MEDIA RELEASE

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ALMERSTON

The future of book borrowing is here – introducing the Anytime Library.

City of Palmerston has installed two state of the art library book vending machines, a first for the Territory.

The 'Anytime Library' machines are conveniently located at the Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre and at the Zuccoli Plaza IGA. The machines dispense over 300 books for borrowing, free of charge and are a contactless and convenient book borrowing experience for the Palmerston community.

City of Palmerston Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell is excited to launch this new technology.

"We are proud to provide Palmerston with this innovative service which is unlike any other. We place importance on having a future focus and improving wellbeing for those of all ages, and I believe the Anytime Library will do just that."

Chief Minister, Michael Gunner applauds the initiative.

"The Anytime Library will be a real talking point for the residents of Palmerston – it's the first of its kind in the Territory."

"The SCALE funding has ensured important community programs have continued to operate during the pandemic. This has meant that Territorians have kept working, and residents have had access to the very best services in their communities."

"We have done everything we can to support all areas of the Territory through the pandemic, and we will continue to do whatever it takes, to ensure we are the comeback capital of Australia," the Chief Minister said.

City of Palmerston has strategically placed one of the book vending machines at the popular Zuccoli IGA.

"Zuccoli IGA is very excited to have an Anytime Library within our store. We believe that this is such an asset to our local community and we can't wait for those within our community to use it," store owner, Kenny Lay said.

The Anytime Library complements the other work underway by Council including the development of a Library Masterplan and the construction of a community recording studio at the Palmerston Library.

For more information on City of Palmerston library services, or to register for a library card to use the machines, visit <u>www.palmerston.nt.gov.au.</u>

This project has been funded by the Northern Territory Government, through the Special Community Assistance and Local Employments (SCALE) program.

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Image: City of Palmerston Mayor, Athina Pascoe-Bell and Zuccoli IGA owner Kenny Lay.

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