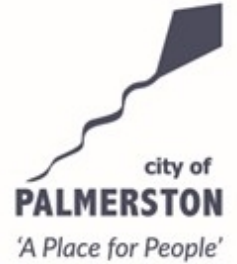


AGENDA



2nd ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026

The Ordinary Meeting of City of Palmerston will be held in the Community Hall, Gray Community Hall, Corner Essington Avenue and Victoria Drive, Gray 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.


ANDREW WALSH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2 OPENING OF MEETING

3 APOLOGIES

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

4.1 Elected members

4.2 Staff

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

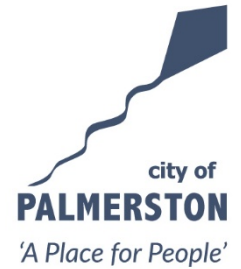
5.1 Confirmation of minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 April 2026 pages 12100 to 12108 be confirmed.

5.2 Business arising from previous meeting

6 MAYORAL REPORT

MAYORAL REPORT



2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	6.1
Report Title:	Mayoral Update Report - March 2026
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	Mayor, Athina Pascoe-Bell

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report provides an overview of events the Mayor has attended in March 2026 on behalf of Council.

Key messages

- As the principal member of Council, the Mayor undertakes regular activities and attends events to speak on Council's behalf.
- During the month of March 2026, the Mayor attended meetings with Ministers, MLA's and Government Departments.
- This Report provides context on several events that were attended by the Mayor, on Council's behalf.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Mayoral Update Report - March 2026 be received and noted.

Discussion

As the principal member of Council, the Mayor undertakes regular activities and attends events on behalf of Council.

An overview of events attended by the Mayor during the month of March 2026 is as follows:

- Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Constitution Review.
- Meeting with the Salvation Army.
- Zuccoli Pump Track media event.
- Monthly meeting with the Member for Fong Lim, Dr Tanzil Rahman.

- Monthly meeting with Member for Blain, Matthew Kerle.
- Quarterly meeting with Minister Joshua Burgoyne.
- Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Mayors and Presidents forum.
- Quarterly meeting of the Top End Regional Organisation of Councils.
- Regional Capitals of Australia full member planning meeting.
- Australian Institute of Company Directors governance essentials for Local Government course.
- 2026 TIO NTFL Grand Final Function.
- Minister Charles MLA, Harmony Day 2026 event.
- Harmony Day Citizenship Ceremonies.
- General meeting and 35th anniversary of the Palmerston and Rural RSL Sub Branch.
- Greek Independence Day wreath laying ceremony.
- Palmerston and Litchfield Seniors Association social event.
- Darwin Major Business Group 2026 AEC report launch.
- Quarterly meeting with Minister Bill Yan.

Zuccoli Pump Track media event

The recent media opportunity at the Zuccoli Pump Track highlighted the opening of this exciting new facility, which provides riders of all ages and skill levels with a dedicated space to roll, ride and connect. As part of stage two of the growing Zuccoli Community Hub, the track features coloured lines catering to beginner, intermediate and advanced users, supporting active lifestyles and inclusive recreation opportunities. It was encouraging to see strong community interest and enthusiasm for the facility and the broader hub development. Delivered in partnership with the Northern Territory Government, projects like this demonstrate Council's ongoing commitment to creating vibrant spaces that enhance liveability across Palmerston.



Kyle, The Hon. Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro, Mayor Pascoe-Bell and Alfred at the Zuccoli Pump Track

Quarterly meeting with Minister Joshua Burgoyne

I recently met with the Honourable Minister Joshua Burgoyne to discuss a range of priorities for Palmerston, including the recent Mitchell Creek Concept Plan. The discussion provided an opportunity to explore the plan's findings and consider future opportunities to enhance amenity, connectivity and long-term planning outcomes for the area. It was a constructive meeting that reinforced the importance of ongoing collaboration between Council and the Northern Territory Government to progress shared priorities. Council looks forward to continuing these conversations as planning for the Mitchell Creek area evolves.



Hon Joshua Burgoyne and Mayor Pascoe-Bell

Australian Institute of Company Directors governance essentials for Local Government course

I along with other Elected Members recently undertook a Professional Development opportunity and attended Governance Essentials for Local Government training. This provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen knowledge and capability in contemporary governance practices. The program explored key areas including roles and responsibilities, decision-making frameworks and maintaining effective oversight in a local government context. Participation in this training supports a continued commitment to strong leadership, accountability and best practice governance. Ongoing professional development of this nature helps ensure Council remains well-equipped to meet the needs and expectations of our growing 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

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



Attachments

Nil

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)

9 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

9.1 Moving confidential items into open

9.2 Moving open items into confidential

9.3 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
26.1.1	Council Property Agreements and Contracts	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 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 that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.
26.2.1	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 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 that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

26.2.2	Contract and Tender Assessment and Award	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(i) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.
27.2.1	External Presentation Request	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(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.

10 PETITIONS

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

12 OFFICER REPORTS

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.1
Report Title:	Australia Day Celebrations
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	Acting City Activation Manager, Sophie Walkington
Approver:	General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report seeks Council's approval to move the City of Palmerston Australia Day Ceremony and Awards from the afternoon to the morning from 26 January 2027.

Key messages

- The Australia Day Ceremony is hosted annually on 26 January at the Palmerston Recreation Centre.
- Palmerston's Australia Day Ceremony includes a Citizenship Ceremony and announcing Palmerston Australia Day Award winners.
- The event is delivered with the support of the National Australia Day Council and Australia Day NT through grant funding.
- In previous years, the Australia Day Ceremony has been held in the afternoon due to conflicting events occurring in neighbouring municipalities.
- It is being recommended that the Ceremony and Awards are moved to the morning from 2026.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Australia Day Celebrations be received and noted.

2. THAT Council endorse the Australia Day Ceremony to be hosted in the morning on 26 January 2027.

Background

Each year, City of Palmerston is proud to host the Australia Day Ceremony on 26 January. This inclusive community event celebrates our nation's diversity and unity by honouring our shared past and looking forward to a bright future, and has previously been held in the afternoon due to conflicting events in neighbouring municipalities.

The day's formalities include a Citizenship Ceremony, welcoming our newest Australians; a Ceremonial Flag Raising, symbolising our national pride and the announcement of the Palmerston Australia Day Award winners, recognising outstanding local contributions.

At the 1st Ordinary Council Meeting of 3 February 2026 Council made the following decisions:

16.2 Australia Day Celebrations

THAT Council propose a review of the timing and request a shift from 1.00pm to earlier in the day, for the Australia Day Celebrations and request a report back to 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting of April 2026.

CARRIED 11/0217 - 03/02/2026

Discussion

In previous years, City of Palmerston has hosted its Australia Day Ceremony in the afternoon to avoid clashes with other Australia Day events held across the Darwin and Litchfield municipalities, allowing key dignitaries to attend multiple ceremonies.

While Darwin and Litchfield continue to host their events in the morning, a recent shift toward a stronger community-focused celebration, rather than formal proceedings, has provided Council officers with the opportunity to review City of Palmerston's Australia Day Ceremony including shifting the event to the morning.

Council Officers are reviewing the event deliverables to ensure they align with community needs while remaining compliant with grant funding guidelines. One of the proposed changes includes a recommendation to host the event in the morning.

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 implications for this report. The Australia Day Ceremony is included in the current City Activation Events budget.

The total expenses for the 2026 Australia Day Ceremony amounted to \$61,300, while the Australia Day Cocktail Party totalled \$6,021.95. These event expenses were partially funded through grant support provided by the Australia Day Council and the Australia Day NT Council. Each year, event expenditure is required to be equal to or greater than the previous year's expenses to receive full grant funding. The higher overall event costs reflect increased supplier and staffing rates associated with the Australia Day public holiday.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

4. Inclusion, Diversity and Access

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

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

- [Creative Industries Plan 2023-2027](#)

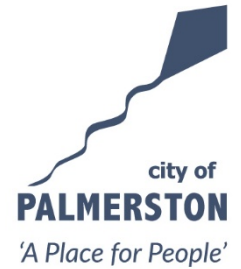
Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

Nil

COUNCIL REPORT



2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.2
Report Title:	Council Policy Review – Accountable Forms (Members and CEO) Policy
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	Executive Manager Financial Performance, Jeffrey Guilas
Approver:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report seeks Council approval to adopt the updated Council’s existing policy entitled Accountable Forms (Members and CEO).

Key messages

- The Accountable Forms (Member and CEO) Policy adopted by the City of Palmerston on 21 June 2022 is reflective of the requirements of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021.
- The policy is attached to this report and an update to the existing policy is suggested during the review.
- Minor administrative changes were made to the policy.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Council Policy Review – Accountable Forms (Members and CEO) Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the Accountable Forms (Members and CEO) Policy at **Attachment 12.1.2.3** to Report entitled Council Policy Review – Accountable Forms (Members and CEO) Policy.

Background

The Local Government Act 2019 and associated regulations came into effect on 1 July 2021. Regulations 6(d)(iii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 requires Council to adopt a policy by resolution for the use of Accountable Forms by Elected Members and CEO.

Council previously adopted the Accountable Forms (Members and CEO) Policy on 21 June 2022. The policy is due for review in accordance with Council Policy Review Schedule.

Discussion

Accountable forms are readily negotiable financial instruments, other than cash, that can be used as method of payment for expenditure (e.g. Cheques, taxi vouchers, travel documents, sports vouchers, ticket vouchers, or meal vouchers). This policy outlines the responsibilities by Elected Members and CEO and how to safeguard these forms.

Due to the transactional financial nature of these accountable forms, similar to cash, there is inherent potential risk of theft, fraud, loss or misuse. City of Palmerston has a number of administrative measures in place to mitigate these risks.

The current Accountable Forms Policy (Members and CEO) at **Attachment 12.1.2.1** provides guidance on how to monitor and safeguard the forms and complies with the Local Government Act. The guidance includes:

- Using the forms only in the course of conducting official Council business.
- If used for private purpose the full value of the transaction must be reimbursed.
- Once accountable forms have been used, copy of the receipt and the invoice must be submitted to authorised delegate with details of the use and time.
- Individual members and CEO are responsible for ensuring the accountable forms are kept in safe and secure place to minimize the risk of theft or unauthorised transactions.
- Unused or expired accountable forms must not be destroyed and must be returned to the issuing authorised delegate.

The review of the policy led to minor amendments, which are also outlined in **Attachment 12.1.2.2**. These changes include:

- Setting a due date for the return of unused accountable forms within 10 business days from the date of issue.
- Minor amendments to References and Related Legislations.

These changes are minor in nature and do not change the intention of the policy.

Consultation and marketing

Given the nature of the existing policy being a Council legislative measure, no further internal consultation is required.

Policy implications

If adopted, the amended version of the policy as presented at **Attachment 12.1.2.3** to Report entitled Council Policy Review – Accountable Forms (Members and CEO) Policy, will become the new policy of the Council.

Budget and resource implications

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

Risk, legal and legislative implications

The policy provides guidance on how to monitor and safeguard accountable forms due to their inherent risk of theft, fraud, loss or misuse and combined administrative policy and processes mitigate risk.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

2. Financial Sustainability

Failure of Council to be financially sustainable to deliver key services and infrastructure for the community.

6. Governance

Failure to effectively govern.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

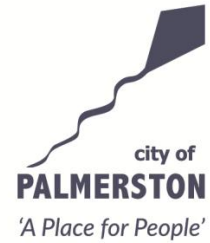
There are no strategy, framework or plan implications for this Report.

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. Current Policy Council Policy Accountable Forms Members and CEO [**12.1.2.1** - 3 pages]
2. Council Policy - Accountable Forms Tracked Changed.docx [**12.1.2.2** - 3 pages]
3. Council Policy - Accountable Forms (Members and CEO) Final [**12.1.2.3** - 3 pages]



ACCOUNTABLE FORMS (MEMBERS AND CEO)

COUNCIL POLICY

PURPOSE

To ensure the proper use and management of accountable forms issued to members and the CEO for the purposes of conducting Council business.

PRINCIPLES

The City of Palmerston is committed to the safe custody, provision and proper use of accountable forms by members and the CEO whilst conducting council business. Members and the CEO are required to apply good judgement for all expenditure incurred whilst conducting council business.

DEFINITIONS

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

TERM	DEFINITION
Authorised Delegate	Means any staff member within Council who has been delegated appropriate authority by the CEO to undertake the specified function on the CEO's behalf.
Member	Includes council members, committee members and local authority members.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Accountable forms

Accountable forms are readily negotiable financial instruments, other than cash, that can be used as a method of payment for expenditure (e.g. cheques, taxi vouchers, travel vouchers, sport vouchers or meal vouchers).

All accountable forms need to be carefully monitored and safeguarded due to their inherent risk of theft, fraud, loss or misuse.

2. Responsibilities of Members and the CEO

All members and the CEO are responsible for ensuring that accountable forms are only used in the course of conducting official council business. Accountable forms must not be used for private purposes.

In the event an accountable form is inadvertently used for private purposes, the full value of the transaction must be reimbursed to Council within seven business days.

Accountable forms may only be used by the individual member or CEO who has been issued with the accountable form. A member or the CEO must not pass the accountable form to any other individual for use.

Once an accountable form has been used, the member must keep a copy of the receipt and invoice and submit this to the CEO (or the authorised delegate). Details of the nature of council business, date and time of use of the accountable form should also be provided.

When an accountable form is used by the CEO, the CEO must also retain a copy of the receipt and invoice and submit this to the delegated officer along with details of the nature of council business, date and time of use of the accountable form.

3. Safeguarding of Accountable Forms

It is the responsibility of individual members and the CEO to ensure all accountable forms issued by Council for conducting council business are kept in a safe and secure place to minimise the risk of theft or unauthorised transactions.

Unused or expired accountable forms must not be destroyed by a member or the CEO.

Unused or expired accountable forms must be returned to the authorised delegate responsible for issuing the accountable form.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- NIL

REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- Local Government Act
- Local Government (General) Regulations)

POLICY DETAILS

OWNER	CEO	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Director of Finance and Governance
APPROVAL DATE	21 June 2022	NEXT REVIEW DUE	30 June 2026
RECORDS NUMBER	505313	COUNCIL DECISION	10/404



ACCOUNTABLE FORMS (MEMBERS AND CEO)



COUNCIL POLICY

PURPOSE

To ensure the proper use and management of accountable forms issued to members and the CEO for the purposes of conducting Council business.

PRINCIPLES

The City of Palmerston is committed to the safe custody, provision and proper use of accountable forms by members and the CEO whilst conducting council business. Members and the CEO are required to apply good judgement for all expenditure incurred whilst conducting council business.

DEFINITIONS

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

TERM	DEFINITION
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Member	Includes council members, committee members and local authority members.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Accountable forms

Accountable forms are readily negotiable financial instruments, other than cash, that can be used as a method of payment for expenditure (e.g. cheques, taxi vouchers, travel vouchers, sport vouchers or meal vouchers).

All accountable forms need to be carefully monitored and safeguarded due to their inherent risk of theft, fraud, loss or misuse.

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All members and the CEO are responsible for ensuring that accountable forms are only used in the course of conducting official council business. Accountable forms must not be used for private purposes.

In the event an accountable form is inadvertently used for private purposes, the full value of the transaction must be reimbursed to Council within seven business days.

Accountable forms may only be used by the individual member or CEO who has been issued with the accountable form. A member or the CEO must not pass the accountable form to any other individual for use.

Once an accountable form has been used, the member must keep a copy of the receipt and invoice and submit this to the CEO (or the authorised delegate). Details of the nature of council business, date and time of use of the accountable form should also be provided.

When an accountable form is used by the CEO, the CEO must also retain a copy of the receipt and invoice and submit this to the delegated officer along with details of the nature of council business, date and time of use of the accountable form.

3. Safeguarding of Accountable Forms

It is the responsibility of individual members and the CEO to ensure all accountable forms issued by Council for conducting council business are kept in a safe and secure place to minimise the risk of theft or unauthorised transactions.

Unused or expired accountable forms must not be destroyed by a member or the CEO.

Unused or expired accountable forms must be returned to the authorised delegate responsible for issuing the accountable form within ten business days from the date of issue.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

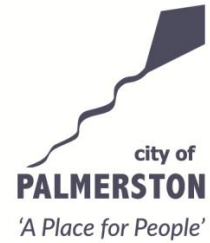
- NIL

REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- Local Government Act [2019 \(NT\)](#)
- Local Government (General) Regulations, [2021 \(NT\)](#)

POLICY DETAILS

OWNER	CEO	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Director of General Manager Finance and Governance
APPROVAL DATE	[Approval Date]	NEXT REVIEW DUE	[Next Review Due]
RECORDS NUMBER	505313	COUNCIL DECISION	[Council Decision]



ACCOUNTABLE FORMS (MEMBERS AND CEO)

COUNCIL POLICY

PURPOSE

To ensure the proper use and management of accountable forms issued to members and the CEO for the purposes of conducting Council business.

PRINCIPLES

The City of Palmerston is committed to the safe custody, provision and proper use of accountable forms by members and the CEO whilst conducting council business. Members and the CEO are required to apply good judgement for all expenditure incurred whilst conducting council business.

DEFINITIONS

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

TERM	DEFINITION
Authorised Delegate	Means any staff member within Council who has been delegated appropriate authority by the CEO to undertake the specified function on the CEO's behalf.
Member	Includes council members, committee members and local authority members.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Accountable forms

- 1.1 Accountable forms are readily negotiable financial instruments, other than cash, that can be used as a method of payment for expenditure (e.g. cheques, taxi vouchers, travel vouchers, sport vouchers or meal vouchers).
- 1.2 All accountable forms need to be carefully monitored and safeguarded due to their inherent risk of theft, fraud, loss or misuse.

2. Responsibilities of Members and the CEO

- 2.1 All members and the CEO are responsible for ensuring that accountable forms are only used in the course of conducting official council business. Accountable forms must not be used for private purposes.
- 2.2 In the event an accountable form is inadvertently used for private purposes, the full value of the transaction must be reimbursed to Council within seven business days.
- 2.3 Accountable forms may only be used by the individual member or CEO who has been issued with the accountable form. A member or the CEO must not pass the accountable form to any other individual for use.
- 2.4 Once an accountable form has been used, the member must keep a copy of the receipt and invoice and submit this to the CEO (or the authorised delegate). Details of the nature of council business, date and time of use of the accountable form should also be provided.
- 2.5 When an accountable form is used by the CEO, the CEO must also retain a copy of the receipt and invoice and submit this to the delegated officer along with details of the nature of council business, date and time of use of the accountable form.

3. Safeguarding of Accountable Forms

- 3.1 It is the responsibility of individual members and the CEO to ensure all accountable forms issued by Council for conducting council business are kept in a safe and secure place to minimise the risk of theft or unauthorised transactions.
- 3.2 Unused or expired accountable forms must not be destroyed by a member or the CEO.
- 3.3 Unused or expired accountable forms must be returned to the authorised delegate responsible for issuing the accountable form within ten business days from the date of issue.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- NIL

REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- Local Government Act 2019 (NT)
- Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 (NT)

POLICY DETAILS

OWNER	CEO	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	General Manager Finance and Governance
APPROVAL DATE	[Approval Date]	NEXT REVIEW DUE	[Next Review Due]
RECORDS NUMBER	505313	COUNCIL DECISION	[Council Decision]



COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.3
Report Title:	Immediate Priority Grant Acquittal 2021-22
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	Procurement and Grants Coordinator, Koren Martin
Approver:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report seeks Council approval for the acquittal of the Immediate Priority Grant (IPG) for 2021-22.

Key messages

- City of Palmerston successfully applied for an Immediate Priority Grant with the Northern Territory Government's Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet in January 2022 to upgrade of two Regulatory Services vehicles with custom animal holding pens.
- Grant funding of \$110,300 was received.
- Grant funding of \$90,720 was acquitted in April 2025.
- Remaining funds approved to increase load bearings of the two service vehicles and to purchase animal handling tools.
- The total cost of the project cost was \$110,366.43 excluding GST.
- The grant required acquittal of the project by 31 January 2026; however, this was delayed by receipt of the final invoices.
- Council sought an extension for reporting.
- A condition of the grant is for the grant acquittal to be laid before Council.
- This report provides the final acquittal for Council's approval.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Immediate Priority Grant Acquittal 2021-22 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approves the acquittal of the Immediate Priority Grant at **Attachment 12.1.3.1** contained in this Report entitled Immediate Priority Grant Acquittal 2021-22.

Background

In January 2022, Council was successful in its Immediate Priority Grant 2021-22 application for the upgrade of two (2) service vehicles with custom animal holding pens. The animal holding pens are to include air vents, shelter from the weather and cage lifting support. Funds of \$110,300 was received, with the grant conditions requiring Council to absorb any costs above the \$110,300.

Due to difficulties in procuring the animal holding pens, Council sought extension of the grant which was granted by the delegate of the Local Government Unit that manages the Immediate Priority Grant, noting this now sits within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development.

The grant required acquittal of the project by 31 January 2026; however, this was delayed by receipt of the final invoices. Council sought an extension for reporting.

A condition of the grant is for the grant acquittal to be laid before Council.

At the 1st Ordinary Council Meeting of 18 January 2022 Council made the following decisions:

14.2.1 Local Government Immediate Priority Grant Approval

THAT correspondence from the Minister for Local Government received on 6 January 2021 entitled Local Government Immediate Priority Grant Approval be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/165 - 18/01/2022

At the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting of 20 August 2024 Council made the following decisions:

13.1.4 Immediate Priority Grant Interim Acquittals

1. *THAT Report entitled Immediate Priority Grant Interim Acquittals be received and noted.*
2. *THAT Council approves the interim acquittal of the Immediate Priority Grant 2021-22 at Attachment 13.1.4.1 contained in this Report entitled Immediate Priority Grant Interim Acquittals.*

3. *THAT Council approves the interim acquittal of the Immediate Priority Grant 2022-23 at Attachment 13.1.4.2 contained in this Report entitled Immediate Priority Grant Interim Acquittals.*

CARRIED 10/1477 - 20/08/2024

At the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting of 15 April 2025 Council made the following decisions:

13.1.6 Immediate Priority Grant Acquittal 2021-22

1. *THAT Report entitled Immediate Priority Grant Acquittal 2021-22 be received and noted.*
2. *THAT Council approves the acquittal of the Immediate Priority Grant at Attachment 13.1.6.1 contained in this Report entitled Immediate Priority Grant Acquittal 2021-22.*

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1844 - 15/04/2025

This report presents the final acquittal for consideration by Council.

Discussion

Grant funding of \$110,300 was received, with the grant conditions requiring Council to absorb any costs above the \$110,300. At completion of the project the expenditure was \$110,366.43.

The holding pens were acquired and installed and came in under budget at \$90,720. An application was then submitted to repurpose the remaining \$19,580 to increase the load bearing capacity of the Regulatory Services vehicles and acquire related animal handling tools. This request was approved by the Department on 22 August 2025.

The full grant amount has now been expended.

This report recommends Council's approval for the final acquittal of funds as outlined in **Attachment 12.1.3.1**.

Consultation and marketing

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

- General Manager Community
- Manager Regulatory Services
- Executive Manager Organisational Performance
- Finance Data & Systems Lead

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

The cost of the project was \$110,366.43 with \$110,300 funded from grants and \$66.43 funded by Council.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

2. Financial Sustainability

Failure of Council to be financially sustainable to deliver key services and infrastructure for the community.

6. Governance

Failure to effectively govern.

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. Acquittal [12.1.3.1 - 1 page]

City of Palmerston

Acquittal of Local Government Immediate Priority Grant 2021-22

File Number: LGR2014/00187

Purpose of Grant: towards the upgrade of two service vehicles with custom animal holding pens. The upgrade includes: air vents, shelter from the weather and cage lifting support.

Application Number: IPG2100025

Purchases were in accordance with the Northern Territory Buy Local Plan: Yes No

The NT Government's COVID19 Conditions of Contract were met:

Yes No

(If no to either question above please provide a written explanation with this acquittal)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACQUITTAL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 02 April 2026

Local Government Immediate Priority Grant	<u>\$110,300</u>
Other income	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total income	<u>\$110,300</u>
Expenditure (Specify accounts and attach copies of ledger entries) An 'administration fee' is not to be apportioned to the grant for acquittal purposes.	<u>\$110,366.43</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>\$110,366.43</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>(\$66.43)</u>

IS THE PROJECT COMPLETED AS APPROVED BY THE MINISTER: Yes No

We certify, in accordance with all the conditions under which this grant was accepted, that the expenditure shown in this acquittal has been actually incurred and reports required to be submitted are in accordance with the stated purpose of this grant.

Acquittal prepared by: Koren Martin 02/04/2025

Laid before the Council at a meeting held on 21 / 04 / 2026 Copy of minutes attached.

CEO or CFO: _____ / /

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

Grant amount correct: Yes No

Expenditure conforms to purpose: Yes No

Procurement - Bought from Territory Enterprise: Yes No

NTG COVID19 Conditions met Yes No

Minutes checked: Yes No

Balance of funds to be acquitted: _____

Date next acquittal due: _____ / /

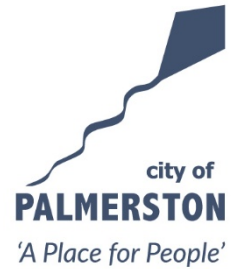
ACQUITTAL ACCEPTED: Yes No

Acquittal checked by: _____ / /

Comments:

Donna Hadfield, Manager Grants Program _____ / /

COUNCIL REPORT



2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.4
Report Title:	Palmerston City Centre Parking Policy
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	Planning & Development Manager, Christopher Tickner
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 presents the draft Palmerston City Centre Parking Policy consultation results and seeks Council approval of the final policy which has been updated to incorporate community feedback.

Key messages

- The draft Palmerston City Centre Parking policy was endorsed by Council for public consultation in November 2025.
- The policy provides broad objectives for the active management of Council parking areas in the City Centre, and a framework for future parking initiatives to achieve key priorities.
- Community consultation occurred from 2 - 22 February 2026 and included online surveys, social media polls, newsletters and signage throughout the City Centre.
- 26 people completed the online survey, while social media engagement was significantly higher with over 3,400 views and 615 votes.
- The results consistently highlighted shade, safety, free parking and accessibility as top priorities. Feedback also indicated support for the use of parking areas during off-peak periods for things such as markets, food vans, netball courts, a two-square tournament, a bicycle learning course and a remote-control car track.
- The feedback received generally aligned with key priorities in the draft policy, with only minor amendments recommended to strengthen policy statements about safety, accessibility and off-peak utilisation.

- An updated policy incorporating community feedback is provided to Council for approval.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Palmerston City Centre Parking Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the City Centre Parking Policy provided at **Attachment 12.1.4.1**.
3. THAT Council rescinds the 2019 Palmerston City Centre Parking Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Background

At the first Ordinary Council in May 2025, Council endorsed the replacement of the 2019 Palmerston City Centre Parking Strategy and Implementation Plan with a new City Centre Parking Policy.

The policy was to focus on the following key priorities:

- Continuation of free parking.
- Active management of existing parking zones (i.e. enforcement and compliance).
- Activation and adaption of underutilised car-parking areas during off-peak periods.
- Pedestrian connectivity between car parking areas and key destinations in the City Centre.
- Shading and greening of car parking areas.
- Identification of existing and future car parking capacity.

Following the meeting, a draft policy was developed which captured the above priorities under the following four themes:

- Meeting parking demand.
- Encouraging movement and accessibility.
- Optimising infrastructure.
- Greening, shading and overall appearance.

Each theme included supporting policy statements and a framework for the development of future strategies and initiatives where more detailed data and analysis could be included. The draft policy was presented to Council at the second Ordinary Council Meeting on 18 November 2026, where the following decision was made:

12.1.2 Draft Palmerston City Centre Parking Policy

1. THAT Report entitled Draft Palmerston City Centre Parking Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT a 21-day public notice period be undertaken, commencing in February 2026, seeking feedback from the community and city centre businesses on the draft City Centre Parking Policy.
3. THAT the City Centre Parking Policy be presented to Council at the second Ordinary Council meeting in April 2026 for adoption, incorporating relevant feedback from the consultation period.

CARRIED (6/0) - 11/0118 - 18/11/2025

A 21-day public consultation program commenced on 2 February 2026 and included surveys, social media polls, newsletters, signage throughout the City Centre, and direct outreach via email. The primary purpose of the consultation was to determine whether the key priorities in the draft policy aligned with those of the wider community. The outcomes of the consultation are presented below.

Discussion

In total, 26 people completed the online survey while the social media poll resulted in a significantly expanded reach with the combined Instagram and Facebook poll generating 3,436 views and 615 total votes. Overall, the community expressed general satisfaction with current car parking arrangements, with strong support for the continuation of free parking. Safety, shade and accessibility were highlighted as the key priorities. Respondents were generally supportive of the utilisation of car parking areas during off peak periods, with suggested uses including two-square courts/tournament, netball courts, concerts, model car racing tracks, bicycle learning areas, car-boot sales, street dining and market stalls.

A summary of the online survey responses is at **Attachment 12.1.4.2** and the social media poll responses are at **Attachment 12.1.4.3**. A consolidated overview of the consultation scope and results is provided at **Attachment 12.1.4.4**.

For the most part the key priorities in the draft policy align with the community feedback, with only minor amendments recommended to capture responses received. Changes include additional provisions prioritising safe and secure parking and improved accessibility for a wider range of vehicles, including caravans and large light vehicles. Additionally, further guidance for off peak utilisation of parking areas has been provided in response to community support and suggestions.

An updated draft Policy that shows these changes is included at **Attachment 12.1.4.5**. The final version recommended for endorsement is provided at **Attachment 12.1.4.1**.

Importantly, the policy is not intended to be an all-encompassing and exhaustive document that provides detail about how each priority will be achieved. It is a document that establishes a framework for future strategies and initiatives where the priorities identified

by Council and the community will be further explored and additional detail about how they will be achieved will be provided.

Next Steps

Following endorsement, the City Centre Parking Policy (as amended) will come into effect and immediately replace the 2019 Palmerston City Centre Parking Strategy and Implementation Plan. Further strategies and initiatives provided for by the policy will be developed over time as relevant to current priorities.

Consultation and marketing

A community consultation program to seek feedback on the concept plan was undertaken from the 2 February 2026 to 22 February 2026. The following engagement tools were developed and utilised as part of the consultation program:

- Website (Dedicated 'join the conversation' landing page with an online form for feedback).
- Social media poll.
- Printed signage throughout the Palmerston CBD, including at the Post Office, Goyder Square, Rec Centre.
- Email to stakeholders (rec centre users, NTG).
- Library e-newsletter.

Policy implications

The policy will replace the 2019 Palmerston City Centre Parking Strategy and Implementation Plan. The policy will form part of Councils suite of By-laws and Policies and provide guidelines for the use, management and operation of City of Palmerston's car parking areas in the City Centre.

Budget and resource implications

There are no budget or resource implications relating to this Report. Implementation of the car parking policy will be managed within existing resources.

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

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

- [Palmerston City Centre Parking Study Implementation Plan](#)
- [Palmerston City Centre Parking Study Parking Strategy](#)



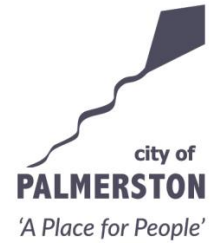
Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

1. City Centre Parking Policy [**12.1.4.1** - 4 pages]
2. Summary of engagement responses and proposed changes to draft car parking policy [**12.1.4.2** - 10 pages]
3. Summary of social media polls [**12.1.4.3** - 6 pages]
4. Parking Policy engagement overview [**12.1.4.4** - 1 page]
5. Draft City Centre Parking Policy with track changes [**12.1.4.5** - 4 pages]

CITY CENTRE PARKING POLICY



COUNCIL POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Demonstrate Council's commitment to the Community Plan and making Palmerston a vibrant, future focused, environmentally sustainable city.
- Ensure the orderly provision and management of car parking areas in the Palmerston City Centre.
- Provide the framework for the future strategic direction and initiatives for Council-owned car parking areas in the Palmerston City Centre.

PRINCIPLES

Council is committed to promoting the Palmerston City Centre as 'A place for people' by developing and managing Council- owned car parking areas to:

- Support business and commercial activity.
- Promote pedestrian movement.
- Optimise the use and accessibility of infrastructure.
- Apply innovative and climate responsive design principles, such as artificial shade and greening, and other quality design elements.
- Enhance safety and deter criminal activity.

DEFINITIONS

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

TERM	DEFINITION
Council-owned car parking areas	Car parking infrastructure under the control and management of Council.
Off-peak periods	Periods during which car parking areas are not ordinarily required to support business activity in the Palmerston City Centre.
Palmerston City Centre	The general area of the Palmerston city centre and business district, which is defined by University Avenue to the north, Chung-Wah Terrace to the west, Palmerston Circuit to the east and the Palmerston Shopping Centre to the south.

POLICY AREA

This policy applies to Council-owned and managed parking areas in the Palmerston City Centre highlighted in **Attachment 1**.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Meeting demand

- 1.1. To meet parking demand in the Palmerston City Centre:
 - 1.1.1. Council-owned car parking areas will be free for all users with appropriate time limits applied.
 - 1.1.2. Council-owned car parking areas will be actively managed through engagement and enforcement to ensure compliance.
 - 1.1.3. Initiatives that support the provision of alternative transport modes and the delivery of climate responsive publicly accessible parking infrastructure will be encouraged.
 - 1.1.4. Initiatives that support and cater for a range of vehicles (i.e. motorbikes, caravans and motorhomes, larger light vehicles) will be encouraged.
 - 1.1.5. Council will advocate for new development in the Palmerston City Centre to demonstrate any parking shortfall, as prescribed in the NT Planning Scheme, can be met in nearby, publicly accessible car parking areas with convenient and direct pedestrian links to the development site.
 - 1.1.6. Council will advocate for new development in Palmerston City Centre to meet minimum end-of-trip facilities requirements as prescribed in the NT Planning Scheme, and where this isn't possible, to demonstrate appropriate access to facilities at a nearby, publicly accessible location.

2. Encouraging movement, accessibility and safety

- 2.1. To activate and maximise pedestrian movement throughout the Palmerston City Centre, Council will advocate that car parking areas:
 - 2.1.1. Foster 'trip-linking' (encouraging users to park and visit multiple destinations) by facilitating easy and convenient pedestrian movement between car parking areas and key destinations in the Palmerston City Centre.
 - 2.1.2. Cater to all visitors, including supporting initiatives for additional accessible parking spaces.
 - 2.1.3. Include climate responsive design elements.
 - 2.1.4. Embody Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to enhance safety and deter criminal activity.

3. Optimising infrastructure

- 3.1. Council will ensure the use of car parking areas is optimised through:
 - 3.1.1. Supporting the adaptive alternative use of parking areas during off-peak periods, including for leisure and recreation purposes and markets and food vans deemed appropriate by Council

- 3.1.2. Identifying excess parking spaces with potential to convert these areas for other public uses that activate the Palmerston City Centre.
- 3.1.3. Supporting new public parking initiatives and infrastructure, including a developer contribution plan for ensuring future car parking meets demand thresholds.

4. Greening, shading and overall appearance

- 4.1. Council will advocate for car parking areas to be climate responsive, mitigate against the effects of 'heat sinks', and improve the overall appearance of the City Centre by supporting:
 - 4.1.1. Alternative permeable surface materials wherever possible.
 - 4.1.2. The use of trees, grassed medians, artificial shade structures and other climate responsive design elements.
 - 4.1.3. Quality landscaping and design.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Palmerston Community Plan.

REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- NT Planning Act 1999 (NT).
- NT Planning Scheme.
- Palmerston (Public Places) By-laws 2001.

POLICY DETAILS

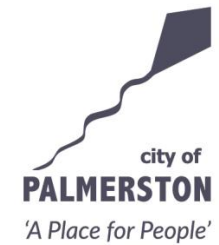
OWNER	Chief Executive Officer	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	General Manager Infrastructure
APPROVAL DATE	[Approval Date]	NEXT REVIEW DUE	[Next Review Due]
RECORDS NUMBER	[Records Number]	COUNCIL DECISION	[Council Decision]



ATTACHMENT 1 – COUNCIL OWNED AND MANAGED CAR PARKING AREAS IN THE CITY CENTRE



SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT RESPONSES AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO DRAFT CAR PARKING POLICY



Are you parking in Palmerston for business or leisure?	What do you consider are the top 3 important factors when parking in Palmerston?	Does your current parking arrangements in Palmerston meet your needs?	Do you feel there is enough parking to cater for all users? eg. Disability permits, bus, caravans, electric vehicles, motorbikes, etc? Where could we improve?	Would you change your mode of transport (ie. bike, scooter, public transport) if certain facilities were available in Palmerston such as well lit entry points, secure bike sheds, etc? Tell us why/why not?	In an attempt to activate more spaces in off-peak times, do you have any ideas on what our car park spaces could be used for? Think outside those white lines...	Do you have any other ideas on how we can improve parking in and around Palmerston?	Outcomes
Leisure		Yes	NA	No, have little kids.		Shelter, free and safe	<p>Noted and Action recommended.</p> <p>To address common feedback, provisions have been recommended in an updated draft policy to capture safety as a priority.</p>

Both	Doesn't cost anything; Easy entry and exit; Safe and secure	No	No. There is significantly insufficient parking to cater to the current workforce in Palmerston (NTG) and staff are forced to utilise private parking (shopping centre). This creates less and less parking for shoppers.	No. Convenience of a car is required in day to day life.		Increase parking overall. A high-rise park would be a good start (done properly this time).	Noted. Policy includes provisions that support new public parking initiatives, which could include high-rise parking structures if Council were inclined to support as part of future initiatives/strategies.
Leisure	Doesn't cost anything; Central to where I need to go; Safe and secure	Yes	Absolutely there is enough parking for all users.	not really. i usually drive and park into Palmerston so i doubt that will change.	impromptu handball/2 square tournament	not really, it seems very sound at the moment.	Noted and Action Recommended. Comments generally supportive of current arrangement. Ideas around handball courts noted, and additional wording around use of parking during off-peak periods for 'leisure and recreational purposes' recommended.

Both	Shade;Doesn't cost anything;Safe and secure	Yes	No caravan parking, not much motorbike parking	Yes to push bikes if there were bike sheds and wide footpaths or bike lands on roads.	Street dining? Vietnam style!	More shade - trees or structures	<p>Noted and Action recommended.</p> <p>To address common feedback, provisions have been recommended in an updated draft policy for initiatives that support a wider range of vehicles (i.e. motorbikes, caravans, larger vehicles)</p>
Leisure	Doesn't cost anything;Easy entry and exit; Safe and secure	No	Need more wider disability bays	No	Depends what hours you are talking about. Off peak really is evening times and that is not the best time to be out unless there is security that can actually do something.	Increase security	<p>Noted and Action recommended.</p> <p>The draft policy currently includes provisions around catering for all users, which could include providing additional accessible parking if Council were inclined to support as part of future initiatives. Recommendations have been made in an updated policy to make this explicit.</p>

Leisure	Doesn't cost anything; Central to where I need to go; Easy entry and exit	No	No, especially at the Post Office. It's a nightmare no matter what time of day, and every day of the week.	No. Because I need to carry grocery bags.	The whole design of Palmerston CBD is atrocious and should be bulldozed and started again. Hate having to go to library, then PO then Coles. Parking and the whole layout is not user or pedestrian friendly.	Bull doze and get woman to redesign properly. Developers in general either have NFI, or don't care and are only out to make the most money. No consideration for the actual user.	Noted The Policy provides a framework for future initiatives and strategies aimed to address concerns raised in comments.
Leisure	Doesn't cost anything; Central to where I need to go; Safe and secure	Yes	Maybe not. Disabled parking bays are becoming smaller in size EG. Some are now the width of a standard car space.	Not sure	Not sure	Not sure	Noted and Action Recommended. To address common feedback, provisions have been recommended in an updated draft policy for initiatives that support additional accessible spaces.
Business	Doesn't cost anything; Central to where I need to go; Safe and secure	Yes	I believe there's enough parking. Council has been doing an excellent job.	I work in two different work sites and bike scooters and public transport not convenient	Take over Randazzo car parks	Happy with the council arrangements. Current parking arrangements are good possibly	Noted. To address common feedback, provisions have been recommended in an

						have a few mobile cameras in the area,	updated draft policy to capture security and safety as a priority.
Leisure	Doesn't cost anything;Central to where I need to go;Safe and secure	Yes	Always need more disability places.	No, elderly so car is my choice.	Wide spaces for the huge vehicles around these days.	Maintain level of green shade. You do a great job.	Noted and Action recommended To address common feedback, provisions have been recommended in an updated draft policy for initiatives that support additional accessible spaces.
Business	Doesn't cost anything;Central to where I need to go;Safe and secure	Yes	No large parking areas if you have a trailer or caravan. Maybe the dirt area near the bus interchange could be revamped.	I sometimes use the bus interchange coming from Casuarina. That area is a dump and suffers from antisocial behaviours. Discourages the use of public transport.	No	Spot checks on timed parking areas around the city area. People are parking all day in the two hour zone near the old Police station building. Youth workers in that building are the main culprits	Noted. Draft policy currently includes provisions that Council-owned car parking areas will be actively managed through engagement and enforcement to ensure compliance

Both	Doesn't cost anything;Central to where I need to go;Safe and secure	Yes	Needs to be more Disability car parks in CBD	Probably not. Like availability of my car to use when want to, no timetables to watch.	No	Needs to be more All Day Free Parking	Noted. Free parking is provided throughout the City Centre.
Both	Easy entry and exit;Safe and secure	Yes	Yes	No	Food vans/movie nights	Find a solution for the itinerant problem that congregate around parking areas	Noted. Additional clarity provided around use of parking areas during off peak times for markets/food vans.
Both	Doesn't cost anything;Central to where I need to go;Safe and secure	Yes	Yes there seems to be enough parking but council should plan for future demands. Some TLC on the carpark surface is required and better line marking	I would not change my mode of transport. Climate is not conducive to bikes etc specially during wet season.	Night and weekend markets. Net ball courts. Concert venues. Model car racing tracks. Children's bicycle learning area.	Parking inspectors in parking areas that are most popular or in high demand to monitor use and check for extended stay.	Noted. Ideas around markets, sport courts, model car racing noted, and additional wording around use of parking during off-peak periods for 'leisure and recreational purposes' and 'markets' recommended
Both	Doesn't cost anything;Easy entry and exit;Safe and secure	Yes	I think there is adequate parking at present	Perhaps if for leisure. For work, in the interest of time and convenience, private transport is still preferable.	flea markets		Noted. Additional provisions around markets recommended in updated draft policy.

Leisure	Shade;Doesn't cost anything;Safe and secure	Yes	Yes	Probably wouldn't change my mode of transport but a secure bike shed would be useful	Car parks could be used for food vans in the evenings or on the weekends	No	Noted. Additional provisions around markets recommended in updated draft policy.
Leisure	Doesn't cost anything;Central to where I need to go;Safe and secure	Yes	Disability parking should be more accessible. Most disability parking area are minimal, the pathways don't connect to them meaning the disabled person has to enter/leave via the road.	Personally no, I'll be in a car because distance travelled to get there is more accessible in a car, it's raining half the year, and I feel more safe and secure in a car. Public transport in Palmerston (and Darwin) doesn't feel safe.	Markets. Car boot sales.	Keep it free!	Noted. Additional provisions around markets recommended in updated draft policy. To address common feedback, provisions have been recommended in an updated draft policy for initiatives that support additional accessible spaces.
Both	Shelter;Easy entry and exit;Safe and secure	No	More covered disability parking.More inspectors checking permits.	No...it's too unsafe .	Car boot sales.Cycle and scooter safety training	Better lighting Visible inspectors.Security	Noted. To address common feedback, provisions have been recommended in an updated draft policy to capture safety as a priority.

Both	Shelter;Doesn't cost anything;Safe and secure	No	Definitely not enough secure parking	No wouldn't use public transportation	Skateboarding	More security	Noted. To address common feedback, provisions have been recommended in an updated draft policy to capture security and safety concerns.
Business	Shade;Doesn't cost anything;Nice walk to where I need to be	Yes	Yes there is plenty. If anything need more car saves available next to the goyder centre.	No, public transport is not safe.	Plant sales, Markets on weekends e.g. farmers. Monthly car boot sales.	Keep it free, plant trees	Noted Additional direction provided around off peak uses.
Both	Doesn't cost anything;Easy entry and exit;Safe and secure	No	Parking for Seniors would be fantastic. Seniors are not handicapped but do have mobility issues.	No		Seniors parking spaces	Noted. The draft policy includes provisions that car parking should cater to all users, which allow Council to consider senior parking initiatives if so inclined as art of future initiatives.
Both	Doesn't cost anything;Central to where I need to go;Safe and secure	Yes		No. Bikes are not great in the wet season and are hard to secure. Buses not an option at all due to safety			Noted.

Both	Shelter;Doesn't cost anything;Safe and secure	No	Bike shed for bikes and e scooters	No	Provide solid shade structures for cars that can then be used for wet season markets during weekends	Solid shade structures, covered walkways near the post office going all the way to overflow carpark near council	Noted. Draft policy includes provisions that support climate responsive initiatives.
Business	Doesn't cost anything;Central to where I need to go;Safe and secure	No	More disability	No. I drive. Palmerston bus stops not safe feeling environment. And def would not leave my bike or scooter anywhere. To much anti social behaviour in goyder square & surrounding car parks.	Catch 22. If you activate car park where do attendees park!	Make parking free. Encourage people to visit and shop in Palmerston	Noted. Draft policy includes free parking provisions, noting parking throughout the City Centre is currently free.
Both	Doesn't cost anything;Easy entry and exit;Safe and secure	Yes	Yes	No, need car in wet season and buses are not very safe		Make it free	Noted. Draft policy includes free parking provisions
Leisure	Shade;Doesn't cost anything;Nice walk to where I need to be	No	Designated, safe, bike paths on roads	Probably not due to living further out. But yes if I was closer.	Electric car charging points? More food vans etc?	I love the idea of solar panels in car parks providing shade and generating energy at the same time.	Noted. Draft policy includes provisions that support climate responsive initiatives.

Leisure	Shade;Doesn't cost anything;Central to where I need to go	Yes	Yes, however, make the parking around the library and palmerston rec centre free. Understand that there is a large open air car park, however, the parks on the street are timed. Also recommend parents with pram parking especially around the library	No	Flee markets/car boot markets	No	Noted. Draft policy includes provisions that support markets subject to Council approval
Leisure	Shade;Doesn't cost anything;Safe and secure	Yes	Not sure. Don't know where parks for caravans are? Also I haven't noticed many places for bicycles.	I would probably ride my bicycle more. I would probably use the bus more if it wasn't scary at the interchange up top. One of my kids has been traumatised by violence she saw once. Terrible. Bus and stops just not safe.	Not really. Goyder Sq and the various parks are well utilised. Oh, maybe some chalk art in the dry season?	More shade in the middle of car parks not just at edges. One annoyance is no rear entry to rec centre. All parking is available at the back & in wet season we have to walk all the way to the front to get in, in the rain, &/or the sun all year.	Noted. Draft policy includes provisions that support climate responsive initiatives.

SUMMARY OF SOCIAL MEDIA POLLS ON DRAFT CAR PARKING POLICY





Instagram polls				
Views	Account reach	Total votes	Breakdown	Photo:
312	216	69	Free Parking - 83% (57) A close park- 17% (12)	



307	190	<p>A park that has shade- 67% (46)</p> <p>A park under the shade of a tree - 33% (23)</p>
-----	-----	--



275	183	68	<p>A park central - 85% (58)</p> <p>A park with a coffee shop on the way - 15% (10)</p>	
236	172			link to policy - 4 clicks
894	589	206		

Facebook polls				
Views	Impressions	Total votes	Breakdown	Photo:
977	924	141	A park the is close - 14% (20)	
			A park that is free - 86% (121)	

595

587

135

A park that has shelter - 56% (76)

A park under the trade of a tree - 44% (59)



497	493	133	A park that is central to where you need to go - 62% (83)	
			A park that has a coffee shop on the way - 37% (50)	
473	587	409		policy link
2542	2591	615		

PALMERSTON CBD DRAFT PARKING POLICY - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW



SCOPE

Community engagement for the draft City Centre Parking Policy focused on gathering insights from residents, businesses, and visitors on parking behaviours, needs, and priorities in Palmerston's CBD. Engagement activities ran from 2–22 February 2026 and used multiple channels including surveys, social media polls, newsletters, on-site QR codes, and direct outreach via email.

GOALS

The engagement aimed to test key themes of the draft policy namely; meeting demand; accessibility; optimising infrastructure; and improving appearance while capturing lived experiences of parking in Palmerston. It also sought targeted feedback on shade, safety, access (including disability parking), alternative transport facilities, and ideas for activating parking spaces during off-peak periods for the purpose of consideration for wider strategic direction.



WHAT WE HEARD

Survey respondents highlighted free parking, safety, ease of entry/exit, and centrality as the top priorities. Several reported insufficient disability parking, limited caravan/trailer spaces, and safety concerns around public transport areas. Many expressed a preference to continue using cars, citing distance, climate, and safety as barriers to alternative transport. Creative ideas to activate spaces when not in use included food vans, markets, boot sales, shaded structures, and bike sheds.

A trial of a social media poll significantly expanded reach. Combined Instagram and Facebook results showed strong community preference for free parking, shaded parking, and central locations.

The trial achieved 3,436 views and 615 total votes, demonstrating social polling as an effective engagement tool.

OVERALL KEY LEARNINGS

- Shade from a tree or infrastructure when parking or going from/to is of high importance to residents and visitors in the CBD
- Safety and security remains a priority as does the continuation of FREE parking
- Trialling social media polls proved successful and should be continued when appropriate.

Active webpage users - 132
Social media actions - 54
Direct emails sent - 195
Newsletter recipients - 1,724
Surveys completed - 26

CITY CENTRE PARKING POLICY



COUNCIL POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Demonstrate Council's commitment to the Community Plan and making Palmerston a vibrant, future focused, environmentally sustainable city.
- Ensure the orderly provision and management of car parking areas in the Palmerston City Centre.
- Provide the framework for the future strategic direction and initiatives for Council-owned car parking areas in the Palmerston City Centre.

PRINCIPLES

Council is committed to promoting the Palmerston City Centre as 'A place for people' by developing and managing Council- owned car parking areas to:

- Support business and commercial activity.
- Promote pedestrian movement.
- Optimise the use and accessibility of infrastructure.
- Apply innovative and climate responsive design principles, such as artificial shade and greening, and other quality design elements.
- [Enhance safety and deter criminal activity](#)

DEFINITIONS

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

TERM	DEFINITION
Council-owned car parking areas	Car parking infrastructure under the control or management of Council
Off-peak periods	Periods during which car parking areas are not ordinarily required to support business activity in the Palmerston City Centre
Palmerston City Centre	The general area of the Palmerston city centre and business district, which is defined by University Avenue to the north, Chung-Wah Terrace to the west, Palmerston Circuit to the east and the Palmerston Shopping Centre to the south

POLICY AREA

This policy applies to Council-owned or managed parking areas in the Palmerston City Centre highlighted in **Attachment 1**.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Meeting demand

- 1.1. To meet parking demand in the Palmerston City Centre:
 - 1.1.1. Council-owned car parking areas will be free for all users with appropriate time limits applied.
 - 1.1.2. Council-owned car parking areas will be actively managed through engagement and enforcement to ensure compliance.
 - 1.1.3. Initiatives that support the provision of alternative transport modes—and the delivery of climate responsive publicly accessible parking infrastructure will be encouraged.
 - ~~1.1.3.~~1.1.4. Initiatives that support and cater for a range of vehicles (i.e. motorbikes, caravans and motorhomes, larger light vehicles) will be encouraged.
 - ~~1.1.4.~~1.1.5. Council will advocate for new development in the Palmerston City Centre to demonstrate any parking shortfall, as prescribed in the NT Planning Scheme, can be met in nearby, publicly accessible car parking areas with convenient and direct pedestrian links to the development site.
 - 1.1.6. Council will advocate for new development in Palmerston City Centre to meet minimum end-of-trip facilities requirements as prescribed in the NT Planning Scheme, and where this isn't possible, to demonstrate appropriate access to facilities at a nearby, publicly accessible location.
 - ~~1.1.5.~~

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2. Encouraging movement, accessibility and safety

- 2.1. To activate and maximise pedestrian movement throughout the Palmerston City Centre, Council will advocate that car parking areas:
 - 2.1.1. Foster 'trip-linking' (encouraging users to park and visit multiple destinations) by facilitating easy and convenient pedestrian movement between car parking areas and key destinations in the Palmerston City Centre.
 - 2.1.2. ~~Are accessible and~~ Cater to all visitors, s, including supporting initiatives for additional accessible parking spaces.
 - 2.1.3. Include climate responsive design elements.
 - ~~2.1.3.~~2.1.4. Embody Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to enhance safety and deter criminal activity.

3. Optimising infrastructure

- 3.1. Council will ensure the use of car parking areas is optimised through:

- 3.1.1. Supporting the adaptive alternative use of parking areas during off-peak periods, including for leisure and recreation purposes and markets, and food vans deemed appropriate by Council.
- 3.1.2. Identifying excess parking spaces with potential to convert these areas for other public uses that activate the Palmerston City Centre.
- 3.1.3. Supporting new public parking initiatives and infrastructure, including a developer contribution plan for ensuring future car parking meets demand thresholds.

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4. Greening, shading and overall appearance

- 4.1. Council will advocate for car parking areas to be climate responsive, mitigate against the effects of ‘heat sinks’, and improve the overall appearance of the City Centre by supporting:
 - 4.1.1. Alternative permeable surface materials wherever possible.
 - 4.1.2. The use of trees, grassed medians, artificial shade structures and other climate responsive design elements.
 - 4.1.3. Quality landscaping and design.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Palmerston Community Plan.

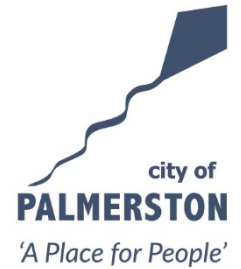
REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- NT Planning Act 1999 (NT).
- NT Planning Scheme.
- Palmerston (Public Places) By-laws 2001.

POLICY DETAILS

OWNER	Chief Executive Officer	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	General Manager Infrastructure
APPROVAL DATE	[Approval Date]	NEXT REVIEW DUE	[Next Review Due]
RECORDS NUMBER	[Records Number]	COUNCIL DECISION	[Council Decision]

COUNCIL REPORT



2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.5
Report Title:	New Council Policy - Elected Member Attendance at Events, Forums and Conferences
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	Executive Manager Organisational Performance, Penny Hart
Approver:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report seeks Council approval of a new Council policy titled Elected Member Attendance at Events, Forums and Conferences.

Key messages

- At the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting in February 2026 Council resolved that a draft policy on Elected Member attendance at ticketed events and conferences be prepared and presented for Council's consideration.
- It responded to increased interest from the 11th Council in attending a wide range of ticketed events and conferences.
- Attendance at events and conferences is recognised as beneficial to Council and the community but has a financial impact, particularly for events requiring travel and accommodation in addition to substantial registration or ticket fees.
- The proposed policy was intended to define financial thresholds for local events, limit attendance at significant events, encourage responsible use of allowances, and introduce mechanisms for recording and reporting attendance to inform future decision making.
- A draft policy has been prepared that ensures Council is appropriately and proportionately represented at events and to manage costs.
- This report presents a new Elected Member Attendance at Events, Forums and Conferences Policy for consideration.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled New Council Policy - Elected Member Attendance at Events, Forums and Conferences be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the Elected Member Attendance at Events, Forums and Conferences Policy at **Attachment 12.1.5.1** to Report entitled New Council Policy - Elected Member Attendance at Events, Forums and Conferences.

Background

A Notice of Motion relating to Elected Member attendance at ticketed events and conferences was submitted for consideration at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 February 2026. It responded to increased interest from Elected Members of the 11th Council in attending a wide range of ticketed events and conferences. While attendance at such events is recognised as beneficial to Council and the community, the Notice of Motion highlighted concerns regarding the financial impact on Council and ratepayers, particularly for events requiring travel and accommodation or substantial registration or ticket fees. This contrasts with many local events within Palmerston, which are generally low cost or free to attend.

The Notice of Motion observed that many major events and conferences occur annually or biennially, providing multiple opportunities for attendance over the course of a four-year Council term. It proposed that attendance at these events be managed on a rotational basis to promote fairness, broaden access to professional learning opportunities and ensure equitable participation among Elected Members. It was proposed for Council's consideration that attendance at major ticketed events and conferences generally be limited to the Mayor or a nominated representative, plus up to two additional Councillors, with attendance rotated where events recur.

The Notice of Motion also acknowledged that Elected Members receive a Professional Development Allowance, which is considered sufficient to fund attendance at one to two travel-related events each year or multiple local events.

At the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 February 2026 Council made the following decisions:

11.1 Councillor Attendance at Ticketed Events and Conferences

1. *THAT the Notice of Motion received from Mayor Pascoe-Bell, entitled 11.1 Councillor Attendance at Ticketed Events and Conferences be received and noted.*
2. *THAT a draft Council Policy on Elected Member attendance at ticketed events and conferences is prepared and presented for Council's consideration at the Second Ordinary Meeting in April 2026.*

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0235 - 17/02/2026

This report presents a new draft policy for consideration.

Discussion

The objective of the Notice of Motion was to request a draft of a clear policy governing Elected Member attendance at ticketed events and conferences, beyond the use of Professional Development Allowances. The proposed policy was intended to define financial thresholds for local events, limit attendance at significant events, encourage responsible use of allowances, and introduce mechanisms for recording and reporting attendance to inform future decision-making.

The draft Elected Member Attendance at Events, Forums and Conferences Policy at **Attachment 12.1.5.1** establishes a clear, consistent and cost-conscious framework for Elected Member attendance at events, forums and conferences that are funded or subsidised by Council. The policy recognises the value of events, forums and conferences in enabling Elected Members to represent Council, engage with stakeholders and strengthen governance capability. It emphasises transparency, accountability and value for money, while promoting equitable access and broad participation at local events and prudent decision-making for significant events.

The policy applies to all Elected Members attending events, forums or conferences where Council funding or subsidy is requested, or where attendance requires Council consideration due to cost, travel or representation implications. It does not restrict Elected Members from attending events at their own expense.

While the original intent of the Notice of Motion focused on Elected Member attendance at ticketed events and conferences, the scope of the policy has been expanded to also consider forums. This recognises that some significant gatherings, such as those convened by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), do not neatly align with traditional event or conference definitions but nonetheless involve similar costs, representation considerations and governance value, and therefore warrant consistent policy treatment.

Objectives

The objectives of the policy are to ensure Council is appropriately and proportionately represented at events, to confirm that attendance delivers tangible benefit to Council and the community, and to manage costs by limiting Council-funded attendance at higher-cost events. The policy also supports fair rotation of attendance opportunities over the Council term and encourages use of Professional Development Allowance where appropriate.

Event categories

The policy deliberately distinguishes between local events and significant events to recognise that, while both can deliver value to Council and the community, they place different pressures on Council's budget.

Local events are generally more accessible and support broad participation, but their cumulative impact can still affect budget capacity if attendance is not managed. Significant events, which may involve significant registration fees, travel or accommodation, represent a more substantial financial commitment and therefore require stricter controls on

attendance. Separating these categories allows Council to apply proportionate decision making, ensuring that available budget is considered in all cases while supporting appropriate representation and value for money across both local and significant activities.

The policy encourages broad Elected Member participation in local events that support community engagement and collaboration, subject to available budget. Attendance at significant events, including those involving travel, accommodation or substantial fees, must be approved by Council and is generally limited to the Mayor (or representative) and up to two Councillors. Decisions regarding representation will consider previous attendance, equitable rotation over the Council term, budget availability and the broader impact on Elected Members' ability to attend other events in the financial year.

Attendance

Where an Elected Member is unable to attend an approved event, tickets may be reallocated to another Elected Member to maximise value for money. Except in cases of illness, minimum notice periods should apply to enable cancellation or cost recovery, being 24 hours for low-cost events and three business days for higher-cost events.

This section has been included in the policy to promote responsible use of Council resources once approval has been granted and costs have been incurred. It responds to situations where tickets have been purchased at the request of an Elected Member who is later unable to attend, which can result in lost value to Council if the ticket cannot be used. By setting clear expectations around timely notice of non-attendance, the policy aims to provide sufficient opportunity for tickets to be reallocated to another Elected Member wherever possible. This approach is not intended to impose penalties or seek reimbursement, but rather to ensure reasonable notice is given to maximise the benefit of Council expenditure and support fair access to attendance opportunities.

Attendance by partners

The policy includes a clear position regarding attendance by partners, spouses or guests at events. The proposed approach aligns with the Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy by permitting partner attendance only where no additional cost is incurred by Council, such as where a complimentary ticket is provided. Any additional costs associated with partner, spouse or guest attendance would be met personally by the Elected Member and arranged independently, ensuring transparency and appropriate use of public funds.

Records management

Council-funded attendance at events, forums and conferences will be recorded in a register to support transparency and informed decision-making. Relevant prior attendances will be reported to Council when future attendance at significant events is being considered.

It is recommended that Council adopt the new Elected Member Attendance at Events, Forums and Conferences Policy at **Attachment 12.1.5.1**.

Consultation and marketing

As this policy does not have a community impact, community consultation is not required.

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

- Executive Leadership Team
- Senior Leadership Team
- Procurement & Grants Coordinator
- EA to General Manager People & Place
- EA to Chief Executive Officer.

Policy implications

The policy operates alongside related governance documents, including the Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy and the Code of Conduct for Elected Members, ensuring consistency across Council's framework for conduct and expenditure.

If adopted, this will become a Council Policy and be included in the policy review schedule.

The Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy includes provisions for Council funding of ticketed events. As this policy is scheduled to be presented to Council by June 2026, it will be reviewed and updated, where appropriate, to ensure alignment with the proposed Events Policy should it be adopted.

Budget and resource implications

Elected Members are encouraged to utilise their Professional Development Allowance to support attendance at events, forums and conferences that enhance their knowledge, skills and effectiveness in their role, particularly where Council's budget constraints may limit funded attendance.

Use of the allowance provides flexibility for individual Elected Members to pursue professional development opportunities aligned with their interests or learning needs, while reducing pressure on Council's overall event and conference budget. This approach supports ongoing capability development for Elected Members and enables broader access to learning opportunities without compromising Council's capacity to fund essential representation at higher-priority events.

Elected Members have an annual Professional Development allowance of \$7,500 in 2026/27.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

The policy is informed by and aligned with the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT), supporting Council's legislative obligations for accountability, transparency and responsible resource management.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

2. **Financial Sustainability**

Failure of Council to be financially sustainable to deliver key services and infrastructure for the community.

6. Governance

Failure to effectively govern.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

The policy supports and aligns with the City of Palmerston's strategic planning framework by reinforcing good governance, prudent financial management and effective community representation. In relation to the Long Term Financial Plan, the policy directly supports Council's commitment to financial sustainability and responsible use of public funds.

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. Draft policy [12.1.5.1 - 4 pages]

ELECTED MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS, FORUMS AND CONFERENCES

COUNCIL POLICY

city of
PALMERSTON
'A Place for People'

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear, consistent and cost-conscious framework for Elected Members regarding attending events, forums and conferences that are funded or subsidised by Council.

PRINCIPLES

Council recognises that events, forums and conferences provide an opportunity for Elected Members to represent Council and their community, engage with stakeholders and undertake professional development.

To promote transparency and accountability in the use of Council resources, this policy ensures that expenditure on events, forums and conference is appropriate, justifiable and delivers a clear benefit to Council and the community.

This policy also supports broad participation by Elected Members in local community and stakeholder events at minimal cost to Council, and equitable decision-making regarding attendance at significant events requiring travel, accommodation or substantial expenditure.

DEFINITIONS

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

TERM	DEFINITION
Elected Member	Individuals elected to Council. For the purposes of this policy, Elected Member refers to Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors.
Local event	Occurs within the local Palmerston or surrounding area, has a ticket cost of \$150 or less or are free to attend, and does not require travel or accommodation.

TERM	DEFINITION
Significant event	Events, forums and conferences that include those held outside the Palmerston area and surrounds (for example in Alice Springs or interstate); or require travel, accommodation and other significant expenses; or attract substantial registration or conference fees.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Objectives

- 1.1. This policy aims to:
 - 1.1.1. Ensure Council is appropriately represented at events, forums and conferences, particularly those held outside the Palmerston area or interstate.
 - 1.1.2. Ensure attendance delivers tangible benefit to Council and the community.
 - 1.1.3. Achieve cost savings by limiting Council-funded attendance at higher-cost events to a small, representative group of Elected Members.
 - 1.1.4. Promote fairness and transparency through rotation of attendance at significant events over the Council term.
 - 1.1.5. Encourage Elected Members to prioritise use of their Professional Development or Extra Meeting allowances where appropriate.
- 1.2. Attendance at events, regardless of cost, remains subject to Council policies and appropriate use of funds, transparency and reporting requirements.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This policy applies to all Elected Members of Council and attendance at events, forums, conferences and similar functions where:
 - 2.1.1. Council is requested to fund or subsidise attendance; or
 - 2.1.2. Council is required to approve attendance due to cost, travel or representation considerations.
- 2.2. This policy does not restrict Elected Members attending events, forums or conferences at their own cost.

3. Local events

- 3.1. Elected Members are encouraged to participate in local events that support community engagement, collaboration and relationships with local organisations.
- 3.2. Council will seek to support broad participation at these events within available budget.
- 3.3. Council-appointed delegates to external committees and organisations are approved to attend conferences, forums, training sessions or similar events that are directly related to their appointed role, where the total cost to Council does not exceed \$150 per event.
 - 3.3.1. Where a ticket is purchased for a Council-appointed delegate, Extra Meeting and Activity Allowance does not apply as per the Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy.
 - 3.3.2. Elected Members are encouraged to utilise their Professional Development Allowance for attendance.

4. Significant events, forums and conferences

- 4.1. Attendance at significant events, forums and conferences must be approved by Council.
- 4.2. Attendance at significant events, forums and conferences that require travel and accommodation or attract substantial registration or conference fees will be limited to:
 - 4.2.1. the Mayor or a nominated representative if the Mayor is unable to attend
 - 4.2.2. up to two Councillors.
- 4.3. For significant events, Elected Member representation will consider:
 - 4.3.1. Previous attendance at similar events
 - 4.3.2. A rotational basis over the 4-year Council term
 - 4.3.3. Budget availability
 - 4.3.4. Impact on the ability for Elected Members to attend other events.
- 4.4. Elected Members are encouraged to utilise their Professional Development Allowance to attend events, forums or conferences that can increase their knowledge and skillset in accordance with Council policies.

5. Attendance

- 5.1. If an Elected Member is unable to attend an event, forum or conference where a ticket has been purchased for them it may be offered to another Elected Member.
- 5.2. Other than non-attendance due to health reasons, a minimum of 24 hours' notice must be given for low-cost events or three business days for higher-cost events to allow for cancellation, reallocation of the ticket or recovery of costs where possible.

6. Attendance by partners or guests

- 6.1. Where an Elected Member is invited to attend an event in their official capacity, attendance by a partner, spouse or guest is only permitted where it does not incur any additional cost to Council.
- 6.2. If a partner, spouse or guest ticket is offered complimentary as part of the invitation, for example, as part of a conference partner program, the Elected Member may accept the invitation on that basis.
- 6.3. Any additional costs associated with a partner, spouse or guest attendance, including tickets, travel, accommodation, meals or other expenses, are to be met personally by the Elected Member.
- 6.4. Council will not arrange, reimburse or administer these costs.

7. Records management

- 7.1. Elected Member attendance at significant events, forums and conferences funded by Council will be recorded in a register.
- 7.2. The register will be reported on to Council when attendance at significant events, forums and conferences is being considered.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy
- Code of Conduct for Elected Members

REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)*

POLICY DETAILS

OWNER	Chief Executive Officer	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Governance
APPROVAL DATE	[Approval Date]	NEXT REVIEW DUE	[Next Review Due]
RECORDS NUMBER	682576	COUNCIL DECISION	[Council Decision]

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.2.1
Report Title:	Finance and Governance Quarterly Report - January to March 2026
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	Executive Manager Organisational Performance, Penny Hart
Approver:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report summarises the key activities undertaken by the Finance and Governance Directorate during the January to March 2026 quarter.

Key messages

- During the quarter, a total of \$9.92 million was paid to vendors, with \$8.27 million (83.41%) paid to local suppliers.
- Of the \$38.1 million rates and charges levied in July 2025, \$33.3 million has been collected with \$4.6 million outstanding. 11,398 ratepayers have paid in full.
- The total number of ratepayers now receiving rates notices digitally is 6657, which reflects 42% of rates notice and improves sustainability. This has increased by 25 since last quarter.
- The 2025-26 Second Budget Review was adopted by Council.
- Governance activities occurred during the quarter, including:
 - a Risk Management and Audit Committee meeting.
 - review of four policies.
 - eight grant reports finalised, which included a progress report, expenditure report, and an annual statistical survey and outcome and impact report.
 - ongoing community engagement for the Community Plan Health Check.
- Five procurement activities over \$100,000 were awarded.

- City of Palmerston's quarterly Wi-Fi report highlights a user range of slightly under 5,000.
- The call statistics summarise the rates team's performance, detailing inbound call volumes, daily call averages, and total time spent on the phone.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Finance and Governance Quarterly Report - January to March 2026 be received and noted.

Background

Council is provided with a report on key activities undertaken by the Finance and Governance Directorate on a quarterly basis.

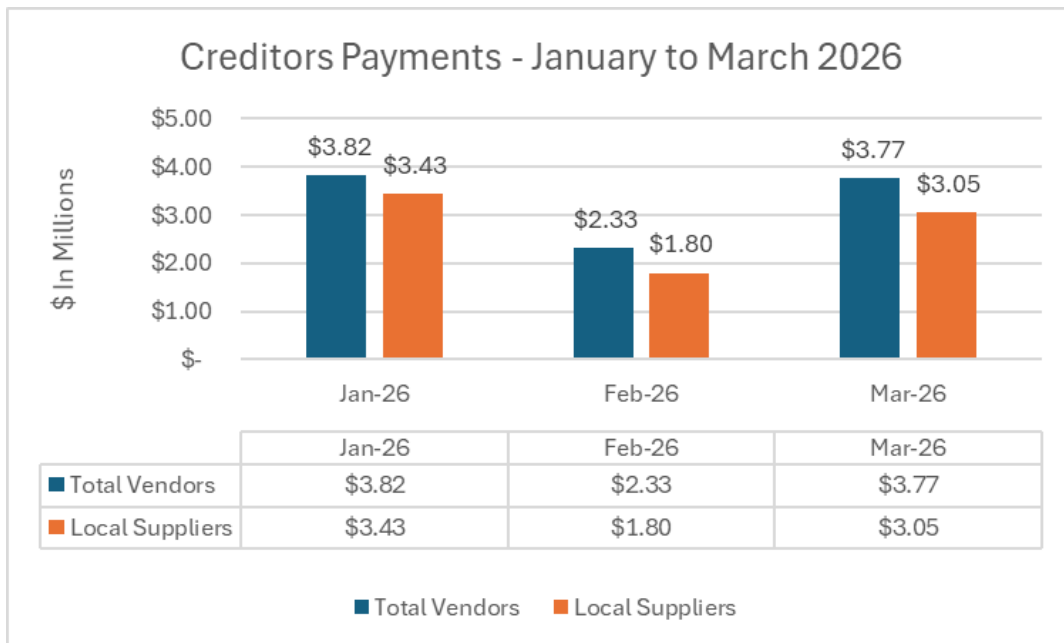
Discussion

The Finance and Governance quarterly update identifies the activities undertaken during the quarter that supports the delivery of the Community Plan outcome.

Objective 2.1: 'We promote 'employ local' and 'buy local' where possible

Support Local

Total paid creditors for the period between 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026 was \$9.92 million of this 83.41% or \$8.27 million was paid to local suppliers.



Objective 5.1: 'Reduce our footprint on the environment'

Electronic Rate Notices

The January to March 2026 quarter recorded an increase of 25 ratepayers registered to receive electronic notices. The total number of ratepayers now receiving rates notices digitally is 6657, which reflects 42% of rates notices.

Objective 6.1 'Be effective – do what we are supposed to do and deliver our community plan' and 'Be accountable – open and transparent and also report back on our progress'

Rates and Charges

Of the \$38.1 million rates and charges levied in August 2025, \$33 million has been collected as at March 2026. Rates and Charges can be paid in 4 instalments over the financial year, with the final instalment falling due on the 30 March 2026.

Financial Performance and Compliance

2025-26 Second Budget Review was adopted by the council on 17 February 2026, resulting in the overall changes in the original budget as following:

- Operating income was increased by \$290,285.
- Operating Expense was increased by \$1,591,465.
- Capital Income increased by \$158,400.
- Capital Expenses reduced by \$642,780.
- Reserve movements increased by \$500,000.

Resulting in a balanced budget. The majority of these movements relate to the Cyclone Fina expenses.

Grants Management

The following grant reporting requirements were finalised for the quarter:

- Roads to Recovery 2024-29 October–December 2025 expenditure report.
- Youth Vibe Holiday Grant second progress report.
- Australia Day 2026 National Council acquittal.
- Australia Day 2026 NT Council acquittal.
- Black Spot Project Buscall Avenue - Post completion report.
- Black Spot Project Packard Avenue - Post completion report.
- Black Spot Project Bonson Terrace - Post completion report.
- Annual Roads Return Statistical Survey.

Procurement – over \$100,000

The following public procurement processes were undertaken for projects over \$100,000 in the January – March quarter. Division 12 *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* requires Council to give notice of successful quotation by publishing on the website the quotation price inclusive of GST as presented below.

PROCUREMENT	AWARDED TO	CONTRACT VALUE	LENGTH OF PERIOD CONTRACT	LOCAL SUPPLIER
Zuccoli Community Hub – Stage 3 Design	MODE DESIGN Corp. Pty Ltd	\$495,000.00 inc GST	N/A	Yes
SWELL Operational Management	All offers declined	N/A	N/A	N/A
Woodroffe Park Furniture and Shelter	HCS Constructions	\$116,097.08 inc GST	N/A	Yes

The following public procurement activities for projects over \$100,000 are in the planning preparation stage and are scheduled to be released in the quarter:

- SWELL Solar PV and Battery Storage System.
- Footpath Connectivity and Renewal (Pathways).

The following public procurement activities for projects over \$100,000 are in the assessment stage:

- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP).
- Animal Management Facility – Block C.
- Palmerston Recreation Centre Condenser Unit.
- Woodroffe Park – Play Equipment and Shade.
- Christmas Wonderland 2026-2028.
- Tree Maintenance Panel Contract.

Freedom of Information

One freedom of information request was received during this quarter.

To meet Freedom of Information (FOI) obligations, targeted training continues to be delivered to enhance staff understanding of the FOI process and their responsibilities in providing information.

Review of Council Policies

The 11th Council Policy Review Schedule was endorsed by the Council at the 16 September 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting and has been incorporated into annual planning.

The following policies were reviewed:

- Political Involvement in Council Events (returning to Council in June 2026).
- Confidential Information.
- Procurement.
- Alcohol Management.

In addition, Council resolved that a new policy related to Elected Member attendance at ticketed events and conferences should be developed and presented to Council in April 2026.

Risk Management

The Risk Management and Audit Committee meeting was held on Thursday 26 February 2026. Key updates included:

- Action Report.
- Annual Work Plan.
- Audit Committee Self-assessment.
- Whistleblower Policy review.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 May 2026.

Community Plan Health Check

Community engagement commenced on 1 March 2026 with the release of the survey, supported by social media posts and a dedicated website page. Staff have been holding pop-up stalls at City of Palmerston Library activities, like when Storytime was on, and are attending community events in the coming 6 weeks with the aim to collect further feedback until 9 May 2026.

Upcoming activities	Dates
Pop up stall with Elected Members – Palmerston Markets	Friday 1 May 2026, 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Community event – Live at the lake, Marlow Lagoon	Saturday 9 May 2026, 5:00pm - 7:00pm

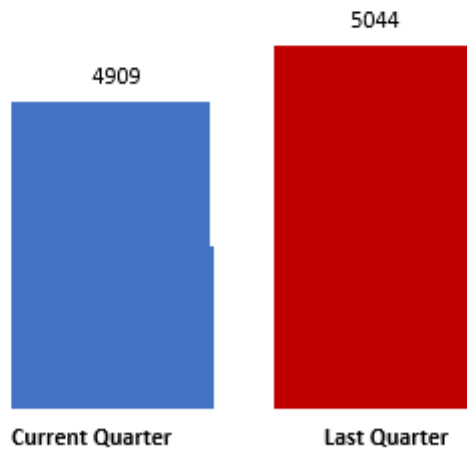
Feedback received from the community will be collated and presented to a Community Panel for discussion. On Sunday 17 May 2026 the Community Panel will take part in a workshop facilitated by independent consultants, DemocracyCo, to review the feedback and provide recommendations to Council for any updates to the Community Plan.

IT and Assets

Public Wi-Fi

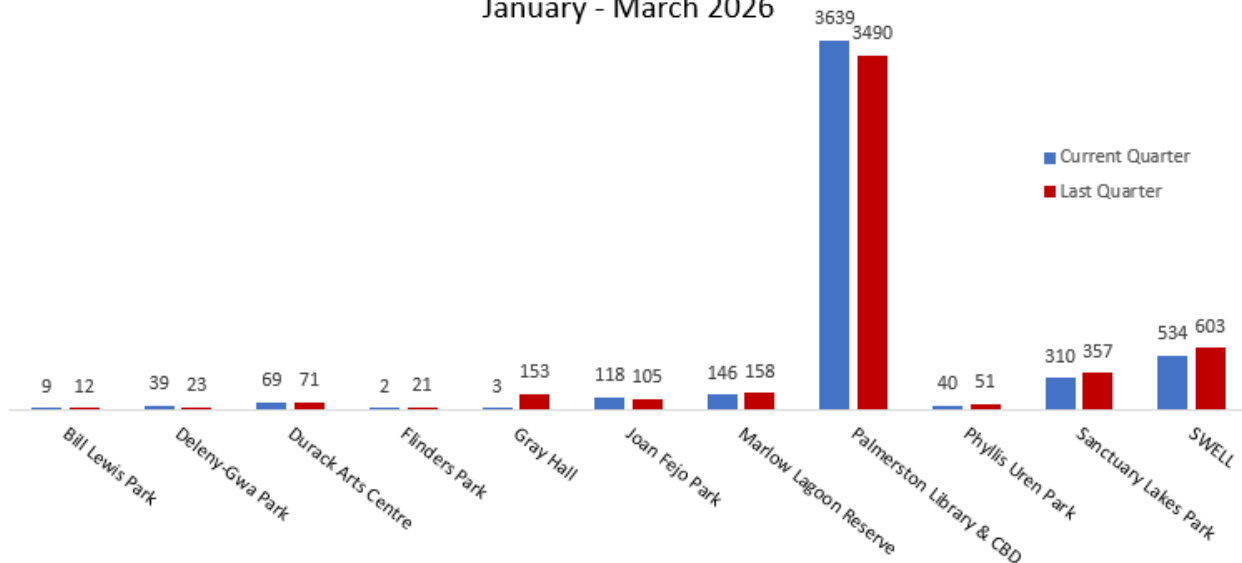
City of Palmerston's (CoP) quarterly Wi-Fi report highlights a user range of slightly under 5,000, a decrease of 135 users over the previous quarter. This is to be expected with a very wet and long wet season. The number of users at Gray Hall again dropped significantly, following the mid-October decision to restrict Wi-Fi access to hall users only.

Wi-Fi Users by Quarter January - March 2026



Overall, there was a slight increase at the library and in the CBD. The trial at Gray Community Hall has shown a marked reduction in Wi-Fi use in the area.

Wi-Fi Users by Location January - March 2026



Phone statistics

The phone statistics for the rates team for the past quarter are as follows:

- 2,091 inbound calls.
- 34 calls per day average (62 working days between Jan 1 and Mar 31).
- 3.11 minutes - Average call handling time.

Consultation and marketing

All staff within the directorate contributed to the development 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:

2. Financial Sustainability

Failure of Council to be financially sustainable to deliver key services and infrastructure for the community.

6. Governance

Failure to effectively govern.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

- [Long Term Financial Plan](#).

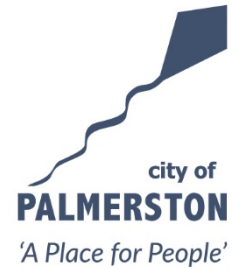
Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

Nil

COUNCIL REPORT



2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.2.2
Report Title:	Community Funding Program Quarterly Update - January to March 2026
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	Community Services Manager, Laura Hardman
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 Council with a summary of the Community Funding Program for the period January to March 2026

Key messages

- City of Palmerston provides funding through the Community Funding Program to eligible community groups and organisations to deliver activities and projects that benefit the Palmerston community.
- This report provides an update for the period 1 January to 31 March 2026.
- The Community Funding Program budget for 2025/26 is \$250,000.
- 19 Individual Representation Support applications, one (1) grant application and four (4) sponsorship submissions were received this quarter.
- One (1) Environmental Initiative application was approved this quarter.
- The second instalment of the Palmerston and Litchfield Seniors Association Inc. three-year funding agreement was paid to support the delivery of Seniors Fortnight 2026.
- Feedback in the form of a video was received from The Christmas Party Darwin, capturing the atmosphere, smiles and genuine magic that Councils supports helped to create.
- \$69,294 remains in the Community Funding Program budget for the 2025/26 financial year.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Community Funding Program Quarterly Update - January to March 2026 be received and noted.

Background

City of Palmerston provides funding through the Community Funding Program (CFP) to eligible community groups and organisations to deliver activities and projects that benefit the Palmerston community. The funding supports programs that enhance social well-being and cohesion by developing the capability of community groups, building community connection and a sense of belonging. The CFP supports City of Palmerston's vision to be 'A Place for People'.

The Community Funding Program has a budget of \$250,000 for FY25. This includes \$230,000 for representation support, grants, donations and sponsorship, and \$20,000 for Environmental Initiatives.

Discussion

Representation Support

19 Individual Representation Support applications were approved during this reporting period, supporting participation in a diverse range of activities. This included four (4) young people attending the Emerging Socceroos Championships, as well as representation at events such as the International Graffiti and Street Art Collective, Australian Hockey Championships, Western Australian Tennis Tour, and the Australian National Athletics Championships.

Annual School Awards

City of Palmerston provides all Palmerston schools with the opportunity to receive funding without requiring an application. Each school is allocated \$100 to support a 'City of Palmerston Community Service Award', which may be presented at any time during the financial year in accordance with criteria determined by the school. Fifteen (15) Annual School Awards have been approved this financial year.

Graffiti Removal

No Graffiti Removal applications were received during this period.

Grants

One (1) Grant application was received from Lions Medical Research Foundation and was in the assessment process at the time of reporting.

Environmental Initiatives

One (1) Environmental Initiative application was approved this quarter for Landcare NT for the total cost of \$11,000 to facilitate Bio-Education programs across four (4) Palmerston schools during Semester 1, 2026.

Sponsorship

Three (3) Sponsorship applications were received this quarter and presented to Council, in addition to one (1) application from the previous quarter. Two (2) were approved, one (1) was deferred, and one (1) was not approved as the applicant had already received funding within the current financial year.

Palmerston Rovers Football Club

Council has approved funding to the value for a total cost of \$10,000 for the purpose of supporting the refurbishment of existing goal structures on all fields located at 30 Victoria Drive, Gray.

Palmerston Magpies

Council has approved funding for a total cost of \$10,000 for a Gold Level Sponsorship with Palmerston Magpies Incorporated for a one-year term.

Palmerston Rugby Union Club

This application was not approved as the Palmerston Rugby Union Club is currently supported under an existing three (3) year sponsorship agreement within this financial year. The organisation has been advised of its eligibility to apply for grant funding in the next financial year.

Darwin Fringe Festival

This application was presented to Council and the decision was deferred to the 2026/27 Budget Development process.

The Christmas Party Darwin

Feedback was received via a video link from The Christmas Party Darwin, capturing the atmosphere, joy, and community impact supported through Council's contribution. The Christmas Party is an event for children with disabilities and complex needs. Although the event is not held within Palmerston, it continues to deliver a meaningful and positive experience for Palmerston residents who may otherwise be vulnerable or overlooked. For many families, the event is more than a celebration; it provides a sense of connection, inclusion, and recognition within the community.



Multiyear Sponsorship Agreements (MOU)

One (1) new multi-year sponsorship application from the Palmerston Magpies was presented to Council during the January to March reporting period.

Council endorsed a one (1) year sponsorship through the Community Funding Program, with an option to review for a further two (2) years at the conclusion of the current funding period.

Palmerston and Litchfield Seniors Association Inc.

The second instalment of \$25,000, in accordance with a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), was paid this quarter to the Palmerston and Litchfield Seniors Association Inc.

The 2025 program introduced two new events: a lunch and gin/whiskey tasting at Willing Distillery, and an afternoon with the Arafura Music Collective. The program featured performances by the Darwin Brass Quintet, the Early Music Ensemble, and South American tango music, with afternoon tea provided.

Consultation and marketing

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

Policy implications

- Community Funding Program Policy
- Sponsorship Policy
- Community Funding Program Guidelines

Budget and resource implications

The Community Funding Program budget for the 2025/26 financial year for grants and sponsorships is \$230,000. The 2025/26 Environmental Initiatives budget is a further \$20,000.

On 31 March 2026, the following amounts have been expended or committed this financial year:


- Grants \$ 54,706 (including annual school awards, representation support, and graffiti).
- Sponsorship \$ 115,000
- Environmental Initiatives \$11,000

Total expenditure \$180,706

Budget remaining \$ 69,294

Risk, legal and legislative implications

Council is responsible for the efficient and sustainable management of the Community Funding Program budget. Funding activities or items that are not seen to be benefitting the



Palmerston Community may erode trust in Council and its processes. Council mitigates this risk by following the policy relating to eligibility criteria as outlined in its *Policies Community Funding Program and Sponsorship*.

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:

- Disability Inclusion Access Plan 2022-2025
- Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework

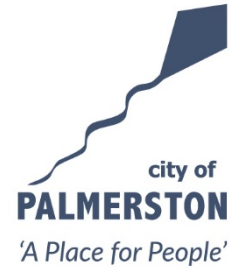
Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

Nil

COUNCIL REPORT



2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.2.3
Report Title:	Financial Report for the Month of March 2026
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	Executive Manager Financial Performance, Jeffrey Guilas
Approver:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta

Community plan

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

Purpose

The purpose of the Report is to present to Council the Financial Report for March 2026.

Key messages

- This report presents the March 2026 financial report and is representative of the year-to-date income and expenditure as at 31 March 2026.
- The financial health check ratios indicate that overall Council is in a positive financial position.
- The revised budget for 2025/26, is the original budget published in the 2025/26 Municipal Plan, the 2025/26 first budget review which includes the capital budget rolled over from 2024/25, and the 2025/2026 Second budget review.
- Operating income is \$42.88 million or 99% of the revised annual budget of \$43.27 million.
- Operating expenditure is \$35.67 million or 67% of the revised annual budget of \$53.20 million.
- Operating surplus (excluding depreciation) is at \$16.44 million.
- Capital income is \$1.18 million or 20% of the revised annual budget of \$5.78 million.
- Capital income includes capital grants income which is 31% of budget and is recognised when grant obligations are met, which is generally when capital expenditure is incurred.

- Capital expenditure is \$4.36 million or 38% of the revised annual budget of \$11.40 million. There is a further \$3.01 million in commitments where works have commenced or are awaiting payment, combined equates to 65% of the revised annual budget.
- The total cash and cash investments were \$26.64 million, which includes \$20.95 million in term deposits in various banking institutions with less than 12 months to maturity, and \$5.69 million in our general trading account.
- Rates debt receivables is \$4.69 million, which includes:
 - Debt for 2025/26 \$3.57 million, in which all is now overdue with the final instalment being due on 30 March 2026.
 - \$595,951 remains outstanding for 2024/25.
 - \$520,258 of accumulated unpaid rates from prior years (2023/24 and prior).
- Total payments to creditors in March 2026 amounted to \$3.77 million, of which \$3.05 million (80.85%) was paid to local suppliers.
- Council is compliant with its statutory obligations such as Pay-as-You-Go Withholdings, Goods and Services Tax, and Superannuation Guarantee reporting.
- There were no contract variations during March 2026 that met the criteria under Regulation 42 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Financial Report for the Month of March 2026 be received and noted.

Background

In accordance with *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 - Part 2 (Division 7)*, the preceding month's Financial Report must be presented to Council. Regulation 17(1) of the General Regulation requires a monthly report from the Chief Executive Officer to provide the Council with the actual income and expenditure for the period; the most recently adopted annual budget; and details of any material variances between the most recent actuals and the most recently adopted annual budget.

The information below is provided to assist with the terminology used throughout the report.

Annual Budget for 2025/26 consists of:

- the total budget per the municipal plan for the 2025/26 financial year.
- the approved capital expenditure roll-over from 2024/25.
- the approved first budget review 2025/26.
- the approved second budget review 2025/26.

Year-to-date actuals (YTD Actuals) is the actual income and expenditure from 1 July 2025 to the current reporting date, 31 March 2026.

This report should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Dashboard report found at **Attachment 12.2.3.1** which is a traffic-light reporting system highlighting the current health status and areas of interest to Council. Further details are then reported in the body of the report.
- Financial reports are included at **Attachment 12.2.3.2** presenting the financial position of Council as at 31 March 2026.

Discussion

Financial Health

The financial health check ratios provide Council with a quick snapshot of the Council's financial position.

- The March 2026 ratios are benchmarked against the forecast ratios as per the Municipal Plan. If the ratio indicates that Council is not on target, a detailed explanation is provided. The ratios show Council's ability to monitor the cashflows (in and out) and ensure that Council has sufficient cash to cover its obligations.
- The operating surplus ratio (operating surplus excluding depreciation divided by operating income) of 33% which is in line with the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) as its above 0%, noting this will reduce closer to the KPI when expenditure increases.
- The debt service ratio (net operating income divided by debt repayments plus interest) for March 2026 is 5.97, indicating that the Council has sufficient capacity to meet its loan obligations and is in line with the KPI ratio of 2 times.
- Rates collection currently sits at 91% of total rates revenue which is slightly lower than the KPI of 95% of rates revenue. The fourth and final instalment was due on 30 March 2025 and debt collection activities will increase to collect the remaining of 9% of rates debt.
- The current ratio (Current Assets divide by Current Liability) is 5.78 for March 2026 which demonstrates that Council has enough resources to meet its short-term obligations and is in line with the KPI of 1.5.

Operating Overview

The dashboard provides an overview of Council's operating income and expenditure for 2025/26 as at 31 March 2026. Refer to **Attachment 12.2.3.1**.

Total operating income as at 31 March 2026 is \$42.88 million, which is 99% of the revised annual budget of \$43.27.

Total operating expenditure as at 31 March 2026 is \$35.67 million, this mainly consists of the following:

- \$9.42 million employee costs.
- \$8.81 million materials and contractors.
- \$9.23 million depreciation (non-cash).
- \$1.69 million other expenses such as program running cost and training costs.
- \$1.63 million in utilities.
- \$0.86 million in insurance expenses.

- \$1.44 million professional services such as external consultants and management fee for Odegaard.
- \$1.07 million software, hardware, stationery, and subscription.

The \$4.85 million underspend in operating expenditure is largely due to invoices that are yet to be received and some invoices yet to be approved for services received in March.

Capital Overview

The dashboard provides an overview of Council's capital expenditure for 2025/26 as per **Attachment 12.2.3.1**.

Capital Expenditures

The 2025/26 revised capital expenditure annual budget is \$11.40 million. This includes \$5.10 million capital budget from last financial year that was rolled over to the current financial year and \$0.34 million from 2025/26 first budget review and a reduction of \$0.64 million from 2025/26 second budget review mainly due to Cyclone Fina clean up expenditure.

The pie chart in the dashboard as per **Attachment 12.2.3.1** shows that out of the \$11.40 million capital expenditure budget, the actual capital expenditure is \$4.36 million which is 38% of the budget.

In addition to the \$4.36 million actual expenditure, there is a further \$3.01 million in commitments where works have commenced and/or are awaiting invoices for payment. The current expenditure combined with the commitments presents 65% of expenditure against the revised annual budget.

Capital Funding

Capital projects are funded by capital grants, Council contributions (operating surplus and financial reserves), and borrowings.

Total budgeted capital income of \$5.78 million includes grant funding of \$2.43 million, noncash gifted assets of \$3 million, developer contributions of \$0.20 million, and \$0.15 million sale of fleet.

The table below provides a breakdown of the budgeted capital grants income for 2025/26 (A), and the grants that have been recognised as income (B). The table also provides an overview of the grants that have been received (C) and grants still yet to be received (D).

Grants that have been received are recognised as a grant liability until the assessment of income criteria has been met such as meeting the grant agreement obligations.

CAPITAL PROJECT 2025/26	TOTAL GRANT INCOME FOR 2025-26 (A)	GRANT RECOGNISED AS INCOME (B)	GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED TO DATE (C)	GRANT FUNDS YET TO BE RECEIVED (D)
Pump Parks/skate parks Zuccoli	\$0.19M	\$0.19M	\$0.19M	
SWELL Carpark Upgrade	\$0.03M		\$0.03M	
SWELL Basketball Court Shade Structure	\$0.09M		\$0.09M	
Reseal Program	\$0.21M		\$0.21M	
Road Reconstruction (R2R)	\$0.45M		\$0.45M	
Black Spot - Bonson Terrace	\$0.04M	\$0.04M		\$0.04M
Black Spot - Yarrowonga Road	\$0.11M			\$0.11M
Hobart Park Exeloo and Park Upgrade	\$0.37M	\$0.32M	\$0.14M	\$0.23M
21/22 Custom Animal Holding Pens (LG IP Grant)	\$0.02M	\$0.02M	\$0.02M	
Water Aquifer Prevention Strategy	\$0.10M	\$0.10M	\$0.10M	
Archer Recycling Modernisation Project	\$0.03M	\$0.03M	\$0.03M	
Lakebed Aerators	\$0.03M	\$0.03M	\$0.03M	
Woodroffe Park Upgrades	\$0.60M	\$0.01M	\$0.60M	
Solar Panel and battery Installation-SWELL	\$0.16M	\$0.0044M	\$0.0792M	\$0.0792M
Total	\$2.43M	\$0.74M	\$1.97M	\$0.46M

Cash and Investments

Trading Account: \$5.69 million.

Investments: \$20.95 million.

Annual Budgeted interest revenue: 1.26 million

Year to Date interest revenue: \$1.28 million.

CASH AT BANK AND INVESTMENTS				
DURATION	NO.	VALUE (\$)	% OF TOTAL PORTFOLIO	LIMIT
Cash at bank	1	\$5.69	NA	NA
<12months	11	\$20.95	100%	100%
Total	12	\$26.64	100%	100%

The investment portfolio is compliant with the Council Investments Policy.

- As at 31 March 2026 the Council held \$20.95 million in term deposits across three financial institutions.
- Cash held by Council in the National Australia Bank (NAB) trading account as at 31 March 2026 was \$5.69 million earning 4.20% interest per annum.

- Performance of our investments against our policy and details on our investments are provided in section 2.3 of the Investments Management Report at **Attachment 12.2.3.2**.

Receivables

Council has \$6.89 million in Receivables, which is made up of the following.

- \$4.93 million in Rates and charges, including rates levied during 2025/26. Further explanation of the breakdown is detailed below is rates and charges.
- \$1.96 million other receivables mainly including:
 - \$0.47 million sundry debtors.
 - \$0.74 million grants receivable.
 - \$0.27 million GST receivable.
 - \$0.36 accrued interest receivables for Term Deposits.

Rates and charges

- The dashboard at **Attachment 12.2.3.1** highlights the rates levied for the 2025-26 financial year are \$38.11 million, of which \$34.31 million (91%) has already been collected and debt collection activities will increase to collect the remaining of \$3.58 million (91%) of rates debt.
- Item 2.4 Debtors Control at **Attachment 12.2.3.2** provides for the summary of the breakdown of outstanding rates.
- Rates overdue as at March 2026 is \$4.69 million.
 - \$3.58 million is overdue for 2025-26 rates.
 - \$0.59 million overdue rates from 2024-25 which is 2% of the total 2024-25 rates revenue.
 - \$0.52 million overdue rates from 2023-24 and prior years.
- 355 properties have outstanding rates for 2024-25 and prior.
- 11,410 Ratepayers have paid their 2025-26 rates in full.
- Total of 605 properties have either direct debit or payment arrangement in place.
- The *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)* allows Council to place an overriding statutory charge on a property where rates have been outstanding for at least six (6) months, which gives Council priority over other registered and unregistered mortgages, charges, and encumbrances except for a previously registered overriding statutory charge. Council currently holds overriding statutory charges on 174 properties for debts from 2023-2024 and earlier.
- 18 Financial Hardship applications have been approved for the 2025/26 financial year. 16 are from the 2024-25 financial year and 2 are new applications.
- A balance of \$1.29 million of rates received in advance is accounted for in the balance sheet as a liability as it relates payment of rates for a future period.

Infringements

- Total infringements outstanding is \$245,930 as at 31 March 2026, this consists of:
- Animals \$222,902
 - Public Place \$6,498 and

- Parking \$16,530
- The graph in the dashboard at **Attachment 12.2.3.1** shows the total infringements issued and collected for the year until 31 March 2026.
- Total Animal infringements issued for 2025-26 as at 31 March 2026 is \$75,933 and collected is \$2,791.
- Parking infringements issued for 2025-26 as at 31 March 2026 is \$1,476, out of which \$388 has been collected.
- Total Public Places infringements issued as at 31 March 2026 is \$242 and hasn't been collected yet.

Sundry Debtors

Sundry Debtors as at 31 March 2026 is \$0.47 million as presented in **Attachment 12.2.3.2**. This balance includes \$75,000 that is expected to be received from Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, \$121,798.51 from Urbex 106 Pty Ltd, \$116,945.40 from Belgravia Health & Leisure, and \$45,797.18 from Power and Water Corporation. The total also includes the amounts to be received relating to long grass and property maintenance. More details are available in section 2.4 Debtor Control Account.

Trade Creditors Paid

- Total payments to creditors in March 2026 amounted to \$3.77 million, of which \$3.05 million (80.85%) were paid to local suppliers.
- During March 2026, the significant vendor payments consisted of \$ 0.69 million to Programmed Property Services, \$0.35 million to Cleanaway Pty Ltd, \$0.32 million to Allan King & Sons Construction Pty Ltd, \$0.32 million to Australian Taxation Office – PAYG, \$0.25 million to QuickSuper Clearing House, \$0.15 million to Veolia Environment Service (Australia) Pty Ltd, \$0.13 million to Ezko Commercial Services, \$0.13 million to Sterling NT Pty Ltd and \$0.11 million to Belgravia Health & Leisure Group Pty Ltd.

Borrowings

Total external borrowings of \$6.96 million is made up of the following:

- Archer Land Fill Rehabilitation loan: The total amount borrowed from NAB was \$1.96 million with the balance as at 31 March 2026 being \$0.34 million. The interest rate is fixed at 2.78% for the duration of the loan and is paid on a quarterly basis. This loan was for 8 years and is due to conclude on 30 June 2027.
- SWELL loan: The \$5 million approved loan for the SWELL project was drawn down during December 2023 with a current balance as at 31 March 2026 of \$4.33 million. This is a 20-year loan with current variable interest rate of 4.88% with the principal being repaid quarterly. This loan is renegotiated every 5 years.

Other Compliance matters

Council is compliant with payment and reporting of all tax liabilities as outlined below:

- Council has remitted \$2.16 million Year-to-Date (YTD) in Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) tax to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). The PAYG withholding tax is regularly reported to the Australian Taxation Office on a fortnightly basis by Council.

- The Business Activity Statement (BAS) balance for the month ended 28 February 2026 has been finalised and lodged in March 2026 as a Goods Services Tax refund of \$186,782. ATO refund was received in NAB on 25 March. The March 2026 BAS will be finalised and lodged in April 2026.
- Council has the required insurances to manage the current risk exposure.

Contract Variations

CONTRACT VARIATIONS	NO OF VARIATIONS
Varied contract, after a quotation under regulation 34 has been accepted and the total cost of supplies exceeds \$100,000 but is less than \$150,000.	Nil
Varied contract, after a quotation under regulation 34 has been accepted or a public quotation under regulation 35 has been accepted and the total cost of supplies exceeds \$150,000.	Nil
Varied contract is entered into after a tender under regulation 36 has been accepted and the total cost of supplies exceeds the original tender cost by more than 10%.	Nil

Consultation and marketing

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

- Finance team
- Governance team
- Infrastructure team.

Policy implications

This report is in line with the reporting requirements under the *Local Government Act* and relevant Council Policies.

Budget and resource implications

This Report provides an overview of the budget and resource implications.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

2. Financial Sustainability

Failure of Council to be financially sustainable to deliver key services and infrastructure for the community.

6. Governance

Failure to effectively govern.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

- [Long Term Financial Plan](#)

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

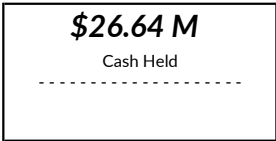
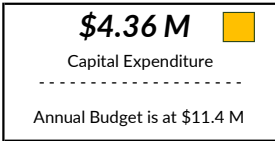
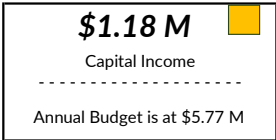
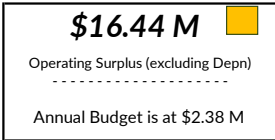
We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Attachments

1. Dashboard [**12.2.3.1** - 2 pages]
2. EOM Financial Report March 2026 [**12.2.3.2** - 26 pages]

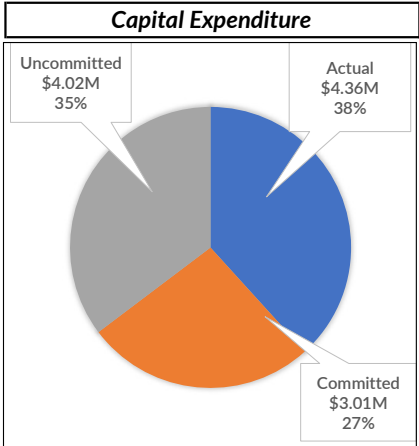
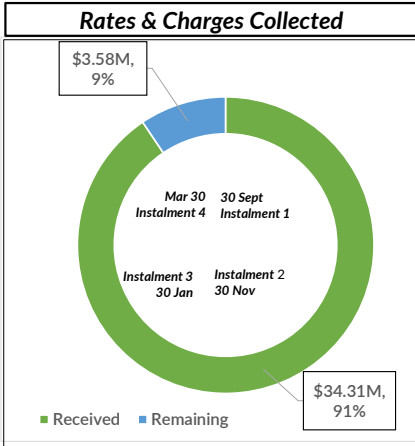
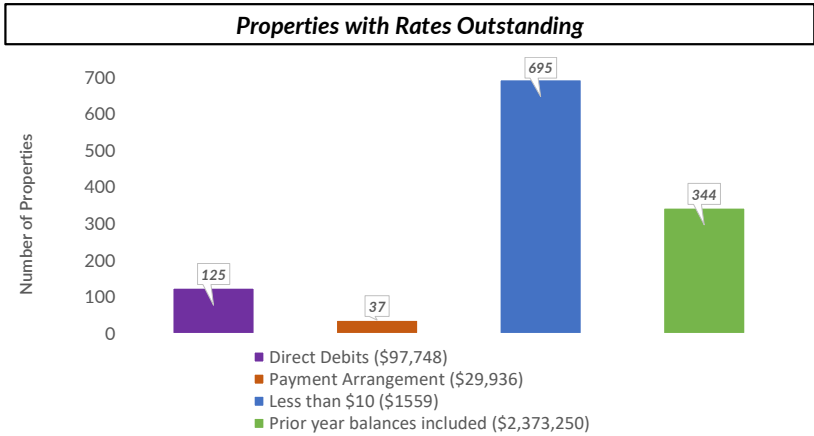
As at 31 March 2026 **DASHBOARD**

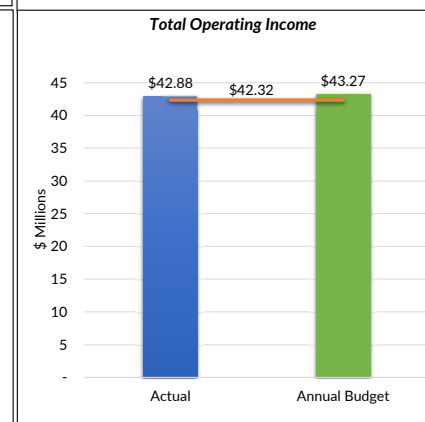
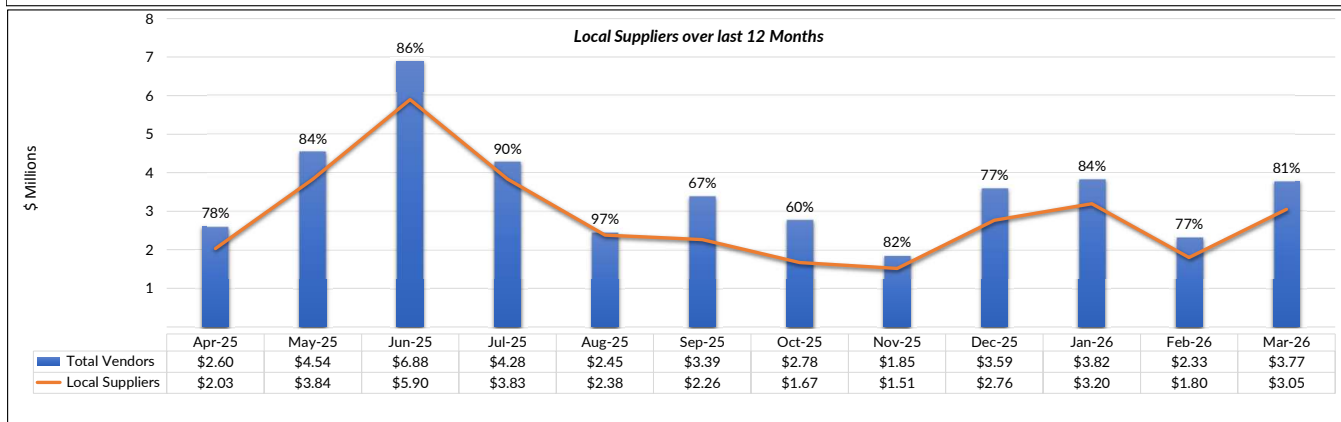
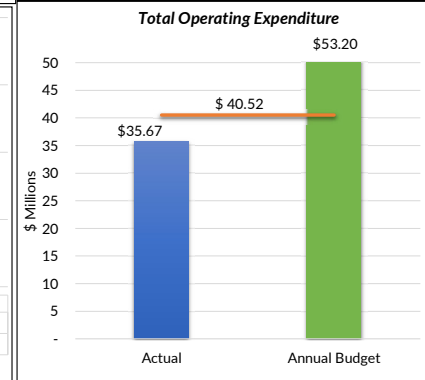
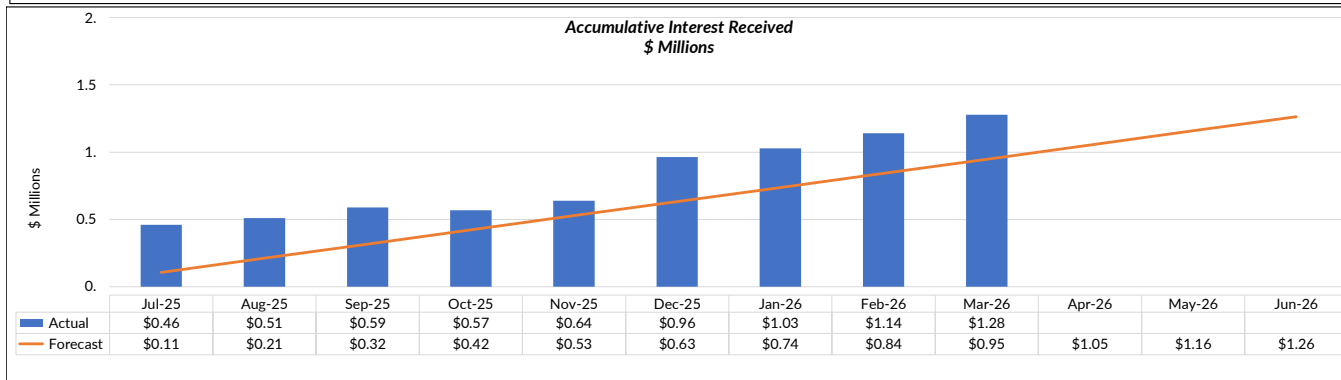
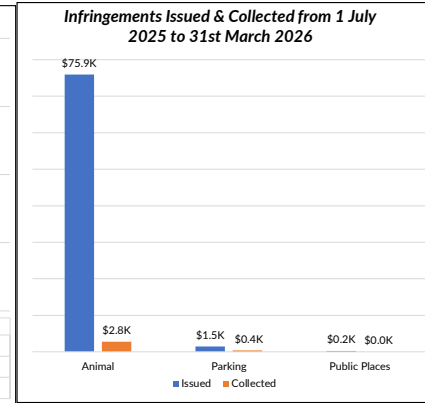
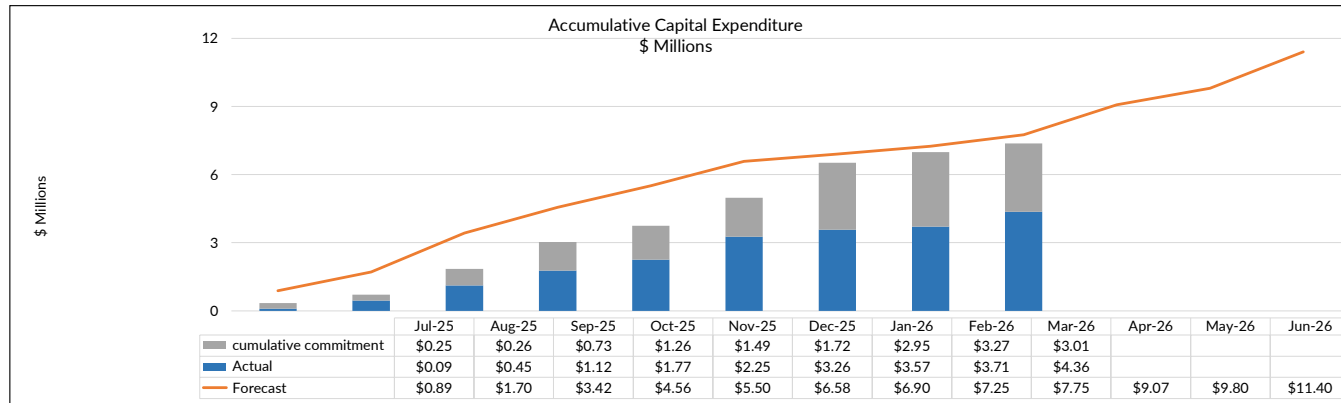
Financial Health Ratios	MP KPI	As at March 26	Status
Operating Surplus Ratio	> 0%	33%	This will reduce closer to the KPI when expenditure increases.
Debt Service Ratio	> 2.0	5.97	
Rates Collection	>95%	91%	Due to overdue rates to be collected. To date 91% (\$34.31M) collected to date.
Current Ratio	> 1.5	5.78	While this demonstrates that Council has enough resources to meet its short-term obligations, it is significantly higher than KPI of 1.5. This will decrease once expenditure increases and rates debt are collected.



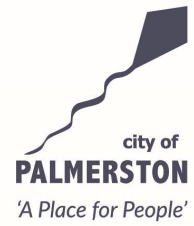
Legends

■ On Track
 ■ Explanation Required
 ■ Off Track





FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS



MARCH 2026

- 1. Executive Summary
- 2. Financial Results

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS | MARCH 2026 | 1



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March 2026

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Certification By Chief Executive Officer

I, Andrew Walsh, the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Palmerston, hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief:

- The internal controls implemented by Council are appropriate; and
- The Council's Financial Report for March 2026 best reflects the financial affairs of the Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Walsh', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

Andrew Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

Section 2
Financial Results

31 March 2026

75.00%

Executive Summary as at
% of year passed**1.2 - Executive Summary**

Description	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actual \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
Operating Income						
Rates	28,976,123	28,832,793	100%	28,961,123	100%	
Charge	8,932,422	9,055,706	101%	8,932,422	101%	
Fees & Charges	1,262,419	1,091,419	86%	1,069,431	102%	
Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	2,310,947	2,115,171	92%	2,013,413	105%	
Interest & Investment Revenue	1,741,911	1,635,402	94%	1,310,363	125%	1
Other Income	48,583	151,763	312%	38,243	397%	2
Operating Income	43,272,405	42,882,254	99%	42,324,995	101%	
Operating Expenditure						
Employee Costs	-13,496,550	-9,424,519	70%	-9,926,327	95%	
Materials & Contractors	-16,074,524	-8,812,383	55%	-12,568,691	70%	3
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	-12,306,000	-9,229,500	75%	-9,229,500	100%	
Elected Members Allowances	-523,612	-376,499	72%	-407,878	92%	
Elected Members Expenses	-383,370	-338,837	88%	-374,325	91%	
Professional Services	-2,353,415	-1,441,710	61%	-1,804,332	80%	4
Auditor's Remuneration	-55,886	-200	0%	0	0%	
Utilities	-2,427,946	-1,629,711	67%	-1,821,104	89%	5
Legal Expenses	-315,700	-217,151	69%	-236,822	92%	
Telephone & Other Communication Charges	-212,778	-171,141	80%	-185,040	92%	
Donations, Sponsorships & Grants	-255,000	-159,028	62%	-172,600	92%	
Software, Hardware, Stationery, Subscriptions	-1,352,464	-1,071,543	79%	-1,124,196	95%	
Insurance	-769,519	-860,651	112%	-764,987	113%	6
Borrowing Costs	-309,806	-249,216	80%	-232,355	107%	
Other Expenses	-2,362,303	-1,688,264	71%	-1,676,762	101%	
Operating Expenditure	-53,198,873	-35,670,352	67%	-40,524,919	88%	
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-9,926,468	7,211,901		1,800,076		
Capital Income						
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	150,000	157,269	105%	135,000	116%	7
Developer Contributions	200,000	256,355	128%	100,000	256%	8
Asset Income	3,000,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Grants received	2,426,169	761,812	31%	1,836,169	41%	9
Capital Income	5,776,169	1,175,435	20%	2,071,169	57%	
Net SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) transferred to Equity Statement	-4,150,299	8,387,336		3,871,245		

Section 2
Financial Results
31 March 2026
75.00%

Executive Summary as at
% of year passed

1.2 - Executive Summary

Description	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actual \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
Asset Purchase	-5,144,111	-2,469,970	48%	-3,478,654	71%	10
Asset Upgrade	-6,256,358	-1,893,645	30%	-4,273,636	44%	10
Capital Expenditure	-11,400,469	-4,363,615	38%	-7,752,290	56%	
Less Non-Cash Expenditure	-12,306,000	-9,229,500	75%	-9,229,500	100%	
Plus Gifted Assets	3,000,000	0	0%	0	0%	
NET CAPITAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-6,244,768	13,253,221	0	5,348,455		
Less Repayment of Borrowings	-512,201	-383,452	75%	-384,151	100%	
Reserve Movement	6,756,968	0	0%	0	0%	11
NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-	12,869,769		4,964,304		

Notes

The variance is due to the following:

- Higher interest income received than expected
- Receipt of insurance claims for Tom price park and income from Power Water to reinstate failed sewer trench
- March invoices for vegetation, waste management, mowing, security, cleaning and maintenance yet to be received and processed
- Invoices mainly relating to counselling, training, consulting, playground audits, community plan health check and other consultant fees yet to be received and processed
- Utility invoices related to electricity for month of March yet to be received and processed
- Higher than expected insurance premiums paid
- Funds received from sale of vehicles and office equipment is more than expected year to date
- Funds in lieu of construction received is more than expected
- Capital grant funds are linked to capital expenditure. Refer to note 10 and 1.3 capital expenditure section
- Some projects have commenced and are underway, with invoices for the expenditure yet to be received and processed. Refer to 1.3 Capital expenditure for more details
- Actual Reserves Movement will be recognised as part of end of year process

Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Budget Summary Report By Directorate as at
% of year passed**1.3 - Operating Income**

Description	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
Office of the Chief Executive						
Office of the CEO	532,608	448,863	84%	399,456	112%	1
Office of the Chief Executive	532,608	448,863	84%	399,456	112%	
People and Place						
City Activation	300,000	300,270	100%	300,000	100%	2
People and Place	300,000	300,270	100%	300,000	100%	
Finance & Governance						
Governance	0	52,341	0%	0	0%	3
GM Finance & Governance	70,000	62,446	89%	52,500	119%	4
Financial Services	1,095,618	1,065,855	97%	821,709	130%	5
Rates	29,193,496	29,132,833	100%	29,124,903	100%	
Finance & Governance	30,359,114	30,313,474	100%	29,999,112	101%	
Community						
Library Services	778,094	761,240	98%	758,979	100%	
Senior Citizens	2,000	2,000	100%	2,000	100%	
Animal Management	426,750	375,530	88%	379,372	99%	
Parking & Other Ranger Services	42,223	17,189	41%	33,473	51%	6
Community	1,249,067	1,155,959	93%	1,173,824	98%	
Infrastructure						
Aquatic Centre	260,000	278,895	107%	260,000	107%	
Civic Centre	166,587	124,941	75%	128,792	97%	
Gray Community Hall	10,000	6,207	62%	6,250	99%	
GM Infrastructure	0	41,634	0%	0	0%	7
Private Works	50,000	43,325	87%	37,500	116%	8
Recreation Centre	18,000	9,397	52%	13,500	70%	9
Roads & Transport	657,527	545,337	83%	493,145	111%	1
Subdivisional Works	115,000	55,293	48%	86,250	64%	10
Waste Management	8,971,382	9,093,606	101%	8,961,642	101%	
Odegaard Drive Investment Property	478,920	357,074	75%	362,374	99%	
Durack Heights Community Centre	4,200	7,977	190%	3,150	253%	11
Goyder Square	100,000	100,000	100%	100,000	100%	
Infrastructure	10,831,616	10,663,686	98%	10,452,604	102%	
OPERATING INCOME	43,272,405	42,882,254	99%	42,324,995	101%	

Notes

The variance is due to the following:

1. Cashflowing of the Financial assistance grants income
2. Income from pop up dining was not budgeted
3. Income from Insurance claim refund for Tom price park
4. Higher rental income than expected
5. Higher interest income received than expected
6. Income from long grass slashing, parking infringement and dog registration and renewal is less than expected year to date
7. Income recognised, but not received yet from Power Water to reinstate failed Sewer Trench.
8. Higher than expected year to date income from permit works on council reserves
9. Less than expected bookings from Rec Centre community hall
10. Income from completed subdivisional works is low due to weather condition, more to receive around the fourth quarter of this year
11. Higher income year to date from facility hire than anticipated

Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Section 2
Financial Results

31 March 2026

75.00%

Budget Summary Report By Directorate as at
% of year passed**1.3 - Operating Expenditure**

Description	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
Office of the Chief Executive						
Councillors	-906,982	-715,336	79%	-782,203	91%	
Office of the CEO	-955,426	-745,274	78%	-745,612	100%	
Office of the Chief Executive	-1,862,408	-1,460,610	78%	-1,527,815	96%	
People & Place						
GM People & Place	-618,498	-303,902	49%	-456,343	67%	1
Customer Experience	-370,789	-278,643	75%	-272,286	102%	
People and Customer	-1,078,948	-679,642	63%	-820,902	83%	2
Public Relations and Communications	-848,857	-588,834	69%	-621,763	95%	
Arts & Culture	-60,000	-4,573	8%	-45,000	10%	3
City Activation	-1,797,105	-1,292,927	72%	-1,211,628	107%	
People & Place	-4,774,196	-3,148,521	66%	-3,427,921	92%	
Finance & Governance						
GM Finance & Governance	-586,379	-399,285	68%	-432,411	92%	
Records Management	-328,604	-240,632	73%	-242,856	99%	
Financial Services	-13,921,303	-10,277,657	74%	-10,275,106	100%	
Rates	-105,700	-67,435	64%	-64,450	105%	
Governance	-1,535,389	-1,299,693	85%	-1,420,998	91%	
Information Technology	-2,037,998	-1,573,875	77%	-1,623,777	97%	
Fleet	-259,925	-100,519	39%	-207,304	48%	4
Finance & Governance	-18,775,298	-13,959,095	74%	-14,266,901	98%	
Community						
Community Development	-954,652	-565,243	59%	-690,879	82%	5
Diversity and Inclusion Activities	-34,000	-21,386	63%	-34,000	63%	6
Families & Children	-23,500	-17,078	73%	-22,150	77%	7
Health and Wellbeing Services	-12,000	-6,024	50%	-6,000	100%	
Library Services	-1,718,709	-1,150,965	67%	-1,282,232	90%	
Senior Citizens	-10,000	-9,635	96%	-10,000	96%	
Youth Services	-27,000	-1,996	7%	-15,000	13%	8
GM Community	-365,108	-292,554	80%	-263,034	111%	
Safe Communities	-20,000	-8,630	43%	-20,000	43%	8
Animal Management	-83,750	-55,841	67%	-72,039	78%	9
Parking & Other Ranger Services	-1,058,681	-812,887	77%	-777,620	105%	10
Community	-4,307,400	-2,942,237	68%	-3,192,954	92%	
Infrastructure						
Aquatic Centre	-1,523,736	-1,328,326	87%	-1,161,804	114%	11
Civic Centre	-271,256	-185,486	68%	-202,157	92%	
Depot	-82,093	-51,097	62%	-61,560	83%	12
Driver Resource Centre	-36,894	-23,015	62%	-27,659	83%	13
Emergency Operations	-1,481,180	-822,185	56%	-1,481,180	56%	14
Gray Community Hall	-106,716	-74,949	70%	-86,518	87%	13
GM Infrastructure	-1,455,027	-1,068,873	73%	-1,081,586	99%	
Open Space	-5,877,484	-3,480,575	59%	-4,385,981	79%	15
Private Works	-116,481	-88,447	76%	-85,997	103%	

Section 2
Financial Results

31 March 2026
75.00%

Budget Summary Report By Directorate as at
% of year passed

1.3 - Operating Expenditure

Description	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
Recreation Centre	-347,299	-210,545	61%	-260,483	81%	12
Roads & Transport	-1,658,552	-1,249,107	75%	-1,276,305	98%	
Stormwater Infrastructure	-174,177	-173,797	100%	-118,000	147%	16
Street Lighting	-884,675	-678,390	77%	-663,506	102%	
Subdivisional Works	-25,000	-6,170	25%	-12,500	49%	17
Waste Management	-8,981,150	-4,414,120	49%	-6,851,793	64%	12
Odegaard Drive Investment Property	-123,003	-92,083	75%	-94,437	98%	12
Durack Heights Community Centre	-79,644	-57,824	73%	-63,299	91%	
Goyder Square	-255,204	-154,900	61%	-194,564	80%	12
Infrastructure	-23,479,572	-14,159,890	60%	-18,109,327	78%	
OPERATING EXPENDITURE	-53,198,873	-35,670,352	67%	-40,524,919	88%	

Notes

The variance is due to following:

- One of the positions remained vacant for a period but has since been filled
- Lower year to date expenditure on recruitment and consultant cost
- Arts and Culture programs and events are expected to be expended in Quarters 4.
- Lower than expected cost on motor vehicle fuel, services and parts
- Subscription and membership invoices are yet to be received, and grant payments dependent on the timing of applications from the community
- Funds are expected to be allocated toward the installation of tactile markers at the pedestrian crossing between the Recreation Centre and the Library.
- Funds are expected to be allocated to National families week, scheduled for May.
- Expenditure related to program running cost for youth services and safe communities are expected to be finalised in May
- Animal desexing program yet to commence, and rehoming invoice yet to be received
- Higher employee costs for the period, will be managed within overall budget
- Year to date expenditure on Aquatic centre is higher than expected but overall within annual budget
- Awaiting utilities, cleaning, security, external consultant and contractors invoices
- Awaiting invoices for cleaning and building maintenance expenditure
- More expenses related to Cyclone Fina to be received and processed.
- Wet season is impacting on overall expenditure but expected to spend in coming months
- Year-to-date stormwater maintenance costs are higher than expected due to the wet season, but overall expenditure remains within the approved annual budget.
- Consultancy expenditure is expected later in the financial year



Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Section 2
Financial ResultsBudget Summary Report By Directorate as at
% of year passed

31 March 2026

75.00%

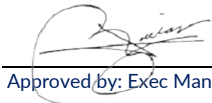
1.3 - Capital Income

Description	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
Office of the Chief Executive						
Office of the Chief Executive	0	0	0%	0	0%	
People & Place						
People & Place	0	0	0%	0	0%	
Finance & Governance						
Financial Services	3,000,000	580	0%	0	0%	
Fleet	150,000	156,689	104%	135,000	116%	1
Finance & Governance	3,150,000	157,269	5%	135,000	116%	
Community & Culture						
Library Services	29,172	0	0%	29,172	0%	2
Animal Management	19,580	19,580	100%	19,580	100%	
Community & Culture	48,752	19,580	40%	48,752	40%	
Infrastructure						
Aquatic Centre	2,892	2,892	100%	2,892	100%	
GM Infrastructure	100,000	100,000	100%	100,000	100%	
Open Space	1,280,784	575,738	45%	690,784	83%	2
Roads & Transport	808,864	37,124	5%	808,864	5%	2
Street Lighting	158,400	0	0%	158,400	0%	2
Subdivisional Works	200,000	256,355	128%	100,000	256%	3
Waste Management	26,478	26,478	100%	26,478	100%	
Infrastructure	2,577,417	998,586	39%	1,887,417	53%	
CAPITAL INCOME	5,776,169	1,175,435	20%	2,071,169	57%	

Note: Capital Grants largely make up Capital Income. Grants are recognised when the grant obligations have been met, which is when expenditure on capital project has occurred.

Notes

1. Variance is due to funds received from sale of vehicles is more than expected year to date
2. Variance is due to unspent grant funds not yet recognised as income
3. More income from Funds in lieu of construction than planned



Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Section 2
Financial Results

Budget Summary Report By Directorate as at 31 March 2026
% of year passed 75.00%

1.3 - Capital Expenditure

	Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
Office of the Chief Executive						
Office of the Chief Executive	0	0	0%	0	0%	
People & Place						
Arts & Culture	-90,000	-21,870	24%	-62,727	35%	1
People & Place	-90,000	-21,870	24%	-62,727	35%	
Finance & Governance						
Information Technology	-817,967	-234,615	29%	-556,283	42%	2
Fleet	-417,377	-270,466	65%	-417,377	65%	3
Finance & Governance	-1,235,344	-505,081	41%	-973,661	52%	
Community & Culture						
Library Services	-474,474	-5,315	1%	-474,474	1%	4
Animal Management	-19,580	-19,394	99%	-19,580	99%	
Community & Culture	-494,054	-24,708	5%	-494,054	5%	
Infrastructure						
Aquatic Centre	-46,114	-22,892	50%	-27,886	82%	5
Civic Centre	-125,000	-34,840	28%	-80,080	44%	6
Depot	-366,715	-27,275	7%	-350,000	8%	7
GM Infrastructure	-1,084,366	-156,873	14%	-964,366	16%	8
Open Space	-3,337,124	-1,990,011	60%	-2,253,668	88%	9
Recreation Centre	-90,984	0	0%	-90,984	0%	
Roads & Transport	-2,589,820	-378,649	15%	-914,833	41%	10
Stormwater Infrastructure	-110,329	-47,560	43%	-54,296	88%	
Street Lighting	-858,017	-246,117	29%	-573,077	43%	11
Waste Management	-972,602	-907,738	93%	-912,658	99%	
Infrastructure	-9,581,070	-3,811,956	40%	-6,221,848	61%	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	-11,400,469	-4,363,615	38%	-7,752,290	56%	

Notes

The variance is due to the following:

1. Exploring capital art initiatives for the current financial year
2. Tender assessment in progress for Enterprise resource planning project, professional services has been invoiced. Program to be developed for other IT projects
3. Orders for more vehicles has been placed and awaiting delivery, invoices yet to be received and paid
4. Tender for library shelving to progress and construction tender awarded for library café, expenses yet to be incurred
5. Program to be developed for the remaining funds
6. Expenditure related to CX desk update expected to incur in April and planning for lift component renewal underway
7. Tender for the dog pound project is under assessment and work for incubators renewals yet to commence
8. Works have commenced for the Zuccoli Community Hub, and the contract for the Water Aquifer Project is presently being finalised. No major expenditure is anticipated until both projects commence
9. Most of the projects have commenced with the invoices yet to be received and processed
10. Works have commenced on some projects, while assessments are underway for others, with expenditure expected in the later months of the financial year
11. The Council is currently awaiting invoices for certain projects, with design and construction progressing on others


Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Section 2
Financial ResultsCapital Expenditure & Funding as at
% of year passed31 March 2026
75.00%**1.4 - Capital Expenditure & Funding**

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	Annual Budget	Actuals
Land & Buildings	4,816,096	1,797,146
Infrastructure (including roads, footpaths, park furniture)	4,673,359	1,804,930
Fleet	436,957	289,859
Other Assets (including furniture & office equip)	817,967	234,615
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	11,400,469	4,363,615
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY:	Annual Budget	Actuals
Operating Income	3,762,477	1,337,553
Capital Grants	2,426,169	761,812
Transfers from Cash Reserves	5,211,822	2,264,250
Borrowings	0	0
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	11,400,469	4,363,615



 Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Section 2
 Financial Results
 Major Capital Works as at 31 March 2026
 % of year passed 75%

1.5 Major Capital Works

Project Number	Class of Assets	Capital Project (>\$150,000 threshold)*	Total Prior Year(s) Actuals \$ (A)	2025-26 YTD Actuals \$ (B)	Total Actuals \$ (C=A+B)	2025-26 Revised Budget \$ (D)	Total Planned Budget \$ (E=A+D)	Percentage Spent \$ (F=C/E)	Total Yet to Spend \$ (G=E-C)	Project Status	Expected Project Completion Date
PRJ10133	Land & Buildings	Vibrant Zuccoli PR6JECT-5 (Zuccoli Community Hub)	194,332.00	29,983.26	224,315.26	450,000.00	644,332.00	35%	420,016.74	Stage 3 design underway	Jul-26
PRJ10310	Land & Buildings	21/22 Archer Waste Management Facility Renewals	1,252,756.54	819,135.31	2,071,891.85	819,135.31	2,071,891.85	100%	-	Major project completed, minor renewals pending	Completed
PRJ10117	Land & Buildings	Tree Replacement Program	-	415,808.74	415,808.74	487,368.38	487,368.38	85%	71,559.64	Original 1,600 trees in the maintenance period. Additional planting scheduled for May	Jun-26
PRJ10607	Land & Buildings	Solar PV and Battery Installation - SWELL	-	4,427.00	4,427.00	258,400.00	258,400.00	2%	253,973.00	Planning for the project is underway	Dec-26
PRJ10595	Land & Buildings	Woodroffe Park Upgrades	-	7,310.00	7,310.00	600,000.00	600,000.00	1%	592,690.00	Concept plan completed, RFQ and tender packages under assessment	Jun-26
PRJ10586	Land & Buildings	Joan Fejo Playground Renewals	-	-	-	331,717.50	331,717.50	0%	331,717.50	Tender awarded	Jun-26
PRJ10522	Land & Buildings	Hobart Park Exeloo and Park Upgrade	76,806.31	315,292.92	392,099.23	373,193.69	450,000.00	87%	57,900.77	Shelter and toilet constructions complete, minor works pending	Apr-26
PRJ10589	Land & Buildings	Dog Pound Project	-	15,800.00	15,800.00	350,000.00	350,000.00	5%	334,200.00	Tenders under assessment	Aug-26
PRJ10577	Land & Buildings	Library Cafe Construction - Refurbishment	-	5,314.50	5,314.50	397,309.80	397,309.80	1%	391,995.30	Construction in progress	Apr-26
PRJ10190	Land & Buildings	Recreation Centre Renewal	242,725.29	-	242,725.29	90,984.00	333,709.29	73%	90,984.00	Quotation for AC condenser under assessment	Jun-26
PRJ10303	Infrastructure	Water Aquifer Preservation Strategy	-	126,890.00	126,890.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	63%	73,110.00	Study complete, actions pending	Jun-26
PRJ10538	Infrastructure	Black Spot - Yarrowonga Road	22,285.00	-	22,285.00	275,268.50	297,553.50	7%	275,268.50	In progress	May-26
PRJ10537	Infrastructure	Black Spot - Bonson Terrace	221,313.81	70,577.10	291,890.91	37,124.12	258,437.93	113%	-	Project completed	Completed
PRJ10380	Infrastructure	Pump Parks/skate parks Zuccoli	753,643.24	1,101,989.50	1,855,632.74	1,399,599.94	2,153,243.18	86%	297,610.44	Pump track open to public	May-26
PRJ10606	Infrastructure	Temple Terrace Reseal	-	-	-	735,000.00	735,000.00	0%	735,000.00	Work package is issued to contractor	Jun-26
PRJ10617	Infrastructure	Reseal Program - Rosebery Drive	-	-	-	250,001.00	250,001.00	0%	250,001.00	Work package is issued to contractor	Jul-26
PRJ10280	Other Assets	IT - ERP Review	785,633.32	185,750.00	971,383.32	664,366.80	1,450,000.12	67%	478,616.80	ERP tenders under assessment	TBA
Total			3,549,495.51	3,098,278.33	6,647,773.84	7,719,469.04	11,268,964.55	43%	4,621,190.71		

*At the ordinary meeting 16 August 2022, Council adopted a financial reporting threshold of \$150,000 per individual capital project for the purposes of the quarterly report on major capital projects expenditure. CD - 10/488
 Notes
 1. Revised budget for 2025-26 includes rollovers, first budget review and second budget review where relevant
 2. Detail regarding projects to be completed in future financial years to be added in future reports


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Balance Sheet as at
% of year passed**2.1 - Balance Sheet**

Balance Sheet	YTD	
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash & cash equivalents		
<i>Cash on Hand</i>	1,355	Petty Cash
<i>Tied Funds</i>	5,688,420	Tied funds equals restricted reserve and unearned Grant income
<i>Untied Funds</i>		
Investments		
<i>Untied Funds</i>	15,730,813	
Receivables		
<i>Rates and Charges</i>	4,928,168	
<i>Other Receivables</i>	1,958,167	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	33,521,582	
Non-Current Assets:		
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	555,532,479	
Investment property	6,200,000	
Work in progress	4,081,242	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	565,813,721	
TOTAL ASSETS	599,335,303	
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities:		
Payables	3,452,136	
Unearned Grant Income (AASB1058)	771,306	Unearned grant income
Borrowings	619,205	
Provisions	1,000,662	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	5,843,309	
Non-Current Liabilities:		
Borrowings	4,049,992	
Provisions	2,063,286	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	6,113,278	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	11,956,587	
NET ASSETS	587,378,716	
Equity		
Accumulated Surplus	237,994,770	
Profit & Loss - current Year	3,993,185	
Net Reserves	5,197,648	
<i>Working Capital Reserve</i>	4,995,227	
<i>Net Transfers to & from Reserves</i>	- 9,929,352	
<i>Unexpended Grant reserve</i>	1,430,338	Externally restricted reserve
<i>Election Reserve</i>	200,000	Internally restricted reserve
<i>Disaster reserve</i>	500,000	Internally restricted reserve
<i>Unexpended Capital works</i>	2,424,098	Internally restricted reserve
<i>Developer Funded reserve</i>	2,137,942	Internally restricted reserve
<i>Waste Reserve</i>	3,439,396	Internally restricted reserve
Revaluation reserves	340,193,113	
TOTAL EQUITY	587,378,716	



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Section 2
Financial ResultsStatement of Reserves as at 31 March 2026
% of year passed 75.00%**2.2 - Statement of Reserves - Budget Movements 2025/26**

OTHER RESERVES	Opening Balance \$ 01/07/2025	Original Budget 2025/26 to Reserves \$	Original Budget 2025/26 from Reserves \$	1st Review 2025/26 to Reserves \$	1st Review 2025/26 from Reserves \$	Projected Balance at YTD 2025/26 \$
Externally Restricted Reserves						
Unexpended Grants Reserve	1,430,338			(1,430,338)		-
Externally Restricted Reserves	1,430,338	-	-	(1,430,338)	-	-
Internally Restricted Reserves						
Election Expenses Reserve	200,000		(200,000)			-
Disaster Recovery Reserve	500,000					-
Unexpended Capital Works Reserve	2,424,098				(2,424,098)	-
Developer Funds In Lieu Of Construction	2,137,942	627,871	(200,000)			2,565,813
Waste Management Reserve	3,439,396		(284,743)		(926,124)	2,228,529
Asset Renewal Reserve	-					-
Major Initiatives Reserve	-					-
Internally Restricted Reserves	8,701,436	627,871	(684,743)	-	(3,350,222)	4,794,342
Unrestricted Reserves						
Working Capital Reserve	4,995,227	80,462	(1,150,000)		(350,000)	3,575,689
Unrestricted Reserves	4,995,227	80,462	(1,150,000)	-	(350,000)	3,575,689
TOTAL RESERVES	15,127,000	708,333	(1,834,743)	(1,430,338)	(3,700,222)	8,370,031



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2.3 - Investment Management Report

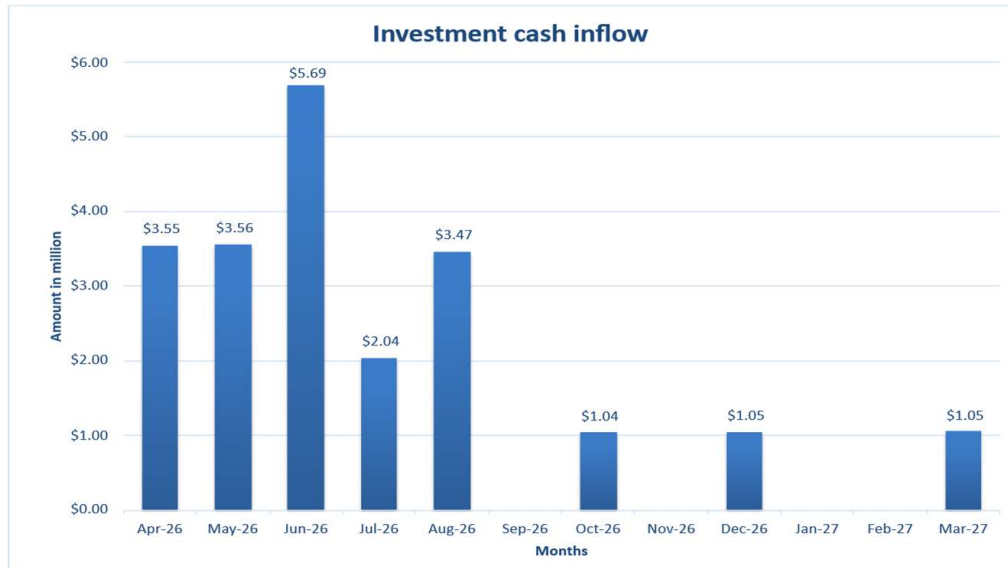
COUNTERPARTY	RATING	AMOUNT	INTEREST RATE	MATURITY DATE	DAYS TO MATURITY	INSTITUTION TOTALS
CBA	S&P A1+	\$ 3,370,472	4.38%	August 3, 2026	125	
CBA	S&P A1+	\$ 3,500,000	4.26%	April 22, 2026	22	
CBA	S&P A1+	\$ 3,500,000	4.31%	May 26, 2026	56	
CBA	S&P A1+	\$ 2,000,000	4.35%	June 23, 2026	84	\$ 12,370,472.32
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000	4.20%	October 9, 2026	192	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,575,000	4.25%	June 3, 2026	64	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000	4.60%	July 24, 2026	115	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 2,000,000	4.30%	June 22, 2026	83	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000	4.50%	December 24, 2026	268	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000	5.00%	July 23, 2026	114	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000	5.35%	March 24, 2027	358	\$ 8,575,000.00
		\$ 20,945,472			135	

Investment Distribution by Credit Rating		
Credit Rating	% of Portfolio	Counterparty Limit
A1 & A1+	100%	100%
A2	0%	60%
A3	0%	40%

Investment Distribution by Individual institution		
ADI	% of Total	Max Individual limit
National Australian Bank (NAB)	41%	60%
Commonwealth Bank (CBA)	59%	60%

Interest Income Year to Date		Amount
Total Year to Date Interest on Cash at Bank		\$ 285,683
Total Year to Date Investment Earnings		\$ 735,265
Total Year to Date Interest from internal loan		\$ 27,235
Total Year to Date interest penalty income		\$ 230,145
Total YTD Interest Income		\$ 1,278,328

Cash at bank & Investments		Amount
Trading Account		\$ 5,688,420
Short Term Investment		\$ 20,945,472
Petty Cash		\$ 1,355
Total Funds		\$ 26,635,248



PROPERTY INVESTMENT						
PROPERTY ADDRESS	VALUATION BASIS	VALUE	INCOME YTD	EXPENSE YTD	NET PROFIT YTD	COMPARITIVE YTD YIELD AT CASH RATE OF 4.10%
48 Odegaard Drive, Rosebery	Fair Value	\$ 6,200,000	\$ 357,074	\$ 92,083	\$ 264,991	\$ 190,824


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Debtor Control Accounts as at
% of year passed

31 March 2026
75.00%

2.4 Debtor Control Accounts

RATES OVERDUE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR (Including interest)

Report Month	Debtor Rates & Charges	Current year Outstanding	Outstanding % of CY Rates	Current year overdue	Overdue % CY Rates	Total outstanding interest for all years	Payments Received in Advance
Mar-26	\$4,692,616	\$0	0%	\$4,692,616	12.4%	\$919	\$1,294,715
Mar-25	\$5,057,506		0%				\$1,230,058

RATES OVERDUE BY YEARS

Total	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-2021	2019-20	2018 & Prior
Rates and Charges Overdue Amount (Incl. Interest)	\$1,116,209	\$595,951	\$275,465	\$132,407	\$62,207	\$26,075	\$13,060
	100%	53.4%	24.7%	11.9%	5.6%	2.3%	1.2%
Number Of Properties (Cumulative)	355	355	178	80	42	24	12

INFRINGEMENTS

Total	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020 & Prior
Animal Infringements	222,902	73,142	60,138	25,184	23,756	19,929	15,011
Public Places	6,498	242	3,000	139	1,632	1,485	
Parking Infringements	16,530	1,088	3,562	3,796	1,828	2,452	1,722
Net Balance on Infringement Debts	245,930	74,472	66,700	29,119	27,216	23,866	16,733
	100%	30.3%	27.1%	11.8%	11.1%	9.7%	6.8%
Number of Infringements	1,391	187	292	278	226	196	139

SUNDRY DEBTORS:

Total	Under 30 days	31 - 60 Days	61 - 90 Days	Over 90Days
\$468,390.03	\$166,425.62	\$26,421.36	\$1,320.00	\$274,223.05
100%	35.5%	5.6%	0.3%	58.5%


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SECTION 2
Financial Results
Creditor Accounts Paid 31 March 2026
% of year passed 75.00%

2.5 - Creditor Accounts Paid

Vendor Number	Creditor Name	Creditor Payment Type	Amount \$	Notes
V03073	Programmed Property Services	General Creditors	694,484.53	
639	Cleanaway Pty Ltd.	General Creditors	351,772.03	
V05688	Allan King & Sons Construction Pty Ltd	General Creditors	319,258.32	
2	Australian Taxation Office - PAYG	General Creditors	319,171.00	
V00318	QuickSuper Clearing House	Superannuation	249,367.30	
V01904	Veolia Environmental Service (Australia) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	147,148.32	
V00582	Ezko Commercial Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	128,857.25	
1607	Sterling NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	126,618.31	
V03556	Belgravia Health & Leisure Group Pty Ltd	General Creditors	112,531.89	
5104	JLM Contracting Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	93,181.32	
5508	Open Systems Technology Pty Ltd - CouncilFirst	General Creditors	77,964.72	
V00295	Jacana Energy	Utilities	77,136.03	
54	Powerwater	Utilities	60,494.47	
2587	Top End RACE	General Creditors	56,851.30	
V04789	ACECOM NT PTY LTD T/A ACECOM FIRE & SECURITY	General Creditors	52,498.68	
V00200	Red Earth Automotive Pty Ltd	General Creditors	44,714.50	
V04381	Telstra Limited	General Creditors	40,855.82	
V01115	Aerosail Engineered Fabric Structures Pty Ltd	General Creditors	37,530.00	
353	Otis	General Creditors	36,032.46	
V03609	VTG Waste & Recycling Pty Ltd	General Creditors	33,295.04	
V06156	Mode Design Corp. Pty Ltd	General Creditors	32,569.47	
V04317	Randstad Pty Ltd	General Creditors	31,549.02	
87	Industrial Power Sweeping Services Pty	General Creditors	28,905.45	
4190	National Australia Bank - Corporate Credit Cards	General Creditors	26,847.73	
V03566	Terrain Group	General Creditors	25,930.30	
V00228	Outback Tree Service	General Creditors	24,249.50	
479	JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd	General Creditors	24,161.50	
V05234	Mills Oakley	General Creditors	23,632.30	
V01118	Wilson Security Pty Ltd	General Creditors	22,773.18	
V05816		Refunds & Reimbursements	22,423.49	1
V01789	Next Energy Lighting Pty Ltd	General Creditors	20,133.30	
90	Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT Ltd)	General Creditors	18,925.00	
V02162	RMI Security - Conigrave Pty Ltd	General Creditors	17,653.82	
V03036	Azility	General Creditors	16,681.50	
V01756	Democracy Co Unit Trust	General Creditors	15,488.45	
3099	Iron Mountain Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	13,521.88	
V02814	Agon Environmental Pty Ltd	General Creditors	13,305.88	
V02164	Poolwerx	General Creditors	12,900.00	
V06059	Australian Environmental Auditors Pty Ltd	General Creditors	12,159.13	
5525	Easyweb Digital Pty Ltd	General Creditors	11,998.80	
5	Australia Post	General Creditors	11,700.31	
3936	Arafura Tree Services and Consulting	General Creditors	9,916.50	
V05606	Home Grown Lawn Mowing	General Creditors	9,845.00	
215	Employee Assistance Services NT Inc (EASA)	General Creditors	9,630.51	
V05766	Complete PC Solutions	General Creditors	9,559.00	
5254	True North	General Creditors	8,820.90	
V03363	Arcocos Consulting Pty Ltd	General Creditors	7,975.00	
V04561	Pete's Glass and Aluminium	General Creditors	7,955.60	
V00860	Costojic Pty Ltd	General Creditors	7,874.37	
V03973	AANT Salary Packaging	General Creditors	7,382.48	
V04258	L H & P Gouldson Partnership	General Creditors	7,050.00	
V01584	Salary Packaging Australia	General Creditors	6,503.02	
V03776	Business Fuel Cards Pty Ltd	General Creditors	5,979.20	
V02997	Illion Australia Pty Ltd T/a Illion TenderLink	General Creditors	5,907.00	

V06237		Refunds & Reimbursements	5,502.39	1
1109	Carcom Installations	General Creditors	5,348.60	
V05413	Schneider Electric Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	5,174.40	
V04802	AHG Building Contractors Pty Ltd	General Creditors	5,029.00	
V05367	MEC NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	4,869.70	
V00368	iWater NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	4,531.59	
V03222	Matrix on Board Training Pty Ltd	General Creditors	4,411.00	
V04904	Tropical Tree Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	4,356.00	
V06128	Mammas Kitchen	General Creditors	4,132.50	
V00443	Forecast Machinery	General Creditors	4,025.33	
V04917	OverDrive Australia	General Creditors	3,698.72	
2199	SBA Office National	General Creditors	3,580.62	
V04812	RingCentral Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,292.62	
V03685	Peel Valentine Whitehead Partners Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,272.50	
2238	Hollands Print Solutions Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,202.44	
V00474	Lane Communications	General Creditors	2,907.92	
5387	Odd Job Bob - Darren John Fillmore	General Creditors	2,751.65	
V06243		Refunds & Reimbursements	2,666.84	1
V01549	We're The Glue Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,561.33	
V03665	Bilske Investments Pty Ltd T/A Outback Pest Co	General Creditors	2,530.00	
V06244		Refunds & Reimbursements	2,500.00	1
3438	NT Shade & Canvas Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,473.90	
V01203	Tyreright Palmerston	General Creditors	2,355.00	
5114	S.E. Rentals Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,330.90	
V02854	Captovate Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,262.70	
V03853	Service Air	General Creditors	2,159.85	
V02534	Water Dynamics Pty Limited	General Creditors	2,035.68	
V00518		Refunds & Reimbursements	2,000.00	1
V04348	Accrete Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,000.00	
V04474		Refunds & Reimbursements	2,000.00	1
V00473	Tecon Australia Pty Ltd as Trustee for Tecon Unit Trust	General Creditors	1,980.00	
V01801	Pumptech NT	General Creditors	1,947.00	
V04923	Garrards Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,849.06	
V00542	Industry Health Solutions	General Creditors	1,848.00	
399	St John Ambulance (NT) Incorporated	General Creditors	1,846.31	
V01397	RSPCA Darwin	Refunds & Reimbursements	1,760.00	1
5640	Think Water - Winnellie & Virginia	General Creditors	1,749.50	
4561	Bendesigns	General Creditors	1,676.40	
V06197	Qalmolmi Arts	General Creditors	1,650.00	
V06217		Refunds & Reimbursements	1,500.00	1
V02306	Well Done International Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,462.45	
2064	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	General Creditors	1,430.00	
V01517	Australia Wide Taxation & Payroll Training	General Creditors	1,290.00	
V01420	CENTRELINK (PAYROLL)	General Creditors	1,280.13	
V00962	Dept of Territory Families, Housing and Communities	General Creditors	1,229.00	
V06222	Geek Culture Collective	General Creditors	1,200.00	
4398	Quality Indoor Plants Hire	General Creditors	1,186.65	
V06239		Refunds & Reimbursements	1,155.00	1
V05105	Litchfield Welding	General Creditors	1,133.96	
V00407	All Fence & Gates (NT) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,100.00	
V03425	CSS Services Pty Ltd ITF Corporate Strategic System Trust	General Creditors	1,100.00	
V00193	Amcom Pty Ltd Acc no CN5439	General Creditors	1,085.70	
V06209		Refunds & Reimbursements	1,070.00	1
V06240		Refunds & Reimbursements	1,036.00	1
V04830	Arafura Music Collective	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	1,000.00	
V06225		Refunds & Reimbursements	1,000.00	1
V06231		Refunds & Reimbursements	1,000.00	1
5417	Institute of Public Works Engineering - IPWEAQ (Qld & NT)	General Creditors	990.00	
4029	Totally Workwear Palmerston	General Creditors	965.00	
272	City Wreckers	General Creditors	924.00	
V00694	Subscribe-Software Pty Ltd	General Creditors	902.31	

V02869	Tamsten Pty Ltd T/A Palmerston Veterinary Hospital	General Creditors	885.25	
V00682	Leigh Dyson Plumbing	General Creditors	880.00	
V05929	Morrison Fabrication Pty Ltd	General Creditors	838.00	
V02998		Refunds & Reimbursements	821.35	1
V00271	NTIT (Fuji Xerox Business Centre NT)	General Creditors	800.96	
V06196	Top End Garage Doors & Gates	General Creditors	797.50	
3787	Top End Sounds Pty Ltd T/A Total Event Services	General Creditors	755.00	
V04876	Rachael's Designacake	General Creditors	737.00	
V05654		Refunds & Reimbursements	723.40	1
3428	Bunnings Group Limited	General Creditors	719.71	
V05224		General Creditors	719.00	1
V05232		General Creditors	719.00	1
V03971	Darwin Catering Company	General Creditors	707.00	
V00241		General Creditors	706.62	1
V05772	CRC NT PTY LTD	General Creditors	701.77	
V03936		General Creditors	700.00	1
V04985	DPSH Industries Pty Ltd T/A Northern Panel Works	General Creditors	700.00	
4735	Palmerston and Rural Party Hire	General Creditors	696.00	
V05074	On Point Creative NT	General Creditors	675.00	
41	Harvey Distributors	General Creditors	640.77	
571	Animal Care Equip & Services (Aust) P/L	General Creditors	623.76	
V06024	Seashells Coffee, Crybaby Coffee	General Creditors	610.75	
5204	Voyager Trailers	General Creditors	601.00	
256	The Bookshop Darwin	General Creditors	600.99	
V06220		Refunds & Reimbursements	582.43	1
36	DLK Security Pty Ltd Trading As Darwin Lock & Key	General Creditors	559.28	
V04172	Charlie Bliss Creative	General Creditors	528.00	
V06235		Refunds & Reimbursements	518.00	1
V06242		Refunds & Reimbursements	516.85	1
3879	Litchfield Council	General Creditors	506.50	
V05146		General Creditors	500.00	1
V06145	By Ash Brand Studio	General Creditors	495.00	
V00022	Officeworks	General Creditors	492.12	
2186	Optus Billing Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	480.00	
V04986	Bridge NT Pty Ltd T/A Bridge Toyota	General Creditors	476.50	
V01287	STEPS Group Australia Limited	General Creditors	472.18	
V02285	Territory Native Plants	General Creditors	470.56	
123	Kerry's Automotive Group - KAP Motors Pty Ltd	General Creditors	470.00	
4528	Miranda's Armed Security Officers Pty	General Creditors	451.00	
712	Paradise Landscaping (NT) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	440.00	
V06241		Refunds & Reimbursements	440.00	1
V05684		Refunds & Reimbursements	400.00	1
V01244	O'Brien Glass Industries Ltd	General Creditors	385.00	
V06093	Zip Heaters (Aust) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	375.76	
2977	Optic Security Group NT	General Creditors	375.39	
V00270		General Creditors	350.00	
V03746	Kim Koole Music	General Creditors	350.00	
V05627	Top End Workfit	General Creditors	340.00	
V04906		Refunds & Reimbursements	300.00	1
V05353		Refunds & Reimbursements	300.00	1
V05820		Refunds & Reimbursements	300.00	1
V05831		Refunds & Reimbursements	300.00	1
V05866		Refunds & Reimbursements	300.00	1
V06232		Refunds & Reimbursements	300.00	1
V06233		Refunds & Reimbursements	296.97	1
2009	The Big Mower (NT) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	286.40	
V03926		Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	1
V04438		Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	1
V05142		Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	1
V06215		Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	1
V06216		Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	1

ATTACHMENT 12.2.3.2

V06219		Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	1
V03834	Tabellarius Pty LTd TA Pack & Send	General Creditors	240.00	
V04624		General Creditors	240.00	1
V04051		General Creditors	200.00	1
V05911	The Trustee for Spotlight Stores Trading Trust	General Creditors	200.00	
V01936	Arjays Sales & Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	187.00	
35	WINC Australia Pty Limited	General Creditors	167.24	
V02599	Freddy's Car Installations	General Creditors	165.00	
3788	HPA Incorporated	General Creditors	154.00	
V05307		Refunds & Reimbursements	143.99	1
3569	NT Build	General Creditors	140.00	
V01810	Jacana Energy - Payroll Deductions	General Creditors	140.00	
V02036	Telefonix Technology Group Pty Ltd t/as Ubivio	General Creditors	132.00	
V00075	Mercury Group of Companies Pty Ltd (T/A Fit2Work)	General Creditors	123.20	
V04526		Refunds & Reimbursements	100.00	1
V05937		Refunds & Reimbursements	79.77	1
V03648		Elected Members	55.00	1
V04223		Refunds & Reimbursements	55.00	1
V06227		Refunds & Reimbursements	55.00	1
V06229		Refunds & Reimbursements	55.00	1
V06199		Refunds & Reimbursements	50.00	1
V06200		Refunds & Reimbursements	50.00	1
V06201		Refunds & Reimbursements	50.00	1
V06204		Refunds & Reimbursements	50.00	1
V06210		Refunds & Reimbursements	50.00	1
V06211		Refunds & Reimbursements	50.00	1
V06212		Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	50.00	1
V06213		Refunds & Reimbursements	50.00	1
V06214		Refunds & Reimbursements	50.00	1
V06223		Refunds & Reimbursements	50.00	1
V06224		Refunds & Reimbursements	50.00	1
V01938	Windcave Pty Limited	General Creditors	49.50	
V05400	FIRSTAIDPRO AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD	General Creditors	45.00	
V02545	Amazon Web Services Inc	General Creditors	37.94	
V05705	Central Animal Records	General Creditors	15.92	
V06226		Refunds & Reimbursements	8.70	1
V05841		Refunds & Reimbursements	6.00	1
			3,768,544.56	

Investments	-
Total Creditor Payments (excludes investments placed)	3,768,544.56
Total Payments made to Local suppliers this month	3,047,009.98

Percentage of this month's payments made to local suppliers **80.85%**

Notes

1. Names redacted to de-identify personal details



Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

SECTION 2
Financial Results

Creditor Accounts Outstanding as at 31 March 2026
% of year passed 75.00%

2.6 - Creditor Accounts Outstanding

Creditor No.	Creditor Name	Amount \$	Notes
18	Integrated Land Information System	(20,783.50)	1
2186	Optus Billing Services Pty Ltd	(480.00)	1
3313	Zip Print	(984.50)	1
4190	National Australia Bank - Corporate Credit Cards	26,847.73	2
4398	Quality Indoor Plants Hire	(149.50)	1
4703		(139.00)	1
5104	JLM Contracting Services Pty Ltd	(11,660.87)	1
5387	Odd Job Bob - Darren John Fillmore	(291.50)	1
566	Stickers & Stuff	(1,258.00)	1
V00582	Ezko Commercial Services Pty Ltd	(29,286.41)	1
V00744	Palmerston Rovers Football Club Inc	(10,000.00)	1
V01118	Wilson Security Pty Ltd	(4,124.68)	1
V01269	Palmerston Magpies Football Club	(10,000.00)	1
V01814	N and M Klidas Nominees Pty Ltd T/A Vrahos Contr	(23,383.80)	1
V02025	Event Hospitality & Entertainment	(8,757.40)	1
V02162	RMI Security - Conigrave Pty Ltd	(9,585.02)	1
V02229	Studio B Designs	(181.50)	1
V04317	Randstad Pty Ltd	(4,445.73)	1
V04789	ACECOM NT PTY LTD T/A ACECOM FIRE & SECURITY	(1,493.80)	1
V04917	OverDrive Australia	(1,829.03)	1
V04969	Landcare NT Inc	(11,000.00)	1
V05682	Open Circle Training	(2,155.00)	1
V06248		(1,552.00)	1
V06249		(1,671.96)	1
V06250		(797.02)	1
V06251		(797.03)	1
V06252		(50.00)	1

Notes

- Invoices paid on 02 April.
- Please note that NAB Credit relates to credit card end of month automatic payments waiting for invoices to be entered after reconciliation are completed



Approved by: Exec. Manager Financial Performance

Section 2
Financial Results

Commercial Leases as at 31 March 2026
% of year passed 75.00%

2.7 - Commercial Leases

Description	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
Income						
Library Services	12,000	0	0%	0	0%	1
GM Finance & Governance	70,000	62,446	89%	52,500	119%	2
Civic Centre	166,587	124,941	75%	124,940	100%	
Income	248,587	187,387	75%	177,440	106%	
Expenditure						
GM Finance & Governance	-12,000	-9,241	77%	-9,000	103%	
Expenditure	-12,000	-9,241	77%	-9,000	103%	
Profit/(Loss)	236,587	178,147		168,440		

Notes

1. Negotiation with preferred tenant is almost complete, expected to be finalised and leased by beginning of May with rental yield expected from June
2. Due to higher rental income than expected



Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

2.8 - Council Loans

EXTERNAL LOANS

Archer Landfill Rehabilitation Balances (NAB)	
Total Loan Amount	1,960,000
Repayments 2019/20	(221,414)
Repayments 2020/21	(228,223)
Repayments 2021/22	(234,634)
Repayments 2022/23	(241,037)
Repayments 2023/24	(248,082)
Repayments 2024/25	(254,986)
Loan Balance at 1/07/2025	531,624
Expected Repayments 2025/26	(262,201)
Expected Loan Balance as at 30/06/2026	269,423

Archer Landfill Rehabilitation (NAB)					
Principal as of 1/7/2025	Principal Loan Repayments for 2025-26	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Interest for 2025-26	Interest YTD	Loan balance as of 31/03/2026
531,624	-262,201	-195,953	-12,172	9,827	335,671

The External Loan - Archer Landfill Rehabilitation is for a term of 8 years commencing 28 June 2019 and concluding 30 June 2027. The interest rate is fixed at 2.78% for the duration of the loan and is paid on a quarterly basis.

SWELL (NAB)	
Total Loan Amount	5,000,000
Repayments 2023/24	-187,500
Repayments 2024/25	-250,000
Loan Balance at 01/07/2025	4,562,500
Expected Repayments 2025/26	-250,000
Expected Loan Balance as at 30/06/2026	4,312,500

SWELL (NAB)					
Principal as of 1/7/2025	Principal Loan Repayments for 2025-26	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Interest for 2024-25	Interest YTD	Loan balance as of 31/03/2026
4,562,500	-250,000	-229,167	-263,362	212,154	4,333,333

The External Loan - SWELL is for a term of 20 years commencing 29 December 2023 and concluding 28 September 2043. The interest rate is variable for the duration of the loan and is paid on a quarterly basis. The current interest for March quarter 2026 quarter is 4.88%


Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

2.8 - Council Loans

INTERNAL LOANS

Making the Switch Balances (FILOC)	
1st Withdrawal June 2019	640,000
2nd Withdrawal June 2020	2,583,849
Public lighting officer June 2020	114,000
Project Cost taken from FILOC	3,337,849
Repayments 2019/20	(200,000)
Repayments 2020/21	(313,615)
Repayments 2021/22	(321,849)
Repayments 2022/23	(330,299)
Repayments 2023/24	(338,971)
Repayments 2024/25	(346,950)
Loan Balance at 1/07/2025	1,833,114
Expected Repayments 2025/26	(357,004)
Expected Loan Balance as at 30/06/2026	1,476,111

Making the Switch (FILOC)					
Principal as of 1/7/2025	Principal Loan Repayments for 2025-26	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Interest for 2025-26	Interest YTD	Loan balance as of 31/03/2026
1,833,114	-357,004	-266,884	-35,154	27,235	1,566,231

The above table shows the total loan amount taken from the FILOC Reserve. The interest rate is fixed at 2.60% for the duration of the loan and is paid on a quarterly basis. The loan repayments will end in 2029. The final loan value for this project is \$3,223,849 not including employee costs for the Public Lighting Officer. External Loan - Archer Landfill Rehabilitation Balances

SWELL Loan (FILOC)	
Project Cost taken from FILOC	400,000
Repayments 2023/24	(80,000)
Repayments 2024/25	(80,000)
Loan Balance at 1/07/2025	240,000
Expected Repayments 2025/26	(80,000)
Expected Loan Balance as at 30/06/2026	160,000

SWELL Loan (FILOC)			
Principal as of 1/7/2025	Principal Loan Repayments for 2025-26	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Loan balance as of 31/03/2026
240,000	-80,000	-6,667	233,333

The above table shows the loan amount taken from the FILOC Reserve for SWELL construction. An amount of \$80K is repaid on yearly basis and no interest is charged. The loan repayments will end in 2028.

Section 2
Financial ResultsElected Member Expenses 31 March 2026
% of year passed 75.00%**2.9 - Elected Member Expenses**

Description	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget	Notes
Operating Expenditure						
Superannuation	-49,507	-39,225	79%	-37,130	106%	
Mayoral Allowance	-121,264	-90,034	74%	-90,948	99%	
Mayor Vehicle Allowance	-25,000	-19,833	79%	-18,750	106%	
Mayoral Professional Dev Allowance	-5,000	-3,441	69%	-5,000	69%	1
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	-17,200	-8,434	49%	-12,900	65%	2
Elected Members Councillor Allowances	-179,095	-123,148	69%	-134,321	92%	
Elected Members Professional Dev Allowance	-30,000	-10,323	34%	-21,000	49%	1
Elected Members Meeting Allowance	-70,000	-59,500	85%	-68,041	87%	3
Information Technology Capital Entitlement	-16,000	-6,045	38%	-11,000	55%	4
Acting Mayor Allowance	-10,546	-16,515	157%	-8,788	188%	2
Contractors	-350,000	-312,209	89%	-350,000	89%	5
Printing & Photocopying Costs	-1,000	0	0%	-870	0%	
Other Sundry Expenses	-6,578	-5,378	82%	-2,873	187%	6
Food & Catering Costs	-9,000	-7,366	82%	-7,565	97%	
Course Seminar & Conference Registration	-10,557	-6,683	63%	-8,714	77%	3
Air Travel	-3,093	-3,849	124%	-3,093	124%	3
Travel Accommodation	-2,111	-2,721	129%	0	0%	
Travel Related Costs Other	-1,031	-631	61%	-1,031	61%	3
Operating Expenditure	-906,982	-715,336	79%	-782,024	91%	

Notes

The variance is due to following:

1. Professional development fees lower year to date
2. Deputy Mayor acting on Mayor's role
3. Expenditure for these budget lines is dependent on the timing of seminars/conferences attended and travel undertaken
4. IT-related expenses are incurred based on the requirements of Elected Members
5. Invoice for election expenses received less than budgeted
6. Cashflowing of expenditure, expenditure is within the annual budget



Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Section 2
Financial Results

CEO Credit Card Transactions as at 31 March 2026
% of year passed 75.00%

2.10 - CEO Credit Card Transactions

Cardholder Name: Andrew Walsh
Cardholder Position: CEO
Period 01/03/2026 to 22/03/2026; 28/6/2026 to 31/03/2026

Transaction Date	Amount \$	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
2/03/2026	\$ 5.00	Darwin State Square	Parking fees
Total	\$ 5.00		

Cardholder Name: Nadine Nilon
Cardholder Position: Acting CEO
Period 23/03/2026 to 27/03/2026

Transaction Date	Amount \$	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
NIL			
Total	\$ -		


Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.2.4
Report Title:	Community Quarterly Report - January to March 2026
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	Executive Assistant to General Manager Community, Tonisha Nykamp
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 during January to March 2026.

Key messages

- In partnership with STEPS City of Palmerston hosted over 200 community members at the International Women's Day event held at Gray Community Hall.
- City of Palmerston hosted the first network meetings of the year, including the inaugural meeting of the newly amalgamated PARYS and PKN networks, now known as the Palmerston Child and Youth Network.
- Community consultation for the proposed closure of the footpath linking Wright Crescent and Victoria Drive including outdoor exercise equipment, was completed in response to anti-social behaviour at Gray Community Hall.
- City of Palmerston has successfully renewed its Working Towards Dementia-Friendly status for the Palmerston Recreation Centre, supporting Council's commitment to inclusion, accessibility and equitable access to community facilities in line with the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan.
- Library services and collections continue to evolve to meet community needs, with strong growth in digital usage, improved online access and ongoing enhancements to collection layout, accessibility and customer experience.
- Regulatory services continue to address animal and long grass matters working with community and organisations toward safer community outcomes.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Community Quarterly Report - January to March 2026 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 quarter, delivering a range of events, programs, and services that foster community engagement and networking opportunities. Initiatives and highlights of services delivered from January to March 2026 are detailed below:

Family and Community

International Women's Day

International Women's Day is celebrated globally each March, recognising the achievements of women while promoting gender equity and inclusion. The 2026 theme, Balance the Scales, highlights the importance of creating a world where every woman and girl is safe, heard and able to shape her own future.

CoP, in partnership with STEPS, hosted a vibrant International Women's Day celebration at Gray Community Hall and Harvest Corner Gardens on 4 March 2026.

This free community event brought together women, families and service providers to celebrate leadership, promote wellbeing and strengthen community connections.

In line with the theme 'Balance the Scales', the program featured guest presentations from NAAJA and YWCA Amplifying Voices, information stalls from local organisations including Services Australia, Legal Aid, Neighbourhood Watch and sporting bodies, alongside multicultural dancing, Storytime, Indigenous craft activities and live music by Kim Koole.



Multicultural Dancers



Art Activities



Steps Students



Indigenous Art

The family-friendly event created a welcoming and inclusive space for the Palmerston community to connect, learn about local support services and celebrate the contributions of women across diverse cultures and backgrounds. The event attracted approximately 200 attendees and featured 11 community organisation stalls, with a further seven organisations attending, creating strong engagement opportunities between service providers and the community.

Positive feedback and the diversity of attendees demonstrated the event's success in fostering inclusion and raising awareness of local support services, while supporting Council's Community Plan objectives of focusing on families, strengthening community wellbeing, and recognising diversity through partnerships and multicultural engagement.

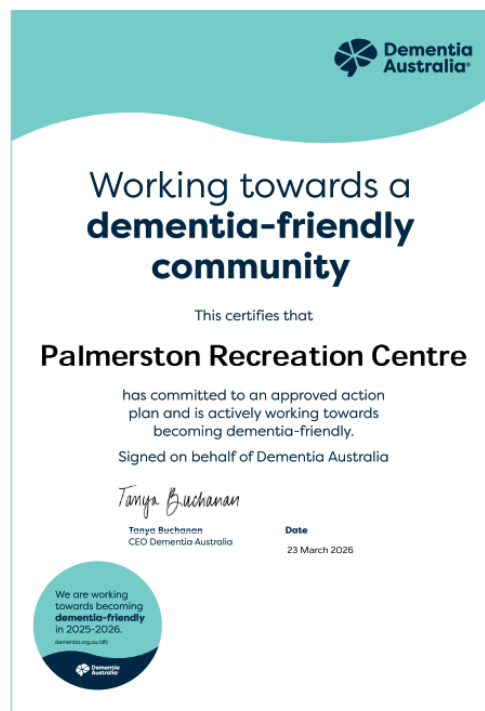


Participants listening to speeches

Working Towards Dementia-Friendly Status Successful Renewal

City of Palmerston has successfully renewed its Working Towards Dementia-Friendly status for the Palmerston Recreation Centre, reinforcing Council's commitment to creating inclusive and accessible environments for all community members.

This achievement aligns with the objectives of the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan (DIAP) and reflects a continued focus on improving access, participation and community connection for people living with dementia and their carers.



Recreation Centre Updated Certificate

The renewal recognises the ongoing efforts of staff in completing training, building awareness, and embedding inclusive practices across service delivery, ensuring Council facilities remain welcoming, supportive and responsive to diverse community needs.

Recording Studio Experience

With funding from the 2025-26 Youth Vibe Holiday Grants, the library delivered a Recording Studio Experience during the January school holidays. This was the second of three planned workshops for young people aged 12-25 to be delivered across the school year.

The program gave participants hands-on experience using professional recording equipment and introduced skills such as songwriting, music recording, and basic audio production. The workshops aimed to build confidence, creativity and digital skills, while exposing young people to potential career pathways in music and media.

- "I couldn't afford to record without this experience."
- "Can I book into the next experience"
- "Thank you so much for the experience."



Recording Studio Experience

January School Holiday Program

The library delivered a three-week school holiday program in January, with strong attendance across all sessions. Activities included arts and crafts such as badge making, rock painting, wind chimes and scratch art, alongside movie days.

External facilitators expanded the program, with workshops in mosaic art, fabric printing, jewellery making and creative activities. The program provided a mix of free, creative and engaging experiences for children and families during the holiday period.



School Holiday Program artworks Mosaic Pictures (left) Creating Chaos (middle) Participants Fabric Printing (right)

Art Gallery - Library Art Exhibition by Ronald Kerinauia

The library has an Art Gallery space for the public to display their artwork, supporting inclusive storytelling and showcasing local talent. For March we had an exhibition of artwork by Ronald Kerinauia, a non-verbal Tiwi man who lives in Palmerston. He expresses his wellbeing through art and uses his painting to share his love of nature, connection to the landscape and understanding of Tiwi culture.



Art on display by Ronald Kerinaiaua

Storytime Incursions

Library staff began delivering incursions to Palmerston Early Learning Centres in February 2026. Nine visits were held that provide Storytime sessions for 212 children in childcare who may otherwise miss the opportunity to engage with the library and library staff. The program helps establish early connections with children, supporting the development of a lifelong love of literacy and learning.



Library Staff at various Early Learning Centre's in Palmerston

Harmony Week Storytime and morning tea with STEPS group

Students from STEPS Group Palmerston joined the library to celebrate Harmony Week. The visit includes a Storytime session delivered by library staff, followed by multicultural performances by the students.

The celebration concluded with a shared morning tea, with food prepared by the students alongside catering provided by the library. The event supported inclusion, cultural celebration and community connection.



Harmony Day Storytime and morning tea with STEPS Group Palmerston

Future Focused

Community Cohesion Initiative

The library is participating in a national Community Cohesion Initiative in partnership with the Australian Library and Information Association, the Australian Public Library Alliance and the Department of Home Affairs.

As part of this initiative, the library is delivering a suite of programs that strengthen community connection, inclusion and participation across diverse groups, including young people, families, seniors and culturally diverse communities.

Book Chats

A new monthly book club where participants discuss books by genre or theme, rather than reading the same title. As part of the program, participants can select titles for the library collection from a curated selection provided by a local bookstore.

This approach encourages community involvement in collection development, giving participants a sense of ownership while ensuring the collection reflects local interests and reading preferences.

Crafter Noons

A monthly arts and craft session to offset our already popular Afternoon Art Adventures. In March, Janie Andrews showed participants how to create mosaic tiles.

Bilingual Storytime

One a month, the library will deliver a Bilingual Storytime session. This session will be presented in both English and another language and by hosted by a guest presenter. The program aims to celebrate cultural diversity within the community, promote inclusivity and support early literacy through exposure to different languages and storytelling traditions.

So far, we have had Chinese–English for Lunar New Year and Hindi–English for Harmony Week.

Digital Literacy

A series of digital literacy sessions were delivered in March in partnership with Services Australia, NBN and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, alongside sessions run by library staff. Topics included MyGov and scam awareness, internet connectivity, basic computer skills and online safety.

No attendees were recorded at the initial sessions. The program will continue to be delivered as part of the Community Cohesion Initiative, with a revised approach to promotion. Early insights suggest that one-on-one, point-of-need support is more effective for digital literacy, and this will inform future program design.



Crafter Noon with Janie Andrews



Book selections from the Book Chats

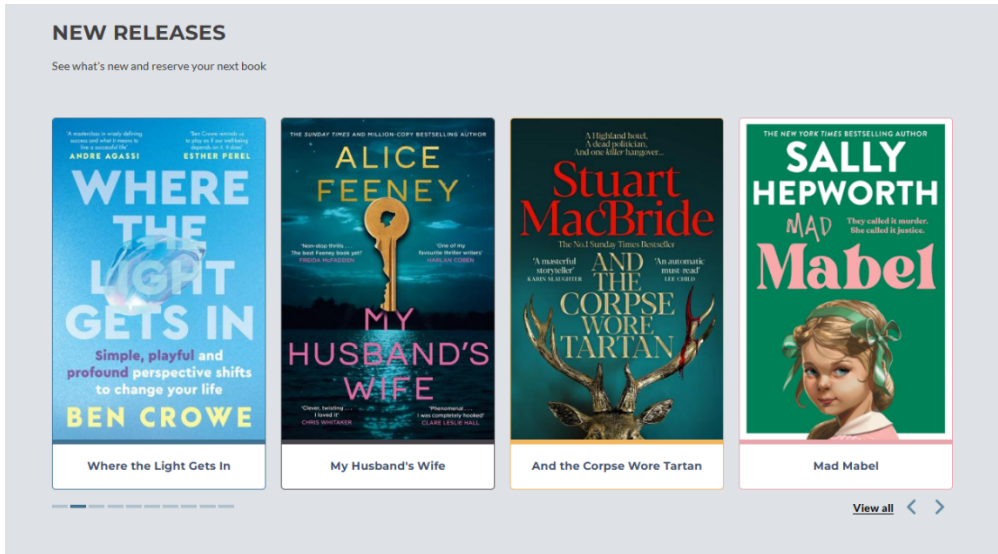
Updates to Library website – New Book Carousel, Online Membership forms, suggestions for new titles

The library has introduced a number of website improvements to make it easier for the community to discover and access library collections.

A new “New Releases” carousel on the homepage highlights recently added and popular titles. Users can view summaries and place holds directly, with links provided for available digital formats. While a “View All” option allows users to browse all recently added items, improving visibility of the full collection.

The library has also introduced a “Suggest an Item” form, allowing community members to recommend titles for purchase and helping shape the collection based on user demand.

These improvements support the Library’s goal of maintaining a contemporary, diverse and well-used collection by making it easier for the community to engage with both physical and digital resources.



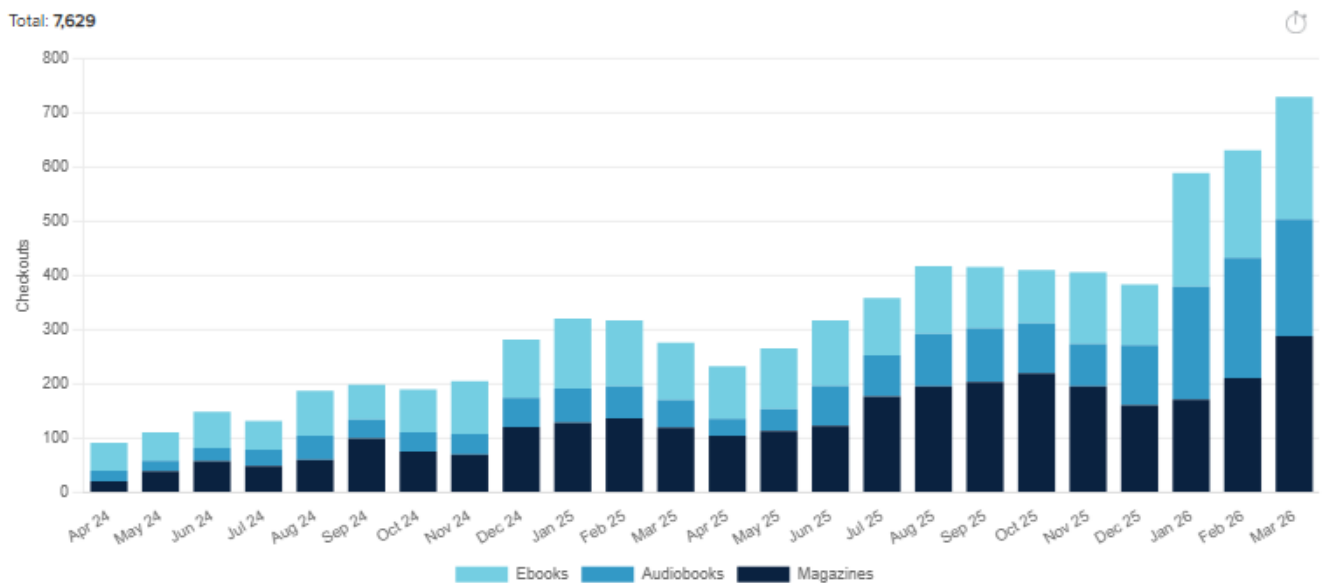
New Releases book carousel now on the website.

Libby Loans at an all-time high

Online loans through the library's Libby app have reached their highest level since its introduction in 2024, with a 91% increase in loans and an 87% increase in users.

To support this growth, the library has reviewed how items are selected for Libby. The collection approach now prioritises high-demand, recently published titles and uses a cost-per-circulation model for older items where available. This ensures we are meeting customer demand while avoiding unnecessary spend on low-use titles. This approach improves customer satisfaction by increasing access to popular titles, while delivering better value for money and more sustainable collection management.

Checkouts by format



Libby Loans data from April 2024 to March 2026

PressReader

Since the beginning of January Palmerston Library members have had access to over 7,000 newspapers and magazines from around the world on their device via PressReader (including The NT News). Library members can read local and international titles on their device, download complete issues, and switch between the original print layout and a mobile-optimised text view.



Your library card just got better.

Access 7,000+ newspapers and magazines anytime, anywhere.



Library Improvements and Accessibility

Significant preparation work has been completed ahead of the installation of new mobile shelving next quarter. This has included a full review of the collection layout to improve clarity and ease of use for customers.

Confusing or less intuitive collection labels have been replaced with clear, descriptive sections such as *Cookbooks*, *Large Print* and *Biographies*, making it easier for users to find what they are looking for. Library staff have also been actively reshelving and re-stickering items to ensure a smooth transition to the new shelving system. A new “What’s Hot” collection has also been introduced, showcasing newly released and popular titles across a range of genres, supported by three dedicated display areas to improve visibility and discovery.

The new shelving, which will be mobile, will improve flexibility in how library spaces are used for programs and events. It will also enhance accessibility, with raised and angled lower shelves making it easier for customers to browse and access items.

- “*Biographies all in one place saves me looking all around the library.*”
- “*I like the library new layout because it is simple and easy to find books, as books by the same author are kept together in one place instead of different areas.*”

Environmental Sustainability

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, CoP 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 May 2026.



Area for community feedback

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**

During the visit, Rachael Wright (HPA) met with Yvonne Coleman (STEPS) and Florence Henaway (Life Without Barriers) and was given an overview of how the garden operates as an inclusive and accessible community space. Rachael was very impressed with the garden and expressed her enthusiasm to continue supporting the partnership and future activities in the space.

With the dry season approaching, the team is looking forward to improved conditions in the garden. STEPS staff and students will begin planting seasonal vegetables, continuing the wonderful cycle of growing, harvesting and sharing fresh produce that fills both the garden beds and the bellies of those involved.

Palmerston Child and Youth Network (PCYN)

The first Palmerston Child and Youth Network meeting was held on Tuesday, 3 February 2026, chaired on behalf of Councillor Yolanda Kanyai by Deputy Mayor Damian Hale. This was the first meeting of PCYN following Council's decision in December 2025 to amalgamate the Palmerston Youth Services Network (PaRYS) and Palmerston Kids Networks (PKN).

Updates were provided by a CoP Community Services representative, followed by member updates from a range of organisations, including:

- Life Saving NT
- Department of Education
- Mission Australia,
- The Smith Family
- Litchfield Council
- 54 Reasons
- Darwin Centre Against Sexual Violence
- Department of Children and Families
- Office of Youth Affairs
- Autism NT
- Defence Member and Family Support Branch
- Legal Aid NT
- NAAJA
- TeamHEALTH
- Canteen
- NDIS
- Dementia Australia
- YouthWorx NT
- Alcohol and Drug Foundation
- Amity Community Services
- Palmerston Child and Family Centre
- Services Australia

Members raised questions regarding:

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

The Trello Board remains available for sharing youth-related information (ages 12–25). Here is the link to the Trello Board <https://trello.com/b/pb0ADNtU/darwin-palmerston-rural-big-rivers-youth-sector-updates>

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

Palmerston Seniors Network (PSN)

The first Palmerston Seniors Network meeting of 2026 was held on Tuesday, 10 February 2026, chaired by Councillor Sarah Henderson. This was the first meeting operating under the revised network format.

Updates were provided by a CoP Community Services representative, followed by member updates from:

- Probus
- Arthritis NT
- Department of Health Services Australia
- 50+ Club
- Palmerston and Litchfield Seniors Association (PLSA)

Members raised questions regarding:

- Gray Community Hall fencing, following 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 Palmerston Safe Communities Network meeting of 2026 was held on Tuesday, 17 February 2026, chaired by Councillor Sarah Henderson. This meeting also followed the revised network format endorsed by Council in December 2025.

Updates were provided by a CoP Regulatory Services representative, followed by member updates from:

- Blue Taxis
- Census 2026
- Orange Sky
- Salvation Army
- Mission Australia
- YWCA
- Services Australia
- Transit Safety
- Member for Brennan
- CDC NT
- Member for Drysdale
- NT Police.

Discussions 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.

Light Up Palmerston

Light Up Palmerston has celebrated eleven significant days over this quarter.

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. Consideration for lighting requests includes local and regional events, historic occasions, and events of city, state, national, or international importance.

DATE	COMMUNITY ORGANISATION	COLOUR
30 Jan-3 Feb	Feeding Tube Awareness Week	Purple
4-11 Feb	World Cancer Day	Blue
12-14 Feb	Sweethearts Day	Red
16-21 Feb	Marfan Syndrome Awareness	Red
19 Feb	Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation Australia	Green
27 Feb	Rare Disease Day	Blue
3-8 Mar	Lymphoedema Association Australia	Blue
9-16 Mar	International Long Covid Awareness	Teal
20-24 Mar	National Sunflower Day	Yellow
25 Mar	World Tuberculosis Day	Red
26-27 Mar	World Myeloma Day	Red

Public Places

The City of Palmerston continues to deliver its annual Overgrown Property Program, which targets properties exhibiting excessive grass growth and unmaintained yards. The program

prioritises education and awareness, encouraging property owners to meet their obligations under council bylaws and maintain acceptable property standards. During the reporting period, compliance audits were undertaken in the suburbs of Moulden, Gray, and Woodroffe. These inspections focused on identifying properties that required maintenance and engaging with owners to promote timely rectification.

Council officers conducted outreach activities to inform residents, organisations and government departments of their responsibilities and provide guidance on achieving compliance.

While the program emphasises voluntary compliance through education, enforcement actions remain necessary in cases of continued non-compliance. Where property owners failed to respond to initial engagement efforts, formal measures were initiated, including the issuance of warrants. In such instances, the City of Palmerston proceeded to undertake the required maintenance works to ensure public amenity and safety standards were upheld.

Regulatory Services continues to adopt a proactive approach in supporting external stakeholders to minimise and prevent anti-social behaviour across the municipality. Rangers have actively participated in joint operations led by the Northern Territory Police Force, undertaking patrols to identify persons of interest, coordinating clean-up activities, and responding to abandoned property in public spaces.

Lorna Lim Drive continues to be identified as a hotspot for the illegal dumping of household items. In response, a targeted letter drop was conducted to inform property owners and occupiers of their obligations under Council bylaws.

In coordination with the Operations team, Regulatory Services facilitated a clean-up of the area. Multiple truckloads of discarded furniture, general waste, and whitegoods were collected and transported to the Archer Waste Facility for appropriate disposal.

Parking in City of Palmerston

Parking patrols have continued during the quarter, with patrols of hotspots and areas identified as parking safety risks such as school zones. The parking changes with Drop-off bays and (Disabled Persons) Parking continues to receive positive feedback from users of the Recreation Centre, and the team continues to patrol the area to ensure compliance with the parking conditions.

Clean up Australia Day

Regulatory Services supported the event throughout February 2026, engaging with the community in the lead-up and on the day. Rangers attended the event to provide information on responsible pet ownership, local laws, and community safety, while also distributing animal-related merchandise to attendees. This presence contributed to increased public awareness and strengthened community relationships, aligning with broader objectives of education, compliance, and environmental ownership.

Dog and Cat Registration

As of 31 March 2026, there were 4738 animals currently registered within the municipality, with an additional 2,460 pending registrations. This saw an increase on the previous quarter

whereby only 4441 animals were registered at the time. A breakdown of these figures regarding dog and cat registration is as follows in **Attachment 12.2.4.1**, Graph 1.1.

There is still a considerable number of pending registrations. Regulatory Services have been engaging with animal owners, issuing cautions, fines and seizing animals if non-compliance continues.

This coming quarter (April to June) there is a focus on pro-active patrols of suburbs identifying properties with animals not registered, this is proving effective in identifying non-compliance with the Aniaml Management By-Laws and the next quarterly report will report on the results from this program.

In a pro-active measure City of Palmerston offered free registrations of Cats for two weeks in January 2026.

Impounding & Pound Management

This quarter, Council impounded a total of 233 animals, an increase of 55 animals impounded in previous quarter. This quarter again saw a high proportion of animals returning to their owners or being rehomed. **Attachment 12.2.4.1**, Graphs 2.1 and 2.2 provide a visual representation of the outcome.

Out of Hours Ranger Engagement and Patrols

During the quarter, Council staff conducted 93 after-hours patrols, focusing primarily on animal management. **Attachment 12.2.4.1**, Graph 3.1 compares the patrols across Traffic Offences, Animal Management, and Public Places for the three (3) reporting periods.

Rangers received 101 after-hours calls this quarter. Calls about contained and roaming animals were the most common. **Attachment 12.2.4.1**, Graph 3.2 illustrates the after-hours call distribution for Council staff.

Customer Action Requests

Attachment 12.2.4.1, 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 the reporting period. Animal Management continues to lead in customer reporting across all regulatory functions. Over the quarter, Rangers responded to 847 customer action requests which is an increase of 68 requests from the previous quarter.

Infringements

Animal Management

A total of 87 infringements has been issued for animal related offences within the reporting quarter. This is an increase of 26 infringements from the last quarter. The containment of dogs, unregistered dogs, serious dog attacks making up the primary infringed offences. **Attachment 12.2.4.1**, Graph 5.1 provides a visual breakdown of the totals incurred of the current quarter.

Parking and Traffic

A total of 15 Parking Infringements were issued for parking violations within the quarter. This was a decrease of 1 infringement from the last quarter. This quarter has a focus on education around school zones and previous patrols, and education has reflected in the decrease of infringement outcomes.

Vehicle parking continues to be free in all parking areas within the municipality. However, time limits and parking conditions 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 ensure accessible parking and safety on public roads for all members of the public. **Attachment 12.2.4.1**, Graph 6.1.

Vibrant Economy

SWELL Palmerston

Swell has demonstrated strong participation and engagement across its core programs and services from January to March 2026. The Learn to Swim program currently supports 352 children, alongside 331 active gym members, reflecting steady community use of the facility. 56 birthday parties have also been held to date, attracting a total of 649 attendees.

A wide range of external user groups and health providers regularly utilise pool space, including physiotherapy services, rehabilitation providers, and swim squads.

Events included large-scale school-based activities such as Royal Life school swimming sessions with over 400 participants, as well as targeted programs like aqua aerobics.



Aqua Aerobics

Palmerston Recreation Centre - (PRC)

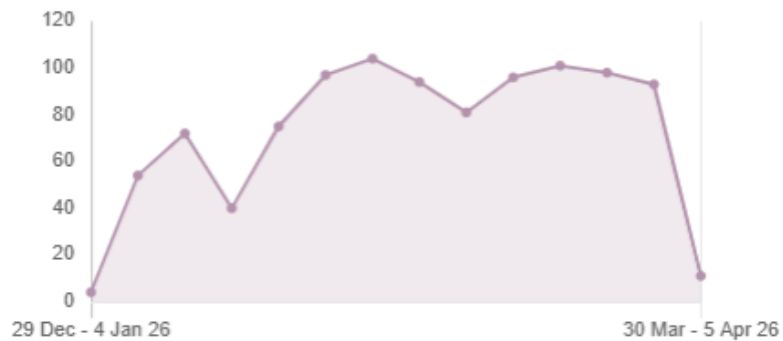
Palmerston Recreation Centre delivered a high level of activity from January to March 2026. In addition to routine sporting and community bookings, the facility supported a number of new and expanded users, including Traditional Shotokan Karate-do Federation of Australia (TSKFA) training sessions, Blind Tennis programs, pickleball activity, and SEDA classroom sessions delivered from the centre.

Council Officers continue to work directly with new and existing hirers to coordinate bookings, confirm equipment and court requirements, and align activities with available

court space and operational schedules. This coordination supports efficient allocation of the facility, encourages new program delivery, and ensures the centre operates at optimal capacity while accommodating a diverse range of community users.

Number of bookings

Total: 1K | Avg: 73/week



Palmerston Recreation Centre number of bookings

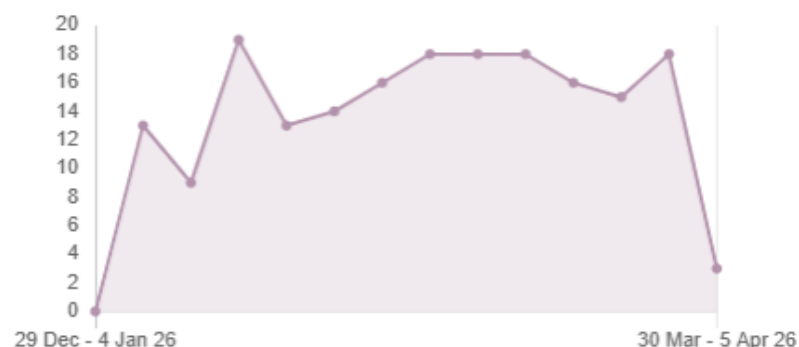
Durack Community Art Centre (DCAC)

Durack Community Art Centre hosted a diverse range of creative and community activities during the reporting period. Programs included incense making workshops, a Geek Culture Collective tabletop games meet up, two photography sessions, youth hip hop classes, and Landcare school holiday education activities. The centre also supported visiting users including the Office of Gender Equity and Diversity, a modelling workshop, and two Zumba fitness classes.

The facility continued to support social and private functions, hosting seven parties during the reporting period alongside regular scheduled programs. The Durack Community Art Centre also operated as a base location for groups exploring the Palmerston area, reinforcing its role as a flexible community space supporting arts, learning, wellbeing, and social connection.

Number of bookings

Total: 190 | Avg: 14/week



Durack Community Art Centre number of bookings

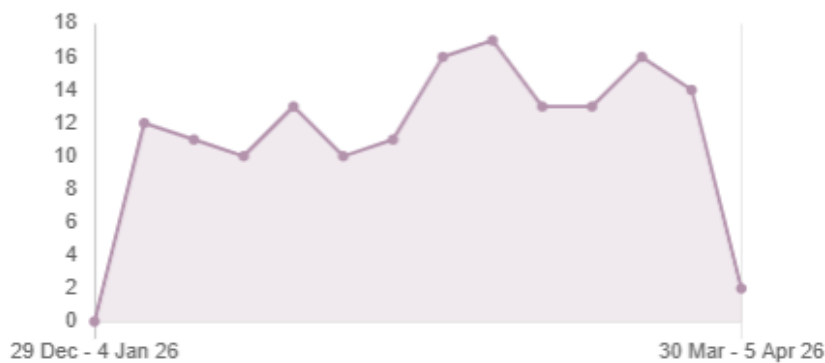
Gray Community Hall (GCH)

Gray Community Hall continued to accommodate a range of bookings during the reporting period. The venue hosted 24 parties and private functions. Community use also included an Arafura Music Collective event delivered through the Community Funding Program and an International Women’s Day garden party.

Additional bookings included the commencement of a social sewing meet up group and the expansion of the Darwin Sword Fighting program, which added an additional class at Gray Community Hall due to limited availability at the Palmerston Recreation Centre. The hall continues to operate as an alternative venue for programs that cannot be accommodated at other City facilities.

Number of bookings

Total: 158 | Avg: 11/week



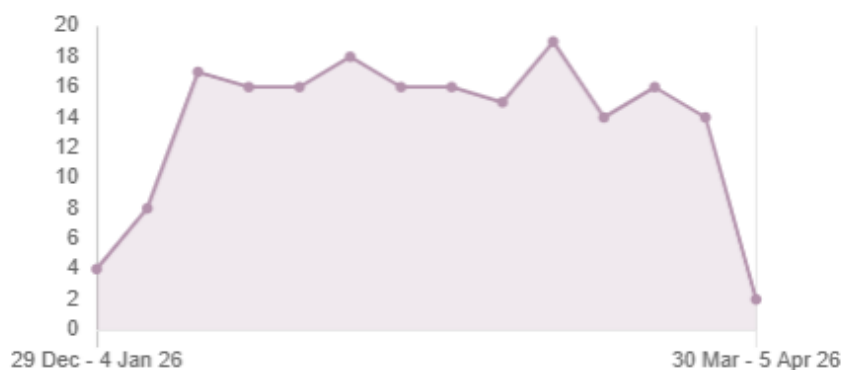
Gray Community Hall number of bookings

Library Community Room and Gulwa

The Library Community Room continued to support regular bookings during the reporting period. Six church groups utilised the space for ongoing services and meetings.

Number of bookings

Total: 191 | Avg: 14/week



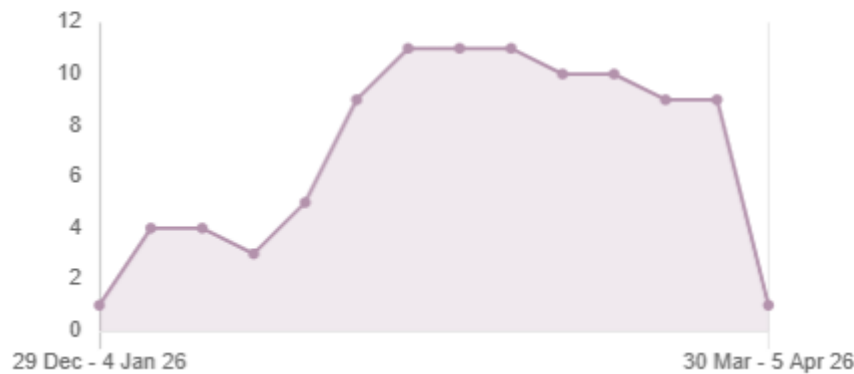
Library Community Room and Gulwa number of bookings

Driver Resource Centre

Driver Resource Centre continued to operate with established user groups during the reporting period. No changes to bookings or user groups were recorded.

Number of bookings

Total: 98 | Avg: 7/week



Driver Resource Centre bookings

Consultation and marketing

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

- Community Services Manager.
- Regulatory Services Manager.
- Library Services Manager
- Acting Library Services Manager.
- Library Operations Coordinator.
- Community Facilities Officer.
- Community Development Officer.
- Community Inclusion & Projects Officer.

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:

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

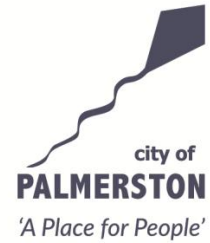
Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

1. 202512 Quarterly report statistics Jan - March [**12.2.4.1** - 2 pages]
2. REGULATORY SERVICES Quarterly Report DATA graphs January to March 2026 [**12.2.4.2** - 6 pages]

LIBRARY STATISTICS



QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY TO MARCH 2026

PALMERSTON LIBRARY ACCESS STATISTICS

10,305

Library Members

34,993

Library Visits

19,494

Library Items Borrowed

KEY PERFORMANCE METRICS	TOTAL	vs LAST QUARTER	vs SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR
Library Visits	34,993	↓ -7%	↓ -3%
Library Members	10,305	↑ 2%	↑ 4%
Library Items Borrowed	17,542	↑ 7%	↓ -12%
Libby Online Library Loans	1,952	↑ 62%	↑ 113%
Library Programs Held	111	↑ 5%	↑ 2%
Library Programs Attendance	2,342	↓ -5%	↑ 1%

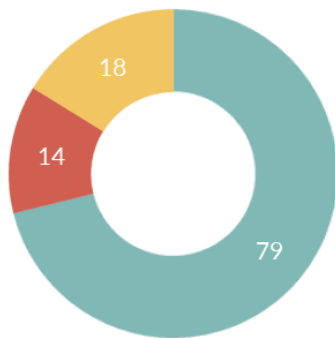
Library visits have decreased slightly compared to the same period last year (-3%), which is expected given recent disruptions. Café construction and partial foyer closure following post-cyclone roof repairs have contributed to feedback that the building appears closed. Some negative feedback regarding noise levels may have also influenced visitation. Additionally, an increase in anti-social behaviour in the surrounding area may be impacting community comfort in accessing the space. With works now nearing completion and the dry season approaching, an increase in visits is anticipated.

Physical borrowing has declined year-on-year (-12%), although there has been a positive increase compared to last quarter (+7%). In contrast, digital usage continues to grow strongly, with Libby loans up 62% quarter-on-quarter and 113% year-on-year. It is likely that our regular borrowers have been more impacted by the disruptions, whereas users accessing the space for internet and air-conditioned facilities have fewer alternatives.

Library programming remains consistent, with a small increase in programs delivered and stable attendance overall, sitting slightly above the same time last year.

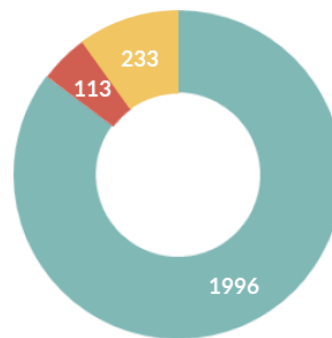
PROGRAMS OFFERED BY AGE GROUP

■ Children ■ Youth ■ Adult/Seniors



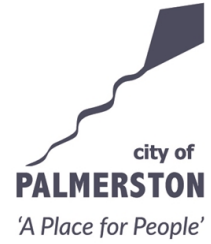
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE BY AGE GROUP

■ Children ■ Youth ■ Adult/Seniors



PALMERSTON LIBRARY PROGRAM STATISTICS

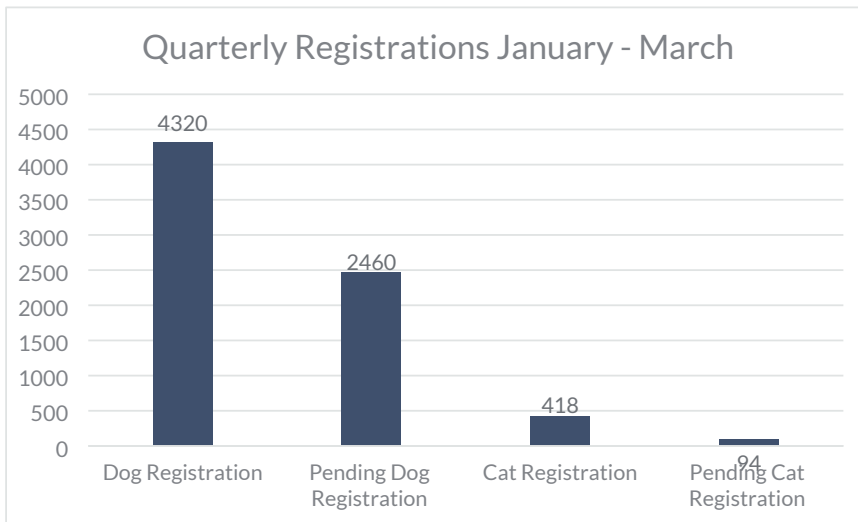
PROGRAM	SESSIONS	TOTAL ATTENDANCE
School Holidays	8	398
Storytime	18	766
Nursery Time	10	241
Incursions	9	291
Gadgets and Games	11	91
Geek Squad	11	117
Code Club	8	59
Lego Club	10	68
Afternoon Art Activities	2	32
All in Activities	9	196
Digital Literacy	3	4
Special Events	7	207
Totals	106	2,469



REGULATORY SERVICES QUARTERLY REPORT JANAURY TO MARCH

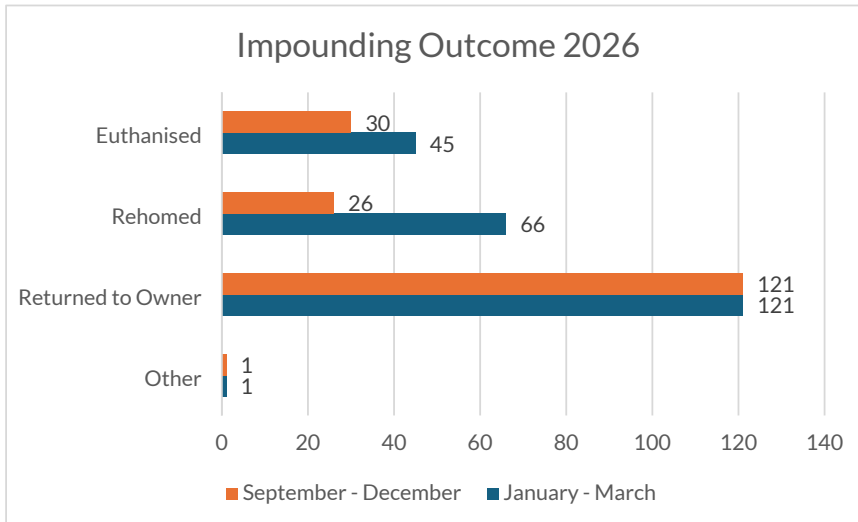
1. DOG AND CAT REGISTRATION

Graph 1.1

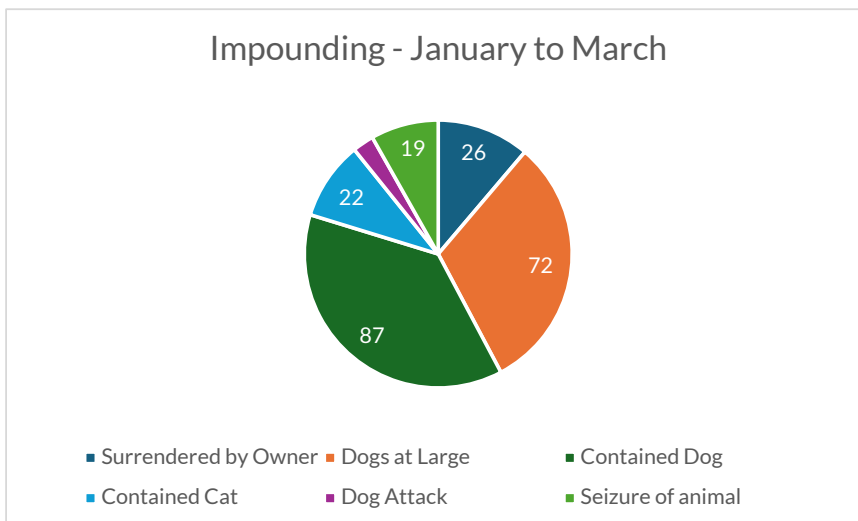


2. IMPOUNDING AND POUND MANAGEMENT

Graph 2.1

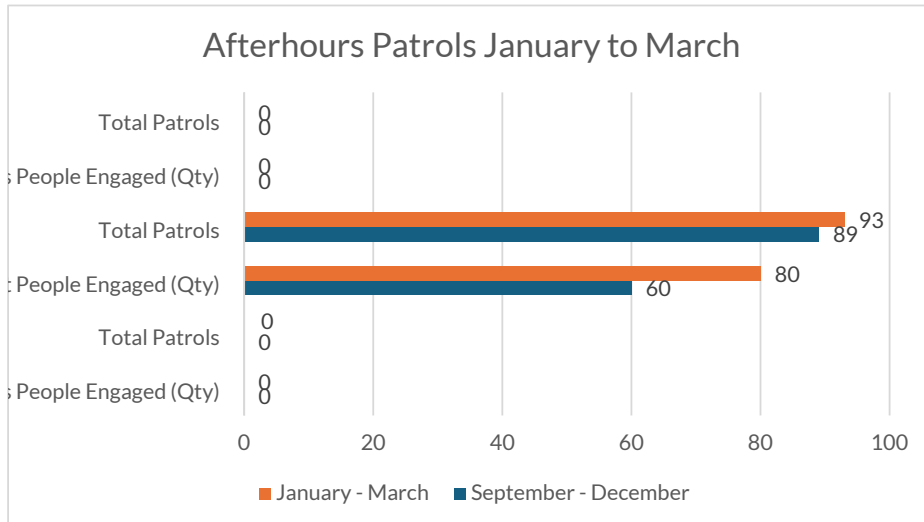


Graph 2.2

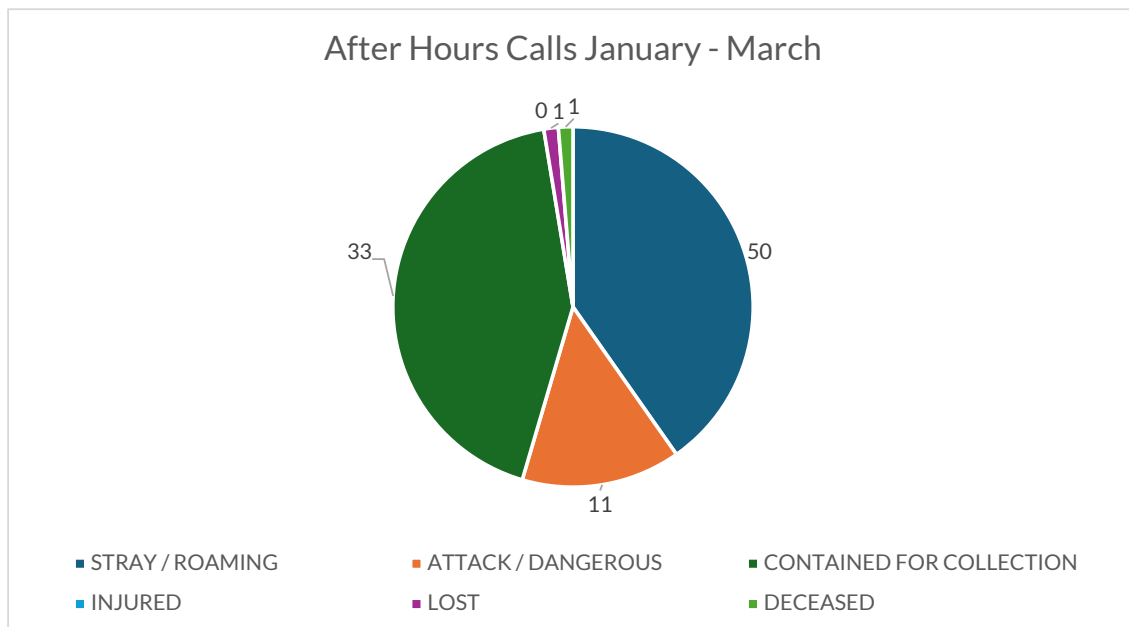


3. OUT OF HOURS RANGER ENGAGEMENT AND PATROLS

Graph 3.1

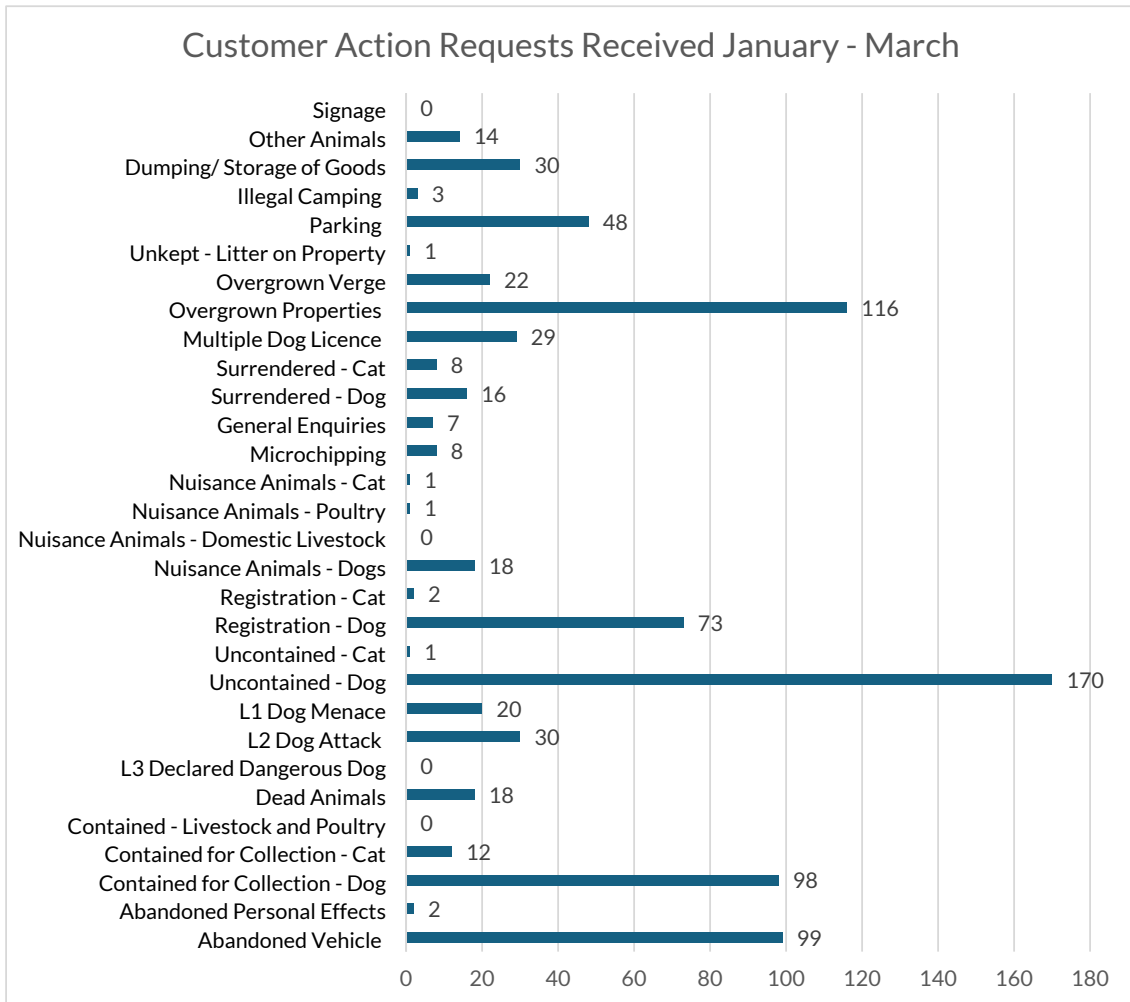


Graph 3.2



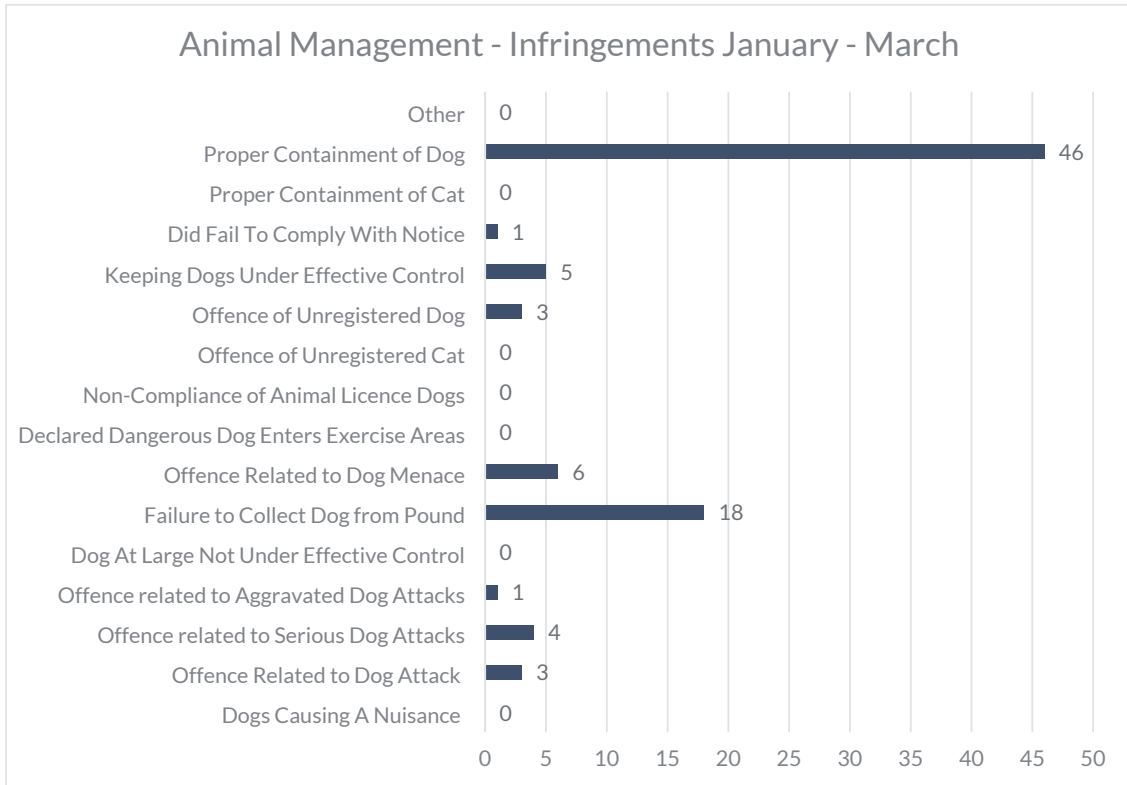
4. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS

Graph 4.1



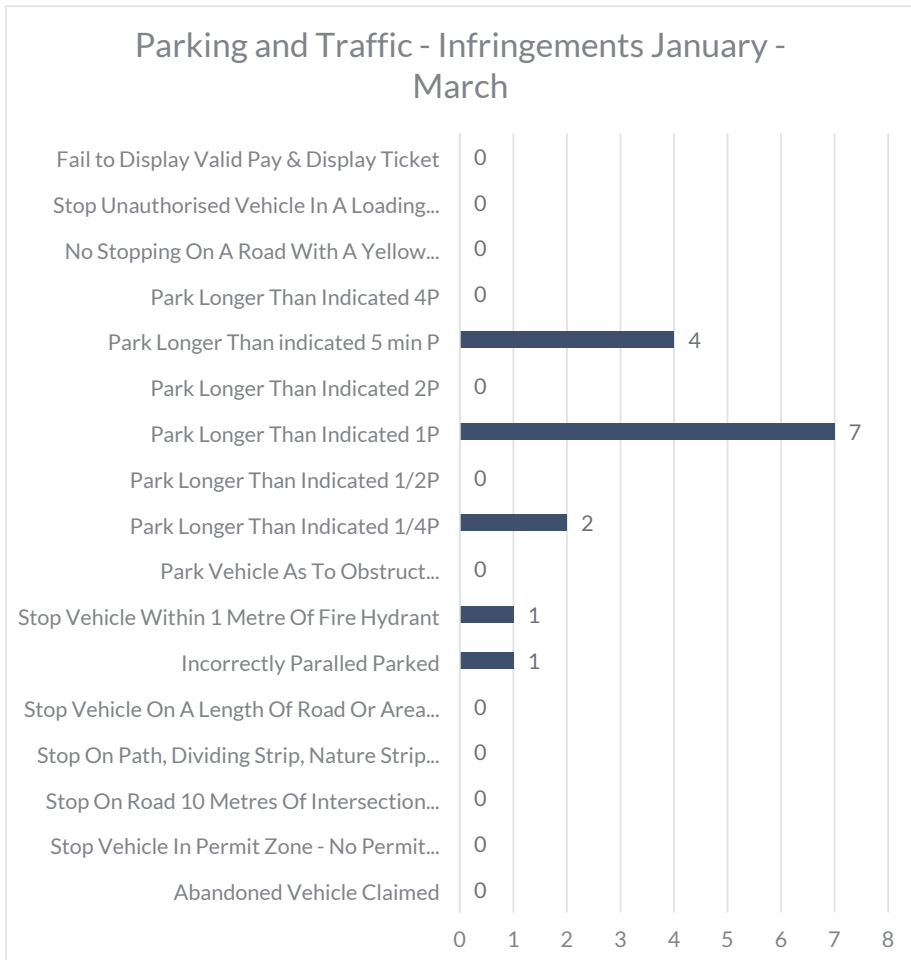
5. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Graph 5.1



6. PARKING AND TRAFFIC

Graph 6.1



COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.2.5
Report Title:	Major Capital Projects Update
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	Senior Project Manager, Richard Azzopardi
Approver:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Nadine Nilon

Community plan

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

Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to update Council on the status of current Major Capital Projects.

Key messages

- Council has several major capital projects underway that have a planned, or contracted value, greater than \$1 million.
- The following projects have updates included as attachments of this report:
 - Zuccoli Community Hub.
 - Enterprise Resource Planning Project (ERP).
- Updates on additional relevant projects are also provided within this report, these include:
 - Hobart Park Upgrade.
 - Woodroffe Park Upgrade.
 - Library Café.
 - SWELL solar and battery project.
 - Road reseal program.

Recommendation

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

Background

Council has a (revised) \$11.40M Capital Works Program in 2025/26. The Capital Works Program include a broad range of asset renewal programs along with major capital projects from planning and development stages to delivery.

Capital projects are any project where a Council asset is built or renewed. This can include new assets, such as a new shade over a playground, or replacement (also referred to as renewal of assets such as road resurfacing). Typically, Council's programs and projects are reported through specific project communications with updates provided in the quarterly and financial reports.

Discussion

Updates on the following major capital projects are included as attachments to this report:

- Zuccoli Community Hub **Attachment 12.2.5.1.**
- Enterprise Resource Planning Project (ERP) **Attachment 12.2.5.2.**

Council is also progressing additional capital projects and programs, with recent progress on key projects summarised below.

Hobart Park Upgrades

New seating with shade was completed in 2025 and the public toilet opened on 16 February. Last month, signage was installed and trees planted to finalise the project. This project has a budget of \$450,000 and is 100% funded by the Australian Government.

Woodroffe Park Upgrade

Procurement is underway to facilitate the work being delivered in the 2026 dry season, with a more detailed program to be determined following award of tenders and relevant works. This project has a budget of \$600,000 and is 100% funded by the Northern Territory Government.

Library Café

Work on the Library Café refurbishment is underway. The completion of the Library Café has been slightly delayed to accommodate layout amendments requested by the preferred tenant. Completion is now forecast mid-May.

SWELL solar and battery project

A tender will be advertised late April for design and construction of a solar and battery system at SWELL. The objective is to reduce operational costs by generating and storing energy. The project is part funded by a \$264,000 grant from the Australian Government's Community Energy Upgrades Fund Round 2.

Road Reseal Program

The road reseal program commenced on 7 April, on priority areas including three (3) sections of Temple Terrace. Work will continue at identified locations until June, including:

- Flynn Circuit & Cabrini Street roundabout, Bellamack.
- Lorna Lim Terrace & Hang Gong Avenue roundabout, Driver.
- Kriewaldt Circuit, Driver.
- Priest Circuit, Gray.
- Mew Street, Gray.
- Rosebery Drive, Rosebery.

Consultation and marketing

Consultation occurs as relevant to each project and its status.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

The projects are being delivered within the 2025/26 Capital Works Program. Individual budget updates are included with the current project summaries.

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

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

- [Community Infrastructure Plan 2016-2026](#)

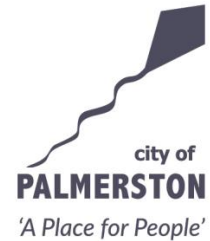
Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

1. Zuccoli Community Hub [12.2.5.1 - 3 pages]
2. Enterprise Resource Planning Project (ER P) [12.2.5.2 - 2 pages]

ZUCCOLI COMMUNITY HUB



APRIL 2026 UPDATE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Summary:

The Zuccoli Community Hub aims to provide an integrated multi-purpose precinct to meet open space, recreation and community needs for the rapidly growing Zuccoli and wider City of Palmerston communities. The Masterplan and Stage 1 are complete, with the Dog Park and Public Toilet open to the public. This report focusses on the current activities: the Stage 2 Pump Track, and the design of Stage 3.

Website Link: <https://palmerston.nt.gov.au/operations/major-projects/zuccoli-and-surrounds-community-hub-construction-0>

Total budget and funding:

Stage	Prior Year Costs	Current FY Budget	Total Budget to Date	Current FY Actuals	Current FY Commitment	Remaining Budget
Masterplan	\$113,062	\$0	\$113,062	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stage 1 - Dog Park	\$1,467,166	\$0	\$1,467,166	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stage 2 - Design	\$135,285	\$54,945	\$190,230	\$54,945	\$0	\$0
Stage 2 - Civil	\$676,905	\$125,118	\$802,023	\$125,118	\$0	-\$0
Stage 2 - Walkway, Seating, BBQ	\$426,996	\$43,945	\$470,941	\$43,945	\$0	-\$0
Stage 2 - Pump Track	\$0	\$1,175,591	\$1,175,591	\$877,981	\$281,060	\$16,549
Stage 3 - Design	\$0	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$89,200	\$361,174	-\$375
TOTAL	\$2,819,414	\$1,849,599	\$4,669,013	\$1,191,190	\$642,234	\$16,175

External Funding Sources (Stage 2):

- \$250,000 Northern Territory Government- Immediate Priority Grant (Pump Track).
- \$411,889 LRCI Phase IV.

Anticipated completion date:

- Stage 2 pump track lighting – May 2026.

- Stage 3 design – 2026.

STATUS UPDATE

Current Contracts:

Activity	Status	Awarded contract value	Approved variations	Approved claims	Amount to claim
Stage 2 Pump Track Construction	Awarded	\$928,623	\$207,410	\$878,668	\$257,366
Stage 2 Grass Reinstatement	Awarded	\$15,931	-	-	\$15,931
Stage 3 Design	Awarded	\$450,000	-	\$88,826	\$361,174
TOTAL		\$1,378,623	\$207,410	\$967,494	\$634,471

Works to date summary:

Stage 2

Stage 2 includes the recreational facilities of the Zuccoli Community Hub and is being constructed in smaller stages as funding is available. A component of the walking trails and pathways, shade structure, and civil works were completed by mid-2025 as previously reported. The track was formally opened to the public on 4 March 2026.

There is currently no funding available for the remaining Stage 2 works, including the skate park, multi-purpose court, exercise equipment and elevated walkway.

Progress in the past month:

- Installation of outstanding seating to the viewing area.
- Continued establishment of grass landscaping.



Figure 1: Pump track opening - 04 March 2026

Stage 3

Stage 3 incorporates all remaining elements of the site, with a focus on the community facilities, including the community hall, technology and community programs building, events space, covered entrance, gardens and carpark. This financial year, the design of these elements is being undertaken, with Council endorsing the scope of design activities in July 2025.

Progress in the past month:

- Continuation of design work.
- Progression of borrowing process for construction funds.

Upcoming works:

Work progressing in the next month includes:

- Pump Track:
 - Installation of the poles and lights. Due to ongoing rain, suitable ground conditions to allow crane access for installation is not expected until at least May 2026.
- Stage 3:
 - Presentation of concept design to Council for endorsement for community engagement.
 - Grant funding finalisation.
 - Progression of borrowing process for construction funds.

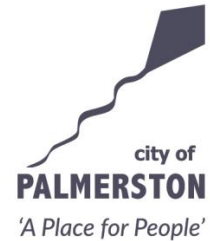
Project risks:

Stage 3:

Global events have the potential to impact construction costs through:

- Cost of fuel on elements like transport of materials.
- Availability of certain materials.

ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING PROJECT



APRIL 2026 UPDATE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Summary:

City of Palmerston (CoP) requires effective software systems capable of delivering efficient and quality services to the community while meeting the organisation's internal corporate needs. An Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Project has been identified to enable a strategic approach to updating Council's existing system.

Project budget:

\$2 million over three (3) financial years

Funding source(s):

City of Palmerston

Completion date:

2026

Contractor:

Project/Procurement Management Support – Corporate Strategic Systems (CSS)

STATUS UPDATE

Percentage complete:

25%

Actual costs to date (consultancy):

- FY24 - \$282,900.
- FY25 - \$494,784.
- FY26 - \$170,780.
- Total to date \$948,464.

Works to date summary:

CoP currently uses several software systems to meet its core operational requirements, some of which have partial integration, and most operate independently. To mitigate these issues, CoP has made the decision to invest in an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project. CoP have engaged Corporate Strategic Systems (CSS) for the procurement stage of the project. An internal Project Control Group (PCG) has been established to provide direction and governance for the project.

An initial two-stage tender process was initiated with legal and probity support. The Expression of Interest (EOI) phase ran from 9 April to 21 May 2025. After evaluation, no submissions were progressed, and the CEO disbanded the tender panel.

In conjunction with CSS, a revised procurement process has been commenced including consideration of a best of breed selection process with focus on solutions for high-risk areas.

The full tender process commenced on 5 November 2025, supported by legal and probity advice, with submissions closing 8 December 2025.

Responses to the Tender were received and are now being evaluated by the Tender Assessment Panel. The assessment process consists of three (3) stages, and assessment is currently underway.

Completed activities:

- Tender submissions closed 8 December 2025.

Upcoming activities:

- Finalise tender assessment.

Project risks:

The project is currently tracking 19 risks.

The top four (4) high rated risks are:

- Limited CoP staff – as CoP has a limited number of resources, if business resources or SMEs are not available to support project activities, project deliverables, timelines and overall cost may be impacted.
- Impact of change and training activities - if change management and training activities are not timely and appropriately managed, there is a risk that staff may not use the system.
- Insufficient funding – while funds have been set aside for the implementation of the new ERP system, if the tender quote is higher and additional funding is not available, there is the risk that scope may need to be cut.
- No suitable vendors submitting tender responses was identified as a major risk, however a number of responses to the tender was received and assessment is currently underway.

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.2.6
Report Title:	People and Place Quarterly Report - January to March 2026
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight
Approver:	General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report presents the key activities undertaken by the People and Place Directorate in the January to March 2026 quarter.

Key messages

- Australia Day 2026 was celebrated at Palmerston Recreation Centre on Monday 26 January from 1pm – 4pm.
- In March, City of Palmerston proudly welcomed 67 new citizens from 23 different countries at a Citizenship ceremony held at Gray Community Hall.
- Easter was celebrated on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 March across all Palmerston shopping centres with 1,270 community members in attendance.
- City of Palmerston held an information session on accessing and applying for project funding for the creative arts industries was held on the 10th of February, a total of fifteen (15) people attended the workshop.
- City of Palmerston held three (3) smart business systems workshops on the 3rd, 17th and 31st of March. A total of 29 people attended the workshops.
- Digital channels recorded continued growth, with a combined increase of 484 followers across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn
- Eight (8) paid social media campaigns were delivered, supporting key Council initiatives and maintaining visibility during a quieter period.
- Community engagement remained strong, with four (4) consultations delivered and continued participation across digital and in person channels.

- City of Palmerston app improvements have progressed with a possible simplified solution being identified that cost effective whilst maintaining desired outcome.
- Twelve recruitment processes were run over the January to March quarter, with five people farewelled and ten (10) new people welcomed.
- The average length of service for employees is 2.75 years with ten (10) staff having completed more than 10 years of service.
- Overall workplace safety incident levels remained low and stable across the reporting period, with no significant or sustained increase in risk identified.
- Approximately 3,600 calls were made to the generic Council phone number for the quarter, and 750 in-person interactions were captured.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled People and Place Quarterly Report - January to March 2026 be received and noted.

Background

The People and Place Directorate provides a quarterly report to Council on key activities undertaken during the quarter. The Directorate includes the departments of Marketing and Communications, City Activation, and People and Customer (inclusive of Safety and Wellbeing).

This Report presents to Council the January to March 2026 quarter, and those activities aligned to City of Palmerston's Community Plan outcomes and objectives.

Discussion

Family and Community

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

Events

Easter 2026

Easter 2026 hopped its way across Palmerston over two fun filled days, activating shopping centres throughout the municipality and bringing a vibrant, family friendly atmosphere to the community.

On Saturday 28 March, the Easter Bunny popped up at Zuccoli Plaza, Bakewell Shopping Centre, Palmerston Shopping Centre and Oasis Shopping Centre, delighting families with free Easter eggs and creating plenty of photo-worthy moments. Palmerston Shopping Centre also featured additional entertainment including a barnyard animal display by Top End Critters as well as face painting and glitter art by Tip Top Circus Entertainment.

The following day, Event Cinema's lounge was transformed into a vibrant Easter oasis, complete with giant inflatable eggs, garden-inspired play zones and a range of interactive experiences designed to delight kids and adults alike. Families had the opportunity to meet the Easter Bunny, jump into the photobooth, enjoy face painting, cuddle fluffy animals,

capture memories at themed photo opportunities, and collect a complimentary ticket to the movie Hoppers.

Across the two days, 1,270 community members attended with overwhelmingly positive feedback and plenty of smiles for the early visit from the Easter Bunny.



The Easter Bunny visiting Event Cinema and Scallywagz Play Centre

Vibrant Economy

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

Economic Development

Smart Business Systems Workshops

The Palmerston Business Futures Forum held in October 2025 highlighted a strong need for practical digital skills to support local businesses. This need also aligns directly with Action 17 of the Palmerston Local Economic Plan 2021-2031, which calls for a short digital skills program.

Throughout March, City of Palmerston collaborated with the Business Enterprise Centre NT (BEC NT) to host a series of free workshops at the Palmerston Library Community Room. The sessions were designed to give businesses hands-on tools to boost efficiency and confidence in the digital space and enhance resilience and competitiveness of Palmerston businesses.

The workshops were widely marketed on City of Palmerston's website, socials, the Palmerston Business Newsletter's February edition, and BEC NT's social platforms.

The first business workshop, Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Made Easy, was held on 3 March 2026. Businesses explored using CRM tools to organise customer information, improve follow-ups, and build clearer workflows for sales and service. Businesses were able to walk away with a simple, practical CRM system they could start using straight away to strengthen their business management relationships.

Microsoft 365 for Productivity, held on 17 March 2026 empowered businesses to organise Teams, SharePoint and OneDrive, building a smarter workflow with Outlook, To Do,

Calendar, and OneNote. Businesses were able to walk away with an easy system to help them manage tasks, save time, and get important work done with more clarity. 20 businesses were in attendance.

The final business workshop, Getting Started with MYOB and Xero, was held on 31 March 2026. Businesses learnt how to setup and use MYOB and Xero to manage invoices, track expenses, reconcile transactions, and understand their business numbers. Businesses were able to walk away with a ready-to-use setup and the confidence to keep their accounts organised and their financial systems running smoothly. Five (5) businesses were in attendance.



Marketing and Communications Campaigns

Marketing and communications campaign activity was more limited this quarter, which is consistent with this period and reflects a seasonal slowdown in events and activations.

The Palmerston Australia Day campaign continued into January, with a focus on promoting the event and celebrating award recipients through a mix of digital content and public relations activity.

In March, a campaign was launched to support the Community Plan Health Check engagement. This included a multi-channel approach, incorporating pop up activations at Council facilities and Gateway Shopping Centre, digital engagement (online survey, paid and organic social media, polls, digital screens and website content), radio advertising and printed collateral. This campaign will continue into the next quarter.

An Easter in Palmerston campaign was also delivered, utilising social media, radio and printed collateral to promote two community events and encourage participation.

Cultural Diversity

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

Citizenship Ceremonies

Australia Day Cocktail Party

City of Palmerston Australia Day Cocktail Party was held on Thursday 22 January 2026. This event brought together both the nominees and nominators of the Australia Day awards

to celebrate their outstanding contributions to the community. The evening included a red-carpet welcome, canapes and refreshments. Formalities began with a Welcome to Country, then the nominated individuals or groups were presented with certificates to acknowledge their respective achievements.

The evening recognised seven Citizen of the Year nominees, two Young Citizen of the Year nominees and five Community Event or Group of the Year nominees. Several dignitaries also attended on the evening including The Honourable Marie-Clare Boothby, Attorney General, Mr Luke Gosling OAM MP and Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, along with City of Palmerston Councillors Mark Fraser, Wayne Bayliss and Yolanda Kanyai and 2025 Citizen Rodney Greenwood which added further importance to the evening, as guests and dignitaries mingled over canapes and beverages to celebrate their achievements together.



Australia Day Nominees with key dignitaries

Palmerston Australia Day 2026

Palmerston's Australia Day Ceremony 2026 brought the community together to reflect, respect and celebrate, while welcoming new citizens and recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals across the municipality. The event opened with light instrumental music by Arafura Music Collective as guests took their seats, followed by an Acknowledgement of Country delivered by The Youth Mill and a short but powerful performance celebrating our multicultural community. The Australian Defence Force then conducted the flag-raising before the official Citizenship Ceremony commenced, where the City of Palmerston proudly welcomed 34 new residents from 20 different countries.

Following a short intermission featuring a traditional women's Nigerian dance by ONINTA, the event transitioned into the Palmerston Australia Day Awards. Awards The winners for each category of Australia Day Awards 2026 were:

- Community Group or Event of the Year was awarded to Tamil Society of the Northern Territory.
- Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Joshua Harrington.
- Citizen of the Year was awarded to Balachander Mohanraj.

Winners remained on stage for a cake cutting with the Acting Mayor, while Arafura Music Collective closed the official proceedings. Guests then enjoyed a light lunch in the community rooms, with foyer ambiance provided by Prayer Corby alongside weaving and carving demonstrations.



ONINTA Cultural Performance



Palmerston Australia Day Award Winners

Citizenship Ceremony, Friday 20 March 10am and 1pm

City of Palmerston welcomed 67 new citizens from 23 countries across two citizenship ceremonies held on Friday 20 March. The event took place at Gray Community Hall, which provided an ideal setting for the occasion, with its gardens in full bloom adding to the significance of the day.

A number of distinguished guests attended, including His Honour the Honourable David Connolly, Administrator of the Northern Territory; the Honourable Lia Finocchiaro, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory; the Honourable Marie-Claire Boothby, Attorney-General of the Northern Territory; Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Member for Blain, representing the Honourable Jinson Charls MLA, Minister for Multicultural Affairs; and Mr Luke Gosling OAM MP, Federal Member for Solomon and Special Envoy for Defence, Veterans' Affairs and Northern Australia.

Guests were entertained by Crystal Robbins, who performed a selection of classic Australian songs before and after each ceremony. Mary Williams delivered a heartfelt Welcome to Country at both events. Balachander Mohanraj, Palmerston Citizen of the Year 2026, assisted with the presentation of certificates and gifts at the morning ceremony, while the Administrator supported the Mayor in the afternoon ceremony.



10:00am Conferee Group



Conferee with The Administrator and Mayor



Conferee with Mayor and Citizen of the Year, Balachander Mohanraj

Arts Funding Information Session, Tuesday 10 February 5:30pm

City of Palmerston Arts Funding Information Session was delivered on 10 February at Palmerston Library, attracting 15 local artists and creative practitioners. Co-facilitated by Arts NT, the session provided clear guidance on current funding opportunities available via the Northern Territory Government, City of Palmerston and national arts bodies, including Creative Australia. Participants reported strong satisfaction with the practical and accessible format noting the quality of information provided. The session further supported networking and peer discussion. Overall feedback supports the continuation of the program, with interest in longer sessions and future workshops tailored to specific art forms.

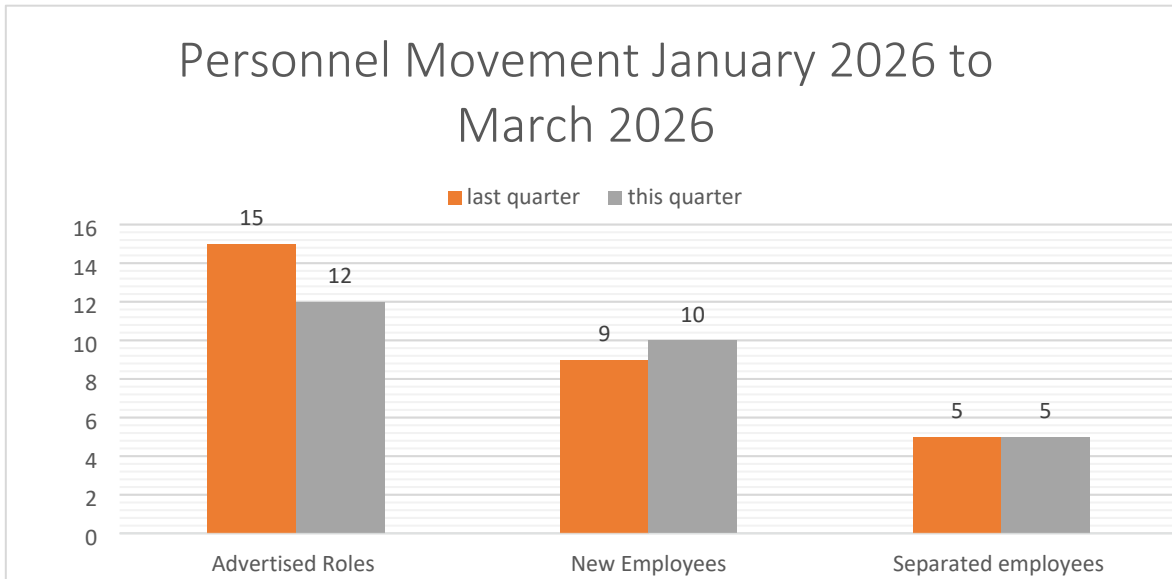
Governance

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

Our People

Twelve recruitment processes were run over the January to March quarter. City of Palmerston farewelled five (5) employees over the reporting period and onboarded ten (10). All new positions were advertised for a minimum of two (2) weeks and were filled in an average time of 59 days, closer to reaching the target recruitment timeframe of 42 days (inclusive of advertising period).

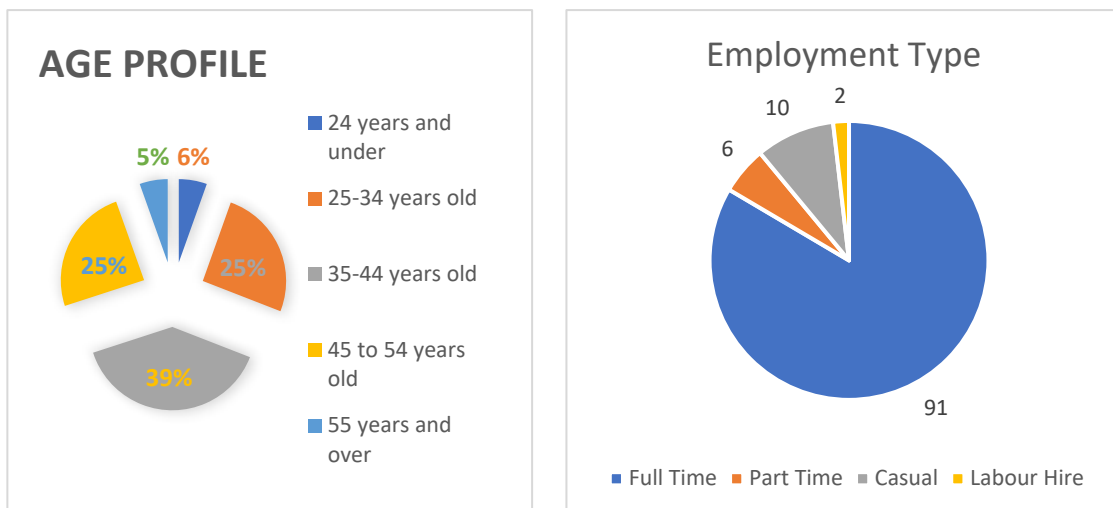
City of Palmerston's approved Full Time Equivalent (FTE) is 101.35, with 93 FTE employed as of 31 March 2026. City of Palmerston's headcount on 31 March 2026 was 109 employees, comprising 94 full-time, 6 part-time and 9 casual employees. Recruitment activities will continue to remain a focus area to ensure a full complement of staff is available to support the community.



Graph: Personnel Movement across January to March 2026

Quarterly Workforce Statistics and Diversity

As of 31 March 2025, our staff comprised people from over fifteen nationalities demonstrating a culturally diverse workforce reflective of our community. Our employees comprised 67 females and 42 males – reflecting a genuine effort to improve gender diversity particularly in traditionally male dominated roles. The average age of our people was 39.68 years, a slight increase from the last quarter. The average length of service with City of Palmerston is 2.75 years with ten (10) staff having completed more than 10 years of service.



Graph: Total Employee Age and Employment Type this quarter

Professional Development of Our People

Investing in our workforce is an investment in our community. Over the past quarter, City of Palmerston has reaffirmed its dedication to the professional development of its employees by providing internal and external training and development activities. Employees committed to further developing their skills and knowledge through in-house facilitated sessions and externally facilitated studying opportunities including:

- Appropriate Workplace Behaviour

- Psychosocial Hazards Workshop
- Code of Conduct
- Freedom of Information
- Advanced Communication

Training needs analysis

An organisation wide training needs analysis has been initiated to identify capability gaps and inform the development of targeted training and support for teams, ensuring current and future workforce needs are met. The analysis, although won't be reported on, will feed into other work done such as training and development calendars, improvement in position descriptions, as well as employee development plans.

Health and Wellbeing

As part of ongoing wellbeing initiatives, Harmony Day was celebrated, bringing staff together through a "bring a plate" lunch to promote inclusion, cultural awareness, and team cohesion.

Team building activities continue throughout the organisation aimed at strengthening collaboration and supporting positive workplace relationships.

During the reporting period, the first flu vaccination session for the year was delivered, with 28 employees participating, contributing to preventative health measures within the workplace.

These initiatives collectively support psychosocial well-being by encouraging engagement, inclusion, and a connected and supportive workplace culture.



Staff Wellbeing Activity and Harmony Day

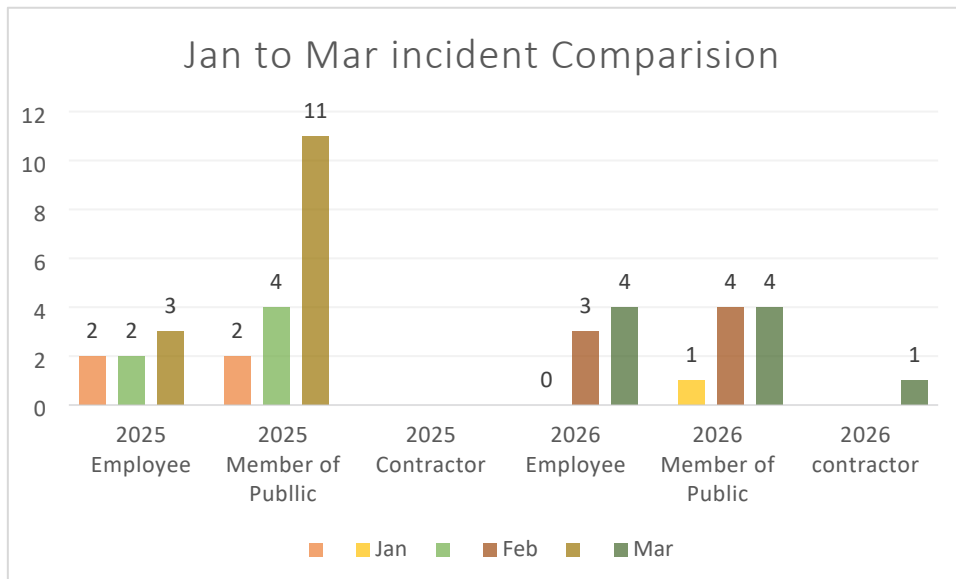
Safety

January to March 2026 incidents:

Overall incident levels remained low and stable across the reporting period, with no significant or sustained increase in risk identified.

Employee-related incidents remained low with one employee currently on recovery, with appropriate support measures in place.

Incidents involving members of the public showed some variation, including a modest increase in February, lower than the same period last year, followed by a decline in March. Contractor incidents remained minimal throughout the period.



The majority of public-related incidents occurred at the library. There is no indication of a sustained increase in risk, and the reduced March increase compared to previous years suggests that existing controls are effective.

Overall, current safety measures continue to perform well, and ongoing monitoring will ensure they remain effective in maintaining a safe environment for both staff and visitors.

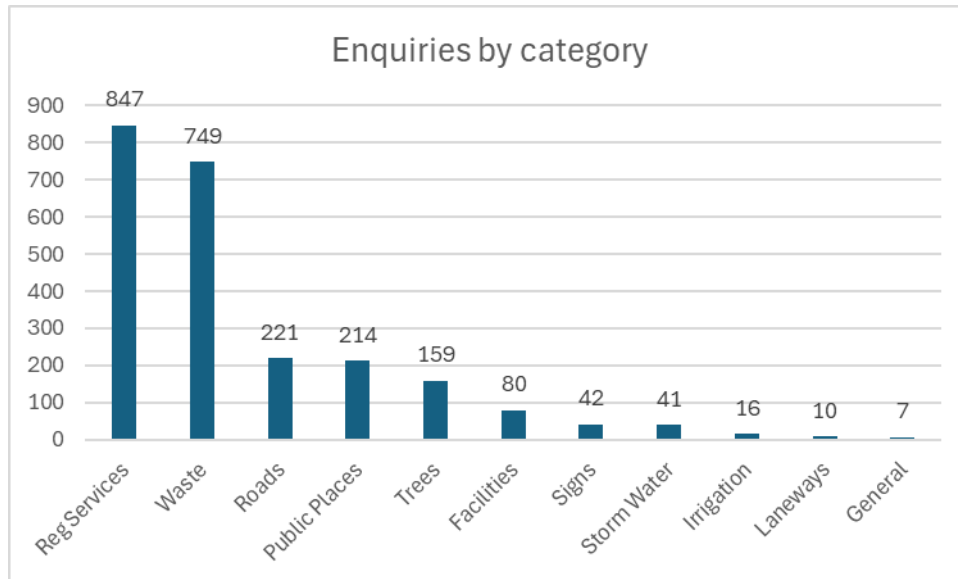
Our Customer Experience

For the quarter ending 31 March 2026, approximately 3,600 calls were made to the generic Council phone number with approximately 3,340 answered, equating to less than 7% of calls either missed or the caller chose to hang up whilst on hold. Pre-recorded messages with key information are now being utilised on our phone system for those on hold, which may have proactively provided callers with assistance and allowing them to hang up.

During the quarter, approximately 750 in-person interactions at Civic Plaza were captured, representing an average of 12 per day. In-person interactions primarily occurred from mid-morning to mid-afternoon.

Customer Requests

A total of 2,386 customer enquiries were logged during the quarter with Regulatory Services (mostly animal) related matters being the highest at 847, followed by Waste at 749, Roads at 221 and then Public Places at 214. Internal workshops are being conducted across teams to identify pain points, improve process effectiveness, and mitigate any escalations to contribute towards overall customer experience.



Customer enquiries for the quarter primarily originated over the phone at 847, online at 715 and then via email at 500. Continued focus will be placed on further improving customer experience through these popular channels.

Community Engagement

During the January to March period, Council delivered four (4) community consultations: Parking in Palmerston, Astrolabe Court and Emery Avenue laneway closure, Gray footpath and exercise equipment and the Community Plan Health Check.

Each engagement was supported by a tailored engagement plan outlining background, stakeholders, risks and mitigation, tools and tactics, key messages, timelines and evaluation. These plans ensure a consistent and structured approach and clearly define where each consultation sits on the spectrum to achieve quality community engagement.

The Parking in Palmerston consultation was undertaken to inform updates to the policy. A multi-channel approach was used, including printed collateral (core flutes with QR codes and flyers), digital screens at Council facilities, direct stakeholder emails, eDM, a dedicated webpage with survey, organic and paid social media and social media polls. The inclusion of polls significantly expanded reach and participation. Combined Facebook and Instagram results indicated strong community preference for free parking, shaded parking and central locations. The engagement recorded 3,436 social media views, 615 poll votes, 132 active website users, 54 social media actions and 26 completed surveys. The consultation ran from 2 to 22 February.

The Astrolabe Court and Emery Avenue laneway closure consultation sought feedback on whether the laneway should remain open, be closed at night or be closed full time. This was a targeted engagement due to its localised impact and included a dedicated webpage and form, on site core flute signage with QR code and traffic observations. A total of nine (9) responses were received, with four (4) supporting full time closure, four (4) supporting night closure and one (1) preferring no closure. Feedback largely centred on safety concerns and antisocial behaviour in the area. The consultation ran from 16 February to 8 March.

The Gray footpath and exercise equipment consultation sought feedback on the potential closure of the footpath linking Wright Crescent and Victoria Drive and the removal of outdoor exercise equipment near Gray Community Hall. This engagement was initiated to explore opportunities to improve safety for hall users. Promotion included on site signage, letters to nearby residents with QR code linking to a dedicated webpage, social media and direct email to facility users. A total of 33 survey responses and two (2) email submissions were received. Results indicate most respondents do not regularly use the footpath and the equipment is largely unused, with safety and antisocial behaviour identified as the primary concerns. The consultation ran from 16 February to 8 March.

The Community Plan Health Check is a broad, community wide engagement with significant strategic impact. A comprehensive engagement approach was implemented, including pop up activations at Council facilities and events, a dedicated webpage and survey, printed collateral, digital screens, organic and paid social media (including polls), media release, radio advertising and inclusion in eDMs. The engagement also includes recruitment for community panel members. This consultation commenced on 1 March and will remain open until 9 May, with results to be reported in the next quarter.

Public Relations/Media

Four (4) media releases were issued this quarter, covering Palmerston Australia Day Award winners, the Zuccoli Pump Track opening, Community Plan Health Check engagement and the return of the Palmerston Youth Festival. This represents a decrease of five releases compared to the previous quarter, however is consistent with the same period last year.

A total of 27 media interactions were recorded across newspaper (10), radio (10), television (1) and online (6). Coverage included topics such as Cyclone Fina recovery costs, free cat registration, Australia Day Awards and citizenship ceremonies, public housing in Palmerston, issues relating to Gray and alcohol consumption, the bombing of Darwin, Northcrest municipality, Zuccoli Pump Track opening and fuel prices.

City of Palmerston App

Over the past quarter the app has been downloaded 215 times (through the Apple store) bringing the total number of downloads since implementation to 3,156. This is an increase from the previous quarter. The average usage has also increased, going from 6 devices per day to 8 devices per day. Android app statistics could still not be accessed this quarter and further investigation will occur and reported back to Council by the next directorate report.

More useable statistics have been introduced to the apple dashboard including deletions of the app, which was 15 over the past quarter. There was a total of 28 'redownloads', and 177 'product page views' which is calculated on how many times City of Palmerston's product page in the app store was viewed.

In May 2025, a report was presented to Council on City of Palmerston App Functionality, where Council endorsed for option 2 'status update' to be completed by June 2026. As a progress update, further investigation has been undertaken and an opportunity to deliver an equivalent outcome through a more streamlined and cost-effective approach identified. Whilst ongoing testing is still occurring, under this approach automated acknowledgement emails would be sent to customers at key milestones relating to their 'issue'. Although the

solution does not include the original suggestion of a 'traffic light system', it still maintains the intended outcome in a simple and cost-effective way to improve the customer experience and functionality. Once implemented, it will provide a more efficient and consistent reporting process for customers using the app and website.

Social Media

Across the January to March quarter, all platforms recorded continued follower growth, demonstrating sustained community interest in Council communications. Facebook followers increased by 1.39%, Instagram by 2.33% and LinkedIn by 4.32%.

This growth occurred despite a reduction in publishing activity and overall engagement, indicating the community continues to follow Council channels to stay informed during quieter periods.

Paid social media activity was also lower than the previous quarter, which is expected due to the slowdown in events and campaigns. This reduction, combined with decreased content output, contributed to softer performance across reach and engagement metrics.

Overall, results reflect a quieter period rather than a shift in audience interest or behaviour.

Facebook

Facebook performance declined this quarter across most key metrics (in comparison to previous quarter), with only follower growth continuing to trend upward. Followers increased by 1.39%, indicating continued audience growth despite a reduction in overall activity.

The most significant decline was in paid reach, which decreased by 50.65%. This aligns with reduced paid campaign activity during the quarter, with fewer campaigns delivered due to a quieter period. With paid advertising playing a key role in expanding visibility, this reduction had a direct impact on overall reach, visitors and page visits, which also declined by 7.22% and 44.37% respectively.

Content output also contributed to the softer performance. Posts decreased by 11.86%, while stories saw a more notable decline of 42.86%. The reduction in stories in particular likely limited consistent touchpoints with the audience, impacting ongoing visibility and engagement throughout the quarter.

It is also important to consider seasonal context. The previous quarter included a higher volume of events and emergency information such as Christmas and Cyclone Fina, which typically drive stronger performance. In comparison, this quarter reflects a more subdued period aligned with the wet season and planning cycle.

Despite the decline, top performing organic posts demonstrate that the audience continues to engage with timely, relevant and community focused content. This indicates the decrease in performance is primarily driven by reduced activity levels, rather than a shift in audience interest or behaviour.

In summary, the quarter-on-quarter decline is largely attributed to reduced paid advertising and lower content volume, combined with seasonal factors, rather than an underlying performance issue.

METRIC	OCT - DEC	JAN - MARCH	% CHANGE
Followers	20,442	20,727	1.39%
Visitors*	233,991	217,095	-7.22%
Paid reach	465,450	229,713	-50.65%
Page visits**	29,374	16,344	-44.37%
Posts	59	52	-11.86%
Stories	35	20	-42.86%

**Visitors are the number of unique users who were shown or engaged with a post either through their news feed, through paid ads, through shared posts, via search results but do not click through to the actual Facebook Page. Previously reported as reach.*

***Page visits only counts those who physically open the Facebook page.*

Meta's updated reporting focuses on users who actively view content, rather than passive impressions.

The highest performing organic post this quarter related to the verge maintenance program. While the post generated the highest results in viewers, views and overall engagement, all engagement was negative in sentiment. Performance was driven by the contentious nature of the topic, particularly community concern and confusion around verge maintenance responsibilities. This indicates high public interest, though sentiment was unfavourable.

The opening of the Zuccoli Pump Track in early March performed strongly and attracted positive community engagement. This is the second consecutive quarter this topic has appeared among the top five (5) organic posts, suggesting sustained community interest in new recreational infrastructure and projects that deliver visible local benefits.

Both citizenship ceremony posts recorded strong engagement, reinforcing that the community responds well to authentic imagery and positive, human centred stories. These posts also align strongly with Council's community pillar around cultural diversity, which likely contributed to their positive reception.

The free cat registration post in January also performed well organically. Posts promoting free offers, savings or practical benefits for residents tend to attract strong interest, particularly when they provide immediate and clear value to the community. Notably, this post saw a higher number of shares, indicating the information was considered useful and worth passing on within the community.

Top 5 organic posts:

TOPIC	VIEWERS	VIEWS	ENGAGEMENT	LIKES & REACTIONS	COMMENTS	SHARES
Verge program	97,230	175,883	367	186	120	28
Zuccoli Pump Track opening	30,555	52,630	330	230	73	24
March Citizenship	17,341	35,367	129	123	5	2
Jan Citizenship	17,150	31,813	161	150	6	5
Free cat registration	11,689	14,804	61	18	5	37

Instagram

Instagram performance declined this quarter, largely driven by a reduction in content output as mentioned previously. While followers continued to grow (+2.33%), both reach and activity levels decreased, with reach down -22.31%, posts down -52% and stories down -41.67%. The significant drop in posts and stories reduced overall visibility and limited opportunities to engage with the audience, which is reflected in the decline in reach. No reels were published across either quarter, indicating a missed opportunity to leverage a high performing content format to support reach and discovery.

Despite the overall decline, the top performing post was the opening of the Zuccoli Pump Track, reinforcing strong community interest in the new asset.

Overall, results suggest performance was impacted by reduced content volume rather than a shift in audience interest.

METRIC	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	% CHANGE
Followers	2,657	2,719	2.33%
Reach	36,207	28,130	-22.31%
Posts	25	12	-52%
Stories	36	21	-41.67%
Reels	0	0	0

LinkedIn

LinkedIn performance declined this quarter across impressions and engagement, despite continued audience growth. Followers increased by 4.32%, indicating steady growth in the professional audience. However, impressions decreased by -34.92% and engagement rate

declined by -31.70%, suggesting content was reaching fewer users and generating lower interaction.

While posting frequency remained relatively consistent (-10%), the previous quarter included several high performing posts, such as cyclone preparedness training and end of year celebrations, which generated strong engagement (over 101 reactions and 64 reactions respectively). These types of posts are highly relevant to LinkedIn’s audience, as they highlight organisational capability, staff development and workplace culture. In comparison, this quarter did not include similarly high impact or professionally focused content, which likely contributed to the decline in both impressions and engagement.

This indicates that performance on LinkedIn is strongly influenced by content type rather than volume alone. Posts that showcase internal capability, achievements and people tend to resonate more with this audience. Overall, the results suggest an opportunity to strengthen content planning by incorporating more professionally relevant, insight led and people focused content to better align with audience expectations and improve performance.

METRIC	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	% CHANGE
Followers	3,170	3,307	4.32%
Impressions	18,636	12,129	-34.92%
Posts	10	9	-10%
Engagement rate	26.5%	18.1%	-31.70%

City of Palmerston Social Media Campaigns (Paid Advertisements)

Eight (8) paid social media campaigns were delivered this quarter, with a total spend of \$741.79. Campaigns included February and March What’s On, Community Plan Health Check, Clean Up Australia Day, Easter in Palmerston (x2), International Women’s Day and January free cat registration.

No paid What’s On campaign was delivered in January, reflecting a quieter period for Council. Overall, there were fewer campaigns compared to the previous quarter (-9), which is consistent with quarter trends, with reduced events and activations during the wet season and planning period.

The top three (3) performing campaigns are noted below. Their stronger performance can be attributed to longer campaign durations and higher budget allocation, resulting in greater reach and impressions.

Top 3 advertisements

CAMPAIGN	IMPRESSIONS	TOTAL REACH	COST
Feb What’s On	104,520	75,367	\$200
March What’s On	97,426	70,656	\$200

Community Plan Health Check	31,741	12,013	\$162.30
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Website

The website recorded mixed performance during the January to March quarter. While some volume-based metrics declined slightly, engagement quality improved across key indicators.

New users decreased by -1.87% and engaged sessions declined by -5.83%, indicating a small reduction in overall traffic to the site. Event count also reduced by -3.94%, aligning with the lower volume of users and activity.

Despite this, engagement rate increased by 3.50% and average engagement time rose significantly from 27 seconds to 42 seconds (55.56%). This suggests users are spending more time on the website and interacting more meaningfully with content once they arrive.

These results indicate a shift towards more intentional, task focused behaviour. While fewer users are visiting the site, those who do are more engaged and likely seeking specific information or services.

Channel performance further supports this behaviour. Organic search continues to drive the highest volume of engaged sessions, while referral traffic records the strongest engagement rate (84.45%), indicating users arriving via external links are highly motivated and engaged. Direct traffic also continues to generate a strong number of key events, reinforcing that users are returning to the site with clear intent.

Top visited pages reflect demand for core services and practical information. The library page remains the most visited, followed by maintaining your property and verge, bin collections, pound and careers. The prominence of these pages suggests users are primarily accessing the site for essential services, compliance information and employment opportunities. Website traffic trends also aligned with social media performance, with the “Maintaining your property and verge” page ranking among the most visited. This directly reflects the high performing verge related social media content, demonstrating strong community interest and effective traffic flow from social to web.

Overall, while there has been a slight decline in traffic volume, the increase in engagement rate and time on site indicates improved quality of interactions. This suggests Council’s website continues to effectively support users in completing key tasks and accessing important information.

METRICS	OCT - DEC	JAN - MAR	% CHANGE
New users	37,683	36,977	-1.87%
Engaged sessions	34,331	32,329	-5.83%
Engagement rate	52.06%	53.88%	3.50%
Engagement time	27 seconds	42 seconds	55.56%

Event count	336,583	323,329	-3.94%
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Traffic by channel

CHANNEL	ENGAGED SESSIONS	ENGAGED RATE %	KEY EVENTS
Organic search	19,555	64.67%	13,869
Direct	7,841	35.83%	6,277
Referral	4,230	84.45%	4,200
Organic social	1,690	33.64%	253
Paid social	549	13.84%	4

Top 5 visited pages

LANDING PAGE	SESSIONS	ACTIVE USERS	KEY EVENTS
Library	7,271	5,003	2,082
Maintaining your property and verge	3,264	2,947	86
Bin collections	2,783	1,581	213
Pound	2,613	777	165
Careers	1,559	960	116

Consultation and marketing

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

- General Manager People and Place.
- Executive Manager People, Customer and Communications.
- Acting Marketing and Communications Manager.
- City Activation Manager.
- Economic Development Lead.
- Events Lead.
- Events Officer.
- City Activation Officer.
- People and Customer Manager.
- Human Resources Lead.
- Health, Safety and Wellbeing Coordinator.
- Customer Experience Coordinator.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

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

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

3. Economic Development

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

4. Inclusion, Diversity and Access

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

6. Governance

Failure to effectively govern.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

Nil

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.2.7
Report Title:	Library Cafe Update Report
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 21 April 2026
Author:	Acting City Activation Manager, Sophie Walkington
Approver:	General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report seeks to advise Council that Library Café lease has been awarded to Kopi Stop.

Key messages

- The former lease of the City of Palmerston Library Cafe, the Nook, expired on 31 July 2024.
- On 6 June 2025, City of Palmerston released an Expression of Interest (EOI) for leasing the Palmerston library café space and submissions closed on 30 June 2025.
- Five (5) submissions were received during the EOI process.
- Kopi Stop was determined as the successful vendor and the lease will commence 1 May 2026.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Library Cafe Update Report be received and noted.

Background

Council resolved on 4 June 2024 to go to market for a commercial lease for the Library Cafe site after 31 July 2024.

25.1.1 Library Café Lease - Update

1. *THAT Report entitled Library Café Lease – Update be received and noted.*
2. *THAT Council endorses going to market for a commercial lease over part of Lot 6908, The Boulevard, currently trading as The Nook Café, after 31 July 2024 for a use permitted under the Central Business zoning of the site, utilising an open market process.*

CARRIED 10/1379 – 4/06/2024

Discussion

To ensure the library cafe site was fit for purpose and a new operator, the tender for the café fit out was released on 27 August 2025 and awarded to local contractor, Hawkins and Clements Pty Ltd. Construction is progressing and is now due for completion in mid-May 2026.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Library Café operation was released on 6 June 2025 and closed on 30 June 2025. During this period five submissions were received. All submissions were assessed in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and the endorsed evaluation criteria. Assessment considered rental return, business experience, local economic impact, proposed offering, alignment with Community Plan outcomes and value-add opportunities.

Kopi Stop was found to be the most suitable vendor with strong performance in business experience and a proposal that positions the Library Café as a contemporary destination with in-house production and activation aligned to the library environment.

Kopi Stop brings a decade of proven hospitality experience to Palmerston, having successfully operated their flagship café in Harriet Place for 10 years and their second venue, Makan Stop, in Smith Street for the past two years. They have built a strong reputation for creating welcoming, safe, community-centred spaces that attract families, students, seniors, office workers and visitors alike. Their approach aligns strongly with Council's vision for the Library Café as a vibrant, inclusive destination where people can meet, connect and enjoy high-quality food and coffee.

The central location of the Palmerston Library provides Kopi Stop with the opportunity to establish a genuine destination café, while also enhancing the Library's ability to attract and retain patrons. Kopi Stop is known for exceptional customer service, remembering customers by name, knowing their coffee preferences, and consistently delivering a warm, personalised experience. This customer-first culture strengthens the precinct's appeal and supports Council's broader activation goals.

Kopi Stop's offering includes high-quality coffee, Singapore hawker style drinks and a menu of simple, comforting dishes made predominantly in-house to ensure consistency and quality. Their menu will feature their award-winning laksa, Singapore kaya toast breakfast sets, congee, Hainanese chicken rice, homemade muffins, and a range of toasties and wraps. Their excellence has been recognised through multiple awards, including the 2025 Laksa Festival Golden Bowl Award (the Festival's highest honour), the People's Choice Best Laksa Award, the NT News Best Coffee (2017 and 2020), Finalist, Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Customer Service Award (2022) and People's Choice Award for Best Laksa (2023 and 2024).

City of Palmerston welcomes the forthcoming commencement of Kopi Stop and the role the Library Café will play in strengthening activation within the precinct. Expected opening has not been confirmed but is forecasted for late-May or early-June 2026.

Consultation and marketing

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

- Infrastructure team.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

The lease represents a revenue opportunity for Council, providing rental income per the lease.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

3. Economic Development

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

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

- [Palmerston Local Economic 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

Nil



13 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 Information

13.2 Correspondence

13.2.1 LGANT Board meeting communique 25 March 2026

THAT correspondence dated 7 April 2026 entitled LGANT Board meeting communique 25 March 2026 be received and noted.

From: LGANT CEO
Sent: Tue, 7 Apr 2026 00:02:55 +0000
To: **Council CEOs; **Mayors and Presidents
Cc: **Council CEO EAs; **Mayors and Presidents EAs; **LGANT Board; **LGANTStaff; LGANT CEO
Subject: Doc 682962 Correspondence - 25 March 2026 LGANT Board meeting communique
Attachments: 25 March 2026 LGANT Board meeting communique.pdf, 19 March 2026 ALGA Board meeting communique.pdf, 25 February 2026 LGANT Board meeting communique.pdf

Good morning members,

On behalf of our CEO, please find enclosed the LGANT Board meeting communique from 25 March 2026, and an amended communique for the 25 February 2026 LGANT Board meeting. We kindly request that you table these documents at your next Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM). This will ensure ongoing and effective communication with our members regarding LGANT's recent activities.

Kind regards,



Ellen Worsfold | Executive Officer
 Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
 t: (08) 8944 9688 | m: [REDACTED]
 e: ellen.worsfold@lgant.asn.au | w: www.lgant.asn.au
 21 Parap Road, Parap NT 0820 | PO Box 2075, Parap NT 0804

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We are local. We connect.



In the spirit of reconciliation, the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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25 MARCH 2026 LGANT BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

The LGANT Board met for its second meeting of 2026 on Wednesday 25 March at the LGANT office and online.

The Board heard from Alice Percy from the City of Darwin who provided an update on the NT Subdivision Development Guidelines (SDG) Management Committee in her capacity as the LGANT representative.

The Board endorsed the proposed 2026/2027 annual budget, the 2026/2027 membership subscription fees, and the recommendations for the Constitution review in advance of being presented to members at the General Meeting on 15 April 2026.

The Board also approved: the updated LGANT Risk Appetite Statement as reviewed during the 25 February 2026 Strategic Planning Workshop; not to renew the DriveAbout agreement; motions from members to the April General Meeting; and a new representative for the NT Councils Discretionary Trust Advisory Committee.

The LGANT President provided an update on his activities since the last Board Meeting including meeting with the office of the Leader of the Opposition to discuss the tranche two legislative amendments, meeting with the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APONT), visiting the Tiwi Islands Regional Council as part of the annual council visits program, and attending the March ALGA Board meeting.

The Board noted the CEOs report (including a summary of her meetings, an update on LGANT's NTG election and budget asks, and the actions from the 4 March 2026 CEO Forum and 5 March 2026 Mayors/President Forum), the forward Board calendar, activity on General Meeting and Board business, submissions, and incoming and outgoing correspondence.

The Board will next meet on 1 July 2026.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss these matters further, please reach out to Mary Watson, LGANT CEO, at ceo@lgant.asn.au or on 0417 864 183.

Alternatively, you can contact members of the LGANT Board:

President: Cr Peter Pangquee	City of Darwin	peter.pangquee@darwin.nt.gov.au	0419 858 636
Vice President Municipal: Cr Allison Bitar	Alice Springs Town Council	abitar@alicesprings.nt.gov.au	0491 055 224
Vice President Regional and Shires: Mayor Brian Pedwell	Victoria Daly Regional Council	brian.pedwell@vicdaly.nt.gov.au	0429 341 336

Municipal Director - City of Darwin nominated representative: Cr Sam Weston	City of Darwin	sam.weston@darwin.nt.gov.au	0499 389 462
Municipal Director: Mayor Joanna Holden	Katherine Town Council	joanna.holden@ktc.nt.gov.au	0428 717 044
Municipal Director: Cr Mark Fraser	City of Palmerston	councillor.fraser@palmerston.nt.gov.au	0411 224 670
Regional and Shires Director: Cr Peter Clee	Wagait Shire Council	peter.clee@wagait.nt.gov.au	0418 894 404
Regional and Shires Director Mayor Lynette De Santis	Tiwi Islands Regional Council	lynettejane.desantis@tiwiislands.nt.gov.au	0419 033 821
Regional and Shire Director: Mayor James Woods	West Arnhem Regional Council	james.woods@westarnhem.nt.gov.au	0497 919 225



The ALGA Board met online on Thursday 19 March 2026 for its first meeting of the year.

The Board reviewed the outcomes of the 12–13 February 2026 Strategic Planning Sessions and endorsed ALGA's draft Strategic Plan 2026–2030. The Plan sets ALGA's strategic direction for the next three years, with clear goals, success measures and agreed strategic initiatives to guide advocacy, operational planning and Board reporting. It places an emphasis on strengthened national advocacy for local government financial security and growth, and a stronger local government role in national policy design and delivery.

The Board also agreed the next steps for the financial sustainability communications campaign. ALGA will work closely with state and territory associations to build a cohesive national campaign reflecting the importance of secure and increased funding as well as demonstrating the value of local government.

ALGA is progressing planning for its 2026–27 priority policy research program. The Board considered a project to strengthen the evidence base for advocacy on waste and recycling cost impacts.

The Board reviewed and endorsed updates to the ALGA Board Charter and governance policy, ensuring ALGA continues to meet all corporate legal requirements and maintains a high standard of governance.

ALGA has engaged The Social Deck to update the Disability Inclusion Guide for Local Government (2016). The Board heard a presentation outlining the consultation approach, progress to date and next steps. The updated Guide will be launched at ALGA's 2026 National General Assembly.

The ALGA President provided an update on continued advocacy activities through key ministerial forums and parliamentary inquiries, reinforcing local government's role as an essential delivery partner and strengthening the case for sustainable, fit-for-purpose funding. The President represented councils at the Local Government Ministers' Forum, the Water Ministers Meeting, the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council, and the National Emergency Management Ministers Meeting. The President also appeared at Senate and House inquiry hearings to highlight the practical regulatory, resourcing and implementation impacts of proposed reforms on councils, and to underscore local government's central role in environmental protection and the circular economy.

State and Territory Association Presidents provided reports on emerging jurisdictional issues and priorities. These included strengthening local government governance and democracy (including integrity settings, clearer rules, and improved councillor capability), ongoing pressure on council funding and capacity, and a strong focus on disaster resilience—particularly faster recovery funding and increased investment in mitigation and preparedness. Reports also highlighted the need for reforms that work for rural and regional communities, action on infrastructure and essential service backlogs, and ensuring "red tape reduction" initiatives do not create new complexity. Presidents also noted councils' expanding role in community wellbeing and social cohesion, including responding to polarisation, disinformation and community safety concerns while supporting inclusive local communities.

The ALGA Chief Executive Officer also reported on ALGA activity, including expanded member engagement and communications through a new monthly ALGA News format supported by targeted ALGA Alerts, increased social media coordination with state and territory associations, and ongoing development of the advocacy campaign. Planning is well advanced for the 2026 National General Assembly (Canberra, 23–25 June) and the National Local Roads and Infrastructure Congress (Cairns, 24–26 August), alongside a strong webinar program. Policy work continues across disability inclusion (with the updated Guide to launch at the National General Assembly), the National State of the Assets 2026 project (data validation completed and report underway), and the Jobs and Skills Survey (280+ councils participating, analysis underway), as well as sustained advocacy through submissions, hearings and federal parliamentary engagement.

**Building Better
Communities.**



25 FEBRUARY 2026 LGANT BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

The LGANT Board met for its first meeting of 2026 on Wednesday 25 February at the Vibe Hotel Darwin Waterfront.

The Board endorsed minutes from an out-of-session meeting on 15 December 2025 which was held to endorse a number of time critical committee appointments: NT Councils Discretionary Trust Advisory Committee, NT Planning Commission, NT Water Safety Advisory Council, and NT Place Names Committee.

The Board approved the fourth tranche of LGANT's updated organisational policies, the CEOs new KPIs and position description, and the financial report. The Board also endorsed the updated Board meeting dates for 2026, and LGANT's new Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan.

The LGANT President provided an update on his activities since the last Board Meeting including his and the Vice President Regional and Shires' attendance at the ALGA Strategic Planning days held on 11 and 12 February 2025.

The Board noted the CEOs report (including a summary of her meetings and a marketing analytics report), the WALGA IR/HR service quarterly report, the forward Board calendar, activity on General Business motions, submissions, and incoming and outgoing correspondence.

The Board will next meet on 25 March 2026.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss these matters further, please reach out to Mary Watson, LGANT CEO, at mary.watson@lgant.asn.au or on 0417 864 183.

Alternatively, you can contact members of the LGANT Board:

President: Cr Peter Pangquee	City of Darwin	peter.pangquee@darwin.nt.gov.au	0419 858 636
Vice President Municipal: Cr Allison Bitar	Alice Springs Town Council	abitar@alicesprings.nt.gov.au	0491 055 224
Vice President Regional and Shires: Mayor Brian Pedwell	Victoria Daly Regional Council	brian.pedwell@vicdaly.nt.gov.au	0429 341 336
Municipal Director - City of Darwin nominated representative: Cr Sam Weston	City of Darwin	sam.weston@darwin.nt.gov.au	0499 389 462

Municipal Director: Mayor Joanna Holden	Katherine Town Council	joanna.holden@ktc.nt.gov.au	0428 717 044
Municipal Director: Cr Mark Fraser	City of Palmerston	councillor.fraser@palmerston.nt.gov.au	0411 224 670
Regional and Shires Director: Cr Peter Clee	Wagait Shire Council	peter.clee@wagait.nt.gov.au	0418 894 404
Regional and Shires Director Mayor Lynette De Santis	Tiwi Islands Regional Council	lynettejane.desantis@tiwiislands.nt.gov.au	0419 033 821
Regional and Shire Director: Mayor James Woods	West Arnhem Regional Council	james.woods@westarnhem.nt.gov.au	0497 919 225



14 REPORT OF DELEGATES

15 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

16 GENERAL BUSINESS

17 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 5 May 2026 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

18 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.

19 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

MINUTES



1st ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2026

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 7 April 2026 at 5:30pm.

PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell (Chair)
Councillor Lucy Morrison
Councillor Mark Fraser
Councillor Rob Waters
Councillor Sarah Henderson
Councillor Wayne Bayliss
Councillor Yolanda Kanyai

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Walsh
Acting General Manager Infrastructure, Michael Williams
General Manager Finance and Governance, Wati Kerta
General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl
General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight
Minute Secretary, Kate Roberts

GALLERY

1 member of the public
5 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

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT the apology received from Deputy Mayor Hale for 7 April 2026 be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0314 - 7/04/2026

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

4.1 Elected members

Nil

4.2 Staff

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of minutes

Moved: Councillor Waters
Seconded: Councillor Kanyai

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17 March 2026 pages 12078 to 12091 be confirmed.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0315 - 7/04/2026

5.2 Business arising from previous meeting

Nil

Initials: _____

6 MAYORAL REPORT

Nil

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)

Nil

9 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

9.1 Moving confidential items into open

9.1.1 Leave of Absence Requests

Moved: Councillor Waters

Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

2. THAT the leave of absence request received from Councillor Bayliss for 19 March to 25 March 2026 inclusive, for the reason of holiday, be approved.
4. THAT the leave of absence request received from Councillor Waters for 12 March to 20 March 2026 inclusive, for the reason of business travel, be approved.
6. THAT each decision be moved to the Open Minutes at expiry of the leave of absence.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0253 - 17/02/2026

Initials: _____

9.1.2 Zuccoli Community Hub - Funding Arrangement Update

Moved: Councillor Waters
Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

1. THAT Report entitled Zuccoli Community Hub - Funding Arrangement Update be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approves a submission to seek the Minister for Local Government’s approval for borrowings of up to \$3 million pursuant to Section 197 of the Local Government Act 2019 (NT), to support Zuccoli Community Hub Stage 3 – Community Buildings, noting that:
 - (a) This aligns with the Draft 2027-36 Long-Term Financial Plan that was endorsed for public consultation on 7 April 2026 for the 2026-27 budget development process.
 - (b) Borrowing ensures delivery within grant funding timeframes and maintains adequate cash reserves.
 - (c) Repayments and operational costs are provided for in forward budgets.
3. THAT this decision be moved to the Open Minutes of the 7 April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0332 – 7/04/2026

9.2 Moving open items into confidential

Nil

9.3 Confidential items

Moved: Councillor Bayliss
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

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

Item	Confidential Category	Confidential Clause

Initials:

26.1.1	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 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 that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.
26.1.2	Rate Concession Assessment	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 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 personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.
26.1.3	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 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 that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.
26.1.4	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 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 that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

Initials: _____

26.1.5	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.
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CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0316 - 7/04/2026

10 PETITIONS

Nil

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12 OFFICER REPORTS

12.1 Action reports

12.1.1 Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 24 March 2026

Moved: Councillor Morrison

Seconded: Councillor Kanyai

1. THAT Report entitled Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 24 March 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT the unconfirmed Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee minutes as provided at **Attachment 12.1.1.1** to report entitled Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 24 March 2026 be received and noted.

Initials: _____

3. THAT Council endorse the following recommendations made at the Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee meeting:
- (a) THAT the CSWAC Committee provides the following feedback and recommendations to inform the finalisation of the Plan prior to Council consideration and community consultation:
 - (i) Consideration of an incentive for those who do the right thing by registering their animals.
 - (ii) Support and engagement through school visits.
 - (iii) Education on responsibilities of Council compared to animal welfare and other agencies.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0317 - 7/04/2026

12.1.2 WHS Review - Psychological Safety of Elected Members

Moved: Councillor Kanyai
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

1. THAT Report entitled WHS Review - Psychological Safety of Elected Members be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve the implementation of psychosocial safety and wellbeing initiatives for Elected Members, including training and access to the Employee Assistance Program.
3. THAT a Psychosocial Safety and Wellbeing Framework for Elected Members is presented to Council by July 2026.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0318 - 7/04/2026

12.2 Receive and note reports

12.2.1 Infrastructure Quarterly Report - January to March 2026

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

THAT Report entitled Infrastructure Quarterly Report - January to March 2026 be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0319 - 7/04/2026

Initials:

13 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 Information

Nil

13.2 Correspondence

13.2.1 LGANT Board meeting Communique

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT correspondence dated 27 February 2026 entitled LGANT Board meeting Communique be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0320 - 7/04/2026

13.2.2 Determinations of council and local authority member allowances

Moved: Councillor Bayliss
Seconded: Councillor Kanyai

THAT correspondence dated 13 March 2026 entitled Determinations of council and local authority member allowances be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0321 - 7/04/2026

14 REPORT OF DELEGATES

Nil

15 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Moved: Councillor Bayliss
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

THAT the question asked by Councillor Bayliss regarding progress towards the Men's Shed and the response provided by the Chief Executive Officer be received and noted.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0322 - 7/04/2026

16 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

Initials: _____

17 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Councillor Kanyai

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 21 April 2026 at 5:30pm in the Gray Community Hall, Corner of Essington Avenue and Victoria Drive, Gray, Palmerston.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0323 – 7/04/2026

18 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

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

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0324 – 7/04/2026

19 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

Nil

The open section of the meeting closed at 5.57pm for the discussion of confidential matters.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.42pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

Initials: