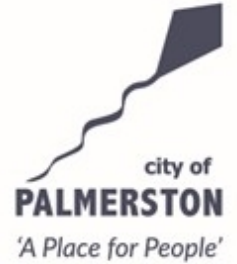


AGENDA



1st ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2025

The Ordinary Meeting of 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 City of Palmerston's website palmerston.nt.gov.au or at the Council Office located: Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston NT 0830.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Walsh", is positioned above the name of the Chief Executive Officer.

ANDREW WALSH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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- 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
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 - 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 18 March 2025 pages 11651 to 11659 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 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)(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.
27.1.3	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.
27.1.4	Legal Advice	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</i>

		<p>2021, 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>
27.1.5	Confidential Restricted	<p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(a) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i>, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.</p>

11 PETITIONS

12 NOTICES OF MOTION



13 OFFICER REPORTS

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	13.1.1
Report Title:	Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Minutes - 25 March 2025
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 1 April 2025
Author:	Executive Assistant to General Manager Community, Georgina Davies
Approver:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report seeks Council approval of the recommendations from the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 March 2025.

Key messages

- Community Wellbeing is a priority for City of Palmerston and the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee is an avenue for Council to maintain awareness on current issues and actions to support the community.
- The reports on networks and updates highlighted strong wellbeing outcomes for City of Palmerston.
- The Advisory Committee agenda and unconfirmed minutes are available for viewing on Council's Website.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Minutes - 25 March 2025 be received and noted.

2. THAT the unconfirmed Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee minutes provided as **Attachment 13.1.1.1** to report entitled Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Minutes - 25 March 2025 be received and noted.
3. THAT Council endorse the proposed recommendation from the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee meeting held on 25 March 2025, being;
 - a. THAT the Chair send a letter of thanks to Michelle Walker for her time and service on the committee.

Background

The Community Advisory Committees have been established to provide strategic advice to Council on a range of community, social and animal wellbeing issues that may influence Palmerston By-Laws, Council services and program development. The Committees will assist Council to identify, articulate and respond appropriately to new and emerging issues. As per the *Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019 (the Act)* and the Terms of Reference, the Committees are advisory in nature with no delegated authority and are intended to inform and make recommendations to Council on Committee related issues.

Discussion

The Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, 25 March 2025 with the unconfirmed minutes provided at **Attachment 13.1.1.1**.

The Advisory Committee reviewed four (4) Receive and Note Reports: *Community Services Network Update, Palmerston Youth Festival Update - Community Wellbeing Committee, Library Wellbeing Events and Programs and Community Inclusion Update*.

Michelle Walker Resignation

The Committee reviewed the resignation received of Michelle Walker, Representative of Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet. The committee thanked Michelle Walker for her time and contributions and congratulate her in her new role as General Manager in the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Community Development.

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

Consultation and marketing

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

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

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

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

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

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

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

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

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. 20250325 - UNCONFIRMED Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Minutes - 25 March 2025 [13.1.1.1 - 7 pages]



MINUTES

COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2025

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

Council business papers can be viewed on City of Palmerston's website:
palmerston.nt.gov.au

UNCONFIRMED



Minutes of Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting
held in Council Chambers
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
on Tuesday 25 March 2025 at 5:30pm.

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Councillor Danielle Eveleigh (Chair) Councillor Sarah Henderson (Member) Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell Nhi Tran (<i>Proxy for Gabrielle Brown</i>), Acting Executive Director, Children and Families Programs Senior Sergeant Siiri-Kai Tennosaar, Northern Territory Representative Sheryl Sephton, Senior Community Member
STAFF	Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Walsh General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl Community Services Manager, Laura Hardman Manager Library Services, Hayley Arkinstall Minute Secretary, Georgina Davies
GALLERY	Nil

Initials:

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 5:33pm.

3 APOLOGIES

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT the apology received from Gabrielle Brown for 25 March 2025 be received and noted.
2. THAT the apology received from Veronica Matipira for 25 March 2025 be received and noted

CARRIED (5/0) - CWAC10/84 - 25/03/2025

4 AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING

4.1 Request for audio/audiovisual conferencing

Nil

4.2 Audio/Audio visual conferencing previously granted

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Committee members

Nil

5.2 Staff

Nil

Initials:

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of minutes

Moved: Siiri Tennosaar
Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

THAT the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2024 pages 44 to 48 be confirmed.

CARRIED (5/0) - CWAC10/85 - 25/03/2025

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

Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 Action reports

Nil

Initials: _____

9.2 Receive and note reports

9.2.1 Community Services Network Update

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Siiri Tennosaar

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

CARRIED (5/0) - CWAC10/86 - 25/03/2025

9.2.2 Palmerston Youth Festival Update

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

THAT Report entitled Palmerston Youth Festival Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - CWAC10/87 - 25/03/2025

Nhi Tran arrived in Chambers at 5:45pm.

9.2.3 Library Wellbeing Events and Programs

Moved: Sheryl Sephton
Seconded: Siiri Tennosaar

THAT Report entitled Library Wellbeing Events and Programs be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - CWAC10/88 - 25/03/2025

9.2.4 Community Inclusion update

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Mayor Pascoe-Bell

THAT Report entitled Community Inclusion update be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - CWAC10/89 - 25/03/2025

Initials:

10 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Information

Nil

10.2 Correspondence

10.2.1 Michelle Walker Committee Resignation

Moved: Councillor Henderson

Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

1. THAT the tabled correspondence dated 25 March 2025, 10.2.1 entitled Michelle Walker Committee Resignation be received and noted.
2. THAT the Chair send a letter of thanks to Michelle Walker for her time and service on the committee.

CARRIED (6/0) - CWAC10/90 - 25/03/2025

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

12 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell

Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

THAT the next Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 10 June 2025 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED (6/0) - CWAC10/91 - 25/03/2025

Initials:



13 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Sheryl Sephton

THAT the meeting of the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee held in Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, Palmerston on 25 March 2025 closed at 5:53pm.

CARRIED (6/0) - CWAC10/92 - 25/03/2025

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5:53pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

UNCONFIRMED

Initials:

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	13.2.1
Report Title:	Community Quarterly Report - January to March 2025
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 1 April 2025
Author:	Executive Assistant to General Manager Community, Georgina Davies
Approver:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report summarises the key activities undertaken by the Community Directorate in the January to March 2025 quarter.

Key messages

- The Community Directorate had a productive start to 2025, delivering a wide range of events, services, and programs that foster community participation, engagement opportunities, and safety and well-being outcomes.
- The United Nations International Women's Day is observed on the 8 March 2025. City of Palmerston supported seven (7) different organisations to provide a week-long celebration of events.
- Work has commenced on the 2025-2028 Disability Inclusion and Access Plan and the establishment of the associated Working Group.
- Four (4) Network meetings have been held this quarter, building community capacity and supporting vital community services.
- The January Library School holiday program hosted a diverse range of 15 activities attracting 605 attendees.
- Adult programming in the library continues with Late Nights at the library and the introduction of All-In Activities.

- Outreach for the library this quarter included a range of story times at different locations for different organisations.
- The library continues partnering with external organisations and services with the Information Hub at the Library, bringing essential information directly to the public.
- A review of the current Animal Management Plan is underway.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Community Quarterly Report - January to March 2025 be received and noted.

Background

City of Palmerston (CoP) is a 'Place for People' and provides a broad range of community services to enhance safety and well-being. This report provides Council with an update on key community activities undertaken during the previous quarter.

Discussion

The Community Directorate has had a productive first quarter, delivering a range of events, programs, and services that foster community engagement and networking opportunities. Initiatives delivered from January to March 2025 are detailed below:

International Women's Day

City of Palmerston has provided strategic planning support to the celebration of International Women's Day (IWD) since 2022. 2025's IWD theme was March Forward, commemorating the 30 years since the United Nations' Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for achieving gender equality.

City of Palmerston worked alongside the Northern Territory Government (NTG) to support the IWD Working Group in the planning and delivery of six (6) separate events across the Palmerston region from the 3 March 2025 to the 8 March 2025. The celebrations throughout the week included:

- The Basic Rights at Work Information Session hosted by the NT Working Women's Centre and held at the City of Palmerston Library, covered topics such as employee rights in the workplace, employer obligations, and how to find support.
- Women: Stronger Together was held at SWELL Palmerston, provided activities critical to health and wellbeing, and included advice and support.
- Beyond the books: Marching Forward in Art was held at the City of Palmerston Library. The event celebrated creativity and featured a community art exhibition.
- The STEPS Group Garden Party was held at Gray Community Hall and included presentations from different community groups. With music, dancing, art, sport, and culture, it highlighted the strength and diversity of the women in the Palmerston community.
- Weave the Future, hosted by Palmerston and Regional Basketball Association (PaRBA) at the Palmerston Recreation Centre, empowered young women to explore leadership through conversation and creativity. The Hon. Marie-Clare Boothby attended the event.

- STRIVE: Women Pushing Through Boundaries was held at the Palmerston Golf & Country Club. The event included keynote speakers and networking opportunities, bringing together women from diverse cultures and backgrounds to share their experiences and insights.



Steps Garden Party

SWELL Palmerston

SWELL had a busy start to the year, with warm temperatures resulting in over 19,000 visits from December 2024 to the end of February 2025.

There are two (2) swimming squads using the pools for training, and two (2) schools are conducting Bronze Medallion and physical education sessions. 300 children are taking part in the GOSWIM program which provides children with essential water safety skills.

Additional Aqua Fitness classes have been added to the schedule due to high demand, with seven (7) classes now operating six (6) days a week.

Eleven (11) schools have booked swimming lessons in line with the Northern Territory Government commitment to provide lessons for school children.

Planning for Youth Week is underway with a pool party being held on Friday 4 April from 5pm!



Community Inclusion Update

Hearing Loop

CoP met with Deaf Connect NT to investigate a new system to support people who are hard of hearing. Our goal is to offer equipment that people can borrow so that all community rooms can provide a service for the hearing impaired, enabling them to hold meetings in our facilities.

Deaf Awareness Training

Deaf Connect facilitator Allie Johnstone hosted the Deaf Awareness Training for City of Palmerston employees.



Allie Johnstone, with CoP Staff at Deaf Awareness Training

Allie and Paula (the interpreter) provided valuable insight into what it's like to be deaf and how we can support individuals in leading a fulfilling life. They highlighted the role of modern technology, interpreter services, and Auslan in helping people communicate and participate fully in everyday activities.

Dementia Australia (DA) - Making the Recreation Centre Dementia-Friendly

City of Palmerston has worked closely with Dementia Australia to submit the relevant information to make the Recreation Centre the second dementia-friendly building for City of Palmerston, with the Library being the first.

An environmental walkthrough was conducted with a community member living with dementia, their carer, and a dementia advocate to ensure the building met the requirements for dementia-friendly environment accreditation. Small changes and ongoing actions from the walkthrough have been forwarded to Dementia Australia.



Emil (Dementia Australia) Jack, Chris and CoP Staff following the environmental walk through.

All Abilities Parking

Council staff are reviewing feedback regarding access issues for carers and people with disabilities.

As an immediate solution, there is a small waiting area in the foyer with a couple of chairs and a small table. This will allow people to sit while their carer retrieves the car. CoP is committed to improving access and will continue to explore further solutions to better support people with disabilities and their carers.

Disability Inclusion and Access Plan (DIAP) 2025-2028

A plan has commenced for the DIAP 2025–2028, the first step being establishing a DIAP Working Group. The working group will comprise key services and community members identified through a public expression of interest. It is estimated that the expression of interest will be released in April 2025.

The DIAP Working Group will consider future objectives and actions to improve access and inclusion across Palmerston for people of all abilities. Consultation will aim to attract more input from residents with lived experience, ensuring the plan is authentic and meets the diverse needs of our community. Actions that are in progress from the current DIAP will be carried over to the draft plan.

Harvest Corner Community Garden

Despite the challenges of the wet season, planting has continued with careful consideration of what will thrive during this time.

New additions to the garden include turmeric, passion fruit, okra, kangkong, and citrus trees. A worn and dysfunctional planting bed was removed, and banana trees were planted in its place.

Regular weeding is carried out, and sugarcane mulch is applied to prevent weed growth and soil erosion. During heavy rains, the mulch effectively helps to prevent soil washout. Further enhancement of the space has occurred by planting flowers, ferns, and small palms. The gazebo has been adorned with colourful flags and decorative garden ornaments.

A team from the Department of Corrections is now assisting in the maintenance of the garden by mowing the grass every second Monday, which has been invaluable.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has visited the site and found no significant issues.

Light Up Palmerston

Light Up Palmerston has celebrated 10 significant days over 28 days.

To help our community raise awareness within Palmerston, local groups and organisations are invited to request the illumination of various Council infrastructure to highlight special events, causes, and significant days. This includes the Palmerston Recreation Centre. Consideration for lighting requests includes local and regional events, historic occasions, and events of city, state, national, or international importance. This year, the Council has partnered with organisations to increase awareness for important medical conditions and syndromes, such as Feeding Tube Awareness Week, World Cholangiocarcinoma Day, and Rare Disease Day.

DATE	COMMUNITY ORGANISATION	COLOUR
2 - 8 February	Feeding Tube Awareness Week	Purple
10 - 17 February	Sweetheart Day	Red
20 February	World Cholangiocarcinoma Day	Green
22 February	World Encephalitis Day	Red
28 February	Rare Disease Day	Purple
3 - 6 March	Shine Like a Sunflower	Yellow
7 - 9 March	Lymphoedema Association Australia	Blue
17 - 23 March	Harmony Week	Orange
21 March	Harmony Day	Orange
25 March	Light Up Red for World TB Day	Red



Palmerston Recreation Centre – Light Up Palmerston – World Encephalitis Day

Community Networks

Palmerston Kids Network (PKN)

Two (2) Palmerston Kids Network (PKN) meetings were held during the quarter. The first on 30 January and the second on 28 March 2025.

The following services attended across the two (2) meetings and gave updates:

- Services Australia.
- Kidsafe NT.
- Palmerston Child and Family Centre.
- CoP Palmerston Library.
- Team Health.
- The Smith Family.

Topics covered during the meetings included support required for grants and funding opportunities that exist for their organisations, including how to apply with confidence and accuracy and where to source the most appropriate grants. The use of a communication tool to share sector updates was also discussed.

The next Community Services Quarterly Update report will provide an update from the 28 March meeting.

Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network (PARYS)

Two (2) Palmerston and Rural Youth Services (PARYS) Network meetings were held during the quarter. The first was held on 28 January and the second on 25 March 2025.

The following services attended across the two (2) meetings and gave updates:

- Services Australia.
- Office of Youth Affairs.
- Team Health.
- Kentish Community Services.
- Department of Education.
- The Smith Family.
- CDC NT.
- PaRBA.
- CoP Palmerston Library.
- Dementia Australia.
- Indigenous Allied health.
- Legal Aid NT
- Alcohol and Drug Foundation.
- Create Foundation.
- NAPCAN.

Topics covered included:

- Review of the Palmerston Youth Action Plan and the reformation of the Palmerston Youth Representative Group.
- Changes to current laws about the age of criminal responsibility that impact young people and how this is being effectively communicated.
- The development of an Alcohol and Drug Plan for Palmerston youth will be a multi-service supported plan.
- Continued focus on financial well-being and employment opportunities for young people by multiple services, who are also seeking after-school programs to attend and share information.
- The introduction of programs that will support young parents in Palmerston in completing schooling, transitioning to the workforce, and maintaining employment stability.
- A marked change to programs that provide in-school counselling for school attendees, aimed at encouraging young people to stay in school or increase their attendance at school, as school truancy can now incur a fine for families and guardians.
- The Circuit Breaker program has started in Palmerston to provide vulnerable and at-risk young people with a Safe Place. Territory Families operates this program.
- Young people having increased, non-stigmatized access to sexual health services.

The next Community Services Quarterly Update report will provide an update from the 25 March meeting.

Based on this input, information sessions have been scheduled as part of the next three (3) network meetings to cover the following topics:

- Sexual Health and Safety for Young People, delivered by Clinic 34.
- Laws that impact Young People, delivered by Legal Aid NT.
- Circuit Breaker information session, delivered by Territory Families.

Palmerston Seniors Network (PSN)

The first Palmerston Seniors Network meeting of 2025 was held on 5 February 2025. 12 members attended and the Chair welcomed everyone to the session. Council staff updated the group on actions from the previous meeting and demonstrated how to use City of Palmerston's mobile app to report issues instantly.

The following organisations gave updates:

- COTA.
- Services Australia.
- Palmerston and Litchfield Seniors (PLSA).
- PROBUS.
- 50+ Club.
- Dementia Australia.
- Healthy Living NT.
- TeamHealth.

Topics covered during the meeting include:

- 50+ Club: After installing security personnel at Bakewell shops, the group reported feeling safer.
- Services Australia: Shared that police hold a weekly BBQ at Mindil Beach in partnership with Orange Sky and want to organise a similar event in Palmerston. They also introduced the NT Police Public Safety App for Apple phones. For more details, visit their website. Christmas Wonderland: 50+ Club gave positive feedback about the event.
- Australia Day Nominations: We will be introducing new nomination processes.
- Darwin RSL: Relocated to Admiralty House, The Esplanade, Darwin.

Changes were proposed and accepted to future meeting dates as follows:

- 2 April 2025 to 7 May 2025
- 6 August 2025 (no change)
- 1 October 2025 & 3 December 2025 to 5 November 2025

The next Seniors Network meeting will be held on 7 May 2025.

Palmerston Safe Communities Network (PSCN)

The first Palmerston Safe Communities Network (PSCN) of 2025 was held on Thursday, 27 February 2025 in the Palmerston Library Community Room. Service providers attended including Licensing NT and Public Transport.

The following organisations gave updates:

- Mission Australia. [?](#)
- DLI Public Transport.
- CDC NT.
- Licensing NT.
- Department of Children and Families.
- CDC NT.
- Catholic Care NT.
- Services Australia.
- Catholic Care NT.
- Victims of Crime.
- YWCA.

Topics covered during the meeting included:

- Anti-social behaviour particularly in relations to Gray Shops and bus stops on Emery Avenue and Gray Community Hall.
- Domestic and Family Violence with a significant increase in walk-ins with over 716 Domestic Violence calls recorded by Darwin police over a seven (7) day period in November.
- Rock throwing on Chung Wah Terrace and Gray, fights and vandalism occurring on school buses.

- The use of fentanyl to inject instead of ice.
- Major housing crisis in the NT.

Changes were proposed and accepted to future meeting dates as follows:

- 24 April to 29 April.
- 24 July to 22 July. ²
- 23 October to 28 October.

The next Safety Network meeting will be held on 29 April 2025.

Library Services Update

Library Lovers' Day

14 February was the annual national Library Lovers Day. The library shared the love with an all-ages colouring-in competition, Blind Date with a Book, free library merchandise and a noticeboard where our community shared messages about why they love the library.



Library Lovers' Day Display

Textiles Travelling Suitcase

The Textiles Travelling Suitcase (TTS) is a Darwin-based community group who partnered with the Australian Textile Arts and Surface Design Association (ATASDA) to bring the suitcase to the Territory. For the Territory tour, in each place the suitcase visits, attendees can choose to be part of a collaborative community textile work to be exhibited at the Darwin Show in 2025.

In February, the library hosted the TTS, where 30 participants learnt new stitching techniques and contributed to the growing community artwork.



Textiles Travelling Suitcase at the Library

Information Hub at the Library

January saw the continuation of the Information Hub at the Library. The purpose of the Information Hub is to support organisations in having a wider reach for the community and put people in contact with services that they may not have been aware of. The Hub has been extremely popular and has attracted many organisations to take part.

January had hubs with Integrated disAbility Action (IdA), Dementia Australia and Services Australia.

February had 12 organisations participate including:

- Carers NT.
- Top End Mental Health Consumers Organisation (TEMHCO).
- Multicultural Council of the NT (MCNT).
- Integrated disAbility Action (IdA), PAWS Darwin.
- Palmerston and Litchfield Seniors Association (PLSA).
- Arafura Music Collective.
- Riding for the Disabled (RDA).
- Hippy Program.
- Dementia Australia.
- Services Australia.
- Council for the Aging (COTA).

In March we were joined by the following organisations:

- Territory Palliative Care.
- Consumer Affairs NT.
- Medicare Mental Health Service (MMHS).
- Police, Fire & Emergency Services (PFES).
- Melaleuca Australia.
- STEPS Group.
- Probus Club of Palmerston.

- Children’s Commissioner of the NT.
- Kidsafe.
- DonateLife.
- Headspace.
- Amber NT.
- Integrated disAbility Action (IdA).
- Medicare Mental Health Service (MMHS).
- Dementia Australia and Services Australia.

During this three (3) month period, we conducted 13 Information Hub sessions with 28 organisations attending.



Information Hub at the Library with IDA, TEMCHO and Carer Gateway

January School holiday program

The library’s school holiday programs give families access to free activities that encourage lifelong learning, creativity and learning new skills. The January school holiday program is always popular and consisted of 15 activities attracting 605 attendees. These included movie days, various art and craft days with Janie Andrews, workshops and shows by Hyper the Clown, and hands-on activities with Tip Top Circus.



Mosaic Tile with Janie Andrews and Hero it up! Design your own mask and cape with Tip Top Circus



Dream Catchers and Bookmark Stitching with Janie Andrews

Chinese New Year bilingual storytime

The library celebrated the Chinese New Year with a special storytime with stories and songs delivered in Mandarin by a local family. The family also shared their culture by supplying attendees with homemade fried rice.



Chinese New Year Storytime attendees

New library children's area furniture

The library's children's area had a mini revamp with some fresh ottomans, floor cushions and children's sized tables and chairs. The furniture is a fabric vinyl for easy cleaning and lightweight so visitors to the area can rearrange to suit their needs.



From this (left) to new ottomans, cushions, table, and ottoman combination (right)

Library Outreach

Welcome to the Top End Expo

Library staff worked the Council stall at the expo to promote library resources, services and programs and signed up new library members. Attendees were also able to score some freebies, such as library pens, magnets, lanyards, brochures, and library bags.

CAAPS

The library resumed the outreach storytime program at CAAPS in collaboration with the City of Darwin Libraries. The purpose of the outreach program is to promote library programs and services and build relationships with non-library users, while also promoting literacy and lifelong learning. This quarter there were four (4) sessions conducted at CAAPS with 38 attendees.

Early Childhood Incursions

The library have been providing incursion storytimes to Early Learning Centres (ELC) in Palmerston which resumed in February. The aim is to deliver Storytime sessions to children who attend daycare and don't get the opportunity to interact with the library on a regular basis. This builds relationships with the community and promotes literacy and lifelong learning. This quarter the team visited Farrar ELC, Good start Bakewell, Tiny Town, Good start Palmerston, Gray Childcare Centre, Gray Early Learning at the YMCA. The number of attendees were 170 Children and 29 Educators.

International Women's Day STEPS Storytime

The STEPS Group held an International Women's Day event at Gray Community Hall and library staff supported the event by attending and delivering a Storytime.

Dementia Australia Morning Tea

As a Dementia Friendly space, the library is committed to furthering staff knowledge on dementia, improving the library space and how we can best deliver educational services to the community. Library staff attended a Dementia Australia morning tea and heard from

speakers such as the Dementia Australia Executive, a Dementia Advocate representative, Darwin Dementia Alliance, and a First Nations representative.



Staff at Tiny Town Early Learning and Creative Kids



Staff at Gray Care Centre

Late Nights at the Library

Late Nights at the Library continued this quarter with a range of free activities for adults. The purpose of these events is to provide safe and social activities in an alcohol-free space. This quarter the library held several Games Nights with PARBA, silk painting and block painting events with Janie Andrews. The nights have been so popular that we added on a late addition of Art Class with Martin, our resident library staff artist. This quarter has brought in 39 attendees.



January - Games Night with PARBA and Silk Painting with Janie Andrews



February - Games Night with PARBA and Block Printing with Janie Andrews



February - Art Class with Martin (Library Staff) and March - Games Night with PARBA

Dream Impact Inspire workshops

DJ Charly has been running free DJ and mentoring workshops in the library space. The workshops are part of the Right Path Project to find the next big DJs in the NT. The workshops teach skills and assist young people to develop their potential to become the next generation of DJs. Participants receive free headphones and T-shirts.



Library Art Gallery

The library has a community art space that is available for local artists to display their collections. This quarter the library has showcased art by Sully and an International Women’s Day display by STEPS and Art Jam.



Art by Sully



International Women’s Day Display by Art Jam

All-In Activities at the library

The All-In Activities Program is a new on-going program that commenced in February and at our initial session had 17 attendees. This program is a social activity for adults and involves art and craft activities, board games and other engaging activities. It will be delivered fortnightly on Tuesday mornings.



Attendees of All-In Activities

Library display screen

Visitors to the library are now greeted by a display board that shows a schedule of what is happening in the library for the next two (2) weeks intersected by Council events and information displays. The display makes it simpler to find out what is happening, makes the library sustainable by reducing the need for posters, and provides information for those who are not so tech-savvy by decreasing the need to go online.



Library display

Regulatory Services Update

Public Places

Regulatory Services has completed its upgrading of Pinforce which is the parking software system utilised to enforce and issue parking infringement notices. As part of this upgrade a Licence Plate Recognition (LPRx) system will be introduced.

Animal Management Plan

City of Palmerston continues to promote the introduction of the new *City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024* by reminding members of the public their legal obligations regarding animal registration and other responsibilities as an animal owner via social media, radio campaigns and engagement event opportunities.

Regulatory Services is working in collaboration with external consultants to deliver a revised and updated Animal Management Plan. The Plan will aim at encouraging voluntary compliance and educate the community about responsible pet ownership, the Council's role, and responsibilities in fostering a vibrant and safe municipality for people and families.

Cat management is now emerging as an issue as options to impound cats has always been limited. City of Palmerston is working with various stakeholders like the City of Darwin, RSPCA, PAWS, and Save a Paw to discuss working agreements in where cats can be temporarily impounded at these establishments.

Defence Housing Australia (DHA) Expo

In February, Regulatory Services attended the Defence Housing Australia (DHA) Expo Event and provided information brochures on how to microchip and register animals to defence families. Free animal merchandise was also provided to families for their pets.



CoP Information Stall at DHA Expo

Dog and Cat Registration

As of 17 March 2025, there are 4811 animals currently registered within the municipality, with an additional 2326 pending registrations. A breakdown of these figures regarding dog and cat registration is as follows in **Attachment 13.2.1.1** Graph 1.1.

Cat registrations are still low due to the revised *City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024* introduced in July 2024 which requires owners to now have legal obligations to register cats. The take up of the community has been low and considerations of other engagement strategies are underway.

It is acknowledged that there is still a high number of animals not registered within the municipality. A current audit is ongoing and engagement with the community to register animals will continue. Owners of unregistered animals will be sent a reminder notice to register their animals immediately. Further breaches of the By-Laws may result in regulatory action being undertaken against owners until registration of animals is complied with. Unregistered dogs that are impounded are not released until the owner pays for its registration and microchipping.

Impounding & Pound Management

Over the current quarter, Council impounded a total of 154 dogs, an increase of 41 dogs in the total number of dogs impounded from the previous quarter. **Attachment 13.2.1.1** Graph 2.1 provide a visual representation of the reason for impoundment and outcome. It's important to communicate the outcome of dogs that are impounded.

The volume of unclaimed animals is unfortunate, and City of Palmerston works closely with rehoming agencies to rehome unclaimed impounded animals in the first instance. Rehoming agencies have limited capacity to support the volume of unwanted in the region and as such animals are euthanised. **Attachment 13.2.1.1** Graph 2.2 provides a comparative review of the number of animals that were rehomed, returned to owner and euthanised throughout the current and previous quarter.

Out of Hours Ranger Engagement and Patrols

During the quarter, Council staff conducted 71 after-hours patrols, focusing primarily on animal management. **Attachment 13.2.1.1** Graph 3.1 compares the patrols across Traffic Offences, Animal Management, and Public Places for the three (3) reporting periods. Animal management saw the highest engagement, with 61 people engaged from January to March. Public places and traffic offences recorded minimal patrol numbers during this quarter.

Rangers received 70 after-hours calls which was one more since the last quarter. Calls about contained and roaming animals were the most common. **Attachment 13.2.1.1** Graph 3.2 illustrates the after-hours call distribution for Council staff.

Customer Action Requests

Attachment 13.2.1.1 Graph 4.1 provides a representation of the cumulative count of customer action requests that have been submitted to City of Palmerston over the course of January and March. Animal Management continues to lead in the customer reporting requests across all regulatory functions. Over the current quarter, Rangers have responded to 548 customer action requests which is a decrease of 128 requests from the last quarter.

Infringements

Animal Management

A total of 42 infringements have been issued for animal related offences within the reporting quarter, the containment of dogs and unregistered dogs making up the primary infringed offences. **Attachment 13.2.1.1** Graph 5.1 provide a visual comparison of the totals incurred of the current and previous quarter.

Parking and Traffic

Vehicle parking is free in all parking areas. However, time limits on parking remain. Drivers must still obey all traffic signs and road rules in accordance with the Traffic Regulations and Australian Road Rules. Rangers will continue to patrol Palmerston to encourage accessible parking and ensuring safety on public roads. A total of eight (8) infringements were issued for parking and traffic offences as shown in **Attachment 13.2.1.1** Graph 6.1.

Community Facility Usage

Driver Family Resource Centre

Overview

From January to March 2025, the Driver Family Resource Centre hosted a diverse range of activities, demonstrating strong community engagement.

Key Insights:

- Total Bookings: 140 scheduled sessions from January to March 2025.
- Recurring Usage: 97% were returning bookings, indicating high user satisfaction and community reliance on the facility.

Peak Activity Types:

Religious meetings made up the largest share of bookings, with most taking place on weekends. Playgroups and training sessions were also a key part of facility usage, occurring regularly on weekdays. Wellbeing and fitness sessions were primarily scheduled during weekday business hours. Meetings and training sessions were common on weekends, highlighting strong community involvement. Maintenance and cleaning accounted for a portion of bookings, ensuring regular upkeep by the City of Palmerston.

Facility Use Patterns:

- Weekends: Dominated by religious and community activities, suggesting strong weekend community interaction.
- Weekdays: Characterised by family-oriented playgroups, fitness classes, and essential maintenance.
- Evening Utilisation: Regular meetings and training sessions from 5 pm to 11 pm show consistent after-hours facility use.

Notable Observations:

- High usage consistency across months, reflecting effective scheduling and facility management.
- A strong presence of not-for-profit groups highlights the Centre's crucial role in supporting community-based organisations.
- Regular maintenance ensures a clean, welcoming environment, aligning with community expectations.

This period's consistent facility engagement showcases Driver Family Resource Centre's essential role as a vibrant hub for community development and support.

Durack Community Art Centre

Overview

Between January and March 2025, the Durack Community Art Room and Durack Community Creative Space hosted a variety of activities reflecting vibrant community participation and diverse event types.

Durack Community Art Room Highlights

- Total Bookings: 54 sessions from January to March 2025.

Activity Breakdown:

- Art Jam (City of Palmerston): Consistent weekly evening sessions reflect ongoing cultural enrichment commitment.
- Individual Art Activities: Popular choice for one-off personal projects, showcasing strong individual community involvement.
- Wellbeing Events: Regularly organised by not-for-profits, indicating a holistic approach to community health.
- Occasional training and meetings from business and not-for-profit groups suggest versatility and community inclusiveness.

Booking Trends:

- The high frequency of "one-off" bookings by individual users highlights the room's popularity for unique or special events.
- Weekly and monthly recurring sessions reveal dependable usage patterns.

Durack Community Creative Space

- Total Bookings: 92 sessions from January to March 2025.

Diverse Uses:

- Art and Culture: Regular multiple rehearsal sessions from local dance groups.
- Wellbeing and Fitness: Strong weekly usage, especially in evening slots, indicating consistent health and wellbeing community participation.
- Meetings and Training: Significant presence, with bookings from government, not-for-profits, and businesses.
- Occasional special sessions (e.g., Amplifying Voices workshop, seniors' meetings with Services Australia) demonstrate the facility's adaptability for specialised needs.

Utilisation Insights:

- Active weekday utilisation with a blend of wellbeing, fitness, meetings, and training.
- Weekends prominently feature cultural, wellbeing events, and religious gatherings, emphasising weekend engagement.

Key Opportunities:

- Expand evening or weekend availability promotion for higher utilisation.
- Capture feedback from recurring and one-off users to enhance facilities and offerings.
- Further develop partnerships with local businesses and community organisations to sustain diverse programming.

The active schedule at Durack venues highlights Palmerston's vibrant community life and cultural diversity.

Gray Community Hall

Total Bookings:

The Gray Community Hall recorded a total of 228 bookings during the quarter. The function space was the primary area of use, accounting for 172 bookings, while the meeting room hosted 57 sessions.

Usage Breakdown by Sector:

Not-for-profit organisations were the primary users of the facility, making the majority of bookings. Business groups also utilised the space, though at a lower frequency. The City of Palmerston made regular use of the facility, while religious groups booked it for services and gatherings. Individual users and private parties also contributed to the overall usage, hosting various events and celebrations.

Usage by Booking Category

- Wellbeing and fitness activities had the highest usage, with 120 bookings, primarily for social groups, wellness programs, dance classes, and regular calisthenics and fitness sessions.

- Meetings and training sessions followed closely, with 69 bookings, by not-for-profit organisations.
- Parties and celebrations, including birthdays and gender reveals, accounted for 29 bookings.
- Religious activities, such as services and meetings, made up 23 bookings.
- Community events and social groups maintained consistent weekly activities, resulting in 17 bookings.

Booking Patterns Peak Usage Times:

- Weekdays, primarily 8 am to 5 pm: Used mostly by wellbeing, social groups, and training sessions.
- Evenings (5 pm to 11 pm) mostly booked for fitness classes, religious meetings, and dance classes.
- Weekend bookings heavily favoured private events (parties, birthdays, etc.), religious gatherings, and community events.

Facility Usage Summary:

The Gray Community Hall is booked by not-for-profit organisations focusing on wellbeing activities, fitness classes, and community-oriented meetings. Private and religious activities were popular weekend choices, emphasising the hall's flexible capacity for various community needs. Concerns of anti-social behaviour in the area and proximity of the Hall has been received by City of Palmerston and impacted bookings. These concerns have been raised at interagency meetings and raised with the Northern Territory Government. Design and fencing considerations are also underway.

Palmerston Recreation Centre

Stadium Usage:

The stadium was closed throughout January for essential refurbishments, including a stadium surface revarnish, internal painting, and detailed cleaning. These upgrades were undertaken to enhance the facility's safety, appearance, and longevity. Regular bookings resumed in February, with users returning to an improved playing environment.

Overview:

The stadium continued to be a key venue for sports, recreation, and community activities throughout the quarter. The facility was used by a range of sporting clubs, community organisations, and event organisers, with a mix of recurring and one-off bookings. Usage patterns indicate strong demand for peak-time slots, particularly in the evenings and on weekends.

Key Insights:

- Peak usage occurred during weekday evenings and weekends, aligning with structured sports and community programs.
- Casual bookings made up a smaller portion of total usage, with most bookings being organised sporting events or training sessions.

- Underutilisation was noted during weekday mornings, except for select fitness and training programs.
- Special events contributed to short-term spikes in usage, demonstrating the stadium's versatility as a multi-use space.

Total Bookings:

The stadium hosted a high number of bookings across the quarter, with the majority allocated to structured sports activities. Regular hirers, including local clubs and associations, accounted for most usage. One-off bookings were primarily for community events, competitions, and special sporting events.

Recurring Usage:

- A significant portion of bookings were for ongoing sporting activities, including basketball, volleyball, badminton, and gymnastics.
- Training sessions for teams and clubs occurred on a weekly basis, occupying consistent evening time slots.
- Community programs, including social sports and fitness activities, had regular time allocations.

Facility Use Patterns:

- Weekday evenings (5 pm to 9 pm) were the most utilised time slots, primarily for structured training sessions and competitions.
- Weekend afternoons and evenings also experienced heavy use, with tournaments and social games taking place.
- Morning sessions had lower occupancy, aside from occasional fitness and school-based programs.
- The stadium was also used for one-off special events, which resulted in temporary spikes in attendance and activity levels.

Notable Observations:

- Demand for peak-hour bookings remains strong, highlighting the need for efficient scheduling to maximise accessibility.
- Opportunities exist to increase morning usage, through targeted programs such as school partnerships, fitness classes, or open community sessions.
- Special events demonstrated the stadium's flexibility and capacity to host large-scale activities.
- Maintaining a balance between structured sports, casual play, and event bookings is important for ensuring broad community access.

Bookable Meeting Spaces

Overview:

During January to March 2025, the meeting spaces at the Recreation Centre were actively used for a variety of meetings and training sessions. A mix of community groups, not-for-

profits, and government organisations utilised the spaces, reflecting strong engagement with the facility.

Key Insights:

A total of 26 bookings were recorded, with none being part of ongoing arrangements, while all 26 were individual events.

Recurring Usage:

There were no recurring bookings this quarter, indicating that most users required the space for one-off events rather than ongoing activities.

Facility Use Patterns:

The most frequently used meeting space was Recreation Centre - Meeting Space 1, with 13 recorded bookings. The most frequent user type was not-for-profit, with 17 bookings.

The Recreation Centre was closed throughout January for scheduled refurbishments. Works included revarnishing the stadium surface, internal painting, and detailed cleaning to enhance the facility's condition and ensure a high-quality environment for users.

Community Room Usage

Overview:

The Community Rooms at the Recreation Centre were utilised for a variety of activities throughout the first quarter. These spaces accommodated meetings, training sessions, wellbeing and fitness programs, and community events.

Key Insights:

- The facility was closed in January for refurbishments, including stadium surface revarnishing, internal painting, and detailed cleaning.
- February and March saw an increase in bookings, particularly for community group meetings and fitness-related activities.
- Not-for-profit organisations were the predominant users, accounting for a significant share of the bookings.

Recurring Usage:

- Regular weekly bookings from fitness and wellbeing groups.
- Community organisations held recurring meetings, contributing to consistent utilisation of the space.
- Business and training sessions were also scheduled on a repeating basis.

Facility Use Patterns:

- Peak usage periods were weekday evenings from 5 pm to 11 pm.
- Daytime usage was more common for meetings and training sessions.
- The demand for fitness and wellbeing programs increased compared to the previous quarter.

- The variety of user groups, including businesses, not-for-profits, and government entities, indicates a diverse community engagement with the facility.

Notable Observations for the Community Rooms:

- The reopening of the facility in February led to a strong recovery in bookings.
- Community organisations continue to rely heavily on the space for their regular activities.
- Evening sessions remain the most popular, particularly for fitness and wellbeing programs.
- Opportunities exist to promote increased usage during daytime hours, particularly for underutilised slots.
- The variety of activities hosted highlights the facility's importance as a hub for community engagement.

Library Community Room

Overview:

The Library Community Room was actively utilised across various categories and activities, reflecting its versatile community use.

Monthly Usage Patterns:

- January 2025 recorded moderate bookings, with community events and regular technology programs prominent.
- February 2025 showed increased use, primarily for meetings, religious gatherings, and community-focused events.
- March 2025 had the highest number of bookings, demonstrating sustained growth, driven by religious and meeting activities.

Usage by Category:

- Religious gatherings were the most frequent bookings, followed by meetings/training and wellbeing and fitness activities.
- Technology and Art and Culture activities also consistently utilised the space, highlighting the community's diverse interests.

Usage by User Group:

- City of Palmerston was the dominant user group, primarily conducting wellbeing programs, technology sessions (coding), and regular community events like the Chess Club.
- Not-for-profit groups frequently booked the room for meetings, dance, and other cultural activities.
- Religious groups utilised the space consistently, for weekly religious gatherings.

Peak Time Slot Analysis:

- Weekends were heavily booked, indicating strong demand for weekend community and religious events.

- The 8 am to 5 pm weekday slot was frequently occupied by wellbeing activities, training sessions, and City of Palmerston's programming.
- Evenings (5 pm to 11 pm) were used for religious activities and occasional meetings.

Summary of Trends:

- A consistent weekly schedule of religious and cultural activities highlights strong community engagement.
- Regular technology (coding) and chess programs underscore successful ongoing community initiatives.
- Diverse bookings from wellbeing and fitness, art and culture, and community-focused events reflect the facility's ability to support a wide variety of interests and organisational needs.

Recording Studio

Overview:

From January to March 2025, the Recording Studio hosted a diverse range of activities, supporting various community and creative projects.

Key Insights:

- Total Bookings: 46 scheduled sessions from January to March 2025.
- Recurring Usage: Most bookings were from new users, with only a small portion being repeat bookings, indicating steady interest in the facility.

Peak Activity Types:

Recording sessions made up a notable share of total bookings, highlighting the facility's role in supporting audio production. Podcasting and singing sessions accounted for a significant portion of usage, reflecting strong creative engagement. Regular bookings for inductions and meetings further demonstrated the demand for training and collaboration within the space.

Facility Use Patterns

- Weekends: 7 bookings, for podcasting and private events.
- Weekdays: 33 bookings, primarily for recording sessions and inductions.
- Evening Utilisation: 6 sessions from 5 pm to 11 pm, reflecting consistent after-hours use.

Notable Observations

- High demand for recording and singing sessions, suggesting a growing interest in music and content creation.
- Regular maintenance bookings ensure a well-maintained space for users.
- Strong engagement from not-for-profit groups, reinforcing the Studio's role in community creativity and cultural activities.
- The Recording Studio continues to be a vital space for artistic expression, community projects, and skill development.

Please see **Attachment 13.2.1.2** for a breakdown in the Facility Usage and **Attachment 13.2.1.3** for the Library Access and Program.

Consultation and marketing

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

- Community Services.
- Library Services.
- Regulatory Services.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

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

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

1. **Community Safety**
Failure of Council to effectively plan and deliver its role in community safety.
4. **Inclusion, Diversity and Access**
Failure to balance meeting needs of Palmerston's cultural mosaic.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

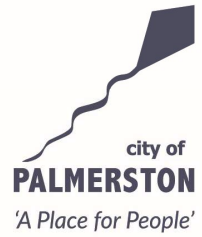
- [Companion Animal Management Plan](#)
- [Disability Inclusion Access Plan 2022-2025](#)
- [Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework](#)

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. Regulatory Services Statistics [**13.2.1.1** - 5 pages]
2. Community Services - Facility Usage [**13.2.1.2** - 2 pages]
3. Library Statistics [**13.2.1.3** - 2 pages]

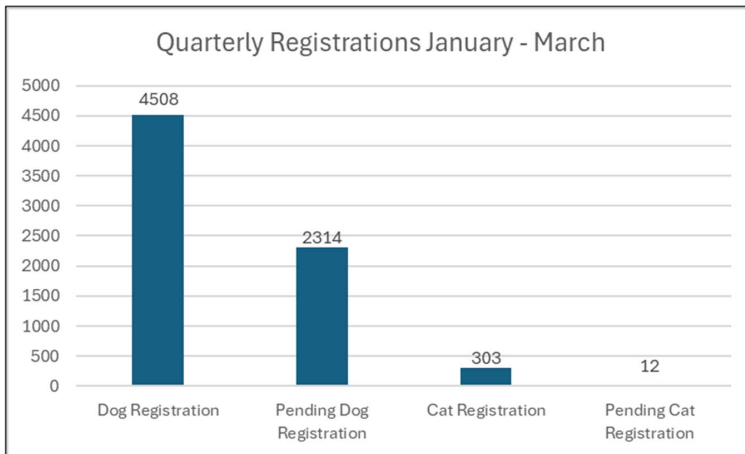


REGULATORY SERVICES

QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY TO MARCH

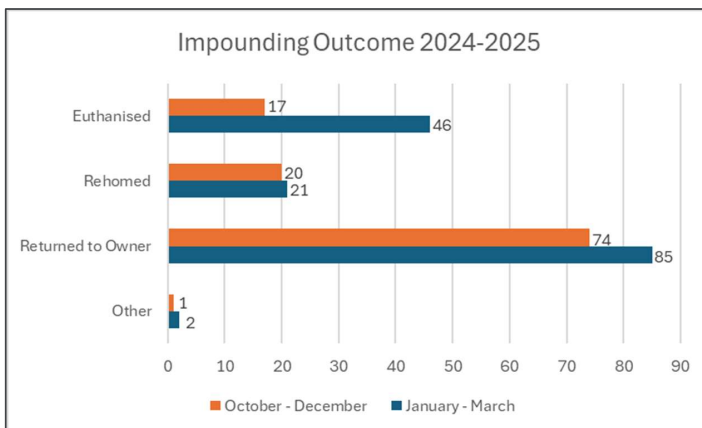
1. DOG AND CAT REGISTRATION

Graph 1.1



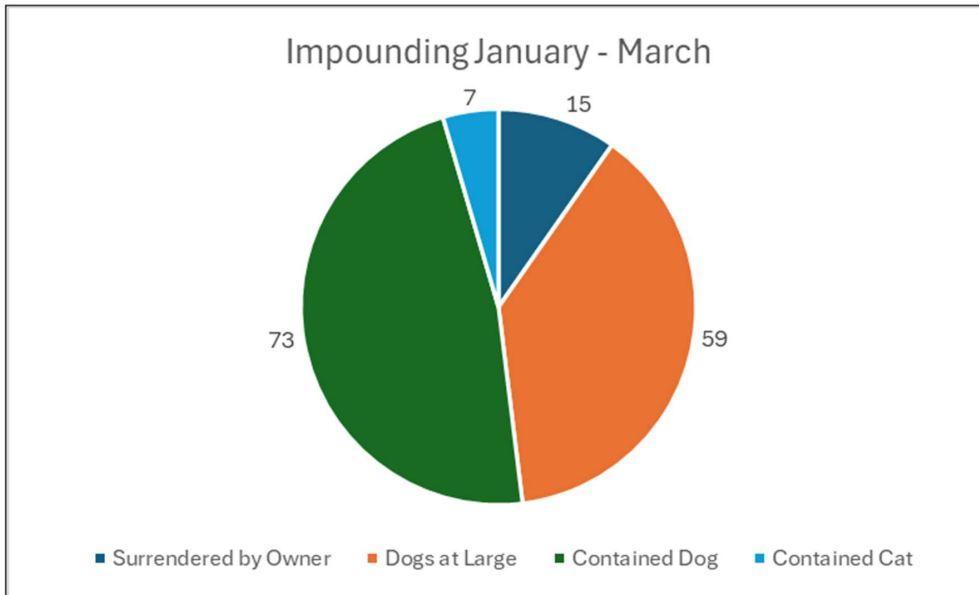
2. IMPOUNDING & POUND MANAGEMENT

Graph 2.1



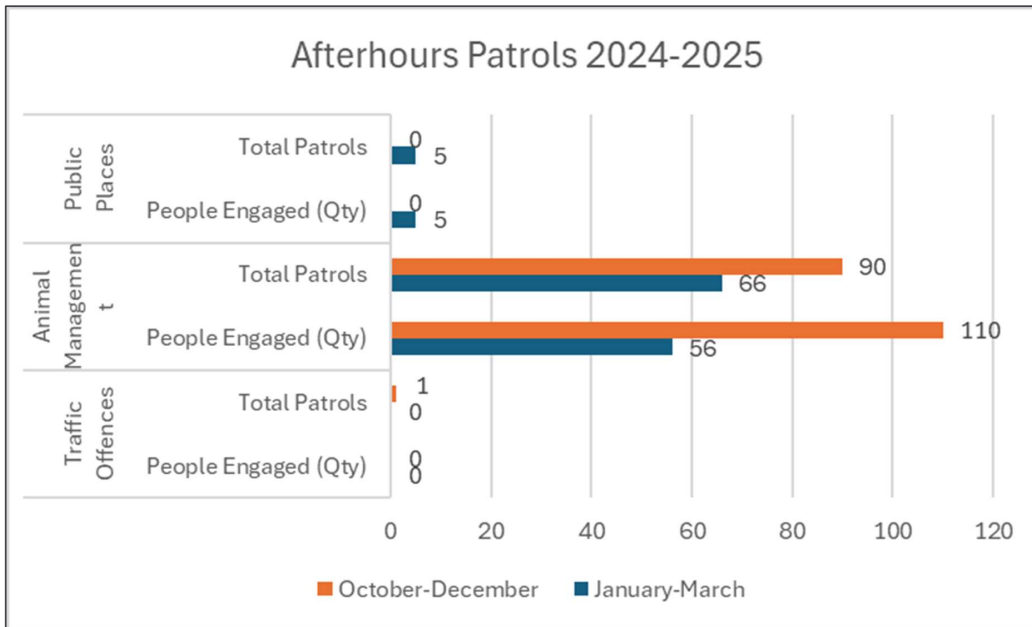


Graph 2.2



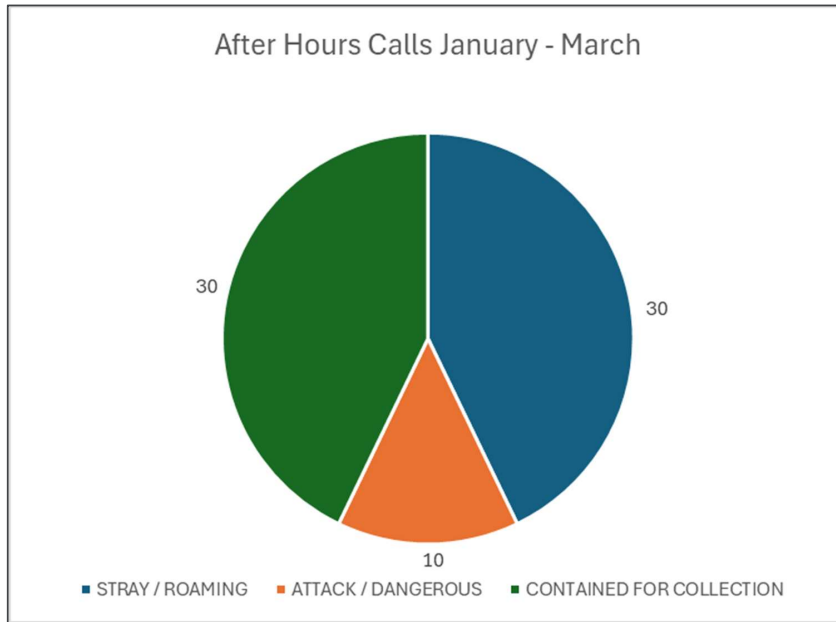
3. OUT OF HOURS RANGER ENGAGEMENT AND PATROLS

Graph 3.1



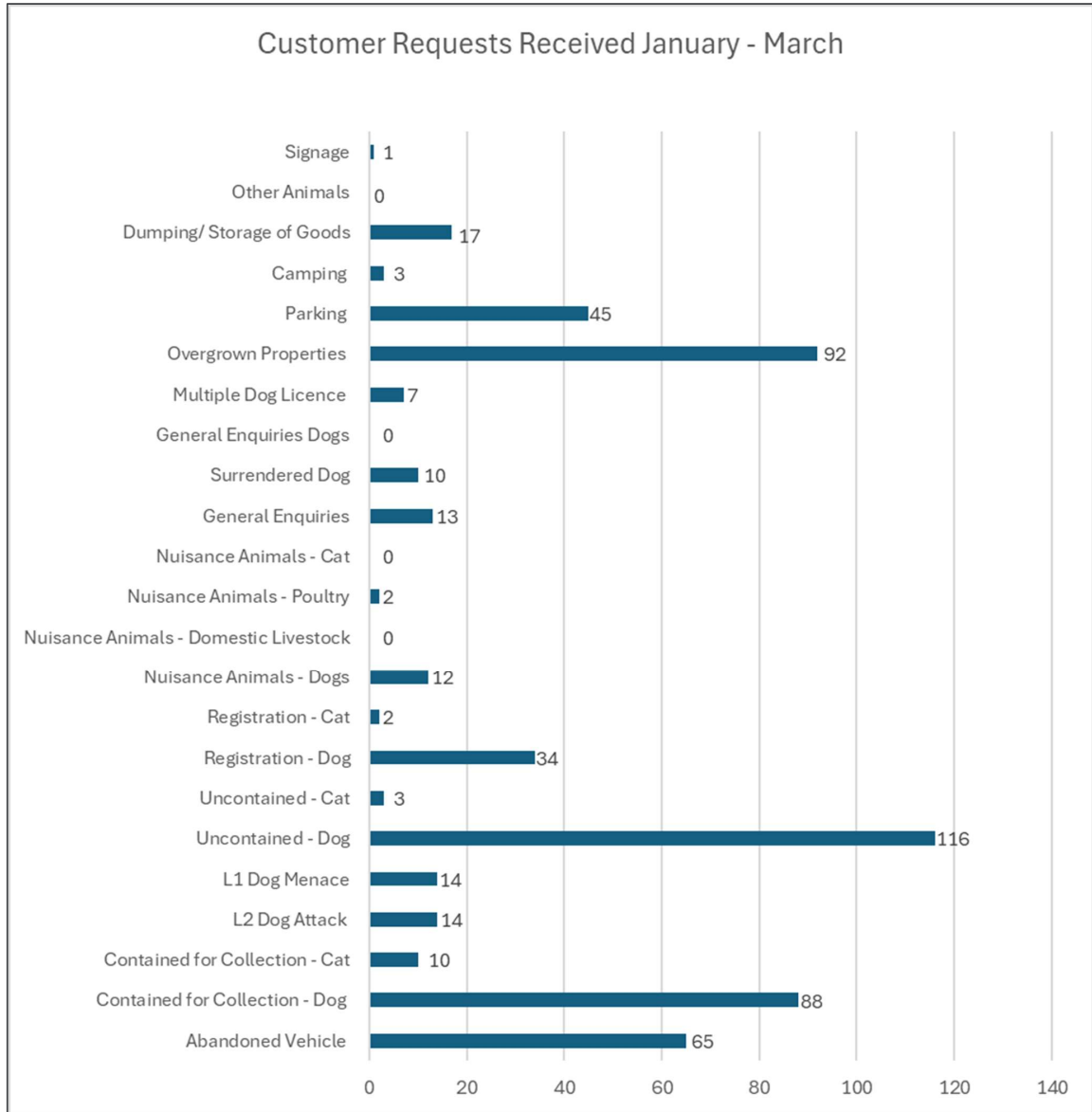


Graph 3.2



4. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS

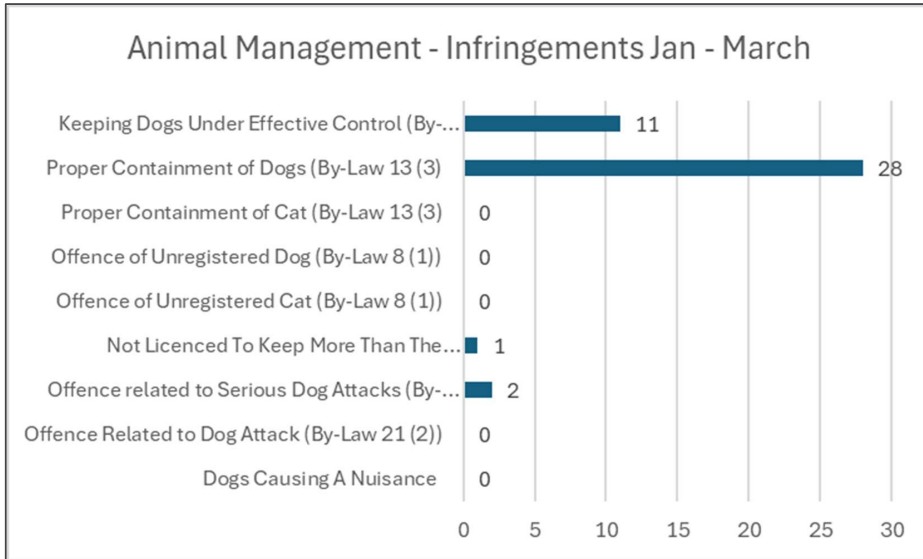
Graph 4.1





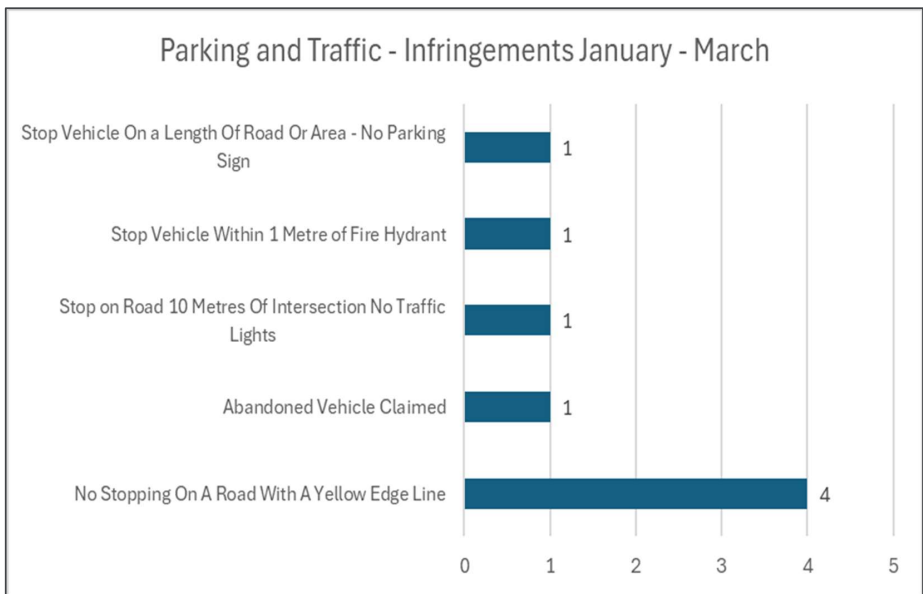
5. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Graph 5.1

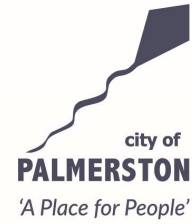


6. PARKING AND TRAFFIC

Graph 6.1

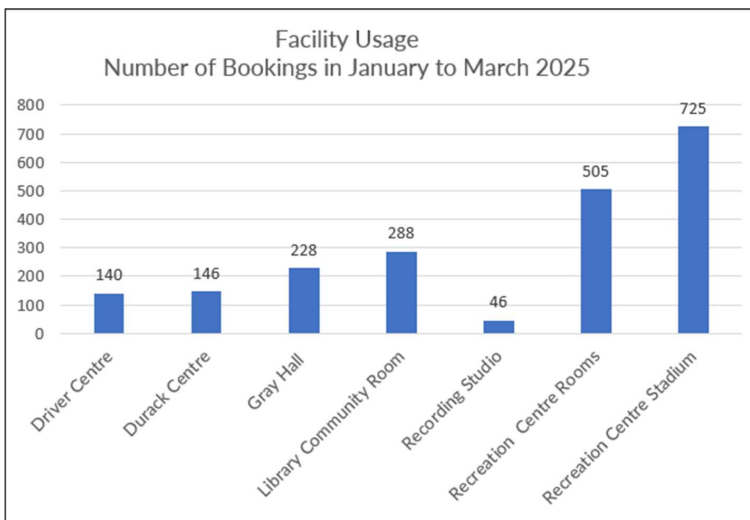


FACILITY USAGE

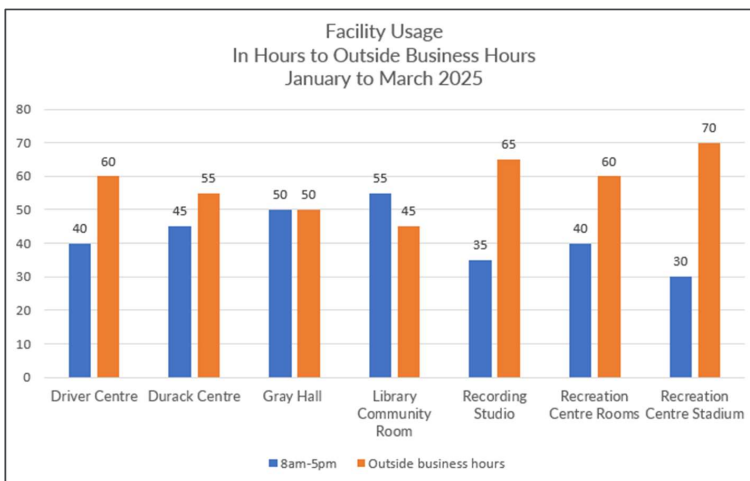


QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY TO MARCH

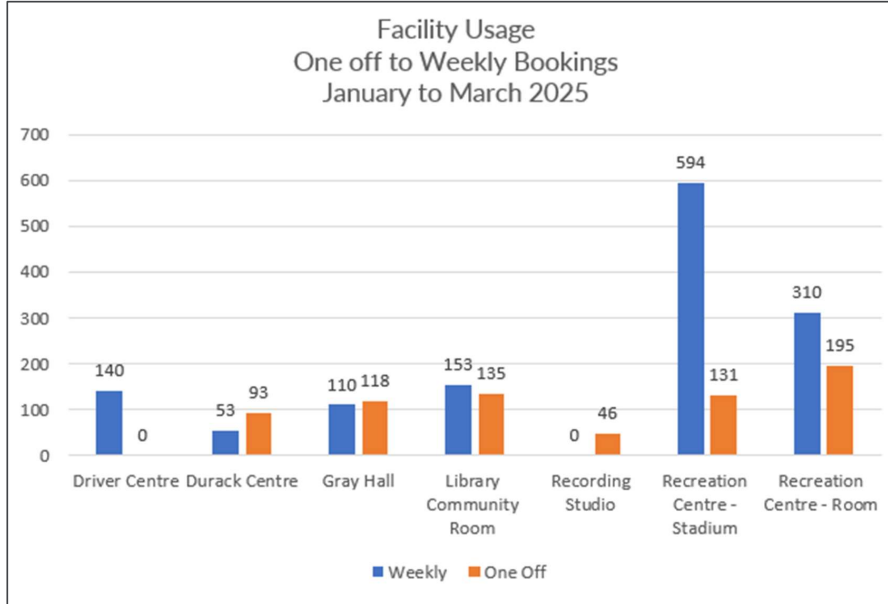
1. NUMBER OF BOOKINGS



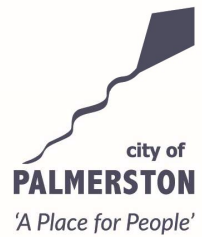
2. IN HOURS TO OUTSIDE BUSINESS HOURS



3. ONE OFF WEEKLY BOOKINGS



LIBRARY STATISTICS




QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY TO MARCH

PALMERSTON LIBRARY ACCESS STATISTICS

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	TOTAL
Library Visits	11,580	11,371	7,088	30,099
Library Members	9,965	9,943	9,923	9,923
Library Items Borrowed	6,922	4,970	2,781	14,673
Hours on Public PCs	1,451	1,443	743	3,637
Library Programs	24	36	18	78
Library Programs Attending	782	956	394	2,132

PALMERSTON LIBRARY PROGRAM STATISTICS

PROGRAM	SESSIONS	TOTAL ATTENDANCE
School Holidays	15	605
Storytime	15	638
Nursery Time	7	321
Incursions	7	211
Gadgets and Games	6	79
Get Tech Savvy	*	11
Geek Squad	5	59
Code Club	7	62
Lego Club	7	17
Late Nights at the Library	6	65



PROGRAM	SESSIONS	TOTAL ATTENDANCE
All in Activities	1	17
Special Events	2	47
Totals	78	2,132

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

*Library statistics for January include the last week of December.

*Library statistics are correct as of 17 March 2025

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	13.2.2
Report Title:	Infrastructure Quarterly Report - January to March 2025
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 1 April 2025
Author:	Executive Assistant to General Manager Infrastructure, Monica Silva
Approver:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Nadine Nilon

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report summarises the key activities undertaken by Infrastructure in the January to March 2025 quarter.

Key messages

- Public lighting upgrades are underway at Stockwhip Drive, Marlow Lagoon.
- The Archer Waste Management Transfer Station Recycle Centre Upgrade design is complete. Site works have commenced however completion date has been impacted by weather delays.
- Zuccoli Stage 2 works are underway. Walking trail construction is complete. Civil Works tenders have been received and are under assessment. Detailed design for the Zuccoli Hub pump track is also underway and expected to be completed by end of March 2025.
- Construction for Marlow Lagoon Junior Unit Playground has commenced, with completion expected in April. Construction of the Sanctuary Lakes Playground is due to start in April, with handover to the City in June.
- The second tree planting event has commenced, with tree planting focusing on revegetation areas in natural bushland abutting Hobart Park and areas across Roseberry. Approximately 1000 additional trees will be planted in this event.

- Energy audits of key Council buildings began this quarter to evaluate electricity consumption patterns, identify opportunities for reducing energy usage, lowering emissions, and improving the overall sustainability of Council-owned properties.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Infrastructure Quarterly Report - January to March 2025 be received and noted.

Background

Infrastructure provides a quarterly report to Council on key activities undertaken during the quarter and further works underway for the next quarter, aligned to the outcomes and objectives of the Community Plan.

Discussion

1. Family and Community

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

Play Space Strategy

Council's Play Space Strategy advocates the need for Council to maintain our play spaces at a level required to proactively respond to community needs and expectations.

The following minor maintenance works were undertaken in our playgrounds over the January to March quarter 2025:

- Widdup Park – graffiti removal from sign.
- Durack Lake 5 – removal of graffiti from Turtle Bridge, and repair of bridge structure elements.
- Marlow Lagoon – repair of bridge structure elements.
- Hobart Park – repair of drink bubbler.
- Sister Frederick Mangan Park – replacement of chain for swing set.
- Father Gerry Remie Park – repair of drink bubbler.
- Prism Park – replacement of play equipment ropes.
- Gordon Stott Park – replacement of stolen swing seats.
- Joan Fejo Park – repair of the junior unit castle bridge.

Hobart Park All-Access Public Toilet

The design of services has been completed, and the Request for Tender for the procurement and installation of an all-abilities modular toilet is currently open, closing on 26 March 2025. Installation is scheduled for completion by August 2025, funded under the Federal Government's Priority Community Infrastructure Program. In addition to the toilet, this funding will also support the installation of additional seating and shade at the park.

Park Infrastructure Renewal Program 2024/25

Construction of the Marlow Lagoon Junior Unit commenced on 11 March 2025 and is expected to take six (6) weeks to complete, with handover to Council late April. The Sanctuary Lakes playground is due to be demolished in early April, with construction to start shortly after. Completion of the Sanctuary Lakes playground is expected for early June. The designs for the Sanctuary Lakes and Marlow Lagoon Junior playground are available on Council's website [Playground Refurbishment Consultation | City of Palmerston](#).

Development Application Responses

This quarter Council reviewed and provided feedback on eight (8) development proposals, which were supported by representations made by officers at Development Consent Authority meetings.

A Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) was also received during this period, proposing to rezone 1 Ridge Street, Palmerston from its current specific use zone (SP11) to a Central Business (CB) zone. Comments on the proposal have been submitted to the NT Planning Commission by City of Palmerston and a decision is likely to be reached over the coming months.



1 Ridge Street, Palmerston

4. A Future Focus

Objective 4.1: 'We support and foster innovation'

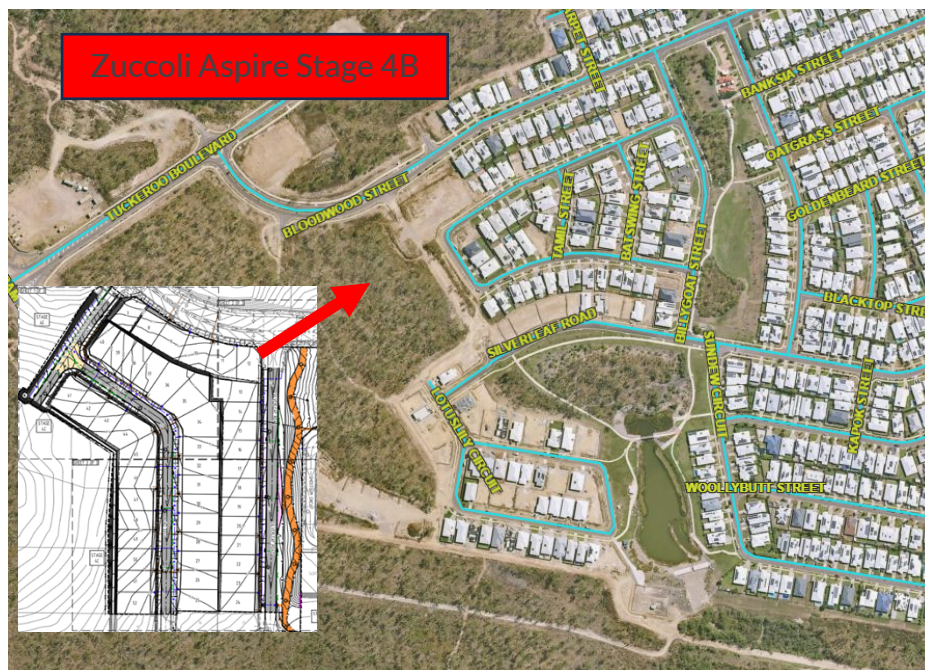
Fibersense

Fibersense uses underground fiber optic cables and technology to detect vibrations from machinery, vehicles, pedestrians and more. The vibrations are converted into data that City of Palmerston (CoP) will be able to use for planning and improvements to the city. A total of 60km of fiber optic cable has been laid throughout Palmerston Central Business District (CBD) and Tiger Brennan Drive.

The installation is complete, and the Digital Asset system is live, with alerts of disruption (i.e. digging) near the fibre being received to allow the issuing of work permits as required. The first version (1.0) of the Digital City system has been developed with the final deployment stage underway, which will inform the next version (1.2) to be developed. Following the traffic system being established, future phases will include pedestrians and parking.

Subdivisions

This quarter saw new activity in both Zuccoli and Durack. Earthworks for the next stage of Zuccoli Aspire (Stage 4B) commenced, and it is expected that civil works will commence over the dry season and reach completion by the end of 2025. Stage 11 of the Heights is nearing practical completion, and it is likely that titled lots will be turned off in the 2nd quarter of this year.

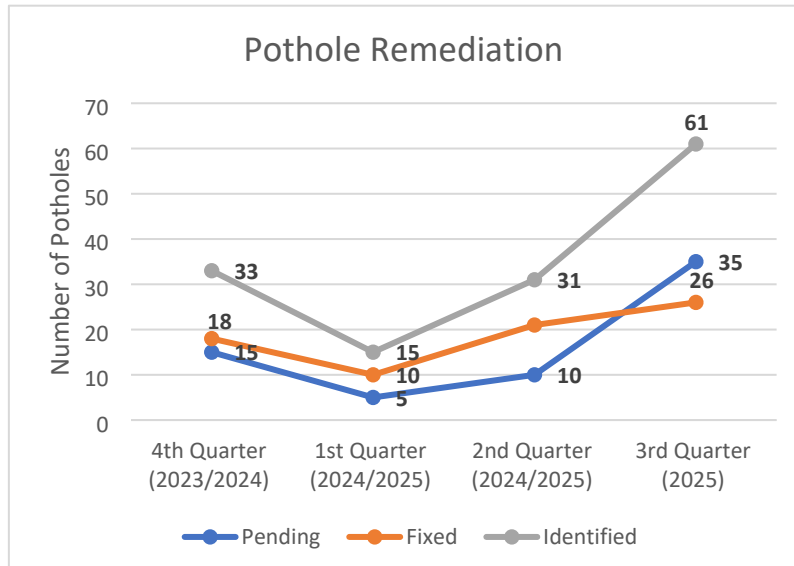


Zuccoli Aspire Stage 4B

Objective 4.2: 'Infrastructure is fit for purpose'.

Potholes

There was a total of 61 potholes identified during the quarter that required repair works, there are 35 remaining potholes which are scheduled to be repaired.



Data as of 17 March 2025

Road Renewal

Road re-seal works for the 2024/25 program commenced in October 2024, with \$220,000 of works completed.

Following the wet season, works have resumed on an additional 4 km of roads identified for treatment. Notable projects include sections of Essington Avenue (recently completed), Granites Road, Forrest Parade, and Lambrick Avenue. The remaining works are expected to be completed by May 2025.

The total budget for the program is approximately \$2 million, including nearly \$700,000 in grant funding.

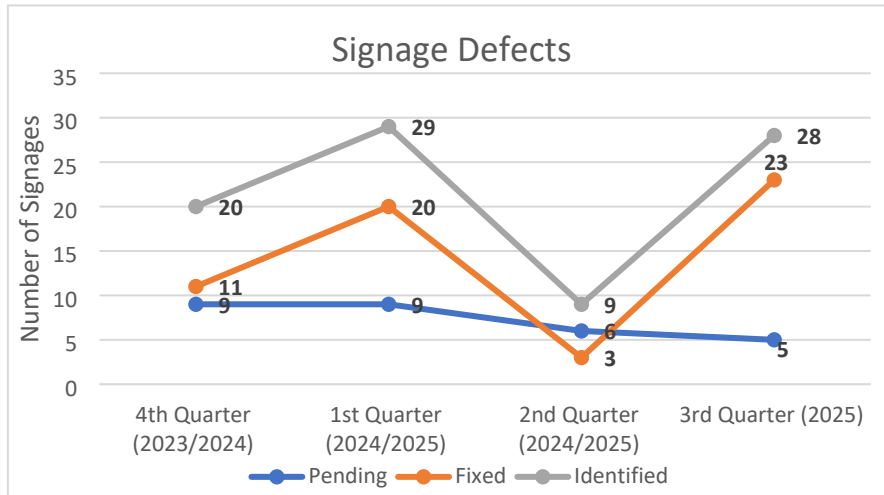
Black Spot Program

City of Palmerston were successful in securing grant funding to design and install traffic calming measures at four (4) identified Black Spot locations in Gunn, Durack, Yarrowonga and Moulden.

- Buscall Avenue, Gunn – design complete for lane narrowing and side of street parking adjacent to Sanctuary Lakes Park. Works to be completed by May 2025.
- Packard Avenue / Haultain Crescent intersection in Durack – design complete for roundabout upgrade.
- Bonson Terrace, Moulden. Design near completion for upgraded traffic control at between SWELL entrance and Tilston Avenue.
- Yarrowonga Rd / Toupein Rd intersection in Yarrowonga – design near completion for intersection upgrade.

Signage

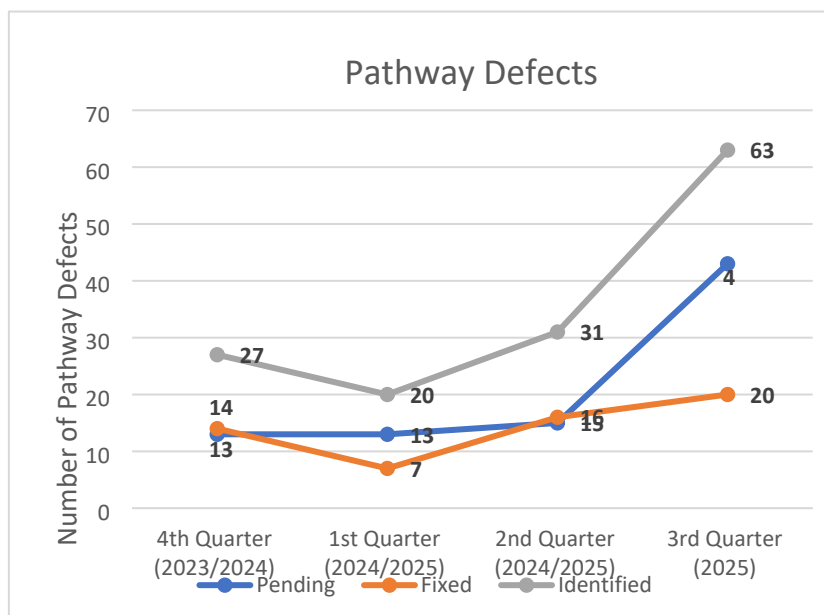
There was a total of 28 road signs identified during the quarter that required repair works, there are five (5) remaining signs which are scheduled to be repaired.



Data as of 17 March 2025

Pathways

This quarter 63 pathway defects were identified as requiring repair. There are 43 remaining footpath defects which are scheduled for repair.



Data as of 17 March 2025

Pathway Replacement and Renewal

The Footpath Connectivity Program aims to enhance connections between key services, assets, and public open spaces. The program identifies and prioritises areas for upgrades and new pathways, with an annual review to ensure alignment with current priorities and budget availability. The total program budget is \$675,440.

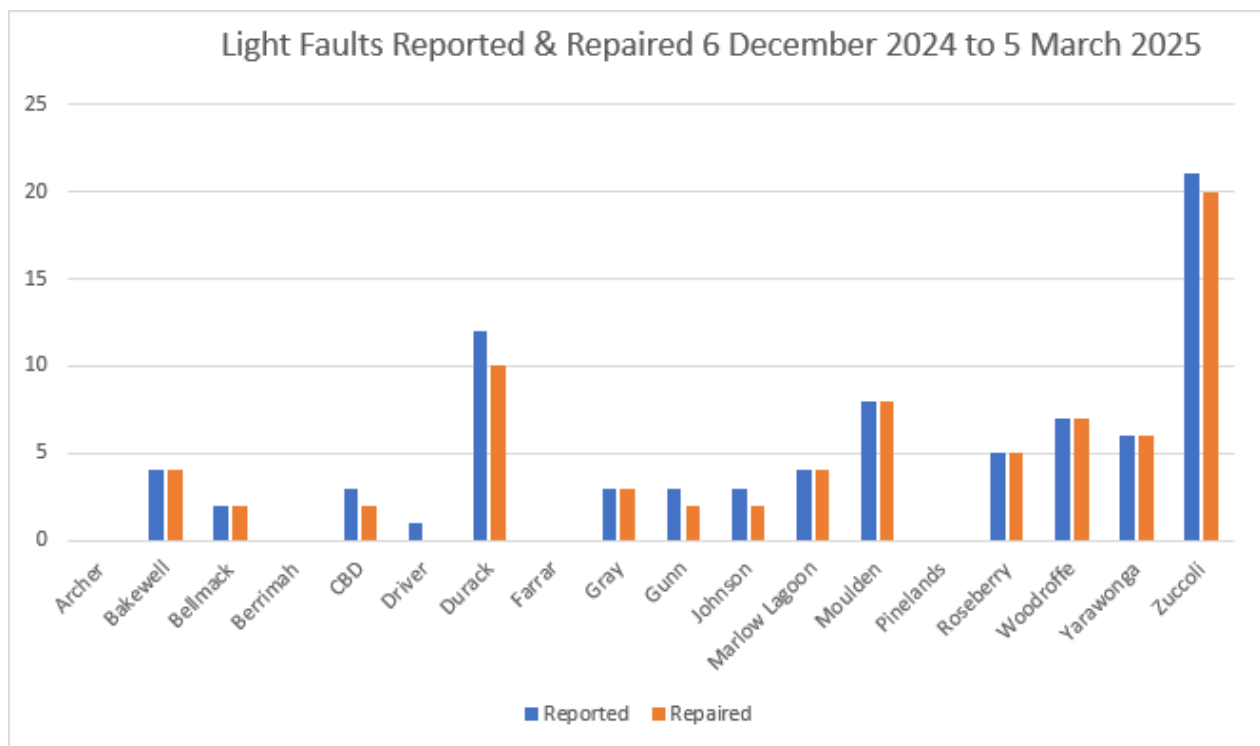
Several projects were completed this quarter, including new footpaths at Haydon Park, Brydon Street, and Mannikan Court in Rosebery, as well as Allcorn Street in Farrar. A

significant new pathway on Flockhart Drive, Marlow Lagoon, is scheduled for completion next quarter.

Light Fault Rectification

This quarter 82 (1.52% of total inventory) streetlighting faults were identified. 75 of the identified faults have been resolved and works are continuing to rectify remaining seven (7) faults. Of these seven (7), two (2) of the faults are within target repair times, with the remaining faults scheduled for repair awaiting arrival of parts from suppliers.

Council is continuing to undertake scheduled night inspections and rectification works, with a total of 97% of streetlights working as of 13 March 2025.



Data as of 13 March 2025

Dark Spots Lighting Upgrade Program

Council’s period contractor has been engaged to undertake public lighting upgrades as part of the 2024/25 Dark Spots Upgrade Program.

Upgrades at the following locations were completed in October 2024 at an approximate cost of \$150,000:

- Allamurr Court, Gray.
- Harrison Park, Woodroffe.
- Essington Park, Gray.

Designs for upgrades at Stockwhip Drive and Cunningham Crescent have been completed and issued to the contractor with a value of approximately \$400,000. Works at both locations are underway and expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

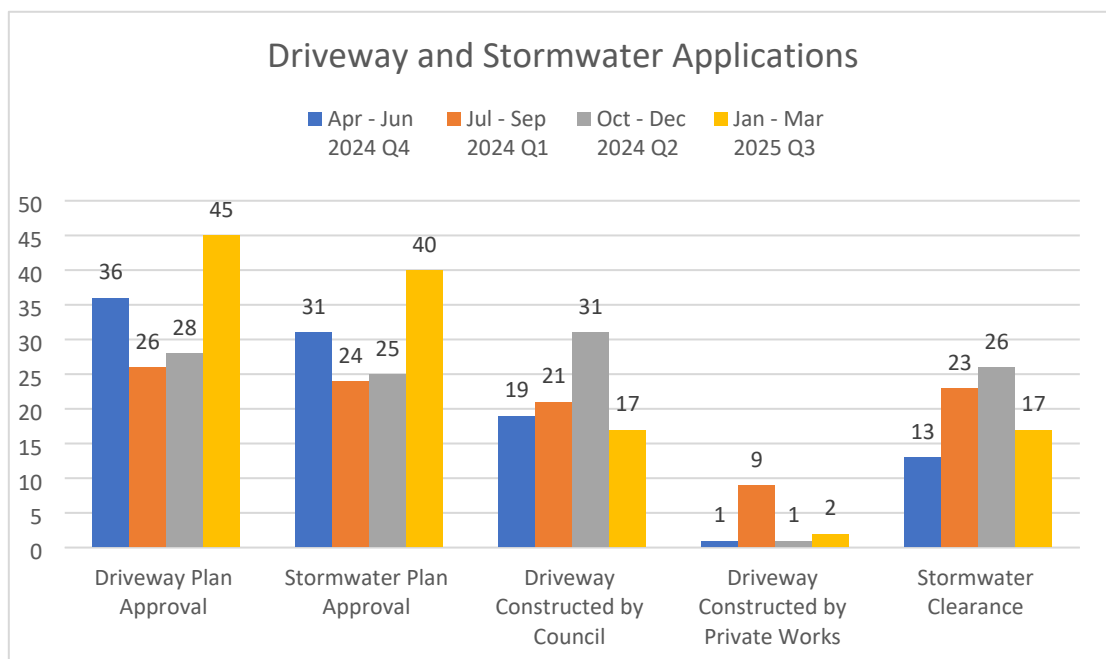
Detailed designs for future works are underway for Rosebery Park, Dillon Circuit, Kilgour Lane and Fiveash Lane carpark. The CBD projects of Kilgour Lane and Fiveash Lane carpark will be a priority for delivery due to their relationship to the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) outcomes.

Driveways and Stormwater

121 applications were received for the quarter, covering 76 allotments, including 68 in Zuccoli, two (2) in Farrar, one (1); each in Bakewell, Bellamack, Driver, Johnston Rosebery, and Tivendale.

The 121 applications consisted of the following:

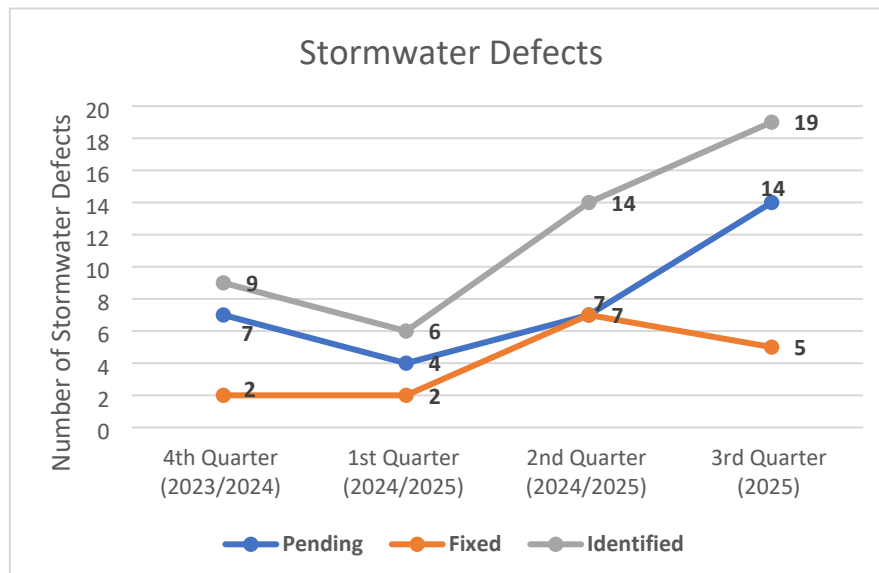
- 45 driveway plan approval requests – 43 driveway plans approved, with 38 from Zuccoli, and one (1) each in Bellamack, Driver, Farrar, Rosebery and Tivendale.
- 17 driveway construction requests – All requests were from the new properties in Zuccoli, except one (1) in Johnston. All driveways have been constructed.
- Two (2) Work on Public Places applications – Two (2) permits issued to allow private owners to undertake driveway construction work, one (1) each in Tivendale and Zuccoli.
- 40 stormwater plan approval requests - 38 stormwater plans approved, with 35 from new properties in Zuccoli and one (1) each in Bakewell, Driver and Farrar.
- 17 stormwater clearance requests – 14 clearance letters issued, all for new properties in Zuccoli.



Data as of 17 March 2025

Stormwater

Ongoing condition inspection of stormwater drains, pipes, pits and other civil works have been carried out to ensure proper function. There are 19 stormwater defects that have been identified in this quarter with 14 scheduled for further investigation.



Data as of 17 March 2025

Stormwater Capital Program

Underground CCTV inspections of the stormwater pipe network have been conducted in selected at-risk areas. A section along Victoria Drive has been identified for repairs, which will be undertaken following the wet season.

Additionally, works to re-grade open drains in Moulden are planned for the next quarter.

Irrigation Maintenance

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

- Valves maintenance and valve box replacement/realigning across all council assets.
- Lake 10 pump motherboard upgrade.
- Bill Shepherd Park infrastructure upgrade.

Irrigation Controllers

The final costing and implementation schedule for the 3-year controller replacement program has been developed this quarter. With aging infrastructure and the change over to the 4G network, many of the controllers linked to Council's telemetry system have become inoperable and require replacement. Without functioning controllers, irrigation run times for open space areas cannot be remotely managed. The 3 year replacement program is due to commence first quarter of 25/26 FY.

Goyder Square tree planting

New tree guards and planting of seven (7) semi-established trees (28 litre air-pruned pots) have been installed at Goyder Square. These trees were installed to replace damaged or dying trees. The native tree species *Carrallia brachiata* was selected for the replacement program due to its suitability as a shade tree for open spaces. It grows to a maximum height of 12 meters, is resistant to cyclones, and features fragrant flowers.



Tree Planting – Goyder Square

Zuccoli Community Hub – Stage 2

Stage 2 consists of the pump track, the sensory walking path, shade structures, BBQ facilities and associated civil works, and is currently in progress.

- Civil earthwork designs (including for stormwater) are complete. Tenders for delivery of civil earthworks have been received and are under assessment, with works scheduled to begin at the commencement of the dry season 2025.
- Construction of the walking trail is completed.
- Design for landscape works and pump track is 70% complete.
- The pump track construction is expected to commence mid 2025 following completion of the civil earthworks.

Driver Community Centre

The 100% design drawings have been reviewed with minor changes requested. Application for Building Permit is in progress, with consent being received from Driver Primary School around shared access.

The project cost, including contingencies, has been estimated at \$3.9 million based on the final design. Funding is currently being sought to support the construction of the Centre.

Archer Waste Management Facility Upgrade

The tender for the design and construction of the recycling area, including the cardboard compactor, was awarded to CMA Contracting on 17 October 2024. The design has been completed, and construction is underway.

Significant delays due to wet weather have impacted progress, with practical completion now expected toward the end of the next quarter.

Capital Projects Expenditure and Delivery Summary 2024/25

The total approved Capital Expenditure Budget for 2024-25 is \$17.49 million. This budget includes \$2.5 million of capital expenditure that relates to grant funding not yet confirmed. These funds represent approximately 14% of the capital budget and are unable to be spent until funding is confirmed and will be re-assessed as part of the second budget review, which will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Taking into consideration the \$2.5 million the proposed revised budget would be \$15 million. The current expenditure to date of \$8.35 million (including commitments) is approximately 56% of the proposed revised budget. A brief description and status of each project, and the 2024/25 budget (excluding the \$2.5 million) can be found in **Attachment 13.2.2.1**.

5. Environment Sustainability

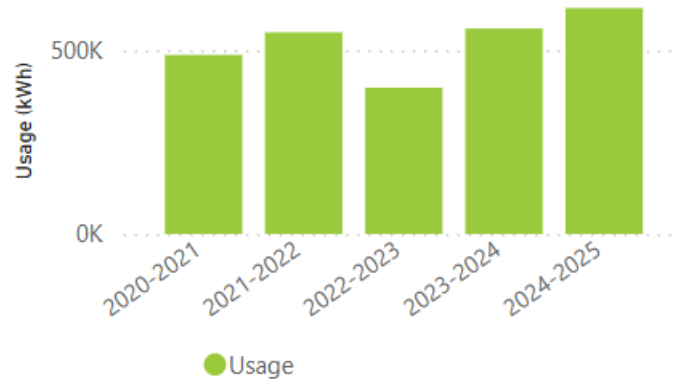
Objective 5.1: 'Reduce our footprint on the environment'

Sustainability Reporting Data Date Range

The reporting date range for waste, solar, and utilities has been adjusted to cover the October–December 2024 quarter. This change is due to incomplete data sets currently available for the January–March 2025 quarter. Data for this period will be included in the next Infrastructure Quarterly Report.

Electricity Consumption

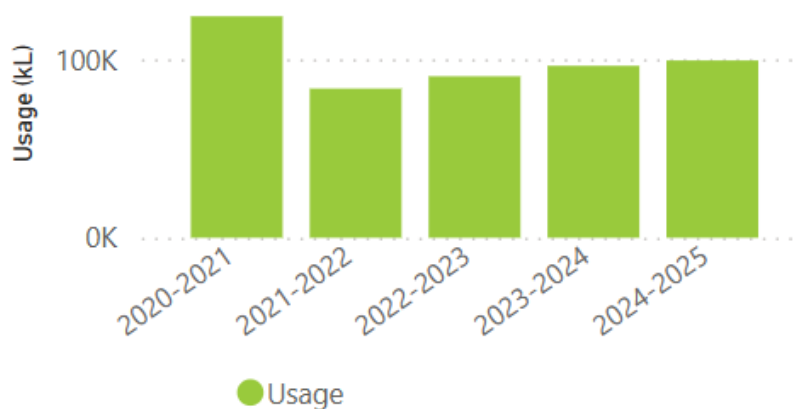
The graph below compares Council's total electricity consumption for Q2 across financial years, starting from 2020/2021, showing a 10% increase compared to the same quarter last year. This rise is primarily attributed to the recent upgrade of the Recreation Centre's air-conditioning system, which was offline during the same period last year, as well as the integration of upgraded and new assets, including the SWELL upgrade, both of which have contributed to higher energy demand during this reporting period.



Total Electricity Consumption for All Council Assets (Q2)

Water Consumption

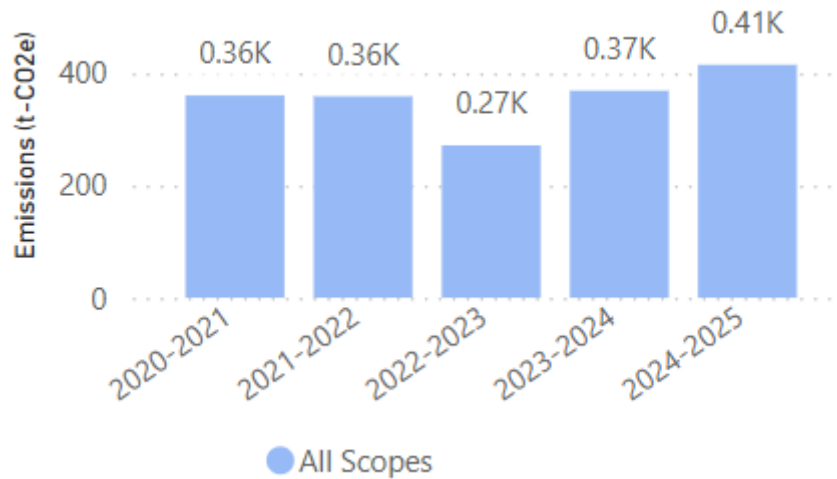
The graph below compares Council’s total water consumption for Q2 in 2024/2025 with the same quarter over the past four (4) financial years, showing a 3.11% increase compared to 2023/2024. This rise is primarily due to the repair and activation of several irrigation systems across the municipality, as well as the detection and rectification of multiple leaks. Additionally, the integration of new assets, such as new parks, has likely contributed to the increase. Seasonal variations also play a role in water usage trends.



Total Mains Water Usage for Council Assets (Q2)

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In Q2 of 2024, CO₂-e Scope 1 & 2 emissions increased by 13.03% compared to the same quarter in the previous financial year. This rise aligns with the increase in electricity consumption, driven by factors such as the integration of new assets and seasonal demand fluctuations. The graph below presents Council’s total Scope 1 & 2 CO₂-e emissions across all assets over the past five (5) financial years (note, data excludes fleet emissions).

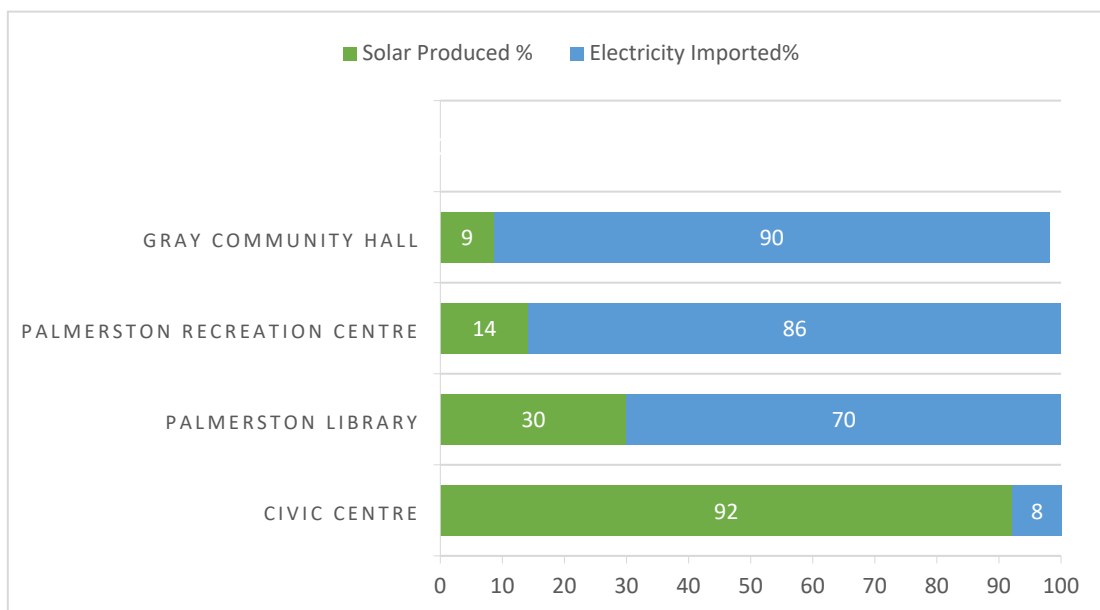


Scope 1 & 2 Emissions (CO₂-e) Across All Council Assets – Q2

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

Council maintains the solar generation systems at four (4) facilities (Palmerston Library, Civic Centre, Palmerston Recreation Centre, and Gray Community Hall). Live and recent solar power generation information is available on Council’s website at: <https://palmerston.nt.gov.au/operations/environment/councils-renewable-energy#library>.

The graph below illustrates the solar energy contribution to the total electricity consumption of Council buildings from October to December 2024. Notably, the Palmerston Civic Centre's solar system meets the majority of its energy needs. In contrast, Gray Community Hall and the Palmerston Recreation Centre have the lowest solar energy contributions relative to their consumption, primarily due to system size limitations and the nature of facility use, as they operate frequently in the evening and at night, when solar generation is unavailable.



Proportion of Total Energy Consumption: Solar Generation vs. Grid Import (Q2 2024/2025 FY)

Energy Audit of Council Buildings

This quarter, Council commenced an energy audit of its buildings, aiming to assess electricity consumption patterns and identify opportunities for efficiency improvements. The audit will provide data-driven insights and recommend practical implementation strategies to reduce energy usage, lower emissions, and enhance the overall sustainability of Council-owned buildings. These findings will support long-term energy management and cost-saving initiatives, contributing to Council’s broader environmental and sustainability goals.

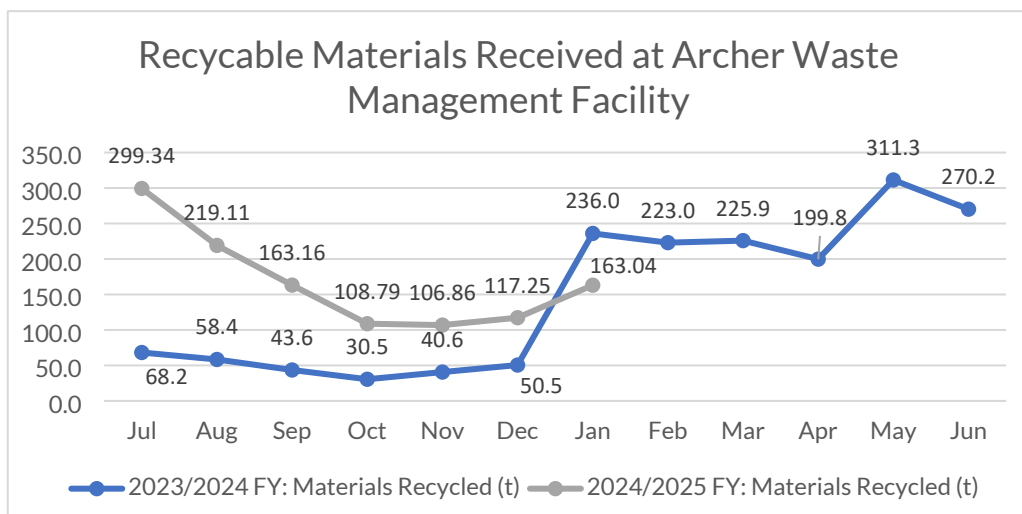
Recycling at Archer Waste Management Facility

The graph’s below presents a comparison of recyclable materials and general waste that has been received at Archer Waste Management Facility during the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 financial years.

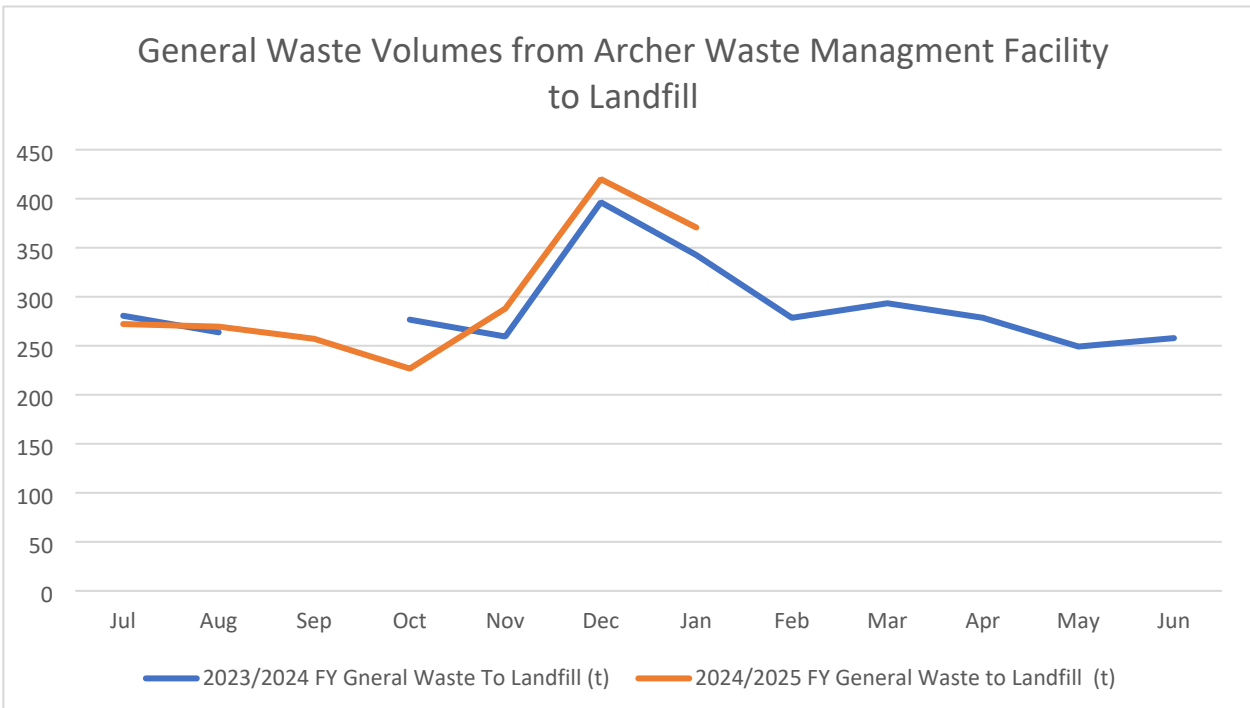
The volume of recyclables collected and diverted from landfill is influenced by several factors, including market demand for recyclables, contamination levels, and weather conditions. This data includes key recyclable waste streams such as paper and cardboard, scrap steel/metal, mixed aluminium, glass, and plastic. However, e-waste, white goods, and items donated for resale by HPA are not included.

To further enhance waste diversion, the ongoing Stage 2 upgrades of Archer Waste Management Facility will reposition the recycling area at the facility entrance and incorporate in brand new Cardboard Compactor. These improvements aim to increase accessibility, streamline recycling processes, and encourage greater use of the recycling facilities prior to general waste disposal.

General waste volumes collected remain consistent across each financial year. A fluctuation in January may be as a result of the Christmas period. Increased diversion rates will be the focus of the new management contract for the site, which is due to commence in June 2025. This should see increased recycling volumes and a decrease in general waste being sent to landfill.



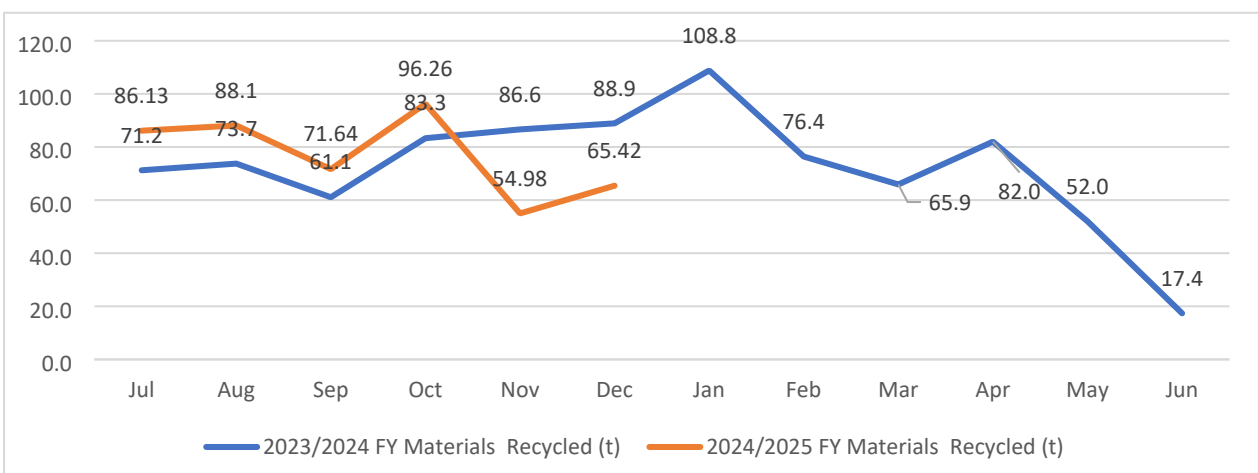
Recyclable Materials Received at Archer Waste Management Facility



General Waste Volumes from Archer Waste Management Facility that end up in Landfill

Kerbside Recycling Service

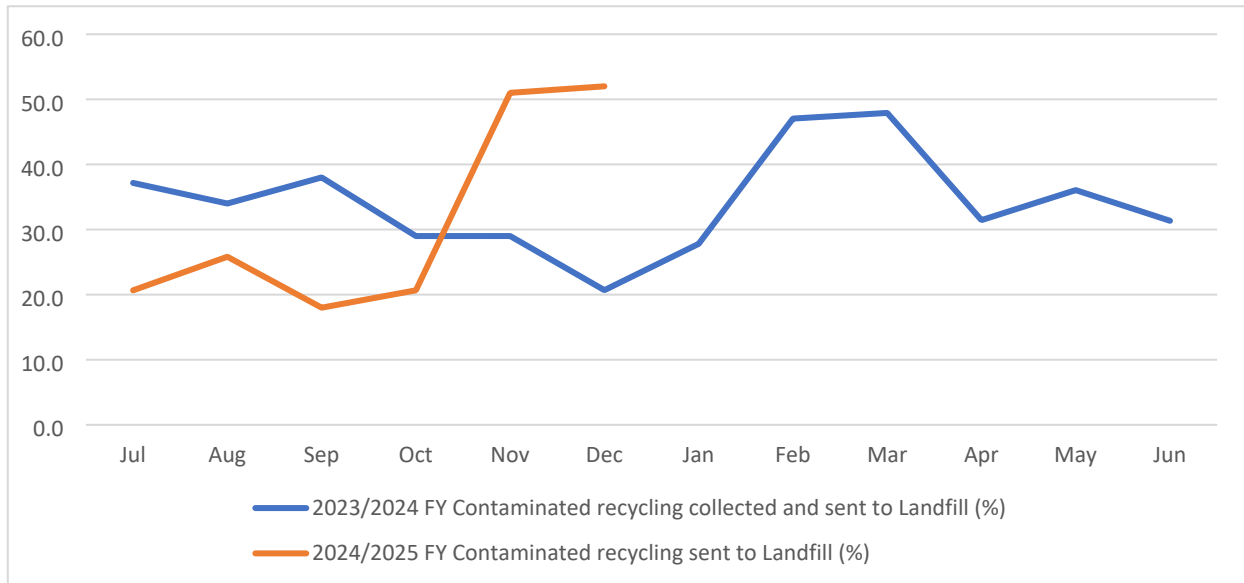
The graph below compares the tonnage of recyclable materials collected through the kerbside collection program in the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 financial years. So far, recycling volumes have consistently tracked higher than the previous year, except for a notable decrease in November and December. This data excludes recyclables that were too contaminated to be processed.



Recyclable Materials Recovered from Kerbside Collection

Kerbside Recycling Contamination Rates

The graph below tracks the percentage of recycling collected through the kerbside program that was contaminated and subsequently sent to landfill. Contamination occurs when non-recyclable materials, such as soft plastics, food waste, or hazardous items, are mistakenly placed in recycling bins, making it unfeasible to process the load effectively. Monitoring contamination rates helps identify trends, educate the community on proper recycling practices, and improve overall waste diversion efforts. There have been significantly higher bin contamination rates in October, November and December. There will be an increased focus on community education programs for the next quarter.



Bin Contamination Rates.

Home Composting Rebate Program

“Council Initiatives” signage is displayed across multiple Council facilities to increase awareness of the Program.

As of 14 March 2025, Council received three (3) new applications under the Home Composting Rebate Program in the quarter (compared to four [4] applications received in the previous quarter). The total number of applications for the life of the Program is 101. The Home composting Rebate continues to be promoted on social media and the Council website.

Period	QTR 1 (Jul - Sep 23)	QTR 2 (Oct - Dec 23)	QTR 3 (Jan - Mar 24)	QTR 4 (Apr - Jun 24)	QTR 1 (Jul - Sep 24)	QTR 2 (-Oct to Dec 24)	QTR 3 (Jan - Mar 25)
New Applications	4	4	5	4	0	4	3
Total Applications for Life of Scheme	81	85	90	94	94	98	101

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

Lake Weed Management

Council continues its proactive management of weed outbreaks in Palmerston's lakes through a combination of manual harvesting and targeted weed spraying. Lakes are maintained on a rotating schedule, with routine clearing using harvesters to ensure optimal water quality and ecosystem health. These measures are part of Council's broader commitment to maintaining the health and biodiversity of our waterways.



Councils weed harvester in action

Water Quality Training – Lakes Management

Council staff undertook water quality monitoring training this quarter, with the aim of supplementing the quarterly lake monitoring undertaken by a consultant. The training included a theory-based information session, and a hands-on in-the field trial of equipment.

Often between quarterly monitoring events there is evidence that the water quality of the lakes has declined. This may be evident through discolouration, increased algae and plant growth, and even fish kills. Upskilling of staff to undertake water quality monitoring increases Council's reactivity to these events and improves overall management of the lakes.



Water Quality Training

Land Conservation (Weed and Fire) Management

Council is committed to map, monitor and manage declared weeds on Council owned and managed land. This quarter targeted weed management activities were completed in Gunn Escarpment, Marlow Lagoon and at Archer Waste Management Facility.

In 2025 Council aims for its annual prescribed burns program to be conducted earlier in the season, with the first of these burns planned for March at Archer Waste Management Facility. Additional prescribed burns are planned in Q4 in the Gunn Escarpment and Marlow Lagoon. Controlled burns during the wet season and early dry season help to reduce the intensity of natural fires, promote bushland regeneration, and support the health of native ecosystems. Council's strategic approach balances environmental stewardship with the protection of important infrastructure and community assets, aligning with best practices in land and fire management.



Prescribed burn area at Archer Waste Management Facility

Tree Planting Programs

Tree planting for the second round of planting has commenced in the natural areas abutting Hobart Park, and in native areas throughout Rosebery. Additionally, an audit of the planting undertaken in the first round has been undertaken. There have been some tree deaths attributed to vandalism and plant failure. These trees will be replaced in this round of planting. In total approximately 1,000 trees will be planted in this tree planting round.

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

Clean Up Australia Day

This quarter, Council hosted a community Clean Up Australia Day event at Hobart Park and Mitchell Creek, bringing together local residents and community groups to take action for a cleaner environment. The community's efforts resulted in the removal of 60kg of waste,

primarily consisting of soft plastics and takeaway containers from the Mitchell Creek Reserve.

The event was supported by Council's contracting partner, Cleanaway, which provided waste removal services and ablution facilities. Additionally, the newly formed Palmerston Conservation Group hosted a stall at the event, engaging with the community to raise awareness about Landcare activities and conservation efforts within the Mitchell Creek Reserve.

Events like this not only enhance public spaces but also raise awareness about litter reduction, responsible waste disposal, and the impact of plastic pollution on local ecosystems.



Volunteers working hard at Councils Clean Up Australia Day Event 2025

2025 Waste Calendars and Recycle Right Magnets

Council has launched its 2025 Waste Collection Calendars alongside a magnet version of the Recycle Right bin sticker. Additionally, an A2 version of the Recycle Right print is now available on Council's website, enabling body corporates, schools, offices, and community groups to utilise the design to print durable metal signs or posters for bin compounds and other spaces. These resources aim to make recycling easier and more accessible while promoting sustainable waste practices across the community.



6. Governance

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

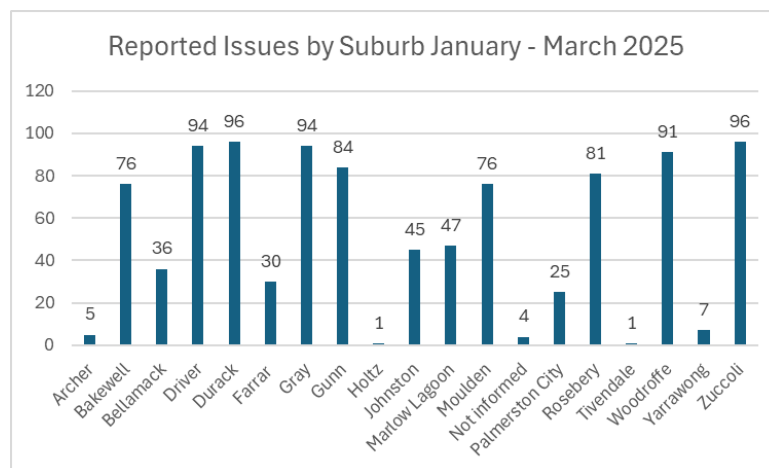
In total, 989 resident reports were raised in this quarter, with a total of 506 completed and 483 remaining outstanding as of 20 March 2025.

Of the outstanding customer requests (CRs), 256 are regarding waste bins, which get allocated to Cleanaway immediately, and be closed out once resolved.

All CR's that are dated later than 90 days since being received, will undergo an assessment and will be actioned immediately. This will include closing out CR's that are no longer relevant and determining actions for all others.

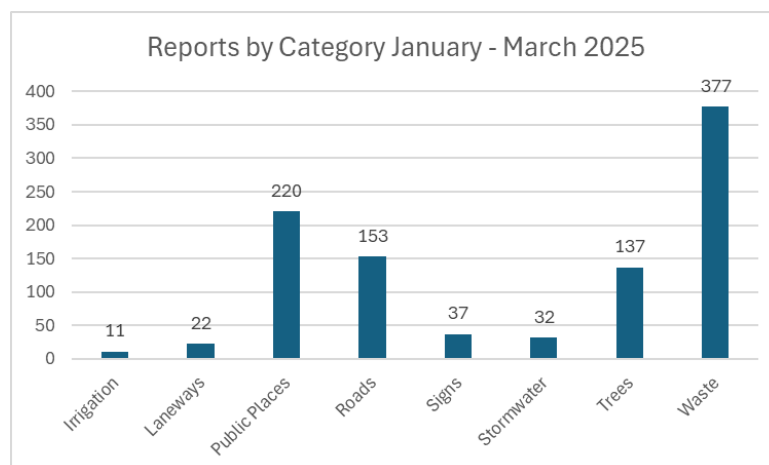
In this quarter, Durack and Zuccoli residents raised the highest number of reports within the municipality being a total of 96 reports each, primarily pertaining to work related to public places and waste.

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



Data as of 20 March 2025

The below data summarises resident reports by category to Council in the first quarter, the most common resident reports are regarding Waste and Public Places.



Data as of 20 March 2025

Consultation and marketing

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

- Executive Manager Environment.
- Tree Maintenance Officer.
- Development Engineer.
- Facilities Maintenance Officer.
- Senior Project Manager.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

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

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

5. Infrastructure

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

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

1. Capital Expenditure to Date 2024 25 [13.2.2.1 - 1 page]

Project Title	Revised Budget	Actuals	Commitments	Total YTD (Actuals + Commitments)	Available Budget	Project Status
Zuccoli Community Hub	\$ 1,706,563	\$ 330,138	\$ 131,748	\$ 461,887	\$ 1,244,676	Walking trail complete. Civil construction works for the pump track awarded, due to commence in April 2025. BBQ and shade structures to be constructed in June 2025.
Aquatic Centre Renewal	\$ 80,000	\$ 191,852	\$ 74,700	\$ 266,552	-\$ 186,552	Additional grant funding allocation to be recognised in second budget review
Water Aquifer Study	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000	RFQ in development
Recreation Centre Renewal	\$ 86,000	\$ 55,964	\$ 255	\$ 56,218	\$ 29,782	
Depot Renewal and Upgrades	\$ 14,800	\$ 3,201	\$ -	\$ 3,201	\$ 11,599	Depot gate works to be undertaken prior to end of FY
Civic Centre Renewal	\$ 67,100	\$ 16,644	\$ -	\$ 16,644	\$ 50,456	Office layout and air conditioning reviews underway
Driver Resource Centre Renewal	\$ 10,300	\$ 1,080	\$ -	\$ 1,080	\$ 9,220	
Driver Community Hall Upgrade	\$ 1,347,887	\$ 91,787	\$ 7,459	\$ 99,246	\$ 1,248,641	Includes \$1.25 million of unreceived grant funding. Designs 100% complete. Building permit application submitted. Project shovel ready when funding is available.
Library Building Renewal	\$ 67,000	\$ 31,876	\$ 40,900	\$ 72,776	-\$ 5,776	Additional funding allocated from operational relating to cafe design. To be resolved in second budget review.
Durack Community Arts Centre Renewal	\$ 9,300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,300	
Dark Spots (Lighting Upgrades)	\$ 963,730	\$ 173,664	\$ 392,246	\$ 565,910	\$ 397,820	Includes \$250k of unreceived grant funding. All scheduled works to be completed in the 2024/25 year.
Streetlighting Renewal	\$ 56,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56,400	Costs to date to be reviewed from operational
All Ability Upgrades	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000	Program near finalisation
Driveway Renewal	\$ 51,200	\$ 6,857	\$ -	\$ 6,857	\$ 44,343	
Driveway Construction - new developments	\$ 200,000	\$ 114,495	\$ 19,569	\$ 134,064	\$ 65,936	A Funds in Lieu of Construction (FILOC) funded for new driveways completed on application
Pathway Renewal	\$ 175,000	\$ 45,364	\$ -	\$ 45,364	\$ 129,636	Program developed, to recommence following wet season
New Pathway	\$ 1,186,275	\$ 153,153	\$ 317,011	\$ 470,163	\$ 716,111	Includes \$250k of unreceived grant funding. Program developed, to recommence following wet season
Laneway Renewals	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000	Program developed, to recommence following wet season
Roads Reseal and Reconstruction	\$ 2,015,258	\$ 227,674	\$ 1,619,169	\$ 1,846,842	\$ 168,416	All scheduled works to be completed by 30 June
Traffic Calming & Pedestrian Safety	\$ 706,600	\$ 51,629	\$ 19,575	\$ 71,204	\$ 635,396	Black Spot grant funded projects (4 in total), all designs underway or completed for delivery by 30 June
Mitchell Creek Study	\$ 95,510	\$ -	\$ 99,000	\$ 99,000	-\$ 3,490	Consultant engaged, study to be complete by 30 June. Additional funding allocated from operational consultancy to be resolved in second budget review.
Archer Upgrade Project	\$ 1,342,508	\$ 202,473	\$ 1,164,970	\$ 1,367,443	-\$ 24,935	Construction of Resource Recovery Area underway, due to be completed early 2025/26 FY. Additional funds allocated from operational to be resolved in second budget review.
Tree Replacement Program	\$ 1,464,984	\$ 552,399	\$ 168,572	\$ 720,971	\$ 744,013	Includes \$250k of unreceived grant funding. Program commenced, including establishment
Sustainability Programs	\$ 410,000	\$ 25,227	\$ 55,525	\$ 80,752	\$ 329,248	Includes \$250k of unreceived grant funding. Energy audit underway which will inform expenditure on infrastructure improves to reduce electricity use.
Stormwater Renewal & Upgrades	\$ 160,000	\$ 17,213	\$ 21,884	\$ 39,097	\$ 120,903	Stormwater infrastructure upgrades, Victoria Drive stormwater infrastructure in Gray due for upgrades late in the 204/25 FY.
Park Infrastructure Renewal Program	\$ 1,345,568	\$ 461,069	\$ 639,075	\$ 1,100,144	\$ 245,424	Includes \$250k of unreceived grant funding. Marlow Lagoon Junior unit playground due for handover in April. Demolition of Sanctuary Lakes due to start April 2025. Costs include Tom Price replacement following vandalism - insurance reimbursement yet to be recognised.
Irrigation Refurbishment	\$ 377,700	\$ 141,898	\$ 123,610	\$ 265,508	\$ 112,192	Marlows Bore refurbishment underway, Sanctuary lakes refurbishment, and Maluka Drive Irrigation Designs completed.
Artwork - Sculpture	\$ 500,000	\$ 35,145	\$ 91	\$ 35,236	\$ 464,764	Includes \$250k of unreceived grant funding. Public art program in place, including artwork for the Marlow Lagoon BBQ court.
Palmerston Library Modernisation	\$ 94,219	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 58,000	\$ 36,219	Final report to be presented to Council in May
IT - Renewal and ERP	\$ 970,700	\$ 246,173	\$ 20,000	\$ 266,173	\$ 704,527	ERP tender documentation near completion
Building Management System	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	Not commenced
Fleet Purchases	\$ 350,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000	Program confirmed, vehicles to be ordered
Custom Animal Holding Pens (LG IP Grant)	\$ 100,700	\$ 25,950	\$ 55,170	\$ 81,120	\$ 19,580	Grant funded, one vehicle fitted with a custom holding pen.
Hobart Park Public Toilet	\$ 450,000	\$ 16,135	\$ 2,475	\$ 18,609	\$ 431,391	Grant funded, tender closed
Marlow Lagoon Masterplan	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000	Not commenced
Lakebed Aerators	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 42,663	\$ 42,663	\$ 57,337	Procurement of equipment and engagement of contractor for installation in 2025 dry season.



14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Information

14.2 Correspondence

14.2.1 LGANT - Code of Conduct Panel Lodgement Fee Increase

THAT correspondence dated 24 March 2025 14.2.1 entitled LGANT - Code of Conduct Panel Lodgement Fee Increase be received and noted.



24 March 2025

Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell
City of Palmerston

mayor@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Dear Mayor Pascoe-Bell,

CODE OF CONDUCT PANEL LODGEMENT FEE INCREASE

I am writing to advise that at its meeting on 19 March 2025, the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Board agreed to increase the Code of Conduct Panel lodgement fee from \$500 to \$1,500 for members and \$1,750 for non-members, effective immediately.

The Board agreed the increase is necessary and proportionate given:

- LGANT's significant administrative burden in managing the Code of Conduct Panel;
- the exponential growth in complaint volumes (533% over three years);
- the high percentage of non-substantiated complaints (47% of all 2024 complaints resulted in either summary rejection or no breach finding); and
- the lack of NT Government funding to support this statutory function.

The increased fee serves as a deliberate deterrent against frivolous complaints while still maintaining accessibility for legitimate concerns, balancing LGANT's statutory obligations with financial sustainability requirements. Councils continue, of course, to have the option of dealing with code of conduct complaints internally or by referring to a third party (eg. a mediator or lawyer).

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me or the LGANT CEO, Mary Watson, on 08 8944 9694.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Kon Vatskalis
President

CC:
CEO Andrew Walsh

P (08) 8944 9697 **A** 21 Parap Rd, Parap NT 0820
E info@lgant.asn.au PO Box 2075, Parap NT 0804
W lgant.asn.au ABN: 35 662 805 503

We are local. We connect.



15 REPORT OF DELEGATES

16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

17 GENERAL BUSINESS

18 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 15 April 2025 at 5:30pm in the Gray Community Hall, Corner of Essington Avenue and Victoria Drive, Gray, 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 18 MARCH 2025

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

Council business papers can be viewed on City of Palmerston's website:
palmerston.nt.gov.au

UNCONFIRMED

Minutes of Council Meeting
held in Council Chambers
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
on Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 5:30pm.

PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS

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

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Walsh
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Nadine Nilon
General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta
General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl
Acting General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight
Minute Secretary, Jodi Holden

GALLERY

Nil members of the public
Six members of staff

Initials:

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

2 OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5.30pm.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

Nil

3.2 Leave of absence previously granted

Nil

4 AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING PREVIOUSLY GRANTED

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Elected members

Nil

5.2 Staff

Nil

Initials: _____

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of minutes

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Hale

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 March 2025 pages 11635 to 11644 be confirmed.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1792 - 18/03/2025

6.2 Business arising from previous meeting

Nil

7 MAYORAL REPORT

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT Report entitled Mayoral Update Report - February 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1793 - 18/03/2025

8 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)

Nil

Initials: _____

10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

10.1 Moving confidential items into open

10.1.1 Library Café - Costings Report

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

1. THAT Report entitled Library Café - Costings Report be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approves a budget of \$80,000 allocated from the working capital reserve, to facilitate refurbishment of the existing café space of Lot 6908, The Boulevard to comply with current regulations and standards as outlined within Option 1 in this report.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1810 - 18/03/2025

10.2 Moving open items into confidential

Nil

10.3 Confidential items

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Councillor Fraser

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

Item	Confidential Category	Confidential Clause
27.1.1	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

Initials: _____

27.1.2	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.
27.1.3	Legal Advice	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1794 - 18/03/2025

11 PETITIONS

Nil

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

13 OFFICER REPORTS

13.1 Action reports

13.1.1 Preserving our Urban Forest Policy - Consultation Outcomes

Moved: Councillor Garden
 Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT Report entitled Preserving our Urban Forest Policy - Consultation Outcomes be received and noted.

Initials: _____

2. THAT Council adopt the amended Preserving our Urban Forest Policy at **Attachment 13.1.1.2** to Report entitled Preserving our Urban Forest Policy - Consultation Outcomes.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1795 - 18/03/2025

13.1.2 Council Policy Review - Credit Card CEO and Elected Members

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Hale

1. THAT Report entitled Council Policy Review - Credit Card CEO and Elected Members be received and noted.
2. THAT Council rescinds the Credit Card by Chief Executive Officer Policy at **Attachment 13.1.2.1** to Report entitled Council Policy Review - Credit Card CEO and Elected Members.
3. THAT Council adopts the Credit Card for Chief Executive Officer and Elected Members Policy at **Attachment 13.1.2.3** to Report entitled Council Policy Review - Credit Card CEO and Elected Members.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1796 - 18/03/2025

13.1.3 Review of Open Data Policy

Moved: Councillor Garden

Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT Report entitled Review of Open Data Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the amended Open Data Policy at **Attachment 13.1.3.3** to Report entitled Review of Open Data Policy.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1797 - 18/03/2025

13.1.4 Review of Shared Services Policy

Moved: Councillor Fraser

Seconded: Councillor Eveleigh

1. THAT Report entitled Review of Shared Services Policy be received and noted.

Initials:

2. THAT Council adopts the amended Shared Services Policy at **Attachment 13.1.4.3** to Report entitled Review of Shared Services Policy.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1798 - 18/03/2025

13.2 Receive and note reports

13.2.1 Major Capital Projects Update

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT Report entitled Major Capital Projects Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1799 - 18/03/2025

13.2.2 Palmerston Youth Festival Program 2025

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Councillor Eveleigh

THAT Report entitled Palmerston Youth Festival Program 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/1) - 10/1800 - 18/03/2025

13.2.3 Financial Report for the Month of February 2025

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Councillor Fraser

THAT Report entitled Financial Report for the Month of February 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1801 - 18/03/2025

13.2.4 Advisory Committee Member Remuneration

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

THAT Report entitled Advisory Committee Member Remuneration be received and noted.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1802 - 18/03/2025

Initials: _____

14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Information

Nil

14.2 Correspondence

Nil

15 REPORT OF DELEGATES

Nil

16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Eveleigh

1. THAT the question asked by Councillor Morrison regarding City of Palmerston App not providing an email acknowledgement to the user, and the response provided by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer be received and noted.
2. THAT the question asked by Councillor Morrison regarding Charles Darwin University Durack Tennis Courts being indefinitely closed and additional courts to be considered with the Play Space Strategy be taken on notice by the Chief Executive Officer.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1803 - 18/03/2025

17 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

18 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Moved: Councillor Garden
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 1 April 2025 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1804 - 18/03/2025

Initials: _____



19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Eveleigh

THAT pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

CARRIED (8/0) - 10/1805 - 18/03/2025

20 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

Nil

The open section of the meeting closed at 6.04 pm for the discussion of confidential matters.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.10pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

Initials: