

AGENDA

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 5 November 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.



AMELIA VELLAR
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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- 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
- 2 OPENING OF MEETING
- 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
 - 3.1 Apologies
 - 3.2 Leave of Absence Previously Granted
- 4 AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING PREVIOUSLY GRANTED
- 5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
 - 5.1 Elected Members
 - 5.2 Staff
- 6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 October 2024 pages 11479 to 11486 be confirmed.

6.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

- 7 MAYORAL REPORT
- 8 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
- 9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)
- 10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

10.1 Moving Confidential Items into Open

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 Property and Agreements and Contracts	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)(e) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the

		public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.
27.1.2	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)(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)(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 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>
27.1.3	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)(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.
27.1.4	Council Project Initiative	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.
27.2.1	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)(f) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the



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		public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to information in relation to a complaint of a contravention of the code of conduct.
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- 11 PETITIONS
- 12 NOTICES OF MOTION
- 13 OFFICER REPORTS

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.1.1
REPORT TITLE:	Review of Council Committee Remuneration
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 5 November 2024
AUTHOR:	Executive Assistant to CEO, Kate Roberts
APPROVER:	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 Council consideration of remuneration to committee members of Council Advisory Committees.

KEY MESSAGES

- In September 2022, Council established the following Advisory Committees, Terms of Reference (TOR) and membership:
 - Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee
 - Community Safety Advisory Committee
 - Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee
- As the committees are advisory committees, they have no delegated authority and are intended to inform Council on issues related to the committees in accordance with the Terms of Reference.
- At its 2nd Ordinary Meeting on 17 October 2024, Council resolved for a further report to be presented to the next ordinary council meeting presenting options for remuneration of committee members.
- Officers have contacted other Councils to determine a benchmark for how they remunerate members of their advisory committees.
- Based on research undertaken, 5 options of remuneration have been identified to be presented to Council.
- Consideration should be made to the types of members currently on each committee and the implication remuneration may have to positions based on paid employment.
- This report provides to Council options for consideration for remuneration of committee members.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Review of Council Committee Remuneration be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses Option_____ from report entitled Review of Council Committee Remuneration as the applicable remuneration for Council Advisory Committee members and that this remuneration commence from the next applicable committee meeting with the Terms of Reference amended accordingly.

-OR-

2. THAT Council does not endorse remuneration of Council Advisory Committee members at this time and that this be reviewed with the review of Council Advisory Committee and Networks after the declaration of the poll following the Local Government Election 2025.

BACKGROUND

Section 82 of the [Local Government Act 2019](#) (Act) provides for councils to establish committees. A Council Committee consists of the persons appointed by Council resolution to be members of the Committee.

Council currently has seven (7) committees as listed below:

- Administrative Review Committee (ARC)
- Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee (CEOPAC)
- Risk Management and Audit Committee (RMAC)
- Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee (VEAC)
- Community Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC)
- Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee (CWAC)

The ARC, CEOPAC and RMAC Committees are a requirement by legislation. All other Committees have been formed by decision of Council. Committee Membership is reviewed annually, and Council last appointed Members to Committees at the Council meeting held on 4 June 2024.

Historically, membership to Council Committees has been unpaid for members that are not Elected Members, with the exception of the Independent Members on the RMAC.

Independent members of the Risk Management and Audit Committee are remunerated in accordance with Class C1 NTG Statutory bodies classified for remuneration purposes (**Attachment 13.1.1.1**).

Council has recently formed a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group. Whilst this is a working group and not a committee of Council, the Terms of Reference state:

To ensure participation and recognition of contribution, the community members on the RWG will be compensated for their attendance at meetings at the rates identified in the 'Extra Meeting/Activity Allowance' for Elected Members per Determination No. 1 of 2023

The introduction of payments for the RAP Working Group initiated discussion related to other Council Advisory Committees, at the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 October 2024, Council made the following decision:

13.1.2 Review of Council Advisory Committees - October 2024

Moved: Councillor Henderson

Seconded: Councillor Giesecke

7. THAT a further report be presented to the next ordinary council meeting presenting options for remuneration of committee members.

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1571 - 15/10/2024

Council is seeking options for remuneration of committee members.

DISCUSSION

Current Remuneration Structure

At present, members of the following council advisory committees do not receive financial compensation for their participation in council committee meetings or activities:

- CSAC
- CWAC
- VEAC

Committee members contribute their time and expertise voluntarily, with no provision for allowances, stipends, or reimbursements (e.g., travel, communications).

Review and benchmarking Process

To gain insight into whether other local governments compensate their advisory committees, the following councils were contacted for information:

- City of Perth
- City of Canning
- City of Fremantle
- City of Vincent
- Banyule City Council
- City of Adelaide
- Brisbane City Council
- City of Alexandria
- Tweed Shire Council
- City of Darwin

Of these ten local governments, City of Perth, City of Fremantle, and City of Vincent provide financial compensation to certain advisory committee members. Compensation generally ranges from \$250 to \$300 per meeting attended, with taxi fares also covered for eligible members. However, this compensation is specifically limited to individuals who provide First Nations Indigenous Culture and Intellectual Property (ICIP) knowledge or are an Only Elders Advisory Group, recognising the unique and valuable contributions they bring to the committees. City of Canning's Reconciliation Action Group is just being formed; however, advice has been received that the intent is to pay the Members.

In addition, for City of Perth, while advisory group members are classified as volunteers, City of Perth offers free parking at City of Perth Council House Parking facility for all members when attending advisory group meetings.

Other councils, such as Banyule City Council and City of Alexandria, do not provide financial compensation to their advisory committee members, which is consistent with the current practice in the City of Palmerston.

Brisbane City Council, City of Adelaide, City of Darwin, and Tweed Shire Council have been contacted but have not yet provided a response.

Findings

The review shows that while a small number of councils in Australia offer compensation, it is limited and specific to contributions related to First Nations Indigenous knowledge. For the majority of councils consulted, advisory committees operate on a voluntary basis without financial remuneration, similar to the current practice at City of Palmerston.

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Financial implications

There are fivethree (53) options available to Council if they elect to remunerate Committee Members. These options include:

Option one – Remuneration via Class C1 NTG Statutory Bodies

The current Class C1 NTG Statutory Bodies indicates payment of Committee Members is listed as:

Statutory Body	Daily Rate of Remuneration
Planning Commission	Chairperson: \$959 Other Member: \$719

As the Chair of each committee is an Elected Member, the other member rate of \$719 per member would be applicable.

Should Council elect to remunerate committee members based on this payment structure, the costs are outlined below:

- CSAC:
 - Maximum members: 8
 - Estimated annual cost: \$23,008
 - This equates to \$2,876 per member, assuming four (4) meetings per year.
- CWAC:
 - Maximum members: 6
 - Estimated annual cost: \$17,256
 - This equates to \$2,876 per member, assuming four (4) meetings per year.
- VEAC:
 - Maximum members: 8
 - Estimated annual cost: \$23,008
 - This equates to \$2,876 per member, assuming four (4) meetings per year.

The total cost of implementing a \$719 per meeting remuneration across the three (3) committees is projected to be \$63,272 per annum.

Option two – Remuneration in line with the Extra Meeting Allowance currently applicable to Elected Members

Council Elected Members are paid in accordance with Northern Territory of Australia Remuneration Tribunal Determination of Allowances for Members of Local Councils (**Attachment 13.1.1.2**). The rate for Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance is currently set out as follows:

- Up to 2 hours - \$200
- Between 2 and 4 hours - \$300
- More than 4 hours - \$500 (maximum payable for any one day)

Should Council elect to remunerate committee members based on this payment structure, with consideration to the current average timeframe of these committee meetings being under two (2) hours the applicable rate would be \$200, and the estimated costs are outlined below:

- CSAC:
 - Maximum members: 8
 - Estimated annual cost: \$6,400
 - This equates to \$800 per member, assuming four (4) meetings per year.

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- CWAC:
 - Maximum members: 6
 - Estimated annual cost: \$4,800
 - This equates to \$800 per member, assuming four (4) meetings per year.
- VEAC:
 - Maximum members: 8
 - Estimated annual cost: \$6,400
 - This equates to \$800 per member, assuming four (4) meetings per year.

The total cost of implementing a \$200 per meeting remuneration across the three (3) committees is projected to be \$17,600 per annum.

Option three – Remuneration in line with benchmarking as gathered from interstate councils.

Should the council choose to implement financial compensation for advisory committee members in line with benchmarking of interstate councils, the below shows the estimated costs calculated based on a remuneration of \$300 per meeting for each member.

The costs are outlined below for the three (3) advisory committees on \$300:

- CSAC:
 - Maximum members: 8
 - Estimated annual cost: \$9,600
 - This equates to \$2,400 per member, assuming four (4) meetings per year.
- CWAC:
 - Maximum members: 6
 - Estimated annual cost: \$7,200
 - This equates to \$1,800 per member, assuming four (4) meetings per year.
- VEAC:
 - Maximum members: 8
 - Estimated annual cost: \$9,600
 - This equates to \$2,400 per member, assuming four (4) meetings per year.

The total cost of implementing a \$300 per meeting remuneration across the three (3) committees is projected to be \$26,400 per annum.

These costs assume there would be 100% attendance by all committee members at all scheduled meetings. If fewer meetings or members were involved, the actual expenditure would be proportionally lower.

Option four (4) - Committee Member Implications to Remuneration in line with RAP Working Group

It is important to note that six (6) committee positions across these committees are held by representatives from Northern Territory Government Departments, three (3) members being local business owners and two (2) members of relevant business or property association from VEAC.

As some of these committee members attend in an official capacity as part of their paid employment, it may not be appropriate for their position to be remunerated. This may result in the committee member needing to declare the remuneration as part of a Gifts and Benefits policy, be unable to participate and withdraw from the position due to departmental policy or may cause another unintended consequence.

Council could elect to only remunerate positions on each committee which are held by community members. This would change the financial implications of remuneration as it would be at a smaller cost.

Should Council agree, it could be proposed that Option four (4) would be to remunerate only the Community Member positions of each committee using the benchmark set by the RWG. Based on the current average timeframe of these committee meetings being under two (2) hours, remuneration would be set at \$200, ensuring consistency across working groups and committees.

The costs are estimated as follows:

- CSAC:
 - Maximum community members: 3
 - Estimated annual cost: \$2,400
 - This equates to \$600 per member, assuming four (4) meetings per year.
- CWAC:
 - Maximum community members: 2
 - Estimated annual cost: \$1,600
 - This equates to \$800 per member, assuming four (4) meetings per year.
- VEAC:
 - Maximum community members: 2
 - Estimated annual cost: \$1,600
 - This equates to \$800 per member, assuming four (4) meetings per year.

The total cost of implementing a \$200 per meeting remuneration to only the Community Members across the three (3) committees is projected to be \$5,600 per annum.

Option Five – No Financial Compensation

Maintain the current practice of not providing financial compensation to advisory committee members.

Recommendations

Option one – Remuneration via Class C1 NTG Statutory Bodies

The total cost of implementing a \$719 per meeting remuneration across the three (3) committees is projected to be \$63,272 per annum.

Option two – Remuneration in line with the Extra Meeting Allowance currently applicable to Elected Members

The total cost of implementing a \$200 per meeting remuneration across the three (3) committees is projected to be \$17,600 per annum.

Option three – Remuneration in line with benchmarking as gathered from interstate councils.

The total cost of implementing a \$300 per meeting remuneration across the three (3) committees is projected to be \$26,400 per annum.

Option four - Committee Member Implications to Remuneration in line with the RAP Working Group

The total cost of implementing a \$200 per meeting remuneration to only the Community Members across the three (3) committees in line with the RWG is projected to be \$5,600 per annum.

Option Five – No Financial Compensation

Maintain the current practice of not providing financial compensation to advisory committee members.

CONSULTATION AND MARKETING

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

- Executive Leadership Team

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

- City of Perth
- City of Canning
- City of Fremantle
- City of Vincent
- Banyule City Council
- City of Adelaide
- Brisbane City Council
- City of Alexandria
- Tweed Shire Council
- City of Darwin

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Policies:

- Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
- Community Safety Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
- Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
- Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference

Should Council elect to commence remuneration of committee members it will be necessary to update these terms of reference.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Should Council elect to remunerate committee members, costs associated with this are estimated at a maximum value of an additional \$63,272 per year.

These funds would be covered by the current operational budget, however this would need to be built into future budgets.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

It is important to note that once committee members are remunerated for their participation in Council Advisory Committee meetings, they become subject to the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2017* (ICAC Act).

It is also important to highlight that if remuneration of committee members is implemented, as funds would be drawn from public money this may draw greater scrutiny around the productivity and impact of each committee.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

6. **Governance**
Failure to effectively govern.

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STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS

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

- Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework

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. [Northern Territory Government Statutory Bodies Classified for Remuneration Purposes](#) [13.1.1.1 - N/A]
2. [Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal Determination of Allowances for Members of Local Councils](#) [13.1.1.2 - N/A]

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.1.2
REPORT TITLE:	Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Minutes - 21 October 2024
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 5 November 2024
AUTHOR:	Executive Assistant to General Manager People & Place, Emily Dehne
APPROVER:	Acting General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council approval of the recommendations from the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday, 21 October 2024.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee met on Monday, 21 October 2024.
- The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee agenda and unconfirmed minutes from this meeting are available for viewing on Council's website.
- The committee reviewed two (2) Action Reports and two (2) Receive and Note Reports.
- Council approval is sought to endorse the recommendations from the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting held on 21 October 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Minutes - 21 October 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT the unconfirmed Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Minutes provided as **Attachment 13.1.2.1** to report entitled Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Minutes - 21 October 2024 be received and noted.
3. THAT Council endorse the proposed recommendations from the Palmerston Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting held on 21 October 2024, being:
 - a. THAT the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meetings for 2025 be scheduled as follows:
 - i. 5:30pm Tuesday 28 January 2024 In Council Chambers
 - ii. 5:30pm Tuesday 29 April 2024 In Council Chambers
 - b. THAT a review of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting schedule take place after the declaration of the poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
 - c. THAT the theme of the inaugural business workshop is;
 - i. 'What can City of Palmerston do to assist business and economic growth'.

BACKGROUND

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

The purpose of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee is to provide advice to Council relating to actions and priorities relating to the Palmerston Local Economic Plan and its Action Plan.

DISCUSSION

The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting was held on Monday, 21 October 2024 with the unconfirmed minutes provided as **Attachment 13.1.2.1**.

The Advisory Committee reviewed the Action Reports: Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule 2025 and the Supporting Employment and Skill Development; and the Receive and Note Reports: CommBank iQ Spend Data and Invest Palmerston Update.

A Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule 2025 was presented at the 21 October 2024 committee meeting seeking endorsement for the recommendations to Council for the proposed dates as follows:

- 5:30pm Tuesday 28 January 2025 In Council Chambers
- 5:30pm Tuesday 29 April 2025 In Council Chambers

The committee also seeks a review of this schedule after the declaration of the poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.

Supporting Employment and Skill Development program was also presented to assist businesses in skill development and business operations. Individual workshops have been planned utilising trained facilitators and using expertise from across Northern Territory Government departments in skills development and funding programs. The theme of the inaugural business workshop is recommended to Council as 'What can City of Palmerston do to assist business and economic growth'.

CommBank iQ Spend Data provides the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee with spend data within City of Palmerston, giving the committee a comparative analysis of spending trends in Palmerston over a five (5) year period from June 2019 to June 2024.

An update on the progress of the Invest Palmerston website and future planned actions was also provided to the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee.

The agenda from this meeting is available for 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:

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

STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS

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

- [Palmerston Local Economic Plan](#)

The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee was established to provide advice on actions and priorities relating to the Palmerston Local Economic Plan and its Action Plan.

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. 20241021 UNCONFIRMED Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 21 (2)
[13.1.2.1 - 6 pages]



MINUTES

Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting Monday 21 October 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

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COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting
held in Council Chambers
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
on 21 October 2024 at 5:30pm.

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Deputy Mayor Mark Fraser (Chair) Councillor Lucy Morrison Mohan Kandasamy, Local Business Owner Representative Carmine Rauseo, Local Business Owner Representative
STAFF	Acting General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl City Activation Manager, Matthew McNamara Economic Development Lead, Matthew Gould Minute Secretary, Emily Dehne
GALLERY	Nil

Initials: _____

MINUTES VIBRANT ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 21 OCTOBER 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 5:37pm.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

Moved: Mohan Kandasamy
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

1. THAT the apology received from Ruth Palmer for 21 October 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT the apology received from Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell for 21 October 2024 be received and noted.
3. THAT the apology received from Brandon Evans for 21 October 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED (4/0) - VEAC10/60 - 21/10/2024

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 VIBRANT ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 21 OCTOBER 2024

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COMMITTEE MINUTES

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Carmine Rauseo

THAT the Minutes of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting held on 22 July 2024 pages 32 to 36 be confirmed.

CARRIED (4/0) - VEAC10/61 - 21/10/2024

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

8.1.1 Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule 2025

Moved: Mohan Kandasamy
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

1. THAT Report entitled Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule 2025 be received and noted.

2. THAT the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee recommend to the Council:

Initials: _____

MINUTES VIBRANT ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 21 OCTOBER 2024

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COMMITTEE MINUTES

- a. THAT the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meetings for 2025 be scheduled as follows:
 - i. 5:30pm Tuesday 28 January 2025 In Council Chambers
 - ii. 5:30pm Tuesday 29 April 2025 In Council Chambers
- b. THAT a review of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting schedule take place after the declaration of the poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.

CARRIED (4/0) - VEAC10/62 - 21/10/2024

8.1.2 Supporting Employment and Skill Development

Moved: Mohan Kandasamy
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

1. THAT Report entitled Supporting Employment and Skill Development be received and noted.
2. THAT the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee recommend to the Council:
 - a. THAT the theme of the inaugural business workshop is;
 - i. 'What can City of Palmerston do to assist business and economic growth'.

CARRIED (4/0) - VEAC10/63 - 21/10/2024

8.2 Receive and Note Reports

8.2.1 CommBank iQ Spend Data

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Fraser

THAT Report entitled CommBank iQ Spend Data be received and noted.

CARRIED (4/0) - VEAC10/64 - 21/10/2024

8.2.2 Invest Palmerston Update

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Mohan Kandasamy

THAT Report entitled Invest Palmerston Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (4/0) - VEAC10/65 - 21/10/2024

9 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Information

Nil

Initials: _____

MINUTES VIBRANT ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 21 OCTOBER 2024

39



A Place for People

COMMITTEE MINUTES

9.2 Correspondence

Nil

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

11 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Carmine Rauseo

THAT the next Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 28 January 2025 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED (4/0) - VEAC10/67 - 21/10/2024

12 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Moved: Carmine Rauseo
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

THAT the meeting of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee held in Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, Palmerston on 21 October 2024 closed at 6:20pm.

CARRIED (4/0) - VEAC10/68 - 21/10/2024

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:20pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

Initials: _____

MINUTES VIBRANT ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 21 OCTOBER 2024

40

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.1.3
REPORT TITLE:	Annual Report and Financial Statements
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 5 November 2024
AUTHOR:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta
APPROVER:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report presents the City of Palmerston 2023/24 Annual Report and Financial Statements to Council for adoption.

KEY MESSAGES

- Council's Annual Report 2023/24 reports on Council's activities for the year, including the audited financial statements.
- The Annual Report 2023/24 is prepared in line with City of Palmerston's Community Plan.
- The Annual Report 2023/24 contains information required by the Local Government Act 2019 and other relevant legislation.
- Council conducts the Community Satisfaction Survey each year to gain an understanding of the community's attitudes, perceptions and satisfaction of various facilities, events and services Council provides and how Council measures against the City of Palmerston's Community Plan.
- Overall, results for the 2024 Survey have recorded an increase in scores across all areas. Council's overall performance rating score was 6.98/10 compared to 6.89/10 in 2023. The rating of 6.98 is the second highest rating in the past twelve years, behind 2021.
- The *Local Government Act 2019* requires the Annual Report to include a copy of the Council's audited financial statement for the relevant financial year.
- The audited financial statements are presented in this report and is subject to the final audit review by the External Auditors, KPMG.
- Council is required to provide a copy of the Annual Report 2023/24 to the Minister for Local Government by 15 November 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Annual Report and Financial Statements be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the following documents as tabled at the Tuesday 5 November 2025 Council meeting, following the provision of the unmodified Auditor Opinion:
 - a. the 2023/24 Annual Report and
 - b. the Financial Performance Overview and
 - c. the 2023/24 Audited Financial Statements

BACKGROUND

Part 14.1 of the *Local Government Act 2019* requires Council to comply with the following:

- A Council must, on or before 15 November in each year, report to the Minister on its work during the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June.
- The Annual Report must include a copy of the Council's audited financial statement for the relevant financial year.
- The Annual Report must also contain an assessment of the council's performance against the objectives stated in the relevant municipal, regional or shire plan adopted for the relevant financial year (applying indicators of performance set in the plan).

The *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act) requires Council to prepare a financial statement for each financial year and it must conform with the Australian Accounting Standards, any requirements by prescribed regulation and guidelines made by the Minister.

Regulation 12 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations* require the annual report to include a comparison of the Council's most recently adopted budget and actual results, with a report on the reasons for the material variations between the most recently adopted budget and the actual results.

DISCUSSION

City of Palmerston's final draft Annual Report 2023/24 at **Attachment 13.1.3.1** contains a report on Council's activities throughout the year and will include the audited financial statements. It provides an opportunity to inform the community of Council's achievements and financial position at the end of the financial year.

The Annual Report 2023/24 aligns with the City of Palmerston's Community Plan outcomes, which recognises the importance of valuing and investing to transform our city, as decided by the people of Palmerston.

The six core outcomes of the Community Plan include:

- Family and Community
- Vibrant Economy
- Cultural Diversity
- A Future Focus
- Environmental Sustainability
- Governance.

Each outcome section provides the details of Council's achievements and how we are measuring success in implementing the Community Plan for our community.

Some of our key highlights for the year 2023/24 are:

- Sourced \$10 million external grant funding
- Deliver free library programs with 137,000 people visiting the library and 73,000 physical loans
- Over 78,000 people visited SWELL since re-opening
- Our Community Benefit Scheme, supported 19 community groups, 10 schools and 144 individuals
- 18,502 followers on Facebook
- 14,809 interactions with residents through Customer Experience
- 9,029 bookings in Council venues
- Welcomed 222 new Australian Citizens in Palmerston
- Archer Waste Management collected over 3,000 tons of general waste.

A Place for People

The Annual Report identifies each measure of success listed in the Community Plan and identifies our achievements in the Annual Report. One method Council measures its success is through conducting the Community Satisfaction Survey each year to gain an understanding of the community’s attitudes, perceptions and satisfaction of various facilities, events and services Council provides.

There have been six (6) Community Plan Key Outcome Areas, which are: Family and Community, Vibrant Economy, Cultural Diversity, A Future Focus, Environmental Sustainability and Governance.

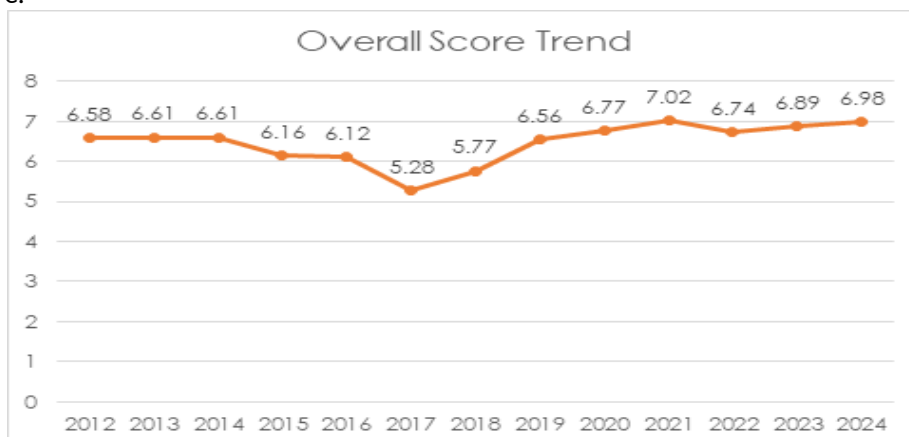
The area that scored the highest was Cultural Diversity (7.53) and the area that scored the lowest was Vibrant Economy (6.44). Compared to last year the largest increase was seen in Family and Community (+0.31) with decrease only seen in Future Focus (-0.02) and Vibrant Economy not seeing any change.

A summary of the Community Survey result is as below:

Key Area	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	23-24 Change
Family and community	6.68	6.80	7.16	6.89	6.96	7.27	+0.31
Vibrant Economy	6.01	6.28	6.55	6.24	6.44	6.44	-
Cultural Diversity	7.04	7.21	7.50	7.31	7.39	7.53	+0.14
A Future Focus	6.70	6.84	7.02	6.70	6.84	6.82	-0.02
Environmental Sustainability	7.16	7.33	7.36	7.08	7.29	7.30	+0.01
Governance	6.01	6.17	6.52	6.19	6.43	6.50	+0.07
Net Promoter Score	-9	-4	-6	-13	-18	-8	+10
Average Performance	6.56/10	6.77/10	7.02/10	6.74/10	6.89/10	6.98/10	+0.09

Overall, results for the 2024 Survey have recorded an increase in scores across all areas. Council’s overall performance rating score was 6.98/10 compared to 6.89/10 in 2023. The rating of 6.98 is the second highest rating in the past twelve years, behind 2021.

The community satisfaction survey results have had a generally upward trend projection since 2017, as depicted in the graph below. In 2021 the highest scores were recorded, with 2024 recording the second highest score.



Rating Scale for the Survey:

Very Good 10-9

Good 8-7

Neither 6-4

Poor 3-2 Very Poor 1-0

Financial Statements and Overview

Council's 2023/24 Financial Statements is presented at **Attachment 13.1.3.3**. The accompanying financial overview is presented at **Attachment 13.1.3.2** and provides a detailed analysis of Council's performance for 2023/24. The overview is designed to provide a summary on the financial outcomes of the financial year in comparison to the final budget for 2023/24 financial year and provides an explanation for the material variations.

The overview must be compliant with Regulation 12 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations*, however the financial overview is not required to be independently audited. This will be incorporated into the Annual Report, as a prelude to the 2023/24 Financial Statements.

The financial overview provides an analysis of the financial surplus for the year. The allocation of the surplus is subject to Council direction and a report will be presented at the next Council meeting.

External Audit

The external auditors have completed their end of year audit on Council's 2023/24 financial statements and have been provided to Council with a Final Audit Report, with land valuations being the last matter to review.

The audit report was presented to the Risk Management Audit Committee (RMAC) at the 29 October Meeting. The external auditor was present at the RMAC meeting and advised that there were no material misstatements identified in the financial statements and there were no differences of opinion between management and the External Auditors.

KPMG will issue an unmodified audit opinion on the financial statements, subject to their internal review processes particularly related to land revaluations. At the time of drafting the report KPMG's review was being finalised. The audit opinion letter is expected to be tabled at the meeting.

Council will provide a copy of the adopted City of Palmerston Annual Report 2023/24 to the Minister for Local Government after it has been adopted, prior to November 15 in accordance with *Section 14.1* of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

CONSULTATION AND MARKETING

Following delivery of the Annual Report to the Minister for Local Government, the Annual Report will be available on Council's website. Council will also utilise social media to share the Annual Report 2023/24 to the community.

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

The Annual Report complies with legislative requirements.

Under the *Local Government Act*, Council must have an auditor appointed. The auditor is to undertake an audit on Council's financial statements to assure that they are free from material misstatement and are prepared under the Australian Accounting Standards and any relevant legislation. The financial statements contribute to the annual report, which must be lodged with the Agency on or before 15 November each year.

At the time of writing this report

- the Annual Report was being amended to include feedback by the Risk Management Audit Committee. The amended version will be tabled at the meeting.
- the financial statements are being reviewed by the auditors and the audited financial statements and the audit opinion will be tabled at the meeting.
- the financial performance overview is subject to the finalisation of the financial statements.

There is a risk that KPMG's internal review processes take longer than expected.

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:

- Community Plan
- Municipal Plan

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

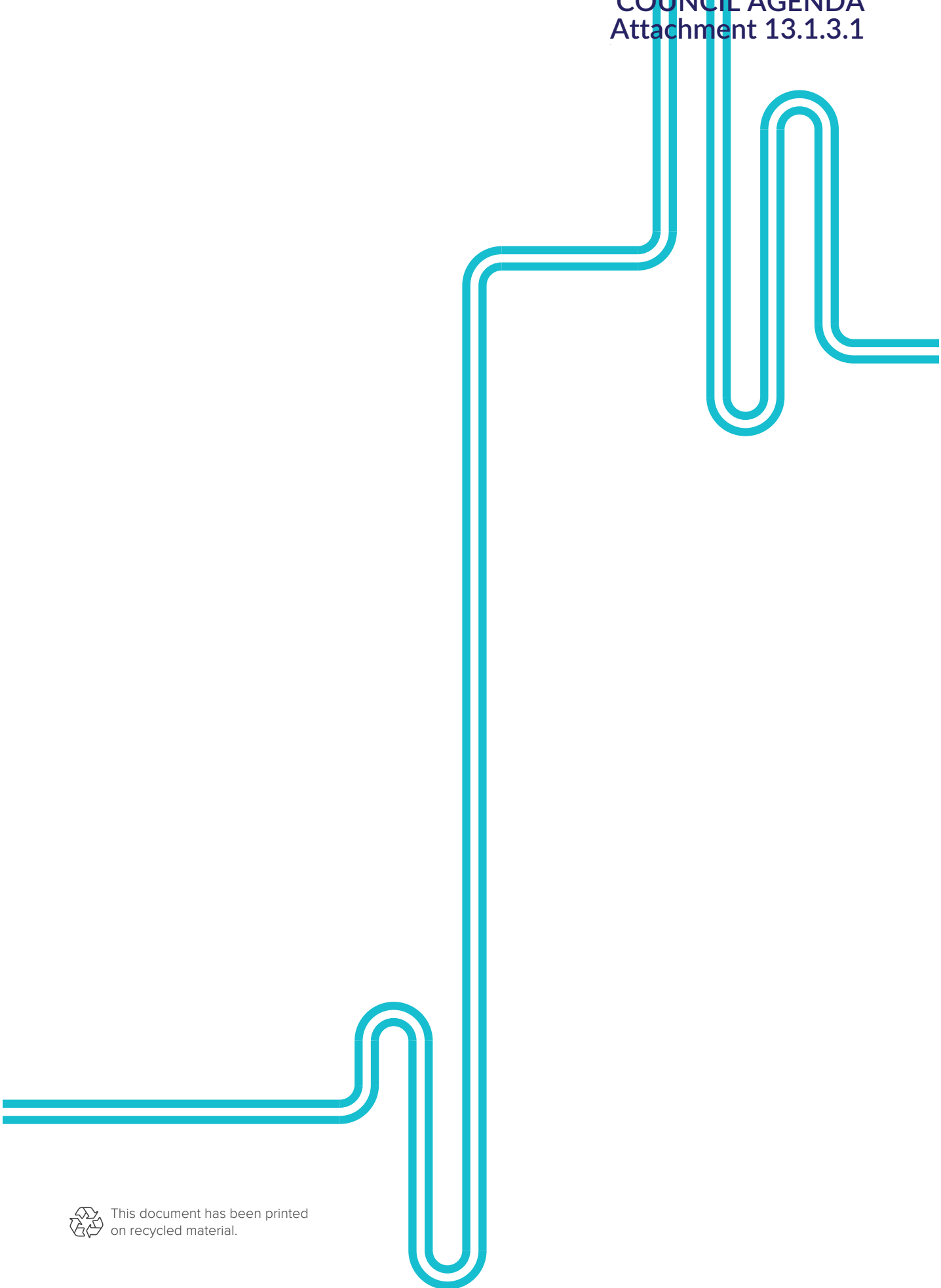
ATTACHMENTS

1. Co P Annual Report 2023-24 V 04 RMAC copy [13.1.3.1 - 80 pages]
2. Financial Performance Review 2023 24 [13.1.3.2 - 6 pages]
3. 20241030 - Annual Financial Statements- GPF S-2024 [13.1.3.3 - 41 pages]

2023

=24 ANNUAL
REPORT





This document has been printed
on recycled material.

2023 -24 ANNUAL REPORT



SWELL opening, Moulden 2023

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.

We extend our commitment to embracing diversity and eliminating all forms of discrimination within our facilities and welcome all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or faith.



NAIDOC week, Memorial Park, 2023

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INTRODUCTION AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

City of Palmerston's Annual Report 2023-24 has been developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act (2019)* NT and provides a transparent account of our performance for the financial year against the Community Plan, including audited financial statements. The annual report is a key tool to communicate what we delivered to achieve the Palmerston community's vision of 'A Place for People'.

Our community is at the heart of everything we do and as such, City of Palmerston's Community Plan (the Plan) was developed by the community for the community. The plan is Council's strategic governing document, and provides reportable measures for which both Elected Members and the organisation are accountable. The objectives identified in the Plan are what we report against which is divided into six (6) Outcomes.

Our values are

Teamwork

*Commitment and
accountability*

*Sustainability and
self-sufficiency*

Quality resources

*A culture of continuous
improvement*

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

2 Vibrant economy: Palmerston is a destination city for employment. It is a place where businesses are encouraged to set up and to grow.

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

4 A Future focus: Palmerston is an innovative city that can sustain itself through the challenges of the future.

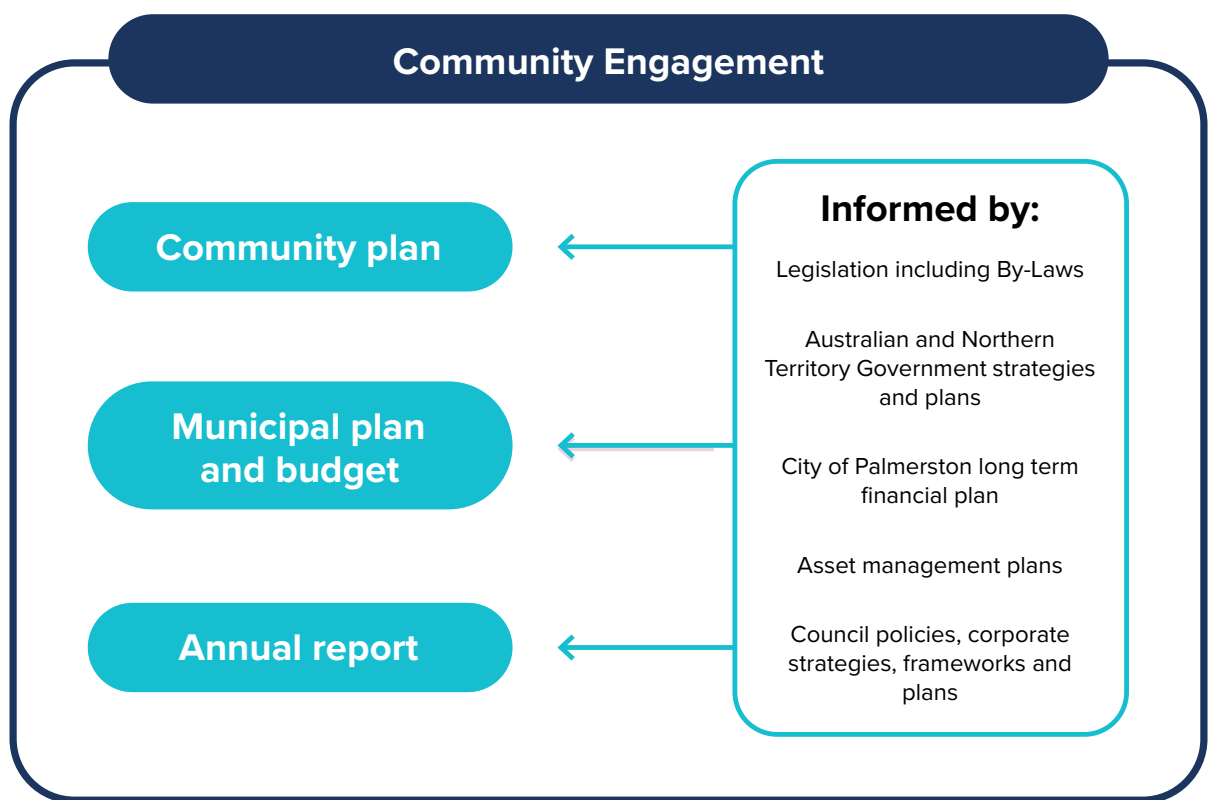
5 Environmental sustainability: Palmerston is an environmentally friendly, liveable city that promotes renewable practices and sustainability.

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

*Our vision is 'A Place for People',
and our mission is to place
people at the centre of all we do
and deliver, by providing excellent
services to our community.*

STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

We have a strong foundation of strategic planning that provides vision and direction for Council, community and the growing economy. The framework is underpinned by a commitment to genuine community engagement with the Community Plan being developed by the people of Palmerston. The framework is also supported through strong governance that enables flexibility towards changing circumstances, whilst remaining focused on long term goals and outcomes for the community.





Adventure Play, SWELL, Moulden 2023

OUR STORY

Written by the community

Palmerston began with creation and the dreamtime.

The Larrakia are the first people of Palmerston.

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

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

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

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

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

Now we are in a place of opportunity.

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

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

OUR CITY

Palmerston is one of the Northern Territory's fastest growing municipalities and has experienced this growth over a short period of time.



Population¹

41,113

Median Age

31.8



Gross Regional product²

\$1.723 B

Total budget expenses

\$72.84M



15,406

rateable properties in
Palmerston



288

Hectares of open space
parks and gardens

Geographical area

72km²



of people born overseas

1 ABS Estimated Residential Population 2023. (<https://dbr.abs.gov.au>)

2 National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2023. 2023. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions). Data are based on a 2020/21 price base for all years. NIEIR-ID data are inflation adjusted each year to allow direct comparison, and annual data releases adjust previous years' figures to a new base year. (<https://economy.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory/grossregional-product?WebID=200>)

OUR YEAR 2023 – 24



Over 78,000 people visited SWELL since the reopening



Hired out community facilities on 9,029 occasions



Developed new partnerships to deliver the first Palmerston Street Art Festival



14,809 interactions with residents through Customer Experience



Over 137,000 people visited the Palmerston Library, with over 73,000 physical library loans



Increase our Net Promoter score by 10 points



Attended almost 4,000 animal related cases



Archer Waste Management Facility collected over 3,000 tons of general waste



Registered 5,372 dogs



Invested \$243,748 towards employee professional development and training



Supported 19 community groups, 10 schools and 144 individuals through the Community Benefit Scheme



18,502 followers on Facebook



Launched the 'Invest Palmerston' economic development webpage



6 Community Engagements



Welcomed 222 new Australian citizens to Palmerston

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Message under review



Athina Pascoe-Bell
Mayor



MESSAGE FROM INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Message under review



Amelia Vellar
Interim Chief Executive Officer

OUR ELECTED MEMBERS



Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell

Re-elected: 2021

Athina moved to Palmerston in November 2004 with her husband, who was in the Defence Force at the time, and they bought their home in Marlow Lagoon just a few months after arriving. They have made Palmerston their home and decided this was the place to raise their family. Their children were born here and are now aged 10 and 13 years.

Athina has a 20-year career as a spatial science professional, 5 years in the private sector and 15 years in the public service in both NSW and the NT, where she gained invaluable knowledge on governance, procedures, policies and property planning. She is also studying towards a Bachelor of Laws at CDU to equip herself with the legal knowledge that will benefit the community.

She is focused on good decision making and quality outcomes and looks forward to working with the many and varied groups within our community.



Councillor Mark Fraser

Elected: 2021

Mark has thrown his hat in the ring after a long-term interest in all tiers of politics, seeing this as his opportunity to give back to the Palmerston community after raising his own family here.

Having made Rosebery his home for almost two decades, Mark sees the prevalence of FIFO employment through the military, mining, agriculture and remote services industries. He would like to explore what support is needed and can be provided, for families in these situations to better cope with work life balances and raising a family.

He likes to spend his spare time doing family activities, fishing, learning and teaching new technologies, and anything a bit geeky that can be performed on computers.

With hands-on trade skills and managerial background in manufacturing, servicing and supply chain, Mark is actively involved in local business organisations like Energy Club NT, Territory Proud and regularly attends industry events often promoting to key decision makers the vital economic importance of fostering an active culture of 'buy local' first within Palmerston.

Mark believes Palmerston is well placed to capitalise on a multitude of emerging opportunities across a wide range of industry sectors. Palmerston needs to maintain its competent stewardship at council to make the right decisions for all residents to ensure Palmerston continues to improve and always be 'A Place for People'.



Councillor Danielle Eveleigh

Elected: 2021

As a Driver resident for over 17 years, and newly elected Councillor, Danielle (Dani) is committed to the Palmerston community and has a desire to contribute and represent others.

With a background in Human Resources Management and Industrial Relations, Dani brings these attributes and skills to Council, where she will support positive change where possible.

She's involved in an array of local groups and committees including Top End Women's Legal Service, Walking off the War Within and Corrugated Iron Youth Arts. Outside of this, Dani enjoys spending time with her family, playing touch football and reading.

Over this term, Dani strives to gain a greater understanding of the needs and concerns of the Palmerston community and learn how she can assist in keeping the community spirit as friendly and caring as she knows it.



Councillor Amber Garden

Re-elected: 2021

Amber moved to the Territory from Queensland in 2003, and with her ever-supportive husband Tim, purchased a property in Farrar in 2010.

Amber has over 15 years experience in HR and administration mainly working in the construction industry. After being re-elected to her position on Council, she has familiarity of Council meeting processes, financial reporting and requirements under the Local Government Act and extensive administration experience.

Amber is looking forward to continuing being a part of a strong voice for the residents of Palmerston. In particular the Animal Management By-law review is an important piece of work for Amber being a life member and current Board Director of RSPCA Darwin and of course animals, in particular dogs, are a great passion of hers. Amber is also keen in partnering with the Government to reduce crime and its impacts.

Amongst her commitments with Council and RSPCA Darwin, Amber enjoys her time in the gym, watching movies and great food and wine.

Amber looks forward to working with the Mayor and the other Councillors in building and maintaining new-found confidence and trust through informed decision-making, to ensure Palmerston remains financially sustainable and works towards building a stronger, safer and better community.





Councillor Ben Giesecke

Re-elected: 2021

Ben moved to the Northern Territory in 2004 where he began his career as a property professional after completing his Bachelor of Business (property) degree. Ben bought his first home in Moulden in 2005, however now resides with his wife in Johnston. Ben has forged a successful career in the property industry, with extensive experience in commercial and private valuations, negotiations, economics, real estate transactions and law, and investment properties.

Prior to the property industry, Ben worked as a Valuer at one of the four big banks. His extensive experience in the real estate and finance industry provides him with a keen eye for detail. With Ben's active involvement with the local multicultural community, he is looking forward to the rest of his term at City of Palmerston as Councillor to ensure Palmerston really is a place for people.



Councillor Damian Hale

Re-elected: 2021

Damian first moved to the Northern Territory in 1974 and has lived in a number of areas such as Maningrida, Katherine, Darwin before settling with his partner, Maria, in Gunn, Palmerston.

Damian has prior experience in politics in the Northern Territory holding the position of Federal Member for Solomon from 2007 - 2010. Since then, Damian is currently the NT organiser of the Australian Workers Union, working predominantly on the Inpex project.

Damian believes Palmerston is a young, vibrant, multicultural city of enormous potential where, if you work hard, you can make the most of your opportunities. You can find Damian on the golf course, out fishing or spending quality time with his family.

He looks forward to engaging with as many Palmerston residents as he can during his term and would like to see more infrastructure and playgrounds established within Palmerston, continue a strong and sustainable City into the future and deliver his responsibilities as a part of Council and to do them well.





Councillor Sarah Henderson

Re-elected: 2021

Sarah is a hardworking community advocate and businesswoman who has been an active member of the Palmerston community for three decades.

Sarah and her husband Geoff brought up their five children in Palmerston and now her grandchildren are also being raised in this vibrant community.

She has been actively involved in many different Palmerston community groups over the years. Working in motel management in Darwin for over two decades, she has gained extensive experience in running a business on a budget.

Sarah is a member of a range of committees and clubs, continuing to support the seniors of her community. When she finds spare time, Sarah enjoys growing orchids, photography, bike riding and chasing after her grandchildren.

Over this term Sarah aims to improve services, provide support to community members and to contribute to the sustainability goals of Palmerston.



Councillor Lucy Morrison

Re-elected: 2021

Lucy has lived in the Northern Territory since 2008, after moving to Palmerston from Queensland. She has more than 10 years' experience in the media industry having started her career as a print journalist working for newspapers both in the NT and QLD. Lucy then steered her career into communications, public relations and media advising.

Having previously worked at both Darwin and Palmerston councils and for the Northern Territory Government, Lucy has extensive experience in local and Territory government.

She is heavily involved in local sport, playing both hockey and golf, and is involved in numerous sporting committees.

Lucy is passionate about healthy living and enjoying an active lifestyle and wants to get more youth involved in sports and local activities in the community.

Over this term Lucy will continue to work towards the beautification of parks, greening the city and lake management, as well as supporting Council community events.



ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



Interim CEO

Amelia Vellar

- Office of the Mayor and Elected Members
- Executive Support
- Council and Committee Services
- Business Performance and Improvement
- Advocacy
- Strategy and Insights
- Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships
- Strategic Organisational Planning



Finance and Governance

Wati Kerta

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



Infrastructure

Nadine Nilon

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



Community

Konrad Seidl

- Recreation and Leisure
- Regulatory Services
- Library Services
- Community Health and Wellbeing
- Community Facility Management
- Community Development
- Local History and Heritage
- Community Grants



People and Place

Emma Blight

- Community Consultation
- Community Events
- Marketing and Communications
- Organisational Culture and Development
- Engagement
- People
- Customer Experience
- Safety and Wellbeing
- Arts and Culture
- Placemaking

EMBRACING OPPORTUNITIES

Palmerston is a vibrant and modern hub with an abundance of opportunities. With a median age of 31.8 including many young families, Palmerston has a promising future of growth and prosperity. It is the second-largest city in the Northern Territory, with a population of 41,113, where the growth is evident through population, land and the local economy.

Palmerston is primed for economic development and innovation that helps support a bright and sustainable future. This energetic young city presents Council with the opportunity to continue to provide essential infrastructure, services, community programs, events and activities that are attractive to both current residents and future residents.

City of Palmerston continues to deliver against the six outcomes of the Community Plan being;

1 Family and community

2 Vibrant economy

3 Cultural diversity

4 A Future focus

5 Environmental sustainability

6 Governance

Through service delivery, we are committed to;

- Improving the safety of all our citizens
- Maintaining our own identity
- Providing services, facilities and amenities to support the community's needs
- Developing and maintaining our reputation for being clean and green

Results from the 2024 Community Survey indicate opportunities exist in the following areas:

- Public Safety
- Economic Development
- Advocating for the community in planning issues
- Maintaining footpaths and roads
- Increase shading and greening our city
- Maintaining parks and playgrounds

Work has already commenced towards improving safety and reducing crime in and around the Central Business District (CBD) through a Crime Prevention Through Environment Design (CPTED) audit. The results will guide design and revitalization of the Palmerston CBD. The aim of this is to decrease the likelihood of anti-social behaviour while boosting visitation to local businesses. In 2023-24, City of Palmerston commented on a number of planning and development issues for the municipality and will continue to foster and maintain relationships with developers in the future. A new footpath, road repair and reseal program is set to be released this year which will be available to the public and work continues towards upgrades and maintaining our parks and playgrounds in line with our Sustainability Strategy, Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework and Playspace Strategy.



NAIDOC Week, Face Painting, Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2023

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

Each year, we contract an external organisation to conduct a Community Survey to gain an understanding of community’s satisfaction towards council in the services, programs, facilities, events and support that is delivered.

In 2023-24, the survey was completed by 614 people, with 600 people via a computer assisted telephone interview, and 14 people via an online questionnaire. The Community Satisfaction Survey results have seen an upward trend in results since 2018 with the overall performance of Council increasing again from 6.89/10 in 2023 to 6.98/10 this year.

Key Area	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change
Family and Community	6.68	6.80	7.16	6.89	6.96	7.27	+0.31
Vibrant Economy	6.01	6.28	6.55	6.24	6.44	6.44	–
Cultural Diversity	7.04	7.21	7.50	7.31	7.39	7.53	+0.14
A Future Focus	6.70	6.84	7.02	6.70	6.84	6.82	-0.02
Environmental Sustainability	7.16	7.33	7.36	7.08	7.29	7.30	+0.01
Governance	6.01	6.17	6.52	6.19	6.43	6.50	+0.07
Net Promoter Score	-9	-4	-6	-13	-18	-8	+10
Average Performance	6.56/10	6.77/10	7.02/10	6.74/10	6.89/10	6.98/10	+0.09



The six key outcomes that are measured align with that of the community plan and include; Family and Community, Vibrant Economy, Cultural Diversity, A Future Focus, Environmental Sustainability and Governance. The areas that have seen improvement in results this year is Family and Community (7.27) and Cultural Diversity (7.53).

In 2024, the survey results indicated that the top highest performing services were;

1. Providing libraries and library services to the community – 8.12 (up 0.05)
2. Kerbside waste collection 8.10 (up 0.01)
3. Providing and maintaining Archer Waster Management Facility – 8.01 (up 0.05)
4. Managing Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre – 7.89 (up .87)
5. Hosting enough quality community events – 7.82 (up .30)
6. Providing opportunities for recycle and reuse through the pre-cyclone clean up – 7.76 (up 0.04)
7. Supporting culturally diverse events 7.74 (up .18)
8. Managing the Palmerston Recreation Centre – 7.53 (up .38)
9. Maintaining drainage facilities – 7.47 (up .12)
10. Providing and maintaining community halls – 7.28 (up .3)

The above also indicates those scores that have seen a significant increase.

We also saw an increase in awareness of Council's slogan 'A Place for People' which has also seen a consistent incline for the past 3 years to 54.01% which is up from 48.43% the year prior.

The five lowest scoring performing services were;

1. Supporting and attracting new and existing businesses – 5.86 (down -10)
2. Supporting innovation in the business community – 6.21 (down -.07)
3. Providing you with the opportunity to comment on Council's decision making and interact with Council – 6.25 (up .11)
4. Increasing shading and greening the city – 6.45 (down -11)
5. Promoting environmental sustainability – 6.52 (down -3)

The results provide council with a deeper understanding to what the community's expectations are. We are committed towards continual improvement and providing the community with value for money for rates. The results are an important piece of information that allows us for inform future planning, and where we can advocate for change and innovation.



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

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



Childrens week, Palmerston Recreation Centre, Palmerston 2023

Palmerston is a safe, friendly family city that offers a high-quality lifestyle; a happy sanctuary. As a community, we want to foster the wellbeing of families and our community. In Palmerston everyone belongs, and we care for each other. When people feel safe, are secure and supported in their community, they participate actively and can fully enjoy what Palmerston has to offer.

Snapshot 2023-24



Over 78,000 people visited SWELL since the reopening



700 participants for Get Active program



4500 attended Halloween Event over two days



Commented on 46 Development proposals



Held 127 storytimes and nursery times welcoming 4996 people



Community Benefit scheme provided grant support to 173 applicants



Installed all-abilities play equipment at two parks



3,997 Animal related cases attended



16,383 attended Christmas Wonderland over eight days



5372 dogs were registered



Delivered 580 program and events in the Palmerston library with 10,368 people attending

Community Survey Scorecard

There has been a steady incline in community satisfaction for this outcome, where high scores have always been achieved. This year a standout result under the first measure of 'managing Palmerston swimming and Fitness centre' which can be attributed to the newly refurbished \$20 million facility which was opened in December 2023. We also saw consistent satisfactory rate from our other community facilities and hosting enough quality events saw a significant increase after going down slightly the year prior.

Measure	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change
Managing Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre	6.86	7.08	7.31	6.86	7.02	7.89	+0.87
Maintaining parks and playgrounds	7.26	7.34	7.27	6.99	7.03	6.95	-0.08
Providing and maintaining community halls	6.80	6.59	7.10	6.93	6.98	7.28	+0.30
Managing the Palmerston Recreation Centre	6.69	7.02	7.41	7.09	7.15	7.53	+0.38
Hosting enough quality community events	6.78	6.70	7.52	7.54	7.53	7.82	+0.30
Advocating for the community in planning issues	5.76	5.99	6.38	6.12	6.19	6.39	+0.20
Providing animal management services	6.63	6.91	7.14	6.72	6.85	7.03	+0.18
Overall:	6.67/10	6.80/10	7.16/10	6.89/10	6.96/10	7.27/10	+0.31

Future actions 2024-25

- Upgrades to playgrounds that include innovative designs, increasing diversity and accessibility of play options
- Delivery of the Pump Track and walking trails for Zuccoli Community Hub
- Delivery and education of the new Animal Management By-Laws and policies through education campaigns, incentives and accessible touch points
- Promote and deliver an extensive event season catering for the whole community
- Continue free hire by community groups for Council facilities as well as free parking and free entry to SWELL
- Targeted Youth-friendly events promoting engagement with our young population



Easter 2024, Palmerston Shopping Centre, Palmerston, 2023

WE FOCUS ON FAMILIES

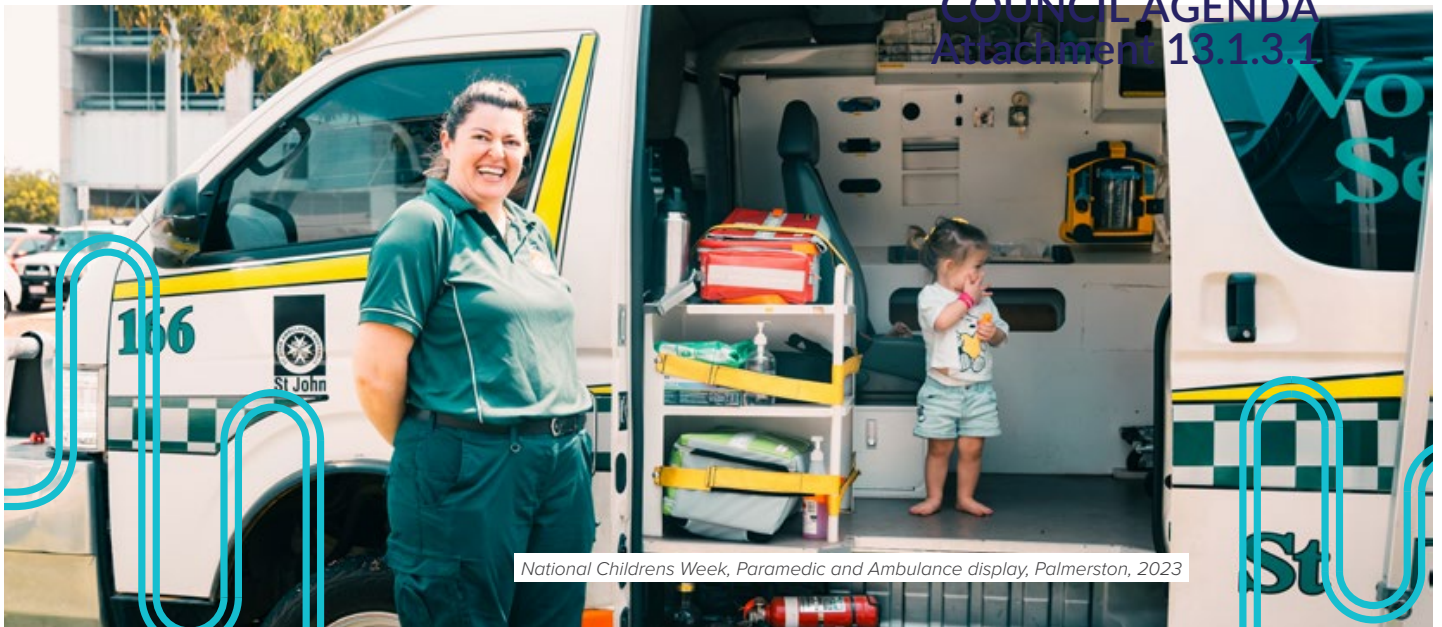
Young families make up a large portion of Palmerston's population, therefore it is important to provide opportunities, activities and initiatives that help support young families needs.

Children's Week

A large crowd of over 600 people enjoyed Children's Week in 2023, which celebrated and raised awareness for United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child. Held in the Recreation Centre on 24 October 2023, the event provided an opportunity for children and families to meet and engage with over 25 community organisations that provide vital services and support, specifically for them in Palmerston.

Brekkie in the Park - National Families Week Edition

The focus for Brekkie in the Park activities is to help bring the community together to strengthen relationships between Council and the community. The activity engages relevant local organisations to participate in a family friendly Sunday morning activity which includes a free breakfast, activities for children and helps further promote safety in the community. There were four (4) Brekkie in the Park's held across different parks throughout Palmerston to help activate more open space areas as well as offering a closer more accessible option for families all throughout Palmerston. These included Joan Fejo Park, Roseberry, Sirius Park, Woodroffe, and Hobart Park, Johnston. A special 'National Families Week Edition' Brekkie in the Park was also held at Harvest Corner Community Garden next to the Gray Community Hall in May 2023. This event drew over 200 attendees who celebrated the arrival of the dry season with a variety of engaging activities. The event also marked the official introduction of the new management team at the recently reopened Harvest Corner Community Garden.



National Childrens Week, Paramedic and Ambulance display, Palmerston, 2023

Hooked on Palmerston

Palmerston’s own Catch and Release Fishing Competition, Hooked on Palmerston, launched again in June 2023, with registrations open the month prior. The program ran until October and attracted 822 registrations, and 60 catches submitted online. There was a total of 24 prizes across four months with a total prize pool of \$5200. The ‘Hooked-on’ Palmerston Competition offers a number of benefits appealing to a large demographic. Attracting more people to our public spaces has numerous benefits of increasing public safety as well as community connection and cohesion. Participants can engage at a time and place which is convenient to them, with many people reporting enjoyment of the quiet and serenity and to relax with friends or family after work or school. Further to the above, fishing enhances appreciation of the natural assets in Palmerston supporting conservation and sustainability efforts.

Halloween

City of Palmerston collaborated with Event Cinema and Gateway Shopping Centre to organise a free, family-friendly Halloween event over two days which included activities such as movie screenings, trick or treat, haunted house, reptiles, a 360 photo booth plus a best dressed competition. The event attracted over 4,500 attendees, an increase of 1,000 from the previous year. Working in partnership with Gateway and Event Cinema allowed for a collaborative approach reaching more people as well as positively impacting other businesses in the centre.

Christmas Wonderland

The popular Christmas Wonderland event took place again over seven nights with free entry for everyone. Visitation was the highest it’s ever been with 16,383 over the week-long period. Several new interactive elements were introduced including live entertainment with musical performances each night, Santa’s Grotto for family Santa pictures, plus the whole Goyder Square was transformed with a covered space for access during inclement weather. A special addition for this year were the Christmas Makers Market. A collaboration with Tactile Arts who are a member-based not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting contemporary arts and crafts in the Northern Territory’s. The Christmas Market was held in the Recreation Centre ensuring visitors could enjoy the spirit of Christmas out of the tropical heat. There were over 30 artisan stalls, local and rural, and attendee numbers for this event grew as Christmas day was close. In addition to the markets, small craft sessions were available for those wanting to create their own Christmas cards.

SWELL Opening

City of Palmerston’s new state-of-the-art Swimming, Wellness, Events, Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL) precinct had its official opening on the first weekend of the school holidays Sunday, 17 December 2023. The events saw huge crowds with people lining up as the facility was first blessed through a Smoking ceremony. The event rolled on well into the night and included a huge array of entertainment including a DJ, roving entertainers, synchronised swimming demonstration, a Welcome to Country by The Youth Mill and then formalities led by the Mayor. The day fostered a sense of unity and shared purpose and brought well over 2,000 people through the door. Since the opening SWELL has had 78336 attend the fantastic facilities.



Darwin Symphony Orchestra

In another collaborative arrangement, City of Palmerston partnered with the Darwin Symphony Orchestra (DSO) to present Family Proms, an event targeted to young families to help inspire more children and families to the world of music. DSO brought a morning of fun, engaging, inspiring and accessible music to the Palmerston community with 350 people attending over two performances.

Other Events and Activities

Another busy event season in 2023 saw us deliver activities aimed at a diverse audience. This included working with the Palmerston RSL in delivering another touching ANZAC Day Dawn Service and march.

We partnered up with the local shopping centres around Palmerston to deliver a great and interactive Easter event across two days. Taking these activities out into high trafficked locations not only increases awareness and attendance but helps activate local businesses. There were two main events held at Gateway and Palmerston shopping centre and included loads of kids fun and activities including face painting and petting zoo, welcoming over 500 people. There was also a roaming bunny that visited other shopping centres including Bakewell, Palmerston Oasis and Zuccoli.

Our dry-season Saturday night entertainment with Flic Nics and Live at the Lake continued again this year with the inclusion of different locations around the community making it more accessible to the wider community.

Another explosive Territory Day was held at Goodline Park, Rosebery where crowds of over 1700 participated in the countdown to the spectacular fireworks display.

Public WiFi

City of Palmerston has WiFi hotspots at 11 different public locations around the municipality with the highest usage by the community at the Palmerston Library and CBD. Total users were 17,220 with usage between 4,000 – 4,600 quarterly. WiFi throughout our open spaces have much lower usage in comparison to CBD, with SWELL, Sanctuary Lakes, Gray Community Hall, Marlow Lagoon and Joan Fejo Park.

Library family programs

The library offers dedicated programs and activities targeted specifically at young families and supporting young parents, guardians and carers in providing a safe space that generates an excitement for learning and exploration. We offer several weekly programs including Nuserytime (0-1) and Storytime (1-5) which are free activities held in the library where we encourage reading, singing and dancing for on a diverse range of themes. Last year we welcomed 1,842 attendees to 50 nurserytimes, and a total of 3,154 people to our 77 storytimes.

Our school holiday programs offer a variety of engaging activities held each school holidays Monday to Friday. Activities include movie screenings, arts and crafts, animal encounters, performances, workshops and more. Last year 1,985 community members participated in over 52 different school holiday activities.

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

We consider social implications of all planning and decision making, and work in collaboration to support those who provide services to the community.

City of Palmerston Library

Our library takes pride in offering a range of services, facilities, programs and activities that extend way beyond the traditional book borrowing, computer usage, and quiet reading spaces. There were 73,154 physical library collection loans, and we welcomed 137,740 visitors into the space. To meet the diverse and growing needs of our whole community, we offer services to suit all preferences and needs including printing, scanning, computer and internet access and home service. We have a diverse collection with something for everyone including print books, magazines, DVDs, graphic novels, manga, and spoken word. Our digital resources include ebooks, eaudiobooks, emagazines straight from Overdrive Libby and Borrowbox apps and learning platforms such as Transparent Language app, IELTS and much more.

In addition to the service, we also deliver programs, activities and events that foster literacy, creativity, and lifelong learning. Programs were delivered to increase inclusion and participation for older Territorians, youth, children, babies and parents, families and people who are culturally and linguistically diverse. These include our weekly programs such as Code Club, Frillies Club, Gadget and Games Club, Geek Squad and Get Tech Savvy. Our Outreach program offers a home library service and is run by staff and volunteers. The service includes delivering books to community members, and onsite visits to early childhood services offering incursions of our regular programs. This provides

social interaction and allows for further accessibility of our services to the wider community. Our Science week program was a hit last year where HealthLAB brought their mobile lab to visit and taught fun facts about your body. Our afterhours Nerf Wars event was also popular and saw the library shelving used as a tactical maze and protective barriers for enemy lines. Last year the library delivered 580 programs and events attended by 10,368 people.

Development and planning proposals

City of Palmerston are a referral authority for development proposals that occur within its municipal boundaries, including proposals to rezone and subdivide land. As such, we provide important advice, feedback and information on developments occurring in Palmerston. This year we have received and commented on 46 development proposals, which were supported by representations made by officers at Development Consent Authority meetings. As a guiding authority, we also provided input into important Northern Territory Government (NTG) strategic projects such as updates to the NTG Subdivision Development Guidelines, changes to the Telecommunication facility provisions in NT Planning Scheme 2020 as well as input towards the Greater Holtze Area Plan.



Ninja Obstacle Course, Hobart Park, Johnston

Ninja Obstacle Course

The Ninja Obstacle Course was officially opened to the public on 4 July 2023. The fully shaded obstacle course consists of eight dynamic elements designed to test agility and physical prowess. The project was in part funded by the Northern Territory Government (of the total cost of \$442,400, NTG contributed \$250,000), and has proven very popular addition to the community.

Playground upgrades

Exemplifying objectives under our Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible (IDA) Policy Framework and Play Space Strategy, we now have an all-abilities swing set at both Sister Frederick Mangan Park and Marlow Lagoon Recreation Reserve. The all-abilities swing set in Sister Frederick Mangan Park included a basket swing, a 'you-and-me' toddlers swing, and two classic swings. The play space at Marlow's saw an upgrade to the basket swing, improved pathway access, replacement of sand Softfall with rubber and provision of a new shade structure. The cost in total for both projects was approximately \$168,000. This was in part funded through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) funding from the Australian Government.

Additionally, a new basketball half-court at the Marlow's Lagoon Recreational Reserve was constructed which aims to increase the provision of play opportunities for older children, teenagers and adults, a priority outcome of the Play Space Strategy. Play space areas received attention throughout the year with a general upgrade of accessible pathways, softfall under playground areas, shade, drinking water, bike racks and bin infrastructure.

Animal management, education and support

City of Palmerston acknowledges that pets are important members of the family unit and promotes responsible pet ownership for the overall safety and wellbeing of the community and the animal. Our rangers are tasked with the responsibility of enforcement and animal education, offering support during business hours and afterhours for urgent situations. There was a total of 3997 animal related cases that rangers addressed in the last financial year which included roaming and lost animals, dangerous dogs and dog attacks, abandoned animals and other animal related issues. Rangers responded to a total of 355 after-hours calls requiring their assistance.

The rangers were represented across a number of activities such as Brekkie in the Park and Seniors Day to improve awareness regarding the upcoming *City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024*, which also included supporting the community consultations on expectations of animal licencing, managing dogs, ensuring registrations are maintained and cat management via the Feral Cat Program. Working with RSPCA, City of Palmerston supported an extra two free microchipping days as well as several free new pet registrations.

The popular desexing and microchipping program was offered again in December 2023 which promoted \$10 desexing and microchipping of dogs and cats within the Palmerston municipality. The fee also included registration of new animals to Palmerston. Providing access to the subsidised programs contributes towards reducing the number of strays, abandoned and unwanted animals. A total of 18 cats and 36 dogs were desexed, 14 cats and 18 dogs were microchipped, and an extra 58 dogs were registered. A total of 5,372 dogs were registered during last year's financial period.

Regulatory support services

Our rangers are also responsible for abandoned vehicles, overgrown properties and lots, public signs, parking and other safety and security issues. Over the 2023-24 year there was a total of;

- 264 cases of abandoned vehicles
- 849 cases regarding public places
- 216 cases of parking compliance
- 171 overgrown vacant lot compliance actions
- 1162 cases of other unrelated regulatory matters

Community development and programs

To help support the community, City of Palmerston develops strong relationships with organisations that provide social services to help deliver effective development and health and wellbeing opportunities for the whole community. This is delivered through various free programs, workshops, activations and facilities.

Get Active

Get Active is a free physical health and wellbeing program that offers 32 weeks of activities for the Palmerston community. In 2023-24 over 700 participants registered to attend activities which included a diverse range of providers including Yoga, Pilates, Pickle Ball, Gym for Growth and Development, Try it! F45, Zumba, and Get Wet – Get Fit. The program was supported by increased exposure in marketing and promotion and has helped local providers become established in Palmerston, while community members could participate in active and wellbeing activities without financial burden.

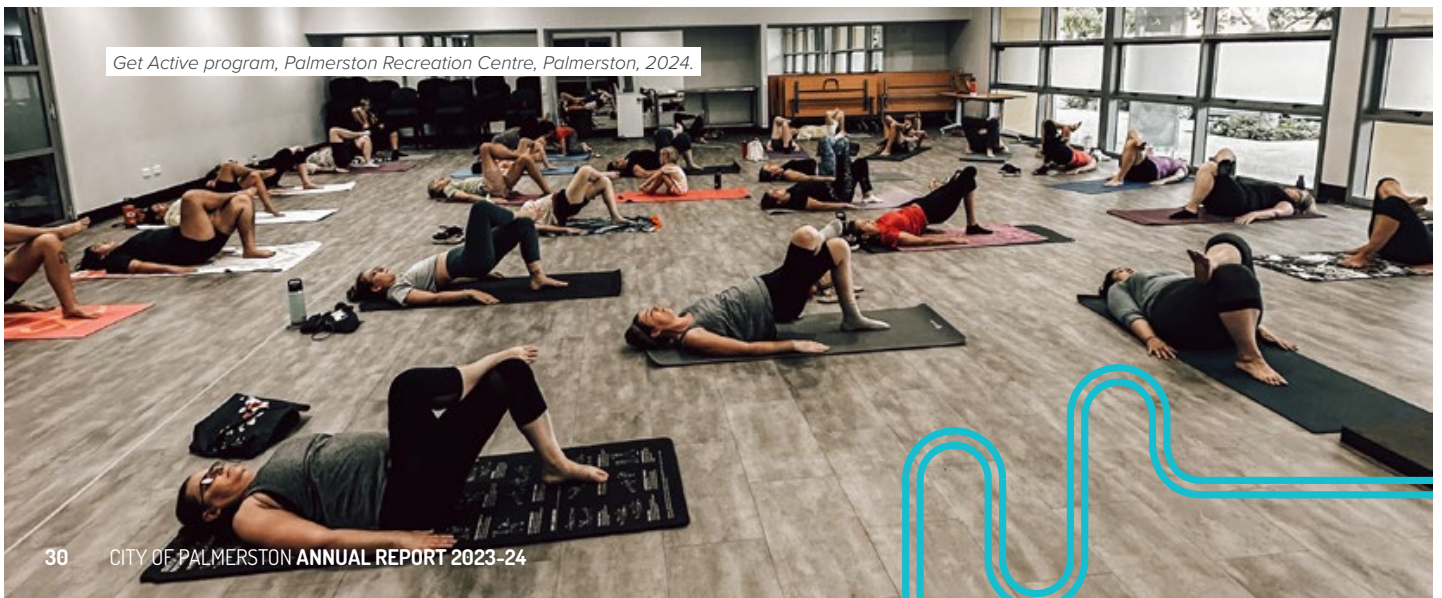
Sporting Club Development Planning Workshop

City of Palmerston collaborated with the Department of Sport, Recreation and Strategic Infrastructure in March to deliver a Sporting Club Development Planning Workshop. The purpose was to assist clubs to build their knowledge on sporting infrastructure and strengthen the organisation's ability to plan for future projects. The workshop was well attended with 28 representatives including Rugby League, Rugby Union, Volleyball, BMX, cricket, cycling, basketball, gymnastics, boxing, and soccer. The information was well received with positive feedback from clubs asking for more workshops like it in the future.

Palmerston Youth Festival

Palmerston Youth Festival 2023 was a huge success seeing over 6000 attendees across the seven days of events. The events and activities within the festival were thoughtfully designed to be free, accessible, and inclusive. The program catered to a wide range of interests, including culture, music, wellness, sports, arts, and technology. Each day offered unique experiences, allowing participants to explore new hobbies, develop skills, and connect with peers. This diversity ensured that there was something for everyone, allowing participants to explore their passions and engage in activities that resonated with their individual preferences. Events included:

- Geekfest Top End
- Youth Pride
- Sportsfest
- Palmy's Got Talent
- Rookie Cooks
- Spray it Loud
- Suburban Sounds



Palmerston Youth Festival, 2023



National Youth Week - Palmy Pool Party

Over 500 young people of Palmerston enjoyed a celebration of National Youth Week at SWELL in April 2024. National Youth Week is an annual event empowering and celebrating young Territorians aged 12 to 25. The NT theme for 2024 was *Aspire to Inspire: Celebrate Territory Spirit*, a collective call to action and to contribute to a positive future in the Territory, alongside celebrating the uniqueness and diversity that makes the Territory a special place to live, work and play. Young people of Palmerston enjoyed the new SWELL facility, including lots of fun on the Adventure Play. There was the opportunity to connect with service providers, enjoy DJ Triki, 3x3 basketball with PaRBA, a fire show, circus skills, photo booth, free BBQ, games and prizes.

Youth Christmas Party

Another example of collaboration, City of Palmerston partnered with Larrakia Nation, Palmerston and Regional Basketball Association, Territory Families and Housing and Communities for a special youth Christmas Party. The evening was filled with engaging activities: sports sessions with the Youth Drop in Sports mentors, creative art activities by Larrakia Nation and Intrepid Designers NT, and immersive video gaming experiences with Level Up Gaming. This event not only offered a fun and safe environment for 150 young people but also reinforced the Community Plan's objectives of promoting active, engaged, and supported community members. The dedication of our organisations and volunteers, ensures that Palmerston's youth have consistent access to enriching activities.

Community resources

City of Palmerston offer support to the community that want to hold their own events through our free facilities and community resources. We offer Palmerston organisations and groups the opportunity to hire a Community BBQ Trailer to use at their Palmerston events that benefit residents. In 2023-24, the Community BBQ Trailer was utilised on fourteen (14) separate occasions. Our Smoothie bike is another popular resource designed to promote healthy eating and physical activity. It serves as an innovative tool for fundraising, event catering, and educational activities. It was utilised 22 times throughout the year by community organisations. These resources help strengthen relationships, promote social interaction, and contributes to safer and more vibrant neighbourhoods.

Harvest Corner Community Garden

Following an Expression of Interest process, Harvest Corner's management was awarded to a collaboration of three (3) organisations that hold the shared mission to invigorate the garden while engaging with the community. Steps Group Australia, Helping People Achieve (HPA), and Life Without Barriers (LWB) commenced a three (3) year management agreement in January 2024 with the vision to provide a shared gardening space for the Palmerston community. Their vision will allow members to engage with each other and nature, be active and learn new skills, whilst improving health, wellbeing, and community connectedness in an inclusive environment. The new management group are working on increasing the edible plants available in the garden to share with the public, including the use of native flowering plants, increasing the biodiversity and creating sustainable plant growth for future crops. They have recently been awarded a Northern Territory (NT) Art's grant through the Northern Territory Government to provide materials for local artists to paint and create more aesthetically pleasing spaces.



Palmerston Seniors Day 2023

The seniors community is an important group that contributes greatly to the wider community. Each year, City of Palmerston help celebrate by hosting a Palmerston Seniors Day 2023 in August. Last year we welcomed 120 people who all enjoyed a morning tea, live entertainment from Kim Koole, Welcome to Country from Mary Williams, address by City of Palmerston Mayor, a two-course buffet lunch, wellbeing workshop delivered by Health Living NT, a Native Plant Give Away, Drag Bingo, and Art Workshop. Relationships Australia and Darwin Community Legal Service held information booths to speak to participants about their services and NT Police attended with their police dogs and therapy puppies to interact with guests.

Community Benefit Scheme (CBS)

City of Palmerston provides funding through our grants scheme known the Community Benefits Scheme which assists eligible community groups and organisations to deliver activities, projects and services that benefit the Palmerston community. The funding supports programs that enhance social wellbeing, developing the capability of community groups and building connectivity within the community. In 2023-24, there was \$235,260 awarded through the program and the first time that Council has awarded the full budget amount of \$230,000. This funding supported 19 community groups, 10 schools and 144 individuals. The table below shows how the program has grown in the last three years:

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Community grants	\$49,013	\$17,995	\$41,010
Sponsorships		\$12,500	\$39,000
Multi-year agreements	\$85,422	\$111,500	\$116,500
Individual Representation Support	\$18,550	\$37,250	\$37,750
Annual School Awards	\$1,000	\$1,700	\$1,000
Environment Initiatives	\$18,131	\$0	\$6,000
Total	\$153,985	\$180,905	\$241,260



VIBRANT ECONOMY

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



International Day of People with Disability, Durack Community Centre, 2023

Our vibrant economy and business sector contribute in many positive ways to the people of Palmerston. When businesses thrive, families also thrive, and our city becomes more liveable. Jobs enable community members to set down roots – and this means that they are more likely to stay.

Snapshot 2023-24



First Business Survey sent to 2000 local businesses



\$19,000 went towards removing graffiti



Vibrant Economic Advisory Committee has met Four times



\$7.5Million in grant funding was sourced from Australian and Northern Territory Government



Launched Invest Palmerston website



SWELL 'first splash' competition with over 500 entries



12 days of Christmas marketing campaign supporting buy local



SWELL staff, SWELL facility Moulden 2023

Community Survey Scorecard

Overall measure for Vibrant economy remained unchanged from the previous year, however we did see another steady increase in the community awareness of Council's slogan 'A Place for People' with 54.01%, up by 5.59%.

Opportunities exist in the economic development space, with measures for supporting and attracting new businesses continuing to score low with a 5.86/10, down .10 from the previous year. As work continues to evolve in this space with the business survey and new website landing page, we envisage a careful and strategic approach that has a future focus, is what is required to elevate this area. Another great result with the community agreeing that 'Palmerston is A Place for People', which has received its highest score in 4 years, up .11 from last year.

Measure	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change
Awareness of Council's slogan 'A Place for People'	36.62%	42.74%	40.28%	43.61%	48.43%	54.01%	+5.59%
Agreement that: Palmerston is 'A Place for People'	6.83	6.80	6.83	6.56	6.70	6.81	+0.11
Agreement that: Council has a long-term vision for Palmerston economy	5.95	6.37	6.70	6.34	6.67	6.65	-0.02
Performance in: Supporting and attracting new and existing businesses	5.25	5.68	6.11	5.83	5.96	5.86	-0.10
Overall:	6.01/10	6.28/10	6.55/10	6.24/10	6.44/10	6.44/10	-

Future actions 2024-25

- Genuine community engagement through a new Community Engagement Policy and practices
- Deliver a recognised and trusted brand
- Deliver a user-friendly website that services the broader community
- Look to deliver improved marketing principles for further targeting and engagement in the community
- Local economic growth through increased local business opportunities and support
- More tools to curb criminal activity and anti-social behaviour
- Increased and ongoing participation and engagement with industry groups
- Implement efficient ways to keep Palmerston clean, safe and attractive to our community and visitors alike

IMPROVE PALMERSTON'S IMAGE

The image and brand of Palmerston is strong and reflects our vision as 'A Place for People'.

Marketing and Communication campaigns

Our marketing and communication campaigns are designed to ensure we are supporting and promoting a positive image for Palmerston. Our key communication pillars align to that of the community plan to ensure our messaging meets the expectations of the community. We strategically employed a variety of communication methods through digital and print to help increase awareness of our events, programs and initiatives, ensuring the messaging is both impactful and inclusive.

The Palmerston Youth Festival marketing campaign is an example of how we used tactical digital placements through social media, YouTube and in-app gaming to target the primary youth audience, whilst supporting this with more traditional placements through print, TV, radio and other outdoor advertising. Applying both methods in this case, reinforces the community's awareness and helps with advocacy for the festival. Overall the marketing campaign saw over 8000 visits directly to the Palmerston Youth Festival website from paid digital advertising and organic visits (through google). The paid social media campaign had an overall reach of almost 67,000 with over 3,600 links clicked either to the website, or registrations. Other digital placements included TikTok and Youtube which were both huge successes with over 85,000 completed video views on the 15 and 6 second promotional ads.

Our 12 days of Christmas campaign used less advertising placements and applied a holistic approach towards promoting a variety of messaging from across the organisation. This included supporting local businesses, free parking, dog registration, library programs, as well as emergency management information for the approaching wet season. The aim of this campaign is to amplify the breadth of what City of Palmerston offers to the community to enhance the liveability.

SWELL was set to finally open its doors late in 2023, so there was a multiphase marketing and communications campaign delivered for this project. The SWELL awareness campaign positively impacted brand recognition and the regular information about the development provided clear and transparent communication to the community. This allowed the community and wider audiences to observe the entire construction, which built excitement towards the opening. The 'First Splash' competition brought over 500 entries with the original social media post garnering over 5000 people reached and 223 click throughs. The opening was a success, and the media coverage received on SWELL was extensive, including a front Page in the NT News. In addition to traditional media, we also engaged two local media influencers to promote content which saw their videos collectively watched more than 40,000 times.

Our monthly 'what's on' campaign promotes a variety of regular monthly activities on social media, radio and print advertising and has been working well leading to awareness of the regular programs and events increasing. Promoting the activities using a consistent creative supports a strong brand that the community can recognise and trust. We are seeing consistently increasing figures in reach and engagement across our social media platforms.

Cleaning up Palmerston

To ensure Palmerston remains a clean and tidy municipality a significant amount of resourcing goes towards the upkeep and repair or replacement of assets which are important to the community. \$117,840.13 was spent on repairs due to vandalism which included broken fencing, play equipment, shade sails, broken furniture and damaged bollards. \$39,191 was spent on pothole and footpath repairs, street sign damage and an additional \$19,000 going on the removal of graffiti throughout open spaces. Street sweeping contract, and other litter responses (including illegal dumping) totalled \$383,000.



PALMERSTON'S ECONOMIC FUTURE IS BRIGHT

We have a long-term vision to build and support a sustainable economy and investigate alternative ways to help support and promote activation and movement in the Central Business District (CBD).

Supporting local business

As part of our commitment to support NT and local businesses, in 2023-24, City of Palmerston injected a considerable amount into the local economy. This helps to create local jobs, which in turn supports the local economy benefitting everything from schools to community services and creating a sustainable and thriving community. For the 2023-24 year, we awarded seven (7) contracts over \$2.6Million to the following projects:

Project	Contract value awarded
Goyder Square Security Patrols	\$ 192,674.56
Palmerston Aquatic Centre Hall and Gym Refurbishment and Roof Replacement	\$ 1,189,953.20
Christmas Wonderland	\$ 220,000
Archer Waste Management Facility - Gatehouse Relocation	\$ 288,930.29
City of Palmerston Street Lighting Upgrades	\$ 550,000.00
Men's Shed Accessible Toilet Construction	\$ 108,908.47
Archer Closed Landfill Environmental Monitoring	\$ 107,338.00
Total	\$ 2,657,804.52

To contribute further towards quality projects that contribute to the wellbeing of the community and support a vibrant economy, we received a total of \$7.5Million in grant funding from the Northern Territory and Australian governments. This funding was used for the following projects;

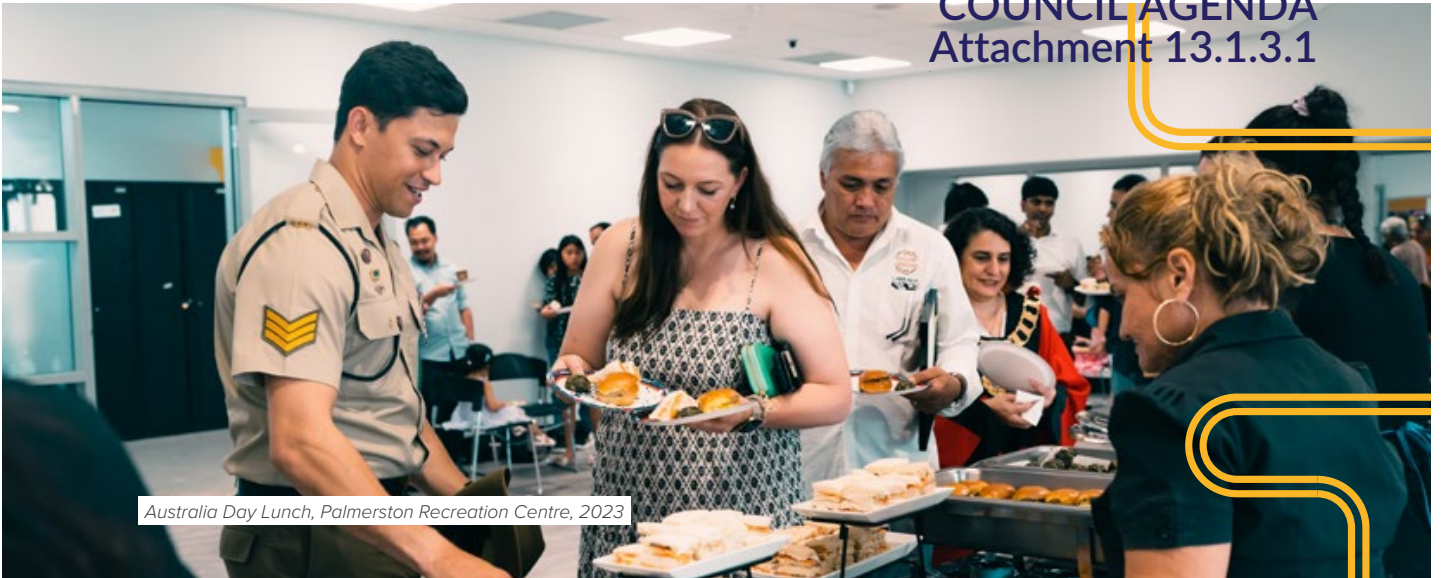
Australian Government	
SWELL construction	\$5,000,000
Road to recovery (Roads)	\$403,779
LRCI Phase 4 (Local Roads and Community Infrastructure)	\$389,685
FAA- General Purpose	\$24,698
FAA- Roads Purpose	\$64,045
Total	\$5,882,207*

*\$2.37M of the 2023-24 funding was received in prior years

NT Government	
SWELL Fencing	\$20,000
Lake Aerator Device	\$100,000
Fiber Sense Technology	\$500,000
Black Spot Program 22-23	\$100,467
Library Funding 23/24	\$681,150
Senior Month Grant 23/24	\$2,000
International Mens Day 23/24	\$5,000
National Australia day grant 23/24	\$10,000
Australia Day Grant 23/24	\$2,045
International Day for People with Disability 23/24	\$5,000
CPTED Grant 23/24	\$225,000
Total	1,650,662



SWELL Facility, Moulden 2023



Australia Day Lunch, Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2023

Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee

The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee (VEAC) met four times this year. VEAC provides advice to Council relating to actions and priorities of the Palmerston Local Economic Plan. VEAC established priority actions to progress in delivering objectives against the Local Economic Plan.

Business survey

A business survey was conducted to gain an understanding of the challenges and needs of local businesses. The survey was conducted by Action Market Research (AMR) who selected 2,000 addresses within the municipality at random from the Australian Business Register database for which 9% responded. To further support local businesses, a full-time staff member was employed as our Economic Development Lead. Our Lead role was able to follow up the survey with some face-to-face consultation and talk candidly with our local businesses on the importance of the initial survey data. The survey was live from 11 March – 5 April 2024 and was promoted across social media and our website. Overall sentiment from respondents focussed on improving public safety, reducing crime and supporting employment and skill development. These areas align with our strategic measures within the PLEP, and we will continue to support these areas to ensure we meet the needs of the business community.

Website Launch - Invest in Palmerston

City of Palmerston launched the Invest in Palmerston webpage in May 2024. The economic development website provides an initial space for us to share important information on the Local economic plan and the progress, as well as any opportunities for

businesses to take advantage of. The page allows for eventual growth, and although still attached to the main website wireframe, has a separate URL, and will have separate and focussed marketing efforts. The website will roll out in phases, with the last phase having a focus on more interaction and engagement with the end user in mind.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Audit (CPTED)

Through sentiment and feedback via the business survey, the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet (DCM&C) approached City of Palmerston, seeking to collaborate on a Crime Prevention Through Environment Design (CPTED) audit and subsequent report for the Palmerston Central Business District (CBD), an area inclusive of Goyder Square. The key objective of this project is to develop a comprehensive report, leveraging CPTED principles, to guide the revitalisation and gentrification of the Palmerston CBD, including Goyder Square. The aim is to decrease the likelihood of criminal and anti-social behaviour while bolstering the sustainability of individual commercial enterprises within the vicinity.

Market Stall Workshop

A workshop was delivered in October 2023 on "How to Run a Successful Market Stall" which proved to be popular with 22 participants. The workshop provided a unique blend of personal business stories, practical setup advice, and selling strategies, reflecting our commitment to the Creative Industries Plan goals of fostering local entrepreneurship and creative skills. The feedback was positive, with attendees appreciating the practical, experience-based advice and the opportunity to transform hobbies into viable market ventures.



CULTURAL DIVERSITY

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



Australia Day, Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2023

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

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

Snapshot 2023-24



Welcomed 329 visitors to Christmas Wonderland all abilities evening



Held an AUSLAN Christmas Storytime



Welcomed over 1000 attendees to Culture Fest



222 Palmerston residents became Australian Citizens



Hosted our first ever transgender clothes swap



Introduced Readspeaker to the website (text to voice)



Painted 14 vibrant wall murals in Palmerston with Palmerston Street Art Festival



Continued strong partnerships with our network groups



Held an AUSLAN National Simultaneous Storytime at the library



Children's Week, Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2023

Community Survey Scorecard

Cultural Diversity continues to receive positive results across the measures with the highest score for providing libraries and library services to the community. There was a significant increase in results for promoting art and culture which scored 7.15, an increase of .29 from the previous year which can be contributed to the Palmerston Street Art Festival. Through the rollout of our extensive events such as Culture fest, Pride and All-abilities Christmas Wonderland, we are making positive steps towards an inclusive community.

Measure	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change
Supporting culturally diverse events	7.02	7.14	7.59	7.47	7.55	7.74	+0.18
Promoting art and culture (e.g. public art, murals, paving etc.)	6.28	6.56	7.07	6.87	6.86	7.15	+0.29
Providing libraries and library services to the community	8.20	8.27	8.16	8.04	8.06	8.12	+0.05
Providing recognition and support for our indigenous and multicultural community	6.68	6.88	7.18	6.86	7.09	7.13	+0.04
Overall:	7.04/10	7.21/10	7.50/10	7.31/10	7.39/10	7.53/10	+0.14

Future actions 2024-25

- Continue to invest in events and programs that increases community participation and celebrates diversity, arts and culture
- Continue to develop and nurture existing partnerships ensuring they are inclusive of emerging communities
- Inclusion and accessibility continues to be incorporated into our planning and programming
- Continue to consult with the needs of all people in our programs and planning
- Foster and improve promotion of arts and culture in our community including the awareness of local history



TO CELEBRATE OUR RICH CULTURE AND DIVERSITY

Palmerston celebrates cultural diversity with events throughout the year. Our community has opportunities to celebrate, include, understand, learn and accept. We held a large number of celebrations and events throughout the year which all had a focus on inclusivity, diversity and celebrating cultural heritage.

Christmas Wonderland All Abilities Evening

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing inclusive and accessible events in Palmerston, City of Palmerston once again hosted a dedicated Christmas Wonderland Low Sensory Event. The evening included sensory considerations such as reduced flashing lights, lower music and ticketed registration which saw us welcome 329 visitors for the evening. In addition to the event in its 2nd year running, we engaged an external expert to provide feedback on ways we can improve accessibility of the event in future which will be implemented at the 2024 event.

Citizenship Ceremonies

There were six (6) Citizenship Ceremonies held in 2023-24, with 222 Palmerston residents becoming Australian Citizens. There was a diverse range of cultures from around the globe including Bangladesh, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Germany, Belgium, Thailand, Wales, India, Nepal, United Arab Emirates, South Africa and more becoming permanent citizens and residents of Palmerston. The diverse nationalities contribute to a vibrant tapestry of cultural diversity within the community that we are extremely proud of.

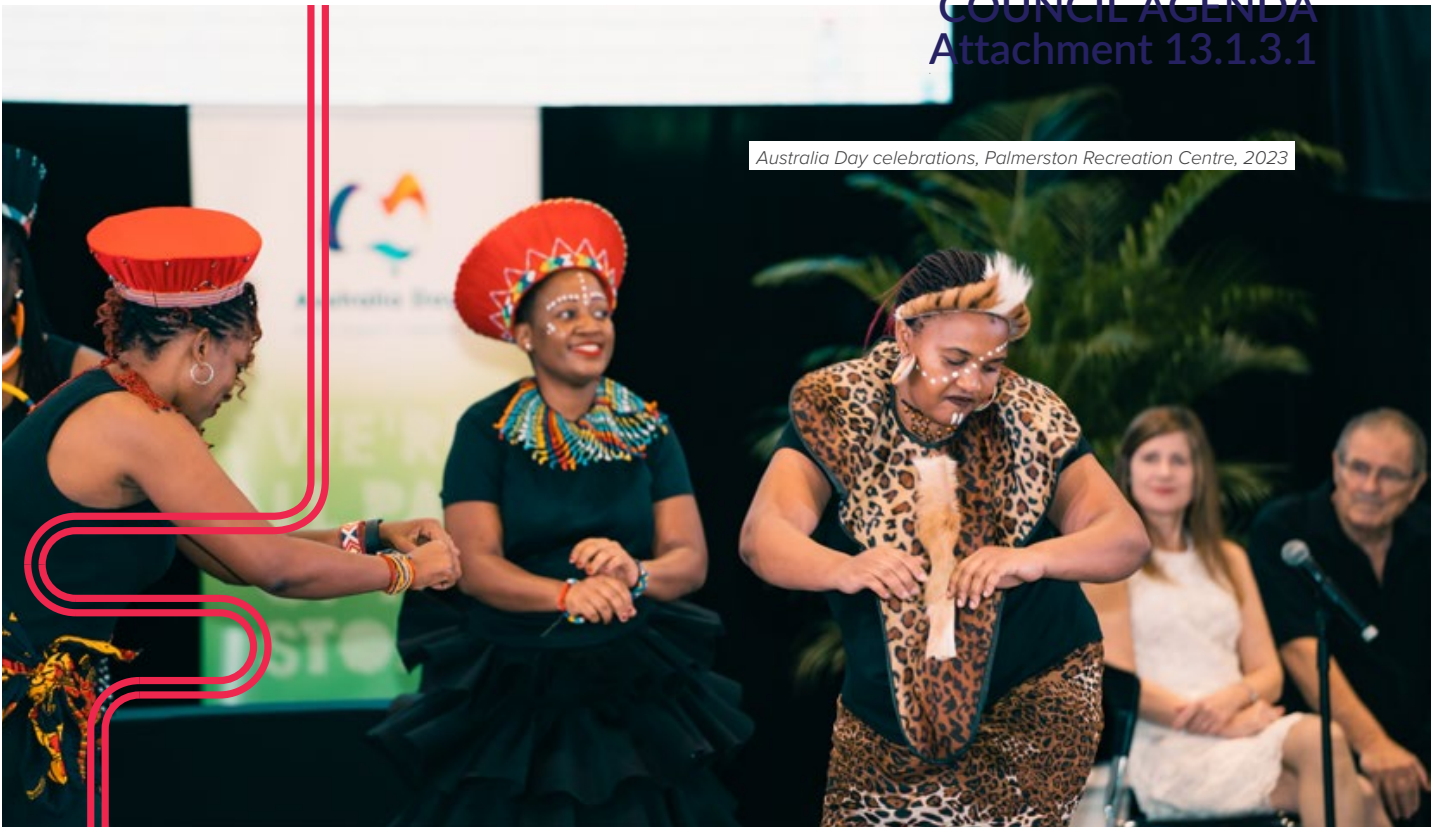
Palmerston Australia Day Citizen of the Year Cocktail Party and Awards Ceremony

Each year we ask the community to nominate Palmerston residents for their outstanding contribution to the community through the Palmerston Australia Day Awards. To celebrate all 17 nominees, we invited them and their supporters to a Cocktail Party to acknowledge their contribution with a certificate of achievement. The Australia Day Flag Raising Ceremony and Awards was then held on Australia Day where over 350 members of the Palmerston community attended. The event showcased many inclusive and accessible elements including an AUSLAN interpreter, electric ramp, wide spacing between chairs, big screens for people sitting at the back and catering towards dietary requirements. Winners of the Palmerston Australia Day awards were announced, along with the Student of the Year awards and a Citizenship Ceremony.



Australia Day ceremony, Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2023

Australia Day celebrations, Palmerston Recreation Centre, 2023



Culture Fest

To ensure our events continuously improve, the event saw some changes such as a slight rename from Multicultural Festival to Culture Fest and the introduction of a number of elements to focus more on grass roots community groups. This year we welcomed local community dance groups to such as SAMs Dance Studio, OPA Dance, Bailamos, PHL the Beat, Rock and Roll, and Balinese groups, who all delivered captivating performances that impressed the audience with the finale act as the African drumming and fire show. The event was a well-attended and enjoyable experience for all attendees with over 1,000 people attending and positive feedback throughout the evening. This event truly brought the community together, celebrating unity and diversity in a vibrant, welcoming environment.

International Women's Week (IWW)

The UN theme for IWW 2024 was "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress". Week long celebrations began on the 6th of March and included themes such as Financial Independence and Freedom, self-esteem, workplace rights, and personal development. A buffet lunch was provided by STEPS group Australian students with cuisines from around the globe. The remainder of the week saw other activities such as a movie screening at Gray Community Hall, a Women's art exhibition at the library, and a Game Jam at the Recreation Centre.

Transgender Clothes Swap

As part of 2023 Trans Awareness Week, City of Palmerston supported the inaugural Transgender Clothes Swap event which was hosted by Ace at Durack Community Arts Centre. The event provided a safe space for people who are gender diverse to come and try on different styles of clothing and to come together with other members of the LGBTQIA+ community to build connections. The event was a success, thanks in part to the support from Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council (NTAHC), as well as the generous individuals who donated clothing.

Pride

To celebrate Pride month in June 2023, a Sexual and Gender Diversity Training - LGBTQIA+ education program was delivered to the community and included:

- Defining LGBTQIA+ communities and understanding identity
- Issues and barriers facing people with diverse genders and sexualities
- The role in supporting and accepting the experiences of LGBTQIA+ people
- Fostering partnerships and providing appropriate referral services
- Developing an understanding of various guidelines surrounding sexually and gender diverse individuals.

Queer Comedy Life Drawing

Participants enjoyed some serious laughs as Palmerston Pride delivered the very first Queer Comedy Life Drawing hosted by Tina Colada and featuring some of Top End's most hilarious comedy and drag performers (including Big D from Boyz2Boyz).

Queers Write

An opportunity for LGBTQIA+ emerging writers to come together and write. Participants were inspired by a variety of writing prompts designed to elicit both true and creative stories or poetry.

International Men's Day

International Men's Day was held on Sunday 19 November in the Palmerston Recreation Centre and library. International Men's Day celebrates men and boys, their achievements and highlights social issues such as health, discrimination and disadvantage. Around 150 community members enjoyed a range of activities including free breakfast, Bunnings workshops, inflatable obstacle course, men's health and service providers information stalls, bike maintenance workshop, mountain bike skills workshop and native plant giveaway.

International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD)

City of Palmerston celebrated International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD) again in November 2023 with funding support from the Northern Territory Government. Entertainment included live music with Warren, face painting, Darwin Divine Dancers and virtual reality with Level Up Esports. Therapy Dogs, AUSLAN interpreters and Santa were all there to celebrate and support the community.

Carnivale Cabaret

We held another night of theatre to target the older demographics in Palmerston and brought a Carnivale Cabaret which was held at the Durack Community Arts Centre on the grassed outdoor area. The event included a range of exciting live shows, including a 30-minute cabaret, two 10-minute fire performances, pop-up shows, and an intimate marquee for lovers of sideshow and burlesque. The event was attended by more than 550 people over the two evenings.

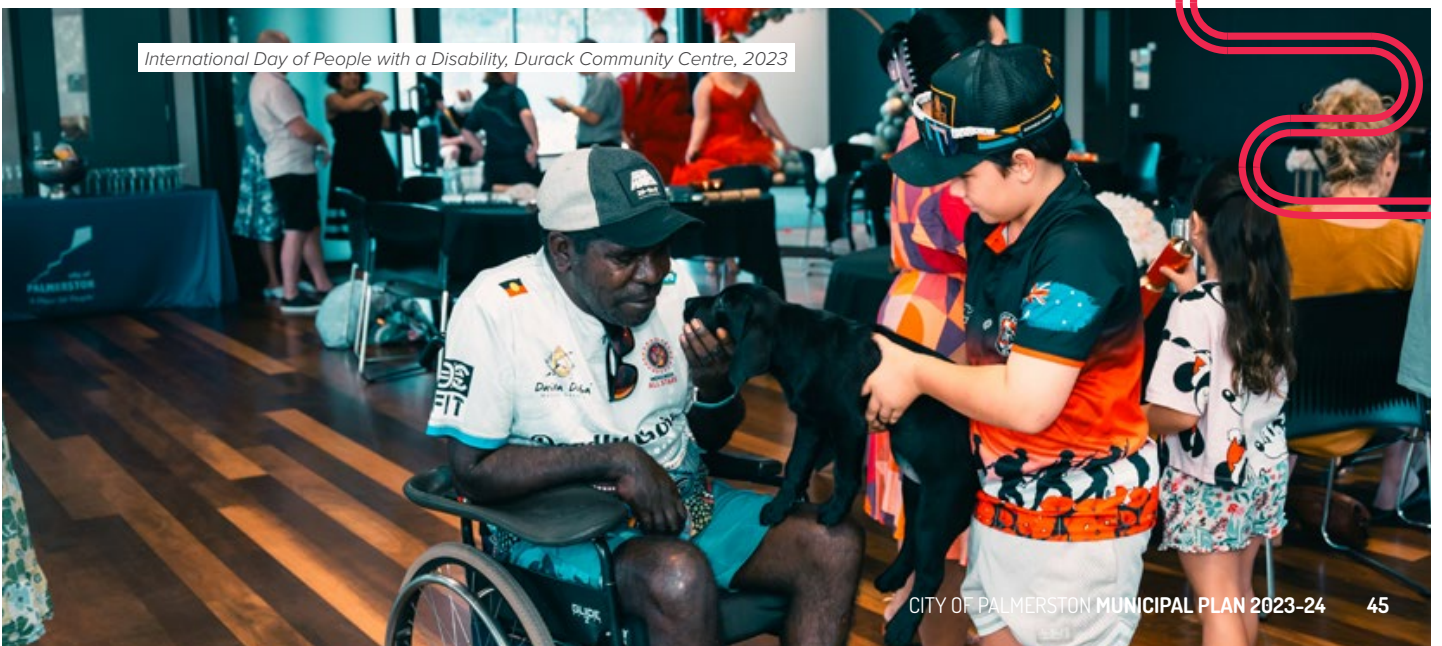
Accessible communications

To help reach our wide and diverse audience, we implemented a variety of actions set out in the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan which included:

- Accessible website with the introduction of Readspeak which is a text to voice application that has been installed and can be accessed throughout each page of the website.
- An internal accessibility design guide which focusing on accessible font type, colour contrast and language
- We continue to offer the option of online and printed forms
- Development and planning work went towards an overarching refresh of the brand and style guide including the tone of voice
- Continued the use of Monsido to help maintain the national standards of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) which is currently at version 2.2

We will continue to adapt and implement new communication tools and tactics to ensure we meet the growing and changing needs of the community and to ensure everyone has relevant information accessible to them.

International Day of People with a Disability, Durack Community Centre, 2023



RECOGNISE AND SUPPORT DIVERSITY THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIPS AND LEADERSHIP

City of Palmerston has strong partnerships in the community which enable it to include diverse views and perspectives in its planning and decision making. In an effort to support community capacity and capability, we collaborate with a number of local networks including:

Palmerston Kids Network (PKN)

PKN is a committed network of people representing organisations that provide services and programs for children (0-12 years) and their families, living in Palmerston. The network meets bi-monthly for the purpose of networking, collaborating, professional development, and to provide a platform to raise awareness of issues currently being faced by the community. The Network has successfully delivered against the purpose throughout the year through events and programs delivered with and by City of Palmerston. The Network updates are provided to the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee.

Palmerston Safe Communities Network

Safety is consistently raised as the greatest concern of Palmerston residents in the annual Community Satisfaction Survey and the Palmerston Safe Communities Network (PSCN) aims to collaborate to help support workers in this sector.

In addition to the PSCN meetings, City of Palmerston staff attend interagency meetings regularly which considers collaborative approaches to emerging hotspots and community issues. Immediate or urgent concerns are dealt with, as well strategic approaches discussed. City of Palmerston will maintain their position and attendance at these interagency meetings to assist with creating a safe and welcoming space in Palmerston.

Palmerston Seniors Network

To help support our important senior community members, the Palmerston Seniors Network was established to provide networking opportunities, sector updates and a platform for members to raise awareness of issues relevant to the senior community. Discussions cover topics like safety, reliable transportation, parking, and facilities, along with ways to better support seniors in these areas. As a result of the network, a working group was then formed to assist the preparations for the Senior's month event held at the Recreation Centre.

Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network

One of our longstanding networks is the Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network (PARYS) which provides a forum for people working with youth to raise awareness of current issues affecting youth, in an effort to develop strategies and actions on ways to support Palmerston young people in the 12-25 year age group. The Network meets bi-monthly and with a yearly full day forum.

The forum was held at Gray Community Hall in 2023 and brought together service providers and professionals such as Clinic 34, Headspace, Catholic Care NT (Northern Territory), Salvation Army, Northern Territory Government, YWCA, Rust 490 and Holistic Counselling and Wellbeing, who shared engaging and informative presentations that offer practical and educational experiences to the group. The ongoing collaboration of this group through the regular meetings and annual forum provided an inclusive and supportive environment that encourages open communication and learning.

Orange Sky CBD Service

The Northern Territory has the highest rate of homelessness in Australia, twelve times the national average. City of Palmerston has established a partnership with Orange Sky for the delivery of a free mobile laundry and shower service outside the Palmerston Recreation Centre. Whilst offering the laundry and shower services, the program enables Orange Sky to engage with people experiencing homelessness and connect them with other services to support their wellbeing.

Light Up Palmerston

To assist our community with spreading awareness within Palmerston, community groups and organisations can request to illuminate various Council buildings such as the water tower, recreation centre, library and Anzac Park, to highlight special events, causes and days of significance.

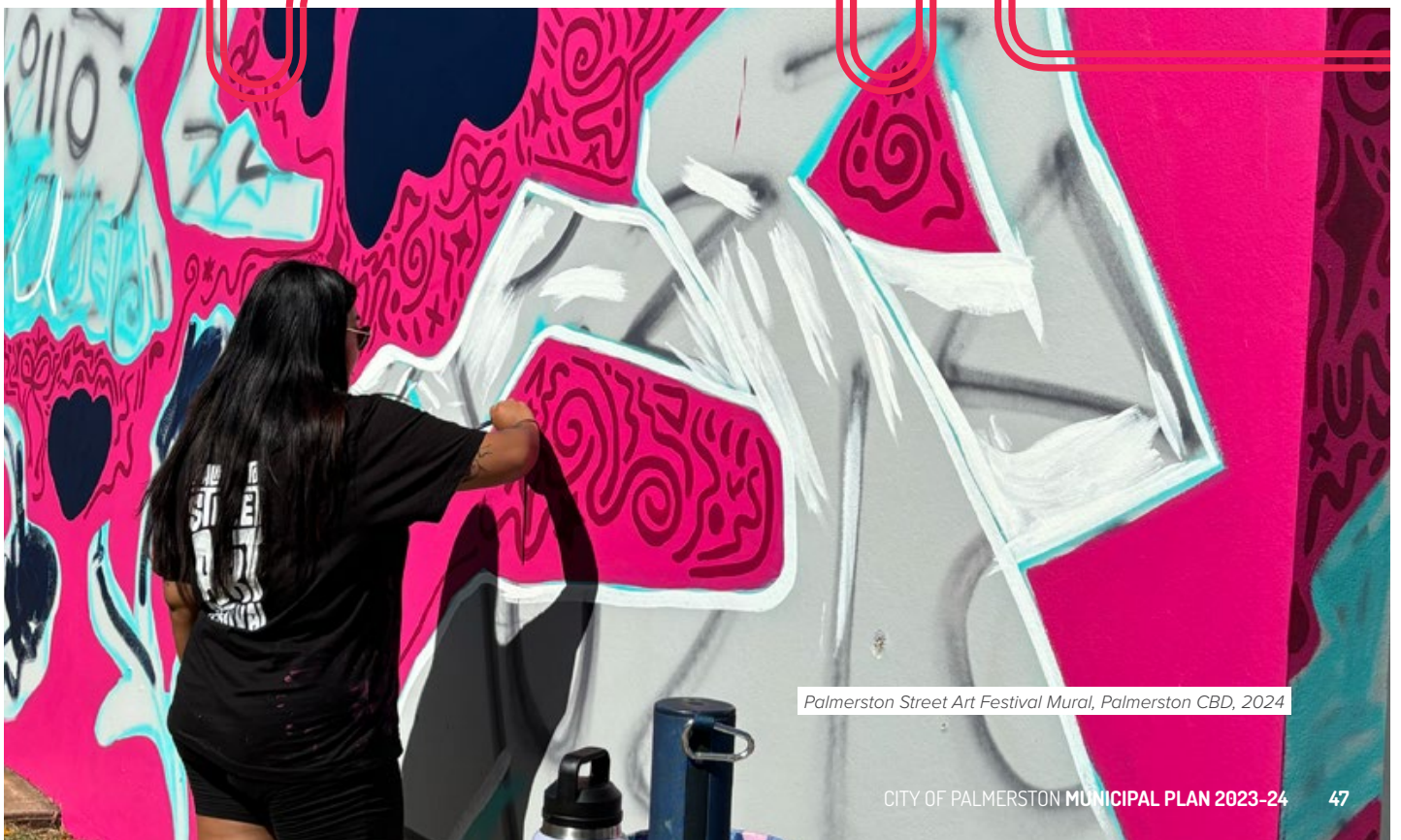
AUSLAN Storytime

An Australia wide yearly event, National Simultaneous Storytime, took place at the Palmerston Library again in 2023 reading the same story at the same time with

every other participating library around Australia. This year Deaf Connect delivered the story and songs in AUSLAN to our community. In addition to this, we also delivered Christmas stories and songs in AUSLAN at the library for the December Christmas school holiday program.

Palmerston Street Art Festival

The Palmerston Street Art Festival was a partnership with Activate Darwin and Proper Creative who have been delivering the Darwin Street Art Festival for 8 years. The first ever Palmerston Street Art Festival focused on supporting local and upcoming talent, whilst bringing vibrant colour and life into our CBD large wall murals. Held from 17 to 29 June, the festival saw 14 walls with vibrant murals, including 13 in Palmerston CBD and 1 in Roseberry. Notably, 11 of the 14 artists participating in the event hailed from the Northern Territory and 7 right here from Palmerston, showcasing our local talent. The event generated extensive media coverage, reaching over 1.5 million people across various platforms and securing national exposure. The festival concluded with a lively street party which featured local entertainment, live art demonstrations, and a variety of food and drink options, creating a festive atmosphere.



Palmerston Street Art Festival Mural, Palmerston CBD, 2024



A FUTURE FOCUS

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



Palmerston CBD aerial, 2024

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

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

Snapshot 2023-24



New internal Telephone system for City of Palmerston



Relocated gatehouse at AWMF



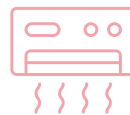
Palmerston Library launches new eresource 'Overdrive Libby'



New accessible toilet built at Mens Shed



81 plans approved for driveways



Air-conditioning upgrades in Recreation Centre and Durack Community Arts Centre



9029 facility bookings



Tree pruning, Palmerston, 2023

Community Survey Scorecard

Measures for future focus remain a comparatively lower scoring area with the highest score of 7.47/10 received for maintaining drainage facilities and the most improved measure being for how innovative City of Palmerston is which scored 6.46/10 an increase of .11.

Measures for this outcome revolved around maintaining assets such as roads and footpaths by both City of Palmerston and developers. Although flexibility still achieved a low score, it did increase by .14 from the previous year which is promising result.

Measure	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change
Performance in:							
Supporting innovation in the business community	5.65	6.04	6.38	6.19	6.28	6.21	-0.07
How:							
Innovative is the City of Palmerston?	5.95	6.08	6.45	6.09	6.35	6.46	+0.11
Flexible is the City of Palmerston?	5.89	6.00	6.49	5.89	6.19	6.33	+0.14
Performance in:							
Ensuring roads built by developers are fit for purpose	7.10	7.22	7.38	6.99	7.11	7.05	-0.06
Maintaining roads	7.31	7.51	7.49	6.93	7.10	6.90	-0.20
Ensuring footpaths built by developers are fit for purpose	7.07	7.17	7.30	7.06	7.11	7.09	-0.02
Maintaining footpaths	6.95	6.99	7.06	6.89	6.94	6.84	-0.10
Providing shared pathways	6.81	6.92	7.08	6.83	6.98	6.88	-0.10
Maintaining shared pathways	6.88	7.00	7.07	6.81	6.96	6.92	-0.04
Maintaining drainage facilities	7.37	7.44	7.46	7.33	7.35	7.47	+0.12
Overall:	6.70/10	6.84/10	7.02/10	6.70/10	6.84/10	6.82/10	-0.02

Future actions 2024-25

- Deliver a new website for the community that provides accessible online forms and easy navigation
- Continue working towards the delivery of an Enterprise Resource Program
- Investing in programs for maintaining and renewing infrastructure and assets that allow for future proofing as our community grows
- Continue working with NT Government on joint partnerships to deliver shared connectivity, supporting greening our city and effective and efficient public lighting programs
- Delivery of a Car Parking strategy
- Continuing to find innovative ways to make it easy for our community to engage with us

WE SUPPORT AND FOSTER INNOVATION

Zuccoli precinct

This year saw the delivery of an additional 179, low-medium density residential allotments, a new lake and open space parkland, and 3 family friendly parks as part of the multi-stage Zuccoli residential neighborhood precinct. The latest stages of development within Palmerston's fastest growing suburb provides for diverse housing options and accessible public open spaces to cater for the city's growing population.

As we welcomed the opening of stage one of Zuccoli Community Hub in May 2023, the last financial year saw planning work commence for the second stage. This is set to include a number of elements including a some shade structures, BBQ facilities and design for a sensory walking trail. Works will continue in 2025 for this project.

FiberSense

FiberSense was installed throughout Palmerston CBD and Bakewell as state-of-the-art technology that uses underground fiber optic cables to detect vibrations from machinery, vehicles, pedestrians which are then converted into data that can be used for planning and improvements to the city. The installation was complete in May 2024 financial year and the digital asset system is in its first phase of deployment which includes traffic counts and measuring congestion. 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.

Improving organisational capabilities

As part of our values of continuous improvement and quality resources, City of Palmerston has introduced a number of internal improvements that will assist to deliver more effective services for the community. In November 2023, an improved telephone system was introduced which integrated better with other internal communication systems, has improved reporting capabilities and elevates operational efficiency.

Progress on the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project also continued. The ERP system aims to encompass all organisation systems necessary to fulfill regulatory and rating business requirements. Projects such as this can take a considerable amount of time to complete due to the complexity and needs of each individual piece of software.

Library e-resource platform

The library introduced a new eresource platform 'Overdrive Libby' which provides members with access to thousands of ebooks, eaudiobooks, and emagazines. Libby's user-friendly interface and innovative features promise an accessible and convenient application. The platform does require internet, however, allows for downloading, so you can take your eresource while you are travelling or have limited access to the internet.

Website redevelopment

Planning and preparation for the website redevelopment was completed in 2023-24. The redevelopment marks a significant step towards fostering innovation and elevating community engagement. The current website required a major audit and complete rewrite of most of the information. We want to ensure the information that is provided to our community is up-to-date, relevant and useful. The new site aims to provide the community with an improved user experience making it easy to connect, collaborate and stay informed. We aim to build on this in future versions to ensure we create a digital space that reflects our commitment to innovation as our community grows in population and needs.

INFRASTRUCTURE IS FIT FOR PURPOSE

SWELL – Swimming Wellness Events Leisure Lifestyle

City of Palmerston’s largest infrastructure project to date opened with much excitement on 17 December 2023. The new facility includes a 50-metre pool, 20-metre warm water pool, a splash and play space, an events area, basketball half-court, new and improved accessible toilets and change rooms, and an adventure play zone unlike any other in the Top End.

Following the successful opening, significant work has been undertaken to establish the site as Palmerston’s ultimate fitness and leisure destination. The upgraded Health Club opened in May 2024 offering upgraded spaces, new equipment and a range of fitness classes. Palmerston schools and community groups are enjoying the new SWELL facility with a variety of carnivals, events and activities delivered for the Palmerston community.

Building approvals

This year there were 313 new driveway applications with 57% of these requests from Zuccoli. 63 new driveways were constructed and approved, and 4 driveways were constructed by private developers. We also issued 64 stormwater clearances and approved 86 new stormwater connections.

Community facilities

City of Palmerston has a number of purpose-built facilities that help support the community through free or reduced hire costs. The facilities range in size and each offers something different. The venues can be booked by community members for events, meetings, activities, workshops or gatherings. Usage of the venues is extremely popular and contributes to community well-being and enablement.

Facility	Number of bookings
Durack Art Centre	182
Recording Studio	227
Palmerston Recreation Centre Conference Room	473
Driver Community Hall	479
Palmerston Library Community Room	877
Gray Community Hall	1331
Palmerston Recreation Centre Community Rooms	2360
Palmerston Recreation Centre Stadium	3100

There were a total of 9,029 bookings across all facilities with the majority of usage being at the Palmerston Recreation Centre. The bookings were mostly taken by not-for-profit organisations for the purpose of wellbeing and fitness activities. Maintenance across all facilities took place throughout the year with the Recreation Centre air-conditioning system being refurbished to enhance the indoor environment for groups, community events and activities. Durack Community Arts Centre also saw air-conditioning upgrades which were completed in November 2023.

In the library the shelving in the children’s area has been upgraded to be more modern and is now on wheels which allows for adaptability and provides a larger space for activities and programs. The public computer desks have been upgraded to modern space saving designs and the front counter was relocated to a more accessible position in the library which allows staff greater vantage points of the space and entryways, giving ease of access for the community.

Archer Waste Facility Upgrade

The proposal to upgrade 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 upgrades will be taken in stages, with the relocation of the gatehouse being completed in June 2024. Works commenced on site in April and included underground services, road realignment, concrete slab and gate house relocation and water tanks and pumps. The next stage of the project will see the construction of the new recycling facility including the installation of a cardboard compactor.

SWELL – Hall 2 and Gym refurbishment

In addition to the opening of SWELL pools and outdoor space, a refurbishment of an internal hall space was completed which included the replacement of the roof, and internal upgrade for a more usable community space. The gym and adjoining hall were upgraded and includes a Lotus folding wall to provide flexibility. The upgrade also included an improved accessible front entrance and was delivered in April 2024.

Mens Shed

The Men's Shed located in Yarrawonga, is a space that is provided to promote the wellbeing of men through fostering social connectedness and increasing self-esteem. The facility is provided to the group and last year saw a new accessible toilet constructed.

Driver Community Centre

This centre was a purpose-built facility dating back to the 1980's and is currently being used by a number of groups, predominantly child related activities. A Needs Assessment and concept design was completed the previous year, and community consultation commenced in August 2023. Consultation included stakeholder meetings as well as a community survey and public information stalls. The feedback received will help to inform future design work for the redevelopment of the facility.



Zuccoli Community Hub

The Master Plan for the Zuccoli Community Hub incorporates a number of stages including a dog park, walking trails, skate park, pump track, playground, children's boutique library, community centre and a garden of reflection. So far the off-leash dog park, carpark and facilities have been delivered, and opened to the public in May 2023. The proposed second stage will include a pump track and a design for walking trails. A Geotechnical assessment of the site was completed which informs the civil design, enabling the site to be appropriately developed inline with the proposed stages.

Maintaining roads and pathways

To ensure continuous improvement on connectivity, safety, and amenity of the city, our teams maintain roads through road repair, reseal and overlay programs.

During the 2023-24 the following resurfacing was completed:

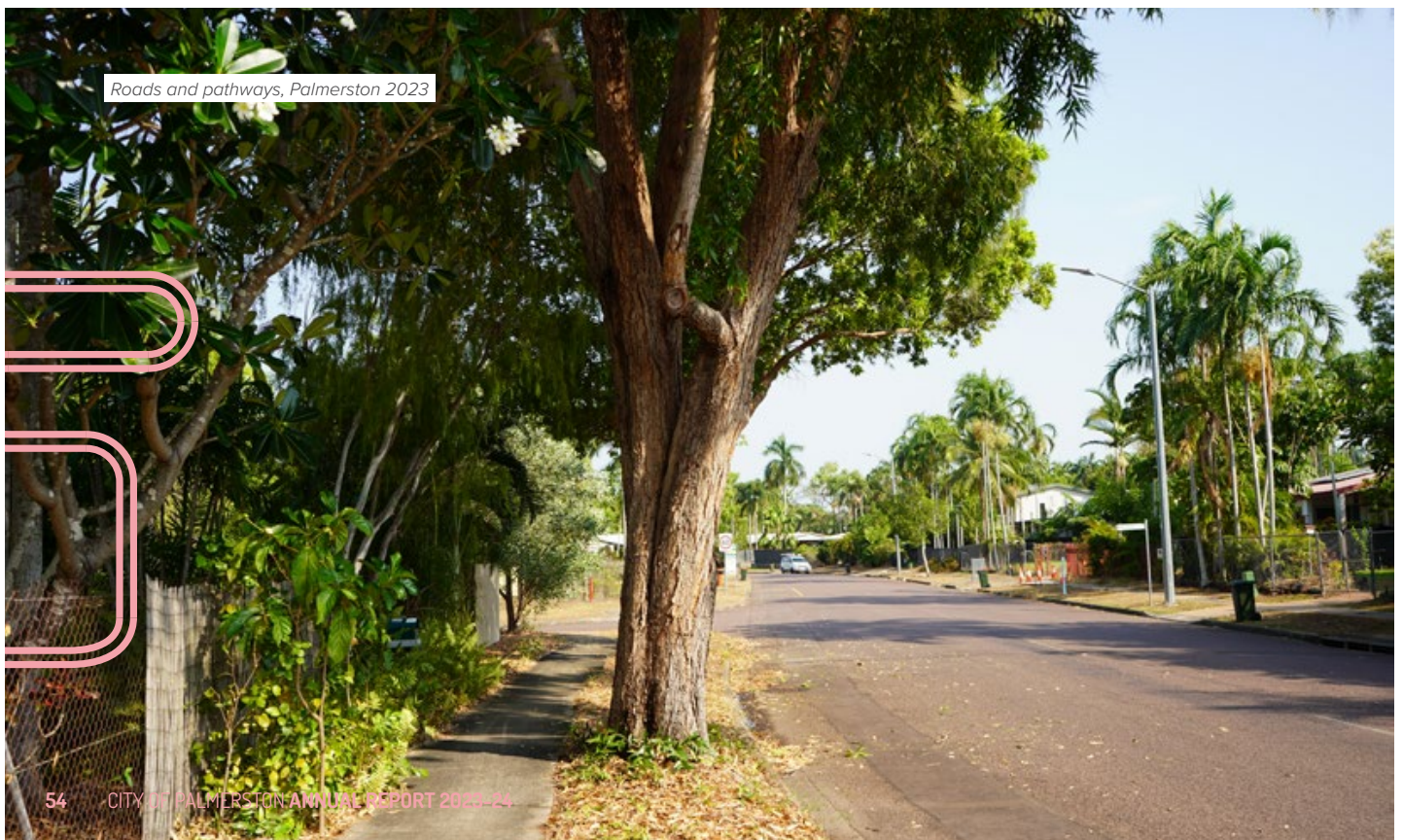
- Inverway Circuit including the roundabout at Farrar Boulevard
- Woodlake Boulevard, which was funded through the Roads to Recovery Grant

- Victoria Drive
- Lambrick Avenue
- Emery Avenue
- Lakeview Boulevard.
- Woodlake Boulevard.
- Broadarrow Circuit and Woodroffe Avenue intersection

New asphalt was also laid in three (3) cul-de-sacs at Caladium Court, Crinum Court and Izod Court.

Additionally, we ensure attention is given to road potholes, which vary throughout the year, with a higher amount over the wet season. A total of 206 potholes were identified and 130 fixed during the financial year for repair.

Mapping and analysis have been completed using the organisations internal mapping system ArcGIS, to assist with improvements and future developments of pathways. This allows us to have a visual representation of current pathways and potential connectivity. The contract for footpath connectivity and renewals has been awarded to a local contracting service and program works will begin within priority open space areas. Overall, there were 180 pathway defects identified with 83 fixed in the 2023-24 financial year.





Stormwater pipe inspection, Tivendale, 2024

Civil operations

Stormwater networks are a vital community asset that assists in helping prevent unsafe conditions and property damage during periods of heavy rainfall. The networks are monitored for effectiveness through routine and responsive maintenance including cleaning of open drains, drainage easements and pipe networks.

Underground CCTV inspections of the stormwater pipe networks have been conducted in selected 'at-risk' areas and as a result priority locations for maintenance and repair have been identified.

Signage

In an effort to improve community safety and road connectivity, floodway monitoring and warning signage was installed at Bombax Street and Melastoma Drive in Moulden and James Circuit in Woodroofe. The signage provides real time traffic warnings to motorists and pedestrians when a flooding event occurs.

171 Signage repairs and replacement took place throughout the year.

Lighting management and dark spot program

Upgrade and renewal programs have continued to improve street lighting in Palmerston for the purpose of safety, and energy efficiencies. The Dark Spots Program identifies locations of 'dark' areas throughout the municipality that can be improved through public lighting.

Upgrades and renewal works were completed in the Tivendale and Wishart areas with the installation of energy efficient LED lighting. Street lighting upgrades were completed for Stockwhip Drive in Marlows Lagoon, Allamur Court, Essington Park in Gray and Harrison Circuit in Woodroofe.

City of Palmerston continues to improve the safety, and amenity of the city by actively monitoring and managing the street lighting network to optimize operations. As at the end of June 2024, 97% of streetlights were working. Streetlight night inspections are completed throughout the year, and repairs and rectification works are administered as a priority. We have maintained a minimum of above 95% of rectification through the year.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

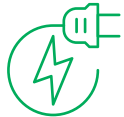


Sanctuary Lakes, Gunn, 2024

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

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

Snapshot 2023-24



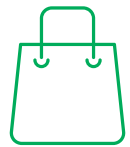
Reduced electricity consumption at Council facilities by 22%



40 stall holders at Reboot your loot



3 new Lake aerators



100m² of promotional banners made into tote bags



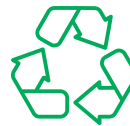
47 residents approved for verge assistance with topsoil and grass seeds



12 Hybrid and 1 fully electric council vehicles



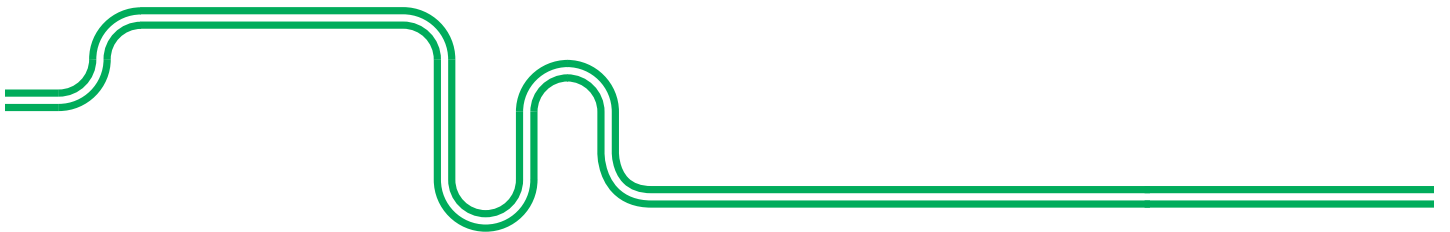
Kerbside waste collection recovered 947 tons of recycling material



Tackle recycling bins installed at Durack and Sanctuary Lakes



33% of pre-cyclone items were recycled or repurposed



Community Survey Scorecard

The community continue to score kerbside waste collection, and maintaining Archer Waste Management Facility (AWMF) considerable high with kerbside receiving 8.10/10 and maintaining AWMF receiving 8.01. Both saw an increase in scores from the previous year, however overall results remain consistent.

There was a decrease in satisfaction for Increasing shading and greening the city with a 6.45/10 score, which is down .11. Although we delivered a number of brand new shade structures across playgrounds including Shadforth Park and Dillon Park and invested heavily towards retractable shade at SWELL, and work towards greening the municipality will continue through increased tree planting.

Measure	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change
Providing opportunities for recycle and re-use through the pre-cyclone clean up	7.56	7.77	7.76	7.56	7.73	7.76	+0.04
Managing gardens and nature reserves	7.27	7.34	7.36	7.09	7.16	7.18	+0.02
Maintaining lakes	7.12	7.15	6.93	6.21	7.00	7.09	+0.10
Increasing shading and greening the city	6.27	6.52	6.72	6.56	6.56	6.45	-0.11
Kerbside waste collection	8.02	8.33	8.28	8.14	8.09	8.10	+0.01
Providing and maintaining Archer Waste Management Facility	7.78	7.87	7.95	7.74	7.96	8.01	+0.05
Promoting environmental sustainability	6.07	6.36	6.53	6.29	6.55	6.52	-0.03
Overall:	7.16/10	7.33/10	7.36/10	7.08/10	7.29/10	7.30/10	+0.01

Future actions 2024-25

- Invest in further photovoltaic (PV) solar and battery storage units in key Council facilities.
- Develop a single use plastic and reusable containers policy for events on Council land.
- Undertake review and update of the Lakes Management Plan and continue to implement management of lakes.
- Develop a Fire Management Plan.
- Continue with controlled burns and on-the-ground weed management in high-risk areas.
- Develop the Mitchell Creek Feasibility Study to provide guidance on the management of the sustainable use of this area.
- Develop an Irrigation Management Plan to improve water use efficiencies and upgrade irrigation infrastructure.

REDUCE OUR FOOTPRINT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Energy consumption and solar power

As we continue to develop new community assets, it is expected that energy consumption increases with it. The addition of community facilities such as SWELL, Gulwa Recording Studio, Gray Community Hall and more over the past few years attribute to the increase in energy consumption. To counterbalance this, and as a commitment on reducing overall energy consumption, we have installed Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at the library, Recreation Centre, Civic Plaza car park shade and Gray Community Hall. As a whole, these facilities generated approximately 351 MWh of electricity in the 2023/2024 financial year, reducing the overall electricity consumption by 22.37%. The emissions reduction to date since the installation of these systems is approximately 981,329kgs of Co2-e, equivalent to the planting 19,040 trees.

Palmerston Lakes

With an improvement to the quality of our lakes over the past 12 months we have continued with the ongoing maintenance including the installation of three (3) additional lakebed aerators, thanks to a grant received through the Northern Territory Recreational Fishing Grants Scheme (NTFRGS). The aerators help distribute dissolved oxygen across the lake, thereby improving water quality. Aerators were installed in Sanctuary Lakes B and C, and in Durack Lake 5. In addition to the aerators, we were also able to assist the Department of Fisheries to release 110 juvenile Barramundi into a number of our lakes again this year. Over the past 12 months lakes have remained between 90-95% weed free which is attributed to the ongoing weed management efforts from previous years.

Land biodiversity management

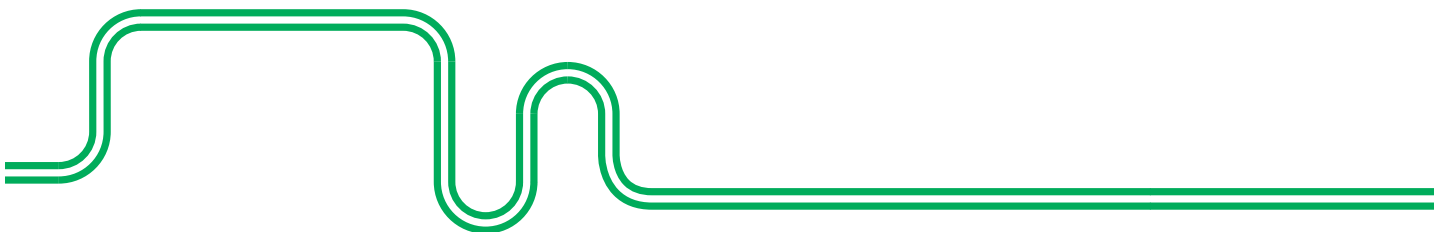
To manage some of our larger open space areas, our biodiversity management program was rolled out which includes prescribed burns, to reduce fuel loads and minimize the risk of uncontrolled wildfire, and weed spraying to reduce the spread of environmental weeds. Prescribed burns were undertaken in the Gunn Escarpment and behind the Archer Waste Management Facility. Weed spraying for environmental weeds was undertaken at Marlow Lagoon Recreational Area, Gunn Escarpment, Archer Waste Management Facility and the Archer closed landfill.

Irrigation

There were several irrigation upgrades throughout the municipality including significant works in the following spaces;

- Maurice Dog Park irrigation upgrade
- Pretty Park irrigation upgrade
- Roberts Park (Gray) – installation of a new irrigation system
- Upgrade of tree bubblers in the Farrar boulevard, Johnston roundabouts.
- President Bore (Driver) revitalization.

Upgrading old or inefficient irrigation in our parks and reserves significantly improves water use efficiency and prevents the establishment of unseen water leaks, avoiding large volumes of water wastage.



PALMERSTON IS A COOL, SHADED GREEN CITY

Greening programs

Tree canopy mapping was completed for the Palmerston municipality. This mapping evaluated areas of tree canopy across the city using an AI model, achieving a 95% accuracy rate. The mapping will be used to support decisions related to planting initiatives and urban heat mitigation programs.

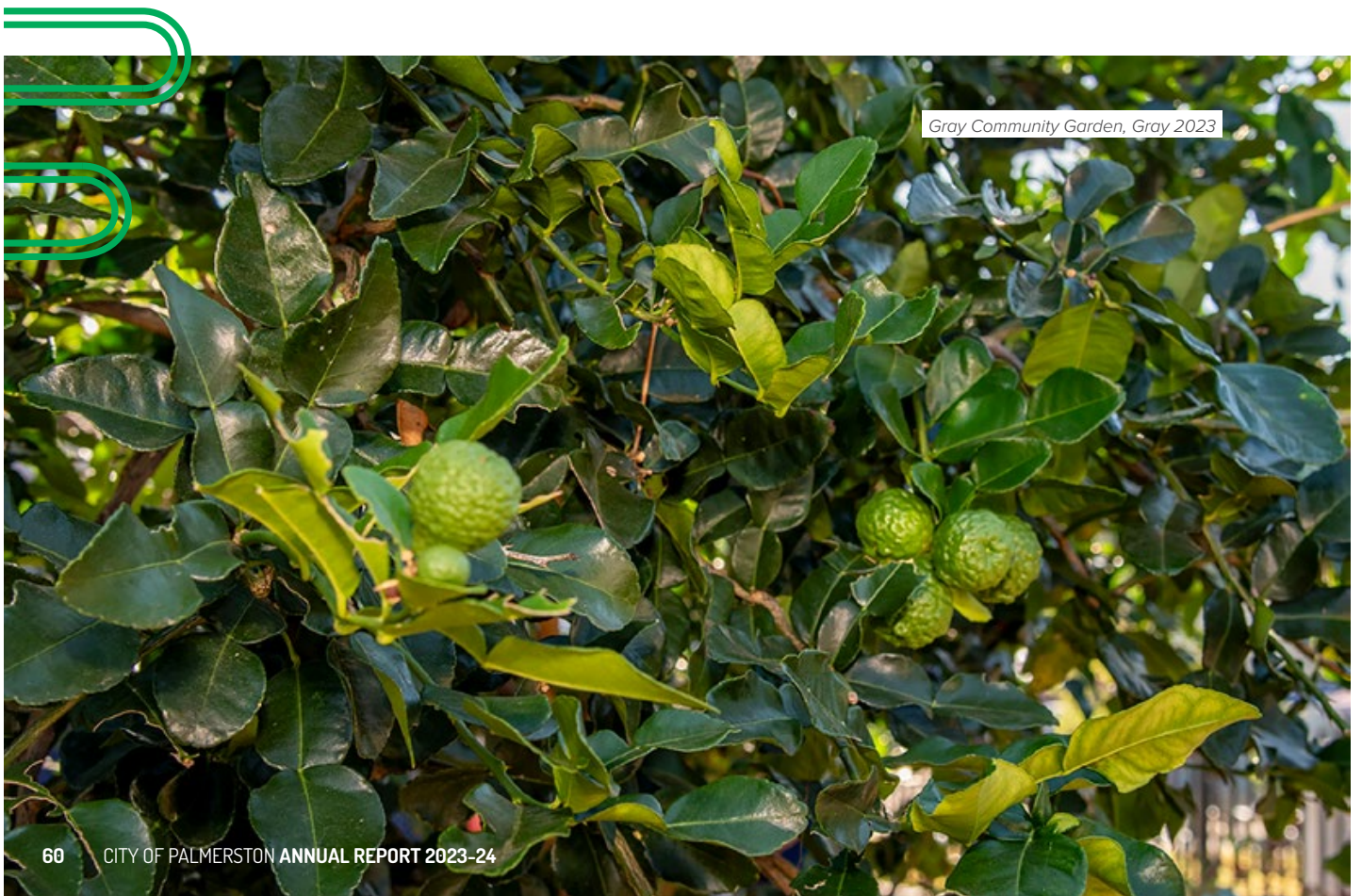
Additionally, several tree planting projects were undertaken in the 2024/25 FY. These included the planting of 180 trees along Woodlake Boulevard in Durack and Owston Avenue in Rosebery. Other successful planting initiatives included 60 native trees and bushes planted on the boundary of the Operations Centre along Temple Terrace and Toupein Road.

A total of 47 people were provided with free topsoil and grass seeds, under our Verge Assistance program, providing residents the opportunity to beautify their verges, contributing to street appeal.

Shading our community

Shade structures were installed for Shadforth Park (Durack), Dillon Park (Gray) and Marlow Lagoon Reserve. Shading play spaces activates and facilitates a more enjoyable and longer lasting experience of the city's parks. The projects have been funded through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) funding from the Australian Government.

Our commitment to greening and cooling the city aims to deliver a tree planting program and There were almost 1,000 new trees planted throughout the municipality, specifically through Driver, Gray, Woodroffe and Durack. Notable for this year were the 180 trees planted Woodlake Boulevard, Owston Avenue and next to the Operations Centre on Temple Terrace and Toupein Road. Ongoing care and maintenance on tree health and growth is also delivered throughout the year, mainly during the drier months, with tree planting occurring generally towards the end of the year during build-up and wet season.





Pre-Cyclone Clean Up, Palmerston 2023

ENCOURAGE PERSONAL ACTION AND TAKING A LEADERSHIP ROLE

Waste collection and recycling

The kerbside collection of domestic waste resulted in 1,449 tons of recycling material collected in the 2023-24 financial year. Of this, 957 tons were recoverable and sent to recycling facilities for processing. The remainder 492 tons was considered contaminated and sent to landfill for disposal.

The Archer Waste Management Facility (AWMF) collected approximately 3,176 tons of general waste. Additionally, 660 tons of recyclable material was collected, including 177 tons of paper and cardboard, and approximately 410 tons of steel.

Pre-cyclone clean-up

Each year the community is provided with the opportunity to clear their yard of unwanted items. The benefit of this initiative is to encourage recycling, but also as a precaution as we enter the wet season where large objects could become dangerous during

intense weather conditions. The Pre-Cyclone clean-up is very popular with the community and is promoted around August each year via social media, NT News ads, flyers, radio ads, outdoor signage, and posters at all customer touch points. With the introduction of the City of Palmerston App, we were able to set up notifications during this period to remind residents that have the app of when their zone will be collected for hard rubbish. A total of 190.64 tonnes of waste was collected, 33% of this waste was either recycled or repurposed.

Reboot your Loot

A yearly favourite event of the community, Reboot your Loot was held once again at the Civic Plaza carpark with more than 40 stallholders. Over 150 people visited the event to look for bargains on pre-loved items. The event aims to encourage the reuse and recycling of pre-loved goods to new homes. It also fosters a space to encourage waste education in our community.

Organisational actions

As part of fleet replacement, electric and hybrid vehicles are procured where possible. Electric and hybrid vehicles are beneficial due to their lower emissions, which help combat climate change and improve air quality. City of Palmerston's fleet includes 1 fully electric and 12 hybrid vehicles including a Hino Hybrid 300 series truck.

E-waste recycling bins were introduced at Civic Plaza and Palmerston Library to help promote responsible electronic waste management and provide accessible recycling options. All staff bins were removed and replaced with strategically placed waste and recycling bins to improve recycling efforts internally. We also continue to print only on recycled paper internally and externally, whilst streamlining administrative procedures by transitioning to digital processes to reduce printing.

The library embodies sustainable practices by decreasing waste through reusable resources that can be borrowed and used repeatedly by the community. When a collection grows, older resources that are not as popular anymore are weeded from the collection to make room. These items are not discarded, but rather repurposed through the library's free book trolley. Magazines and newspapers are given to schools for craft, or resources boxed and collected by other organisations, such as corrections or shelters. The old shelving from the children's collection found various new homes throughout other organisations.

Ozfish tackle bins

In collaboration with Ozfish Unlimited, 'tackle recycling bins' were installed at Durack Lake 6 and Sanctuary Lakes. These bins are placed in strategic locations and offer recreational fishers a convenient way to responsibly dispose of used fishing line, hooks, and bait packaging. Dedicated volunteers regularly monitor and clear these bins. The materials collected are then recycled into new products, diverting waste from landfill and reducing litter in our waterways.

Home composting rebate

To encourage residents to adopt better organic waste disposal practices, we continued to offer the home composting rebate program. This initiative provides residents with up to \$50 in rebates toward the purchase of an organic recycling system for garden use. In 2023-24, the program received 17 new applications, bringing the total to 94 since its inception in 2022.

Recycling initiatives and education

In June 2024 a 'Recycle Right' Information Session was held on World Environment Day (5th June, 2024) at the Gray Community Hall. Attendees of the Recycle Right information session were given tips on best practice recycling methods that reduces contamination in our bins and increases the amount of waste that ends up in landfill.

An online education module was introduced which focuses on kerbside recycling contamination. The online tool available from the website is a useful addition to our recycling education initiatives, and a great place to start for schools, community groups and local businesses.

A joint campaign with STEPS Group in February 2024 saw more than 100m2 of old promotional banners be turned into tote bags. The initiative promoted reuse of advertising material, as well as supporting a local Adult Migrant English Program which was promoted through a media release and social media. The bags are given away for free at Council events.

Tree pruning program, Palmerston, 2023





GOVERNANCE

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



Council to the Community, Gray, 2024

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

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

Snapshot 2023-24



Employed 81 people with a 16% vacancy rate as at June 2024



Engaged with the community 6 occasions



38% male 62% female employed at City of Palmerston



28 media releases receive 140 media interactions



Staff survey received a -32 Net Promoter score



Social media followers 23,246 with engagement increasing by over 250%



9 health and Wellbeing activities held for employees



Website new users 180,227



82 employees received external professional development



Approved 22 sponsorships and multiyear agreements



14,809 customer experience interactions



24% of our staff is born outside of Australia

Community Survey Scorecard

The 2023-24 results have seen a slight increase in overall scores from the community in the Governance area, with a notable increase of .14 from achieving funding and getting things done by working in partnership with government and the community. Although the score is still on the lower scale comparatively, sitting at 6.58/10, governance generally scores consistently lower overall, so it's great to see there were increases in performance in this outcome.

Measure	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change
How:							
Accountable is the City of Palmerston Council?	6.13	6.27	6.79	6.34	6.53	6.60	+0.07
Effective is the City of Palmerston Council?	6.22	6.41	6.68	6.24	6.59	6.56	-0.03
Performance in:							
Providing you with the opportunity to comment on Council's decision making and interact with Council	5.63	5.71	5.90	5.72	6.14	6.25	+0.11
Achieving funding and getting things done by working in partnership with government and the community	6.05	6.30	6.70	6.44	6.44	6.58	+0.14
Overall:	6.01/10	6.17/10	6.52/10	6.19/10	6.43/10	6.50/10	+0.07

Future actions 2024-25

- Continually optimize towards improved engagements through social media channels such as creating opportunities for more community or influencer interactions and trialing new tactics or trends
- Deliver updated Community Engagement Policy
- Launch a new website with a fresh new style
- Delivery of a new Enterprise Agreement for employees
- Develop a talent attraction strategy to help support recruitment and retention of staff
- Ongoing staff wellbeing initiatives and take action towards workplace culture
- Look for opportunities for future partnerships to enhance deliverables to the community
- Deliver a Reconciliation Action Plan

ENSURE WE HAVE A LEADING GOVERNANCE MODEL

Council meetings

Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month, with a short community forum from 5pm, and the meeting commencing at 5:30pm. The meetings are held at Civic Plaza in the Council chambers and the agenda is available on the website the Friday prior to each meeting, with members of the public welcome to join. Community members may also submit written questions to be answered during Council meetings, however, this must be done in advance. In 2023 – 24, a total of six public questions from the community were addressed in Council meetings.

We also take the Council meetings to community facilities throughout the year with a total of 13 amount of people from the public attending the following Council to the Community meetings;

- 19 September 2023 – Durack Community Arts Centre
- 16 April 2024 – Gray Community Hall

There was a total of 22 meetings held in the 2023-24 financial year with the following attendance by the Mayor and Elected Members are as follows:

Council Meeting Date	Mayor Athina Pascoe Bell	Councillor Danielle Eveleigh	Councillor Amber Garden	Councillor Ben Giesecke	Councillor Damian Hale	Councillor Lucy Morrison	Councillor Mark Fraser	Councillor Sarah Henderson
4/07/2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
18/07/2023	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
1/08/2024	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
15/08/2024	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5/09/2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19/09/2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3/10/2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
17/10/2023	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
7/11/2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
21/11/2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12/12/2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
16/01/2024	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
6/02/2024	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
20/02/2024	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
5/03/2024	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
19/03/2024	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2/04/2024	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
16/04/2024	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
7/05/2024	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
21/05/2024	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
4/06/2024	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
18/06/2024	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	19	21	20	19	18	21	19	21

Christmas Wonderland, Goyder Square, Palmerston CBD, 2023



Council considers a number of confidential matters each year which are initially restricted from the public. In 2023-24 a total of 65 confidential matters were considered, with 52 of those matters being released to the public since. There are 13 matters that are still sitting in confidential due to a number of reasons as indicated in the below table;

51(1)(a) information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.	3
51(1)(c)(i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.	1
51(1)(c)(iv) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.	6
51(1)(e) information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.	3

Continuous policy and strategy improvement

Council is committed to continuous improvement, ensuring the systems and processes in place deliver the best possible outcome for the community. Our Community Plan sets out parameters to work within and ensures our policies, strategies and plans all work towards those outcomes. Each year Council delivers a Municipal Plan, Budget, and Long-Term Financial Plan which considers a number of influences such as budget, social and political issues, and considers the responses from the annual community survey. The Strategies and Plans are reviewed to ensure we are responsive to community needs. A review schedule is in place to ensure compliance and reviews are undertaken at least once throughout the term of the current Council. The following strategies were reviewed in 2023-24;

Social Media strategy review

The review of the Social Media Strategy demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the role it plays for council for the purpose of engaging with council. The positive outcomes that have been achieved through our social media channels are a direct result of the strategic direction that we have taken. As a Local Government in Australia, we are sitting above average engagement across Facebook and LinkedIn, and only .2% below Instagram engagement.

Communications Strategy Review

The review of the Communications Strategy looked at how we have tracked according to the key performance indicators aligned to the community plan and include Governance, Share of Voice, Brand Awareness and Established Presence. Overall, the results had seen a marginal increase across the board, showcasing our strategic effort towards effectively communicating with the community is working. The review noted no changes at the time, however, will be updated as the following initiatives are delivered which include the Community Engagement Policy and strategy, Website redevelopment and Brand and Style guide.

A total of six Policies were reviewed by Council 2023-24 include:

- Human Resource Management Policy – 4 July 2023
- Lease of Council property – 4 July 2023
- Social Media Policy review – 5 March 2024
- Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing - 05 March 2024 and 02 April 2024
- Recognition of Service to the Community – 2 April 2024
- Animal Management Policy - 18 June 2024

Professional development for Elected Members

In accordance with Section 71 of the Local Government Act 2019 and the Local Government Guidelines 2: allowances for Council Members, Council’s Elected Members were entitled to access a Professional Development Allowance of up to \$4,000.00 during the financial year and to attend appropriate and relevant conferences or training courses.

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

Elected Member	Reason	Total
Councillor Amber Garden	World Business Forum	\$ 1,994.91



Our people

As at 30 June 2024, there were 87 people employed as full time, part time and casual, with a vacancy rate of 16%. There was a total of 41 new employees recruited, with 49 employees exiting. We employ 38% males and 62% females with 25% of our employees born overseas. As a result of the change made to the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011 (WHS Regulations), Psychosocial hazards training was attended by all employees as a mandatory inclusion and will continue to rollout as a requirement of employment. The internal Work Health and Safety Plan was updated to incorporate this change also.

Salary breakdown as at 30 June 2024

Employee by Salary	Total employees
\$0 - \$64,445	0
\$64,446 - \$70,682	4
\$70,683 - \$76,940	12
\$76,941 - \$81,491	14
\$81,492 - \$89,358	15
\$89,359 - \$97,185	13
\$97,186 - \$106,344	5
\$106,345 - \$115,000	5
\$115,001 - \$130,000	4
\$130,001 - \$160,000	9
\$160,001 +	6
Total	87

A number of staff that were on employment contracts received ongoing permanent employment in a move to retain valued employees.

An annual staff survey is conducted every six (6) months to keep a pulse on employee satisfaction and identify culture initiatives. In the reporting period, one survey was conducted with the results below.

Survey Period	Registered Participants <i>(includes labour hire)</i>	Number of Respondents	Percentage of response	Net Promoter Score
October 2023	99	77	77%	-32

Respondents were asked on their satisfaction on the following areas:

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

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

Employee health and wellbeing

By fostering a supportive and balanced work environment and prioritizing employee wellbeing, we can aim to develop a healthy, productive, and engaged workforce. At City of Palmerston wellbeing programs are delivered to enhance our employee's overall health and job satisfaction. A proactive approach is designed to reduce stress, boost morale, and elevate productivity. By supporting individual growth and fostering a positive work culture, these initiatives not only contribute to the success of the organisation but also attract and retain our staff.

Employee wellbeing activities.

1. RUOK? Day awareness – Breakfast barbeque – 21 September 2023.
2. Cancer council NT Awareness sessions – 17 August 2023 and 7 September 2023.
3. Safe work month awareness breakfast barbeque – 25 October 2023.
4. End of year breakfast staff and Elected Members – 13 December 2023.
5. Celebrate International Women's Day – Musical Bingo – 8 March 2024.
6. World harmony day celebration – 21 March 2024.
7. National reconciliation week celebration – 31 May 2024.
8. Employee wellbeing activity – Ergonomic Awareness – 22 and 23 May 2024.
9. Celebrating world craft day – employee mindfulness painting activity – 19 June 2024

Managing employee safety

Ensuring a safe workplace and workforce is a priority for Council and the organisation. Consistent monitoring and addressing safety issues helps guide future policies and procedures.

In November 2023, City of Palmerston signed an Enforceable Undertaking with NT WorkSafe. City of Palmerston values the safety of all its staff and has implemented the agreed actions as required to date including:

- Provided workers with waterproof mobile phone covers
- Developed and displayed safety information material at the maintenance facility
- Provided a copy of various safety procedures to other Local Governments in the NT and extend an offer of advice on these safety parameters
- Held a water safety event at SWELL to educate the community on safety across a variety of areas including water safety, sun safety, crocodile safety, emergency services, recreational fishing safety and weed management safety.

During 2023-24 financial year, employees reported 76 incidents, both internal and external. These incidents primarily involved disruptive anti-social behavior around workplace facilities or situations where community members needed medical attention.

Directorate	Number of Incidents
Community and Culture	67
Infrastructure	3
Finance and Governance	0
Office of the CEO	1

There was only one (1) new workers compensation claim in the 2023-24 period.

Valuing our employees through upskilling

City of Palmerston strives for continuous improvement to deliver the highest possible level of services to the community, recognising what the community values and valuing our employees. As an organisation, we are committed to strengthening the skillsets of our staff through professional development and organisation-wide training initiatives. In 2023-24, 82 employees participated in training. There was a total of \$243,748 contributed to training including;

- Various tertiary qualifications including certificates, diplomas, graduate certificates and bachelor degrees
- Working with Cultural Differences
- Appropriate Workplace Behaviour
- Mental Health First Aid
- Guardian IMS training
- Psychosocial Hazards Workshop for Executives
- Manual Handling Training
- Better Business Writing
- Negotiation Skills
- Dog Safe Workplace Training
- Traffic Control Training
- Animal Management Training
- First aid training
- Fire warden training

Internally, staff are empowered to conduct training for their peers in relevance to their field of expertise. Internal training included;

- Recruitment and Merit Selection Process
- Purchase Order Training
- Budget training
- Leave Management
- Procurement
- ArcGIS
- Social media policy

Citizenship Ceremony, Gunn, 2024



COMMUNITY IS AT THE CENTRE

Customer Experience

Through our Customer Experience team, located at Civic Plaza, a total of 14,809 interactions occurred during the year which included 2,990 in-person, 10,487 phone calls and 1,332 email and website queries (this figure excludes direct customer interactions with any other teams). Phone enquiries still remain the preferred choice of contact for customers, attributing to 71% of customer interactions which was a strong reason for the upgrade to the telephone system which happened in February 2024. The highest interactions were found to be in September 2023 a clear response to rate notices and animal registrations due. Interactions by topic include regulatory services with over 5,000 enquiries, followed closely by enquiries relating to finance and rates with almost 4,500. Waste and other issues relating to facilities, roads, and assets came in next with around 2,500 enquiries.

The service provided to the community via our Customer Experience team aims to be of high standards, and our staff uphold our commitment to our customers by making it easy, performing with pride, listen, learn and act, and evaluate and improve.

Community Engagement

Community Satisfaction Survey 2023

Every year our Community Satisfaction Survey is supported through our channels including the website and social media. The survey went live on 4 August 2023 and received 35 online responses (in addition to phone calls made to residents directly by the external provider).

Driver Community Centre

Consultation for the Driver Community Centre proposed design, opened on 14 August and closed on Monday 8 October 2023. The consultation included a booklet with proposed designs and information, website updates and social media placements. The consultation identified important stakeholders and one-on-one meetings were held with seven facility users. A further 22 responses were received via the online survey.

Animal Management By-Laws

Community consultation on the Animal Management By-laws was open for 30 days from 15 January until 12 February 2024, with the aim to inform the broader community of the proposed changes that will come into effect as of 1 July 2024. The consultation was comprehensive and comprised several components to ensure the information reached as many residents of Palmerston as possible and our key stakeholders. The Palmerston community was the primary target audience, with a secondary audience of specific related animal groups. A number of key stakeholder meetings and presentations were held, eight (8) public information sessions were conducted, with printed flyers, social posts and radio ads supporting the communication campaign. In addition to this, a mailbox drop to all City of Palmerston mailboxes (15,016 properties) was completed. A total of 84 responses were received via the online survey and as a result of this consultation, slight amendments to the By-Laws were made.

2024 Community Events Feedback

In an effort for continuous improvement, increasing efficiencies and introducing sustainable practices, we have developed short feedback surveys applicable to the events that we offer via a new seamless digital consumer journey. Between April and June 2024, a total of 42 event goers have completed the feedback survey with our staff actively seeking genuine responses from the community.

Consultation on the draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2024-25

The Municipal Plan and Budget for 2024 – 25 went out for community consultation on the 13 May for a period of 28 days. A number of communication methods were used to ensure awareness was achieved, and to allow opportunities to provide feedback. These included long and short form videos on social media and our website, print ads, social media organic posts, and in person community engagements at events. There was a total of eight feedback submissions.

Animal Management Policy

In addition to the Animal Management By-Laws, the Animal Management Policy was drafted for community feedback. The 21 day community consultation was promoted via a number of avenues including public information stalls at our events including the RSPCA Million Paws Walk. We also promoted the policy feedback through our social media channels receiving more than 60 responses from the community.

Public Relations

28 media releases with a total of 140 media interactions. This includes placements across TV (broadcast), radio, newspaper and online. Some of the notable achievements in media were 2 front pages on the NT News for SWELL opening, and Palmerston Youth Festival. There was significant media response related to the Animal Management By-Laws, Palmerston Street Art Festival, Darwin Festival announcement for its Palmerston program as well as a number of earned media to help with the promotion of our extensive events season. We also engaged two local social media influencers to promote content for SWELL and collectively their videos were played more than 40,000 times (one video went viral with 35,000 views). Their audiences exceed 23,000, and the engagement rate was extremely high. This is a very effective way to promote to the local market, and a tactic that will be used moving forward.

Social media

Information is shared across City of Palmerston's social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. Important to note that statistics from City of Palmerston Library, or Palmerston Youth Festival are not included in the following results. Over the past 12 months there has been a steady incline in followers across all social media platforms, with an overall 5.8% increase in Facebook (18,502) 14.6% on Instagram (2,211) and over 20% on LinkedIn (2,533).

Across Facebook, reach through organic content has increased by 148% which is a significant result considering the amount of content posted is down by 21%. Engagements with followers have increased by 250% which is a significant result that identifies our followers are community members and engage heavily with our content.



Top 5 organic posts across Facebook

	Date	Reach	Impressions	Interactions	Reactions	Comments	Shares	Link clicks
\$10 Animal Desexing Program	5/12/2023	26380	28727	291	99	95	91	164
Taylor Swift 75 Palmerston parks and playgrounds	22/02/2024	21624	21855	189	184	32	10	63
Christmas Wonderland makers markets,	18/12/2023	20622	21333	150	106	25	19	104
SWELL Grand Opening Lightning post,	17/12/2023	17099	17826	91	71	14	6	29
Check out the Adventure Playzone at SWELL	11/12/2023	16487	19770	209	113	73	18	287

Engagement and reach across Instagram has also seen an increase across the board with a total reach of over 59,000, 833 engagements (content interactions) and 100 link clicks. As a result of the significant increase in followers on Instagram, we introduced a 'linktree' to our Instagram account where we could drive people through to our website.

Website

The number of new users on our website for the year was 180,227 which is an increase of 44% on the previous year. The analytic dashboard changed in the last financial year which brings challenges in how the data is compared. Google Analytics slowly phased out and GA4 replaced it. The calculation rates are differ slightly which may cause some discrepancies. New users, as reported above, includes anyone that clicked the link to our website regardless of whether they meant to or accidentally. Other differences include actions such as link clicks, downloads, payments or a form filled is considered as an 'event'. Of the 180,227 new users, over 300,000 sessions occurred with 1.68 million events and an engagement rate of 45.36%. Average engagement time on the website is still sitting at 52 seconds. The top sources of users of the website came from direct links, google search, and Facebook. Increases in website visits correlate with marketing campaigns, and other social and political issues that arise throughout the year.

The top pages viewed other than the home page include;

Page	Sessions	New Users	Events
SWELL	8391	5349	242
Palmerston Library	8184	4678	3157
Council Pound	8155	2506	26
Careers	7419	3882	10247
Waste management	7314	4875	22
Palmerston Youth Festival/PYF	4908	3603	12

The Website review was completed during the year, and commencement for redevelopment began. From the usage data, improvements in useability have been identified, and will be rolled out in the next financial year. Our website continues to remain compliant with the Local Government Act (2019) NT.



Staff greeting Civic centre, Palmerston, 2023

HEALTHY WORKING PARTNERSHIPS

In order to meet our objectives around healthy working partnerships, City of Palmerston is dedicated to upholding our strong relationships both internally with our team and externally with our partners and networks. This commitment enables us to provide the best possible outcomes for residents of Palmerston.

Advisory committees

In an effort to act on social and political issues that arise, we continue to work closely with our advisory committees which were again established for the 2023-24 financial year for which they hold meetings once a quarter. Members of the Palmerston community

can be a part of these committees and applications are accepted at the beginning of each year. The committees include;

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

The role of these committees is to;

- Provide advice to Council about its strategies, programs and initiatives to continue to support the diverse community, including the resident, community groups and businesses
- Consider and endorse recommendations from relevant associated networks
- Provide general views and represent interests of the Palmerston community in a formal setting

Risk Management and Audit Committee

The Risk Management and Audit Committee (the Committee) is established as an advisory committee to City of Palmerston organisation. Currently the committee is comprised of three (3) Elected Members and three (3) independent representatives. The Committee is established by Council, pursuant to the *Local Government Act (2019)* NT and the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations with the key functions of:

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

The Committee met four times in 2023-24 and consist of Elected members and Independent Members including the Chair.

Networks

In addition to the networks that we actively participate and facilitate, we continue to work with community networks through our community development space which include;

- Palmerston Youth Local Action Group
- Youth Activities Grant Panel
- Communities for Children
- Palmerston Indigenous Network
- Palmerston Indigenous Village
- NT Government Quarterly Sports Forum
- Headspace Network
- Community Investment Committee
- Australian and Federal Government partnerships

Council continues to work with both the Northern Territory and Federal Governments, advocating for funding and support to further provide initiatives for the Palmerston community. In 2023-24 a total of \$5.8Million was received from the Northern Territory Government and \$16.5Million was received from the Federal Government.



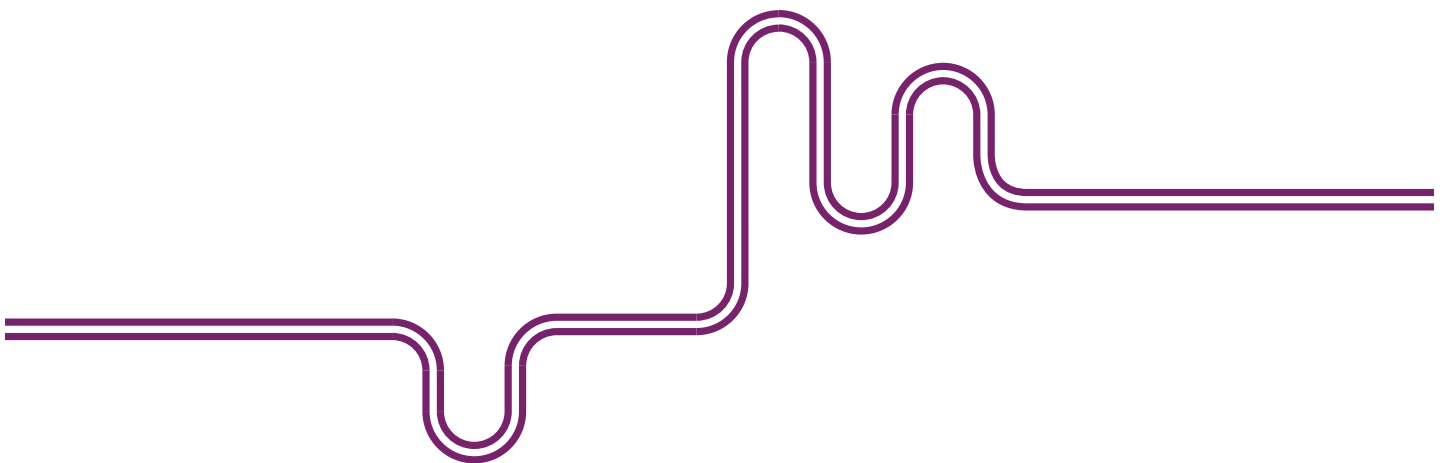
Sponsorships and partnerships

City of Palmerston approved 22 sponsorship and multiyear agreements up to the value of \$155,500 in total. These included the following;

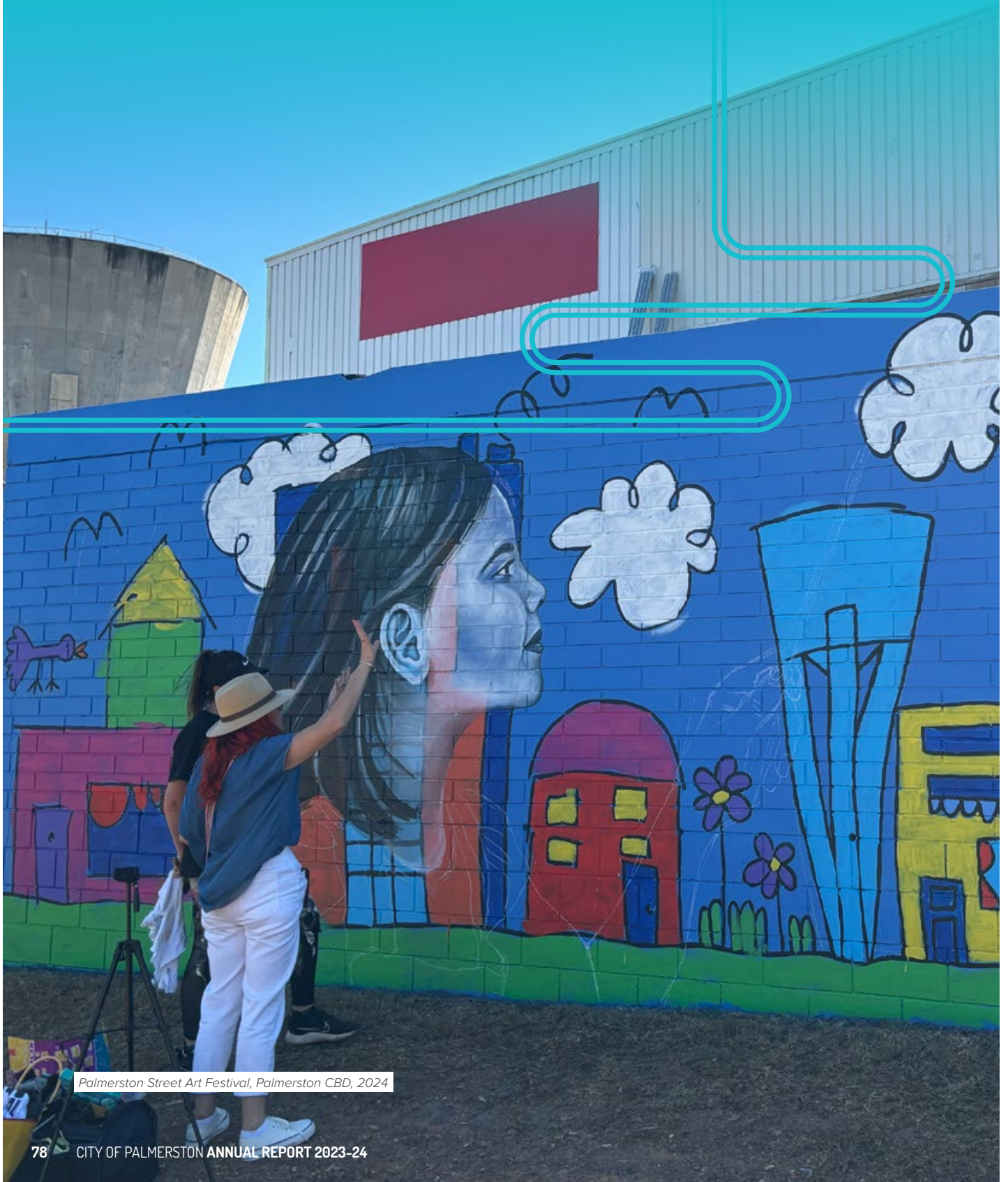
Recipient	Agreement type/purpose	Amount
Forrest Parade Primary School	Forrest Farmers Fair July 2024	\$2,000
Two-two-one mental health charity	Mental Health Professionals Conference	\$2,000
Australian Institute of Planning	Northern Territory Symposium	\$1,000
Darwin Symphony Orchestra	Family Poms Concert Series	\$25,000
Palmerston and Regional Business Association	Networking Event in the City of Palmerston	\$2,000
Darwin Basketball Association	Darwin Salties Wheelchair Basketball	\$2,000
Walking Off the War Within	Annual Walk	\$2,000
Special Children's Christmas Parties	Darwin Special Children's Christmas Party	\$3,000
Multiyear Sponsorship		
Clubhouse Territory	Multiyear Agreement	\$10,000
Palmerston Netball	Multiyear Agreement	\$10,000
Palmerston and Litchfield Seniors	Multiyear Agreement	\$20,000
Palmerston Rovers Football Club	Multiyear Agreement	\$10,000
Palmerston Magpies AFL Club	Multiyear Agreement	\$10,000
Palmerston Saints Hockey Club	Multiyear Agreement	\$1,500
RSPCA Darwin	Multiyear Agreement	\$10,000
Riding for the Disabled Top End	Multiyear Agreement	\$20,000
Palmerston Rugby Union Football Club	Multiyear Agreement	\$5,000
Northern Sharks Rugby League Football Club	Multiyear Agreement	\$10,000
Palmerston and Regional Basketball Association	Multiyear Agreement	\$10,000

Partnerships

In an effort to further support the important work we deliver for the community, we engaged in some exciting collaborative partnerships for the 2023-24 financial year which resulted in positive outcomes for the community. Notably the Palmerston Street Art Festival collaboration which saw us work with Activate Darwin and Proper Creative to launch the inaugural Palmerston Street Art Festival 2024. This important festival delivered multiple positive outcomes for Council and the community. The event gained an incredible amount of exposure nationally and internationally, with future collaborations and partnerships continuing to be developed as our Council matures and the community grows.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS




Palmerston Street Art Festival, Palmerston CBD, 2024

COUNCIL AGENDA
Attachment 13.1.3.1



'A Place for People'

 Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace

 08 8935 9922

 palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au

 palmerston.nt.gov.au

General Purpose Financial Statements

2023/24 Financial Performance Review

The financial results for the 2023-24 financial year continues to demonstrate why City of Palmerston is the Place for People.

Council's revenue base consists of Rates and Charges of \$33.38 million, Operational Grants and Subsidies \$1.5 million, \$1.88 million in Interest and Investment Income, and \$1.05 million from general Fees and Charges. These funds were used to deliver to the City of Palmerston residents and visitors, the following community initiatives and programs.

- Free entry to SWELL, with over 78,000 people visiting since its opening
- Free parking to the city centre
- Provision of free facilities for not-for-profit organisations
- Developed new partnership to deliver First Palmerston Street Art Festival
- Maintain 288 Hectares of open space, parks and gardens
- Deliver free library programs with 137,000 people visiting the library and 73,000 physical loans
- Launch of new e-resource for the Library – Overdrive Libby
- Weeklong Palmerston Youth Festival
- Christmas Wonderland, in which 16,383 people attended over 8 days
- Archer Waste Management collected over 3,000 tons of general waste. Management of 15 Lakes
- Community benefit Scheme supported 173 applicants at a value of \$235,260

After considering capital income, Council generated a net profit of \$8.7 million. This was largely due to the handover of \$8.6 million community infrastructure from subdivisions with assistance from \$8.5 million derived from capital grants income. This contributed to the successful delivery of \$20.3 million in capital infrastructure spending, delivering to the community the following significant projects:

- Swimming Wellness Events Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL) opened in December 2023
- Upgrade of the building facilities at SWELL
- Completion of the installation of the FiberSense cable network
- Maintenance and renewal of assets including driveways, pathways, roads, stormwater, and street lighting.
- Design work for the upgrade of Driver Community Hall
- 20,677m² of roads resealed

2023-24 saw \$54.9 million injected into the economy with 89% of this being spent with local business and subcontractors, a significant achievement.

City of Palmerston remains financially well positioned to continue its delivery of services for the community. While there is an operating deficit of \$8.3 million (refer table below) this is a direct result of \$11.2 million in depreciation expenses (explained further below). A net profit was achieved overall due to the grants income in 2023-24 for new or upgrade to assets and the receipt of infrastructure assets transferred to City of Palmerston upon completion of the subdivision in Zuccoli, valued at \$8.6 million. This adds to the capital assets portfolio to be maintained on behalf of the community, although this is non-cash.

Table 1 provides a summary of financial results compared to last year,. Spending was higher compared to last year due to an increase higher expenditure on employee costs of \$1 million as our vacancy rates has improved, a \$1million increase in consultancies due to focus on SWELL, changes to Animal Management By-laws and events in 2023-24 and \$0.5 million increase in utilities compared to last year due to swimming facilities closure in previous financial year.

The full details of the Audited Financial Statements for 2023-24 financial year are available from page 78 within the Annual Report.

Table 1: Comparative years

COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.3.2

	As at 30-Jun-24 \$'000	As at 30-Jun-23 \$'000	Variance \$'000
Revenue	38,041	38,642	(601)
Less: Expenditure	46,343	42,782	3,561
Operating Deficit	(8,302)	(4,140)	4,162
Plus Other Income			
Resources Free of Charge	8,669	6,824	1,845
Asset Disposals and FV Adjustments	(178)	(128)	50
Grants received for new or upgrade assets	8,587	9,914	(1,327)
Net Profit / (Deficit)	8,776	12,470	(3,694)

To illustrate City of Palmerston's true financial performance, it is important to compare the budgeted to actual results after excluding non-cash and accounting adjustments to income and expenditure and including capital expenditure, refer to Table 2. After these adjustments the net cash net operating surplus is 0.9 million.

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

	Original Budget 2023-24 \$'000	Revised Budget (RB) 2023-24 \$'000	Actuals (A) 2023-24 \$'000	A – RB Variance \$'000
Operating Revenue	39,662	37,512	38,041	529
Less: Operating Expenditure	45,805	46,030	46,343	313
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(6,143)	(8,518)	(8,302)	216
Add Capital Income	5,524	13,098	17,078	3,980
Operating Surplus / (Deficit) ¹	(619)	4,580	8,776	4,196
Add: noncash adjustments ²	8,270	8,270	3,218	(5,052)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) after non-cash	7,651	12,850	11,994	(856)
Less Capital Expenditure	7,848	26,813	20,364	(6,449)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(197)	(13,963)	(8,370)	5,593
Less Other repayments	392	517	435	(82)
Borrowings	-	5,000	5,000	0
Plus Reserve Movement	589	9,480	4,931	(4,549)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	1,126	1,126

1. As per General Purpose Financial Statements

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

Table 2 illustrates the amount of cash surplus after taking into consideration all cash and non-cash outlays.

Non-cash and accounting adjustments include the following

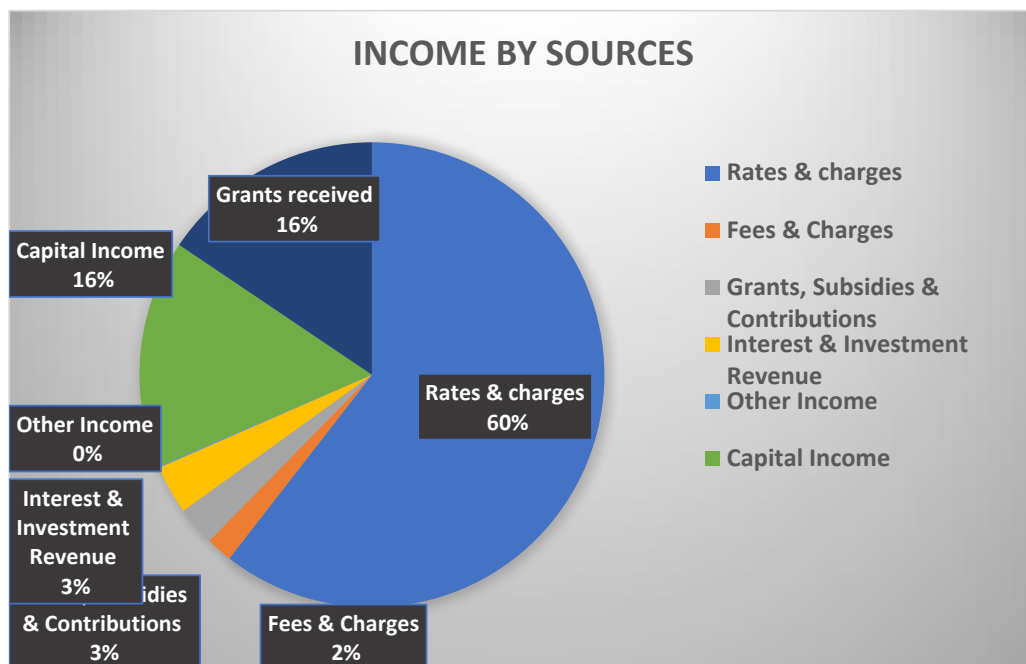
- \$11.14 million depreciation
- \$0.07 million due to impairment, derecognising the value of the parking meters.
- \$0.30 million in Revaluation decrement of Investment property
- \$0.26 million revaluation on provision for restoration

Other cash flows which need to be considered include injections from borrowings, repayment of these borrowings and also cash that has been transferred in from Council’s financial reserves.

The slight improvement compared to budget is largely due to higher than anticipated interest from investments, waste charges and known items which relate to previous Council Decisions such as repayment to our financial reserves.

Revenue By Source

City of Palmerston’s revenue largely comes from Rates and Annual Charges representing 72% or \$33 million of total revenue, followed by Capital Grants at 18%, Investment and Interest Income at 4% and Grants and Subsidies and Contributions at 3%.



Operational Revenue

Overall operating revenue was above expected budget by \$0.3 million, this increase is mainly attributed to higher interest income from matured investments driven by interest rate increases by Reserve Bank of Australia.

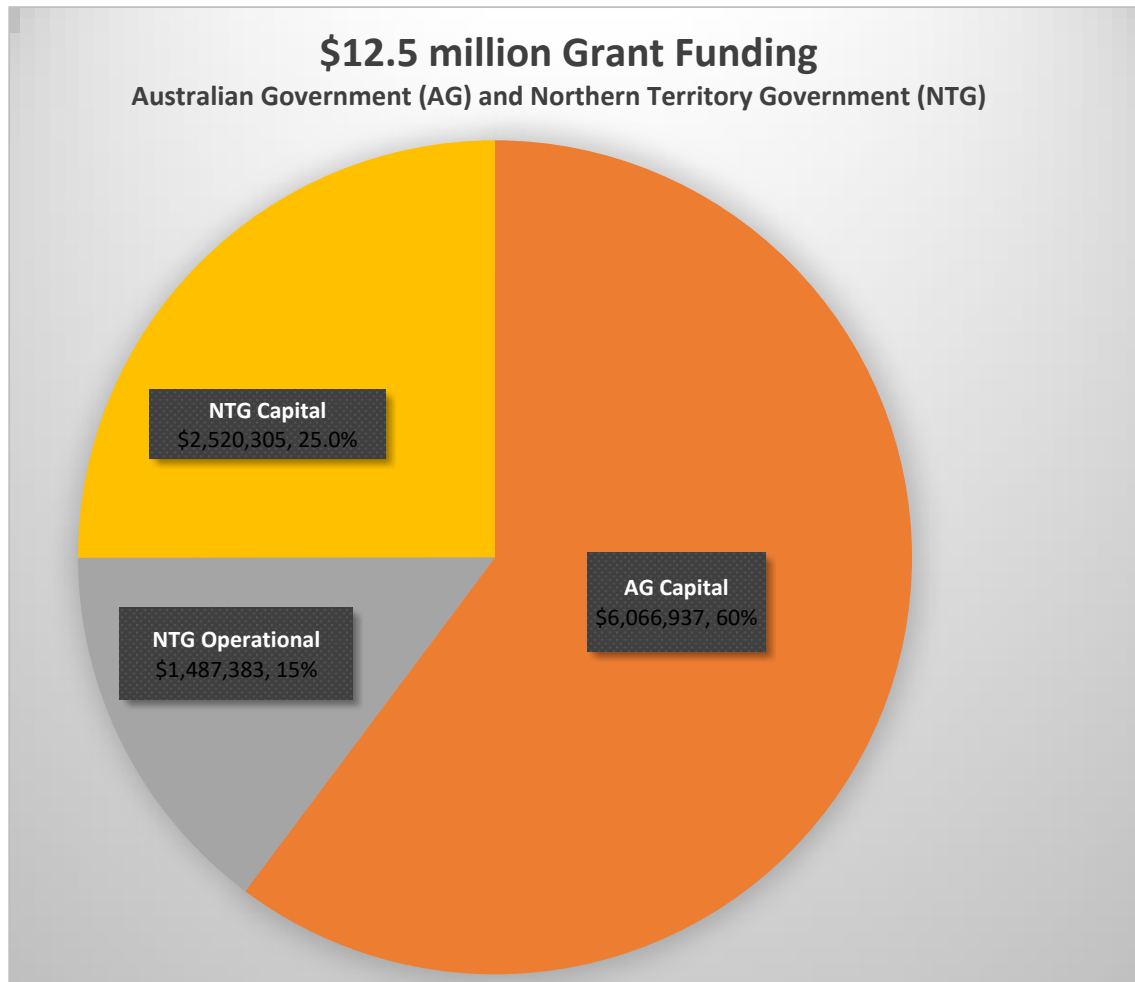
Capital Grants with performance obligations

Council only recognises grants with performance obligation as income in the financial year the performance obligation was met, most of these grants are capital grants.

During the 2023-24 financial, the Swimming Wellness Events Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL) our biggest capital project, was completed with the \$5 million received from the Commonwealth being recognised as income, and \$0.954 million recognised from the Northern Territory Government.

A total of \$9.6 million grants was spent in the 2023-24 financial year in line with scheduled programs and resulted in a closing balance of \$2.9 million in the grant liability account.

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

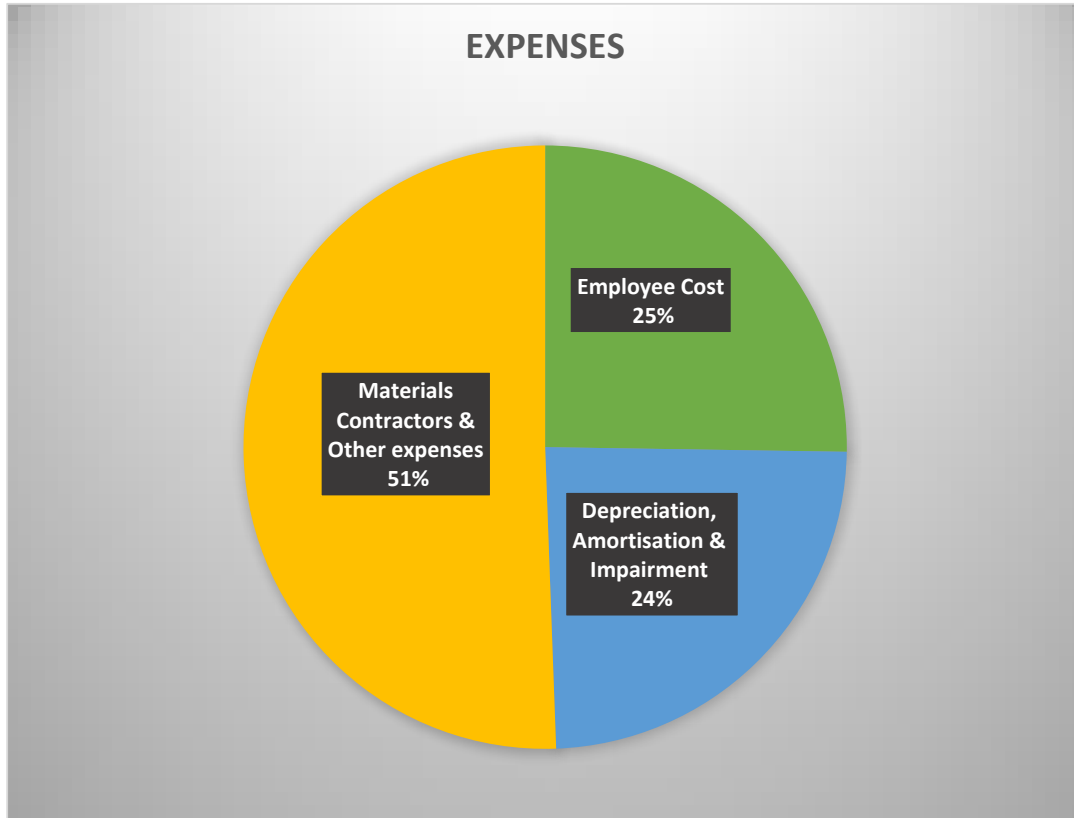


Other capital income

While a large component of the capital income is grant income (\$9.6 million) there is a further \$8.6 million of capital income recognised that is considered non-cash. These are assets that were handed over to Council at no cost, which include roads from subdivisions and land for parks in which Council will own and maintain these community assets.

Expenses

The total expenditure incurred in 2023-24 was \$46.4 million, this includes \$11.2 million for depreciation, amortisation and impairment which makes up 24% of total expenditure.



Expenses excluding non-cash expenditure

Overall expenses for 2023-24 is in line with budget expectations with cost savings identified across some areas of the Council. Although Employee costs of \$11.7 million appears to be below budget, resulting from vacant positions due to recruitment challenges. Council was able to maintain its service delivery through periodically filling vacant positions using labour hire through employment agencies, which is sitting in Material and Contractors. Material and Contractors saw a slight savings which was largely due to waste management which was offset by expenses from capital construction works not meeting the definition of an asset.

Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment

For 2023-24 the depreciation expenses of \$11.2 million. A valuation of roads, pavements, kerbs and gutters and land was undertaken as at 30 June 2024.

Elected Member Allowances and Expenses

Elected Member Allowances are paid in accordance with the Local Government guidelines and all Electoral allowances. Superannuation became payable in September 2023 to Elected Members. Council by unanimous vote agreed to make superannuation payments Elected Members as allowed under the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*.

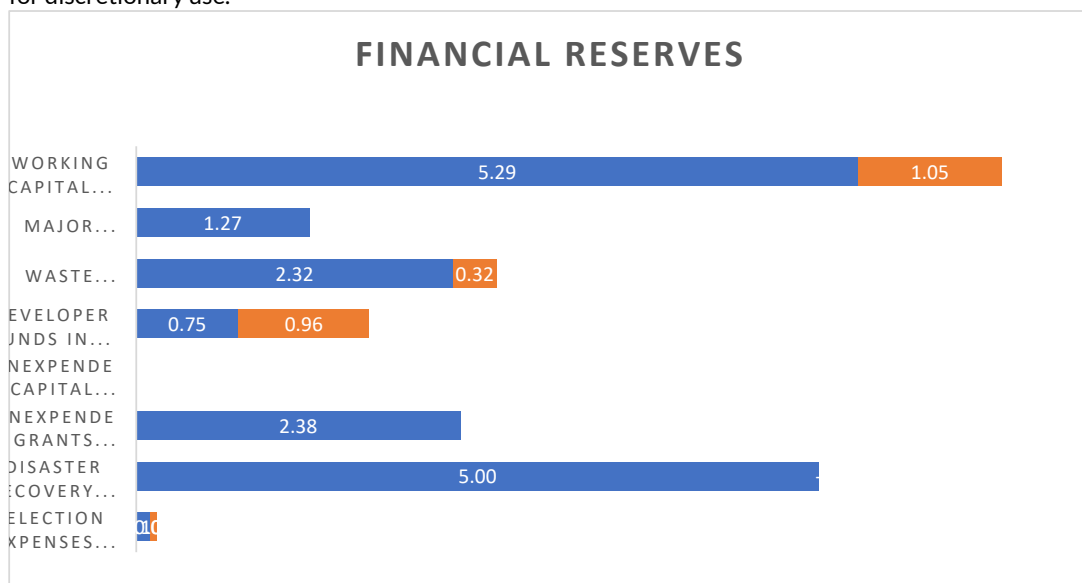
Capital Expenditure

While the budget for capital expenditure was \$26.9 million, \$7 million of this budget will be rolled over into 2024-25 offset by an increase in capital grants. This resulted in the true 2023-24 capital expenditure budget being \$20.4 million compared to an actual spend of \$20.36 million.

When construction works are completed, there are some expenditures that are not capitalised as they do not meet the definition of an asset and therefore are expensed. A total of \$0.47 million of expenditure has been treated in this way.

Reserves

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



Council held \$10.4 million in reserves as at 30 June 2024 (prior to taking into consideration the surplus).

The Financial Reserve Policy allows for the net operational surplus identified at the end of the financial year to be transferred to the working capital reserve, or to a specific purpose reserve to be utilised against future projects.

However, due to previous Council decisions and commitments, the surplus will be required to be allocated to the following reserves.

- \$313,471 to Waste Reserves
- \$338,970 to FILOC Reserve – Making the Switch Loan
- \$50,000 transfer to Election Reserve
- \$80,000 to FILOC Reserve - SWELL Loan
- \$278,489 for Developer Contributions FILOC

City of Palmerston

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

A Place for People



City of Palmerston

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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City of Palmerston

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Chief Executive Officer's Statement

I, Amelia Jane Vellar, the Chief Executive Officer of City of Palmerston, hereby certify that the Annual Financial Statements:

- have been drawn up in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, the *Local Government Act 2019* and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* so as to present fairly the financial position of the Council and the results for the year ended 30 June 2024; and
- are in accordance with the accounting and other records of Council.

Amelia Jane Vellar
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dated: xx November 2024

City of Palmerston

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Income			
Rates and Waste Charges	2a	33,383	31,515
Statutory charges	2b	82	105
User charges	2c	923	801
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	2g	1,500	4,387
Investment and interest income	2d	1,825	1,598
Reimbursements	2e	-	13
Other income	2f	328	223
Total income		<u>38,041</u>	<u>38,642</u>
Expenses			
Employee costs	3a	10,886	9,802
Materials, contracts and other expenses	3b	24,075	22,428
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	3c	11,215	10,519
Borrowing costs	3d	167	33
Total expenses		<u>46,343</u>	<u>42,782</u>
Operating surplus / (deficit)		<u>(8,302)</u>	<u>(4,140)</u>
Physical resources received free of charge	2i	8,668	6,824
Asset disposal and fair value adjustments	4	(179)	(128)
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2g	8,587	9,914
Net surplus / (deficit)		<u>8,774</u>	<u>12,470</u>
Other comprehensive income			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result			
Changes in Revaluation Surplus/Reserves - Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	9a	(40,584)	(2,590)
Total amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result		<u>(40,584)</u>	<u>(2,590)</u>
Total other comprehensive income/(loss)		<u>(40,584)</u>	<u>(2,590)</u>
Total comprehensive income/(loss)		<u>(31,810)</u>	<u>9,880</u>

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

City of Palmerston

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalent assets	5a	5,965	14,660
Trade and other receivables	5b	4,284	4,473
Other financial assets (investments)	5c	16,754	14,508
Total current assets		<u>27,003</u>	<u>33,641</u>
Non-current assets			
Other non-current assets	6	7,285	16,142
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	7a	547,388	561,881
Investment property	7b	5,500	5,800
Total non-current assets		<u>560,173</u>	<u>583,823</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>587,176</u>	<u>617,464</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8a	10,174	13,571
Borrowings	8b	505	248
Provisions	8c	1,258	1,279
Total current liabilities		<u>11,937</u>	<u>15,098</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8a	2	-
Borrowings	8b	5,164	787
Provisions	8c	2,119	1,815
Total non-current liabilities		<u>7,285</u>	<u>2,602</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>19,222</u>	<u>17,700</u>
Net assets		<u>567,954</u>	<u>599,764</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		232,667	217,686
Asset revaluation reserves	9a	325,142	365,726
Other reserves	9b	10,145	16,352
Total equity		<u>567,954</u>	<u>599,764</u>

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

City of Palmerston

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	Accumulated surplus	Asset revaluation reserve	Other reserves	Total equity
2024					
Balance at the end of previous reporting period		217,686	365,726	16,352	599,764
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		8,774	-	-	8,774
Other Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)					
- Gain (Loss) on Revaluation of I,PP&E	7a	-	(40,584)	-	(40,584)
Other comprehensive loss		-	(40,584)	-	(40,584)
Total comprehensive income		8,774	(40,584)	-	(31,810)
Transfers between Reserves		6,207	-	(6,207)	-
Balance at the end of period		232,667	325,142	10,145	567,954
2023					
Balance at the end of previous reporting period		201,184	368,316	20,384	589,884
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		12,470	-	-	12,470
Other Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)					
- Gain (Loss) on Revaluation of I,PP&E	7a	-	(2,590)	-	(2,590)
Other comprehensive loss		-	(2,590)	-	(2,590)
Total comprehensive income		12,470	(2,590)	-	9,880
Transfers between Reserves		4,032	-	(4,032)	-
Balance at the end of period		217,686	365,726	16,352	599,764

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

City of Palmerston

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Cash flows from operating activities			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Rates and Waste Charges		37,513	31,301
Statutory Charges		82	105
User Charges		923	881
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions (operating purpose)		1,020	4,654
Investment Receipts		1,938	535
Reimbursements		–	13
Other Receipts		615	93
<u>Payments</u>			
Payments to Employees		(10,846)	(9,977)
Payments for Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses		(30,538)	(22,855)
Borrowing Interest Payments		(167)	(33)
Net cash provided by (or used in) operating activities	11b	<u>540</u>	<u>4,717</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Amounts Received Specifically for New/Upgraded Assets		7,184	2,824
Sale of Replaced Assets		232	300
<u>Payments</u>			
Payments for Renewal/Replacement of Assets		(19,892)	(16,852)
Net Purchase of Investment Securities		(2,246)	4,005
Net cash provided (or used in) investing activities		<u>(14,722)</u>	<u>(9,723)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Proceeds from Borrowings		4,634	–
Proceeds from Bonds & Deposits		853	–
<u>Payments</u>			
Repayments of Borrowings		–	(241)
Net cash provided by (or used in) financing activities		<u>5,487</u>	<u>(241)</u>
Net Decrease in cash held		<u>(8,695)</u>	<u>(5,247)</u>
plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents at beginning of period		14,660	19,907
Cash and cash equivalents held at end of period	11a	<u>5,965</u>	<u>14,660</u>
Additional Information:			
plus: Investments on hand – end of year	5c	16,754	14,508
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments		<u>22,719</u>	<u>29,168</u>

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies

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

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

(1) Basis of preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

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

The financial report was authorised for issue on xx November 2024.

1.2 Historical cost convention

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

1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

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

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

1.4 Rounding

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

(2) The local government reporting entity

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

(3) Income recognition

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

3.1 Grants

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

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

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

3.2 Rates Revenue

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

3.3 Non-cash contributions

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

3.4 Developer Charges

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

3.5 Rental income

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

3.6 Interest and dividends

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

3.7 Sales revenue

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

3.8 Statutory and User Charges

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

(4) Cash, cash equivalents and other financial instruments

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

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

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

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

(5) Inventories

Council does not hold any inventories.

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(6) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

6.1 Initial recognition

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

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

6.2 Materiality

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

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

Furniture & Fittings	\$10,000
Plant & Equipment	\$10,000
Buildings & Other Structures	\$10,000
Roads and Pavement	\$10,000
Footpaths, Cycleways and Driveways	\$10,000
Kerb and Gutter	\$10,000
Motor Vehicles	\$10,000
Water and Irrigation	\$10,000
Intangible Assets	\$10,000
Stormwater Drainage	\$10,000
Land Improvement	\$10,000
Streetlights	\$10,000

6.3 Subsequent recognition

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

6.4 Depreciation of non-current assets

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

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

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

Plant, Furniture & Equipment

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

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City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

Building & Other Structures

Buildings 7.5 to 100 years

Infrastructure

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

Other Assets

Land Improvement 3 to 100 years

6.5 Impairment

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

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

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

6.6 Borrowing costs

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

(7) Investment property

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

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

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

Full valuations are carried out every year.

The last full valuation for Council's Investment Properties was dated 30/06/2024.

(8) Payables

8.1 Goods and services

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

8.2 Payments received in advance and deposits

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

(9) Borrowings

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

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

(10) Employee benefits

10.1 Salaries, wages and compensated absences

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

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

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

10.2 Superannuation

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

(11) Provisions for reinstatement, restoration and rehabilitation

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

(12) Leases

Council Lease arrangements have been accounted for in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 16. In respect of finance leases, Council applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to its short-term leases of machinery and equipment (i.e., those leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date). It also applies the low-value assets recognition exemption to leases of office equipment that are considered to be low value. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

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

(13) Construction Contracts

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

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

(14) GST implications

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

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

(15) New accounting standards and UIG interpretations

Council has assessed all the standards / interpretations which are not yet effective and have determined that there is no expected material impact on the reported financial position or performance.

(16) Comparative figures

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

(17) Disclaimer

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

Note 2. Income

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000
(a) Rates and Waste Charges		
General rates		
Residential	21,000	20,126
Commercial	2,560	2,416
Industrial	2,167	2,078
Other	4	-
Total general rates	25,731	24,620
Other rates (including service charges)		
Waste Management Service	7,652	6,895
Total other rates (including service charges)	7,652	6,895
Total rates	33,383	31,515

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2. Income (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(b) Statutory charges		
Animal registration fees and fines	49	65
Parking fines / expiation fees	13	13
Other licences, fees & fines	20	27
<u>Total statutory charges</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>105</u>
(c) User charges		
Sundry	5	6
Developer Charges	163	58
Animal Control	35	50
Rent and Hire of Council Equipment	334	320
Library	40	41
Rate Searches and Dog Registrations	287	278
Licences and Permits	59	48
<u>Total user charges</u>	<u>923</u>	<u>801</u>
(d) Investment and interest income		
Interest on investments		
- Banks and other	1,199	974
- Interest on Overdue Rates and Charges	172	178
Investment property rental income	454	446
<u>Total investment income</u>	<u>1,825</u>	<u>1,598</u>
(e) Reimbursements		
Private works	-	13
<u>Total reimbursements</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13</u>
(f) Other income		
Insurance and other recoupments - infrastructure, IPP&E	13	-
Sundry	315	223
<u>Total other income</u>	<u>328</u>	<u>223</u>
(g) Grants, subsidies and contributions		
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	8,112	9,914
Amounts to be received specifically for new or upgraded assets	475	-

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City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2. Income (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Total amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	8,587	9,914
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions		
Other grants, subsidies and contributions - operating		
Other grants, subsidies and contributions	1,500	4,387
Total other grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	1,500	4,387
The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 12.		
Total grants, subsidies, contributions	10,087	14,301
(i) Sources of grants		
Commonwealth government	6,067	820
Northern Territory Government	4,007	13,478
Other	13	3
Total	10,087	14,301
(h) Conditions over grants and contributions		
Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be expended for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet expended in accordance with those conditions, are as follows:		
Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period	4,583	12,836
Less:		
<i>Expended during the current period from grants received in previous reporting periods</i>		
Government Grants	(2,614)	(9,113)
Subtotal	(2,614)	(9,113)
Plus:		
<i>Amounts received in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions</i>		
Government Grants	700	860
Subtotal	700	860
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period	2,669	4,583
Net increase (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period	(1,914)	(8,253)
(i) Physical resources received free of charge		
Roads and Pavement	1,302	1,505
Stormwater drainage	4,584	3,767
Street Lights	977	583
Footpaths, Cycleways and Driveways	797	536
Other - Gifted Assets	1,008	433
Total physical resources received free of charge	8,668	8,824

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City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2. Income (continued)

	as at 30/06/23	Movements		as at 30/06/24
	Opening Balance \$ '000	Received/ Receivable \$ '000	Expended \$ '000	Closing Balance \$ '000
(j) Reconciliation of government grants				
Grants (with discretion on use)				
General purpose (untied)				
Grants Commission grant - general purpose	–	25	(25)	–
Grants Commission grant - roads funding	–	65	(65)	–
Public Library Annual funding	–	681	(681)	–
Subtotal	–	771	(771)	–
Specific purpose (recurrent)				
Palmerston Regional Economic Grant 23/24	–	75	(75)	–
Senior Month Grant 23/24	–	2	(2)	–
International Mens Day 23/24	–	5	(5)	–
Australia Day Grant 23/24	–	2	(2)	–
Palmerston Targeted Youth Grant - lake skates & passion 22/23	5	–	(5)	–
Palmerston Youth Festival 2022-23	300	–	(300)	–
National Australia Day Grant 23-24	–	10	(10)	–
Goyder Security 2023-24	100	–	(100)	–
International Day for people with Disability 23-24	–	5	(5)	–
Subtotal	405	324	(729)	–
Total other grants	405	1,095	(1,500)	–
Grants specifically for new/upgraded assets				
Specific purpose (recurrent)				
Road to Recovery 23-24	–	404	(404)	–
Local Government Immediate Priority Grant (IPG)-Custom Holding Animal Pen	110	–	(9)	101
SWELL Grant AG (BBRF)	–	5,000	(5,000)	–
Palmerston Youth Drop In & Emergency	1,034	90	(456)	668
Various Asset Improvements	346	–	(250)	96
SWELL Fencing - NTG	–	20	(20)	–
Black Spot Program 22-23	–	100	(100)	–
Fiber Sense Technology (NTG) 23-24	–	500	(500)	–
Lake Areator Device Grant (Fishery Grant)	–	100	(100)	–
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program 4	–	390	(79)	311
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program 3	173	–	(173)	–
Archer Waste Management Facility 21/22	103	–	(103)	–
Archer Recycling Modernisation Grant	10	–	(10)	–
Greening, Cooling, Lighting and Pathways	1,652	–	(347)	1,305
Local Government Immediate Priority Grant (IPG) - Zuccoli Community Hub 2022-23	250	–	(62)	188
Local Government Immediate Priority Grant (IPG) - SWELL Secondary Space 2022-23	200	–	(200)	–
Swimming Wellness Events Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL)- NTG	299	–	(299)	–
Total grants specifically for new/upgraded assets	4,177	6,604	(8,112)	2,669

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Expenses

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(a) Employee costs			
Salaries and wages		7,929	7,262
Employee leave expense		1,462	1,263
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	17	1,042	891
Workers' compensation insurance		123	160
Other		330	226
Total operating employee costs		10,886	9,802

Total Number of Approved Full Time Equivalent Employees at the end of reporting period	98	96
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	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
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(b) Materials, contracts and other expenses

(i) Prescribed expenses

Auditor's remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		55	50
- Other auditors		53	37
Bad and doubtful debts		83	53
Elected members' expenses		397	324
Minimum Lease Payments		33	29
Subtotal - prescribed expenses		621	493

(ii) Other materials, contracts and expenses

Contractors		11,943	12,182
Energy		1,348	898
Legal expenses		405	487
Professional services		1,932	1,418
Sundry		7,826	6,950
Subtotal - other material, contracts and expenses		23,454	21,935

Total materials, contracts and other expenses		24,075	22,428
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(c) Depreciation, amortisation and impairment

(i) Depreciation and amortisation

Land improvements		954	812
Buildings and other structures		929	745
Infrastructure			
- Stormwater drainage		2,345	2,309
- Roads and Pavement		3,275	3,243
- Kerbs and Guttering		258	254
- Footpaths, Cycleways & Driveways		1,253	1,232
- Water and Irrigation		663	602
- Street Lights		876	837
Plant and equipment		148	122
Furniture and fittings		192	146

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City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Expenses (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Motor Vehicles	251	217
Subtotal	11,144	10,519
(ii) Impairment		
Land improvements - Parking meter	71	-
Subtotal	71	-
<u>Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment</u>	<u>11,215</u>	<u>10,519</u>

(d) Borrowing costs

Interest on loans	167	33
<u>Total Borrowing costs</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>33</u>

Note 4. Asset disposal and fair value adjustments

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		
(i) Assets renewed or directly replaced		
Proceeds from disposal	232	136
Less: carrying amount of assets sold	(111)	-
Gain (loss) on disposal	121	136
(ii) Assets surplus to requirements		
Less: carrying amount of assets sold	-	(364)
Gain (loss) on disposal	-	(364)
Fair value adjustments		
Investment property - fair value increase / (decrease)	(300)	100
Total fair value adjustments	(300)	100
<u>Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets</u>	<u>(179)</u>	<u>(128)</u>

Note 5. Current assets

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(a) Cash and cash equivalent assets		
Cash on hand at bank	4,922	7,660
Short term deposits and bills, etc.	1,043	7,000
<u>Total cash and cash equivalent assets</u>	<u>5,965</u>	<u>14,660</u>

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City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Current assets (continued)

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000
(b) Trade and other receivables		
Rates - general and other	2,671	2,368
Accrued revenues	815	1,193
Debtors - general	109	42
GST recoupment	730	919
Prepayments	88	18
Sundry	9	4
Animal Control	111	98
Parking and Traffic	20	17
Subtotal	4,553	4,659
Less: Expected Credit Losses	(269)	(186)
<u>Total trade and other receivables</u>	<u>4,284</u>	<u>4,473</u>

(c) Other financial assets (investments)

Term Deposits Over 90 Days	16,754	14,508
<u>Total other financial assets (investments)</u>	<u>16,754</u>	<u>14,508</u>

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Non-current assets

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000
Other non-current assets		
Other		
Capital works-in-progress	7,285	16,142
Total other	7,285	16,142
Total other non-current assets	7,285	16,142
 Work in Progress Reconciliation		
	2024	2023
Opening Work In Progress	16,142	2,207
Less: Capitalised prior year Work In Progress	(10,777)	(426)
Less: Expensed prior year Work In Progress	(6)	(59)
Net Work In Progress from prior year	5,359	1,722
 Capital Expenditure for this year	 20,365	 17,306
Add: Transfer from land improvements		732
Less: Capitalised this year	(17,970)	(3,159)
Less: Expensed this year	(468)	(459)
Net Work In Progress this year	1,927	14,420
 Closing Work In Progress	 7,285	 16,142

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

(a) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

	Fair Value Level	as at 30/06/23				Asset movements during the reporting period								as at 30/06/24			
		At Fair Value \$ '000	At Cost \$ '000	Accumulated Depreciation \$ '000	Carrying amount \$ '000	Asset Additions New / Upgrade \$ '000	Gifted Assets \$ '000	WDV of Asset Disposals \$ '000	Depreciation Expense (Note 3c) \$ '000	Impairment Loss (recognised in P/L) (Note 3c) \$ '000	Adjustments & Transfers \$ '000	Revaluation Decrements to Equity (ARR) (Note 9) \$ '000	Revaluation Increments to Equity (ARR) (Note 9) \$ '000	At Fair Value \$ '000	At Cost \$ '000	Accumulated Depreciation \$ '000	Carrying amount \$ '000
Land - other	3	134,438	-	-	134,438	-	-	-	-	-	-	(46,941)	-	87,497	-	-	87,497
Land improvements	3	17,559	-	(7,272)	10,287	10,206	353	(73)	(954)	(71)	-	-	-	27,878	-	(8,060)	19,818
Buildings and other structures	3	48,563	-	(18,386)	30,177	12,855	-	-	(929)	-	-	-	-	61,418	-	(19,315)	42,103
Infrastructure																	
- Stormwater drainage	3	227,460	-	(53,179)	174,281	3	4,584	-	(2,345)	-	-	-	-	232,047	-	(55,524)	176,523
- Roads and Pavement	3	169,117	-	(56,332)	112,785	1,568	1,302	-	(3,275)	-	-	9,390	-	211,279	-	(89,508)	121,771
- Kerbs and Guttering	3	25,066	-	(8,297)	16,769	-	339	-	(258)	-	-	(3,033)	-	31,130	-	(17,314)	13,816
- Footpaths, Cycleways & Driveways	3	67,502	-	(22,967)	44,535	1,144	797	(3)	(1,253)	-	-	-	-	69,441	-	(24,220)	45,221
- Water and Irrigation	3	19,627	-	(10,431)	9,196	117	316	-	(663)	-	-	-	-	20,061	-	(11,094)	8,967
- Street Lights	3	36,244	-	(9,415)	26,829	98	977	-	(876)	-	-	-	-	37,320	-	(10,290)	27,030
Plant and equipment		-	1,608	(782)	826	1,789	-	-	(148)	-	-	-	-	-	3,397	(929)	2,468
Furniture and fittings		-	2,321	(1,311)	1,010	554	-	-	(192)	-	-	-	-	-	2,876	(1,503)	1,373
Motor Vehicles		-	1,372	(624)	748	414	-	(111)	(251)	-	-	-	-	-	1,373	(572)	801
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		745,576	5,301	(188,996)	561,881	28,748	8,668	(187)	(11,144)	(71)	-	(49,974)	9,390	778,071	7,646	(238,329)	547,388
Comparatives		756,261	3,677	(194,261)	565,677	3,586	6,824	(428)	(10,519)	-	(664)	(13,217)	10,627	745,576	5,301	(188,996)	561,881

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City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

(b) Investment property

	Asset movements during the reporting period									
	as at 30/06/23						as at 30/06/24			
	At Fair Value \$ '000	At Cost \$ '000	Accumulated Depreciation \$ '000	Carrying amount \$ '000	Asset Additions New / Upgrade \$ '000	Revaluation Increments/ Decrements to P&L - Investment Properties (Note 4) \$ '000	At Fair Value \$ '000	At Cost \$ '000	Accumulated Depreciation \$ '000	Carrying amount \$ '000
Buildings and structures	5,800	–	–	5,800	–	(300)	5,500	–	–	5,500
Total investment property	5,800	–	–	5,800	–	(300)	5,500	–	–	5,500
Comparatives	5,700	–	–	5,700	–	100	5,800	–	–	5,800

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City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

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

Valuation of assets

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

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

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

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

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

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

Information on valuations

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

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

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

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

Transfers between fair value hierarchy levels

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

Other information

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

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

Highest and best use

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

Transition to AASB 13 - Fair Value Measurement

The requirements of AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement have been applied to all valuations undertaken since 1 July 2013 as shown by the valuation dates by individual asset classes below.

Land

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2024
- Valuer: Valuations NT

Land Improvements

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2022
- Valuer: Asset Val Pty Ltd

Buildings & Other Structures

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2023
- Valuer: Assetic Australia Pty Ltd

Infrastructure

Roads & Pavements

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2024
- Valuer: Valuations NT

Kerbs and Guttering

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2024
- Valuer: Valuations NT

Footpaths, Cycleways and Driveways

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2021
- Valuer: Assetic Australia Pty Ltd

Stormwater Drainage

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2022
- Valuer: Asset Val Pty Ltd

Water & Irrigation

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2022
- Valuer: Asset Val Pty Ltd

Street Lights

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 1 July 2021
- Valuer: Assetic Australia Pty Ltd

Plant & Equipment

- Basis of valuation: Cost

Furniture & Fittings

- Basis of valuation: Cost

Motor Vehicles

- Basis of valuation: Cost

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

Investment Property

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2024.
- Valuer: Herron Todd White (Northern Territory) Pty Ltd

Note 8. Liabilities

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non Current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non Current \$ '000
(a) Trade and other payables				
Unearned Grant Income	2,669	–	4,583	–
Goods and services	2,029	2	5,739	–
Rent received in advance	38	–	38	–
Rates received in advance	1,968	–	1,879	–
Other Payables	19	–	19	–
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements	453	–	403	–
Accrued expenses - other	2,018	–	783	–
Deposits, retentions and bonds	980	–	127	–
<u>Total trade and other payables</u>	<u>10,174</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>13,571</u>	<u>–</u>

(b) Borrowings

Loans	505	5,164	248	787
<u>Total borrowings</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>5,164</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>787</u>

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

(c) Provisions

Employee entitlements (including oncosts)	1,116	286	1,159	247
Future reinstatement / restoration, etc.	142	1,833	120	1,568
<u>Total provisions</u>	<u>1,258</u>	<u>2,119</u>	<u>1,279</u>	<u>1,815</u>

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Reserves

	<u>as at 30/06/23</u>				<u>as at 30/06/24</u>
	Opening Balance \$ '000	Increments (Decrements) \$ '000	Transfers \$ '000	Impairments \$ '000	Closing Balance \$ '000
(a) Asset revaluation reserve					
Land - other	117,472	(46,941)	-	-	70,531
Land improvements	3,612	-	-	-	3,612
Buildings and other structures	15,851	-	-	-	15,851
Infrastructure					
- Stormwater drainage	125,750	-	-	-	125,750
- Roads and Pavement	64,407	9,390	-	-	73,797
- Kerbs and Guttering	3,576	(3,033)	-	-	543
- Footpaths, Cycleways & Driveways	23,428	-	-	-	23,428
- Water and Irrigation	7,095	-	-	-	7,095
- Water Infrastructure	4,464	-	-	-	4,464
Motor Vehicles	71	-	-	-	71
Total asset revaluation reserve	365,726	(40,584)	-	-	325,142
Comparatives	368,316	(2,590)	-	-	365,726

	<u>as at 30/06/23</u>				<u>as at 30/06/24</u>
	Opening Balance \$ '000	Tfrs to Reserve \$ '000	Tfrs from Reserve \$ '000	Other Movements \$ '000	Closing Balance \$ '000
(b) Other reserves					
Developer Funds Reserve	754	330	(220)	-	864
Unexpended Capital Works Reserve	6,513	-	(6,513)	-	-
Election Expenses Reserve	50	50	-	-	100
Disaster Recovery Reserve	500	-	-	-	500
Waste Management Reserve	2,324	42	(30)	-	2,336
Major Initiatives Reserve	915	-	(915)	-	-
Working Capital Reserve	5,296	1,049	-	-	6,345
Total other reserves	16,352	1,471	(7,678)	-	10,145
Comparatives	20,384	6,513	(10,545)	-	16,352

Purposes of reserves

Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non-current assets (less any subsequent impairment losses, where applicable).

Externally Restricted Reserves

Unexpended Grants and Contributions Reserve

This reserve holds the balance of unexpended grants and contributions received from external contributors. The funds are held in this reserve until expensed in line with the funding conditions. External restrictions apply in line with the individual funding agreements.

AASB 1058 supersedes all the income recognition requirements relating to Council, previously in AASB 1004.

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Reserves (continued)

Under AASB 1058 the future timing of income recognition will depend on whether the transaction gives rise to a liability or other performance obligation related to an asset received by Council.

Internally Restricted Reserves

Election Expenses Reserve

This reserve shall be increased annually over the Council term. This reserve should not exceed \$150,000.

Disaster Recovery Reserve

This reserve shall be maintained at or near \$500,000. External funds received after the event for the purpose of disaster recovery shall be used to maintain the reserve on this level of funds.

Developer Funds Reserve

This reserve holds the balance of unexpended funds in lieu of construction received by developers.

Unexpended Capital Works Reserve

This reserve holds the balance of unexpended capital works funds that are requested to be carried forward to the following financial year.

Major Initiatives Reserve

This reserve will fund major initiatives for the future development of the City of Palmerston in line with identified major capital works, the Municipal Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan. Specific initiatives must be identified, and funds are to be allocated to those.

Waste Management Reserve

This reserve holds funds for the direct and indirect expenditures for the rehabilitation of the Archer landfill and for development of the Archer transfer station to accommodate expected future requirements.

Unrestricted Reserves

Working Capital Reserve

This reserve holds funds that have not been allocated to a specific purpose.

Note 10. Assets subject to restrictions

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000
<p>The uses of the following assets are restricted, wholly or partially, by legislation or other externally imposed requirements. The assets are required to be utilised for the purposes for which control was transferred to Council, or for which the revenues were originally obtained.</p>		
Cash and financial assets		
Unexpended amounts received from Government	2,669	4,583
Total cash and financial assets	2,669	4,583
Total assets subject to externally imposed restrictions	2,669	4,583

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 11. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
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(a) Reconciliation of cash

Cash assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

Total Cash & Cash Equivalent Assets	5	5,965	14,660
Balances per Statement of Cash Flows		<u>5,965</u>	<u>14,660</u>

(b) Reconciliation of change in net assets to cash from operating activities

Net surplus/(deficit)		8,774	12,470
Non-cash items in income statements			
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		11,215	10,519
Fair value adjustments		300	(100)
Non-cash asset acquisitions		(8,668)	(6,824)
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as investing activity		(8,587)	(9,914)
Net (gain) loss on disposals		(121)	228
		<u>2,913</u>	<u>6,379</u>
Add (less): changes in net current assets			
Net (increase)/decrease in receivables		–	(1,007)
Change in allowances for under-recovery of receivables		(83)	(54)
Net increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		(2,573)	(516)
Net increase/(decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		(4)	(85)
Net increase/(decrease) in other provisions		287	–
Net cash provided by (or used in) operations		<u>540</u>	<u>4,717</u>

(c) Non-cash financing and investing activities

Acquisition of assets by means of:

Physical resources received free of charge	2i	8,668	6,824
Amounts recognised in income statement		<u>8,668</u>	<u>6,824</u>
Total non-cash financing and investing activities		<u>8,668</u>	<u>6,824</u>

(d) Financing arrangements

Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:

Corporate credit cards		100	100
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The bank overdraft facilities may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 12(a). Functions

Income, Expenses and Assets have been directly attributed to the following Functions / Activities.
Details of these Functions/Activities are provided in Note 12(b).

Notes	OPERATING INCOME			OPERATING EXPENSES			OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)			GRANTS INCLUDED IN OPERATING INCOME			TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT)	
	2024	2024	2023	2024	2024	2023	2024	2024	2023	2024	2024	2023	2024	2023
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
Functions														
Public Order and Safety	33,535	37,839	35,142	24,163	24,941	22,828	9,372	12,898	12,314	(2,958)	(1,594)	(2,478)	-	-
General Public Services	573	378	645	1,188	1,247	1,058	(615)	(869)	(413)	(110)	(10)	(241)	15,309	33,814
Economic Affairs	1,811	1,428	3,658	2,611	3,111	2,557	(800)	(1,683)	1,101	(1,021)	(774)	(2,858)	358,704	350,647
Environmental Protection	7,909	7,858	7,113	7,296	7,120	6,686	613	738	427	(375)	(176)	(172)	-	-
Housing and Community Amenities	320	-	-	1,232	1,024	386	(912)	(1,024)	(386)	(320)	-	-	32,530	32,629
Recreation, Culture and Religion	7,539	7,656	8,679	9,478	8,896	9,342	(1,939)	(1,240)	(663)	(7,443)	(7,520)	(8,551)	160,853	185,744
Social Protection	2	12	1	63	57	54	(61)	(45)	(53)	(2)	(12)	(1)	-	-
Culture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,780	14,630
Total functions	51,689	55,171	55,238	46,031	46,396	42,911	5,658	8,775	12,327	(12,229)	(10,086)	(14,301)	587,176	617,464

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

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 12(b). Components of functions

The activities relating to Council functions are as follows:

GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES

General public services include administrative, legislative and executive affairs, financial and fiscal affairs, external affairs, governance and general services.

PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

Animal control, enforcement of local government regulations and emergency services.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

General economic, industrial development, roads and other business undertakings.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Waste management; pollution reduction; protection of biodiversity and landscape; and best practice management of the natural environment.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Street lighting and other community amenities.

RECREATION, CULTURE AND RELIGION

Public libraries, community centres, facilities and venues and other cultural services.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Administration of social services and assistance delivered to seniors and diverse communities.

GOVERNANCE

Audit & Assurance, Planning and Performance, Legal Services and Major Projects.

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 13. Financial instruments

Recognised financial instruments

Bank, deposits at call, short term deposits

Accounting Policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost; interest is recognised when earned.

Terms & Conditions:

Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 4.87% and 5.5% (2023: 3.25% and 5.1%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 205 days and an average interest rate of 5.14% (2023: 174 days and 4.44%).

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - rates and associated charges

Accounting Policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms & Conditions:

Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 8% (2023: 8%). Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the Territory.

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - fees and other charges

Accounting policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms and conditions:

Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.

Carrying amount:

Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - other levels of government

Accounting policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms and conditions:

Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of State and Federal Governments.

Carrying amount:

Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - creditors and accruals

Accounting Policy:

Liabilities are recognised at amortised cost for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.

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City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 13. Financial instruments (continued)

Terms & Conditions:

Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

Carrying Amount:

Amortised cost

Liabilities - interest bearing borrowings

Accounting Policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate.

Terms & Conditions:

Secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable on a quarterly basis; interest is charged at a fixed rate of 2.78% per annum for PAN loan and between 5.29% and 5.51% for SWELL loan.

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - leases

Accounting policy:

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

	Due < 1 year \$ '000	Due > 1 year & ≤ 5 years \$ '000	Due > 5 years \$ '000	Total Contractual Cash Flows \$ '000	Carrying Values \$ '000
2024					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	5,965	–	–	5,965	5,965
Receivables	4,584	–	–	4,584	4,284
Other financial assets	16,754	–	–	16,754	16,754
Total financial assets	27,303	–	–	27,303	27,003
Financial liabilities					
Payables	10,474	–	–	10,474	10,176
Current borrowings	505	–	–	505	505
Non-current borrowings	–	5,164	–	5,164	5,164
Total financial liabilities	10,979	5,164	–	16,143	15,845
2023					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	14,660	–	–	14,660	14,660
Receivables	3,722	–	–	3,722	3,722
Other financial assets	14,508	–	–	14,508	14,508
Total financial assets	32,890	–	–	32,890	32,890
Financial liabilities					
Payables	7,071	–	–	7,071	7,071
Current borrowings	248	–	–	248	248
Non-current borrowings	–	787	–	787	787
Total financial liabilities	7,319	787	–	8,106	8,106

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City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 13. Financial instruments (continued)

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

	2024		2023	
	Weighted Avg Interest Rate \$ '000	Carrying Value \$ '000	Weighted Avg Interest Rate \$ '000	Carrying Value \$ '000
Fixed interest rates	2.78%	5,669	2.78%	1,035
		<u>5,669</u>		<u>1,035</u>

Net fair value

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

Risk exposures

Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Council is the carrying amount, net of any impairment. All Council investments are made in accordance with the Council's investment policy. Except as detailed in Notes 5 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor **currency risk** apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates. Council also has available a range of bank overdraft and standby borrowing facilities that it can access.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate borrowings and investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

Expected Credit Losses (ECL)

Council uses an allowance matrix to measure expected credit losses for receivables from individual customers, which comprise a large number of small balances. Rates and annual charges are secured over subject land and an allowance for such receivables is made based on credit history.

Set out below is the movement in the allowance for expected credit losses:

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
As at 1 July	186	132
Provisions	83	54
As at 30 June	<u>269</u>	<u>186</u>

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 14. Capital expenditure and investment property commitments

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
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(a) Capital commitments

Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:

Other	537	16,799
	537	16,799

These expenditures are payable:

Not later than one year	537	16,799
	537	16,799

(b) Other expenditure commitments

Other non-capital expenditure commitments in relation to investment properties at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:

Waste Management Services	96	88
Other Maintenance Contracts	48	163
Landscaping and Mowing	218	139
Civil Works	74	158
Other	354	420
	790	968

These expenditures are payable:

Not later than one year	790	968
	790	968

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 15. Financial indicators

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicators 2023	Indicators 2022	Benchmark
Current Ratio					
Current assets less externally restricted assets	27,003	2.26	2.23	1.85	> 1.50
Current liabilities	11,937				
Rate Coverage Percentage					
Rate revenues	25,731	55.18%	50.70%	55.95%	> 60.00%
Total revenues (Operating & Capital)	46,628				
Rates and Waste Charges Outstanding					
Rates and Waste charges outstanding	2,671	8.00%	7.51%	6.37%	< 5.00%
Rates and Waste charges collectable	33,383				
Operating Ratio					
EBTIDA (Earnings before tax, interest, depreciation and amortisation)	3,080	8.10%	16.59%	15.18%	> 0.00%
Operating Revenue	38,041				
Own Revenue					
Own funding	36,541	96.06%	88.65%	89.45%	> 60.00%
Total operating revenue	38,041				
Interest Cover Ratio					
EBTIDA (Earnings before tax, interest, depreciation and amortisation)	3,080	18.44	194.27	135.83	> 4.00
Borrowing Cost (Interest)	167				
Asset Sustainability Ratio					
Capital Expenditure	20,365	181.59%	164.52%	98.76%	> 89.00%
Depreciation	11,215				
Debt Service Ratio					
EBTIDA (Earnings before tax, interest, depreciation and amortisation)	3,080	4.58	22.81	19.80	> 2.00
Borrowing costs (Principal and interest)	672				
Cash Expense Ratio					
Cash & Cash equivalents	5,966	0.17	0.45	1.27	> 0.25
Total Expenses (less Depreciation & Borrowing costs)	34,961				

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 16. Leases

Council as a lessor

Leases Providing Revenue to the Council

Council owns various buildings, plant and other facilities that are available for hire or lease (on a non-cancellable basis wherever practicable) in accordance with the published revenue policy. Rentals received from such leases are disclosed as rent and hire of non-investment property in Note 2.

(i) Investment property

Rentals received, and outgoings reimbursed, in relation to Investment Property are also disclosed in Note 2. These lease agreements, all of which are classified as operating leases, are made on a non-cancellable basis wherever practicable.

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000
Future minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases as at 30 June, are as follows:		
Not later than one year	582	730
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	41	493
	623	1,223

(ii) Lease Payment Commitments of Council

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

No contingent rentals were paid during the current or previous reporting periods.

No lease imposes any additional restrictions on Council in relation to additional debt or further leasing.

Leases in relation to computer and office equipment permit Council, at expiry of the lease, to elect to re-lease return or acquire the equipment leased.

No lease contains any escalation clause.

Commitments under non-cancellable operating leases that have not been recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

Not later than one year	25	11
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	25	-
Later than 5 years	-	-
	50	11

Note 17. Superannuation

Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (11% in 2023/24; 10.50% in 2022/23). The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the following schemes:

HOSTPLUS Superannuation Scheme

HOSTPLUS Superannuation Fund (formerly Statewide Super) receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. No further liability accrues to the Council as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 17. Superannuation (continued)

Contributions to other superannuation schemes

The Council also makes contributions to other superannuation schemes selected by employees under the “choice of fund” legislation. All such schemes are of the accumulation type, where the superannuation benefits accruing to the employee are represented by their share of the net assets of the scheme, and no further liability attaches to the Council.

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

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but knowledge is considered relevant to the users of the financial report in making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of scarce resources.

Land under roads

The Council is of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably for these assets to qualify for recognition, and accordingly land under roads has not been recognised in the reports.

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 19. Related party transactions

Key management personnel

Transactions with key management personnel

Key Management Personnel include the CEO, Directors, General Managers and Elected Members.

The related parties of the Council include:

- the key management personnel (KMP) because they have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Council directly; and
- spouses, children and dependants who are close family members of the KMP and;
- any entities controlled or jointly controlled by KMP or controlled or jointly controlled by their close family members.

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

The compensation to key management personnel comprises:

Salaries, Allowances, and Other Short-Term and Long-Term Benefits	1,727	1,529
Total	1,727	1,529

i) Retirement Benefits

No retirement benefits have been made by the Council to KMP during the reporting year.

(ii) Loans to Responsible Persons

No loans have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to KMP during the reporting year.

(iii) Other Transactions

Other than the amount paid as taxpayers or residents (e.g. rates, swimming pool entry fees, etc.) no other transactions have been made with the KMP during the year.

(iv) Outstanding Amounts

As at 30 June 2024, there were no outstanding amounts receivable from the Council's KMP.

City of Palmerston

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 19. Related party transactions (continued)

CEO REMUNERATION

Regulation 13(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations require Council, to include a disclosure of the total remuneration provided to each person appointed as the actual, acting or temporary CEO during the financial year. Below table provides the total remuneration paid to the actual and acting CEOs during 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Remuneration	Actual CEO	Acting CEO	Acting CEO	Acting CEO
	Luccio Franco Cercarelli	Amelia Vellar	Nadine Nilon	Wati Kerta
Dates	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	7 July 2023, 26 July 2023-30 July 2023 01 Aug 2023-03 Aug 2023 11 Aug 2023 24 Oct 2023 27 Nov 2023-29 Nov 2023 25 Jan 2024 26 Feb 2024 - 03 Mar 2024 05 Mar 2024 03 Jun 2024 - 16 Jun 2024 17 Jun 2024 - 25 Jun 2024	29 Sep 2023-29 Sep 2023 10 Oct 2023-14 Oct 2023 25 Oct 2023 21 Feb 24-25 Feb 24 8 Apr 2024 30 May 2024 - 02 Jun 2024 26 Jun 2023 - 29 Jun 2023	12 Feb 2024-14 Feb 2024
Short Term Benefits (1)	\$371,059	\$14,874	\$7,944	\$1,005
Non cash benefits	\$15,380	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Long term benefits (2)	\$7,780	\$1,013	\$0	\$432
TOTAL	\$394,219	\$15,887	\$7,944	\$1,437

(1) Short Term Benefits include employer funded superannuation contributions.

(2) Other long term benefits include Long Service Leave Accruals for the 2023/24 financial year.

City of Palmerston

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Independent Auditor's Report

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.1.4
REPORT TITLE:	Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting Minutes - 29 October 2024
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 5 November 2024
AUTHOR:	Executive Assistant to General Manager People & Place, Emily Dehne
APPROVER:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council approval of the recommendations from the Risk Management and Audit Committee meeting held on the 29 October 2024.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Risk Management and Audit Committee met on Tuesday 29 October 2024.
- The Risk Management and Audit Committee agenda and unconfirmed minutes from this meeting are available for viewing on the Council website.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting Minutes - 29 October 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT the unconfirmed Risk Management and Audit Committee minutes provided at **Attachment 13.1.4.1** to Report entitled Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting Minutes - 29 October 2024 be received and noted.
3. THAT Council adopts the following endorsements by the Risk Management and Audit Committee:
 - a. THAT the proposed 2025 Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting schedule being:
 - i. Tuesday 25 February 2025
 - ii. Tuesday 27 May 2025
 - iii. Tuesday 29 July 2025
 - iv. Thursday 23 October 2025
 - b. THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee adopts the proposed Work Plan at **Attachment 9.1.1.1** contained in the report entitled Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting Schedule 2025 that aligns with the Committee meeting schedule.
 - c. THAT the Council Policy Review – Asset Management – RMA10/151 be removed from the next Risk Management and Audit Committee Action Report as Council has endorsed this policy at the 17 September 2024 Council meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Risk Management and Audit Committee (the committee) is responsible for overseeing the responsibilities of corporate governance, particularly maintaining adequate internal controls over the revenue, expenditure, and assets of the Council.

As per the *Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019* (the act) and the *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations*, the Committee make recommendations to the council about any matters as a result of the committee's functions to monitor and review the integrity of the Council's financial management and review internal controls.

As per the Terms of Reference of the Committee, the committee is advisory by nature and can only recommend matters, falling within its function and role, to the Council.

DISCUSSION

The Risk Management and Audit Committee meeting was held on 29 October 2024 with the unconfirmed minutes provided at **Attachment 13.1.4.1**.

The Risk Management and Audit Committee endorsed the recommendation to Council and noted the dates provided in the report entitled Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting Schedule 2025.

The proposed dates are set as follows:

- i. Tuesday 25 February 2025
- ii. Tuesday 27 May 2025
- iii. Tuesday 29 July 2025
- iv. Thursday 23 October 2025

Additionally, the Risk Management and Audit Committee endorsed the recommendation to adopt the proposed Work Plan as **Attachment 9.1.1.1** contained in the report entitled Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting Schedule 2025 that aligns with the Committee Meeting Schedule.

The updated Action Report was also noted, and the Committee endorses the removal of the Council Policy Review – Asset Management – RMA10/151 from the next Action Report as Council endorsed this policy at the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting 17 September 2024.

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:

6. **Governance**
Failure to effectively govern.

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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. 20241029 UNCONFIRMED Risk Management and Audit Committee Minutes 29 October 202
[13.1.4.1 - 8 pages]



MINUTES

Risk Management and Audit Committee **Tuesday 29 October 2024**

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

Committee business papers can be viewed on the City of Palmerston website <http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au>

'A Place for People'



A Place for People

COMMITTEE MINUTES

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Clare Milikins, Independent Member (Chair)
Craig Kirby, Independent Member (Via
Audio/Audiovisual)
David Ray, Independent Member
Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell
Councillor Amber Garden
Councillor Sarah Henderson

STAFF Chief Executive Officer, Amelia Vellar
General Manager Infrastructure, Nadine Nilon
General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati
Kerta
General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl
Acting General Manager People and Place, Emma
Blight
Finance Manager, Jeffrey Guilas
Governance Lead, Angie Torr
Minute Secretary, Emily Dehne

GALLERY Nil

Initials:



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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 5:18pm.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

Nil

3.2 Leave of Absence Previously Granted

Nil

4 AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING GRANTED

THAT it be noted the Committee note Craig Kirby is attending via Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing who will be physically prevented from attending a meeting due to being a distance greater than 100km from the appointed place of meeting and approval has been granted by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the City of Palmerston Audio/Audiovisual Policy.

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Committee Members

Nil

5.2 Staff

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved: Councillor Garden
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT the Minutes of the Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting held on 27 August 2024 pages 279 to 284 be confirmed.

CARRIED (6/0) - RMA10/161 - 29/10/2024

Initials: _____



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COMMITTEE MINUTES

6.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Nil

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

8 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

8.1 Moving Confidential Items into Open

Nil

8.2 Moving Open Items into Confidential

Nil

8.3 Confidential Items

Moved: Councillor Garden

Seconded: David Ray

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
18.1.1	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)(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.
18.1.2	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.

Initials: _____



A Place for People

COMMITTEE MINUTES

18.1.3	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.
18.2.1	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)(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.
18.2.2	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)(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.
18.2.3	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)(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.
18.2.4	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)(iii) 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 security of the council, its members or staff.
18.2.5	Council Project Initiative	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.

Initials: _____



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COMMITTEE MINUTES

18.2.6	Council Initiative	Project	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)(e) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.
18.2.7	Contract and Tender Assessment and Award		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.

CARRIED (6/0) - RMA10/162 - 29/10/2024

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 Action Reports

9.1.1 Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting Schedule 2025

Moved: Councillor Garden
Seconded: Mayor Pascoe-Bell

1. THAT Report entitled Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting Schedule 2025 be received and noted.
2. THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee recommend to the Council:
 - a. THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee adopts the proposed 2025 Committee Meeting schedule being:
 - i. Tuesday 25 February 2025
 - ii. Tuesday 27 May 2025
 - iii. Tuesday 29 July 2025
 - iv. Thursday 23 October 2025
 - b. THAT the Risk Management and Audit Committee adopts the proposed Work Plan at **Attachment 9.1.1.1** contained in the Report entitled Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting Schedule 2025 that aligns with the Committee Meeting schedule.

CARRIED (6/0) - RMA10/163 - 29/10/2024

Initials: _____



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COMMITTEE MINUTES

9.1.2 Action Report

Moved: David Ray
Seconded: Mayor Pascoe-Bell

1. THAT Report entitled Action Report be received and noted.
2. THAT the Council Policy Review – Asset Management - RMA10/151 be removed from the next Action Report as Council has endorsed this policy at the 17 September 2024 Council Meeting.

CARRIED (6/0) - RMA10/164 - 29/10/2024

9.2 Receive and Note Reports

Nil

10 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Information

Nil

10.2 Correspondence

Nil

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

12 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved: Councillor Garden
Seconded: Mayor Pascoe-Bell

THAT the next Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting be held on Tuesday, 25 February 2025 at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED (6/0) - RMA10/165 - 29/10/2024

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(3)(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 (6/0) - RMA10/166 - 29/10/2024

Initials: _____



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COMMITTEE MINUTES

The open section of the meeting closed at 5:25pm for the discussion of confidential matters.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:52pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

UNCONFIRMED

Initials:

MINUTES RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING - 29 OCTOBER 2024

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COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.1.5
REPORT TITLE:	Darwin Symphony Orchestra In Palmerston 2025
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 5 November 2024
AUTHOR:	City Activation Officer, Tree Gillam
APPROVER:	Acting General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council's approval of the inclusion of the Darwin Symphony Orchestra event series within the 2025-26 budget.

KEY MESSAGES

- In 2024 the Darwin Symphony Orchestra performed two 'Family Proms' concerts in Palmerston, attracting around 300 audience members and offering a unique orchestra experience for the Palmerston community.
- Building on the success of this and strengthening the performing arts experience for the community, it is being recommended that City of Palmerston partners with Darwin Symphony Orchestra in 2025 to bring further events to Palmerston.
- If approved, 'Palmerston Classics' will be held on Friday 17 October from 7.30pm, and 'Palmerston Family Proms', on Saturday 18 October from 10am, creating a weekend of orchestra activities in Palmerston.
- The partnership would include three (3) educational workshops to be delivered in September 2025 at Palmerston schools in the lead up to the performances.
- Building on the 'Family Proms' held in 2024, if approved, these events will appeal to a broader demographic, offering a night of entertainment for adults as well as a family event the following morning.
- The partnership cost would be \$30,000 and it is proposed to be included in the 2025-26 events budget.
- This partnership is consistent with the values and objectives of the Creative Industries Plan, the Palmerston Local Economic Plan, as well as the overarching vision of Palmerston as outlined in the Council's Community Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Darwin Symphony Orchestra In Palmerston 2025 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses the inclusion of the Darwin Symphony Orchestra event series within the 2025-26 budget.

BACKGROUND

In 2024, DSO performed two (2) Family Proms concerts at Palmerston Recreation Centre, where families were taken on a musical adventure, learning about the instruments in the orchestra, dancing to the music, conducting, and inventing creative musical stories with the help of Chief Conductor Jon Tooby.

Accessibly priced at \$15 per ticket, these events brought two (2) family performances to Palmerston, 302 audience members to the Centre for a morning of fun and musical mayhem, three (3) school workshops in Palmerston Schools, 12 young Maestros conducted the orchestra, and 10 DSO young artists performed alongside an orchestra of 50 players.



Young Maestro conducting the Orchestra at Family Proms 2024

The Family Proms project demonstrated that it resonated with the Palmerston community in 2024, and the DSO is keen to continue working with CoP to increase engagement, create opportunities for community participation, and present exceptional performances to Palmerston.

This report provides an overview of the proposed DSO event program for 2025, confirmation whether Council will partner with DSO is preferable prior to their program launch on 14 November 2024.

DISCUSSION

Darwin Symphony Orchestra (DSO) has been a treasured community institute for 30 years. Comprising more than 100 volunteer musicians and a small professional core, the DSO reflects the diverse and vibrant communities within the Palmerston and the broader Northern Territory.

The orchestra’s identity as an accessible and essential community resource is built on a commitment to bringing exceptional performances to all corners of the Northern Territory. From floating on pontoons in Nitmiluk Gorge, to performing on a working barge on Darwin Harbour, and becoming the first symphony orchestra to perform at Uluru, the DSO truly reflects the Territory’s unique cultural geography.

Building on the successes of this first year of partnership in 2024, it is being proposed that the DSO will again partner with City of Palmerston in 2025 to increase its presence and offering in Palmerston, through an additional full symphonic evening concert, ‘Palmerston Classics’, as well as again staging

'Palmerston Family Proms'. The proposed timing of the events will provide increased annual event opportunities for the public as they are planned for October.

Through this program, the DSO will also increase education engagement across the year in Palmerston, building on the 2024 workshops, to strengthen musical pathways for children, and lead up to the performance weekend in October 2025. This will include workshops with three (3) Palmerston school, focused on exploring creativity through musical instruments, improvisatory exercises, and creating new pieces of music together. This is intended to complement the school's music program, build a continuous engagement with music, and develop an interest in orchestral music.

In a change to the 2024 program of two (2) 'Family Proms' events, there will be an adult experience event on Friday 17 October 2025, 'Palmerston Classics', followed by one (1) 'Family Proms' event on the Saturday morning, 18 October 2025.

Featuring spectacular orchestral music from Beethoven's famous Fifth Symphony, Khachaturian's ballet music for Spartacus, and beloved film music by John Williams, the 'Palmerston Classics' concert offers a special evening of entertainment with the full orchestra. While this concert is highly accessible for all ages, the focus of this event is to offer an experience for adults in Palmerston to have a special night out in their own community.

As part of this activation, audiences will be encouraged to visit the Palmerston markets or other retailers for a bite to eat before heading into the Palmerston Recreation Centre for a magical night of music.

The DSO intends to keep tickets for these events accessible and affordable for the community, with prices ranging from \$15 - \$45 for 'Palmerston Classics', and a flat \$15 per ticket for 'Palmerston Family Proms'. Ticket packages for both events will be offered between \$25 - \$55 to encourage audiences to enjoy both performances at a discounted rate.

It is recommended that the DSO events are included within the 2025-26 City of Palmerston events program.

CONSULTATION AND MARKETING

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

- City Activation Team

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

- Kate Stephens - Darwin Symphony Orchestra General Manager

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this Report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The previous DSO partnership was funded through the Community Benefit Scheme as a sponsorship agreement. Officers recommend this partnership be funded through the events annual budget which is currently \$613,790. This proposed partnership cost for 2025 is \$30,000. Building this into the events budget in 2025-26 is appropriate as it is funding the delivery of events specifically for Palmerston like the current theatrical nights offering. Acceptance of this event series will increase our community events offering, whilst delivering on the Creative Industries Plan and supporting the Palmerston Local Economic Plan.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

4. **Inclusion, Diversity and Access**
Failure to balance meeting needs of Palmerston's cultural mosaic
6. **Governance**
Failure to effectively govern.

Failure to partner with the Darwin Symphony Orchestra would result in a missed opportunity to bring a leading local cultural organisation to Palmerston. For Council to meet its objectives under its Creative Industries Plan partnerships are crucial. This collaborative effort between the DSO and CoP will help ensure the delivery of a vibrant and engaging event weekend of performing arts that enriches the cultural fabric of the community.

STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS

Alignment to the Community Plan

The Palmerston Family Proms series directly supports the objective of focusing on families in Palmerston. It offers an engaging and fun experience for children and families from across the community, promoting music appreciation in a way that is suitable for all types of families. The event at the Palmerston Recreation Centre provides a place for families to gather and introduces children to the world of orchestral music, making it a valuable addition to the community's family-focused activities.

The Family Proms event celebrates culture and diversity by introducing the community to the rich world of orchestral music. It provides an opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to come together and experience the beauty of classical music, which is a universal language that transcends cultural boundaries. The event at the Palmerston Recreation Centre encourages unity through music, aligning with the objective of celebrating culture and diversity.

Alignment to the Creative Industries Plan

The partnership seeks to introduce a new creative event or activity, which, when implemented, can serve as a venue or opportunity for artistic, cultural, and creative activity to prosper in Palmerston. By offering this event, the city is actively fulfilling its role as a host for creative endeavours.

It could involve collaboration with local artists, musicians, or other stakeholders, fostering creative clusters and strengthening connections among various creative entities in the city. The partnership emphasizes community participation in creative activities. By providing this event, the city is actively working with others to promote artistic and cultural engagement within the community, aligning with the role of a partner outlined in the Creative Industries Plan.

Alignment to the Palmerston Local Economic Plan (PLEP)

The partnership supports the PLEP target of 'Explore creative industry development opportunities in Palmerston' through delivery of these creative events. The weekend will provide increased opportunities for economic activity in Palmerston, particularly the Friday night for market and other food traders,

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.



A Place for People

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM:	13.2.1
REPORT TITLE:	Christmas in Palmerston 2024
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 5 November 2024
AUTHOR:	Events Officer, Helen Tucker
APPROVER:	Acting General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report seeks to update Council on plans for celebrating Christmas in Palmerston 2024.

KEY MESSAGES

- City of Palmerston provides a range of activities for the community to celebrate Christmas and the festive season.
- City of Palmerston's popular Christmas Wonderland returns to Goyder Square from Sunday 15 December until Monday 23 December from 5:30pm – 9:30pm daily.
- Sunday 15 December will be a Christmas Wonderland 'low-sensory' evening from 4:30pm - 8:00pm.
- The Trussmas Tree will be installed in Goyder Square and will be lit on the opening night of Christmas Wonderland.
- New interactive elements this year include a variety of roaming entertainment, face painting and the children's Christmas crafts being re-located to the library.
- Several new attractions will be incorporated into Christmas Wonderland, including:
 - **Arctic Blast:** A large walkthrough igloo measuring eight (8) metres in diameter and four (4) metres high.
 - **Illuminated Feature Fans:** Large fans with integrated LED lights that create a mesmerising lighting effect and significant wind, situated inside the new igloo.
 - **Mini Carousel:** A three (3) horse carousel with lights and music, designed for younger guests, situated inside a floored white pavilion on the lawn area.
 - **Starburst Street:** A line of starburst lights, featuring a three (3) dimensional star-shaped design reaching almost three (3) metres in height, with an array of lights at varying lengths, providing a spectacular festive display along the train route parallel to Candy Cane Lane.
- During the day, the Library will be running a Christmas program which includes a different activity each day of the week.
- On review of the Carpentaria Accessibility and Inclusion Report, City of Palmerston will introduce new elements to ensure Christmas Wonderland enhances its accessibility for 2024.
- This year, City of Palmerston was unable to secure the Tactile Arts Christmas Markets, as the stallholders expressed concerns about insufficient trade relative to their investment in creating and selling their products, making it unsustainable for them.

A Place for People

- A comprehensive marketing campaign will be conducted, incorporating a variety of messaging including Christmas Wonderland, School Holiday Program, Sustainability, Christmas Lights, shop local and more. The campaign will use a variety of tactics including posters, radio ads, social media and other outdoor advertising placements

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report entitled Christmas in Palmerston 2024 be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

Each year City of Palmerston offers a range of activities and programs to the community to help celebrate Christmas. Christmas Wonderland is the highlight event, which in 2023, brought over 16,000 people to Goyder Square.

Christmas Wonderland 2023 saw the addition of a weather shield to fully cover Goyder Square, allowing the event to continue regardless of heavy rainfall, which had been a concern from previous years.

Palmerston Recreation Centre was transformed into a first of its kind in Palmerston Christmas Market. The Christmas Market was made possible through a collaboration with Tactile Arts, a member-based not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting contemporary arts and crafts in the Northern Territory's top end since 1973.

Christmas Wonderland 2023 saw the introduction of Santas Grotto, a transformation of the Library Community Room into an intimate, fully themed experience for families to interact with Santa. 2023 also largely became a craft wonderland, with the kid's art workshop gaining immense popularity.

Christmas Wonderland 2023 was open from 15 - 23 December and welcomed on average 2,000 people per night. The event featured all the favourites of the previous year including the Christmas train, snow machine and Santa's house.



Christmas Wonderland Train Rides



Christmas Wonderland Tactile Arts Market



A family enjoying the Christmas theming

Children's Christmas Craft

DISCUSSION

Christmas Wonderland

Christmas Wonderland 2024 will begin with a low sensory, invitation only event on Sunday 15 December, before opening to the public on Monday 16 December.

Christmas Wonderland is free to attend and will return in 2024, showcasing many beloved features such as the Christmas Train, Twinkle Tunnel, and Snow Machines. This year, we're excited to introduce several new interactive experiences, including roving performers to entertain guests in line, face painting and crafts in a beautifully decorated library space, and a range of Christmas performances on the main Goyder Square stage. Each evening will also feature food stalls and several exciting new attractions, ensuring a fresh and memorable experience for the community.

The new additions to Christmas Wonderland will include:

- **Arctic Blast:** A large walkthrough igloo measuring eight (8) metres in diameter and four (4) metres high.
- **Illuminated Feature Fans:** Large fans with integrated LED lights that create a mesmerising lighting effect and significant wind, situated inside the new igloo.
- **Mini Carousel:** A three (3) horse carousel with lights and music, designed for younger guests, situated inside a floored white pavilion on the lawn area.
- **Starburst Street:** A line of starburst lights, featuring a three (3) dimensional star-shaped design reaching almost three (3) metres in height, with an array of lights at varying lengths, providing a spectacular festive display along the train route parallel to Candy Cane Lane.

Christmas Wonderland - Low Sensory

Once again Council will host a low sensory event, exclusively for community members with diverse abilities and their friends, families, and caregivers, including community organisations, NDIS agencies and local schools.

This event demonstrates Council's commitment to inclusion and aligns with the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan (DIAP) and the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework (IDA).

In 2023, Carpentaria Disability Services conducted a review of the accessibility features and strategies for Christmas Wonderland, producing an Accessibility and Inclusion Report with recommendations aimed at enhancing accessibility in the future. Based on the findings of this review, City of Palmerston will implement improvements to ensure the event is fully accessible. These recommendations include clearer signage and wayfinding, as well as a review of access points to specific displays.

The low sensory evening will be held on Sunday 15 December, from 4:30pm – 8:30pm, with the Christmas Wonderland displays offering the same elements in a low-sensory delivery i.e., reducing flashing lights, lowering music and sounds with no large crowds.

Children's Christmas Craft

Children's Christmas Craft was very popular with attendees in 2023. Building on this positive feedback, staff have created a dedicated Christmas craft area in the Library this year. Each evening, children will have the opportunity participate in festive activities, including stocking and bauble decoration. Additionally, a face painter will be on hand every night to add to the fun and keep everyone engaged.

Trussmass Tree

City of Palmerston will again present the Trussmass Tree, one of the tallest in the Northern Territory at over 13 meters high, covered in hundreds of twinkling fairy lights, baubles, shimmering tinsel and topped with a spectacular star. The official lighting of the tree will take place on Monday 16 December at 7:30pm. Visitors will be encouraged to join in the countdown of the official lighting of the tree, and performers will be present to bring Christmas cheer with music and entertainment.

Christmas Markets

City of Palmerston staff met with Tactile Arts to invite them again to hold the Christmas Markets at the Recreation Centre as part of Christmas Wonderland. The committee met with their members (the stallholders) and unfortunately, after numerous discussions, City of Palmerston was unable to secure the Christmas Markets this year, with stallholders expressing concerns about insufficient trade, relative to their investment and time in creating and selling their products last year, which made participation unsustainable for them.

City of Palmerston Library Christmas Program

The library will be running a daytime Christmas craft program from Monday 15 December until Friday 20 December. The Christmas crafts will include the making of Christmas tree decorations, Christmas sand art, Christmas photo frames, with two (2) festive movies being shown.

Performances

Each night of Christmas Wonderland will see different performances take to the main Goyder Square stage. This year's entertainment options have been expanded to include school groups, wind ensembles, local solo acts, and group choirs, ensuring that no two (2) nights will be the same.

Roaming performers will be a further addition to Christmas Wonderland 2024, allowing the entire of Goyder Square to be activated continuously by entertainment.

CONSULTATION AND MARKETING

Festive Season Marketing

An inclusive and comprehensive marketing campaign will be repeated in 2024 given the positive results from last year. The Christmas campaign will deliver important messaging across several themes including:

- Christmas lights (TBA in conjunction with radio)
- Keeping pets and animals safe over Christmas (register and microchip)
- Shop local in Palmerston
- Safety and security throughout Christmas
- Sustainable Christmas (details TBA)
- School holiday program at the Library

A Place for People

- Office closures
- Christmas Wonderland events

By combining messaging into one marketing campaign, it allows for a larger voice to reach more people on a variety of platforms with messaging that resonates with them.

Placements will include;

- Radio ads and live reads
- Cross promotion on social media with Mix 104.9
- Print ads in the NT News
- A large outdoor banner mesh around the perimeter of Goyder Square
- Poster displays at all Council customer experience touch points (Civic Centre, Library, Recreation Centre) and via businesses and shopping centres
- VMS boards
- Social media organic posts – using images and video footage from last year
- Online events hosted by Off the Leash
- Local social media influencer/s
- Paid social media carousel (Facebook and Instagram)
- Eventbrite listing
- Website homepage
- Staff email signature banners

The Christmas campaign will also look to ensure local media outlets are aware of all the activities and messaging. This will be done through media releases, radio interviews and inviting media to events.

The campaign will be targeting a larger audience to encourage a broader range of people to visit Palmerston and see everything that is on offer in the municipality.

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

- Marketing and Communications Manager
- City Activation Officer

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

- General Manager, Total Event Services

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this Report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The complete cost of Christmas Wonderland will be covered by the Council's endorsed operational budget, which has been designated an amount of \$235,000. The budget designated for Christmas promotions will remain at \$9,000, staying consistent with the previous year.

Procurement was undertaken in 2023 to bring Christmas Wonderland to Palmerston for three (3) years, 2024 being the second of the three (3). The tender was awarded to a local business and is set to bring unique and innovative elements to the community to each Christmas until 2025 (inclusive).

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Providing a range of interactive, family-friendly activities including a large-scale Christmas event ensures that the community's expectations for the festive celebrations are met.

Adhering to all safety plans and cyclone protocols will ensure that the health and safety of our community are a priority.

The contractor that has been engaged to deliver Palmerton Christmas Wonderland will ensure all safety measures, including in relation to the Christmas Train are met, and a comprehensive risk assessment and plan are provided.

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.
- 4. Inclusion, Diversity and Access**
Failure to balance meeting needs of Palmerston's cultural mosaic
- 5. Infrastructure**
Failure to plan, deliver and maintain fit for purpose infrastructure.

STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS

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

Community Plan

- **Connected Community:** Strengthen social ties and foster a sense of belonging through inclusive and festive community events.
- **Vibrant Community:** Enhance the vibrancy of Palmerston by providing high-quality entertainment and cultural experiences.
- **Safe and Inclusive Community:** Ensure all community members can participate and enjoy the event in a safe and welcoming environment.

Palmerston Municipal Plan 2024-25:

- **Community Wellbeing:** Support community wellbeing through events that promote joy, inclusivity, and holiday spirit.
- **Economic Growth:** Stimulate economic growth by attracting visitors and encouraging holiday spending in the local area.
- [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

A Place for People

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, 19 November 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 15 October 2024

The Ordinary 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

COUNCIL MINUTES

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

PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS	Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell (Chair) Deputy Mayor Mark Fraser Councillor Benjamin Giesecke Councillor Damian Hale Councillor Sarah Henderson
STAFF	Chief Executive Officer, Amelia Vellar General Manager Infrastructure, Nadine Nilon General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl Acting Manager People and Place, Emma Blight Minute Secretary, Jodi Holden
GALLERY	Six members of staff

Initials:

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 15 OCTOBER 2024

11478



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 5.34pm.

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 Morrison
Councillor Eveleigh
Councillor Garden*

4 AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING GRANTED

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Elected Members

Nil

5.2 Staff

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved: Deputy Mayor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Hale

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1 October 2024 pages 11464 to 11471 be confirmed.

CARRIED (5/0) – 10/1567 – 15/10/2024

Initials:

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 15 OCTOBER 2024

11479



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COUNCIL MINUTES

6.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Nil

7 MAYORAL REPORT

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Councillor Hale

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

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1568 - 15/10/2024

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 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Councillor Giesecke

1. THAT the leave of absence received from Councillor Giesecke for 11 October to 14 October 2024 inclusive be received and noted.
5. THAT the leave of absence received from Councillor Hale for 2 October to 4 October 2024 inclusive be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1557 - 1/10/2024

10.2 Moving Open Items into Confidential

Nil

10.3 Confidential Items

Moved: Deputy Mayor Fraser
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:

Initials: _____

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 15 OCTOBER 2024

11480



A Place for People

COUNCIL MINUTES

Item	Confidential Category	Confidential Clause
25.1	External Presentation Request	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.
27.1.1	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)(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.
27.1.2	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)(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.

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1569 - 15/10/2024

11 PETITIONS

Nil

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

13 OFFICER REPORTS

13.1 Action Reports

13.1.1 Playground Refurbishment Consultation Outcomes and Lighting Options

Moved: Deputy Mayor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT Report entitled Playground Refurbishment Consultation Outcomes and Lighting Options be received and noted.

Initials: _____

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 15 OCTOBER 2024

11481



A Place for People

COUNCIL MINUTES

2. THAT Council notes the inclusion of the consultation outcomes to be included in the final designs of the Sanctuary Lakes Playground and the Marlow Lagoon Junior Unit Playground refurbishments, and that the designs are made publicly available, including acknowledgement of the contribution from the community in their development.
3. THAT Council includes the installation of lighting infrastructure of play spaces within regional parks as part of refurbishment projects, and that the use of lighting where it is available is to occur as part of approved events and bookings.
4. THAT Council notes that pathway lighting within parks is included within the dark spot public lighting upgrade program.

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1570 - 15/10/2024

13.1.2 Review of Council Advisory Committees - October 2024

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Councillor Giesecke

1. THAT Report entitled Review of Council Advisory Committees - October 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council make no changes to the current Advisory Committee and Networks and that this be reviewed after the declaration of the poll following the Local Government Election 2025.
3. THAT Council write to the nominated person appointed to the below Community Safety Advisory Committee positions, to advise that as per the Terms of Reference they have resigned their membership due to non-attendance at 3 consecutive meetings without apology:
 - a. Community Member
 - b. Northern Territory Families Representative
4. THAT Council seeks nomination for vacant positions of the Community Safety Advisory Committee via a public call for Expressions of Interest, for the below vacancies:
 - a. Business Associations Representative
 - b. Youth Community Member Representative
 - c. Community Member
5. THAT Council seeks nomination for vacant positions of the Community Safety Advisory Committee by directly contacting the below agencies:
 - a. Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet Representative
 - b. Northern Territory Families Representative
6. THAT a letter offering a membership extension be sent to the remaining Committee Members of each Advisory Committees for a continuation of membership term to the declaration of the poll following the Local Government Election 2025, with a response of acceptance due by 5pm 15 November 2024.

Initials: _____

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 15 OCTOBER 2024

11482



A Place for People

COUNCIL MINUTES

7. THAT a further report be presented to the next ordinary Council meeting presenting options for remuneration of committee members.

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1571 - 15/10/2024

13.1.3 Laneway Management Policy - Consultation Outcomes

Moved: Councillor Hale
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT Report entitled Laneway Management Policy - Consultation Outcomes be received and noted
2. THAT Council adopts the Laneway Management Policy being **Attachment 13.1.3.2** to the report entitled Laneway Management Policy - Consultation Outcomes.
3. THAT a fee of \$500 is included within the 2024/25 Fees and Charges for landowner contribution for laneways approved for permanent closure, in accordance with the Laneway Management Policy.
4. THAT all current laneways closures, including night-time, continue indefinitely, with reviews to occur in accordance with the updated Laneway Management Policy.
5. THAT Council write to all submitters thanking them for their submissions and advising of the updated Laneway Management Policy.

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1572 - 15/10/2024

13.1.4 Palmerston Recreation Centre Operational Use

Moved: Deputy Mayor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT Report entitled Palmerston Recreation Centre Operational Use be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve a three (3) month trial, commencing 1 November 2024, to:
 - a. Introduce additional, informal meeting spaces that are able to be booked, in the Palmerston Recreation Centre foyer.
 - b. Provide full public access to the Palmerston Recreation Centre including access to the showers and toilets, between 8am to 10am, Monday to Friday, excluding days when the facility is closed.
 - c. Provide access to the Palmerston Recreation Centre to users with a booking only, from 10am onwards Monday to Friday.
3. THAT a further report that outlines the impacts and suggested continuation, or not, of the change in operating model for the Palmerston Recreation Centre, is presented to Council by the second ordinary meeting of February 2025.

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1573 - 15/10/2024

Initials: _____

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 15 OCTOBER 2024

11483



A Place for People

COUNCIL MINUTES

13.2 Receive and Note Reports

13.2.1 People and Place Quarterly Report - July to September 2024

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Fraser

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

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1574 - 15/10/2024

13.2.2 Major Capital Projects Update - October 2024

Moved: Councillor Hale
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Fraser

THAT Report entitled Major Capital Projects Update - October 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1575 - 15/10/2024

13.2.3 Community Benefit Scheme - September Update

Moved: Deputy Mayor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT Report entitled Community Benefit Scheme - September Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1576 - 15/10/2024

13.2.4 Reconciliation Action Plan Update

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Mayor Pascoe-Bell

THAT Report entitled Reconciliation Action Plan Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1577 - 15/10/2024

13.2.5 Finance and Governance Quarterly Report - July to September 2024

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

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

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1578 - 15/10/2024

Initials:

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 15 OCTOBER 2024

11484



A Place for People

COUNCIL MINUTES

13.2.6 Financial Report - September 2024

Moved: Councillor Giesecke
Seconded: Councillor Hale

THAT Report entitled Financial Report - September 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1579 - 15/10/2024

14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Information

Nil

14.2 Correspondence

Nil

15 REPORT OF DELEGATES

Nil

16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Nil

17 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

18 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Moved: Councillor Giesecke
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Fraser

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

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1580 - 15/10/2024

19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

Moved: Deputy Mayor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Hale

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 (5/0) - 10/1581 - 15/10/2024

Initials:

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 15 OCTOBER 2024

11485



A Place for People

COUNCIL MINUTES

20 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

Moved: Councillor Hale
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Fraser

THAT the meeting be adjourned for ten minutes.

CARRIED (5/0) - 10/1582 - 15/10/2024

The meeting adjourned at 6.23pm

The open section of the meeting closed at 6.23pm for the discussion of confidential matters.

The closed section of the meeting reopened at 6.33pm.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.53pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

UNCC CONFIRMED

Initials: _____

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 15 OCTOBER 2024

11486