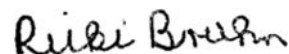


## CITY OF PALMERSTON

**Notice of Special Council Meeting**  
**To be held in Council Chambers**  
**Civic Plaza, Palmerston**  
**on Tuesday 25 July 2017 at 6.00pm**



Ricki Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

*Any member of Council who may have a conflict of interest, or a possible conflict of interest in regard to any item of business to be discussed at a Council meeting or a Committee meeting should declare that conflict of interest to enable Council to manage the conflict and resolve it in accordance with its obligations under the Local Government Act and its policies regarding the same.*

### Audio Disclaimer

An audio recording of this meeting is being made for minute taking purposes as authorised by City of Palmerston Policy MEE3 Recording of Meetings, available on Council's Website.

### Acknowledgement of Traditional Ownership

*I respectfully acknowledge the past and present Traditional Custodians of this land on which we are meeting, the Larrakia people. It is a privilege to be standing on Larrakia country.*

## 1 PRESENT

## 2 APOLOGIES

## 3 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

## 4 OFFICER REPORTS

4.1	Certification of Assessment 2017/2018	8/1256
4.2	Review FIN25 Rating Policy	8/1257
4.3	Review FIN20 Borrowing Policy	8/1258
4.4	Review FIN19 Financial Reserve Policy	8/1259
4.5	Municipal Plan 2017-2022	8/1260
4.6	Declaration of Rates 2017/2018	8/1261

## 5 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

## 6 CLOSURE

**ITEM NUMBER:** 4.1 Certification of Assessment 2017/2018  
**FROM:** Chief Executive Officer  
**REPORT NUMBER:** 8/1256  
**MEETING DATE:** 25 July 2017

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**Municipal Plan:**

## 4. Governance &amp; Organisation

## 4.1 Responsibility

We are committed to corporate and social responsibility, the sustainability of Council assets and services, and the effective planning and reporting of Council performance to the community

**Summary:**

In accordance with regulation 24 (1) (b) of the Accounting Regulations the CEO must certify the Rates Assessment for financial year before the adoption of the budget.

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council receives Report Number 8/1256.

**Background:**

Accounting Regulation 24 (1) (b) requires the CEO to certify to the council that, to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief, the assessment record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the area.

**General:**

The CEO has certified assessment numbers declared are recorded in the assessment record and are a comprehensive record.

**Financial Implications:**

Nil

**Legislation/Policy:**

Local Government (Accounting) Regulation 24(1) Before a council adopts its budget for a financial year, the CEO must:

- (a) check all available records to ensure that all rateable land is recorded in the assessment record; and

(b) certify to the council that, to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief, the assessment record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the area.

**Recommending Officer:** Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer

Any queries on this report may be directed to Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer on telephone (08) 8935 9902 or email [ricki.bruhn@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:ricki.bruhn@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

**Author:** Maxie Smith, Acting Finance Manager

**Schedule of Attachments:**

Attachment A: Certificate in terms of Regulation 24 (1) signed by CEO



## **Certificate in Terms of Regulation 24 (1) of the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations**

This is to certify that assessments numbered 100002 to 115187 declared pursuant to Sections 155-157 of the Local Government Act are recorded in the assessment record and to the best of my knowledge, information and belief the assessment record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the municipality.

Signed: Ricki Bruhn

Date: 12/7/2017

Ricki Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer



**ITEM NUMBER:** 4.2 Review FIN25 Rating Policy

**FROM:** Chief Executive Officer

**REPORT NUMBER:** 8/1257

**MEETING DATE:** 25 July 2017

## Municipal Plan:

4. Governance & Organisation

4.1 Responsibility

We are committed to corporate and social responsibility, the sustainability of Council assets and services, and the effective planning and reporting of Council performance to the community

## Summary:

Policy FIN25 requires review due to the addition of a City Centre Improvement Special Rate.

Council is asked to receive the report and approve the attached amended policy FIN25.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council receives Report Number 8/1257.
2. THAT Council adopt the amended FIN25 Rating Policy.

## Background:

Nil

## General:

The listed changes below are necessary due to the introduction of the City Centre Improvement Special Rate. Management also suggests extending the review period from twelve (12) months to twenty-four (24) months.

Section of Policy	Addition/Deletion	Amendment	Reason
Approval Date	Deletion		Approval date will be set with date of Council decision
Next Review Date	Deletion		Two years from approval date

4.3 Land Use for Rating Purpose			
4.3.1	Addition	Other (Special Rate) - City Centre Improvement Special Rate	Introduction of the City Centre Improvement Special rate as a rating category
4 Policy Statement			
4.4.5	Addition	Other Rates (Special Rate) - With respect to all parking shortfalls in the City Centre (as defined in Councils Master Plan), a set rate per parking shortfall space as declared in Council's annual declaration of Rates & Charges. The City Centre Improvement Special Rate is levied on all rate-able land assessed to have a parking shortfall in the City Centre. Parking shortfalls will be assessed by the Council in accordance with primary planning principles.	Introduction of the City Centre Improvement Special Rate.

**Financial Implications:**

Nil

**Legislation/Policy:**

Local Government Act – Chapter 11 Rates and Charges

**Recommending Officer:** Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer

Any queries on this report may be directed to Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer on telephone (08) 8935 9902 or email [ricki.bruhn@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:ricki.bruhn@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

**Author:** Maxie Smith, Acting Finance Manager

**Schedule of Attachments:**

Attachment: Draft FIN25 Rating Policy





Name:	Rating Policy		
Type:	Council Policy		
Owner:	Chief Executive Officer		
Responsible Officer:	Finance Manager		
Approval Date:	[Approval Date]	Next Review Date:	[Next Review]

## 1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline Council's approach towards rating its community and to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act Northern Territory (the Act).

## 2 Principles

City of Palmerston is committed to accountability and transparency in the rating structure. City of Palmerston is distributing the rate responsibility equitably across the community. The Rating structure is consistent with Council's strategic, corporate and financial directions and budgetary requirements. Rates are a system of taxation and are not reflective of the services, infrastructure or facilities used by any particular property owner or resident.

## 3 Definitions

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

Term	Definition
The Act	Local Government Act Northern Territory
NT Planning Scheme	Northern Territory Planning Scheme

## 4 Policy Statement

### 4.1 Basis for Rates

- 4.1.1 Council applies rates on the basis of land use and location.
- 4.1.2 Where Council is not aware of the Use of the Land it will deem the Use in line with the Zoning of the land under the NT Planning Scheme.
- 4.1.3 Council, pursuant to Section 149 of the Act, adopts the Unimproved Capital Value method as the basis for determining the assessed value of allotments within the Municipality. The Unimproved Capital Value of land is set by the NT Valuer General.
- 4.1.4 In accordance with section 148(1) of the Local Government Act rates are based on differential valuation-based charges calculated as a proportion of the assessed value of each allotment.
- 4.1.5 The Valuation-based charge may be subject to a specified minimum amount.

### 4.2 Rateable Allotments

- 4.2.1 An allotment is a parcel or part of a parcel of land for which Council makes a separate assessment of rates.
- 4.2.2 For the purpose of residential rates, allotment means a residential part, unit, dwelling house, flat or other substantially self-contained residential unit or building.
- 4.2.3 If a parcel is divided into separate allotments that are adapted for separate rating, a minimum charge will be multiplied by the numbers of separate allotments.

### 4.3 Land Use for Rating Purpose

4.3.1 The following table outlines the Land Use for all Rating Categories:

Rating Category	Land Use
<b>Residential</b>	Caretakers Residence
	Group Home
	Homes Based Child Care Centre
	Home Based Contracting
	Home Based Visitor Accommodation
	Home Occupation
	Independent Unit
	Multiple Dwellings
	Single Dwelling
<b>Commercial</b>	Animal Boarding
	Business Sign
	Caravan Park
	Car Park
	Child Care Centre
	Fuel Depot
	Hostel
	Hotel
	Leisure and Recreation
	Licensed Club
	Medical Clinic
	Medical Consulting Rooms
	Motel
	Office
	Promotional Sign
	Passenger Terminal
	Restaurant
	Retail Agricultural Stall
	Service Station
	Shop
	Showroom Sales
	Supporting Accommodation
	Vehicle Sales and Hire
	Veterinary Clinic
	Warehouse
<b>Industrial</b>	Abattoir
	General Industry
	Light Industry
	Motor Body Works
	Motor Repair Station
	Recycling Depot
	Rural Industry
	Transport Terminal
<b>Vacant</b>	Vacant Land
<b>Other (Special Rate)</b>	City Centre Improvement Special Rate

- 4.3.2 Where Council is not aware of the Use of the Land the Rating Category for rateable land is determined by the Zoning of the land under the NT Planning Scheme:

Rating Category	Zoning
<b>Residential</b>	Single Dwelling Residential (SD)
	Multiple Dwelling Residential (MD)
	Medium Density Residential (MR)
	High Density Residential (HR)
	Community Living (CL)
	Rural (R)
	Rural Residential (RR)
	Rural Living (RL)
<b>Commercial</b>	Central Business (CB)
	Commercial (C)
	Caravan Park (CV)
	Service Commercial (SC)
	Tourist Commercial (TC)
<b>Industrial</b>	Light Industry (LI)
	General Industry (GI)
	Development (D)
<b>Vacant Land</b>	Public Open Space (PS)
	Organised Recreation (OR)
	Horticulture (H)
	Agriculture (A)
	Community Purposes (CP)
	Conservation (CN)
	Heritage (HT)
	Restricted Development (RD)
	Water Management (WM)
	Future Development (FD)
	Township (T)
	Specific Use(SP)
	Main Road (M)
	Proposed Main Road (PM)
	Railway (RW)
	Utilities (U)

- 4.3.3 If a ratepayer believes that a particular property has been wrongly classified by the Council as to its land use, then the ratepayer may object in writing to the Council within 60 days of being notified. The objection must set out the basis for the objection and details of the land use that, in the opinion of the ratepayer, should be attributed to that property. Council will decide over the objection. Lodgement of an objection does not change the due date for the payment of rates.

#### 4.4 Rating Categories

##### 4.4.1 Residential Use

With respect to rateable land with a Residential Land Use, two differential rates of the assessed value of such land are declared depending on the location of the land with minimum amounts being payable in the application of that differential rate multiplied by:

- a) the number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use (pursuant to section 148 (4) of the Act) on each allotment of land; or
- b) the number1,  
whichever is greater.

First rate for Residential Use is declared for land within the suburb of Marlow Lagoon.

Second rate for Residential Use is declared for land within all other suburbs of the municipality, other than Marlow Lagoon.

#### 4.4.2 Commercial Use

With respect to all rateable land with a Commercial Land Use, a differential rate of the assessed value of such land is declared with minimum amounts being payable in the application of that differential rate multiplied by:

- a) the number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use (pursuant to section 148 (4) of the Act) on each allotment of land; or
- b) the number1,  
whichever is greater.

#### 4.4.3 Industrial Use

With respect to all rateable land with a Industrial Land Use, a differential rate of the assessed value of such land is declared with minimum allotments being payable in the amounts of that differential rate being \$1,177.00 multiplied by:

- a) the number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use (pursuant to section 148 (4) of the Act) on each allotment of land; or
- b) the number1,  
whichever is greater.

#### 4.4.4 Vacant Land

With respect to all rateable vacant land, a differential rate of the assessed value of such land is declared with minimum amounts being payable in the application of that differential rate multiplied by:

- a) the number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use (pursuant to section 148 (4) of the Act) on each allotment of land; or
- b) the number1,  
whichever is greater.

#### 4.4.5 Special Rate

With respect to all parking shortfalls in the City Centre (as defined in Councils Master Plan), a set rate per parking shortfall space as declared in Council's annual declaration of Rates & Charges. The City Centre Improvement Special Rate is levied on all rate-able land assessed to have a parking shortfall in the City Centre. Parking shortfalls will be assessed by the Council in accordance with primary planning principles.

## 5 Associated Documents

### 5.1 City of Palmerston Policies

## 6 References and Related Legislation

- 6.1 Northern Territory Local Government Act
- 6.2 Northern Territory Local Government (Administration) Regulations
- 6.3 Northern Territory Local Government (Accounting) Regulations
- 6.4 Australian Accounting Standards

- 6.5 Ministerial Guidelines
- 6.6 Northern Territory Planning Scheme
- 6.7 Local Government General Instructions

**ITEM NUMBER:** 4.3 Review FIN20 Borrowing Policy  
**FROM:** Chief Executive Officer  
**REPORT NUMBER:** 8/1258  
**MEETING DATE:** 25 July 2017

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**Municipal Plan:**

4. Governance & Organisation

4.1 Responsibility

We are committed to corporate and social responsibility, the sustainability of Council assets and services, and the effective planning and reporting of Council performance to the community

**Summary:**

Policy FIN20 requires review to provide Council with the option of utilising Reserve Funds for internal borrowing purposes.

Council is asked to receive the report and approve the attached amended FIN20 Borrowing Policy.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. THAT Council receives Report Number 8/1258.
2. THAT Council adopt the amended FIN20 Borrowing Policy.

**Background:**

Within the draft City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018, provision has been made for Council to consider utilising Reserve Funds for internal borrowing purposes to partially fund capital / infrastructure projects.

To ensure the FIN20 Borrowing Policy provides for this option, amendments need to be made to provide for this.



**General:**

The listed changes below are necessary due to the introduction of internal borrowing.

<b>Section of Policy</b>	<b>Addition/Deletion</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Approval Date	Deletion		Approval date will be set with date of Council decision
Next Review Date	Deletion		Two years from approval date
<b>4.1 Borrowing Purposes</b>			
	Addition	(Internal or External)	Clarification due to introduction of internal borrowing to the policy
<b>4.2 Borrowing Considerations</b>			
	Addition	-The impact and alternatives to external borrowings, including alternative sources of revenue (e.g. special rates and charges), or borrowing from reserves will be identified.	Addition due to introduction of internal borrowing to the policy
<b>4.3 Borrowing Conditions</b>			
4.3.1	Addition	-Internal borrowing from reserves may be considered as part of any borrowing strategy	Addition of internal borrowing as a potential source of borrowing
4.3.2	Addition	-External borrowings will be repaid over a period no longer than the physical life of the asset purchased as determined with ATO depreciation guidelines. Where the borrowings have not been repaid when the asset is sold, City of Palmerston will first apply the proceeds of the sale to the repayment of the loan source.	Clarification due to introduction of internal borrowing to the policy
<b>4.5 Reporting Requirements</b>			
	Addition	The Chief Executive Officer will provide Council on a monthly basis a report detailing the following regarding external borrowing:	Clarification due to introduction of internal borrowing to the policy
	Addition	Any internal borrowing and repayments which may have occurred in the financial year will	Addition of reporting requirements relating to introduction of

		be reported in the municipal plan and annual financial report.	internal borrowing to the policy
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**Financial Implications:**

Nil

**Legislation/Policy:**

Northern Territory Local Government Act  
Northern Territory Local Government (Accounting) Regulations  
Australian Accounting Standards  
Ministerial Guidelines  
Local Government General Instructions  
City of Palmerston Policies

**Recommending Officer:** Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer

Any queries on this report may be directed to Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer on telephone (08) 8935 9902 or email [ricki.bruhn@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:ricki.bruhn@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

**Author:** Maxie Smith, Acting Finance Manager

**Schedule of Attachments:**

Attachment A: Draft FIN20 Borrowing Policy





Name:	FIN20 Borrowing Policy		
Type:	Council Policy		
Owner:	Chief Executive Officer		
Responsible Officer:	Finance Manager		
Approval Date:	[Approval Date]	Next Review Date:	[Next Review]

## 1 Purpose

This policy has been developed to assist Elected Members and City of Palmerston officers with the understanding of the parameters and considerations required by Council in the decision to borrow funds to ensure the sound management of cash flow and future debt of the City of Palmerston.

## 2 Principles

City of Palmerston is committed to operating in a financially sustainable manner under the adopted and maintained Long-Term Financial Plan. This policy establishes a decision framework to ensure that funds are available to support approved plans and projects, whilst interest rate and other risks are acknowledged and responsibly managed.

## 3 Definitions

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

Term	Definition
Borrowings	Any form of financial accommodation for example, an overdraft, a loan, hire purchase or instalment purchase agreement and the present value of future payments under a finance lease.

## 4 Policy Statement

### 4.1 Borrowing Purposes

City of Palmerston has a responsibility to ratepayers to employ the funds raised from borrowings in an efficient and productive manner. Adequate repayment of outstanding debt shall be spread equitably over time to be carried between present and future ratepayers.

Debt is not a productive or equitable use of City of Palmerston resources when used as a substitute for current revenue in maintaining or replacing the existing level of asset infrastructure, or for covering, whether directly or indirectly, the cost of interest on debt. Surplus funds that become available shall be utilised to reduce the term of existing loans where suitable.

Where City of Palmerston raises funds through borrowings (Internal or External), the funds will only be used for the purpose for which the loan was raised. If a borrowing is undertaken and the final cost is less than the total approved loan amount, resulting in unexpended loan funds, City of Palmerston shall not draw any further funds for any other purpose from that loan.

## 4.2 Borrowing Considerations

The following factors will be considered before City of Palmerston is making an allowance for borrowings:

- Items that shall be funded through borrowings will be identified in the Municipal and Long-Term Financial Plan supported by the appropriate Annual Budget ensuring long-term financial sustainability of City of Palmerston. This condition may be waived where an emergency or urgent matter requires borrowings and those borrowings complied with all other policy conditions.
- Borrowings will be taken up with appropriate financial institutions and funds will be obtained on a competitive basis having regard for minimising the net interest costs associated under consideration of risks (e.g. liquidity risks and investment credit risks).
- The structure, terms and repayment of any proposed borrowings will be analysed to result in significant interest savings.
- The impact and alternatives to external borrowings, including alternative sources of revenue (e.g. special rates and charges), or borrowing from reserves will be identified.
- Where the borrowings are for commercial purposes City of Palmerston will analyse whether the return on the investment can service the debt redemption, including consideration of community service obligations.
- City of Palmerston will identify the affordability of proposals having regard to the long-term financial sustainability (including consideration of the cost of capital and the impact of the proposal on City of Palmerston's Net Financial Liabilities and Interest Cover ratios) and the ability of City of Palmerston to meet the proposed debt servicing obligations.

## 4.3 Borrowing Conditions

### 4.3.1 Type and source of borrowing

- Internal borrowing from reserves may be considered as part of any borrowing strategy
- Borrowings will only be in Australian dollars
- Borrowings will be sourced at the most competitive rate from sources available under legislation with an appropriate financial credit rating. Financial institutions need to be APRA listed.

### 4.3.2 Debt term

- Maximum term for all loans will be set at a level commensurate with the expected length of time a benefit would be derived from the resulting asset and evaluated on a case by case basis but not exceeding twenty years.
- Small borrowings ( <\$3 million) will have a maximum term of ten years with consideration given to whether required funds can be sourced from existing cash reserves or through alternative income sources.
- External borrowings will be repaid over a period no longer than the physical life of the asset purchased as determined with ATO depreciation guidelines. Where the borrowings have not been repaid when the asset is sold, City of Palmerston will first apply the proceeds of the sale to the repayment of the loan source.
- Internal borrowings may be repaid and will not attract interest.
- Repayment of debt as quickly as possible and frequency of repayment at least bi-annually or more frequently subject to overall budgetary constraints, maximising efficiency and interest savings.

- City of Palmerston will review, at least annually, its forward projections for cash reserves, borrowings and major capital funding.

#### 4.3.3 Ratios

- City of Palmerston selected the Net Financial Liabilities Ratio and the Debt Service Ratio as the key indicators of City of Palmerston's ability to sustain its level of debt.
- The Net Financial Liabilities Ratio shows the net financial liabilities (total liabilities less current assets) as percentage of total operating income. The ratio should not exceed the maximum of -50%.
- The Debt Service Ratio illustrates the debt service charges (loan principal and interest payments) as percentage of revenue from continuing operations (excluding capital items, specific purpose grants and contributions). The ratio should not exceed the maximum of 5%.

### 4.4 **Approval for Borrowing**

#### 4.4.1 Overdraft

Under Section 123 Local Government Act. NT the Minister's approval is not required for an advance on overdraft if:

- (a) The term of the advance does not exceed two months; and
- (b) The amount of the advance does not exceed 2% of the council's total revenue income for the last financial year for which the council has an audited financial statement.

#### 4.4.2 Minor Transaction

Under Section 123 Local Government Act. NT the Minister's approval is not required for a transaction classified as a minor transaction under guidelines issued by the Minister.

Under the guidelines City of Palmerston is a Schedule 1 council and a minor transaction therefore is an amount of \$200,000 or less. This is a total amount inclusive of all borrowings that have not been approved by the Minister and includes overdraft facilities, financial leases, secured or unsecured loans, bank overdrafts, lines of credit or any other credit facility (including all credit card transactions).

#### 4.4.3 Minister's Approval

All borrowings, other than the above mentioned (4.4.1 and 4.4.2), require Minister's approval under Section 122, 123, 124 and 125 Local Government Act. NT.

Minister's approval for borrowings is given only after consultation with the Treasurer. City of Palmerston may, with the Minister's approval, give security for a borrowing in the nature of a mortgage or charge over property. The Minister will consult with the Treasurer and will not approve a security over property, if in the Minister's opinion, it is essential that the property be retained in the ownership of the council.

#### 4.4.4 Seeking Approval from Minister for Local Government

To seek approval for borrowings, City of Palmerston should forward a letter requesting to borrow money, including a business case, to the Minister for Local Government.

The letter needs to be accompanied with a detailed business case including, but not limited to:

- Details of the procurement including the assessment of its various options to fund the procurement.
- Forward cash estimates for at least three years and detailing the capacity and ability to service borrowing.
- A report on the current financial position and financial performance against its revenue and expenditure budget.

- Council minutes approving the procurement, approving the intention to borrow and approving the CEO to secure a loan.
- Planned financial agreements indicating the intended term of the borrowing, type of the principal and interest repayments, total cost of borrowing and conditions attaching to any securitisation. This information needs to be supported by a finance proposal from a lending institution.

#### 4.5 Reporting Requirements

The Chief Executive Officer will provide Council on a monthly basis a report detailing the following regarding external borrowing:

- Total borrowings
- Debt Service Ratio
- Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

And for each loan:

- The purpose for which the loan was received
- Security provided for the loan
- The financial institution making the loan
- The type of loan
- The original loan amount
- Payments made in the reporting period
- The current outstanding balance on the loan
- The current interest rate
- Any default on the term of the loan

For financial management purposes debt will be carried in the accounts in accordance with City of Palmerston's major functions with the ability to individually identify the loans.

Any internal borrowing and repayments which may have occurred in the financial year will be reported in the municipal plan and annual financial report.

## 5 Associated Documents

5.1 City of Palmerston Policies

## 6 References and Related Legislation

- 6.1 Northern Territory Local Government Act
- 6.2 Northern Territory Local Government (Administration) Regulations
- 6.3 Northern Territory Local Government (Accounting) Regulations
- 6.4 Australian Accounting Standards
- 6.5 Ministerial Guidelines
- 6.6 Local Government General Instructions

**ITEM NUMBER:** 4.4 Review FIN19 Financial Reserve Policy

**FROM:** Chief Executive Officer

**REPORT NUMBER:** 8/1259

**MEETING DATE:** 25 July 2017

## Municipal Plan:

4. Governance & Organisation

4.1 Responsibility

We are committed to corporate and social responsibility, the sustainability of Council assets and services, and the effective planning and reporting of Council performance to the community

## Summary:

Policy FIN19 requires review due to the addition of internal borrowings and the addition and deletion of other Asset Related Reserves.

Council is asked to receive the report and approve the attached amended FIN19 Financial Reserve Policy.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council receives Report Number 8/1259.
2. THAT Council adopt the amended FIN19 Financial Reserve Policy.

## Background:

Nil

## General:

The listed changes below are necessary due to the addition of internal borrowing.

Section of Policy	Addition/Deletion	Amendment	Reason
Approval Date	Deletion		Approval date will be set with date of Council decision
Next Review Date	Deletion		Two years from approval date
3 Definitions			
	Addition	Internal Borrowing - The transfer of reserve funds from one reserve to another, as an alternative to external	To provide for the option of internal borrowings.

		borrowings and to be repaid at a future date as determined by council.	
4 Policy Statement			
4.1.3	Deletion	Public Arts Reserve – This reserve is in line with the Grants Scholarship and Sponsorship Policy (FIN18) and holds funds that have been committed to public art initiatives in line with that policy and have not been expensed at the End of Financial Year.	Removed as no reserve exists. Can be combined with Community Grant Reserve and still be compliant with FIN18
4.1.3	Addition	Developer Funds Reserve - This reserve holds the balance of unexpended funds in lieu of construction received by developers. Restrictions to these funds may apply in line with individual developer agreements.	Funds in this reserve may have contractual obligations attached, however this is not always the case.
4.1.3	Addition	City Centre Improvement Reserve - This reserve holds funds for the provision, operation and maintenance of land, facilities, services and enhancements for and in connection with the City Centre.	Introduction of the City Centre Improvement Reserve. The purpose of this reserve is replicated in the declaration of rates and charges.
4.5 Internal Borrowing from Reserves			
	Addition	Internal Borrowing from Reserves – Any internal borrowings require disclosure in Council's annual financial statements and Municipal Plan and are to be repaid at a future date as determined by council.	Introduction of the option for internal borrowing from reserves.



**Financial Implications:**

Nil

**Legislation/Policy:**

Local Government Act – Chapter 10 Financial Management

**Recommending Officer:** Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer

Any queries on this report may be directed to Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer on telephone (08) 8935 9902 or email [ricki.bruhn@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:ricki.bruhn@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

**Author:** Maxie Smith, Acting Finance Manager

**Schedule of Attachments:**

Attachment A: Draft FIN19 Financial Reserve Policy





Name:	Financial Reserve Policy		
Type:	Council Policy		
Owner:	Chief Executive Officer		
Responsible Officer:	Finance Manager		
Approval Date:	[Approval Date]	Next Review Date:	[Next Review]

## 1 Purpose

To ensure sustainable and responsible financial management of City of Palmerston, through consistent identification, administration and usage of externally and internally restricted reserves.

## 2 Principles

City of Palmerston follows the requirements in content and timing stipulated by the Local Government Act, Local Government (Accounting) Regulations, Local Government (Administration) Regulations and the principals of the Australian Accounting Standards.

## 3 Definitions

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

Term	Definition
Financial Reserves	The term includes Asset Revaluation Reserves under Australian accounting Standards and other reserves as described in this policy.
Asset Revaluation Reserves	Are reserves required by the Australian Accounting Standards and are not cash backed reserves.
Internally restricted Reserves	Are reserves established by Council to ensure that sufficient funds are available when required for a specific purpose. These reserves are cash backed.
Externally restricted Reserves	Are reserves that are subject to external restrictions in their purpose. These reserves are cash backed.
Internal Borrowing	The transfer of reserve funds from one reserve to another, as an alternative to external borrowings and to be repaid at a future date as determined by council.

## 4 Policy Statement

### 4.1 Classification of Financial Reserves

#### 4.1.1 Asset Revaluation Reserves

This reserve is established under the requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards. It reflects the increments or decrements of fixed asset values as result of an asset revaluation.

#### 4.1.2 Externally Restricted Reserves

The following criteria apply to externally restricted reserves:

- The reserve is subject to legal requirements that govern the use of the funds; or
- The reserve includes funds that have not been utilised for the purpose for which they were received, and an obligation or requirement to return funds to its contributor exist.

The following Council reserves are externally restricted reserves:

Unexpended Grants and Contributions	This reserve holds the balance of unexpended grants and contributions received from external contributors. The funds are held in this reserve until expensed in line with the funding conditions. External restrictions apply in line with the individual funding agreements.
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#### 4.1.3 Internally Restricted Reserves

The following criteria apply to internally restricted reserves:

- The reserve is not subject to legal requirements governing the use of the funds; or
- The reserve has been established for a specific internal purpose, however, if that purpose does not eventuate or Council changes its priorities the funding can be diverted to other purposes

City of Palmerston distinguishes between two categories of internally restricted reserves:

- Asset Related Reserves that are related to fixed assets and are established for the funding of renewal, replacement or upgrading of existing assets and/or the establishment of new assets in line with Council's Asset Management Plan, Long-term Financial Plan, Municipal Plan and strategic goals.
- Other reserves that are not related to fixed assets and are established by Council for a specific purpose. Individual internal restrictions are placed on these reserves.

The following Council reserves are internally restricted reserves:

<b>Asset Related Reserves</b>	
Property Reserve	The reserve holds funding for renewal, replacement or upgrading of existing assets and/or the establishment of new assets in line with Council's Asset Management Plan for Property.
Plant and Equipment Reserve	The reserve holds funding for renewal, replacement or upgrading of existing assets and/or the establishment of new assets in line with Council's Asset Management Plan for Plant and Equipment.
Infrastructure Reserve	The reserve holds funding for renewal, replacement or upgrading of existing assets and/or the establishment of new assets in line with Council's Asset Management Plan for Infrastructure.
Street Lighting Reserve	The reserve holds funding for renewal, replacement or upgrading of existing assets and/or the establishment of new assets in line with Council's Asset Management Plan for Infrastructure.
<b>Other Reserves</b>	
Election Expense Reserve	The reserve will fund expenses related to Local Government elections and By-Elections.
Disaster Recovery Reserve	This reserve will fund expenses occurred due to storms, storm surges, floods or any other natural

	disaster. The fund will enable City of Palmerston to recover from these disasters and return to operations.
Strategic Initiatives Reserve	This reserve will fund strategic initiatives for the future development of the City of Palmerston in line with the Municipal Plan and the Long-term Financial Plan. Specific initiatives have to be identified and funds have to be allocated to those.
Community Grants Reserve	This reserve is in line with the Grants, Scholarship and Sponsorship Policy (FIN18) and holds funds that have been committed to initiatives in line with that policy and have not been expensed at the End of Financial Year.
Developer Funds Reserve	This reserve holds the balance of unexpended funds in lieu of construction received by developers. Restrictions to these funds may apply in line with individual developer agreements.
Unexpended Capital Works Reserve	This reserve holds the balance of unexpended capital works funds that are requested to be carried forward to the following financial year.
Waste Management Reserve	This reserve holds funds for the direct and indirect expenditures of the rehabilitation of the waste transfer site and development of the site to accommodate expected future requirements.
City Centre Improvement Reserve	This reserve holds funds for the provision, operation and maintenance of land, facilities, services and enhancements for and in connection with the City Centre.

#### 4.2 Establishment of Financial Reserves

Asset Revaluation Reserves	Establishment of the reserve follows the Australian Accounting Standards.
Externally Restricted Reserves	A reserve will be established for any value if there is a legal requirement or a requirement under the Australian Accounting Standards.
Internally Restricted Reserves	An establishment of a new reserve must be authorised by Council and shall not be established for an amount less than \$100,000.

#### 4.3 Transfer of funds in/out Financial Reserves

Asset Revaluation Reserves	Transfer of funds follow the Australian Accounting Standards.
Externally Restricted Reserves	Transfer of funds are restricted to the individual funding agreements. Council must authorise transfers by Council resolution.
Internally Restricted Reserves	Transfer of funds are restricted by the internal purpose of the reserve. All transfers must be authorised by Council resolution.

For financial management purposes, all reserve transfers must be detailed separately.

All transfers for reserves shall be assessed at least annually during the preparation of the budget and the Long-term Financial Plan.

The following funds transfers shall not require Council resolution:

Surplus funds of the Waste Service Charge under Section 157 Local Government Act are to be transferred to the Waste Management Reserve. Surpluses are calculated as Income from Waste Charges less Waste Management related expenditures.

Operational surplus funds shall be utilised to secure minimum balances on reserves in the first instance. Left over funds or deficit shall be distributed to the following reserves:

- 75% Infrastructure Reserve
- 20% Property Reserve
- 5% Plant & equipment Reserve

The total of all reserves shall not exceed the current assets less current liabilities held by Council. Required adjustments at the end of the financial year will be made in line with the surplus distribution mentioned above and do not need authorisation by Council resolution.

#### 4.4 Maintaining Balance of Financial Reserves

Election Expense Reserve	This reserve shall be maintained at no more than \$150,000.
Disaster Recovery Reserve	This reserve shall be maintained at or near \$500,000. External funds received after the event for the purpose of disaster recovery shall be used to maintain the reserve on its ideal level of funds.
Strategic Initiatives	This reserve shall be maintained at no more than \$500,000.
Community Grants Reserve	This reserve shall be maintained at no more than \$100,000.

#### 4.5 Internal Borrowing from Reserves

Any internal borrowings require disclosure in Council's annual financial statements and Municipal Plan and are to be repaid at a future date as determined by council.

#### 4.6 Reporting on Financial Reserves

In line with Part 7 (15) (2) (c) of the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations Council is required to disclose all reserves set aside for a specific purpose in its annual financial statement.

In addition these reserves are reported on as follows:

- A detailed statement with movements as part of the annual budget.
- A detailed statement with actual performance compared to annual budget as part of the budget review reports.
- A statement of balances as part of the monthly finance report.

### 5 Associated Documents

- 5.1 City of Palmerston Policies
- 5.2 City of Palmerston Municipal Plan
- 5.3 City of Palmerston Long-term Financial Plan
- 5.4 City of Palmerston Asset Management Plans
- 5.5 City of Palmerston Asset Management Policy
- 5.6 City of Palmerston Subdivisional Guidelines

### 6 References and Related Legislation

- 6.1 Northern Territory Local Government Act
- 6.2 Northern Territory Local Government (Administration) Regulations
- 6.3 Northern Territory Local Government (Accounting) Regulations
- 6.4 Australian Accounting Standards
- 6.5 Ministerial Guidelines
- 6.6 Local Government General Instructions

**ITEM NUMBER:** 4.5 Municipal Plan 2017-2022  
**FROM:** Chief Executive Officer  
**REPORT NUMBER:** 8/1260  
**MEETING DATE:** 25 July 2017

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## **Municipal Plan:**

### 4. Governance & Organisation

#### 4.1 Responsibility

We are committed to corporate and social responsibility, the sustainability of Council assets and services, and the effective planning and reporting of Council performance to the community

## **Summary:**

The public consultation period for the Draft Municipal Plan 2017-2022 has been finalised. A summary of written submissions is presented in this report for Council's consideration.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. THAT Council receives Report Number 8/1260.
2. THAT Council adopt the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan 2017-2022 as amended and included in Attachment A to Report Number 8/1260.
3. THAT Council adopt the Annual Budget 2017/18 as included in the Municipal Plan 2017-2022 in Attachment A to Report Number 8/1260.
4. THAT Council adopt the Long Term Financial Plan 2017-2022 as amended and included in the Municipal Plan 2017-2022 in Attachment A to Report Number 8/1260.

## **Background:**

On 20 June 2017, Council approved the release of the Draft Municipal Plan 2017-2022 for 21 days' public consultation commencing on 21 June 2017 as per Section 24 (2) of the Local Government Act. The public consultation period concluded on 11 July 2017.

As part of the public consultation, Council has used the following communication tools to invite residents' submissions:

- Draft Municipal Plan 2017-2022 published on Council website,
- Public Notice in NT News 22 June 2017,
- Mayor's column in Palmerston Sun,
- Radio and television interviews,
- Social Media accounts.

**General:**

Council received a total of thirty-five public submissions. Thirty-four public submissions were received during the consultation period with one late submission received. A redacted version of all public submissions has been included in Attachment B. One submission was received from the Department of Housing and Community Development which requested a correction to the title of their Department.

It should be noted that of the 35 submissions received, 24 were in the form of a pro-forma document with the Chief Executive Officer providing a response to these submissions. All other submissions have been acknowledged and a detailed response will be forwarded once the Municipal Plan has been adopted.

The following questions have been extracted from the submissions and are presented in the overview below:

<b>Area of Concern</b>	<b>Council Response</b>
Rate increase of 3%	The rate increase of 3% will affect approximately 34% of residents with 32% of these residents impacted by an increase of less than \$50 per year.
No 1-2-hour free parking	15 minute, 30 minute and 1 hour free parking is available in various locations within the CBD. A map depicting these areas is available on council's website. Paid parking represents less than 25% of all parking within the City Centre with all other parking being free.
No mobile playgroup	Report 8/1236 on council's agenda for 18 July 2017 provides details regarding the discontinuation of the KAT program. Alternatives in this area are being investigated.
Underutilised park in Bakewell	Officers have been asked to review this for possible action during 2017/18 and may provide a report to Council at a later date.
No grants to support sport for children age 3-5	Officers have been asked to review this for possible action during 2017/18 and may provide a report to Council at a later date. Community groups are encouraged to apply for funding through Council's Community Benefits Program.
Council failing to provide amenities to the community in favour of commercial interests	Council has allocated operating expenditure to Open Space (\$5,559,128), Recreation Centre (\$203,347), Roads and Transport (\$2,379,384) and Waste Management (\$5,556,210) in the current budget. These items alone represent 51.5% of the operating budget.
Council policy regarding buying local	Buying local has formed part of council policy for many years and has been strengthened in a recent review of this policy. The review of Policy FIN04 – Procurement Policy was endorsed at the council meeting held on 18 July 2017 and now provides for a minimum weighting of 20% for local suppliers.
Only 34% of ratepayers are paying increased rates and carrying increases in council operating costs	SEIFA data is heavily used during rates workshops to determine the most equitable distribution of rating across the municipality. In addition, council considers the taxation principles that should apply to the imposition of taxes.



Equitability of valuation-based rates model	Council believes that the rating model based on Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) of the land follows the principles of taxation in a better way than the flat-rate model.
Lack of information regarding street lighting	A report regarding streetlighting was presented to council on 2 May 2017. Council is currently in the process of evaluating the assets to be transferred by the Power Water Authority. The electrical maintenance of these assets will form part of a tender for electrical maintenance to be completed later this year.
Lack of information regarding digital strategy	Councils draft Digital Strategy is currently out for public consultation which closes on 25 July 2017. After this period, projects may be included into councils next available budget or a future budget review.
Name of the Department is incorrect on page 23 of Draft Municipal Plan	Department of Housing and Community Services changed to Department of Housing and Community Development
No meaningful engagement about parking meters or Goyder Square	Following the Council resolution 8/0600 dated 9 December 2014, the Master Plan package went out to community consultation for six weeks from 12 December 2014. The plan includes both the parking strategy and Goyder Square development. Council held community information sessions prior to the Goyder Square redevelopment. In December 2014 nominations were sought for membership to the City of Palmerston's Car Parking Committee Advisory Group. Following the formation of the group, the group met in the second week of February 2015 to discuss the draft car parking strategy.
Council distancing themselves from the community	Council policy COMM003 - Community Consultation Policy provides the framework and governance for community involvement in Council's planning and decision making. This policy has been followed in the recent introduction of carparking meters and is currently being followed for the cities digital strategy.
Community strongly opposed to paid parking in the CBD	The introduction of a user pay system of paid car parking in the City Centre is associated with the Palmerston City Centre Parking Strategy and the City Centre Master Plan. It will better manage parking demand and provide the much-needed revenue to expand and enhance the parking network in the city. It will improve access to businesses and regulate parking in the area. It will also assist with the funding for additional car parking, including a future multi storey car park. It is likely that no additional all-day parking areas will be created unless council instigates this. Other vacant land within the CBD will also be developed in the future which will in turn reduce the number of parking areas available.

Concern over negative impact on businesses in the CBD's ability to compete with other shopping centres	The introduction of a user pay system for paid car parking in the City Centre is associated with the Palmerston City Centre Parking Strategy. It will better manage parking demand and provide better short-term access to shoppers within the City Centre which should stimulate activity within the City Centre. Paid parking represents less than 25% of all parking within the City Centre with all other parking being free.
Current proposed location of multistorey carpark	The location of the current multi storey car park is consistent with the Palmerston City Centre Parking Strategy. It will also provide parking options for all-day parking and for visitors who use the nearby Recreation Centre. It should also be noted the current parking available on the 'Super Block' may not be available to the community in the future.
Council signing multi storey carpark contract without securing funds	Council is tasked with acting in the interest of its constituents and has done so in accordance with its City Centre Master Plan. A loan application to the Minister is currently being drafted for consideration.
Ratepayer feedback being ignored	Council is committed to open, accountable and responsive decision making which is informed by effective communication and consultation between Council and Community. The level of consultation undertaken relates directly to the nature, complexity and impact of the issue, plan or strategy. In many areas, the Council is required to comply with specific legislative requirements such as minimum periods for consultation and other consultation policy requirements.
No public tender process for multi storey carpark	Council investigated the possibility of a standalone multi storey car park on its own land as opposed to a carpark integrated into a multipurpose structure and found the integrated carpark represented better value for money. Council is unable to tender for a project which is effectively being built on land not owned by the Council.
No third-party oversight for multi storey carpark	The Mayor forwarded a letter to the Minister for Lands and Planning on 12 December 2014 to advise the NT Government of the public consultation process for the Draft City Centre Master Plan package, and its relevance as a step in the future lodgement of a formal application to the Minister in 2015 to amend the NT Planning Scheme. During this time, the City of Palmerston also held several workshop sessions with officers from both the Lands Planning Division and the Development Assessment Services Division of the Department of Lands and Planning as well as a meeting with the Road Planning and Transport Infrastructure Management Divisions of the Department of Transport. Council also held a

	briefing with the Chief Minister and members of his cabinet in December 2016 to full present the multi-storey carpark proposal and no concerns were raised at that time.
Proposed borrowing of \$10 million	Council signed a contract for the purchase of a multi storey car park as part of the City Centre Master Plan. Council considered the financing of this capital project over a long term would create intergenerational equity while progressing the development of the Palmerston City Centre.
Timing and necessity of multi storey carpark	As the Palmerston City Centre develops, areas currently being utilized for off-street car parking will be transformed into new buildings. This development is beneficial to the city; however, the new buildings will generate an increased demand for car parking whilst reducing the actual area available for car parking. The City of Palmerston already face a legacy of car parking shortfalls in the City Centre created by past decisions to approve developments with insufficient or no on-site car parking.

Following the conclusion of the submission period, in consultation with the Official Manager, Mr Mark Blackburn, the following alterations have been proposed for the Municipal Plan 2017-2022 and have been incorporated into the attached copy of the Municipal Plan:

- Page 3 - Altering the closing date for public consultation from 12/07/2017 to 11/07/2017;
- Page 3 - Altering the date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council from 17/07/2017 to 18/07/2017;
- Page 3 - Including the following passage after the revised date of 18/07/2017:
  - o "At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18/07/2017, it was resolved that a Special Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday 25 July 2017 at 6.00pm to consider the final Municipal Plan 2017-2022 and budget for adoption".
- Page 5 - Deleting the following passage in the Message from the Mayor:
  - o "With the City Centre becoming a user pay zone for car parking, the costs of the new car parking structure will not be borne through rate income whilst allowing Council to continue to maintain and upgrade services in the residential areas with little fiscal impact".
- Page 5 - After the Message from the Mayor, the following passage be inserted:
  - o "On 29 June 2017, the Minister for Housing and Community Development Gerry McCarthy placed the City of Palmerston Council under official management and appointed Mr Mark Blackburn as the official manager".
- Page 7 - Amending the following passage to read:
  - o "In terms of major projects, the construction of a new \$14.5m multi-deck carpark facility incorporating 378 carparks would be one of the biggest projects undertaken by the City of Palmerston".
- Page 7 - Deleting the following passage in the Message from the CEO:
  - o "This will be funded through the introduction of paid parking for both on-street and on-grade carparking on council land only throughout the CBD. This development has been planned on a 'user pay' basis and it is not anticipated that rate revenue will be used to fund or maintain this facility".
- Page 9 - Amending the final sentence in the third paragraph to read:
  - o "This is the final year of this Plan as our next election will be held on 17 March 2018 which will establish the 9<sup>th</sup> Council for the City of Palmerston".

- Page 11 – Remove “Territory 2030 Plan” from the list of External Strategies;
- Page 18 – Amending the following passage to read:
  - o “The next Roy Morgan survey commenced in June 2017 with the subsequent data to be included in the City of Palmerston’s Annual Report at the end of 2017”.
- Page 22 – Including the following passage after the photograph:
  - o “On 29 June 2017, the Minister for Housing and Community Development Gerry McCarthy placed the City of Palmerston Council under official management, suspended the elected members and appointed Mr Mark Blackburn as the official manager”.
- Page 22 – Amending the ‘Minister for Local Government and Community Services’ to read the “Minister for Housing and Community Development”;
- Page 23 – Amending the following passage to read:
  - o “This will take effect at the next General Election for the City of Palmerston which will be held on 17 March 2018”.
- Page 23 – Deleting the passage:
  - o “Approximately 80 staff members operate under the CEO’s direction, divided amongst three departments: Community Services, Corporate Services and Technical Services”.
- Page 23 – Including the following passage at the end of the page:

## STAFFING PLAN

The Staffing Plan for 2017/2018 provides for the employment of 78 staff members who operate under the CEO’s direction and are divided into four key areas being Executive Services, Community Services, Corporate Services and Technical Services.

These 78 staffing positions are the equivalent of 75 full time equivalents (FTE) and incorporate four new positions (2.8 FTE’s) including:

- Executive Assistant to the Director of Community Services
- Junior Engineer for managing Street Lighting Infrastructure
- 2 x Recreation Centre part-time employees (to assist with operating the council managed Recreation Centre)

It should be noted that short-term projects may temporarily change the actual number of FTE’s at any given time during the financial year.

The total budget for employee costs for 2017/2018 is \$6,914,980 and includes wages, superannuation and provision for a 2% increase pursuant to the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

In accordance with Section 103 of the Local Government Act, the CEO is responsible for the appointment of staff in accordance with a staffing plan approved by the council.

- Page 25 – At the bottom of Page 25 including the following passage:
  - o “At the council meeting held on 4 July 2017, the following decision was carried
    - THAT during the term of the City of Palmerston being under official management, all scheduled meetings of Council’s Standing Committees (Community, Culture & Environment, Governance and Organisation and Economic Development & Infrastructure) be suspended with all officer reports being presented directly to the Ordinary Meetings of Council”.
- Page 28 – Under the Capital Expenditure item Carparking, including the additional passage:
  - o “Subject to Ministerial approval of a \$10m loan application”.

- Page 32 – Amending the following passage to read:
  - o “In the 2017/18 year, these funds could assist with the development of a public car parking structure \_\_\_\_\_”
- Page 32 – Amending the following passage to read:
  - o “This development could provide safe, secure under cover parking which will enhance the experience of visitors to our CBD, while also providing the first residential living options within the CBD”.
- Page 32 – Replacing the passage ‘Car Parking Shortfall Special Rate’ with:
  - o “City Centre Improvement Special Rate”
- Page 35 – Replacing the passage ‘Parking Shortfall Rate’ in three instances with:
  - o “City Centre Improvement Special Rate”.
- Page 36 – In the table ‘Rating Zone’ under Other Rates include the passage:
  - o “City Centre Improvement Special Rate”.
- Page 43 – Under ‘Other Reserves’, delete Masterplan Reserve and replace with:
  - o “City Centre Improvement Reserve”.
- Page 43 – At the bottom of page 43, replace the passage ‘masterplan reserve’ with:
  - o “City Centre Improvement Reserve”
- Page 43 – By deleting the sentence ‘Masterplan reserve has been established in relation to on-street and off-street parking within the City Centre and to fund other improvements as defined by the Palmerston City Centre Master Plan and associated documents’ and replace with
  - o “The City Centre Improvement Reserve has been established to hold funds for the provision, operation and maintenance of land, facilities, services and enhancements for and in connection with the City Centre”.
- Page 43 – At the end of Page 43 by including the following passage:
  - o “Subject to Ministerial approval of a \$10m loan application”.

#### **Financial Implications:**

Nil

#### **Legislation/Policy:**

Section 128 of the Local Government Act requires Council adopt its budget for a particular financial year on or before 31 July in the relevant financial year.

Section 155 of the Local Government Act requires Council to declare rates on allotments throughout the area for the financial year on or before 31 July in each year.

**Recommending Officer:** Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer

Any queries on this report may be directed to Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer on telephone (08) 8935 9902 or email [ricki.bruhn@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:ricki.bruhn@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

#### **Schedule of Attachments:**

Attachment A: Draft Municipal Plan 2017-22, inclusive of the Draft Annual Budget 2017/18 and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2017-2022

Attachment B: Redacted Submissions





CITY OF PALMERSTON

# MUNICIPAL PLAN

## 2017-2022



DRAFT



# 2017 - 2022

## MUNICIPAL PLAN

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### PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND REVIEW

The Draft 2017/2018 City of Palmerston Municipal Plan is to be exhibited for public consultation for a minimum 21 days as prescribed by Section 24(2)(c) of the Local Government Act. This consultation process commences on 21/06/2017 and concludes at 5.00pm on 11/07/2017.

Public feedback will be considered and presented with the final Municipal Plan for adoption at the next Ordinary Meeting of the City of Palmerston to be held on 18/07/2017.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18/07/2017, it was resolved that a Special Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday 25 July 2017 at 6.00pm to consider the final Municipal Plan 2017-2022 and budget for adoption.

Members of the public may submit feedback via:

- Email [palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au)
- In writing to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 1 Palmerston NT 0831
- Online feedback form – go to Contact Us on Council's website [www.palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au)



# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Palmerston continues to be a shining light in urban and commercial development in the Northern Territory landscape over the past year. Several new shopping precincts have been completed or near enough. Our City Centre Masterplan has been rewarded with significant commercial development beginning for the first time in many years. Council has equally responded with the implementation of a Multi deck Carpark and associated paid parking strategy. Council has also finalised its

Community Infrastructure Plan and Art Strategy outlining the future needs of the vibrant city.

Palmerston over the next twelve months will see the commissioning of a Regional Shopping Centre, a new Hospital, a new Police station, as well as a new school and childcare facility. I thank the Federal and NT Government for their ongoing commitment to our city.

Palmerston continues to embrace local talent in the Arts, Lifestyle and Culture by providing numerous free

or low cost events, such as Activate, GeekFest, Flicnic and the Warisan Budaya Indonesian Festival.

One exciting challenge over the next year Council will be tackling is the transfer of street lights on Council roads from Power and Water Corporation. This gives Palmerston the opportunity to make investments in more economical and energy efficient infrastructure which can deliver real social and community benefits.

Council's Annual Budget 2017/18 included in this

PALMERSTON OVER THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS WILL SEE THE COMMISSIONING OF  
A REGIONAL SHOPPING CENTRE, A NEW HOSPITAL, A NEW POLICE STATION,  
AS WELL AS A NEW SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE FACILITY.

Municipal Plan will see 66% of Palmerston  
ratepayers see no increase in rates for the  
second year in a row.

*Ian Abbott*  
Ian Abbott - Mayor

On 29 June 2017, the Minister for Housing and Community  
Development Gerry McCarthy placed the City of Palmerston  
Council under official management and appointed Mr Mark  
Blackburn as the official manager.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

With economic growth and population growth in the Northern Territory beginning to stagnate, the City of Palmerston continues to defy this trend and is delivering its vision as “A Place for People”. The business community has shown confidence in Palmerston which has seen new retail developments open in Bellamack, Rosebery and the rapidly expanding suburb of Zuccoli. The long-awaited Stage 1 of the Gateway Shopping Centre is also nearing completion with the opening expected around September 2017. These developments will create considerable job opportunities and will support the growing population.

We still appear to be on target to reach a population of 40,000 by the year 2020 which will be a significant achievement for both Palmerston and the Northern Territory. Whilst residential growth has slowed, the new suburbs continue to be developed with Council ensuring a high level of public amenity being provided for the enjoyment of all residents. The NT Government has acknowledged the strategic importance of Palmerston which will see the delivery of the Palmerston Regional Hospital during the 2018 calendar year. It is also pleasing to see the construction of the new Palmerston Police Station being brought forward and

developed as a single stage.

Last year saw the completion of the initial projects to come out of the Palmerston City Centre Master Plan being the redevelopment of both Goyder Square and The Boulevard. At a cost of \$15M these projects have set the standard for the future growth and development in the Central Business District. The private sector realises the value of this new amenity and construction works associated with the Boulevard Plaza and Athanasiou Mixed Use Developments are expected to commence shortly. It is also likely the “Bayram Building” in Mansfield Street will be converted from offices to a

98 bed hostel incorporating seminar rooms for both local and international students.

I tasked the Community Development staff with the key role of 'activating' Goyder Square and it is pleasing to see how the community have embraced this area through their support of the many community activities and events held in this area. The Friday night Palmerston & Rural Markets continue to thrive in this new setting and are helping to build a strong community focus in the heart of Palmerston.

Council's decision to resume the management of the Palmerston Recreation Centre created considerable discontent within the community. It has now been determined the Centre will continue to be utilised as a community facility for the delivery of sporting, recreational and community programs, events and services. Our staff are working hard to repurpose the Centre to enable all members of the community to access this facility for a wide range of community purposes. In terms of the 2017/2018 budget, it is always a difficult balancing act to provide a wide range of services, maintain and renew existing infrastructure and complete new capital works, whilst considering the resident's ability to contribute through council rates. This is always a key consideration for Council when approximately 83% of our operating revenue is derived from council rates and waste charges. It is pleasing to report that for the second year in a row, 66% of our residential property owners will not experience an increase in their council rates component. Our other major funding source is through the Financial Assistance Grants provided by the Federal Government to all councils across Australia. The City of Palmerston received \$1.5M during the 2016/2017 financial year with indexation of this allocation being frozen since the 2014 federal budget was announced. I congratulate the Federal Government on their recent decision as part of the 2017/2018 budget to reinstate the indexation factor on these important financial allocations to local government.

In terms of major projects, the construction of a new \$14.5M multi-deck carpark facility incorporating 378 carparks would be one of the biggest projects undertaken by the City of

Palmerston. This is a key project for the CBD and in accordance with the implementation of Council's Car Parking Strategy. The rehabilitation of the Archer Landfill Site will continue to be progressed with Stage 2 (the largest stage) expected to be completed during 2017 at a cost of \$4M. This will be funded through the existing Waste Charges which are levied by Council on all residential properties. Once again this is also being funded on a 'user pay' basis.

Council has also requested funding of up to \$2M from the NT Government as a 50% contribution towards a future Seniors/Community Centre in Palmerston. This development is also in accordance with our recently adopted Community Infrastructure Plan which seeks to address the current shortage of community facilities within our growing city. With the 2017/2018 Municipal Plan and Budget being the last to be adopted by the 8th and current council, it is timely to reflect back and consider the changes which have occurred since the council first met in April 2012. It has been an extended term of almost 5½ years with three elected members resigning during the term. One of the key roles for any elected government is to make decisions for the future of their cities. These decisions are scrutinised by the community and the media, however it is important for elected members to follow their visions to improve their cities.

The landscape within Palmerston continues to change and I am confident 2017/2018 will be another exciting year for the City of Palmerston and its residents. I look forward to working with the new elected Council and the Palmerston community to deliver a "Place for People".

*Ricki Bruhn*

Chief Executive Officer



# INTRODUCTION



The Municipal Plan provides the City of Palmerston's strategies over the next five years. This is Council's fifth and final annual revision of the current Municipal Plan, outlining priorities and directions for the next five years 2017-2022.

This Plan stresses cultural vitality, economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and social equality - the Plan's strategic directions focus on four key areas:

- ▶ **Community and Cultural Wellbeing:** This key area covers activities of Council devoted to the wellbeing of our community, including arts and culture, libraries, health and safety, sports and recreation, parks and gardens and family.
- ▶ **Economic Development:** Strategies, programs, support and advocacy initiatives related to the economic vitality of our city are found in this area, including city planning, support for local businesses and tourism, and government liaison.
- ▶ **Environment and Infrastructure:** Roads and transport, drainage, bridges, developer liaison, waste management and Council services related to streetscaping and sustainability are found in this key area.
- ▶ **Governance and Organisation:** Ensuring your Council is run in an efficient, responsible and sustainable manner means that your rates are used in the most appropriate manner. This key area includes responsibility and accountability, finance, human resources, information technology, and a host of continuous improvement and performance measurement initiatives.

This revision of the Municipal Plan follows a number of significant changes introduced in 2012, both in the manner in which our service delivery strategies are articulated, but also in the manner in which Council approaches governance and transparency.

In addition to outlining our strategies, the Municipal Plan provides the City of Palmerston's Annual Business Plan 2017/18, broken down into the categories of People, Systems and Processes, Assets, Service Delivery and Risk. The Annual Budget 2017/18 then outlines how Council intends to finance its operations in a prudent and responsible manner.

The plan was first introduced in 2012, and is a dynamic, working document that will be continuously reviewed and updated to reflect the views of residents. This is the final year of this Plan as our next election will be held on 17 March 2018 which will establish the 9th Council for City of Palmerston.

# VISION AND MISSION

VISION "A Place for People"

**VALUES**  
we are  
committed to



TEAMWORK

COMMITMENT &  
ACCOUNTABILITY



SUSTAINABILITY &  
SELF-SUFFICIENCY

QUALITY RESOURCES



A CULTURE OF  
CONTINUOUS  
IMPROVEMENT

## MISSION

The City of Palmerston is committed to:

- ▶ Improving the safety of all our citizens
- ▶ Maintaining our own identity
- ▶ Providing services, facilities and amenities to support the community's needs
- ▶ Developing and maintaining our reputation for being clean and green

We will achieve this through:

- ▶ Delivering to our community high quality value for money services that meet their diverse needs



# WHO WE ARE



Palmerston, located 21km south of Darwin, commenced development in 1982 and continues to be one of Australia's fastest growing cities. Palmerston was declared a city on 2 August 2000. The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics population data indicates the population of Palmerston has reached 34,500 as at 30 June 2015.

With an average age of 28, Palmerston's growing population is primarily made up of families. Around 25.8% of the population is under 15 years of age with only 4.1% of the population over 65 years of age. Palmerston has two major shopping complexes (with a further two under construction), various sporting clubs, restaurants, Quest Serviced Apartments, tavern, skate park, cinema and smaller shops.

The City itself has 12 suburbs already

developed - Driver, Gray, Bellamack, Johnston, Woodroffe, Moulden, Durack, Farrar, Gunn, Rosebery, Bakewell, and Marlow Lagoon. The new suburb of Zuccoli is now under construction, along with the new area of Durack Heights. Once these final suburbs have been completed and in-fill opportunities realised, it is estimated the population of Palmerston will be close to 40,000 residents by 2020. Although Palmerston is mainly residential, it also has two light industrial areas - Pinelands and Yarrawonga.

The City's tropical environment is perfect for outdoor living. Palmerston has a wide range of sporting groups. The Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre is the home of the swimming pool and offers a gym, aerobics and swimming, as well as martial arts classes.

A multipurpose recreation centre is also located in the City Centre near the Public Library. A new water park operated by the NT Government off University Avenue opened in 2012. Palmerston has over 100 parks, many with playgrounds, shelters and barbeques. Marlow Lagoon is a large recreation area where community and private events are often held.

On Friday nights during the Dry Season, Palmerston's Friday night markets come alive in the City Centre. The markets boast a wide array of delicious international food, as well as craft, fruit and vegetables, and gift items for sale, activities for the kids, and entertainment for the whole family.

# STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK



The Municipal Plan plays the leading role in Council's Strategic Planning Framework, guiding all other planning and reporting activities. It is based on four Strategic Focus areas which cover the services and responsibilities of Council: Community and Cultural Wellbeing; Economic Development; Environment & Infrastructure; Governance and Organisation.





## 1

# COMMUNITY & CULTURAL WELLBEING



## 1.1 HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

We are committed to providing quality health and family support services to our community

- ✓ Healthy Lifestyle Programs
- ✓ COPAL (Childhood Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle) Programs
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Families, Youth and Seniors
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Medical Facilities and Services
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Disability Access

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES	98.99	98.81	97.73	95.78	92.76



## 1.2 SAFE COMMUNITIES

We are committed to ensuring the safety and security of our community

- ✓ Animal Management
- ✓ Cyclone, Disaster and Emergency Management
- ✓ Regulatory Services
- ✓ Street Lighting
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Emergency Services
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Injury Prevention

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
SAFE COMMUNITIES	78.24	80.28	84.93	77.14	74.17

FOCUS: COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY

FOCUS: COMMUNITY SUPPORT

### COMMUNITY RECREATION AND AMENITIES

2016/17 Revised Budget

2017/18 Budget

#### Activities

Effective provision, management and maintenance of recreational facilities and amenities to the community, such as car parks, public conveniences, parks, gardens and reserves, indoor and outdoor sports facilities and swimming pools, as well as removal of graffiti and repair of vandalism.

\$6,652,318

\$7,014,160

### LIBRARY SERVICES

2016/17 Revised Budget

2017/18 Budget

#### Activities

Provide effective delivery of library services to the community, including the management of Council's local history collection, acquire and manage high quality book stock and reference material, upgrading facilities where appropriate, provide public internet access, and initiatives to increase library usage.

\$1,363,430

\$1,455,501

### 1.3 ARTS AND CULTURE

We are committed to the fostering and promotion of arts and culture within our community, the awareness and promotion of our local history, and advocacy for

- ✓ Library Programs and Services
- ✓ Events
- ✓ Public Artwork
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Arts and Culture Programs
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Community Groups, Events and Attractions



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
ARTS AND CULTURE	90.47	86.63	111.91	107.45	109.11

### 1.4 RECREATION

We are committed to providing quality recreation and sporting facilities, parks, gardens, playgrounds and open spaces for the benefit of our community

- ✓ Sporting, Recreational and Leisure Facilities and Programs
- ✓ Walking and Cycling Infrastructure
- ✓ Parks, Gardens and Playgrounds
- ✓ Streetscapes and Open Spaces
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Increased Recreational Infrastructure



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RECREATION	119.13	118.18	114.69	111.82	114.02

FOCUS: COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY

FOCUS: COMMUNITY SUPPORT

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

##### Activities

Provision of advocacy, activities, programs and initiatives in support of the community, including Healthy lifestyle, youth multicultural and seniors programs. Facilitation of community engagement through advisory groups, networks and committees. Community support is also provided via community events such as Australia Day celebrations, Carols, citizenship ceremonies, and the administering of the Community Grants Scheme.

#### 2016/17 Revised Budget

\$1,557,032

#### 2017/18 Budget

\$1,651,715

## 2

ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

FOCUS: COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY

FOCUS: COMMUNITY SUPPORT



## 2.1 TOURISM

We are committed to supporting tourism throughout our region

- ✓ Town and Business Signage
- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Support & Advocacy: Tourism Organisations and Operators
- ✓ Support & Advocacy: Government Initiatives

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
TOURISM	-	-	85.75	84.25	85.36



## 2.2 LOCAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

We are committed to ensuring local businesses and industry receive the support they need in order to grow and prosper within our region

- ✓ Transport Infrastructure
- ✓ Local Purchasing and Procurement
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Government Funding and Initiatives
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Training and Employment Initiatives
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Industry Organisations

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
LOCAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY	85.63	85.53	85.54	82.92	86.06



## 2.3 CITY PLANNING

We are committed to effective and responsible city planning which balances and meets both residential and commercial needs in our community

- ✓ City of Palmerston CBD Master Plan Implementation
- ✓ Public Land Use
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: NT Government Planning and Development Control

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
CITY PLANNING	-	-	89.41	80.22	85.03

## REGULATORY SERVICES

## Activities

Administer by-laws, support emergency services, provide effective control and regulation of dogs, infringements.

2016/17 Revised Budget

2017/18 Budget

\$922,058

\$887,632

# ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

3

FOCUS: COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY

FOCUS: COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## 3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

We are committed to actively protecting and enhancing the environmental assets and infrastructure of the City of Palmerston, while supporting local businesses and industry in sustainable land use

- ✓ Climate Change Impact Reduction
- ✓ Greenhouse Emissions Measurement and Reduction
- ✓ Energy and Water Resource Management Initiatives
- ✓ Support & Advocacy: Planning and Development Controls
- ✓ Support & Advocacy: Community Action, Education and Organisations
- ✓ Support & Advocacy: Conservation and Biodiversity



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	95.98	95.19	96.93	91.30	93.41

## 3.2 ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

We are committed to maintaining and developing community assets and infrastructure which meet the needs of our community

- ✓ Roads, Bridges, Footpaths and Car Parking
- ✓ Council Buildings and Facilities
- ✓ Stormwater Infrastructure
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Traffic Management and Road Safety
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Territory and Federal Infrastructure and Land



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE	106.65	107.89	107.75	106.65	109.42

## 3.3 WASTE

We are committed to providing comprehensive and effective waste management services to our community

- ✓ Kerbside Waste Collection and Recycling
- ✓ Hard and Green Waste Facilities
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Recycling, re-use and minimisation
- ✓ Support and Advocacy: Education initiatives



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
WASTE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL	129.69	129.94	133.40	129.25	136.45

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

	2016/17 Revised Budget	2017/18 Budget
Activities	\$5,473,926	\$5,556,210

Support and advocate activities and initiatives promoting environmental awareness and education in the community. Support for initiatives encouraging the use of renewable energy. Provide effective collection and disposal of domestic waste and green waste, collect recyclable litter, and administer the Archer Waste Transfer Station.

### ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

	2016/17 Revised Budget	2017/18 Budget
Activities	\$3,494,142	\$3,769,519

Provide and effectively manage Council infrastructure assets such as bridges, bike and footpaths, kerbing, roadside verges, sealed roads, stormwater infrastructure, floodplain management, street lighting, lawns and trees etc. Maintain Council plant and machinery, carry out construction and maintenance activities of assets.

## 4

GOVERNANCE &  
ORGANISATION

## 4.1 RESPONSIBILITY

We are committed to corporate and social responsibility, the sustainability of Council assets and services, and the effective planning and reporting of Council performance to the community

- ✓ Elected Member Accountability to the Community
- ✓ Governance, Strategy, Legislation and Policy
- ✓ Business Planning and Performance Reporting Frameworks
- ✓ Financial Sustainability and Asset Management
- ✓ Risk Management and Workplace Health and Safety

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESPONSIBILITY	81.78	84.03	80.93	75.27	80.40



## 4.2 SERVICE

We value and encourage participation in Council activities by the community, and are committed to delivering the highest possible levels of service and community engagement

- ✓ Customer Service Standards
- ✓ Community Engagement and Voter Participation
- ✓ Governance and Participation on Council Advisory Groups
- ✓ Open Government and Transparency Initiatives

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
SERVICE	82.02	82.34	82.00	73.18	76.80

FOCUS: COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY  
FOCUS: COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## GOVERNANCE

2016/17 Revised Budget

2017/18 Budget

## Activities

Effectively provide appropriate support services and governance training to Elected Members, conduct civic receptions, promote and support voter participation, conduct Council elections every four years, conduct Council meetings, benchmarking activities, disaster recovery, ensure legislative compliance and good governance, corporate planning and reporting, performance management, WHS and risk management.

\$331,026

\$492,588

### 4.3 PEOPLE

We value our people, and the culture of our organisation. We are committed to continuous improvement and innovation whilst seeking to reduce the costs of Council services through increased efficiency

- ✓ Human Resources and Workforce Development
- ✓ Training and Development of Elected Members
- ✓ Cost Reduction and Efficiency Initiatives
- ✓ Continuous Improvement, Benchmarking, Research and Innovation



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
PEOPLE	94.09	94.51	94.38	88.20	88.48

### 4.4 SYSTEMS

We are committed to ensuring the systems and processes of Council support the organisation in delivering the best possible services to the community

- ✓ Internal Business Processes and Service Levels
- ✓ Financial and Administrative Services
- ✓ Information and Communication Technology Services



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
SYSTEMS	89.64	92.26	92.69	93.54	93.06

FOCUS: COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY

FOCUS: COMMUNITY SUPPORT

#### COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

##### Activities

Provide Council operations with effective administrative and support services, including financial management, public relations, customer services, plant management, human resources, training and development, information technology, payroll, workplace health and safety, rates administration, and records management.

2016/17 Revised Budget

2017/18 Budget

\$6,111,272

\$5,577,467



# HOW WE MEASURE PERFORMANCE



## Primary Performance Indicators: Community Satisfaction Survey

Council is very aware performance is 'in the eye of the beholder', and the satisfaction of the community is the primary measure of performance. No matter how well we think we are doing, it is the community's opinion which matters most.

For this reason, wherever possible there is a survey score for a particular service or activity tied to each outcome. The survey is carried out annually by Roy Morgan Research on behalf of Council beginning in 2012 and the scores are used to determine overall performance of Council with regards to a particular outcome. With roughly 400 telephone interviews conducted to provide

a cross section of ages and suburbs, Council has no ability to influence the analysis of community satisfaction, thus providing an objective outcome the community can rely on. Scores of 100 indicate the community is "satisfied" with the performance of Council.

The next Roy Morgan survey commenced in June 2017 with the subsequent data to be included in the City of Palmerston's Annual Report at the end of 2017.

The survey was adjusted in 2014 to more closely align with the Municipal Plan. In some cases, it has been as simple as recalculating responses in past surveys into the corresponding Municipal Plan outcome area – in some cases it has meant asking new questions in the survey. Where the

survey area includes new components, this is identified. These improvements have allowed us to more closely focus on Economic Development in particular. Sadly, it does mean in some instances we have lost the trend over the past three years, but anticipate the added focus on these areas will provide better indication of Community Satisfaction in these areas in the future.

### Secondary Performance Indicators: Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

A large set of KPIs are monitored and reported on internally and included in the Annual Report, helping track specific aspects of its services and activities. This includes financial indicators, asset management indicators, and

so on. Each area of the Municipal Plan has a suite of these KPIs, which are regularly adjusted and reviewed. These KPIs help Council adjust priorities and resources over time to ensure the community satisfaction measured by the Primary Performance Indicators above is appropriately reflected.

### Interested in learning more about the City of Palmerston's Municipal Plan?

The public is strongly encouraged to provide feedback regarding this plan. The success of this plan is reliant on it matching the needs and addressing the concerns of the community! Email us at [palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au), or call 08 8935 9922.

PERFORMANCE TABLE 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 AND 2016

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	<i>Sample size</i>	401	407	402	400	
	<i>Projected population over 18</i>	18,677	18,678	19,588	19,588	
1.1	HEALTHY COMMUNITIES	97.09	98.69	97.73	95.78	92.76
1.2	SAFE COMMUNITIES	84.35	86.79	84.93	77.14	74.17
1.3	ARTS AND CULTURE	110.47	109.70	111.91	107.45	109.11
1.4	RECREATION	119.13	118.18	114.69	111.82	114.02
2.1	TOURISM	n/a	n/a	85.75	84.25	85.36
2.2	LOCAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY	85.63	85.53	85.54	82.92	86.06
2.3	CITY PLANNING	n/a	n/a	89.41	80.22	85.03
3.1	ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	95.98	95.19	96.93	91.30	93.41
3.2	ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE	110.61	111.79	107.75	106.65	109.42
3.3	WASTE	129.69	129.94	133.40	129.25	136.45
4.1	RESPONSIBILITY	83.89	82.74	80.93	75.27	80.40
4.2	SERVICE	82.02	82.34	82.00	73.18	76.80
4.3	PEOPLE	94.09	94.51	94.38	88.20	88.48
4.4	SYSTEMS	89.64	92.26	92.69	93.54	93.06





# ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2017/18

The Annual Business Plan 2017/18 outlines service delivery plans in line with Council strategy for the coming year, as well as a number of items required under Northern Territory Government legislation. These include:

- ▶ An assessment of the adequacy of constitutional arrangements presently in force for the Council under the Local Government Act and in particular, whether they provide the most effective possible representation for the area;
- ▶ An assessment of the opportunities and challenges for service delivery in the City of Palmerston;
- ▶ Any changes to the administrative and regulatory framework for delivering Council services in the area;
- ▶ An assessment of whether possibilities exist for improving Local Government service delivery by cooperation with other councils, or with government agencies or other organisations;
- ▶ A set of financial indicators for judging the standard of Council's performance, which complement the Community Satisfaction survey indicators.

Further information is available on Council's website at [www.palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au).



KEY  
AREAS

## THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN IS SET OUT IN FIVE KEY AREAS:



## PEOPLE

A description of the governance structure of Council, the roles and responsibilities of Aldermen, Deputy Mayor, and Mayor, and a review of the system of representation in place for the City of Palmerston are all found here. This section also provides a description of allowances provided to Elected Members, a description of the role of the CEO, and a brief description of Council's organisational structure.



## SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

Running a Council effectively means ensuring the systems and processes used by staff are reviewed, documented, amended and maintained. The City of Palmerston is dedicated to continuously improving its systems.



## ASSETS

Council is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of a significant amount of community assets – parks, playgrounds, community halls, stormwater infrastructure etc. This section details Council's capital works budget and works program for 2017/2018.



## SERVICE DELIVERY

From libraries and pools to irrigating parks and cleaning up after cyclones, a modern city in the Northern Territory offers a wide number of services. This area of the plan provides information regarding budgets for service delivery across Council activities.



## RISK

The City of Palmerston is faced with a number of opportunities and challenges moving into the future. This section details some of these, with a particular focus on financial sustainability and its effect on rating strategies for the 2017/18 year. This section also provides the impact of the 2017/18 budget on Council's financial performance indicators.





# PEOPLE



*Shown in the photograph above are, from left to right: (back) Alderman Andrew Byrne, Alderman Paul Bunker, Alderman Athina Pascoe-Bell, (bottom row) Alderman Seranna Shutt, Mayor Ian Abbott and Deputy Mayor Sue McKinnon.*

On 29 June 2017, the Minister for Housing and Community Development Gerry McCarthy placed the City of Palmerston Council under official management, suspended the elected members and appointed Mr Mark Blackburn as the official manager.

## Our Council

In accordance with the Local Government Act, Council is made up of seven Elected Members: a Principal Member holding the title of Mayor, and six elected members holding the title of Alderman.

Each year, Council elects one Alderman to serve as Deputy Mayor for a term of 12 months. At the Council Meeting held on 4 April 2017, Alderman Sue McKinnon was appointed as Deputy Mayor commencing 11 April 2016 for the remainder of the term of this Council, replacing Alderman Seranna Shutt whose 12 month term came to a close. The City of Palmerston operates under a single (or 'no wards') system with each of the seven

elected members representing the entire city. With 18,465 electors as at 2015, this makes a ratio of 1 elected member for every 3,078 electors. Due to the rapid population growth continuing to occur in the city, Council continues to consider dividing the city into wards as impractical.

As the city develops, the potential for large swings in representation quotas makes ensuring an equal distribution of voting quotas extremely difficult. Council completed its 'Review of Constitutional Arrangements' in February 2015 and forwarded the final report to the Minister for Housing and Community Development. Council had requested the Minister's consent to:

- ▶ Increase the number of elected representatives (not counting the Mayor) from six to eight;
- ▶ Change the title of the Elected Members from Alderman to Councillor;
- ▶ Pursue changes to Council's municipal boundaries.

On 12 May 2017, the Department of Housing and Community Development informed

Council that the Minister has approved one additional Elected Member, bringing the total to 1 Mayor and 7 Alderman. This will take effect at the next General Election for the City of Palmerston which will be held on 17 March 2018.

Elected Members are provided with financial support in recognition of the significant amount of work required in representing their community. Council resolved on 6 June 2017

ALLOWANCE DESCRIPTION	MAYOR	DEPUTY MAYOR	ALDERMAN
Annual Base Allowance	\$85,312.54	\$31,546.25	\$15,343.80
Annual Electoral Allowance	\$22,454.45	\$5,614.79	\$5,614.79
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$107,766.99</b>	<b>\$37,161.04</b>	<b>\$20,958.59</b>
Professional Development Allowance	\$3,653.68	\$3,653.68	\$3,653.68

In addition, Aldermen other than the Mayor or Deputy Mayor are entitled to claim a \$150 extra meeting allowance to a maximum of \$10,229.59. Details of eligibility and restrictions of these meeting allowances, as well as all other Elected Member benefits and entitlements, are outlined in Council Policy EM02 'Elected Members Benefits and Support Policy' available on Council's website.

As per the Local Government Act, Council employs a Chief Executive Officer and delegates a number of authorities under the Act to carry out the day to day functions of Council. The CEO is responsible for the overall administration of Council affairs, and works closely with Elected Members to ensure Council goals and objectives are met.

### Staffing Plan

The Staffing Plan for 2017/2018 provides for the employment of 78 staff members who operate under the CEO's direction and are divided into four key areas being Executive Services, Community Services, Corporate Services and Technical Services.

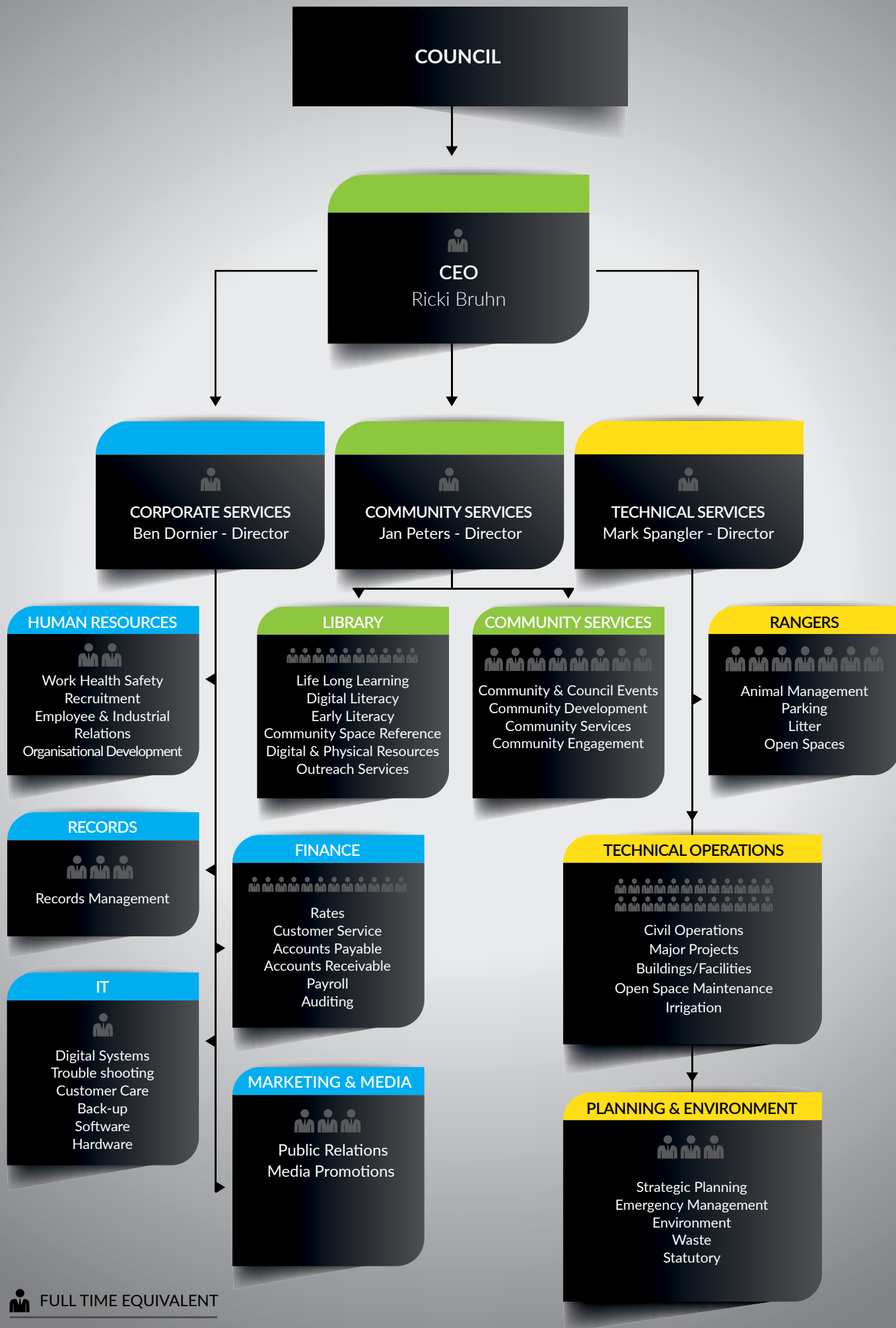
These 78 staffing positions are the equivalent of 75 full time equivalents (FTE) and incorporate four new positions (2.8 FTE's) including:

- ▶ Executive Assistant to the Director of Community Services
- ▶ Junior Engineer for managing Street Lighting Infrastructure
- ▶ 2 x Recreation Centre part-time employees (to assist with operating the council managed Recreation Centre)

It should be noted that short-term projects may temporarily change the actual number of FTE's at any given time during the financial year.

The total budget for employee costs for 2017/2018 is \$6,914,980 and includes wages, superannuation and provision for a 2% increase pursuant to the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

In accordance with Section 103 of the Local Government Act, the CEO is responsible for the appointment of staff in accordance with a staffing plan approved by the council.



**GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: Alderman Byrne  
MEMBERS: Alderman Bunker,  
Deputy Mayor Shutt

1

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: Alderman Bunker  
MEMBERS: Alderman Byrne,  
Alderman McKinnon,  
Alderman Pascoe-Bell

2

**COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: Alderman Shutt  
MEMBERS: Alderman McKinnon,  
Alderman Pascoe-Bell

3

At the council meeting held on 4 July 2017, the following decision was carried

- ▶ THAT during the term of the City of Palmerston being under official management, all scheduled meetings of Council's Standing Committees (Community, Culture & Environment, Governance and Organisation and Economic Development & Infrastructure) be suspended with all officer reports being presented directly to the Ordinary Meetings of Council.



# SYSTEMS & PROCESSES

## **We are committed to improvement!**

Council continues to work on improving our internal processes and systems. We understand the importance of being able to carry out effective and efficient council operations and the need to ensure our community members receive quality services, consistently and repeatedly. We've made some improvements, and know that we need to continually review and keep improving. Below are a few of the areas we are focused on for the 2017/18 year.

### **Council Website**

Over the coming year, you will notice a brand new website being rolled out. This includes improvements to search functionality, and a service oriented architecture delivering significant improvements to carrying out transactions with Council. Our dream is that all permits, licences, approvals, registrations and interactions involving money will be available online to our community. In addition, reporting issues, making suggestions or complaints, and carrying out information requests to Council will see major improvements. Our Customer Service will of course continue for those who feel more comfortable transacting in person, but for those with busy lives who prefer to interact online, these improvements will dramatically improve efficiency.

### **Open Data and Council Systems**

Like other commercial entities, the City of Palmerston makes use of a number of open data

sets provided by the Federal Government and the Northern Territory Government in order to carry out its operations. Open data makes sense, increasing transparency and efficiency across government. This year will see Council begin participation in providing data sets for use by the community, industry and other tiers of government as well via the National Maps service offered at [www.nationalmaps.gov.au](http://www.nationalmaps.gov.au). We encourage the public to use this service!

Council will also be updating its primary software systems to the most current versions, which will offer increased mobility and efficiency, better integration with other systems, and reduced use of paper.

### **Enterprise risk management and Financial Reporting**

Following the implementation of the Deloitte Local Government Better Practice Model for improved risk management and internal controls, Council will continue working with its Risk Management and Internal Audit Committee to progress improvements to financial reporting, internal audit functions and enterprise risk.

This year will see improvements to monthly financial reporting, as well as the annual budget development and reporting processes. It will also see the introduction of financial sustainability ratios and targets as Council takes on a loan for works associated with the former Archer waste site – the first time City of Palmerston has carried debt.



# ASSETS

Council has a Long Term Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan which is regularly monitored and updated. This plan lays out the strategies for maintaining and developing existing assets, and for providing new assets which meet the needs of the community. Council periodically adjusts this plan as priorities change across the community, and the most recent changes are reflected in the 2017/18 Capital Works budget included in this plan.

Council reviews and updates these plans regularly through assessing asset life cycles, safety, sustainability and levels of service. The financial implications for managing these assets inform Council's Long Term Financial Plan, included at the end of this document. Whilst there will always be community

demand for the provision of new and upgraded assets, it is imperative priority is given to the replacement and renewal of existing assets before considering the construction or purchase of new assets.

Additionally, with finite financial resources, it is also important Council gives consideration to the disposal of surplus or non-performing assets – thereby releasing financial resources to more appropriate asset management activities. Council infrastructure assets rarely deliver 'financial' returns in the form of revenue streams (we do not have toll roads or bridges, and accessing parks, recreation spaces and the library is free), and generally the performance of assets is judged by the amount of community usage they attract.

CAPITAL INCOME	REVISED BUDGET 2016/17	BUDGET 2017/18
Grants, Subsidies, Contributions	\$4,993,567	\$928,380
Profit on Sale of Assets	\$1,884,000	\$30,985
Gifted Assets	\$10,000,000	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,877,567</b>	<b>\$5,959,365</b>

The breakdown of Council's Capital Works Program for 2017/18 can be found on the following page.



CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2017/18
Facilities and Structures	Civic Centre Roof Replacement	50,000
	Civic Centre Painting	40,000
	Civic Centre Toilets	10,000
	Depot Office Painting	5,000
	Depot Sheds 1-4 Toilets	12,000
	Driver Shed	15,000
	Recreation Centre Airconditioning	10,000
Parks and Reserves	Lighting Upgrades Parks	50,000
	Playground Refurbishment	200,000
	New Playground Structures	380,120
	Lightning Protection - Irrigation Controllers	10,000
	Replace Irrigation Cabinets	10,000
	Replacement BBQs	10,000
	Replacement Park Seating	10,000
	Annual Irrigation Refurbishment	150,000
	Replace Irrigation Controllers	70,000
	Switchboard Replacement in Parks	20,000
	Marlow Lagoon Pathways	95,000
	Covered Picnic Areas	20,000
	Tree Replacement Program	72,000
	Replace Shade Sails	75,000
	Replace Rubber Softfall in Parks	105,000
	Golden Grove Park Mowing Strip	26,000
	Bellamack Bore Contribution	20,000
	Replace Rusty Park Light Poles	20,000
Roads and Transport	Driveway Replacements	30,000
	Footpath Replacements	60,000
	Roadsign Replacement	15,000
	Cyclepath Replacement	60,000
	Reseal Program	400,000
	Disability Access	50,000
	Reseal Five Ash Lane Carpark	30,000
	Widdup Park Access	30,000
	New Pathways	50,000
	Electronic Speed Limit Signs Driver Ave	10,000
	Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety	100,000
	Reconstruction Wallaby-Holtze Rd	678,553
Stormwater Drainage	Culverts, Bridges, Concrete Lined Drains	50,000
	Drainage Upgrades	40,000
	Marlow Lagoon lake outfall drain fence	25,000
Waste Management	Resource Recovery Centre	140,000
	Stage 2 Landfill	4,000,000
	Flack Road Upgrade	100,000
Plant and Machinery	Replacement Fleet Vehicles	180,000
Carparking <i>Subject to Ministerial approval of a \$10m loan application</i>	New Car Park	14,500,000
GRAND TOTAL		22,033,673

# SERVICE DELIVERY



Council provides a wide variety of services to the community, delivered broadly in three areas: Technical Services (engineering, maintenance, animal management and ranger services, development and town planning, roads and stormwater, waste management, car parking), Community Services (library services, community development, community events and promotion, sponsorship and community grants, recreation services and activities, youth, family and seniors support services) and Corporate Services (finance and rates, human resources, IT and communications, legal and corporate services, records management and other general support to other areas of Council). The majority of these council services fall within one of the following three categories:

## Ongoing delivery of existing programs and services

Existing services that residents of Palmerston can continue to enjoy and expect in 2017/18 include the Palmerston Library services, community events such as the Palmerston Flicnics, Brekkie in the Park, youth events and senior's week activities. The Community Garden, Palmerston Men's Shed and healthy active lifestyle programs, including the walking programs and exercise station, will continue to be supported by Council. In addition, Council has decided to directly manage the Palmerston Recreation Centre following the ending of the facilities management contract held by the

YMCA, and will deliver increased opportunity and access within the CBD for a broad range of these programs.

A large component of Council service delivery is the ongoing maintenance and management of the city's recreation and leisure facilities, community halls and parks and gardens. Council has ownership and responsibility for over 100 parks which are connected or surrounded by over 110km of footpaths and over 40km of bike paths. Each year Council officers and contractors work hard to maintain these facilities along with the ongoing management of Palmerston's numerous waterways and lakes which require weed harvesting on a regular cycle.

Our waste management services extend past the well-known kerbside rubbish collections to include street cleaning, recycling programs, waste transfer and the annual pre-cyclone clean up.

Our Rangers respond to customer requests and complaints in relation to barking dogs and dog attacks as well as working hard to reunite lost dogs with their owners on a daily basis. Council also issues disability parking permits to provide easier access for residents in need.

Graffiti management, traffic management, signage controls, driveways and verge reimbursements are all part of the long list of ongoing existing services that Council will continue to offer in 2017/2018.

### Capital renewal and replacement of existing assets

With the development of new suburbs and with the increasing age of older suburbs, Council is required to invest in the ongoing renewal and replacement of roads and footpaths, stormwater drainage and council facilities. A detailed listing of capital projects has been included under the "Assets" section of the Municipal Plan with the majority of these projects falling under the category of capital renewal and replacement.

### New initiative for the introduction of new or upgraded assets and services

New initiatives of Council in 2017/18 are focussing on providing recreational and cultural activities for residents within the CBD via the Palmerston Recreation Centre. Furthermore Council is committed to the roll out of its Car Parking Strategy for the CBD, with pay and display parking having gone into effect on 5 June 2017 and the development of a new 378 bay car parking structure adjacent to the Palmerston Recreation Centre which will assist in managing the growing need for car parking in the city centre.

### Operating Revenue 2016/17

This Budget provides an increase from \$30.5M to \$32.2M, in operating revenue, or 5.6%, over the 2016/17 Revised Annual Budget.

\$M	%	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
26.9	83	General Rates and Charges	General rates and waste charges on properties, including residential, commercial and industrial
2.1	6	Grants and Subsidies	Council seeks to attract as much grant funding as possible from other tiers of government, thereby reducing reliance on other revenue streams
0.9	3	Statutory Fees and Charges	Fees and charges received by Council for regulatory functions undertaken, such as animal management and parking infringements
1.2	5	User Fees and Charges	Fees and charges received by Council for various services provided by Council
0.8	3	Investments, Reimbursements and Other Income	Interest received on Council investments, internal cash reserves and deposits, reimbursement for work undertaken, and other income
31.9	100		

### Operating Expenditure 2016/17

This Budget provides an increase from \$34.1M to \$36.1M in operating expenditure, or 5.5%, over the 2016/17 Revised Annual Budget.

\$M	%	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
13.9	39	Contractual Expenditure	All contracted works, including parks, gardens, building, roads, irrigations, maintenance, etc
7.2	20	Employee Costs	All labour related expenses such as wages and salaries, allowances, leave entitlements, and employer superannuation
8.8	25	Depreciation	Annual consumption of Council's fixed assets (e.g. infrastructure, equipment, buildings, etc) over their useful lives
2.7	7	Utilities	Power, water and telecommunications
3.3	9	Materials and Other Expenses	Includes expenses not separately classified above such as insurances, postage, government levies, and contributions and donations
35.9	100	<i>Note: Depreciation is removed to reflect actual expenditure elsewhere in this document</i>	

# RISKS



## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

### Street Lighting and Smart Cities

Following a constructive period of negotiation, the Northern Territory Government, Power and Water Corp, and local governments across the Territory have reached agreement for the transfer of street lights to local councils beginning on 1 January 2018. For Palmerston, this will mean greater control over street lighting generally, together with access to more modern and environmentally friendly street light solutions, particularly in the area of energy efficiency. However, it also represents a challenge to Council in ensuring the upkeep and maintenance of street lighting meets the needs of the community.

Because of this, Council has over the past year been building a new financial reserve in order to fund the systems and contracts necessary for Council to begin delivering this service. This will also allow the new Council to make strategic decisions with regards to smart city solutions which may assist in increasing energy efficiency and developing new approaches to asset management and service delivery across the municipality. These decisions will build on the upcoming City of Palmerston Digital Strategy, which offers a holistic and unified approach to harnessing technology trends which can improve the liveability of our city.

### Municipal Waste Management

Council's annual Community Satisfaction Survey results continue to identify the services being offered to residents to be exceptional and waste management continues to be a major expense item within the Council Budget. Council was served with the anticipated Pollution Abatement Notice (PAN) by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) over the previous Archer landfill site in 2015. This PAN requires Council to take a series of actions to manage landfill gases, leachate and rehabilitation/aftercare of the site, and is the first PAN to be issued under new requirements of the EPA. In accordance with Australian Accounting Standard 137 – Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets a provision for \$8.4M was created at year end 30 June 2016 as a best estimate of the total Archer landfill site rehabilitation. This provision will be utilised as rehabilitation stages are completed and any excess provision will be written back to the profit and loss. Stage one of the rehabilitation was completed in the 2016/17 financial year with a saving of \$812,746. Stage two tender has recently closed and once again is anticipated to be under budget. These savings as well as the increases in waste charges have increased the waste reserve. This positive reserve movement has facilitated the delay in the drawdown of the \$4M loan. The loan will be drawn down in two separate \$2M portions in 2018 and 2019 respectively. This will facilitate a saving in interest as well as assisting in balancing Council's net working capital.



## CBD Car Parking

Council has care and control of less than 25% of parking in the city centre – yet these are the most accessible and convenient locations which are vital to maintaining and increasing economic activity in the city. Unfortunately, they have been primarily utilised for all day car parking for office workers and park and ride facilities for organisations outside the municipality. Combined with a current total of 1250 car parks historically waived for buildings in the city centre, this has meant that for many years Council rate payers have been burdened with providing car parking for office buildings which provide none. The effect has been noticeable – finding a park to make a quick trip into the shops has often meant parking well away from the shops. In addition, car parking for buildings which do not provide any has been provided by the rate payers in general rather than the land owner benefitting from these car parks.

Council is taking three approaches in order to ensure that those benefitting from car parking are those who pay for it rather than rate payers in general. These approaches are set out in Council's Car Parking Strategy, which is a part of its City Centre Master Plan. First, Council introduced pay and display parking across the CBD on 5 June 2017, designed to reward short term visitors seeking to visit shops and recreational facilities whilst encouraging all day car parking to move to the outskirts of the city centre.

Second, Council has introduced a City Centre Improvement Special Rate for the 2017/18 financial year. Where a building or development has been benefitting from free public car parking rather than providing the necessary car parks under parking generation rates under the Northern Territory Planning Scheme, this special rate collects an annual amount for each parking bay the development has a shortfall for.

Finally, the revenue generated from paid

car parking and the special rate will be set aside for improvements to car parking and general improvements to the City Centre. In the 2017/18 year, these funds could assist with the development of a public car parking structure being built as part of a mixed use residential and commercial development immediately adjacent to the Palmerston Recreation Centre, in line with Council's Car Parking Strategy and City Centre Master Plan and subject to Ministerial approval to borrow funds. This development could provide safe, secure under cover parking which will enhance the experience of visitors to our CBD, while also providing the first residential living options within the CBD.

## Collaboration

The City of Palmerston has a long-standing commitment to collaboration with other Councils and other levels of government:

- ▶ Committed to the regular and ongoing dialogue to consider issues with senior executives and Ministers of the NT Government. These high level discussions continue to address common issues with common solutions;
- ▶ Council maintains active membership of LGANT (Local Government Association Northern Territory) and actively participates in all reference groups, working parties and forums created through LGANT;
- ▶ Council participates in TOPROC (Top End Regional Organisation of Councils), with the City of Darwin, Litchfield Council, Belyuen Community Government Council, Wagait Shire Council and the Coomalie Community Government Council to consider Top End issues and facilitate collaboration between those Councils;
- ▶ Council attends ALGA (Australian Local Government Association) meetings and functions to consider and seek solutions to Local Government issues on a national level;



- ▶ Council is an active member of the Common Services Joint Venture together with several neighbouring councils as well as a number of Tasmanian councils, providing access to cost-effective resource sharing and cost recovery initiatives with the potential of generating an alternative revenue stream, assisting in keeping costs down.
- ▶ CEO Ricki Bruhn is Northern Territory Branch President as well as National President of Local Government Professionals Australia, the peak professional association for local government staff.
- ▶ Elected Members and Officers regularly hold meetings with government representatives, attend briefings and discussions in regard to NT Local Government and wider government issues.

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

### Intergenerational Equity

The City of Palmerston is committed to the principles of financial sustainability and ensuring each generation 'pays their way', rather than any generation 'living off their assets' and leaving it to future generations to address the issue of repairing worn out infrastructure. Such issues are frequently referred to as 'intergenerational equity'.

With community infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, and stormwater drainage comprising a major proportion of Council's balance sheets, it is important Council implement appropriate strategies towards the effective upkeep of such assets – so the maintenance and renewal of such assets is fairly and equitably funded from current ratepayers (i.e. general rate income) and future ratepayers (long term loan borrowings).

Given the importance of ensuring financial sustainability of Council operations in the longer term, it is a legislative requirement that Council adopt Long Term Financial Plans as part of future planning. The Long Term Financial

Plan is designed as a 'high-level' summarised document towards the future planning of Council's financial operations – particularly in relation to key components such as rate movements, service levels, major infrastructure asset replacement/renewal, loan indebtedness and internal cash reserves. Council conducts an annual review of its long term financial plan. The Long Term Financial Plan can be found at the end of the Municipal Plan.

### Rates

Council must raise revenue each year sufficient for the purpose of provide for appropriate programs and services for the community, as well as governance and administration. Rates constitute a system of taxation on the community for local government purposes rather than a fee for service. Although ratepayers receive benefits from paying rates, these benefits should not necessarily be to the extent of the individual tax (rates) paid. Benefits are consumed in different quantities and types over the life cycle of the ratepayer.

Council's practices and decisions regarding rating are underpinned by:

- ▶ Accountability, transparency and simplicity;
- ▶ Efficiency, effectiveness and timeliness;
- ▶ Equitable distribution of the rate burden across the community;
- ▶ Consistency with Council's strategic, corporate and financial directions and budgetary requirements and compliance with the requirements and intent of relevant legislation and accepted professional conventions and ethics.

Council is faced with balancing its service levels, the needs and expectations of the community and setting appropriate tax levels to adequately resource its roles and responsibilities. In setting its charges for the financial year, the Council needs to give primary consideration to the following:



- ▶ The current Municipal Plan;
- ▶ The current economic and legislative climate;
- ▶ The specific issues faced by our community;
- ▶ The budget for the relevant financial year;
- ▶ The impact of charges on the community, including personal incomes and business activities;
- ▶ The broad principle of achieving equity in the distribution of the rate and charges burden;
- ▶ Minimising the level of general rates required by levying fees and charges for goods and services where ever possible;
- ▶ Setting and applying fees and charges fairly and equitably to recover the full cost of operation or providing; and
- ▶ Investigation of alternative sources of revenue to reduce Council's reliance upon rate revenue.

As part of the financial planning and budget processes, the rate revenue required to meet expenditure needs is calculated taking into account other sources of revenue. The structure of the rating system is then determined by considering how the rates are levied between, and within, various categories of ratepayers.

General rates and waste management charges are expected to account for 83% of Council's operating revenue in 2017/18. The rating structure is comprised of three key elements. These are:

- ▶ Commercial and Industrial property values, which generally reflect capacity to pay;
- ▶ A 'user pay's component to reflect usage of the waste management service provided by Council, and is levied only on those with access to the service; and
- ▶ Residential property values (with a minimum rate) to generally reflect capacity to pay.

Striking a proper balance between these

elements provides equity in the distribution of the rate burden across ratepayers. Council has reviewed each of these considerations, as well as Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the municipality, and considered a variety of methods to attain an equitable distribution of rates. Council is confident that the current structure is the most appropriate rates structure for City of Palmerston.

#### Method Used To Value Land

The City of Palmerston uses Unimproved Capital Value, Section 149(1) of the Act, as a basis for all land valuations in the City of Palmerston Council area. Unimproved Capital Value is the value of the land without any improvements. Council considers that this method of valuing land provides the fairest method of distributing the rate burden across all ratepayers.

All land within the Council area is rateable, except for lands specifically exempt (e.g. Crown Land, Council owned land). Where a service that is subject to a service charge is provided to non-rateable land, a service charge is levied against the land.

The total unimproved capital value for the City in relation to the 2017/18 year is \$3,735,488,500 less non rateable of \$253,893,500 leaving the total rateable value of \$3,481,595,000.

The Valuer-General sets the Unimproved Capital Values of land. If a ratepayer is dissatisfied with the valuation contact can be made to the Valuer-General. Contact details for the Valuer general are:

**MAIL:** GPO Box 1680, Darwin NT 0801

**TELEPHONE:** (08) 8999 2400

**FACSIMILE:** (08) 8999 2700

The City of Palmerston has no role in this process. Rates must be paid in accordance with rate notices unless otherwise notified by Council.

### General Rates

The residential, industrial and commercial rating structures (including units and vacant residential land) is calculated as a differential rate based on the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) of the land. If there is more than one residential unit/dwelling on a land parcel and such units do not have their own individual assessment (strata title), Council will apply multiple dwelling rating principles as a means of equitable distribution of the rate burden across the community.

A differential valuation based charge calculated as a proportion of the assessed value of each allotment and location with a minimum rate of \$1,177 for residential will apply. A differential valuation based charge calculated as a proportion of the assessed value of each allotment and location with a minimum rate of \$1,191.12 for industrial and industrial will apply. Council applies rates on the basis of land use and location in line with policy FIN25. Where Council is not aware of the use of the land it will deem the use in line with the zoning of the land under the NT Planning Scheme. Through Public Consultation process Council has introduced a separate residential rate for properties in the suburb of Marlow Lagoon. This rate is set at a lower multiplier for 2017/18 due to the service provided to properties in this particular suburb.

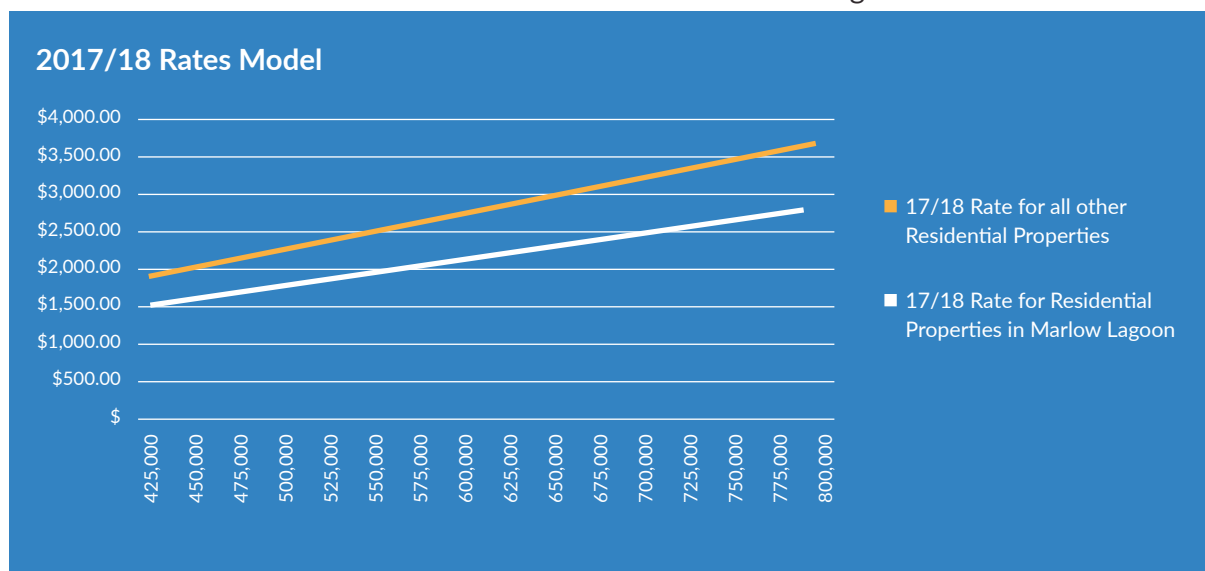
### Other Rates

The purpose for which the City Centre

Improvement Special Rate is to be imposed is to defray the expense of and in relation to on-street and off-street parking within the Central Business District ("the Central Business District") it being the opinion of the Council that such on-street and off-street parking is and will be of special benefit to the ratepayers of the Central Business District. The City Centre Improvement Special Rate will be levied on all rate-able land assessed to have a parking shortfall in the Central Business District. Proceeds of the City Centre Improvement Special Rate will be applied by the Council for the provision, operation and maintenance of land, facilities, services and improvements for and in connection with any Central Business District improvements.

### Minimum Rate and Fixed Charge

Council has determined minimum rates will continue to be applied within the municipal boundary in order that all ratable assessments make a reasonable contribution to maintaining the services and infrastructure of each property. The primary reason for imposing a minimum rate is to ensure all these ratable properties make a reasonable contribution to the cost of administering Council activities and maintaining the services and physical infrastructure of the municipality. A minimum rate has the effect of reducing the rate in the dollar required to be applied to valuations on properties that exceed the minimum rate. More details regarding Council's rating decisions for the 2017/18 budget are included below:





RATING ZONE		BUDGET 2016/17	BUDGET 2017/18*	CHANGE
Residential	Rate on UCV	0.45000%	0.46355%	3.01%
	Minimum Rate	\$1,177	\$1,177	0%
	UCV	\$2,817,675,000	\$2,874,029,500	\$56,354,500
	No of Properties	12,379	12,809	430
	Estimated Income Rates	\$15,975,671	\$16,563,701	\$588,030
Residential Marlow Lagoon	Rate on UCV	0.35097%	0.36152%	3.01%
	Minimum Rate	\$1,177	\$1,177	0%
	UCV	\$121,355,000	\$121,450,000	\$95,000
	No of Properties	249	249	-
	Estimated Income Rates	\$427,785	\$440,880	\$13,095
Residential Waste Charge	Waste Charge 120I/240I	\$510	\$530	\$20.00
	Waste Charge 120I/240I	\$653	\$679	\$26.00
	Waste Charge Unit Complex	\$231.50	\$240	\$8.50
	Estimated Income Waste Charge	\$6,415,290	\$6,682,860	\$267,570
Commercial	Rate on UCV	0.72774%	0.72774%	0%
	Minimum Rate	\$1,177	\$1,191.12	\$14.12
	UCV	\$246,328,000	\$254,696,000	\$8,368,000
	No of Properties	368	402	34
	Estimated Income	\$1,911,224	\$1,966,966	\$55,742
Industrial	Rate on UCV	0.26418%	0.33510%	26.84%
	Minimum Rate	\$1,177	\$1,191.12	\$14.12
	UCV	\$204,587,500	\$204,587,500	\$0
	No of Properties	267	267	-
	Estimated Income	\$648,251	\$784,559	\$136,308
Vacant Land	Rate on UCV	0.45000%	0.46355%	3.01%
	Minimum Rate	\$1,177	\$1,177	0%
Other Rates	City Centre Improvement Special Rate	\$0	\$200	\$200
	No. of bays	-	1,000	1,000
	Estimated Income	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000

\*Budget 2017/18 are shown without expected growth, yet figures for 2016/17 did include growth expectations.

### Residential Property Example Median Valuation (Residential Properties excl Marlow Lagoon)

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY UCV \$240,000		RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY UCV \$240,000	
Rates 2016/17	\$1,177	Rates 2017/18	\$1,177
Waste 2016/17	\$510	Waste 2017/18	\$530
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,687</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,707</b>

### Residential Property Example Median Valuation (Marlow Lagoon)

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY UCV \$480,000		RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY UCV \$480,000	
Rates 2016/17	\$1,685	Rates 2017/18	\$1,735.30
Waste 2016/17	\$510	Waste 2017/18	\$530
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,195</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,265.30</b>

### Change in Residential rates from 2017 to 2018

INCREASE IN RESIDENTIAL RATES FROM 2017 TO 2018	% OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES
\$0	66%
<\$50	32%
>\$50<\$100	2%
>\$100<\$150	0%
>\$150<\$500	0%
>\$500<\$1,000	0%
>\$1,000<\$3,000	0%
	100%

### Waste Service Charge

The Council charges a fixed amount for the waste collection service as an annual charge for each allotment of land. Where multiple residential units exist on the allotment of land, then the fee is then multiplied by the number of residential units on each allotment. Where the Council provides, or is willing and able to provide a waste disposal service to land within the Municipal Boundary, pursuant to Section 157 of the Act, the Council will charge a fixed rate for the service as an annual charge for each parcel of land. Where multiple residential units exist on a parcel of land, the fee times the number of residential units on each parcel will be multiplied to give the annual charge.

The Waste Management charge has increased from \$510 to \$530. This increase relates to the Pollution Abatement Notice for 240 Elrondie Avenue as well as an increase in Shoal Bay charges and provision for the CPI Increase. Vacant allotments are not provided or charged a Waste Management charge. The Waste Management charge is levied for the provision of a 120 litre, twice weekly domestic collection and a fortnightly recycling 240 litre bin and free access to the Waste Management Facility for residential purposes in line with Council Policy TECH04. Commercial use of the Waste Management Facility is not supported as there is no direct waste charge against either commercial or industrial properties. The waste management fee amount is calculated on the basis of matching the service delivery costs of providing the waste collection and disposal services to occupied residential properties.

### Pensioner Concessions

Eligible pensioners may be entitled to a concession on rates. City of Palmerston receives a listing from Territory Health Services of all the ratepayers eligible for concession at the time of levying the rates.

The rebate is deducted from the rate notice. If a pensioner becomes eligible part way through the rating year they must pay the rates in full to Council and then contact Territory Health Services to obtain a refund.

Contact details for **Territory Health Services** are:

Postal Address: GPO Box 40596 Casuarina NT 0811

**TELEPHONE:** (08) 8999 2400

**FACSIMILE:** (08) 8999 2700

### Payment of Rates

Payment of rates is either by single instalment or four approximately equal amounts in the months of September, November, January and March. The dates and conditions are printed on the rate notice.

Rates may be paid by any of the following methods:

- ▶ mail, using cheque or credit card;
- ▶ BPAY through your financial institution;
- ▶ internet, using Council's online services;
- ▶ direct debit from a nominated savings or cheque account;
- ▶ In person at the Civic Centre, using cash, EFTPOS, or cheque;

- ▶ Centrepay through regular deductions from Centrelink payment
- ▶ Via phone using Credit Card.

### Concessions

Application for concessions of rates and charges will be considered under the provisions of the discretionary concessions of rates and charges provisions of the Local Government Act, Chapter 11, and Part 11.8 and inline with Council's Rate Concession Policy FIN17.

### Late Payment of Rates

Any ratepayer who may, or is likely to, experience difficulty with meeting the standard instalments and due dates can contact the Council to discuss alternative payment arrangements. It should be noted interest would still be levied in accordance with the Act under any payment arrangement.

Council's determined penalties for late payments will be imposed in accordance with the provisions of Section 162 of the Local Government Act.

These provisions are the only provisions available to Council to ensure all ratepayers pay promptly. Section 162 of the Act provides that the Council may determine a penalty for the late payment of rates and charges which are to be calculated on a daily basis. Council has determined that the penalty interest rate will remain at 18%.

Should a ratepayer default in payment, all remaining instalments become due and payable.

### Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates

Pursuant to Part 11.9 of the Act, if rates have been in arrears for at least three years, Council may sell the land.

### Fees and Charges

The schedule of fees and charges can be viewed at the City of Palmerston Civic Centre, as well as on Council's website: [www.palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au)

### Community Support

Council will promote community efforts that enhance and provide revenue alternatives to community taxing through rates for the City of Palmerston. Council will fulfill its responsibilities on matters relating to rating in accordance with relevant legislation, standards, agreements and codes, including:

- ▶ Providing payment of rates in instalments,
- ▶ Providing for the application of rebates and remissions, and
- ▶ Levying fines and interest for late payment of rates.

Council will act as an advocate to attract or attain alternative revenue sources for the City of Palmerston. Council will continue to act as an advocate for the achievement of more adequate levels and more equitable distributions of Territory and Federal grant funding to Local Government.

Council will act as an advocate on behalf of the community and Local Government sector with regard to legislative and policy matters pertaining to rating and other revenue raising powers. Council will have regard to relevant legislation and any other legal requirement in determining the terms and conditions under which it will make available any information contained in its databases and other records. Council will be mindful of the various demographic, social, cultural, and economic attributes of the local community when preparing or distributing information.

Council will seek to provide quality rating information from its databases, in a timely, accessible and user friendly manner. Council will seek to provide rating decisions and fees and charges information in an efficient, effective and timely manner, in accordance with resource availability.

As part of Council's continuous process improvement, all aspects of this policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that the underlying principles as set out herein are best achieved.



# ANNUAL BUDGET 2017/2018



# BUDGET

## 2017/2018

### Budget Summary

	REVISED BUDGET 2017	BUDGET 2018	INCREASE %
Operating Revenue	30,916,450	31,919,851	3.2%
Capital Revenue	16,877,567	5,959,365	-64.7%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>47,794,017</b>	<b>37,879,216</b>	<b>-20.7%</b>
Operating Expenditure	34,307,704	35,957,764	4.8%
Capital Expenditure	13,862,008	22,033,673	59.0%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>48,169,712</b>	<b>57,991,437</b>	<b>20.4%</b>
Less Non Cash Income/Expenditures	(8,402,500)	(8,820,000)	5.0%
Less Gifted Assets	10,000,000	5,000,000	-
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(1,973,195)</b>	<b>(16,292,221)</b>	<b>-</b>
Transfers to Reserves	9,268,525	19,726,012	-
Transfers from Reserves	11,241,722	24,146,071	-
<b>Budget Balance</b>	<b>1,973,197</b>	<b>4,420,059</b>	<b>-</b>
Income from Borrowing	-	12,000,000	-
Repayment of Borrowing	-	(127,838)	-
<b>Balance Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

City of Palmerston's Budget Summary shows the Operating Revenue expected to be derived from sources relating to Council's everyday business operations and Capital Revenue to be received for works on infrastructure assets. Furthermore it outlines the Operating

Expenditure to be utilised for Council's business operations (including depreciation) and capital expenditure for major works on infrastructure. City of Palmerston shows a balanced budget less depreciation and movements from reserves.

## Operating Income

DEPARTMENT	DIVISION	REVISED BUDGET 2017	BUDGET 2018
<b>Governance</b>		<b>991,006</b>	<b>714,856</b>
	Office of the CEO	991,006	714,856
<b>Corporate Services</b>		<b>20,073,621</b>	<b>20,360,426</b>
	Finance	435,957	300,000
	Office of the Director Corporate Services	52,000	-
	Rates	19,585,664	20,060,426
<b>Community Services</b>		<b>699,303</b>	<b>686,212</b>
	Arts and Culture	10,000	-
	Community Development	6,855	-
	Events Promotion	1,500	-
	Library Services	674,448	679,712
	Senior Citizens	1,500	1,500
	Youth Services	5,000	5,000
<b>Technical Services</b>		<b>9,152,520</b>	<b>10,520,842</b>
	Animal Management	372,000	392,000
	Aquatic Centre	95,804	-
	CBD Carparking	-	1,045,795
	Civic Centre	189,131	162,333
	Driver Resource Centre	3,600	3,600
	Durack Heights Community Centre	-	1,830
	Gray Community Hall	12,800	16,800
	Office of the Director Technical Services	88,600	43,250
	Parking and Other Ranger Services	170,000	175,000
	Private Works	207,000	110,000
	Recreation Centre	-	31,000
	Roads and Transport	797,215	795,729
	Stormwater Infrastructure	1,920	52,000
	Subdivisional Works	200,000	200,000
	Waste Management	6,568,290	6,682,860
	Odegaard Drive Investment Property	446,160	446,160
GRAND TOTAL		<b>30,916,450</b>	<b>31,919,851</b>

## Capital Income

DEPARTMENT	DIVISION	REVISED BUDGET 2017	BUDGET 2018
<b>Corporate Services</b>		<b>1,884,000</b>	<b>30,985</b>
	Office of the Director Corporate Services	1,884,000	30,985
<b>Technical Services</b>		<b>14,993,567</b>	<b>5,928,380</b>
	Roads and Transport	4,743,567	538,380
	Subdivisional Works	10,250,000	5,250,000
	Waste Management	-	140,000
GRAND TOTAL		<b>16,877,567</b>	<b>5,959,365</b>

## Operating Expenditure

DEPARTMENT	DIVISION	REVISED BUDGET 2017	BUDGET 2018
<b>Governance</b>		<b>1,142,842</b>	<b>993,722</b>
	Elected Members	331,026	492,588
	Office of the CEO	811,816	501,134
<b>Corporate Services</b>		<b>12,343,722</b>	<b>13,183,162</b>
	Financial Services	1,285,838	1,364,685
	Information Technology	1,063,331	1,120,389
	Office of the Director Corporate Services	8,927,824	9,355,978
	Public Relations and Communications	87,150	375,174
	Rates	303,500	328,900
	Records Management	307,466	263,973
	Customer Services	166,966	153,059
	Human Resources	201,647	221,004
<b>Community Services</b>		<b>2,920,462</b>	<b>3,107,216</b>
	Arts and Culture	155,000	127,000
	Community Development	861,993	839,040
	Events Promotion	313,100	273,300
	Families and Children	112,939	20,000
	Health and Wellbeing Services	60,000	62,500
	Library Services	1,363,430	1,455,501
	Office of the Director Community Services	10,000	272,875
	Senior Citizens	1,500	6,500
	Youth Services	42,500	50,500
<b>Technical Services</b>		<b>17,900,678</b>	<b>18,673,664</b>
	Animal Management	107,539	112,063
	Aquatic Centre	393,292	392,092
	Archer Sports Club	6,977	10,977
	CBD Carparking	-	379,356
	Civic Centre	391,960	419,850
	Depot	58,595	76,795
	Driver Resource Centre	17,732	31,348
	Durack Heights Community Centre	44,950	61,738
	Emergency Operations	161,857	10,000
	Goyder Square	18,000	37,510
	Gray Community Hall	64,517	73,857
	Office of the Director Technical Services	1,358,234	1,214,305
	Open Space	5,408,998	5,559,128
	Parking and Other Ranger Services	652,662	765,569
	Private Works	79,296	87,839
	Recreation Centre	247,297	203,347
	Roads and Transport	2,374,750	2,379,384
	Stormwater Infrastructure	269,000	281,000
	Street Lighting	655,043	905,043
	Waste Management	5,473,926	5,556,210
	Odegaard Drive Investment Property	116,053	116,253
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>34,307,704</b>	<b>35,957,764</b>



## Capital Expenditure

DEPARTMENT	DIVISION	REVISED BUDGET 2017	BUDGET 2018
<b>Corporate Services</b>		<b>282,346</b>	<b>180,000</b>
	Information Technology	87,000	-
	Office of the Director Corporate Services	195,346	180,000
<b>Community Services</b>		<b>70,000</b>	<b>-</b>
	Community Development	40,000	-
	Library Services	30,000	-
<b>Technical Services</b>		<b>13,509,662</b>	<b>21,853,673</b>
	Aquatic Centre	80,500	-
	CBD Carparking	150,000	14,500,000
	Civic Centre	471,722	100,000
	Depot	25,000	17,000
	Driver Resource Centre	7,000	15,000
	Office of the Director Technical Services	3,289,261	-
	Open Space	1,585,842	1,343,120
	Recreation Centre	-	10,000
	Roads and Transport	3,935,683	1,513,553
	Stormwater Infrastructure	980,000	115,000
	Waste Management	2,984,654	4,240,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>13,862,008</b>	<b>22,033,673</b>

## Council Reserves

	BALANCE as at 01/07/2017	TO RESERVES	FROM RESERVES	BALANCE as at 30/06/2018
<b>Asset Related Reserves</b>				
Property Reserve	898,962	-	(500,000)	398,962
Plant and Equipment Reserve	265,847	-	-	265,847
Infrastructure Reserve	3,800,834	500,000	(2,500,000)	1,800,834
Street Lighting Reserve	921,842		(500,000)	421,842
	<b>5,887,485</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>(3,500,000)</b>	<b>2,887,485</b>
<b>Other Reserves</b>				
Election Expenses Reserve	232,038	-	-	232,038
Disaster Recovery Reserve	348,143	-	-	348,143
Strategic Initiatives Reserve	500,000	-	(500,000)	-
Unexpended Grants Reserve	168,054	-	-	168,054
Developer Funds in Lieu of Construction	4,527,227	250,000	(1,000,000)	3,777,227
Community Grants Reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Waste Management Reserve	946,494	-	(743,852)	202,642
City Centre Improvement Reserve	-	15,073,793	(14,500,000)	573,793
	<b>6,821,956</b>	<b>15,323,793</b>	<b>(16,743,852)</b>	<b>5,401,897</b>
<b>TOTAL RESERVE FUNDS</b>	<b>12,709,441</b>	<b>15,823,793</b>	<b>(20,243,852)</b>	<b>8,289,382</b>

Reserve balances as at 01/07/2017 does not include possible 2016/17 year-end adjustments.

Internal loan of \$1,000,000 from developer funds in lieu of construction to City Centre Improvement Reserve to be repaid over a twenty year period.

The City Centre Improvement Reserve has been established to hold funds for the provision, operation and maintenance of land, facilities, services and enhancements for and in connection with the City Centre. The reserve movement in 2018 includes the cost of a new car parking structure budgeted at \$14.5M - subject to Ministerial approval of a \$10M loan application.

## Long-term Financial Plan 2017/18-2021/22

This Long Term Financial Plan is prepared in accordance with section 126 of the Local Government Act. It details the expected activities commencing in the 2017/18 year and concluding in the 2021/22 year.

### Major Initiatives

The plan includes:

- ▶ Allowing for a growth in the rate base of approximately 200 properties per annum
- ▶ Increasing the existing number of staffing positions within the organisation with the ability to change functions should specific needs be identified
- ▶ Continuing to maintain an extensive array of parks and reserves as irrigated and well maintained public spaces
- ▶ Ensuring that properties leased by Council maintain commercial returns
- ▶ Ensuring the Council's IT system remains secure and up to date
- ▶ Maintain the extensive playgrounds that are established (and being established) throughout the City
- ▶ Continue to maintain the primary buildings of Council – Civic Centre, Recreation Centre and Public Library
- ▶ To achieve the outcomes as identified with the Council's Municipal Plan

## Management of Infrastructure

The Council currently manages an inventory of assets to the value of approximately \$360M. These assets include land and buildings, roads, bridges, kerbing and footpaths, parks, gardens and irrigation systems, plant and furniture and library materials. Council is currently in the process of an infrastructure revaluation to be completed by 30 June 2017. At present no adjustments have been affected for this activity. Adjustments will be completed as part of 2016/17 year end process.

Council maintains an extensive network of roads, which will require additional resources into the future with age and also maintaining where there have been ongoing issues with various sections. This plan anticipates an increase in road resealing and the need to repair specific sections of roads. Footpath repair is also an issue for Council where they have been installed and now extensive building activity is occurring and causing damage to these areas through the movement of heavy transport.

Although nearly all maintenance activities are currently undertaken by the private sector, as Council maintains only a day labour workforce, tasked with smaller maintenance type activity across specific areas including the CBD. Cleaning operations will continue to be undertaken by the private sector by way of period contracts. Other assumptions are included below:

ITEM	INCREMENT 2019-2021	INCREMENT 2022
Rates	200 properties	150 properties
Statutory charges	1.0%	1.0%
User charges	1.0%	1.0%
Grants, subsidies and contributions	0.0%	0.0%
Other income	1.0%	1.0%
Employee costs	2.0%	2.0%
Professional Services	1.0%	1.0%
Auditor's Remuneration	1.0%	1.0%
Operating Lease Rentals	1.0%	1.0%
Energy	2.0%	2.0%
Materials and Contractors	1.0%	1.0%
Elected Members Expenses	0.5%	0.5%
Legal Expenses	0.5%	0.5%
Other Expenses	1.0%	1.0%



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THIS LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN IS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 126 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT. IT DETAILS THE EXPECTED ACTIVITIES COMMENCING IN THE 2017/18 YEAR AND CONCLUDING IN THE 2021/22 YEAR.

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## City of Palmerston Profit and Loss 2017-2022

	ACTUAL 2015	ACTUAL 2016	REVISED BUDGET 2017
<b>INCOME</b>			
Rates	21,723,750	24,608,512	26,120,154
Statutory charges	162,591	158,095	188,000
User charges	1,194,684	1,232,788	1,215,347
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2,883,463	3,235,393	2,626,833
Investment income	1,152,556	1,154,651	866,934
Other income	265,867	620,214	149,182
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>27,382,911</b>	<b>31,009,653</b>	<b>31,166,450</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee costs	(6,729,842)	(7,384,937)	(7,069,458)
Professional Services	(1,269,181)	(547,425)	(670,942)
Auditor's Remuneration	(34,882)	(33,822)	(32,000)
Bad and Doubtful Debts	(3,788)	(1,400)	-
Operating Lease Rentals	(116,369)	(143,344)	(198,940)
Energy	(1,081,717)	(1,116,595)	(1,303,810)
Materials and Contractors	(11,413,656)	(12,292,376)	(11,653,377)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(8,134,394)	(9,019,834)	(8,402,500)
Elected Members Expenses	(241,958)	(257,695)	(294,296)
Legal Expenses	(153,449)	(69,777)	(69,500)
Landfill Rehabilitation	-	(8,580,541)	-
Other Expenses	(3,728,730)	(3,780,939)	(4,622,881)
Finance Charges PAN/Parking Structure	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(32,907,966)</b>	<b>(43,228,685)</b>	<b>(34,317,704)</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(5,525,055)</b>	<b>(12,219,032)</b>	<b>(3,151,254)</b>
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	(2,371,745)	(370,537)	34,000
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	-	-	4,743,567
Physical resources received free of charge	3,029,867	12,548,115	10,000,000
<b>"NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>			
<b>transferred to Equity Statement"</b>	<b>(4,866,933)</b>	<b>(41,454)</b>	<b>11,626,313</b>
Other Comprehensive Income			
Gain on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	41,682	-	-
Total Other Comprehensive Income	41,682	-	-
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>(4,825,251)</b>	<b>(41,454)</b>	<b>11,626,313</b>

DRAFT BUDGET 2018	PLAN 2019	PLAN 2020	PLAN 2021	PLAN 2022
26,909,566	27,263,365	27,945,156	28,581,778	28,955,686
193,000	194,930	196,879	198,848	200,837
1,930,928	2,229,665	2,531,390	2,836,131	3,143,921
2,337,697	2,337,697	2,337,697	2,337,697	2,337,697
746,160	462,781	475,025	497,846	524,493
52,500	53,025	53,555	54,091	54,632
<b>32,169,851</b>	<b>32,536,839</b>	<b>33,518,989</b>	<b>34,461,417</b>	<b>35,144,851</b>
(7,344,035)	(7,490,916)	(7,640,734)	(7,793,549)	(7,949,420)
(720,942)	(728,151)	(735,433)	(742,787)	(750,215)
(32,000)	(32,320)	(32,643)	(32,970)	(33,299)
-	-	-	-	-
(206,300)	(208,363)	(210,447)	(212,551)	(214,677)
(1,260,422)	(1,285,630)	(1,311,343)	(1,337,570)	(1,364,321)
(12,212,723)	(12,334,850)	(12,458,199)	(12,582,781)	(12,708,609)
(8,820,000)	(8,139,000)	(7,967,800)	(7,928,200)	(7,799,600)
(357,959)	(359,749)	(361,548)	(363,355)	(365,172)
(61,500)	(61,808)	(62,117)	(62,427)	(62,739)
-	-	-	-	-
(4,767,234)	(4,814,906)	(4,863,055)	(4,911,686)	(4,960,803)
(174,649)	(556,872)	(624,182)	(585,604)	(551,215)
<b>(35,957,764)</b>	<b>(35,992,566)</b>	<b>(36,247,900)</b>	<b>(36,534,280)</b>	<b>(36,741,270)</b>
(3,787,913)	(3,455,727)	(2,728,911)	(2,072,863)	(1,596,418)
30,985	-	-	-	-
678,380	269,190	269,190	269,190	269,190
5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	3,000,000	-
<b>1,921,452</b>	<b>1,813,463</b>	<b>2,540,279</b>	<b>1,196,327</b>	<b>(1,327,228)</b>
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
<b>1,921,452</b>	<b>1,813,463</b>	<b>2,540,279</b>	<b>1,196,327</b>	<b>(1,327,228)</b>



## City of Palmerston Cash Flow 2017-2022

	ACTUAL 2015	ACTUAL 2016	REVISED BUDGET 2017
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Rates - general and other	21,502,833	24,599,260	26,120,154
Fees and other charges	1,330,467	1,357,624	1,375,280
Investment receipts	1,498,983	1,243,775	780,241
Grants utilised for operating purposes	2,885,406	3,235,393	2,626,833
Other operating receipts	97,313	554,268	146,198
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee Costs	(6,572,009)	(7,266,618)	(7,069,458)
Contractual services and materials	(17,463,285)	(17,621,702)	(14,222,865)
Other operating payments	(393,209)	(434,861)	(4,576,652)
Finance payments	125,152	500,496	-
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>3,011,561</b>	<b>6,167,635</b>	<b>5,179,731</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets	-	-	4,743,567
Sale of replaced assets	25,000	64,314	34,000
Sale of investment property	-	-	-
Net disposal of investment securities	13,000,000	-	-
Sale of real estate developments	-	-	-
Repayments of loans by community groups	-	-	-
Distributions received from associated entities	-	-	-
<b>Payments</b>			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets	(6,020,534)	(11,658,833)	(13,723,388)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assests	-	-	-
Purchase of investment property	(6,611,463)	-	-
Net purchase of investment securities	-	(5,000,000)	(1,000,000)
Development of real estate for sale	-	-	-
Loans made to community groups	-	-	-
Capital contributed to associated entities	-	-	-
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities</b>	<b>393,003</b>	<b>(16,594,519)</b>	<b>(9,945,821)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Proceeds from Borrowings PAN	-	-	-
Proceeds from Borrowings Parking	-	-	-
<b>Payments</b>			
Repayments of Borrowings PAN	-	-	-
Repayments from Borrowings Parking	-	-	-
Repayment of Finance Lease Liabilities	-	-	-
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held</b>	<b>3,404,564</b>	<b>(10,426,884)</b>	<b>(4,766,090)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	12,106,050	15,510,614	5,083,730
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	<b>15,510,614</b>	<b>5,083,730</b>	<b>317,640</b>

DRAFT BUDGET 2018	PLAN 2019	PLAN 2020	PLAN 2021	PLAN 2022
26,909,566	27,263,365	27,945,156	28,581,778	28,955,686
2,081,449	2,376,103	2,673,704	2,974,280	3,277,862
671,544	412,341	408,881	407,585	406,872
2,337,697	2,337,697	2,337,697	2,337,697	2,337,697
51,450	51,965	52,484	53,009	53,539
(7,344,035)	(7,490,916)	(7,640,734)	(7,793,549)	(7,949,420)
(14,851,846)	(15,010,871)	(15,171,729)	(15,334,441)	(15,499,032)
(4,719,562)	(4,766,757)	(4,814,425)	(4,862,569)	(4,911,195)
(13,877)	(556,872)	(624,182)	(585,604)	(551,215)
<b>5,122,387</b>	<b>4,616,054</b>	<b>5,166,852</b>	<b>5,778,185</b>	<b>6,120,794</b>
678,380	269,190	269,190	269,190	269,190
30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
-	-	-	-	-
4,100,000	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
(21,813,336)	(6,533,455)	(3,277,335)	(3,102,005)	(2,985,221)
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	(1,000,000)	(1,800,000)	(1,900,000)
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
<b>(17,004,956)</b>	<b>(6,234,265)</b>	<b>(3,978,145)</b>	<b>(4,602,815)</b>	<b>(4,586,031)</b>
2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-	-
10,000,000	-	-	-	-
(35,192)	(214,886)	(929,772)	(876,050)	(822,329)
-	(295,050)	(306,944)	(325,722)	(340,309)
-	-	-	-	-
<b>11,964,808</b>	<b>1,490,064</b>	<b>(1,236,716)</b>	<b>(1,201,772)</b>	<b>(1,162,638)</b>
<b>82,239</b>	<b>(128,146)</b>	<b>(48,009)</b>	<b>(26,401)</b>	<b>372,125</b>
317,640	399,879	271,733	223,723	197,322
<b>399,879</b>	<b>271,733</b>	<b>223,723</b>	<b>197,322</b>	<b>569,447</b>



## City of Palmerston Balance Sheet 2017-2022


	ACTUAL 2015	ACTUAL 2016	REVISED BUDGET 2017
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	15,510,614	5,083,730	317,640
Trade and other receivables	1,394,444	1,414,400	2,234,108
Other financial assets	7,500,000	12,500,000	13,500,000
Non current assest held for sale	-	2,547,748	1,612,748
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>24,405,058</b>	<b>21,545,878</b>	<b>17,664,496</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>			
Financial Assets	-	-	-
Investment Property	6,611,463	6,529,825	6,600,000
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	351,155,459	359,776,776	370,096,284
Other Non-current Assets	736,287	4,401,123	1,541,123
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>358,503,209</b>	<b>370,707,724</b>	<b>378,237,407</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>382,908,267</b>	<b>392,253,602</b>	<b>395,901,903</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and Other Payables	3,094,002	3,880,099	4,481,451
Borrowings PAN	-	-	-
Borrowings Parking	-	-	-
Provisions	643,427	1,869,906	5,423,800
Other Current Liabilities	-	-	-
Liabilities relating to non current assests held for sale	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>3,737,429</b>	<b>5,750,005</b>	<b>9,905,251</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and Other Payables	-	-	-
Borrowings PAN	-	-	-
Borrowings Parking	-	-	-
Provisions	437,678	7,811,891	2,692,637
Other Current Liabilities	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>437,678</b>	<b>7,811,891</b>	<b>2,692,637</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,175,107</b>	<b>13,561,896</b>	<b>12,597,888</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>378,733,160</b>	<b>378,691,706</b>	<b>383,304,015</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated Surplus	134,576,926	140,882,161	147,635,412
Asset Revaluation Reserves	223,487,907	223,487,907	223,487,907
Other Reserves	20,668,327	14,321,638	12,180,696
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>378,733,160</b>	<b>378,691,706</b>	<b>383,304,015</b>

DRAFT BUDGET 2018	PLAN 2019	PLAN 2020	PLAN 2021	PLAN 2022
339,879	271,733	223,723	197,322	569,447
3,023,796	3,531,505	4,041,453	4,556,106	5,076,174
9,400,000	9,400,000	10,400,00	12,200,000	14,100,000
-	-	-	-	-
<b>12,823,675</b>	<b>13,203,237</b>	<b>14,665,177</b>	<b>16,953,429</b>	<b>19,745,621</b>
-	-	-	-	-
6,600,000	6,600,000	6,600,000	6,600,000	6,600,000
394,501,080	387,831,529	388,072,168	386,174,406	381,258,981
200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
<b>402,301,080</b>	<b>394,631,529</b>	<b>394,872,168</b>	<b>392,974,406</b>	<b>388,058,981</b>
<b>414,124,755</b>	<b>407,834,766</b>	<b>409,537,345</b>	<b>409,927,834</b>	<b>407,804,602</b>
4,906,070	5,427,798	5,916,404	6,413,774	6,952,073
35,192	214,886	929,772	876,050	822,329
333,333	295,050	306,944	325,722	340,390
2,929,484	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
<b>7,870,746</b>	<b>6,437,734</b>	<b>7,653,120</b>	<b>8,115,546</b>	<b>8,614,711</b>
-	-	-	-	-
1,964,808	3,749,922	2,820,150	1,944,100	1,121,771
10,000,000	9,704,950	9,398,006	9,072,284	8,731,975
300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
-	-	-	-	-
<b>12,264,808</b>	<b>13,754,872</b>	<b>12,518,156</b>	<b>11,316,384</b>	<b>10,153,746</b>
<b>20,125,554</b>	<b>20,192,606</b>	<b>20,171,276</b>	<b>19,431,930</b>	<b>18,768,458</b>
393,989,201	387,642,160	389,366,068	390,495,905	389,036,144
163,240,657	156,256,280	157,034,031	157,056,523	154,312,481
223,487,907	223,487,907	223,487,907	223,487,907	223,487,907
7,260,637	7,897,973	8,844,129	9,951,475	11,235,756
<b>393,989,201</b>	<b>387,642,160</b>	<b>389,366,068</b>	<b>390,495,905</b>	<b>389,036,144</b>



08 8935 99 22 

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1 Chung Wah Terrace   
Palmerston, NT, 0831



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 10:27 PM  
**To:** City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston, paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan. I am a resident in Bellamack with 2 kids and my husband.

In this plan the budget includes a 3% rise in rates, an increase in waste charges, a budgeted but not yet approved \$10m loan and reallocation of reserve funds to pay for a multi storey car park to be built in the cbd of Palmerston.

I object to the huge rates increase, as the economy in the Territory needs stimulus and this will put pressure on some residents in Palmerston unnecessarily.

I object to the proposal to borrow \$10m and am concerned how much this loan will cost the city, compared to the value of the asset it is supposed to be paying for. Further I believe with the developments going on in Palmerston and Litchfield, the requirement identified for the multi storey car park is invalid, out of date and needs to be reviewed before any funds are committed.

I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

Bellamack, Northern Territory, 0832, Australia

[illegible]



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329548

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 22 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

Although you may consider a 3% increase in rates for 34% of the residential properties as excessive, council is also subject to increases in our operational costs including wages, utility costs, contractors and materials. I agree in that the Northern Territory does need stimulus and council has supported this through recent projects within the CBD.

The waste management charge is proposed to increase by \$20 for each residential property which will be used to meet the increased costs in delivering our waste to the Shoal Bay facility and to be specifically used for waste management related expenditure. Council has adopted a position whereby all revenue generated by the waste management charge is to be used for waste purposes with any surplus being appropriated into a Waste Management Reserve. This reserve has been utilised to offset the costs associated with the rehabilitation of the previous Archer Landfill site. This will ensure that any loan required to complete these works will be paid off much quicker than originally intended.

I acknowledge the decision to proceed with a new multistorey carpark in the CBD is a large commitment, including the proposal to borrow \$10m to achieve this. It is particularly pleasing to once again see renewed developer interest in our CBD including the Boulevard Plaza (Randazzo Development), the Athanasiou Mixed Use Development and the Hostel Development (Zest).

Telephone  
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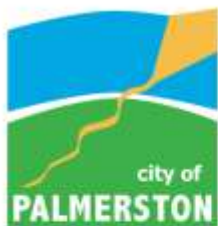
Facsimile  
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Email  
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As these developments progress, it will reduce the availability of vacant land for people to utilise for all-day parking within the CBD. Through previous decisions of the Development Consent Authority, a huge car parking shortfall has been created within the CBD which will be further compounded by the recent carparking waiver on the first stage of the Boulevard Plaza (250 car parks waived) and the Hostel where a further 106 car parks were waived. Council is taking a proactive approach to address this CBD issue with a car parking facility which will serve the Palmerston CBD for the next 50-60 years. It is likely that no additional all-day parking areas will be created unless council instigates this. Other vacant land within the CBD will also be developed in the future which will in turn reduce the number of parking areas available.

Through a combination of paid parking within the CBD, the establishment of a Special Rate to be applied to property owners within the CBD who don't provide the required car parks and the future revenue from the multistorey carpark, it is envisaged this will be sufficient to service the required loan repayments without impacting on ratepayers through increased council rates.

I agree whole heartedly with your comments that council funds need to be allocated to council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. To this extent, council has allocated operating expenditure to Open Space (\$5,559,128), Recreation Centre (\$203,347), Roads and Transport (\$2,379,384) and Waste Management (\$5,556,210). This equates to \$13,698,069 or 51.5% of our operating budget – excluding depreciation. In terms of capital expenditure, a further \$1,343,120 is allocated to Open Space, \$1,513,553 to Roads and Transport and \$4,240,000 to Waste Management. In total \$20,794,742 is being allocated to the core business items of roads, rubbish and recreation.

I agree with your comment that Palmerston has the potential to be a great city, and in many respects, we are well on our way to realising that potential.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 11:21 AM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Bellamack 0832

Contactable via [REDACTED]

My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

In this plan the budget includes a 3% rise in rates, an increase in waste charges, a budgeted but not yet approved \$10m loan and reallocation of reserve funds to pay for a multi storey car park to be built in the cbd of Palmerston.

I object to the huge rates increase, as the economy in the Territory needs stimulus and this will put pressure on some residents in Palmerston unnecessarily.

I object to the proposal to borrow \$10m and am concerned how much this loan will cost the city, compared to the value of the asset it is supposed to be paying for. Further I believe with the developments going on in Palmerston and Litchfield, the requirement identified for the multi-storey car park is invalid, out of date and needs to be reviewed before any funds are committed.

I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329571

ID: RB:ch

5 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

Although you may consider a 3% increase in rates for 34% of the residential properties as excessive, council is also subject to increases in our operational costs including wages, utility costs, contractors and materials. I agree in that the Northern Territory does need stimulus and council has supported this through recent projects within the CBD.

The waste management charge is proposed to increase by \$20 for each residential property which will be used to meet the increased costs in delivering our waste to the Shoal Bay facility and to be specifically used for waste management related expenditure. Council has adopted a position whereby all revenue generated by the waste management charge is to be used for waste purposes with any surplus being appropriated into a Waste Management Reserve. This reserve has been utilised to offset the costs associated with the rehabilitation of the previous Archer Landfill site. This will ensure that any loan required to complete these works will be paid off much quicker than originally intended.

I acknowledge the decision to proceed with a new multistorey carpark in the CBD is a large commitment, including the proposal to borrow \$10m to achieve this. It is particularly pleasing to once again see renewed developer interest in our CBD including the Boulevard Plaza (Randazzo Development), the Athanasiou Mixed Use Development and the Hostel Development (Zest).

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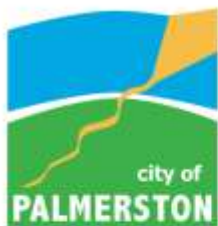
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As these developments progress, it will reduce the availability of vacant land for people to utilise for all-day parking within the CBD. Through previous decisions of the Development Consent Authority, a huge car parking shortfall has been created within the CBD which will be further compounded by the recent carparking waiver on the first stage of the Boulevard Plaza (250 car parks waived) and the Hostel where a further 106 car parks were waived. Council is taking a proactive approach to address this CBD issue with a car parking facility which will serve the Palmerston CBD for the next 50-60 years. It is likely that no additional all-day parking areas will be created unless council instigates this. Other vacant land within the CBD will also be developed in the future which will in turn reduce the number of parking areas available.

Through a combination of paid parking within the CBD, the establishment of a Special Rate to be applied to property owners within the CBD who don't provide the required car parks and the future revenue from the multistorey carpark, it is envisaged this will be sufficient to service the required loan repayments without impacting on ratepayers through increased council rates.

I agree whole heartedly with your comments that council funds need to be allocated to council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. To this extent, council has allocated operating expenditure to Open Space (\$5,559,128), Recreation Centre (\$203,347), Roads and Transport (\$2,379,384) and Waste Management (\$5,556,210). This equates to \$13,698,069 or 51.5% of our operating budget – excluding depreciation. In terms of capital expenditure, a further \$1,343,120 is allocated to Open Space, \$1,513,553 to Roads and Transport and \$4,240,000 to Waste Management. In total \$20,794,742 is being allocated to the core business items of roads, rubbish and recreation.

I agree with your comment that Palmerston has the potential to be a great city, and in many respects, we are well on our way to realising that potential.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

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Chief Executive Officer  
PO Box 1  
Palmerston NT 0831

ABN 42 050 176 900

Cc [minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au](mailto:minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 1:48 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Rosebery 0832

Contactable via [REDACTED]

My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

In this plan the budget includes a 3% rise in rates, an increase in waste charges, a budgeted but not yet approved \$10m loan and reallocation of reserve funds to pay for a multi storey car park to be built in the cbd of Palmerston.

I object to the huge rates increase, as the economy in the Territory needs stimulus and this will put pressure on some residents in Palmerston unnecessarily.

I object to the proposal to borrow \$10m and am concerned how much this loan will cost the city, compared to the value of the asset it is supposed to be paying for. Further I believe with the developments going on in Palmerston and Litchfield, the requirement identified for the multi-storey car park is invalid, out of date and needs to be reviewed before any funds are committed. Not only that but I am concerned about the lack of transparency and the signing of a multi million dollar contract without any finance approval and so close to an election.

I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329581

ID: RB:ch

11 July 2017

[REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

---

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

Your feedback has been provided to Council and will be considered at a Special Meeting of Council prior to 31 July 2017.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricki Bruhn".

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

Telephone  
(08) 8935 9922

Facsimile  
(08) 8935 9900

Email  
[palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

Civic Plaza  
1 Chung Wah Terrace

[www.palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au)



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 1:39 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the Draft Municipal Plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From 0830

Contactable via [REDACTED]

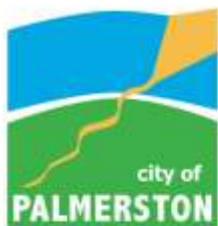
My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

In this plan the budget includes a 3% rise in rates, an increase in waste charges, a budgeted but not yet approved \$10m loan and reallocation of reserve funds to pay for a multi storey car park to be built in the cbd of Palmerston.

I object to the huge rates increase, as the economy in the Territory needs stimulus and this will put pressure on some residents in Palmerston unnecessarily.

I object to the proposal to borrow \$10m and am concerned how much this loan will cost the city, compared to the value of the asset it is supposed to be paying for. Further I believe with the developments going on in Palmerston and Litchfield, the requirement identified for the multi-storey car park is invalid, out of date and needs to be reviewed before any funds are committed.

I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329583

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

Although you may consider a 3% increase in rates for 34% of the residential properties as excessive, council is also subject to increases in our operational costs including wages, utility costs, contractors and materials. I agree in that the Northern Territory does need stimulus and council has supported this through recent projects within the CBD.

The waste management charge is proposed to increase by \$20 for each residential property which will be used to meet the increased costs in delivering our waste to the Shoal Bay facility and to be specifically used for waste management related expenditure. Council has adopted a position whereby all revenue generated by the waste management charge is to be used for waste purposes with any surplus being appropriated into a Waste Management Reserve. This reserve has been utilised to offset the costs associated with the rehabilitation of the previous Archer Landfill site. This will ensure that any loan required to complete these works will be paid off much quicker than originally intended.

I acknowledge the decision to proceed with a new multistorey carpark in the CBD is a large commitment, including the proposal to borrow \$10m to achieve this. It is particularly pleasing to once again see renewed developer interest in our CBD including the Boulevard Plaza (Randazzo Development), the Athanasiou Mixed Use Development and the Hostel Development (Zest).

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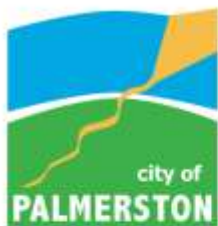
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As these developments progress, it will reduce the availability of vacant land for people to utilise for all-day parking within the CBD. Through previous decisions of the Development Consent Authority, a huge car parking shortfall has been created within the CBD which will be further compounded by the recent carparking waiver on the first stage of the Boulevard Plaza (250 car parks waived) and the Hostel where a further 106 car parks were waived. Council is taking a proactive approach to address this CBD issue with a car parking facility which will serve the Palmerston CBD for the next 50-60 years. It is likely that no additional all-day parking areas will be created unless council instigates this. Other vacant land within the CBD will also be developed in the future which will in turn reduce the number of parking areas available.

Through a combination of paid parking within the CBD, the establishment of a Special Rate to be applied to property owners within the CBD who don't provide the required car parks and the future revenue from the multistorey carpark, it is envisaged this will be sufficient to service the required loan repayments without impacting on ratepayers through increased council rates.

I agree whole heartedly with your comments that council funds need to be allocated to council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. To this extent, council has allocated operating expenditure to Open Space (\$5,559,128), Recreation Centre (\$203,347), Roads and Transport (\$2,379,384) and Waste Management (\$5,556,210). This equates to \$13,698,069 or 51.5% of our operating budget – excluding depreciation. In terms of capital expenditure, a further \$1,343,120 is allocated to Open Space, \$1,513,553 to Roads and Transport and \$4,240,000 to Waste Management. In total \$20,794,742 is being allocated to the core business items of roads, rubbish and recreation.

I agree with your comment that Palmerston has the potential to be a great city, and in many respects, we are well on our way to realising that potential.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 1:36 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]

From 0830

Contactable via [REDACTED]

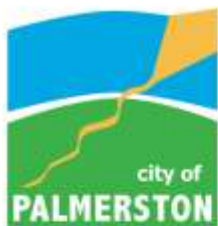
My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

In this plan the budget includes a 3% rise in rates, an increase in waste charges, a budgeted but not yet approved \$10m loan and reallocation of reserve funds to pay for a multi storey car park to be built in the cbd of Palmerston.

I object to the huge rates increase, as the economy in the Territory needs stimulus and this will put pressure on some residents in Palmerston unnecessarily.

I object to the proposal to borrow \$10m and am concerned how much this loan will cost the city, compared to the value of the asset it is supposed to be paying for. Further I believe with the developments going on in Palmerston and Litchfield, the requirement identified for the multi-storey car park is invalid, out of date and needs to be reviewed before any funds are committed.

I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329586

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

Although you may consider a 3% increase in rates for 34% of the residential properties as excessive, council is also subject to increases in our operational costs including wages, utility costs, contractors and materials. I agree in that the Northern Territory does need stimulus and council has supported this through recent projects within the CBD.

The waste management charge is proposed to increase by \$20 for each residential property which will be used to meet the increased costs in delivering our waste to the Shoal Bay facility and to be specifically used for waste management related expenditure. Council has adopted a position whereby all revenue generated by the waste management charge is to be used for waste purposes with any surplus being appropriated into a Waste Management Reserve. This reserve has been utilised to offset the costs associated with the rehabilitation of the previous Archer Landfill site. This will ensure that any loan required to complete these works will be paid off much quicker than originally intended.

I acknowledge the decision to proceed with a new multistorey carpark in the CBD is a large commitment, including the proposal to borrow \$10m to achieve this. It is particularly pleasing to once again see renewed developer interest in our CBD including the Boulevard Plaza (Randazzo Development), the Athanasiou Mixed Use Development and the Hostel Development (Zest).

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As these developments progress, it will reduce the availability of vacant land for people to utilise for all-day parking within the CBD. Through previous decisions of the Development Consent Authority, a huge car parking shortfall has been created within the CBD which will be further compounded by the recent carparking waiver on the first stage of the Boulevard Plaza (250 car parks waived) and the Hostel where a further 106 car parks were waived. Council is taking a proactive approach to address this CBD issue with a car parking facility which will serve the Palmerston CBD for the next 50-60 years. It is likely that no additional all-day parking areas will be created unless council instigates this. Other vacant land within the CBD will also be developed in the future which will in turn reduce the number of parking areas available.

Through a combination of paid parking within the CBD, the establishment of a Special Rate to be applied to property owners within the CBD who don't provide the required car parks and the future revenue from the multistorey carpark, it is envisaged this will be sufficient to service the required loan repayments without impacting on ratepayers through increased council rates.

I agree whole heartedly with your comments that council funds need to be allocated to council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. To this extent, council has allocated operating expenditure to Open Space (\$5,559,128), Recreation Centre (\$203,347), Roads and Transport (\$2,379,384) and Waste Management (\$5,556,210). This equates to \$13,698,069 or 51.5% of our operating budget – excluding depreciation. In terms of capital expenditure, a further \$1,343,120 is allocated to Open Space, \$1,513,553 to Roads and Transport and \$4,240,000 to Waste Management. In total \$20,794,742 is being allocated to the core business items of roads, rubbish and recreation.

I agree with your comment that Palmerston has the potential to be a great city, and in many respects, we are well on our way to realising that potential.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 2:17 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Gray 0830

Contactable via [REDACTED]

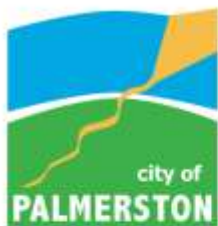
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I object to the proposal to borrow \$10m and am concerned how much this loan will cost the city, compared to the value of the asset it is supposed to be paying for. Further I believe with the developments going on in Palmerston and Litchfield, the requirement identified for the multi-storey car park is invalid, out of date and needs to be reviewed before any funds are committed.

I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329588

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

Although you may consider a 3% increase in rates for 34% of the residential properties as excessive, council is also subject to increases in our operational costs including wages, utility costs, contractors and materials. I agree in that the Northern Territory does need stimulus and council has supported this through recent projects within the CBD.

The waste management charge is proposed to increase by \$20 for each residential property which will be used to meet the increased costs in delivering our waste to the Shoal Bay facility and to be specifically used for waste management related expenditure. Council has adopted a position whereby all revenue generated by the waste management charge is to be used for waste purposes with any surplus being appropriated into a Waste Management Reserve. This reserve has been utilised to offset the costs associated with the rehabilitation of the previous Archer Landfill site. This will ensure that any loan required to complete these works will be paid off much quicker than originally intended.

I acknowledge the decision to proceed with a new multistorey carpark in the CBD is a large commitment, including the proposal to borrow \$10m to achieve this. It is particularly pleasing to once again see renewed developer interest in our CBD including the Boulevard Plaza (Randazzo Development), the Athanasiou Mixed Use Development and the Hostel Development (Zest).

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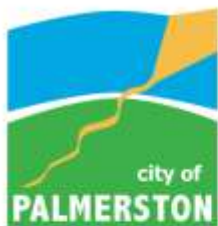
Facsimile  
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Please address all  
correspondence to  
Chief Executive Officer  
PO Box 1  
Palmerston NT 0831  
ABN 42 050 176 900



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I agree whole heartedly with your comments that council funds need to be allocated to council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. To this extent, council has allocated operating expenditure to Open Space (\$5,559,128), Recreation Centre (\$203,347), Roads and Transport (\$2,379,384) and Waste Management (\$5,556,210). This equates to \$13,698,069 or 51.5% of our operating budget – excluding depreciation. In terms of capital expenditure, a further \$1,343,120 is allocated to Open Space, \$1,513,553 to Roads and Transport and \$4,240,000 to Waste Management. In total \$20,794,742 is being allocated to the core business items of roads, rubbish and recreation.

I agree with your comment that Palmerston has the potential to be a great city, and in many respects, we are well on our way to realising that potential.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 12:54 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>  
Subject: Municipal Plan

Hi,

I have a suggestion for the city of Palmerston.

Darwin city council offer an amazing service to the community with the fun bus. It is difficult to get across town with small children. There is huge need for this outdoor educational free service for young children and their carers within Palmerston and to help service outer regions. It promotes healthy lifestyle for families.

We have such beautiful public spaces. The library no longer offer KAT in the park and this is a loss to the community.

All free and pay by the session services in Palmerston central are no longer free due to the change in parking and the requirement to pay ( a suggestion of the first 1-2hours free would make a difference)

Palmerston supports young families and this would make a massive difference, if a similar service to fun bus was made available.

I have previously written re: potential for water play on Maurice terrace due to current park being under utilised and plenty of surrounding space (please see previous email which was logged)

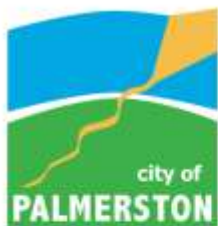
Appreciate your consideration and ongoing upgrades.

I don't know if council could support this, or make a grant eligible for children ages 3-5 to start organised sport. Other states have availability for children to become involved in sport as early as three (amazing for confidence building and creating strong social ties), in the NT it seems there is not much available.

Making a grant or encouraging business to cater to this need would be a step towards a brighter future.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329593

ID: RB:ch

11 July 2017

[REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

---

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

Your feedback has been provided to Council and will be considered at a Special Meeting of Council prior to 31 July 2017.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

*Ricki Bruhn*

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

Telephone  
(08) 8935 9922

Facsimile  
(08) 8935 9900

Email  
[palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

Civic Plaza  
1 Chung Wah Terrace

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 2:29 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Woodroffe 0840

Contactable via [REDACTED]

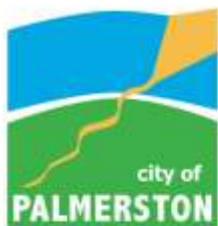
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I object to the huge rates increase, as the economy in the Territory needs stimulus and this will put pressure on some residents in Palmerston unnecessarily.

I object to the proposal to borrow \$10m and am concerned how much this loan will cost the city, compared to the value of the asset it is supposed to be paying for. Further I believe with the developments going on in Palmerston and Litchfield, the requirement identified for the multi-storey car park is invalid, out of date and needs to be reviewed before any funds are committed.

I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329596

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

Although you may consider a 3% increase in rates for 34% of the residential properties as excessive, council is also subject to increases in our operational costs including wages, utility costs, contractors and materials. I agree in that the Northern Territory does need stimulus and council has supported this through recent projects within the CBD.

The waste management charge is proposed to increase by \$20 for each residential property which will be used to meet the increased costs in delivering our waste to the Shoal Bay facility and to be specifically used for waste management related expenditure. Council has adopted a position whereby all revenue generated by the waste management charge is to be used for waste purposes with any surplus being appropriated into a Waste Management Reserve. This reserve has been utilised to offset the costs associated with the rehabilitation of the previous Archer Landfill site. This will ensure that any loan required to complete these works will be paid off much quicker than originally intended.

I acknowledge the decision to proceed with a new multistorey carpark in the CBD is a large commitment, including the proposal to borrow \$10m to achieve this. It is particularly pleasing to once again see renewed developer interest in our CBD including the Boulevard Plaza (Randazzo Development), the Athanasiou Mixed Use Development and the Hostel Development (Zest).

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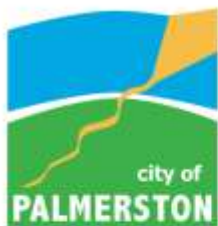
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I agree with your comment that Palmerston has the potential to be a great city, and in many respects, we are well on our way to realising that potential.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 2:35 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Bakewell 0832

Contactable via [REDACTED]

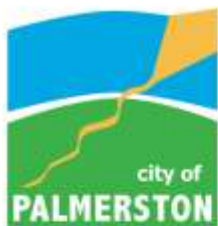
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Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329600

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

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You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

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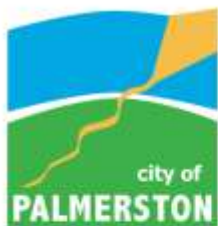
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I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 7, 2017 10:06 AM  
**To:** Caroline Hocking <[Caroline.Hocking@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:Caroline.Hocking@palmerston.nt.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018

Thank you for your reply however this is a generic letter designed to sprout what the council believes are wise decisions. I disagree wholeheartedly. Your request for feedback is what I gave you and this is not only my opinion on your municipal plan but the opinion of the majority of the community. No where in your reply do you advise that my concerns on a variety of issues will be listened to.

I would like a reply advising that you have received my personal concerns on the plan and that my concerns will be taken into account before making final decisions on the plan.  
Once again Council is asking the community for feedback but totally ignoring the concerns of the community.  
Your rhetoric lauding the success of the current (now suspended) is laughable.  
I sincerely hope that the investigator uncovers the misdeeds of the suspended council. A full investigation and an election to vote in a new council is what the community deserves.

[REDACTED]

**From:** Caroline Hocking  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 12, 2017 8:21 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, thank you for your email of response providing further feedback.

Your feedback has been provided to Council and will be considered at a Special Meeting, which at this stage the City of Palmerston looks to hold on Tuesday, 25 July 2017. The date of the Special Meeting will be confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 18 July 2017.

Thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

Regards

---

Caroline Hocking | Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer | City of Palmerston

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 2:36 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From 0830

Contactable via [REDACTED]

My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

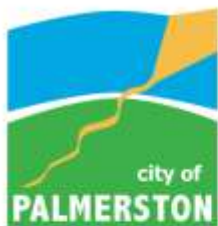
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I object to the huge rates increase, as the economy in the Territory needs stimulus and this will put pressure on some residents in Palmerston unnecessarily.

I object to the proposal to borrow \$10m and am concerned how much this loan will cost the city, compared to the value of the asset it is supposed to be paying for. Further I believe with the developments going on in Palmerston and Litchfield, the requirement identified for the multi-storey car park is invalid, out of date and needs to be reviewed before any funds are committed.

I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.

I respectfully ask that the council defer all financial expenditure and financial decisions until after the 2017 election where by the new council can consult with rate payers, ensuring open and accountability.



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329605

ID: RB:ch

11 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

---

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

Your feedback has been provided to Council and will be considered at a Special Meeting of Council prior to 31 July 2017.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

*Ricki Bruhn*

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

Telephone  
(08) 8935 9922

Facsimile  
(08) 8935 9900

Email  
[palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

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[www.palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 2:46 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Marlow Lagoon 0830

Contactable via [REDACTED]

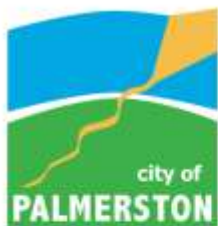
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I object to the proposal to borrow \$10m and am concerned how much this loan will cost the city, compared to the value of the asset it is supposed to be paying for. Further I believe with the developments going on in Palmerston and Litchfield, the requirement identified for the multi-storey car park is invalid, out of date and needs to be reviewed before any funds are committed.

I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329610

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

Although you may consider a 3% increase in rates for 34% of the residential properties as excessive, council is also subject to increases in our operational costs including wages, utility costs, contractors and materials. I agree in that the Northern Territory does need stimulus and council has supported this through recent projects within the CBD.

The waste management charge is proposed to increase by \$20 for each residential property which will be used to meet the increased costs in delivering our waste to the Shoal Bay facility and to be specifically used for waste management related expenditure. Council has adopted a position whereby all revenue generated by the waste management charge is to be used for waste purposes with any surplus being appropriated into a Waste Management Reserve. This reserve has been utilised to offset the costs associated with the rehabilitation of the previous Archer Landfill site. This will ensure that any loan required to complete these works will be paid off much quicker than originally intended.

I acknowledge the decision to proceed with a new multistorey carpark in the CBD is a large commitment, including the proposal to borrow \$10m to achieve this. It is particularly pleasing to once again see renewed developer interest in our CBD including the Boulevard Plaza (Randazzo Development), the Athanasiou Mixed Use Development and the Hostel Development (Zest).

Telephone  
(08) 8935 9922

Facsimile  
(08) 8935 9900

Email  
palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Civic Plaza  
1 Chung Wah Terrace

www.palmerston.nt.gov.au

Please address all  
correspondence to  
Chief Executive Officer  
PO Box 1  
Palmerston NT 0831  
ABN 42 050 176 900





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As these developments progress, it will reduce the availability of vacant land for people to utilise for all-day parking within the CBD. Through previous decisions of the Development Consent Authority, a huge car parking shortfall has been created within the CBD which will be further compounded by the recent carparking waiver on the first stage of the Boulevard Plaza (250 car parks waived) and the Hostel where a further 106 car parks were waived. Council is taking a proactive approach to address this CBD issue with a car parking facility which will serve the Palmerston CBD for the next 50-60 years. It is likely that no additional all-day parking areas will be created unless council instigates this. Other vacant land within the CBD will also be developed in the future which will in turn reduce the number of parking areas available.

Through a combination of paid parking within the CBD, the establishment of a Special Rate to be applied to property owners within the CBD who don't provide the required car parks and the future revenue from the multistorey carpark, it is envisaged this will be sufficient to service the required loan repayments without impacting on ratepayers through increased council rates.

I agree whole heartedly with your comments that council funds need to be allocated to council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. To this extent, council has allocated operating expenditure to Open Space (\$5,559,128), Recreation Centre (\$203,347), Roads and Transport (\$2,379,384) and Waste Management (\$5,556,210). This equates to \$13,698,069 or 51.5% of our operating budget – excluding depreciation. In terms of capital expenditure, a further \$1,343,120 is allocated to Open Space, \$1,513,553 to Roads and Transport and \$4,240,000 to Waste Management. In total \$20,794,742 is being allocated to the core business items of roads, rubbish and recreation.

I agree with your comment that Palmerston has the potential to be a great city, and in many respects, we are well on our way to realising that potential.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

Please address all  
correspondence to  
Chief Executive Officer  
PO Box 1  
Palmerston NT 0831  
ABN 42 050 176 900

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 2:48 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Woodroffe

Contactable via [REDACTED]

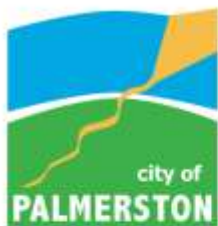
My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

In this plan the budget includes a 3% rise in rates, an increase in waste charges, a budgeted but not yet approved \$10m loan and reallocation of reserve funds to pay for a multi storey car park to be built in the cbd of Palmerston.

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Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329613

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

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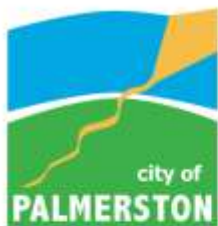
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I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 4:26 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Gray 0830

Contactable via [REDACTED]

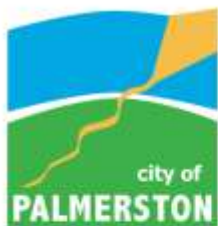
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Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329642

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

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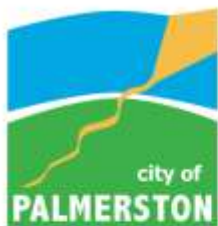
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Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 6:05 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From 0832

Contactable via [REDACTED]

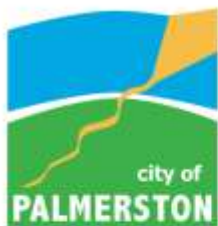
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Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329644

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

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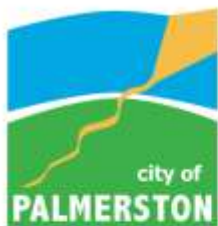
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Email  
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I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 6:16 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Rosebery 0832

Contactable via [REDACTED]

My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

In this plan the budget includes a 3% rise in rates, an increase in waste charges, a budgeted but not yet approved \$10m loan and reallocation of reserve funds to pay for a multi storey car park to be built in the CBD of Palmerston.

I object to the rates increase, as the economy in the Territory needs stimulus and this will put pressure on some residents in Palmerston unnecessarily.

I object to the proposal to borrow \$10m and am concerned how much this loan will cost the city, compared to the value of the asset it is supposed to be paying for.

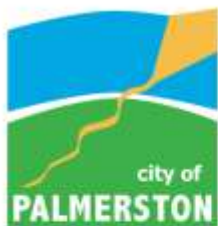
I object to the carpark project proceeding without consultation with the community, with no public tender process and no third party oversight.

I object to the council signing a contract for the carpark project without securing funding.

I object to the council distancing themselves from the community they are elected to serve.

I object to the council failing to provide amenities to the community in favour of commercial interests.

I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but with the mindset of the current council, I do not feel that is possible.



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329646

ID: RB:ch

11 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

---

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

Your feedback has been provided to Council and will be considered at a Special Meeting of Council prior to 31 July 2017.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricki Bruhn".

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

Telephone  
(08) 8935 9922

Facsimile  
(08) 8935 9900

Email  
[palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

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1 Chung Wah Terrace

[www.palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au)



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 6:25 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From 0830

Contactable via [REDACTED]

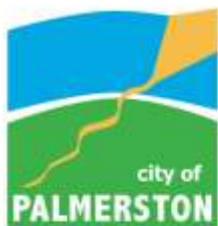
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Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329648

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

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The waste management charge is proposed to increase by \$20 for each residential property which will be used to meet the increased costs in delivering our waste to the Shoal Bay facility and to be specifically used for waste management related expenditure. Council has adopted a position whereby all revenue generated by the waste management charge is to be used for waste purposes with any surplus being appropriated into a Waste Management Reserve. This reserve has been utilised to offset the costs associated with the rehabilitation of the previous Archer Landfill site. This will ensure that any loan required to complete these works will be paid off much quicker than originally intended.

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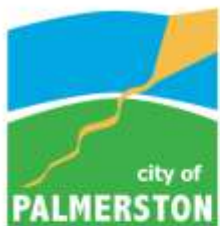
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I agree with your comment that Palmerston has the potential to be a great city, and in many respects, we are well on our way to realising that potential.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 6:27 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Woodroffe 0830

Contactable via [REDACTED]

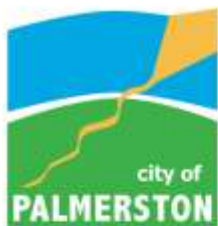
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Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329650

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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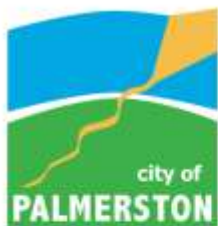
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Chief Executive Officer



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 6:59 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
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[REDACTED]  
From Rosebery 0832

Contactable via [REDACTED]

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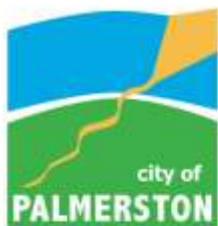
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I call for the NT Government to stand down this council immediately and charge the CEO and Operations Manager with gross misconduct. This council should be in caretaker mode and should not be allowed to make any further decisions on behalf of the Palmerston rate payers.



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329652

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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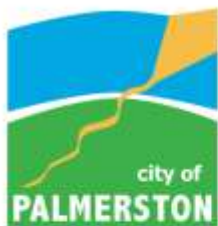
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The NT Government should stand down the council immediately and bring charges of gross misconduct on the CEO and Operations Manager before they can do more harm to us residents. They should not be permitted to make any further decisions regarding Palmerston affairs as they have proved themselves grossly incompetent.



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329654

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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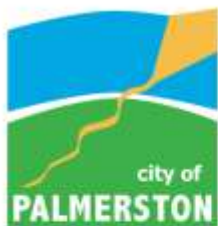
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Cc: [REDACTED]  
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File: 329656

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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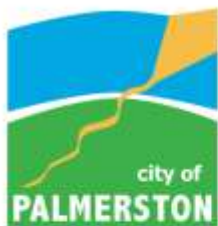
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I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 7, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** Caroline Hocking <[Caroline.Hocking@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:Caroline.Hocking@palmerston.nt.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018

Dear Caroline

Thank you for your email. I note Ricki's position but I don't accept the logic that rates should increase for only 34% of the ratepayers to pay for increases in the Council's operating costs. If operating costs are increasing, it is both logical and fair that all ratepayers make an increased contribution. Furthermore, there are over 1,300 members in a Facebook group that are opposed to the change the PCC made to rates two years ago. The PCC is encouraged to revisit this issue over the course of the next 12 months with a view to reviewing the current rating system and getting broad consensus from rate payers on a fair and equitable model which can be implemented over the next few years.

I do have a few other points to make, if I may:

1. I understand the PCC has taken over (or required to take over) maintenance of street lighting. Is there a plan and program in place for this? How will these costs be managed in the budget and passed onto ratepayers? Has there been any negotiation with the NTG for funding?
2. In relation to the proposed multistorey carpark, there has been no meaningful consultation with businesses in the CBD and ratepayers. I question the wisdom of the timing given the Gateway development and Bakewell and Zuccoli supermarkets. Notwithstanding the independent investigation, Council should put a hold on this development until ratepayers have been properly consulted and their issues considered as to whether this is necessary.
3. Does Council have a policy on buying local? If not, Council should implement one. There are plenty of people that live, work and employ people in Palmerston and Council should be looking for opportunities, where appropriate, to support those local businesses.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** Caroline Hocking  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 12, 2017 8:14 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, thank you for your email of response providing further feedback.

Your feedback has been provided to Council and will be considered at a Special Meeting, which at this stage the City of Palmerston looks to hold on Tuesday, 25 July 2017. The date of the Special Meeting will be confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 18 July 2017.

Thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

Regards

---

Caroline Hocking | Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer | City of Palmerston

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 7:37 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Marlow Lagoon

Contactable via [REDACTED]

My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

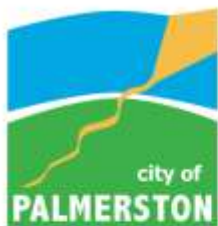
In this plan the budget includes a 3% rise in rates, an increase in waste charges, a budgeted but not yet approved \$10m loan and reallocation of reserve funds to pay for a multi storey car park to be built in the cbd of Palmerston.

I object to the huge rates increase, as the economy in the Territory needs stimulus and this will put pressure on some residents in Palmerston unnecessarily.

I object to the proposal to borrow \$10m and am concerned how much this loan will cost the city, compared to the value of the asset it is supposed to be paying for. Further I believe with the developments going on in Palmerston and Litchfield, the requirement identified for the multi-storey car park is invalid, out of date and needs to be reviewed before any funds are committed.

I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.





Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329658

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

Although you may consider a 3% increase in rates for 34% of the residential properties as excessive, council is also subject to increases in our operational costs including wages, utility costs, contractors and materials. I agree in that the Northern Territory does need stimulus and council has supported this through recent projects within the CBD.

The waste management charge is proposed to increase by \$20 for each residential property which will be used to meet the increased costs in delivering our waste to the Shoal Bay facility and to be specifically used for waste management related expenditure. Council has adopted a position whereby all revenue generated by the waste management charge is to be used for waste purposes with any surplus being appropriated into a Waste Management Reserve. This reserve has been utilised to offset the costs associated with the rehabilitation of the previous Archer Landfill site. This will ensure that any loan required to complete these works will be paid off much quicker than originally intended.

I acknowledge the decision to proceed with a new multistorey carpark in the CBD is a large commitment, including the proposal to borrow \$10m to achieve this. It is particularly pleasing to once again see renewed developer interest in our CBD including the Boulevard Plaza (Randazzo Development), the Athanasiou Mixed Use Development and the Hostel Development (Zest).

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As these developments progress, it will reduce the availability of vacant land for people to utilise for all-day parking within the CBD. Through previous decisions of the Development Consent Authority, a huge car parking shortfall has been created within the CBD which will be further compounded by the recent carparking waiver on the first stage of the Boulevard Plaza (250 car parks waived) and the Hostel where a further 106 car parks were waived. Council is taking a proactive approach to address this CBD issue with a car parking facility which will serve the Palmerston CBD for the next 50-60 years. It is likely that no additional all-day parking areas will be created unless council instigates this. Other vacant land within the CBD will also be developed in the future which will in turn reduce the number of parking areas available.

Through a combination of paid parking within the CBD, the establishment of a Special Rate to be applied to property owners within the CBD who don't provide the required car parks and the future revenue from the multistorey carpark, it is envisaged this will be sufficient to service the required loan repayments without impacting on ratepayers through increased council rates.

I agree whole heartedly with your comments that council funds need to be allocated to council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. To this extent, council has allocated operating expenditure to Open Space (\$5,559,128), Recreation Centre (\$203,347), Roads and Transport (\$2,379,384) and Waste Management (\$5,556,210). This equates to \$13,698,069 or 51.5% of our operating budget – excluding depreciation. In terms of capital expenditure, a further \$1,343,120 is allocated to Open Space, \$1,513,553 to Roads and Transport and \$4,240,000 to Waste Management. In total \$20,794,742 is being allocated to the core business items of roads, rubbish and recreation.

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I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, June 24, 2017 9:57 AM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Gunn 0832

Contactable via [REDACTED]

My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

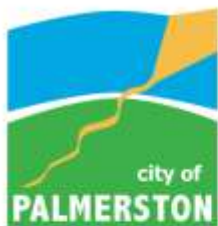
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I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.

Thanks



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329664

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 23 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

Although you may consider a 3% increase in rates for 34% of the residential properties as excessive, council is also subject to increases in our operational costs including wages, utility costs, contractors and materials. I agree in that the Northern Territory does need stimulus and council has supported this through recent projects within the CBD.

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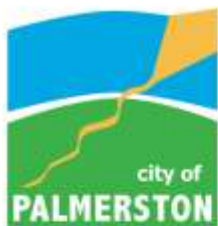
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I agree whole heartedly with your comments that council funds need to be allocated to council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. To this extent, council has allocated operating expenditure to Open Space (\$5,559,128), Recreation Centre (\$203,347), Roads and Transport (\$2,379,384) and Waste Management (\$5,556,210). This equates to \$13,698,069 or 51.5% of our operating budget – excluding depreciation. In terms of capital expenditure, a further \$1,343,120 is allocated to Open Space, \$1,513,553 to Roads and Transport and \$4,240,000 to Waste Management. In total \$20,794,742 is being allocated to the core business items of roads, rubbish and recreation.

I agree with your comment that Palmerston has the potential to be a great city, and in many respects, we are well on our way to realising that potential.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, June 24, 2017 2:36 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From 0832

Contactable via [REDACTED]

My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

In this plan the budget includes a 3% rise in rates, an increase in waste charges, a budgeted but not yet approved \$10m loan and reallocation of reserve funds to pay for a multi storey car park to be built in the cbd of Palmerston.

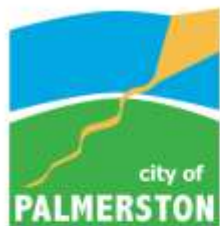
I object to the huge rates increase, as the economy in the Territory needs stimulus and this will put pressure on some residents in Palmerston unnecessarily.

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I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.

Thanks





Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329662

ID: RB:ch

11 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

---

Thank you for your email dated 24 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

Your feedback has been provided to Council and will be considered at a Special Meeting of Council prior to 31 July 2017.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

*Ricki Bruhn*

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

Telephone  
(08) 8935 9922

Facsimile  
(08) 8935 9900

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[palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, June 24, 2017 4:47 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From O830

Contactable via [REDACTED]

My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

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Thanks



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329666

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

Mr [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 24 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

Although you may consider a 3% increase in rates for 34% of the residential properties as excessive, council is also subject to increases in our operational costs including wages, utility costs, contractors and materials. I agree in that the Northern Territory does need stimulus and council has supported this through recent projects within the CBD.

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I acknowledge the decision to proceed with a new multistorey carpark in the CBD is a large commitment, including the proposal to borrow \$10m to achieve this. It is particularly pleasing to once again see renewed developer interest in our CBD including the Boulevard Plaza (Randazzo Development), the Athanasiou Mixed Use Development and the Hostel Development (Zest).

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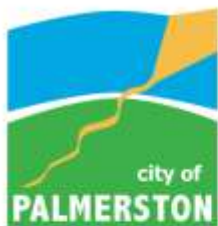
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As these developments progress, it will reduce the availability of vacant land for people to utilise for all-day parking within the CBD. Through previous decisions of the Development Consent Authority, a huge car parking shortfall has been created within the CBD which will be further compounded by the recent carparking waiver on the first stage of the Boulevard Plaza (250 car parks waived) and the Hostel where a further 106 car parks were waived. Council is taking a proactive approach to address this CBD issue with a car parking facility which will serve the Palmerston CBD for the next 50-60 years. It is likely that no additional all-day parking areas will be created unless council instigates this. Other vacant land within the CBD will also be developed in the future which will in turn reduce the number of parking areas available.

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I agree whole heartedly with your comments that council funds need to be allocated to council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. To this extent, council has allocated operating expenditure to Open Space (\$5,559,128), Recreation Centre (\$203,347), Roads and Transport (\$2,379,384) and Waste Management (\$5,556,210). This equates to \$13,698,069 or 51.5% of our operating budget – excluding depreciation. In terms of capital expenditure, a further \$1,343,120 is allocated to Open Space, \$1,513,553 to Roads and Transport and \$4,240,000 to Waste Management. In total \$20,794,742 is being allocated to the core business items of roads, rubbish and recreation.

I agree with your comment that Palmerston has the potential to be a great city, and in many respects, we are well on our way to realising that potential.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 12:10 AM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From O830

Contactable via [REDACTED]

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Thanks



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329668

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 25 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

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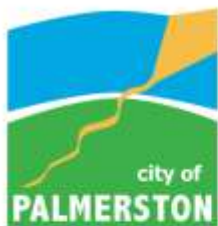
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Through a combination of paid parking within the CBD, the establishment of a Special Rate to be applied to property owners within the CBD who don't provide the required car parks and the future revenue from the multistorey carpark, it is envisaged this will be sufficient to service the required loan repayments without impacting on ratepayers through increased council rates.

I agree whole heartedly with your comments that council funds need to be allocated to council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. To this extent, council has allocated operating expenditure to Open Space (\$5,559,128), Recreation Centre (\$203,347), Roads and Transport (\$2,379,384) and Waste Management (\$5,556,210). This equates to \$13,698,069 or 51.5% of our operating budget – excluding depreciation. In terms of capital expenditure, a further \$1,343,120 is allocated to Open Space, \$1,513,553 to Roads and Transport and \$4,240,000 to Waste Management. In total \$20,794,742 is being allocated to the core business items of roads, rubbish and recreation.

I agree with your comment that Palmerston has the potential to be a great city, and in many respects, we are well on our way to realising that potential.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 12:39 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Ferrari 0830

Contactable via [REDACTED]

My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

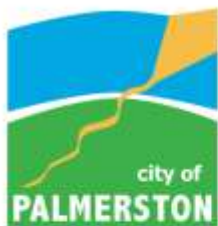
In this plan the budget includes a 3% rise in rates, an increase in waste charges, a budgeted but not yet approved \$10m loan and reallocation of reserve funds to pay for a multi storey car park to be built in the cbd of Palmerston.

I object to the huge rates increase, as the economy in the Territory needs stimulus and this will put pressure on some residents in Palmerston unnecessarily.

I object to the proposal to borrow \$10m and am concerned how much this loan will cost the city, compared to the value of the asset it is supposed to be paying for. Further I believe with the developments going on in Palmerston and Litchfield, the requirement identified for the multi-storey car park is invalid, out of date and needs to be reviewed before any funds are committed.

I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.

Thanks



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329670

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 25 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

Although you may consider a 3% increase in rates for 34% of the residential properties as excessive, council is also subject to increases in our operational costs including wages, utility costs, contractors and materials. I agree in that the Northern Territory does need stimulus and council has supported this through recent projects within the CBD.

The waste management charge is proposed to increase by \$20 for each residential property which will be used to meet the increased costs in delivering our waste to the Shoal Bay facility and to be specifically used for waste management related expenditure. Council has adopted a position whereby all revenue generated by the waste management charge is to be used for waste purposes with any surplus being appropriated into a Waste Management Reserve. This reserve has been utilised to offset the costs associated with the rehabilitation of the previous Archer Landfill site. This will ensure that any loan required to complete these works will be paid off much quicker than originally intended.

I acknowledge the decision to proceed with a new multistorey carpark in the CBD is a large commitment, including the proposal to borrow \$10m to achieve this. It is particularly pleasing to once again see renewed developer interest in our CBD including the Boulevard Plaza (Randazzo Development), the Athanasiou Mixed Use Development and the Hostel Development (Zest).

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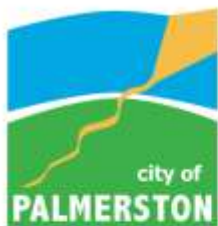
Facsimile  
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1 Chung Wah Terrace

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Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 2:51 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From Farrar 0830

Contactable via [REDACTED]

My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

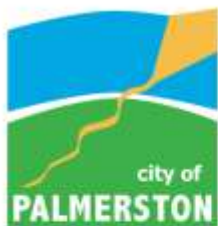
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I would like to see council funds better spent on council's core business of roads, rubbish and recreation. The city has a potential to be great, but the risk of borrowing 10m dollars for an asset that won't be worth that is too great to proceed as proposed.

Thanks



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329672

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 25 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

You are correct in that council is proposing to increase the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) rate in the dollar for residential properties by 3.01% which will affect approximately 34% of residential properties throughout the Municipality. In conjunction with this however, council is leaving the minimum rate of \$1,177 unaltered for the second year in a row. This in effect will mean that 66% of our residential ratepayers will have no general rate increase for the second year in a row. This is entirely responsible as the 66% of properties will be those with the lowest UCV and will comprise many, if not all, first home-buyers.

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The waste management charge is proposed to increase by \$20 for each residential property which will be used to meet the increased costs in delivering our waste to the Shoal Bay facility and to be specifically used for waste management related expenditure. Council has adopted a position whereby all revenue generated by the waste management charge is to be used for waste purposes with any surplus being appropriated into a Waste Management Reserve. This reserve has been utilised to offset the costs associated with the rehabilitation of the previous Archer Landfill site. This will ensure that any loan required to complete these works will be paid off much quicker than originally intended.

I acknowledge the decision to proceed with a new multistorey carpark in the CBD is a large commitment, including the proposal to borrow \$10m to achieve this. It is particularly pleasing to once again see renewed developer interest in our CBD including the Boulevard Plaza (Randazzo Development), the Athanasiou Mixed Use Development and the Hostel Development (Zest).

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I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 8:34 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>; minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback regarding the draft municipal plan for Palmerston paid parking, and a proposed \$10m loan

The following person has a message for the Council and the Minister responsible for Local Government:

[REDACTED]  
From 5210

Contactable via [REDACTED]

My email is addressed to the Palmerston City Council as feedback for the draft 2017/18 Municipal Plan.

In this plan the budget includes a 3% rise in rates, an increase in waste charges, a budgeted but not yet approved \$10m loan and reallocation of reserve funds to pay for a multi storey car park to be built in the cbd of Palmerston.

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Thanks



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 329674

ID: RB:ch

6 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

Thank you for your email dated 25 June 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

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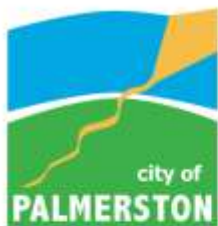
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I agree with your comment that Palmerston has the potential to be a great city, and in many respects, we are well on our way to realising that potential.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, July 1, 2017 12:05 PM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>  
Subject: Palmerston draft plan

As a Palmerston rate payer I would like to say that I totally disagree with the proposal for the multi-storey carpark being built in the current proposed location. I view this particular proposal as a total waste of money. Some years ago I was told by a PCC employee that the original planned location was in the current car park area between the Council Office building and the Police station. I feel that this is a far better location seeing as it is on the outskirts of the CBD instead of within the CBD area and thus cause traffic issues.

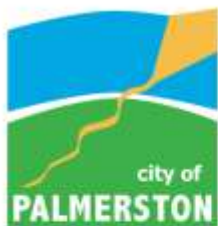
As for the parking meters, they are a joke and need to be removed ASAP. People will park where it is free and with Palmerston that is a lot of area - Bunnings, the Oasis Shopping Centre, Bakewell shopping centre and the new Gateway opening in Sept. In a very short time the Palmerston CBD will die. Darwin City is a different situation because there are very few free parking spots to pick from. But even they have problems with attracting shoppers with most preferring Casuarina Shopping Centre because it is mostly undercover away from the elements and FREE.

It is very clear that the Mayor and Aldermen have been making decisions WITHOUT considering human nature. Councils do so at their peril.

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
Gray, NT

Sent from my iPad



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 330059

ID: RB:ch

11 July 2017

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

---

Thank you for your email dated 1 July 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

Your feedback has been provided to Council and will be considered at a Special Meeting of Council prior to 31 July 2017.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

*Ricki Bruhn*

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

Telephone  
(08) 8935 9922

Facsimile  
(08) 8935 9900

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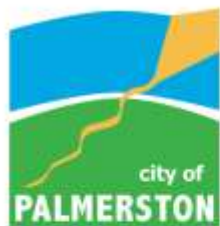
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 4, 2017 1:40 PM  
**To:** City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Feedback regarding municipal plan

I am writing as a Palmerston resident in regards to comments made by Mark Blackburn the temporary manager of the Palmerston City Council on the radio this morning. Mark invited the community to provide feedback on the recently introduced parking meters in the Palmerston CBD. My view is that they should be removed immediately and I believe this is within the scope of Mark's considerations. My comments are as follows:

1. Anecdotally myself and the community are strongly opposed to paid parking in the CBD. This comes from my immediate family and friends who live in Palmerston as well as from palmerston social media groups. There is not one person who wanted this!
2. There has been no MEANINGFUL engagement about the introduction of these meters. This has simply been thrust upon us by Council (along with the design for the square near the shopping centre which is a concrete jungle). The community deserves to have a say in how our rates are being spent and this is never done by council.
3. From my perspective there is AMPLE parking space in the CBD. Why the Council introduced these is beyond me.
4. This negatively impacts business. Palmerston barely competed with Casuarina as it is. This will kill retail in Palmerston the same way it is killing retail in Darwin.
5. This will kill the shopping centre's ability to compete with the Gateway shopping centre. It raises suspicions in the community that councilors have a stake in the success of the Gateway shopping centre.
6. The Council have placed the meters directly in parking bays. This has the effect of reducing parking opportunities. This is stupidly obvious and somehow the Council still decided to go through with this.
7. Finally, just a repeat of point number 1, there is NOT ONE resident who thought this was a jolly good idea. The Council is out of touch with the community and was rightfully suspended. Except for, if my memory is correct, the one councillor who voted against it - she's alright.

Thank you for the opportunity for providing comments. I hope something is actually done about this.

Love from,  
A palmerston resident (also representing the views of the whole of Palmerston who don't want to pay for parking in the CBD).



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 330262

ID: RB:ch

11 July 2017

[REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

---

Thank you for your email dated 4 July 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

Your feedback has been provided to Council and will be considered at a Special Meeting of Council prior to 31 July 2017.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricki Bruhn".

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

Telephone  
(08) 8935 9922

Facsimile  
(08) 8935 9900

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[palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 8:57 AM  
To: City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>  
Subject: Draft municipal plan

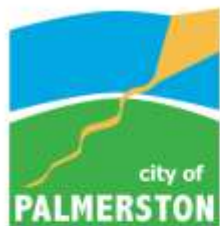
Dear PCC

Please don't building a multi story car park until you have a balanced budget. Please bring back a flat rate system for rate payers. As resident of Palmerston for 33 years and living in Marlow Lagoon for the past 23 years the flat rate system has served the community fairly. Many long term Marlow residents are retired or nearing retirement and the UCV is an unnecessary financial burden.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Marlow Lagoon



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 330734

ID: RB:ch

12 July 2017

[REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

---

Thank you for your email dated 11 July 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricki Bruhn".

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 11, 2017 11:44 PM  
**To:** City of Palmerston <COP@palmerston.nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Draft Municipal Plan 2017-2018 Feedback

Hi,

In regards to the Draft Municipal Plan, I find the lack of information regarding the street light upgrades to be concerning. As stated, you will be spending \$500,000 on streetlight capital expenditure, but no real information regarding it. I have seen in previous council meeting minutes that a company has given the council a plan and it wouldn't cost anymore to upgrade from standard streetlights to LED smart lights. There wasn't much information as it was classed as commercial in confidence. (from memory)

If a company is suggesting that, then what else are they getting from the deal? Especially as there has only been \$500k allocated, there isn't enough for a full upgrade.

Is the company getting access and permission to track and sell the data of the ratepayers?

Is the contract going out to tender and discussion points?

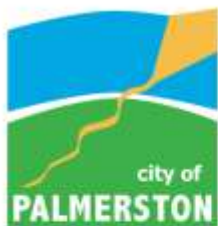
I note there is no real information in the Draft Digital Strategy either. It is just a big long document that has no substance at all.

My feedback would be to hold off on the streetlight and smart city upgrades until other solutions can be discussed with the ratepayers and other people in the industry.

I do want to state, I am for the progress of smart cities etc, but I don't think we should be following this path.

Thank You

[REDACTED]



Please include the following reference in all correspondence

File: 330890

ID: RB:ch

13 July 2017

[REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2017/2018**

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Thank you for your email dated 11 July 2017 in response to the release of the City of Palmerston Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018.

Your feedback has been provided to Council and will be considered at a Special Meeting of Council prior to 31 July 2017.

I thank you for the time you have taken to review our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 and for the feedback you have provided.

Yours sincerely

*Ricki Bruhn*

Ricki K Bruhn  
Chief Executive Officer

Telephone  
(08) 8935 9922

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(08) 8935 9900

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[palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

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**ITEM NUMBER:** 4.6 Declaration of Rates 2017/2018  
**FROM:** Chief Executive Officer  
**REPORT NUMBER:** 8/1261  
**MEETING DATE:** 25 July 2017

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## **Municipal Plan:**

### 4. Governance & Organisation

#### 4.1 Responsibility

We are committed to corporate and social responsibility, the sustainability of Council assets and services, and the effective planning and reporting of Council performance to the community

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. THAT Council receives Report Number 8/1261.

### **RATES**

Council makes the following declaration of rates pursuant to Sections 155, 156 and 157 of the Local Government Act 2016 ("the Act").

#### Adoption of Assessment

2. THAT pursuant to Section 149 of the Act, Council adopts the Unimproved Capital Value method as the basis of the assessed value of allotments within the Council area.
3. THAT the valuations as supplied by the Valuer-General being the most recent valuations available to Council for rateable purposes, making a total value of \$3,481,595,000 be adopted by Council for rating purposes for the financial year ending 30 June 2018.

#### Declaration of Rates

4. THAT pursuant to Section 155 of the Local Government Act, Council declares that it intends to raise, for general purposes by way of rates, the amount of \$19,991,506 which will be raised by the application of a combination of differential valuation-based charges ("differential rates") with minimum charges ("minimum amounts") being payable in application of each of those differential rates for the financial year ending 30 June 2018 according to land use as defined in policy and shown in the assessment record as follows:

- (1) With respect to all rateable land with a Residential Land Use in the suburb of Marlow Lagoon, a differential rate of 0.36152% of the assessed value of such land with minimum amounts being payable in the application of that differential rate being \$1,177 multiplied by:

- a. The number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use (pursuant to Section 148 (4) of the Act) on each allotment of land; or
  - b. The number 1,  
Whichever is greater.
- (2) With respect to all rateable land with a Residential Land Use in the municipality other than in the suburb of Marlow Lagoon, a differential rate of 0.46355% of the assessed value of such land with minimum amounts being payable in the application of that differential rate being \$1,177 multiplied by:
  - a. The number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use (pursuant to Section 148 (4) of the Act) on each allotment of land; or
  - b. The number 1,  
Whichever is greater.
- (3) With respect to all rateable land with a Commercial Land Use, a differential rate of 0.727736% of the assessed value of such land with minimum amounts being payable in the application of that differential rate being \$1,191.12 multiplied by:
  - a. The number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use (pursuant to Section 148 (4) of the Act) on each allotment of land; or
  - b. The number 1,  
Whichever is greater.
- (4) With respect to all rateable land with an Industrial Land Use, a differential rate of 0.33510% of the assessed value of such land with minimum amounts being payable in the application of that differential rate being \$1,191.12 multiplied by:
  - a. The number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use (pursuant to Section 148 (4) of the Act) on each allotment of land; or
  - b. The number 1,  
Whichever is greater.
- (5) With respect to all rateable land with a Vacant Land Use, a differential rate of 0.46355% of the assessed value of such land with minimum amounts being payable in the application of that differential rate being \$1,177 multiplied by:
  - a. The number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use (pursuant to Section 148 (4) of the Act) on each allotment of land; or
  - b. The number 1,  
Whichever is greater
- (6) Pursuant to section 156 of the Act, Council declared the following special rate ("the City Centre Improvement Special Rate")
  - a. The purpose for which the City Centre Improvement Special Rate is to be imposed is to contribute to City Centre (as defined in Councils Master Plan) improvements it being the opinion of the Council that such improvements will be of special benefit to the ratepayers of the City Centre.
  - b. The amount to be raised by the City Centre Improvement Special Rate is \$200,000.
  - c. The City Centre Improvement Special Rate will be an amount of \$200.00 per car parking space.
  - d. The City Centre Improvement Special Rate will be levied on all rate-able land assessed to have a parking shortfall in the City Centre.
  - e. Proceeds of the City Centre Improvement Special Rate will be applied by the Council for the provision, operation and maintenance of land, facilities, services and enhancements for and in connection with any City Centre improvements.

## Charges

Pursuant to Section 157 of the Act, Council declares the following charges in respect of waste management services it provides for the benefit of all residential land and the occupiers of such land within the Council area.

5. THAT Council intends to raise \$6,682,860 by the declaration of these charges. For the purposes of this paragraph:
  - *“residential dwelling” means a dwelling house, flat or other substantially self-contained residential unit or building on residential land and includes a unit within the meaning of the Unit Titles Act.*
  - *“residential land” means land used or capable of being used for residential purposes (but does not include land on which there is no residential dwelling).*
6. THAT Council declares a charge of \$530 per annum per residential dwelling in respect of kerbside garbage collection, recycling collection services and the waste transfer station provided to, or which Council is willing and able to provide to, each residential dwelling within the Council area. The Services are:
  - A kerbside collection service of two (2) garbage collection visits per week with a maximum of one 120 litre mobile bin;
  - A kerbside recycling collection service of one (1) visit per fortnight with a maximum of one 240 litre mobile bin per recycling collection service;
  - The provision, management and operation of a waste transfer station; and
  - The rehabilitation of a waste landfill site.
7. THAT Council declares an additional charge of \$149 per annum per residential dwelling that elects to upgrade the garbage collection service from a maximum of one 120 litre mobile bin to a maximum of one 240 litre mobile bin.
8. THAT Council declares a charge of \$240 per annum per residential dwelling in respect of properties with more than 25 units, where the property has its own waste collection service arrangements and meets the requirements in accordance with Council's policy TECH04, for the following services:
  - The provision, management and operation of a waste transfer station; and
  - The rehabilitation of a waste landfill site.

## Relevant Interest Rate

9. THAT the relevant interest rate for the late payment of rates and charges is fixed in accordance with Section 162 of the Act at the rate of 18% per annum and is to be calculated on a daily basis.

## Payment

10. THAT rates and charges may be paid by four (4) approximately equal instalments on the following dates, namely:

First Instalment	Friday, 29 September 2017
Second Instalment	Wednesday, 29 November 2017
Third Instalment	Monday, 29 January 2018
Fourth Instalment	Thursday, 29 March 2018

  - a. Details of due dates and specified amounts will be listed on the relevant Notice of Rates and Charges.
  - b. Variations to those options for payment will be administered according to the conditions outlined on the front and reverse of the Notice of Rates and Charges.

- c. A ratepayer who fails to abide by such conditions may be sued for recovery of the principal amount of the rates and charges, late payment penalties, and costs reasonably incurred by Council in recovering or attempting to recover the rates and charges.
11. THAT in accordance with Section 160 of the Local Government Act, a cash incentive of \$3,000 be provided to encourage the prompt payment of rates and charges for the financial year ending 30 June 2018.
12. THAT the incentive be offered through the conduct of a draw to be known as the 'Early Bird Draw' whereby the City of Palmerston will offer a monetary prize to two successful recipients at \$1,500 each in accordance with the terms and conditions available on Council's website.

### **Background:**

Sections 155-157 of the *Local Government Act* states the following:

#### **155 General rates**

- (1) A council must, on or before 31 July in each year, declare rates (**general rates**) on allotments throughout the area to raise the amount the council intends to raise for general purposes for the financial year.
- (2) The council may, at the same time, raise an amount towards a special purpose.
- (3) The declaration must state:
  - (a) the amount to be raised for general purposes and, if an amount is to be raised for a special purpose, the amount to be raised for the special purpose; and
  - (b) the basis or bases of the rates; and
  - (c) if the rates are to be payable in instalments – the number of instalments and when they will be payable.

#### **156 Special rates**

- (1) A council may at any time declare rates for a particular purpose (**special rates**).
- (2) If special rates are imposed for the benefit of a particular part of the area, they may be limited to allotments within the relevant part of the area.
- (3) A declaration under this section must:
  - (a) state the purpose for which the special rates are imposed; and
  - (b) state the amount to be raised; and
  - (c) state the basis of the special rates; and
  - (d) state whether the special rates are imposed on rateable property generally, or on rateable property within a particular part of the area and, if they are limited to a particular part of the area, identify the relevant part.

### **Division 2 Charges**

#### **157 Imposition of charges**

- (1) If a council carries out work, or provides services, for the benefit of land, or the occupiers of land, within its area, the council may declare a charge on the land.
- (2) A declaration of a charge must:
  - (a) state the amount or basis of the charge; and
  - (b) identify the land to which the charge will apply.
- (3) The amount of a charge need not be limited to the cost of providing the service.
- (4) Subject to the following exceptions, the provisions of this Chapter applicable to rates apply with necessary adaptations and modifications to charges imposed under this section.

##### **Exceptions**

- 1 A charge may be imposed on land that is not liable to rates (including land that is exempt from rates).

2     *A charge may have a reasonable basis that differs from rates.*

*Example*

*A charge to recover the cost of kerbing might consist of an amount per metre of the frontage of an allotment.*

3     *The provisions for rate concessions do not apply to charges.*

**Recommending Officer:**             Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer

Any queries on this report may be directed to Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer on telephone (08) 8935 9902 or email [ricki.bruhn@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:ricki.bruhn@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

**Author:**             Maxie Smith, Acting Finance Manager

**Schedule of Attachments:**

Attachment A: Terms and Conditions for the \$3,000 Early Bird Draw 2017/2018.



## TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE \$1,500 EARLY BIRD DRAW

- 1) That pursuant to Section 160 of the Local Government Act, Council has determined that a cash incentive be provided to encourage the prompt payment of rates and charges for the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- 2) The incentive shall be offered through the conduct of a draw to be known as the 'Early Bird Draw' whereby the City of Palmerston will offer a monetary prize to two (2) successful recipients.
- 3) To be eligible to enter the 'Early Bird Draw', City of Palmerston Property Owners must pay their rates in full (including any arrears, fines, waste charges and any other charges) by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
- 4) That only "ratepayers" who are natural persons, business owners or sporting groups are entitled to participate in the 'Early Bird Draw' - Government institutions are specifically excluded.
- 5) That "ratepayers" shall mean such person or persons (either jointly or severally) who are shown as registered owners in the assessment record.
- 6) That the names of all eligible ratepayers who have complied with these conditions shall be entered into the 'Early Bird Draw'. Only one entry per property is permitted.
- 7) The Official Manager, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Aldermen of the City of Palmerston and their immediate family are specifically excluded from entering the 'Early Bird Draw'.
- 8) There will be two (2) cash prizes of \$1,500 to be offered to each of the successful recipients. The cash prizes will be handed over as a cheque drawn in the names of all property owners.
- 9) The Official Manager will conduct the draw at the City of Palmerston offices on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 between 10.00 am and 11.00 am.
- 10) The successful recipients will be notified by mail or phone and the results of the draw shall be published on Council's website ([www.palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au)) as soon as possible after the draw has been conducted.
- 11) The decision reached on determining the successful recipients is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 12) The Promoter (City of Palmerston) may conduct further draws at the same place and time as the original draw in order to determine a successful recipient if an ineligible entry is drawn.
- 13) The Promoter is the City of Palmerston, Corner University Avenue and Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston NT 0831. ABN 42 050 176 900 Australia.