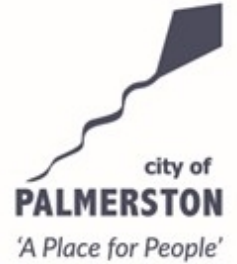


AGENDA



COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELLNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2026

The Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee 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 a horizontal line.

ANDREW WALSH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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2 OPENING OF MEETING

3 APOLOGIES

4 AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING

4.1 Request for audio/audiovisual conferencing

4.2 Audio/Audiovisual conferencing previously granted

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Committee members

5.2 Staff

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of minutes

Nil

6.2 Business arising from previous meeting

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 City of Palmerston Community Plan Health Check

THAT the presentation by Executive Manager Organisational Performance, Penny Hart and Governance Lead, Angie Torr on the City of Palmerston Community Plan Health Check be received and noted.

8 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

8.1 Moving confidential items into open

8.2 Moving open items into confidential

8.3 Confidential items

Nil



9 OFFICER REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Meeting

Agenda Item:	9.1.1
Report Title:	Animal Management Plan
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 24 March 2026
Author:	Regulatory Services Manager, Danny Hughes
Approver:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

Community plan

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

Future Focused: Ensuring sustainable and contemporary service delivery

Purpose

This Report is to present the draft Animal Management Plan (AMP) 2026-2030 to the Community Safety Wellbeing Advisory Committee (CSWAC) for information and discussion prior to broader Council and community consultation.

The Committee's feedback will assist Council in ensuring the Plan reflects community priorities, promotes responsible pet ownership, and supports a safe and harmonious environment for people and animals across the municipality.

Key messages

This report provides the following key messages:

- Why the AMP is being reviewed.
- Key changes to legislation and community expectations.
- Strategic direction of animal management in the municipality.
- The proposed focus areas that will guide animal management from 2026-2030.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Animal Management Plan be received and noted.

2. THAT the CSWAC Committee provides the following feedback and recommendations to inform the finalisation of the Plan prior to Council consideration and community consultation.
 - a. (Insert feedback from CSWAC).

Background

The previous Companion Animal Management Plan for City of Palmerston was due for a review.

Since the previous Plan was developed, several important changes have occurred, including:

- Updates to legislation within the Northern Territory relating to animal welfare and protection.
- Increased community expectations regarding responsible pet ownership and animal welfare.
- Continued residential growth and urban expansion within the municipality.
- The adoption of the City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024, which came into effect on 1 July 2024.

Given these changes, it is important that Council adopt an updated AMP that reflects legislative changes, community expectations, and modern Regulatory best practices.

The new Plan will guide Council's approach to animal management over the next four years (2026-2030).

Discussion

The draft AMP aligns with City of Palmerston Community Plan, particularly:

- Outcome 1 – *Family and Community: Palmerston is a safe and family friendly community where everyone belongs.*
- Outcome 2 – *Future Focussed: Ensuring sustainable and contemporary service delivery.*

The Plan outlines Council's strategic approach to animal management and aims to balance several important priorities including:

- Community safety.
- Animal welfare.
- Education and Responsible pet ownership.
- Encouraging voluntary compliance of animal management by-laws.

The Plan reflects a modern approach to regulation that places a strong emphasis on education, engagement, early intervention and community engagement, while maintaining appropriate enforcement where required. Furthermore, the Plan will ensure Council has the capability and resources to deliver effective animal management services to the community.

Strategic Focus Areas (2026-2030)

The draft AMP is built around **four key focus areas** that will guide Council's animal management activities over the next four years.

1. Responsible Ownership

Supporting responsible pet ownership by providing education, clear expectations and guidance to pet owners to ensure the safety and wellbeing of animals and the broader community.

2. Education and Engagement

Increasing community awareness through education programs, campaigns and community engagement initiatives that encourage responsible behaviour and reduce animal-related issues.

3. Commitment and Capability

Ensuring Council's Ranger team has the appropriate skills, training and resources to deliver professional, responsive and community-focused animal management services.

4. Advocacy and Partnerships

Strengthening partnerships with veterinarians, animal welfare organisations, community groups and other stakeholders to support improved animal welfare outcomes and responsible pet ownership.

It is expected the plan will provide the following outcomes:

- Provide strategic direction for animal management in Palmerston.
- Support a safe and harmonious community for people and pets.
- Improve transparency and consistency in regulatory decision making.
- Strengthen collaboration between Council, community organisations and members of the public.
- Ensure Council continues to respond effectively to changing community needs.

Internal consultation with City of Palmerston staff has been considered and incorporated into the draft AMP. Consultation has been initiated with the Community Safety Network, with feedback currently pending.

The draft AMP represents a necessary and timely strategic reset for animal management within the municipality. With the previous Plan long overdue for review and the introduction of the Animal Management By-Laws in 2024, Council can now align regulatory delivery with contemporary standards, community expectations, and long-term strategic outcomes.

Consultation and marketing

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

- Regulatory Services Operations Coordinator.

- General Manager Community.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

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

Risk, legal and legislative implications

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:

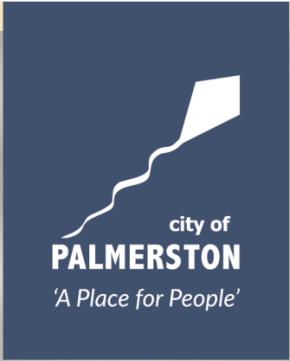
- [Companion Animal Management Plan](#)

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

1. Animal Management Plan 2026 2030 DRAFT V 02 - formatting [9.1.1.1 - 21 pages]



**CITY OF PALMERSTON ANIMAL
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2026 - 2030**

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MAYORS MESSAGE

VISION AND OBJECTIVE

Vision

Palmerston is a safe and family-friendly community where people and pets belong, and responsible pet ownership supports a happy and safe community.

Objective

The Animal Management Plan outlines City of Palmerston's commitment to education, engagement, compliance and service excellence to protect animal welfare and strengthen community safety.

City of Palmerston Community Plan Alignment

The Animal Management Plan underpins City of Palmerston's Community Plan in that it aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Family and Community: Palmerston is a safe and family friendly community where everyone belongs; and
- Future Focused: Palmerston is an innovative city that sustains itself through the challenges of the future.

FOCUS AREAS



BACKGROUND

City of Palmerston is a growing and diverse community where pets are valued members of many households. As our city continues to grow, so too does the need for clear expectations, responsible pet ownership, and effective animal management practices to support a safe and family-friendly environment.

Animal management plays an important role in maintaining community safety, protecting animal welfare, and promoting respectful neighbourhoods. While most pet owners act responsibly, issues such as roaming animals, nuisance behaviours, animal attacks, and inadequate care can impact both people and pets.

As the previous Animal Management By-Laws were long overdue for a review, two comprehensive community engagements took place over 3 years of the development of the By-Laws. Much of the community feedback informed the current Animal Management By-Laws which were officially introduced on 1 July 2024.

This Animal Management Plan provides a clear framework for how City of Palmerston will deliver education, engagement, compliance, and animal care services over the next four years. It outlines the shared responsibilities between Council and the community to ensure animals are treated humanely and managed appropriately.

City of Palmerston's responsibilities are guided by the City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024, relevant Northern Territory legislation, including the *Animal Protection Act 2018* and associated regulations, which establish standards for animal welfare and care.

Through collaboration, education, and professional service delivery, City of Palmerston aims to ensure that people and pets can thrive together in a safe and supportive environment.

OR

City of Palmerston is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the Northern Territory, and with new residents comes new pets. The previous Animal Management By-Laws were in place for over 20 years and were fast becoming redundant.

In 2021, City of Palmerston began the process of updating its Animal Management By-Laws in the effort to improve animal management, align with more contemporary regulations, and ensure a safe community for both pet owners and non-pet owners.

Two comprehensive community engagements took place over 3 years of the development of the By-Laws. Much of the community feedback informed the current Animal Management By-Laws which were officially put in place 1 July 2024.

This Animal Management Plan sets the overarching goals to achieve overall compliance, responsible pet ownership, and to support a harmonious safe community.

BUILDING BLOCKS

City of Palmerston Animal Management By-Laws



City of Palmerston Animal Management Policy



City of Palmerston Community Plan



CITY OF PALMERSTON ANIMAL MANAGEMENT BY-LAWS 2024

The purpose of City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws is to *'provide for the keeping of animals within the municipality in a manner compatible with the enjoyment by residents of a congenial living environment.'*

The [City of Palmerston \(Animal Management\) By-Laws 2024](#) came into effect on 1 July 2024 and enabled Council to continue to deliver effective animal management services tailored to the evolving needs of the community, by addressing:

- Responsible ownership of cats and dogs.
- Menacing, attacking and dangerous dogs.
- Seizure and impounding of dogs and cats.
- Livestock and Poultry.
- Administrative matters.
- Infringement notices for offences.
- Repeal and transitional matters.

CITY OF PALMERSTON ANIMAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

Council's Animal Management Policy was an important starting point and aims to establish an effective, fair, practical, and consistent approach to Animal Management by balancing education, awareness, community expectations and safety, and responsible pet ownership.

This policy covers:

- Dog and Cat Registration & Licensing.
- Seizing and Impounding.
- Dog Exercise Areas.
- Education, Compliance and Enforcement.
- Domestic Livestock and Poultry.

[The Animal Management Policy](#) provides direction and guidance in relation to the application and enforcement of City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024 and applies to the City of Palmerston Local Government Area.

CITY OF PALMERSTON COMMUNITY PLAN

The Animal Management Plan underpins and gives effect to the outcomes of City of Palmerston's Community Plan which aligns to the following outcomes:

- Outcome 1 – *Family and Community* - Palmerston is a safe, friendly, family city that offers a high-quality lifestyle, a happy sanctuary. As a community, we want to foster the wellbeing of families and individuals of our community. In Palmerston everyone belongs, and we care for each other. When people feel safe, are secure and supported in their community, they participate actively and can fully enjoy what Palmerston has to offer.
- Outcome 4 – *A Future Focus* - Palmerston is full of opportunities and is a leading regional community. Palmerston is an inspirational city into the future for generations to come. We forecast and respond to the predictability of change, and in doing so plan the best use of our human, built and natural resources. We model best practice in smart cities and attract and keep people with the skills we need for the future. Palmerston promotes progress.

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FOCUS AREA 1: RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

Council Role

City of Palmerston is committed to providing high-quality services to respond to resident requests, investigations, and complaints efficiently. Council works collaboratively with residents through education, engagement, and enforcement to:

- Address pet-related issues caused by frustration or boredom, such as barking, escaping, chasing, or fence-jumping.
- Proactively report animal welfare concerns to the Animal Welfare Branch while also responding directly when necessary.
- Provide educational opportunities, facilities, and services to support responsible pet ownership and reduce nuisance behaviours.
- Align programs with national animal welfare standards, including the RSPCA's Five Freedoms.

Community Role

Responsible pet ownership refers to the commitment and actions taken by pet owners to ensure the well-being, health and happiness of their pets throughout their lives. It involves providing appropriate care, understanding the specific needs of their pet, training and controlling them, fostering a community where both people and pets can thrive together.

RSPCA Australia adopted the Five Freedoms as part of its policy, and these continue to play a crucial role in consideration of animal welfare by Council today.

1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst.
2. Freedom from Discomfort.
3. Freedom from Pain, Injury, or Disease.
4. Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour.
5. Freedom from Fear and Distress.

Every pet owner has an obligation to take reasonable care of their animals and to prevent any adverse impacts on the community from improper or negligent animal welfare.

Responsible pet owners provide appropriate nutrition, shelter, exercise, and engagement to enhance the physical and mental well-being of their animals.

Five Freedoms and care	Provide appropriate nutrition, shelter, exercise, and engagement to enhance the physical and mental well-being
Microchipping	Ensure your cat or dog is microchipped for prompt identification/reunification
Licencing	More than animals (cats or dogs) required a licence
Adhere to Legislation	Ensure you adhere to By-Laws
Obtain PIC	Livestock and Poultry require a PIC (Property Identification Code)

All animals in the Northern Territory (NT) are entitled to a standard level of care for their welfare, health and safety under the *Animal Protection Act 2018* and *Animal Protection Regulations 2022*.

Strategic Intent

Promote responsible pet ownership to ensure the welfare, health, and happiness of all pets while fostering a safe and harmonious community.

Key Strategies and Actions

For successful responsible ownership, the following key strategies will be adhered to:

- Educate the community about the Five Freedoms and animal welfare standards.
- Support pet owners to meet the Animal Management By-laws and other relevant legislation requirements (licensing, microchipping, PICs).
- Reduce nuisance behaviours caused by pets through engagement, training, and enrichment.
- Provide accessible education, facilities, and support services for pet care.
- Encourage proactive reporting of welfare concerns while collaborating with the RSPCA and Animal Welfare Branch.

City of Palmerston will achieve the above-mentioned strategies, by carrying out the following actions:

- Develop and distribute education resources on the Five Freedoms and responsible pet care. Social Media posts, and fact sheets on both the Council's website and by handing out flyers at council sponsored events to members of the public will engage and educate the community.
- Conduct community workshops and school programs promoting welfare, training, and enrichment. Rangers will attend providing face to face presentations.
- Implementation awareness campaigns for microchipping, licencing, and compliance with legislation. Rangers will periodically run pop up stalls at shopping centres.
- Provide guidance on nutrition, shelter, exercise, and mental stimulation for pets. Rangers will provide this advice and guidance through their regular dealings with members of the public and attending animal incidences.
- Establishing clear reporting pathways for residents to notify City of Palmerston or the Animal Welfare Branch of welfare concerns.

Measures of Success

City of Palmerston will rely upon the following to determine the measures of success:

- The percentage of registered and microchipped pets in City of Palmerston analysing year on year numbers.
- The number of residents attending education workshops or accessing resources.
- Reduction in reported animal incidences (barking, animal attacks, uncontained animals, etc).
- The number of welfare issues reported and resolved in collaboration with the Animal Welfare Branch.
- Community satisfaction rating through periodical community survey feedback forms.

Timeframe

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Establish baseline data, launch pilot education campaigns, distribute resources	Expand workshops and school programs, run microchipping/licencing campaigns, evaluate engagement		Review education outcomes, update strategy for next AMP cycle, ensuring sustainability of responsible pet ownership programs	

FOCUS AREA 2: EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Education and engagement focus on raising awareness of Council programs, facilities, regulations and resources, and encouraging responsible behaviours among pet owners and the community. This involves providing education about proper pet care and the importance of animal welfare and management for a safe and harmonious community.

The community is our greatest asset in effective animal management and care. A lack of care, control and containment contributes to increased numbers of feral animals in the community.

Our Animal Management Plan aims to educate current (and potential future) pet owners about responsible pet ownership and to keep our pets and community safe. Our education and engagement efforts involve ongoing programs and scheduled educational initiatives including:

- Educational campaigns through marketing channels
- Community engagement opportunities with residents and attendance at community events
- Ranger-led events and engagement opportunities (such as free microchipping days)
- Free resources and educational materials

Council Role

Our Ranger team is committed to engaging with the community in positive, educational settings to build rapport and bridge the gap between community education and enforcement.

Educational activities include one-off events, seasonal promotion of elements relating to responsible pet ownership (e.g. desexing, wet-season storm or fireworks management of your dog), or ongoing animal management campaigns.

City of Palmerston's animal registration campaign conducted prior to 1 September every year, provides an opportunity for pet owners and Rangers to work together to ensure microchip details are accurately recorded and ownership details are kept up to date.

Our Ranger team is responsible for enforcing the Animal Management By-Laws and providing direction in matters relating to animal management. This is critical in the effective management of pets in Palmerston and is integral to achieving a harmonious and safe co-existence within our community.

City of Palmerston will bridge the gap between education and enforcement, fostering community rapport and compliance.

City of Palmerston will ensure that educational materials and resources via Council programs, events, and the official Council website are openly available to pet owners.

Community Role

It is important that the community takes the opportunity to engage with Council Rangers and build awareness of responsible ownership and what information is available.

Council has developed a range of animal management-related education and resources to assist pet owners which can all be found on our [website](#).

Strategic Intent

Increase community awareness and engagement to promote responsible pet ownership, compliance with regulations, and a safe, harmonious community.

Key Strategies and Actions

Conduct ongoing educational campaigns using multiple marketing channels

City of Palmerston will achieve this through social media campaigns, email newsletters, local media engagement, flyers/factsheets, community events /pop up stalls, and through its digital platform official website.

Collaborations with external stakeholders including the RSPCA, AMRRIC, or local Vet clinics to co-promote responsible pet ownership and welfare initiatives.

Seasonal campaigns in the NT's 'build up' around heat safety tips for pets, fireworks safety campaigns around Northern Territory Day (1 July), and wet season storm preparation for pets to occur.

Schedule community events, including free microchipping and animal welfare days

City of Palmerston will implement periodical free microchipping events for cats and dogs. This will also include educational sessions for owners about updating microchip details and registration requirements. Hosting of these events will normally occur at Council events ie. Brekky in the park, or other associated events with other external stakeholders.

Targeted Seasonal Events

Fireworks and storm safety awareness information provided to the public prior to seasonal changes in weather or event day celebrations.

Community Pop-Up Info Booths

City of Palmerston will set up temporary booths in Shopping Centres, parks, or libraries for pet owners to ask questions and collect resources. Information will include obligations around registration and microchipping to increase compliance.

Monitor and support community engagement outcomes and feedback

Rangers will monitor community engagement outcomes and feedback through analysing data and assessing feedback to ascertain whether education/awareness programs and other activities are having a positive effect.

Measures of Success

City of Palmerston will rely upon the following to determine the measures of success:

- Number of community members participating in engagement events and programs
- Increase in animal registration and accurate microchip details
- Reduction in complaints related to uncontrolled or unmanaged pets
- Number of educational resources distributed or accessed online
- Community satisfaction rating with Council's education and engagement initiatives.

Timeframe

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Launch foundational educational campaigns, conduct pilot engagement events, distribute resources	Expand campaigns and engagement opportunities, track participation and compliance trends, refine seasonal programs		Evaluate program outcomes, update education and engagement strategy, ensure sustainability and alignments with next AMP cycle.	

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FOCUS AREA 3: COMMITMENT AND CAPABILITY

Council Role

City of Palmerston is committed to delivering an effective and professional animal management service through skilled staff, strong leadership, sound governance, and continuous improvement.

Council's Regulatory Services team plays a critical operational role. Our team is equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge, and experience. The team is devoted to providing a high standard of care and animal management. Key operational roles for our Regulatory Services Team are:

Patrols	Conduct proactive and targeted patrols to monitor compliance and identify emerging issues.
Response	Responding promptly and professionally to community complaints and service requests.
Investigate	Undertake thorough investigations into animal-related incidents.
Engage	Engage constructively with residents to educate, inform, and encourage compliance.
Care	Provide humane care for lost, seized, or surrendered animals.
Reunite	Facilitate timely reunification of animals with their owners wherever possible.

Beyond operational delivery, City of Palmerston is responsible for ensuring Rangers are supported through training via practical and accredited qualifications, systems, resourcing, and policy frameworks that enable high-quality service delivery.

Strategic Intent

To build a skilled, professional, and future-ready animal management service capable of meeting growing community expectations and needs.

Key Strategies and Actions

Strengthen workforce capability through structured training and professional development

City of Palmerston will develop and implement an annual Ranger training and professional development plan. This will coincide with the yearly performance reviews.

Training in legislation, conflict resolution, animal behaviour, investigation techniques, and welfare standards will be offered to Rangers.

City of Palmerston will ensure all Rangers have relevant accredited qualifications in Certificate IV Government Investigations or other equivalencies.

Ensure adequate resourcing to meet service demand and community growth

Review staffing levels and operational capacity against population growth and service demand.

Embed continuous improvement practices into service delivery

Conduct periodical audits of investigations and compliance practices to ensure that there is compliance with legislation, policies, and procedures.

Reviewing complaints received to ascertain what Council is doing right and what it is getting wrong.

Measures of Success

City of Palmerston will rely upon the following to determine the measures of success:

- Number of Rangers completing annual professional development requirements.
- Average response time to service requests.
- Number of investigations completed within target timeframe.
- Staff retention and engagement levels.
- Reduction in repeat complaints due to improved intervention quality and best practice.

Timeframe

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Establish baseline performance data	Embed performance reporting and dashboard monitoring		Conduct full capability review of Animal Management Service	
Develop training framework and service benchmarks	Deliver structured professional development programs		Assess service delivery and resource alignment	
Review and update policies and procedures	Review workforce capacity against growth trends		Inform workforce planning for next AMP cycle	

FOCUS AREA 4: ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS

Council Role

Council's advocacy and partnerships will focus on building strong collaborations to enhance animal welfare, community safety, and regulatory effectiveness. This will create a unified approach to responsible pet ownership and management. Additionally, it will raise awareness, influence legislation and policy, and driving change by working with our community and networks to improve the lives of pets.

Strategic Intent

To keep our community safe and ensure the welfare of companion and domestic animals, we collaborate with a range of animal management and welfare agencies, local and national organisations, and community led groups and individuals. These partnerships enhance engagement, education and advocacy towards responsible pet ownership, recognising the 'on ground' role of community led initiatives.

City of Palmerston will formalise key animal management partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), and contractual agreements to strengthen collaboration, clarify roles and responsibilities, and deliver coordinated education, welfare, and compliance initiatives. These agreements will support improved service outcomes, regional consistency, and enhanced community safety.

Key Strategies and Actions

Formalise partnerships through agreements or MOUs

While there are collaboration and support that currently occurs with animal welfare organisations, veterinary providers, and neighbouring councils, formalising key partnerships through agreements, contracts, and MOUs will:

- Provide clarity of roles and responsibilities
- Improve coordination during complex or high-risk cases
- Strengthen animal welfare outcomes
- Improve accountability and transparency
- Support consistent messaging to the community

Formal agreements elevate partnerships from ad-hoc collaboration to structured, outcome-driven relationships aligned with the AMP's objectives.

Collaborate on joint welfare initiatives

Animal welfare outcomes cannot be achieved by council alone. Many of the issues with nuisance behaviour, abandonment, impoundment, and non-compliance stem from broader social, financial, and behavioural factors.

City of Palmerston will conduct joint welfare initiatives over the life of the AMP by:

- Working in partnerships with animal welfare organisation, veterinary clinics to support targeted desexing campaigns in low socio-economic areas of the municipality
- Promote desexing as a preventative welfare measure
- Coordinate community awareness campaigns around breeding control

The outcome will be reducing unwanted litters, lowering impoundment numbers, and improved animal health outcomes.

Community Microchipping Events

Based on the existing initiatives, joint delivery may include:

- Free or low-cost microchipping and registration day events at veterinary clinics
- Mobile outreach to high-risk neighbourhoods in collaboration with external stakeholders whilst conducting other animal welfare activities
- Combined registration and microchip verification events

Responsible Ownership Support Programs

In collaboration with welfare agencies, City of Palmerston will support residents experiencing hardship and support education sessions for first-time pet owners.

Measures of Success

City of Palmerston will rely upon the following to determine the measures of success:

- Reduction in impounded animals
- Increased desexing and microchipping rates
- Reduced repeat nuisance complaints
- Improved reunification numbers
- Positive Community Satisfaction Survey Feedback

Timeframe

2026	2027	2028	2029-30
Identify priority stakeholders Develop standard agreements / MOUs Commence discussions with key welfare organisations Pilot at least one joint initiative (microchipping or desexing event with stakeholders) Develop joint communications framework	Execute contractual agreements / MOUs Establish documented referral and escalation pathways Deliver annual coordinated welfare campaign Evaluate participation and impact	Formalise collaboration with neighbouring Councils (City of Darwin and Litchfield Council) for cross boundary issues Review initial partnership effectiveness Expand targeted outreach to identified high-risk areas Strengthen referral pathways for vulnerable owners	Expand or refine agreements / MOUs as required Conduct formal partnership review and renewal process Review data trends (impoundments, reunifications, nuisance complaints)

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Meeting

Agenda Item:	9.2.1
Report Title:	Community Services Update
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 24 March 2026
Author:	Community Connections Officer, Tree Gillam
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 provides the Community Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Committee with an update on Community Services activities, partnerships and community engagement initiatives delivered across Palmerston.

Key messages

- Harvest Corner Community Garden continues to operate successfully through partnerships with STEPS, Life Without Barriers, HPA Breaking Ground and community volunteers.
- International Women's Day 2026 attracted approximately 200 attendees and demonstrated strong partnerships between Council and local community organisations.
- Development of the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan (DIAP) 2026–2028 is progressing, with a working group established to guide the drafting process and support inclusive consultation.
- Community Consultation regarding the footpath linking Wright Crescent and Victoria Drive and the outdoor exercise equipment in Gray, concluded on 8 March 2026.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Community Services Update be received and noted.

Background

Community Services provides regular updates to the Community Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Committee on City of Palmerston's (CoP) community programs, partnerships and engagement activities occurring across Palmerston.

This report provides an update on the initiatives, events and projects year to date.

Discussion

Harvest Corner Community Garden

Despite a very wet start to the year, activity at Harvest Corner Community Garden has continued with strong support from community partners and volunteers. In January, the HPA Breaking Ground team supported weeding and general maintenance to ensure the garden continues to thrive.



Heliconia's and Acacia Dunnii Tree (Elephant Ear Wattle)

In February, the management team, STEPS and Life Without Barriers and HPA met with CoP staff to discuss the garden's operations, inclusion and access.

Throughout March, STEPS students continued their regular Thursday visits to the garden, harvesting produce including passionfruit, bananas, lemons, kaffir limes, basil, lemongrass and chillies which are used to prepare meals for students and staff. With the dry season approaching, STEPS staff and students will begin planting seasonal vegetables, continuing the cycle of growing, harvesting and sharing produce with the community.



**Yvonne Coleman STEPS, Florence Henaway LWB,
Rachael Wright, HPA and CoP staff**

International Women's Day

In partnership with STEPS CoP, hosted the 2026 International Women's Day event at Gray Community Hall and Harvest Corner Gardens on 4 March.

This year's theme was "Balance the Scales", recognising the achievements of women while promoting gender equity and inclusion. Approximately 200 community members attended, with 11 community organisation stalls participating and a further 7 organisations attending the event.

The event featured guest presentations from NAAJA and YWCA Amplifying Voices, information stalls from local organisations including Services Australia, Legal Aid and Neighbourhood Watch, multicultural dance performances, Indigenous art activities and live music.



Arts and Crafts & STEPS students in traditional dress



Multicultural Dancers & Art activities

Disability Inclusion and Access Plan (DIAP)

The review of City of Palmerston's Disability Inclusion and Access Plan (DIAP) 2026–2028 is currently underway and builds on the achievements and learnings from Council's first DIAP.

In November 2025, CoP convened a DIAP working group workshop that brought together 12 participants representing people with lived experience of disability, disability service organisations, and community stakeholders.

The workshop provided valuable insights into the barriers people with disability can experience when accessing services, facilities and community activities, as well as opportunities for Council to strengthen inclusion across its programs, infrastructure and community engagement.

Feedback from the working group will inform the draft DIAP, with Council officers working across departments to identify practical actions that will support greater accessibility and inclusion across Council services and facilities.

The draft plan will be circulated to the Community Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Committee before public consultation.

Completed Actions

- Low Sensory Christmas Wonderland with Auslan interpreters.
- Closed captions have also been introduced at the Australia Day Ceremony and Flicnics.
- Installation of an all-abilities swing set at Sister Fredrick Mangan Park, Bellamack, the all-abilities swing set includes a basket swing, a 'you-and-me' toddlers swing, and two classic swings.
- Marlow's Lagoon play space saw an upgrade to the basket swing, improved pathway access, directional signage and a new shade structure.
- The refurbishment of the Marlow Junior Unit and Sanctuary Lakes Playgrounds incorporated musical features to support sensory play.



Councillor Morrison at Marlow's Lagoon & Sister Fredrick Mangan Park

Dementia Friendly Space

City of Palmerston Library and Recreation Centre worked with Dementia Australia and people with lived experience to gain certification from Dementia Australia as organisations working towards becoming Dementia friendly buildings. All library and Recreation Centre staff have completed training to become Friends of Dementia.

Parking

Additional disability parking space outside the Recreation Centre alongside kiss and go zone and updated painting and bollards at all abilities parking bays in the CBD.



New Parking Bays at Recreation Centre

Current Actions

Work is currently underway to enhance Civic Plaza, to become dementia friendly. Once complete, this will become the third Council facility recognised as a Dementia Friendly Space.

Elected Members will be encouraged to undertake Dementia Friendly Awareness Training to further understand and support people living with dementia within the Palmerston community.

Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Initiative

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program is an international initiative that supports people living with hidden disabilities such as autism, dementia, chronic pain, mental health conditions, and hearing or vision impairments.

By choosing to wear a sunflower lanyard, badge, or wristband, individuals can discreetly indicate that they may need additional support, patience, or understanding when accessing services or public spaces.

CoP has recently joined the Sunflower Program and is currently undertaking onboarding training to support the implementation of the initiative across Council services. CoP is also exploring opportunities to raise awareness within the wider Palmerston community and aims to work with local businesses and organisations to encourage broader participation, helping the program grow and further support inclusion across Palmerston.

Disability Confident Workshops

City of Palmerston is partnering with HPA to deliver free disability confident workforce workshops to local businesses in May, with aim of internal training sessions before the end of the financial year. The training is led by people with disabilities, to build confidence and skills in employing individuals with disabilities, fostering inclusive workplaces and expanding workforces by providing tools, support and resources for adjustments and recruitment.

Gray Community Hall

Council is committed to ensuring the safety of users and the surrounding community at Gray Community Hall. Concerns have been raised regarding the antisocial behaviour around the venue, including the footpath located behind the hall and the outdoor exercise equipment near Wright Crescent.

To seek community feedback, City of Palmerston undertook consultation, which included letters to nearby residents, social media notifications, direct engagement with Gray Community Hall user groups, and corflute signage placed at both ends of the footpath to invite public comment.

The consultation period concluded on 8 March following the 21-day feedback period. A report outlining the outcomes of the consultation, along with further consideration of potential fencing options, will be presented to Council in April 2026.



Area for community feedback

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 aligns with the City of Palmerston Strategic Risk Framework by supporting effective governance, inclusive community engagement and collaboration with stakeholders to identify and respond to emerging community safety and wellbeing issues.

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:

- [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

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Meeting

Agenda Item:	9.2.2
Report Title:	Network Update
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 24 March 2026
Author:	Community Connections Officer, Tree Gillam
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 provides the Community Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Committee with an update from the three (3) Network meetings held this quarter.

Key messages

- Following the commencement of the 11th Council Term, Council undertook a review of its Advisory Committees and Community Networks to ensure they remain effective, relevant and aligned with Council priorities and the Community Plan.
- Council endorsed the amalgamation of the Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network (PaRYS) and Palmerston Kids Networks (PKN) to establish the Palmerston Child and Youth Network (PCYN), strengthening collaboration and communication across early childhood and youth services in Palmerston.
- The revised network structure aims to streamline engagement processes, reduce duplication and enhance community and stakeholder participation in informing Council on emerging community issues.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Network Update be received and noted.

Background

At the 1st Ordinary Council Meeting of 9 December 2025 Council made the following decisions:


12.1.1 Council Advisory Committee Review and Membership

1. *THAT Report entitled Council Advisory Committee Review and Membership be received and noted.*
2. *THAT Council retains the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee, with amendments to remuneration in the existing Terms of Reference.*
3. *THAT Council endorses the proposed changes to the Advisory Committees and Networks as outlined in this report.*
4. *THAT Council abolish the following Council Advisory Committees and Networks:*
 - (a) *a. Community Safety Advisory Committee.*
 - (b) *Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee.*
 - (c) *Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network.*
 - (d) *Palmerston Kids Network.*
 - (e) *Palmerston Animal Management Network.*
5. *THAT Council establish the following Advisory Committee and Networks, noting that Advisory Committees and Networks have no delegated authority:*
 - (a) *Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee. b. Palmerston Child and Youth Network.*
6. *THAT in accordance with section 83(4) of the Local Government Act 2019, Council endorse the following Terms of Reference relating to the report entitled Council Advisory Committee Review and Membership:*
 - (a) *Network Terms of Reference, Attachment 12.1.1.1*
 - (b) *Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee, Attachment 12.1.1.2.*
 - (c) *Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Attachment 12,1.1.3.*

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0146 - 9/12/2025

Following the commencement of the 11th Council Term, Council undertook a review of its Advisory Committees and Community Networks to ensure they continue to operate effectively and support Council in achieving the outcomes of the Community Plan.

Community Networks provide a forum for collaboration, information sharing and consultation between community members, organisations, service providers and Council. The Networks support Advisory Committees by identifying emerging community issues and providing insights that inform advice and recommendations to Council.



Council endorsed changes to the network structure in December 2025. This included the amalgamation of the Palmerston and Youth Services Network (PaRYS) and Palmerston Kids Networks (PKN) to form the Palmerston Child and Youth Network (PCYN).

The revised structure also introduced a streamlined meeting format, where summaries are shared after meetings instead of formal minutes.

Key discussions and updates from the February 2026 network meetings are provided below.

Discussion

The first Community Network meetings under the revised structure were held in February 2026, with the following updates provided.

Palmerston Child and Youth Network (PCYN)

The first PCYN meeting was held on Tuesday, 3 February 2026, chaired by Deputy Mayor Hale.

Updates were provided by City of Palmerston followed by member updates from a range of organisations.

Discussions included:

- Palmerston Pool entry fees, with Council advising that free entry currently remains in place until 1 July 2026.
- Driver Resource Centre upgrades, with advice that the timeline is currently unknown and subject to funding.
- Members agreed their contact details could be shared to support network collaboration.

A [Trello Board](#) remains available for sharing youth-related information (ages 12–25).

The next PCYN meeting will be held on 7 April 2026.

Palmerston Seniors Network (PSN)

The first PSN meeting of 2026 was held on Tuesday, 10 February 2026, chaired by Councillor Henderson.

Updates were provided by City of Palmerston, followed by member updates from a range of organisations.

Discussions included:

- Gray Community Hall, Council's decision at the 3 February 2026 Council meeting to investigate fencing options.

- Potholes across Palmerston, with advice that repairs can be challenging during the wet season due to material requirements and contractor availability across both Darwin and Palmerston municipalities.

The next PSN meeting will be held on 14 April 2026.

Palmerston Safe Communities Network (PSCN)

The first PSCN meeting of 2026 was held on Tuesday, 17 February 2026, chaired by Councillor Henderson.

Updates were provided by City of Palmerston, followed by member updates.

Topics Included:

- Safety planning for the Palmerston Markets, with the Office of Youth Affairs proposing a coordinated stakeholder meeting to support early safety planning.
- Shock Therapy Arts – “The Stones”, with the Community Services Officer exploring the possibility of engaging Zeal Theatre to deliver the production locally to raise awareness of the impacts of rock throwing on vehicles and buses. *The Stones* is an award-winning theatre production based on a true story that explores the consequences of risk-taking behaviour among young people. The play follows two teenagers who are charged with manslaughter after throwing a rock from a freeway overpass, resulting in the death of a driver. Through a powerful and minimalist performance style, the production examines themes of peer pressure, responsibility, and the lasting impact of impulsive decisions. Since its premiere in 1996, *The Stones* has been performed internationally and is widely recognised as an effective educational tool for engaging young audiences in discussions about safety and decision-making. It is hoped that agencies will collaborate to consider this opportunity for the community. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

The next PSCN meeting will be held on 21 April 2026.

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.

4. Inclusion, Diversity and Access

Failure to balance meeting needs of Palmerston's cultural mosaic.

6. Governance

Failure to effectively govern.

This report aligns with the City of Palmerston Strategic Risk Framework by supporting effective governance, inclusive community engagement and collaboration with stakeholders to identify and respond to emerging community safety and wellbeing issues.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

- [Disability Inclusion Access Plan 2022-2025](#)

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

Nil



10 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Information

10.2 Correspondence

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

12 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

THAT the next Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 23 June 2026 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING