scheme amendments and the ongoing refinement of statutory planning requirements.
- A submission to the NT Planning Commission about the discussion paper has been prepared for Council endorsement.
- The NT Planning Commission presented to Council at the 20 August 2024 Council Meeting, and staff met with Planning Commissions officers late in August.
- The consultation period for the discussion paper has closed; however, the NT Planning Commission has confirmed they will accept a submission from Council following the 1 October Council Meeting.
- The NT Planning Commission will use feedback received on the discussion paper to prepare a draft SDPP, which will likely be circulated to Council for comment in Q1 or Q2 next year.
- Following consultation on the draft SDPP, the NT Planning Commission will recommend the Minister amend the NT Planning Scheme to include the SDPP. The Minister is the decision maker on proposals to amend the NT Planning Scheme.
- The Planning Scheme Amendment process includes a minimum 4-week statutory exhibition period after which the Minister will decide to approve, approve subject to minor changes or refuse the amendment.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Strategic Directions Planning Policy Discussion be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the letter provided at **Attachment 13.1.1.1**, for submission to the NT Planning Commission.

BACKGROUND

Consultation on the SDPP discussion paper commenced in May 2024, as the first stage in a three- stage consultation process on the SDPP. The NT Planning Commission will use the feedback received during the initial stage of consultation to prepare a draft SDPP which will likely be circulated for comment in Q1 or Q2 of 2025 (Stage 2 of the consultation process).

Following consultation on the draft SDPP, the NT Planning Commission will recommend the Minister amend the NT Planning Scheme to include the SDPP (Stage 3 of the consultation process). The Minister is the decision-maker on proposals to amend the NT Planning Scheme.

Amendments to the NT Planning Scheme have a minimum 4-week statutory exhibition period, after which the Minister must decide either to approve, approve subject to minor changes or refuse the amendment.

The NT Planning Commission provided an overview on the SDPP discussion paper at Council's first ordinary Council Meeting on 20 August 2024. Council staff met with Planning Commissions officers in late in August to discuss specific aspects of the SDPP.

Stage 1 of the consultation period on the discussion paper has closed; however, the NT Planning Commission has confirmed they will accept a submission from Council following the 1 October Council Meeting, after it has had time to consider and deliberate on the recommendations in the SDPP discussion paper.

DISCUSSION

As outlined in **Attachment 13.1.1.2** the SDPP is intended to be used in the:

- Creation of new strategic land use plans and strategic policies;
- Review of existing strategic land use plans and strategic policies;
- Consideration of planning scheme amendments where there is no applicable strategic land use plan or where the land use plan does not provide direction on a particular issue;
- Inform the ongoing refinement of and development of new statutory planning controls contained in the NT Planning Scheme.

It focuses on five (5) related core themes, each with accompanying sub-themes:

- Respect and Protect
 - Heritage and Sacred Sites
 - Natural Environment & Ecological Processes
 - Natural Resources
- Liveable
 - Land Supply and Housing Diversity
 - Social Infrastructure
 - Aboriginal Communities
 - Good Design
- Connected and Efficient
 - Transport
 - Essential Services and Utilities
- Prosperous and Productive
 - Agriculture, Forestry, & Fishing
 - Industry
 - Activity Centres & Employment Lands

- Tourism
- Resilient and Responsive
 - Natural Disasters & Climate Change
 - Defence

The draft submission provided at **Attachment 13.1.1.1** is intended to inform the development of the SDPP and lead to better design outcomes from a City of Palmerston perspective. The submission has a focus on land use issues in an urban context as well as commentary on implementation and consistency in decision making more generally. The key elements are summarised below.

Scope & Purpose

To ensure consistency across the planning framework, it is recommended that the NT Planning Commission review the existing strategic policies and statutory requirements in the NT Planning Scheme against the suggested policy statements in the SDPP. At times, there is a disconnect between the strategic framework and statutory policy requirements, and the development of the SDPP presents an opportunity to review and strengthen these links.

The NTPC is also encouraged to consider the links between the SDPP and the NT Subdivision Guidelines (SDG), particularly in regard to the themes of liveability and creating connected and efficient communities. The SDG is a key document that has been developed with continuous improvement activities which provides a consistent approach to decisions about how new neighbourhoods are developed. Currently the discussion paper doesn't reference the SDG in the strategic framework which provides a risk of disconnect in desired outcomes of growth areas.

Themes and Topics

There are five (5) core themes, and 15 sub themes included in the discussion paper, each with suggested policy statements likely to be reflected in the SDPP. For the most part, the suggested policy statements are supportable, however additional clarity around how they will be realised would be beneficial. For example, themes such as heritage & sacred sites and climate change are not ubiquitous with the current NT Planning Scheme, and it would be useful to understand if further changes to the planning scheme are anticipated to better reflect and implement the policy suggestions for these (and other) themes.

Additional policies around housing options (to include large lots, as well as infill development), the preservation and use of remnant vegetation and other urban green spaces, how and when social infrastructure will be delivered, greening urban areas and public and active transit networks as well as making employment centres more accessible also warrant further consideration in the development of the SDPP.

Submission

Following endorsement, the submission at **Attachment 13.1.1.1**, will be provided to the NT Planning Commission for their consideration. The submission has been drafted to capture the above comments and reflects the sequencing of core themes and sub themes in the discussion paper.

The feedback provided will be used to inform the preparation of a draft SDPP, which is likely to be circulated to Council for comment in the first half of 2025. Following this, a recommendation will be made to the Minister to amend the NT Planning Scheme to include the SDPP in Part 2 – Strategic Framework of the NT Planning Scheme. The Minister is responsible for decisions about planning scheme amendments.

CONSULTATION AND MARKETING

At the invitation of the Mayor, the NT Planning Commission presented the discussion paper at Council's second ordinary meeting on August 20, 2024. During the meeting the NT Planning Commission confirmed that it would accept a submission from Council in October, after it had time to consider key matters.

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:

5. Infrastructure
Failure to plan, deliver and maintain fit for purpose infrastructure.

STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS

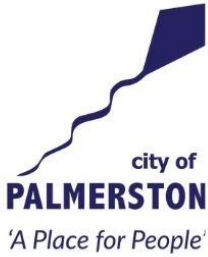
There are no strategy, framework or plan implications for this Report.

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. 20240916 - Co P response to the SDPP [13.1.1.1 - 5 pages]
2. Developing a NT Strategic Directions Planning Policy [13.1.1.2 - 76 pages]



ID: 606124 – NN:ct

XX October 2024

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Re: Strategic Directions Planning Policy Discussion Paper

Council thanks the NT Planning Commission for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Strategic Directions Planning Policy (SDPP) discussion paper. This letter was presented to Council for endorsement at its First Ordinary Council meeting on 1 October 2024;

(decision to be included)

The key matters Council is seeking the NT Planning Commission consider are outlined below, which are presented sequentially to reflect the core-themes and sub-themes as they appear in the discussion paper.

Part 1

Purpose

Council supports the SDPP being used to address specific matters where there is a lack of guidance in the strategic planning framework and development requirements.

Scope

To ensure consistency in decision making across the planning framework, Council would welcome a review of current strategic policy and statutory requirements in the NT Planning Scheme against the policy statements proposed for the SDPP.

Generally, Council encourages there being stronger links between the strategic framework and statutory requirements for all levels of development assessment. This includes the SDPP (and the NT Planning Scheme more broadly) and the NT Subdivision Guideines (SDG) being aligned with each other where relevant. The SDG is relied on to inform decisions affecting the growth and development of the municipality and includes themes such as liveability and connectivity that can be linked to the SDPP and broader planning framework.

Council would also like to see additional detail around the role of a **referral authority** in achieving the objectives of the policy statements, and who takes carriage and is responsible for ensuring the policies in the SDPP are met.

Part 4 - Themes and Topics

Respect & Protect

Heritage and Sacred Sites

Council would like to see clarity about how suggested policy statements will be realised, particularly in existing urban areas where adaptive reuse, protection and promotion is desirable.

In developing new strategic land use plans, heritage and culturally significant areas can be identified; however, equally important to Council is that the same level of recognition and protection be afforded in already established urban areas where an area plan may already be in effect.

Natural Environment and Ecological Processes

Council encourages the inclusion of additional policy statements about the preservation of large tracts of native vegetation. Remnant vegetation in suburban areas is a feasible alternative to formalised open space and provisions should be included to recognise its importance to passive recreational use.

To this extent, CoP requests the consideration of additional policy statements about the importance of all urban green spaces, including formalised open space, planted boulevards, utility easements, and residential backyards in fostering habitat connectivity.

Natural Resources

Additional policy statements around the sustainable use of water and water conservation in urban areas, including new growth areas, urban renewal areas and infill areas is desirable.

Liveable

Land supply and housing diversity

Council is supportive of a range of housing options, including mixed-use and higher residential densities in accessible locations. Additionally, Council recognises the need for larger lots to accommodate larger family sizes and multi-generational households, and that this too should be reflected in the SDPP.

Additional policy statements encouraging infill development is desirable. Infill development presents an opportunity to optimise underutilised properties and can capitalise on existing infrastructure and activity centres. Infill development is considered an essential element in addressing housing shortages and providing for housing diversity.

Social Infrastructure

How and who delivers social infrastructure, at what stage of a development, and who is responsible for its continued upkeep are all key considerations for Council and should be forefront when establishing policy statements. Additional policy statements that reference developers and government agencies working with local authorities in establishing and maintaining social infrastructure is strongly encouraged.

Strategic land use documents in the NTPS do not currently identify areas where new social infrastructure and community purpose land can establish

in existing urban areas. It is recommended that a policy statement is included to reflect the need to identify new spaces in established neighbourhoods.

Aboriginal Communities

Aboriginal Living Areas should be developed with all the amenity of urban centres, such as kerbing, stormwater infrastructure, parks and playgrounds and community centres. A policy statement that reflects desired built standards in these areas is encouraged.

Good design

The NT Subdivision Guidelines (SDG) are utilised by developers, local authorities and service authorities when designing spaces in new subdivisions. Council would support stronger links between the SDPP and the SDG. This is seen as a benefit to all relevant stakeholders including the developer and service authorities as it would provide clear linkage of what is getting planned to what is being delivered for communities.

Connected & Efficient

Transport

Impetus should be given to identifying, maintaining, improving protecting and greening existing pedestrian pathways, and encouraging their use through better connections between the private and public domain.

Policy statements encouraging the greening of existing car parking spaces (and other transport related spaces) is desirable. A lot of the 'heat island effect' occurs in already established urban areas.

Climate considerations, housing types and other factors also need to be taken into account when planning public transport services and an active transport network. The proximity of services supported housing and other uses may require improved access to transport networks and the network should be designed in consideration of these factors, rather than a '400m' rule for what is considered reasonable walking distance for all. Bus stops should cater for weather, with appropriate shelters.

Essential services and Utilities

Suggested policy statements should support the provision of proposed and anticipated future telecommunications and other essential infrastructure at the initial stages of the planning process to ensure there is adequate provision for these as part of any development.

Prosperous and Productive

Industry

Council would support a policy statement about accessibility and making provision for public and active transport networks in industrial areas. Alternative modes of transport, including public transport, supports employment opportunities.

Safeguarding light industrial areas from retail and other large commercial uses is imperative to protecting established service and employment centres. Stronger policy statements around preserving areas (such as regional employment centre – Yarrowonga) for industrial activities is desirable.

Activity Centres

Council would support policy statements discouraging the establishment of new activity centres, particularly where there is an existing established CBD. Further, preventing the establishment of commercial uses outside of existing activity centres is encouraged.

Policy statements that support pedestrian friendly, greening and other initiatives to make activities centres easy to navigate and to walk/bike around are strongly encouraged.

The Central Palmerston Area Plan provides a solid basis for these principals in a Palmerston context; however, at times they are not being realised due to the current planning framework preventing their implementation, such as an over reliance on Part 5 of the planning scheme. Stronger links between the strategic framework and development requirements for all levels of assessment is desirable.

For the suggested policy statements related to Activity Centres, and in the interests of getting better design outcomes, Council would encourage strategic policy to be considered as part of all development decisions affecting major commercial centres.

Tourism

Additional direction on caravan parks in urban areas is encouraged. Currently, the NT Planning Scheme is limited in terms of where a caravan park can be established in an existing urban context.

Resilient and Responsive

Natural hazards and Climate Change

Council is supportive of the suggested policy statements however would like to see clarity around how they will be realised. Amendments to the existing strategic policies and statutory requirements is encouraged in order to realise the suggested policy statements.

Summary

Council is generally supportive of the suggested policy statements in the SDPP discussion paper.

Additional policies around housing options (to include large lots, as well as infill development), the preservation and use of remnant vegetation and other urban green spaces, how and when social infrastructure will be delivered, greening urban areas and public and active transit networks as well as making employment centres more accessible are desirable.

Providing better linkages between the strategic framework, including the SDPP, and statutory policies in Part 5 and 6 of the NT Planning Scheme is encouraged and seen as an important part to enable the success of the SDPP in practice.

Referencing the NT Subdivision Guidelines in the SDPP is desirable to ensure consistency in decision making and creating better design outcomes for residential growth areas. The NT Subdivision Guidelines are a key part of the development of major growth centres, and it would be beneficial to create

COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.1.1

stronger linkages to the strategic framework, including the SDPP, to achieve desired outcomes.

Should you have any queries or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Planning and Development team at development@palmerston.nt.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nadine Nilon
General Manager Infrastructure



DEVELOPING A NORTHERN TERRITORY STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS PLANNING POLICY

Discussion Paper

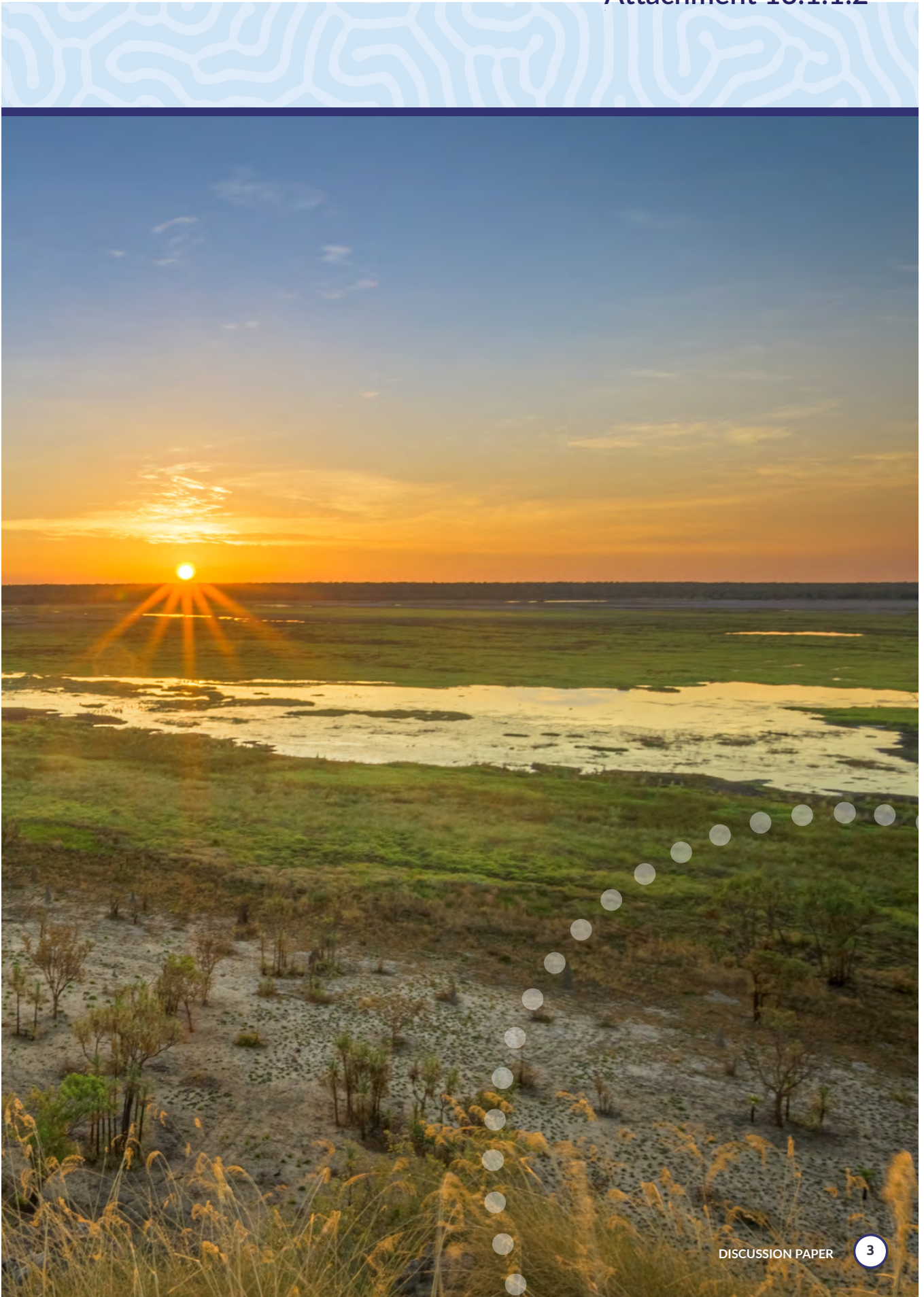
Acknowledgement

The Northern Territory Government respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this country and recognises their continuing connection to the land, water and community on which we work, live and meet.

We pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their cultures, their Ancestors and Elders past and present, and all the leaders of today and future generations.

Please note: while we use the term 'Aboriginal', we respectfully acknowledge that it is inclusive of Torres Strait Islander people.

Image: Sunset over floodplain, Top End NT



ACRONYMS

AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
CUG	Compact Urban Growth Policy
DoD	Department of Defence
NT	Northern Territory
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTPC	Northern Territory Planning Commission
PSA	Planning scheme amendment
SPP	Strategic planning policy
SDPP	Strategic Directions Planning Policy
SLUP	Strategic land use plan
TFHC	Territory Families, Housing and Communities



Image: Tennant Creek

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Image: Aerial photo Darwin peninsula looking towards Sadgroves Creek

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DEVELOPING A NORTHERN TERRITORY STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS PLANNING POLICY

FOREWORD

Strategic planning is central to the Northern Territory (NT) land use and development planning system and is a key component of the NT Planning Scheme 2020 (Planning Scheme). The strategic planning framework comprises both strategic planning policies and strategic land use plans developed under the guidance of the NT Planning Commission.

The strategic planning framework plays a key role in the system of processes that helps to ensure an appropriate balance is achieved between the often competing needs of sustaining economic development, maintaining adequate land supply, ensuring that available land is used in an efficient manner and the protection of the NT's assets (including our cultural heritage, natural resources and environment).

Unlike building plans that are prepared to specify exactly how a finite construction task will be completed, strategic land use plans and policies, are living documents. Made with direct involvement of affected communities and other stakeholders, the strategic framework can evolve to respond to changing circumstances. Agreed principles and objectives articulated in strategic land use plans and policies help ensure consistent, coordinated and transparent decisions. Without this strategic approach there is a risk that decisions about land use will be made on the basis of expediency.

The current strategic framework, contained within part 2 of the NT Planning Scheme focuses on the Greater Darwin region, and the towns of Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and 23 other major remote towns and regional communities across the NT. The land area covered is a small proportion of the NT's landmass but it is home to approximately 87% of the NT's population.

This Discussion Paper will inform the development of a Strategic Directions Planning Policy that will guide future policy approaches to land use and development within the current Strategic Framework under the Planning Scheme, and may guide policies and decisions across the entire Territory. The Planning Commission has been fortunate to have worked with the community on the development of many strategic land use plans. This discussion paper seeks to recognise and build on what the community has previously communicated. It also provides background on the NT's social, economic and environmental context and, from this starting point, outlines some initial thoughts on future goals and measures to influence patterns of development across the NT into the future.

The draft Planning Policy will build upon the existing strategic framework that currently exists under the Planning Scheme and point the way to build flourishing and resilient communities that are in touch with their shared location and history, and are adapted to the emerging challenges of climate change.

I encourage everyone with an interest in the Territory's future to contribute to the development of this Policy

Dr David Ritchie, Chairman
Northern Territory Planning Commission



Part 1 Introduction

Strategic planning is a key component of the Northern Territory (NT) land-use and development planning system as established by the purpose and objectives of the *Planning Act 1999* (Planning Act) - see inset.

Strategic planning aims to help achieve the environmental, economic and social aspirations of our communities by providing a long-term framework for future growth, land use change and built-form outcomes. Through policies and spatial plans, it sets out where, why and how development can be accommodated now and into the future.

Over time, the NT has established a robust strategic planning framework, which focuses on the Darwin region; the centres of Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek; as well as 23 'major remote towns and other areas'. It has been developed through conversations with the community and is underpinned by technical investigations, research and evaluation. This integrated approach helps inform decisions to enable the responsible use of land and resources and the efficient provision of infrastructure.

The NT's interconnected and diverse network of communities is separated by vast distances that stretch from the wet-dry tropics of the Top End to the arid centre of Australia. Our strategic framework aims to reflect and celebrate this context through a place-based policy environment that is responsive to specific local characteristics, needs and aspirations.

There is a general expectation that the liveability and cohesiveness of our cities, towns and communities will continue to improve. Similarly, it is expected that the quality and availability of residential housing will improve also. The NT has its own unique set of local circumstances to respond to in order to meet these cumulative expectations, along with more global challenges such as a changing climate and resource scarcity.

The NT Planning Commission (NTPC) has identified the need for an overarching Strategic Directions Planning Policy (SDPP) to set the stage to meet these expectations and to provide direction on how the objectives of the Planning Act are to be achieved. The Strategic Directions Planning Policy will build on the important work undertaken to date and provide a sound basis for the continued integration and coordination of land use planning and development across the NT at both regional and local scales.

This discussion paper has been prepared by Lands Planning within the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics under the guidance of the NTPC to inform the development of the high-level SDPP. We are interested in your feedback so that we can shape a set of planning directions that respond to Territorians' aspirations and promote a prosperous, sustainable, liveable and resilient future.

Purpose and objectives of the Planning Act

The purpose of the Planning Act is to establish a system to facilitate planning for the orderly use and development of land to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) to ensure that strategic planning is applied to planning schemes and implemented in individual planning decisions
- (b) to ensure that strategic planning reflects the wishes and needs of the community
- (c) to ensure that appropriate public consultation and input are included in the formulation of planning schemes and the making of decisions under planning schemes
- (d) to ensure that the planning system is clear, comprehensive, effective, efficient and accessible to the community
- (e) to promote the sustainable development of land
- (f) to promote the responsible use of land and water resources to limit the adverse effects of development on ecological processes
- (g) to maintain the health of the natural environment and ecological processes
- (h) to protect the quality of life of future generations
- (i) to assist the provision of public utilities, infrastructure and facilities for the benefit of the community
- (j) to promote the good design of buildings and other works that respects the amenity of the locality
- (k) to assist the conservation and enhancement of places, areas, buildings, other works and landforms that are of cultural, aesthetic, architectural or historical value
- (l) to respect and encourage fair and open decision making and public access to processes for review of planning-related decisions.

PURPOSE OF SDPP

The proposed SDPP is being developed to provide high-level direction on promoting the objectives of the *Planning Act* and those contained in Part 2 of the NT Planning Scheme 2020 (planning scheme) relating to the role of the strategic framework in order to:

- protect the quality of life of future generations
- maintain the health of the natural environment and ecological processes
- assist the provision of public utilities, infrastructure and facilities for the benefit of the community
- promote the sustainable development of land
- promote the good design of buildings and other works that respects the amenity of the locality
- assist the conservation and enhancement of places, areas, buildings, other works and landforms that are of cultural, aesthetic, architectural or historical value.

Developed in an integrated manner, it will also:

- represent a shared Territory-wide vision that reflects the long-term needs and wishes of the community, industry and government
- provide a high-level planning policy setting to guide policies and spatial plans delivered through the strategic framework
- promote coordination between stakeholders who have an interest in land use and development across NT wide, regional and local contexts
- provide a land use planning context for other NTG agencies to inform their own strategic policy frameworks or projects.

It cannot:

- repeat or contradict the requirements of the *Planning Act* or those of other Acts
- apply retrospectively to overturn or adjust historic decisions
- address detailed design, or other specific matters, that are typically addressed through lower levels of the strategic planning framework and development requirements.

SCOPE

The SDPP will inform the on-going delivery of the strategic framework contained within the planning scheme and will be considered in the:

- creation of new strategic land use plans and strategic policies
- review of existing strategic land use plans and strategic policies.

The SDPP may also:

- be used in the consideration of planning scheme amendments where there is no applicable strategic land use plan or where the strategic land use plan does not provide guidance on a particular issue
- inform the ongoing refinement of and development of new statutory planning controls contained in the NT Planning Scheme.

As the proposed SDPP provides guidance about the government's aspirations underpinning land use and development planning, it may be used to inform a range of NTG planning projects that extend beyond the areas specifically covered by the planning scheme.

In accordance with the objectives of the *Planning Act*, the SDPP is being developed with the help of the community, industry and the government to ensure that:

- strategic planning reflects the wishes and needs of the community
- appropriate public consultation and input is included in the formulation of planning schemes.

Part 2

Northern Territory context

The NT's population of around 252,500¹ accounts for about 1% of the Australian population. Geographically, the NT is the third largest jurisdiction in terms of land mass, with the majority residing in the greater Darwin region. The remainder is concentrated in the townships of Alice Springs, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Tennant Creek and also further dispersed over remote and very remote areas.



Image: MacDonnell Ranges

Settlement by non-Aboriginal people began in the late 19th century - at least 30 years later than in other parts of Australia. This late start and the necessity for high levels of government investment have had a defining effect on the NT, along with other themes that provide an important background to contemporary planning and development in the NT:

- For the first 100 years, the NT was governed from afar: firstly, by South Australia and then from 1911 by the Commonwealth. Given that nearly all investment in the NT was by governments with competing priorities, the development of physical infrastructure was slow and linked to external strategic concerns.

This changed with self-government in 1978 but also with the creation of local government councils, which occurred slightly earlier (1950s-70s), enabling Territorians the opportunity to better contribute to the future of their communities.

- Aboriginal people have suffered dispossession throughout Australia as a result of colonisation. The *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* was the first attempt by an Australian government to legally recognise the Aboriginal system of land ownership. This Act has resulted in almost 50% of the NT being returned to Aboriginal people. Today Aboriginal people remain as the main stable intergenerational population of the NT.
- Prior to World War II, few people ventured into the Territory. The bombing of Darwin in 1942, and the perceived threat of invasion prompted the substantial build-up of defence forces and for most Australians, focussed attention on the NT for the first time. Infrastructure across the NT as well as the towns of Katherine and Alice Springs were transformed as a result of efforts to protect the north and the wider continent.
- Post-war population growth saw rapid suburban development in all the major centres, with Darwin finally achieving city status in 1959². Soon after, in 1964, the first Town Planning Ordinance dealing with town planning schemes came into operation, providing a statutory land use control framework. Until this time, lease conditions had been relied upon to manage the use of land.
- The recent history of the NT has been punctuated by a number of catastrophic events, including major cyclones in 1897, 1937, 1974 and 2018, along with others where the damage was not so extensive. Destructive floods have severely damaged Alice Springs, Katherine and a number of remote communities. These impactful events have erased many of our early buildings, displaced people and led to building construction reforms.

¹ NTG, *NT Economy - Population June quarter, 2023*

² Harris, P & Welke, A, *Punkahs and Pith Helmets: Good Principles of Tropical House Design, (Darwin)*, 15

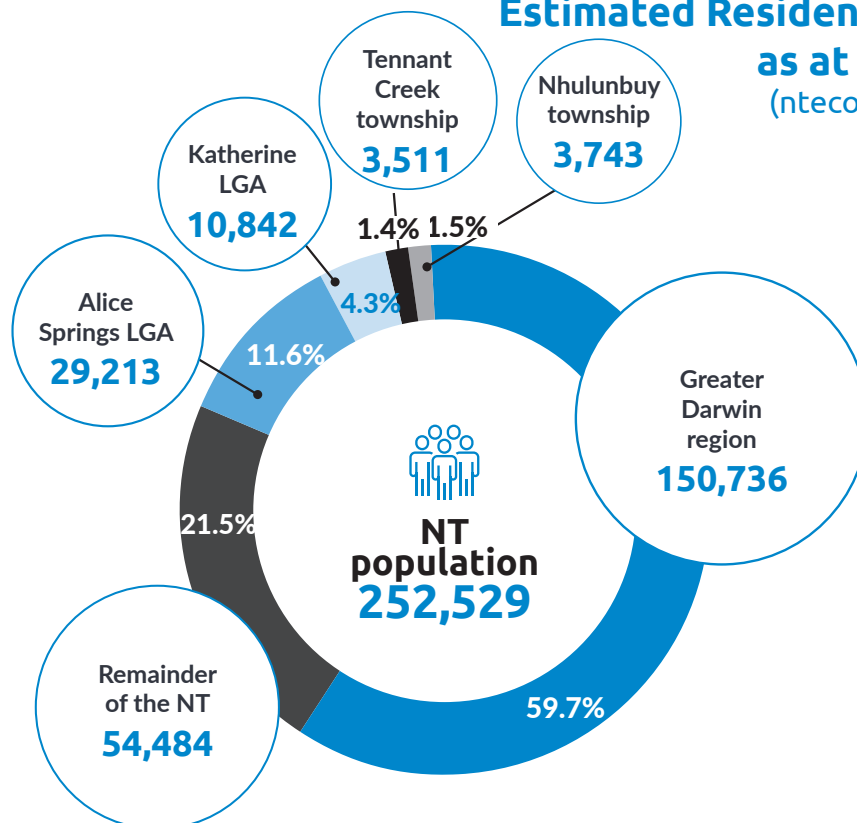
Today the structure of the Territory’s economy reflects its wealth of natural resources, strategic defence location, tourism attractions, and relatively large government and community services sector. Anticipated future major projects seek to respond to global tailwinds around geopolitics and building our defences, energy transition, supply chain security and the response to climate change.

Relative to other jurisdictions, the NT’s population is characterised by its young age profile. It is culturally and linguistically diverse. People now come to the NT seeking adventure, work, career progression or to escape the cooler weather experienced in other areas of Australia. A large public service, defence personnel, and fly in and out workers means that the NT’s population is constantly changing. Of those that do stay, a large percentage choose to leave the NT when they retire.

With aspirations for future growth of the NT’s population and economy, services and infrastructure will be expanded, and business, tourism, trade, education, health, recreation and other opportunities will be increased, as too will the liveability of our communities. For remote and very remote communities – which are characterised by small populations, long distances by road to population centres and poor access to services – there are distinct challenges to consider.

Strategic land use planning will play an important role in achieving these aspirations, providing a framework to guide future growth of the NT over the longer term whilst protecting those aspects Territorians hold dear. Other strategic policy frameworks across the NTG will continue to complement this work, and key efforts of other agencies are identified in inset boxes throughout this discussion paper.

**NT Regional & Major Townships
Estimated Resident Population
as at 30 June 2023**
(nteconomy.nt.gov.au)³



³ NTG, NT economy – population, June quarter, 2023



Image: Katherine East Neighbourhood Centre subdivision works

Part 3

Land use planning in the NT

The NT is unique in comparison to the states of Australia in that land use and development planning is the responsibility of the NTG, rather than of local government.

In the NT, this system is set up through the *Planning Act* and *Planning Regulations 2000*, which explain:

- how (and what) planning rules are made and changed
- who makes planning decisions
- what the penalties are for breaking planning rules.

The NT Planning Scheme is the 'rule book' for land use and development in the NT⁴, it does the following:

- describes how land use may change to meet future needs through the strategic framework
- identifies factors and risks that could affect land use through overlays - eg flooding
- sets controls that allow, prohibit or put conditions on land use
- provides guidance to help consent authorities make decisions

- states the level of flexibility allowed for decisions about development applications.

The scheme covers the whole of the NT, except for Jabiru, which has the Jabiru Town Plan.

The strategic framework, contained within the part 2 of the planning scheme however has a focus on the Darwin Region; the centres of Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek as well as 23 'major remote towns and other areas'.

The proposed SDPP will sit within part 2 of the NT Planning Scheme, relating to the strategic framework.

4. Jabiru has its own town plan

WHAT IS STRATEGIC PLANNING?

The process of strategic land use planning in the NT is led by the NTPC, and any resultant plan or policy is ultimately approved by the minister responsible for the *Planning Act*.

It is an integrated process that involves extensive community and stakeholder consultation, including engagement with service authorities and local government – see fig 1. Underpinned by technical investigations (environmental, transport, social infrastructure, economic etc.), it informs where, what and why growth will occur, now and in the future.

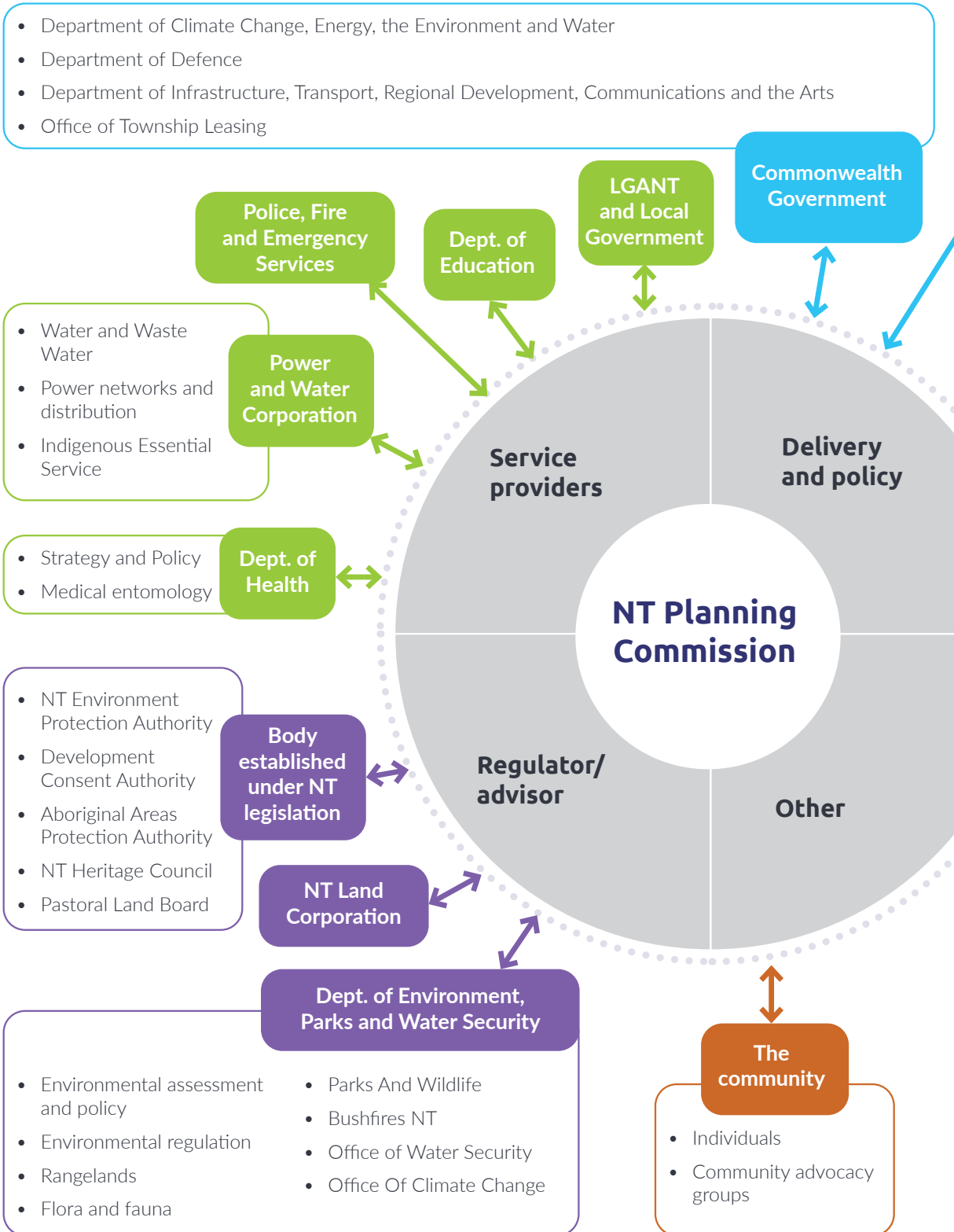
Whilst the NT covers over 1,300,000 square kilometres and would seem to have boundless land for future growth, it is subject to many factors that limit and influence where growth can occur. These include (but are not limited to):

- **environmental considerations:** environmental values and biodiversity of a region, including threatened species and natural resources
- **heritage considerations:** heritage places and objects, inclusive of Aboriginal and Macassan archaeological places and objects, and sacred sites
- **tenure considerations:** native title, pastoral leases, freehold and Crown land tenure arrangements
- **land suitability considerations:** riverine flooding, storm surge, biting insects, soil characteristics, water resources, topography, high horticultural value, water catchment etc.

Strategic planning provides a framework to manage these considerations as it identifies land to meet growth, demand and specific needs for housing, jobs and services. Strategic planning can bring people together to address land use and development aspirations in their community, and it enables government to work together to deliver equitable and efficient solutions for housing, transport, infrastructure, industry, food production and more.

Strategic planning is an integral and important formative step in the development of the NT. It is the precursor to many other steps that can bring land to market, enable land development and land use change undertaken by public and private entities.

In relation to the preparation of land for development, in particular entry-level land, the NT (along with the ACT) is different to the states in that it has a greater level of control over development, given that a significant portion of land for future development is Crown land as opposed to other locations where it is primarily in private ownership.



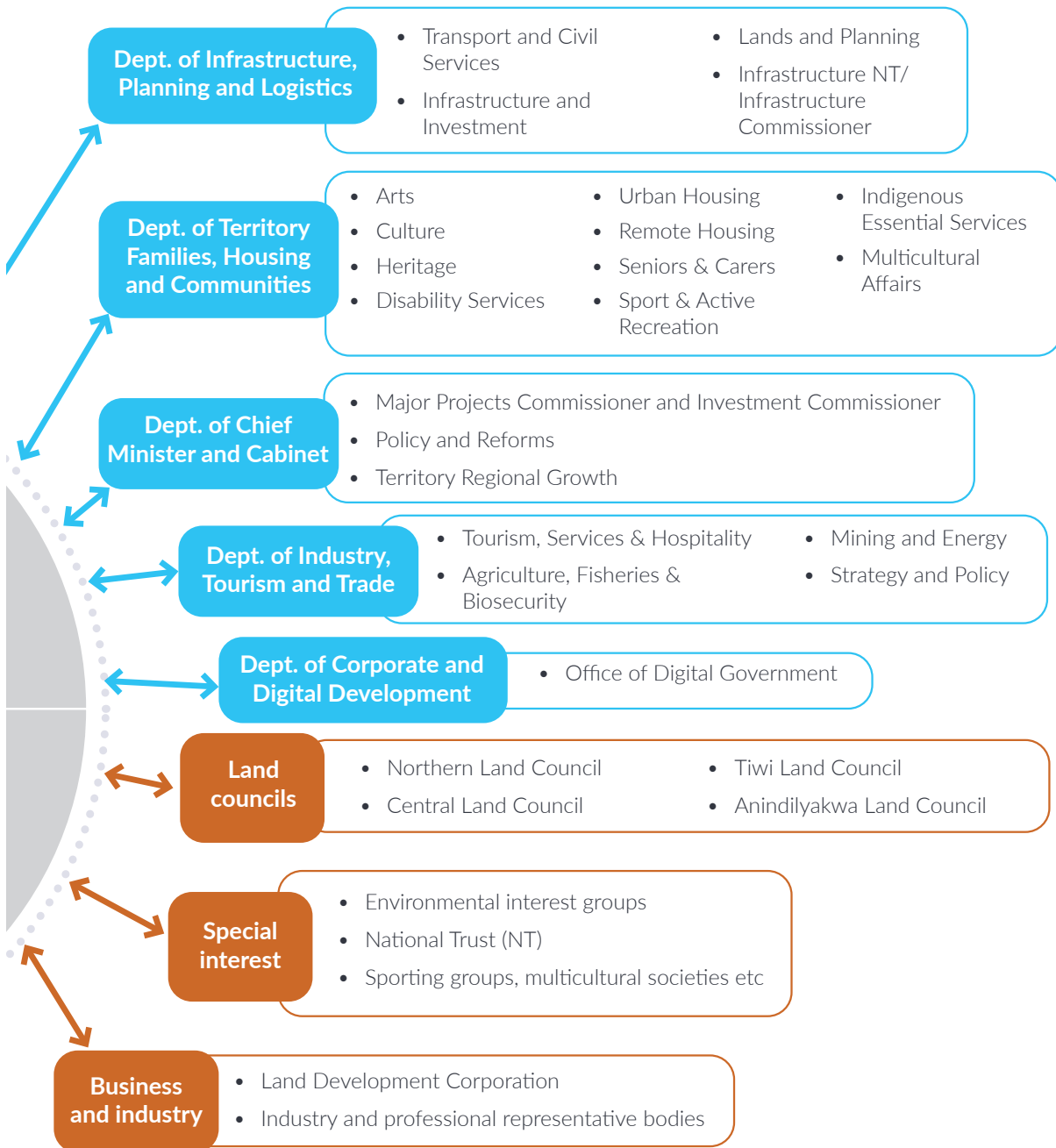


Figure 1

Some of the stakeholders involved in strategic planning in the NT.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

In the NT, the strategic framework is contained within part 2 of the NT Planning Scheme and consists of 2 main components:

Strategic planning policies (SPP)

SPPs are generally prepared to address or advance a particular issue. They are used to inform and guide the preparation or amendments to strategic land use plans and may assist determine development applications where there is no strategic land use plan applicable.

The NT currently has one SPP, that being the Compact Urban Growth Policy (CUG). The CUG aims to create compact and mixed-use settlements around activity centres and public transport nodes.

The proposed SDPP will be the highest-order strategic planning policy

Strategic land use plans (SLUP)

SLUPs are a hierarchy of spatial plans and documents that establish the vision and intended outcomes for future land use and development in the NT at differing scales: regional, subregional and area.

There are 48 SLUPs in the current hierarchy (refer to Appendix A). The land area covered by these plans represents a small proportion of the NT's landmass, but collectively, it is home to over 87% of the NT's population - the majority of which reside in the greater Darwin region. The remainder is concentrated in the larger regional centres of Alice Springs and Katherine as well as Tennant Creek and 23 major remote towns and regional communities.



HOW IS THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK USED?

The Minister for Planning considers SLUP and SPP when making changes to the planning scheme, such as:

- introducing a new area plan
- rezoning land
- changing development requirements.

The Development Consent Authority and the minister consider these plans and policies when interpreting the planning rules. This is essential for making decisions about certain development permit applications.

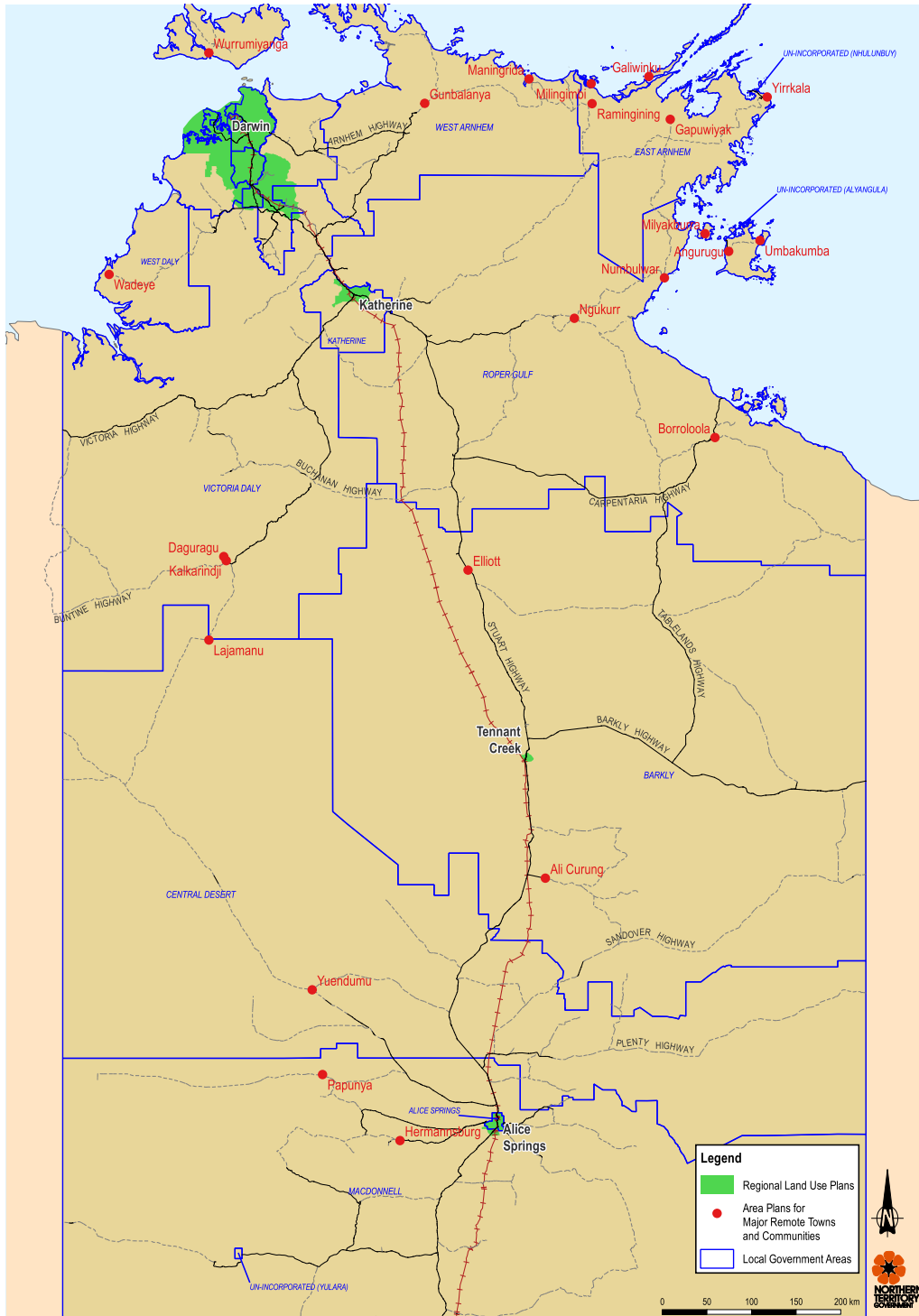


Figure 2: Areas currently subject to the strategic framework shown in context with existing local government councils Notwithstanding, the Northern Territory Planning Scheme 2020 covers the whole of the NT, except for Jabiru, which has the Jabiru Town Plan.

Part 4 Themes and topics

It is envisaged that the SDPP will focus on 5 related core themes, each with accompanying sub-themes. These themes build on the objectives of the *Planning Act* and the range of considerations set out in the 'purpose of the strategic framework' contained within Part 2 of the NT Planning Scheme. They relate to matters of importance to land use and development in the NT.

A set of strategic directions will underpin each sub-theme to provide guidance and to facilitate integrated decision-making across all spheres of land use planning and development. It is intended that the development and review of the NT's strategic framework will take account of and give effect to these directions.

Whilst the sub-themes are presented separately, they are not mutually exclusive. Many are interconnected and together share many common aspirations. Delivering on one policy direction can potentially deliver on other policy directions.

There are many different settlement patterns, varied levels of service, varied amounts of land suitable and available for development, and varying demand characteristics across the NT, regional, remote and local contexts. These will need to be considered when applying the SDPP.

Respect & Protect

- Heritage & Sacred Sites
- Natural Environment & Ecological Processes
- Natural Resources



Liveable

- Land Supply & Housing Diversity
- Social Infrastructure
- Aboriginal Communities
- Good Design



Connected & Efficient

- Transport
- Essential Services & Utilities



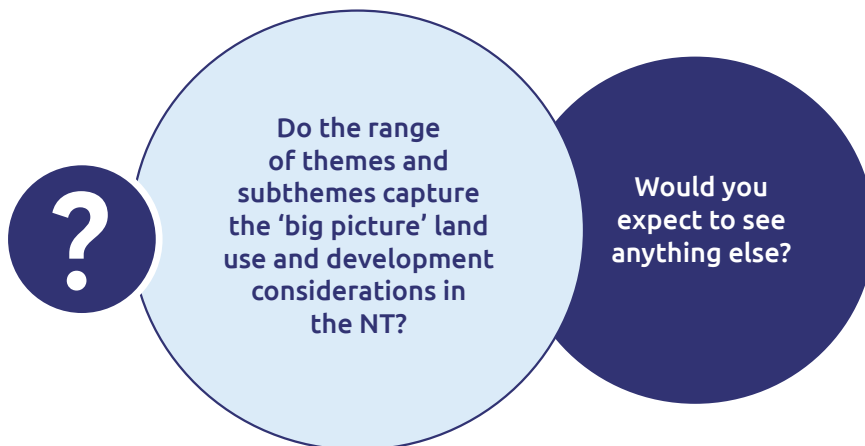
Prosperous & Productive

- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing
- Industry
- Activity Centres & Employment Lands
- Tourism



Resilient & Responsive

- Natural Disasters & Climate Change
- Defence



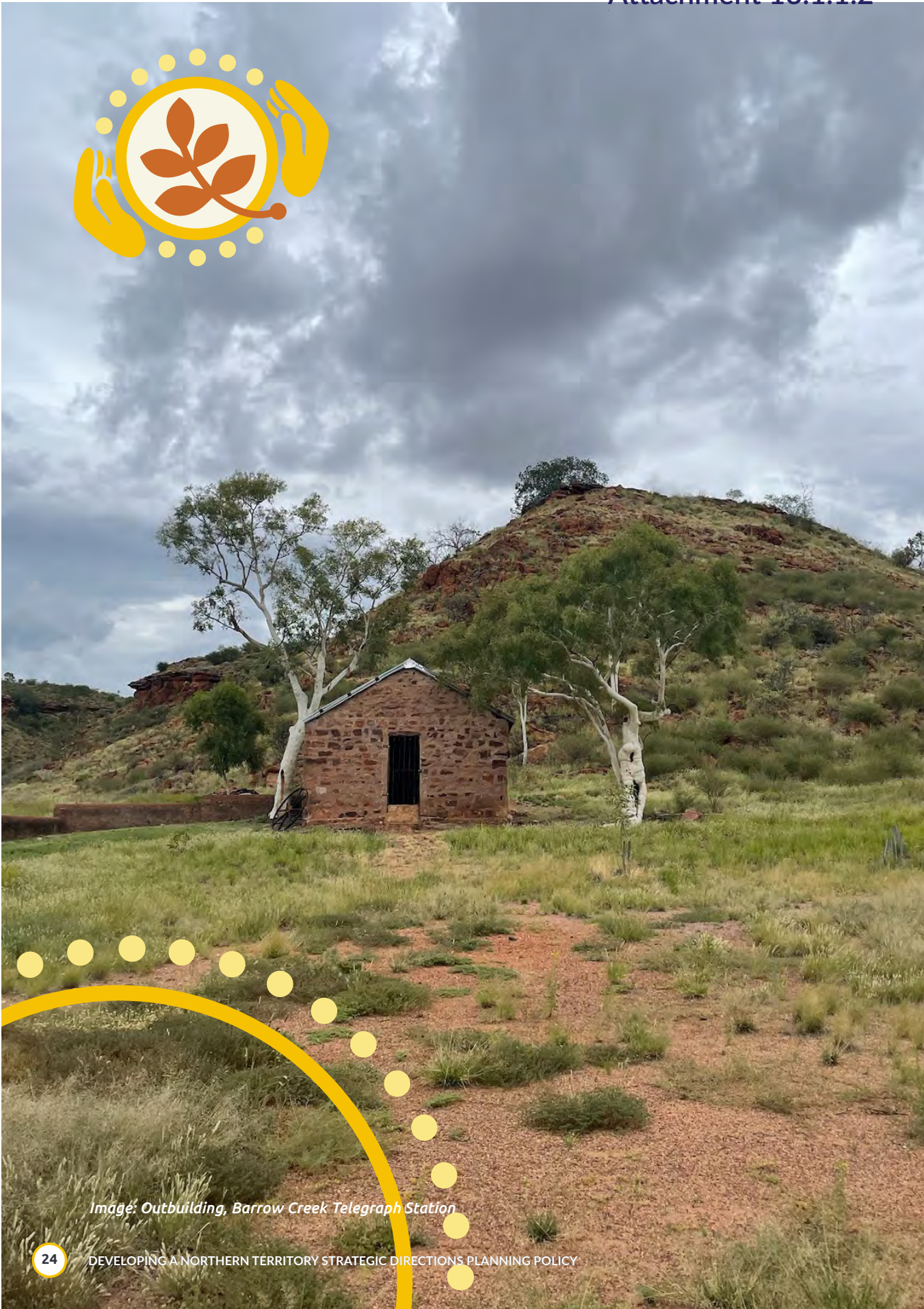
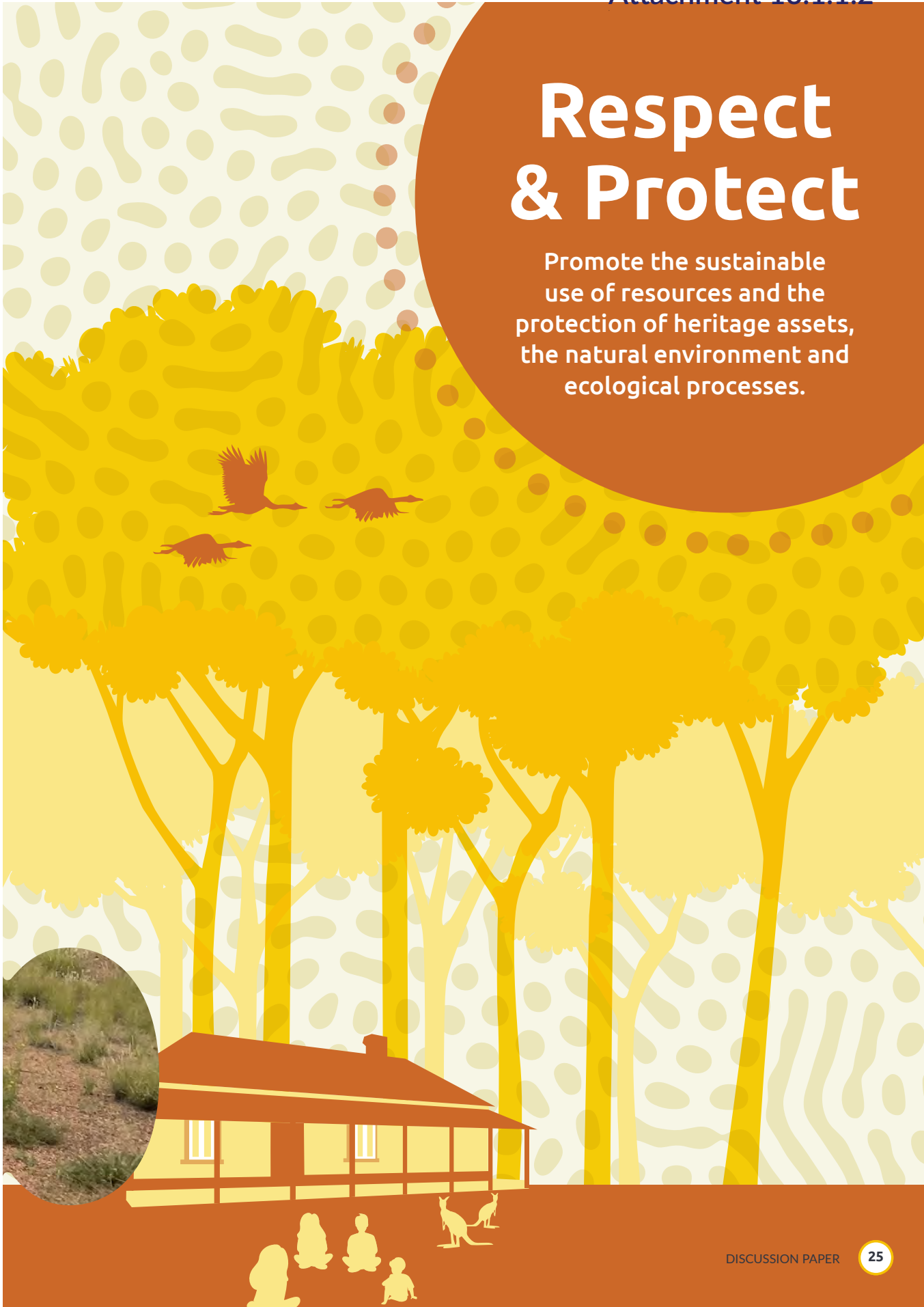
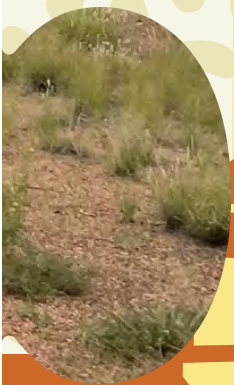


Image: Outbuilding, Barrow Creek Telegraph Station

Respect & Protect

Promote the sustainable use of resources and the protection of heritage assets, the natural environment and ecological processes.





Respect & Protect

HERITAGE & SACRED SITES

The NT has a rich natural and cultural heritage, which speaks to survival and cultural achievement in a sometimes-challenging environment. This heritage enriches our sense of place and identity and gives context to where we are now. Protecting our heritage can yield social, economic and environmental returns and enables it to be appreciated by future generations.

The overwhelming proportion of heritage places relate to the occupation of the NT by Aboriginal peoples over the last 65,000 years and the value of this heritage - which includes rock art, engravings, burial grounds, stone arrangements and shell middens - has long been recognised and protected.⁵ It also includes sacred sites, which are places within the landscape that have special meaning or significance under Aboriginal tradition. Evidence of visits by Macassan people along the coast also forms part of the NT's valued heritage.

More recently, the need to protect the built heritage of the last 150 years has been recognised⁶. This includes places and objects that provide a reminder of phases in our history since colonisation, including war and conflict, mining and exploration, transport and telecommunication evolution, policing, education, migration and many more. Sadly, however, the bombing associated with World War II, the early makeshift nature of construction and cyclones have resulted in the loss of many buildings and/or structures that predate the 1970s. Components of the natural environment also form part of the NT's heritage.

Role of planning

In the NT, there are a range of laws in place to protect heritage and culture - see 'Other key resources' inset. Together these laws create a system for recognising and protecting the cultural values of an area, including Aboriginal traditional land rights, interests and cultural values; sacred sites; geographic features with Aboriginal names; as well as places and objects of heritage significance to the Aboriginal and/or general community. In this context, the planning system provides a supporting role in the protection of the NT's heritage and sacred sites.

To avoid or better manage any potential adverse impacts resulting from land use or development, it is important that the potential for sacred sites and heritage places is considered early in the strategic planning process. To achieve this, all SLUPs are developed in consultation with the Heritage Branch, Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) and those that may have a particular interest in or associations with an area. This is particularly important as Aboriginal heritage places, objects and sacred sites are protected by law regardless of whether they have or have not been previously identified.

In developing SLUPs, the NTPC will acknowledge the heritage context of an area, include the location of known heritage places and integrate the advice of relevant heritage advisory bodies in order to set the stage for positive heritage outcomes.

⁵ See: The Native & Historic Objects and Areas Preservation Ordinance (1955-1961)
⁶ Heritage Conservation Act (1996) and now Heritage Act (2011)

Promote the sustainable use of resources and the protection of heritage assets, the natural environment and ecological processes.

What we know from other planning projects

We know Territorians cherish their unique cultural heritage, and we understand the need to protect and conserve it. Strengthening reference to heritage assets in SLUPs has been advocated to clearly establish the importance of our past and living culture in the ongoing development of the NT.

Many have also shown a strong interest in safeguarding and celebrating the unique character of some of the NT's older suburbs. Responding to local character is explored in the section relating to 'Good design'.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

Conserve places and objects of heritage significance and sacred sites for the benefit of current and future generations.

Suggested policy statements:

- Recognise the value that communities place on heritage and also the positive contribution that heritage places make to community identity and sense of place.
- Identify and provide for the protection and ongoing appreciation of cultural values (including Aboriginal cultural values, and the NT's natural and built heritage values).
NOTE: Publishing or sharing abstracts of information or certificate information from AAPA requires its approval.
- Recognise and respect that Aboriginal people are the custodians of their cultural heritage, and support Aboriginal people's continued cultural identification with such places.
- Respect the context, scale, character and significance of a heritage place through quality and sensitive design responses in new development.
- Enable the innovative adaptive reuse of heritage places so that they can continue to be used, conserved and appreciated.
- Foster an improved sense of awareness, appreciation and stewardship, where sensitivities allow, to help people better understand the significance of heritage places and objectives.



Do you agree that this policy approach is appropriate to guide future strategic policies and land use plans with respect to heritage and sacred sites?

Other key resources

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999 (Cth)*
- *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*
- *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976*
- *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018 (Cth)*
- *Environment Protection Act 2019 (NT)*
- *Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989 (NT)*
- *Heritage Act 2011 (NT)*



Respect & Protect

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES

The NT occupies approximately 18% of Australia's land mass and covers a large range of natural environments and climatic regions, with highly valued landscapes, a rich array of natural resources, diverse ecosystems and a unique range of native flora and fauna, some of national and global significance.

The natural environment sustains all forms of life. It provides essential ecosystems that supply oxygen, clean air and water, enable pollination of plants and many other ecosystem services. It provides a spectacular backdrop for tourism and recreation, as well as a range of opportunities for primary and renewable energy production. The NT's land and seas are also central to Aboriginal Territorians' lives and wellbeing and are fundamental to their spiritual beliefs.

The needs of settlement, industry and agriculture all place pressure on our natural environment. As we plan for future growth, the protection and wise management of our natural environment is critical to maintain our values, lifestyles and livelihoods now and into the future.

Even within urban areas, increasing habitat opportunities in parks and private gardens can support local native plant and wildlife species, contributing to biodiversity outcomes. In the NT, it is not uncommon to see frilled-neck lizards in a local park or a bush stone-curlew nesting on a road verge. Large flocks of budgerigars are known to transform the Red Centre into a cloud of green and gold. This connection to nature can enhance our wellbeing and make a place more appealing for residents and visitors alike.

Role of planning

In the NT, matters that may have a significant impact on the environment are managed through a range of environmental policies and legislation. Complementary pollution, waste and water control legislation, and that for the establishment and management of NT parks, also exists outside the planning system.

Land use and development directly and indirectly impacts on the natural environment, and hence protecting the natural environment and ecological processes is an important consideration in strategic planning. In identifying land for growth and development, strategic planning will avoid areas of significant environmental value based on the advice of environmental agencies.

Strategic planning can make significant contributions to collective efforts to achieve positive environmental outcomes. Taking a regional-scale approach can reduce cumulative impacts from individual development decisions and aid in the long-term survival of biodiversity values. It can also develop strategies to avoid habitat fragmentation and to maintain native wildlife corridors.

Strategic planning can facilitate land use patterns that respond to natural features, including topography, waterways and areas of native vegetation to maintain the essential character of the NT and its role in sustaining NT life. Planning also considers whether land is capable of accommodating development. Soil acidity, erosion, soil salinity, water logging, potential for flooding (both storm tide and riverine), biting insects, sink holes and land contamination all influence where growth can occur in the NT.

Water-efficient greening initiatives through planning policy can also help tackle urban environmental challenges, such as the heat island effect and stormwater management. It can reduce energy consumption for cooling and heating whilst also contributing to biodiversity conservation.

Promote the sustainable use of resources and the protection of heritage assets, the natural environment and ecological processes.

What we have heard from other planning projects

Territorians highly value the natural environment and its contribution to our quality of life, economy, wellbeing and character. Many in our community advocate for the protection and conservation of the natural environment, promoting an approach whereby it is seen as an opportunity rather than as a constraint.

Protecting areas of native vegetation (and the flora and fauna it contains) and encouraging the uptake of renewable energy, water-wise initiatives and sustainable building methods are being advocated to relieve pressure on our natural systems.

Thoughts for enduring directions

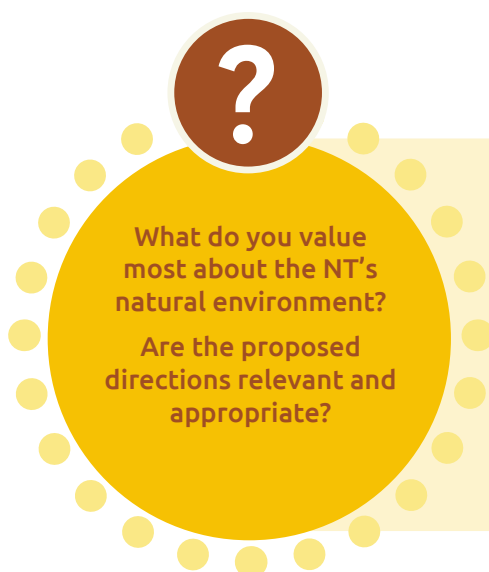
Suggested policy direction:

Protect the health and integrity of the Territory's unique natural environment in order to support biodiversity and its life-supporting functions.

Suggested policy statements:

- Recognise and foster the essential role played by the natural environment in sustaining every aspect of NT life.

- Support the conservation, protection and management of:
 - threatened species as defined under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976* and significant species
 - environmentally significant or sensitive vegetation communities such as rainforest, vine thicket, closed forest, sandsheet heath or riparian vegetation
 - native remnant vegetation to enhance soil and land quality, water quality, biodiversity, fauna habitat, and landscape amenity values and ecosystem function.
- Avoid, minimise, manage and/or offset on-site and off-site impacts of land use and development on the natural environment and ecological processes, as appropriate, for the scale of the impact and the nature of the surrounding environment.
- Have regard to the capability of land to accommodate land use and development, including but not limited to acidity, erosion, soil salinity, water logging, potential for flooding (both storm tide and riverine), biting insects and sink holes.
- Foster habitat connectivity through the protection and retention of waterways and native vegetation corridors.
- Foster biodiversity in settlements by creating opportunities for habitat



Other key resources

- *EPBC Act 1999 (Cth)*
- *Environment Protection Act 2019 (NT)*
- *Waste and Pollution Control Act 1998 (NT)*
- *Water Act 1992 (NT)*
- *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976 (NT)*
- *Weed Management Act 2001 (NT)*
- *NT Land Clearing Guidelines*



Respect & Protect

NATURAL RESOURCES

The NT's natural environment contains many natural resources that are critical in how and where we decide to live, do business and grow our industries. Finite natural resources must be carefully managed for current and future generations.

Water is a critical natural resource. As too are soils, sand, gravels and rock (construction materials), mineral resources, gas and petroleum. By their very nature, natural resources flow across both physical and managerial boundaries and are not easily compartmentalised.

Until now, our sparse population and relatively low level of development of land and industry have meant that water has, by and large, been made available⁷. However, as climate change impacts become more apparent and aspirations for population and economic growth progress, we will see an increased demand on our water resources, making water security issues more prominent.

Responsibility for water policy and legislation is largely the responsibility of the NTG, spread across a number of departments and entities, each with its own legislation, remit and accountable minister. Water resource management is the responsibility of DEPWS Water Resources Division under the *Water Act 1992*. The Office of Water Security (also within DEPWS) coordinates cross-government policy.

Virtually all construction in the NT depends on adequate and affordable construction materials. Their protection, as well as the protection of other natural resources, is necessary for future economic development and self-sufficiency in the NT. Extractive and mining activities are regulated via various mining titles issued under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010 (NT)*.

Role of planning

Strategic land use planning contributes to the protection and management of water resources by firstly identifying the location of natural water sources, including aquifers and surface water catchments, in land use plans. It also considers associated infrastructure and options for future water supplies.

A land use policy framework is then implemented to help protect these important water supply resources from development or land uses that may compromise the quality of drinking water. It also seeks to ensure that developments can be serviced by a sustainable water source (water tanks, bores or reticulation).

An integrated approach between local government, NTG departments and other entities seeks to ensure developments have appropriate wastewater, stormwater and groundwater management infrastructure and contribute towards the management of water quality. Water-sensitive urban design, maximising surface permeability and using vegetation to intercept runoff are also advocated to help manage the ongoing impacts of stormwater runoff.

Like water resources, extractive mineral resources are mapped where known in SLUPs to avoid and/or minimise encroachment from incompatible development on these resources and associated extractive industry operations. Separation distances are also promoted to manage interfaces and limit impacts on other land uses. Strategies also advocate for rehabilitation post mining.

⁷ Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, NT Strategic Water Plan Directions Paper 2021

Promote the sustainable use of resources and the protection of heritage assets, the natural environment and ecological processes.

What we know from other planning projects

We know in the NT the availability of water resources is governed by the monsoon and regional geology. In the Top End, wet season rains feed large river systems and regional and local groundwater storages, and can result in widespread flooding. In Central Australia, the presence of extensive underground aquifers has allowed settlement and development in an otherwise mostly arid environment. Ensuring an adequate and sustainable water supply is available to support existing and planned development is critical as too is supporting measures to enable the better and more efficient use of water.

Extractive and mining resources are limited to locations where geological processes have occurred creating resources that meet strict specifications for the development and construction industry. Industry has told us these resources need to be located close to market, with supporting haulage routes and with appropriate separation distances to sensitive land uses.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

Contribute to the protection and management of the Northern Territory's natural resources to support economic growth, our quality of life and the natural environment now and into the future.

Suggested policy statements:

- Recognise water has significant value to communities, supporting prosperity, amenity, liveability, health, spirituality and customary values.
- Identify areas containing valuable natural resources, including water resources and basic raw materials, so that they can be considered in the earliest stages of the planning process.
- Ensure an adequate and sustainable water supply is available to support future growth and planned development.
- Protect surface and groundwater catchments and recharge areas from land use and development that may compromise the quality and quantity of drinking water or water with environmental or cultural values.
- Integrate whole-of-water cycle water management in cities, towns and communities using water-sensitive design, stormwater management, recycled water and groundwater replenishment.
- Promote improved environmental management, repair and rehabilitation associated with extractive and mining activities.
- Avoid and/or minimise development encroaching on known extractive resources so that intended land uses are not compromised.



Other key resources

- EPBC Act 1999 (Cth)
- Water Act 1992 (NT)
- Environment Protection Act 2019 (NT)
- Mineral Titles Act 2010 (NT)
- Territory Water Plan (NT)
- Aboriginal Land and Sea Action Plan (NT)
- NT Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline 2022



Image: Darwin Waterfront

Liveable

Enable diverse housing options and integrate planning for community facilities and services to foster a more connected, resilient and supported society.





Liveable

LAND SUPPLY AND HOUSING DIVERSITY

Housing is fundamental to individual, family and community wellbeing. Having a home that is safe, secure and affordable is vital for one's dignity, for privacy and for creating a sense of stability. It also provides the foundation for people to connect with and participate in their community⁸.

The timely preparation and servicing of land to be available for development is a central issue for the NT's growth and to address existing housing demand. We need to plan not just in our cities but also in our most remote areas, and across the housing continuum from homelessness, transient support and crisis accommodation to social housing, affordable rentals and various home ownership options.

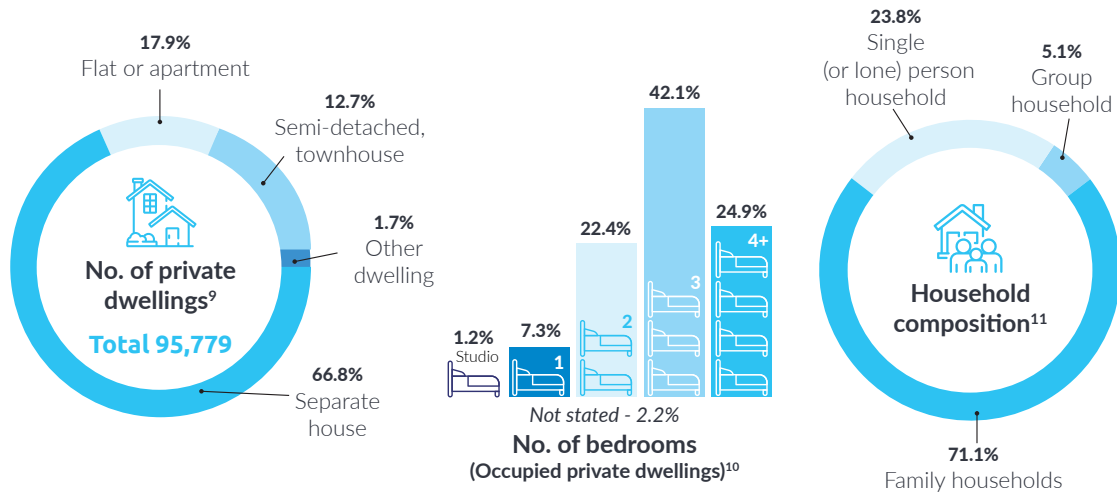
In the NT, the residential land market has been subjected to peaks and troughs influenced by major projects and other economic drivers influenced by activity external to our economy. Planning ahead is therefore critical for there to be a sufficient supply of serviced land available in the right places at the right time to meet population and economic growth.

Historically, urban land release in the NT has primarily occurred through the development and sale of government-owned land (Crown land). Prior to 1980, the NTG was the landowner, infrastructure provider, land developer and, in the majority of cases, the builder. In the last 40 years, the NTG has generally relinquished its role as the land developer and house builder; however, it has continued to fund district infrastructure (through its capital works program) to support the development of Crown land, enabling private developers to undertake internal subdivision works and builders to build homes.

As we strive for population growth and seek to reduce barriers to accessing secure housing, it is important that a diverse range of resilient housing options are available to cater for different incomes as well as cultural, workforce, household and stage-of-life needs, as well as personal aspirations and lifestyle choices.



NT Housing Quick Stats



Government housing portfolio managed by TFHC¹³

11,159

social housing dwellings

395

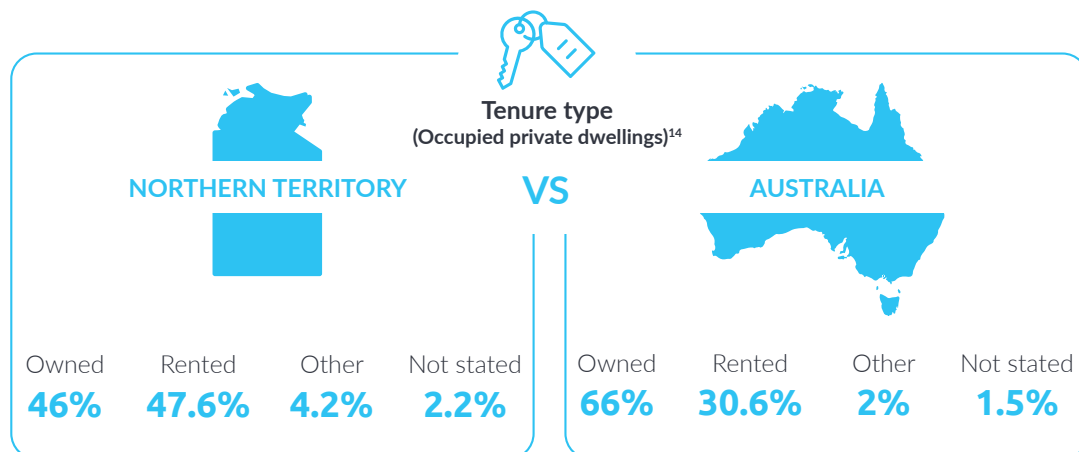
affordable rental dwellings



Public housing waiting list¹²

9,303

applicants



⁸ Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development, NT Housing Strategy 2020-2025

⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2021 Census All persons QuickStats. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

¹² As at June 2023, statistic provided by Department of Territory, Families, Housing and Communities

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2021 Census All persons QuickStats. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.



Liveable

Role of planning

Strategic planning has a major role in ensuring there is sufficient capacity for growth to meet current and future housing needs, determining 'where' growth can be accommodated and enabling housing choice.

In the NT, population growth has predominantly been accommodated in low-density urban suburbs or on rural lots of 2 ha - 8 ha. The current NT planning system supports the continued demand for this low-density product and designates 'growth areas' that are, or will be, close to services and amenities as well as social and physical infrastructure (i.e. essential services and utilities and transport).

As our population continues to grow and diversify, the need to achieve a more compact urban form has become an increasingly prominent influence on the NT's land use structure. This approach makes more efficient use of land and existing infrastructure systems, reduces the need to clear areas of natural vegetation to accommodate growth, optimises the use of shared public spaces, encourages walkable neighbourhoods and cultivates social connections. Opportunities to increase residential densities, however, must not be to the detriment of the valued character of our older suburbs.

Planning for housing must consider the types of housing required to respond to demographic changes, needs (i.e. age and household composition) and aspirations. In the NT, housing choice is facilitated through enabling a range of lot sizes and dwelling types, student accommodation and care facilities. Compact housing, either on small lots or in apartments, can support social and affordable housing outcomes in areas with connections to services and amenities. It can also support those Territorians wishing to age in place (i.e. age in their existing communities). This is particularly relevant as the NT has the fastest population growth rate of seniors aged 65 years and older in Australia.¹⁵

Strategic planning can also set the stage to facilitate other outcomes. How we plan our settlements determines how far we must travel to access services, how dependant we are on private cars and how connected we are to others. It can also influence built-form outcomes. Subdivision, site and building design that considers lot orientation, solar access, shade, cross ventilation and trees/vegetation cover can improve the thermal performance of housing, resulting in a home remaining comfortable and efficient for longer without mechanical heating or cooling. Policy can also encourage built-form outcomes that create or enhance an area's character.

What we know from other planning projects

We have heard a range of views with regard to the design and location of new subdivision and housing products. We understand that many Territorians continue to aspire to traditional single detached houses in urban areas or rural lots. However, affordability and contemporary living expectations are encouraging some in the community to consider alternatives such as apartment living or smaller lot housing.

We have heard lot sizes need to be more aligned with contemporary living choices and as a mechanism to enable housing affordability. Conversely, some Territorians have expressed concern that compact growth does not respect the NT's character or values. Climate-responsive design and landscaping have been advocated to improve comfort and performance.

¹⁵ NTG, Northern NT Seniors Policy 2021-2026

Enable diverse housing options and integrate planning for community facilities and services to foster a more connected, resilient and supported society.

Thoughts for enduring directions

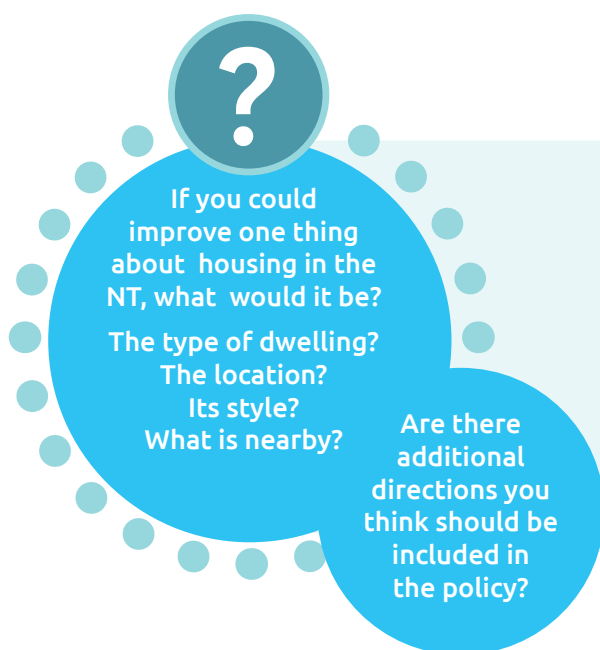
Suggested policy direction:

Support the delivery of well-serviced land and the provision of housing diversity and choice that enables population growth and responds to the needs and aspirations of our current and future communities.

Suggested policy statements:

- Identify land for housing to meet the projected demand where it will optimise and make good use of existing and planned infrastructure, services, employment opportunities, public open space, active transport (i.e. walking and cycling networks) and public transport (where available) to support liveable neighbourhoods.
- Provide for diversity and choice in the size and type of housing to support a range of household sizes, ages and incomes and to respond to community need and aspirations, particularly considering the needs of:
 - an ageing population
 - people living with a disability
 - people who require social and/or affordable housing
 - students and key-worker accommodation.

- Encourage the creation of neighbourhoods and/or precincts with a distinctive character that creates an identifiable sense of place for each community.
- Enable housing choice and services to support Aboriginal communities and to help sustain connections to family, kin and country through housing that is responsive to lifestyle and traditional family groupings.
- Support mixed-use and higher residential densities in the most accessible locations to reduce the need to travel, encourage non-car modes of travel and to help create attractive, high-amenity urban centres.



Other key resources

- Compact Urban Growth Policy (NT)
- Population Growth Strategy 2018-2028 (NT)
- 2021 Australian Infrastructure Plan (AU)
- Smart Cities Plan (AU)
- A Home for all Territorians – the Northern Territory Housing Strategy 2020-2025
- Our Community. Our Future. Our Homes (NT)



Liveable

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Social infrastructure is essential to the wellbeing of Territorians. It supports the critical government services of health, education, emergency management, justice and public safety. Social infrastructure also supports our quality of life through the provision of aged and disability care, sporting facilities, arts, childcare, culture and recreation opportunities.

While jobs are the main reason people come to the NT from elsewhere, many other factors help attract people to the NT and encourage them to stay. The provision of social infrastructure can enhance liveability and can influence people across all life stages in choosing where to settle.

The provision of social infrastructure seeks to provide support and a strong foundation for all Territorians, but for remote and very remote communities – which are characterised by small populations, long distances by road to population centres and poor access to services – there are distinct challenges that are difficult to overcome.

As our population steadily increases and our demographics change, more social infrastructure will be needed to deliver services and opportunities. For example, our ageing population, which is experiencing increasingly complex and chronic conditions, means more hospital beds and specialty health care are needed¹⁶. As more suburbs are built, more water-wise parks and reserves will be required to provide recreation opportunities.

Planning can create a policy environment to support the creation of liveable communities with a well-planned network of social infrastructure that is accessible and inclusive to all. This policy environment can work alongside other governmental efforts to enable service expansion and innovation, underpin long-term prosperity and make the NT an attractive place to live.

Role of planning

The planning framework sets the stage for the provision of sufficient, equitably distributed and accessible education, health, recreation, sporting and cultural facilities (and more) by a range of parties. This may include local government, NTG, or private or not-for-profit organisations.

A critical first aspect of this work is developing an understanding of the likely future size and characteristics of the population. Variables such as age, ethnicity and sport and recreation 'participation rates' are important as they can paint a picture of utilisation trends and ultimately land use requirements for items such as places of worship, schools, community-use halls, youth-friendly spaces or new sporting and recreational facilities.

Building on this understanding, planning identifies suitably located and sufficient land to meet the anticipated demand. For example, ensuring emergency services, justice and public safety services can cover new growth areas within achievable response times is vital to maximise public safety. In established areas, it must consider legacy infrastructure and its capacity to support any planned growth.

Whilst car travel is convenient for some trips and often the only option in rural and remote areas, social infrastructure is ideally planned to be accessible by walking, cycling or public transport rather than having to depend on private car travel. Co-locating compatible uses and sharing of spaces is also advocated in strategic planning to maximise efficiencies amongst services and travel networks. It can also enhance opportunities for sports participation, physical activity, wellbeing, community interaction and cohesion¹⁷.

¹⁶ NTG, NT Health Strategic Plan 2023-2028
¹⁷ Heart Foundation, Healthy Active by Design

Enable diverse housing options and integrate planning for community facilities and services to foster a more connected, resilient and supported society.

What we know from other planning projects

The community values and relies on social infrastructure. Over the years, many suggestions have been offered to maximise utilisation and improve functionality. Mixed-use and co-located facilities integrated with sustainable transport networks, the application of the principles of 'crime prevention through environmental design' and the need for shady, climate-resilient spaces were all raised in this respect.

We know growing migrant communities are creating a greater need for space for cultural celebrations and places for worship, particularly in Darwin/Palmerston and in the regional areas of Alice Springs and Katherine. We also know our climate is changing, with heat and extreme weather increasing risks to vulnerable cohorts and impacting our comfort and engagement with the outdoors, which needs to be taken into account in future policy development.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

Support Territorians to enjoy a healthy, safe, connected and fulfilled quality of life by planning social infrastructure to be accessible, adaptable to evolving needs and to maximise efficient land use and infrastructure.

Suggested policy statements:

- Plan for a sufficient supply of strategically located and serviced land for social infrastructure facilities to meet population growth, demographic change and the evolving needs of the community.
- Maximise the use of existing well-located social infrastructure, including the re-use and multi-use of sites, to meet the changing needs of the community.
- Promote the location of social infrastructure near public and active transport networks (where available) and close to, or highly accessible from, residential areas.
- Facilitate the co-location of compatible facilities to maximise joint use and minimise duplication of facilities and infrastructure.
- Enable the shared use and management of facilities to maximise community access to and utilisation of social infrastructure.
- Protect social infrastructure from land use conflict by limiting the encroachment or intensification of surrounding incompatible use and development.



Other key resources

- NT Social Outcomes Framework
- NT Seniors Policy 2021-2026
- NT Sport and Active Recreation – Strategic Plan 2021-25
- NT Creative Industries Strategy 2020-2024
- NT Disability Strategy 2022-2032
- Multicultural Policy for the NT 2020-25
- NT Youth Strategy 2023-2033



Livable

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Aboriginal people have owned and occupied land in the NT for over 65,000 years. Aboriginal Territorians' relationship to land and water remains fundamental to their identity and way of life, with many continuing to speak ancestral languages and follow traditional culture practices¹⁸.

Today Aboriginal Territorians represent 30% of the NT's population and a much higher proportion of the population (74%) of the NT's remote communities¹⁹. Aboriginal Territorians are significant landowners and custodians of the NT's land and coastline (see inset). Much of the balance is likely to be subject to native title rights.

In addition to the 23 major remote towns and other areas subject to a specific strategic land use plan under the planning scheme, there are around 96 remote Aboriginal communities along with more than 600 outstations/homelands. There are many more that have not been recorded, and there are new ones coming on every year.

Homelands can be permanent or semi-permanent (seasonal) communities, whilst others are sites of cultural importance. These major remote towns and communities fall under the administrative jurisdiction of 9 regional local government councils. In addition, the traditional Aboriginal owners and other Aboriginal residents of these communities are represented by the 4 land councils established under the *Land Rights Act*.

There are distinct challenges for providing amenities, infrastructure and services in remote and very remote communities, which are characterised by small populations and long distances by road to population centres. Some Top End communities are isolated by floodwaters for a good part of the year and rely on coastal shipping, barge landing facilities and air services.

Town camps are Aboriginal communities located in or adjacent to urban centres across the NT. In addition to providing permanent housing options for many Aboriginal people and their families, town camps support mobility for Aboriginal people across the NT, which is a necessary way of life. In remote areas, public housing accounts for almost all homes. Despite the relative size of the social housing system in the NT, there remains a critical undersupply. Many homes are overcrowded²⁰.

Closing the gap in outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians is one of the NT's most important priorities. Existing commitments under Closing the Gap and the *NT Everyone Together Aboriginal Affairs Strategy*, coupled with work already underway through various investment packages, reflects the readiness of both government and community to forge towards meaningful reconciliation and engagement.

¹⁸ Department of Housing and Community Development. *Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy*.

¹⁹ Department of Treasury and Finance. *NT Economy - Population*

²⁰ *A Home for all Territorians Northern Territory Housing Strategy 2020-2025*

Enable diverse housing options and integrate planning for community facilities and services to foster a more connected, resilient and supported society.



Image: Gunbalanya housing under construction



Liveable

Role of planning

The imperatives established by the *Planning Act* are particularly relevant to Aboriginal communities that are covered by the scheme, in particular that strategic planning reflects the wishes and needs of the community. Strategic Planning can ensure that affected Aboriginal people are engaged in the process of planning for their community in a manner that allows time to consider alternatives and to reach consensus on critical decisions.

This approach is consistent with the NTG's commitment to local decision-making processes, which embodies the spirit and substance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for working with Aboriginal communities and the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)²¹.

The Strategic Framework, under part 2 of the NT Planning Scheme, includes area plans for 23 'major remote towns and other areas'. These area plans were developed under a previous growth town initiative in concert with Aboriginal people and land councils. They are essentially 'town layout plans' designed to accommodate the future and aspirational needs of the community, to assist to coordinate infrastructure and to guide the development of land in each community accordingly.

NOTE: Whilst many remote communities in the NT are not currently subject to legislated land planning requirements, community land use plans have been developed for 50 other NT remote communities on unzoned land²². Community land use plans have no statutory control but aim to coordinate land use and development.



²¹ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/publications/2016/10/free-prior-and-informed-consent-an-indigenous-peoples-right-and-a-good-practice-for-local-communities-fao/>

²² BushTel is a central point for information about the remote communities of the Northern Territory, their people and cultural and historical influences. BushTel aims to enhance planning and informed decision making.

Enable diverse housing options and integrate planning for community facilities and services to foster a more connected, resilient and supported society.

What we know from other planning projects

We understand that connection to 'country' is crucial to the lives of Aboriginal Territorians - spiritually, physically, socially and culturally. We have heard concern with regard to the housing backlog, overcrowding, particularly in remote settings, and the need for the planning framework to enable housing diversity and processes that do not delay responsible agencies in delivering housing on the ground.

In order to develop a responsive policy environment, we appreciate that engagement with Aboriginal Territorians must be undertaken in a manner that increases mutual understanding and enables communities to influence decisions that affect their lives.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

To collaboratively plan for the orderly and coordinated development of Aboriginal communities (where appropriate) to help facilitate connection to homelands and cultural areas surrounding larger communities, resilience, opportunity and improved wellbeing.

Suggested policy statements:

- Respect the history, knowledge of country, contribution and continuing connection of Aboriginal people to land and water.
- Create culturally safe processes to help Aboriginal people reach their aspirations with regard to land use and development opportunities in their communities.
- Enable Aboriginal people to impart their traditional knowledge and values to inform land use planning.
- Support broader reforms that increase social and economic opportunities and improve the lives of Aboriginal communities throughout urban, regional and remote centres.
- Assist in the timely delivery of appropriate housing and infrastructure that responds to the needs of Aboriginal communities.



Other key resources

- *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976 (Cth)*
- *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*
- Everyone Together Aboriginal Affairs Strategy 2019-2029 (NT)
- Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy (NT)
- Aboriginal Land and Sea Action Plan (NT)
- Town Camps Reform Framework 2019-2024 (NT)
- Local Decision-Making Framework Policy (NT)



Liveable

GOOD DESIGN

The way buildings and the spaces around them are designed can have a strong influence on the way people value and engage with a space. When done well, it can foster a sense of place and stewardship. Good design can help enhance the perception of a place, its amenity and in turn help attract investment, new residents and visitors.

The benefits of good design should endure well beyond the shorter timeframes of fashion or trend, and while there is certainly a visual component to design, it is more than just a matter of aesthetics or taste. Rather, good design is derived from a range of complementary foundational considerations, including functionality, response to context, response to climate, contribution to place, inclusivity, sustainability and helping to make the community feel safer.

As the NT continues to compete with other jurisdictions to attract and retain both people and investment, the pursuit, awareness and expression of 'good design' is becoming increasingly important. Good design can help create desirable, enduring places that become a positive legacy for future generations.

Role of planning

Historically in the NT, the planning system has focused on getting the right mix of land uses in a location and setting minimum standards for the design of new development. In 2020, the inclusion of an objective in the *Planning Act* relating to the promotion of 'good design of buildings and other works' embedded the consideration of good design in the planning process.

Planning has a role to help foster a culture of good design in buildings, subdivisions and urban spaces, acknowledging the broad diversity of conditions between the wet-dry tropical Top End and arid Central Australia. It is applicable to all scales and includes the broad layout of streets and open space and the collective location of public and private buildings on their site. It can also influence the composition of some architectural and landscape components.

Planning can foster good design through a number of forms, from policy statements and guidelines as well as the setting of direct statutory controls. However, there is no one solution or universal answer to good design as an infinite number of responses can occur for any one place.

Good, context-responsive design can be encouraged through planning documents that articulate the value of local features, aspirations and objectives along with how new development can respond to these in both existing or new places. Many of these parameters also help to support important but difficult to quantify objectives, such as the need for passive surveillance, visual interest and activation. It can seek to celebrate existing valued character of an area or forge a new character where growth or land use change is anticipated.

Enable diverse housing options and integrate planning for community facilities and services to foster a more connected, resilient and supported society.

What we know from other planning projects

People value different aspects of the places where they live, work or relax and opinions differ on what makes a place great. However, we have heard many common themes relating to the design of our settlements.

We want to safeguard and celebrate the distinctive character of our older suburbs. We want our streets to be walkable and safe. We want attractive, inclusive public spaces that are green and offer more shade. We want quality buildings and suburbs that collectively create a sense of place and respond to local climate.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

Promote the value of good design to enable new development to positively contribute to the public and private realm and supports community wellbeing and quality of life.

Suggested policy statements:

- Respond to local climate conditions and embrace climate-sensitive design to improve resilience, reduce urban heat and reduce reliance on mechanical heating and cooling.

- Respect the existing distinctive character and/or desired future character of a local area (or part thereof).
- Respond to and integrate with the local setting and natural features, including topography, waterways and native vegetation.
- Contribute to an interconnected network of green infrastructure, linking tree canopy, open space, native vegetation and waterways to support a place's broader character and ecological context.
- Provide for connection and the integration of street networks and pedestrian and bicycle paths to make places easy and safe to navigate and move through.
- Incorporate design principles to reduce opportunities for crime and improve community perceptions about safety.
- Promote the creation of places that cater for the various needs and abilities of the community and encourage social interaction and cultural activities.
- Contribute to the vibrancy and activation of the public realm.
- Encourage resource-efficient design that helps work towards the transition to a circular economy.
- Interpret any known cultural or historical themes to ensure that as change occurs, a site's heritage value/s remains accessible and is sustained.



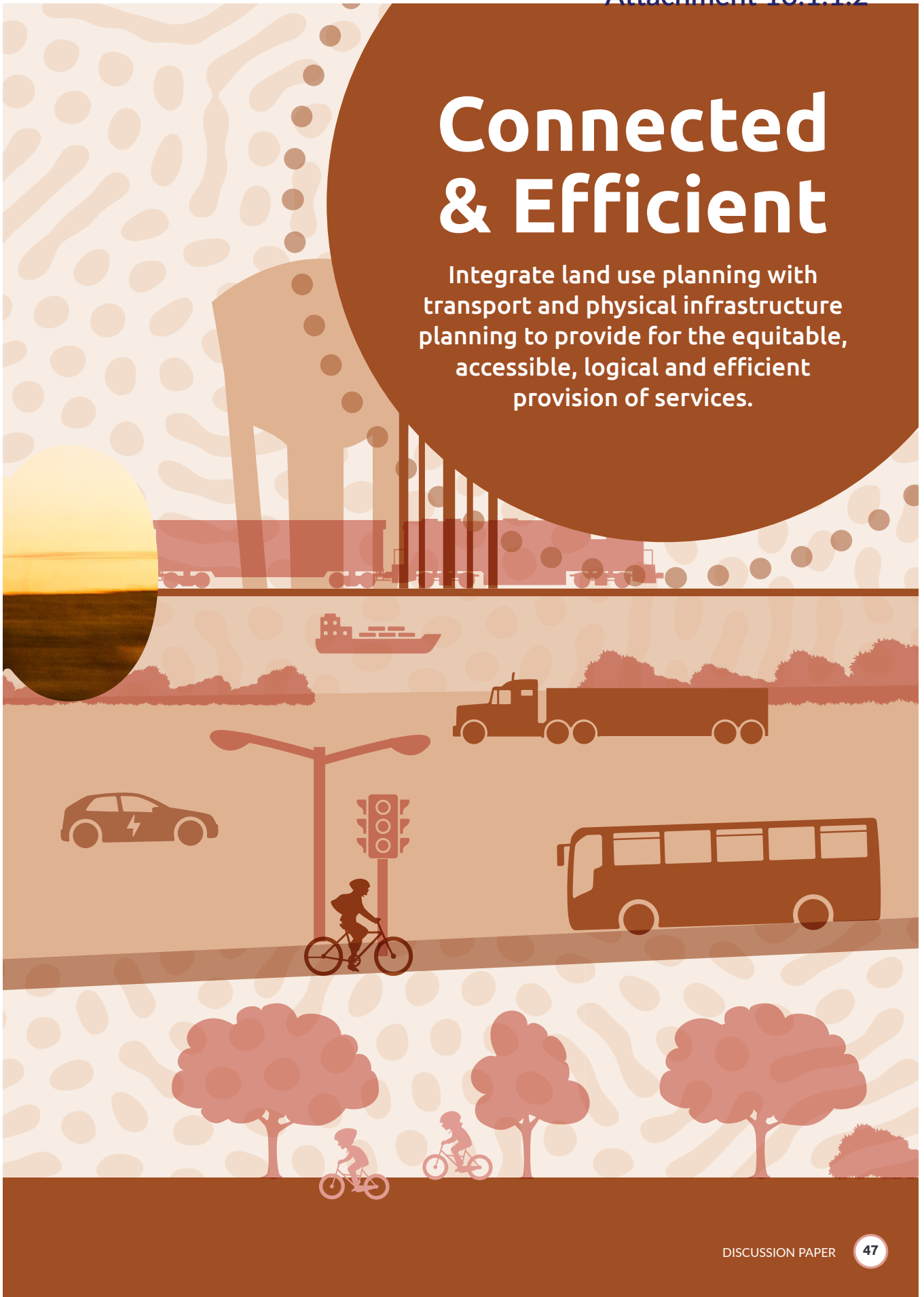
The combination of built and landscape elements can contribute to the general look and feel of an area, often creating a distinct character.



Image: Road train, Stuart Highway

Connected & Efficient

Integrate land use planning with transport and physical infrastructure planning to provide for the equitable, accessible, logical and efficient provision of services.





TRANSPORT

Transport networks play a fundamental role in the dynamics and success of our settlements, underpinning a range of social, environmental and economic outcomes. They connect Territorians to services, activities, each other, Australia and the world. They also provide critical linkages for defence, moving commodities and attracting visitors.

Like most Australian cities, the NT has developed as a relatively low-density, car-dependant place. Given our sheer size and extreme climate, private and commercial vehicles are anticipated to be the primary mode of transport in the short-, medium- and, most likely, longer term. However, ensuring the transport network provides a range of sustainable transport options - such as walking, cycling and public transport (where population densities allow) - is important to lower emissions and to help foster more active and healthy communities.

Considerable distances separate our population centres from each other and from the rest of Australia, creating a significant reliance on our road, rail, air and sea supply chains. Life in many remote coastal communities functions around a weekly barge schedule, while fresh fruit and vegetables in urban supermarkets are quickly in short supply if rail or road connections fail. Our industries rely on efficient freight and logistics networks to remain competitive with and provide access to international and domestic markets.

The NT's transport and logistics networks are not currently constrained by congestion and the first and last mile logistics and freight management issues encountered in other states. As the population and the economy grows and diversifies, the NT's freight task and logistics requirements will continue to grow and change. Improving network reliability, resilience and enabling supporting infrastructure to meet demand is essential to deliver services (particularly in remote areas), connect businesses to markets and reduce the cost of living²³.

²³ NTG, Territory-wide Logistics Master Plan 2020

Integrate land use planning with transport and physical infrastructure planning to provide for the equitable, accessible, logical and efficient provision of services.



Image: Cyclists commuting, Darwin city



Connected & Efficient

Role of planning

The transport system is complex, with a mix of roles and responsibilities between the NTG, local governments and private operators. The NTG manages and maintains the arterial road network, while local governments manage the local road network. Integrated land use and transport planning is fundamental to align the efforts of all stakeholders, optimise efficiencies, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support mode change to lower-emission forms of transport.

The way different land use activities are distributed or concentrated, separated or mixed has a profound, cumulative effect on our daily behaviours as individuals and as communities. The land use structure across the NT provides a framework to enable higher-density residential development within a comfortable walking distance of a public transport route and an activity centre, where commercial and community facilities are available. Facilitating a large residential population in a concentrated area provides opportunities to be less dependent on the private car, to support public transport and to promote cycling and walking.

Integrating transport and future land use is also fundamental to protect future strategic transport corridors (freight, passenger and public transport) as well as supporting transport terminals, warehouses and distribution centres. Strategic land use plans for Darwin identifying future growth may increase the viability of introducing new modes of public transport in the longer term, including the potential for bus rapid transit or light rail. In response, the planning framework identifies and safeguards land required to facilitate an arterial transport corridor should it be required in the future.

Planning can also protect transport networks from encroachment by incompatible land uses that could limit their operation or prevent expansion. For example, land use planning can prevent the zoning of land for sensitive land uses surrounding airports and aerodromes to prevent possible constraints on airport operations and negative impacts on community amenity due to the effects of aircraft noise. Safeguarding aviation operations through land use and development planning is also necessary (i.e. preventing taller structures that might intrude on operational airspace).

Consideration must also be given to road safety and the transport-related impacts on the safety, resilience and vibrancy of our communities. Transport corridors and facilities (such as car parks) that enhance, rather than detract from, a local environment and improve connectivity are key considerations in the strategic planning process.



Image: Freight train, Alice Springs to Darwin railway

What we know from other planning projects

We know that more people cycle in a typical week in the NT (per capita) than in any other state. We have heard more participation in these transport modes can be encouraged through efforts focused on improving the experience through safety, shade and improved connectivity.

We understand technical innovation in transport is also changing patterns of mobility, accessibility and travel with bike share, personal mobility devices and electric vehicles all evolving in the NT. It is important that strategic planners monitor shifting transport demand in order to support future travel behaviour change.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

Integrate land use and transport planning to provide a safe, reliable and sustainable network that connects people and places and supports continuing economic growth.

Suggested policy statements:

- Facilitate an efficient, logical and safe transport network that is integrated across the NT to conveniently connect people, places, goods, businesses and markets.

- Identify and protect strategic transport infrastructure (corridors and nodes) for passenger and freight movements to allow for logical upgrades, network extensions and intensification.
- Protect strategic transport infrastructure (corridors and nodes) from encroachment by incompatible land use and development that may impact their operation or expansion.
- Improve safety outcomes by ensuring aviation safety requirements are recognised in strategic planning processes.
- Promote mixed-use and medium- to high-density development within a comfortable walking distance of frequent public transport networks to reduce reliance on private vehicles.
- Support a choice of sustainable transport modes, including public transport, walking and cycling, to facilitate a reduced reliance on private vehicle travel and promote active, healthy communities.
- Advocate for the appropriate management of car parking provision to support a modal shift in town centre areas.
- Promote neighbourhoods, main streets and regional and town centres where place and people are given greater priority compared to vehicles.
- Minimise negative transport-related impacts on communities and the environment.
- Promote the greening of key transport corridors and car parks to support amenity and reduce the heat island effect.



Other key resources

- National Airports Safeguarding Framework (AU)
- Electric Vehicle Strategy 2021-26 (NT)
- Darwin Regional Transport Plan 2018
- Territory-Wide Logistics Master Plan (NT)
- 10-Year Infrastructure Plan 2019-2028 (NT)
- Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 (Cth)
- Compact Urban Growth Policy (NT)



Connected & Efficient

ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND UTILITIES

The NT has a far-reaching network of essential services and utilities, including stormwater, water, sewerage, energy and telecommunications across urban, rural and remote settings. These networks are critical to the liveability of our settlements and the prosperity of economic endeavours. Investing in the right infrastructure, in the right place at the right time is critical to unlock the NT's potential and facilitate sustainable growth over the longer term.

The pace of technological change, growing consumer expectations and a changing climate are affecting the way service providers do business and how governments plan for the future. Renewable energy, transitioning to a low carbon future, embracing the circular economy and enabling faster, affordable and accessible telecommunications are all opportunities that are expected to change how and where these services are provided.

The NT's relatively small population base, climatic extremes, demanding geography and the vast distances that separate settlements from each other and from the rest of Australia present unique challenges in delivering such services. Effective integration and consideration of infrastructure provision in the early stages of land use planning is therefore important as decisions made now cannot be easily reversed and will influence social, environmental and economic outcomes for decades to come. It will also allow for the long lead times required for 'regional' and 'sub-regional'-level infrastructure to be planned efficiently.

Role of planning

Like elsewhere in Australia, in the NT, the delivery of essential services and utilities is managed by a combination of public and private entities. The planning system plays an important role in coordinating the provision of such infrastructure by determining 'where' and 'why' growth (residential, industrial and commercial) will occur in strategic land use plans, based on demand profiling, demographics and trends. This work then informs other agencies and entities to plan for future network upgrades and/or expansions.

Strategic planning must consider the capacity and availability of existing service infrastructure (including water source security and quality) along with broader government sequencing priorities when planning for growth. Building on this understanding, sufficient and appropriately located land is set aside in SLUPs to accommodate future essential services and utilities. This also includes land required for transmission corridors that connect sources to market or disposal (i.e. water, sewerage, energy, telecommunications).

Cost advantages can be achieved when leveraging off existing infrastructure networks. However, in delivering such services, economies of scale are not always achievable in the NT where investment is required across a vast area and often over multiple and small development fronts. Notwithstanding, where possible, strategic planning seeks to facilitate the consolidation of activities in locations close to existing services and utilities where there is or will be capacity.

Land use controls applied through the planning framework also aim to protect the future operational integrity of the infrastructure and the amenity of nearby communities through a variety of mechanisms. This includes separating incompatible land uses and the use of buffers to provide distance from any potential adverse impacts, such as odour and emissions.

Integrate land use planning with transport and physical infrastructure planning to provide for the equitable, accessible, logical and efficient provision of services.

What we know from other planning projects

We know that some of the NT's infrastructure is ageing and that whilst there is some capacity within local suburban reticulation networks, investment into power, water and sewer infrastructure headworks is necessary in places to achieve more compact urban growth outcomes, rural expansion and industrial development.

We understand that land demands for new energy sources will be significant for generation and transmission. The planning framework needs to be cognisant of major projects in the resource industry so that the opportunities generated by them is supported by appropriately planned infrastructure, such as land for workers accommodation and supporting infrastructure.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

Integrate land use and infrastructure planning to support the safe, sustainable and coordinated provision of essential service infrastructure and utilities that meet the needs of the community, business and industry.

Suggested policy statements:

- Pursue settlement patterns that make the most efficient and effective use of existing and planned infrastructure.
- Identify and protect strategically located land and associated corridors to accommodate essential services and utilities to meet existing and future service needs for water, gas, electricity, sewerage and telecommunications infrastructure, and waste management and resource recovery facilities.
- Safeguard existing and future essential services infrastructure sites and corridors from sensitive or incompatible land uses that would compromise their security or future operational integrity.
- Facilitate the development of renewable energy facilities to support the reduction of carbon emissions while minimising any potential impact upon the environment, natural landscape, cultural values and urban areas.
- Protect public health and safety and the natural environment from potential adverse impacts that may arise from essential service infrastructure and utilities.
- Promote the principles of the circular economy to enhance resource efficiency and prevent waste.
- Facilitate the provision of telecommunications infrastructure to increase the digital capability and connectivity across the NT whilst managing amenity impacts.



Other key resources

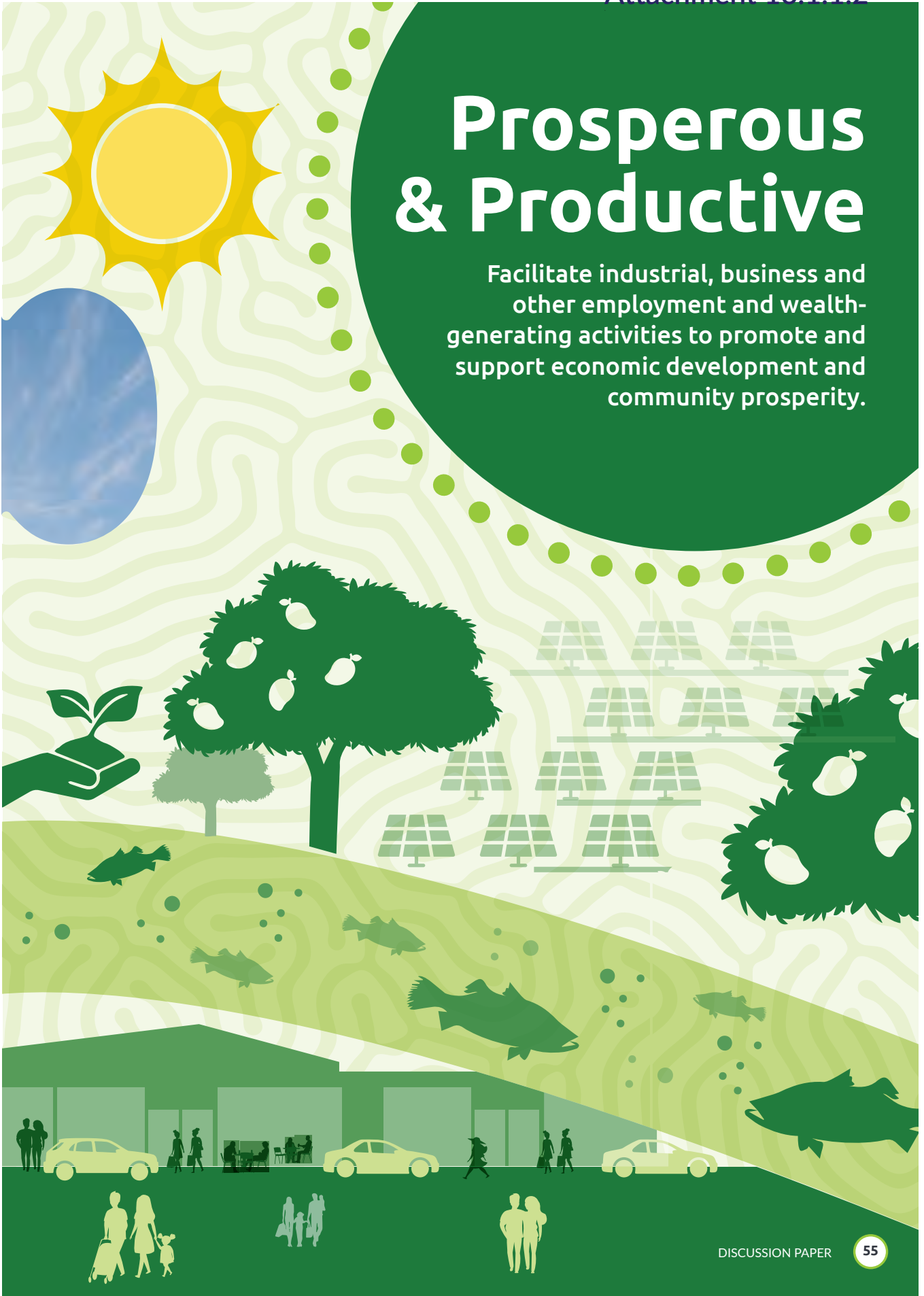
- Climate Change Response: Towards 2050 (NT)
- Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cth)
- Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998 (NT)
- Water Act 1992 (NT)
- Circular Economy Strategy 2022-2027 (NT)
- Territory Water Plan



Image: Mango orchard, Darwin region

Prosperous & Productive

Facilitate industrial, business and other employment and wealth-generating activities to promote and support economic development and community prosperity.





AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING

Agriculture, forestry and fishing are a significant source of economic activity in the NT and are often the lifeblood of regional and remote communities. They also influence and interact with other sectors of the economy, including retail and wholesale trade, manufacturing, transport and tourism.

Cattle production is the NT's major agribusiness industry, with pastoral leases covering almost 45% of the NT's land area. Mangoes are a major horticultural crop. Other crops include a broad range of tropical fruit, nuts, broad-acre crops, vegetables and more.

Plantation forestry is becoming an increasingly important industry and is currently the second largest production land user in the NT after cattle grazing. Aquaculture in the NT is primarily related to pearls and barramundi, with a small contribution from aquarium fish and spirulina production. Commercial crocodile farming has achieved commercial success, with raw skins and meat a mainstay of the industry.

The allure of living in a rural setting (particularly for those parcels in close proximity to urban settlements), water scarcity, climate change and market events can place pressure on agricultural and horticultural land. If not managed carefully, this pressure can give rise to land use conflict, result in the permanent loss of productive land and impact on ecological processes and consequences for our food security.

What we know from other planning projects

We know a growing population drives food and fibre demands and that despite some local food production, most of the food we eat travels a significant distance to get to our plates. We know the planning framework needs to support efforts to secure a higher level of food security.

Stakeholders have expressed the need to recognise horticultural potential at both a national scale and local level - the latter enabling production on smaller rural blocks. Encroachment by rural living land uses and managing land use conflicts have also been raised as priorities.



Image: Cattle in yard

Facilitate industrial, business and other employment and wealth-generating activities to promote and support economic development and community prosperity.

Role of planning

In the NT, the majority of agricultural and forestry occurs on unzoned land and is generally managed through legislation outside the planning system. The role of strategic planning, therefore, is to identify and protect land suitable for agricultural, aquacultural and horticultural production within a limited area of zoned land.

The terrain, climate, soil properties and availability of water are all factors that influence where agricultural and horticultural activities can occur and flourish. Land capable of supporting agricultural and horticultural activity is a relatively rare resource in the area covered by the strategic framework, being found in the Darwin and Katherine regions and a handful of major remote towns.

The limited extent of this land resource warrants identification and protection to maximise future opportunities, particularly when considered in the context of a changing climate, the need for food security and potential expansion of domestic and offshore markets.

Policy that prevents the conversion of suitable land to other uses is important as once land is converted to other uses, it is unlikely to return to agricultural or horticultural production. Preventing the fragmentation of land and minimising encroachment from incompatible uses that may give rise to land use conflicts is also important.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

Protect agricultural, aquaculture and horticultural land so that it is available to support the growth of the sector and food security.

Suggested policy statements:

- Identify and protect land with agricultural, aquaculture and/or horticultural potential.
- Protect agricultural, aquaculture and horticultural activities from encroachment of incompatible uses that may impact their operation.

- Protect agricultural, aquaculture and horticultural activities from:
 - encroachment of incompatible or sensitive uses that may impact their operation
 - new land uses that may present biosecurity risks
 by locating new development in areas that avoid or minimise potential for conflict through the provision of adequate separation areas or other measures.
- Avoid fragmentation of agricultural, aquaculture and horticultural land that may limit future production.
- Facilitate the provision of infrastructure and services necessary to support a strong agriculture industry and associated agricultural supply chains.



Other key resources

- EPBC Act (Cth)
- Water Act 1992 (NT)
- Pastoral Land Act 1992 (NT)
- Environment Protection Act 2019 (NT)
- Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998 (NT)
- Agribusiness Strategy
- Biosecurity Act 2015



Prosperous & Productive

INDUSTRY

Industrial areas and land uses involve a diverse range of activities including manufacturing, assembling, packaging, altering, repairing and renovating to name a few. They are critical to local, regional, NT and national economies and are a significant generator of employment.

Our traditional industry sectors will continue to add to the NT's growth and provide for the local needs of residents and businesses. It is important to plan for a steady supply of land to meet the needs of this industry to prevent increases to the cost of living and the loss of economic development opportunities.

The NT's strategic position as a gateway to Asia, its role as a key defence hub and diversity of mineral, gas, petroleum, renewable energy and agricultural resources provides opportunities that underpin aspirations for future economic growth. Global commitments to net zero emissions by mid-century are increasing the demand for carbon-neutral products and supply chains, with renewable energy expected to reduce dependency on carbon-based energy over time.

The likely future land use requirements (across 'exploration', generation and transmission) of these emerging industries has the potential to have a significant land use footprint and may place pressure on existing infrastructure and surrounding environments. Integrated planning that makes the most of our extensive existing infrastructure networks and considers capacity constraints is necessary to create the enabling environment and encourage private sector investment, whilst also protecting the natural environment and the amenity of nearby communities.

Role of planning

The identification of adequate land to provide for future major strategic, general and light industry development is a core component of the strategic planning process in the NT. Capacity for future expansion and access to suitable water resources, infrastructure, regional and international transport networks and labour all underpin productivity, efficiency and competitiveness.

Understanding the differences between industry types is key so that appropriate locations are identified and to protect the long-term interests of both operators and surrounding communities. For example, major strategic and general industries often require separation from other land uses due to the anticipated range of potential offsite impacts. Proximity to ports and other strategic transport networks is often paramount for these industries. Light industries (low-impact industries such as printers, furniture making and commercial bakeries) are often smaller enterprises and often need to locate in proximity to their customers near urban areas.

A range of emissions and other impacts can be generated by industrial activities, which can influence health, environmental and amenity outcomes. This may be as a result of a single activity or the cumulative effect of impacts from a number of industrial activities. Matters that may have a significant impact on the environment and potentially cause pollution resulting in environmental harm, or that involve dangerous goods, are primarily managed through separate environmental legislation outside the planning system.

Notwithstanding, strategic planning has a role to play to support environmental protection regulation and to avoid the potential impacts from industry impacting sensitive land uses, residences, schools etc. Buffers or land use transitions between industrial and sensitive land uses are a key mechanism to protect the health and wellbeing of humans and amenity values from the impacts of industrial activities.

Facilitate industrial, business and other employment and wealth-generating activities to promote and support economic development and community prosperity.

What we know from other planning projects

All tiers of government and the private sector have a role to play in owning, financing, building, operating or regulating industry. These stakeholders have highlighted that enabling infrastructure supported by the right policy and regulatory settings is critical to enable investment, diversification and growth.

Understandably, concerns regarding potential off-site impacts and/or safety risks from industrial land uses (traffic, noise, natural environment etc.) are raised at all stages of the planning process with regard to industry.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

Facilitate industry innovation and growth in strategic locations whilst avoiding, mitigating or managing potential risks to the health and amenity of people and the environment.

Suggested policy statements:

- Plan for a sufficient supply of strategically located and serviced land to allow future industry growth and/or expansion.
- Prevent conflict and encroachment between industrial and sensitive land uses through land use separation in order to protect:
 - an industrial area's long-term operation, efficiency and growth
 - the health and amenity of people and the natural environment.
- Understand and respond to the evolving nature of the mining and renewable energy industry.
- Plan for the establishment of new sustainable development precincts, including associated infrastructure and transmission corridors, designed with key sustainability principles, including:
 - contribution to net zero emissions
 - efficient water use
 - circular economy principles.
- Safeguard existing industrial areas that provide an ongoing economic, urban servicing or employment contribution to local communities, regions and/or the NT.
- Promote co-location of like uses to minimise the potential impact area.
- Provide a land use transition between industrial and sensitive land uses.
- Enable compatible land uses that provide a convenience, service or support role to industrial areas.



Other key resources

- EPBC Act 1999 (Cth)
- Water Act 1992 (NT)
- Dangerous Goods Act 1998
- Environment Protection Act 2019 (NT)
- Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998 (NT)
- Land Use Separation Guidelines (NT)



Prosperous & Productive

ACTIVITY CENTRES & EMPLOYMENT LANDS

Activity centres are places where people can shop, work, meet, relax and, in some instances, live. They range in size and form, depending on their role, and are ideally well-served by public and active transport options (if available). 'Employment lands' are also areas of economic activity, but they tend to focus on specific themes such as universities, major health campuses, port and airports.

In the NT, early towns were developed around or radiating from a central business/commercial area (activity centre) and generally extended as far as one might comfortably walk, reflecting their establishment prior to the proliferation of the private car. Over time as our population grew, new suburbs were created with a local centre to meet the day-to-day needs of their community. However, from the 1970s, the way people shopped changed dramatically in the NT with the rise of larger sub-regional shopping centres and supermarkets often reducing the viability local centres - the survival of the latter sometimes dependant on diversifying.

Advances in technology and changing consumer patterns are continuing to transform how businesses operate and how consumers engage with them. However, communities still value and rely on the broad range of activity centres for shopping, work and social purposes. This is particularly true in remote areas where delivery timeframes may be slower.

Ultimately, the take up of commercial opportunities depends on the scale and timing of residential growth, the corresponding growth in jobs and the economy and the actions of private landowners. However, forward planning for sufficient and well-located commercial and business development land is critical to attract investment and enable economic and job growth to occur when opportunity presents.

Role of planning

Strategic planning provides a framework for the sufficient supply of well-located land to meet the needs of business now and into the future. Specifically, under the NT Planning Scheme, a planned network of 'activity centres' complemented by 'employment lands' aims to provide for distribution of jobs, services and amenities to optimise community benefit and infrastructure efficiencies.

The NT's strategic framework seeks to reinforce an activity centre hierarchy as part of a long-term and integrated approach by public authorities and private stakeholders, whereby centres are the primary places for commerce and retail activity across urban, rural, regional and remote settings. Increasing the level of residential development in and around centres is advocated in the current strategic framework so as many people as possible can benefit from the amalgam of activity and to reduce reliance on the private car.

The availability of car parking and public transport options and quality well-lit and shaded pedestrian/cycle paths has a major influence on the appearance of activity centres and employment lands and how people choose to travel to them. Policies that promote shade, landscaping and lighting of car parks and pathways can reduce the urban heat island effect, ameliorate visual impacts and enhance perceptions of safety.

Urban design requirements set under a planning framework can also help create dynamic, inclusive and resilient spaces that people and businesses want to be part of and reinforce a sense of place. Encouraging active ground floors, providing shelter from the elements and protecting a place's character are all mechanisms that can enhance the overall customer experience and sense of safety.

Facilitate industrial, business and other employment and wealth-generating activities to promote and support economic development and community prosperity.

What we know from other planning projects

Previous consultation feedback has advocated for improved connectivity between and within commercial centres, quality design outcomes and a high level of visual engagement between those in the street and those within buildings to contribute to a place's vibrancy, identity and safety.

There has been an emphasis nationally to remove barriers to trade, investment and entrepreneurship through simplified and more flexible planning policy and streamlined planning processes. Reforms have been introduced through the NT planning system over the years to assist with this. However, we have also heard concerns that too little control and too much planned commercial growth could impact on businesses in established activity centres.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

Enhance the diversity and resilience of activity centres to meet the needs of the community, support economic growth, provide employment opportunities and improve liveability and sense of place.

Suggested policy statements:

- Establish, distribute and maintain an activity centre hierarchy across the NT that meets different levels of community need and enables employment, goods and services to be accessed efficiently and conveniently by the community.
- The importance of activity centres is reinforced, and the allocation of land for business or commercial use that fractures activity centres is discouraged.
- Sufficient development intensity and appropriate land use mix is provided that supports the intended role and function of the activity centre and to promote activity, productivity and efficient use of infrastructure.
- Increase the density and diversity of housing in and around activity centres to improve land use efficiency, housing variety and increase the critical mass to support activity centres.
- Maximise access to activity centres by walking, cycling and public transport rather than having to depend on access by car in urban areas.
- Maintain and enhance the role of activity centres as a community focus, with engaging shopfronts, sheltered pedestrian footpaths and places for social interaction.
- Capitalise on opportunities to revitalise activity centres in established areas as a catalyst for urban and regional renewal in the surrounding catchment.
- Identify and allocate accessible and well-connected land for employment nodes that provides for the existing and emerging needs of employment sectors.
- Connect and/or co-locate employment nodes with activity centres to unlock synergies between such centres.
- Encourage the co-location of similar uses within existing or future employment lands to facilitate collaboration, shared access to resources and efficient use of infrastructure.



Other key resources

- Compact Urban Growth Policy (NT)
- Population Growth Strategy 2018-2028 (NT)
- 2021 Australian Infrastructure Plan (AU)
- Smart Cities Plan (AU)



Prosperous & Productive

TOURISM

Nature-based and cultural tourism are key drawcards for holiday visitors to the NT, with holiday makers attracted to our natural landscapes, rich culture, warm climate and unique visitor experiences. Aboriginal culture is a significant drawcard for a large proportion of international and domestic visitors. These assets are also valued and utilised by Territorians, thereby contributing to broader liveability outcomes.

Tourism activity stretches across multiple industries and ancillary services and includes the journey to, from and within a destination. It can include accommodation (caravan parks, hotels etc), attractions, and facilities and associated infrastructure. Some assets co-exist within urban or regional activity centres. Others may be located in or near places of natural beauty or recreation opportunity.

Tourism in the NT is further enlivened by festivals, sporting events, performing arts, creative industries, museums and art galleries. Having high-quality sporting, arts and cultural infrastructure can strengthen the economy, help grow visitation and enable the hosting of international events. Benefits can flow through tourism activity to many auxiliary service industries, such as the hospitality, food and leisure sectors.

Role of planning

Strategic planning can facilitate the promotion and development of tourism activities, along with ancillary services and infrastructure, to assist the NT to grow its tourism product in step with identified long-term trends and aspirations.

Strategic planning can help guide the appropriate location of tourism land uses and set aside land to accommodate future tourism growth. As with other land uses, tourism development must be appropriate to the local context and character of a place.

Traffic and noise associated with some tourism activity has the potential to impact upon the amenity of local communities. Preventing encroachment from incompatible land uses and considering potential impacts with nearby sensitive land uses underpin strategic land use planning for tourism. Planning for efficient and safe access to and from a destination also enhances the tourism experience.

Strategic planning can help safeguard those unique and valued attributes within both urban and regional settings so they can continue to attract visitors. Clarity about design expectations for new development and encouraging the co-location of complementary tourism land uses can also be used to strengthen the NT's remarkable tourism assets.



Image: Katherine Hot Springs

Facilitate industrial, business and other employment and wealth-generating activities to promote and support economic development and community prosperity.

What we know from other planning projects

Tourism is a continuously evolving sector. The sharing economy, changing lifestyles, flourishing forms of cultural and creative expression, and technical innovation are changing how the sector operates. Thus, the planning system must be agile to enable appropriate opportunities when they arise.

Strengthening reference to tourism in the strategic framework and identifying opportunities to help guide decisions as to where supporting tourism infrastructure could be located has been raised.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

Foster appropriate tourism opportunities and protect the unique social, cultural and natural values underpinning them.

Suggested policy statements:

- Recognise the importance of nature, culture and adventure-based tourism and recreation to Territorians and international and interstate visitors.
- Identify and promote the protection of significant tourism assets and their attributes to support the tourism experience.
- Understand the needs and motivations of tourists and tourism markets and set aside sufficient land to accommodate growth.
- Direct tourism activities to identifiable tourism precincts to enhance the tourist experience, promote opportunities for access by public transport (where available) and reinforce the vibrancy and safety of precincts.
- Facilitate a range of tourism accommodation and accommodation for workers that supports tourist activities.
- Locate tourist accommodation (including caravan parks) in areas close to tourism assets with adequate separation from sensitive land uses (i.e. schools, childcare and lower-density dwellings) where appropriate.



Other key resources

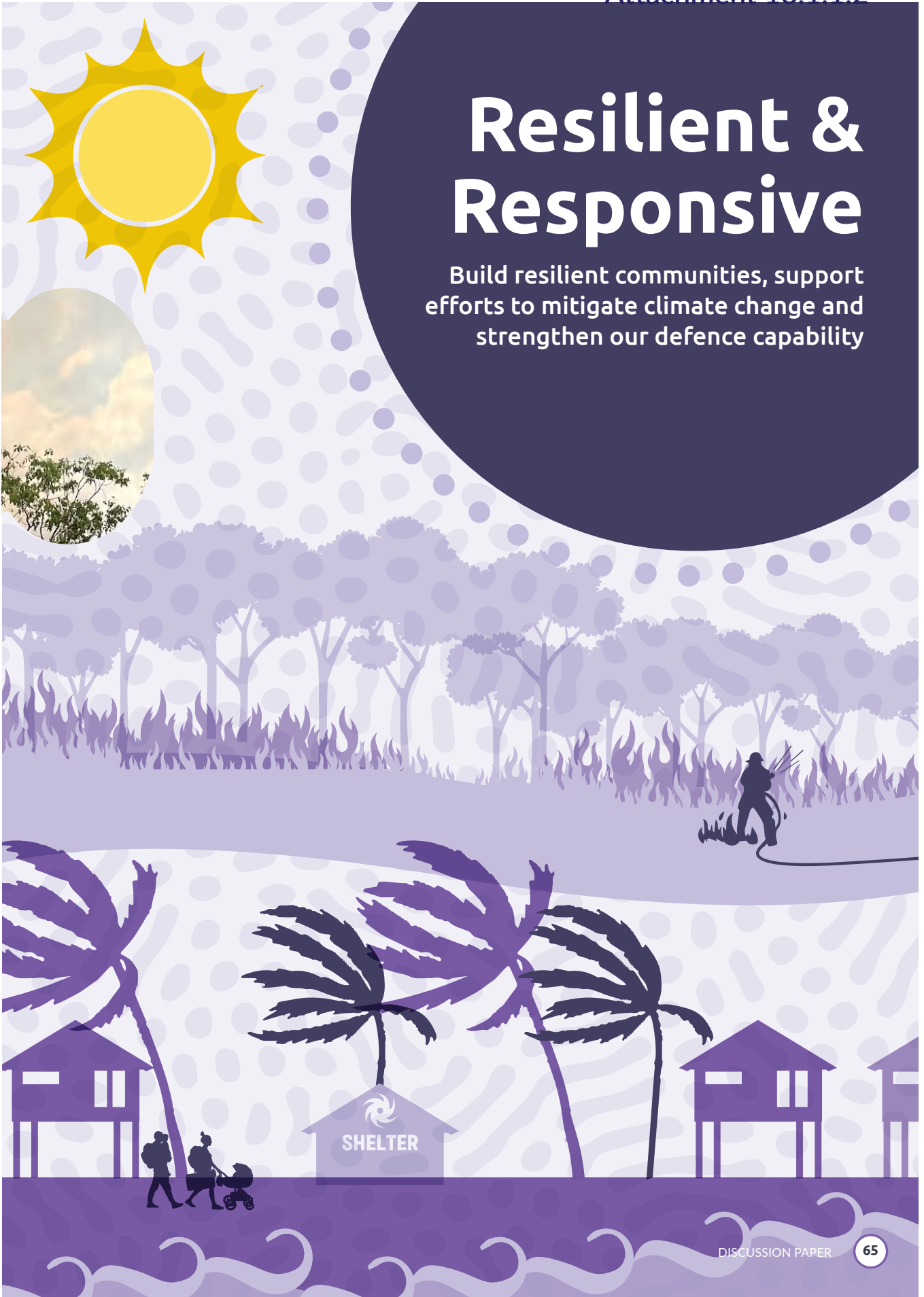
- Caravan Park Act 2012 (NT)
- Creative Industries Strategy (NT)
- Tourism Industry Strategy 2030 (NT)
- NT Parks Master Plan 2023-2053
- NT Aboriginal Tourism Strategy 2020-2030



Image: Roadside bushfire

Resilient & Responsive

Build resilient communities, support efforts to mitigate climate change and strengthen our defence capability





Resilient & Responsive

NATURAL HAZARDS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Natural hazards are an ever-present force shaping and informing where we settle, how we build and how we manage land in the NT. When natural hazards impact what we value or when they intersect with a vulnerable community, they can lead to ‘disaster,’ leaving a trail of suffering, destruction, disruption and loss.

Our communities are located in a range of settings across the NT. Some are by the coast, some are nestled alongside a river and others are in desert settings. They are exposed to a range of natural hazards, from flooding (storm surge and riverine), cyclones, bushfires, heatwaves, severe storms and earthquakes through to tsunamis. Building a community’s long-term resilience to natural hazards is important as our vulnerability to them is likely to increase and magnify as our climate changes.

Whilst the full extent of future climate change impacts in the NT is uncertain, impacts are already being experienced. According to the National Environmental Science Program Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub, the NT will continue to get warmer, tropical cyclones will become less frequent but more intense, heavy rainfall events will become more intense and fire weather will become more frequent and harsher²⁴. This means our communities may experience:

- amplified urban heat island effect in built-up areas
- exacerbated impacts from storm surges and flooding
- disruption to services and transportation systems
- damage to infrastructure, property and coastal ecosystems
- impacts to human health and wellbeing, particularly for vulnerable people.

Refer to figures 3 and 4 showing projected sea level data and number of annual average number of days over 35°C as relevant to the NT

Understanding future impacts and consequences of climate change is critical so that our policy platforms and decisions do not expose or inadvertently exacerbate risks to our communities, economy or environment and help our communities adapt and build resilience.

Role of planning

Building resilience to natural hazards and climate change is a shared responsibility and involves action from all areas of government, with responsibility also lying with individual households, the community and businesses. Strategic land use planning cannot prevent natural hazards or climate change. It can, however, provide a policy framework that reduces our vulnerability to the harmful impacts and supports measures that help address the causes of climate change.

Strategic planning in the NT considers the range of natural hazards early and through its processes to ensure risk-informed settlement patterns. New development can be directed to suitable locations, which avoid or reduce a community’s exposure to natural hazards. Impacts of new development on the behaviour of natural hazards (i.e. stormwater) and the needs of emergency responders must also be addressed.

24 National Environmental Science Program Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub, Climate change in the Northern Territory: State of the science and climate change impact. (NTG, 2020)

Build resilient communities, support efforts to mitigate climate change and strengthen our defence capability.

Planning has a role to play in mitigating climate change, which means reducing the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Our choices about transportation, building design and land use influence how we move around, how we stay comfortable and how much energy we use in doing so. Promoting compact settlements, active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport can help mitigation efforts by reducing the reliance on private internal combustion engine vehicles for travel.

Strategies that promote a network of green spaces can aid in carbon sequestration, reduce the heat island effect and encourage the passive cooling of buildings and the spaces between them. Enabling new technologies (solar photovoltaics, batteries and electric vehicles) can also assist to reduce emissions.

Planning also has a role to play in adapting to climate change by managing growth to help our communities thrive in the face of future impacts. Knowing that the NT will continue to get warmer, the planning framework can advance policies that promote shade devices, articulation to facilitate breeze flow and networks of green spaces to provide opportunities for trees with their shade and cooling evapotranspiration. Siting and orientating buildings to optimise energy efficiency, whether it may be staying cool in the Top End or both cool and warm in Central Australia, can be facilitated through subdivision design. Collectively, these policy initiatives can help to reduce temperatures within buildings and broader urban areas, supporting healthy and resilient communities.

Projected sea-level rise under a high emissions pathway for coastal local government areas

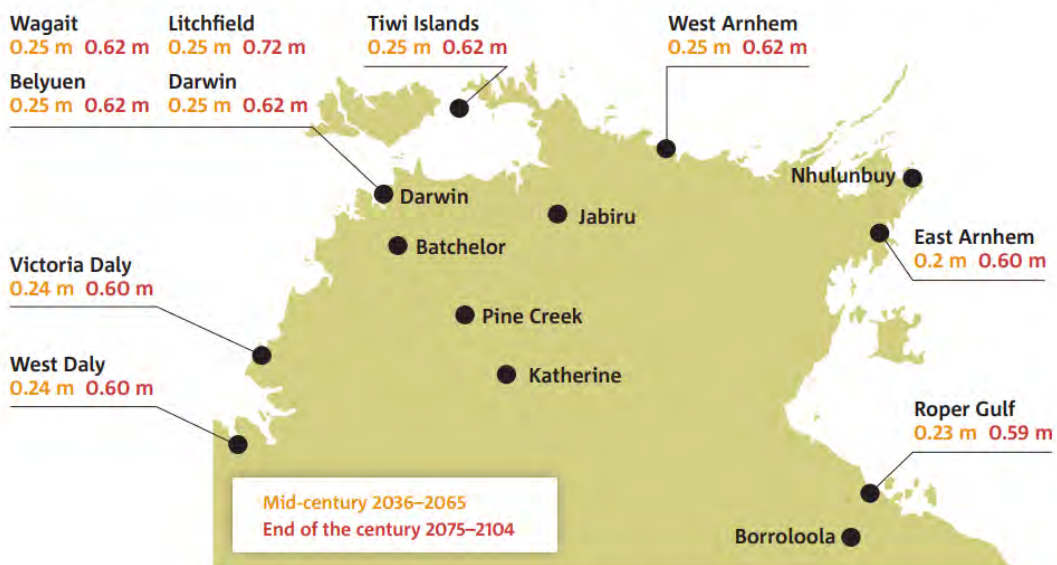


Figure 3: Projected sea-level rise under a high emissions pathway for coastal local government areas.
Source: Climate change in the Northern Territory: State of the science and climate change impact (NTG, 2020)



Resilient & Responsive

What we know from other planning projects

Consultation from previous planning projects demonstrates that many Territorians are concerned about climate change, with many advocating for strong policy around mitigation and adaptation so that climate-change risks can have a strong influence on planning decisions. The heat island effect, climate-sensitive design, water efficiency, and solar and passive energy have all been raised for further exploration.

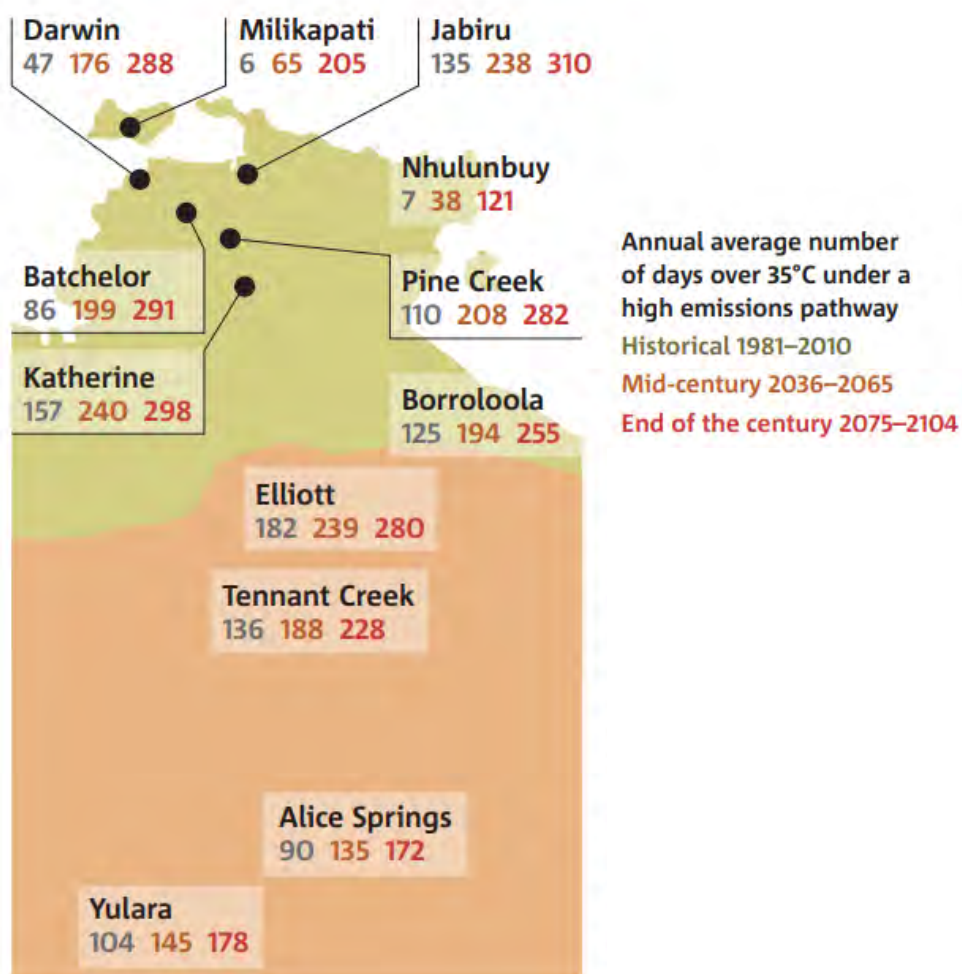


Figure 4: Historic and projected number of annual average number of days over 35°C under a high emissions (RCP8.5) pathway. Source: Climate change in the Northern Territory: State of the science and climate change impact (NTG, 2020)

Build resilient communities, support efforts to mitigate climate change and strengthen our defence capability.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

Minimise vulnerability and enhance community resilience to the risks associated with natural hazards and the projected impacts of climate change and support the transition to a low-carbon future.

Suggested policy statements:

- Strategic planning is informed by natural hazard and climate change information and multi-disciplinary expert advice.
- Identify risks from natural hazards and how these may change as a result of climate change and changing land use patterns, including:
 - riverine and storm water flooding
 - sea level rise and storm surge (storm tide flooding)
 - extreme heat
 - bushfires
 - biting insects
 - sinkholes
 - erosion.
- Avoid designating land for purposes that expose people, property and infrastructure to natural hazards that cannot achieve and maintain a level of tolerable risk.
- Minimise the impact of natural hazards and climate change to human life, property and infrastructure and to reduce the cost to the community.
- Support emergency responses by planning subdivision and road layouts, that take into account:
 - achievable response times that maximise public safety
 - the evacuation of vulnerable communities, location of evacuation centres and other community facilities that can assist with the recovery process
 - accessibility for emergency services for fire suppression activity purposes during emergency fire response.
- To minimise impacts of natural disasters, subdivision and development design supports landholders to be proactive in the ongoing management of natural hazards (i.e. maintaining appropriate access tracks and fire breaks).
- Promote development and urban design that supports the transition to a low-carbon future, addresses temperature extremes and is energy and resource efficient, including initiatives such as:
 - retention of existing native vegetation and mature trees
 - greening streets, buildings and open space with native or climate appropriate vegetation
 - climate-sensitive design, including consideration of solar orientation, shading and breeze penetration
 - compact and mixed-use development accessible to high-quality public transport
 - heritage retention and adaptive reuse
 - enabling active and public transport
 - water-sensitive urban design.
- Promote the use of alternative energy generation, including renewable energy.

Think beyond our current climate and consider how it might be in 10, 20 or 50 years from now.



Do you think these directions will help create comfortable and resilient communities for the future?

Other key resources

- National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (AU)
- Climate Change Response: Towards 2050 (NT)
- *Environment Protection Act 2019* (NT)
- *Emergency Management Act* (NT)
- *Bushfires Management Act 2016* (NT)
- Compact Urban Growth Policy (NT)



Resilient & Responsive

DEFENCE

Defence's presence in the north is integral to life in the NT, the security of Australia and the stability of our region. The ability of defence and national security agencies to sustain operations in Australia and the Indo-Pacific region requires more than a mere presence in the NT. It also requires infrastructure and industrial capability to be in place to support these operations.

Defence relies on airport, port and road infrastructure throughout the NT to conduct its duties and operations²⁵. Major defence sites include RAAF Base Darwin, Larrakeyah Barracks and HMAS Coonawarra in Darwin, Robertson Barracks in Palmerston, RAAF Base Tindal near Katherine and the Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap near Alice Springs. Some infrastructure is shared between defence and civilian authorities, including RAAF Base Darwin, which is a joint-user facility with Darwin International Airport.

The NT is also home to significant training areas spread throughout regional and remote areas. Protecting this infrastructure and enhancing the capacity and capability in the NT for defence and security co-operation in the Indo-Pacific region is important to fulfil national security objectives.

Role of planning

Commonwealth legislation regulates land use and development on major defence sites. Accordingly, the Department of Defence (DoD) is a key stakeholder in strategic land use planning in the NT to make sure incompatible land uses and development are not located in the vicinity of its bases and facilities, as they could impact on its ongoing operations.

For example, areas surrounding airports are likely to be exposed to noise generated by military and civil aircraft. While the airport operators make efforts to minimise noise exposure, aircraft noise cannot be easily modified. This means the location and development of noise-sensitive uses such as dwellings and schools need to be closely managed. Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) maps provide important information about aircraft noise exposure near defence bases and are used to inform strategic planning and settlement patterns.

Strategic planning must also be mindful of land use activities and built-form outcomes that may disrupt the airspace above and around defence facilities in accordance with the Commonwealth Defence (Areas Control) Regulations. Lighting on land below flight paths and land uses that attract birds have the potential to disrupt airspace to an extent that can affect the safe operation of an airport.

25 NTG, NT Defence and National Security Strategy 2018 <https://business.nt.gov.au>

Build resilient communities, support efforts to mitigate climate change and strengthen our defence capability.

What we know from other planning projects

We know the NT will continue to be an important defence location. Defence's historical ties are evident in the monuments and landmarks across and between Darwin and Katherine. Defence commemorative events such as Anzac Day bring the entire community together.

We know that defence personnel and their families make up approximately 5% of the NT's total population. Primarily based in Darwin and Katherine, their presence has a positive impact on the local economy, industry, workforce availability and the range of health, education and other social services available in the NT²⁶. Making an NT posting an attractive choice, where serving and ex-serving personnel and their families want to live and work, is important to overall defence and national security capability in the north.

Thoughts for enduring directions

Suggested policy direction:

Support the Australian Defence Force in maintaining and expanding its operations in the NT.

Suggested policy statements:

- Recognise the socioeconomic benefit from the Defence Force and national security opportunities in the NT.
- Protect Defence Force facilities from the encroachment by incompatible uses and development on surrounding land that may compromise defence operations.
- Acknowledge the important role of defence whilst seeking to manage adverse impacts on community or the realisation of the Strategic Framework.



Other key resources

- *Defence Act 1903 (Cth)*
- *Defence Force Regulations 2016 (Cth)*
- *Defence Housing Australia Act 1987 (Cth)*
- *Defence Amendment (Defence Aviation Areas) Regulations 2018 (Cth)*
- *Australian Standard 2021:2015 the Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF)*

26 NTG, NT Economy - Northern NT Defence

Part 5

Have your say

The NTPC encourages interested parties to make a written submission regarding this discussion paper and the range of possible directions.

This feedback will be used to inform the Strategic Directions Planning Policy.

The Planning Commission team is able to meet with you to discuss this paper and the ideas in it in more detail, and we can be contacted on 08 8924 7950.

Closing date for written and survey submissions: 30 June 2024

Submissions

Submissions can be lodged via the following methods:

Email: ntpc@nt.gov.au

Mail: NT Planning Commission
GPO Box 1680
Darwin NT 0801

Hand delivery: Level 1 Energy House
18 Cavenagh Street, Darwin

All submissions will be publicly available unless you specifically request otherwise in your submission.

Have your say

A survey associated with this discussion paper can be found at the following website:

<https://haveyoursay.nt.gov.au>



Image: Nightcliff beach

Appendix A

Regional land use plans

Darwin Regional Land Use Plan
Alice Springs Regional Land Use Plan
Tennant Creek Land Use Plan
Katherine Land Use Plan

Subregional land use plans

Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan
Holtze to Elizabeth River Subregional Land Use Plan
Coomalie Planning Concepts and Land Use Objectives
Finniss Planning Concepts and Land Use Objectives

Darwin region area plans

Archer Area Plan
Berrimah Farm Planning Principles and Area Plan
Berrimah North Planning Principles and Area Plan
Central Darwin Area Plan
Central Palmerston Area Plan
Darwin Inner Suburbs Area Plan
Darwin Mid Suburbs Area Plan
Lee Point Planning Principles and Area Plan
Palmerston Eastern Suburbs Planning Principles and Area Plans
Coolalinga North Planning Principles and Area Plan
Holtze Urban Planning Principles and Area Plan
Howard Springs Rural Activity Centre Area Plan
Batchelor Area Plan

Katherine region area plans

Katherine East Area Plan

Alice Springs region area plans

Arumbera Area Plan
Central Alice Springs Area Plan
Kilgariff Area Plan

23 major remote towns and other area plans

Ali Curung Area Plan
Angurugu Area Plan
Borroloola Area Plan
Daguragu Area Plan
Elliott Area Plan
Galiwin'ku Area Plan
Gapuwiyak Area Plan
Gunbalanya Area Plan
Hermannsburg Area Plan
Kalkarindji Area Plan
Lajamanu Area Plan
Manningrida Area Plan
Milingimbi Area Plan
Milyakburra Area Plan
Ngukurr Area Plan
Numbulwar Area Plan
Papunya Area Plan
Ramingining Area Plan
Umbakumba Area Plan
Wadeye Area Plan
Wurrumiyanga Area Plan
Yirrkala Area Plan
Yuendumu Area Plan

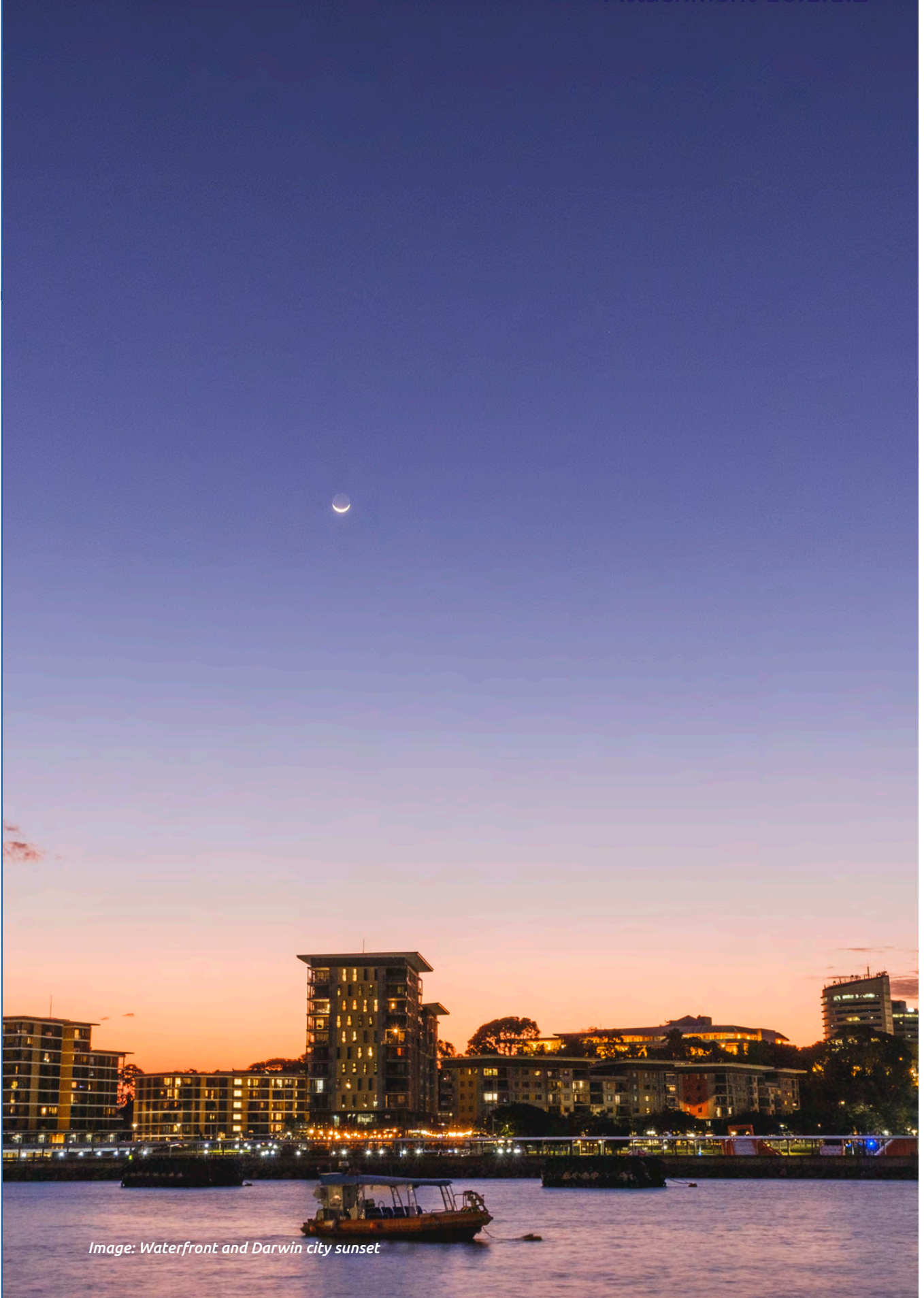


Image: Waterfront and Darwin city sunset



NORTHERN TERRITORY
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ntpc@nt.gov.au



COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.1.2
REPORT TITLE:	Council Policy Review - Community Engagement
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 1 October 2024
AUTHOR:	Marketing and Communications Manager, Becky Saywell
APPROVER:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Amelia Vellar

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report seeks to provide Council with the outcomes of the community engagement for the Community Engagement Policy and seeks adoption of the Policy with some changes applied.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Community Engagement Policy was reviewed in July 2024 and the updates include improvements to conduct a more genuine and collaborative approach to community engagement and aligns closer with the Community Plan, Communications Strategy and the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework.
- The renamed draft Community Engagement Policy went to Community Engagement for a total of 28 days.
- The draft Community Engagement Policy has received approval from IAP2 Australasia to cite reference materials from the IAP2 Public Spectrum of Participation in the policy.
- Future Community Engagements will be promoted through the tagline 'Join the conversation' as opposed to 'Have your say'.
- The general public, and key stakeholders provided input towards the draft Policy with some changes being made in the current version.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Council Policy Review - Community Engagement be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the Community Engagement Policy as at **Attachment 13.1.2.3** contained in the report entitled Council Policy Review - Community Engagement

BACKGROUND

The Community Engagement Policy (The Policy) supports genuine engagement practices with the Palmerston community that are in line with the national standards of IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum and the *Local Government Act (2019)* NT. The policy ensures residents can provide feedback on initiatives and projects that Council is working towards by providing accessible and appropriate opportunities for genuine engagement.

A review of the existing Policy was completed in July in preparation for Community Engagement (**Attachment 13.1.2.2**) and included amendments to the original Community Consultation Policy. The amendments included the overarching principles and values of community engagement with the aim to establish more genuine engagement practices. The report also identified the name change from 'Community Consultation Policy' to 'Community Engagement Policy' and included promotion of the phrase 'Join the conversation' to foster a more collaborative environment, two-way communication and facilitating meaningful engagements.

At the 1st Ordinary Council Meeting 2 July 2024 Council made the following decisions:

13.1.2 Council Policy Review - Community Consultation

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh

Seconded: Councillor Fraser

1. *THAT Report entitled Council Policy Review - Community Consultation be received and noted.*
2. *THAT Council endorse the draft Community Engagement Policy, **Attachment 13.1.2.3**, for the purposes of community engagement, to commence in July 2024 for a period of 28 days, expected for endorsement from Council in October 2024.*

CARRIED 10/1417 - 2/07/2024

DISCUSSION

The new Policy aligns with the Communications Strategy, whereby information to the public must be relevant, accurate, timely, engaging and reliable, as well as working with the community in a transparent way to achieve 'A Place for People'.

It also aims to meet the requirements as set out in the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework (IDA). This includes the key principle of 'Collaborative' whereby multiple perspectives, including people with lived experience, technical experts, City of Palmerston staff and community organisations work together.

In line with the Community Plan, our goal is to build trust through strong governance, which includes active community engagement. By fostering genuine conversations around initiatives that matter to the community, we can create meaningful value. The recent updates to our Community Engagement Policy are designed to help us achieve this vision.

CONSULTATION AND MARKETING

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

- Marketing and Communications Lead
- Executive Manager People and Customer
- General Manager People and Place

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

- IAP2 Australasia
- True North Strategic Advisory
- Associate Advertising and Promotions

The Community Engagement Policy was live for an engagement period of 28 days from 31 July until 28 August 2024. The engagement focused on delivering a genuine and authentic approach and launched with a piece to camera posted to LinkedIn, followed with a number of in person engagements at events, and one-on-one stakeholder meetings. The post received a 9% engagement rate, 6.45% people clicked through, and managed to get across over 1100 feeds.

There was over 30+ conversations with the public at the three (3) public engagements being:

- FlicNics - 10 August
- Seniors Day - 14 August
- Brekkie in the Park - 18 August

Throughout the public engagements, feedback focused more on the practical tools and tactics of engagement practices, as opposed to the policy. This feedback was relevant as it reinforced some of the principles around inclusivity, transparency, and accountability as outlined in the policy. The community indicated they would like to provide feedback via a number of different ways including via phone, email, online and in person. They also wanted more information and background to make informed decisions, and to hear back from Council once an engagement has ended. Some of the feedback from the public is as follows:

Public Engagements

Event	Feedback
FlicNics 10 August	Impressed with engagement but need to keep in mind consumer fatigue. Suggested to keep consultation to be quarterly. As the community are getting consulted by other bodies (NTG, Aus Gov, private) and it can lead to frustrated or swayed results.
	I don't use social media, I seek information face to face. They were at FlicNics when they saw a sign in a park. There is value in pop-up stalls.
Seniors Day 14 August 2024	I prefer email or a telephone call.
	My preference is to provide feedback to Council through an online form. I would like to know about the online form via email.
	I don't have a preference, as long as it's not email because I receive too many.
Brekkie in the Park 18 August 2024	I don't have social media and I prefer printed material in my letterbox.
	Mobile app - I report issues and provide feedback through the mobile app. I would like to receive SMS' for important updates.
	Email is my preference for giving feedback and receiving information.
	City of Palmerston website is where I search for information.

The organisation often relies on external consultants to assist with community engagements as professionals in the field, they are generally in a position to provide up-to-date advice around contemporary engagement practices for specific initiatives. In this case, two (2) external consultancies provided feedback and advice on the Policy with the general positive sentiment for the improvements.

Stakeholder meetings

	Feedback
Phone conversation with external consultants	Include the definition of a two-way communication
	Innovation doesn't necessarily mean digital and could just be 'fit for purpose'
Reply email from external consultant	The policy is easy to follow and provides a clear approach and direction
	Expand on the IAP2 references

As a member of IAP2, there is a requirement to ensure permission is sought to use material that is produced by ©International Association for Public Participation www.iap2.org. In the Policy, the IAP2 spectrum of public participation has been referenced, and will be used throughout all future community engagements. Upon request, The IAP2 International Federation has granted City of Palmerston permission to use the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation see **Attachment 13.1.2.1**.

Based on some of the above feedback minor changes were made to the policy to elaborate further on definitions, principles and policy statement as well as the addition of citing IAP2 as per their approval requirements. See **Attachment 13.1.2.2** for policy mark ups.

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 are no risk, legal and legislative implications relating to this Report.

STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- Community Plan
- Communication Strategy
- Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework

The Community Engagement Policy reflects the outcomes and actions in all the above frameworks and plans, creating clear synergies against our mission of 'A Place for People'. It aims to deliver actions against the outcome that 'Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value'.

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. I A P 2 approval for policy [**13.1.2.1** - 3 pages]
2. 20240606 Community Engagement Policy Draft edits from engagement (1) [**13.1.2.2** - 3 pages]
3. 20240909 Community Engagement Policy Draft accepted changes (1) [**13.1.2.3** - 3 pages]

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.1

From: operations@iap2.org
To: [Becky Saywell](#)
Subject: Request for Use of IAP2 Copyright Materials
Date: Saturday, 7 September 2024 1:43:01 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[Spectrum 8.5x11 Print.png](#)

You don't often get email from operations@iap2.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Becky,

Thank you for demonstrating your interest in the work and in the copyrighted materials of the IAP2 International Federation.

As you may be aware, IAP2 is a *Not-for-Profit* international organization and a pre-eminent actor in the field of public participation globally. Remaining faithful to our mission, we believe in the importance of conserving the integrity of our publications and our training course materials which are a product of the generous volunteer contributions of numerous individuals from around the world.

On behalf of the IAP2 International Federation, this message is to confirm that we grant you permission to use the following IAP2 material for the purposes as stated in your request: **IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation**. We understand you agree to provide proper attribution to IAP2 as ©International Association for Public Participation www.iap2.org. This attribution must be included in all citations of IAP2 copyright protected material including the IAP2 Spectrum of Participation, the IAP2 Core Values, and the IAP2 Code of Ethics for Public Participation Practitioners.

Current versions of the SPECTRUM, Code of Ethics and Core Values are available on the IAP2 website at <https://www.iap2.org/page/pillars>

We wish you success in your endeavours. Let me know if you need anything else.

Regards,
Ellen

Ellen Ernst | Executive Manager | IAP2 International Federation

T: +1 858 837 0124
Email: operations@iap2.org | www.iap2.org



International Association for Public Participation

Request 35478389 (Permission to Use) on 9/3/2024 at 4:31:11 AM.

First Name

Becky

Last Name

Saywell

Email Address

becky.saywell@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Organization

City of Palmerston

Phone

0427 548 014

Address Line 1

1 Chung Wah Terrace

Address Line 2

City

Palmerston

Location

Northern Territory

Zip/Postal Code

0830

Country

Australia

1. Request for Permission to Use the following IAP2 copyrighted materials (select all that apply):

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

2. Please describe how you plan to use the above.

We are referencing the spectrum within our Community Engagement Policy

3. Example of publication (print/web) where IAP2 copyright material will appear, if applicable.

20240606_Community_Engagement_Policy_City_of_P.pdf

4. Anticipated publication date, if known.

end of October

6. Accept the terms for proper attribution

Yes

7. Accept the terms for using materials as they were intended by IAP2

Yes

8. Accept the terms for copyright fees for product sold for profit

Yes

9. Use is not for profit, or for solely educational purposes

Yes



Table with 4 rows and 2-4 columns containing metadata: Name (Community Engagement), Type (Council Policy), Owner (Chief Executive Officer), Responsible Officer (Deputy Chief Executive Officer), Approval Date (2/07/2024), Next Review Date (2/07/2028), Records Number, Council Decision.

1 PURPOSE

City of Palmerston is committed to open, accessible, and accountable decision-making informed by consultation with the Palmerston community.

This policy provides the governance for meaningful and engaging community engagement practices in Council's planning and decision-making process.

Council must be closely connected to its community, working in partnership to deliver what is needed to support people's lives. In doing so, Council is actively pursuing its communities' trust, through being open, accessible, and accountable.

It is essential that Council has a consistent approach to community engagement in place, and this policy sets out the framework to ensure we achieve this. The processes identified in this Policy complement prescribed statutory requirements.

2 PRINCIPLES

- Inclusive
- Plan for all-inclusive engagement practices with a diverse audience regardless of age, race, gender, culture or accessibility.
- Provide a variety of appropriate and accessible opportunities for everyone to offer feedback, including 24/7 online engagement options.
Transparent
- Provide appropriate minimum community engagement periods and schedule engagement activities around any conflicting priorities that may affect engagement outcomes.
- Actively listen to community views and use feedback to inform Council decisions
Innovative
- Incorporate, where possible, innovative ways for the community to engage with council that are fit for the purpose of each community engagement for the purpose of community engagement.
Adaptable
- Improve Council's understanding and management of community needs in all community engagement projects through the development of tailored community engagement plans, marketing and communication plans and reports.
Accountable
- Evaluate and review the community engagement and provide timely feedback to participants and the broader community explaining how community input has been considered and what final outcomes have been determined by Council.

- Sustainable
 - Practices that aim to meet long term strategic goals for the benefit of the community will be implemented. This will include social equity, and capacity building as well as improved environmental approaches.

3 DEFINITIONS

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

Term	Definition
Consultation	The process of formal and informal consultation or discussion on Council issues.
Engagement	The concept of two-way collaboration with the community to achieve meaningful solutions and build trust.
Stakeholders	Stakeholders are recognised as individuals and groups who have an interest in Council's decision-making and who are affected by Council's decisions.
Statutory	Required, permitted, or enacted by statute
<u>Two-way collaboration</u>	<u>Participating in a conversation in an organic way that allows for reciprocal dialogue and free flowing idea exchange</u>
IAP2	The International Association for Public Participation is an international organisation advancing the practice of public participation. IAP2 supports people who implement or participate in public decision-making processes.

4 POLICY STATEMENT

- 4.1 Community Engagement for projects and initiatives
 - 4.1.1 This Policy applies to employees, contractors, volunteers, consultants and any other person(s) undertaking public engagement on behalf of City of Palmerston.
 - 4.1.2 Community Engagement methodology will be guided by internal procedural strategies in line with the IAP2 International Association of Public Participationspectrum of Public Participation and include: Consult; Involve; Collaborate; Empower.(©International Association for Public Participation www.iap2.org)
 - 4.1.3 All community engagement periods will reflect minimum statutory requirements where applicable.
 - 4.1.4 Where there is no statutory requirement, selection of the appropriate timeframe and actions will be at the discretion of Council.
 - 4.1.5 The Marketing and Communications Team provides advice and assistance for engaging with internal and external stakeholders and keeping this Policy up to date, visible and readily accessible.
- 4.2 Ongoing community engagement

Council's commitment to engage with the community includes the following ongoing community engagement activities:

 - 4.2.1 Open Council meetings including a 30-minute public forum prior to meetings
 - 4.2.2 Continued community participation in Advisory Groups and Committees.



- 4.2.3 -Open communication channels including phone, email, social media, web and face to face conversations.
- 4.2.3 Regular engagement opportunities with Elected Members.

5 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- 5.1 [Inclusive, Diverse, Accessible Policy Framework](#)
- 5.2 [Media Policy](#) | [AP2 spectrum of public participation](#)
- 5.2.3 [Community Engagement Strategy \(internal documentations strategy\)](#)
- 5.3.4 [Community Plan](#)

6 REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- 6.1 *Local Government Act NT*

Name:	Community Engagement		
Type:	Council Policy		
Owner:	Chief Executive Officer		
Responsible Officer:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer		
Approval Date:	2/07/2024	Next Review Date:	2/07/2028
Records Number:		Council Decision:	

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 - Actively listen to community views and use feedback to inform Council decisions
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- 4.2.3 Open communication channels including phone, email, social media, web and face to face conversations.
- 4.2.4 Regular engagement opportunities with Elected Members.

5 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- 5.1 Inclusive, Diverse, Accessible Policy Framework
- 5.2 IAP2 spectrum of public participation
- 5.3 Communications strategy)
- 5.4 Community Plan

6 REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- 6.1 *Local Government Act NT*

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.1.3
REPORT TITLE:	Australia Day Awards Judging Panel
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 1 October 2024
AUTHOR:	Community Development Officer, Kate Townsend
APPROVER:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

To request Council to appoint two (2) Elected Members to serve on the Australia Day Awards Judging Panel: one primary and one alternative.

KEY MESSAGES

- The prestigious Australia Day Awards recognise and highlight the City of Palmerston Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year.
- The Australia Day Awards Judging Panel is made up of the Mayor, one Elected Member, and the previous recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award.
- The Australia Day Awards Nominations Judging Panel is responsible for reviewing all nominations received in the three (3) categories and making a recommendation to the Council on the nominee voted most deserving of the award in each category.
- Nominations close on the 11 November 2024. The Judging Panel is scheduled to convene at 5pm on 20 November 2024, at the Palmerston Recreation Centre.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Australia Day Awards Judging Panel be received and noted.
2. THAT Council make the following appointments for two (2) Elected Members be a part of the Australia Day awards Judging Panel:
 - a. THAT Councillor _____ be appointed as a Judge in the Australia Day awards Judging Panel.
 - b. THAT Councillor _____ be appointed as an alternative Judge in the Australia Day awards Judging Panel.

BACKGROUND

The Palmerston Australia Day Awards acknowledge and recognise the efforts of individual and groups within our community who embrace Council's vision "A Place for People". Local Citizen of the Year Awards are administered by local government areas throughout the country, and support is provided by the Australia Day Council of Northern Territory through the provision of certificates for presentation. The Awards provide Councils with an opportunity to recognise and celebrate outstanding achievement and excellence in the community.

Nominations are open in three (3) categories:

- Citizen of the Year (30 years of age and older)
- Young Citizen of the Year (aged 16 - 29)
- Community Event of the Year

DISCUSSION

As per Council Policy Recognition of Service to the Community, Council are requested to appoint two (2) Elected Members to serve on the Australia Day Awards Judging Panel: one primary Elected Member and one alternate member to act in their place if they are unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances.

As per the policy in section 4.1.1.1, the panel consists of the Mayor, one Elected Member and the previous year's Citizen of the Year recipient.

All Judges will receive clear instructions on the scoring matrix once they have been appointed.

The Panel will receive all the nominations immediately after the nominations close on Monday 11 November via email. Members of the Judging Panel are requested to review and finalise scoring for all nominations received across the three (3) categories prior to the panel meeting to enhance efficiency.

The Judging Panel is scheduled to convene at 5pm on 20th of November, at the Palmerston Recreation Centre. The panel will be chaired by the General Manager Community.

All nominations and winners are to remain strictly confidential until the Official Awards Ceremony, held on Australia Day 26 January 2025.

A confidential report will be presented to Council at the meeting in December to endorse the recommendations made by the Judging Panel.

CONSULTATION AND MARKETING

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report adheres to Council Policy - *AD05 - Recognition of Service to the Community*.

The Australia Day Awards nominations will be assessed by a judging panel consisting of the Mayor, one Elected Member and the previous year's Citizen of the Year recipient. Should the previous Citizen of the Year not be available, a Palmerston community member approved by the Chief Executive Officer will be selected.

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.

STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework



A Place for People

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

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.1.4
REPORT TITLE:	Community Safety Advisory Committee Minutes - 19 September 2024
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 1 October 2024
AUTHOR:	Executive Assistant to General Manager Community, Georgina Davies
APPROVER:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council approval of the recommendations from the Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting held on Thursday 19 September 2024.

KEY MESSAGES

- Community Safety is a priority for City of Palmerston and the Community Safety Advisory Committee is an avenue for Council and community to maintain awareness on current issues and actions to support a safer community.
- The Committee was provided a presentation and reports on the following important community safety priorities:
 - Youth Safety - The YNT held a presentation on “Developing Community Safety Through a Generation.”
 - Community Amenity - Laneway Management and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.
 - Crime Prevention and Safety – Community Safety Network update.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Community Safety Advisory Committee Minutes - 19 September 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT the unconfirmed Community Safety Advisory Committee minutes provided as **Attachment 13.1.4.1** to report entitled Community Safety Advisory Committee Minutes - 19 September 2024 be received and noted.
3. THAT the council advocate for the continuation of operations of the Palmerston Youth Centre with the Northern Territory Government.

BACKGROUND

The Community Advisory Committees have been established to provide strategic advice to Council on a range of community, social and animal wellbeing issues that may influence the Palmerston By-Laws, Council services and program development. The Committees will assist Council to identify, articulate and respond appropriately to new and emerging issues.

As per the *Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019 (the Act)* and the *Terms of Reference*, the Committees are advisory in nature with no delegated authority and are intended to inform and make recommendations to Council on Committee related issues.

DISCUSSION

The Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting was held on Thursday 19 September 2024 with the unconfirmed minutes provided at **Attachment 13.1.4.1**.

The Advisory Committee reviewed three (3) Receive and Note Reports: *Network Update, Laneway Management Policy - Consultation, and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Outcomes Updates*.

Jonathon McDonald, Manager of The YNT, joined the Community Safety Advisory Committee to present on "Developing Community Safety Through a Generation". His presentation provided an in-depth overview of the achievements at the Palmerston Youth Centre and the impending lease expiry in eight (8) months.

The committee members agreed to recommend that Council advocate for the continuation of the Palmerston Youth Centre's operations with the Northern Territory Government (NTG).

6.1 Developing Community Safety Through a Generation

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell

Seconded: Councillor Hale

THAT the committee recommends to the council:

- 1. THAT the presentation by Jonathon McDonald, Manager, The YNT on Developing Community Safety Through a Generation be received and noted.*
- 2. THAT the council advocate for the continuation of operations of the Palmerston Youth Centre with the Northern Territory Government.*

CARRIED (6/0) - CSAC10/58 - 19/09/2024

Mayor Pascoe-Bell reported on her attendance at the Palmerston Liquor Accord, where discussions included the minimum floor price for alcohol.

The agenda from this meeting is available for public viewing on Council's [website](#).

CONSULTATION AND MARKETING

There was no consultation or marketing 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:

- 1. Community Safety**
Failure of Council to effectively plan and deliver its role in community safety.

A Place for People

6. Governance
Failure to effectively govern.

STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- [Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework](#)

This report relates to the [Inclusive, Diverse & Accessible Policy Framework](#) due Council's engagement to the community in bringing people together with diverse perspectives that increase the inclusiveness, diversity and accessibility of culture, services, and operations.

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. 20240919 - UNCONFIRMED Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting - 19 September
[13.1.4.1 - 6 pages]



MINUTES

Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday 19 September 2024

The Advisory Committee Meeting of the City of Palmerston held in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT, 0830

Council business papers can be viewed on the City of Palmerston website www.palmerston.nt.gov.au

'A Place for People'



A Place for People

Minutes of Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting
held in Council Chambers
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
on Thursday, 19 September at 5:30pm.

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Councillor Damian Hale (Chair) Councillor Amber Garden Mayor Athina Pasco-Bell (Ex-officio) Fran Ramsey, First Nations Representative Sharon Binns, Senior Community Member Representative Acting Superintendent Siiri-Kai Tennesaar, Northern Territory Police (<i>Proxy to Meghan Funnell</i>)
STAFF	Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli General Manager Infrastructure, Nadine Nilon General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl City Activation Manager, Matthew McNamara Minute Secretary, Georgina Davies
GALLERY	Nil

Initials: _____



A Place for People

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 5:32pm.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

Moved: Sharon Binns
Seconded: Councillor Garden

1. THAT the apology received from Meghan Funnell for 19 September 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT the apology received from Sarah Gotch for 19 September 2024 be received and noted.
3. THAT the apology received from Councillor Morrison for 19 September 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSAC10/56 - 19/09/2024

3.2 Leave of Absence Previously Granted

Nil

3.3 Leave of Absence Request

Nil

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

4.1 Committee Members

Nil

4.2 Staff

Nil

Initials:

MINUTES COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 19 SEPTEMBER 2024 33



A Place for People

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved: Sharon Binns
Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT the Minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 May 2024 pages 28 to 31 be confirmed.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSAC10/57 - 19/09/2024

5.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Nil

6 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Developing Community Safety Through a Generation

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Councillor Hale

THAT the committee recommends to the council:

1. THAT the presentation by Jonathon McDonald, Manager, The YNT on Developing Community Safety Through a Generation be received and noted.
2. THAT the council advocate for the continuation of operations of the Palmerston Youth Centre with the Northern Territory Government.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSAC10/58 - 19/09/2024

7 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

7.1 Moving Confidential Items into Open

Nil

Fran Ramsey left chambers at 6:17 pm

7.2 Moving Open Items into Confidential

Nil

7.3 Confidential Items

Nil

Initials: _____

MINUTES COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 19 SEPTEMBER 2024 34



A Place for People

8 OFFICER REPORTS

8.1 Action Reports

Nil

8.2 Receive and Note Reports

8.2.1 Network Update

Moved: Councillor Garden
Seconded: Sharon Binns

THAT Report entitled Network Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - CSAC10/59 - 19/09/2024

Fran Ramsey returned to the meeting at 6:21 pm.

8.2.2 Laneway Management Policy - Consultation

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Sharon Binns

1. THAT Report entitled Laneway Management Policy - Consultation be received and noted.
2. THAT the Committee provides the following feedback to the Council regarding the draft Laneway Management Policy:
 - a. Clarity was sought on neighbour approval and police reports and a response was provided from the Mayor and General Manager Infrastructure to the matters raised.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSAC10/60 - 19/09/2024

8.2.3 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Outcomes Update

Moved: Sharon Binns
Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT Report entitled Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Outcomes Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSAC10/61 - 19/09/2024

9 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Information

Nil

Initials: _____



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9.2 Correspondence

Nil

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 Palmerston Liquor Accord

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Fran Ramsey

THAT the Mayor raised the Palmerston Liquor Accord and the discussion regarding minimum floor price.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSAC10/62 - 19/09/2024

11 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved: Fran Ramsey
Seconded: Sharon Binns

THAT the next Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 12 November 2024 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSAC10/63 - 19/09/2024

12 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Sharon Binns

THAT the meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held in Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, Palmerston on 19 September 2024 closed at 6:36pm.

CARRIED (6/0) - CSAC10/64 - 19/09/2024

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:36pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

Initials:

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.2.1
REPORT TITLE:	Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Minutes - 12 September 2024
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 1 October 2024
AUTHOR:	Executive Assistant to General Manager Community, Georgina Davies
APPROVER:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council approval to receive and note the outcomes from the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee meeting held on Thursday 12 September 2024.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee met on Thursday 12 September 2024.
- The reports on Networks and updates highlighted strong wellbeing outcomes for City of Palmerston in the areas of:
 - Sport and Recreation - The Get Active program
 - Community Events - Seniors Day, the Palmerston Litchfield Association Seniors Fortnight 2024, and the Palmerston Youth Festival.
 - Community Amenity - Laneway Management
- The Advisory Committee agenda and unconfirmed minutes are available for viewing on Council's website.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Minutes - 12 September 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT the unconfirmed Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee minutes provided as **Attachment 13.2.1.1** to report entitled Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Minutes - 12 September 2024 be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

The Community Advisory Committees have been established to provide strategic advice to Council on a range of community, social, animal wellbeing, and issues that may influence the Palmerston By-Laws, Council services and program development. These Committees will assist Council in identifying, articulating, and responding appropriately to new and emerging issues.

As per the *Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019 (the Act)*, and the *Terms of Reference*, the Committees are advisory in nature with no delegated authority. They are intended to inform and make recommendations to Council on Committee-related issues.

DISCUSSION

The Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee meeting was held on Thursday, 12 September 2024, with the unconfirmed minutes provided at **Attachment 13.2.1.1**.

The Advisory Committee reviewed the Receive and Note Reports *Community Services Network Update - August 2024*, *Get Active Program 2024*, *Laneway Management Policy – Consultation*, *2024 Palmerston Youth Festival - Outcomes*.

The reports on Networks and updates highlighted strong wellbeing outcomes for City of Palmerston. Some key highlights from the reports included:

- The Get Active program has evolved over 20 years, now focusing on social, emotional, and physical benefits, with over 700 participants in 2024.
- The Laneway Management Policy is being revised to improve the management of laneways, allowing for more efficient and transparent decisions on treatments or closures.
- The 2024 Palmerston Youth Festival attracted over 7,300 participants, with new events like Pamper Palmy and the NAIDOC Pool Party adding fresh appeal to the program. Geekfest Top End kicked off the festival with 4,200 attendees, showcasing cosplay, gaming, and an immersive digital experience, making it a highlight of the week.

Committee member Sheryl Sephton provided a short update on the Palmerston Litchfield Association Seniors Fortnight, held from 11 to 25 August. The event featured an Opening Ceremony, a lunch in Litchfield, a Harbour cruise, a Darwin Family Law Movie & Morning Tea, and a Closing Ceremony.

A more detailed update will be provided by the Palmerston Seniors Association in the next Wellbeing committee meeting.

The agenda from this meeting is available for viewing on Council's website.

CONSULTATION AND MARKETING

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:

1. Community Safety
Failure of Council to effectively plan and deliver its role in community safety.
6. Governance
Failure to effectively govern.

STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS

This report relates to the [Inclusive, Diverse & Accessible Policy Framework](#) due to Council's engagement to the community in bringing people together with diverse perspectives that increase the inclusiveness, diversity and accessibility of culture, services, and operations.



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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. 20240912 - UNCONFIRMED - Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Minutes - 12 September 2024 [13.2.1.1 - 6 pages]



MINUTES

Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday 12 September 2024

The Advisory Committee Meeting of the City of Palmerston held in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT 0830.

Council business papers can be viewed on the City of Palmerston website www.palmerston.nt.gov.au

'A Place for People'



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COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting
held in Council Chambers
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
on Thursday, 12 September 2024 at 5:30pm.

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Councillor Danielle Eveleigh (Chair) Councillor Sarah Henderson (Member) Gabrielle Brown, Executive Director, Families Programs Michelle Walker Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet Representative Senior Sergeant Siiri-Kai Tennosaar, Northern Territory Representative Sheryl Sephton, Senior Community Member Veronica Matipira, Youth Community Member Representative
STAFF	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl Acting General Manager Infrastructure, Katie O'Neill Community Services Manager, Sheree Jeeves Minute Secretary, Georgina Davies
GALLERY	Nil

Initials: _____

MINUTES COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 12 SEPTEMBER
2024

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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 5:30pm.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

THAT the apology received from Mayor Pascoe-Bell for 12 September 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - CWAC10/65 - 12/09/2024

3.2 Leave of Absence Previously Granted

Nil

3.3 Leave of Absence Request

Nil

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

4.1 Committee Members

Nil

4.2 Staff

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved: Sheryl Sephton
Seconded: Siiri Tennosaar

THAT the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2024 pages 34 to 38 be confirmed.

CARRIED (7/0) - CWAC10/66 - 12/09/2024

Initials: _____

MINUTES COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 12 SEPTEMBER 2024 40



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COMMITTEE MINUTES

5.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Nil

6 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

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

Nil

8.2 Receive and Note Reports

8.2.1 Community Services Network Update - August 2024

Moved: Michelle Walker
Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

THAT Report entitled Community Services Network Update - August 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - CWAC10/67 - 12/09/2024

8.2.2 Get Active Program 2024

Moved: Siiri Tennesaar
Seconded: Veronica Matipira

THAT Report entitled Get Active Program 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - CWAC10/68 - 12/09/2024

Initials: _____

MINUTES COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 12 SEPTEMBER
2024

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COMMITTEE MINUTES

8.2.3 Laneway Management Policy - Consultation

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Gabrielle Brown

1. THAT Report entitled Laneway Management Policy - Consultation be received and noted.
2. THAT the Committee provides the following feedback to the Council regarding the draft Laneway Management Policy:
 - a. The committee supports the draft policy

CARRIED (7/0) - CWAC10/69 - 12/09/2024

8.2.4 2024 Palmerston Youth Festival - Outcome

Moved: Michelle Walker
Seconded: Siiri Tennosaar

THAT Report entitled 2024 Palmerston Youth Festival - Outcome be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - CWAC10/70 - 12/09/2024

9 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Information

Nil

9.2 Correspondence

Nil

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

17.1 Palmerston Seniors Association - Seniors Fortnight update

Moved: Sheryl Sephton
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT Sheryl Sephton provided an update on the Seniors Fortnight.

CARRIED (7/0) - CWAC10/71 - 12/09/2024

Initials: _____

MINUTES COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 12 SEPTEMBER
2024

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COMMITTEE MINUTES

11 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved: Veronica Matipira
Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

THAT the next Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting of Council be held on Thursday, 05 December 2024 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED (7/0) - CWAC10/72 - 12/09/2024

12 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Moved: Sheryl Sephton
Seconded: Siiri Tennosaar

THAT the meeting of the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee held in Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, Palmerston on 12 September 2024 closed at 5:58pm.

CARRIED (7/0) - CWAC10/73 - 12/09/2024

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5:58pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

Initials: _____

MINUTES COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 12 SEPTEMBER
2024

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COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.2.2
REPORT TITLE:	Infrastructure Quarterly Report - July to September 2024
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 1 October 2024
AUTHOR:	Executive Assistant to General Manager Infrastructure, Monica Silva
APPROVER:	General Manager of Infrastructure, Nadine Nilon

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report summarises the key activities undertaken by Infrastructure in the July to September 2024 quarter.

KEY MESSAGES

- Public lighting works as part of the Dark Spot program have commenced at Allamurr Court and Harrison Park – Woodroffe, and Essington Park – Gray, with works scheduled to be completed in October 2024.
- The Archer Waste Management Transfer Station Recycle Centre Upgrade tender was released, and advertising closes this quarter. Award is expected early October.
- Electricity consumption has increased across Council buildings, primarily due to a range of new assets coming online in 2024. To address this, Council has applied for the Federal Government's Community Energy Upgrade Fund grant, aiming to install additional solar power capacity on our buildings. If successful, this initiative will help reduce both electricity usage and greenhouse gas emissions for Council
- Land management activities, including the integrated weed and fire management action plan, will continue next quarter. Scheduled weed harvesting and treatments in Palmerston lakes are ongoing.
- Tenders have been released and are currently under assessment for the refurbishment of play equipment at Sanctuary Lakes playground and Marlow Lagoon junior playground. A community engagement program is underway, with an online survey seeking feedback available on Council's website. The survey will remain open until 6 October 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report entitled Infrastructure Quarterly Report - July to September 2024 be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

Infrastructure provides a quarterly report to Council on key activities undertaken during the quarter and further works underway for the next quarter.

DISCUSSION

1. Family and Community

Objective 1.2: 'the wellbeing of our community is a focus for all our work'.

Play Space Strategy

Council's Play Space Strategy advocates the need for Council to maintain play spaces at a level required to proactively respond to community needs and expectations. This quarter Council undertook the maintenance of several play space facilities and amenities. Repairs were undertaken on the disability swing at Marlow's Lagoon, the Ninja Obstacle Course at Hobart Park, swing sets at Golden Grove Park, exercise equipment at Joan Fejo Park, and swing sets at Walter Park.

Park Infrastructure Renewal Program 2024/25

A tender is being drafted for the installation of a new all-access public toilet at Hobart Park. This project is funded under the Federal Governments Priority Community Infrastructure program.

Construction commenced this quarter on the recently vandalised Tom Price Park. A multi-swing set will be installed, with two (2) standard swings, a toddler swing, and an all-abilities birds-nest swing.

Tenders have been released and are currently under assessment for the renewal of the Sanctuary Lakes playground and Marlow Lagoon junior unit. The tender documents were structured to allow final playground designs to be modified post community input. Community consultation for this program commenced Sunday the 15 September at Brekkie in the Park, held at Joan Fejo Park in Roseberry. Feedback received from the community at this session included requests for net climbing equipment, nature-based play options, and an increase in options for pre-school aged groups. The community consultation program will be open for a period of 21 days, with an online survey available on Council's webpage to capture public input. Following consultation, the final design will be determined and works scheduled to occur in early 2025 (weather permitting).

Development Application Responses

Council is a referral authority for development proposals that occur within its municipal boundaries, including proposals to rezone and subdivide land. As a referral authority, Council can inform decisions about development occurring in Palmerston. This quarter Council has received and commented on 11 development proposals, which were supported by representations made by officers at Development Consent Authority meetings.

Strategic Planning

The NT Planning Commission is developing a Strategic Directions Planning Policy (SDPP) that will form part of the Strategic Framework in the NT Planning Scheme, and be used to guide future land use and development decisions across the NT. As part of the policy development process, the NT Planning Commission has prepared a discussion paper to help generate comments and suggestions. A draft response on the key matters in the discussion paper affecting Palmerston has been prepared for Council consideration, and once endorsed will be provided to the NT Planning Commission to help inform the preparation of a draft SDPP, which is likely to be circulated to Council for comment in Q1 or Q2 of 2025

4. Future Focused

Objective 4.1: 'We support and foster innovation'

FiberSense

FiberSense uses underground fiber 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

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be able to use for planning and improvements to the city. A total of 60km of fiber optic cable has been laid throughout Palmerston Central Business District (CBD) and Tiger Brennan Drive.

The Digital Asset system is live and can be used to receive alerts of disruption (i.e. digging) near the fibre which is then cross-referenced with issued works permits where required. The Digital City system is under development, with the first phase relating to traffic counts and congestion in a testing phase of its deployment. It's anticipated that this phase will be completed and 'live' in the new financial year. Future phases are being road-mapped and will include pedestrian groups and parking.

Subdivisions:

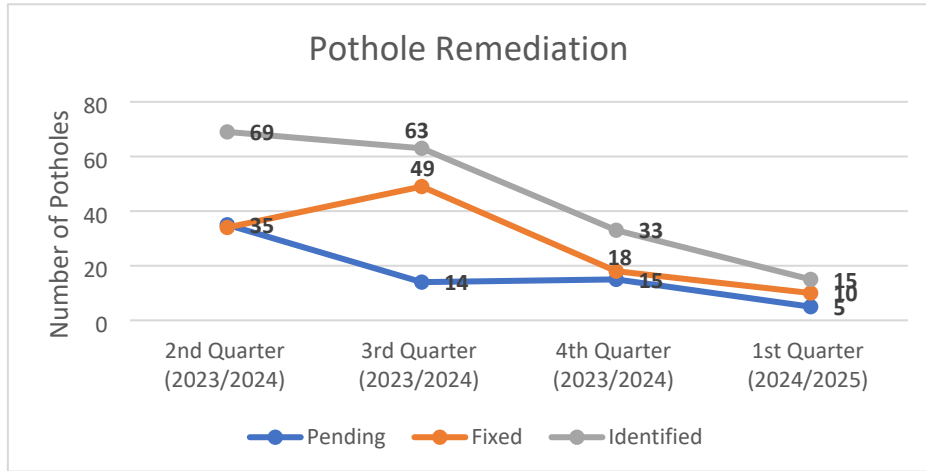
This quarter CoP approved detailed design drawings for the latest stage of the master-planned Durack Heights residential precinct. The Heights, Stage 11 is being constructed by Urbex Pty Ltd and consists of 42 low-medium density residential lots and associated open space. Preliminary site works are now well underway, and it is anticipated the development will reach practical completion in early 2025.



Objective 4.2: 'Infrastructure is fit for purpose'

Potholes

There was a total of 15 potholes identified during the quarter that required repair works, there are five (5) remaining potholes which are scheduled to be repaired.



Data as of 5 September 2024

Road Renewal:

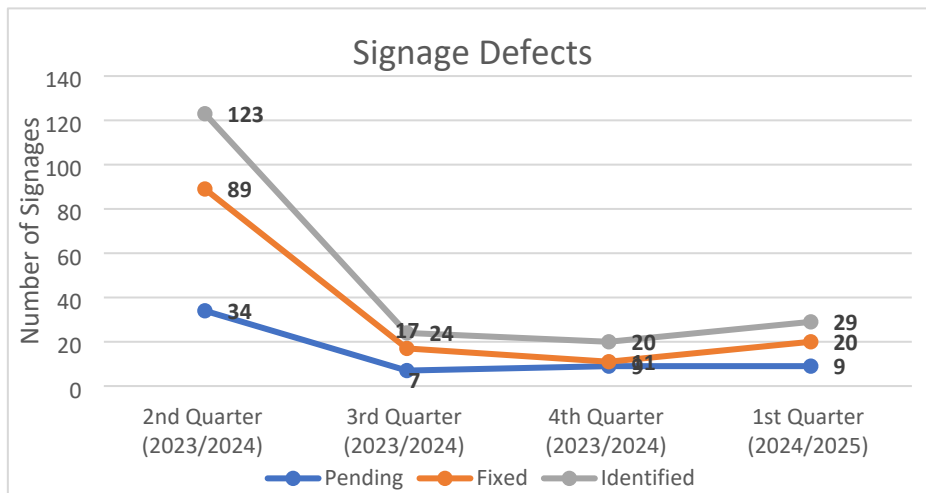
The road renewal Capital Works Program is underway. The 2024/25 program is in the final stages of scoping and scheduling the works with the Contractor.

Work will include resurfacing a section of Lambrick Avenue as well as resealing local access roads throughout Palmerston.

City of Palmerston were also successful in securing grant funding to design and install traffic calming measures at two (2) identified Black Spot locations in Gunn and Palmerston City. Procurement for the design of each location is underway.

Signage

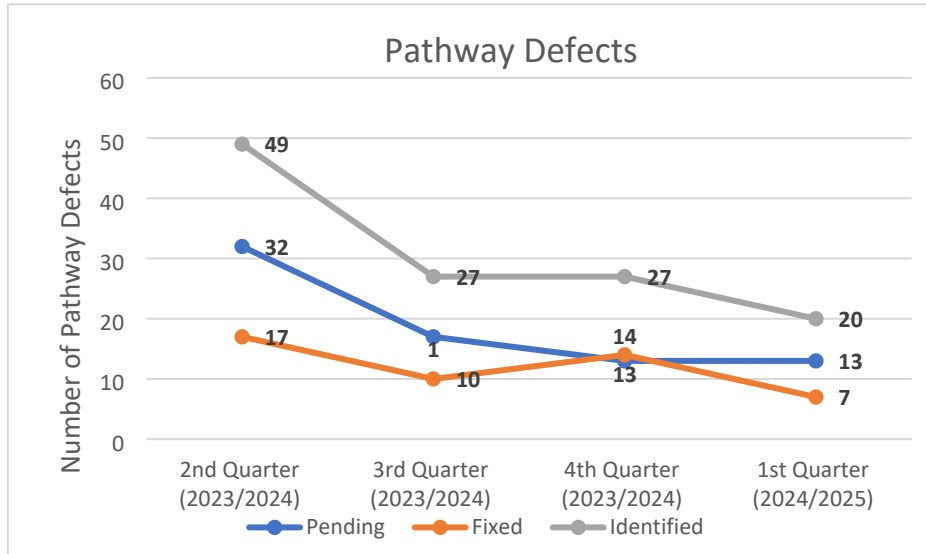
There was a total of 29 road signs identified during the quarter that required repair works, there are nine (9) remaining signs which are scheduled to be repaired.



Data as of 5 September 2024

Pathways

This quarter 20 pathway defects were identified as requiring repair. There are 13 remaining footpath defects which are scheduled for repair.



Data as of 5 September 2024

Pathway Replacement and Renewal

A new 2-year rates contract for footpath connectivity and replacement works was awarded this quarter, commencing 1 August. This contract enables the construction and replacement of pathways to occur over the next two (2) years, which will be more efficient than previous process of obtaining individual quotes and/or contractors for each project.

Works are in progress to improve connectivity to new infrastructure, including connections to the Marlow Lagoon basketball court, and new all-abilities swing set at Sister Frederick Mangan Park. Pathways linking the swing set to other areas of Sister Frederick Mangan Park has been poured, with landscaping rectification to be complete by the 28 September 2024. Pathways joining the Marlow Lagoon basketball court to the existing path network will be installed by the 2 October 2024.



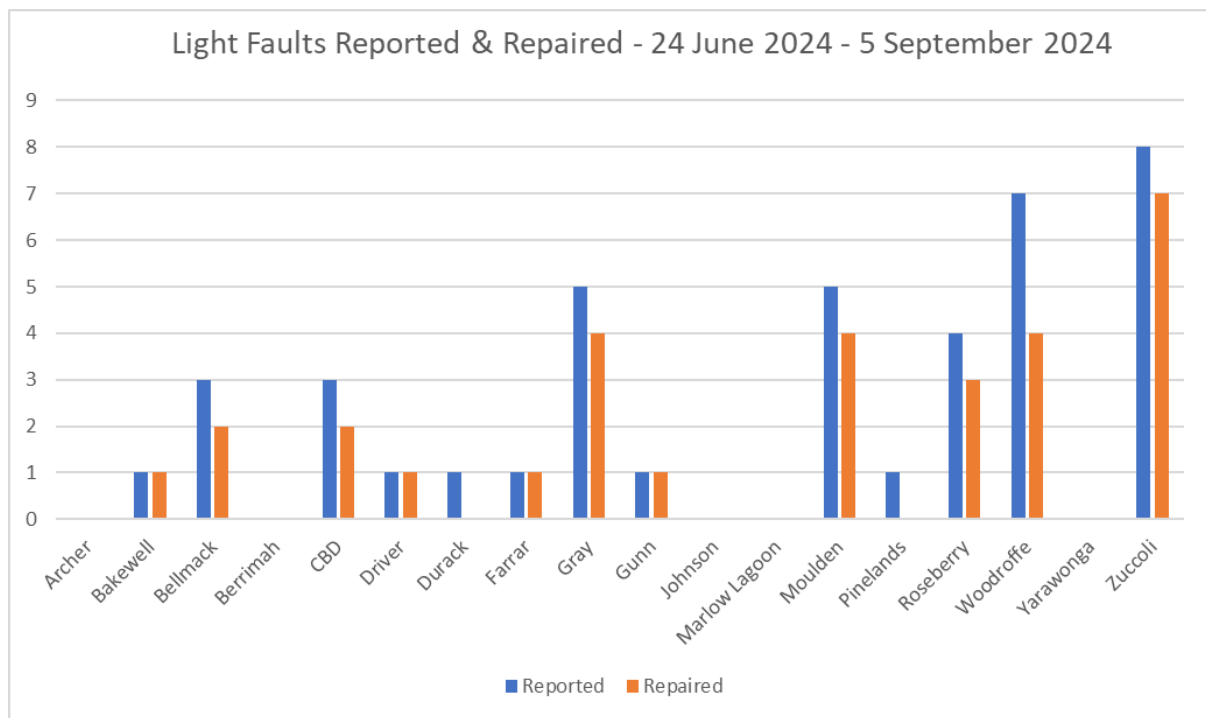
Sister Frederick Mangan Park - 24 September 2024

The final program for the remainder of the pathway programs, including new, upgrade and replacement pathways is being finalised for works to commence.

Light Fault Rectification

This quarter 41 (0.76% of total inventory) streetlighting faults were identified. 30 of the identified faults have been resolved and works are continuing to rectify remaining 11 faults. Of these 11, six (6) of the faults are within target repair times, with the remaining faults scheduled for repair awaiting arrival of parts from suppliers.

Council is continuing to undertake scheduled night inspections and rectification works, with a total of 98% of streetlights working as of 5 September 2024.



Data as of 6 September 2024

Lighting Upgrade and Renewal

The dark spot upgrade program for street and public lighting continues to deliver beneficial outcomes, safety improvements and energy efficiencies for the community. The Dark Spots Program identifies locations of ‘dark’ areas throughout the municipality that can be improved through public lighting, including street lights.

Dark Spots

- The contract has been awarded to RACE Pty Ltd. for lighting upgrade works over a 5-year period.
- Works have commenced on Allamurr Court, Harrison Circuit and Essington Parks. Service locations have been completed for Allamurr, Harrison and Essington and under boring and footing installation works having commenced for Allamurr Court and Essington Park with works anticipated to be completed October 2024.
- The Stockwhip Drive upgrade design is being optimised to reduce the cost of construction, with completion expected in the first quarter of 2025.
- Investigation of the Palmerston CBD lighting is nearing completion with the final report undergoing final review. Several upgrade projects have been identified for including into the Dark Spots program.

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- The 3-year Dark Spots program is being finalised to incorporate the CBD projects and other locations for upgrade, enabling design works to commence for projects identified for completion in 2025 (and future years).

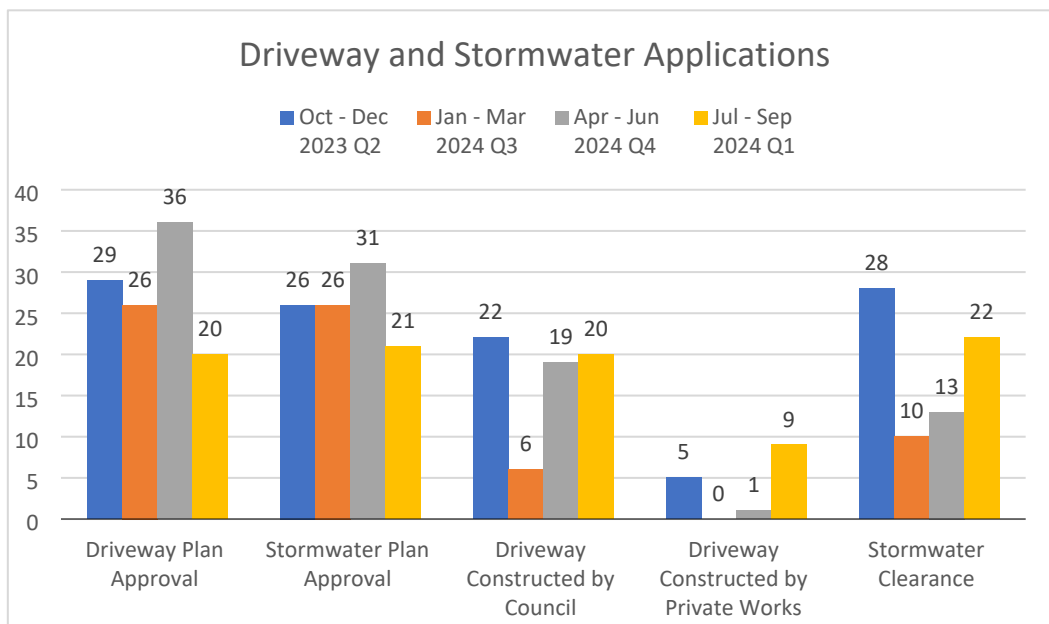
Driveways and Stormwater

Council is responsible for ensuring driveways are located to avoid conflicts with services and are constructed to an appropriate standard. It is also responsible for ensuring stormwater is collected and discharged to its stormwater network appropriately.

This quarter, a total of 92 driveway access location and stormwater connection applications were received for 59 new homes. The applications were primarily for new homes built in Zuccoli, which represented 51 of the total number of applications. The remaining applications included 3 in Bellamack, 2 in Farrar and one each in Johnson, Bakewell and Tivendale.

A breakdown of the applications is detailed below, with a comparison of this quarters approvals against previous quarters shown as a graph:

- Reviewed 20 driveway plan approval requests and approved 16 driveway plans, 14 of which belonged to new properties in Zuccoli.
- Processed 20 applications requesting Council to construct a new driveway, 17 of which belonged to new properties in Zuccoli. All driveways have been constructed.
- Assessed nine (9) Work on Public Places applications and issued five (5) permits to allow private owners to undertake driveway construction works.
- Reviewed 21 stormwater plan approval requests and approved 17 stormwater plans, 15 of which belonged to new properties in Zuccoli.
- Processed and inspected 22 stormwater clearance requests, with the issue of 19 clearance letters. All these approvals belonged to new properties in Zuccoli.

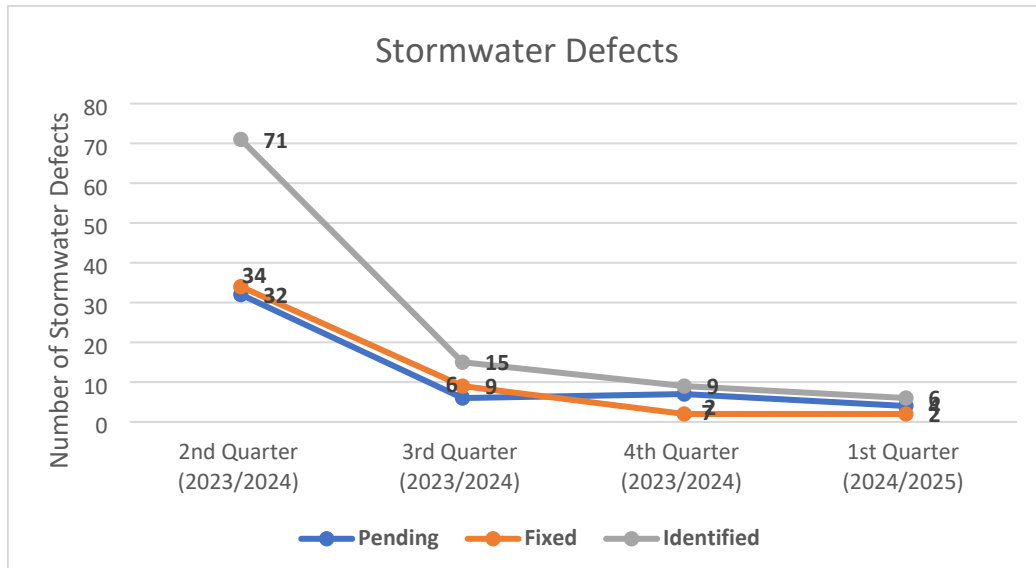


Data as of 13 September 2024

A Place for People

Stormwater

Ongoing condition inspection of stormwater drains, pipes, pits and other civil works have been carried out to ensure proper function. There are six (6) stormwater defects that have been identified in this quarter with four (4) outstanding.



Data as of 5 September 2024

Stormwater Capital Program:

Underground CCTV inspections of the stormwater pipe network have been conducted in selected at-risk areas on Victoria Drive, Gray and in Moulden near Bonson Terrace. A section along Victoria Drive has been identified as requiring repairs. Additional CCTV inspections are being completed, with rectification works to be completed next quarter.

Irrigation

The following irrigation infrastructure maintenance works have been completed in the past quarter.

- Sanctuary Lakes bore has been tested to determine operational status. Tests indicated that the natural recharge of the well was not occurring at a rate that could maintain the current drawn down rate. A smaller pump is being trialled to reduce the flow, while still ensuring enough water is being extracted to maintain the irrigation systems of the area. Planning is underway to determine alternative water resources that may be used for irrigation within Sanctuary Lakes precinct moving forward.
- Marlow Lagoon Bore 1 relining tender has been awarded. These works will commence early November 2024.
- Upgrade of irrigation controller modems from the existing 3G network to ensure compatibility with upcoming Telstra 4G network changeover has been undertaken in 36 parks this quarter.
- Irrigation infrastructure retrofits have occurred at Woodroffe, Gray, Moulden, Bowman, Prism, Dillon, Strawbridge, Beaumont and Lindsay Parks.
- The Buscall-Forrest Parade median Islands and roundabout gardens dripper irrigation lines have been replaced.
- Irrigation infrastructure repaired and the re-establishment of turf, utilising spray grass, has occurred at the traffic island near the Water Tower in Goyder Square.

Zuccoli Community Hub – Stages

The Master Plan for the Zuccoli Community aims to provide an integrated multi-purpose community precinct to meet open space, recreation and community needs for the rapidly growing Zuccoli community and wider City of Palmerston. The Zuccoli Community Hub, will incorporate an off-leash dog park, walking trails, a skate park and pump track, a playground, children’s library, community centre and a garden of reflection. Stage 1: Dog park and toilet facility was delivered in 2023. Stage 2 works consists of the pump track, the sensory walking path, shade structures, BBQ facilities and associated civil works. The tender for the design and construction of Stage 2 closed 23 August 2024 and the tender assessment process is underway.

Driver Community Centre

A Needs Assessment and the preliminary design was completed in 2023 with the detailed construction design due for completion in October 2024. The design includes a total internal floor area of 353 square metres, with a total internal occupancy of 100 users across three (3) spaces (pods), each with adjacent outdoor space. The cost for the project based on the preliminary design is estimated at \$3 million. Funding is being sought to facilitate the construction of the Centre. The final detailed design for the centre is nearing completion.

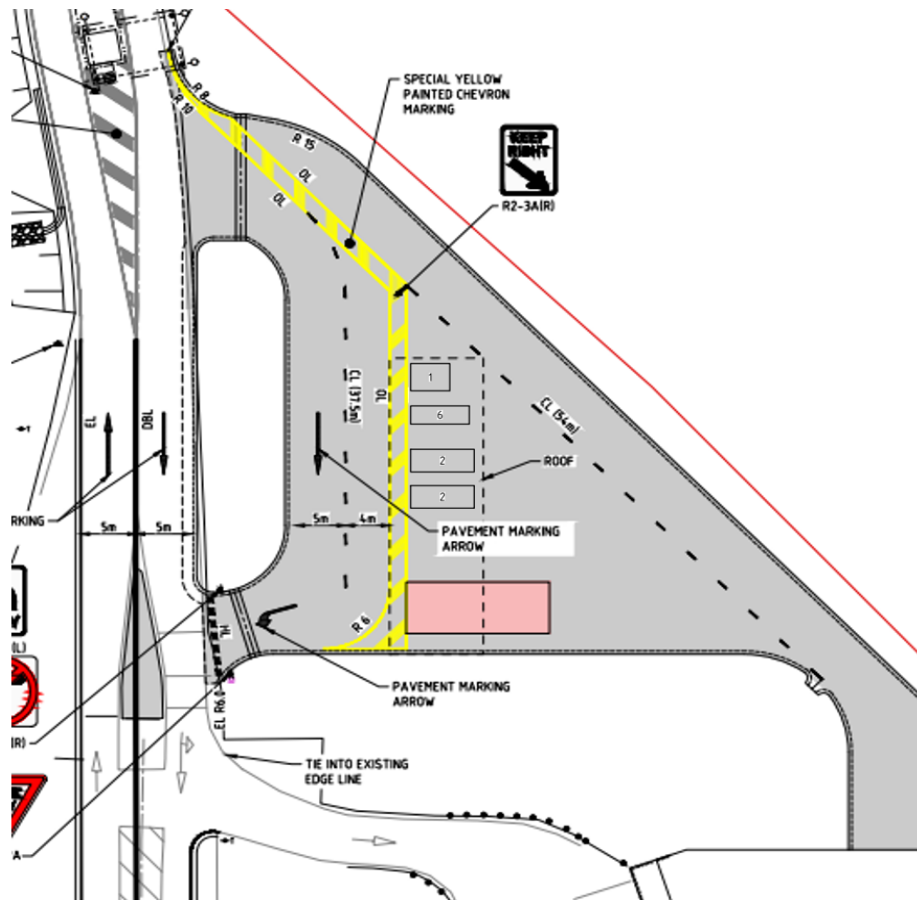


Driver Community Centre Indicative Design

Archer Waste Management Facility Upgrade

Upgrade of the Archer Waste Management Facility (AWMF) includes design and construction of a new recycling area, including a cardboard compactor, improvements to access and roads, relocation of the gate house, service upgrades, and an undercover general waste push-pit area to improve safety and functionality.

The gate house relocation and road works were completed at the end of June 2024. The tender for the construction of the recycling area, including the installation of the cardboard compactor has closed with assessment underway. The cardboard compactor has been manufactured and is ready for installation once the site is prepared.



Recycling Area Site Layout

5. Environment Sustainability

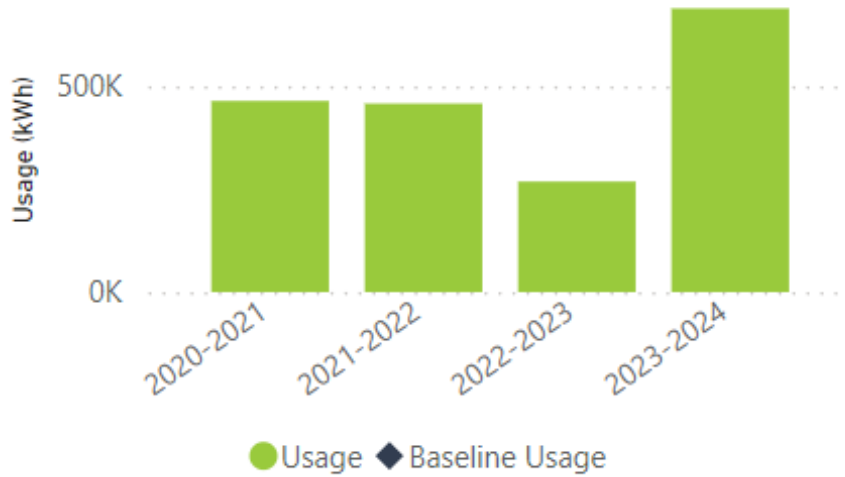
Objective 5.1: 'Reduce our footprint on the environment'

Changes to sustainability reporting

To enhance the accuracy and completeness of quarterly reports, the date range for reporting has been adjusted for some parts of this report to cover the previous quarter, rather than part of the current one where data can be limited to just one-two months rather than the full quarter (due to factors such as utilities invoicing and contractor reports). This adjustment in the reporting timeline will improve data integrity and ability to identify trends over time.

Electricity Consumption

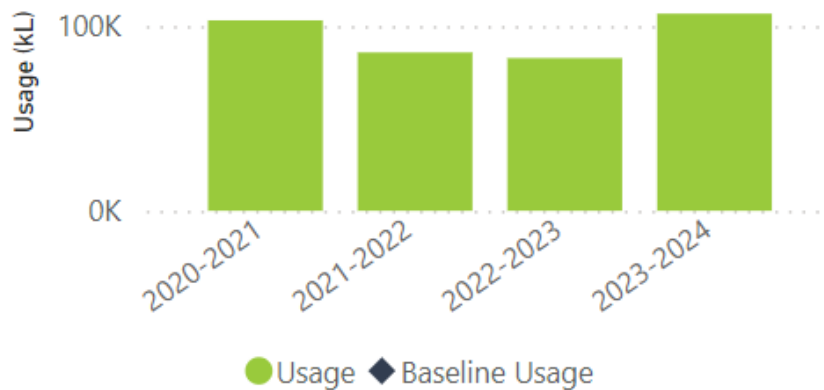
The below graph provides a comparison of the Council's total electricity consumption for Quarter 4 across each financial year, starting from 2020/2021. The data for the same quarter of the 2023/2024 reveals a 157% increase in energy usage compared to the same period the previous year. This increase can be attributed to several factors, including the recent upgrade of the REC Centre's air-conditioning system, which was offline during the same period last year, and the integration of multiple new assets, such as the SWELL upgrade.



Quarterly Energy Use - April to June - past four (4) years

Water Consumption

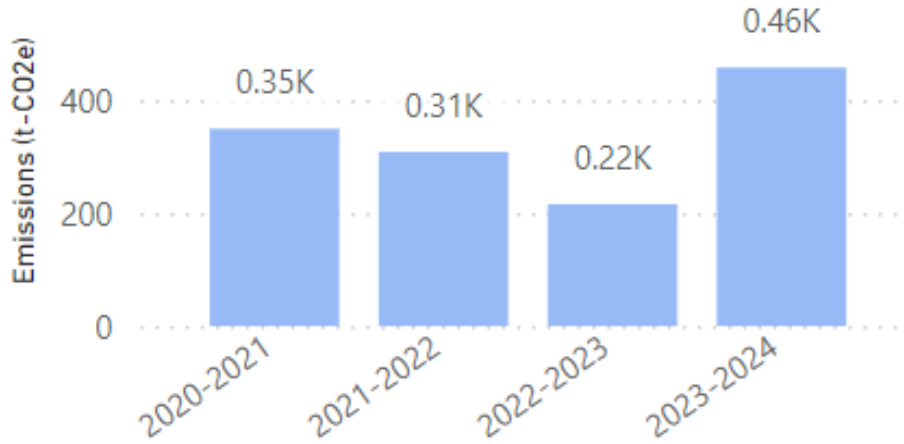
The graph below shows a comparison of Council’s total water consumption for Quarter 4 of the current and past three (3) financial years. 2023/2024 shows a 29.10% increase in water consumption compared to the same quarter of 2022/2023. This increase can be attributed to the repair and activation of a number of irrigation systems across the municipality as well as consequent to a number of leaks which have been detected and repaired. The increase is also likely influenced by factors such as the integration of numerous new assets, including new parks. Water usage is also affected by seasonal factors.



Mains Water Consumption- April to June - past four (4) years

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This quarter there was a 112% increase in emissions. This increase is consistent with the increase in power usage, attributed to factors such as the integration of new assets and seasonal consumption. For the same period last year, there was a 30% decrease in emissions due to lower electricity consumption from assets being offline. The graph below shows Council’s total January to March emissions across all assets and scopes (note: data excludes fleet emissions).



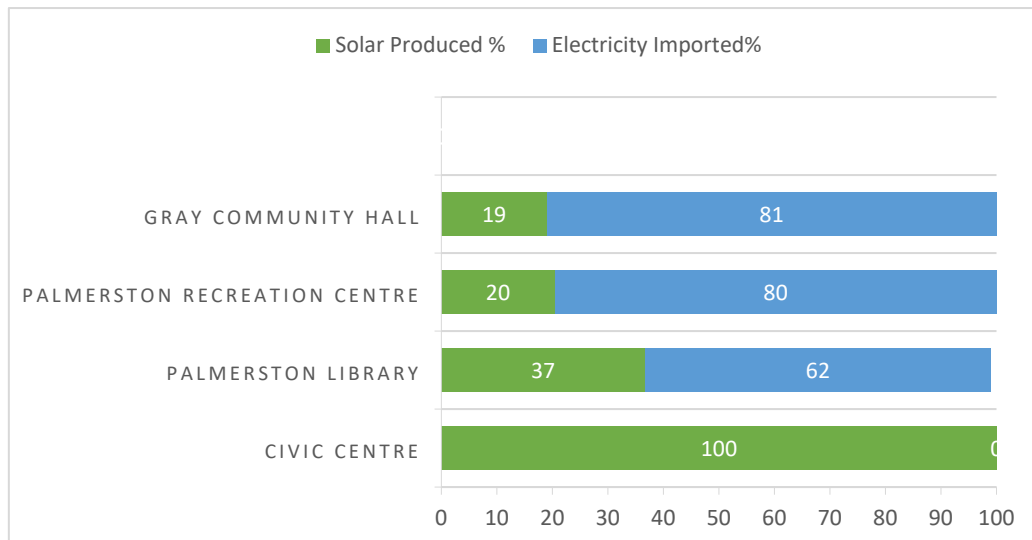
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (t-CO₂-e) - April to June - past five (5) years

Solar Power Generation – Recreation Centre, Palmerston Library, Civic Centre & Gray

Council maintains the solar generation systems at four (4) facilities (Palmerston Library, Civic Centre, Palmerston Recreation Centre, and Gray Community Hall). 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 graph below illustrates the contribution of solar systems to the total energy consumption of Council buildings from April to June 2024. Notably, Palmerston Civic Centre's solar system fulfills most of its energy needs. In contrast, Gray Community Hall and the Palmerston Recreation Centre have the lowest solar energy contributions relative to their requirements due to their sizing and nature of facility use (ie used often in the evening and at night).



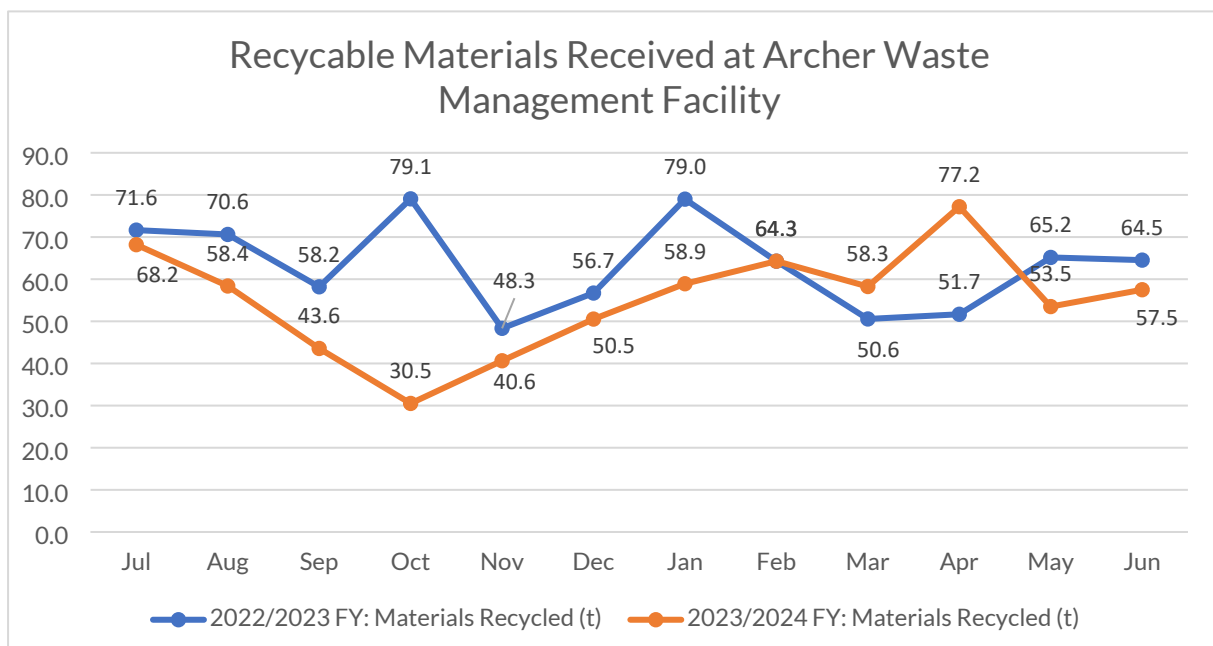
% Solar Produced and % Electricity Imported for Council Buildings - April to June 2024

A Place for People

Recycling at Archer Waste Management Facility

The graph below tracks the tonnage of recyclable materials received at Archer Waste Management Facility, comparing the 2023/2024 financial year with the 2022/2023 financial year. The volume of recyclables collected and diverted from landfill is influenced by various factors, including market demand for recyclables, and weather conditions.

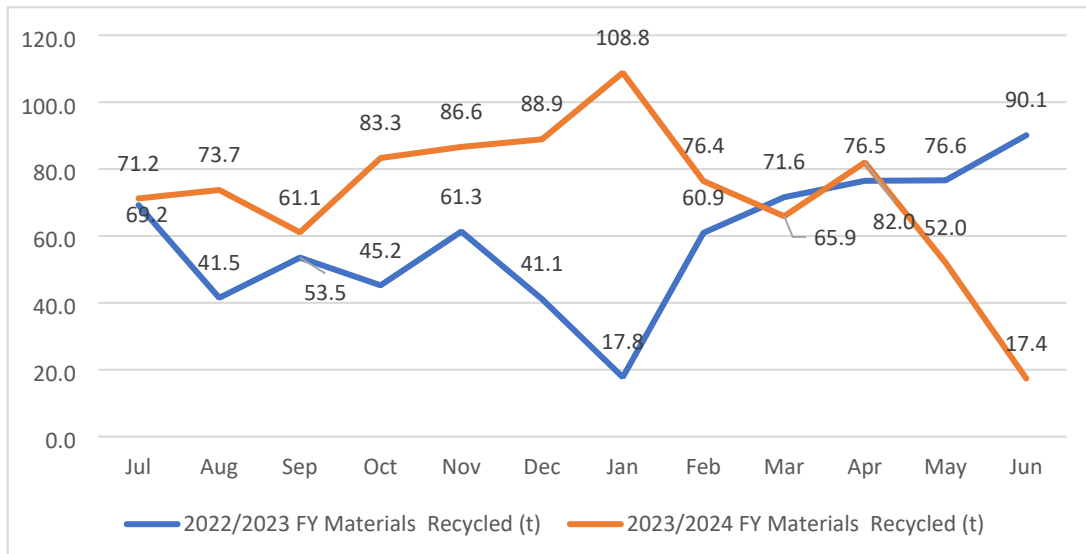
This data covers recyclable waste streams such as paper and cardboard, scrap steel/metal, mixed aluminium, glass, and plastic. It is noted that e-waste, white goods, and items donated for resale by HPA are not included in the data. The planned Stage 2 upgrades to the resource recovery area at the facility are expected to enhance waste diversion by positioning the recycling area at the front of the facility, making it more accessible and encouraging its use before general waste disposal.



Graph tracking the tonnages of recyclable materials collected at AWMF

Kerbside Recycling Service

The graph below tracks the tonnages of materials recycled through the kerbside collection program, comparing recyclable materials (in tonnes) collected in the 2023/2024 financial year compared to the 2022/2023 financial year. There was considerable drop in material recycled last quarter compared to the same quarter last financial year. With only 17.4 tons recovered in June 2024. To note, the month following the end of the quarter (July 2024) indicated the highest amount of recovered material recorded over the past 2 years of kerbside collections (at 402 tons for the month). City of Palmerston is currently working with the kerbside collection contractor to improve data integrity.



Graph tracking the tonnages of recyclable material collected in the 2023/2024 financial year compared to last financial year.

Home Composting Rebate Program

As of 18 September 2024, Council received 0 new applications under the Home Composting Rebate Program in the quarter (compared to 4 applications received in the previous quarter). The total number of applications for the life of the Program is 94. The Home composting Rebate continues to be promoted on social media and the Council website.

Period	QTR 1 (Jul - Sep 23)	QTR 2 (Oct - Dec 23)	QTR 3 (Jan - Mar 24)	QTR 4 (Apr - Jun 24)	QTR 1 (Jul - Sep 24)
New Applications	4	4	5	4	0
Total Applications for Life of Scheme	81	85	90	94	94

Objective 5.2: Palmerston is a cool, shaded, green City

Lake Weed Management

Council continues its proactive management of weed outbreaks in Palmerston’s lakes through a combination of manual harvesting and targeted weed spraying. Lakes are maintained on a rotating schedule, with routine clearing using harvesters to ensure optimal water quality and ecosystem health. Recently, an aquatic weed species, *Limnophila sessiliflora*, was identified in Lake 4. This plant, commonly used in aquariums, has likely entered the lake due to the improper disposal of fish tank contents. Although *Limnophila sessiliflora* is not classified as a declared weed, Council is closely monitoring and managing its presence to prevent potential ecological impacts. Management strategies include the application of aquatic herbicide and continued harvesting efforts to control its spread.

These measures are part of Council’s broader commitment to maintaining the health and biodiversity of waterways, while also educating the community about responsible disposal practices.



Limnophila sessiliflora

Land Conservation (Weed and Fire) Management

Ongoing maintenance of firebreaks took place throughout the dry season. Areas for weed spraying and planned burns have been identified at the Gunn Escarpment, Marlow Lagoon, and Archer Waste Management Facility. These activities are scheduled to take place during both the early and late wet season. Fire management activities are transitioning towards cool, wet season burns to achieve improved ecological outcomes while ensuring asset protection. Cool burns during the wet season help to reduce the intensity of fires, promote natural regeneration, and support the health of native ecosystems. This strategic approach balances environmental care with the protection of important infrastructure and community assets, aligning with best practices in land and fire management.



**Areas burned in 2023/24 wet season, shaded in red.
Left – Gunn Escarpment, Right – Archer Waste Management Facility.**

Tree Planting Programs

Two (2) broadscale tree planting events are planned for the 2024/25 Tree Planting Program. The first event is scheduled for October, just prior to the onset of the wet season. The second is scheduled for late March, at the end of the wet season, while there is still soil moisture to aid in plant establishment. Approximately 2000 native trees, of varying species, have been procured for the planting programs.

A Tree Planting Panel Contract Tender has been advertised this quarter and is currently under assessment. This Tender allows for up to three (3) contractors to be awarded, under a panel arrangement, to undertake tree planting and ongoing tree maintenance. These contractors will be utilised to complete the October and March planting events, and any other adhoc tree planting requirements that may be required.

Objective 5.3: 'Encourage personal action and taking a leadership role'.

Recycling Education

This quarter, the Greenius online education platform was launched, offering free access to residents, schools, and community groups to learn about recycling contamination. One notable piece of feedback came from a body corporate that has incorporated the platform into their new resident induction process. Greenius, along with other Recycling education materials continue to be promoted at Council events such as Brekkie in the Park.



Greenius Contamination Online Learning Module can be found at <https://palmerston.nt.gov.au/live/waste-management/recycling>

Archer Closed Landfill

This quarter, excess mulch was removed from the Archer Waste Management Facility and repurposed for ongoing aftercare management of the closed landfill. The mulch was applied to selected areas of the site, serving both as weed suppression and a growing medium.



Mulch move in action at Archer Waste Management Facility

A Place for People

Native Plant Giveaways

This quarter, the City of Palmerston hosted two (2) Native Plant Giveaways during the August and September Brekkie in the Park events. These giveaways proved to be popular, with all plants quickly finding new homes within the community. The initiative not only provides residents with the opportunity to enhance their gardens but also plays a key role in promoting a cooler, greener city. By encouraging the planting of native species, these events help improve local biodiversity, reduce urban heat, and foster greater community involvement in environmental sustainability.

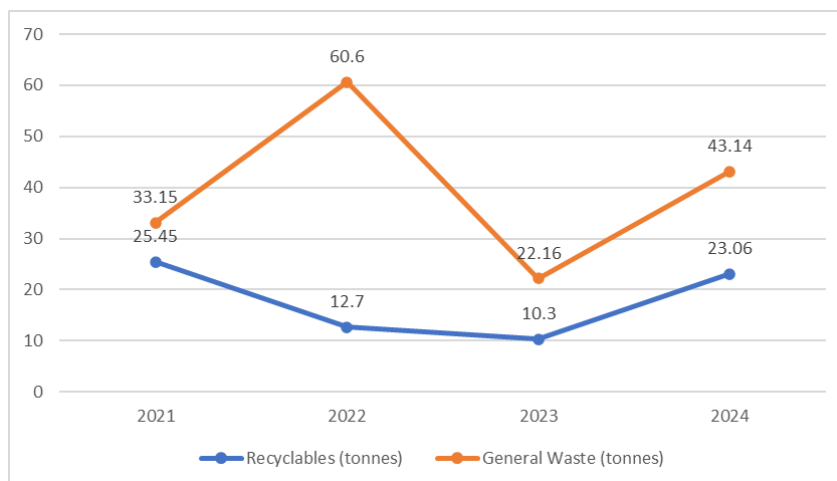


Happy residents at the Native Plant Giveaway held at Brekkie in the Park.

Pre-Cyclone Clean Up 2024

The 2024 Pre-Cyclone Clean Up kicked off on the 9th of September. The project will run through to the second week of October, concluding with Palmerston Indigenous Village.

The graph below shows General Waste and Recycling collected for Zone 1 over the past four (4) years. Both general waste and recyclables collected are up on last year. Note that recyclables exclude furniture donated to HPA, bikes and e-waste. The number of e-waste units were collected this year have increased compared to last year with a total of 416 for Zone 1 compared to 253 in 2023.



Graph showing General Waste and Recyclables collected in Zone 1 of the Pre-Cyclone Clean Up for the past four (4) years.



Example of Hard Waste placed on a verge during the 2024 Pre-Cyclone Clean Up

Repair Workshop at Reboot your Loot

This year, as part of Reboot Your Loot, a repair workshop was launched in collaboration with STEPS Group Australia. The workshop gave residents a valuable opportunity to repair and alter their clothing for free, increasing accessibility to extend the life of garments and reduce waste sent to landfill. It also provided a fantastic platform for Palmerston's migrant community to enhance their skills while connecting with fellow residents, fostering a stronger sense of community and sustainability.



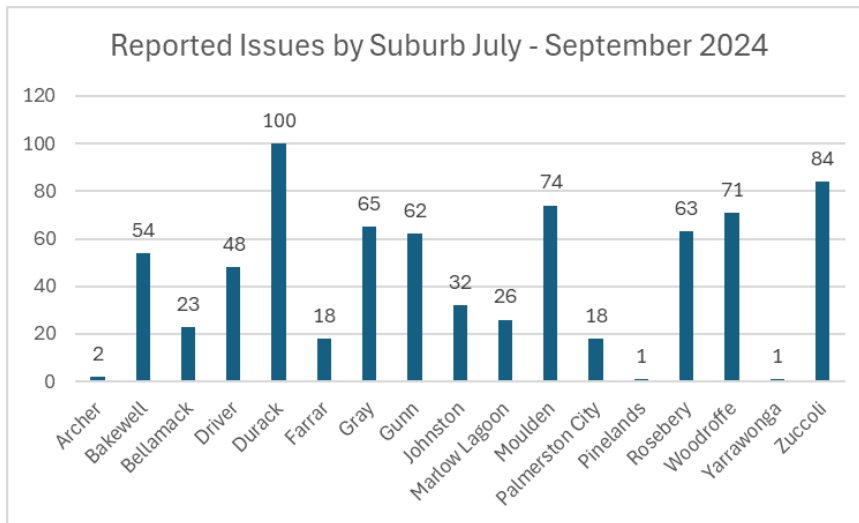
Seamsters from STEPS Group, ready to help Palmerston residents with their minor repair and alteration needs.

6. Governance

Objective 6.1: 'Ensure we have a leading governance model'

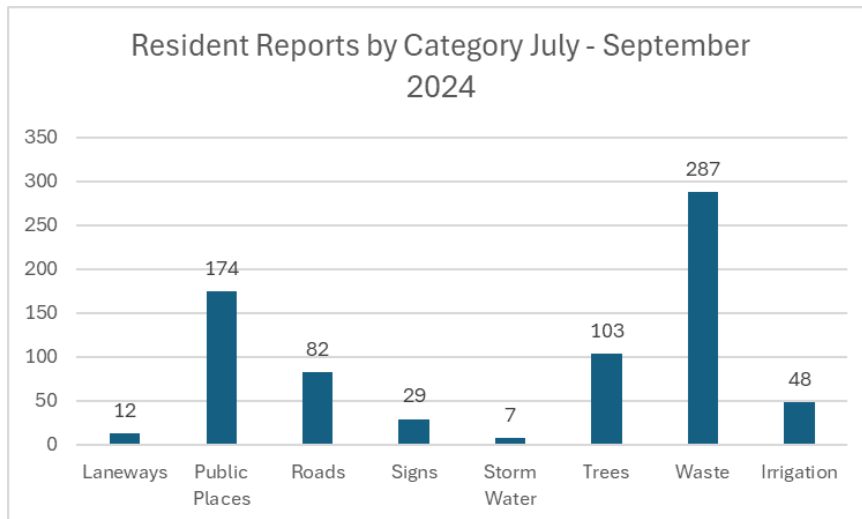
In total, 742 resident reports were raised in this quarter. In this quarter, Durack residents raised the highest number of resident reports within the Municipality being a total of 100 reports, primarily pertaining to work related to Public Places and Trees. These two (2) categories emerged as the trend for most frequent enquiries received from the community.

The below data summarises resident reports by suburb to Council in this quarter.



Data as of 11 September 2024.

The below data summarises resident reports by category to Council this quarter, with the most common resident reports being in regard to Waste and Public Places.



Data as of 11 September 2024

CONSULTATION AND MARKETING

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

- Executive Manager Projects and Infrastructure Services

A Place for People

- Open Space Lead
- Open Space Officer
- Acting Manager of Sustainability
- Development Lead
- Civil Operations Team Leader
- Projects Lead

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:

5. Infrastructure
Failure to plan, deliver and maintain fit for purpose infrastructure.

STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS

There are no strategy, framework or plan 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

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.2.3
REPORT TITLE:	Community Quarterly Report - July to September 2024
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 1 October 2024
AUTHOR:	Executive Assistant to General Manager Community, Georgina Davies
APPROVER:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report summarises the key activities undertaken by the Community Directorate in the July to September 2024 quarter.

KEY MESSAGES

- City of Palmerston has had a productive quarter delivering a wide range of events, services and programs which foster community participation, engagement opportunities, and safety and wellbeing outcomes.
- Highlights of the quarter included:
 - Engagement with students at Woodroffe Primary School toward the design of the new Woodroffe Park playground and associated infrastructure.
 - Two (2) successful Brekkie in the Park events.
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day got \$5000 in grant support.
 - Over 7,300 people participated the Palmerston Youth Festival.
 - Palmerston Seniors Day welcomed 160 seniors.
 - Community members enjoying Palmerston Lakes for the Hooked-on Palmerston competition, with the addition this year of a Junior Sustainable Fishing Workshop.
 - The June-July Library School holiday program hosted a diverse range of 10 activities attracting 364 attendees.
 - A new library program called "Let's Talk English" was implemented.
 - The library was certified as Dementia Friendly Space after extensive collaboration with Dementia Australia.
 - The library promoted sustainability by rehoming old children's shelving and weeded resources.
 - Connecting and informing the community with the Senior's Morning Tea Talk and the Aged Care Reform hub.
 - Supporting personal development in the community with a YouthWorx work experience student.
 - Community engagement on the new Animal Management By-Laws and Dog and Cat registration period.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report entitled Community Quarterly Report - July to September 2024 be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

City of Palmerston is a 'Place for People' and provides a broad range of community services to enhance safety and wellbeing in the community. This report provides Council with an update on key Community activities undertaken during the previous quarter.

DISCUSSION

The Community Directorate has had a productive quarter delivering a wide range of events, services and programs which foster community engagement and networking opportunities. Activities and initiatives delivered from July to September 2024 are detailed below:

1. **Family and Community:** Palmerston is a safe and family friendly community where everyone belongs.
 - 1.1 We focus on families.
 - 1.2 The Wellbeing of our community is a focus for all our work.

Woodroffe Park – Primary School and Community Engagement

City of Palmerston has commenced the engagement process toward the upgrade of Woodroffe Park. Students at Woodroffe Primary School (three (3) – four (4) class) have been working closely with City of Palmerston to engage students with ideas, design and a new vision for what the local park could look like.

Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell attended the school on the 19 September 2024, to review the work of the students and see the immense enthusiasm from the students towards the project. Woodroffe Care Community has also been engaged and will support City of Palmerston in further engagement at the park in coming months. This will provide an opportunity for Councillors to attend and engage in the process at a local level, and further showcase the efforts of the students from the school.



Hooked on Palmerston

The Hooked-on Palmerston Catch and Release Barramundi Fishing Competition has again captured the excitement and interest of anglers of all ages to get out and relish the fabulous dry season weather while enjoying the peace and serenity Palmerston Lakes have to offer.

So far 66 fish have been caught in the competition, with Durack Lake five (5) proving to be the most successful fishing spot. There have been 15 prizes of vouchers to local Palmerston businesses awarded to entrants of varying ages in the competition.

Catches according to Lake	
Sanctuary Lakes	10
Marlow's Lagoon	6
Durack Lakes	
1a	5
3	3
5	14
6	6
7a	3
8	10
6	9

The competition runs until the 30 September 2024 with one prize draw remaining with five (5) winners randomly chosen from eligible entries.



Some memorable catches from Hooked on Palmerston so far this season.

Junior Sustainable Fishing Workshop

On 28 July, City of Palmerston in partnership with community organisation Ozfish delivered the first Junior Sustainable Fishing Workshop to young people aged 7-14 years old. The workshop was attended by 19 children and 13 parents and included information delivered by Ozfish on conservation of waterways and wildlife through tangle bins, tackle selection and effective catch and release techniques.

Ozfish Volunteers delivered vital information on the tools included in the complimentary tackle box kindly supplied by BCF and were able to offer hands on assistance in knot tying and tackle selection. Participants (and parents) were eager to improve their skills and knowledge of effective knot tying, particularly after learning about the impact of lost tackle on waterways and fish health and longevity.

A Place for People

This workshop received an enormous amount of interest and positive feedback, with tickets selling out in just two (2) days. Council Officers will continue working with Ozfish to explore ongoing opportunities following the success of this initiative.



Participants being welcomed to the workshop



Participants learning about effective knot tying



Participants applying their new practical skills



Group photo of Junior Sustainable Fishing Workshop

Palmerston Seniors Day 2024

Palmerston Seniors Day was held on Wednesday, 14 August at the Palmerston Recreation Centre from 10am-2pm and attracted 160 attendees who enjoyed a variety of activities, including:

- Interaction with 14 service and support information stalls
- Workshops:
 - Native Plants of Northern Australia talk by John Brock
 - Advanced Personal Care Planning by COTA NT
 - Functional Strength and Falls prevention by Vitality Health and Rehab
 - Recycling workshop from NTRS
 - Cyber Safety from the Commonwealth Bank
 - Personal and Property Protection from Neighbourhood Watch.
- Entertainment from the talented Kim Kool and Drag Queen Bingo from Party Passport
- Morning tea, two (2) course buffet lunch and afternoon tea.

The event was considered a great success and highly effective in achieving its aims of increasing connection of both seniors with their community and to information and support.

The Palmerston Seniors Network created a working group who contributed to the planning and preparation for the day, with plans already underway for the 2025 event.



Group photo of participants at Seniors Day



Workshop delivered by John Brock - Author of Native Plants of Northern Australia



Morning tea and interaction with stallholders

Get Active

Block two (2) of Get Active 2024 has kicked off with an emphasis on displaying the freshly revived SWELL Palmerston. Three (3) Get Active activities are being delivered in the new group fitness room at SWELL and have been well attended by participants. This schedule has included new activities of social volleyball, pickleball, zumba, pilates and yoga.

The final schedule for this year will be released soon, highlighting existing free activities in Palmerston as well as some popular Get Active favourites.



Pilates at SWELL Palmerston



Zumba at SWELL Palmerston



Yoga at SWELL Palmerston

Palmerston Youth Festival

Palmerston Youth Festival (PYF) boasted the highest attendance numbers so far, with 7,390 people attending across the seven (7) days of events. An extensive marketing and communications campaign, including the festival program and HOT100 radio competition were additions for 2024.

136 external stakeholders were engaged across the week with local businesses, stall holders and community organisations all contributing to the festivals undoubted success.

The program includes:

- Saturday 6 July – Geekfest Top End, Recreation Centre, Library and Goyder Square
- Sunday 7 July - NAIDOC Pool Party, SWELL
- Monday 8 July – Youth Pride, Recreation Centre
- Tuesday 9 July – Sportsfest, Recreation Centre
- Wednesday 10 July – Palmy’s Got Talent, Durack Community Arts Centre
- Thursday 11 July – Pamper Palmy, Recreation Centre
- Friday 12 July – PYF Wrap Up Party, Recreation Centre.

The event was supported through funding from the Northern Territory Government and planning for the 2025 Palmerston Youth Festival will commence later this year.



Headline Act Cyril - 12 July Wrap up Party



Cosplay Parade – 6 July Geekfest

Brekkie in the Park - August and September 2024

The Brekkie event for August was hosted in Eric Asche Park, Farrar. This event featured a Native Plant giveaway and ongoing discussions about sustainable waste management. The event was a pet-friendly to

encourage discussion and questions about the new Animal By-laws and current animal-friendly park spaces. A Story Time session was provided for the young and young-at-heart to enjoy.

The last Brekkie in the Park for 2024 went out on a high with over 500 people attending Joan Fejo Park on the 15 September. City of Palmerston gave away 500 native plants and trees to Palmerston residents. The community were able to engage with City of Palmerston on questions regarding dog and cat registration, engage with Community Police Officers and enjoy a free breakfast provided by Palmerston and Regional Basketball Association (PARBA). Activities also included patting two (2) horses with Riding for the Disabled, face painting and jumping castle.

City of Palmerston engaged with community members about the upgrades to Sanctuary Lakes and Marlow's Lagoon play areas.



Riding for the Disabled



Community Police Officers



PARBA

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day 2024

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day event was held on Friday, 2 August in Tiverton Park in Moulden. This event was supported by City of Palmerston through a Community Benefit Scheme Grant and by providing event planning support. The support provided by City of Palmerston aims to build capacity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group to develop event planning and delivery skills to deliver future events independently.

Varied sectors of the community came together, with 250 attendees celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's development, growing strong with knowledge and cultural connection.

The main highlights of the event were the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony facilitated by Auntie June Mills, a prominent Elder in the Larrakia community. The Wangatunga Strong Women flew in from the Tiwi Islands, to perform a significant cultural dance, share basket weaving skills and teach young attendees how to perform their dance.

The Northern Territory Police from the Community Resilience Command also attended to connect with the community and to hear Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples perspectives on the current youth related issues in the community.

Harvest Corner Community Garden Update

STEPS, Life Without Barriers (LWB) and Helping People Achieve (HPA) have continued to make improvements to the garden. These improvements include increased use of planter boxes, including 11 boxes donated by City of Palmerston. These boxes allow the volunteers to trial new crops and to learn how to improve the soil quality without losing the soil into the ground. These boxes will be painted and by a local artist through a Northern Territory Government grant in September 2024.

The garden has had a complete re-install of irrigation tubing and sprinklers by a volunteer to the garden and has begun to flourish and maintain the plants that were originally planted when the organisations assumed caretaking of the garden. The volunteers in this garden have been drawing on their own cultural agricultural backgrounds by planting a variety of chilli's, Asian leafy greens, corn and pineapples etc. This allows the garden to be biodiverse and to reflect the community's invested interests.

Children's Week event 2024

Planning for the 2024 City of Palmerston Children's Week event has commenced. The annual event is held in October at the Palmerston Recreation Centre as a part of National Children's Week. Each year the theme of Children's Week highlights a particular Children's Right. The Children's Week National Theme for 2024 is based on UNCRC Article 24: Children have the right to a clean and safe environment.

Engagement is currently underway with community organisations to ensure the event provides information and connections to children and families in Palmerston.

Palmerston Library – Dementia Friendly spaces

The library strives to be a welcoming space for everyone. The library has been certified a Dementia-friendly space and awarded the library a certificate in a ceremony on 18 September attended by staff, the CEO, the Mayor and Dementia Australia representatives. Staff have been working closely with Dementia Australia to ensure the library is accessible for those living with Dementia. Staff have undergone training to be more aware of dementia related issues and the library had people living with dementia conduct a site visit to assess the space and give feedback on where the library can improve.

The library also supported dementia Australia in running an information session about awareness about Dementia and the support services available for those caring for those living with Dementia.



Library Staff, Mayor Athen Pascoe, and Belinda Curtis and Emil Almazan from Dementia Australia



Dementia Australia Community Session

June/July School holiday program

The June/July School Holiday Program ran for three (3) weeks from 24 June to 12 July 2024. The programs showcased a diverse array of activities and performances and were well attended.

Week 1

- Monday 24 June, Science Magic: Messy Mayhem - Donal Vaughan
- Tuesday 25 June, Science Magic: Crazy Gadgets - Donal Vaughan
- Wednesday 26 June, Juggling Show - Michael Connell
- Thursday 27 June, The Amazing Drumming Monkeys
- Friday 28 June, Trolls Band Together



Science Magic



Amazing Drumming Monkeys



Juggling

Week 2

- Monday 1 July, Movie: Migration (PG)
- Tuesday 2 July, Leaf Expression Art - Kajal Patel
- Wednesday 3 July, Cultural Wildlife Encounters- Dingo Cockatoo
- Thursday 4 July, Aboriginal Artwork - Dingo Cockatoo
- Friday 5 July, Sand Card Art - NT Art Storms



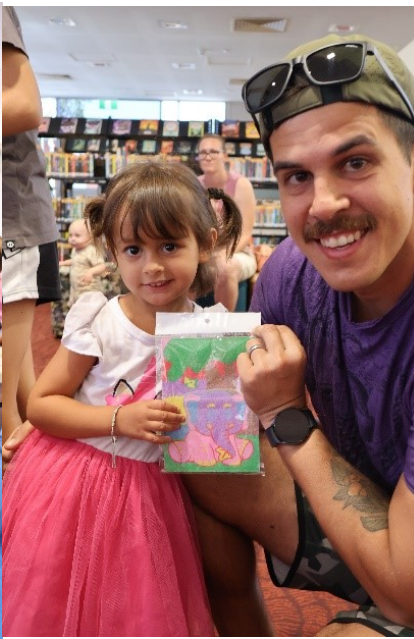
Cultural Wildlife Experience



Leaf Expression



Aboriginal Art



Sand Art Card

Young Territory Author Awards Workshop

Local author Sean Guy and City of Palmerston Library hosted a workshop aimed at helping young attendees with their submissions into the Young Territory Author Awards. The workshop was titled 'Story Structure with Sean Guy' workshop and was in collaboration with the NT Writers' Centre.



Sean Guy hosting youth in the writing workshop

Light Up Palmerston

Light Up Palmerston has celebrated 11 significant days over the course of 17 days. To help our community raise awareness within Palmerston, local groups and organisations are invited to request the illumination of various Council infrastructure to highlight special events, causes, and significant days. This includes the iconic Palmerston Water Tower. Consideration for lighting requests includes local and regional events, historic occasions, and events of city, state, national, or international importance. This year, the Council

has partnered with organisations to increase awareness for important medical conditions and syndromes, such as Fragile X Day, Bullying No Way Day, and World Drowning Prevention Day. Additionally, assets were illuminated to recognise individual events of the Palmerston Youth Festival.

Community Organisation	Date	Colour
1 July 2024	Territory Day	Orange
6 July 2024	Geekfest	Purple
7 July 2024	NAIDOC Pool Party	Black, Yellow, Red
8 July 2024	PRIDE	Pride Rainbow
9 July 2024	Sportsfest	Blue and Yellow
10 July 2024	Palmy's Got Talent	Purple and Blue
11 July 2024	Pamper Palmy	Pink, Blue and Purple
12 July 2024	Wrap Up Party	Red, Purple, Blue and Green
22 July 2024	Fragile X	Orange
25 July 2024	World Drowning Prevention Day	Blue
4-10 August 2024	National Eosinophilic Week	Pink
12 - 16 August 2024	Bullying No Way	Purple
1 - 2 September 2024	World PCOS Day	Teal
8 September 2023	RU OK Day	Yellow
13-16 September	World Lymphoma Awareness Day	Green
23 -28 September	ITP Awareness Week	Purple



Palmerston Recreation Centre - Light Up Palmerston - Fragile X

New Library Program- Conversational English Morning Teas

The library has commenced a new fortnightly program, Let's Talk English, which is aimed at community members where English is not their first language. The morning tea aims to bring the community together to create connections and improve their conversational English skills. The morning teas are also open to people where English is their first language who may want to attend and help others practise their English.

Library Children's shelving rehoming

Last quarter, the library acquired some newer modern shelving. The previous shelving was donated to STEPS Palmerston and Kids Brigade.



STEPS collecting their new shelving



Kids Brigade collecting their new shelving

Library Aged Care reform hub

In collaboration with Australian Library & Information Association (ALIA) and the Department of Health and Aged Care, the library is displaying an Aged Care reform information hub in the library as an access point for the public to learn more about changes made to Aged Care in Australia. The hub will be displayed from the 19 August until 11 October 2024.



Library staff manning the Aged Care Reform hub

Library engagement at Cazalys Seniors Morning Tea

City of Palmerston recently attended the Seniors Morning Tea held at Cazalys Palmerston Club to discuss and promote the services, programs and collections that the library has on offer and engaged with the community about how the library can meet their needs.



Library staff at the Seniors Morning Tea

Library Work experience

The library supported YouthWorx by hosting a work experience student for a few hours a week for a six (6) week period. She has just completed her six (6) weeks with support from Deaf Connect and has been learning how to shelve books in order and also has led a storytime in singing 'I can Sing a Rainbow' in Auslan (Australian Sign Language).



Work experience participant with support worker

Library Author Visit by Ilonka Guse

On Friday 30 August, the library hosted an author talk with local author Ilonka Guse. Ilonka did a reading of her book 'From Sauerkraut to Vegemite: A Migrant Memoir', hosted a Q&A and signed copies for attendees.



Ilonka Guse author talk

SWELL

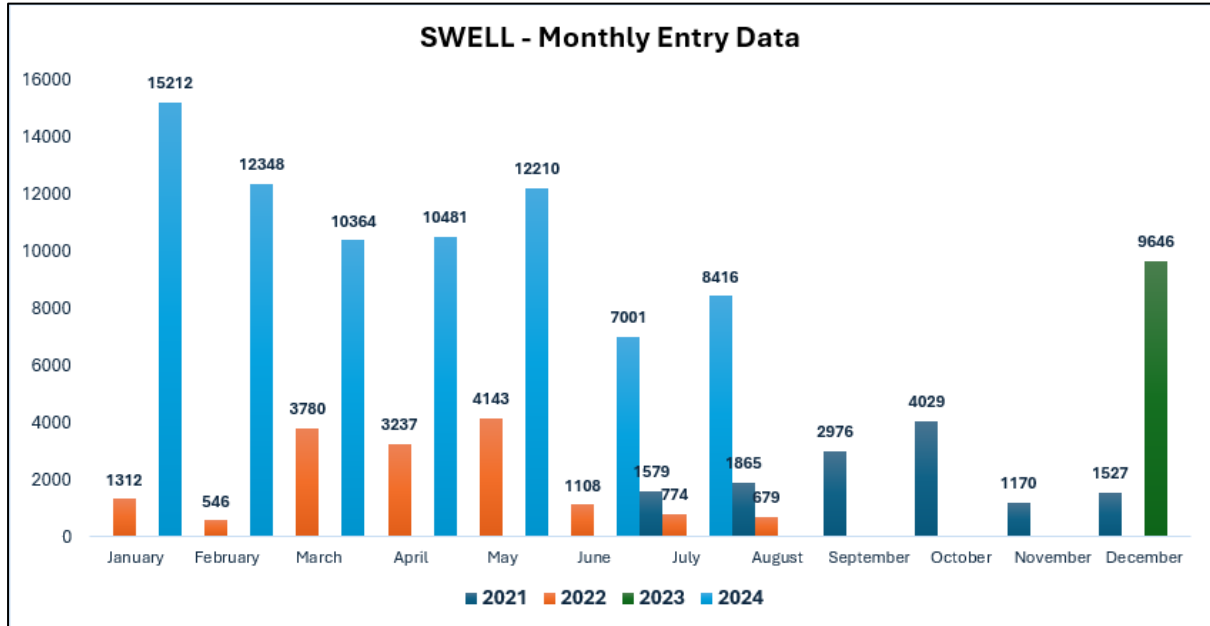
Highlights at SWELL from July to September include:

- Nine (9) Group Fitness classes scheduled throughout the week including seniors circuit, step aerobics, Pilates, Hiit and circuit classes.
- Aqua aerobics classes have been recommenced and are very popular.
- Palmerston Youth Festival NAIDOC Pool Party was held on 12 April 2024.
- Palmerston Sharks squad continues weekly program.
- Royal Life Saving Swim and Survive program.
- Aquafest Water Safety Week event in September, a partnership between City of Palmerston and Royal Life Saving NT.
- Birthday room getting regular bookings.
- Time clocks and pace clocks installed.
- Coffee now available for purchase.
- Lockers have been identified and purchased.
- New furniture is being procured.
- A number of maintenance and defects issues have been resolved.

The table below shows a slight drop in usage in the cooler dry season weather at SWELL.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Adult Casual Entry	8373	7211	5708	5205	5437	4098	4350	5181
Child Casual Entry	5176	4400	3971	4351	6440	2473	3360	3929
Adventure Play Entry	1663	737	685	925	333	430	706	486
Total per Month	15,212	12,348	10,364	10,481	12,210	7,001	8,416	9,596
Progressive tally	15,212	27,560	37,924	48,405	60,615	67,616	76,032	85,628

The graph below shows the increased usage rates since the facility has been upgraded.



Quarterly Community Facility and Equipment Usage

BBQ Trailer

The Community BBQ Trailer is a free resource available to members of the community, local organisations, and groups to support activities and programs that benefit residents of City of Palmerston. The usage of the BBQ Trailer facilitates community engagement, helping to strengthen relationships, promote social interaction, and contribute to the creation of safer, healthier, and more vibrant neighbourhoods.

In the last quarter, the Community BBQ Trailer was utilised nine (9) times by the following organisations:

- Palmerston and Regional Basketball Association
- Palmerston and Litchfield Seniors
- Telugu Association
- Amber NT
- Cindy Roberts
- Riding for the Disabled
- City of Palmerston.

Smoothie Bike

City of Palmerston’s Smoothie Bike is a unique and engaging resource designed to promote healthy eating and physical activity. It serves as an innovative tool for fundraising, event catering, and educational activities. Available for free to local organisations and schools within the Palmerston municipality, the Smoothie Bike brings people together, supports community events, and teaches children about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle in a memorable way.

In the last quarter, the Smoothie Bike was utilised nine (9) times by the following organisations:

- Woodroffe Child Care Centre
- Larrakia Nation
- Palmerston Child and Family Centre
- Kentish Lifelong Learning
- Zuccoli Village Early Learning

A Place for People

- Durack Outside School Hours Care
- Palmerston and Regional Basketball Association.

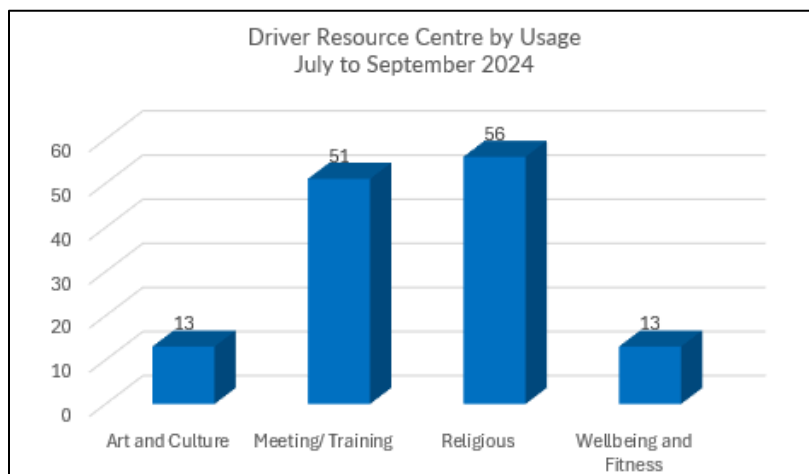
Driver Community Centre

Overview of usage from July to September:

- There are seven (7) regular users and no new user groups.
- The demand for spaces to conduct religious activities remains the highest, indicating a stable and strong need for such gatherings.
- 131 bookings were ongoing weekly occurrences, with only two (2) bookings being one off bookings.
- Not-for-Profit usage accounted for 99% of usage.

Usage Times:

- 62% of bookings occurred on weekends, either Saturday or Sunday or after 5pm
- 38% of bookings occurred during business hours (8am to 5pm).



Durack Community Art Centre

The Durack Community Art Centre is a lively and dynamic hub that brings people together for creative meetups, training sessions, and meetings. It provides a welcoming space for artists, community groups, and individuals to connect, collaborate, and explore their artistic talents.

Overview of Usage:

There were nine (9) regular users and 12 new user groups in the Durack Community Art Centre this reporting period.

The Durack Community Art Centre hosted a learn to sew program facilitated by Empowering Community Growth. This booking was a collaboration between Timorese sewing teachers and NT based Indigenous women who provided the hand printed fabric. Spanning two (2) weeks the booking created a community hub at the centre for a cross-cultural creative experience.

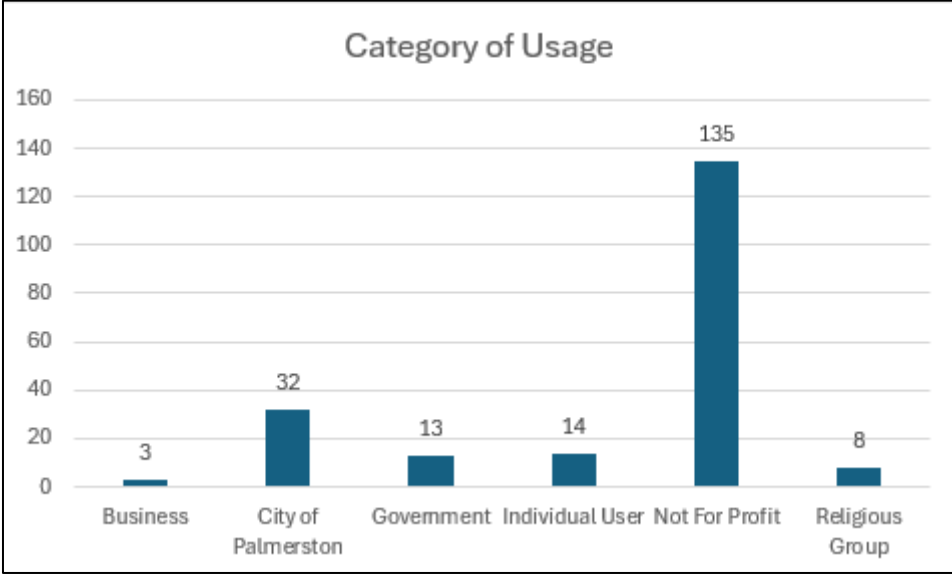
The largest user group of Durack Community Arts Centre is Not-for-Profit organisations, making up 66% of the total usage, reflecting the Centre's strong emphasis on supporting community-driven initiatives.

City of Palmerston is the second largest user group, accounting for 16% of the usage. Other groups, such as Individual Users (7%), Government (6%), and Religious Groups (4%), also make use of the Centre.

Business users constitute the smallest segment, representing only 1%, highlighting that the Centre primarily serves non-commercial and community-focused purposes. This breakdown underscores the

A Place for People

Centre's role as a key community resource, heavily utilised by nonprofit organisations to promote creativity, learning, and social connection.



Booking Occurrences:

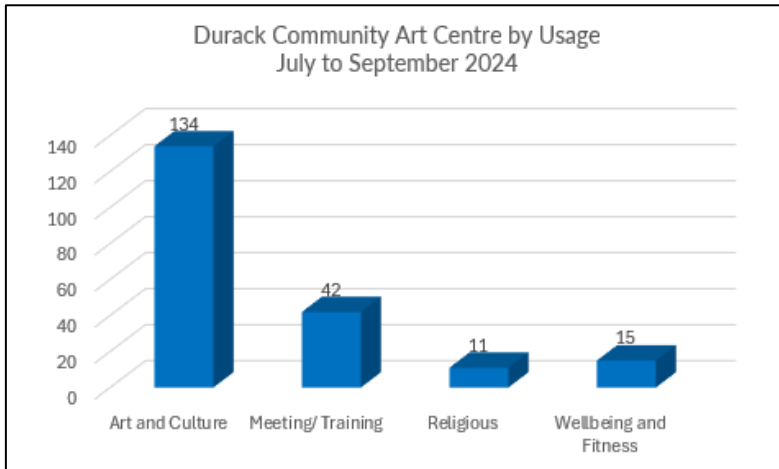
The booking data for the Durack Community Art Centre shows a range of usage patterns. There are 80 ongoing weekly bookings, six (6) fortnightly bookings and 18 monthly bookings.

The Centre also hosted 82 one-off bookings, catering to occasional events like workshops or special meetings. Lastly, 19 bookings occur on a quarterly or annual basis, showing the Centre's flexibility in accommodating both regular and occasional community activities.

Fortnightly	6
Monthly	18
One-Off	82
Other	19
Weekly	80
Grand Total	205

Usage Times:

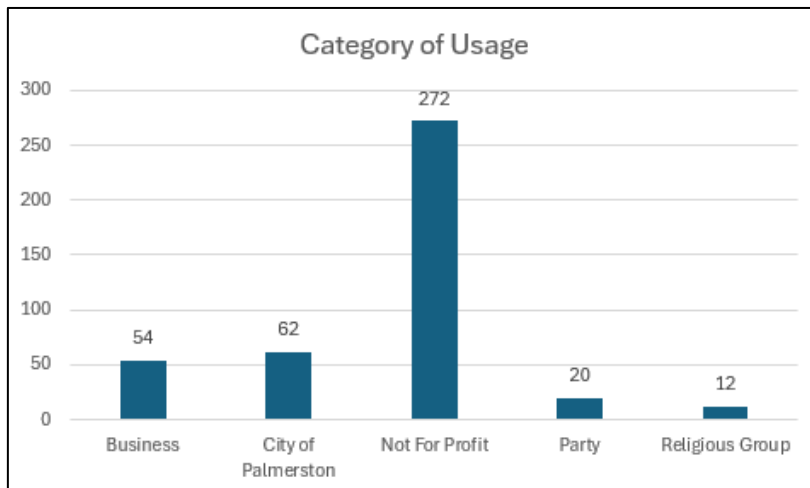
- 62% of bookings occurred on weekends, either Saturday or Sunday or after 5pm
- 38% of bookings occurred during business hours (8am to 5pm)



Gray Community Hall

Gray Community Hall has seen a diverse range of bookings across various categories this reporting period. The data shows that Not-for-Profit organisations continue to be the primary users of the facility, accounting for 65% of the total usage, reinforcing the Centre's commitment to supporting community-based activities. Business bookings totalled 12%, suggesting a moderate level of commercial use. This category includes corporate meetings, trainings, and other business-related events.

There were 26 bookings for social events like birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries, averaging one event per day on weekends.



Booking Occurrences:

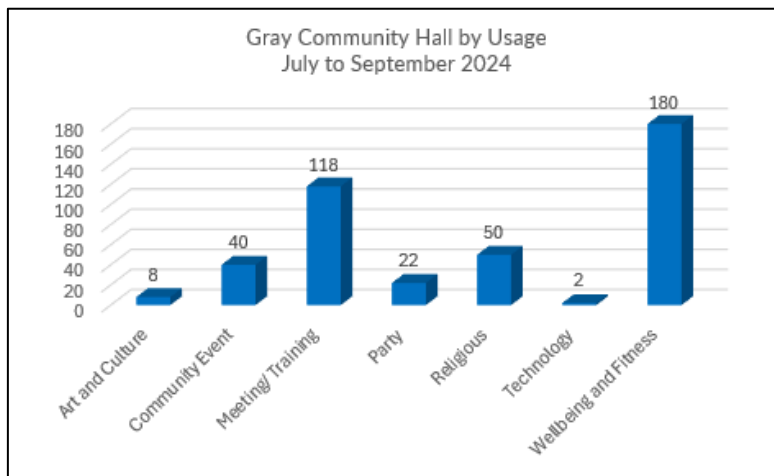
Fortnightly	20
Monthly	4
One Off	142
Other	19
Quarterly	1
Weekly	234
Grand Total	420

A Place for People

The booking data for the Gray Community Hall shows a range of usage patterns. There are 234 weekly bookings, with many groups enjoying regular use of the Centre. The Centre also hosted 142 one-off bookings, catering to occasional events like workshops or special meetings. 20 bookings occur on a quarterly or annual basis, showing the Centre's flexibility in accommodating both regular and occasional community activities.

Usage Times:

- 57% of bookings occurred on weekends, either Saturday or Sunday or after 5pm
- 43% of bookings occurred during business hours (8am to 5pm)



Palmerston Recreation Centre

Facility Utilisation highlights included:

Council Officers proactively engage with a diverse range of users seeking short-term or one-off hire of the centre during the July School Holiday period. With many user groups on break from their regular programming, these vacant time slots are effectively filled with alternative bookings.

During the Palmerston Youth Festival week, the sports stadium hosted an employment expo. An external organisation coordinated with the centre to utilise the stadium, including the carpeted area. Their flexible scheduling allowed the event to coincide with the carpet setup. The expo drew over 300 attendees who interacted with more than 30 exhibitors.

Cancer Council hosted an eight (8) week rehabilitation Tai Chi program for gentle rehabilitation for people undergoing cancer treatments in Palmerston.

Interstate performance groups, including those participating in the Fringe Festival, utilised the Community Rooms as rehearsal spaces.

The sports stadium hosted the Philippine Air Force, visiting for Pitch Black 24 who played a friendly basketball game against the local Philippine Basketball Association. With over 300 attendees playing basketball, volleyball, badminton and table tennis.



Philippine Sportsfest - Mini 4WD Race

The Annual Philippine Sportsfest featured five (5) sports in 12 hours including badminton, basketball and the 4WD Race Lab.

Palmerston Recreation Centre welcomed National Wheelchair Basketball action with a match between the Darwin Salties and the Red Dust Hellers from Melbourne. This well-attended event marked the first national wheelchair basketball event for Palmerston. This event was supported by City of Palmerston through the free venue hire initiative and sponsorship via the Community Benefit Scheme.



Darwin Salties - National Wheelchair Basketball

These diverse events and programs underscore Palmerston Recreation Centre's role as a versatile and vital community hub, supporting a wide range of activities that cater to different interests and needs within the community.

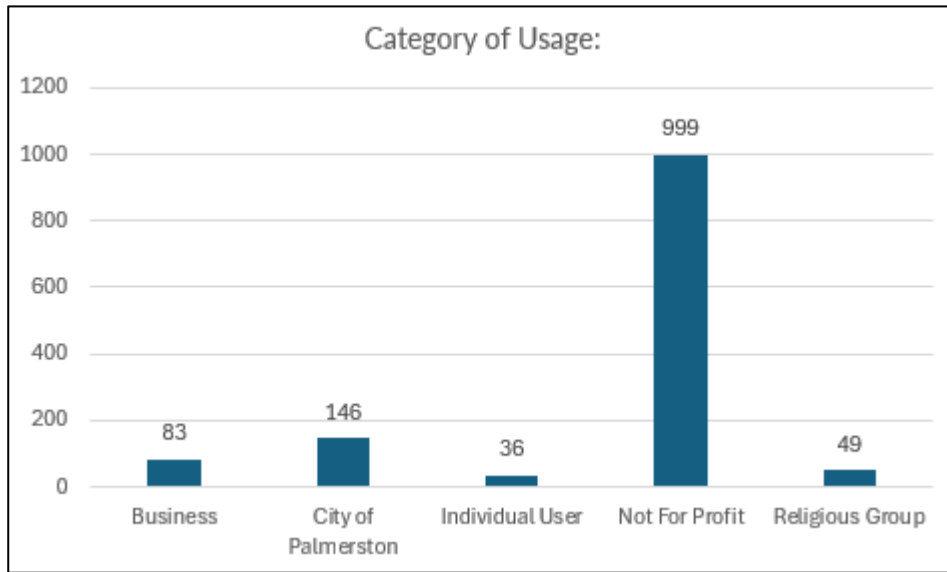
Overview of Usage:

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The Recreation Centre usage included three (3) public consultations and information sessions, the annual Philippine Community Sportsfest, featuring 12 sports. Following the Palmerston Youth Festival the centre was utilised by two (2) new dance groups who attended festival events and enquired about bookings.

Throughout this quarter, the stadium saw individual users utilise the space 318 times for basketball shooting practice from 8am to 5pm.

Council officers have noted a consistent use of the facility during the lunch hours of 12pm to 2pm by Palmerston CBD workers for their recreational activities such as table tennis, basketball and badminton.



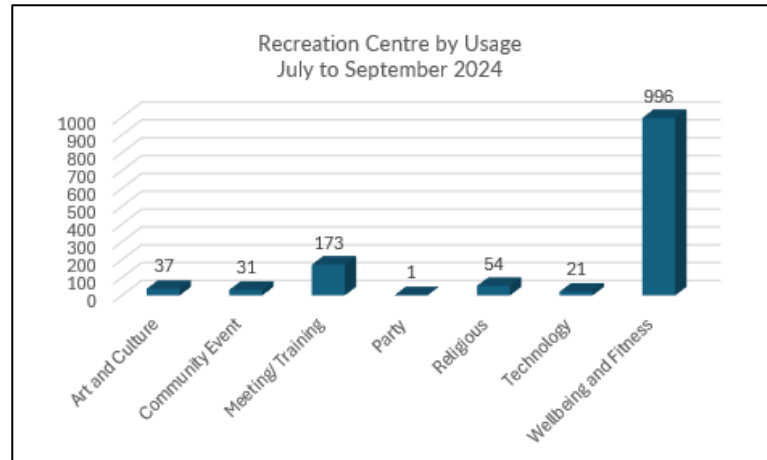
Booking Occurrences:

The booking data reveals that the Centre is a hub of regular activity, with 1,018 weekly bookings, showing its frequent use for ongoing events and programs. There are also nine (9) fortnightly and 13 monthly bookings. 209 one-off bookings reflect the Centre’s popularity for special or occasional events. 63 bookings occur on a quarterly or annual basis, demonstrating the Centre’s ability to accommodate a variety of event frequencies, from regular meetings to annual gatherings.

Fortnightly	9
Monthly	13
One Off	209
Other	63
Weekly	1018
Grand Total	1312

Usage Times:

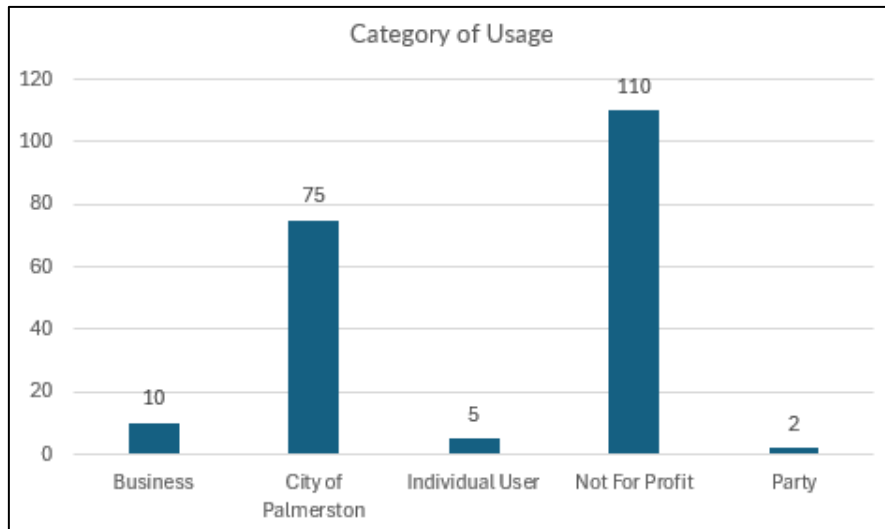
- 60% of bookings occurred on weekends, either Saturday or Sunday or after 5pm
- 40% of bookings occurred during business hours (8am to 5pm)



Library Community Room

Categories of use:

There was an increase in City of Palmerston usage this quarter with the introduction of Library Outreach programs such as resume writing, digital literacy and conversational English classes.



Booking Occurrences

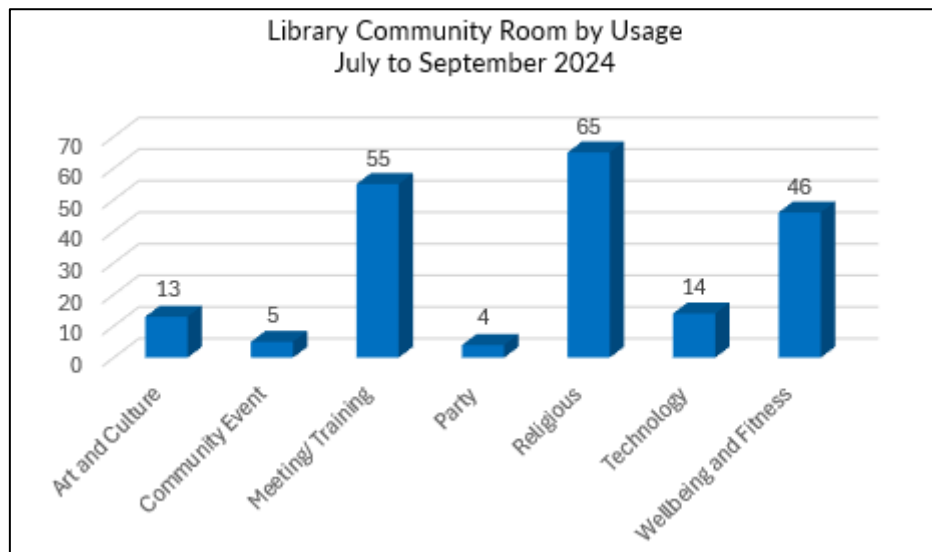
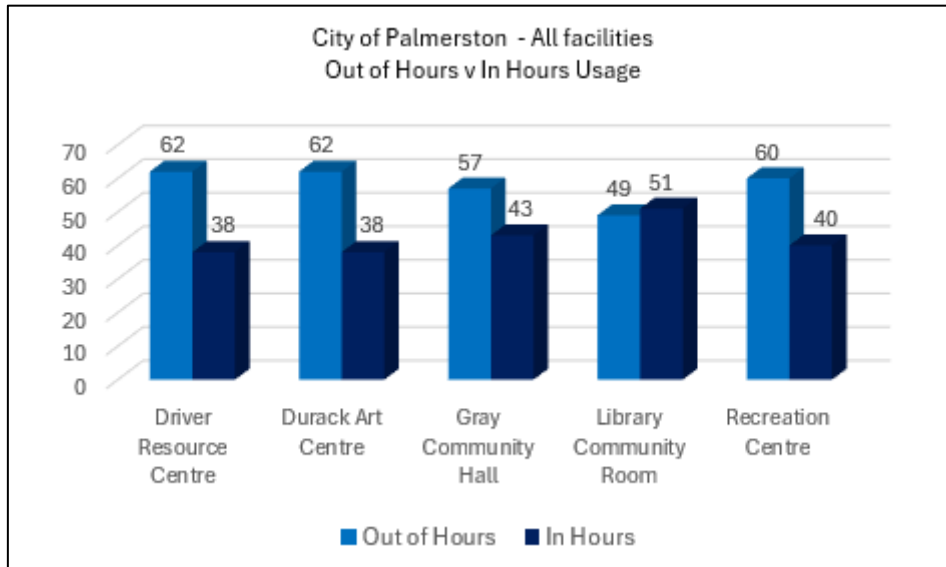
Monthly	12
One Off	61
Other	6
Quarterly	1
Weekly	122
Grand Total	202

Usage Times:

- 49 % of bookings occurred on weekends, either Saturday or Sunday or after 5pm
- 51 % of bookings occurred during business hours (8am to 5pm)

A Place for People

It is noteworthy that the Palmerston Library Community Room stands out as the only City of Palmerston venue with a higher percentage of in-hours usage compared to out-of-hours usage. In-hours usage is standardised across all venues as 8am-5pm and out of hours as weekends and 5pm to 11pm weekdays.



Regulatory Services - Animal Management

Animal Management By-Laws

The new *City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024* came into effect on 1 July 2024. The new By-Laws now includes legislative compliance of cats meaning that owners are now required to register and microchip a cat and contain the animal to the owner’s property. Council is providing ongoing education regarding the amended By-Laws and is also looking into procuring facilities in which cats that are seized can be temporarily impounded.

City of Palmerston promoted aspects of the new laws via social media, radio campaigns and engagement opportunities such as Brekkie in the Park, Seniors Day and Million Paws Walk. Consistent engagement will continue via these streams and other opportunities through the media.

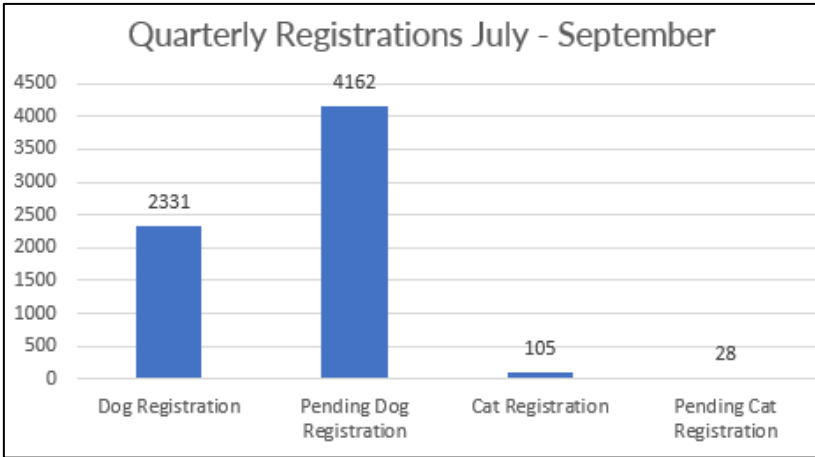
A Place for People

At the recent Brekkie in the Park, free microchipping of dogs and cats was offered if the animals were registered. This proved to be a success with members of the public taking up the offer. 10 registrations were completed, and 19 microchipping vouchers were given out.



Dog and Cat Registration:

As of 24 September 2024, there are 2436 animals currently registered within the municipality, with an additional 4,190 pending registrations. A breakdown of these figures regarding dog and cat registration is as follows:



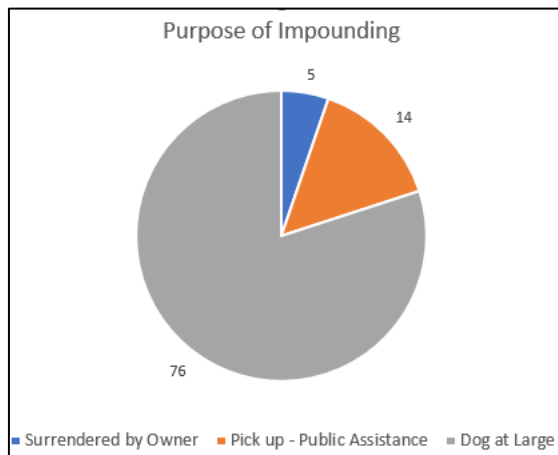
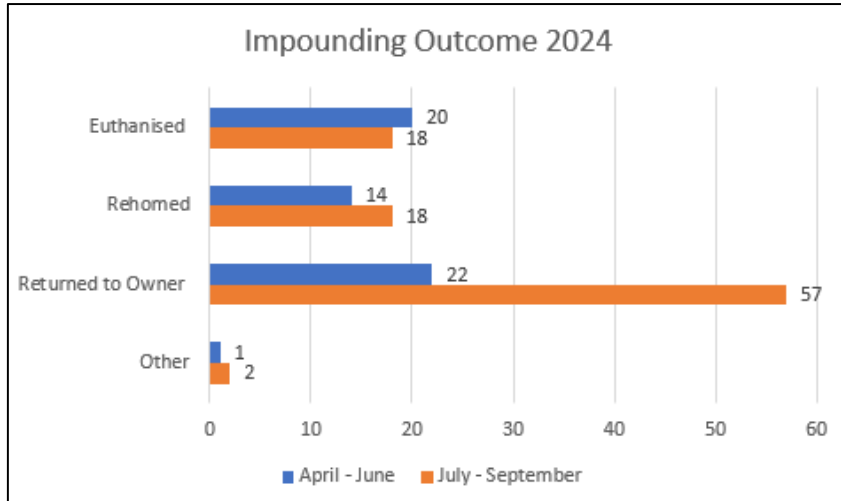
Please note that animal registrations are now due as of 30 September 2024, and the registration requirement has been extended to include cats. Cat registrations are low due to the newly introduced *City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024* which owners now have legal obligations to register cats.

It is acknowledged that there is still a high number of animals not registered within the municipality. Ongoing engagement with the community to register animals will continue. After 30 September 2024, council staff will conduct an audit. Owners of unregistered animals will be sent a reminder notice to register their animals immediately. Further breaches of the By-Laws may result in regulatory action being undertaken against owners until registration of animals is complied with.

A Place for People

Impounding & Pound Management:

Over the current quarter, council has impounded a total of 95 dogs, providing an increase in the total number of dogs impounded from the previous quarter. The tables below provide a visual representation of the reason for impoundment and outcome. It's important to communicate the outcome of dogs that are impounded therefore, the below graph provides a comparative review of the number of animals that were rehomed, returned to owner and euthanised throughout the current and previous quarter.



Vacant lot Overgrown Property Audit:

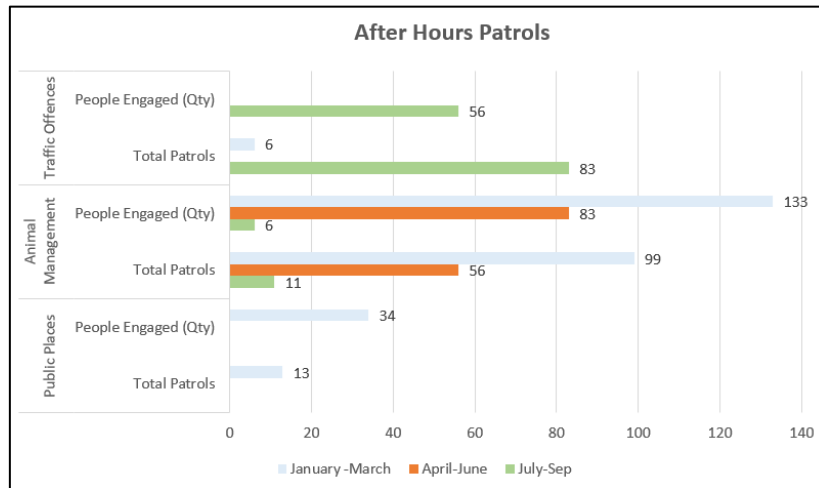
From the first week of June, City of Palmerston initiated a campaign to inform residents about their responsibility to maintain vacant lots. The compliance audit commenced by focusing on 845 vacant properties situated within the residential suburbs of Palmerston. In this quarter July to September, 50 properties have required property maintenance. Out of that number, 14 of the vacant lots the owners conducted their own works to be carried out and complied with the direction and notice. City of Palmerston oversaw works on 36 properties to ensure By-Law 11 was complied with.

Out of Hours Ranger Engagement and Patrols

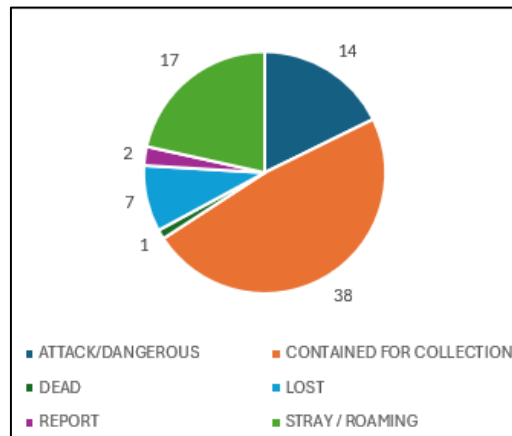
During the quarter, council staff conducted 58 after-hours patrols, focusing primarily on animal management. The graph below compares the patrols across Traffic Offences, Animal Management, and Public Places for the three (3) reporting periods. Animal management saw the highest engagement, with

A Place for People

83 people engaged from July to September. Public places and traffic offences recorded consistent patrols with varying engagement levels across the periods.

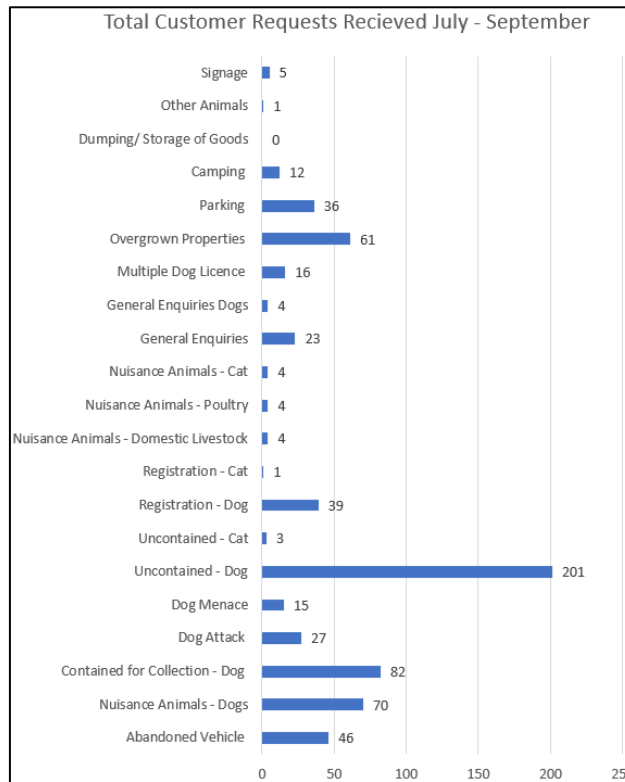


Council officers received 79 after-hours calls, down from 128 last quarter, likely due to changing weather conditions. Calls about contained and roaming animals were the most common. The table below illustrates the after-hours call distribution for council staff.



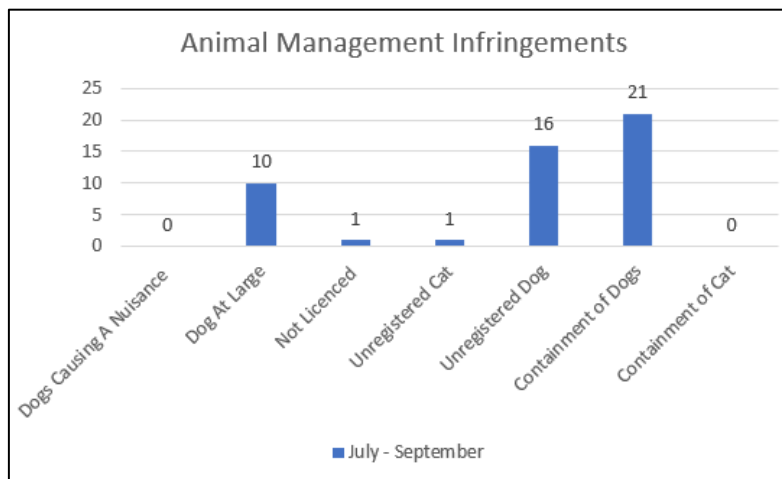
Regulatory Services Customer Action Requests

The below table provides a representation of the cumulative count of customer action requests that have been submitted to City of Palmerston over the course of July and September. Animal Management continues to lead in the customer reporting requests across all regulatory functions. Over the current quarter, staff have responded to 500 customer action requests.



Palmerston By-Law Offences and Infringements

A total of 68 infringements have been issued for animal related offences within the reporting quarter, the containment of dogs and unregistered dog making up the primary infringed offences. The below tables provide a visual comparison of the totals incurred of the current and previous quarter.



Free Parking

As part of Council’s decision to offer free parking in both time restricted and all-day parking areas across Palmerston, a parking ticket or app is no longer required. Parking ticket machines have been removed from all parking areas. However, time limits on parking remain and staff will continue patrol Palmerston to encourage fair and accessible parking.

Palmerston Library Access Statistics

	July	August	September	Total
Library Visits	18,341	13,549	6,932	38,822
Library Members	9,885	9,885	9,895	9,895
Library Items Borrowed	12,351	6,133	2,744	21,228
Hours on Public PCs	1,640	1,378	602	3,620
Library Programs	62	40	17	119
Library Programs Attending	1,366	923	516	2,805

Palmerston Library Program Statistics

Program	Sessions	Total Attendance
School Holidays	10	394
Storytime	18	697
Nursery Time	14	530
Incursions	5	238
Gadgets and Games	11	215
Get Tech Savvy	Ad hoc	27
Geek Squad	11	210
Code Club	9	153
Lego Club	9	112
Special Events	5	229
Totals	119	2,805

*Get Tech Savvy is one on one computer/device help

*Library statistics for July include the last two (2) weeks of June.

*Library statistics are correct as of 16/09/2024

Palmerston Kids Network (PKN)

Palmerston Kids Network held a meeting on 15 August 2024. City of Palmerston (CoP) provided a comprehensive update on the ongoing initiatives and future plans aimed at promoting environmental sustainability within the community. CoP is currently developing an education plan focused on waste management, recycling, and environmental conservation. In addition to attending city events with information stalls, CoP is actively seeking new opportunities to promote sustainability and is planning community tours to the Shoal Bay Education Centre. Council Officers sought input from PKN members on the best ways to engage with children and families.

During the session, collaborative opportunities were discussed in detail, with network members actively identifying areas where their organisations could work together to enhance the effectiveness of existing programs and develop new initiatives. These discussions highlighted the potential for joint efforts in resource sharing, coordinated events, and cross-promotion of services, ultimately aiming to create a more cohesive support system for the community. Members also explored possibilities for pooling expertise and funding to tackle broader challenges, such as sustainability, educational outreach, and community engagement.

Palmerston Seniors Network (PSN)

A Place for People

City of Palmerston provided an update on matters presented to Council recently including the endorsement of the Municipal Plan, and introduction of City of Palmerston's (Animal Management) By-Laws. Attendees at this meeting shared updates primarily relating to the variety of activities being delivered for Senior's month throughout August.

Moving forward in response to suggestions and requests from Seniors at the recent Palmerston Seniors Day, a workshop activity or presentation will occur immediately preceding the network meeting to help connect Palmerston Seniors to information and support. The first workshop will occur in October and will be a presentation from the NT Seniors Concession Scheme, who due to conflicting events were unable to join us for Seniors Day.

Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network (PARYS)

At the PARYS meeting on the 13 August, the Australian Human Rights Commission provided a presentation about Speaking from Experience, this program is designed to raise awareness and provide education on the issues of sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace. This initiative aims to empower individuals by sharing real-life experiences and offering practical strategies to create safer, more inclusive work environments. Through workshops, presentations, and discussions, the program addresses key challenges, promotes best practices, and encourages organisations to adopt proactive measures in support of workplace equality and respect.

The meeting included representatives from a diverse range of organisations working across various sectors in the community. Attendees included Mission Australia, Services Australia, the Department of Education's Student Engagement team, and CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation, Litchfield Council's Community Participation Officer, the NT Government's Redress Scheme, Catholic Care, YWNT, and Legal Aid NT and Ruby Gaea.

The Community Investment Committee (CIC)

City of Palmerston staff attended CIC in September lead by YouthWorx NT. The CIC works in partnership with the local community and aims to harness community investment and expertise, adding value and strengthening existing efforts through a more coordinated and intentional focus to youth employment across the NT. Staff were able to trial the Darwin Compass a new data base that allows users to access data on youth employment specifically tailored to the Darwin, rural and Palmerston regions.

CONSULTATION PROCESS AND MARKETING

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

- Community Services
- Library Services
- Regulatory Services

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:

1. Community Safety
Failure of Council to effectively plan and deliver its role in community safety.

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4. Inclusion, Diversity and Access
Failure to balance meeting needs of Palmerston's cultural mosaic

6. Governance
Failure to effectively govern.

STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS

This report relates to the following Strategies, Frameworks and Plans:

- [Companion Animal Management Plan](#)
- [Inclusive, Diverse & Accessible Policy Framework](#)
- [Disability Inclusion and Access Plan 2022-2025](#)

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

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14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Information

14.2 Correspondence

15 REPORT OF DELEGATES

16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

17 GENERAL BUSINESS

18 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 15 October 2024 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

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.

20 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON



MINUTES

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday 17 September 2024

The Ordinary Meeting of the City of Palmerston held in the Durack Community Arts Centre, 33 Packard Avenue, Durack, NT 0830

Council business papers can be viewed on the City of Palmerston website www.palmerston.nt.gov.au

'A Place for People'



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COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of Council Meeting
held in Durack Community Arts Centre,
33 Packard Avenue, Durack on Tuesday 17 September 2024
at 5:30pm.

PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell (Chair)
Deputy Mayor Mark Fraser
Councillor Amber Garden
Councillor Damian Hale
Councillor Danielle Eveleigh
Councillor Lucy Morrison
Councillor Sarah Henderson

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Amelia Vellar
General Manager Infrastructure, Nadine Nilon
General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta
General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl
Minute Secretary, Kate Roberts

GALLERY

One member of the public
Five members of staff

Initials:

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 17 SEPTEMBER 2024

11447



A Place for People

COUNCIL 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 5.35pm.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

Nil

3.2 Leave of Absence Previously Granted

THAT it be noted the following Elected Members have an approved Leave of Absence previously granted for this meeting:

Councillor Giesecke

4 AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING GRANTED

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Elected Members

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT the Declaration of Interest received from Councillor Eveleigh for Item 13.2.2 be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1514 - 17/09/2024

5.2 Staff

Moved: Councillor Garden
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Fraser

THAT the Declaration of Interest received from the Chief Executive Officer for Item 27.1.2 - Confidential Restricted (Circulated Under Separate Cover) be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1515 - 17/09/2024

Initials: _____

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 17 SEPTEMBER 2024

11448



A Place for People

COUNCIL MINUTES

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Councillor Hale

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 September 2024 pages 11434 to 11441 be confirmed.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1516 - 17/09/2024

6.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Nil

7 MAYORAL REPORT

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Fraser

THAT Report entitled Mayoral Update Report - August 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1517 - 17/09/2024

8 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)

Nil

10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

10.1 Moving Confidential Items into Open

10.1.1 CEO Resignation

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Fraser

1. THAT Report entitled CEO Resignation be received and noted.
2. THAT Council notes the resignation of the Chief Executive Officer Luccio Cercarelli effective 4pm Friday 27 September 2024, being **Attachment 27.1.3.1** to Report entitled CEO Resignation.
3. THAT Council appoint Amelia Vellar as the City of Palmerston interim Chief Executive Officer effective 4pm Friday the 27 September 2024 until the commence of the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer.

Initials: _____

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 17 SEPTEMBER 2024

11449



A Place for People

COUNCIL MINUTES

4. THAT there be no appointment to the position of Deputy Chief Executive Officer, however an appointment can be made to the position of Acting General Manager People and Place.
5. *This decision remains confidential subject to Section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act and section 51(1)(a) and 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021.*
6. THAT Council endorses that the Chief Executive Officer Delegations apply to the interim Chief Executive Officer, being **Attachment 27.1.3.3** to report entitled CEO Resignation.
7. THAT Council commences the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive Officer noting the requirements under legislation and Ministerial Guidelines including that Council must advertise the vacancy within six (6) weeks of the 27 September 2024.
8. THAT a further report regarding the CEO Recruitment process and any required decisions be presented to the First Ordinary Meeting of Council in October 2024 being the 1st October 2024.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1540 - 17/09/2024

10.2 Moving Open Items into Confidential

Nil

10.3 Confidential Items

Moved: Councillor Garden
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT pursuant to Section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and section 51(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following confidential items:

Item	Confidential Category	Confidential Clause
27.1.1	External Stakeholder Relationships	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>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.
27.1.2	Confidential Restricted	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>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

Initials: _____

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 17 SEPTEMBER 2024

11450



A Place for People

COUNCIL MINUTES

		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.
27.1.3	Confidential Restricted	<p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>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.</p> <p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>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.</p>
27.1.4	Confidential Restricted	<p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>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.</p>
27.2.1	Legal Advice	<p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>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.</p> <p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>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.</p> <p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(d) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i>, which states a council may</p>

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		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 subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.
27.2.2	Election Preparation	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>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.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1518 - 17/09/2024

11 PETITIONS

Nil

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

13 OFFICER REPORTS

13.1 Action Reports

13.1.1 Council Policy Review - Caretaker

Moved: Councillor Hale
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT Report entitled Council Policy Review - Caretaker be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses Council Policy Caretaker being **Attachment 13.1.1.3** to Report entitled Council Policy Review - Caretaker.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1519 - 17/09/2024

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13.1.2 Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference

Moved: Councillor Hale
Seconded: Councillor Eveleigh

1. THAT Report entitled Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the adoption of the Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference as **Attachment 13.1.2.1** to Report entitled Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1520 - 17/09/2024

13.1.3 Council Policy Review - Asset Management

Moved: Deputy Mayor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT Report entitled Council Policy Review - Asset Management be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses the revised Asset Management Policy as per **Attachment 13.1.3.3**.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1521 - 17/09/2024

13.1.4 Community Benefit Scheme - Arafura Music Collective

Moved: Councillor Garden
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT Report entitled Community Benefit Scheme - Arafura Music Collective be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the grant application of the Arafura Music Collective for \$6,900, being **Attachment 13.1.4.1** in report entitled Community Benefit Scheme - Arafura Music Collective to deliver The Enrich and Connect Communities through Music at Gray Community Hall.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1522 - 17/09/2024

13.2 Receive and Note Reports

13.2.1 Major Capital Projects Update - September 2024

Moved: Councillor Hale
Seconded: Councillor Eveleigh

THAT Report entitled Major Capital Projects Update - September 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1523 - 17/09/2024

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Councillor Eveleigh declared a Conflict of Interest and left the meeting at 5.48pm.

13.2.2 Community Benefit Scheme - August Update

Moved: Deputy Mayor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

THAT Report entitled Community Benefit Scheme - August Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - 10/1524 - 17/09/2024

Councillor Eveleigh returned to the meeting at 5.51pm.

13.2.3 Financial Report - August 2024

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT Report entitled Financial Report - August 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1525 - 17/09/2024

13.2.4 Darwin Festival

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh
Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT Report entitled Darwin Festival be received and noted.

Mayor Pascoe-Bell left the meeting at 5:56 pm.

Mayor Pascoe-Bell returned to the meeting at 5:57 pm.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1526 - 17/09/2024

13.2.5 Community Satisfaction Survey 2024

Moved: Deputy Mayor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Garden

1. THAT Report entitled Community Satisfaction Survey 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council thank City of Palmerston staff for their commitment and ongoing efforts in delivering services and programs to the community to a high standard as reflected in the Community Survey 2024.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1527 - 17/09/2024

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14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Information

Nil

14.2 Correspondence

14.2.1 Inquiry into Local Government Councils Entitlements 2024

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Councillor Garden

1. THAT correspondence dated 6 September 2024 received from Michael Martin OAM, Chair, Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal entitled Inquiry into Local Government Councils Entitlements 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council makes a submission regarding the Remuneration Tribunal and it invites the tribunal to attend a Council meeting to discuss Elected Members Remuneration.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1528 - 17/09/2024

15 REPORT OF DELEGATES

Nil

16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Nil

17 GENERAL BUSINESS

17.1 Town Clock

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Fraser

THAT a report be prepared for Council regarding the provision of a Town Clock as a landmark within the City of Palmerston at the consideration of costs and benefits and risks by the Ordinary meeting in December.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1529 - 17/09/2024

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17.2 Thank You - CEO, Luccio Cercarelli

Moved: Councillor Garden
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Fraser

THAT on behalf of the Elected Members and Staff at the City of Palmerston, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to CEO, Luccio Cercarelli, for your exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment over the past six and a half years. Your visionary guidance has profoundly shaped our community and set a high standard for future leaders.

Your dedication to improving Palmerston to be a 'place for people', fostering collaboration with local businesses and all levels of government, and navigating complex challenges has not gone unnoticed. The positive impact of your work will be felt for years to come.

As you embark on the next chapter of your journey, please know that your contributions have left an indelible mark on the Council and the community we serve. We wish you continued success and fulfillment in all your future endeavours.

Thank you once again for your outstanding service and leadership.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1530 - 17/09/2024

18 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Moved: Deputy Mayor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 1 October 2024 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1531 - 17/09/2024

19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Councillor Eveleigh

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.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1532 - 17/09/2024

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20 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

Moved: Councillor Garden
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT the meeting be adjourned for ten minutes.

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1533 - 17/09/2024

The meeting adjourned at 6.17pm.

The open section of the meeting closed at 6.17pm for the discussion of confidential matters.

The closed section of the meeting reopened at 6.25pm.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.01pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

Initials: