

AGENDA



2nd ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2026

The Ordinary Meeting of City of Palmerston will be held in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT 0830 commencing at 5:30 PM.

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

NADINE NILON
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



CONTENTS

1	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	5
2	OPENING OF MEETING.....	5
3	APOLOGIES	5
4	DECLARATION OF INTEREST	5
4.1	Elected members	5
4.2	Staff	5
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	5
5.1	Confirmation of minutes.....	5
5.2	Business arising from previous meeting	5
6	MAYORAL REPORT	5
6.1	Mayoral Update Report - July 2026	6
7	DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	13
7.1	Lei Lithium Project.....	13
8	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS).....	13
9	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS.....	13
9.1	Moving confidential items into open	13
9.2	Moving open items into confidential	13
9.3	Confidential items.....	13
10	PETITIONS.....	14

11 NOTICES OF MOTION	14
12 OFFICER REPORTS	14
12.1 Action reports	15
12.1.1 Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting - 28 July 2026	15
12.1.2 Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Membership Update	26
12.1.3 Community Funding Program - Palmerston Rugby Union Club	34
12.1.4 Community Funding Program - Legacy NT	45
12.1.5 Community Plan Health Check - Feedback review	57
12.1.6 Proposed Amendment to the NT Planning Scheme to facilitate infill development and subdivision in Zone LR	93
12.1.7 Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference Review 2026	128
12.1.8 Palmerston Local Economic Plan Refresh	141
12.1.9 Adoption of the Animal Management Plan	178
12.2 Receive and note reports	197
12.2.1 Creative Industries Plan 2023-2027 Annual Update	197
12.2.2 Palmerston Youth Festival 2026 - Post Event Update	211
12.2.3 Major Capital Projects Update	226
12.2.4 Financial Report for the Month of July 2026	235
13 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE	271
13.1 Information	271
13.2 Correspondence	271
13.2.1 Remuneration Tribunal Inquiry on Local Government Council and Local Authority members' allowances 2027	271



13.2.2 Call for Nominations - LGANT Board Directors	273
14 REPORT OF DELEGATES	282
15 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS.....	282
16 GENERAL BUSINESS.....	282
17 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING.....	282
18 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC	282
19 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON.....	282



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 4 August 2026 pages 12244 to 12253 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 - July 2026
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 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 and Deputy Mayor (as Acting Mayor) has attended in July 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 July 2026, the Mayor attended meetings with Ministers, MLA's and Government Departments.
- During a period of leave by Mayor Pascoe-Bell, Deputy Mayor Bayliss attended meetings and events as the Acting Principal Member of Council.
- This Report provides context on several events that were attended by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor, on Council's behalf.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Mayoral Update Report - July 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 or Deputy Mayor (as Acting Mayor) during the month of July 2026 is as follows:

- Territory Day Citizenship Ceremony, Parliament House Darwin.

- Territory Day in Palmerston, Firework display.
- ABC Radio Interview.
- Geekfest Top End, Palmerston Youth Festival.
- Kopi Stop Café Media Release.
- Palmerston Sports Carnival, Palmerston Youth Festival.
- 2026 Darwin Fusion Welcome Reception.
- Meeting with Minister Boothby.
- Meeting with Palmerston & Rural Division Police, Fire and Emergency Services.
- Palmy's Got Talent, Palmerston Youth Festival.
- Department of Tourism and Hospitality – Liquor, Racing and Gaming directorate.
- NT News Interview, Futures NT.
- 2026 Northern Territory Investment Summit Welcome Reception.
- First Nations Radio Interview.
- Future Northern Territory 2026 forum.
- Reception at Government House for Autism NT.
- 10th Anniversary Thailand Grand Festival Opening Ceremony.
- Palmerston Men's Shed Visit.
- Australian Local Government Women's Association NT Branch Meeting.
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) Northern Territory Branch Conference.
- NT Festival Satsang Oceania.
- Citizenship Ceremony.

Territory Day Citizenship Ceremony

Deputy Mayor Wayne Bayliss attended the City of Palmerston Citizenship Ceremony at Parliament House, Darwin, on 1 July 2026 on behalf of Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell. Presiding over the ceremony on Territory Day, Deputy Mayor Bayliss had the privilege of welcoming Palmerston's newest Australian citizens as they formally pledged their loyalty and commitment to Australia, marking a significant milestone in their lives. The ceremony, hosted by the Northern Territory Government, included an address from Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro MLA and brought together family, friends and community members to celebrate the values of citizenship, inclusion and belonging. The Deputy Mayor also acknowledged the Larrakia people as the Traditional Custodians of the Palmerston region and paid respect to Elders past, present and future.

In welcoming the City's newest citizens, Deputy Mayor Bayliss recognised the rich cultural diversity they bring to Palmerston, noting that the conferees represented 21 countries from across the world and had chosen to make Australia their home. The City of Palmerston extends a warm welcome to its newest Australians and looks forward to the many ways they will contribute to the city's vibrant, diverse and growing community. Celebrating citizenship on Territory Day provided a fitting opportunity to reflect on the strength that diversity brings to Palmerston and to recognise the important role new citizens play in shaping the future of the city.



Acting Mayor Bayliss addressing City of Palmerston's newest citizens



Acting Mayor Bayliss, conferees and Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro

Geekfest Top End, Palmerston Youth Festival

On 4 July 2026, Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell attended the opening of GeekFest Top End 2026 at Goyder Square, officially launching the largest GeekFest event held to date. As the opening event of the Palmerston Youth Festival, GeekFest transformed Goyder Square, the Palmerston Recreation Centre and Palmerston Library into a vibrant celebration of gaming, cosplay, pop culture and technology, attracting thousands of visitors from across the Territory.

The Mayor delivered the opening address before joining in the festivities by helping to crack the confetti cannons on stage, marking the official start of the event. Attendees enjoyed virtual reality experiences, arcade and tabletop gaming, e-sports competitions, medieval-

themed activities, cosplay showcases and a range of new attractions, with more than \$6,000 in prizes on offer throughout the evening.



Councillor Morrison, Deputy Mayor Bayliss, Councillor Henderson, Mayor Pascoe-Bell and Councillor Waters opening the GeekFest Top End.



Mayor Pascoe-Bell at the Cosplay HoloVerse

Kopi Stop Café Media Release

In July we saw the official opening of Kopi Stop Palmerston at the City of Palmerston Library, celebrating a new partnership that supports local business growth while enhancing one of Palmerston's key community spaces. Operated by local business owner Jules Mou, the café offers quality coffee, Singaporean cuisine and a welcoming environment for residents, students, families and library visitors.

The opening highlighted Council's commitment to activating community spaces, strengthening the CBD and creating vibrant places where people can connect. Deputy Mayor Bayliss attended the café to promote its opening and noted that supporting local businesses is an important investment in Palmerston's future, with the library café providing a valuable community hub that encourages residents and visitors to spend more time in the city centre while supporting local enterprise.



Deputy Mayor Bayliss and Kopi Stop business owner Jules Mou.

Future Northern Territory 2026

Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell attended Future Northern Territory 2026, a leadership and economic development forum hosted by NT News at the Mindil Beach Casino Resort in Darwin on 16 July 2026. The event brought together government, industry and community leaders to discuss the Territory's future, with a focus on defence, energy, regional development, infrastructure and health.

As part of the program, Mayor Pascoe-Bell participated in the Future 2026 panel alongside City of Darwin CEO Simone Saunders, NT News Editor Melanie Palne, and demographic expert Simon Kuestenmacher, contributing to discussions on population growth, economic opportunities and the long-term vision for Northern Territory communities.



**Melanie Plane, Kirsten Porteous and Mayor Pascoe-Bell
at Future Northern Territory 2026**



**Melanie Plane, Simone Saunders, Simon Kuestenmacher & Mayor Pascoe-Bell
participated on the Future Northern Territory 2026 panel.**

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

7.1 Lei Lithium Project

THAT the presentation by Bryce Healy, General Manager Exploration and Development for Lithium Plus Minerals Pty Ltd, and Melanie Rippon, Senior Associate, Team Leader – Social Assessment and Performance for EMM Consultants, on the Lei Lithium Project be received and noted.

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 Project Initiative	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(e) 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 provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.

Item	Confidential Category	Confidential Clause
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	Review of Confidential Matters	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.
26.2.1	Contract and Tender Assessment and Award	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.

10 PETITIONS

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

12 OFFICER REPORTS

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.1
Report Title:	Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting - 28 July 2026
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 2026
Author:	Executive Assistant to General Manager People & Place, Emily Dehne
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 Council approval of the recommendations from the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday 28 July 2026.

Key messages

- The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee met on Tuesday 28 July 2026.
- The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee agenda and unconfirmed minutes from the meeting are available for viewing on Council's website.
- The Committee reviewed one (1) Action report and three (3) Receive and Note reports.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting - 28 July 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT the unconfirmed Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Minutes provided as **Attachment 12.1.1.1** be received and noted.

3. THAT Council adopts the recommendation from the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting held 28 July 2026, as follows:
 - (a) THAT the amendments to the Palmerston Local Economic Plan implementation plan are presented to Council for consideration.

Background

The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee is established as an Advisory Committee to City of Palmerston.

The purpose of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee (VEAC) is to provide advice to Council relating to actions and priorities identified in the Palmerston Local Economic Plan (PLEP) and its action plan.

Discussion

The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday 28 July 2026 with the unconfirmed minutes provided as **Attachment 12.1.1.1**.

Action report

Palmerston Local Economic Plan Refresh

Council officers have completed a review of the Palmerston Local Economic Plan (PLEP) Implementation Plan. The update ensures the PLEP continues to guide Council's economic development work effectively, reflects the progress to date, and removes or updates actions that are no longer current, within scope or aligned to Council's priorities.

Feedback discussed at the VEAC meeting has been considered and relevant updates made to the implementation plan. The amendments to the PLEP implementation plan will be presented to Council for consideration. It should be noted that some of the requests to remove reference to the Northern Territory Government have not been incorporated in the updated implementation plan given that the Plan was partially funded by the NTG, and these remain open for Council to discuss.

Receive and Note report

Economic Development Events Update

Council Officers provided the Committee with an update on upcoming economic development events that will continue to strengthen engagement with the local business community through a series of initiatives designed to support connection, capability and long-term resilience.

The following event activities will take place:

- The Business Social took place on 18 June 2026 and was a success offering a meaningful networking opportunity.
- The Palmerston Business Futures Forum 2026 will mark the third year as Council's flagship business and industry engagement event.

- October Business Month (OBM) participation, designed to support, inspire and grow Territory businesses. The events are hosted by the Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations and is expected to include high-profile keynote speakers, OBM Partner Events and networking opportunities. City of Palmerston's partnership with this event supports Council's commitment to building business resilience, enhances access to NT specific wellbeing resources, and reinforces Palmerston's role as an active enabler of safe, sustainable business practices.

Palmerston Local Economic Plan Annual Update

Council Officers are committed to keeping the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee and Council informed and up to date with the progress of our Palmerston Local Economic Plan. The annual update advises VEAC of the actions that City of Palmerston have taken to progress the PLEP during the 2025-26 financial year.

Council Officers also noted planned next steps that align with the PLEP for the upcoming 12 months.

Council Policy – Breach of Code of Conduct by Member

The Council Policy *Breach of Code of Conduct by Member* has been revised to align with the amendments to Part 7.4 of the Local Government Act and associated regulations. This report provided VEAC members of the legislative changes that impact them as members of a Council Committee and provided them with the endorsed copy of the policy for their records.

During *item 11 General Business Committee* Member Christopher Lay provided positive feedback on the implementation of the Public Safety Officers. He observed a noticeable change within the municipality since their introduction, noting an increased sense of safety throughout the community. Christopher further advised that, during a three-hour period in Gray, he observed Public Safety Officers patrol the area on six occasions, actively engaging with and moving on individuals who were loitering.

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

Consultation and marketing

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

- Acting City Activation Manager; and
- Economic Development Lead.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

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



Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

3. Economic Development

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

6. Governance

Failure to effectively govern.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

- [Palmerston Local Economic Plan](#)

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. 20260728 - UNCONFIRMED Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Minutes - 28 July 2026 [12.1.1.1 - 7 pages]



MINUTES

VIBRANT ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 28 JULY 2026

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

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

UNCONFIRMED

**Minutes of Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting
held in Council Chambers
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
on Tuesday 28 July 2026 at 5:30pm.**

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Damien Hale (Chair)
Councillor Mark Fraser
Rick Burgess, Department of the Chief Minister
and Cabinet Representative
Chowdhury Md Sadaruddin, Community Member
Christopher Lay, Local Business Owner Representative
Karlie Archer, Local Business Owner Representative

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Walsh
General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight
General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl
Executive Manager People, Customer and
Communications, Becky Saywell
Acting City Activation Manager, Sophie Walkington
Minute Secretary, Emily Dehne

GALLERY

1 member of the public
1 member 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 5:37pm.

3 APOLOGIES

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Christopher Lay

1. THAT the apology received from Michelle Murphy for 28 July 2026 be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - VEAC11/09 – 28/07/2026

4 AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING

4.1 Request for audio/audiovisual conferencing

Nil

4.2 Audio/Audio visual conferencing previously granted

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Committee members

Nil

5.2 Staff

Nil

Initials _____

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of minutes

Moved: Christopher Lay
Seconded: Chowdhury Md Sadaruddin

THAT the Minutes of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting held on 28 April 2026 pages 52 to 56 be confirmed.

CARRIED (6/0) - VEAC11/010 - 28/07/2026

6.2 Business arising from previous meeting

Nil

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

8 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

8.1 Moving confidential items into open

Nil

8.2 Moving open items into confidential

Nil

8.3 Confidential items

Nil

Initials _____

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 Action reports

9.1.1 Palmerston Local Economic Plan Refresh

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Christopher Lay

1. THAT Report entitled Palmerston Local Economic Plan Refresh be received and noted.
2. THAT the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee recommends to Council:
 - a. That the amendments to the Palmerston Local Economic Plan implementation plan are presented to Council for consideration.

CARRIED (6/0) - VEAC11/011 - 28/07/2026

*Konrad Seidl left the meeting at 6:17pm
 Konrad Seidl returned to the meeting at 6:23pm*

*Emma Blight left the meeting at 7:04pm
 Emma Blight returned to the meeting at 7:06pm*

*Becky Saywell left the meeting at 7:09pm
 Becky Saywell returned to the meeting at 7:11pm*

9.2 Receive and note reports

9.2.1 Economic Development Events Update

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Karlie Archer

THAT Report entitled Economic Development Events Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - VEAC11/012 - 28/07/2026

Initials _____

9.2.2 Palmerston Local Economic Plan Annual Update

Moved: Karlie Archer
 Seconded: Christopher Lay

THAT Report entitled Palmerston Local Economic Plan Annual Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - VEAC11/013 – 28/07/2026

9.2.3 Council Policy - Breach of Code of Conduct by Member

Moved: Councillor Fraser
 Seconded: Christopher Lay

THAT Report entitled Council Policy - Breach of Code of Conduct by Member be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - VEAC11/014 – 28/07/2026

10 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE**10.1 Information**

Nil

10.2 Correspondence

Nil

11 GENERAL BUSINESS**11.1 Public Safety Officer Comment**

Moved: Christopher Lay
 Seconded: Councillor Hale

THAT Christopher Lay's comment regarding the Public Safety Officers be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - VEAC11/015 – 28/07/2026

Initials _____

12 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Karlie Archer

THAT the next Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 27 October 2026 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED (6/0) - VEAC11/016 - 28/07/2026

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Rick Burgess

THAT the meeting of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee held in Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, Palmerston on 28 July 2026 closed at 7:20pm.

CARRIED (6/0) - VEAC11/017 - 28/07/2026

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7:20pm.

 Chair

 Print Name

 Date

Initials _____

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.2
Report Title:	Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Membership Update
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 2026
Author:	Executive Assistant to General Manager People & Place, Emily Dehne
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 Council endorsement to fill current vacancies on the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee.

Key messages

- There has been a change in circumstances regarding the current Business or Property Association representative on the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee, Mr Colin Southam.
- As Mr Southam is no longer affiliated with the Palmerston Regional Business Association, he does not meet the requirements for membership in this position in accordance with the Terms of Reference, and the position is therefore unoccupied.
- The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee currently has two (2) other vacant positions: one Community Member and one Business or Property Association Representative.
- The current vacancies pose risk of reduced capability, representation gaps and operational challenges. Without full membership the committee may be less able to respond to emerging economic opportunities and challenges in an informed way.
- Council Officers recommend that we advertise the current vacant positions through an Expression of Interest process.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Membership Update be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Chair to write a letter of thanks to Colin Southam for his time as a Relevant Business or Property Association Representative.
3. THAT Council undertakes an appropriate Expression of Interest process to fill all vacant positions on the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee.

Background

The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee (VEAC) plays a key role in providing strategic insight, stakeholder perspective and informed recommendations to support the Palmerston Local Economic Plan.

Discussion

The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee (VEAC) membership allows for appointment by Council of the following members:

- Two (2) Councillors as members and one Councillor as alternate member
 - Of the two (2) Councillors appointed to VEAC, one will be appointed as chair.
- Maximum two (2) Community Members
- Maximum two (2) members of relevant business or property associations
- Maximum three (3) members being local business owners from varying sectors
- One Representative from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

There has been a change in circumstances regarding the current Business or Property Association representative, Mr Colin Southam, as he is no longer a member of the Palmerston and Regional Business Association (or any other relevant association).

As Mr Southam is no longer affiliated with a Business or Property Association, there is a misalignment with the VEAC Terms of Reference (ToR), which states that Council will appoint a maximum two (2) members of relevant business or property associations to hold representation on the Committee (ToR provided as **Attachment 12.1.2.1**).

Council resolved to not fill the remaining Community member representative position at 1st Ordinary Council Meeting 3 March 2026. This left the following VEAC membership positions vacant:

- One Community Member; and
- One Business or Property Association Representative.

These vacancies pose risk of reduced capability, representation gaps and operational challenges now that both Business or Property Association Representative positions are



unoccupied. Without full membership the committee may be less able to respond to emerging economic opportunities and challenges in an informed way.

Filling these positions is important to ensure balance and diversity of expertise that aligns with the committee's objectives. Recruitment to these positions also provides an opportunity to refresh the committee's composition, bringing in new skills, perspectives and networks with evolving economic priorities.

With this considered, Council Officers recommend that the vacant Community Member Representative and Property or Business Association Representative positions are advertised through an appropriate Expression of Interest process. Council Officers would consider three (3) VEAC vacancies and advertise positions based on the maximum Committee membership, which include:

- One (1) Community Member; and
- Two (2) members of relevant business or property association representatives.

A report would then be prepared for Council to determine who would be appointed to these vacant positions.

Consultation and marketing

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

- Acting City Activation Manager;
- Economic Development Lead;
- Marketing and Communications Manager.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

Committee member remuneration is covered within the current budget.
Any marketing requirements will be covered within the current marketing budget.
There are no additional expected financial implications identified.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

3. Economic Development

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

6. Governance

Failure to effectively govern.



Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

- [Palmerston Local Economic Plan](#)

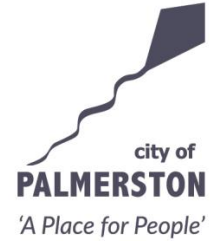
Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

1. 20260415 - Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee Terms of Reference [**12.1.2.1** - 4 pages]

TERMS OF REFERENCE



VIBRANT ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE

The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee (VEAC) provides strategic advice to Council relating to actions and priorities relating to the Palmerston Local Economic Plan and its Action Plan. These terms of reference set guidelines for the operations of VEAC.

2. COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Provide advice to Council in relation to identifying economic development opportunities and improving the services provided to the community, in accordance with legislation and council policies.
- 2.2 Provide strategy business focus, industry perspective and balance input for the implementation of the Local Economic Plan and its Action Plan.
- 2.3 Provide business perspective and advise on economic development issues or opportunities and Council's relevant plans and strategies.
- 2.4 Establish productive working relationships and ongoing communication between Council and the business community.
- 2.5 Increase partnerships in place between Council and other levels of government to build a vibrant economy and community in Palmerston.
- 2.6 Draw on and share the expertise of specialists, as appropriate.

3. AUTHORITY/DELEGATION

The VEAC is an advisory body to Council and does not hold any decision-making powers. The Committee is authorised to recommend a course of action to Council on matters falling within its objectives.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1. Members are appointed by the Council.
- 4.2. Council shall appoint suitably qualified or experienced individuals to be members of the Committee based on its purpose, being:
 - Two Councillors as members and one Councillor as alternate member
 - Maximum two Community Members
 - Maximum two members of relevant business or property associations
 - Maximum three members being local business owners from varying sectors
 - One Representative from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

- 4.3. The Chairperson will be a Councillor holding membership to the committee.
- 4.4. The Mayor will be an ex-officio non-member.
- 4.5. Council staff will attend in an advisory capacity, to provide information and updates. Staff do not hold voting rights and do not participate in group decisions unless invited to by the committee.

5. TERMS AND VACANCIES

- 5.1. Membership term of a Councillor will be for one year, by nomination at an Ordinary Council Meeting.
- 5.2. Membership term for all other Members will be for two years from date of appointment
- 5.3. Council officers will invite relevant business associations to hold representation on the Committee.
- 5.4. Representatives may self-nominate.
- 5.5. A Member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without providing an apology is considered to have resigned their membership.
- 5.6. Following the confirmed resignation of a member, Council will actively fill the position.
- 5.7. The Terms of Reference and membership profile will be reviewed by the Committee every two years from the commencement of the Committee's term, or as required.

6. COMMUNITY MEMBER SELECTION PROCESS

- 6.1. In considering expressions of interest, applicants are expected to:
 - Hold a special interest in the development of the Palmerston economy.
 - Contribute positively to the work of the Committee by actively participating in meetings.
 - Represent community interest as a whole and not as individual interest.
 - Be respectful of diverse views and work collaboratively
 - Be a Palmerston resident or owner of a Palmerston local business, or a representative of a business or property association that represents the needs of Palmerston.
- 6.2. Community and local business representatives can be considered by submitting an Expression of Interest Form, which is available on the Council website [HERE](#).
- 6.3. Submissions received will be submitted to a confidential Ordinary Council Meeting for consideration.

7. MEETINGS

- 7.1. Notice of Meetings and Business Papers
 - 7.1.1. The Chief Executive Officer will convene meetings and will distribute business papers no later than three business days prior to a meeting.
- 7.2. Meeting Schedule
 - 7.2.1. Meetings will be held quarterly, or more frequently as required.

- 7.2.2. The meeting schedule will be proposed to the committee in the last meeting of the calendar year and submitted to the next Ordinary Council Meeting for endorsement.
- 7.3. Attendance
- 7.3.1. Meetings are open to the public unless confidential business is being considered.
- 7.3.2. Guests or Business Representatives may be invited to attend meetings to provide advice or update on relevant matters by approval of the committee chairperson and responsible officer.
- 7.4. Quorum
- 7.4.1. Quorum consists of a majority of its committee Members holding office at the time of the meeting, maintaining one Councillor as the Chairperson. If no Councillor is available, the meeting will be postponed.
- 7.5. Chairperson Responsibilities
- 7.5.1. To ensure meetings are conducted in accordance with the Palmerston (Procedure for Meeting) By-Laws and according to the agenda.
- 7.5.2. Ensuring all discussion items end with a decision, action, or appropriate outcomes.
- 7.5.3. Should the Chairperson be unable to attend a meeting, the alternate Councillor or Mayor shall perform the duties of Chairperson.
- 7.6. Voting
- 7.6.1. For voting purposes, the Chairperson shall accept motions moved and seconded by Members of the Committee, by a show of hands.
- 7.6.2. A Committee decision is by majority vote of voting Members present at a meeting.
- 7.7. Minutes
- 7.7.1. Meeting minutes will be distributed to Members within ten working days after a meeting and presented to Council at its next Ordinary Council Meeting.

8. REMUNERATION

- 8.1. Entitlement
- 8.1.1. Community Members of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee shall receive remuneration of \$200 per meeting attended.
- 8.1.2. Local business owners of the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee shall receive remuneration of \$200 per meeting attended.
- 8.1.3. Government and business or property association representatives will not be remunerated for attendance at meetings, unless the business or property association representative acts in a volunteer capacity in the business or property association, then a remuneration of \$200 per meeting attended shall be received.
- 8.2. Applicable Meetings
- 8.2.1. Remuneration is applicable for attendance at formally convened committee meetings.
- 8.3. Exclusions
- 8.3.1. Remuneration does not apply to informal meetings, workshops, or other activities outside the scope of formally convened committee meetings.
- 8.4. Payment Process
- 8.4.1. Payment will be processed by City of Palmerston's finance department following confirmation of attendance in the meeting minutes.

9. CONDUCT

- 9.1. Conflicts of interest
9.1.1. Committee Members must declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest on the approved Council form when joining the Committee, annually and at the start of each meeting before discussion of the relevant agenda.
- 9.2. Code of Conduct
9.2.1. All Committee Members are required to abide by Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act 2019, the Code of Conduct for Elected Members and Committee Members.
- 9.3. Committee Representation
9.3.1. Committee Members must not speak on behalf of Council or the Committee without the approval of the Chief Executive Officer. Failure to abide by this requirement will constitute grounds for removal from the Committee.

10. PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Committee will provide an annual summary of the Committees performance to Council prior to the end of the financial year

COMMITTEE NAME	Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee	TYPE	Council Advisory Committee
OWNER	Chief Executive Officer	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	General Manager People and Place
APPROVAL DATE	15/04/2026	NEXT REVIEW DATE	09/12/2027
RECORDS NUMBER	684209	COUNCIL DELEGATION	11/0146

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.3
Report Title:	Community Funding Program - Palmerston Rugby Union Club
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 2026
Author:	Community Services Manager, Stephen Power
Approver:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

Community plan

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

Purpose

This report seeks a Council decision regarding a sponsorship application submitted by Palmerston Rugby Union Club Incorporated through the Community Funding Program.

Key messages

- Council supports initiatives that benefit the Palmerston community through the Community Funding Program.
- Palmerston Rugby Union Club Incorporated has applied for a three-year sponsorship of \$6,000 per year through the Community Funding Program for the City of Palmerston to become the club's Junior Principal Sponsor.
- The proposed sponsorship will support affordable junior rugby participation, promote healthy and active lifestyles, and strengthen community connections within Palmerston.
- \$227,794 remains in the Community Funding Program budget for the 2026/27 financial year.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Community Funding Program - Palmerston Rugby Union Club be received and noted.

2. THAT Council endorse Option One (1) of the report and approve a three-year sponsorship of \$6,000 per year to the Palmerston Rugby Union Club through the Community Funding Program.

Background

Palmerston Rugby Union Club (PRUC) is an incorporated not-for-profit community sporting organisation that provides junior and senior rugby union opportunities for the Palmerston community. Operated by volunteers, the club promotes participation, inclusion and healthy lifestyles for people of all ages and backgrounds, with a strong focus on providing accessible sporting opportunities for young people.

PRUC has recently completed a three-year sponsorship agreement through the City of Palmerston Community Funding Program, receiving \$5,000 per year. The club successfully delivered the outcomes outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding and has now applied for a new sponsorship agreement to continue supporting its junior rugby program.

Discussion

Palmerston Rugby Union Club (PRUC) has applied for a sponsorship of \$6,000 per year for three years to secure the City of Palmerston as the Junior Principal Sponsor of the club's junior rugby program. The sponsorship will support the delivery of the junior program by contributing towards playing and training equipment, coaching resources and player development initiatives, while helping to keep junior registration fees affordable for local families.

The proposed sponsorship will support the ongoing delivery of junior rugby programs that engage approximately 300–500 participants, including children, young people, families and the broader community. The initiative aims to increase junior participation, improve player retention, strengthen coach and volunteer development, and provide a safe, inclusive and accessible sporting environment for young people in Palmerston. The sponsorship will also enable the club to continue providing all junior members with a free membership pack containing playing items, helping to reduce the cost of participation for families.

PRUC has demonstrated its capacity to deliver the proposed sponsorship through its successful delivery of the previous City of Palmerston sponsorship agreement. Council staff confirmed the club met the outcomes of the previous Memorandum of Understanding and has a strong history of delivering junior and senior rugby programs, community participation initiatives and school engagement activities.

As part of the sponsorship package, the City of Palmerston will receive naming rights recognition as the Junior Principal Sponsor, including branding on all junior playing jerseys, club polo, promotional material, digital media, the club website, and acknowledgement at junior rugby activities and club events throughout the season. During discussions with the applicant, Council staff were advised that a three-year agreement would allow the club to retain the same junior playing jerseys throughout the sponsorship period, avoiding annual jersey replacements due to changes in sponsorship branding.



During the assessment process, Council staff explored opportunities for additional sponsorship recognition through perimeter signage at the club grounds. The applicant advised this is not possible due to the existing usage arrangements for the ground. Staff are satisfied the proposed sponsorship package provides an appropriate level of recognition for the funding requested.

An alternative option for Council is presented to fund only 1 year. This provides time for council to consider any changes to the Community Funding Program and guidelines and not have commitment for future years.

All required supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed as part of the assessment process, including proof of incorporation, public liability insurance and a sponsorship package outlining sponsorship benefits and recognition opportunities.

In accordance with the Sponsorship Policy and Community Funding Program Guidelines, Option One (1) of this report is recommended to approve a three-year sponsorship of \$6,000 per year to the Palmerston Rugby Union Club through the Community Funding Program.

Further information is provided at **Attachment 12.1.3.1.**

Option 1

Full Funding - \$6,000 per year for 3 years (Recommended)

Council approves the full sponsorship funding amount of \$6,000 per year for Three (3) years to the Palmerston Rugby Union Club through the Community Funding Program.

Option 2

Partial Amount - \$6,000 for 1 year

Council approves the sponsorship funding amount of \$6,000 for One (1) year to the Palmerston Rugby Union Club through the Community Funding Program.

Option 3

No Funding

Council does not approve funding to the Palmerston Rugby Union Club through the Community Funding Program.

Consultation and marketing

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

- Community Connection Officer.

The applicant was consulted during the preparation of this Report.

Policy implications

This Report aligns with the following City of Palmerston policies and guidelines:

- Sponsorship Policy.
- Community Funding Program Guidelines.

Budget and resource implications

The Community Funding Program has the remaining funds for the 26/27 financial year.

- \$82,794 for Grants, Representation Support, Graffiti and School Awards.
- \$125,000 for Sponsorship.
- \$20,000 for Environmental Initiatives.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

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

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

- Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework
- 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. Community Funding Program Grants environmental initiatives Sponsorship Submission 33 (combined) [12.1.3.1 - 7 pages]

Community Funding Program - Grants, environmental initiatives & Sponsorship : Submission #33

Funding type sought: Sponsorship

Organisation's name Palmerston Rugby Union Club

Organisation type Palmerston Rugby Union Club

ABN: (if applicable): 72 785 290 569

Details Jacob Brant

Provide details of your organisation Palmerston Rugby Union Club

Established in 1976, the Palmerston Rugby Union Club (PRUC) is one of the Northern Territory's longest-standing and most successful rugby union clubs. Based at Moulden Oval in Palmerston, we provide opportunities for players of all ages and abilities, from junior rugby through to senior men's and women's competitions.

Our club is built on the values of community, inclusion, respect, teamwork, and player development. We are proudly volunteer-led, with dedicated coaches, managers, committee members, and supporters who work together to create a safe, welcoming, and family-friendly environment.

Each season, PRUC fields teams across multiple junior age groups, senior men's grades, and women's rugby, engaging hundreds of players, volunteers, families, and supporters from across Palmerston and the Greater Darwin region.

Beyond rugby, the club plays an active role in the local community through fundraising initiatives, charity events, and partnerships with local businesses and organisations. We are committed to developing not only better rugby players but also confident, respectful, and resilient members of our community.

As a not-for-profit sporting organisation, sponsorships and community partnerships are essential to helping us keep participation affordable, improve our facilities, purchase equipment, develop coaches and volunteers, and provide opportunities for players to reach their full potential.

With a proud history spanning over 50 years, Palmerston Rugby Union Club continues to grow and

remains committed to strengthening rugby and supporting the Palmerston community for generations to come

Provide details of the proposed activity The proposed activity is to secure a Junior Principal Sponsor for the Palmerston Rugby Union Club. This partnership will see the sponsor recognised as the major naming rights partner of our junior rugby program throughout the season.

The Junior Principal Sponsor will receive premium branding opportunities, including placement on junior playing jerseys, club apparel, digital media, promotional material, and recognition across the club's social media platforms and website. CoP will also be acknowledged at club events, presentations, and junior rugby activities throughout the season.

The sponsorship directly supports the delivery of our junior rugby program by helping fund playing equipment, coaching resources, referee costs, facility maintenance, player development initiatives, and programs that keep registration fees affordable for local families.

This partnership provides the sponsor with strong exposure to hundreds of players, parents, volunteers, and supporters while demonstrating a commitment to grassroots sport and the development of young people within the Palmerston community.

Provide details of previous activities held by the organisation Palmerston Rugby Union Club has a proud history of delivering rugby programs and community events in the Northern Territory for more than 50 years.

Each year, the club delivers junior and senior rugby competitions, preseason development programs, coaching and referee education, school engagement activities, and community participation initiatives. We field teams across multiple junior age groups, senior men's grades, and women's competitions, providing opportunities for players of all ages and skill levels.

In addition to rugby, the club regularly hosts and participates in community events, including fundraising raffles, family fun days, presentation nights, junior gala days, sponsor appreciation events, and charity fundraisers supporting local families and community causes.

Recent highlights include:

Celebrating the club's 50th Anniversary with a community weekend featuring rugby matches, a Golden Oldies event, and a formal gala dinner.

Delivering successful junior rugby programs that continue to grow participation each season.

Hosting representative and development rugby events in partnership with Rugby NT.

Raising funds for local families in need through raffles and community fundraising initiatives.

Working alongside local schools, businesses, and community organisations to promote healthy lifestyles, teamwork, and community engagement.

These activities have strengthened the club's reputation as one of the Northern Territory's leading community sporting organisations and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to developing rugby while creating a positive impact within the Palmerston community.

What are the intended objectives of this activity, and how will you evaluate its success?

The primary objective of securing a Junior Principal Sponsor is to strengthen the long-term sustainability of the Palmerston Rugby Union Club's junior rugby program. The sponsorship funding will help reduce financial barriers for families while allowing the club to continue providing a safe, inclusive, and high-quality sporting environment for young players.

The sponsorship will specifically support:

- Keeping junior registration fees affordable.
- Purchasing playing and training equipment.
- Supporting coach and volunteer development.
- Improving the quality of junior programs and player pathways.
- Enhancing the overall experience for players and their families.
- Increasing junior participation and player retention across all age groups.
- Building stronger partnerships between local businesses and the Palmerston community.

Evaluation of Success

The success of the sponsorship will be measured by:

- Growth in junior player registrations and team numbers.
- Improved player retention throughout the season.
- Positive feedback from players, parents, coaches, and volunteers.
- Delivery of all agreed sponsor benefits, including branding and promotional opportunities.
- Increased community engagement through club events and social media.
- The club's ability to invest in new equipment, coaching resources, and junior development initiatives.

Ultimately, success will be reflected in a stronger, more sustainable junior rugby program that continues to provide positive sporting opportunities for young people while delivering meaningful value and exposure for our sponsor.

Date every year for 3 years

Venue Palmerston rugby union club

Time 3 year long

Expected number of attendees 300-500

Target audience Whole community, seniors, young people, children and families and veterans

Total activity cost 6,000 per year

Amount requested through the Community funding program 6,000 per year

Is the amount requested excluding GST? No, it's including GST

Value of other funding sources we have team sponsors as well but this covers all the jnrs

A copy of the sponsorship package outlining the levels and categories of sponsorship

Evidence of registration as a community group, not-for-profit, or incorporated body

Evidence of appropriate Certificate of currency for applicable insurances

A copy of the organisation's most recent audited financial statement (for applications over \$10,000) {Empty}

City of Palmerston's support will be publicly acknowledged in the following ways: Social media post, Website, Promotional material



Department of
TRADE, BUSINESS AND ASIAN RELATIONS

Northern Territory

Associations Act 2003
Section 9

Incorporation Number: **00495C/IA**

Certificate of Incorporation

This is to certify that

Palmerston Rugby Union Club Incorporated

is, on and from the 30 June 1977
incorporated under the *Associations Act 2003*.

Dated this **13 November 2025**

Vicki Goudie

Delegate of the Director

CERTIFICATE



SLE Worldwide Australia Pty Limited
A.B.N. 15 066 698 575 AFSL237268

Level 15, 45 Clarence Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Telephone 61 (2) 9249 4850
Facsimile 61 (2) 9249 4840
Website: www.sleaustralia.com.au

Certificate of Currency

Type of Cover:	Broadform Liability		
The Insured:	Rugby Australia Limited and its members and affiliate members, including member clubs and associations of the various State members.		
Insured Club:	Palmerston Crocs RUFC		
Period Of Insurance:	10 December 2025 To 4:00pm on 10 December 2026		
The Business:	Sporting activities mean that of a club, association or other entity playing or administering the sport (rugby) and includes all official activities connected with the sport including; a) Club social and fund raising activities except that of a Licensed Club (note a clubhouse or sports pavilion with a liquor license is not deemed a licensed club). b) The ownership of premises and/or the tenancy thereof c) The leasing or hiring out of premises owned or tenanted to other parties		
Limits of Liability:	Public Liability	\$ 20,000,000	any one Occurrence
	Products Liability	\$ 20,000,000	any one period of insurance
Sublimits	Property in your Physical or Legal Control	\$1,000,000	any one Occurrence and in the aggregate for the Period of Insurance
	Professional Liability	\$10,000,000	limited in the aggregate
Excess:	Personal Injury	\$ 1,000	each and every Occurrence in respect of Sports Public and Products Liability other than Wallabies and Super Rugby where the excess is \$5,000 each and every occurrence
	Property Damage	\$ 1,000	each and every Occurrence in respect of Sports Public and Products Liability other than Wallabies and Super Rugby where the excess is \$5,000 each and every occurrence
	Professional Liability	\$ 1,000	each and every Occurrence in respect of Sports Public and Products Liability other than Wallabies and Super

Rugby where the excess is \$5,000 each and every occurrence

Insurer: SLE Worldwide Australia Pty Limited place this insurance under a wholesale arrangement (UMR B128411472W19) with certain Underwriters at Lloyd's of London. SLE Worldwide Australia Limited do not act as agent of the insured.

Policy Number: B128414071W21

Geographical Limits: Worldwide excluding North America

Broker: AJG - North Sydney
Level 12, 80 Pacific Highway
North Sydney NSW 2060

Stamped & Dated: 10 December 2025



SLE Worldwide Australia Pty Limited is acting under the authority of the Insurers and will be effecting this contract of insurance as agent of the Insurer and not the Insured. ABN 15 066 698 575 AFSL License No: 237268

Please Note: Whilst an expiry date has been indicated, it should be known this policy can be cancelled at any time in the future. Accordingly reliance should not be placed on the expiry date.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. The Named Insured may cancel this Policy by giving notice in writing to SLE. The Companies may cancel this Policy in any of the circumstances set out in the Insurance Contracts Act, 1984. After cancellation as aforesaid, the premium for the period prior to cancellation shall be adjusted on a pro rata basis plus 10% of the annual premium. When the premium is subject to adjustment, cancellation will not affect the Insured's obligation to supply such information as the Companies may require for the adjustment of the premium. Cancellation will not affect the Insured's obligations to pay the amount of adjustment applicable up to the date of cancellation.
2. Please ensure that you read this document in its entirety.

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.4
Report Title:	Community Funding Program - Legacy NT
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 2026
Author:	Community Services Manager, Stephen Power
Approver:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

Community plan

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

Purpose

This report seeks a Council decision regarding a community grant application submitted by Legacy Club of the Northern Territory Incorporated, through the Community Funding Program.

Key messages

- Council supports initiatives that benefit the Palmerston community through the Community Funding Program.
- The funding application has been assessed as meeting the current policy and guidelines.
- Legacy Club of the Northern Territory Incorporated has applied for a community grant at a cost of \$8,925 through the Community Funding Program to deliver five (5) lunches in Palmerston for its beneficiaries.
- The proposed program will support social connection, reduce social isolation and improve the wellbeing of Legacy Northern Territory beneficiaries by providing regular opportunities to connect in an accessible community setting.
- \$227,794 remains in the Community Funding Program budget for the 2026/27 financial year.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Community Funding Program - Legacy NT be received and noted.

2. THAT Council endorse Option Two (2) of the report to approve partial funding of a community grant at a cost of \$4,500 to Legacy Club of the Northern Territory Incorporated through the Community Funding Program.

Background

Legacy Club of the Northern Territory Incorporated is a not-for-profit organisation established in 1973 that provides support, advocacy and social connection opportunities for the families of veterans who have given their life or health in service to Australia. The organisation has a long history of supporting veteran families through a range of wellbeing initiatives, including regular social events that promote connection, reduce social isolation and strengthen emotional wellbeing. These activities are delivered by a combination of volunteers and staff.

In June 2024, Legacy Northern Territory received \$8,640 through the City of Palmerston Community Funding Program to deliver nine lunches in Palmerston.

In the 2025/26 financial year, Legacy Northern Territory received \$4,500 through the City of Palmerston Community Funding Program to deliver three lunches in Palmerston for its beneficiaries. The organisation successfully delivered the funded activities and submitted its acquittal report in accordance with the funding agreement.

Discussion

Legacy Northern Territory has applied for a Community Grant of \$8,925 through the Community Funding Program to deliver five lunches in Palmerston during the 2026/27 financial year. The proposed program is expected to attract approximately 35 attendees at each monthly lunch and up to 75 attendees at the annual Mother's Day lunch.

The luncheons provide a valuable opportunity for the families of veterans who have given their life or health for our country to come together, strengthen social connections and receive emotional and psychological support.

Legacy Northern Territory has advised that approximately 15 beneficiaries currently reside in Palmerston, with beneficiaries from Darwin and rural areas also attending the Palmerston luncheons. The program also provides some broader local benefit through the use of Palmerston hospitality businesses.

The current application represents a significant increase from the \$4,500 approved in the 2025/26 financial year and expands the program from three to five lunches. Council staff acknowledge the positive wellbeing outcomes delivered through the program and note that many Legacy beneficiaries are older members of the community who may be at greater risk of social isolation.

While the expanded program will provide additional opportunities for social connection, the increased funding will primarily support additional luncheons for Legacy Northern Territory beneficiaries, with limited additional benefit to the broader Palmerston community. Legacy Northern Territory has also advised that it has not sought funding from other sources to support the proposed program.



All required supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed as part of the assessment process. The applicant has advised that quotations could not be provided for all catering costs, as pricing is dependent on the venue and menu selected at the time of each luncheon. The submitted budget also includes \$600 for drinks. As the luncheons are held at licensed venues and the application does not specify that the drinks are non-alcoholic, Council staff do not recommend funding this component of the budget.

Legacy Northern Territory has advised that City of Palmerston's support will be acknowledged through social media, newsletters, promotional material and its regular beneficiary newsletter, *Joan's Jolly Jottings*.

Council staff consider that maintaining Council's contribution at the same level as the previous funding agreement (\$4,500) provides an appropriate level of support for the program, while ensuring Community Funding Program funding remains equitable and is distributed across a broad range of eligible community organisations and initiatives.

In line with the Community Funding Policy and Community Funding Program Guidelines, Administration recommends Option Two (2), providing partial funding of \$4,500.

Further information is provided at **Attachment 12.1.4.1**.

Option 1

Full Funding - \$8,925

Council approves the full sponsorship funding amount of \$8,925 to the Legacy Northern Territory through the Community Funding Program.

Option 2

Partial Amount - \$4,500 (Recommended)

Council approves the community grant funding amount of \$4,500 to the Legacy Northern Territory through the Community Funding Program.

Option 3

No Funding

Council does not approve funding to Legacy Northern Territory through the Community Funding Program.

Consultation and marketing

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

- Community Services Manager.
- Community Connection Officer.
- Community Facilities Officer.

The applicant was consulted during the preparation of this Report.

Policy implications

This Report aligns with the following City of Palmerston policies and guidelines:

- Community Funding Program Policy.
- Community Funding Program Guidelines.

Budget and resource implications

The Community Funding Program has the remaining funds for the 26/27 financial year.

- \$82,794 for Grants, Representation Support, Graffiti and School Awards.
- \$125,000 for Sponsorship.
- \$20,000 for Environmental Initiatives.

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

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

- Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework
- 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. Community Funding Program Grants environmental initiatives Sponsorship Submission 29 (combined) [12.1.4.1 - 8 pages]

Community Funding Program - Grants, environmental initiatives & Sponsorship : Submission #29

Funding type sought: Community grant

Organisation's name Legacy Northern Territory

Organisation type Non for Profit - Ex Service Organisation

ABN: (if applicable): 38449530211

Details Jane Fryar
Office Manager

Provide details of your organisation Legacy Northern Territory Inc (formed in 1973) are a not for profit organisation that support the families of veterans that have given their life or health for our country. We are predominantly run by volunteers but employ one full time and one part time staff member. Our beneficiaries consist of approximately 90 widows and 10 children.

Social Connection is vital to well-being, as it plays a crucial role in both mental and physical health. Legacy NT provides opportunities for our Beneficiaries to partake in regular lunches and events.

- These functions allow our Beneficiaries to meet with old and new friends, strengthening their emotional and psychological well-being. Meaningful social connections are linked to better mental health and emotional stability.

Loneliness and social isolation are associated with increased mortality and worse health outcomes, highlighting the importance of maintaining connections.

Provide details of the proposed activity Five monthly lunches for our Beneficiaries. The lunches that are held in Palmerston make it easier for our rural Beneficiaries to attend. There are ten lunches split between Palmerston and Darwin to ensure that all are given an opportunity to attend. These lunches provide vital opportunities for our beneficiaries to connect in a social gathering. The local Palmerston businesses also get great enjoyment from hosting these lunches. Our families that are based in Darwin also enjoy the lunches that are held in Palmerston as it takes them out of their usual day to day "bubble".

Provide details of previous activities held by the organisation 2025/2026 we were able to

hold 6 lunches in Palmerston. This included a Mothers Day High Tea attended by the Administrator of the Northern Territory and a wonderful lunch at Palmerston Golf Club which was attended by members of the Australian Army Band. This was a really special day and all in attendance said it was the best yet. These moments of bringing joy and happiness are what make these lunches so special.

What are the intended objectives of this activity, and how will you evaluate its success? To continue to grow and support our Beneficiaries socially in a relaxed and enjoyable way. Meaningful social connections are linked to better mental health and emotional stability. We can evaluate the success by the continued attendance of our Beneficiaries to these lunches. They are always very well attended.

Date 2026/2027

Venue Any accessible restaurants in Palmerston

Time 1200-1430

Expected number of attendees 35 to normal lunches, 75 on Mother's Day. Due to new Legacy Australia guidelines on what defines a "Beneficiary" we anticipate our numbers growing.

Target audience Seniors, Veterans, Youth, Families

Total activity cost \$10305

Amount requested through the Community funding program \$8925

Is the amount requested excluding GST? No, it's including GST

Value of other funding sources \$1380

Evidence of registration as a community group, not-for-profit, or incorporated body

Evidence of appropriate Certificate of currency for applicable insurances

Minutes of the Committee meeting that document the decision to apply for CFP funding

A detailed budget, including all income and expenditure including in-kind contributions

Copies of quotations for all products and services listed in the budget

A copy of the organisation's most recent audited financial statement (for applications over \$10,000) {Empty}

City of Palmerston's support will be publicly acknowledged in the following ways: Social media post, Newsletter, Promotional material, Joan's Jolly Jottings - Regular information sent out to beneficiaries

LEGACY NT**BUDGET FOR CITY OF PALMERSTON COMMUNITY GENEFIT GRANT APPLICATION****2026/2027****EXPENSES - CITY OF PALMERSTON'****GST INCLUSIVE**

FOOD - 4 LUNCHES/35 PAX/\$30 PER HEAD	\$4,200
FOOD: 1 LUNCH 75 PAX @ \$55 PER HEAD	\$4,125
DRINKS - 1 LUNCH 75 PAX @ \$8 PER HEAD	\$600
	\$8,925

EXPENSES: LEGACY

TRANSPORT 5 LUNCHES	\$1,100
INCIDENTALS/DOOR PRIZE	\$280
	\$1,380

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR 5 LUNCHES**\$10,305**



I, Tommi Husband, President of Legacy Northern Territory, confirm approval to apply for City of Palmerston Community Grant for 2026/2027.

We are requesting funding in the amount of \$8,925.00.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'T' followed by a horizontal line and a final upward stroke.

TOMMI HUSBAND

Legacy Club of the Northern Territory Inc.

11 Namarluk Drive, Ludmilla, NT, 0820
GPO Box 1492, Darwin, NT, 0801

Phone: 0457 267 200
Supporting our veterans' families since 1923

Email: legacy@legacynt.org
ABN 38 449 530 211



Australian Government
Australian Business Register

ABN Lookup

Current details for ABN 38 449 530 211

ABN details

Entity name:	LEGACY CLUB OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INCORPORATED
ABN status:	Active from 01 Nov 1999
Entity type:	Other Incorporated Entity
Goods & Services Tax (GST):	Registered from 01 Jul 2000
Main business location:	NT 0820

Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)

LEGACY CLUB OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INCORPORATED is registered with the [Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission \(ACNC\)](#) as follows:

ACNC registration	From
Registered as a charity view ACNC registration	26 Feb 2013

Trading name(s)

The ABR stopped collecting and updating trading names in May 2012. Businesses now register their business name on the Business Names Register. To learn more visit the [ASIC website](#).

Trading name	From
LEGACY CLUB OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INCORPORATED	04 Apr 2000

Charity tax concession status

LEGACY CLUB OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INCORPORATED is a [Public Benevolent Institution](#) endorsed to access the following tax concession:

Tax concession	From
GST Concession	01 Jul 2005
FBT Exemption	01 Jul 2005
Income Tax Exemption	01 Jul 2000

Deductible gift recipient status

LEGACY CLUB OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INCORPORATED is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) from 01 Jul 2000. It is covered by [item 1](#) of the table in section 30-15 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.



Important

Please read [Deductible Gift Recipient \(DGR\)](#) information before making a gift.

Disclaimer

The Registrar makes every reasonable effort to maintain current and accurate information on this site. The Commissioner of Taxation advises that if you use ABN Lookup for information about another entity for taxation purposes and that information turns out to be incorrect, in certain circumstances you will be protected from liability. For more information see [disclaimer](#)

Warning Statement



Certificate of Currency

Legacy Australia Incorporated
GPO Box 4020
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Date of Issue: 30 April 2026
Aon Reference: SYD 234DP
Contact: M M Imran Khan
t: +61 2 9253 7270
e: imran.khan@aon.com

We hereby certify that the under mentioned insurance policy is current as at the date of this certificate, please refer to the important notices below.

Class of Insurance Public & Products Liability

Insured

LEGACY AUSTRALIA INC
THE LEGACY CLUB OF ALBURY LTD
ARARAT LEGACY CLUB INCORPORATED
THE LEGACY CLUB OF BALLARAT INC
BENDIGO LEGACY CLUB
THE LEGACY CLUB OF BRISBANE
CENTRAL COAST NSW LEGACY
BUNDABERG LEGACY INC
FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND LEGACY CLUB INC
THE LEGACY CLUB OF CANBERRA INCORPORATED
COFFS HARBOUR LEGACY WELFARE FUND
COLAC LEGACY CLUB INC
GEELONG LEGACY CLUB INC
GOLD COAST LEGACY CLUB LTD
THE LEGACY CLUB OF GOULBURN INC
GRAFTON LEGACY
HAMILTON & DISTRICT LEGACY CLUB INC
HOBART LEGACY INCORPORATED
HUNTER LEGACY APPEALS FUND

Further Information

Should you have any queries, please contact us on the details set out at the top of the page.

Important notes

- Aon does not guarantee that the insurance outlined in this Certificate will continue to remain in force for the period referred to as the Policy may be cancelled or altered by either party to the contract, at any time, in accordance with the terms of the Policy and the Insurance Contracts Act 1984 (Cth).
- Aon accepts no responsibility or liability to advise any party who may be relying on this Certificate of such alteration to or cancellation of the Policy.
- Subject to full payment of premium
- This certificate does not:
 - represent an insurance contract or confer rights to the recipient;
 - amend, extend or alter the Policy; or
 - contain the full policy terms and conditions

Aon Risk Services Australia Limited ABN 17 000 434 720 AFSL 241141
Commercial Risk Solutions



LEGACY CLUB OF INVERELL INC
 LEGACY CLUB OF IPSWICH INC
 LAUNCESTON LEGACY INCORPORATED
 LONDON LEGACY
 MACKAY LEGACY INC
 MILDURA LEGACY CLUB INCORPORATED
 MORNINGTON PENINSULA LEGACY CLUB INC
 NORTHERN QUEENSLAND LEGACY INC
 LEGACY CLUB OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INCORPORATED
 LEGACY CENTRAL WEST (NSW)
 PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS LEGACY CLUB LIMITED
 LEGACY CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND BROKEN HILL INC
 TAREE LEGACY CLUB INCORPORATED
 TOOWOOMBA LEGACY INCORPORATED
 LEGACY CLUB OF WAGGA WAGGA INC
 WARRNAMBOOL LEGACY CLUB INC
 THE LEGACY CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
 THE LEGACY CLUB OF WOLLONGONG AND SOUTH COAST INC
 LEGACY FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA LTD

Business Description	Principally volunteer, community, charitable and not-for profit organisations and all other associated and related activities as declared by you.
Insurer	Aon Limited (UK)
Policy Number	PTPRO2500237
Period of Insurance	From: 4.00 pm 30/04/2026 Local Standard Time To: 4.00 pm 30/04/2027 Local Standard Time
Limit of Liability	\$ 20,000,000 any one occurrence for Public Liability \$ 20,000,000 any one period of insurance for Products
Geographical Limit	Anywhere in the world except North America, excluding any judgement, award or settlement made in North Korea, Cuba or Iran.

Further Information

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Commercial Risk Solutions

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.5
Report Title:	Community Plan Health Check - Feedback review
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 2026
Author:	Executive Manager Organisational Performance, Penny Hart
Approver:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Chris Fearon

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report provides Council with a review of the recommendations from the Community Panel report from the Community Plan Health Check 2025/26.

Key messages

- The Community Plan is Council's governing document and provides guidance for all Council activities.
- In October 2025, Council resolved to undertake a Health Check of the Community Plan following the election of the 11th Council.
- Community consultation and engagement was undertaken between December 2025 and May 2026, culminating in a community panel workshop on 17 May 2026.
- The Community Panel report from the Community Plan Health Check 2025/26 was presented to Council in June 2026.
- The report provided a range of actions for Council's consideration within each of the six outcome areas of the Community Plan.
- A review of the recommendations from the community has been undertaken and is now presented to Council for consideration.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Community Plan Health Check - Feedback review be received and noted.
2. THAT Council note the responses to the feedback from the Community Plan Health Check 2025/26 outlined in **Attachment 12.1.5.1.** to Report entitled Community Plan Health Check - Feedback review.
3. THAT Council continue to deliver on the objectives and outcomes of the Community Plan through the implementation of existing Council strategies and plans, including the Palmerston Local Economic Plan, Reconciliation Action Plan, Disability Inclusion and Access Plan, Play Space Strategy, Creative Industries Plan, and Sustainability Strategy.
4. THAT Council endorse the updates to the Community Plan outlined in **Attachment 12.1.5.2** to Report entitled Community Plan Health Check - Feedback review.

Background

The Community Plan is Council's governing document and provides guidance for all Council activities. It was developed in 2018 in collaboration with Palmerston residents and the support of engagement company DemocracyCo.

A four-yearly review following election is a commitment in the Community Plan. A health check was undertaken in 2021 that determined that the Community Plan was on track. In October 2025, Council resolved to undertake a Health Check of the Community Plan again following the election of the 11th Council.

Community consultation and engagement was undertaken between December 2025 and May 2026, culminating in a community panel workshop on 17 May 2026. Twenty community members attended the workshop to review the consultation feedback, identify what matters most to the Palmerston community and present recommendations to Council.

At the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting of 16 June 2026 Council made the following decisions:

12.1.1 Community Plan Health Check - Community Panel Report

2. *THAT Council thank the community members who contributed to the Community Plan Health Check consultation and Community Panel workshop for their time and involvement.*
3. *THAT Council note that a report exploring the themes of the Palmerston Community Plan Health Check 2026 Community Panel Report will be presented by August 2026.*

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0435 - 16/06/2026

This report provides a review of the recommendations from the community.

Discussion

The Community Panel report from the Community Plan Health Check 2025/26 provided a range of actions for Council's consideration within each of the six outcome areas of the Community Plan.

The panel highlighted Palmerston's multicultural identity as a key community strength and expressed a strong desire to ensure the city remains inclusive, safe and welcoming for people of all backgrounds. They emphasised the importance of community-wide collaboration, particularly the role of young people in shaping Palmerston's future. While recognising that some ideas raised during consultation are outside Council's direct responsibilities, the panel encouraged Council to advocate for and influence positive outcomes where possible.

A summary of the proposed key priorities and responses is provided below each outcome area, with detailed information contained in **Attachment 12.1.5.1**.

Proposed updates to the Community Plan have been described under each outcome area and are provided in tracked changes in **Attachment 12.1.5.2**.

01 Family and Community

PANEL KEY PRIORITIES	PANEL SUMMARY STATEMENT
1.1 Youth services – safe activities and spaces for young people, including mental health support	We want to see a community of interconnected diverse groups – a vibrant community interacting positively, safely and respectfully.
1.2 Improve safety in public spaces and on public transport (security, lighting, liquor management)	

Panel proposal

The panel supported a stronger focus on youth engagement by involving young people and their families more actively in Council planning, decision-making and community initiatives.

Response

Council actively engages with young people through events, programs and ongoing consultation activities, including the Palmerston Youth Festival, NT Youth Week, Children's Week advisory groups, youth programs at the Library and participation in community networks. Feedback is gathered through surveys, social media, direct engagement and partnerships with local organisations to ensure programs reflect the needs and interests of young people. Council supports a wide range of inclusive activities and continues to strengthen collaboration with government, non-government and community organisations to improve outcomes for young people and families. Since 2017, the Northern Territory Government has funded the Youth Drop-in Sports program, hosted at the Recreation Centre through in-kind support from the City of Palmerston. Council also supports the Northern Territory Government's delivery of the Palmerston Youth Centre, operated by The Y NT, through the provision of space at SWELL. Through its ongoing commitment to accessibility, community development and continuous improvement, Council will continue

to enhance opportunities for young people to participate in community life and have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect them.

Panel proposal

The panel discussed opportunities to enhance community safety, inclusion and social connection through improved public infrastructure, well-maintained and accessible public spaces, and appropriate security measures at community events.

Response

Council supports safe, active and connected communities through the provision of well-maintained public infrastructure, community spaces, events and youth programs. Council maintains a high standard of public amenities, with ongoing investment in footpaths, public spaces and laneway management. Council also works closely with police, government agencies, community organisations and service providers to support community safety. Through continued investment in inclusive programs, accessible public spaces and strong partnerships, Council aims to create welcoming environments that help foster positive community connections.

Actions

Youth will be identified as a key audience to focus on through the new Communications and Engagement Strategy, currently out for community consultation. As this feedback will be included, this action is considered complete.

Community Plan updates

Council's current objectives in Family and Community are:

- Objective 1.1: We focus on families
- Objective 1.2: The wellbeing of our community is a focus for all of our work

While the panel supported a stronger focus on youth engagement, this is currently reflected in the strategies under *Objective 1.1: We focus on families*, which states 'the youth of Palmerston are visible.' It is recommended that the objectives remain unchanged, as the community proposal is already aligned with the existing objectives.

However, it is proposed that the measure of success 'Reduced crime rates - specifically a reduction in alcohol fuelled violence' is updated to reflect feedback provided by the community more globally in relation to safety and ensure the measure is quantifiable, noting Council's role in the advocacy and partnership space in relation to crime:

- *Improved perception of crime.*

02 Vibrant Economy

PANEL KEY PRIORITIES		PANEL SUMMARY STATEMENT
2.1	Support and promote local business and opportunities for young people to thrive in business	An uplift in all of our economic circumstances. Increased productivity in the community and financial stability for many. As key to this we want to see a decrease in the unemployment rate and more successful and sustainable businesses (through access to business support). This will give people a sense of purpose – people being productive and wanting to have a good life.
2.2	Attract new business investment to Palmerston	

Panel proposal

The panel discussed opportunities to strengthen Palmerston's local economy by supporting business growth, workforce development and collaboration between industry, education providers and the community.

Response

Council supports local business growth by providing networking opportunities, advocacy, information and skills development initiatives guided by the Palmerston Local Economic Plan. Council delivers business events, workshops and regular communications through platforms such as the Invest Palmerston website and Business Newsletter, helping businesses access resources, training, grants and support services. Through strong partnerships with industry groups, government agencies and business organisations, Council continues to advocate for the local business community, build business capability, encourage workforce development and strengthen Palmerston's economic resilience and growth.

Actions

As there are existing commitments through the Palmerston Local Economic Plan to improve visibility of Council's economic development support work through direct business channels and reporting, no actions have been recommended under the Vibrant Economy outcome area.

Community Plan objectives

Council's current objectives in Vibrant Economy are:

- Objective 2.1: Improve Palmerston's image
- Objective 2.2: Palmerston's economic future is bright

It is recommended that the objectives remain unchanged, as the community proposal is already aligned with the existing objectives.

However, it is recommended that the strategy under *Objective 2.2: Palmerston's economic future is bright* relating to locating businesses is amended to reflect the community's feedback regarding the importance of engagement, and their broader community focus rather than specifically targeting the Palmerston CBD:

- *We engage with businesses in a strategic way to promote activation in public places.*

03 Cultural Diversity

PANEL KEY PRIORITIES		PANEL SUMMARY STATEMENT
3.1	Work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders.	City of Palmerston is recognised and celebrated as being the most culturally integrated city in Australia. Our social calendar is fully booked with different events / markets / cultural celebrations throughout the year.
3.2	Celebrate cultural diversity through events and programs throughout the year.	

Panel proposal

The panel expressed a strong desire to foster a more harmonious, connected and culturally proud community that celebrates diversity, strengthens reconciliation and promotes mutual understanding.

Response

Council is committed to fostering an inclusive and culturally diverse community through its Reconciliation Action Plan, events and community programs. Through events such as NAIDOC Week activities, the Palmerston Youth Festival, bilingual storytimes, Harmony Week and Refugee Week celebrations, Council creates opportunities for cultural learning, connection and community pride. The Palmerston Library further supports inclusion by maintaining a diverse and accessible collection that reflects a wide range of cultures, experiences and perspectives, ensuring all community members feel represented and welcomed.

Actions

As there are existing commitments through the Reconciliation Action Plan, Disability Inclusion and Access Plan, Community Funding Program and Council services to foster a connected and inclusive community by supporting initiatives that celebrate the diversity of our residents while creating opportunities for meaningful interaction across cultures, generations and communities, no actions have been recommended under the Cultural Diversity outcome area.

Community Plan objectives

Council's current objectives in Cultural Diversity are:

- Objective 3.1: To celebrate our rich culture and diversity
- Objective 3.2: Recognise and support diversity through our partnerships and leadership

It is recommended that the objectives remain unchanged, as the community proposal is already aligned with the existing objectives.

04 A Future Focus

PANEL KEY PRIORITIES		PANEL SUMMARY STATEMENT
4.1	Focus on supporting people to foster innovation	We want to see community spaces that we can all use – fit for purpose and accessible spaces that work for us all. We envision a community that is welcoming of new ideas and innovations, and we have the ability and support to implement those innovations.
4.2	Create facilities which are multipurpose	

Panel proposal

The panel discussed opportunities to strengthen Palmerston's innovation and economic resilience by supporting small and medium businesses, enhancing digital literacy and online safety, and investing in facilities and infrastructure that encourage innovation and learning.

Response

Council supports local businesses and community learning through a range of networking, training and capacity-building initiatives, and digital literacy through library services and community education programs. Through its facilities and funding programs, Council continues to support a diverse range of community groups, educational activities and skill-building opportunities for residents of all ages. Significant upgrades to community assets, including the Zuccoli Community Hub and other public facilities, will provide additional spaces for learning, innovation and community activities.

Panel proposal

The panel discussed the importance of maximising the use and accessibility of community facilities through flexible, multi-purpose spaces that support a wide range of activities and community groups. They emphasised activating existing facilities to encourage greater participation, inclusion and social connection, while creating welcoming environments that are accessible to people of all abilities.

Response

Council provides accessible and affordable community facilities that support recreation, wellbeing, learning and social connection. Facilities are available for community use through extensive booking opportunities. Council also promotes inclusion through initiatives such as free entry to SWELL Palmerston, free public Wi-Fi, quiet spaces at major events, low-sensory programs and staff training in disability awareness and dementia inclusion. The recently reviewed Disability Inclusion and Access Plan will further strengthen Council's commitment to creating welcoming, accessible and inclusive spaces and services for all members of the community.

Actions

As there are existing commitments through the Reconciliation Action Plan, Disability Inclusion and Access Plan, Community Infrastructure Plan and major facility upgrades and projects, no actions have been recommended under the A Future Focus outcome area.

Community Plan objectives

Council's current objectives in A Future Focus are:

- Objective 4.1: We support and foster innovation
- Objective 4.2: Infrastructure is fit for purpose

It is recommended that the objectives remain unchanged, as the community proposal is already aligned with the existing objectives.

05 Environmental Sustainability

PANEL KEY PRIORITIES		PANEL SUMMARY STATEMENT
5.1	Manage waste (including wastewater), to reduce littering and dumping by increasing recycling, reuse and repair.	We want to see a clean and green Palmerston, where the community are knowledgeable and participate in waste reduction activities.
5.2	Regenerate and maintain the natural environment.	
5.3	Encourage and support sustainable practices.	

Panel proposal

The panel supported improving environmental sustainability and community stewardship by reducing litter, illegal dumping and waste, encouraging the adoption of greener practices, and protecting Palmerston's natural environments. They felt it was important to improve planning and management of green spaces, increasing community awareness of waste reduction, recycling, reuse and repair, and fostering long-term behaviour change through education and engagement.

Response

Council supports a clean, sustainable and environmentally responsible community through a range of waste management, recycling, environmental protection and education initiatives. Council provides public waste infrastructure, free waste disposal services for residents, illegal dumping investigations, annual clean-up programs and ongoing litter collection across the municipality. Sustainability is promoted through waste education campaigns, recycling resources, repair and reuse initiatives, tree planting programs and support for community conservation projects. Council also encourages sustainable practices at community events and through partnerships with businesses and community organisations. These initiatives contribute to strong recycling outcomes, protect natural areas and public spaces, and support long-term behaviour change to reduce waste and improve environmental sustainability across Palmerston.

Actions

As there are existing commitments through the Sustainability Strategy and Lakes Management Plan, no actions have been recommended under the Environmental Sustainability outcome area.

Community Plan objectives

Council's current objectives in Environmental Sustainability are:

- Objective 5.1: Reduce our footprint on the environment
- Objective 5.2: Palmerston is a cool, shaded, green city
- Objective 5.3 Encourage personal action and taking a leadership role.

It is recommended that the panel's suggestion of 'Encourage and support sustainable practices' is integrated into Objective 5.3. The proposal wording relates more directly to the environment while remaining aligned with the strategies under Objective 5.3 relating to encouraging greater use of recycling bins by reducing general waste collection fees/rates and participating in and encouraging the NT Government to develop planning guidelines that promote green infrastructure:

- *Encourage and support sustainable practices and demonstrate leadership.*

Further, it is recommended that the strategy 'Encourage greater use of recycling bins by reducing general waste collection fees/rates' under Objective 5.3 is replaced to broaden it and reflect the community feedback:

- *Increase community awareness of waste reduction, recycling, reuse and repair, and foster long-term behaviour change through education and engagement.*

06 Governance

PANEL KEY PRIORITIES		PANEL SUMMARY STATEMENT
6.1	Consistently and appropriately engage with the full diversity of the community.	We want a Council that is accountable and transparent. It reaches out to the community using a variety of ways, on a variety of platforms – making its work highly relevant, inclusive and visible. All of its work is focused on accessibility (ie easy read approaches) that support uptake regardless of literacy or language barriers.
6.2	Be accountable and transparent. Invest in what the community sees as valuable.	

Panel proposal

The panel discussed the importance of inclusive and accessible community engagement, ensuring all residents have opportunities to be informed, participate in decision-making and have their voices heard. The panel also supported opportunities to strengthen cultural capability, celebrate diversity, support cross-cultural understanding, and improve access to community events, facilities and information for people of all abilities, fostering a more connected and inclusive community.

Response

Council is committed to ensuring all residents can access information, participate in decision-making and feel connected to their community. Council uses a wide range of communication and engagement methods, including digital platforms, social media, print materials, face-to-face engagement and live-streamed Council meetings, to reach diverse audiences. A new Communications and Engagement Strategy is being developed to further improve community engagement and accessibility, supported by initiatives such as Easy Read publications, website accessibility tools and inclusive communication practices.



Council also promotes diversity and inclusion through staff training, cultural awareness initiatives, citizenship ceremonies and strategic plans such as the Reconciliation Action Plan and Disability Inclusion and Access Plan, helping to create a welcoming and connected community for people of all backgrounds.

Actions

As there are existing commitments through the Reconciliation Action Plan and Disability Inclusion and Access Plan, and new Communications and Engagement Strategy no actions have been recommended under the Governance outcome area.

Community Plan objectives

Council's current objectives in Governance are:

- Objective 6.1: Ensure we have a leading governance model
- Objective 6.2: Community is at the centre
- Objective 6.3: Healthy working partnerships

It is recommended that Council consider amending Objective 6.2 to better reflect the feedback received and the focus Council already demonstrates in engaging with the Palmerston community:

- *Community is engaged and at the centre.*

Community Plan update

A new design version of the Community Plan has been created to update it into Council's current branding and add brief summaries to outline the health checks undertaken in 2021 and 2026. If proposed amendments are endorsed, they will be incorporated in the new version prior to publishing.

Consultation and marketing

The 2025/26 Health Check was undertaken in two stages. Stage 1 involved broad community engagement with City of Palmerston residents through an online survey, community conversations, pop-up events, attendance at community group meetings, social media polls, and feedback opportunities via email and telephone, alongside a workshop with Elected Members to reflect on the current Community Plan and identify future priorities. Expressions of interest were also sought for participation in Stage 2, with a Community Panel convened for a one-day workshop facilitated by DemocracyCo on 17 May 2026 to consider Stage 1 outcomes and develop recommendations for Council.

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

- Executive Leadership Team
- Senior Leadership Team.

Policy implications

City of Palmerston is committed to open, accessible, and accountable decision-making informed by consultation with the Palmerston Community. All review activities were undertaken in accordance with Council Policy Community Engagement, which sets the framework for a consistent, genuine and accessible approach to community engagement.

Budget and resource implications

All activities were undertaken within the approved budget.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

To mitigate the risk of the Community Plan becoming misaligned with community expectations, Council is committed to reviewing it every four years following an election, as outlined in the plan itself.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

6. Governance

Failure to effectively govern.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

- [City of Palmerston Library Master Plan](#)
- [Communication Strategy](#)
- [Creative Industries Plan 2023-2027](#)
- [Disability Inclusion Access Plan 2022-2025](#)
- [Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework](#)
- [Play Space Strategy](#)
- [Palmerston Local Economic Plan](#)
- [Social Media Strategy 2022-2023](#)
- [Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026](#)

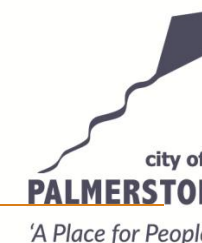
Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

1. Feedback review [12.1.5.1 - 17 pages]
2. Proposed updates [12.1.5.2 - 8 pages]

COMMUNITY PLAN HEALTH CHECK 2025/26



Feedback review

Proposed objectives and improvements from the Community Panel.

01 – FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

1.1 Youth services – safe activities and spaces for young people, including mental health support

What could be improved?	What Council delivers now	Response
- We want to involve young people and their families in planning and coordination of activities. - We want to see our young people empowered to be part of the decision-making process and also their community/their future. - We want young people working with stakeholders, not separate. - Our goal is to have more young people and their families engaged in the work of Council.	Council actively engages with young people through the planning and delivery of events, programs and activities, including the Palmerston Youth Festival and NT Youth Week. Feedback is gathered through advisory groups, surveys and ongoing conversations with young people to help shape Council initiatives and improve engagement. Programs such as Youth Drop-in Sports and the Library's Geek Squad provide opportunities for young people to connect, develop skills, share ideas and contribute to their community. Council also works closely with the Palmerston Child and	Council will continue to strengthen how it engages with young people by using feedback, responding to emerging community needs and applying best-practice engagement methods. Council will work closely with local youth organisations, government agencies and community service providers to better understand the needs of young people, improve collaboration and ensure young people have meaningful opportunities to contribute to decisions that affect them. Through these partnerships, Council aims to deliver coordinated services and achieve positive

We need to find more ways to bring news or communicate to the youth better.	Youth Network to identify emerging needs and improve outcomes for children, young people and families across Palmerston.	outcomes for young people and the wider community. As part of the development of the new Communications and Engagement Strategy, youth will be identified as a key audience to focus on.
- It's very important to us that there are a range of age specific activities provided for our young people – that matches young people's interests, abilities, cultures and age groups. For example, children with autism, children with physical disabilities – all need specific and tailored opportunities to participate in community activities. - Some ideas are thriving sports clubs, chess, hosting bigger things, other activities.	Council delivers a range of programs, events and initiatives that support young people, families and inclusive community participation. These include youth and library programs such as Geek Squad, Code Club, Lego Club, digital literacy classes, bilingual storytimes and school holiday activities, as well as supported programs including Youth Drop-in Sports. Council also promotes accessibility through initiatives such as Low Sensory Christmas Wonderland, Auslan-supported events and staff training in disability awareness and dementia inclusion. The Palmerston Youth Festival continues to grow, offering diverse activities that encourage learning, creativity, physical activity, social connection and positive engagement for young people and families	Council will continue to support a strong and connected community by delivering inclusive programs, events and activities while helping local organisations build their capacity to meet community needs. Through the Community Funding Program, partnerships and stakeholder collaboration, Council strengthens the ability of community groups to deliver meaningful local outcomes. Council also remains committed to providing accessible and welcoming opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, cultures and interests, guided by the principles of its Disability Inclusion and Access Plan.

1.2 Improve safety in public spaces and on public transport (security, lighting, liquor management)

What could be improved?	What Council delivers now	Response
• Ensure all lights are working • Safe footpaths • Closing alleyways and access • Music in public over speakers	Council maintains key public infrastructure to support safety, accessibility and connectivity across Palmerston. As at June 2026, 99.1% of Council-managed streetlights were operational, and Council maintained 229 km of footpaths, responding to customer requests and repairing identified defects throughout the year. Council also manages laneway access in accordance with its Laneway Management Policy, balancing community safety with the need for pedestrian connectivity across the municipality.	Council will continue to invest in the maintenance and improvement of public infrastructure to support safe and accessible movement throughout Palmerston. Council staff and contractors work to maintain high service standards through ongoing footpath maintenance, repairs and the delivery of new pathways where needed. Council also manages laneways in line with its policies and will continue to provide information and support to residents regarding laneway access and closure options. In addressing antisocial behaviour, Council focuses on creating safe, well-maintained public spaces and delivering programs and initiatives that encourage positive community participation and engagement.
Ensure enough security presence at public events – markets, live at the Lake, picnics etc	Council works closely with police, security providers and community partners to help create safe and welcoming public spaces. During market and event seasons, additional security is deployed at key locations, including markets, surrounding public areas and the Library, with regular communication between Council, Police and the Palmerston Operations Response Unit (PORU) to support community safety.	Council is committed to creating safe and welcoming spaces that community can confidently participate and enjoy the events. Council will continue to invest in safety planning and risk management to ensure the wellbeing of all patrons, staff, suppliers and performers. This includes engaging professional security, risk assessments and emergency management procedures, regular communication with relevant authority and adequate staffing.
Access to safe spaces in public for kids/youth to meet – sport, technology, music	Council delivers and supports a range of youth-focused programs, including DJ workshops,	City of Palmerston recognises the importance of safe, welcoming spaces for young people.

	Youth Drop-in Sports and The Y Drop-in Centre, providing positive opportunities for young people to participate, connect and engage in the community.	We will continue to offer youth-focused spaces, technology access and creative programming that encourage connection, learning and positive use of community facilities.
More community events to get to know your immediate neighbours	Council delivers a range of free community events and programs that encourage people to connect, stay active and enjoy Palmerston's public spaces. Events such as Live at the Lake, Brekkie in the Park and FlicNics activate parks, lakes and open spaces across the municipality, providing accessible entertainment for residents, families and visitors. Council also supports community activation through the Pop-up Dining Program, which brings food vendors and cultural experiences to different locations throughout Palmerston. In addition, Council's parks and public spaces are available for hire, supporting both community and private events across the city.	Council recognises that social isolation and loneliness can impact community wellbeing and is committed to creating opportunities for people to connect and participate in community life. Guided by its vision of being 'A Place for People', Council will continue to deliver a diverse range of events, programs and activities that bring residents together, activate neighbourhoods and encourage social connection. Through these initiatives, Council helps foster a welcoming, inclusive and connected community for people of all ages and backgrounds.
Events and programs to engage youth and to stop them from going down the wrong path	Council delivers a range of events, programs and activities that encourage positive participation, social connection and community engagement for young people. These include major events such as the Palmerston Youth Festival, FlicNics, Live at the Lake, Halloween, Easter, Christmas Wonderland, Territory Day celebrations and arts workshops, as well as youth-focused Library programs including Geek Squad, the Recording Studio Experience, gaming activities and Friday Market Night activations. Council also works closely with community and government organisations, including Headspace, Mission Australia,	Council will continue to deliver programs, events and activities that provide young people with positive opportunities to connect, learn new skills and participate in the community. While Council cannot directly control individual behaviour, it plays an important preventative role by engaging young people early through inclusive programs, recreational activities and community events that promote wellbeing, belonging and positive social connections. By supporting meaningful youth engagement, Council aims to help young people build confidence, resilience and strong connections within the community.

	Anglicare NT and the Palmerston Youth Skills Centre, to connect young people with support services, skill development opportunities and wellbeing programs.	
Therapy / relaxation – perhaps a Council therapy dog to relax, calm the mood?	Council supports inclusive community wellbeing initiatives through selected events and programs. While Council does not operate a dedicated therapy dog program, accredited therapy dogs have been incorporated into community events such as Low Sensory Christmas Wonderland and Pamper Palmy to help create welcoming, supportive and accessible experiences for participants.	Council recognises the wellbeing benefits that therapy animals can provide; however, establishing and maintaining a Council-owned therapy dog program would involve significant financial, operational, animal welfare, workplace health and safety, and insurance considerations. As a practical alternative, Council will continue to explore opportunities to partner with accredited therapy dog organisations for specific community events and wellbeing initiatives, allowing the community to access these benefits in a safe, effective and sustainable way.

02 – VIBRANT ECONOMY

2.1 Support and promote local business and opportunities for young people to thrive in business

What could be improved?	What Council delivers now	Response
- Supporting more networking opportunities hosted by Council for local business owners and operators - Local business expo - showcasing small businesses and family businesses - Apprenticeship / youth in business expo – to showcase our young people	Council supports local business growth and economic development through networking events, workshops and business engagement initiatives. The annual Palmerston Business Forum and Business Social provide opportunities for local businesses to connect, share ideas and strengthen relationships, while Council's workshops and information sessions	Council will continue to support business growth and economic development in line with the Palmerston Local Economic Plan. This includes delivering business networking and advocacy opportunities, promoting local business and industry opportunities, and maintaining regular communication through initiatives such as the Business Newsletter.

Establishing partnerships with schools and universities to boost effort	help build skills, support business capability and encourage collaboration across the local business community. These initiatives help foster a resilient and connected business environment in Palmerston.	Council will continue to work with businesses, industry groups and organisations such as Apprenticeships Northern Territory to support workforce development, encourage employment opportunities and strengthen the local business community. Where appropriate, Council may also investigate the demand and feasibility of new initiatives that align with its economic development objectives.
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2.2 Attract new business investment to Palmerston

What could be improved?	What Council delivers now	Response
- Creating safety for business owners – this is a really important thing. We need businesses to be comfortable establishing a footprint here and employing local staff versus recruiting interstate. - Offering incentives that have a financial basis for new businesses to locate to Palmerston	Council supports local economic development through strong partnerships, business advocacy and access to information and resources. The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee provides ongoing advice on economic development matters, while Council's partnerships with organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Palmerston Regional Business Association and key government agencies help advocate for the needs of local businesses. Through the refreshed Invest Palmerston website and Business Newsletter, Council provides practical information on workforce development, training opportunities, grants, business planning and support services, helping businesses establish, grow and connect with the local community.	Council recognises the importance of creating a safe, welcoming and confident business environment that encourages investment, supports local employment and gives businesses confidence to establish a presence in Palmerston. While Council does not provide direct financial incentives for new businesses, it will continue to support business attraction and growth through advocacy, promotion, information sharing and connections across the local business ecosystem.

Training opportunities for young people that will help fill strategic gaps in the employment market	Council supports local business capability and workforce development through the delivery of free workshops, training opportunities and industry partnerships. During 2026, Council delivered a range of workshops covering business systems, productivity software, accounting platforms and artificial intelligence to help local businesses build skills and adapt to changing technologies. These initiatives were delivered in partnership with organisations such as Business Enterprise Centre NT and supported by NT Government funding. Council also helps connect businesses with workforce development and career pathway services, including Apprenticeships Northern Territory, to support local employment and skills growth.	Council will continue to support the growth and success of local businesses through ongoing skills development initiatives delivered under the Palmerston Local Economic Plan. By working with industry partners, training providers and government agencies, Council will provide opportunities for businesses to build capability, improve digital skills, respond to emerging trends and strengthen workforce development.
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03 – CULTURAL DIVERSITY

3.1 Work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders.

What could be improved?	What Council delivers now	Response
We want a more harmonious community – which is focused on positivity and cultural engagement and storytelling. We should be proud of this as a city. We need to lift the political debate more to progress reconciliation. By working closely with Larrakia Nation and Council and community together we can improve engagement and working together to	Council demonstrates its commitment to reconciliation and cultural inclusion through its Reconciliation Action Plan, formal Acknowledgements of Country and a range of community initiatives that celebrate First Nations culture. Council has delivered public art projects by local Aboriginal artists, supported NAIDOC Week activities and cultural programs, and provided opportunities for young people to	Council will continue to progress reconciliation by creating opportunities for cultural engagement, sharing stories and celebrating the diverse cultures that make up the Palmerston community. Through the implementation of its Reconciliation Action Plan, cultural programs, events and partnerships, Council aims to foster a welcoming, respectful and harmonious community where First Nations cultures are

achieve these outcomes. One positive way to do this is around sharing traditional owner knowledge and wisdom in cooking / basket weaving / dye making.	express and celebrate their culture through events such as the Deadly Designs Competition. The Palmerston Library further supports cultural understanding by strengthening First Nations representation within its collections and delivering NAIDOC-themed activities for families, helping to promote cultural awareness, connection and community pride.	recognised, valued and celebrated. Council is committed to building understanding, strengthening relationships and creating a strong sense of pride in Palmerston as an inclusive and culturally connected city.
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3.2 Celebrate cultural diversity through events and programs throughout the year.

What could be improved?	What Council delivers now	Response
We want to continue to celebrate everyone, and have a social calendar being fully booked with things that celebrate our cultures. Taking this further, we are already well integrated – but it's time to be more interconnected beyond food and events. Provide more opportunity for different generations and different groups to mix – a lack of tolerance comes from fear.	Council supports an inclusive and connected community by providing welcoming spaces, diverse library collections and opportunities for people from different backgrounds to come together. The Palmerston Library offers resources that reflect a wide range of cultures, experiences and perspectives, ensuring community members can access inclusive and representative materials. Council also facilitates cultural events and activities throughout the year, including Bilingual Storytimes, Harmony Week, Refugee Week and Chinese New Year celebrations, which promote cultural understanding, community connection and the celebration of diversity. In addition, Council's community facilities provide accessible spaces for community groups and organisations to meet, collaborate and strengthen social connections across Palmerston.	Council is committed to fostering a connected and inclusive community by supporting initiatives that celebrate the diversity of our residents while creating opportunities for meaningful interaction across cultures, generations and communities. Through the Community Funding Program, partnerships with local organisations, and Council-led events and activities, we will continue to invest in projects that bring people together, build understanding and strengthen social connections.

04 – A FUTURE FOCUS

4.1 Focus on supporting people to foster innovation

What could be improved?	What Council delivers now	Response
Supporting small and medium businesses	Council supports small and medium businesses through a range of networking, training and business support initiatives. Programs such as the Business Social, Palmerston Business Forum, Invest Palmerston and the Palmerston Business Newsletter provide opportunities for businesses to connect, access information and stay informed about local opportunities. Council also delivers workshops and training programs that help build business skills, support growth and strengthen the local business community.	Council will continue to deliver business support and capacity-building initiatives under the Palmerston Local Economic Plan to help businesses start, grow and succeed. Support is tailored to businesses of different sizes, including sole operators, and includes access to networking opportunities, training, information, resources and practical advice. These initiatives will continue to strengthen the capability, resilience and long-term sustainability of Palmerston's local business community.
Boost awareness and knowledge of online safety and security	Council supports digital inclusion and online safety through services provided by the library. Library staff assist customers with accessing and using public computers, and a range of digital literacy classes are offered throughout the year to help community members build confidence and skills when using technology.	Council will continue to provide services that support safe and effective participation in the digital environment and improve access to online information, services and opportunities.
Upgrading of facilities to enable growth in innovation (library etc)	Council delivers an annual program of works to maintain, renew and upgrade community facilities, ensuring they remain safe, accessible and fit for purpose. This includes ongoing improvements to the Palmerston Recreation Centre, Library, community halls and other Council-owned facilities. In recent years,	Council is continuing to invest in community infrastructure that supports innovation, learning and community growth. A key project is the Zuccoli Community Hub, which includes a \$13 million investment in a new community hall and community programs building in 2026/27. Once completed, the hub will provide a modern,

	Council has delivered major upgrades to SWELL Palmerston and Gray Community Hall, helping to enhance the quality and functionality of community spaces for residents and visitors.	multi-purpose space designed to meet the recreation, open space and community needs of the growing Zuccoli and wider Palmerston community, while creating new opportunities for community programs, collaboration and innovation.
Education, upskilling, constant evolution and learning for existing and newcomers to the workforce.	Council supports education, upskilling and lifelong learning through free workshops, training opportunities and partnerships that help businesses and workers develop new skills. During 2026, Council delivered workshops on business systems, productivity tools, accounting software and artificial intelligence to help local businesses adapt to changing technologies and strengthen their capabilities.	Council will continue to support education, upskilling and workforce development through initiatives delivered under the Palmerston Local Economic Plan. By working with industry partners, training providers and government agencies, Council will provide opportunities for businesses, existing workers and those entering the workforce to build skills, adapt to emerging trends and strengthen local employment outcomes. Council also supports workforce development through work experience opportunities, ongoing professional development for staff, and its Attraction and Retention Strategy, which is focused on creating opportunities for employees to grow, learn and build long-term careers within the organisation.
Growing the population of innovators and the diversity of ideas.	Council supports innovation, creative development and community participation through its Community Funding Program and the provision of accessible community facilities. A wide range of groups and activities use Council venues, including coding, gaming, Kendo and other skill-building programs.	Guided by the Community Plan and Creative Industries Plan, Council will continue to create opportunities for learning, creativity, innovation and professional growth. By supporting collaboration between creatives, entrepreneurs, community groups and industry, Council helps strengthen Palmerston's creative and business sectors, foster new ideas, and deliver positive social and economic outcomes for the community.

4.2 Create facilities which are multipurpose

What could be improved?	What Council delivers now	Response
- Having multipurpose facilities means that they can be used by many flexibly, and activated – instead of sitting empty. - We want to activate participation – and get the most out of the amazing facilities we have. - We want to make spaces for community groups to thrive – especially those that are inclusive and provide interest for everyone. - Increasing the number of facilities and also increasing the use and activation of these – means that we will decrease the instances of vandalism and build a community that feels, and is safer.	Council provides a range of accessible indoor and outdoor community facilities that support recreation, wellbeing, creativity and community connection. Most facilities are available for booking daily, including use of the Gulwa Recording Studio. Council also provides free entry to SWELL Palmerston to encourage healthy and active lifestyles. The Library, Recreation Centre and Civic Plaza have received Dementia Friendly recognition, and Council regularly reviews its facilities, open spaces and infrastructure to ensure they remain inclusive, accessible and responsive to community needs.	Council will continue to invest in flexible and accessible community facilities that can adapt to the changing needs of a growing population. The planned Zuccoli Community Hub and Driver Community Centre have been designed in response to community feedback and include a mix of large and small multi-purpose spaces to support a wide range of activities, programs and services. This flexible approach will help maximise community use, support diverse user groups and ensure Council facilities continue to meet current and future community needs.
We want to ensure that there are more events and facilities suited and accessible for people with disabilities (seen and unseen).	Council is committed to providing safe, welcoming and accessible environments for all members of the community. Through initiatives such as the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program, dementia awareness training for customer-facing staff, Low Sensory Christmas Wonderland, quiet rooms at major events and accessible communication options, Council works to reduce barriers to participation and improve community inclusion. Council also encourages residents to advise of any accessibility requirements before attending events or program.	Council will continue to enhance accessibility and inclusion across its services, facilities and programs through the implementation of its reviewed Disability Inclusion and Access Plan. The updated plan will soon be released for public consultation, providing community members with an opportunity to contribute to future initiatives and improvements that help ensure Palmerston remains an accessible, inclusive and welcoming city for all.

There should be standardised IT across all Council facilities and also accessible Wi-Fi.	Council provides free public Wi-Fi across a range of community facilities and public spaces, including regional parks, the library, Recreation Centre, Durack Community Centre, Gray Community Hall, Civic Plaza and the Palmerston CBD. These services help residents stay connected and access online information, services and opportunities. Council facilities also provide a range of technology and audio-visual capabilities to support community meetings, presentations, events and activities, with facilities designed to meet a variety of community needs.	Council will continue to monitor, review and improve its technology and facility services to meet community needs.
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05 – ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

5.1 Manage waste (including wastewater), to reduce littering and dumping by increasing recycling, reuse and repair.

What could be improved?	What Council delivers now	Proposed response
We want to see Palmerston cleaner, with less rubbish, dumping and littering occurring.	Council delivers a range of waste management and environmental services to help keep Palmerston clean and well maintained. This includes providing bins at parks and events, public litter collection, annual Clean Up Australia Day and pre-cyclone clean-up programs, battery recycling stations and daily cleaning of parks and public spaces. Council investigates reports of illegal dumping and coordinates clean-up activities where required. Palmerston residents also have access to waste disposal services at the Archer Waste	Council recognises the importance of maintaining clean, safe and attractive public spaces for the community. Through services such as public litter collection, free waste disposal at the Archer Waste Management Facility, the Pre-Cyclone Clean Up program, illegal dumping investigations, and ongoing education and compliance activities, Council works to reduce waste and improve environmental outcomes across Palmerston. Council will continue to monitor these services and identify opportunities to further reduce

	Management Facility and through the Pre-Cyclone Clean Up program, including assisted collections for residents with mobility needs.	litter and illegal dumping throughout the municipality.
- We want to remove the use of single use plastics. - We'd like to see more greener practices around markets (compostable bags, single use plastic) and more rubbish bins outside of fast food outlets.	Council supports sustainable practices and waste reduction through its events, programs and day-to-day operations. Initiatives include encouraging the use of reusable cups at community events, providing paper cups where needed, reducing single-use plastics through the Pop-up Dining Program, and delivering repair and reuse activities such as Reboot Your Loot and banner-to-bag projects. Council also promotes environmentally responsible practices through sustainable procurement and internal waste reduction measures.	Council will continue to support waste reduction and sustainable practices through its events, operations, community education programs and Environment Initiatives Grant program. Council will also continue to work with event organisers and businesses to encourage environmentally sustainable behaviours, including the use of reusable containers and other waste reduction initiatives.

5.2 Regenerate and maintain the natural environment.

What could be improved?	What Council delivers now	Proposed response
- Ideally we would have better planning for our green spaces – limiting access to 4x4 and quad bikes and appreciating nature more in how we use these green spaces. - We have a very unique environment and see opportunities to look after the peri urban areas better – greater respect for bushland.	Council supports the protection and enhancement of Palmerston's natural environment through a range of environmental management and sustainability initiatives. Vehicle access is restricted in Council parks to help protect public open spaces, while environmental considerations are incorporated into Council's procurement and operational practices. Council monitors and improves the municipality's tree canopy, delivers ongoing tree planting and revegetation projects, and maintains reserves through litter collection, weed management and controlled burn	Council will continue to manage and protect public open spaces in a way that balances community use, environmental sustainability and public safety. Council will also continue to work with the community and partner organisations to maintain, protect and enhance Palmerston's parks, bushland and peri-urban areas for current and future generations.

	programs. Council also supports local landcare groups through grants and collaborative projects that help protect and enhance the local environment.	
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5.3 Encourage and support sustainable practices.

What could be improved?	What Council delivers now	Proposed response
- We want to see our community more knowledgeable and participating more in waste reduction activities – as they understand and appreciate their role in living greener. - There are opportunities for Council to be explaining/educate about recycling, reuse and repair. - We'd like to see the evidence of community having more knowledge in this area, ultimately changing behaviours for the long term. - In the term of the next Council we would like to see that every household knows what to do and we are seeing greater reuse – and repurposing resources. - This may also lead to new industries emerging.	Council delivers ongoing waste education and recycling initiatives to help residents reduce waste and improve recycling habits. Programs include annual waste education campaigns, community workshops, engagement activities at Council events, social media awareness campaigns, and resources such as recycling guides, bin stickers, fridge magnets and an annual waste calendar. Council also provides an online learning module to help reduce recycling contamination and supports reuse initiatives such as the annual Reboot Your Loot community car boot sale, which encourages residents to recycle, reuse and responsibly dispose of unwanted items.	Council will continue to support waste reduction, recycling and sustainable practices through education, community engagement and partnerships. Council recognises that achieving a more sustainable and circular economy requires collaboration between residents, businesses, event organisers and government. Through workshops, community events, online resources and behaviour change campaigns, Council will continue to encourage waste avoidance, reuse, repair and recycling, while exploring practical opportunities to improve resource recovery and reduce waste sent to landfill. Future initiatives will seek to balance environmental outcomes with community expectations, service levels and operational requirements.

06 – GOVERNANCE

6.1 Consistently and appropriately engage with the full diversity of the community.

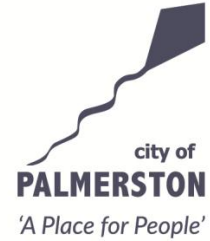
6.2 Be accountable and transparent. Invest in what the community sees as valuable.

What could be improved?	What Council delivers now	Proposed response
Ensure community is aware of ideas and plans moving forward. - Everyone has a voice and opportunity to be heard. Community engagement with kids – heritage / cultural / ATSI wisdom and knowledge. - Helping people not on social media to be aware of Council meetings and plans. Must be multiplatform – not just Council website and newsletters (e.g. better community notice boards in shops, other libraries locally closer). - Ensuring that Council publications are available in different languages – possibly taking them to cultural hubs. Easy read is brilliant for those with literacy challenges and also because of our multicultural diversity.	Council provides a range of ways for residents to access information, share feedback and engage with Council decision-making. Council meetings are open to the public, and community members can provide feedback through initiatives such as <i>Have Your Say</i> and questions to Council. Recognising that people access information in different ways, Council uses a mix of online, printed and face-to-face communication methods to reach diverse audiences. Council has also developed an Easy Read version of its Disability Inclusion and Access Plan and continues to improve the accessibility of its communications, supported by strong community relationships and direct engagement with residents across Palmerston.	Council will continue to deliver information and engagement opportunities through a range of communication channels, including print, digital media, social media, radio, television, community stalls and direct mail. Guided by a new Communications and Engagement Strategy currently in development, Council will focus on ensuring information is accessible, timely and reaches a broad cross-section of the community. Council is committed to using best-practice communication methods, maintaining accessibility features such as video transcripts and ReadSpeaker, and exploring opportunities to further improve inclusion through new tools, technologies and engagement approaches.
Ensuring access for all – able and not able bodied – to be able to get to events / spaces / locations safely.	Council delivers a range of accessible community events, facilities and programs that are designed to be welcoming and inclusive for all residents. Community members can contact Council before attending an event or activity to	Council will continue to improve accessibility across its facilities, public spaces and events to ensure all community members can participate safely and comfortably. Council is committed to reducing barriers to access through inclusive

	discuss any accessibility requirements and request additional support. This approach helps Council reduce barriers to participation and ensure more people can access and enjoy community events and services.	design, ongoing improvements to infrastructure and facilities, and consideration of diverse accessibility needs when planning community programs, events and public spaces. This approach supports a more inclusive community where people of all abilities can engage fully in community life.
Have cultural capability in Council to encourage diversity.	Council supports an inclusive and respectful workplace through a range of initiatives that build cultural awareness and diversity capability among staff. These include Working with Cultural Differences training, guidance through Council's Customer Charter, values and Code of Conduct, reporting on workforce diversity, and implementation of the Reconciliation Action Plan. Council also promotes broader inclusion through initiatives such as the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program and dementia awareness training, helping staff better support and engage with people from diverse backgrounds and experiences.	Council will continue to strengthen its diversity, equity and inclusion capabilities by building staff awareness and promoting inclusive practices across the organisation. This includes exploring the use of inclusive language in recruitment to encourage a diverse range of applicants, delivering unconscious bias training, and expanding opportunities for staff learning and development.
Citizenship ceremonies showing new citizens that Council is accessible to all.	Council plays an important role in welcoming new members of the community through Australian Citizenship Ceremonies. In 2025/26, Council hosted eight ceremonies, welcoming 319 new Australian citizens from 40 countries, including Malaysia, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Afghanistan, China, Greece and Papua New Guinea. Council works to ensure ceremonies are inclusive, welcoming and accessible, with consideration given to cultural and language needs to reduce barriers to participation.	Council values the cultural diversity of the Palmerston community and recognises the important contribution that people from many different backgrounds make to the city. Council is committed to ensuring new residents feel welcomed, included and supported as they settle into the community and begin their journey as Australian citizens. Through inclusive programs, community connections and cultural celebrations, Council will continue to foster a welcoming, diverse and connected community where everyone has a sense of belonging.

Cross cultural appreciation and acknowledgement of diversity.	Council demonstrates its commitment to diversity, inclusion and cultural awareness through a range of internal initiatives and strategic plans. These include Harmony Day celebrations, multicultural staff events such as shared cultural food experiences, monitoring workforce diversity, and the implementation of the Reconciliation Action Plan and Disability Inclusion and Access Plan. Together, these initiatives help create an inclusive workplace culture that values diversity, promotes understanding and supports equitable outcomes for staff and the wider community.	Council will continue to foster a diverse, inclusive and welcoming community through cultural celebrations, staff development and the implementation of key strategies such as the Reconciliation Action Plan and Disability Inclusion and Access Plan. Council will build on existing initiatives that celebrate cultural diversity and promote belonging, while using workforce diversity data to inform future actions. Council is also exploring ways to strengthen diversity and inclusion through measures such as inclusive recruitment practices, helping to ensure people from all backgrounds feel valued, respected and supported within the organisation and the broader community.
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COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATES



1 Family and Community

Measures of success

The following measures will provide indicators of our success with regards to achieving this outcome:

- An increase in the number of people attending Council events and engaging in community activities;
- ~~Reduced crime rates – specifically a reduction in alcohol fueled violence;~~
- Improved perception of crime;
- Increased partnerships in place between the Council and other levels of government which seek to address crime; and
- Increased accessibility of Council facilities and resources for community activities for all members of our community.

Objectives

Objective 1.1: We focus on families

Our Strategies

- A Palmerston Family and People Plan is developed in partnership with the community. It includes strategies for all types of people and families in Palmerston.
- Engaging and fun activities are available for Palmerston's' families:
 - A hub for children and young people – which offers a sanctuary and promotes belonging; and
 - Support and places to gather for parents, single people and the elderly.
- The youth of Palmerston are visible
 - Positive stories about them are easily accessible;
 - They have a role in decision making and in the provision of services to other young people; and
 - Young people's voices are included in all aspects of council's work (planning, program design and delivery).

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

Our Strategies

- Council considers the social implications of all planning and decision making, including when contributing to Territory planning processes and providing advice on development approvals.
 - Council will work with the community to develop some community impact principles which assist Council to make sound decisions that align with the community's aspirations about Palmerston.
- Council has strong partnerships and works in collaboration with those who provide social services to the community to better coordinate the delivery and effectiveness of these services.
- Our volunteers are valued and supported for the important work they undertake for our community.

2 Vibrant Economy

Measures of success

The following measures will provide indicators of our success with regards to achieving this outcome:

- The people of Palmerston choose to shop local;
- Occupancy rates – retail shop spaces are full;
- Employment rates increase;
- The population of Palmerston is growing (families stay);
- More tourists visit Palmerston;
- There are more funds available for Council to invest in the community;
- There are more businesses located in Palmerston; and
- Council is committed to ensuring local businesses and industry receive the support they need in order to grow and prosper within our region - measured through the Community Satisfaction Survey.

Objectives

Objective 2.1: Improve Palmerston's image

Our Strategies

- The image and brand of Palmerston is strong and authentic and reflects our vision as a 'A Place for People'.
- We promote 'employ local' and 'buy local' where possible.

Objective 2.2: Palmerston's economic future is bright

Our Strategies

- Palmerston has a long-term vision which builds and encourages a sustainable economy. Areas of growth and development are earmarked in advance.
 - The community of Palmerston is involved in all economic planning to ensure we maintain a social capital mindset.
 - We investigate alternative income streams and economic pursuits.
 - ~~We locate businesses in a strategic way to promote activation and movement in the CBD.~~
 - We engage with businesses in a strategic way to promote activation in public places
- We involve and engage youth in business development and innovations.
- We encourage, develop and support local business.
- We attract and support new businesses to set down roots in Palmerston.
- We support and encourage entrepreneurs.

3 Cultural Diversity

Measures of success

The following measures will provide indicators of our success with regards to achieving this outcome:

- Council consults with and includes the needs of all people in its programs and planning using a mechanism it has agreed with those communities; and
- Fostering and promotion of arts and culture within our community and the awareness and promotion of our local history is improved.

Objectives

Objective 3.1: To celebrate our rich culture and diversity

Our Strategies

- Develop a Culture and Diversity Plan which models how the city values and respects the diversity of the community. This plan builds and enriches our diversity, promotes unity, embraces culture and heals the past.
- Palmerston celebrates cultural diversity with events throughout the year. Our community has opportunities to celebrate, include, understand, learn and accept.
- Council grows support for cultural events.
- Recognition of our diversity and cultural heritage through statements, acknowledgments and publicly visible stories and signs about our heritage.
- Incorporate our cultural diversity into the design and layout of our public spaces (murals, art, paving).
- Cultural and heritage is celebrated through art, exhibitions and education initiatives

Objective 3.2: Recognise and support diversity through our partnerships and leadership

Our Strategies

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders work in partnership with Council leaders to pursue cultural and heritage outcomes.
- Consider development of a First Nations Strategy that recognises, acknowledges, increases awareness, and promotes partnerships with Larrakia Nation.
- Council has strong partnerships in the community which enable it to include diverse views and perspectives in its planning and decision-making processes.
- Planning processes are inclusive of cultural diversity views and input.
- Council works with schools and community groups to celebrate and recognize culture and diversity.
- Establish a mechanism to enable diversity to be considered in all major initiatives of Council (ie a Diversity Advisory Committee).
- When undertaking town planning, Council incorporates needs of all residents of Palmerston.

4 A Future Focus

Measures of success

The following measures will provide indicators of our success with regards to achieving this outcome:

- Council consults with and includes the needs of all people in its programs and planning using mechanism it has agreed with those communities; and
- Fostering and promotion of arts and culture within our community and the awareness and promotion of our local history is improved.

Objectives

Objective 4.1: We support and foster innovation

Our Strategies

- We focus on developing our people. We develop and foster innovation in the community – through skills development, capacity building, enabling/encouraging and supporting the community to be self-reliant.
- We will support the establishment of a network of experts and innovators who can influence innovation and encourage forward thinking.
- We support and encourage businesses to embrace change and innovate.
- We want to attract and retain businesses and not-for-profit agencies that use innovative approaches to social issues, service delivery, and product development.

Objective 4.2: Infrastructure is fit for purpose

Our Strategies

- Infrastructure is maintained and managed to meet community need and adopt innovative approaches.
- Our assets have multiple uses.

5 Environmental Sustainability

Measures of success

The following measures will provide indicators of our success with regards to achieving this outcome:

- The level of recycling / proportion of rubbish recycled is increased;
- There is a decrease in littering;
- Increase the canopy coverage (percentage of areas shaded by trees);
- Reduction in businesses using packaging and wrapping;
- Performance in actively protecting and enhancing the environmental assets and infrastructure of the City of Palmerston, while supporting local businesses and industry in sustainable land use, is improved; and
- Performance in committing to effective and responsible city planning which balances and meets residential and commercial needs in our community is improved.

Objectives

Objective 5.1: Reduce our footprint on the environment

Our Strategies

- People are engaged and encouraged to adopt best practice sustainable and environmental practices.
 - Practical ways to be green in Palmerston.
- When Council constructs new buildings they seek to utilise renewable energy efficient technologies.
- Council's processes model best practice in sustainability and environmental management.
- Increase educational and awareness raising initiatives that improve and expand community understanding of how they can have a lower environmental footprint.
- Provide opportunities for community to recycle, reuse or repair all type of waste.
- Council phase out the use of plastic at Council events and in all Council owned and run facilities.
- Council uses locally sourced materials where possible, supported by local labour.
- Council procurement processes promote sustainability.

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

Our Strategies

- Council develops and implements a Green Plan which incorporates our vision for:
 - Green, shaded and cool city;
 - Biodiversity and habitat health;
 - Better management and appropriate plant species selection; and
 - Future focused and innovative environmental approach.
- Council promotes, encourages, and where possible pursues sustainable development/or sustainable building for the climate that assists in reducing ambient temperature in houses, public buildings and private developments.
- Make sure Council's planning interfaces with other plans for our region – for a whole of landscape approach.
- Planting of native, localised species that minimise water, promote shade and can withstand cyclones.

- Support residents to manage trees, especially palm fronds and removal of unsafe trees.
- Council explores how waste water can be collected into the future and reused for watering.
- Greening and cooling initiatives – tree planting, shade structures and the freedom for citizens to take initiative and green up their verges and neighbourhoods.
- Explore opportunities for the creation of a large area of green in and around the centre of the city (ie botanical gardens) which could also become an educational facility for tropical urban species and tropical biodiversity education.

Objective 5.3 Encourage ~~personal action and taking a leadership role~~ and support sustainable practices and demonstrate leadership

Our Strategies

- ~~Encourage greater use of recycling bins by reducing general waste collection fees/rates.~~
- Increase community awareness of waste reduction, recycling, reuse and repair, and foster long-term behaviour change through education and engagement
- Participate in and encourage NT Government to develop planning guidelines that promote green infrastructure.

6 Governance

Measures of success

The following measures will provide indicators of success in relation to this outcome:

- Community are satisfied that Council values and encourages participation in Council activities by the community and is committed to delivering the highest possible levels of service and community engagement.
- Community are satisfied that Council is committed to ensuring that the systems and processes of Council support the organisation in delivering the best possible services to the community.
- Community are satisfied that Council values its people and the culture of our organisation. Council is committed to continuous improvement and innovation whilst seeking to reduce the costs of Council services through increased efficiency.
- Community are satisfied that Council is showing corporate and social responsibility, ensuring the sustainability of Council assets and services and undertaking effective planning and reporting of Council performance to the community.

Objectives

Objective 6.1: Ensure we have a leading governance model

Our Strategies

- Be effective – do what we are supposed to do, and deliver our Community Plan.
- Be accountable – open and transparent and also report back on our progress.
- Be courageous – try new solutions, take measured risks, adopt new technologies, be flexible and adaptable.

Objective 6.2: Community is engaged and at the centre

Our Strategies

- Bring community into all aspects of the business - Citizens are active and participate in the business of Council.

Objective 6.3: Healthy working partnerships

Our Strategies

- Contribute strategically to decisions others make for Palmerston (ie. planning) to ensure our strategic direction is being achieved
 - Prioritise the 'health' of Council's partnerships and networks – and make sure they are working well
- Work in partnership with staff to achieve the very best outcomes. Enable frank and open dialogue.

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.6
Report Title:	Proposed Amendment to the NT Planning Scheme to facilitate infill development and subdivision in Zone LR
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 2026
Author:	Planning and Development Manager, Christopher Tickner
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

This report provides Council a draft response about the Minister's proposed planning scheme amendment to allow smaller lots and a broader range of housing types in Zone LR (Low Density Residential).

Key messages

- The Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment is proposing to amend the NT Planning Scheme.
- The amendment would reduce the minimum lot size from 800m² to 450m² and allow for a broader range of housing types in Zone LR (Low density residential).
- The amendment follows a review of the planning system and recommendations from the NT Planning Commission about the best way to support infill development in Zone LR.
- A draft submission about the amendment is attached to this report for Council review and endorsement.
- The submission provides comments on technical aspects of the amendment and repeats Council's original concerns from Commission's earlier review, that a blanket reduction in lot size and a broader range of housing types in Zone LR fails to recognise infrastructure and servicing constraints and ignores neighbourhood context.

- The planning scheme amendment process includes a 4-week exhibition period, after which the Commission is likely to hold public hearing where submitters will be provided an opportunity able to speak to their submissions.
- After the public hearing, the Commission will provide a summary report of the submissions to the Minister who will then decide to either approve the amendment, approve it subject to minor changes or refuse it.

Recommendations

1. THAT Report entitled Proposed Amendment to the NT Planning Scheme to facilitate infill development and subdivision in Zone LR be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the submission at **Attachment 12.1.6.1** to this report entitled Proposed Amendment to the NT Planning Scheme to facilitate infill development and subdivision in Zone LR for submission to the Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment.

Background

In November 2025, the NT Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment requested the NT Planning Commission review ways to support infill development and subdivision within Zone LR (Low Density Residential), including carrying out public consultation and targeted stakeholder engagement.

The request was in response to recommendations contained in the NT Governments Saying 'Yes' to Business – Approvals Fast Track Taskforce Supplementary Report, which included reviewing existing restrictions on single dwelling lots and reviewing minimum lot sizes to support the delivery of housing supply.

Public consultation centred on a Discussion Paper which outlined where and how infill development could occur and which proposed new planning controls to enable infill development, including:

- Multiple homes on one (1) block.
- Density of one (1) house per 450m² as opposed to 800m².
- A new minimum lot size of 450m² as opposed to 800m².
- Allowing battle axe lots.

The Discussion Paper and a draft submission was presented to Council at its second ordinary Council meeting in January 2026 where the following decision was made:

12.1.2 Response to the NT Planning Commission request for comment about infill development and subdivision in Zone LR

1. THAT Report entitled Response to the NT Planning Commission request for comment about infill development and subdivision in Zone LR be received and noted.

2. *THAT Council endorse the letter provided at Attachment 12.1.2.1 for submission to the NT Planning Commission.*

CARRIED (6/0) - 11/0180 - 20/01/2026

A copy of the endorsed submission sent to the NT Planning Commission is at **Attachment 12.1.6.2**. The submission was generally supportive of infill development provided it occurred in appropriate locations where servicing was practicable, and the community was appropriately consulted. A reduction in minimum lot size and increase housing density in all areas zoned LR was not supported.

Following consultation, the NT Planning Commission provided its findings and recommendations to the Minister. The recommendations included broad changes to the NT Planning Scheme to reduce the minimum lot size from 800m² to 450m² and allow multiple and group dwellings in Zone LR. The Minister is now proposing to amend the NT Planning Scheme to bring in these changes. The following Discussion summarises key elements of the amendment alongside Councils draft response.

Discussion

Summary of key changes

A schedule of the draft amendment is included at **Attachment 12.1.6.3** and explanatory document about the amendment prepared by the NT Planning Commission is at **Attachment 12.1.6.4**. A summary of the key changes proposed is provided in the table below.

	CURRENT PROVISIONS	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
Min Lot size	800 m ²	450 m ²
Types of homes	Dwelling group* & dwelling multiple** prohibited.	Dwelling-group & 'dwelling multiple' – development permit required.
Density	One (1) dwelling-single plus a dwelling independent (i.e. granny flat).	One (1) dwelling per 450 m ² as part of a dwelling-group or dwelling multiple (with a maximum of 10% variation in some cases).
Battle Axe Lots	To be avoided.	Allowed in limited circumstances.

*Dwelling-group means a dwelling that is one (1) of a group of two (2) or more dwellings on the same site such that no dwelling is placed wholly or partly vertically above another.

**Dwelling-multiple means a dwelling or serviced apartment that is wholly or partially vertically over or under another dwelling on a site or any dwellings above the ground floor in a mixed-use development and includes a dwelling on a unit title with common property.



The changes would apply to all LR zoned areas across the NT, including greenfield areas, but exclude areas impacted by flooding or storm surge. A map showing these areas in Palmerston is at **Attachment 12.1.6.5**.

Summary of proposed submission

Attachment 12.1.6.1 has been prepared as a draft submission in response to the proposed amendments. It is presented in two (2) parts:

1. Response to specific aspects of the proposed amendment, which focuses on technical aspects of the amendment; and
2. Additional matters, which reiterates Councils key concerns from the Commissions initial review, that a blanket lot size reduction and broad increase in housing types ignores infrastructure constraints and servicing issues and fails to recognise neighbourhood context.

The submission encourages additional consideration be given to updating the strategic framework, as well including additional statutory controls around servicing and infrastructure requirements. It also suggests consideration for mandating pre-lodgement meetings with Councils and service authorities to avoid development permits being issued with conditions that cannot be met.

Next Steps

The planning scheme amendment process includes a 4-week statutory exhibition period, which ends on 21 August 2026. Following the exhibition period, the Commission is likely to hold public hearing, where those who made a submission will be invited to speak. After the hearing, the Commission will provide a summary report of the submissions to the Minister who will then decide to either approve the amendment, approve it subject to minor changes or refuse it.

Consultation and Marketing

Statutory public exhibition in accordance with the *NT Planning Act 1999* will be undertaken for a 4-week period between 24 July 2026 and 21 August 2026, providing opportunity for the public to make a submission about the amendment to the NT Planning Commission.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

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

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

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



Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

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

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

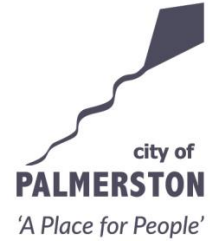
We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Attachments

1. 20260818 - Council Submission on Infill Development Amendment [**12.1.6.1** - 3 pages]
2. 20260107 - Council Submission on Infill Development [**12.1.6.2** - 2 pages]
3. Appendix A - Proposed amendments to NTPS 2020 [**12.1.6.3** - 10 pages]
4. Explanatory Document and FAQ - Infill development and subdivision in Zone LR [**12.1.6.4** - 14 pages]
5. Appendix B - Map - Town of Palmerston [**12.1.6.5** - 1 page]

ID: 700179 – NN:ct

XX August 2026



NT Planning Commission
By Email: ntpc@nt.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment to facilitate infill development and subdivision in Zone LR (Low Density Residential)

City of Palmerston thanks the Planning Commission for the opportunity to provide a submission in relation to the proposed planning scheme amendment to facilitate infill development and subdivision in Zone LR (Low Density Residential).

This submission was presented to Council and endorsed at its Ordinary Council meeting on 18 August 2026 (decision no. XXXX). The key matters Council is seeking consideration of are outlined below, which are presented in (2) two parts:

- Part 1 - Response to specific aspects of the proposed amendment.
- Part 2 - Additional matters.

The comments provided build on Council's 23 January 2026 submission on the Low Density Residential (Zone LR) Infill and Subdivision Discussion Paper. They are not intended to repeat earlier points raised by Council, acknowledging that these have been considered in the preparation of the draft amendment.

This submission focusses on technical aspects of the proposed amendment and highlights Council's key concerns for consideration prior to the finalisation of the proposed amendment.

Part 1 - Response to specific aspects of the proposed amendment

Council requests that the following changes are considered, which are presented sequentially below in the order they appear in Appendix A - *Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment Infill Development and Subdivision in Zone LR*.

Amendment to Clause 3.6 LSF – Land Subject to Flooding

- The flood overlay should include dwelling single as a 'must not consent'. Concerns about group and multiple dwellings in flood zones should apply equally to all housing types.

Amendment to Clause 3.7 LSSS – Land Subject to Storm Surge

- The storm surge overlay should include dwelling single as a 'must not consent' for the same reason above.



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Amendment to Clause 5.2.4 - Car Parking

- Vehicle access outside the property is within the road reserve, which results in this portion of the driveway being a Council asset. As such, Council requests the following additional wording as provided in *italics*:

Requirements

3. Vehicular access shall be via a single driveway, no wider than 3.5m where required by the table to this clause, *unless otherwise approved by the relevant local government council.*

Amendment to Clause 6.2.1 - Lot Size and Configuration for Subdivision in Zones LR, LMR, MR and HR

- Battle-axe blocks can cause issues with access, waste collection and drainage. Council supports them in principle, but updated additional wording, as provided below, in *italics*, is recommended.

Requirements

8. Battle-axe lots are to be avoided unless located in Zone LR and:
 - a) the configuration is necessary due to site irregularity; or
 - b) the configuration enables the retention of an existing dwelling; and
 - c) *prior written consent has been provided by the relevant local government Council regarding the serviceability of access, waste and drainage.*
- Council recommends retaining requirement 10. It is considered particularly pertinent for zone LR, where development is to occur only where full reticulated services are available.

Requirements

10. Lots are connected to reticulated services.

Part 2 - Additional matters

Council supports infill development in Zone LR in suitable locations where servicing is practicable and where there is convenient, easy access to local facilities and community infrastructure.

Council remains concerned about the broad approach to infill and intensification provided by the amendment for the following reasons.

- a) The strategic framework supports infill development and intensification in areas close to facilities and services, informed by infrastructure capacity, whereas the proposed amendments are governed primarily by lot size. This risks undermining the role of the strategic framework and creating a disconnect between strategic land use plans and statutory controls.
- b) Infrastructure constraints and servicing issues currently exist in some older neighbourhoods, and a broad approach that doesn't fully assess servicing requirements risks existing issues being exacerbated.
- c) An integrated strategic approach informed by servicing capacity and neighbourhood context is still considered a more balanced and preferred approach. At a minimum and as recommended, consideration should be given to including statutory controls around service and infrastructure constraints, as well as mandating pre-lodgement meetings with local government Councils and other servicing authorities ahead of individual applications being submitted.

Summary

Council is generally supportive of infill development in Zone LR, provided it occurs in appropriate locations and where servicing is practicable. Further consideration should be given to the role of the strategic framework in informing better outcomes and ensuring appropriate levels of community and service authority consultation is occurring.

Additional statutory controls informed by infrastructure constraints is recommended, alongside mandating pre-lodgement meetings with local government councils and service authorities ahead of individual applications being submitted.

Without strategic direction and added statutory controls, there is a risk that development permits are issued with conditions that developers and proponents cannot meet.

Please contact Councils planning and development team at development@palmerston.nt.gov.au or phone 8935 9922 should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

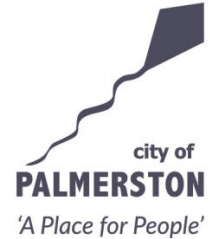
Nadine Nilon
Deputy CEO / General Manager Infrastructure

ID: 669968 – NN:ct

23 January 2026

NT Planning Commission
By Email: ntpc@nt.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam



Re: Infill Development and Subdivision in Zone LR

City of Palmerston thanks the NT Planning Commission for the opportunity to provide a submission in relation to the discussion paper - Infill development and subdivision in Zone LR (Low Density Residential).

This submission was presented to Council and endorsed at its Ordinary Council meeting on 20 January 2026 (decision no. 11/0180). It supplements the Council officer submission provided on 19 December 2025.

Lack of community awareness

Council is concerned the extent, timing and relatively short period in which the community had to comment on the discussion paper has resulted in a general lack of community awareness about this project. Council would encourage additional and more comprehensive consultation be undertaken with Council and the Palmerston community ahead of making any recommendations to the Minister about how infill development could look in low density residential areas.

Comparisons to other jurisdictions

Examples of infill development policies in other jurisdictions as a way to justify infill development in the NT fails to recognise the distinctive and unique circumstances of the Territory, and specifically the City of Palmerston. Other jurisdictions have a more acute housing shortage, very mature low density inner suburbs and limitations to expand into identified greenfield areas. Whilst infill development in certain locations is supportable, it needs to be balanced against existing greenfield policies and recognise areas already identified for growth in the NT Planning Scheme Strategic Framework. A reduction in minimum lot size and increase housing density in all areas zoned LR is not supported as it fails to recognise these factors.

Integrated strategic plans

As touched on above, infill development in appropriate locations may be supportable; however, a blanket reduction in minimum lot size or increased dwelling density in Zone LR has the potential to ignore neighbourhood context. Instead, focusing density in LR zoned areas that are close to things such as public transport, employment opportunities, shared pathway networks, community and social infrastructure, and where there is capacity in existing infrastructure networks is a preferred approach.



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One way this could be achieved is through consultation with Council, service authorities and the wider community in preparing or updating integrated strategic plans to identify appropriate areas of change. This would enable a holistic approach to infill development and ensure the strategic framework in the NT Planning Scheme (NTPS) continues to align with statutory controls in informing development outcomes.

What could infill development look like

In principle, there is no objection to the examples provided in the discussion paper about how infill development could look, however City of Palmerston would need to maintain the ability to review individual proposals to ensure adequate service provision and to avoid conflicts with public infrastructure.

There is a risk that a landowner believes they can subdivide, however the access limitations result in a common area or other easement arrangement being required. It is recommended that the potential complexities of access and other service arrangements are further explored.

Links to the NT Subdivision Guidelines

Any further investigation into possible subdivision in Zone LR should have regard to the NT Subdivision Guidelines (NT SDG), with the potential to create stronger links with the NTPS. City of Palmerston continues to have concerns about the lack of linkages between the NTPS and the NT SDG and would encourage the NT Planning Commission explore potential synergies between this project, the NTPS and the NT SDG.

Summary

Infill development in Zone LR is supportable in principle provided it occurs in locations where servicing is practicable, and the community is appropriately consulted. Infill development should be informed by infrastructure capacity, service provision, access to social and community infrastructure and proximity to active transport networks.

Creating stronger links between the NTPS and NT SDG as part of any recommendation to enable further subdivision of LR is recommended. Finally, additional and more comprehensive public consultation should be undertaken before making recommendations to the Minister about ways to enable infill development in Zone LR to ensure the wishes and needs of the community are captured.

Please contact Councils planning and development team at development@palmerston.nt.gov.au or phone 8935 9922 should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Nadine Nilon
Deputy CEO / General Manager Infrastructure

Appendix A Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment Infill Development and Subdivision in Zone LR

This appendix provides a schedule of the draft amendments to the Northern Territory Planning Scheme 2020 (NTPS). It includes only those clauses of the NTPS that are proposed to be amended; existing provisions not proposed to be amended can be accessed at the current NTPS available [online](#).

This appendix should be read in conjunction with the explanatory document, which outlines the proposed policy amendments and supporting rationale.

- Blue indicates new text
- Red text with a strikethrough indicates text that will be deleted
- Black indicates existing text

Amendment to Clause 3.6 LSF – Land Subject to Flooding

Administration

6. The consent authority must not grant **consent** on land in Zone LR that is subject to this overlay for:
 - (a) the creation of a new lot; or
 - (b) **dwelling-group** or **dwelling-multiple**.

Amendment to Clause 3.7 LSSS – Land Subject to Storm Surge

Administration

8. The consent authority must not grant **consent** on land in Zone LR that is subject to this overlay for:
 - (a) the creation of a new lot; or
 - (b) **dwelling-group** or **dwelling-multiple**.

Amendment to Clause 4.2 Zone LR – Low Density Residential

Zone Purpose

Provide **predominantly** for low rise urban residential development ~~comprising individual houses~~ and uses compatible with residential **amenity**, in locations where full reticulated services are available.

Zone Outcomes

1. **Predominantly** **dwelling-single** and associated **dwelling-independent** ~~predominantly~~ **generally** two storeys or less, on ~~individual lots on~~ a range of lot sizes ~~that respond~~ to provide a diverse mix of housing and accommodate evolving ~~changing~~ community needs.

Appendix A Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment Infill Development and Subdivision in Zone LR

2. **Dwelling-group** and **dwelling-multiple** generally two **storeys** or less to contribute to housing diversity in a manner consistent with the **amenity** of the zone.

ASSESSMENT TABLE – ZONE LR – LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL						
Defined Use	Assessment Category	Overlays	General Development Requirements	Location Specific Development Requirements	Specific Development Requirements	
Caravan Accommodation	Permitted	3.4 CR – Coastal Reclamation 3.6 LSF – Land Subject to Flooding 3.7 LSSS – Land Subject to Storm Surge 3.8 LADR – Land Adjacent to a Designated Road 3.12 RDKE – Residential Development in the Katherine East Locality 3.14 HHLSI – Land in proximity to Helicopter Landing Sites of Strategic Importance	5.2.1 General Height control		5.4.11 Caravan Accommodation	
Community Centre	Impact assessable		5.2.4 Car Parking			
Demountable Structures	Merit assessable		5.2.6 Landscaping		5.8.7 Demountable Structures	
Dwelling-Community Residence	Permitted		5.2.7 Setbacks for Development Adjacent to Land in Zones LR, LMR, MR or HR		5.4.14 Dwelling-Community Residence	
Dwelling-Independent	Permitted				5.4.3 Building Setbacks of Residential Buildings and Ancillary Structures 5.4.6 Private Open Space 5.4.13 Dwelling-Independent	
Dwelling-group	Merit Assessable				5.4.1 Residential Density 5.4.3 Building Setbacks of Residential Buildings and Ancillary Structures 5.4.4 Extensions and Structures Ancillary to a Dwelling-Group or Dwelling-Multiple Development 5.4.6 Private Open Space 5.4.8 Residential Building Design 5.4.17 Building Articulation	
Dwelling-multiple	Merit Assessable				5.4.1 Residential Density 5.4.3 Building Setbacks of Residential Buildings and Ancillary Structures 5.4.4 Extensions and Structures Ancillary to a Dwelling-Group or Dwelling-Multiple Development 5.4.6 Private Open Space 5.4.7 Communal Open Space 5.4.8 Residential Building Design 5.4.17 Building Articulation	
Dwelling-Single	Permitted			5.4.1 Residential Density 5.4.3 Building Setbacks of Residential Buildings and Ancillary Structures 5.4.6 Private Open Space		

Appendix A Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment Infill Development and Subdivision in Zone LR

ASSESSMENT TABLE – ZONE LR – LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL					
Defined Use	Assessment Category	Overlays	General Development Requirements	Location Specific Development Requirements	Specific Development Requirements
					5.4.17 Building Articulation
Excavation and Fill	Impact assessable				5.8.9 Excavation and Fill
Home Based Business	Permitted				5.4.10 Home Based Businesses
Residential Care Facility	Impact assessable				5.4.1 Residential Density 5.4.3 Building Setbacks of Residential Buildings and Ancillary Structures 5.4.7 Communal Open Space 5.4.8 Residential Building Design 5.4.15 Residential Care Facility 5.4.17 Building Articulation
Sex Services-Home Based Business	Permitted				5.4.10 Homes Based Businesses
Telecommunications Facility	Impact assessable				5.8.10 Telecommunications Facility
All other uses defined in Schedule 2 (Definitions)	Prohibited				
Undefined Uses Any use not defined in Schedule 2 (Definitions)	Prohibited				

Amendment to Clause 5.2.4 - Car Parking

5.2.4.5 Vehicle Access ~~and On-site Parking~~ for **Dwellings-Single** on Lots Less than 600m² ~~but not less than 300m²~~

Purpose

Ensure that the ~~siting of~~ vehicle ~~access~~ ~~driveways and on-site parking spaces~~ for **dwelling-single** on lots less than 600m² ~~and not less than 300m²~~ does not unduly reduce the ~~availability of kerbside vehicle parking or the amenity~~ of a public road ~~or the availability of kerbside vehicle parking in the public road.~~

Administration

- The consent authority may **consent** to a use or development that is not in accordance with sub clauses 2 and 3 if it is satisfied that the non-compliance will not:
 - result in adverse impacts on the local road network; and
 - unreasonably impact on the **amenity** of the surrounding locality; and

Appendix A Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment Infill Development and Subdivision in Zone LR

(c) the authority responsible for the local road network approves the alteration.

Requirements

2. ~~The on-site parking and its~~ Except for a **battle-axe lot**, vehicle **access** ~~from the public road shall~~ is to be located to ensure that the lot's street frontage has a minimum continuous length of 6.5m without ~~on-site parking or~~ vehicle **access** within that length.
3. Vehicular **access** ~~shall~~ is to be via a single driveway, no wider than 3.5m ~~where required by the table to this clause.~~

Table to Clause 5.2.4.5: Vehicle Access and On-site Parking for Dwellings Single on Lots Less than 600m² but not less than 300m²	
Range of Lot Size	Vehicle Access Driveways
300m ² to less than 450m ²	Vehicle access shall be via a single driveway where the boundary to the public road is less than 13m
450m ² to less than 600m ²	Vehicle access shall be via a single driveway where the boundary to the public road is less than 15m

Amendment to Clause 5.4.1 - Residential DensityPurpose

Ensure that the development of **residential buildings**:

- (a) is of a density compatible with adjoining or nearby existing development or development reasonably anticipated;
- (b) is of a density compatible with the existing or planned provision of reticulated services and community facilities which will service the area; and
- (c) is consistent with land capability having regard to relevant characteristics including but not limited to the drainage, slope, seasonal inundation, landforms or soil characteristics, heritage constraints or noise from aircraft operations.

Administration

1. The consent authority may **consent** to a development that is not in accordance with sub-clause ~~2-3~~ only if it is satisfied it is consistent with the purpose of this clause ~~and the zone purpose and outcomes~~, and it is appropriate to the **site** having regard to such matters as its location, scale and impact on adjoining and nearby property;
2. Notwithstanding subclause 1, the consent authority may only **consent** to a development in Zone LR that exceeds the maximum density specified in Table A, where the density is increased by no more than 10%.

Editor's Note: Variations may allow for a maximum dwelling density of 1 dwelling per 405 m² in Zone LR, subject to satisfaction of subclause (1).

Requirements

Appendix A Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment Infill Development and Subdivision in Zone LR

3. The maximum number of **dwelling**s that may be constructed on a **site** is to be determined in accordance with Table A, B, C or D (as the case requires) to this clause.

Table A to Clause 5.4.1: Dwelling Density in Certain Zones	
Zone	Dwelling Density
LR, RR, RL, R and CV	1 dwelling-single per lot and may include a dwelling-independent Or 1 dwelling per 450m ² as part of a dwelling-group or dwelling-multiple
LMR	1 dwelling-single per lot and may include a dwelling-independent or 1 dwelling per 150m ² for a 1 bedroom dwelling as part of a dwelling-group or dwelling-multiple or 1 dwelling per 300m ² for a 2+ bedroom dwelling as part of a dwelling-group or dwelling-multiple
RR, RL, R and CV	1 dwelling-single per lot and may include a dwelling independent
CL	1 dwelling-single per lot and may include a dwelling-independent or 1 dwelling per 300m ² as part of a dwelling-group
T	1 dwelling-single per lot and may include a dwelling-independent or 1 dwelling per 300m ² as part of a dwelling-group or dwelling-multiple
H and A	1 dwelling-single per lot and may include a dwelling-independent or 2 dwelling s per lot as part of a dwelling-group

Amendment to Clause 5.4.3 - Building Setbacks of Residential Buildings and Ancillary Structures

Editor's Notes:

- (7) For battle-axe lots, all boundaries, except for the boundary adjoining a road, are taken to be a side or rear boundary.

Amendment to Clause 5.4.3.3 - Reduced Setbacks for Dwellings-Single

5.4.3.3 Reduced Setbacks for Dwellings-Single

Purpose

Provide flexibility for the design and siting of **dwelling**s-single that adopt specified reduced setbacks in a manner that responds to the streetscape and surrounding development.

Appendix A Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment Infill Development and Subdivision in Zone LR

Administration

1. This clause does not apply if a building setback plan in Schedule 9 applies to the land and establishes specific boundary setbacks.
2. This clause does not apply to *battle-axe lots*.
3. The consent authority must not **consent** to a **dwelling-single** subject to this clause that does not comply with sub-clauses 4, 5 and 6.
4. Despite Table A to clause 5.4.3, a dwelling-single on a lot less than 600m² but not less than 300m² may, in accordance with the table to this clause, have a zero **building setback** to a side boundary, providing:
 - (a) that boundary is internal to the subdivision that created the lot; and
 - (b) that lot was created after the inclusion of this clause to the Planning Scheme (Amendment No. 320, introduced on 26 March 2014).
5. Despite Table A to clause 5.4.3 a **dwelling-single** on a lot less than 600m² but not less than 300m² may, in accordance with the table to this clause, have a reduced front setback to **habitable rooms** only, providing:
 - (a) the area of the reduction is to allow an equal increase to the minimum provision of compliant private open space in accordance with clause 5.4.6;
 - (b) that any garages or carports have a front setback no less than 6m; and
 - (c) a landscaped area is included along the front boundary that will provide visual **amenity** to the public road.
6. Despite Table A to clause 5.4.3, a **dwelling-single** on a lot greater than 600m² may, in accordance with the table to this clause, have a reduced front setback to **habitable rooms** only, providing:
 - (a) the area of reduced setback is offset by an equal area with an increased setback;
 - (b) the setback increase is equal in dimension to the setback reduction; and
 - (c) the area of increased setback is at least 3m from the nearest side or **secondary street** boundary.

Table to Clause 5.4.3.3: Reduced building setbacks for dwellings-single

Lot Size	Minimum Building Setbacks
300m ² to less than 450m ²	Zero setback is permitted to no more than one side boundary of the lot. 3m to the primary street frontage.
450m ² to less than 600m ²	Zero setback is permitted to one side boundary of the lot only where a 3m setback is provided to the other side boundary. 3m to the primary street frontage.
600m ² or greater	4.5m to the primary street frontage.

Appendix A Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment Infill Development and Subdivision in Zone LR

Amendment to Clause 6.2.1 - Lot Size and Configuration for Subdivision in Zones LR, LMR, MR and HR

Purpose

Ensure that subdivision of land ~~for urban residential purposes~~ in Zones LR, LMR, MR and HR creates lots ~~of a size, configuration and orientation suitable for residential development at a density envisaged by the zone~~ with appropriate dimensions, area and layout for residential development.

Administration

1. The consent authority may **consent** to a subdivision that reduces a lot size in Zone LR by no more than 10% of the minimum specified in Table A to this clause if it is satisfied that all lots are consistent with the purpose of this clause and have adequate space for dwellings, ancillary buildings, open space and landscaping and vehicle access and parking.
2. The consent authority ~~must not~~ may **consent** to a subdivision that reduces a lot size in Zone MR in Alice Springs by ~~an area greater~~ no more than 5% of the minimum specified in Table A to this clause:
 - ~~(a) in Zone LR; or~~
 - ~~(b) in Zones LR and MR in Alice Springs and adjacent zoned areas.~~
3. The consent authority must not **consent** to a subdivision in Zone LMR that is not in accordance with Table A to this clause.
4. The consent authority may **consent** to a subdivision in Zone ~~LR~~, MR or HR that is not in accordance with Table A to this clause only if it is satisfied that all lots created are consistent with the purpose of this clause and the zone purpose and outcomes.
5. The consent authority may **consent** to a subdivision that is not in accordance with sub-clauses ~~5-12~~ 7-10, only if it is satisfied the subdivision is consistent with the purpose of this clause and the zone purpose and outcomes.

Requirements

6. Land is to be subdivided in accordance with Table A to this clause.
7. Lots are to conform with the building envelope requirements in Table B to this clause.
8. ~~There are no~~ **Battle-axe lots** are to be avoided unless located in Zone LR and:
 - (a) the configuration is necessary due to site irregularity; or
 - (b) the configuration enables the retention of an existing dwelling.
9. Lots are oriented to allow **dwellings** to take advantage of environmental conditions such as prevailing breezes and sunlight.

~~10. Lots are connected to reticulated services.~~

Appendix A Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment Infill Development and Subdivision in Zone LR

~~11. Potential land use conflicts are minimised by taking account of the visual and acoustic privacy of residents.~~

12. Where there are lots for medium and higher density residential development, those lots are:
- (a) distributed in small groups serviced by public transport;
 - (b) in close proximity to **public open space** and with adequate **access** to community facilities and services; and
 - (c) not located in a cul-de-sac.

Table A to Clause 6.2.1: Lot Size and Configuration in Residential Subdivisions Zones LR, LMR, MR and HR	
Zone	Minimum Lot Size
LR in greenfield areas identified for compact urban growth in the strategic framework	Average of 600m² and no smaller than 450m²
LR other than greenfield areas identified for compact urban growth in the strategic framework	800m²
LMR	300m ²
LR	450m ² (excluding any battle-axe lot access strip)
MR, HR and lots for residential buildings in Zone T	800m ²

Table B to Clause 6.2.1: Lot Size and Configuration in Residential Subdivisions Zones LR, LMR, MR and HR	
Lot Size	Minimum Building Envelope Requirement
300m² to Less than 450m ²	7m x 15m (exclusive of any boundary setbacks or service authority easements)
450m ² and above to less than 600m ²	8m x 15m (exclusive of any boundary setbacks or service authority easements).
600m² and greater	17m x 17m (exclusive of any boundary setbacks or service authority easements).

Appendix A Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment Infill Development and Subdivision in Zone LR

Amendment to Clause 6.2.2 - Lots less than 600m² for Dwellings-Single**6.2.2 Lots Less Than 600m² ~~for Dwellings-Single~~**Purpose

~~To~~ Ensure the subdivision of land to lots of less than 600m² will allow residential development that minimises impact on **amenity** and the functionality of the street infrastructure.

Administration

1. The consent authority must not **consent** to a subdivision that is not in accordance with sub-clauses 3 and 4.
2. An application must provide plans to demonstrate the requirements of sub-clause 4.

Requirements

3. ~~Except for a battle-axe lot~~, lots subject to this clause ~~shall not~~ **are to** have a boundary to any public road **not** less than specified in the table to this clause.
4. The **site** layout of lots subject to this clause is able to comply with the purpose of this clause and the development requirements for vehicle parking (5.2.4), **building setbacks** (5.4.3 and 5.4.3.3) and private open space (5.4.6).

Table to Clause 6.2.2: Lots Less than 600m² for Dwellings-Single	
Range of lot size	Minimum length of any boundary to a public road
300m² to Less than 450m ²	10m
450m ² and above to less than 600m²	12 13 m

Amendment to Clause 6.3.4 - Infrastructure for Subdivision in Zones RL, R and Unzoned LandRequirements

6. Roads should:
 - (a) be designed to:
 - i. interconnect with the existing road network;
 - ii. provide for connections to potential future subdivisions of adjoining lands;
 - iii. provide a clear hierarchy of roads; and
 - iv. minimise individual lot **access** to major roads;
 - (b) respond to the physical characteristics of the land by:
 - i. following ridge lines or contours where possible; and
 - ii. where crossing watercourses be positioned at right angles to the watercourse and minimise the number of crossing points;
 - (c) be sealed where lot sizes are 2ha or less;

Appendix A Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment Infill Development and Subdivision in Zone LR

- (d) be located above the 1.0% AEP flood line or any seepage line, whichever is the higher;
 - (e) be designed with discharge drains placed to minimise erosion and associated engineering and maintenance costs;
 - (f) provide direct **access** to lots and avoid ~~battle-axe strips~~ **battle-axe lots**, however, where ~~justified~~ a **battle-axe lot** ~~strips~~ **is justified**, the ~~battle-axe strips~~ **access strip** should be:
 - i. not less than 10m wide; and
 - ii. less than 250m in length.
7. Where a road crosses a tidal arm in a rural subdivision it is expected to have a minimum elevation of RL 8m AHD and be designed to enable a discharge of at least a 5.0% AEP flood event.

Editor's Note: The Code of Practice for Wastewater Management provides further guidance on the requirements of a site-and-soil evaluator.

Amendment to Schedule 2.2 – General Definitions

Battle-axe lot means a lot that:

- (a) is located behind another lot;
- (b) contains an access strip; and
- (c) can only be accessed via that access strip.

Explanatory Document

Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment to facilitate infill development and subdivision in Zone LR (Low Density Residential)



1. Introduction

The Northern Territory Government is committed to facilitating development across the Territory by reducing approval timeframes and providing greater flexibility in how planning controls are applied. As part of this approach, the Government has identified the need to review provisions that limit residential land to single dwelling development.

In November 2025, the Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment requested the NT Planning Commission (the Commission) undertake a review of the planning system, including community consultation, to identify opportunities to support infill development and subdivision within Zone LR (Low Density Residential). The Commission subsequently provided its findings and recommendations to the Minister on options to increase flexibility in the zone which can be found [here](#).

In response, and consistent with the Commission's advice, the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment has prepared a planning scheme amendment to change rules that apply to land in low density areas. This amendment reflects the Government's position that increasing flexibility in low density residential areas is an appropriate response to current housing challenges, while maintaining the intent and character of the zone.

2. Why we are making these changes

Under the [NT Planning Scheme 2020](#) (NTPS), most residential land in Zone LR is limited to single dwelling development. In established suburbs, subdivision is generally only allowed where lots are at least 800m², or only marginally smaller in limited circumstances.

These provisions constrain development within existing residential areas by limiting the range of housing outcomes that can be achieved, making it difficult to respond to changing household needs, accommodate smaller households, or provide more and alternative housing forms within well-established suburbs.

Infill development plays an important role in accommodating population growth within existing urban areas by making more efficient use of serviced land and existing infrastructure. It can provide additional housing in well-located areas close to jobs, services and community facilities, complementing new housing delivered through greenfield land releases. Increasing opportunities for infill development also supports a greater diversity of housing types, helping to meet the needs of a broader range of households.

The Commission's review identified that the existing Zone LR provisions may reduce opportunities for infill development, particularly in established suburbs. Feedback from consultation indicated there is some community support for increased housing diversity, provided new development is appropriately designed, maintains neighbourhood character, and includes suitable planning controls.

This amendment responds to these issues and seeks to enable a broader range of housing outcomes and more efficient use of land within Zone LR, while maintaining appropriate controls to ensure development remains compatible with the surrounding locality and the intent of Zone LR.

3. What is the NT Planning Scheme 2020?

Before outlining the proposed changes, it is useful to understand how the [NTPS](#) works, as it is the 'rule book' for land use and development in the NT. It controls and guides what can be built across the NT, except for Jabiru, which has its own town plan.

The Minister may make changes to the planning scheme from time to time to rezone land, implement a new policy or change other rules in the planning scheme in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning Act 1999* (the Act).

3.1. What does the NT Planning Scheme 2020 contain?

The NTPS includes several key parts that guide how land can be used and developed:

- [Overlays](#) - identify and set special rules for factors that could affect land use (such as flooding)
- [Zones](#) - control the types of use and development allowed in an area
- [Development and subdivision requirements](#) - provide direction on how a use or development should look or operate.

3.2. Zone LR (Low Density Residential)

Zone LR is primarily intended for low-rise urban residential development, consisting of individual houses on separate lots.

	Allowed	Dwelling-single (one house per lot)	Dwelling-independent (i.e. granny flat)
	Not allowed	Dwelling-group (i.e. duplexes, attached or semi-detached dwellings)	Dwelling-multiple (dwellings on separate levels)
	Subdivision requirements	Greenfield Areas (undeveloped areas) • Average lot size: 600m² • Minimum lot size: 450m²	Established Neighbourhoods • Minimum lot size: 800m² • Minimum building envelope: 17 x 17m
	Where is Zone LR?	• Darwin • Palmerston • Katherine	• Tennant Creek • Alice Springs Also in Howard Springs, Coolalinga, Batchelor and other regional locations

4. Proposed Amendments to the NTPS

4.1. Summary of proposed amendments

It is proposed to change rules that apply to land in Zone LR by amending the NTPS. The new rules would allow smaller lots and a broader range of housing types in Zone LR, as long as a development permit is obtained.

A summary of the changes is provided in the table below along with an explanation of the amendments in Section 4.3 of this document. A schedule of the draft amendment to the NTPS is included at Appendix A.

	Current Provision	Proposed Amendment
Minimum Lot Size	800m ²	450m ²
Lot Size Variations	Up to 5% reduction (minimum 760m ² lot)	Up to 10% reduction (minimum 405m ² lot)
Types of Homes	'Dwelling-group' & 'dwelling-multiple' <u>prohibited</u>	'Dwelling-group' & 'dwelling-multiple' – <u>development permit required</u>
Density	1 dwelling-single plus a dwelling-independent (i.e. granny flat)	1 dwelling per 450m ² as part of a dwelling-group or dwelling-multiple (with a maximum of 10% variation in some cases)
Minimum lot frontage (450-600m ² lots)	13 metres	12 metres
Battle-axe lots	To be avoided	Allowed in limited circumstances
Subdivision on land affected by flooding and storm surge overlays	To be avoided	Prohibited on affected portion of lot
Dwelling-group and dwelling-multiple on land affected by flooding and storm surge overlays	Allowed above flood level	Prohibited on affected portion of lot

4.2. Where will it apply?

The proposed amendment will apply to all Zone LR land across the NT, including greenfield areas, except for land affected by flooding and storm surge. Mapping of all Zone LR lots across the NT greater than 900m² not located in flooding or storm surge areas is provided at Appendix B.

While the new provisions will apply broadly, not all lots will be able to utilise them. Many sites may not meet the minimum requirements for subdivision or development due to factors such as lot configuration, access, or site constraints. In addition, increased development intensity may require upgrades to existing infrastructure, with the cost of any necessary works to be borne by the developer.

On the other hand, some properties not identified in the mapping may still be suitable for subdivision or development. This may occur where variations to minimum lot size or density controls are appropriate and can be justified through the development assessment process.

4.3. Explanation of proposed amendments

Minimum Lot Size

Proposal

Reduce the minimum lot size in Zone LR from 800m² to 450m² to facilitate smaller lots.

Why is this proposed?

This will create more opportunities in Zone LR to deliver a broader range of housing options. While smaller than the minimum in existing suburbs, a 450m² lot size is consistent with the minimum in greenfield areas. It therefore provides a gradual transition to Zone LMR, where a minimum lot size of 300m² applies, supporting a consistent and orderly pattern of development across zones.

The NTPS already contains controls and provisions that are applicable to 450m² lots, including:

- Minimum building area
- Lot frontage
- Continuous frontage (space where there is no driveway)

There are already close to 1,000 lots within Zone LR across the NT within the 450m² to 600m² range, predominantly in greenfield areas, but also some in older areas such as:

- Sovereign Circuit in Coconut Grove
- Ochre Court in Alice Springs

This demonstrates that smaller lots can successfully accommodate residential development

Under existing NTPS provisions, lots between 450m² and 600m² will require a site plan showing existing planning rules for parking, setbacks and open space can be achieved.

In recognition of the reduced minimum lot size, it is also proposed to remove the minimum building envelope requirement of 17 metres × 17 metres for lots 600m² and greater. Larger lots may still be created, but no specific requirements are needed as they are no longer the prevailing minimum.

Minimum Lot Size Variations

Proposal

Increase the consent authority's discretion to vary the minimum lot size from 5% to 10%. This would enable consideration of lots as small as 405m² where appropriate.

Why is this proposed?

The NTPS currently lets the consent authority approve lots that are up to 5% smaller than the minimum.

The proposed amendment provides a modest increase in flexibility, allowing the consent authority to apply a greater variation to support subdivision design. This is particularly relevant in established urban areas, where site constraints, irregular lot shapes, or existing development patterns may limit the ability to achieve standard lot sizes.

For example, a 900m² lot that already contains a dwelling the landowner wishes to retain may, due to the dwelling's position on the site, result in a subdivision layout creating one lot of 410m² and another of 490m², subject to approval by the consent authority.

By slightly increasing the variation allowance, the amendment supports more practical and efficient subdivision outcomes. It enables greater responsiveness to site-specific conditions and promotes increased housing diversity in established areas, while maintaining the overall intent of the minimum lot size control.

Where a variation is sought, the consent authority must still be satisfied that the lots are suitable for residential use and align with the purpose and outcomes of the relevant zone.

Types of Homes

Proposal

Make 'dwelling-group' and 'dwelling-multiple' *merit assessable* in Zone LR, where they are currently prohibited, meaning a development permit will be required for these uses.

These uses include developments such as two or more detached or semi-detached dwellings, including duplexes or dwellings on separate levels, where the maximum building height is two storeys.

Why is this proposed?

The amendment enables a broader range of housing types within Zone LR to support increased housing diversity, while maintaining appropriate oversight to ensure development is compatible with the surrounding locality.

By making these uses merit assessable, development proposals will be required to be submitted and assessed against the NTPS and notified to neighbours. This process ensures consideration of key matters such as building design, setbacks, height, site coverage, and consistency with the purpose and outcomes of the zone.

Building height will remain limited to the existing 8.5m applicable to Zone LR, ensuring compatibility with the scale of development in the area.

Density

Proposal

1. Introduce a maximum density of one dwelling per 450m² of site area.
2. Limit the consent authority's discretion to 10% above the prescribed maximum density. This would allow consideration of a density of up to one dwelling per 405m² of site area.

Why is this proposed?

Right now, Zone LR limits development to one dwelling-single per lot plus a granny flat. To enable 'dwelling-group' and 'dwelling-multiple' developments in Zone LR, it is necessary to introduce a maximum density control.

This amendment supports moderate infill development and greater housing diversity within Zone LR, while maintaining appropriate control over development intensity and ensuring outcomes remain consistent with the intent of the zone.

The proposed density of one dwelling per 450m² aligns with the minimum lot size, ensuring a coordinated and controlled increase in development intensity. It provides an alternative way to achieve similar outcomes without needing to formally subdivide the land.

This control also provides flexibility in situations where subdivision may not be feasible such as where lots cannot achieve minimum frontage or other subdivision requirements. In such cases, the maximum density provision would allow for alternative forms of development, such as 'dwelling-group' or 'dwelling-multiple' developments, provided the overall density limit is met.

Some flexibility is important to ensure that well-designed developments are not prevented by overly rigid requirements. However, there is currently no defined limit on the extent of any variation from the maximum density, which may be appropriate for higher density zones but is not considered appropriate for Zone LR.

Introducing a 10% cap on density variation establishes clear and consistent parameters for development while still allowing a degree of flexibility. It provides greater certainty for applicants and the community about the expected scale of development within the zone. The consent authority may only approve development that exceeds the maximum density where it is demonstrated that the proposal is appropriate to the site, having regard to factors such as location, scale, and potential impacts on adjoining and nearby properties.

Minimum Frontage

Proposal

Reduce the minimum frontage requirement for lots between 450m² and 600m² from 13 metres to 12 metres.

Why is this proposed?

While a 13 metre frontage is generally achievable in greenfield subdivisions, it can constrain subdivision opportunities in established suburbs.

What does density mean?

This is a calculation of how many homes can be built on a lot.

For example, if the density is one dwelling per 450m², a 900m² block could potentially accommodate two homes (subject to meeting other requirements).

Across Zone LR in the NT, many existing lots in established areas have wide frontages, typically ranging from 21 to 30 metres, but also have significantly larger lot sizes, often exceeding 900m².

In these cases, lots may be capable of meeting the proposed 450m² minimum lot size through subdivision but may be unable to achieve compliant lot frontages, limiting appropriate infill development opportunities.

Reducing the minimum frontage to 12 metres improves the feasibility of subdivision in these contexts while still supporting appropriate development outcomes. A 12 metre frontage provides sufficient width to accommodate vehicle access, servicing requirements, and a functional building envelope, while maintaining an appropriate streetscape presence.

Battle-axe Lots

Proposal

Allow battle-axe lots (also called flagpole blocks, hammerhead blocks or rear lots) that comply with the minimum lot size (excluding the access strip) only where:

- The configuration is necessary due to site layout
- The battle-axe configuration enables the retention of an existing dwelling

Why is this proposed?

A battle-axe lot is a parcel of land located behind another property, with access to the street only via a long, narrow strip of land. When viewed from above the layout resembles a battle-axe. The narrow driveway or laneway acts as the "handle", while the private rear section serves as the "blade". An example layout is provided in Section 4.4 of this document.

Currently battle-axe lots are discouraged in Zone LR and other urban residential zones. However, this approach can limit practical subdivision opportunities in certain situations.

While not suitable in all circumstances, battle-axe lots can provide a practical solution for subdividing land that cannot otherwise meet standard frontage requirements. For example:

- A site with a narrow street frontage but significant depth may not be wide enough to create two side-by-side lots, but could accommodate a new lot at the rear accessed via a driveway
- A property with an existing dwelling may have sufficient land at the rear to create an additional lot while retaining the original house

Allowing battle-axe lots in these limited circumstances provides a way to unlock additional housing opportunities on constrained sites. Importantly, it also supports the retention of existing homes and can help maintain the established character of the street, as development is located behind the primary frontage.

To ensure battle-axe lots are appropriately sited, maintain adequate separation from boundaries, and respond to the surrounding context:

- They will not be eligible for reduced setback provisions that currently apply to smaller lots in the NT. This ensures that development maintains appropriate spacing and amenity outcomes
- The access strip is to be provided in addition to the 450m² minimum lot size

Overall, this amendment provides targeted flexibility while maintaining appropriate controls to ensure that development remains compatible with the intent of the zone and the scale of development.

Flooding and Storm Surge Affected Lots

Proposal

Prohibit land within Zone LR affected by Clause 3.6 LSF – Land Subject to Flooding and Clause 3.7 LSSS – Land Subject to Storm Surge from being subdivided or developed for ‘dwelling-group’ or ‘dwelling-multiple’ land uses.

Why is this proposed?

It is proposed to exclude flood and storm affected lots from the new provisions to reduce the risk to people and property from flooding and storm surge events. Allowing more housing in these locations could increase the number of people exposed to hazards associated with flooding and place greater pressure on emergency response and evacuation arrangements during extreme events.

Restricting further subdivision and higher-density housing in these locations helps to avoid intensifying development in areas with known risks. Instead, it supports directing future residential growth to safer locations with fewer environmental constraints.

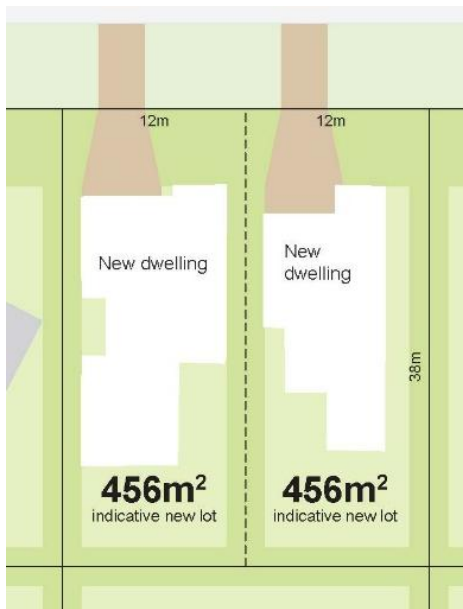
It is recognised that this change may limit subdivision opportunities for some properties in Zone LR that could otherwise be subdivided under the current rules. However, it does not remove all development options. Alternative pathways, such as applying for an Exceptional Development Permit, will still be available and can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Other Minor Amendments

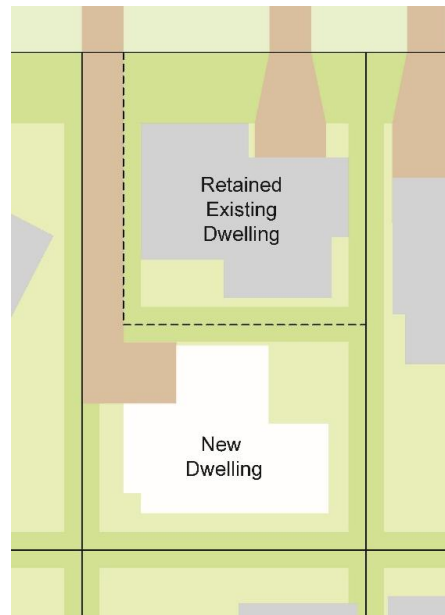
Other minor amendments to the NTPS are required to implement these changes and are illustrated in Appendix A.

4.4. What could it look like?

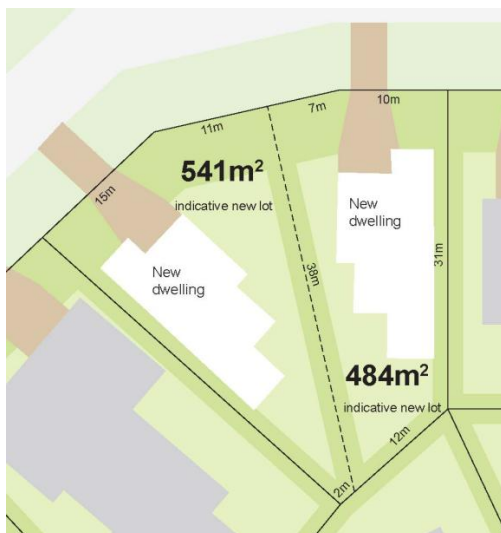
The examples below illustrate how different sites could be developed under the proposed rules, including smaller lots, retained dwellings, and 'dwelling-group'.



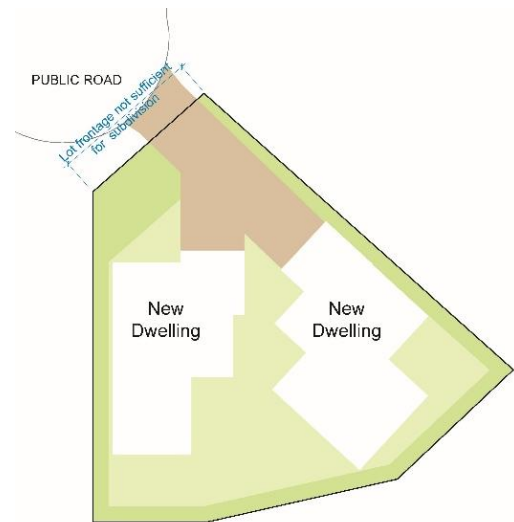
Standard **subdivision** creating two lots, each at least 450m² in area



Battle-axe subdivision enabling retention of existing dwelling and an additional rear lot



Flexible **subdivision** for irregularly shaped sites



Dwelling-group development where minimum frontage for subdivision cannot be achieved

5. Consideration of Legislative Framework

In the NT, the *Planning Act 1999* (the Act) provides the legislative framework and regulations for land use and development and dictates how land in the NT can be developed and how the NTPS can be amended.

A proposed planning scheme amendment to the NTPS should consider the purpose and objectives of the Act as well as the NTPS strategic framework.

5.1. Alignment with the *Planning Act 1999*

The proposed planning scheme amendment is exhibited in accordance with the requirements of the Act to gain an understanding of community views on infill development and subdivision.

The proposed amendment would align with the following purpose and objectives of the Act:

- (b) *to ensure that strategic planning reflects the wishes and needs of the community*
- (c) *to ensure that appropriate public consultation and input are included in the formulation of planning schemes and the making of decisions under planning schemes;*
- (e) *to promote the sustainable development of land; and*
- (j) *to promote the good design of buildings and other works that respects the amenity of the locality.*

5.2. Alignment with the NT Planning Scheme 2020 Strategic Framework

The strategic framework is made up of plans and policies that form part of the NTPS. They describe how the government expects land to develop now and in the future. The strategic framework comprises Territory-wide policy, regional land use plans, sub regional land use plans and area plans.

The strategic framework recognises the need to increase housing diversity and balance new housing across greenfield and established areas. It also emphasises the importance of providing additional housing opportunities that make efficient use of existing infrastructure and local services.

This amendment seeks to:

- Facilitate the development of well-located housing and increase housing diversity and choice across the NT, while ensuring that impacts of development are appropriately managed
- Facilitate housing in existing urban areas and where existing infrastructure is available or suitable for upgrade
- Ensure efficient use of valuable land and resources to cater for a growing and changing population

While it is acknowledged that density within Zone LR will increase, it will not fundamentally alter the low-density intent of the zone and will continue to provide an appropriate transition from higher density zones, aligning with the strategic framework's focus on housing diversity and the efficient use of land.

6. We are interested to hear your feedback

You may make a submission to the proposed amendment during the exhibition period through the following means:

- Online: [Development Applications Online](#)
- Email: planning.ntg@nt.gov.au
- Post:
NT Planning Commission
GPO Box 1680
DARWIN NT 0801
- Hand delivered
 - Level 1, Energy House, 18-20 Cavenagh Street, Darwin City
 - Ground Floor, Green Well Building, 50 Bath Street, Alice Springs
 - Level 1, Government Centre, 5 First Street, Katherine

All submissions must include the name, contact details and signature of the person making the submission to be considered valid. A signature can be hand-signed, typed at the bottom of an email or uploaded document or a JPG (or similar) of a signature placed at the bottom of an email or uploaded document.

7. Where can you find out more information?

You can view further information on the details of this proposed planning scheme amendment online on [Development Applications Online](#).

If you have any questions about the planning scheme amendment please contact Lands Planning, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment at:

- Phone: 08 8999 8963
- Email: planning.ntg@nt.gov.au

8. Next steps

- A hearing may be held by the Commission, an independent body appointed by the Minister if submissions are received from the public or local council during exhibition. Those who make a submission will also be invited to speak at the hearing.
- The Commission will give a report to the Minister about all the issues raised in the submissions and at any hearing held, and any other matters that the Commission considers relevant.
- The Minister in making their decision will also take into consideration other matters as required by Section 25 of the Act. If the Minister approves the planning scheme amendment it will be incorporated into the NTPS.

9. Frequently Asked Questions

What is infill development?

'Infill development' refers to the development of new dwellings within existing areas rather than on undeveloped (greenfield) land.

It typically involves using vacant or underutilised lots, redeveloping larger residential blocks, or converting older properties into multiple smaller dwellings.

Infill development aims to make more efficient use of existing infrastructure, support housing diversity, and strengthen neighbourhood vitality.

Infill development can take many forms and can cater to a variety of household sizes and needs, ranging from free-standing homes on smaller lots, attached homes, duplexes, granny flats, row and terrace housing and low to medium rise housing.

How do I find out whether I could subdivide or develop my property?

The Department has prepared maps identifying lots that may be able to utilise the new provisions. However, these maps are indicative only and do not account for site-specific factors such as vehicle access, infrastructure capacity, or lot configuration.

Property owners should review the proposed new rules and the existing rules in the NTPS to assess whether their site can meet requirements such as minimum building envelopes, frontage widths, car parking provisions, private open space, and building setbacks.

In most cases, an existing lot size of at least 900m² is required to meet these standards, although smaller lots may be considered in limited circumstances.

My block is 800m² could I subdivide or develop my property?

No, you cannot subdivide a block in Zone LR that is 800m² with the proposed changes.

To subdivide, each new lot would need to be at least 450m² (or no less than 405m² with a variation), which is not achievable on an 800m² site.

Similarly, you would not be able to develop a duplex or other dwelling-multiple development on an 800m² block in Zone LR. This is because the proposed density allows one dwelling per 450m², meaning an 800m² site could only support one dwelling.

How will developments and subdivision be assessed?

All new developments must meet the requirements of the NTPS. These requirements ensure development and subdivision will provide appropriate building separation, access to sunlight and ventilation, and protection of residential amenity.

Proposals are assessed to ensure they:

- Comply with required setbacks from boundaries
- Provide sufficient private open space
- Meet building design and layout requirements
- Comply with building height limits (8.5m in Zone LR)

- Meet landscaping requirements

The amendment does not propose to alter these requirements.

Subdivision, 'dwelling-group' and 'dwelling-multiple' developments require a development application. The application will be assessed against the relevant planning rules and be publicly notified.

Where a proposal seeks flexibility or variations to controls, it must still demonstrate that it meets the purpose of the zone, relevant planning controls and is appropriate for the site.

Will development proposals be publicly available?

Yes. Applications for subdivision, 'dwelling-group' and 'dwelling multiple' will require a development permit and be available online.

This provides the community with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on proposals utilising the proposed rules.

To receive email notifications about new development applications, interested parties can subscribe to receive planning notices on the [Development Applications Online](#) website. To subscribe you'll need to create an account first then subscribe to all or certain application types in the suburb/s you're interested in.

I have an existing granny flat (dwelling-independent). Could I subdivide it?

If your property meets the relevant subdivision requirements (including for battle-axe lots, where applicable), you may be able to subdivide.

Alternatively, you may also be able to request development approval for a 'dwelling-group' if you can meet the requirements in the NTPS.

If my block is partially affected by a flooding and storm surge overlay could I subdivide it?

If part of your land is affected by a flooding or storm surge overlay, you will not be able to subdivide the land under the proposed changes.

Will overlay Clause 3.12 RDKE – Residential Development in Katherine East still apply?

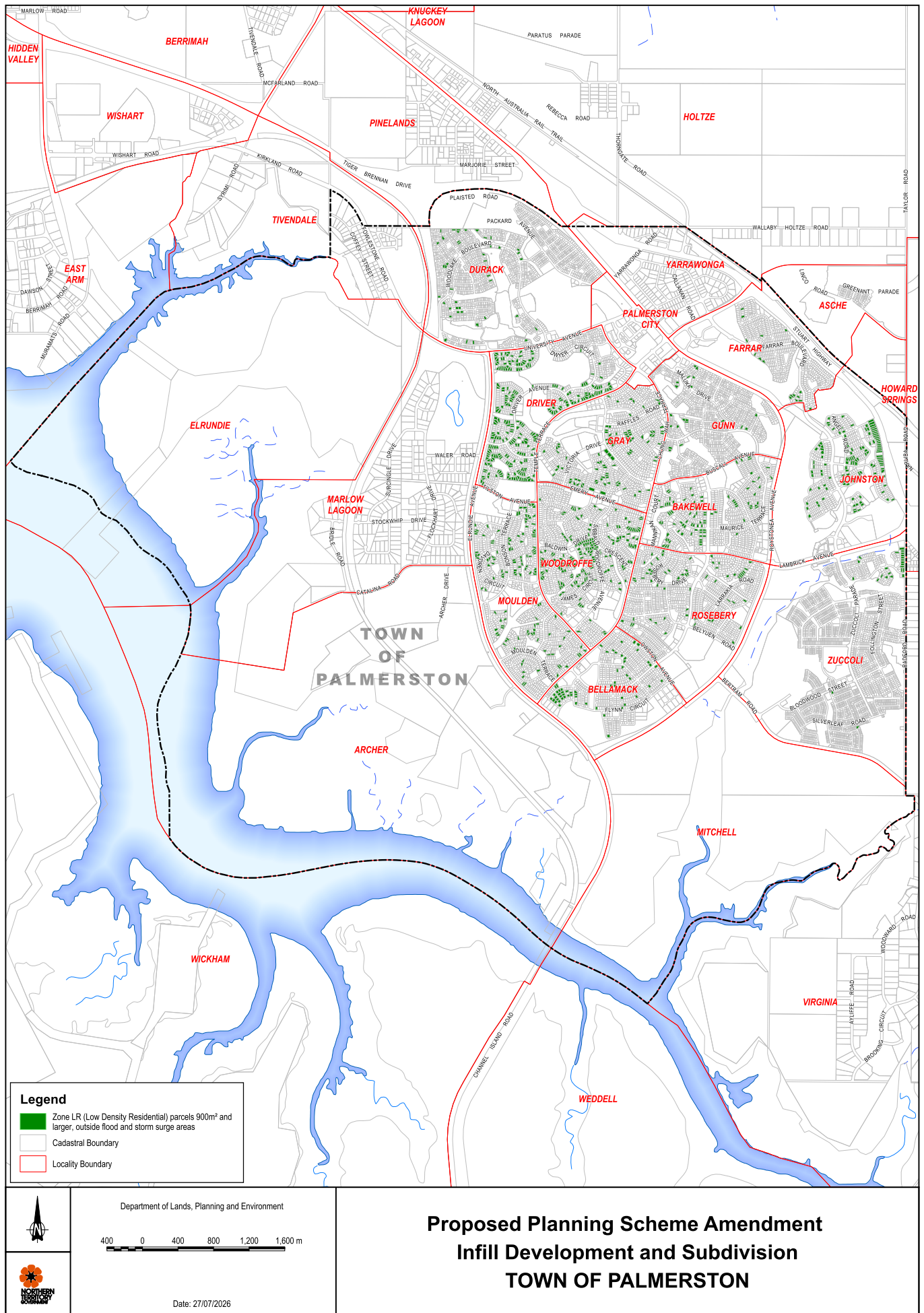
Yes. Clause 3.12 will continue to apply to residential development in Katherine East.

'Dwelling-group' development may be allowed in Zone LR if it meets the requirements of Clause 3.12. If a proposal does not meet these requirements, a development application can still be submitted and assessed against the proposed new rules for infill development.

Where can I read about the NTPC's recommendations to the Minister?

The NTPC has provided Government with an outline of matters raised during consultation and recommendations to amend the Northern Territory Planning Scheme 2020 (NTPS) to allow infill development and subdivision within Zone LR (Low Density Residential).

The report from the NTPC to the Minister can be found [here](#).



COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.7
Report Title:	Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference Review 2026
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 2026
Author:	Executive Assistant to CEO, Kate Roberts
Approver:	Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Walsh

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report seeks Council to adopt revised Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference following a governance review.

Key messages

- The Administrative Review Committee is established to consider applications for review of reviewable decisions in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)*.
- The Terms of Reference were adopted in September 2024 and are now due for review.
- A review has identified amendments that improve clarity, strengthen governance provisions and better align the document with the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)* and Council's current governance framework.
- It is recommended that the updated Terms of Reference are endorsed.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference Review 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses the revised Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference **Attachment 12.1.7.3**, to Report entitled Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference Review 2026.

Background

The Administrative Review Committee is established to consider applications for review of reviewable decisions in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)*. The Committee operates as an advisory committee of Council and performs its functions in accordance with Chapter 18 of the Act.

At the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 September 2024 Council made the following decisions:

13.1.2 Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference

1. *THAT Report entitled Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference be received and noted.*
2. *THAT Council endorse the adoption of the Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference as Attachment 13.1.2.1 to Report entitled Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference.*

CARRIED (7/0) - 10/1520 - 17/09/2024

As part of Council's commitment to maintaining contemporary governance documents and ensuring alignment with legislative requirements and best practice governance principles, a periodic review of the Terms of Reference has been undertaken.

The review has identified several amendments that improve clarity, strengthen governance provisions and better align the document with the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)* and Council's current governance framework.

This Report presents the revised Terms of Reference to Council for adoption.

Discussion

The proposed amendments are predominantly administrative, and governance focused and do not alter the fundamental purpose of the Administrative Review Committee. The amendments seek to improve clarity, consistency and legislative alignment.

Key amendments include:

- Introduction of a definitions section to improve readability and interpretation of the document.
- Refinement of the Committee objectives to better reflect the terminology and intent of the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)*.
- Clarification of the Committee's authority, including the statutory power to reject an application and issue a decision notice where provided under the Act.
- Amendment of membership term provisions to align with the approach adopted across other Council advisory committees.
- Inclusion of a quorum provision to provide greater procedural certainty for Committee meetings.

- Strengthening of Code of Conduct and conflict of interest requirements to better reflect legislative obligations and contemporary governance expectations.
- Removal of provisions relating to annual performance reporting and committee representation that are not considered necessary given the Committee's limited and as-required operational function.
- Administrative amendments to improve consistency with Council's current Terms of Reference format and governance practices.

Since adoption of the current Terms of Reference in September 2024, the Administrative Review Committee has met on one occasion. The proposed amendments are not being driven by operational issues but rather form part of Council's ongoing governance review process to ensure key governance documents remain current, effective and compliant with legislative requirements.

Consultation and marketing

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

- Executive Manager Organisational Performance

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

Policy implications

The revised Terms of Reference support Council's governance framework by clearly defining the Committee's purpose, authority, membership and operational requirements. Adoption of the revised Terms of Reference will ensure the Committee continues to operate in accordance with contemporary governance practices and legislative requirements.

Budget and resource implications

There are no additional budget or resource implications arising from the proposed amendments.

The Administrative Review Committee will continue to operate within existing resources.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

The proposed amendments strengthen Council's governance framework by ensuring the Administrative Review Committee Terms of Reference remain aligned with the *Local Government Act 2019* and reflect current governance practices.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

6. Governance

Failure to effectively govern.

Failure to periodically review governance documents may result in outdated provisions, inconsistencies with legislative requirements or ambiguity regarding committee



operations. Adoption of the revised Terms of Reference mitigates these risks and promotes sound decision-making processes.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

While the proposed amendments do not directly relate to a specific Council strategy, framework or plan, they support Council's commitment to good governance, accountability, transparency and effective decision-making.

The revised Terms of Reference provide a clear governance framework for the operation of the Administrative Review Committee and contribute to the ongoing effectiveness of Council's governance arrangements.

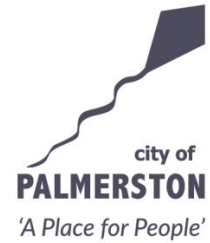
Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

1. Terms of Reference Administrative Review Committee - Current [**12.1.7.1** - 2 pages]
2. Terms of Reference Administrative Review Committee - Tracked changes [**12.1.7.2** - 4 pages]
3. Terms of Reference Administrative Review Committee - FINAL [**12.1.7.3** - 3 pages]

TERMS OF REFERENCE



ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE

The Administrative Review Committee is established to review 'reviewable decisions' in accordance with sections 322 and 324 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT).

2. COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

Receive, investigate and determine applications for reviewable decisions in accordance with Chapter 18 Review of decisions, Part 18.1 Internal Review of the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT).

3. AUTHORITY/DELEGATION

The Administrative Review Committee is an advisory body to Council and does not hold any decision-making powers.

The Committee is responsible to recommend a course of action to Council on matters falling within its function.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Members are appointed by the Council.
- 4.2 The City of Palmerston shall appoint:
 - The Mayor as Chair
 - The Deputy Mayor as a member
 - One Councillor as a member and all other Councillors as an alternate member
- 4.3 Council staff attend in an advisory capacity, to provide information and updates. Staff do not hold voting rights and do not participate in group decisions unless specified.

5. TERMS AND VACANCIES

- 5.1 Membership term will be for one year, by nomination at an Ordinary Council Meeting.
- 5.2 The Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the Committee every two years from the commencement of the committee's term, or as required.

6. MEETINGS

- 6.1 Notice of Meetings and Business Papers

The Chief Executive Officer will convene meetings and will distribute business papers no later than three business days prior to a meeting.

6.2 Regularity

The Committee will meet as required to perform the functions of the Committee.

6.3 Attendance

Meetings are open to the public unless confidential business is being considered. .

6.5 Chairperson Responsibilities

6.5.1 To ensure meetings are conducted in accordance with the Palmerston (Procedure for Meeting) By-Laws and according to the agenda.

6.5.2 Ensuring all discussion items end with a decision, action, or appropriate outcomes.

6.5.3 Should the Chairperson be unable to attend a meeting, the Deputy Mayor or Acting Mayor shall perform the duties of Chairperson and if unavailable the meeting will be postponed.

6.6 Voting

6.6.1 For voting purposes, the Chairperson shall accept motions moved and seconded by members of the Committee, by show of hands.

6.6.2 A Committee decision is by majority vote of voting members present at a meeting.

6.7 Minutes

Meeting minutes will be distributed to members within ten working days after a meeting and presented to Council at its next Ordinary Meeting.

7. CONDUCT

7.1 Conflicts of interest

Committee Members must declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest when joining the Committee, annually and at the start of each meeting before discussion of the relevant agenda items on the approved Council form.

7.2 Code of Conduct

All Committee Members are required to abide with Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act 2019 Code of Conduct for Elected Members and Committee Members.

7.3 Committee representation

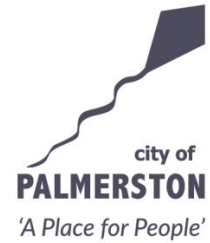
Committee Members must not speak on behalf of Council or the Committee without the approval of the Chief Executive Officer.

8. PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Committee will provide an annual summary of the Committees performance to Council prior to the end of financial year.

COMMITTEE NAME	Administrative Review Committee	TYPE	Council advisory committee
OWNER	Chief Executive Officer	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Chief Executive Officer
APPROVAL DATE	17/09/2024	NEXT REVIEW DATE	17/09/2026
RECORDS NUMBER	583632	COUNCIL DECISION	10/1520

TERMS OF REFERENCE



ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Terms of Reference, the following definitions apply:

TERM	DEFINITION
<u>Reviewable decision</u>	a decision that is designated as reviewable: (a) (a) by the Act (or a by-law under the Act); or (b) (b) by resolution of Council.
<u>the Act</u>	<u>Local Government Act 2019 (NT)</u>
<u>Mayor</u>	<u>The Principal Member of City of Palmerston Council.</u>
<u>Member</u>	<u>A person who is on the Administrative Review Committee.</u>

1. PURPOSE

The Administrative Review Committee is established to ~~review~~ consider applications for review of a reviewable decision ~~'reviewable decisions'~~ in accordance with sections 322~~3~~ and 324 of the ~~Act~~ Local Government Act 2019 (NT).

2. COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

Receive, investigate and ~~determine either reject or make a recommendation to Council on~~ applications for reviewable decisions in accordance with Chapter 18 Review of decisions, Part 18.1 Internal Review of the ~~Act~~ Local Government Act 2019 (NT).

3. AUTHORITY/DELEGATION

The Administrative Review Committee is an advisory body to Council and does not hold any decision-making powers other than the authority to reject an application and issue a decision notice pursuant to section 343(2) and (3) of the Act.

The Committee is responsible ~~to for~~ recommend~~ing~~ a course of action to Council on matters falling within its ~~function~~ purpose.

1. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Members are appointed by ~~the~~ Council.

4.1

4.2 The City of Palmerston shall appoint:

4.2

- The Mayor as Chair
- The Deputy Mayor as a member
- One Councillor as a member and all other Councillors as ~~an~~ alternate member~~s~~.

4.3 Council staff attend in an advisory capacity, to provide information and updates. Staff do not hold voting rights and do not participate in group decisions unless specified.

4. TERMS AND VACANCIES

5.1 Membership term of a Councillor will be for one year, by nomination at an Ordinary Council Meeting.

5.1

5.2 The Terms of Reference will be reviewed ~~by the Committee every two years from the commencement of the committee's term~~ once per term of Council, or as required.

5. MEETINGS

7.1. ~~6.1~~ Notice of Meetings and Business Papers

The Chief Executive Officer will convene meetings and will distribute business papers no later than three business days prior to a meeting.

7.2. ~~6.2~~ Regularity Meeting schedule

The Committee will meet as required to perform the functions of the Committee.

7.3. ~~6.3~~ Attendance

Meetings are open to the public unless confidential business is being considered.

7.4. ~~6.4~~ Quorum

Quorum consists of a majority of committee Members holding office at the time of the meeting.

7.1. ~~6.5~~ Chairperson Responsibilities

7.5.

6.5.1 To ensure meetings are conducted in accordance with the Palmerston (Procedure for Meeting) By-Laws and according to the agenda.

6.5.2 Ensuring all discussion items end with a decision, action, or appropriate outcomes.

6.5.3 Should the Chairperson be unable to attend a meeting, the Deputy Mayor or Acting Mayor shall perform the duties of Chairperson and if unavailable the meeting will be postponed.

7.2. ~~6.6~~ Voting

~~6.6.1 For voting purposes, the Chairperson shall accept motions moved and seconded by members of the Committee, by show of hands.~~

~~6.6.2 A Committee decision is by majority vote of voting members present at a meeting.~~

7.6.

- ~~6.6.1 6.6.1.—Only Members are entitled to vote in Committee meetings.~~
~~6.6.2 6.6.2.—All Members have equal voting rights.~~
~~6.6.3 6.6.3.—Each Member must vote on every matter that is before the Committee for decision.~~
~~6.6.4 6.6.4.—A decision must be made by majority vote of the Members present at each meeting.~~
~~6.6.5 6.6.5.—Where a vote is taken and the result is undecided, the Chairperson has a casting vote in accordance with Council's Casting Vote Policy.~~
~~7.7. 6.7.—Minutes~~
 Meeting minutes will be distributed to members within ten working days after a meeting and presented to Council at its next Ordinary Meeting.

6. CONDUCT

- ~~7.1 — Conflicts of interest~~
~~Committee Members must declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest when joining the Committee, annually and at the start of each meeting before discussion of the relevant agenda items on the approved Council form.~~
- ~~7.2 — Code of Conduct~~
~~All Committee Members are required to abide with Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act 2019 Code of Conduct for Elected Members and Committee Members.~~
- ~~7.3 — Committee representation~~
~~Committee Members must not speak on behalf of Council or the Committee without the approval of the Chief Executive Officer.~~
- ~~7.1. Code of Conduct~~
~~7.1.1 All Members must comply with the Code of Conduct prescribed by section 120 of the Act, being Schedule 1A of the Regulations, including requirements relating to the declaration of gifts and benefits.~~
~~7.1.2 Members must maintain the confidentiality of all information obtained in the course of their duties, except where disclosure is authorised by the Council or required by law.~~
- ~~7.2. Conflict of interest~~
~~7.2.1 Members must declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest:~~
 - ~~i. Annually as required under the Act.~~
 - ~~ii. As soon as they arise.~~
 - ~~iii. At the commencement of each meeting.~~~~7.2.2 The Chairperson will determine the appropriate management of disclosed conflicts of interest, having regard to legislative requirements and best practice.~~

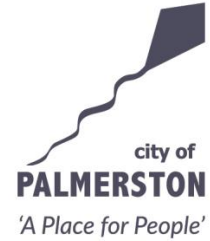
7. PERFORMANCE REVIEW

~~The Committee will provide an annual summary of the Committees performance to Council prior to the end of financial year.~~

COMMITTEE NAME	Administrative Review Committee	TYPE	Council advisory committee
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OWNER	Chief Executive Officer	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Chief Executive Officer
APPROVAL DATE		NEXT REVIEW DATE	Term of 12 th Council
RECORDS NUMBER	Original – 583632 Draft - <u>698704</u>	COUNCIL DECISION	

TERMS OF REFERENCE



ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Terms of Reference, the following definitions apply:

TERM	DEFINITION
Reviewable decision	a decision that is designated as reviewable: (a) by the Act (or a by-law under the Act); or (b) by resolution of Council.
the Act	<i>Local Government Act 2019 (NT)</i>
Mayor	The Principal Member of City of Palmerston Council.
Member	A person who is on the Administrative Review Committee.

1. PURPOSE

The Administrative Review Committee is established to consider applications for review of a reviewable decision in accordance with sections 323 and 324 of the Act.

2. COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

Receive, investigate and either reject or make a recommendation to Council on applications for reviewable decisions in accordance with Chapter 18 Review of decisions, Part 18.1 Internal Review of the Act.

3. AUTHORITY/DELEGATION

The Administrative Review Committee is an advisory body to Council and does not hold any decision-making powers other than the authority to reject an application and issue a decision notice pursuant to section 343(2) and (3) of the Act.

The Committee is responsible for recommending a course of action to Council on matters falling within its purpose.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Members are appointed by Council.
- 4.2 The City of Palmerston shall appoint:
 - The Mayor as Chair
 - The Deputy Mayor as a member
 - One Councillor as a member and all other Councillors as alternate members
- 4.3 Council staff attend in an advisory capacity, to provide information and updates. Staff do not hold voting rights and do not participate in group decisions unless specified.

5. TERMS AND VACANCIES

- 5.1 Membership term of a Councillor will be for one year, by nomination at an Ordinary Council Meeting.
- 5.2 The Terms of Reference will be reviewed once per term of Council or as required.

6. MEETINGS

- 6.1 Notice of Meetings and Business Papers
The Chief Executive Officer will convene meetings and will distribute business papers no later than three business days prior to a meeting.
- 6.2 Meeting schedule
The Committee will meet as required to perform the functions of the Committee.
- 6.3 Attendance
Meetings are open to the public unless confidential business is being considered.
- 6.4 Quorum
Quorum consists of a majority of committee Members holding office at the time of the meeting.
- 6.5 Chairperson Responsibilities
 - 6.5.1 To ensure meetings are conducted in accordance with the Palmerston (Procedure for Meeting) By-Laws and according to the agenda.
 - 6.5.2 Ensuring all discussion items end with a decision, action, or appropriate outcomes.
 - 6.5.3 Should the Chairperson be unable to attend a meeting, the Deputy Mayor or Acting Mayor shall perform the duties of Chairperson and if unavailable the meeting will be postponed.
- 6.6 Voting
 - 6.6.1 Only Members are entitled to vote in Committee meetings.
 - 6.6.2 All Members have equal voting rights.
 - 6.6.3 Each Member must vote on every matter that is before the Committee for decision.
 - 6.6.4 A decision must be made by majority vote of the Members present at each meeting.
 - 6.6.5 Where a vote is taken and the result is undecided, the Chairperson has a casting vote in accordance with Council's Casting Vote Policy.
- 6.7 Minutes
Meeting minutes will be distributed to members within ten working days after a meeting and presented to Council at its next Ordinary Meeting.

7. CONDUCT

7.1. Code of Conduct

7.1.1 All Members must comply with the Code of Conduct prescribed by section 120 of the Act, being Schedule 1A of the Regulations, including requirements relating to the declaration of gifts and benefits.

7.1.2 Members must maintain the confidentiality of all information obtained in the course of their duties, except where disclosure is authorised by the Council or required by law.

7.2. Conflict of interest

7.2.1 Members must declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest:

- Annually as required under the Act.
- As soon as they arise.
- At the commencement of each meeting.

7.2.2 The Chairperson will determine the appropriate management of disclosed conflicts of interest, having regard to legislative requirements and best practice.

COMMITTEE NAME	Administrative Review Committee	TYPE	Council advisory committee
OWNER	Chief Executive Officer	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Chief Executive Officer
APPROVAL DATE		NEXT REVIEW DATE	Term of 12 th Council
RECORDS NUMBER	698704	COUNCIL DECISION	

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.8
Report Title:	Palmerston Local Economic Plan Refresh
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 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 update Council on the Palmerston Local Economic Plan 2021-2031 review and refresh.

Key messages

- Launched in 2021 to actively pursue an economic development strategy, the Palmerston Local Economic Plan contains short-term, medium-term and long-term actions to be delivered over ten years.
- The Palmerston Local Economic Plan continues to guide Council's economic development, and strong progress has been made with several actions completed and others now embedded as ongoing initiatives.
- In the 2025 the Palmerston Local Economic Plan annual update presented to Council at the First Ordinary Council Meeting on 1 July 2025, it was noted that the Palmerston Local Economic Plan and its associated actions would be reviewed during the term of the Eleventh Council.
- This Report suggests amendments to the Palmerston Local Economic Plan actions to ensure it remains fit for purpose and responsive to challenges and opportunities in the current local environment.
- These amendments have been developed in consultation with industry stakeholders identified within the Palmerston Local Economic Plan and the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee.
- The report seeks endorsement of the amendments to the Palmerston Local Economic Plan implementation plan provided as **Attachment 12.1.8.3**.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Palmerston Local Economic Plan Refresh be received and noted.
2. THAT the Council endorse the recommendations found in **Attachment 12.1.8.3**.

Background

The Palmerston Local Economic Plan (PLEP) was launched in 2021 and aimed to set a comprehensive framework for economic growth and development in Palmerston. A series of strategic actions were segmented into short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals. Since the PLEP was launched, significant progress has been made and each year Council is provided an update on the implementation.

At the 1st Ordinary Council Meeting of 2 June 2026 Council made the following decisions:

12.2.1 Palmerston Local Economic Plan Annual Update 2026

THAT Report entitled Palmerston Local Economic Plan Annual Update 2026 be received and noted.

CARRIED (8/0) – 11/0417 – 2/6/2026

During the 2025 PLEP Annual Update Report presented to Council at the First Ordinary Council Meeting on 1 July 2025, it was noted that the PLEP and its associated actions would be reviewed during the term of the Eleventh Council. This will help ensure the plan remains fit for purpose and responsive to the challenges and opportunities within the current local economic environment.

Discussion

Council is committed to reviewing the PLEP to ensure the implementation plan and its actions remain fit for purpose and responsive to current economic conditions and emerging opportunities. Ongoing delivery of the PLEP actions is essential to supporting local economic growth and maintaining confidence in Council's role of assisting Palmerston businesses and the community. Failure to do so may limit Council's ability to effectively articulate, demonstrate and promote its value proposition as an economic centre, reducing its capacity to attract investment.

The update ensures the PLEP continues to guide Council's economic development work effectively, reflects progress to date, and removes or updates actions that are no longer current, within scope or aligned to Council's priorities.

The draft refreshed PLEP was provided to key external stakeholders for consultation, including NT Government's Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations, the Local Government Association of the NT, GTNT, Business Enterprise Centre NT, Palmerston Regional Business Association, NT Indigenous Business Network, Chamber of Commerce



NT; Industry Capability Network NT, Master Builders NT and the Darwin Major Business Group (DMBG).

Feedback that had been received was supportive of the refreshed implementation plan and the direction it sets for Palmerston. DMBG note strong alignment with several priorities central to their current policy and advocacy work including workforce attraction and retention, population growth, migration, business competitiveness, innovation, industry development and government–industry collaboration. DMBG also acknowledge the significant progress Council has made in delivering the original plan and the practical, action focused approach reflected throughout the refresh.

Following stakeholder engagement, the changes were present to the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee on 28th of July. Further amendments to reduce the reliance of third parties was raised and changes have been implemented where required.

A summary of changes to the PLEP has been included as **Attachment 12.1.8.1. Attachment 12.1.8.2** demonstrates the current status of the PLEP action items with proposed updates and amendments to the action items and how they're delivered.

The report seeks endorsement of the amendments to the Palmerston Local Economic Plan implementation plan provided as **Attachment 12.1.8.3**.

Consultation and marketing

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

- Acting City Activation Manager

The following external parties were consulted prior to preparing this report:

- City of Palmerston Vibrant Economy Advisory COmmittee
- NT Government's Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations
- Local Government Association of the NT
- GTNT
- Business Enterprise Centre NT
- Palmerston Regional Business Association
- NT Indigenous Business Network
- Chamber of Commerce NT
- Industry Capability Network NT
- Master Builders NT
- Darwin Major Business Group (DMBG).

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

Project delivery of the PLEP implementation plan has been budgeted for and will utilise existing budget.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

Failure to endorse the refreshed PLEP implementation plan presents a risk to Council's ability to progress identified economic development actions, which may limit support for local business activity and broader economic growth. Without an updated and fit-for-purpose PLEP implementation plan, Council may also face reduced stakeholder confidence in its role in supporting the business community and delivering on its strategic economic responsibilities.

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.

8. Strategic Leadership Capability Gap

Failure to attract and invest in leadership capability development and organisational culture resulting in major barriers to achieving strategic outcomes.

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

1. Attachment A - Palmerston Local Economic Plan_-_ Recommended Feedback List [12.1.8.1 - 4 pages]
2. Attachment B - PLEP Implementation Plan - Track Changes [12.1.8.2 - 16 pages]
3. Attachment C - PLEP Implementation Plan - Final [12.1.8.3 - 13 pages]

RECOMMENDED FEEDBACK



Below are the recommended changes and rationale:

ACTION ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REASONING
Action No. 1: Maintain an advisory committee comprised of Council, NT Government, Local business and Community members to inform a local COVID-19 response.	Remove reference to COVID-19. Reword action: Establish an advisory committee comprised of Council, NT Government, Local business and Community members provide local business insight into economic development.	The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee was originally established on 15 March 2022 in response to COVID-19 and has since evolved to providing ongoing advice to Council and local businesses on broader economic development matters.
Action No. 5: Incentivise commercial rental offerings in the City of Palmerston.	Action re-word: Support and promote commercial rental offerings in the City of Palmerston. Change how this will be delivered to: Promote affordable rental opportunities through Invest Palmerston.	The recommended change is due to Council continuing to connect affordable rental opportunities through promoting new real estate offerings via the Palmerston business newsletter and Invest Palmerston website.
Action No. 7: Bring forward capital investment programs planned for the City of Palmerston.	Amend timeline from short-term (1-2 years) to long-term (6-10 years).	This action falls outside of Council's scope to bring forward capital investment, as major capital projects are dependent on external funding and require long lead times for planning and delivery.

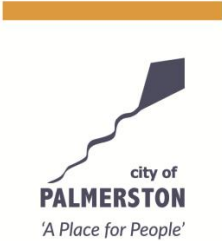
ACTION ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REASONING
	Reword action: Lobby for capital investment programs planned for City of Palmerston. Change how this will be delivered to: Develop and prioritise a portfolio of projects, working collaboratively with private stakeholders and all levels of government to drive successful planning and delivery.	
Action No. 13: Facilitate the delivery of hardship support and assistance in Palmerston.	Action re-word: Assist with hardship support and assistance in Palmerston. Remove how this will be delivered from: Work with Council to hold or reduce rates for a period. Change how this will be delivered to: Collaborate with NT Government and social service organisations to deliver support locally.	This action was originally designed in response to COVID-19 and the financial measures previously referenced are no longer viable or appropriate. Council's role is therefore best positioned as a supportive and facilitative partner, rather than a direct financial provider.
Action No. 14: Review opportunities to hold rental payments and potentially provide rental rebates for business occupants of Council buildings.	It is recommended that this action be removed entirely.	Council-leased properties are rented at fair market value, ensuring value for money. Providing further assistance through rent deferrals or rebates falls outside the intent and scope of Council's lease management framework and Council is not in a position to offer such arrangements.

Action No. 15: Facilitate grants for businesses to support online services or transition of business to new service offerings.	It is recommended that this action is removed entirely.	This action was originally developed in response to COVID-19 and the financial measures previously referenced are no longer viable or appropriate. Council continues to support businesses by facilitating access to NT and Australian Government programs, including through the Invest Palmerston website and the Palmerston Business Newsletter, which assist businesses seeking to transition or adopt new service offerings.
Action No. 16: In partnership with NTG, complete an audit of businesses in Palmerston, identifying businesses in crisis, collect relevant data and facilitate assistance as needed.	It is recommended this action item is removed entirely.	This action was originally designed in response to COVID-19 and the financial measures previously referenced are no longer viable or appropriate. It is noted that Council are committed to supporting businesses through periods of economic challenges, as outlined in Action Item No. 13.
Action No. 17: Sponsor the delivery of a short digital skills program in partnership with CDU to support skilling of business owners and residents impacted by the COVID-19 related economic downturn.	Action re-word: Sponsor the delivery of a short digital skills program through partnerships with organisations to support skilling of business owners.	It is recommended that references to COVID-19 is removed as it was originally designed for and is no longer relevant. It is also recommended to remove reference of the provider to prevent limiting outcomes of this action item. It is noted that Council has an ongoing commitment to continue focusing on skills development for local businesses.

Action 25: NT Government to invest in services that enhance public safety in Palmerston.	Action re-word: Continue to advocate for investment in services that enhance public safety in Palmerston.	It is suggested that the action be reworded to remove reliance on a third party and better align with Council's role as an advocate rather than a direct service provider or funder.
Action No. 27: Engage with industry leaders to understand key needs and opportunities for attracting and retaining industry and businesses in Palmerston. Action No. 28: Engage with industry and government leaders to understand future market and strategic opportunities for the City of Palmerston.	It is recommended to merge action items 27 and 28. Re-word Action items to: Engage with industry and government leaders to understand current needs and understand future market and strategic opportunities for attracting and retaining industry and businesses in Palmerston.	Given the strong similarities between these action items, both focused on understanding current business and industry needs and identifying future market and strategic opportunities to attract, grow and retain businesses in Palmerston, it is recommended they be consolidated.

PALMERSTON LOCAL ECONOMIC PLAN (PLEP)

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
1	Establish-Maintain an advisory committee comprised of Council, NT Government, Local business and Community members to inform a local COVID-19 response-provide local business insight into economic development.	Completed.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Mitigate impact of economic downturn: COVID-19. Grow the local economy	To ensure the response is representative of the local needs and attracts local business support to grow the local economy.	Partner with the Northern Territory Government (NTG) and seek expressions of interest in the community for local business and community members to join.	Local buy-in and co-design of solutions.	High.	Business support.	It is recommended to remove reference to COVID-19. The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee was originally established on 15 March 2022 in response to COVID-19 and has since evolved to provide ongoing advice to Council and local businesses on broader economic development matters.
2	Host a round table meeting of industry leaders in agribusiness, education and training, energy and minerals, Defence, health and logistics to discuss business needs, priorities and immediate actions to be delivering in Palmerston to support industry development.	Completed/ ongoing annually.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention.	To identify opportunities to immediately attract businesses and industry, and action needed to attract businesses and industry in the future.	Partner with industry leaders to engage with businesses at a round table meeting. Compile list of key stakeholders.	Establishment of data to inform future actions.	High.	Industry attraction.	The Palmerston Business Forum (Forum) has been an annual event since November 2024, with the 2026 Forum scheduled for 22 October. This year's event will be focused heavily on having an industry focus to best understand how Council can better support business and industry.

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3	Develop a suite of communications and marketing materials to showcase Palmerston and promote a unique selling proposition for residents.	Completed/ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Population attraction and retention.	To effectively communicate benefits and opportunities of Palmerston and engage with target population segments.	Leverage the City's communications and engagement teams to develop communications materials.	Development of a suite of tools to effectively facilitate marketing and engagement activities.	Medium.	Industry attraction.	The refreshed Invest Palmerston website was launched in April 2026. The updated website now provides additional tools and information to support business planning, access to services, and drives increased local engagement. Invest Palmerston and the Palmerston Business Newsletter gives businesses quick, practical updates on what matters in running a business. The newsletter provides information on programs, grants, workshops, and opportunities from Council and partners across the local business ecosystem.
4	Seek expressions of interest from ICT, Creative and Tourism industry representatives, and businesses to engage with the City of Palmerston to research strategic opportunities for industry development in Palmerston.	In progress.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Future growth exploration.	To better understand opportunities and potential of anticipated future growth industries in Palmerston.	Work with stakeholders NTG agencies to distribute expression of interest materials and complete due diligence on responses.	Establishment of data to inform future actions.	High.	Industry attraction.	Council continues to maintain regular contact with creative practitioners and industry leaders. Partnerships are in place with key festivals and organisations, including the Darwin Symphony Orchestra, Darwin Festival, and Darwin International Film Festival. Regular meetings are hosted with Top End Tourism and Tourism and Events NT to discuss upcoming opportunities and potential collaborations. Future collaborative opportunities with Music NT are currently being explored, with a focus on increasing live music programming within Palmerston. These activities will continue on an ongoing basis.

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PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORIT Y	CATEGORY	NOTES
5	Support and promote incentivise commercial rental offerings in the City of Palmerston.	In progress.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention. Foster business developmen t and innovation.	Attract and support retail in Palmerston CBD.	Promote affordable rental opportunities through Invest Palmerston. Subsidise commercial rental through designated grant or fund.	Decrease in commercial vacancy in the City. Enhanced retail opportunities for residents and businesses.	High.	Business support.	City of Palmerston also provides affordable rental opportunities through structured rental agreements. Council continues to connect affordable rental opportunities through promoting new real estate offering via the Palmerston business newsletter and Invest Palmerston website.
6	In partnership with industry undertake a survey of businesses in Palmerston to confirm challenges, strengths and priority business support services to inform a 12-month plan for business support. Ensure adequate representation from sole operators, who make up over half of businesses in Palmerston.	Completed/ ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Foster business developmen t and innovation.	To identify priorities and needs for businesses.	Partner with industry leaders to deliver a survey of businesses.	Establishment of data to inform future actions.	Moderate – high.	Business support.	The business survey was conducted on 12 March 2024 by Action Market Research and key findings informed the next phase of economic development activities, including the delivery of the annual Palmerston Business Futures Forum and ongoing business capability development activities, e.g. AI-specific workshops, business information sessions.

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PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
7	Bring forward Lobby for capital investment programs planned for the City of Palmerston.	In progress.	Long-term – 6-10 years. Short-term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention.	Stimulate construction and associated economic activity in the City of Palmerston.	Develop and prioritise a portfolio of projects, working collaboratively with private stakeholders and all levels of government to drive successful planning and delivery. Work with NTG to advance scheduling of infrastructure projects for the City of Palmerston.	Economic expenditure in the Municipality during a period of slowing economic activity.	Moderate – high.	Business support.	Recommended to change timeline and reword to lobby for capital investment programs. This action falls outside of Council's scope to bring forward capital investment, as major capital projects are dependent on external funding and require long lead times for planning and delivery. Council continues to focus on capital investment at the Zuccoli Community Hub, with the completion of Stage 2 of the pump track that opened on 4 March 2026. Stage 3 of the community buildings is currently open for community consultation. Other future investment programs planned for Council include community consultation for Marlow Lagoon. Pending funding announcements from the Federal Government Budget, the Driver Community Centre project is ready for delivery, with designs completed and permits obtained.
8	Develop an awareness campaign of business and industry opportunities and benefits in the City of Palmerston.	Ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention. Foster business development and innovation.	Attract business and industry to Palmerston.	Work collaboratively with industry to undertake market research, design and disseminate targeted marketing.	Increased number of businesses engaging with Palmerston. Data insights into target industry sectors.	Moderate – high.	Industry attraction.	An expression of interest process will be undertaken in the 2026-27 financial year to develop a marketing campaign. This action addresses several priorities for business support identified in the business survey, including the promotion of City of Palmerston and its benefits as a place to live and operate a business from.

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PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
9	Invest in tree planting, verge maintenance and further development of green corridors in Palmerston.	Ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Beautification and maintenance of Palmerston green spaces to retain and attract residents.	Continue to implement Council's tree and green space programs.	Increased greening of City of Palmerston.	Moderate – high.	Place making.	Revegetation programs are occurring for two urban bushland areas in Zuccoli and Gunn. Works will be completed by end of 2025/26 financial year (FY). Further tree planting will be undertaken in the 2026/27 FY with approximately 40 trees to be planted across the CBD area (Goyder Square, Francis Dr, Rolyat St and Maluka Dr). Council continues to undertake daily/weekly maintenance programs across its 240ha of open space. Council are continuing discussions with the Crown Land Estate regarding ownership transfer of the Mitchell Creek catchment area. The Mitchell Creek Concept Plan was adopted by Council and can be implemented subject to the land transfer and budget.
10	In partnership with NTG, complete an audit of regulations in the City of Palmerston that impact business development and remove unnecessary regulation.	Not yet started.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention. Foster business development and innovation.	Attract business and industry to Palmerston. Retain businesses in Palmerston. Encourage innovation and commercialisation.	Complete an audit of City regulations and identify opportunities to reduce or eliminate low value regulations in consultation with Council and executive.	Increased efficiency in business delivery. Reduced regulatory burden. Increased number of businesses engaging with Palmerston.	Moderate.	Business support.	Leverage from the outcomes from NT Government's Approvals Fast-Track Taskforce's final report that was delivered in May 2025, Saying 'Yes' to Business, in May 2025. Council officers are currently engaging with NT Government to seek an update/status on one of the report's medium-term reforms (tranche 2: 2 to 3 years) to conduct a major review of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> to identify further reform opportunities to reduce timeframes for local government approvals, with engagement from the local government sector.

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PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
1.1	Develop business networking and advocacy services in Palmerston.	In progress/ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention. Foster business development and innovation.	Connect businesses and industry in Palmerston to private sector support and commercial opportunities.	Collaborate with industry bodies (PRBA, Chamber of Commerce NT, Major Business Group, MBNT, PRBA, ICN) to develop a calendar of business networking events and activities.	Enhanced collaboration between businesses. -Enhanced engagement with industry services by Palmerston businesses.	Moderate.	Business support.	The Business Social will be a free business networking and advocacy event to be held on 18 June 2026. This event will support driving local economic growth by strengthening business connectivity and support mechanisms that are essential to attracting new businesses, supporting existing, and building a more resilient and collaborative local business ecosystem.
1.2	Deliver business support and capacity building services. Ensure tailored support for different business sizes, including sole operators.	Completed/ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Foster business development and innovation.	Build the capacity of small and medium businesses in Palmerston.	Work with DTB to target Small Business <u>Champion territory business advisor</u> services in Palmerston.	Increased update of business support services in Palmerston. Increased capacity of business owners in Palmerston.	Moderate.	Business support.	Between January 2026 to April 2026, a total of five free business workshops were delivered to build business capability and capacity. Sessions included a three-part series in March, Smart Business Systems workshops: CRM Made Easy; Microsoft 365 for Productivity; and Getting Started with MYOB and Xero. In April, two AI-specific workshops were delivered to build a confident, digitally capable Palmerston business community.
1.3	Facilitate Assist with the delivery of hardship support and assistance in Palmerston.	Not yet started. <u>Ongoing</u>	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention and population attraction and retention.	Support businesses and residents of Palmerston during a challenging economic period.	Work with <u>Collaborate with NTG and</u> social service organisations to deliver support locally. <u>Work with Council to hold or reduce rates for a period.</u>	Reduced risk of welfare dependence of businesses and residents in Palmerston.	Moderate.	Education, training and community support.	<u>Council can work with social service organisations to deliver local support by sharing information and connecting residents with the right services at the right time.</u> <u>Council will continue to provide hardship support with rates.</u> <u>A future recommendation will be made to Council for the removal of holding or reducing rates for a period as this is not a viable solution for council.</u>

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PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
14	Review opportunities to hold rental payments and potentially provide rental rebates for business occupants of Council buildings.	Ongoing.	Short-term—1–2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention.	Support businesses of Palmerston during a challenging economic period.	Work with Council to hold or reduce rental for Council properties for a period, review current commercial/community leases that offer value for money to retain tenants.	Increased likelihood of business sustenance during crisis.	Moderate.	Business support.	It is recommended that Council will not progress rental-payment holds or rental rebates for commercial/community occupants, as occupants currently receive value for money these measures fall outside the intent and scope of Council's lease management framework, which focuses on transparent, consistent and policy-aligned commercial and community leasing. Current business commercial and community occupants of Council buildings are already leasing properties at a fair rate. Below is a list of current Council properties, with seven commercial and two community leases: - 1 Chung Wah Terrace - 56 Georgina Crescent - T2 60 Georgina Crescent - T3 60 Georgina Crescent - 48 Odegard Drive - 18 Bonson Terrace (Youth Drop-In Centre) - 36 Elrondie Avenue - 10 The Boulevard, Library Café.

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PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
15	Facilitate support grants for businesses to support online services or transition of business to new service offerings.	Not yet started.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention and foster business development and innovation.	Support businesses of Palmerston during a challenging economic period.	Work with Council and NTG to support establish and deliver funding to businesses in response to COVID-19 economic challenges.	Increased likelihood of business sustainment during crisis.	Moderate.	Business support.	Suggested to remove this action item. This action was originally developed in response to COVID-19 and the financial measures previously referenced are no longer viable or appropriate. Council continue to facilitate ongoing support for local businesses to connect with NT and Australian governments for funding through the Invest Palmerston website and the Palmerston Business Newsletter. City of Palmerston also offer environmental initiatives through a \$20,000 funding grant for a registered community, not-for-profit or incorporated organisation.
16	In partnership with NTG, complete an audit of businesses in Palmerston, identifying businesses in crisis, collect relevant data and facilitate assistance as needed.	Not yet started.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention.	Establish need to target business development initiatives and identify a base line to measure outcomes against.	Work with DTBI and industry to implement a survey assessing the current capacity, needs and priorities of the businesses registered in Palmerston.	Comprehensive data set to inform planning and development of targeted support initiatives.	Low – Moderate.	Business support.	Suggested to remove this action item. This action was originally designed in response to COVID-19 and the financial measures previously referenced are no longer viable or appropriate. It is noted that Council are committed to supporting businesses through periods of economic challenges, as outlined in Action Item No. 13. A future recommendation will be made to Council for the removal of this action item, as it falls out of Council's scope and role.

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PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
17	Sponsor the delivery of a short digital skills program through partnerships with organisations to support skilling of business owners. Sponsor the delivery of a short digital skills program in partnership with CDU to support skilling of business owners, and residents impacted by the COVID-19 related economic downturn	Completed/ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Foster business development and innovation. Mitigate impact of COVID-19. Foster business development and innovation.	To support businesses and community members to transition to knowledge-based economic opportunities.	Work with CDU organisations and NTG to develop and implement a digital skilling program targeting Palmerston businesses, and residents.	Upskilling of the Palmerston labour force.	Low.	Education, training and community support.	Suggested to remove this action item. It is recommended that references to COVID-19 is removed as it was originally designed for and is no longer relevant. It is also recommended to remove reference of the provider to prevent limiting outcomes of this action item. It is noted that Council has an ongoing commitment to continue focusing on skills development for local businesses. Delivered in partnership with the Business Enterprise Centre NT's Smart Business Systems workshops in March, under funding received from NT Government's Flexible Skills and Training Response Program. Council has an ongoing commitment to continue focusing on skills development for local businesses.
18	Determine where unincorporated land could be allocated to City of Palmerston.	Completed.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention.	To gain land to allow light industry and other industry to expand and develop support industries for surrounding areas.	Work with NTG to identify areas to increase land availability for Palmerston and understand where unincorporated land can be allocated to the City of Palmerston.	Fewer barriers to businesses expanding More land space for new businesses to move to Palmerston and existing businesses to expand.	High.	Master planning.	Since 2022, the incorporation of Wishart Business Precinct, Tivendale and Elrondie into Palmerston's municipal boundary has expanded the city's footprint and opened new opportunities for investment and development. The decision for management of Northcrest is currently pending. An update will be provided to Council once the decision has been announced.

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PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
19	Develop and implement a campaign to attract Defence families to Palmerston.	Ongoing.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Enhance labour force participation, and high educational attainment outcomes.	Collaborate with Department of Defence and NTG to develop a campaign to attract and support Defence families in Palmerston.	Increased population and associate growth outcomes.	High.	Population attraction.	Welcome to the Top End is an annual event run by Defence Member Family Support. Council attends the expo as a stallholder to promote Palmerston as a vibrant place to live and work, and inform attendees on the services and events that are offered throughout the municipality.
20	Develop infrastructure and services that enable and encourage precinct development in Palmerston's commercial zones.	Ongoing.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention, foster business development and innovation.	Attract industry and businesses to Palmerston.	Assess commercial zones and document infrastructure capabilities to identify opportunities to enhance precinct attraction and function (e.g. NBN, services, retail). Establish an infrastructure and zoning plan with NTG to activate precincts	Increase in businesses locating in Palmerston. Increased collaboration and innovation outcomes.	High.	Master planning.	The Palmerston CBD is the only identified commercial zone and there are no future plans at the stage to develop infrastructure and services for this area. Currently the new lease for the Library Café, Kopi Stop, is due to open their doors mid-2026. There may be future opportunities under the Zuccoli Community Hub and Marlow Lagoon masterplan development.
21	Implement a migrant attraction campaign for the City of Palmerston.	Not yet started.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Enhance labour force participation, and high educational attainment outcomes.	Collaborate with NTG stakeholders to leverage and support the NT population strategy and activities relating to migrant attraction.	Increased population and associate growth outcomes.	Moderate.	Population attraction.	It's noted that Palmerston has a population of 43,193, of which 22.1% were born overseas. Council continues to recognise and welcome our large number of migrants through our Citizenship ceremonies throughout the year. In this FY, we are expected to welcome 283 conferees through our Citizenship ceremonies. <i>Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2021 data.</i>
22	Deliver migrant support services in the City of Palmerston.	Not yet started.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Support population management and retention.	Collaborate with social services organisations to deliver migrant support services in Palmerston.	Increased likelihood of population growth and retention.	Moderate.	Education, training and community support.	Council officers are in planning stage to work with NT Government agencies to explore how existing migrant support services can be adapted and delivered in Palmerston, with planning underway to identify practical opportunities for collaboration and local implementation.

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PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
23	Invest in the enhancement or development of sporting and recreational infrastructure in Palmerston.	In progress/ongoing.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Support population management and retention.	Map and prioritise sport and recreational infrastructure developments in Palmerston and collaborate with NTG and Commonwealth for investment in priority projects.	Increased likelihood of population growth and retention.	Moderate.	Industry attraction.	Council continues to invest in high-quality sporting and recreational infrastructure across the municipality. At the Zuccoli Community Hub, Stage 1 works – including the dog park and public toilet – are complete, while Stage 2 recreation elements continue to progress, with the pump track finished, the walking trail and BBQ/seating areas partially complete, and design and earthworks finalised for the skate park and new exercise area, including the outdoor gym and multi-sport court. This complements ongoing upgrades to playgrounds and parks, including enhancements to the ninja track and other family-friendly spaces. Over the last financial year, the following projects have been delivered: - Joan Fejo playground and exercise equipment renewals - \$313,000 - President Park new equipment (all abilities swing) install - \$112,000 - President Park exercise equipment upgrade - \$80,000 - Hobart Park exceloo, seating and shade structure, and tree installation - \$360,000 - Playground maintenance - \$39,000. Council also continues to support local sporting clubs through grant and partnership programs that strengthen community participation and facility standards. At SWELL, new shade covers have been installed over the basketball court, and free entry continues to ensure the centre remains accessible and well-used by the community.

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24	Invest in infrastructure that enhances public safety in Palmerston	In progress.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Support population management and retention.	Map crime and safety issues in Palmerston and investigate infrastructure solutions to alleviate causal factors.	Increased likelihood of population growth and retention.	Moderate.	Place making.	Under the Dark Spots program, Council provides new and upgraded public lighting to improve safety and amenity for residents. In 2025-26: - lighting has been updated in Kilgour Lane - lighting upgrade in Fiveash Lane car park will commence in May - materials have been ordered for Sanctuary Lakes and Rosebery Park upgrades projects which will be completed mid-year - materials have been ordered for the first stage of Palmerston Circuit lighting upgrade which is the first part of a multi-year project.
25	NT Government Continue to advocate for investment in services that enhance public safety in Palmerston.	In progress/ ongoing.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Support population management and retention.	Map crime and safety issues in Palmerston and investigate police and other community service solutions (community night patrol) to alleviate causal factors.	Increased likelihood of population growth and retention.	Moderate.	Place making.	Council will continue to work with NT Government and major stakeholders to address crime and safety issues in Palmerston, including regular public controller meetings and working collaboratively with police around the safety of Palmerston & Rural Markets.

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PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
26	Invest in the revitalisation and development of new youth facilities in the City of Palmerston.	Not yet started.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Support population management and retention.	Map and prioritise youth facility revitalisation in Palmerston and collaborate with NTGall levels of government and private sector stakeholders for investment in priority projects.	Increased likelihood of population growth and retention.	Low.	Place making.	Council will continue to work with the NT Government's Office of Youth Affairs to promote youth services and identify opportunities for engagement and services. The Palmerston Youth Festival is in its seventh year, with the 2025 festival attracting 9,995 attendees across the week-long celebration. City of Palmerston events like the Palmerston Youth Festival continue to deliver a dynamic and engaging program for the youth of Palmerston. City of Palmerston facilities and services, such as the ninja park, pump track, and SWELL support population attraction and retention. The Palmerston Child and Youth Network bring together key service providers to strengthen coordination and improve outcomes for children and young people across Palmerston and the rural area. Through this collaborative network, members share insights, align services and promote programs that support the wellbeing, safety and development of local young people. Other youth activities that are currently facilitated or supported by City of Palmerston are: - Geeksquad - Code Club - Gadgets and Games - Lego Club - youth drop-in sports - Level Up Gaming - Corrugated Iron Youth Theatre.

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27	Engage with industry and government leaders to understand current key needs and understand future market and strategic opportunities for attracting and retaining industry and businesses in Palmerston.	In progress/ ongoing.	Long term - 6-10 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention. Strategic pursuit Business and industry attraction and retention.	To enable targeting and tailoring of business development and retention activities. To inform future planning and strategy development.	Collaborate with NT Government and industry leaders (PRBA, Chamber of Commerce NT, Major Business Group, MBNT, PRBA, ICN) to research and analyse the needs of businesses and how Palmerston can meet identified needs. Undertake market research and develop strategic approaches that support industry outcomes in Palmerston.	Database detail industry needs, and informed approach to targeting businesses. Informed and strategic approach to targeting industry and economic development.	High.	Industry attraction.	It's recommended that Action No. 27 and 28 are merged into one action. Given the strong similarities between these action items, both focused on understanding current business and industry needs and identifying future market and strategic opportunities to attract, grow and retain businesses in Palmerston, it is recommended they be consolidated. City of Palmerston is in its third year delivering the Palmerston Business Futures Forum. The Forum is an interactive event designed to help future-proof local business and industry success, explore practical ways to strengthen the local business community, and drive sustainable growth and resilience in the Palmerston municipality. City of Palmerston are approaching the 2026 Forum with targeted industry-specific leaders and supply chain vendors to provide input into understanding future markets and strategic opportunities for Palmerston businesses and industry.

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PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
28	Engage with industry and government leaders to understand future market and strategic opportunities for the City of Palmerston.	In progress/ongoing.	Long term – 6-10 years.	Strategic pursuit Business and industry attraction and retention.	To inform future planning and strategy development.	Collaborate with NTG and industry leaders to undertake market research and develop strategic approaches that support industry outcomes in Palmerston.	Informed and strategic approach to targeting industry and economic development.	Moderate – high	Industry attraction.	Given the strong similarities between action items 27 and 28, both are focused on understanding current business and industry needs and identifying future market and strategic opportunities to attract, grow and retain businesses in Palmerston, it is recommended they be consolidated. In its third year delivering the Palmerston Business Futures Forum, City of Palmerston are approaching the 2026 Forum with targeted industry-specific leaders and supply chain vendors to provide input into understanding future markets and strategic opportunities for Palmerston businesses and industry.
29	Incentivise research and development and innovation activities in the City of Palmerston.	Not yet started.	Long term - 6-10 years.	Foster business development and innovation.	Encourage research and innovation commercialisation.	Develop targeted grants for businesses to undertake research and development activities in Palmerston, partner with NTG and Commonwealth (e.g. Defence) to increase the pool of funding.	Increased quantity of innovative business activities in Palmerston. Development of a culture of innovation among businesses in Palmerston.	Moderate.	Industry attraction.	City of Palmerston are in planning stages exploring partnership opportunities with NT Government's Innovation Territory. This action remains a focus for this year.
30	Complete an audit of Palmerston's tourism offerings and experiences and explore opportunities to grow tourism offerings that align to visitor market trends in Darwin and Litchfield.	In progress.	Long term - 6-10 years.	Strategic pursuit.	To explore and test future tourism industry opportunities in Palmerston.	Collaborate with NTG, tourism operators and industry leaders in tourism to undertake market research and develop strategic approaches that support industry outcomes in Palmerston.	Informed and strategic approach to targeting tourism industry development.	Moderate.	Industry attraction.	City of Palmerston are in planning stages exploring partnership opportunities with NT Government's Department of Tourism and Hospitality, and Tourism Top End. This action remains a focus for this year.

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PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
31	Engage with creative organisations in the NT to understand needs and opportunities to attract creative businesses to Palmerston.	In progress/ ongoing.	Long-term – 6-10 years.	Strategic pursuit.	To explore and test future industry opportunities in Palmerston.	Collaborate with NTG, organisations and industry leaders in the creative industry leaders to undertake market research and develop strategic approaches that support industry outcomes in Palmerston.	Informed and strategic approach to targeting creative industry development.	Low – moderate.	Industry attraction.	City of Palmerston continue to deliver and partner with the creative sector on projects such as, the Darwin Symphony Orchestra, Darwin Festival in Palmerston, Darwin International Film Festival in Palmerston, and exploring future partnerships with Darwin Fringe Festival. On 10 February 2026, Council co-facilitated with Arts NT on a Creative Arts Funding information session to deliver best practice methods for arts initiatives provided by NT Government.

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PALMERSTON LOCAL ECONOMIC PLAN (PLEP)

REFRESHED PLAN 2026



PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
1	Maintain an advisory committee comprised of Council, NT Government, Local business and Community members to provide local business insight into economic development.	Completed.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Grow the local economy	To ensure the response is representative of the local needs and attracts local business support to grow the local economy.	Partner with the Northern Territory Government (NTG) and seek expressions of interest in the community for local business and community members to join.	Local buy-in and co-design of solutions.	High.	Business support.	It is recommended to remove reference to COVID-19. The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee was originally established on 15 March 2022 in response to COVID-19 and has since evolved to provide ongoing advice to Council and local businesses on broader economic development matters.
2	Host a round table meeting of industry leaders in agribusiness, education and training, energy and minerals, Defence, health and logistics to discuss business needs, priorities and immediate actions to be delivering in Palmerston to support industry development.	Completed/ ongoing annually.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention.	To identify opportunities to immediately attract businesses and industry, and action needed to attract businesses and industry in the future.	Partner with industry leaders to engage with businesses at a round table meeting. Compile list of key stakeholders.	Establishment of data to inform future actions.	High.	Industry attraction.	The Palmerston Business Forum (Forum) has been an annual event since November 2024, with the 2026 Forum scheduled for 22 October. This year's event will be focused heavily on having an industry focus to best understand how Council can better support business and industry.

PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
3	Develop a suite of communications and marketing materials to showcase Palmerston and promote a unique selling proposition for residents.	Completed/ ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Population attraction and retention.	To effectively communicate benefits and opportunities of Palmerston and engage with target population segments.	Leverage the City's communications and engagement teams to develop communications materials.	Development of a suite of tools to effectively facilitate marketing and engagement activities.	Medium.	Industry attraction.	The refreshed Invest Palmerston website was launched in April 2026. The updated website now provides additional tools and information to support business planning, access to services, and drives increased local engagement. Invest Palmerston and the Palmerston Business Newsletter gives businesses quick, practical updates on what matters in running a business. The newsletter provides information on programs, grants, workshops, and opportunities from Council and partners across the local business ecosystem.
4	Seek expressions of interest from ICT, Creative and Tourism industry representatives, and businesses to engage with the City of Palmerston to research strategic opportunities for industry development in Palmerston.	In progress.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Future growth exploration.	To better understand opportunities and potential of anticipated future growth industries in Palmerston.	Work with stakeholders to distribute expression of interest materials and complete due diligence on responses.	Establishment of data to inform future actions.	High.	Industry attraction.	Council continues to maintain regular contact with creative practitioners and industry leaders. Partnerships are in place with key festivals and organisations, including the Darwin Symphony Orchestra, Darwin Festival, and Darwin International Film Festival. Regular meetings are hosted with Top End Tourism and Tourism and Events NT to discuss upcoming opportunities and potential collaborations. Future collaborative opportunities with Music NT are currently being explored, with a focus on increasing live music programming within Palmerston. These activities will continue on an ongoing basis.

PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
5	Support and promote commercial rental offerings in the City of Palmerston.	In progress.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention. Foster business development and innovation.	Attract and support retail in Palmerston CBD.	Promote affordable rental opportunities through Invest Palmerston.	Decrease in commercial vacancy in the City. Enhanced retail opportunities for residents and businesses.	High.	Business support.	City of Palmerston also provides affordable rental opportunities through structured rental agreements. Council continues to connect affordable rental opportunities through promoting new real estate offering via the Palmerston business newsletter and Invest Palmerston website.
6	In partnership with industry undertake a survey of businesses in Palmerston to confirm challenges, strengths and priority business support services to inform a 12-month plan for business support. Ensure adequate representation from sole operators, who make up over half of businesses in Palmerston.	Completed/ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Foster business development and innovation.	To identify priorities and needs for businesses.	Partner with industry leaders to deliver a survey of businesses.	Establishment of data to inform future actions.	Moderate – high.	Business support.	The business survey was conducted on 12 March 2024 by Action Market Research and key findings informed the next phase of economic development activities, including the delivery of the annual Palmerston Business Futures Forum and ongoing business capability development activities, e.g. AI-specific workshops, business information sessions.

PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
7	Lobby for capital investment programs planned for the City of Palmerston.	In progress.	Long-term – 6-10 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention.	Stimulate construction and associated economic activity in the City of Palmerston.	Develop and prioritise a portfolio of projects, working collaboratively with private stakeholders and all levels of government to drive successful planning and delivery.	Economic expenditure in the Municipality during a period of slowing economic activity.	Moderate – high.	Business support.	Recommended to change timeline and reword to lobby for capital investment programs. This action falls outside of Council's scope to bring forward capital investment, as major capital projects are dependent on external funding and require long lead times for planning and delivery. Council continues to focus on capital investment at the Zuccoli Community Hub, with the completion of Stage 2 of the pump track that opened on 4 March 2026. Stage 3 of the community buildings is currently open for community consultation. Other future investment programs planned for Council include community consultation for Marlow Lagoon. Pending funding announcements from the Federal Government Budget, the Driver Community Centre project is ready for delivery, with designs completed and permits obtained.
8	Develop an awareness campaign of business and industry opportunities and benefits in the City of Palmerston.	Ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention. Foster business development and innovation.	Attract business and industry to Palmerston.	Work collaboratively with industry to undertake market research, design and disseminate targeted marketing.	Increased number of businesses engaging with Palmerston. Data insights into target industry sectors.	Moderate – high.	Industry attraction.	An expression of interest process will be undertaken in the 2026-27 financial year to develop a marketing campaign. This action addresses several priorities for business support identified in the business survey, including the promotion of City of Palmerston and its benefits as a place to live and operate a business from.

PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
9	Invest in tree planting, verge maintenance and further development of green corridors in Palmerston.	Ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Beautification and maintenance of Palmerston green spaces to retain and attract residents.	Continue to implement Council's tree and green space programs.	Increased greening of City of Palmerston.	Moderate – high.	Place making.	Revegetation programs are occurring for two urban bushland areas in Zuccoli and Gunn. Works will be completed by end of 2025/26 financial year (FY). Further tree planting will be undertaken in the 2026/27 FY with approximately 40 trees to be planted across the CBD area (Goyder Square, Francis Dr, Rolyat St and Maluka Dr). Council continues to undertake daily/weekly maintenance programs across its 240ha of open space. Council are continuing discussions with the Crown Land Estate regarding ownership transfer of the Mitchell Creek catchment area. The Mitchell Creek Concept Plan was adopted by Council and can be implemented subject to the land transfer and budget.
10	In partnership with NTG, complete an audit of regulations in the City of Palmerston that impact business development and remove unnecessary regulation.	Not yet started.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention. Foster business development and innovation.	Attract business and industry to Palmerston. Retain businesses in Palmerston. Encourage innovation and commercialisation.	Complete an audit of City regulations and identify opportunities to reduce or eliminate low value regulations in consultation with Council and executive.	Increased efficiency in business delivery. Reduced regulatory burden. Increased number of businesses engaging with Palmerston.	Moderate.	Business support.	Leverage from the outcomes from NT Government's Approvals Fast-Track Taskforce's final report that was delivered in May 2025, Saying 'Yes' to Business. in May 2025. Council officers are currently engaging with NT Government to seek an update/status on one of the report's medium-term reforms (tranche 2: 2 to 3 years) to conduct a major review of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> to identify further reform opportunities to reduce timeframes for local government approvals, with engagement from the local government sector.

PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
11	Develop business networking and advocacy services in Palmerston.	In progress/ ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention. Foster business development and innovation.	Connect businesses and industry in Palmerston to private sector support and commercial opportunities.	Collaborate with industry bodies (PRBA, Chamber of Commerce NT, Major Business Group, MBNT, PRBA, ICN) to develop a calendar of business networking events and activities.	Enhanced collaboration between businesses. Enhanced engagement with industry services by Palmerston businesses.	Moderate.	Business support.	The Business Social will be a free business networking and advocacy event to be held on 18 June 2026. This event will support driving local economic growth by strengthening business connectivity and support mechanisms that are essential to attracting new businesses, supporting existing, and building a more resilient and collaborative local business ecosystem.
12	Deliver business support and capacity building services. Ensure tailored support for different business sizes, including sole operators.	Completed/ ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Foster business development and innovation.	Build the capacity of small and medium businesses in Palmerston.	Work with DTBAR to target territory business advisor services in Palmerston.	Increased update of business support services in Palmerston. Increased capacity of business owners in Palmerston.	Moderate.	Business support.	Between January 2026 to April 2026, a total of five free business workshops were delivered to build business capability and capacity. Sessions included a three-part series in March, Smart Business Systems workshops: CRM Made Easy; Microsoft 365 for Productivity; and Getting Started with MYOB and Xero. In April, two AI-specific workshops were delivered to build a confident, digitally capable Palmerston business community.
13	Assist with hardship support and assistance in Palmerston.	Ongoing	Short term – 1-2 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention and population attraction and retention.	Support businesses and residents of Palmerston during a challenging economic period.	Collaborate with NTG and social service organisations to deliver support locally.	Reduced risk of welfare dependence of businesses and residents in Palmerston.	Moderate.	Education, training and community support.	Council can work with social service organisations to deliver local support by sharing information and connecting residents with the right services at the right time. Council will continue to provide hardship support with rates.

PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
17	Sponsor the delivery of a short digital skills program through partnerships with organisations to support skilling of business owners.	Completed/ongoing.	Short term – 1-2 years.	Foster business development and innovation.	To support businesses to transition to knowledge-based economic opportunities.	Work with organisations and NTG to develop and implement a digital skilling program targeting Palmerston businesses.	Upskilling of the Palmerston labour force.	Low.	Education, training and community support.	Suggested to remove this action item. It is recommended that references to COVID-19 is removed as it was originally designed for and is no longer relevant. It is also recommended to remove reference of the provider to prevent limiting outcomes of this action item. It is noted that Council has an ongoing commitment to continue focusing on skills development for local businesses. Delivered in partnership with the Business Enterprise Centre NT's Smart Business Systems workshops in March, under funding received from NT Government's Flexible Skills and Training Response Program. Council has an ongoing commitment to continue focusing on skills development for local businesses.
18	Determine where unincorporated land could be allocated to City of Palmerston.	Completed.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention.	To gain land to allow light industry and other industry to expand and develop support industries for surrounding areas.	Identify areas to increase land availability for Palmerston and understand where unincorporated land can be allocated to the City of Palmerston.	Fewer barriers to businesses expanding More land space for new businesses to move to Palmerston and existing businesses to expand.	High.	Master planning.	Since 2022, the incorporation of Wishart Business Precinct, Tivendale and Elrundie into Palmerston's municipal boundary has expanded the city's footprint and opened new opportunities for investment and development. The decision for management of Northcrest is currently pending. An update will be provided to Council once the decision has been announced.

PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
19	Develop and implement a campaign to attract Defence families to Palmerston.	Ongoing.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Enhance labour force participation, and high educational attainment outcomes.	Collaborate with Department of Defence to develop a campaign to attract and support Defence families in Palmerston.	Increased population and associate growth outcomes.	High.	Population attraction.	Welcome to the Top End is an annual event run by Defence Member Family Support. Council attends the expo as a stallholder to promote Palmerston as a vibrant place to live and work and inform attendees on the services and events that are offered throughout the municipality.
20	Develop infrastructure and services that enable and encourage precinct development in Palmerston's commercial zones.	Ongoing.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention, foster business development and innovation.	Attract industry and businesses to Palmerston.	Assess commercial zones and document infrastructure capabilities to identify opportunities to enhance precinct attraction and function (e.g. NBN, services, retail). Establish an infrastructure and zoning plan with NTG to activate precincts	Increase in businesses locating in Palmerston. Increased collaboration and innovation outcomes.	High.	Master planning.	The Palmerston CBD is the only identified commercial zone and there are no future plans at the stage to develop infrastructure and services for this area. Currently the new lease for the Library Café, Kopi Stop, is due to open their doors mid-2026. There may be future opportunities under the Zuccoli Community Hub and Marlow Lagoon masterplan development.
21	Implement a migrant attraction campaign for the City of Palmerston.	Not yet started.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Enhance labour force participation, and high educational attainment outcomes.	Collaborate with stakeholders to leverage and support the NT population strategy and activities relating to migrant attraction.	Increased population and associate growth outcomes.	Moderate.	Population attraction.	It's noted that Palmerston has a population of 43,193, of which 22.1% were born overseas. Council continues to recognise and welcome our large number of migrants through our Citizenship ceremonies throughout the year. In this FY, we are expected to welcome 283 conferees through our Citizenship ceremonies. <i>Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2021 data.</i>
22	Deliver migrant support services in the City of Palmerston.	Not yet started.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Support population management and retention.	Collaborate with social services organisations to deliver migrant support services in Palmerston.	Increased likelihood of population growth and retention.	Moderate.	Education, training and community support.	Council officers are in planning stage to work with NT Government agencies to explore how existing migrant support services can be adapted and delivered in Palmerston, with planning underway to identify practical opportunities for collaboration and local implementation.

PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
23	Invest in the enhancement or development of sporting and recreational infrastructure in Palmerston.	In progress/ ongoing.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Support population management and retention.	Map and prioritise sport and recreational infrastructure developments in Palmerston and collaborate with NTG and Commonwealth for investment in priority projects.	Increased likelihood of population growth and retention.	Moderate.	Industry attraction.	Council continues to invest in high-quality sporting and recreational infrastructure across the municipality. At the Zuccoli Community Hub, Stage 1 works – including the dog park and public toilet – are complete, while Stage 2 recreation elements continue to progress, with the pump track finished, the walking trail and BBQ/seating areas partially complete, and design and earthworks finalised for the skate park and new exercise area, including the outdoor gym and multi-sport court. This complements ongoing upgrades to playgrounds and parks, including enhancements to the ninja track and other family-friendly spaces. Over the last financial year, the following projects have been delivered: - Joan Fejo playground and exercise equipment renewals - \$313,000 - President Park new equipment (all abilities swing) install - \$112,000 - President Park exercise equipment upgrade - \$80,000 - Hobart Park exceloo, seating and shade structure, and tree installation - \$360,000 - Playground maintenance - \$39,000. Council also continues to support local sporting clubs through grant and partnership programs that strengthen community participation and facility standards. At SWELL, new shade covers have been installed over the basketball court, and free entry continues to ensure the centre remains accessible and well-used by the community.

PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
24	Invest in infrastructure that enhances public safety in Palmerston	In progress.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Support population management and retention.	Map crime and safety issues in Palmerston and investigate infrastructure solutions to alleviate causal factors.	Increased likelihood of population growth and retention.	Moderate.	Place making.	Under the Dark Spots program, Council provides new and upgraded public lighting to improve safety and amenity for residents. In 2025-26: - lighting has been updated in Kilgour Lane - lighting upgrade in Fiveash Lane car park will commence in May - materials have been ordered for Sanctuary Lakes and Rosebery Park upgrades projects which will be completed mid-year - materials have been ordered for the first stage of Palmerston Circuit lighting upgrade which is the first part of a multi-year project.
25	Continue to advocate for investment in services that enhance public safety in Palmerston.	In progress/ ongoing.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Support population management and retention.	Map crime and safety issues in Palmerston and investigate police and other community service solutions (community night patrol) to alleviate causal factors.	Increased likelihood of population growth and retention.	Moderate.	Place making.	Council will continue to work with NT Government and major stakeholders to address crime and safety issues in Palmerston, including regular public controller meetings and working collaboratively with police around the safety of Palmerston & Rural Markets.

PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
26	Invest in the revitalisation and development of new youth facilities in the City of Palmerston.	Not yet started.	Medium term - 3-5 years.	Population attraction and retention.	Support population management and retention.	Map and prioritise youth facility revitalisation in Palmerston and collaborate with all levels of government and private sector stakeholders for investment in priority projects.	Increased likelihood of population growth and retention.	Low.	Place making.	Council will continue to work with the NT Government's Office of Youth Affairs to promote youth services and identify opportunities for engagement and services. The Palmerston Youth Festival is in its seventh year, with the 2025 festival attracting 9,995 attendees across the week-long celebration. City of Palmerston events like the Palmerston Youth Festival continue to deliver a dynamic and engaging program for the youth of Palmerston. City of Palmerston facilities and services, such as the ninja park, pump track, and SWELL support population attraction and retention. The Palmerston Child and Youth Network bring together key service providers to strengthen coordination and improve outcomes for children and young people across Palmerston and the rural area. Through this collaborative network, members share insights, align services and promote programs that support the wellbeing, safety and development of local young people. Other youth activities that are currently facilitated or supported by City of Palmerston are: - Geeksquad - Code Club - Gadgets and Games - Lego Club - youth drop-in sports - Level Up Gaming - Corrugated Iron Youth Theatre.

PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
27	Engage with industry and government leaders to understand current needs and understand future market and strategic opportunities for attracting and retaining industry and businesses in Palmerston.	In progress/ ongoing.	Long term - 6-10 years.	Business and industry attraction and retention. Strategic pursuit Business and industry attraction and retention.	To enable targeting and tailoring of business development and retention activities. To inform future planning and strategy development.	Collaborate with government and industry leaders (PRBA, Chamber of Commerce NT, Major Business Group, MBNT, PRBA, ICN) to research and analyse the needs of businesses and how Palmerston can meet identified needs. Undertake market research and develop strategic approaches that support industry outcomes in Palmerston.	Database detail industry needs, and informed approach to targeting businesses. Informed and strategic approach to targeting industry and economic development.	High.	Industry attraction.	It's recommended that Action No. 27 and 28 are merged into one action. Given the strong similarities between these action items, both focused on understanding current business and industry needs and identifying future market and strategic opportunities to attract, grow and retain businesses in Palmerston, it is recommended they be consolidated. City of Palmerston is in its third year delivering the Palmerston Business Futures Forum. The Forum is an interactive event designed to help future-proof local business and industry success, explore practical ways to strengthen the local business community, and drive sustainable growth and resilience in the Palmerston municipality. City of Palmerston are approaching the 2026 Forum with targeted industry-specific leaders and supply chain vendors to provide input into understanding future markets and strategic opportunities for Palmerston businesses and industry.
29	Incentivise research and development and innovation activities in the City of Palmerston.	Not yet started.	Long term - 6-10 years.	Foster business development and innovation.	Encourage research and innovation commercialisation.	Develop targeted grants for businesses to undertake research and development activities in Palmerston, partner with NTG and Commonwealth (e.g. Defence) to increase the pool of funding.	Increased quantity of innovative business activities in Palmerston. Development of a culture of innovation among businesses in Palmerston.	Moderate.	Industry attraction.	City of Palmerston are in planning stages exploring partnership opportunities with NT Government's Innovation Territory. This action remains a focus for this year.

PLEP NO.	ACTION	STATUS	INITIAL TIMEFRAME	WHAT	WHY	HOW	BENEFITS	PRIORITY	CATEGORY	NOTES
30	Complete an audit of Palmerston's tourism offerings and experiences and explore opportunities to grow tourism offerings that align to visitor market trends in Darwin and Litchfield.	In progress.	Long term - 6-10 years.	Strategic pursuit.	To explore and test future tourism industry opportunities in Palmerston.	Collaborate with NTG, tourism operators and industry leaders in tourism to undertake market research and develop strategic approaches that support industry outcomes in Palmerston.	Informed and strategic approach to targeting tourism industry development.	Moderate.	Industry attraction.	City of Palmerston are in planning stages exploring partnership opportunities with NT Government's Department of Tourism and Hospitality, and Tourism Top End. This action remains a focus for this year.
31	Engage with creative organisations in the NT to understand needs and opportunities to attract creative businesses to Palmerston.	In progress/ ongoing.	Long-term - 6-10 years.	Strategic pursuit.	To explore and test future industry opportunities in Palmerston.	Collaborate with NTG, organisations and industry leaders in the creative industry leaders to undertake market research and develop strategic approaches that support industry outcomes in Palmerston.	Informed and strategic approach to targeting creative industry development.	Low – moderate.	Industry attraction.	City of Palmerston continue to deliver and partner with the creative sector on projects such as, the Darwin Symphony Orchestra, Darwin Festival in Palmerston, Darwin International Film Festival in Palmerston, and exploring future partnerships with Darwin Fringe Festival. On 10 February 2026, Council co-facilitated with Arts NT on a Creative Arts Funding information session to deliver best practice methods for arts initiatives provided by NT Government.

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.1.9
Report Title:	Adoption of the Animal Management Plan
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 2026
Author:	Regulatory Services Manager, Danny Hughes
Approver:	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

Community plan

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

Purpose

This Report presents the outcomes of the community consultation undertaken for the draft Animal Management Plan 2026–2030 and seeks Council to receive and note the consultation findings prior and adopt the final plan.

Key messages

- Community consultation was undertaken between 17 June and 6 July 2026.
- A targeted consultation approach was adopted, recognising the extensive consultation previously undertaken during development of the City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024.
- Four submissions were received, with overall support expressed for the Draft Animal Management Plan.
- Feedback has been considered in the preparation of the final Animal Management Plan 2026–2030.

Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Adoption of the Animal Management Plan be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the City of Palmerston Animal Management Plan 2026-2030 at **Attachment 12.1.9.1.**

Background

Council endorsed the Draft Animal Management Plan 2026–2030 for public consultation following development of the strategic document to guide Council's animal management services over the next four years.

The Draft Plan builds upon the regulatory framework established through the City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024 and provides the strategic direction for animal management, community education, responsible pet ownership and partnerships within the municipality.

Given the significant community engagement undertaken during the review and adoption of the Animal Management By-Laws 2024, Council adopted a targeted consultation approach focusing specifically on the strategic priorities contained within the Draft Animal Management Plan.

At the 1st Ordinary Council Meeting of May 2026 Council made the following decision:

12.1.2 Animal Management Plan Review Consultation

THAT the matter lie on the table pending feedback from Council to be incorporated in the Draft Animal Management Plan.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0364 - 5/05/2026

Discussion

Community consultation was undertaken from 17 June to 6 July 2026. The consultation program included:

- A dedicated consultation webpage containing the Draft Animal Management Plan and online feedback form.
- Direct correspondence to local veterinary clinics.
- Direct correspondence to animal welfare organisations and other key stakeholders.
- Promotion through City of Palmerston social media channels directing the community to the consultation webpage.

The Draft Animal Management Plan was presented to the Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee (CSWAC) on both on 24 March 2026 and 23 June 2026 as part of the consultation and review process.

The first presentation sought feedback from the Committee on the strategic direction and content of the Draft Plan prior to community consultation. The draft inclusive of suggested changes from the Committee was presented to Council for approval prior to broader community consultation.



The second presentation provided the Committee with an update on the outcomes of the community consultation, including the feedback received and key themes identified, and provided an opportunity for further discussion and feedback.

As a result of the consultation, 4 submissions were received comprising of 3 Palmerston pet owners, and one representative from an animal welfare organisation.

Of the submissions received, 2 respondents strongly supported the Draft Plan, 1 respondent support the Draft Plan, and one respondent remained neutral. No respondents opposed the Draft Plan.

Feedback received reinforced the strategic direction of the plan and highlighted several common themes. These were the following:

- Continued emphasis on responsible pet ownership.
- Increased education regarding responsible pet ownership and cat management.
- Stronger compliance activities where appropriate.
- Continued investment in animal welfare initiatives.

A submission was also received from Evie's Bark, which supported the Draft Plan and recommended additional recognition of the commercial pet care sector. Recommendations included increased education regarding boarding standards, stronger collaboration with industry stakeholders and advocacy for a Northern Territory registration or licensing framework for commercial pet care providers.

The consultation outcomes demonstrate broad stakeholder support for the strategic direction of the Draft Animal Management Plan. Feedback received through the community consultation process and engagement with the Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee has been reviewed and considered in the preparation of the final Plan for Council's consideration. The feedback was not considered to impact the content or intent of the Plan and, accordingly, no amendments were considered necessary.

Consultation and marketing

Community consultation was undertaken between 17 June and 6 July 2026 using a targeted engagement approach.

The consultation included:

- A dedicated consultation webpage.
- Direct engagement with veterinary clinics.
- Direct engagement with animal welfare organisations and key stakeholders.
- Promotion via City of Palmerston social media platforms.
- Presentation of the Draft Animal Management Plan to the Community Safety and Wellness Advisory Committee (CSWAC) on 24 March 2026 and 23 June 2026.



The targeted consultation recognised the extensive consultation previously undertaken during development of the City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024 and focused on the strategic priorities of the Draft Animal Management Plan.

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

- Marketing and Communications Manager

Policy implications

The report has no direct policy implications.

Budget and resource implications

There are no budget or resource implications relating to this Report. Implementation of the plan will occur within existing operational budgets, subject to future Council budget considerations.

Risk, legal and legislative implications

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

6. Governance – Demonstrating transparent decision-making through community consultation and stakeholder engagement.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

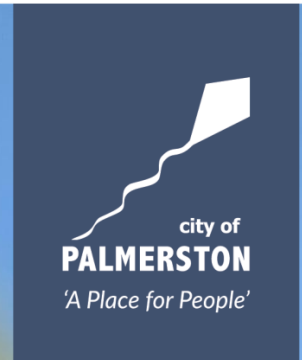
- Animal Management Plan 2026-2030
- City of Palmerston Community Plan
- City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

1. Animal Management Plan 2026 2030 Council [**12.1.9.1** - 15 pages]



CITY OF PALMERSTON ANIMAL
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2026 - 2030

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	1
INTRODUCTION.....	2
OUR PRIORITIES	3
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	4
Council	4
Pet Owners & Community	4
Animal welfare.....	4
BUILDING BLOCKS.....	5
City of Palmerston Animal Management By-Laws.....	5
City of Palmerston Animal Management Policy.....	5
PRIORITY ONE - RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP.....	6
Strategies	6
Actions	6
Measures of Success	7
Timeframe	7
PRIORITY TWO - EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT	8
Measures of Success	9
Timeframe	9
PRIORITY THREE - COMMITMENT AND CAPABILITY.....	10
Strategies	10
Actions	10
Measures of Success	11
Timeframe	11
PRIORITY FOUR - ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS	12
Strategies	12
Actions	12
Measures of Success	12
Timeframe	13

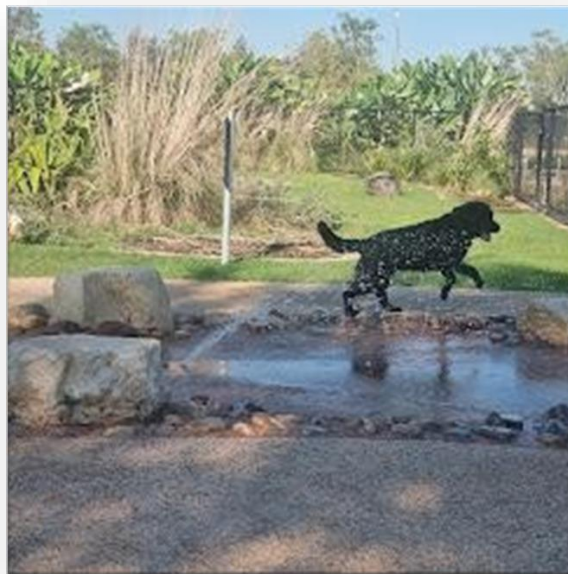
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

City of Palmerston acknowledges the Larrakia People as the traditional custodians of the Palmerston Region. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future leaders and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

INTRODUCTION

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

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



City of Palmerston Animal Management Plan 2026–2030 provides a clear, strategic framework to guide the delivery of animal management services over the next four years. Building on the introduction of the City of Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 2024, the Plan outlines Council's commitment to responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, and community safety through education, engagement, compliance, and strong partnerships. The Plan strongly aligns with the outcome areas of Family and Community, A Future Focus and Governance from the City of Palmerston Community Plan. It reflects community expectations, aligns with relevant legislation and Council priorities, and sets out practical actions to ensure people and pets can live safely and harmoniously in a growing and diverse municipality.

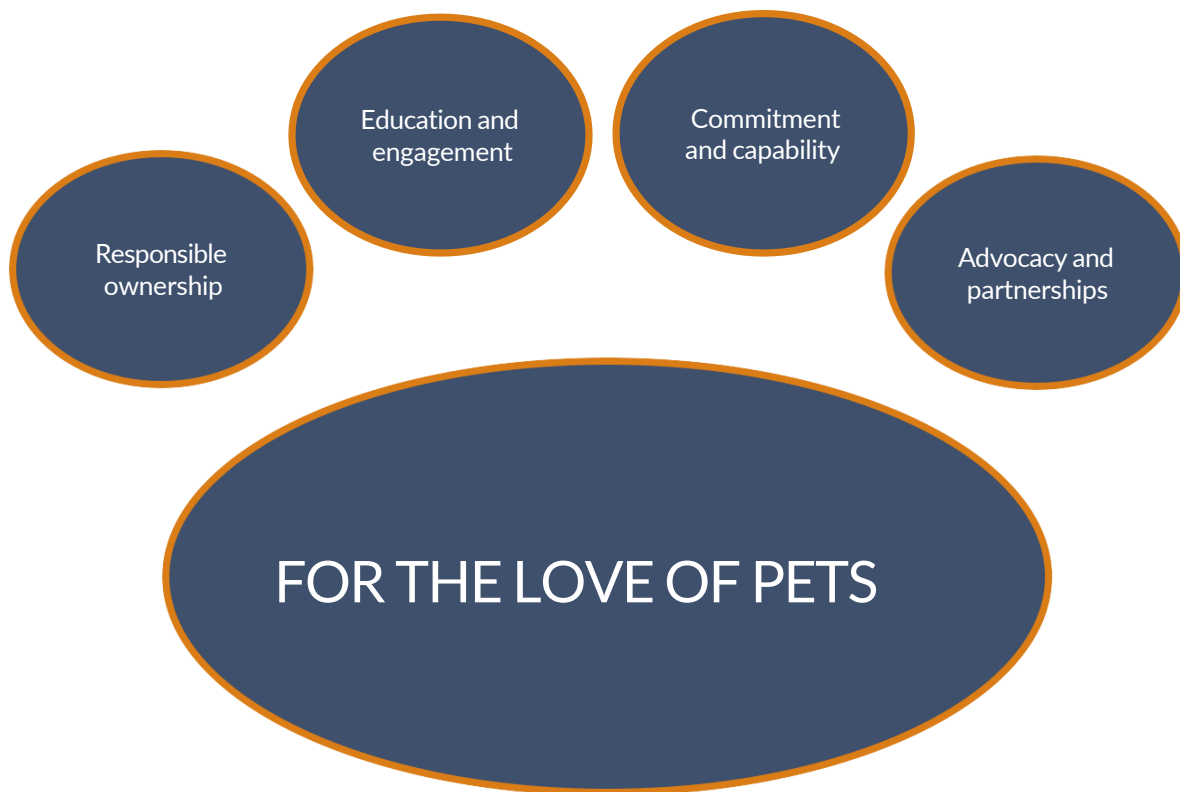
In 2021, City of Palmerston began the process of updating its Animal Management By-Laws in the effort to improve animal management, align with more contemporary regulations, and ensure a safe community for both pet owners and non-pet owners.

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

The Animal Management Plan provides the framework for supporting responsible pet ownership, improving compliance, and building a safe, harmonious community.

OUR PRIORITIES

“For the Love of Pets” is the core focus for our activities in animal management and the priorities focus on creating a safe, healthy, and connected community through responsible pet ownership, education and engagement, commitment and capability, and advocacy and partnerships. By promoting responsible ownership, Council encourages pet owners to meet their obligations and provide proper care for their animals.



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Council

Council provides high-quality services in response to resident requests, investigations, and complaints.

- Develop and enforce local laws for animal management
- Ensure pet registration, identification, and compliance requirements are met
- Respond to complaints (e.g. barking, roaming animals, attacks)
- Investigate and manage nuisance or dangerous animals
- Promote community safety and reduce animal safety risks to residents
- Provide education on responsible pet ownership
- Manage animal control services (impounding, lost and found, rehoming)
- Maintain and plan pet-friendly public spaces (e.g. dog parks, off-leash areas)
- Work with stakeholders and the community to improve outcomes in line with this Plan

Pet Owners & Community

Every pet owner has a responsibility to care for their animals in a way that protects both the animal's wellbeing and the broader community. This includes taking reasonable steps to prevent any negative impacts that may arise from neglect or poor management.

Responsible pet ownership means providing adequate nutrition, safe and comfortable shelter, regular exercise, and meaningful interaction. These elements are essential to supporting the physical health and mental wellbeing of animals, ensuring they live happy, healthy, and well-adjusted lives.

It is important that the community takes the opportunity to engage with Council Rangers and build awareness of responsible ownership. Council has developed a range of animal management-related education resources to assist pet owners which can all be found on our [website](#).

Community members play an important role in supporting animal welfare by reporting concerns when they arise. If an animal appears neglected, mistreated, or at risk, residents are encouraged to notify Animal Welfare Branch so the situation can be assessed and addressed.

Animal welfare

All animals in the Northern Territory (NT) are entitled to a standard level of care for their welfare under the [Animal Protection and Related Legislation Amendment Act 2025](#).

If you're in charge of any animal – wild, farmed or a family pet, you must make sure they:

- have the right kind of food, water and living conditions
- get proper treatment if they're sick or injured
- are allowed to exercise and are handled appropriately
- will not be harmed by any confinement or restraint
- are worked, ridden or used only in ways that are appropriate and not in an organised animal fight
- are not abandoned

BUILDING BLOCKS

City of Palmerston Animal Management By-Laws



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

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

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

City of Palmerston Animal Management Policy



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

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

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

City of Palmerston Community Plan



The Animal Management Plan aligns to the following Community Plan objectives:

- Objective 1.2: The wellbeing of our community is a focus for all of our work
- Objective 4.1: We support and foster innovation
- Objective 6.1: Ensure we have a leading governance model
- Objective 6.3: Healthy working partnerships

PRIORITY ONE - RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

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

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

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

Animal Care	Provide appropriate nutrition, shelter, exercise, and engagement to enhance the physical and mental well-being
Registration	Ensure your cat or dog is registered
Identification	Ensure your cat or dog is microchipped for prompt identification/reunification
Licencing	Apply for a licence if you have more than two animals of the same species. i.e. 2 dogs or 2 cats at your property
Compliance	Walk dogs on a lead unless in off-leash areas Contain dogs within your property/garden Ensure cats are kept indoors or in outdoor enclosures Ensure your pet does not bark excessively
Property Identification Code	Livestock and Poultry require a PIC (Property Identification Code)

Strategies

- Educate the community about the Five Freedoms and animal welfare standards.
- Support pet owners to meet Animal Management By-Laws and relevant legislative requirements (licensing, microchipping, PICs).
- Reduce nuisance behaviours caused by pets through education or training, enrichment, and responsible ownership.
- Provide accessible education, facilities, and support services for pet care.
- Encourage proactive reporting of welfare concerns in collaboration with relevant agencies (e.g. RSPCA, Animal Welfare Branch).
- Provide incentives for responsible pet owners.

Actions

- Develop and distribute educational resources on the Five Freedoms and responsible pet care (social media, website content, flyers, fact sheets, council events).

- Deliver community workshops and school programs focused on welfare, training, and enrichment, including ranger-led presentations.
- Implement awareness campaigns on microchipping, licensing, and legislative compliance.
- Operate pop-up stalls in shopping centres to engage directly with the community.
- Attend community events (e.g. Brekkie in the Park) alongside external stakeholders.
- Establish temporary information booths in shopping centres, parks, and libraries for education and resource distribution.
- Incentivise early registration through a prize draw.

Measures of Success

- Annual increase in the number of registered and microchipped pets in Palmerston.
- Annual increase in the number of residents attending education workshops or accessing resources.
- Annual reduction in reported animal incidents (barking, animal attacks, uncontained animals, etc).
- Annual reduction in reported animal welfare issues.
- Community satisfaction ratings.

Timeframe

TIMEFRAME	KEY ACTIONS
2026-28	• Launch social media and digital campaigns • Commence community events and pop- up stalls • Introduce free microchipping days • Begin stakeholder partnerships • Deliver initial seasonal campaigns (heat, storms, fireworks). Expand engagement activities and ranger-led programs; increase frequency of events and campaigns; strengthen partnerships with organisations and local vets; review campaign effectiveness.
	• Continue delivery of established programs • Refine messaging based on data and feedback • Maintain seasonal and compliance campaigns • Increase targeted outreach.
2028-29	• Evaluate program impact • Adjust delivery methods to improve engagement • Maintain strong community and stakeholder involvement.
2030	• Review outcomes and overall effectiveness • Update approach for the next Animal Management Plan cycle • Ensure sustainability of education and engagement initiatives.

PRIORITY TWO - EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

We are committed to engaging with the community in positive, educational settings to build rapport and bridge the gap between community education and enforcement.

While we work toward this, we also want to recognise the members of our community that do the right thing and as such we will be introducing recognition incentives.

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

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

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

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

Education Campaign	Targeted and seasonal education campaigns on responsible animal ownership
Incentives	Recognition for animal owners who do the right thing in the community related to registration, microchipping or no reported incidents or complaints related to their animals

Strategies

- Deliver educational campaigns through a range of marketing channels.
- Introduce incentives to recognise and encourage responsible pet ownership.
- Provide meaningful community engagement opportunities through events and activities.
- Facilitate ranger-led education and engagement initiatives.
- Ensure access to free resources and educational materials to support responsible pet ownership.

Actions

- Deliver social media campaigns, email newsletters, local media engagement, flyers and fact sheets, and maintain up-to-date information on Council's digital platforms.
- Host and attend community events, including pop-up stalls, to engage directly with residents.
- Coordinate ranger-led initiatives such as free microchipping days and community education sessions.
- Collaborate with external stakeholders to promote responsible pet ownership.

- Deliver seasonal campaigns relevant to the Northern Territory, including heat safety during the build-up, fireworks safety around Northern Territory Day (1 July), and wet season storm preparation for pets.

Measures of Success

- Increase in reach and engagement across social media, newsletters, and digital platforms (e.g. views, shares, click-through rates).
- Number of community events, pop-up stalls, and engagement activities delivered annually.
- Number of residents engaged through events, workshops, and ranger-led initiatives.
- Participation rates in free microchipping days and education sessions.
- Number of partnership activities delivered with external stakeholders (e.g. RSPCA, AMRRIC, local vets).
- Annual increase in pet registration and microchipping compliance rates.
- Annual reduction in animal-related complaints and incidents.
- Increase in community awareness and understanding of responsible pet ownership (survey results).
- Distribution numbers of educational resources (flyers, fact sheets, online materials).

Timeframe

TIMEFRAME	KEY ACTIONS
2026-28	Establish baseline data, launch pilot education campaigns, and distribute resources.
	Implement an incentive scheme for early registration.
	Expand workshops and school programs, deliver microchipping and licensing campaigns, and evaluate engagement.
	Continue program delivery, refine campaigns based on data, and strengthen community engagement.
2028-29	Review education outcomes and adjust strategies to improve effectiveness.
2030	Update the strategy for the next Animal Management Plan cycle and ensure long-term sustainability of responsible pet ownership initiatives.

PRIORITY THREE - COMMITMENT AND CAPABILITY

Council demonstrates commitment through delivery of an effective and professional animal management service through skilled staff, strong leadership, sound governance, and continuous improvement.

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

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

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

Strategies

- Strengthen workforce capability through structured training and professional development.
- Ensure adequate resources to meet service demand and community growth.
- Embed continuous improvement practices into service delivery.
- Ensure comprehensive and effective policies and procedures are established and maintained.

Actions

- Develop and implement an annual Ranger training and professional development plan aligned with performance reviews.
- Provide training in legislation, conflict resolution, animal behaviour, investigation techniques, and animal welfare standards.
- Support Rangers to achieve relevant accredited qualifications in Certificate in IV Government Investigations or equivalent.
- Review staffing levels and operational capacity against population growth and service demand.
- Conduct periodic audits of investigations and compliance practices to ensure adherence to legislation, policies, and procedures.
- Analyse customer complaints and feedback to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for continuous improvement.

Measures of Success

- Number of Rangers completing annual professional development and training requirements.
- Annual improvement on average response times to service requests.
- Number of investigations completed within target timeframes.
- Staff retention rates and employee engagement levels.
- Reduction in repeat complaints due to improved service quality and best practice approaches.

Timeframe

TIMEFRAME	KEY ACTIONS
2026-28	Establish baseline performance data, develop training framework, and set service benchmarks; review and update policies and procedures.
	Implement structured professional development programs
2028-29	Continue training delivery, monitor performance metrics, and review workforce capacity against growth trends
	Conduct a comprehensive capability review of the Animal Management Service and assess service delivery effectiveness.
2030	Align workforce planning with future needs and inform the next Animal Management Plan cycle.

PRIORITY FOUR- ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS

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

Partnerships	Established and maintained strong partnerships with animal welfare and management organisations
Desexing and microchipping program	Targeted desexing and microchipping campaigns in the community
Community Satisfaction	Improved community satisfaction with animal management in City of Palmerston

Strategies

- Strengthen animal welfare partnerships and outcomes across the community.
- Improve accountability and transparency in animal management practices.
- Support consistent and clear messaging to the community.
- Enhance coordination during complex or high-risk animal welfare cases.

Actions

- Formalise partnerships through agreements or Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs).
- Collaborate with stakeholders on joint animal welfare initiatives.
- Partner with animal welfare organisations and veterinary clinics to deliver targeted microchipping and desexing programs in low socio-economic areas.
- Promote desexing as a preventative animal welfare measure.

Measures of Success

- Annual reduction in the number impounded animals.
- Annual increased take-up of desexing and microchipping programs.
- Annual increase in the number of lost animals returned to their owners.
- Annual reduction in the number of abandoned animal litters.
- Positive Community Satisfaction Survey Feedback.

Timeframe

TIMEFRAME	KEY ACTIONS
2026-28	Identify priority stakeholders; develop standard agreements/MOUs; commence discussions with key animal welfare organisations; pilot at least one joint initiative (e.g. microchipping or desexing event); develop a joint communications framework.
	Execute agreements/MOUs; establish referral and escalation pathways; deliver coordinated annual welfare campaigns; evaluate participation and outcomes.

TIMEFRAME	KEY ACTIONS
2029/30	Formalise collaboration with neighbouring councils, including City of Darwin and Litchfield Council, to address cross-boundary issues; review partnership effectiveness; expand targeted outreach to high-risk areas; strengthen referral pathways for vulnerable pet owners.
	Review and refine agreements/MOUs; conduct formal partnership reviews and renewals; analyse trends in impoundments, reunifications, and nuisance complaints to inform future planning.

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.2.1
Report Title:	Creative Industries Plan 2023-2027 Annual Update
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 2026
Author:	Acting City Activation Manager, Sophie Walkington
Approver:	General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight

Community plan

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

Purpose

This report seeks to update Council on the Creative Industries Plan 2023 – 2027 implementation.

Key messages

- The Creative Industries Plan 2023–2027 provides the framework for arts, culture and creative industries in Palmerston over a five-year period.
- The Creative Industries Plan sets out Council's commitment to building on the existing strengths and fostering growth of sustainable creative industries in Palmerston.
- Over FY25/26, a range of initiatives have been completed; as seen in **Attachment 12.2.1.1**.

Recommendation

THAT Report entitled Creative Industries Plan 2023-2027 Annual Update be received and noted.

Background

The Creative Industries Plan 2023–2027 provides the framework for arts, culture and creative industries in Palmerston over a five-year period. The Creative Industries Plan sets out Council's commitment to building on the existing strengths and fostering growth of

sustainable creative industries in Palmerston. It outlines the objectives and measures that guide Council's timely decisions on financial and human resource investment in arts, culture and heritage. The Plan also supports broader cultural engagement and enriches community life.

At the 2nd Ordinary Council meeting of 19 August 2025, Council endorsed the Creative Industries Plan 2023-2027 Annual Update reporting on progress made in carrying out actions in the plan during the financial year of 2024/2025.

13.2.4 Creative Industries Plan 2023-2027 Annual Update

THAT Report entitled Creative Industries Plan 2023-2027 Annual Update be received and noted.

CARRIED (6/0) - 10/2018 - 19/08/2025

This Report provides an update on the Creative Industries Plan achievements over the FY25/26 period.

Discussion

The Creative Industries Plan is a strategic document guiding the growth of arts and cultural activities in Palmerston. The Plan outlines specific measures across five (5) focus areas to evaluate progress being:

1. Places and Spaces
2. Progressive and Unique
3. People
4. Partnerships
5. Council as Host, Connector, Partner, Enabler.

As outlined in **Attachment 12.2.1.1**, significant progress has been made over the past 12 months in delivering the Creative Industries Plan, positioning Palmerston as a place where the creative industries can thrive.

Progress Overview of the last 12 months

Places and Spaces

City of Palmerston offers an array of venues and spaces that advocate for the creative industries. The continuation of the free hire initiatives has reduced barriers for community groups and organisations to deliver creative programs. Durack Community Arts Centre is continually utilised as the main accessible creative space for artists, cultural groups, community groups and creative practitioners. This bookable space enables a broad range of arts-based activities including regular visual arts workshops, exhibitions, cultural activities, dance programs and community creative projects.

Throughout the last 12 months, public spaces and neighbourhoods have been continued to be activated with inclusive events that strengthen social ties and foster a sense of belonging for all residents. Key highlights for such unique experiences include the popular Drive-In

Movie at the SWELL carpark, the 10th anniversary of Brekkie in the Park, the opening of the Zuccoli Pump Track, and more than 15 outdoor family-focused park activations.

Council continues to prioritise and invest in infrastructure projects that meet a diverse range of community needs. With funding secured for the Zuccoli Community Hub, the plan includes a 400-person performance space and dedicated community program areas. This project will significantly increase opportunities for local creatives by providing accessible spaces for events, workshops and community activities.



City of Palmerston Events Brekkie in the Park and FlicNics Drive In

Progressive And Unique

City of Palmerston delivered and supported a diverse program of events and community initiatives that celebrated the city's unique cultural identity, strengthened community pride, and encouraged participation across a broad range of cultural and creative groups. Through Council-led events and the Community Funding Program, opportunities were created for residents, artists and community organisations to connect, collaborate and contribute to a vibrant and inclusive community.

Culture Fest was held at Goyder Square in May 2026, bringing community members together through traditional dance, music, cultural storytelling and hands-on workshops such as henna, weaving and marigold garland making. This cultural highlight celebrates Palmerston's unique cultures, traditions and communities that make our city such a vibrant and welcoming place to live.



Culture Fest 2026

People

Council continued to strengthen Palmerston's creative identity through public art, youth-led design opportunities, cultural programming and employment pathways for local creative practitioners. Key achievements over the last 12 months included a local Palmerston student's artwork covering the newly constructed Hobart Park amenities block, a youth-designed artwork for the Palmerston Youth Festival and a community inspired youth library mural. Council has also delivered an array of Creative Collective workshops, more than 80 music and dance performances, 25 arts-based activities, 17 workshops and four public art commissions.

Over the same period, the Reconciliation Action Plan was endorsed, leading to new murals celebrating local First Nations culture, reconciliation and community pride. NAIDOC Week activities further strengthened cultural celebration and participation, through providing opportunities to engage in cultural experiences and performances from a range of exciting artists and leaders from the community.



Cultural activities delivered in 2025/2026

Partnerships

Council has strengthened its cultural and events offering through extended multi-year partnerships with major Territory programs, ensuring residents continue to access high-quality entertainment and community experiences locally. Renewed partnership agreements with the Darwin International Film Festival, Darwin Symphony Orchestra and Darwin Festival were supported to extend the partnership to continue the delivery of free film screenings and festival events in Palmerston. Council is committed to continue to collaborate with Tourism and Events Northern Territory continue to bring major events such as Supercars to our community.

Through the support from the Northern Territory Government, the Palmerston Youth Festival has delivered the sixth festival in 2025 attracted close to 10,000 young people across key events including GeekFest Top End, Pamper Palmy, Sportsfest, Creative Collective, NAIDOC Pool Party and Palmy's Got Talent. This partnership has enabled Council to provide unique and engaging opportunities for young people to develop new skills, explore their interests and experience a wide range of cultural and creative experiences.



Partnerships including Darwin Festival and Darwin Symphony Orchestra

Council as Host, Connector, Partner, Enabler

Throughout the last 12 month period, Council has provided a range of skills development and professional learning opportunities to artists. In partnering with Arts NT, Council delivered an Arts Projects Funding Information Session in February 2026, providing guidance on Northern Territory, Council, Federal and national arts funding opportunities. This session supported artists to better understand available funding pathways and strengthen their capacity to develop and deliver art projects.

In June 2026, a screen-printing workshop at Durack Community Art Centre focused on the design and print of original artworks. The workshop promoted participation and was open to all abilities, artistic backgrounds and skill levels.

Initiatives such as these demonstrate Council's ongoing role as host, connector, partner and enabler fostering opportunities for artist to build professional skills, assess recourses and peruse opportunities in the local creative sector.



Screen-printing Workshop

NEXT STEPS

In continuing delivery of the Creative Industries Plan, the following activities are planned over the upcoming year:

- Explore a partnership with Music NT to develop two music industry development events in Palmerston. With a dual focus of upskilling and supporting early career professionals and strengthening the public music scene within Palmerston.

- Continuing to provide creative skills building workshops across varying visual art forms and media for the Palmerston community, partnering with a range of professional facilitators and artists to run the sessions.
- Developing placemaking projects that speak to the culture and creativity of our Palmerston community, intertwining public art with existing public infrastructure and newly constructed amenities.
- Facilitating workshops on the Community Funding Program to provide awareness and to encourage community lead arts programs and cultural events in Palmerston.
- Continuation of the Community Funding Program to ensure continuation of community lead creative initiatives.

Consultation and Marketing

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

- Senior Leadership Team
- City Activation Officer
- Events Lead
- Library Outreach Officer
- Community Facilities Officer
- Community Connections Officer

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

The Creative Industries Plan is funded through approved, existing operational and capital budgets.

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.

Advancing the initiatives set out in the Creative Industries Plan is essential to support and grow creative communities in Palmerston. Giving precedence to these actions not only encourages artistic expression but also helps build a space where local creatives can flourish. This approach demonstrates City of Palmerston's dedication to supporting the arts and helps protect the Council's public image by showing a clear commitment to investing in the continued growth of the creative sector.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

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



This report aligns to the Creative Industries Plan by discussing the actions, objectives and implementation 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. Creative Industries Plan - 2025 2026 Update [**12.2.1.1** - 7 pages]

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PLAN UPDATE 2025/26

PLACES AND SPACES

Community Plan

Outcome 4 A Future Focus

Outcome 5 Environmental Sustainability

Strategic Cultural Assets	Objective	Measures	Completed Actions over the last 12 months
Palmerston is home to a rich natural environment of green spaces, corridors, parkland, and water features.	Maximise the considerable existing green spaces, parklands, lakes and other natural features of Palmerston as venues for unique and unconventional arts events.	• Completion of database and on-line resource for CoP website which documents the Council facilities available for hire/access to creative industries initiatives. • Increased delivery of art programming in suburbs.	• Brekkie in the Park programming continued throughout 2025/2026, celebrated its 10th Anniversary of connecting residents with outdoor park spaces. • Live at the Lake and FlicNics events continued throughout the 2025/2026 dry seasons, activating green spaces and providing free entertainment for residents, families and visitors at local lakes, lagoons and parks. The program focuses on bringing events to new and emerging locations, including Lake 1, Hobart Park and Hawker Park, ensuring activities are accessible to communities across all Palmerston suburbs while encouraging greater use and enjoyment of public open spaces. • The Pop-up Dining Program continues to bring food, culture and community experiences to Palmerston through a rotating schedule of food vendors trading across the municipality. As of July 2026, 10 vendors are being hosted across 3 locations providing residents and visitors with diverse dining options while activating public spaces throughout Palmerston. • Hooked on Palmerston continued from May 2026, City of Palmerston's recreational catch and release barramundi competition. An initiative designed to encourage residents and visitors to get into fishing at specified lakes and lagoons in Palmerston with regular prizes up for grabs to lucky participants recording catch of the tagged fish. • Goyder Square served as the weekly venue for Live at Lunch, a curated live music and pop-up food vendor series that activated the Palmerston CBD during Thursday lunch periods throughout July 2025. The program recommenced in June 2026 with an expanded format, bringing live entertainment and activation opportunities into the CBD. • Public spaces, including local parks, can be booked for both private and public events. The integration of the new booking platform, SpaceToCo, has streamlined the booking process, making it easier and more efficient for users to access and book Council-managed spaces.

Council has invested in a solid foundation of infrastructure which meets broad community needs.	Build on the foundation of the Durack Community Arts Centre, Gray Hall and Gulwa Recording Studio to plan and establish a dedicated visual and performing artists studio facility.	Development of business case for dedicated arts facility which includes hireable visual art wet studios, flexible performing arts studio spaces and dedicated flexible exhibition space.	• The continuation of the free venue hire initiative has reduced barriers for community groups and organisations to deliver creative programs. • The Durack Community Arts Centre is primarily utilised for creative activities and programs with 727 bookings demonstrating strong engagement from the creative industries and community arts sector. This space is utilised for cooking classes, visual arts classes, weekly art jams, workshops, sewing, zumba and other dance classes. • Palmerston Recreation Centre whilst the majority of the time is booked for wellbeing activities (sports), the space especially the community rooms utilised for dance events, creative functions and any creative endeavour that suits the space. Over a 12-month period, the space was booked 546 times for creative bookings from the 4,358 bookings. • Gray Community Hall attracted 34 bookings related to creative industries including sewing groups, calisthenics, string ensemble music and dance groups. • Gulwa Recording Studio continued to be utilised as Palmerston's only dedicated community recording studio bookings being open to residents at very affordable rates. In early 2026, an audit of the facility was undertaken to assess the space, professional equipment and user experience. The review identified opportunities to improve accessibility and upgrade technology in the control room, with a number of measures now implemented to enhance functionality, increase accessibility and create a user-friendly environment for the workspace that can handle a broader range of workshop possibilities. • Secured funding for the future development of buildings and events spaces at Zuccoli Community Hub to cater to audiences up to 400. This includes community engagement about the spaces, as well as internal workshop participation with consideration to the relevant strategies and plans. • City of Palmerston Library held several art displays in the community exhibition space including the Darwin Community Legal Services 'Disabilities Rights on Show'.
Palmerston features unconventional arts spaces providing unique opportunities for live events, filming and developing new audiences.	Build on the foundation of the dedicated visual and performing artists studio facility to develop a business case and invest in the construction of a 200/500 seat regional performing arts venue.	Development of business case for dedicated 200/500 seat regional performing arts venue.	• In June 2026, the second Drive-In Movie was held at the SWELL carpark. Each year the event quickly reaches capacity, highlighting strong community interest. Offered free of charge, the event provided a unique opportunity for Palmerston residents, families and visiting relatives to enjoy an inclusive outdoor cinema experience. • The Zuccoli Pump Track grand opening event was held in April 2026 attracting approximately 300 people and showcased the NT's newest destination for bike riders, families and outdoor enthusiasts. • Throughout FY25/26, over 15 outdoor events offered families regular pop-up park activations and entertainment in a variety of neighbourhoods throughout the municipality. • Filming locations across Palmerston have been promoted through Screen Territory's online location gallery, helping attract film and television production opportunities to the city. The gallery provides film scouts and producers with access to information on community venues, natural assets and public spaces, showcasing Palmerston as a diverse and accessible filming destination. • The Zuccoli Community Hub aims to deliver an integrated, multi-purpose precinct that meets the open space, recreation and community needs of the rapidly growing Zuccoli community and the broader City of Palmerston. The design of the building and surrounds, currently referred to as stage 3, is underway, and a community engagement process was concluded in early 2026. Council completed the final stages of securing \$13M for construction of the Zuccoli community hall and programs building.

PROGRESSIVE AND UNIQUE

Community Plan Objective

Outcome 3 Cultural Diversity

Outcome 1 Family and Community

Strategic Cultural Assets	Objective	Measures	Completed Actions
Palmerston is different from Darwin, and from other parts of the Northern Territory. There is a palpable appetite to embrace, celebrate and grow the city's unique culture, identity, population, natural and built assets, with progressive brave and authentic voices	Embrace, celebrate and support the distinguishing cultural and creative features of Palmerston as a point of difference and pride.	- Increased awareness and recognition of Palmerston based Art Culture including, Theatre, Geek, Dance, Technology, Arts and Music. - Community engagement to identify emerging creatives and community development to support existing creatives.	- City of Palmerston hosts an array of events that celebrate the unique cultural identity of Palmerston. - Culture Fest was held at Goyder Square in May 2026, showcasing a diverse range of cultural performance groups who shared their heritage through traditional dances, music and cultural storytelling. Community members also had the opportunity to participate in hands-on cultural workshops and activities, including henna, weaving and marigold garland making, fostering cultural exchange, understanding and community connection. - Through the Community Funding Program, a wide range of community events or activities are supported through sponsorships and grant funding, helping to deliver initiatives that strengthen community connections, participation and wellbeing. In FY25/26, \$17,205 was invested into the creative industries through the Community Funding Program to support events and activities include cultural celebrations, coding clubs, gaming and martial arts. - GeekFest Top End continues to be a flagship event of the Palmerston Youth Festival and is recognised as the Northern Territory's largest celebration of geek culture. The event provides opportunities for the public to engage with a wide range of creative industries, with participating clubs and groups consistently reporting increased membership, awareness and community involvement following the festival. - The Geek Squad is a weekly program held at the Library every Thursday, where young people participate in Dungeons & Dragons, sewing lessons, gaming and social activities with their peers. Members also play an active role in community events, including the Palmerston Youth Festival and Halloween celebrations. - Through partnership with Darwin Symphony Orchestra, three school workshops were provided to Palmerston schools delivering educational workshops in 2025.

PEOPLE

Community Plan Objective Outcome

1 Family and Community
3 Cultural Diversity

Strategic Cultural Assets	Objective	Measures	Completed Actions
- Palmerston is a place for people and a community full of creative voices of different ages and cultures. - City of Palmerston Councillor's advocate strongly for creative developments and opportunities and employ staff who understand how creativity can be embedded across all of Council.	Invest in the creative lives of children and young people and their support systems to enable them to become adult audiences, artists and creative contributors to Palmerston cultural life. Maximise access for our community to engage with and participate in a diverse range of arts and creative industries experiences and opportunities. Leverage off the palpable enthusiasm, excitement and energy surrounding the arts and cultural initiatives the Council has invested in to date.	- Annual program of creative arts workshops for the community. - Development of art partnerships with educational organisations. - Artist residencies in community venues. - Maintain regular programming of festival and accessible live events.	- Weekly craft group for adults was held under The Craft Nest program at City of Palmerston Library, these sessions include activities such as cross stitch and diamond art, designed for residents to bring their own materials and participate in a welcoming environment. - All in Activities is a weekly program offering a relaxed, welcoming space for self-paced arts and crafts, with no experience required. Once a month, an external provider runs a guided creative session. - Sunday Afternoon Art Adventures at Palmerston Library was held in 2025 and 2026, a monthly program aimed for adults and held on the last Sunday of each month offering creative painting sessions for people of all skill levels and interests, with all materials provided as part of this free initiative for the community. - A series of free youth recording sessions were delivered at Gulwa Studio, as part of the Library School holidays programs funded by the Northern Territory Government's Youth Vibe Grant attracting a total of 17 young musicians in October 2025 and January 2026. - Art Jam is a free weekly creative gathering at Durack Community Arts Centre where artists of all disciplines can work on projects, collaborate, connect with others, and find inspiration in a welcoming creative space. - A new Hobart Park Amenities block in Johnston received a fresh look as it was installed with original artwork printed and wrapped on the exterior walls. In 2025, City of Palmerston engaged with local schools, inviting students to showcase their artistic talents and put a design submission in. A winning entry by a year 9 student was chosen and features bright colourful designs showcasing large images of native animals local to the area. - Council engaged a young local artist to create the official cover artwork and visual identity for the 2026 Palmerston Youth Festival. - Engaged a local young artist to co-design and deliver a youth mural within the Library, inspired by ideas and feedback gathered from regular library users. - The first Creative Collective event of the Palmerston Youth Festival 2025 gave young people the opportunity to explore their creativity through hands-on workshops including DJing, game development, K-Pop dance, painting, screen printing and stand-up comedy. The event provided a fun and engaging space for young people to learn new skills, build confidence and connect with like-minded peers.
	To provide greater access to professional development and employment opportunities for artists living and working in Palmerston.	- Annual program of artists skills and professional development workshops delivered for artists. - Encourage engagement with Palmerston based artists. - Council Community Benefit Scheme grants process	- Promotion of City of Palmerston's arts funding information session and Screen-Printing workshop was advertised through City of Palmerston social media platforms, through Council's website in the events program listings and on the artist news and opportunities page and through staff networks and cross promotional reach. - City of Palmerston provided casual performance employment opportunities to a range of creative industries facilitators in the 2025 - 2026 period for events including Palmerston Youth Festival, Live at the Lake, Christmas Wonderland, Live at Lunch and Palmerston Youth Festival. Across the events, creative arts & culture initiatives programmed by Council there was over 80 individual music and dance performances, over 25 arts-based activities (not including Library arts and crafts programming), 17 arts-based workshops and 4 public and live art commissioned works painted in Palmerston.

		encourage artist access and engagement.	
	Invest in arts initiatives which raise the profile and increased understanding of First Nations artists living and working in Palmerston.	Partnership with First Nations artists or arts organisations in creative industries endeavour.	- In April 2026, six original designs created by Jason Lee; a Larrakia artist; were incorporated into a unique public art mural as part of the enhancement of Goyder Square. These creative improvements strengthened the visual appeal of the public space, celebrated local Indigenous culture, and fostered a sense of community pride. The mural has also helped deter graffiti and anti-social behaviour by transforming previously uninviting areas into vibrant, attractive, and well maintained community spaces. - A mural completed by William Hewitt in September 2025 on the Palmerston Recreation Centre wall titled Community Connecting was commissioned to mark the release of City of Palmerston's Reconciliation Action Plan and acknowledge the formal beginning of the committed reconciliation journey between local First Nations people and City of Palmerston. - At the 2025 Palmerston Youth Festival NAIDOC Pool Party, the Deadly Designs Competition encouraged creativity and cultural expression by inviting young people to submit NAIDOC-themed artwork for display on a CDC bus. Four winning designs were selected, with community members then invited to help paint the artwork, creating a collaborative celebration of culture, creativity and community pride. - Throughout NAIDOC Week 2025, a variety of free First Nations cultural activities were delivered for the community, including ochre painting, boomerang throwing activity, animal encounters and rock painting and traditional carving workshops.

PARTNERSHIPS

Community Plan Objective

Outcome 3 Cultural Diversity

Outcome 4 A Future Focus

Strategic Cultural Assets	Objective	Measures	Completed Actions over the last 12 months
• Skilled and professional networks are in place, with arts, community organisations and government agencies ready, willing and able to develop partnerships. • Partnerships will maximise inclusion, foster pathways, and create progressive and ground-breaking arts experiences.	Work in partnership with established Northern Territory arts organisations and peak bodies, Top End Councils, Larrakia Nation and Northern Territory and Commonwealth Government agencies to maximise financial resourcing, access to skilled arts professionals and access to opportunities for Palmerston artists and audiences.	• Greater collaboration with professional arts organisations or peak bodies in the production of developmental arts programming, training programs or new creative work. • Partner with local community organisations such as seniors groups, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, to provide access to or actively produce and create new work.	• Following the success of the inaugural Darwin International Film Festival in Palmerston, a further three-year agreement has been secured, ensuring the continued delivery of free film screenings for the Palmerston community. • The partnership with Darwin Festival has been extended for a further three years, ensuring Palmerston residents can continue to enjoy events from the Territory's largest festival within their local community. • Through ongoing collaboration with Tourism and Events Northern Territory, Palmerston will continue to host and support major events such as the Supercars, creating opportunities for residents and attracting visitors to the city. • Through funding from Northern Territory Government, the sixth Palmerston Youth Festival was delivered in 2025 attracting close to 10,000 young people to Palmerston in key events across multiple Council venues and locations including GeekFest Top End, Pamper Palmy, Sportsfest, Creative Collective, NAIDOC Pool Party and Palmy's Got Talent. • Darwin Symphony Orchestra held a special weekend of music designed for all ages and communities showcasing two events including Palmerston Classics and Palmerston Family Proms at the Palmerston Recreation Centre in October 2025. The program will be continued to be delivered until October 2028.

HOST, CONNECTOR, PARTNER, ENABLER

Community Plan Objective Outcome

Outcome 2 Vibrant Economy

Outcome 3 Cultural Diversity

Strategic Cultural Assets	Objective	Measures	Completed Actions over the last 12 months
• Council has the capacity to provide skills and professional development pathways for its artists and audiences while delivering economic, social and cultural development outcomes. • Council does this by partnering with established professional and amateur artists and arts organisations, fostering accessible arts and cultural events reflecting and celebrating the unique character of Palmerston. • Council support economic growth through developing creative opportunities together with Palmerston local businesses increasing employment, investment and growth.	• Council acts as enabler/ facilitator to link existing artists, arts organisations, businesses, and community with Council opportunities and resources. • Council partners with community and arts organisations to provide access to arts and cultural development opportunities for community members often excluded from arts activities. • Ensure that Palmerston residents of all abilities can access and participate in all of Councils creative industries initiatives.	• Develop online information/ resources which details what support is available from Council for artists and arts organisations. • Host regular opportunities for creatives, business and industry experts to network and connect. • Deliver accessible, inclusive and relevant programming for all abilities within our community.	• An Arts Projects Funding Information Session was delivered in partnership with Arts NT in February 2026, attracting 15 participants from the local creative community. The session provided guidance on eligibility and funding opportunities through the Northern Territory Government's Arts and Culture Grants Program, while Council also presented information on its Community Funding Program and other Territory and Federal funding opportunities, including Creative Australia and Regional Arts Fund rounds. • A Screen-Printing Workshop was delivered to designing and printing locally made art was held at Durack Community Arts Centre facilitated by two experienced print makers and designers in June 2026 with 20 participants from a diverse range of backgrounds attending. • Delivery of accessible art workshop with HPA participants coordinated by City of Palmerston Library supporting creative participation for people with a disability. • City of Palmerston is committed to ensuring all events, programs and activities are accessible, inclusive and welcoming for all community members. Staff have completed Hidden Disabilities and Dementia training to help create a supportive and understanding environment, enabling people of all abilities and backgrounds to participate confidently in Council initiatives. • City of Palmerston has reviewed and consulted on the Disability and Inclusion Action Plan 2026–2028 to help ensure that all programs, services and events provide welcoming, accessible and inclusive environments for people of all abilities.

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.2.2
Report Title:	Palmerston Youth Festival 2026 - Post Event Update
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 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 to provide Council with a summary of the Palmerston Youth Festival 2026.

Key messages

- 2026 marked the seventh Palmerston Youth Festival and its most successful program to date, attracting a record 10,737 attendees across the seven-day festival.
- The festival expanded its program with two new events, Inflate A'Maze and The Biggest Experiment, alongside refreshed programming for the Deadly NAIDOC Celebration and Palmerston Sports Carnival.
- Geekfest Top End launched the festival in Palmerston CBD, attracting more than 4,200 attendees and reinforcing its position as the Northern Territory's largest and longest running celebration of geek culture.
- Inflate A'Maze made its festival debut, attracting more than 1,800 attendees and quickly becoming one of the week's most popular attractions.
- The Biggest Experiment introduced a dedicated STEM event, engaging young people through hands on science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities while promoting future education and career pathways.
- Creative Collective returned to the festival program, encouraging young people to explore creativity through visual arts, dance, music and design.

- The Deadly NAIDOC Celebration delivered refreshed programming with a stronger focus on live music, celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture during NAIDOC Week.
- Palmerston Sports Carnival encouraged young people to try new sports, build teamwork and confidence and connect with local sporting organisations through free, interactive activities.
- Palmy's Got Talent concluded the festival for a second year in partnership with Palmerston Markets, providing a growing platform for emerging performers and showcasing the exceptional talent of Palmerston's youth.

Recommendation

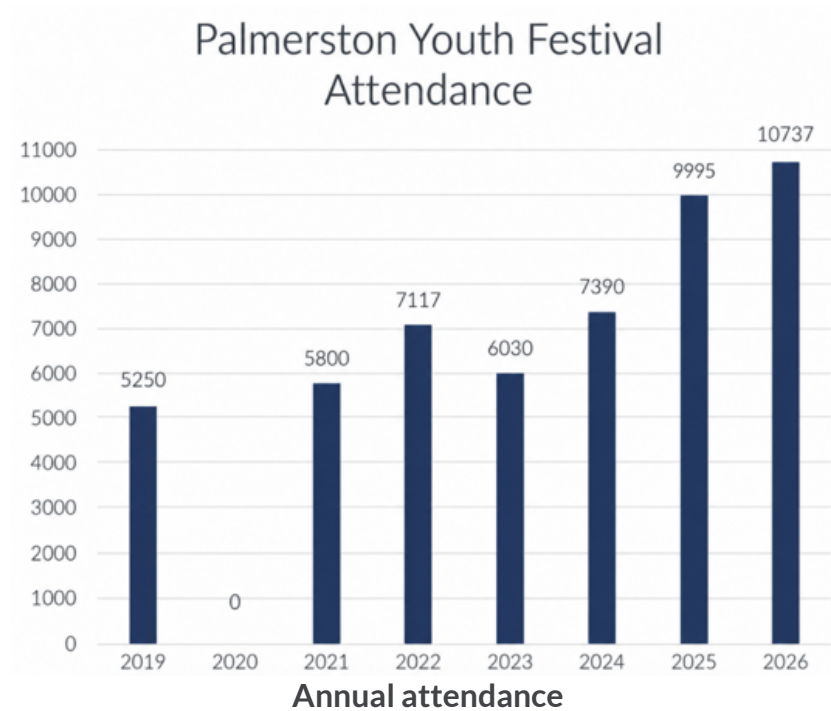
1. THAT Report entitled Palmerston Youth Festival 2026 - Post Event Update be received and noted.
2. THAT Council notes the Mayor has sent a Letter of Appreciation to the Chief Minister and Minister Charls, thanking the Northern Territory Government for its continued support of the 2026 Palmerston Youth Festival and seeking future support for funding.

Background

Established in 2019, the Palmerston Youth Festival has been successfully delivered in partnership with the Northern Territory Government. Over the past seven years, the festival has continued to grow and in 2026 it delivered its most successful event program to date, attracting a record 10,737 attendees throughout the week. The 2026 festival marked the final year of funding under the current agreement.

Each year, the Palmerston Youth Festival delivers two major events and five supporting events across a seven-day program. The 2026 program was designed to be the festival's most dynamic and engaging yet, offering youth a diverse range of fun, interactive and educational experiences spanning across disciplines including STEM, arts, sport, culture, talent development and community connection. New additions to the festival included Inflate A'Maze and The Biggest Experiment, alongside refreshed programming for the Deadly NAIDOC Celebration and the Palmerston Sports Carnival.

This Report provides Council with a summary of the Palmerston Youth Festival 2026.



Discussion

Day 1 – Saturday 4 July, Geekfest Top End, Palmerston Recreation Centre, Library and Goyder Square.

Palmerston Youth Festival kicked off with a bang as the iconic Geekfest Top End opened the celebrations in Palmerston CBD on Saturday 4 July. Over 4,000 attendees enjoyed the largest and longest running geek celebration in the Northern Territory with a variety of new experiences and returning fan favourites.

Goyder Square was buzzing with activity, the main stage kept crowds entertained with Musical Bingo and the popular Cosplay Competition, while the Boulevard transformed into a vibrant aerial and circus precinct, presented by Corrugated Iron. Medieval Land, complete with castles and thrones, welcomed back popular attractions including leathercraft and blacksmith demonstrations. The Kendo Club and Darwin Sword Academy delivered thrilling combat demonstrations, while Kaos Horde showcased authentic medieval armour and weapons. The standout addition this year was camel rides through Goyder Square, giving attendees a unique opportunity to experience Medieval Land from a new perspective.



Camel Rides and Medieval Land Demonstrations

The cosplay competition continues to grow and this year attracted the largest number of competition registrations in the event's history. Attendees showcased an incredible array of handcrafted and purchased costumes, while the new Cosplay Holoverse transformed still images into an immersive AI-powered hologram gallery.



Cosplay Competition & Holoverse AI Photo Transition

Palmerston Recreation Centre became the home of gaming, technology and creative exhibitors, offering something for every interest. Attendees tested their skills at Just Dance in Arcade Alley, created personalised photo keyrings, participated in murder mystery challenges, explored Artist Alley, browsed comics and collectibles and competed against some of the Territory's best players in the IBC Card Game Competition and Super Smash Bros. Ultimate tournaments.

The Game Jam competition was another standout success. Delivered by The Array in the lead up to the festival, the program challenged aspiring game developers to create an original game based on the theme Wet vs Dry. The competition received a record 35 registrations and 10 completed game submissions, with attendees able to play the finalist games throughout the event. From crocodiles and buffalo to monsoons and zombies, the creativity and quality of entries highlighted the growing talent within the local gaming community.



Comic Books and E-Sport Gaming

Beyond the major attractions, attendees enjoyed a wide range of drop-in activities across the festival. A new Palmerston Youth Festival mural came to life through live painting along the Boulevard, while giant outdoor games such as Connect 4, Guess Who and Jenga created relaxed social spaces. The Palmerston Library hosted laser tag and a diverse range of food vendors kept festival goers fuelled throughout the day.

Geekfest Top End continues to cement its reputation as the Northern Territory's largest and longest running celebration of geek culture. This year's record attendance, expanded program and exciting new attractions delivered the festival's biggest event yet providing a safe, inclusive and welcoming space for the community to connect, celebrate creativity and embrace their passions.

Day 2 – Inflate A'Maze, Cazaly's Arena.

Inflate A'Maze was home to the Northern Territory's longest inflatable obstacle course. Transforming Cazaly's Arena into a hub of energy and excitement, and the impressive 120-metre obstacle course became one of the festival's most popular attractions with over 1,800 attendees having a go at the action. From 9:00am through to 3:00pm, a constant stream of participants queued for their chance to take on the challenge. Welcoming all ages and abilities, the attraction proved there was fun for everyone, with the excitement extending well beyond the obstacle course itself.

Adding to the buzz, Hot 100 attended for a live broadcast from the event, turning festivalgoers into radio stars as they shared their favourite activities of the day. From the bubbles and circus activities, oversized games, colouring chalk boards, food vendors to the sports inflatables challenges, there was plenty to talk about and enjoy. The lively atmosphere created a true festival vibe, encouraging people to stay longer and take part in multiple activities even after their session ended on the maze. The overwhelming popularity of the inflatable maze and the positive feedback received highlighted its impact on the success of the festival week.



Inflate A'Maze Aerial View and Hot100

Day 3 – The Biggest Experiment, Palmerston Recreation Centre

The Biggest Experiment was jam packed with everything science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), the event focused on delivering hands-on learning experiences that encouraged curiosity, creativity and problem-solving through fun, interactive activities.

Chemical reactions, physics, solar, robotics and even strawberry DNA were just some of the exciting inclusions for the day. The program catered to all age groups, with younger attendees enjoying slime making and playdough engineering activities, while older youth participated in coding workshops, virtual reality engineering and career pathway experiences.



DIY Solar Cars and Rocks Under the Microscope

In between the drop-in activities, attendees could join “The Lab” to take part in experiments or test their knowledge in the Quiz Quest to win an array of exciting STEM themed prizes. Workshops and presentations covered topics including how does 3D work, insects under the microscope and coding with Micro:bits. Interactive stallholders further enhanced the experience with hands-on demonstrations such as bent-wire electricity challenges, plant DNA investigations and reaction speed tests, ensuring visitors were actively involved in every aspect of the event.

As a new addition to the festival, The Biggest Experiment successfully combined education with entertainment, providing an inclusive environment where young people could discover, explore and develop an interest in STEM. The strong community response demonstrated the value of incorporating STEM programming into Palmerston Youth Festival.



3D and coding workshop

Day 4 – Creative Collective, Palmerston Recreation Centre.

Marking Creative Collective’s second year as part of the festival, the programming brought fresh energy and imagination to the week through an engaging mix of workshops and drop-in activities across visual arts, dance, music and design. The day focused on building a creative community, giving young people the chance to develop skills or try something new in a welcoming and inspiring environment.

This year’s event attracted close to 380 participants with a whole new program designed to bring out the imaginative minds and creativity of young people in and around Palmerston. Participants could choose from a range of bookable workshop sessions, including a rap

writing session, painting workshops, a come and try make electronic music, a hip hop dance class, music through storytelling and opportunity to learn magic tricks.



Painting and Electronic Music Workshops

The day didn't stop at just workshops; young people could also take part in a range of drop-in creative stations including badge making, bookmark making, balloon twisting, learning how to face paint, smash booking, beading, mindfulness colouring, hat design, games and a giant chalkboard to share their favourite thing about being creative. Creative Collective supported young people to build confidence, explore new artforms and engage with artistic practices in an accessible environment.



Learn to Balloon Twist and Face paint

Day 5 – Deadly NAIDOC Celebration, Goyder Square

Day 5 of the festival proudly celebrated NAIDOC Week's "50 Years of Deadly" at the Deadly NAIDOC Celebration in Goyder Square on Wednesday 8 July. The event brought together Indigenous culture, tradition, talent and community through engaging hands-on experiences and entertainment.

Opening the event was Trent and his daughter Bella with an Acknowledgement of Country and digeridoo performance which followed with a fashion parade from Bamalang Mob Productions. The parade showcased designs from both local and national Indigenous fashion labels, celebrating culture and contemporary Indigenous design. Entertainment continued with iconic First Nations rap artists Yung Milla and Riley P & Young Mob. Their powerful lyrics, infectious beats and engaging stage presence had crowds gathering, with many dancing and singing along.



Bamalang Mob Productions Models

Attendees had the opportunity to participate in a variety of interactive activities. Qalmolmi Arts shared valuable cultural knowledge through weaving while TRACKS delivered a dot painting workshop. Dingo Cockatoo delighted attendees with a local bush tucker experience, preparing roasted barramundi, crocodile, buffalo, and traditional bush scones with jam cooked over coals. Participants also enjoyed crafting and smoothing traditional clap sticks (Bilma) from natural hardwoods. A crowd favourite was the Larrakia Nation screen-printing activity, where participants chose colours and patterns to create their own unique T-shirt designs.

The event also provided a valuable opportunity for community connection, with several organisations sharing information and engaging with attendees. The strong community spirit, cultural pride and enthusiastic participation throughout this year's Deadly NAIDOC Celebration highlighted the appreciation and respect our community has for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.



Weaving and Local Bush Tucker

Day 6 – Palmerston Sports Carnival, Palmerston Recreation Centre.

Sport returned to the Palmerston Youth Festival in a fresh new format, with the Palmerston Sports Carnival transforming into a large-scale, drop-in "come and try" event designed to introduce young people to a wide range of local sports.

DJ Kuya James set the atmosphere for the day, kicking things off with a high-energy Zumba warm-up before attendees explored the extensive program of activities. Sporting organisations delivered interactive experiences throughout the event, showcasing AFL,

tennis, golf, cricket, rugby, basketball, skateboarding, fishing and soccer. Adding to the fun was a range of novelty activities including a bucking bull, inflatable boxing ring and gladiator platform.



Youth Participation across Basketball, Golf NT and Skateboarding

Between the sporting activations, attendees came together in a central challenge arena to take part in classic team games that encouraged participation, teamwork and new friendships. Activities including the egg and spoon race, tug of war, hula hoop challenges, over-under relay and three-legged races saw participants who had never met before competing side-by-side in a fun and welcoming environment.

To encourage attendees to experience a variety of sports, the Get Active competition rewarded participants who tried at least six different activities. Once completed, participants spun the prize wheel to win sports themed merchandise including soccer balls, AFL footballs, pickleball sets, frisbees, bucket hats and towels.

Overall, the Palmerston Sports Carnival successfully encouraged young people to build confidence, discover new interests and connect with local sporting clubs, while creating a fun, energetic atmosphere that was enjoyed by participants of all ages.



Get Active Competition

Day 7 – Palmy's Got Talent, Goyder Square

As the sun set on the final day of the Palmerston Youth Festival on Friday 10 July, Palmy's Got Talent lit up Goyder Square, providing a spectacular finale that celebrated the creativity and talent of local young people. Held for its second year in collaboration with Palmerston Markets, the event continued to bring in large numbers, delivering its biggest showcase yet and creating a valuable platform for emerging performers.

Youth performer Abby Rapkins opened the evening and helped set the welcoming tone before the talent contest began. Hot 100's Sam and Ant MC'd the event, bringing energy, humour and audience interaction to the stage. Between performances, they entertained the crowd with giveaways, encouraged audience participation and created an exciting atmosphere that kept the energy high throughout the evening.

Acting Mayor Bayliss, together with Councillors Henderson, Morrison and Waters, took on the challenging role of judging entries across four competition categories:

- Ages 9 and under
- Ages 10 to 17
- Ages 18 to 25
- Group category

The competition attracted the highest number of entries in the event's history, with an exceptional standard of performances across singing, dancing, comedy, bands and instrumental acts. The increased participation and outstanding calibre of talent highlighted the continued growth of the event and the confidence of local young people to perform on a large community stage.



First Place Winners, Group Category (left) and Group Act Eleanor and Arielle

Francis Drive was transformed into a youth zone, where attendees could ride the bucking bull, battle it out on the Gladiator inflatable, bounce around and box or challenge each other to a bungee run. The Boulevard offered a relaxed space featuring giant lawn games, balloon twisting, Bali-style seating and bean bags, while a photo booth gave attendees the opportunity to capture a keepsake from the event. Any youth looking for a quieter space could pop into the Library and join in on a DJ workshop, developing their skills and igniting passions.

The 2026 event introduced a new concept, the Youth Make It Market, which invited artists from Geekfest Top End's Artist Alley to showcase and sell their handmade creations during the festival finale. The market expanded opportunities for creative young people beyond performance, giving emerging artists a platform to exhibit their work, connect with the community and gain valuable market experience. The inclusion further strengthened the festival's commitment to celebrating youth talent across a diverse range of creative disciplines.

Palmy's Got Talent continued to be a fitting wrap up to the Palmerston Youth Festival, bringing the community together to recognise and celebrate the incredible skills, creativity and confidence of Palmerston's youth.



Youth Zone and Performer Abby Rapkins

Competitions

In total, 12 competitions were run with 84 prizes awarded from a prize pool allocation of \$15,000. Each competition was tailored to compliment the theme and audience of its respective event and included:

- Interplanetary Battle Cards Competition - From first time challengers to seasoned veterans the IBC game challenged players of all skill levels.
- Purple Brick Road – Returning to Geekfest Top End, this competition encouraged attendees to interact with range of vendors to go into the draw to win a Nintendo switch prize pack.
- Super Smash Bros. Ultimate – attendees chose their fighter and smashed their way through to the main stage final in a Super Mario Themed gaming challenge.
- Cosplay Competition - A competition showcasing costumes and characters designed or bought.
- Game Jam “Wet vs Dry” – Games are designed in the lead up to the event based on the “Wet vs Dry” theme and attendees were able to play them at Geekfest Top End.
- Inflate A’Maze – Hot 100 radio station challenges put attendees to the test to win prizes from local businesses.
- Quiz Quest – Attendees put their STEM knowledge to the test at The Biggest Experiment to win fun educational prizes.
- Polaroid Hunt – A fun interactive hide and seek of polaroids, redeemable for a range of great prizes in a creative theme.
- Get Active – Encouraging attendees to get involved in a variety of different sports to win a great variety of merchandise.
- Palmy’s Got Talent – A high energy competition showcasing local talent on the big stage.
- Post Event Survey – An opportunity to gain feedback for continuous improvement whilst attendees are able to win by simply providing feedback.
- Photo Competition – Attendees shared their photos and videos with us for a chance to win.

Consultation and marketing

The 2026 Palmerston Youth Festival was promoted through an integrated marketing campaign designed to maximise awareness across the Northern Territory while reaching young people and their families through a range of digital and traditional channels.

Promotion included organic and paid social media, TikTok, YouTube, radio advertising, live reads and an outdoor broadcast, online event listings (City of Palmerston website, Eventbrite, ATDW and Off The Leash), direct email marketing to schools, printed programs, maps, signage, decals and the reuse of existing promotional collateral where appropriate to maximise value for money.

A local young creative, Izzy, was engaged to refresh the Festival branding by developing the front and back cover artwork for the 2026 program. Building on the established Tentacle Mike brand, the refreshed design created a consistent visual identity that was carried across all newly developed marketing collateral throughout the campaign.

To support promotion across digital platforms, a suite of 6, 15 and 30 second promotional videos were produced. The videos combined footage from previous Palmerston Youth Festivals with animated Tentacle Mike elements tailored to the themes of each event, creating engaging content suitable for a range of advertising platforms.

As part of the CBD activation, large-scale decals were installed at the Palmerston Recreation Centre and City of Palmerston Library, increasing visibility of the Festival and creating excitement ahead of the event.

MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS	
Total campaign impressions	1,066,890
Total digital reach	170,102+ (paid + owned channels, noting audiences may overlap)
Facebook page views	483,250
Instagram views	107,305
Website page views	7,686
Video views completed	59,562

Across Palmerston Youth Festival specific channels, it generated significant visibility and engagement.

Facebook

- 483,250 page views
- 22,565 story views
- 3,697 new followers

Instagram

- 107,305 views
- 24,083 accounts reached
- 1,022 new followers

Website

- 7,686 page views
- 22,483 events recorded

Paid social advertising generated:

- 399,922 impressions
- 75,169 people reached

In addition to the Festival's channels, a dedicated TikTok and YouTube advertising campaign delivered strong awareness outcomes. The campaign invested \$6,000 across both platforms and generated:

- 666,968 impressions
- 94,933 people reached
- 1,277 website clicks
- 59,562 completed video views

TikTok was the strongest performing platform for awareness, delivering 464,554 impressions to more than 45,500 people at an efficient cost per thousand impressions (CPM) of \$6.46. The campaign also drove over 1,000 clicks to the festival landing page.

While all three video lengths performed consistently, average watch time indicated an opportunity to strengthen the opening few seconds of future creative to improve audience retention.

YouTube generated a further 202,414 impressions and almost 57,000 video views, with the majority of views occurring on connected television devices. The campaign achieved a 28.15% video view rate, demonstrating strong engagement with the creative. Delivery was strongest among the 25 to 34-year-old audience, reinforcing the importance of targeting parents alongside young people when promoting family-friendly events.

A total of 50 community members completed the Palmerston Youth Festival survey, providing valuable feedback on both the festival experience and the effectiveness of the Festival's marketing.

Overall satisfaction with the Festival was exceptionally high, with 96% of respondents rating their experience either 4 or 5 out of 5, including 68% awarding the festival a perfect 5 out of 5. Importantly, 100% of respondents indicated they would attend the Festival again next year.

The survey also provided valuable insight into how attendees heard about the Festival. The most common sources were:

- Word of mouth – 24 responses
- Facebook – 24 responses
- Other sources – 11 responses
- Instagram – 6 responses
- YouTube – 3 responses
- Schools – 2 responses
- Bus advertising – 2 responses
- TikTok – 1 response
- Radio – 1 response

The results demonstrate the continued value of a multi-channel marketing approach. While Facebook remained one of the strongest awareness channels, word of mouth was equally influential in driving attendance, highlighting the festival's strong reputation within the community. Social media, schools, outdoor advertising and digital platforms all contributed to building awareness across a diverse audience, ensuring the festival reached both young people and their families.

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

- Marketing and Communications Manager
- Event Officers
- City Activation Officer
- Acting City Activating Manager

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

- Atomic 212

Policy implications

There are no policy implications for this Report.

Budget and resource implications

Under the funding agreement, the Northern Territory Government grant contribution is \$300,000 per year with City of Palmerston contributing an additional \$50,000 per year. 2026 concludes the current funding agreement with future funding for the festival is currently being explored.

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.



Additionally, failure to secure ongoing funding for the Palmerston Youth Festival presents a risk to Council's ability to deliver key objectives outline in the Palmerston Local Economic Plan, Creative Industries Plan and Community Plan. Without continued investment, Council may be unable to deliver the program in future years, reducing opportunities for youth engagement, community participation and local economic activation. This may also result in reduced stakeholder and community confidence in Councils commitment to delivering strategic outcomes and valued community programs.

Strategies, framework and plans implications

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

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

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.2.3
Report Title:	Major Capital Projects Update
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 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:
 - Woodroffe Park Upgrade.
 - SWELL solar and battery project.
 - Animal Management Facility.

Recommendation

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

Background

Council has a \$12.05M Capital Works Program in 2026/27. 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 12.2.3.1.**
- Enterprise Resource Planning Project (ERP) **Attachment 12.2.3.2.**

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

Woodroffe Park Upgrade

Work is underway to secure permits and approvals for construction work while the project awaits delivery of ordered materials including play equipment. The project will be delivered by several contractors and is expected to be completed by October. The project has a total budget of \$600,000 and is 100% funded by the Northern Territory Government.

SWELL solar and battery project

The contract has been awarded to Eco Tech Electrical, with a value of \$490,00 for design and construction of the solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery energy storage system (BESS) at SWELL. Design work is underway and an application to connect the solar and battery system to the grid has been submitted. Work is expected to be completed by December. The project is part funded by a \$264,000 grant from the Australian Government's Community Energy Upgrades Fund Round 2.

Animal Management Facility

Construction work is underway and is progressing towards completion in October. The contract was awarded to JKJ Constructions with a value of \$363,044. This stage includes 16 new dog pens.



Figure 1: Construction of Animal Management Facility, 30 July 2026

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 2026/27 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

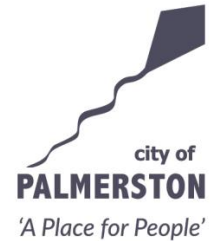
We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Attachments

1. Zuccoli Community Hub [12.2.3.1 - 3 pages]
2. Enterprise Resource Planning Project (ER P) [12.2.3.2 - 2 pages]

ZUCCOLI COMMUNITY HUB

AUGUST 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 Stages 1 and 2A are complete, with the Dog Park, Public Toilet and Pump Track open to the public. This report focuses on the design of Stage 3 and construction of the hub Community Buildings.

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

Total budget and funding:

Stage	Prior Year Costs	Current FY* Budget	Total Budget to Date	Current FY* Actuals	Current FY* Commitment	Remaining Budget
Masterplan	\$116,062	\$0	\$116,062	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stage 1 - Dog Park	\$1,467,166	\$0	\$1,467,166	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stage 2 - Design	\$202,588	\$0	\$202,588	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stage 2 - Civil	\$809,974	\$0	\$809,974	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stage 2 - Walkway, Seating, BBQ	\$459,886	\$0	\$459,886	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stage 2 - Pump Track	\$1,174,408	\$0	\$1,174,408	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stage 3 - Design	\$178,026	\$272,348	\$450,374	\$59,217	\$213,131	\$0
Stage 3 - Building	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000**
TOTAL	\$4,408,110	\$3,272,348	\$7,680,458	\$59,217	\$213,131	\$3,000,000

*Current financial year is 2026/27.

** Council borrowing

Table 1: Total project budget and funding, 5 August 2026

External Funding Sources:

- \$250,000 Northern Territory Government- Immediate Priority Grant (Pump Track).
- \$411,889 LRCI Phase IV (Walkway, BBQ).
- \$10,000,000 Federal Government (Stage 3 Building – Commitment announced).

Anticipated completion date:

- Stage 3 concept design and preliminary building design for tender – late 2026.
- Stage 3 building construction – 2027-2028.

STATUS UPDATE**Current Contracts:**

Activity	Status	Awarded contract value	Approved variations	Approved claims	Amount to claim
Stage 3 Design	Awarded	\$450,000	-	\$237,244	\$213,131
TOTAL		\$450,000	-	\$237,244	\$213,131

Table 2: Current contracts, 5 August 2026

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. The track was formally opened to the public on 4 March 2026, with lighting installed and operational in May 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.

Stage 3

Stage 3 incorporates all remaining elements of the site, with a focus on the community facilities, including the community hall and programs building, multi-purpose entrance and events space, playground, gardens and carpark. The current activities are focussed on the design of these elements and preparation for tender documents for the building.

Progress in the past month:

- Progression of preliminary design for the hall and programs building.



Figure 1: Zuccoli Community hub - concept image

Upcoming works:

Stage 3:

- Progression of preliminary design phase of building elements.
- Completion of concept design for all other stage 3 elements.
- Finalise funding.

Project risks:

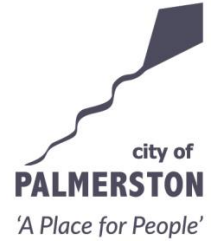
Stage 3:

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

AUGUST 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 - \$217,450.
- FY27 - \$1,400.

- Total to date \$996,534.

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 is now underway 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 three (3) 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.

COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Item:	12.2.4
Report Title:	Financial Report for the Month of July 2026
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 18 August 2026
Author:	Executive Manager Financial Performance, Jeffrey Guilas
Approver:	General Manager Finance and Governance, Chris Fearon

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 July 2026.

Key messages

- This report presents the July 2026 financial report and is representative of the year-to-date income and expenditure as at 31 July 2026.
- This is the first financial report for 2026-27 financial year, and it is expected that there would be adjustments required to recognise income and expenditure for the 2025-26 financial year end. This includes adjustments to the Balance Sheet accounts and is subject to an external audit.
- The financial health check ratios indicate that overall Council is in a positive financial position largely due to rates and charges levied in July.
- The annual budget is the 2026-27 original budget published in the 2026-27 Municipal Plan, plus the capital budget rollover.
- Operating income is \$40.70 million or 87% of the annual budget of \$46.79 million.
- Operating expenditure is \$3.23 million or 6% of the annual budget of \$54.11 million.
- Operating surplus (excluding depreciation) is at \$38.58 million.
- Capital income is \$0.09 million or 2% of the revised annual capital income budget of \$5.09 million.

- Capital expenditure is \$0.26 million or 2% of the revised annual budget of \$12.05 million. There is a further \$1.62 million in commitments where works have commenced or are awaiting payment, combined, this equates to 16% spend of the revised annual budget.
- The total cash and cash investments were \$20.79 million, which includes \$16.87 million in term deposits in various banking institutions with less than 12 months to maturity, and \$3.92 million in our general trading account.
- The 2026/27 Rates and Charges have been levied totalling \$39.85 million which has increased the rates debt receivables to \$40.06 million which includes:
 - \$37.68 million for 2026-27, which is not yet due.
 - \$1.53 million remains outstanding for 2025-26.
 - \$442,560 remains outstanding for 2024-25.
 - \$409,914 of accumulated unpaid rates from prior years (2023-24 and prior).
- Total payments to creditors July 2026 amounted to \$4.55 million, of which \$3.99 million (87.58%) 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 July 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 July 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 2026-27 consists of:

- The total budget per the municipal plan for the 2026-27 financial year.
- The approved capital budget roll-over from 2025-26.

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

This report should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Dashboard report found at **Attachment 12.2.4.1** 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 included at **Attachment 12.2.4.2** presenting the financial position of Council as at 31 July 2026.

Comments are only added to variances that have an actual balance that is over or under the year-to-date budget by 10%.

Discussion

Financial Health

The financial health check ratios provide Council with a quick snapshot of its financial position.

- The July 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 is 95%, above the KPI target of 0%, mainly because the 2026-27 rates and charges were levied and recognised as income in July. The ratio is expected to decrease throughout the year as expenditure is incurred and recognised.
- The debt service ratio (net operating income divided by debt repayments plus interest) for July 2026 is 564 indicating that the Council has sufficient capacity to meet its loan obligations and is in line with the KPI ratio of 2 times. This ratio is high because the 2026-27 rates revenue has already been recognised at the start of the financial year. The ratio is expected to decrease throughout the year as expenditure is incurred and recognised.
- Rates collection is currently 6% of total rates revenue, which is expected to be low as rates were only levied on 28 July and are not due until 30 September. This will increase as we receive the rates payments.
- The current ratio (Current Assets divided by Current Liability) is 6.06 for July 2026 which demonstrates that Council has enough resources to meet its short-term obligations. This is high due to rates being levied and recognised as income and recorded as debtors. It is expected to decrease progressively over the coming months as expenditure is incurred and receivables are collected.

Operating Overview

The dashboard provides an overview of Council's operating income and expenditure for 2026-27 as at 31 July 2026. Refer to **Attachment 12.2.4.1**.

Total operating income as at 31 July 2026 is \$40.70 million, which is 87% of the annual budget of \$46.79 million.

Total operating expenditure as at 31 July 2026 is \$3.23 million, this mainly consists of the following:

- \$0.99 million employee costs.
- \$0.07 million materials and contractors.

- \$1.11 million depreciation (non-cash).
- \$0.61 million other expenses such as program running cost and training costs.
- \$0.61 million in utilities.
- \$0.04 million in insurance expenses.
- \$0.03 million professional services such as external consultants and management fee for Odegaard.
- \$0.18 million software, hardware, stationery and subscriptions.

The \$2.61 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 July.

Capital Overview

The dashboard provides an overview of Council's capital expenditure for 2026-27 as per **Attachment 12.2.4.1**.

Capital Expenditure

The 2026-27 revised capital expenditure annual budget is \$12.05 million. This includes the original budget of \$9.42 million and \$2.63 million capital budget rolled over from 2025-26.

The pie chart in the dashboard as per **Attachment 12.2.4.1** shows that out of the \$12.05 million capital expenditure budget, the actual capital expenditure is \$0.26 million which is 2% of the budget.

In addition to the \$0.26 million actual expenditure, there is a further \$1.62 million in commitments where works have commenced and/or are awaiting invoices for payment. The current expenditure combined with the commitments presents 16% 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 \$5.09 million includes grant funding of \$1.74 million, non-cash gifted assets of \$3 million, developer contributions of \$0.20 million, and \$0.15 million sale of fleet.

Capital income is at 5% of the budget due to income from grants, developer contribution and disposal of assets yet to be recognised as income and the gifted assets that are yet to be recognised as part of the end of year process.

The table following provides a breakdown of the budgeted capital grants income for 2026-27 (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 2026-27	TOTAL BUDGETED GRANT INCOME FOR 26-27 (A)	GRANT RECOGNISED AS INCOME (B)	GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED TO DATE (C)	GRANT FUNDS YET TO BE RECEIVED (A-C = D)
Reseal Program	\$332,592	\$0	\$0	\$332,592
Black Spot – Yarrawonga Road	\$112,715	\$7,160	\$0	\$112,715
Road Reconstruction	\$450,000	\$0	\$0	\$450,000
Sustainability Programs (Solar Panels & LEDs etc)	\$105,600	\$0	\$0	\$105,600
Woodroffe Park Upgrades	\$592,690	\$84,309	\$592,690	\$0
Solar Panel and battery Installation-SWELL	\$150,748	\$1,620	\$79,200	\$71,548
Total	\$1,744,345	\$93,088	\$671,890	\$1,072,455

Cash and Investments

Trading Account: \$3.92 million.

Investments: \$16.87 million.

Annual Budgeted interest revenue: \$1.19 million

Year to Date interest revenue: \$0.15 million.

CASH AT BANK AND INVESTMENTS					
DURATION	NO.	VALUE (\$) (In millions)	% OF TOTAL PORTFOLIO	LIMIT	
				Minimum	Maximum
Cash at bank	1	\$3.92			
<12 months	7	\$16.87	100%	50%	100%
>1 – 3 years	0	NIL	0%	0%	50%
>3 - 5 years	0	NIL	0%	0%	25%
>5 years	0	NIL	0%	0%	10%
Total	8	\$20.79	100%		

The investment portfolio is compliant with the Council Investments Policy.

- As at 31 July 2026, the Council held \$16.87 million in term deposits across three financial institutions.
- Cash held by Council in the National Australia Bank (NAB) trading account as of 31 July 2026 was \$3.92 million earning 4.45% 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 12.2.4.2**.

Receivables

Council has \$42.87 million in Receivables, which is made up of the following.

- \$40.33 million in Rates and charges includes rates levied during 2026-27 and receivables from infringements. Further explanation of the breakdown is detailed below in rates and charges.
- \$0.85 million sundry debtors.
- \$0.99 million grants receivable.
- \$0.12 million GST receivable.
- \$0.57 million accrued interest receivables for Term Deposits.

Rates and charges

The dashboard at **Attachment 12.2.4.1** highlights the rates levied for the 2026-27 financial year are \$39.85 million, of which \$2.45 million (6%) has been collected so far.

Item 2.4 Debtors Control at **Attachment 12.2.4.2** provides for the summary of the breakdown of outstanding rates.

The 2026-27 Rates and Charges have been levied generating \$39.85 million of revenue.

- Rates overdue as at July 2026 is \$2.38 million.
- \$1.53 million is overdue for 2025-26 rates.
- \$0.44 million overdue rates from 2024-25 which is 1% of the total 2024-25 rates revenue.
- \$0.41 million overdue rates from 2023-24 and prior years.
- 256 properties have outstanding rates for 2024-25 and prior.
- 14,531 Ratepayers have paid their 2025-26 rates in full.
- Total of 592 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 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 160 properties for debts from 2024-25 and earlier.

Financial hardships for the 2025-26 financial year have expired with all new applications under review.

A balance of \$276,926 of rates received in advance is accounted for in the balance sheet as a liability as it relates payment to the of rates for a future period.

Infringements

- Total infringements outstanding is \$269,640 as of 31 July 2026, this consists of:
 - Animals \$246,364.
 - Public Places \$15,829.
 - Parking \$7,446.

- The graph in the dashboard at **Attachment 12.2.4.1** shows the total infringements issued, payment received, amount sent to Fines Recovery Unit for collection and any outstanding infringements from 1 July 2026 to 31 July 2026. Please refer to section 2.4, Debtor Control Accounts, for a further breakdown.
- Total Animal infringements issued for 2026-27 as at 31 July 2026 after adjusting the withdrawn and written off infringements is \$10,686 of this none of it has been collected.
- No Public Places and Parking infringements have been issued as at 31 July 2026.

Sundry Debtors

Sundry Debtors as at 31 July 2026 is \$0.85 million as presented in **Attachment 12.2.4.2**. This balance mainly includes \$375,000 that is expected to be received from Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, \$100,000 from Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, \$230,359 from Belgravia. 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 July 2026 amounted to \$4.55 million, of which \$3.99 million (87.58%) were paid to local suppliers. **Attachment 12.2.4.2**. Section 2.5 Creditor Accounts Paid shows the breakdown of the payments made.

Borrowings

Total external borrowings balance as at 31 July 2026 of \$4.29 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 July 2026 being \$0.25 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 of \$4.04 million as at 31 July 2026. This is a 20-year loan with current variable interest rate of 5.61% with a portion of the principal being repaid quarterly. This loan is renegotiated every 5 years.
- The \$3 million loan for Zuccoli Hub – Stage 3 is still with the Minister for approval.

Other Compliance matters

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

- Council has remitted \$0.37 million Year-to-Date (YTD) in Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) tax to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). The PAYG withholding tax is reported to the Australian Taxation Office on a fortnightly basis by Council.
- The Business Activity Statement (BAS) balance for the month ended 30 June 2026 has been finalised and lodged on 21 July 2026 as a Goods and Services Tax refund of \$683,351. ATO refund was received in NAB on 24 July.
- Council has the required insurances to manage the current risk exposure.

Contract Variations

There were no contract variations during July 2026 that met the criteria under Regulation 42 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

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 [12.2.4.1 - 2 pages]
2. Financial Report July 2026 [12.2.4.2 - 26 pages]

As at 31 July 2026

DASHBOARD

Financial Health Ratios	MP KPI	As at July 26	Status
Operating Surplus Ratio	> 0%	95%	High due to rates being levied and recognised as income. This balance will reduce as the year progresses
Debt Service Ratio	> 2.0	564	High due to rates being levied and recognised as income. This balance will reduce as the year progresses
Rates Collection	>95%	0%	Low due to rates not being due yet. This will increase as we receive the rates payments
Current Ratio	> 1.5	6.06	

\$38.58 M

Operating Surplus (excluding Depn)

Annual Budget is at \$6M

\$20.79 M

Cash at bank and investments

\$0.26 M

Capital Expenditure

Annual Budget is at \$12.05 M

\$0.09 M

Capital Income

Annual Budget is at \$5.09 M

\$3.23 M

Operating Expenditure

Annual Budget is at \$54.11 M

\$40.7 M

Operating Income

Annual Budget is at \$46.79 M

Legend



On Track



Explanation required



Off Track

Infringements Issued from 1 July 2026 to 31 July 2026 and status

\$125.00K

\$100.00K

\$75.00K

\$50.00K

\$25.00K

\$0.00K

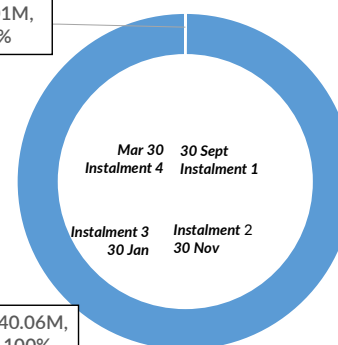
Animal

- Outstanding
- Escalated to FRU
- Payment received
- Issued

- Outstanding
- Escalated to FRU
- Payment received
- Issued

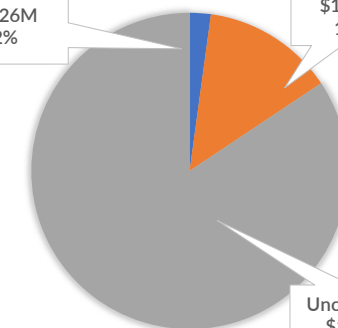
Animal - Issued	Animal - Status	Parking - Issued	Parking - Status	Public Places - Issued	Public Places - Status
	\$10.69K				
\$10.69K					

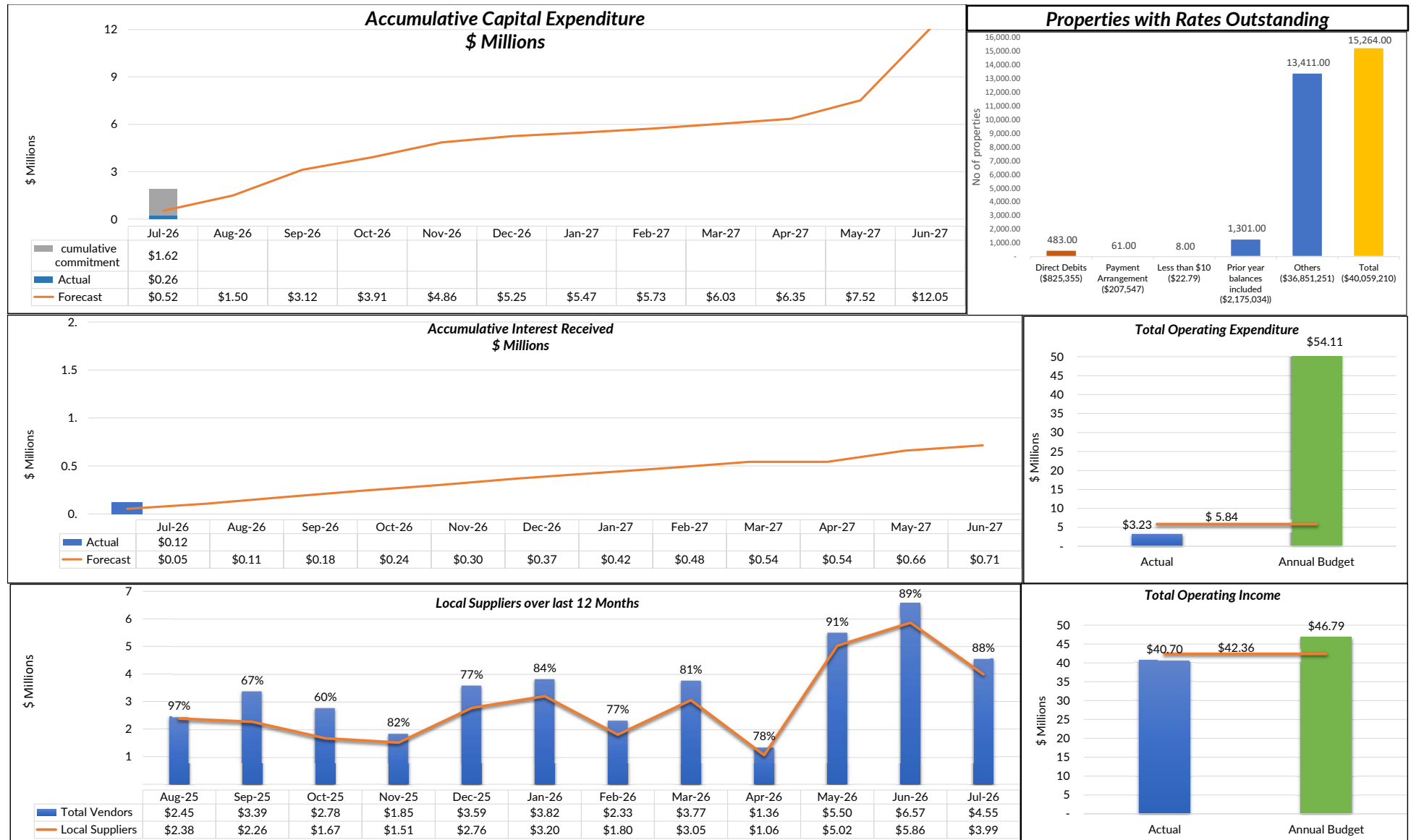
Rates & Charges Collected

\$0.01M,
0%

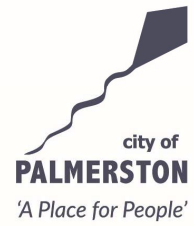
■ Received ■ Remaining

Capital Expenditure

Actual
\$0.26M
2%Committed
\$1.62M
14%Uncommitted
\$10.16M
84%



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS



JULY 2026

- 1. Executive Summary
- 2. Financial Results

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS | JULY 2026 | 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

July 2026

SECTION 1 – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1.1	Certification by Chief Executive Officer
SECTION 2 – FINANCIAL RESULTS	1.2	Executive Summary
	1.3	Budget Summary by Directorates
	1.4	Capital Expenditure & Funding
	2.1	Balance Sheet
	2.2	Reserve Balance
	2.3	Investments Management Report
	2.4	Debtor Control Accounts
	2.5	Creditor Accounts Paid
	2.6	Creditor Accounts Outstanding
	2.7	Commercial Leases
	2.8	Council Loans
	2.9	Elected Member Expenses
	2.10	CEO Credit Card

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 July 2026 best reflects the financial affairs of the Council.



Nadine Nilon
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Section 2
Financial Results
31 July 2026
8.33%

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	31,173,444	30,669,935	98%	31,121,444	99%	
Charge	9,439,365	9,394,962	100%	9,439,365	100%	
Fees & Charges	1,128,976	68,722	6%	67,560	102%	
Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	3,857,365	402,021	10%	1,640,661	25%	1
Interest & Investment Revenue	1,192,455	163,500	14%	93,615	175%	2
Other Income	3,000	809	27%	1,000	81%	3
Operating Income	46,794,604	40,699,949	87%	42,363,645	96%	
Operating Expenditure						
Employee Costs	-13,775,320	-988,743	7%	-1,368,220	72%	4
Materials & Contractors	-15,468,570	-71,379	0%	-1,211,412	6%	5
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	-13,312,000	-1,109,333	8%	-1,109,333	100%	
Elected Members Allowances	-575,703	-34,130	6%	-37,645	91%	
Elected Members Expenses	-43,370	-553	1%	-468	118%	6
Professional Services	-2,477,433	-29,162	1%	-192,132	15%	7
Auditor's Remuneration	-59,500	0	0%	0	0%	
Utilities	-2,482,012	-66,985	3%	-136,017	49%	8
Legal Expenses	-324,540	-14	0%	-36,918	0%	9
Telephone & Other Communication Charges	-228,565	-76,316	33%	-80,973	94%	
Donations, Sponsorships & Grants	-261,000	-11,850	5%	-20,167	59%	10
Software, Hardware, Stationery, Subscriptions	-1,382,303	-175,010	13%	-162,467	108%	
Insurance	-955,776	-37,366	4%	-942,176	4%	11
Borrowing Costs	-293,509	-23,410	8%	-24,697	95%	
Other Expenses	-2,466,909	-605,570	25%	-516,517	117%	12
Operating Expenditure	-54,106,509	-3,229,820	6%	-5,839,141	55%	
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-7,311,905	37,470,129		36,524,504		
Capital Income						
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	150,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Developer Contributions	200,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Asset Income	3,000,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Grants Income	1,744,345	93,088	5%	125,000	74%	13
Capital Income	5,094,345	93,088	2%	125,000	74%	
Net SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) transferred to Equity Statement	-2,217,560	37,563,217		36,649,504		

Section 2
Financial Results

31 July 2026
8.33%

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	-5,976,019	-119,304	2%	-210,000	57%	14
Asset Upgrade	-6,071,970	-140,949	2%	-314,882	45%	14
Capital Expenditure	-12,047,989	-260,252	2%	-524,882	50%	
Less Non-Cash Expenditure	-13,312,000	-1,109,333	8%	-1,109,333	100%	
Plus Gifted Assets	-3,000,000	0	0%	0	0%	
NET CAPITAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	2,046,451	38,412,298	0	37,233,956		
Borrowings	-3,000,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Less Repayment of Borrowings	-564,571	-43,064	8%	-47,048	92%	
Reserve Movement	1,518,120	0	0%	0	0%	
NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-	38,369,234		37,186,908		

Notes

The variance is due to the following:

1. Due to the early receipt of Financial Assistance grants for 2026-27 received in June rather than July.
2. Interest income year to date is higher than expected.
3. Due to cash flow timing of income anticipated from long grass recovery.
4. Worker compensation insurance invoice yet to be received and processed.
5. Contractor invoices related to building maintenance, mowing, landscaping etc yet to be received and processed.
6. Food and catering expenses slightly higher than anticipated.
7. Mainly due to the Community Satisfaction Survey, Asset Capitalisation, and Guardian IMS Training invoices yet to be processed.
8. Utilities invoices for July yet to be received and processed.
9. Legal and debt collection are fees yet to be incurred.
10. Payment of donations, sponsorships, and grants are dependent on the timing of application.
11. Invoices for insurance for the current financial year are yet to be received.
12. Expense related to Darwin Festival being received earlier than anticipated
13. Grants funds yet to be recognised as income
14. Some of the projects are in starting phase and are underway, with invoices for the expenditure yet to be received and processed. Refer to 1.3 Capital expenditure for more details


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Section 2
Financial Results
31 July 2026
8.33%

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	1,217,932	0	0%	971,267	0%	1
Office of the Chief Executive	1,217,932	0	0%	971,267	0%	
People and Place						
City Activation	300,800	300,000	100%	0	0%	2
People and Place	300,800	300,000	100%	0	0%	
Finance & Governance						
GM Finance & Governance	80,062	5,782	7%	6,672	87%	3
Financial Services	547,419	96,582	18%	39,862	242%	4
Rates	31,395,877	30,704,427	98%	31,139,975	99%	
Finance & Governance	32,023,358	30,806,791	96%	31,186,509	99%	
Community						
Community Development	7,000	0	0%	2,000	0%	5
Library Services	793,942	6,802	1%	9,386	72%	6
Animal Management	436,677	23,765	5%	20,556	116%	7
Parking & Other Ranger Services	53,400	2,116	4%	5,200	41%	8
Community	1,291,019	32,684	3%	37,142	88%	
Infrastructure						
Civic Centre	166,587	13,882	8%	13,882	100%	
Gray Community Hall	22,755	1,613	7%	1,896	85%	9
Private Works	50,100	8,255	16%	4,175	198%	10
Recreation Centre	40,960	505	1%	3,413	15%	11
Roads & Transport	1,527,121	0	0%	665,394	0%	1
Subdivisional Works	127,390	0	0%	0	0%	
Waste Management	9,439,365	9,395,771	100%	9,439,365	100%	
Odegaard Drive Investment Property	477,662	39,440	8%	39,805	99%	
Durack Heights Community Centre	9,555	1,343	14%	796	169%	12
Goyder Square	100,000	100,000	100%	0	0%	
Infrastructure	11,961,496	9,560,809	80%	10,168,728	94%	
OPERATING INCOME	46,794,604	40,699,949	87%	42,363,645	96%	

Notes

The variance is due to following:

1. Financial assistance grants received earlier than expected and this will be adjusted.
2. Invoice for Palmerston Youth Festival has been raised and recognised as income.
3. Rental income from leased properties is less than anticipated.
4. Interest income year to date is higher than expected.
5. Grant income related to Seniors Day has not yet been recognised.
6. Due to cash flow timing of the Library Café rent income.
7. Income from dog registration and infringement is higher than anticipated.
8. Revenue from parking infringements and other infringement recoveries is irregular and received on an ad hoc basis.
9. Income from Gray Community hall hire is slightly lower than expected.
10. Revenue from permits on private works are higher than anticipated.
11. Income from Recreation centre facility hire is lower than expected.
12. Facility hire income from Durack community centre is higher than expected.


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Section 2
Financial Results

31 July 2026

8.33%

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	-619,073	-34,682	6%	-38,112	91%	
Office of the CEO	-930,163	-41,845	4%	-81,460	51%	1
Office of the Chief Executive	-1,549,236	-76,528	5%	-119,572	64%	
People & Place						
GM People & Place	-407,590	-36,879	9%	-27,754	133%	2
Customer Experience	-433,727	-42,856	10%	-35,355	121%	3
People and Customer	-1,199,272	-62,609	5%	-87,255	72%	2
Public Relations and Communications	-909,356	-54,065	6%	-93,346	58%	4
Arts & Culture	-61,860	-4,434	7%	-10,000	44%	5
City Activation	-1,813,175	-428,567	24%	-459,450	93%	
People & Place	-4,824,981	-629,410	13%	-713,161	88%	
Finance & Governance						
GM Finance & Governance	-582,454	-33,446	6%	-41,979	80%	6
Records Management	-344,077	-15,129	4%	-28,104	54%	7
Financial Services	-14,893,143	-1,211,643	8%	-1,227,571	99%	
Rates	-176,200	-193,102	110%	-5,083	3799%	8
Governance	-1,730,717	-58,323	3%	-1,294,069	5%	9
Information Technology	-2,105,843	-300,797	14%	-272,461	110%	10
Fleet	-257,617	-2,271	1%	-11,331	20%	11
Finance & Governance	-20,090,051	-1,814,710	9%	-2,880,598	63%	
Community						
Community Services	-1,076,618	-62,509	6%	-81,389	77%	12
Library Services	-1,841,498	-115,658	6%	-157,466	73%	13
GM Community	-259,774	-23,992	9%	-20,252	118%	14
Animal Management	-114,750	-1,672	1%	-6,458	26%	15
Parking & Other Ranger Services	-1,208,149	-78,846	7%	-97,154	81%	6
Community	-4,500,790	-282,678	6%	-362,719	78%	
Infrastructure						
Aquatic Centre	-1,742,319	-30,277	2%	-149,517	20%	16
Civic Centre	-292,181	-5,764	2%	-22,940	25%	16
Depot	-103,302	-4,076	4%	-7,100	57%	16
Driver Resource Centre	-38,238	-889	2%	-2,669	33%	16
Emergency Operations	-10,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Gray Community Hall	-124,272	-1,275	1%	-10,356	12%	16
GM Infrastructure	-1,574,068	-124,760	8%	-125,720	99%	

Section 2
Financial Results
31 July 2026
8.33%

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
Open Space	-6,180,183	-141,460	2%	-478,978	30%	16
Private Works	-121,326	-8,504	7%	-9,874	86%	6
Recreation Centre	-434,727	-4,399	1%	-22,589	19%	16
Roads & Transport	-1,566,466	-51,113	3%	-130,897	39%	16
Stormwater Infrastructure	-179,576	-2,586	1%	-10,000	26%	17
Street Lighting	-921,298	-23,492	3%	-22,873	103%	
Subdivisional Works	-25,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Waste Management	-9,341,958	-20,154	0%	-731,818	3%	16
Odegaard Drive Investment Property	-128,848	-5,378	4%	-8,558	63%	16
Durack Heights Community Centre	-91,976	-2,368	3%	-7,061	34%	16
Goyder Square	-265,713	0	0%	-22,143	0%	16
Infrastructure	-23,141,451	-426,495	2%	-1,763,091	24%	
OPERATING EXPENDITURE	-54,106,509	-3,229,820	6%	-5,839,141	55%	

Notes

The variance is due to following:

1. Consultants and legal fees are yet to be incurred.
2. Due to miscoding of employee expenses between departments, this will be corrected in August.
3. Employee expenses were higher than anticipated, mainly due to temporary staff.
4. Advertising and promotion, and expenses for subscription and membership are yet to be incurred.
5. Awaiting invoices for Community programs and events.
6. Due to cash flow timing of employee expenses.
7. Invoices for office equipment leasing and postage are yet to be received and processed.
8. Relates to pension rebates processed at the end of July but were invoiced to NT Concession and Recognition Scheme in August.
9. Invoices for survey and insurances are yet to be received and processed.
10. Software licence payments were above the year-to-date budget allocation.
11. Expenditure related to motor vehicle fuel, servicing and parts are lower than expected.
12. Expenses relating to Community Grants and sponsorships are dependent on timing of application.
13. Awaiting utilities, security, cleaning and other contractor invoices.
14. Cash flowing of the employee expense budget.
15. Pound management expenses slightly lower than anticipated.
16. Invoices related to external professional services, utilities, security and contractors are yet to received.
17. Stormwater infrastructure maintenance invoices are yet to be received and processed.


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Section 2
Financial Results

Budget Summary Report By Directorate as at
% of year passed

31 July 2026

8.33%

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	0	0%	0	0%	
Fleet	150,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Finance & Governance	3,150,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Community & Culture						
Community & Culture	0	0	0%	0	0%	
Infrastructure						
Open Space	592,690	84,309	14%	100,000	84%	1
Roads & Transport	895,307	7,160	1%	0	0%	
Street Lighting	256,348	1,620	1%	25,000	6%	1
Subdivisional Works	200,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Infrastructure	1,944,345	93,088	5%	125,000	74%	
CAPITAL INCOME	5,094,345	93,088	2%	125,000	74%	

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

Variance is due to less work carried out than what was expected, therefore only a portion of the months grant funds can be recognised.



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Section 2
Financial ResultsBudget Summary Report By Directorate as at 31 July 2026
% of year passed 8.33%

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	-51,400	0	0%	0	0%	
People & Place	-51,400	0	0%	0	0%	
Finance & Governance						
Information Technology	-938,818	0	0%	0	0%	
Fleet	-411,200	-55,531	14%	0	0%	1
Finance & Governance	-1,350,018	-55,531	4%	0	0.00%	
Community & Culture						
Library Services	-126,754	0	0%	0	0%	
Community & Culture	-126,754	0	0%	0	0.00%	
Infrastructure						
Aquatic Centre	-149,250	-3,234	2%	0	0%	2
Civic Centre	-184,958	0	0%	0	0%	
Depot	-441,767	-46,246	10%	-166,082	28%	3
Driver Resource Centre	-10,527	0	0%	0	0%	
Gray Community Hall	-20,480	0	0%	0	0%	
GM Infrastructure	-3,287,348	-59,217	2%	-185,000	32%	4
Open Space	-1,551,594	-86,387	6%	-108,800	79%	5
Recreation Centre	-724,432	0	0%	0	0%	
Roads & Transport	-2,884,411	-8,018	0%	-40,000	20%	6
Stormwater Infrastructure	-210,534	0	0%	0	0%	
Street Lighting	-939,851	-1,620	0%	-25,000	6%	7
Waste Management	-68,014	0	0%	0	0%	
Odegaard Drive Investment Property	-37,125	0	0%	0	0%	
Durack Heights Community Centre	-9,527	0	0%	0	0%	
Infrastructure	-10,519,817	-204,722	2%	-524,882	39%	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	-12,047,989	-260,252	2%	-524,882	50%	

Notes

The variance is due to the following:

1. Vehicle being purchased earlier than originally anticipated.
2. Expenditure was incurred for repair work that was not expected in July.
3. Construction of the dog pound is underway, with invoices for completed works yet to be paid
4. Design of Zuccoli community hub underway.
5. Expenditure for the irrigation refurbishment has not yet been incurred.
6. Works delayed due to complexities with design. Works likely to be completed by end of August.
7. Design underway for solar panel and battery installation for SWELL.



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Section 2
Financial ResultsBalance Sheet as at
% of year passed

31 July 2026

8.33%

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>	3,919,918	Tied funds equals restricted reserve and unearned Grant income
Investments		
<i>Tied Funds</i>	13,751,131	Tied funds equals restricted reserve and unearned Grant income
<i>Untied Funds</i>	3,119,341	
Receivables		
<i>Rates and Charges</i>	40,326,906	
<i>Other Receivables</i>	2,545,534	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	63,664,186	
Non-Current Assets:		
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	555,856,424	
Investment property	7,000,000	
Work in progress	4,084,000	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	566,940,424	
TOTAL ASSETS	630,604,610	
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities:		
Payables	1,403,067	
Unearned Grant Income (AASB1058)	7,539,276	Unearned grant income
Borrowings	551,517	
Provisions	1,003,901	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	10,497,762	
Non-Current Liabilities:		
Borrowings	3,987,535	
Provisions	2,157,004	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	6,144,538	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	16,642,300	
NET ASSETS	613,962,311	
Equity		
Accumulated Surplus	237,994,770	
Profit & Loss - current Year	30,576,779	
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	613,962,311	



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Section 2
Financial Results

Statement of Reserves as at 31 July 2026
% of year passed 8.33%

2.2 - Statement of Reserves - Budget Movements

OTHER RESERVES	Opening Balance \$ 01/07/2026	Original Budget 2026/27 to Reserves \$	Original Budget 2026/27 from Reserves \$	1st Review 2026/27 to Reserves \$	1st Review 2026/27 from Reserves \$	Projected Balance at YTD 2026/27 \$
Externally Restricted Reserves						
Unexpended Grants Reserve	-	-	-		-	-
Externally Restricted Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internally Restricted Reserves						
Election Expenses Reserve	-	88,000		-	-	88,000
Disaster Recovery Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unexpended Capital Works Reserve	1,727,370	-	-	-		1,727,370
Developer Funds In Lieu Of Construction	2,622,168	521,902	(250,000)	-	-	2,894,070
Waste Management Reserve	2,276,543	-	(192,128)	-		2,084,415
Asset Renewal Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Major Initiatives Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internally Restricted Reserves	6,626,081	609,902	(442,128)	-	-	6,793,855
Unrestricted Reserves						
Working Capital Reserve	3,575,689	514,490	(425,000)	-		3,665,179
Unrestricted Reserves	3,575,689	514,490	(425,000)	-	-	3,665,179
TOTAL RESERVES	10,201,770	1,124,392	(867,128)	-	-	10,459,034



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Section 2
Financial ResultsInvestments Management Report as at
% of year passed31 July 2026
8.33%**2.3 - Investment Management Report**

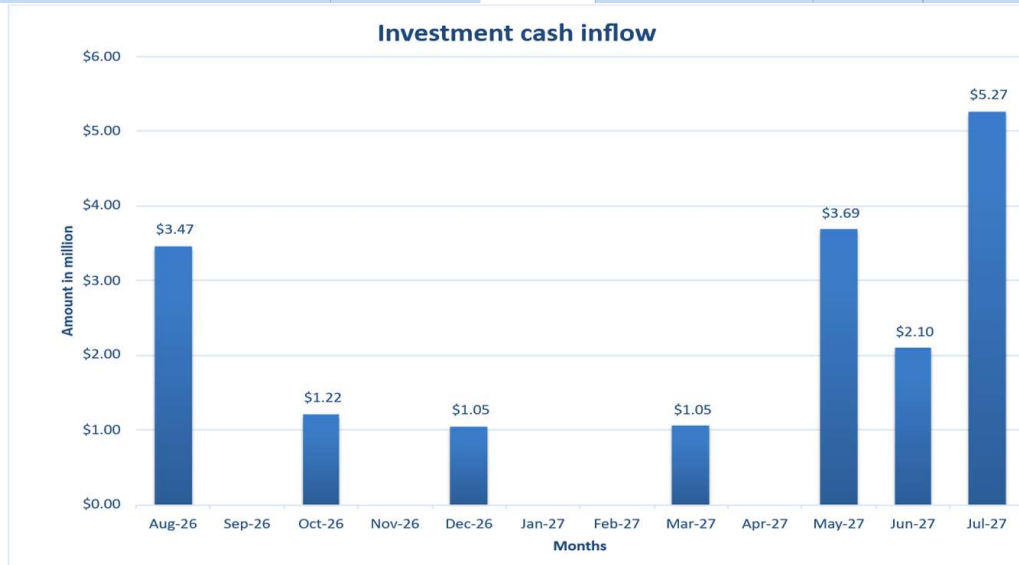
COUNTERPARTY	RATING	AMOUNT	INTEREST RATE	MATURITY DATE	DAYS TO MATURITY	INSTITUTION TOTALS
CBA	S&P A1+	\$ 3,370,472	4.38%	August 3, 2026	3	\$ 3,370,472.32
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000	4.20%	October 9, 2026	70	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000	5.40%	July 27, 2027	361	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000	4.50%	December 24, 2026	146	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 2,000,000	5.00%	July 23, 2026	0	
NAB	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000	5.35%	March 24, 2027	236	\$ 6,000,000.00
AMP	BBB+	\$ 3,500,000	5.35%	May 3, 2027	276	\$ 3,500,000.00
JUDO	BBB	\$ 4,000,000	5.40%	July 6, 2027	365	\$ 4,000,000.00
		\$ 16,870,472			156	

Investment Distribution by Credit Rating		
Credit Rating	% of Portfolio	Counterparty Limit
A1 & A1+	56%	100%
BBB+	21%	60%
BBB	24%	40%
A3	0%	40%

Interest Income Year to Date	Amount
Total Year to Date Interest on Cash at Bank	\$ 24,816
Total Year to Date Investment Earnings	\$ 94,139
Total Year to Date Interest from internal loan	\$ 2,443
Total Year to Date interest penalty income	\$ 27,477
Total YTD Interest Income	\$ 148,876

Investment Distribution by Individual institution		
ADI	% of Total	Max Individual limit
National Australian Bank (NAB)	36%	60%
Commonwealth Bank (CBA)	20%	60%
JUDO	24%	40%
AMP Bank Limited	21%	40%

Cash at bank & Investments	Amount
Trading Account	\$ 3,919,918
Short Term Investment	\$ 16,870,472
Petty Cash	\$ 1,355
Total Funds	\$ 20,791,745



PROPERTY INVESTMENT						
PROPERTY ADDRESS	VALUATION BASIS	VALUE	INCOME YTD	EXPENSE YTD	NET PROFIT YTD	COMPARATIVE YTD YIELD AT CASH RATE OF 4.35%
48 Odegaard Drive, Rosebery	Fair Value	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 39,440	\$ 5,378	\$ 34,062	\$ 25,862


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Section 2
Financial Results
31 July 2026
8.33%

Debtor Control Accounts as at
% of year passed

2.4 Debtor Control Accounts

RATES OUTSTANDING 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
Jul-26	\$40,057,189	\$37,675,517	94%	\$0	0.0%	\$2,021	\$276,926
Jul-25	\$35,582,086	\$35,582,086	94%				\$258,986

RATES AND CHARGES OVERDUE AMOUNT (including interest)

	Total	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019 & Prior
Rates and Charges Overdue Amount (Incl. Interest)	\$2,381,672	\$1,529,198	\$442,560	\$221,930	\$109,683	\$43,462	\$16,174	\$18,664
	100%	64.2%	18.6%	9.3%	4.6%	1.8%	0.7%	0.8%
Number Of Properties (Cumulative)	1370	1370	256	141	62	33	12	16

INFRINGEMENTS DUE BY YEARS

	Total	2026-27	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2021 & Prior
Animal Infringements	\$246,364	\$10,686	\$90,068	\$58,070	\$24,072	\$23,431	\$19,708	\$20,329
Public Places	\$15,829		\$1,100	\$3,372	\$3,796	\$1,752	\$2,227	\$3,582
Parking Infringements	\$7,446		\$1,278	\$2,912	\$139	\$1,632	\$1,485	
Net Balance on Infringement Debts	\$269,640	\$10,686	\$92,446	\$64,354	\$28,007	\$26,815	\$23,420	\$23,911
	100%	4.0%	34.3%	23.9%	10.4%	9.9%	8.7%	8.9%
Number of Infringements	1,411	28	227	268	269	222	191	206

SUMMARY OF INFRINGEMENTS AS PER CATEGORY

From 1/07/26 to 31/07/26	Total issued	Variation	Withdrawn/ Written off	Total issued after adjustment	Payment received	Escalated to Fines Recovery unit	Outstanding	Total received plus Outstanding
Animal Infringements	\$10,476	\$210	\$0	\$10,686	\$0	\$0	\$10,686	\$10,686
Parking Infringements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Places	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	10,476	210	-	10,686	-	-	10,686	10,686

SUNDRY DEBTORS:

Total	30 Days	30- 60 days	60-90 days	90 days and over
\$846,178	\$360,768	\$108,286	\$88,426	\$288,699



Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

SECTION 2

Financial Results

Creditor Accounts Paid
% of year passed

31 July 2026

8.33%

2.5 - Creditor Accounts Paid

Vendor Number	Creditor Name	Creditor Payment Type	Amount \$	Notes
V05187	Judo Bank	Investment	4,000,000.00	
V03200	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	General Creditors	851,047.28	
2	Australian Taxation Office - PAYG	General Creditors	365,872.00	
V06091	Hawkins & Clements Pty Ltd	General Creditors	335,976.41	
639	Cleanaway Pty Ltd.	General Creditors	276,216.73	
V03073	Programmed Property Services	General Creditors	214,968.13	
V00318	QuickSuper Clearing House	Superannuation	194,387.28	
V05237	The Darwin Festival Limited	General Creditors	165,000.00	
V04498	HCS Constructions NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	137,232.28	
V01904	Veolia Environmental Service (Australia) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	131,461.40	
2587	Top End RACE	General Creditors	120,752.60	
54	Powerwater	Utilities	114,878.45	
5104	JLM Contracting Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	89,817.65	
5525	Easyweb Digital Pty Ltd	General Creditors	77,731.67	
5508	Open Systems Technology Pty Ltd - CouncilFirst	General Creditors	76,520.62	
1607	Sterling NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	75,452.75	
V06156	Mode Design Corp. Pty Ltd	General Creditors	65,138.93	
V05941	EV Dealer Group Pty Ltd	General Creditors	60,986.60	
353	Otis	General Creditors	52,536.00	
V06339	JKJ Constructions Pty Ltd	General Creditors	49,881.10	
4660	Brightly Software Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	45,966.49	
V04167	All About Party Hire	General Creditors	41,574.50	
V00855	ESRI Australia	General Creditors	36,633.30	
V00582	Ezko Commercial Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	34,947.89	
V00368	iWater NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	34,223.50	
V03791	Mercer Marsh Benefits	General Creditors	33,000.00	
87	Industrial Power Sweeping Services Pty	General Creditors	31,543.89	
V00295	Jacana Energy	Utilities	30,828.20	
V05234	Mills Oakley	General Creditors	30,744.10	
V06266	TAS Inflatable Fun Park	General Creditors	27,500.00	
V03609	VTG Waste & Recycling Pty Ltd	General Creditors	27,428.87	
4190	National Australia Bank - Corporate Credit Cards	General Creditors	24,713.98	
V01814	N and M Klidas Nominees Pty Ltd T/A Vrahos Contr	General Creditors	24,429.90	
5414	Nitro Software, Inc.	General Creditors	20,826.96	
V01789	Next Energy Lighting Pty Ltd	General Creditors	20,133.30	
5031	All Aspects Recruitment & HR Services	General Creditors	19,241.38	
V04603	Darwin Symphony Orchestra	General Creditors	17,067.38	
5131	Core Traffic Control Pty Ltd	General Creditors	16,275.60	
V06234	Cussen Co Pty Ltd.	General Creditors	15,488.00	
V04381	Telstra Limited	General Creditors	14,683.16	
V02534	Water Dynamics Pty Limited	General Creditors	13,319.39	
V05726	Neptune NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	13,170.03	
V02162	RMI Security - Conigrave Pty Ltd	General Creditors	12,795.03	
V06222	Geek Culture Collective	General Creditors	12,202.00	
V01612	News Pty Limited (Advertising)	General Creditors	11,412.13	
V03973	AANT Salary Packaging	General Creditors	11,107.62	
V00682	Leigh Dyson Plumbing	General Creditors	11,088.00	
V04072	Atomic Search Pty Ltd	General Creditors	10,715.24	
V02369	Maher Raumteen Solicitors	General Creditors	10,359.25	
V04405	Rural Mulching Solutions NT	General Creditors	10,175.00	
3936	Arafura Tree Services and Consulting	General Creditors	9,900.00	
V01584	Salary Packaging Australia	General Creditors	9,754.53	
V06325	Bottle Rocket Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	9,460.00	
V05605	Benchmark Surveys WA t/a Benchmark Consulting WA	General Creditors	9,387.95	
V03611	Northern Lights NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	9,055.20	
V00228	Outback Tree Service	General Creditors	8,817.50	

V01134	Territory Technology Solutions Pty Ltd	General Creditors	8,636.10	
V04317	Randstad Pty Ltd	General Creditors	8,385.01	
V04802	AHG Building Contractors Pty Ltd	General Creditors	8,356.55	
4007	The Ark Animal Hospital Pty Ltd	General Creditors	8,321.27	
V02309	Mousellis and Sons Pty Ltd	General Creditors	7,875.80	
479	JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd	General Creditors	7,536.23	
V03431	Monsterball Amusements	General Creditors	7,473.99	
V05963	Mottech Parkland Pty Ltd	General Creditors	7,260.00	
V06462	University of New South Wales	General Creditors	7,150.00	
V06406	The Trustee for Instrument Choice Trust	General Creditors	6,916.86	
426	Corrugated Iron	Refunds & Reimbursements	6,600.00	
V03776	Business Fuel Cards Pty Ltd	General Creditors	5,787.12	
V01801	Pumpstech NT	General Creditors	5,764.00	
V06361	Brooklyn Towns Pty Ltd T/A D Ryan & Associates	General Creditors	5,720.00	
V04917	OverDrive Australia	General Creditors	5,708.54	
4561	Bendesigns	General Creditors	5,493.40	
5417	Institute of Public Works Engineering - IPWEAQ (Qld & NT)	General Creditors	5,356.50	
V01818	Riece Ranson	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	5,150.00	
V04068	Amazing XR	General Creditors	5,038.00	
V04045	Nichaloff Levi Colin	General Creditors	5,000.00	
V05024	The Array Learn Make Play Ltd	General Creditors	4,900.00	
V02444	Local Community Insurance Services	General Creditors	4,760.25	
V06076	Social Snaps	General Creditors	4,566.10	
V04798	Australian Radio Network Pty Limited	General Creditors	4,466.00	
4730	Sign City (NT) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	4,422.00	
566	Stickers & Stuff	General Creditors	4,245.00	
V04789	ACECOM NT PTY LTD T/A ACECOM FIRE & SECURITY	General Creditors	4,101.30	
V03949	Christie Audio Productions	General Creditors	4,000.00	
3438	NT Shade & Canvas Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,922.16	
V06196	Top End Garage Doors & Gates	General Creditors	3,888.50	
V06412	Darwin Signs	General Creditors	3,860.45	
V05212	Next Tier Enterprises Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,850.00	
V05220	Tangled Ventures Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,850.00	
V06372	Darwin Camel Rides	General Creditors	3,850.00	
V02030	JAC Traders Pty Ltd T/a Brandit NT	General Creditors	3,641.55	
V06434	Rhiannon Holmes	Refunds & Reimbursements	3,548.18	
V05491	Cengage Learning Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,540.90	
V04812	RingCentral Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,478.01	
V00730	Tip Top Circus Entertainment	General Creditors	3,437.50	
3099	Iron Mountain Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,380.47	
3829	Fairy Jill's Enchanted Entertainment	General Creditors	3,333.00	
V02328	Dale Austin - Dingo, Cockatoo Aboriginal Culture	General Creditors	3,300.00	
V00250	Ward Keller	General Creditors	3,235.30	
3313	Zip Print	General Creditors	3,160.96	
V06218	Hexicor	General Creditors	3,080.44	
V05074	On Point Creative NT	General Creditors	2,940.00	
90	Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT Ltd)	General Creditors	2,900.00	
V01397	RSPCA Darwin	Refunds & Reimbursements	2,860.00	
5640	Think Water - Winnellie & Virginia	General Creditors	2,759.36	
4029	Totally Workwear Palmerston	General Creditors	2,707.50	
V03349	Wicksees Educational Technology	General Creditors	2,640.00	
V06410	Centre Com Sunshine Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,636.00	
V00542	Industry Health Solutions	General Creditors	2,365.00	
V04811	ReadSpeaker Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,359.50	
5114	S.E. Rentals Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,330.90	
V03940	Build Up Skateboarding Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,310.00	
V01879	Fire and Safety Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,300.00	
V02316	Danielle Andrews	General Creditors	2,300.00	
5254	True North	General Creditors	2,285.69	
V02379	Paint and Create Darwin	General Creditors	2,280.00	
256	The Bookshop Darwin	General Creditors	2,231.38	
V01610	Zone 3 Darwin	General Creditors	2,200.00	
V04756	Herron Todd White (WANT) Pty LTD	General Creditors	2,200.00	

V06464		Refunds & Reimbursements	2,123.51	1
V01088	Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics	General Creditors	2,084.52	
V06461	Z-CARD Australia	General Creditors	2,084.50	
5	Australia Post	General Creditors	2,074.79	
272	City Wreckers	General Creditors	2,002.00	
V01420	CENTRELINK (PAYROLL)	General Creditors	1,915.71	
3879	Litchfield Council	General Creditors	1,913.00	
V05105	Litchfield Welding	General Creditors	1,815.00	
V05689	Department of Corporate and Digital Development	General Creditors	1,782.00	
5615	EcOz Environmental Consulting	General Creditors	1,770.58	
V02232	Xavier Beaubois - Amazing Drumming Monkeys	General Creditors	1,760.00	
V06292	Select Events Darwin PTY Ltd	General Creditors	1,673.50	
5713	Clean Fun T/A Darwin Outdoor Cinema Hire/Darwin Laundries	General Creditors	1,672.00	
V06294	Rentokil Initial Pty Ltd T/A Outback Pest Co	General Creditors	1,650.00	
48	Top End Line Markers Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,630.20	
V05606	Home Grown Lawn Mowing	General Creditors	1,450.00	
V04531	Mulga Security Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,412.23	
4735	Palmerston and Rural Party Hire	General Creditors	1,410.50	
V06356	I Made Liam Budalasia	General Creditors	1,400.00	
V06368	Claudia Sarah Phoenix	General Creditors	1,400.00	
V02869	Tamsten Pty Ltd T/A Palmerston Veterinary Hospital	General Creditors	1,385.10	
30	Colemans Printing Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,384.14	
V02306	Well Done International Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,369.68	
399	St John Ambulance (NT) Incorporated	General Creditors	1,358.75	
V00332	Hyper The Clown	General Creditors	1,320.00	
V06197	Qalmolmi Arts	General Creditors	1,315.00	
V05293	BAM Party & Events	General Creditors	1,267.45	
2199	SBA Office National	General Creditors	1,220.43	
V05354	Cleaner The Crow Cleaning Service P/L	General Creditors	1,216.88	
V06039	Jason Brady	Refunds & Reimbursements	1,208.36	
V02474	HMG - Heath Motor Group Pty Ltd (Isuzu)	General Creditors	1,192.00	
V05093	Darwin RexYu Photography	General Creditors	1,175.00	
V00099	Palmerston Lions NT	General Creditors	1,100.00	
V01722	Glennon, Casey Jane	General Creditors	1,100.00	
V03274	Top End Critters	General Creditors	1,100.00	
V03684	Territory Traffic Surveys	General Creditors	1,100.00	
V06363	Mimi Made	General Creditors	1,100.00	
V00193	Amcom Pty Ltd Acc no CN5439	General Creditors	1,085.70	
V01194	Hire A Hubby Darwin	General Creditors	1,082.00	
V02275	James Mangohig	General Creditors	1,050.00	
V00271	NTIT (Fuji Xerox Business Centre NT)	General Creditors	1,026.51	
V06259	Alexandra Duff	General Creditors	1,000.00	
V00473	Tecon Australia Pty Ltd as Trustee for Tecon Unit Trust	General Creditors	990.00	
3504	Raeco International Pty Ltd	General Creditors	984.02	
V00443	Forecast Machinery	General Creditors	957.50	
V00907	University Avenue Veterinary Hospital	General Creditors	944.00	
V04767	Alpha Trophies Pty Ltd T/A Badge-A-Minit	General Creditors	921.50	
V06445		Refunds & Reimbursements	907.05	1
V00343	MAGIQ Software Ltd. T/A - NCS Chameleon Ltd	General Creditors	893.68	
4398	Quality Indoor Plants Hire	General Creditors	884.15	
V00022	Officeworks	General Creditors	869.18	
V05937	Andrew Walsh	Refunds & Reimbursements	815.00	
215	Employee Assistance Services NT Inc (EASA)	General Creditors	810.32	
V05771	Akajack's Leathercraft	General Creditors	800.00	
V00073	Off the Leash	General Creditors	775.50	
549	City of Darwin	General Creditors	770.00	
V06246	Soccajoys Northern Territory	General Creditors	715.00	
V02780	Daryl Dane Fernandez Villamanca	Refunds & Reimbursements	700.00	
V05720	T&E Group Pty Ltd T/As Tin Car Detailing	General Creditors	660.00	
V01500	Enchanted Moments Events Pty Ltd	General Creditors	635.00	
V01703	Cazalys Brasserie - Jobize Pty Ltd	General Creditors	630.00	
V03976	Luva Cuppa	General Creditors	626.00	
V06441	Nonna mia by the taste of Italy	General Creditors	619.30	

V06349	Liam Monkhouse	General Creditors	600.00	
V03337	Northern Territory Cricket Association Inc	General Creditors	550.00	
V05165	Mya Gregory	General Creditors	550.00	
V06059	Australian Environmental Auditors Pty Ltd	General Creditors	536.25	
V06470	Christopher Frederick Meakin & Li Wei Meakin	Refunds & Reimbursements	518.00	
V05222	Haruka Sasaki	General Creditors	506.00	
V03194	Delaney and Byron Goodwin	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	500.00	
V05144	Ava and Ellie Carberry	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	500.00	
V05194	Madison Walker and Imogen Walker	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	500.00	
V05684		Refunds & Reimbursements	500.00	1
V06457	Indiana and Cruz Butt	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	500.00	
V00075	Mercury Group of Companies Pty Ltd (T/A Fit2Work)	General Creditors	492.80	
2186	Optus Billing Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	480.00	
V04044	Deaf Connect t/a Deaf Services	General Creditors	466.13	
2064	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	General Creditors	440.00	
V03990	Ecotreat Solutions NT	General Creditors	440.00	
V04920	Maximise Physiotherapy Clinic	General Creditors	440.00	
V06347	David Lim Magic	General Creditors	440.00	
V06444		Refunds & Reimbursements	429.90	1
35	WINC Australia Pty Limited	General Creditors	411.74	
V06130	Save a Paw NT Inc	General Creditors	400.00	
4528	Miranda's Armed Security Officers Pty	General Creditors	396.00	
3428	Bunnings Group Limited	General Creditors	390.57	
V02861	PETstock Berrimah	General Creditors	380.99	
2977	Optic Security Group NT	General Creditors	375.39	
V01936	Arjays Sales & Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	374.00	
V05757	CJD Equipment	General Creditors	365.75	
V06380	Second Sight Studios Darwin	General Creditors	312.50	
V02314	Adam Scriven	General Creditors	300.00	
V03746	Kim Koole Music	General Creditors	300.00	
V05088	Jodi Holden	Refunds & Reimbursements	300.00	
V05770	Berna Leah Matilla	Refunds & Reimbursements	300.00	
V05822	Sabina Shrestha	Refunds & Reimbursements	300.00	
V05866	Doreen Walsh	Refunds & Reimbursements	300.00	
V05900	Rosleyza Adom	Refunds & Reimbursements	300.00	
V06329	Gravy Guitar	General Creditors	300.00	
V06362	Synurture / Synta	General Creditors	300.00	
V04783	Armando Mercader	Refunds & Reimbursements	299.90	
V06304	Darwin Kendo Club	General Creditors	282.59	
V04904	Tropical Tree Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	280.01	
V04986	Bridge NT Pty Ltd T/A Bridge Toyota	General Creditors	279.99	
V04085	Rohan Cram	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V05570	Nkosilathi Sibanda	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V05592	Blessings Sibanda	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V05612	Munyaradzi Mutengwa	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V05730	Jack Robinson	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V05882	Sasha Harford	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V05935	Daniel Ridolfi	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V05979	John Son	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V06443	Tatius Calma-Long	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V06447	Calvin Katsidzira	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V06448	Collin Katsidzira	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V06450	Muziwandile Jubane	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V06452	Tawanda Munashe Matizanadzo	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V06453	Thomas Edgword	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V06454	Nyasha Tagwireyi	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V06456	Lachlan Tokley	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V06460	Yash Panchal	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V06468	Clint Munro	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V06469	Saoirse Griffin	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	250.00	
V03834	Tabellarius Pty LTd TA Pack & Send	General Creditors	240.00	
V04624	Niesha Korman	General Creditors	240.00	
V03665	Bilске Investments Pty Ltd T/A Outback Pest Co - use V06294	General Creditors	220.00	

V03799	Pilates with Alex Hurt	General Creditors	200.00	
V04293	Kulture Cuts Barbershop	General Creditors	200.00	
V06001	Angelique Torr	Refunds & Reimbursements	197.99	
V05717	Australian Laboratory Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	194.46	
V05400	FIRSTAIDPRO AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD	General Creditors	187.00	
V03262	WOW Wipes	General Creditors	158.73	
V06451	Abbey Rapkins Live Music	General Creditors	150.00	
V01118	Wilson Security Pty Ltd	General Creditors	131.86	
V06009	Rob Waters	Elected Members	128.00	
V02542	Roadside Services and Solutions Pty Ltd	General Creditors	127.60	
V06346	Justine Hayes	General Creditors	120.00	
V05583	FCD Health Pty Ltd t/as Palmerstonb GP Super Clinic	General Creditors	110.00	
V05826	Penny Hart	Refunds & Reimbursements	108.00	
V02025	Event Hospitality & Entertainment	General Creditors	100.00	
V02223	Stephanie Alm	General Creditors	100.00	
V06435	Smashit Darwin	General Creditors	100.00	
V05990	Wayne Bayliss	Elected Members	50.63	
V01938	Windcave Pty Limited	General Creditors	49.50	
4256	AMP Bank	Investment	25.00	
V02193	Paige Setter	Refunds & Reimbursements	20.00	
V05705	Central Animal Records	General Creditors	13.93	
V02545	Amazon Web Services Inc	General Creditors	4.94	
			8,552,434.31	

Investments	4,000,025.00
Total Creditor Payments (excludes investments placed)	<u>4,552,409.31</u>
Total Payments made to Local suppliers this month	<u>3,987,131.66</u>

Percentage of this month's payments made to local suppliers **87.58%**

Notes

1. Redacted names relate to rates refunds to individuals or where the name of an entity may identify individuals.



Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

SECTION 2
Financial Results

Creditor Accounts Outstanding as at 31 July 2026
% of year passed 8.33%

2.6 - Creditor Accounts Outstanding

Creditor No.	Creditor Name	Amount \$	Notes
2587	Top End RACE	(158.95)	1
3788	HPA Incorporated	(22.00)	1
3834	Good Shepherd Lutheran College	(100.00)	1
422	ALIA -Australian Library & Information Association	(1,500.00)	1
4398	Quality Indoor Plants Hire	(250.00)	1
V00332	Hyper The Clown	(467.50)	1
V00730	Tip Top Circus Entertainment	(412.50)	1
V01106	Darwin Toilet Hire	(1,100.00)	1
V01118	Wilson Security Pty Ltd	18.56	1
V02285	Territory Native Plants	(459.57)	1
V03274	Top End Critters	(660.00)	1
V05726	Neptune NT Pty Ltd	(389.93)	1
Total		(5,501.89)	

Aged Accounts Payable

Total	30 days	30-60 days	60-90 days	90 days and over
(5,501.89)	(5,501.89)	-	-	-

Notes

1. . Invoice to be processed and paid in August



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Section 2
Financial Results

Commercial Leases as at
% of year passed

31 July 2026

8.33%

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	30,000	0	0%	0	0%	
GM Finance & Governance	80,062	5,782	7%	6,672	87%	1
Civic Centre	166,587	13,882	8%	13,882	100%	
Income	276,649	19,664	7%	20,554	96%	
Expenditure						
GM Finance & Governance	-12,000	-1,095	9%	-1,000	109%	
Expenditure	-12,000	-1,095	9%	-1,000	109%	
Profit/(Loss)	264,649	18,570		19,554		

Notes

1. Due to lower rental income than expected


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Section 2
Financial Results

Council Loans as at
% of year passed

31 July 2026

8.33%

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)
Repayments 2025/26	(357,004)
Loan Balance at 1/07/2026	1,129,161
Expected Repayments 2026/27	(281,902)
Expected Loan Balance as at 30/06/2027	847,259

Making the Switch (FILOC)					
Principal as of 1/7/2026	Principal Loan Repayments for 2025-26	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Interest for 2026-27	Interest YTD	Loan balance as of 31/07/2026
847,259	-281,902	-23,492	-25,958	-2,443	823,767
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 2030. 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)
Repayments 2025/26	(80,000)
Loan Balance at 1/07/2026	160,000
Expected Repayments 2026/27	(80,000)
Expected Loan Balance as at 30/06/2027	80,000

Section 2
Financial Results

Council Loans as at
% of year passed

31 July 2026
8.33%

2.8 - Council Loans

SWELL Loan (FILOC)			
Principal as of 1/7/2026	Principal Loan Repayments for 2026-27	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Loan balance as of 31/07/2026
80,000	-80,000	-6,667	73,333

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.

EXTERNAL LOANS

Archer Landfill Rehabilitation Balances (NAB)	
Total Loan Amount	1,960,000
Repayments 2019/20	(221,647)
Repayments 2020/21	(228,052)
Repayments 2021/22	(234,504)
Repayments 2022/23	(240,950)
Repayments 2023/24	(248,044)
Repayments 2024/25	(254,986)
Repayments 2025/26	(262,201)
Loan Balance at 1/07/2026	269,615
Expected Repayments 2026/27	(269,615)
Expected Loan Balance as at 30/06/2027	0

Archer Landfill Rehabilitation (NAB)					
Principal as of 1/7/2026	Principal Loan Repayments for 2026-27	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Interest for 2026-27	Interest YTD	Loan balance as of 31/07/2026
269,615	-269,615	-22,230	-4,758	-634	247,385

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
Repayments 2025/26	-250,000
Loan Balance at 01/07/2026	4,312,500
Expected Repayments 2026/27	-250,000
Expected Loan Balance as at 30/06/2027	4,062,500

Section 2
Financial Results

Council Loans as at
% of year passed

31 July 2026

8.33%

2.8 - Council Loans

SWELL (NAB)					
Principal as of 1/7/2026	Principal Loan Repayments for 2026-27	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Approx Interest for 2026-27	Interest YTD	Loan balance as of 31/07/2026
4,062,500	-250,000	-20,833	-236,740	-20,332	4,041,667
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 September quarter 2026 quarter is 5.61%					



Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Section 2
Financial Results

Elected Member Expenses 31 July 2026
% of year passed 8.33%

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	-59,812	-3,877	6%	-4,984	78%	1
Mayoral Allowance	-124,032	-10,753	9%	-10,336	104%	
Mayor Vehicle Allowance	-25,000	0	0%	-2,313	0%	2
Mayoral Professional Dev Allowance	-7,500	0	0%	0	0%	
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	-17,200	-1,272	7%	-1,233	103%	
Elected Members Councillor Allowances	-184,464	-14,727	8%	-15,372	96%	
Elected Members Professional Dev Allowance	-52,500	0	0%	0	0%	
Elected Members Meeting Allowance	-84,000	-3,500	4%	-3,405	103%	
Information Technology Capital Entitlement	-9,955	0	0%	0	0%	
Acting Mayor Allowance	-11,240	0	0%	0	0%	
Printing & Photocopying Costs	-1,000	0	0%	0	0%	
Other Sundry Expenses	-6,578	-20	0%	-209	10%	3
Food & Catering Costs	-9,000	-573	6%	-258	222%	4
Course Seminar & Conference Registration	-20,557	0	0%	0	0%	
Air Travel	-3,093	0	0%	0	0%	
Travel Accommodation	-2,111	0	0%	0	0%	
Travel Related Costs Other	-1,031	0	0%	0	0%	
Operating Expenditure	-619,073	-34,722	6%	-38,112	91%	

Notes

The variance is due to following:

1. Super expense lower than expected.
2. Mayor vehicle allowance for July yet to be paid.
3. Sundry expenses for elected members yet to be incurred.
4. Food and catering expense for July is higher than expected.



Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance

Section 2
Financial Results

CEO Credit Card Transactions as at 31 July 2026
% of year passed 8.33%

2.10 - CEO Credit Card Transactions

Cardholder Name: Andrew Walsh
Cardholder Position: CEO
Period 01/07/2026 to 31/07/2026

Transaction Date	Amount \$	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
1/07/2026	161	Qantas AirW	Additional baggage - ALGA NGA
Total	161		


Approved by: Exec Manager Financial Performance



13 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 Information

13.2 Correspondence

13.2.1 Remuneration Tribunal Inquiry on Local Government Council and Local Authority members' allowances 2027

1. THAT correspondence dated 4 August 2026 entitled Remuneration Tribunal Inquiry on Local Government Council and Local Authority members' allowances 2027 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council note that a draft submission Report will be provided to the 1 September 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

**GPO BOX 4396
DARWIN NT 0801**

Telephone: (08) 8999 6539

Mr Andrew Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
City of Palmerston

Ceo@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Dear Mr Walsh

The Remuneration Tribunal is commencing its inquiries on Local Government Council and Local Authority members' allowances 2027 pursuant to sections 7B(1) and 7E(1) of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006* with Councils.

The Tribunal is accepting written submissions from Councils for the inquiry until 4 September 2026, which should address only questions or issues that your Council would like to raise. Considerations should be made as to any unique circumstances relating to your Council which you may wish to advise the Tribunal. Individual Councillors may also like to provide their own submissions.

If completed on or before 1 February 2027, the inquiry will lead to a determination that applies to members' allowances from 1 July 2027.

While the Tribunal would like to meet with Councils personally, this is not practicable; however the Tribunal will accommodate video conference calls.

As a reminder, any allowances or entitlements related to superannuation are outside of the Tribunal's scope.

It would be appreciated if you could place this letter on the Council's agenda for its next meeting for your Council to discuss its approach and provide a copy of this letter to the Mayor of the Council.

Any queries or requests to arrange a meeting with the Tribunal can be directed to the Tribunal's Secretariat via email NTRemunerationTribunal@nt.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Higgins'.

Gary Higgins
Chair
Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal
4 August 2026



13.2.2 Call for Nominations - LGANT Board Directors

1. THAT correspondence dated 7 August 2026 entitled Call for Nominations - LGANT Board Directors be received and noted.
2. THAT Council nominate the Mayor to the position of President of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Board.
3. THAT Council nominate Councillor _____ for the position of municipal member of the Local Government Association Northern Territory.

From: LGANT CEO
Sent: Fri, 7 Aug 2026 03:51:56 +0000
To: **Council CEOs; **Mayors and Presidents; **LGANT Board
Cc: LGANT CEO; Mary Watson; **Council CEO EAs; **Mayors and Presidents EAs; LGANT Info; **LGANTStaff
Subject: Doc 700571 Call for nominations - LGANT Board Directors
Attachments: 2026-08-07 LGANT Board Director nomination information.pdf, 2026-08-07 LGANT Board Director nomination form.docx

Good afternoon,

As per section 16 of LGANT's Constitution, I call for nominations for all LGANT Board Director positions including the President and Vice Presidents. The elections will be held at the LGANT AGM in Alice Springs on 11 November 2026.

Please find attached a nomination information sheet and the nomination form.

Please send completed nomination forms to info@lgant.asn.au by **CoB Tuesday 6 October 2026**.

Kind regards,



Mary Watson | CEO

Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
 t: (08) 8944 9694 | m: 0417 864 183
 e: mary.watson@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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LGANT Board Director nomination information

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Board of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT). This introduction provides you with important information about the responsibilities and expectations associated with this role. We encourage you to read it carefully before submitting your nomination.

About LGANT

LGANT is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001*. We represent the interests of our local government members across the Northern Territory.

Director Responsibilities

As a Director of LGANT, you will have significant legal and ethical responsibilities. These include:

1. **Duty of Care and Diligence:** You must exercise your powers and duties with the care and diligence that a reasonable person would exercise in the same circumstances. This includes staying informed about the organisation's activities and financial position.
2. **Duty to Act in Good Faith:** You must act in good faith in the best interests of LGANT and for a proper purpose. This means putting the interests of LGANT ahead of your own interests or those of any individual council.
3. **Duty Not to Improperly Use Position or Information:** You must not use your position, or information obtained through your position, to gain an advantage for yourself or someone else, or to cause detriment to LGANT.
4. **Duty to Disclose Material Personal Interests:** You must disclose any material personal interests in matters that relate to the affairs of LGANT.
5. **Duty to Prevent Insolvent Trading:** You must prevent LGANT from incurring debts that it cannot pay.

The Board is responsible for the overall governance, management and strategic direction of the organisation (LGANT) and for delivering accountable corporate performance in accordance with the organisation's goals and objectives.

It's crucial to understand that as a Director, you will be representing LGANT as a whole, not your individual council. You will need to "take off your council hat" and make decisions in the best interests of LGANT and its entire membership.

Eligibility Under the Corporations Act 2001

It is important to note that certain individuals are disqualified from managing corporations under the *Corporations Act 2001*. This includes people who are undischarged bankrupt, have been convicted of certain offences, or are subject to a court order that disqualified them from managing corporations. If you are unsure about your eligibility, please review Section 206B of the *Corporations Act 2001*, or seek legal advice before submitting your nomination.



Important: Director Identification Number (Director ID) Requirement

All Directors in Australia, including LGANT, are required to have a Director ID. This is a unique identifier that you will keep forever. If you do not already have a Director ID, you must apply for one before you can be appointed as a Director of LGANT. This is a crucial step in the nomination process.

To apply for a Director ID or for more information, visit the Australian Business Registry Services website – www.abrs.gov.au. We strongly recommend that you start this process as soon as possible if you intend to nominate, as it may take some time to complete.

Skills and Experience

Effective governance requires a diverse range of skills and experiences on the Board. We encourage nominees to consider their unique contributions in areas such as:

- Strategic planning and policy development;
- Financial management and analysis;
- Risk management and compliance;
- Stakeholder engagement and communication;
- Legal and governance expertise;
- Industry knowledge (local government, public administration); and
- Leadership and change management.

While not all Directors need to be experts in all areas, a combination of these skills across the Board is vital for LGANT's success.

Commitment

Board membership requires a time commitment. In addition to regular Board meetings, you may be asked to serve on committees, attend events, and engage in ongoing professional development. Please consider your capacity to fully engage in these responsibilities before nominating.

Governance Framework

LGANT operates under a comprehensive governance framework, primarily defined by our [Constitution](#) and [Governance Charter](#). These documents outline our purpose, structure, and operational guidelines. We strongly recommend that you familiarise yourself with these documents before submitting your nomination.

Nomination Process

As per LGANT's Constitution, the CEO shall call for nominations on or before the second Tuesday in September and close nominations on the first Tuesday in October. Nominations open 7 August 2026 and close 6 October 2026.

Please note that each nomination must be endorsed by a resolution at a council meeting.

Only one elected member from each member council can be elected as a Director of the Board, and all others must be withdrawn from the election to any other positions, with the exception of City of Darwin which may have up to two positions on the Board (e.g. their nominated Director and an ordinary Director).

Please refer to LGANT's [Constitution](#) for more information of the nomination and voting process.

Annual General Meeting

The election will take place at our Annual General Meeting which is being held on 11 November 2026.



Nomination Form

The nomination form outlines the specific requirements for nomination. Please complete and lodge by 6 October 2026. You will be provided an opportunity to talk to your nomination at the Annual General Meeting.

If you have any questions about the nomination process or the responsibilities of a LGANT Board Director, please don't hesitate to contact our office.

We appreciate your interest in contributing to the important work of LGANT and look forward to receiving your nomination.



LGANT Board Director nomination form

Please read the accompanying nomination information sheet before completing this form.

Nominating Council:	
Name of Elected Member nominee:	
Nominee Director ID No:	
Nominee position eg. Lord Mayor, Mayor/President, Deputy Mayor/President, or Councillor	
Nominee phone number:	
Nominee email address:	
Position (please indicate):	☐ President ☐ Vice-President – Municipal ☐ Vice-President – Regional ☐ Board Director – Regional and Shire ☐ Board Director – Municipal
Relevant skills and experience:	☐ Strategic Planning Details: ☐ Risk Management Details:

	☐ Financial Management Details:
	☐ Stakeholder Engagement Details:
	☐ Legal Governance Expertise Details:
	☐ Local Government Knowledge Details:
	☐ Leadership Experience Details:
	☐ Other (please specify) Details:

Board Director experience (please add fields if required):	Position:
	Date:
	Organisation:
	Position:
	Date:
	Organisation:
	Position:
	Date:
	Organisation:
Relevant tertiary qualifications eg. certificates, diplomas, degrees, etc (please add fields if required):	Qualification:
	Field of Study:
	Institution:
	Qualification:
	Field of Study:
	Institution:
	Qualification:
	Field of Study:
	Institution:

Declaration

- ☐ I confirm that I have read and understood the LGANT Constitution and Governance Charter.
- ☐ I am aware of the responsibilities of a Director under the *Corporations Act 2001* and am willing to fulfil these duties if elected.

- ☐ I confirm that I am eligible to serve as a Director under the *Corporations Act 2001* and am not disqualified from managing corporations.
- ☐ I have included a short candidate statement (250 words maximum) and a high-resolution digital photo as part of this application.

Elected member nominee full name:	
Nominee signature:	Date:
Council endorsement: I confirm that this nomination has been endorsed by a resolution of [Council Name].	
Council resolution number:	
Council resolution date:	
Council CEO name:	
Signature:	Date:

Completed nomination form and short biography on each nominee must be submitted to LGANT by CoB 6 October 2026 to: info@lgant.asn.au.

Privacy Statement

The personal information collected on this form is being gathered for the purposes of the LGANT Board nomination and election process. This information will be used to assess your eligibility and suitability for a Board position and will be shared with LGANT member councils as part of the election process.



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, 1 September 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 4 AUGUST 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



Minutes of Council Meeting
held in Council Chambers
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
on Tuesday 4 August 2026 at 5:30pm.

PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS	Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell (Chair)
	Deputy Mayor Wayne Bayliss
	Councillor Lucy Morrison (via Audio/Audiovisual)
	Councillor Mark Fraser
	Councillor Sarah Henderson
STAFF	Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Walsh
	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Nadine Nilon
	General Manager Finance and Governance, Chris Fearon
	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl
	General Manager People and Place, Emma Blight
	Minute Secretary, Pania Withnall
GALLERY	Nil members of the public
	7 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: Deputy Mayor Bayliss

Seconded: Councillor Fraser

1. THAT the apology received from Councillor Hale for 4 August 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT the apology received from Councillor Waters for 4 August 2026 be received and noted.
3. THAT the apology received from Councillor Kanyai for 4 August 2026 be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - 11/0524 - 4/08/2026

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

4.1 Elected members

Moved: Councillor Henderson

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bayliss

THAT the Declaration of Interest received from Councillor Morrison for Item 7.1 be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - 11/0525 - 4/08/2026

4.2 Staff

Nil

Initials: _____

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of minutes

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bayliss

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 July 2026 pages 12223 to 12237 be confirmed.

CARRIED (5/0) - 11/0526 - 4/08/2026

5.2 Business arising from previous meeting

Nil

6 MAYORAL REPORT

Nil

7 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Lei Lithium Project

Due to lack of quorum the deputation on the Lei Lithium Project was deferred to Tuesday 18 August 2026.

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)

Nil

Initials: _____

9 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

9.1 Moving confidential items into open

9.1.1 Leave of Absence Requests

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hale

Seconded: Councillor Bayliss

2. THAT the leave of absence request received from Councillor Bayliss for 24 July 2026 to 3 August 2026 inclusive, for the reason of holiday, be approved.
5. THAT each decision be moved to the Open Minutes at expiry of the leave of absence.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0222 - 3/02/2026

9.1.2 Leave of Absence Requests

Moved: Councillor Fraser

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bayliss

5. THAT the leave of absence request received from Councillor Waters for 20 to 24 July 2026 inclusive, for the reason of holiday, be approved.
6. THAT each decision be moved to the Open Minutes at expiry of the leave of absence.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0354 - 21/04/2026

9.1.3 Leave of Absence Requests

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bayliss

Seconded: Councillor Waters

3. THAT the leave of absence request received from Councillor Morrison for 24 July 2026 to 29 July 2026 inclusive, for the reason of holiday, be approved.
4. THAT each decision be moved to the Open Minutes at expiry of the leave of absence.

CARRIED (8/0) - 11/0424 - 2/06/2026

Initials: _____

9.1.4 Leave of Absence Requests

Moved: Councillor Morrison

Seconded: Councillor Kanyai

2. THAT the leave of absence request received from Councillor Henderson for 20 to 24 July 2026 inclusive, for the reason of death in family, be approved.
3. THAT the leave of absence request received from Councillor Fraser for 31 July 2026 to 3 August 2026 inclusive, for the reason of travel, be approved.
4. THAT each decision be moved to the Open Minutes at expiry of the leave of absence.

CARRIED (7/0) - 11/0517 - 21/07/2026

9.2 Moving open items into confidential

Nil

9.3 Confidential items

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bayliss

Seconded: Councillor Morrison

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

Initials: _____

26.1.1	Council Project Initiative	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(d) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.
27.2.1	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)(d) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

CARRIED (5/0) - 11/0527 - 4/08/2026

10 PETITIONS

Nil

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

Initials: _____

12 OFFICER REPORTS

12.1 Action reports

12.1.1 Community Funding Program - Share the Dignity

Moved: Councillor Morrison
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT Report entitled Community Funding Program - Share the Dignity be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse Option One (1) of the report to approve full funding amount of \$9,756 to Share the Dignity through a Community Grant through the Community Funding Program.

CARRIED (5/0) - 11/0528 – 4/08/2026

12.1.2 Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference 2026

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bayliss

1. THAT Report entitled Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve the Mayor, Councillor Kanyai and Deputy Mayor Bayliss to attend the Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference from 7-9 September 2026 in Canberra.

CARRIED (5/0) - 11/0529 – 4/08/2026

12.1.3 Feasibility of acquiring the former Fire Station at Emery Avenue, Woodroffe

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bayliss
Seconded: Councillor Fraser

1. THAT Report entitled Feasibility of acquiring the former Fire Station at Emery Avenue, Woodroffe be received and noted.
2. THAT Council cease further investigation into acquiring the former Woodroffe Fire Station at Emery Avenue, Woodroffe, on the basis that the site is not currently available or suitable for community use due to structural and biohazard concerns.

Initials: _____

3. THAT Council work collaboratively with the Palmerston Men's Shed to support the development of a grant application for the expansion of the organisations current facility.
4. THAT should it be determined that grant application support is beyond the capacity of existing Council resources, Council endorses the allocation of up to \$5,000 from the 2026/27 operational budget to enable the Palmerston Men's Shed to engage professional grant-writing or consultancy services to prepare a grant application to seek external funding for the proposed expansion of the organisation's current facility.

CARRIED (5/0) - 11/0530 - 4/08/2026

12.2 Receive and note reports

12.2.1 Community Quarterly Report April - June

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bayliss
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT Report entitled Community Quarterly Report April - June be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - 11/0531 - 4/08/2026

13 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 Information

Nil

13.2 Correspondence

13.2.1 Notice of LGANT Annual General Meeting and call for motions

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bayliss

1. THAT correspondence dated 16 July 2026 entitled Notice of LGANT Annual General Meeting and call for motions be received and noted.
2. THAT Elected Members provide suggested notices of motion to the Chief Executive Officer by 21 August 2026.

CARRIED (5/0) - 11/0532 - 4/08/2026

Initials: _____

14 REPORT OF DELEGATES

Nil

15 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Moved: Councillor Henderson
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bayliss

THAT the question asked by Councillor Henderson regarding parking enforcement adjacent to the water tower in Palmerston CBD, and the response provided by the General Manager Community be received and noted.

CARRIED (5/0) - 11/0533 - 4/08/2026

16 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

17 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Moved: Councillor Fraser
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bayliss

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 18 August 2026 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED (5/0) - 11/0534 - 4/08/2026

18 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bayliss
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

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

CARRIED (5/0) - 11/0535 - 4/08/2026

Initials: _____



19 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA
LIAISON

Nil

The open section of the meeting closed at 6:00pm for the discussion of confidential matters.

The closed section of the meeting reopened at 6:49pm.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:49pm.

UNCONFIRMED

Chair

Print Name

Date

Initials: