



AGENDA

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 3 August 2021

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

COVID-19 Statement of Commitment

The Ordinary Meeting of Council will be open to the public and holds a Statement of Commitment to adhere to:

- Physical distancing measures
- Health and hygiene principles



LUCCIO CERCARELLI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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A Place for People

- 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
- 2 OPENING OF MEETING
- 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
 - 3.1 Apologies
 - 3.2 Leave of Absence Previously Granted
 - 3.3 Leave of Absence Request
- 4 REQUEST FOR AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING
- 5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
 - 5.1 Elected Members
 - 5.2 Staff
- 6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
 - 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on DD MMMM YYYY pages xxxx to xxxx be confirmed.
 - 6.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting
- 7 MAYORAL REPORT

MAYORAL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 7.1
REPORT TITLE: Mayoral Update Report - July 2021
MEETING DATE: Tuesday 3 August 2021
AUTHOR: Mayor, Athina Pascoe-Bell

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report provides Council with a summary of recent activities of the Mayor, on behalf of Council.

KEY MESSAGES

- Advocating on behalf of Council with Australian and Northern Territory Government.
- Attending Community Events on behalf of Council.
- Staff and Community thank you for the COVID-19 lockdown.
- Palmerston Youth Festival success, recognition and recap of events.
- NAIDOC week march and flag raising ceremony.
- Welcoming the Community's newest Australians at the Citizenship Ceremony held at Sanctuary Lakes.
- PalmerFUN exhibit success at Royal Darwin Show.
- Officiating the Palmerston and Northern Suburbs youth "Ride to Survive" event to raise awareness for mental health.
- Attending the foundation pour for the Gray Community Hall.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report entitled Mayoral Update Report - July 2021 be received and noted.

DISCUSSION

Meetings with Federal and Northern Territory Ministers

The CEO and I had the opportunity to meet with the following members of the Federal and Northern Territory Parliament:

- Hon. Eva Lawler MLA
- Mark Turner MLA
- Marie-Clare Boothby MLA

To discuss current projects, funding opportunities, ongoing support, and community issues in Palmerston.

Quarterly Catch-up with Palmerston Police

With some recent changes to the hierarchy at the Palmerston Police Station, I was pleased to be able to sit down formally and meet with Superintendent Richard Bryson and Siiri Tennosaar to discuss the ongoing cooperation of the City of Palmerston with NT Police. The cooperation and collaboration with Police have seen many improvements come to the City of Palmerston by working together and I hope to continue the productive working relationships that have been developed.

COVID-19 Lockdown

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all staff and contractors who undertook Council essential services to the Palmerston community during the recent COVID-19 snap lockdown.

I would also like to extend a further thanks for the efforts by the residents of the Palmerston community for pulling together and keeping our most vulnerable safe, whether that be isolating, wearing a mask, or getting tested. Because of this, we were able to come out of lockdown relatively fast and back to normality.

Palmerston Youth Centre Turns One!

We received an invitation to help celebrate the Palmerston Youth Centre turning one. We extended our thanks to the Northern Territory Government for supporting the establishment and running of the Palmerston Youth Centre and the Palmerston Youth Plan, as well as the kids who attend the Centre. The Youth Centre provides a safe space for Palmerston Youth to hang out and be supported by respected adults. The youth were very appreciative of having the Palmerston Youth Centre available to them.

Palmerston Youth Festival

The theme for this years Palmerston Youth Festival is RISE. This theme was developed through the Palmerston Youth working group by young people. The theme reflects the challenging year that we have had with COVID and pushes us to RISE and continue to be resilient.

The Palmerston Youth Festival kicked off with Geekfest Top End in Goyder Square with the Hon. Vicki O'Halloran, the Chief Minister and myself declaring the festival open, following with an exciting radio plug with Hot 100. There were over 3500 people in attendance with many activities including Cosplay, Esports, Pro wrestling, escape rooms plus so much more.

To follow on from a fantastic opening of Geekfest I attended the Great Duck Race where hundreds of rubber ducks were raced down the water slide at Palmerston Water Park with over 350 attendees participating, there were also extra activities for the youth including a mechanical bull, inflatable obstacle course and an arts and crafts station.

Comedy Gold festival proved to be a hit as a sold-out event, Deputy Mayor Garden had the honour of opening this event with Alderman Morrison and Alderman Giesecke also handing out awards. There were many belly laughs along the way so I was told and several young people were involved in presenting content for the show.

Rookie Cooks cupcake decorating masterclass being yet another fun event for the young people of Palmerston to be involved in which I had the opportunity to bake and decorate cupcakes along with the kids.

3 x 3 Big Hustle Basketball competition located at the Palmerston Recreation Centre had 24 teams compete within this event with Deputy Mayor Garden attending and presenting awards to the talented youth community members. The highlight of the night was the One Mob Dancers performing traditional cultural dance.

The Palmerston Youth Festival finale, Suburban Sounds, was a free all-ages music concert. I had the opportunity to speak with MC Tricky extending our thanks to the NT Government for all their support, our staff, and partners for delivering such an amazing festival and the Palmerston Community for supporting events in Palmerston. To follow the Deputy Mayor Garden and myself had the honour of awarding the prizes for the winners of the Skateboard design competition.



Pictured: Mayor Pascoe-Bell, Chief Minister, the Honorable Eva Lawler at Geekfest Top End

Palmerston NAIDOC week March and Flag Raising Ceremony

The theme of NAIDOC week is “Heal Country” which calls on all of us to continue to seek greater understanding and appreciation of Country as part of Australia’s national heritage and to equally respect the culture and values of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders. NAIDOC week is an important time for our indigenous people, as it’s a time of celebration and connection with each other, our community and country. The week symbolises respect and sharing of culture, a time of reflection and healing and a place of pride for all Australians.

On Sunday 11 July the Palmerston NAIDOC Week March and Flag Raising Ceremony was held, we commenced the march from Goyder Square and proceeded to Memorial Park where a BBQ breakfast was provided upon arrival and the event was opened with the raising of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, followed by One Mob Dancers performing a traditional cultural dance.

I also had the pleasure of attending the NAIDOC Week Seniors Luncheon at Rydges Palmerston. The Seniors lunch is always a great event with plenty of entertainment.

I would like to thank the Palmerston NAIDOC week Committee for their hard work in bringing the community together for this special event.



Pictured: Palmerston Resident, The Hon. Eva Lawler and Mayor Pascoe-Bell.

Citizenship Ceremony

On Tuesday 20 July, we welcomed our conferees who came from Philippines, Jersey, Timor-Leste, Taiwan, Cambodia, New Zealand, Congo, India, United States, United Kingdom, Zambia, Greece, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Indonesia, and United Arab Emirates, who on this day, made their commitment in becoming Australian Citizens. We were honoured to have guests, Mr Mark Turner – Member for Blain, Alderman Morrison and Alderman Giesecke join us to present our conferees with their Australian Citizenship Certificates as well as a gift including a native tree or shrub to watch bloom to mark the acquisition of their Australian Citizenship.

56 members of the Palmerston Community became Australia's newest citizens. Family and Friends surrounding for this special moment, and it was emotional and beautiful to see so many smiling faces. Thank you to the events team, who ensured the ceremony ran smoothly.



Pictured: CEO of City of Palmerston Luccio Cercarelli and Mayor Pascoe-Bell

Royal Darwin Show – PalmerFUN

City of Palmerston was thrilled to have won both the Best Government Exhibit and the Bell Memorial Trophy for the Most Outstanding Staff at the Royal Darwin Show.

Thank you to Council staff and Members for organising and volunteering to attend this exhibit, and to our community members for coming along and showing their support to City of Palmerston. All involved had a fantastic time and PalmerFUN was exactly that, FUN!



Pictured: "PalmerFUN" exhibit at the Royal Darwin Show

Ride to Survive

I had the fantastic opportunity to meet all the young people who were taking part in the Ride to Survive initiative accompanied by the Honorable Eva Lawler. Up to 12 young People in Palmerston and Northern Suburbs rode horses on a trail ride from Palmerston to Gunn Point to raise awareness for Mental Health. This included a 3 night camping experience and a number of young people coming out each day to share in the ride and the event for the afternoon or day. This fantastic initiative is just a further example of young people contributing to the community in a positive way, which of course aligns with our ethos and something that the City of Palmerton is happy to support and promote.



Pictured: Mayor Pascoe-Bell with the Honorable Eva Lawler, Marc Gallagher and young people participating in the "Ride to Survive"

Gray Community Hall

A new milestone for the Gray Community Hall has been marked with the foundation slab pour. Local Indigenous owned company M+J Builders have been busy constructing the new contemporary community facility. Now only months away from the facility being available to the community again as a meeting space for birthday celebrations, community events and more. Completion is on track for late 2021.



Pictured: Mayor Pascoe-Bell on site for the foundation slab pour of Gray Community Hall

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

- 8 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
- 9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)
- 10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

10.1 Moving Confidential Items into Open

10.2 Moving Open Items into Confidential

10.3 Confidential Items

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

| Item | Confidential Category | Confidential Clause |
|--------|--------------------------------|--|
| 25.2.1 | Review of Confidential Matters | <p>51(1)(a) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.</p> <p>51(1)(c)(i) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.</p> <p>51(1)(c)(iii) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.</p> <p>51(1)(c)(iv) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the</p> |

| | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | <p>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.</p> <p>51(1)(d) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.</p> <p>51(1)(e) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.</p> |
| 25.2.2 | Review of Committee Membership | <p>51(1)(c)(iv) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.</p> <p>51(1)(d) This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.</p> |

11 PETITIONS

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

12.1 Connecting Community - Neighbourhood Programs

THAT a report be prepared for the ordinary meeting in December 2021, outlining current City of Palmerston programs and events that promote connecting neighbours and community, and identify potential opportunities to enhance or expand Council's current programs to promote lifestyle, well-being, sense of belonging, and health of our community with a focus on our local neighbourhoods.

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: 3 August 2021

TOPIC: Connecting Community – Neighbourhood Programs

BACKGROUND:

City of Palmerston Community Plan established the following elements central to our vision of “A Place for People”:

- Palmerston is a welcoming vibrant family city that fosters diversity and unity.
- In Palmerston, everyone belongs.
- In Palmerston, everyone is safe.

Community Plan Outcome 1 – Palmerston is a safe, friendly, family city that offers a high-quality lifestyle; a happy sanctuary. As a community, we want to foster the wellbeing of families and of our community. In Palmerston everyone belongs, and we care for each other. When people feel safe, are secure and supported in their community, they participate actively and can fully enjoy what Palmerston has to offer. Family and Community identifies the need for strategies for all types of people and families in Palmerston and that we increase accessibility to our facilities and resources for all members of our community.

The City of Palmerston over the last several years has and continues to strive to improve the lifestyle and well being of our community through a variety of programs that connect neighbours and community more broadly. Council recognises the importance on social outcomes of such initiatives.

“It is not just our home environment that influences us; the neighbourhood in which we live does too. A close-knit neighbourhood can provide a sense of belonging, safety, and support.” (Source: Australian Government Department Health)

It has been said that we give up on a lot by not knowing our neighbours. Holding a neighbourhood event is a great way for people to get to know their neighbours in a fun and casual environment, something to bring the community together.

Neighbourly support is associated with better well-being for individuals, therefore neighbours’ matter (whether near, far, or online), and now, more than ever, is the time to make creative connections and to stay connected.

In our communities and today’s technological world our neighbours are more than those just living next door or in our street.

“Neighbours connect and provide support to those living next door and to those further away. We have the capacity to build communities beyond our physical locations. Neighbours can be anyone.” (Source: Relationships Australia)

There are many reasons why neighbourhood events are beneficial these include, to:

- have fun
- make new friends
- increase social network and support
- increase your sense of belonging to a community
- introduce new neighbours to the community
- learn about your neighbours and what interests they have
- help with safety and crime prevention by knowing who lives where
- encourage neighbours to look after each other and the neighbourhood

There is an opportunity to explore other initiatives that complement and or enhance the good work already undertaken by Council. This may include initiatives such as:

- Neighbourhood Parties or Events
- Reinvigorating involvement in National Neighbourhood Day
- Program to recognise neighbours who go above and beyond in their communities
- Leveraging of community Facebook pages to get Champions to nominate to lead community connection opportunities
- Neighbour Competitions for example sporting challenges or street beautifications awards
- Expansion of existing programs

OBJECTIVE:

City of Palmerston has an opportunity to further promote and improve our lifestyle, well-being, sense of belonging, and health of our community and neighbourhoods through initiatives building our vision of "A Place for People" and "Family City".


It is timely that Council consider its current programs and initiatives and looks for future opportunities to further the already fantastic work it does in creating a sense of community.

The City of Palmerston should aim to make it as easy as possible for the community to organise these events, with the main aim being that appropriate events are organised and run by the community for their community therefore are organic and sustainable.

The notice of motion is a for a report to be returned to Council no later than the ordinary meeting in December 2021 outlining existing programs and events, and potential opportunities to enhance or expand Council's current programs to promote lifestyle, well-being, sense of belonging, and health of our community in particular our local neighbourhoods.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

THAT a report be prepared for the ordinary meeting in December 2021, outlining current City of Palmerston programs and events that promote connecting neighbours and community, and identify potential opportunities to enhance or expand Council's current programs to promote lifestyle, well-being, sense of belonging, and health of our community with a focus on our local neighbourhoods.



Signature

Alderman Lucy Morrison

Print Name

28/7/21

Date

NOTE: NOTICES OF MOTION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 5 CLEAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH THE MOTION IS TO BE MOVED.
For office use only

Date Received:
To Council Meeting: 3 August 2021



A Place for People

COUNCIL AGENDA

13 OFFICER REPORTS

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| AGENDA ITEM: | 13.1.1 |
| REPORT TITLE: | Gray Community Hall Project Update |
| MEETING DATE: | Tuesday 3 August 2021 |
| AUTHOR: | Executive Officer - Strategic Projects, Francheska Gobel |
| APPROVER: | Director Lifestyle and Community, Amelia Vellar |

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the Gray Community Hall redevelopment project.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Gray Community Hall is located on the corner of Essington Avenue and Victoria Drive, in the Palmerston suburb of Gray.
- Until it's closure for redevelopment it was Council's most highly utilised community facility.
- Council has signed an agreement with the Australian Government for the delivery of a new Gray Hall with Australian Government funding of \$1.455 million.
- The build will achieve a larger, modern Gray Community Hall with more flexibility within the spaces for users.
- Following Community Consultation, the design was completed to include community feedback received including additional storage space.
- Following the tender assessment process, Council endorsed an additional expenditure of \$545,000 to ensure the full delivery of the project.
- Demolition of the existing building occurred in May 2021.
- Local, indigenous owned M+J Builders were awarded the construction tender, with works commencing late June 2021,
- The project will be delivered late 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report entitled Gray Community Hall Project Update be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

After Council lobbied the Northern Territory and Australian Government's in 2019, for funding towards an expansion of Gray Community Hall, Council received written confirmation in June 2020 from Australian Government Deputy Prime Minister approving funding up to \$1.455 million (GST exclusive), via the Community Development Grants programme.

The redevelopment of Gray Community Hall is taking place in its original location, corner of Essington Avenue and Victoria Drive, in the Palmerston suburb of Gray.

As Councils most frequently hired facility, it was crucial the upgrade also integrated community feedback on proposed designs. Council undertook community consultation to gauge feedback, and after investigating costs and feasibility.

In October 2020 following community consultation, Council endorsed the final design elements for tender, with a further review of storage options raised during the consultation to occur. In January 2021, Council endorsed design plan amendments relating to the storage options, which included an addition of user stage space to be including in the design, with an estimated cost of \$50,000 (GST exclusive).

The redevelopment of Gray Community Hall, will bring versatile and contemporary features including:

- A main indoor function space
- A secondary indoor function space
- Improved kitchen facilities
- Veranda space with high ceiling fans
- Internal access-compliant toilets
- An outdoor toilet accessible to those visiting the community space
- Solar PV on the roof
- LED lighting
- Air-conditioning
- Storage facility with individual storage lockers
- Incorporation of Harvest Corner facilities and garden space

The tender of the final design was advertised for six weeks from 18 January 2021 to 24 February 2021.

On 20 April 2021 Council endorsed the allocation of funding for the tendered scope of works as \$2 million, consisting of \$1.455 million from the Australian Government and \$545,000 of Council funds and reserves, as per the decision below.

At the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting of 20 April 2021 Council made the following decisions:

10.1.2 Gray Community Hall Project Update

1. *THAT Report entitled Gray Community Hall Project Update be received and noted.*
2. *THAT Council approve a budget variation for the endorsed, tendered scope of the redevelopment of Gray Community Hall of \$2 million, consisting of \$1.455 million from the Australian Government and \$545,000 from the City of Palmerston, funded as follows:*
 - *\$50,000 as previously approved by Council relating to the addition of a storeroom*
 - *\$405,799 from reprioritised capital works programs as identified within the report*
 - *\$89,201 from asset renewal reserve as a contingency allowance*
3. *THAT Council note MJ Builders as the preferred tenderer for the new build of the Gray Community Hall (Tender TS2020/18), at a total price of \$1,832,645 with an anticipated construction period of 10 May 2021 to 19 October 2021.*
4. *THAT the Council Decisions relating to Report entitled Gray Community Hall Update be moved to the Open Minutes on award of contract.*

CARRIED 9/1594 – 20/04/2021

Demolition of the existing building occurred in May 2021, by McMahon Services. M&J Buildfers, a local, indigenous owned company were awarded the contract in May, with commencement of works in June 2021.

This report provides an update on the project to date.

DISCUSSION

Following the demolition of the existing building including footings and some garden areas in May, construction activities by M&J Builders commenced on site on 14 June 2021.

The following elements have been undertaken since building works commenced.

- Civil ground works, including compaction, foundational plumbing and electrical works were complete 24 June 2021
- Foundational concrete slab was poured 14 July 2021
- Commencement of structural frames (offsite)

The upcoming key activities in the next month are;

- Structural steel erection early August
- Wall frame erection late august
- Artwork design and structural elements

The project is on track for completion by the end of 2021.



Picture: Demolition of old Gray Community Hall ahead of new build.



Picture: Gray Community Hall concrete pour

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consultation with the Australian Government in relation to the funding and reporting requirements are ongoing as required. The agreement includes the completion milestone being required by 3 January 2022. This includes all documentation being complete and payments finalised.

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

- Director City Growth and Operations
- Graduate Civil Engineer

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council approved a budget variation for the endorsed, tendered scope of the redevelopment of Gray Community Hall of \$2 million, consisting of \$1.455 million from the Australian Government and \$545,000 from the City of Palmerston project re-allocation and reserves. The Council funded component was incorporated into the revised 2020/21 budget.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

- 1 Fails to effectively regain the trust from all stakeholders
Context: Council needs to be credible and trusted by those within and external to the Council.
- 8 Fails to develop effective relationships and manage expectations of relevant parties

Context: Engagement and communication with stakeholders (internal and external to the Council).

Community expectations are high for the redevelopment of Gray Community Hall. The project has taken some time to commence due to design finalisation and tendering delays. The project is now on track, and even with the one week delay due to the Covid-19 lockdown late June/early July, this hasn't impacted the delivery timeframes.

Regular updates are made at project milestones via social media platform Facebook and Council's webpage, to keep the community informed of the project's progression.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no environment sustainability implications for this report.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| AGENDA ITEM: | 13.1.2 |
| REPORT TITLE: | 2021 Palmerston Youth Festival |
| MEETING DATE: | Tuesday 3 August 2021 |
| AUTHOR: | Community Services Lead, Tom Murphy |
| APPROVER: | Director Lifestyle and Community, Amelia Vellar |

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with an overview of the 2021 Palmerston Youth Festival held between 10 and 16 July 2021.

KEY MESSAGES

- City of Palmerston delivered the second Palmerston Youth Festival held between 10 and 16 July 2021, with sponsorship from the Northern Territory Government.
- Youth under 25 represent 39% of the Palmerston Community.
- The Palmerston Youth Festival (Festival) included seven events, (two major and five bespoke), over seven days and included seventeen competitions worth \$25,000 in prize money. 80 young people shared in this prize pool.
- Approximately 5800 young people participated in or attended events across the week, which were strong numbers given the impacts of COVID.
- The festival was very well received by the community.
- The Northern Territory Government, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (DCMC) committed grant funding of \$300,000 to City of Palmerston, to deliver the Palmerston Youth Festival.
- City of Palmerston committed \$50,000 towards the festival.
- The Northern Territory government has committed to funding another two Palmerston Youth Festivals (2022, 2023).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report entitled 2021 Palmerston Youth Festival be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

In November 2018, the Northern Territory Government (NTG) committed \$300,000 per annum grant funding, to coordinate a week-long Palmerston Youth Festival during the July school holidays.

At the 2nd Confidential Council Meeting of 20 November 2018 Council made the following decision:

Palmerston Youth Festival Grant

1. THAT Report Number C9/0121 entitled Palmerston Youth Festival Grant be received and noted.

2. *THAT Council accept the Department of the Chief Ministers offer of ongoing grant funding of \$300,000 per annum to organise a week-long Palmerston Youth Festival in the July school holiday.*
3. *THAT Council, pursuant to Section 32 (2) of the Local Government Act 2008 (as amended), hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer, the power to finalise and enter the ongoing grant funding agreement with Northern Territory Government for a Palmerston Youth Festival.*
4. *THAT this matter be moved into Open following the joint public announcement with the Northern Territory Government.*

CARRIED 9/0386 – 20/11/2018

In 2019, City of Palmerston delivered the inaugural Palmerston Youth Festival between 13-20 July. The program included three major events as well as a number of smaller bespoke events.

Snapshot of 2019 festival outcomes:

- A week of Youth related activities and events, including visual and performance arts, cooking, sport, dance, gaming and geek culture, comedy and drama activities
- Participation from 16 young people in the Festival Working Group
- Over 5250 participations/attendances by young people at the festival events

Following this highly successful event, Northern Territory Government committed a further three consecutive years of funding for the Youth Festival from 2020-2022. However, in 2020, the festival was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the safety of the community, and NTG subsequently amended the funding agreement from 2020-2022 to 2021-2023.

DISCUSSION

Council delivered an engaging and diverse program of events for the second instalment of the Palmerston Youth Festival. The festival was delivered over seven days between 10- 16 July 2021. The program involved two major events and five smaller events that were delivered in partnership with various community organisations and groups. The festival also included 17 competitions; 80 young people shared in the overall prize pool.

Details of all the festival events and competitions can be found at **Attachment 13.1.2.1**.

Festival highlights included:

- High youth attendance and engagement - approximately 5800 people participated in the 2021 Palmerston Youth Festival across seven days of events and activities. Up from 5200 in 2019.
- Delivery of the festival included partnerships between City of Palmerston and several community groups and organisations.
- Geekfest Top End - The most popular Festival event saw approximately 3800 people in attendance. This was despite the challenges faced leading up to the event, including a seven day lockdown due to Covid-19.
- Geekfest has been held annually for three years in Palmerston, this was the second time that it was incorporated as part of the Festival. Including Geekfest in the Festival has increased the event's profile significantly. The additional support from the Geek Culture Collective (GCC) has ensured local stakeholders have been heavily involved in the development and delivery of this event.
- In 2021, the Esports and Cosplay competitions had a focus on inclusivity with a new tournament added for female/non-binary gamers and gender categories were removed from the cosplay competition.

- This year Geekfest included the addition of a Major Arena, Medieval Land, Collectors Fair/Artist Alley, Game Development Testing Station, Adults Gaming Zone, Escape Room and JDM Car Display.
- The inaugural Great Duck Race engaged 350 attendees to participate in a rubber duck race down the slides at the Palmerston Water Park. Extra activities offered to young people as part of this event included skateboarding skill development with Build Up Skateboarding, a blow-up obstacle course, Mechanical Bull Riding, and art /colouring activities.
- Held in the Recreation Centre's Pop-Up Park, Comedy Gold was a great success, comments by young people included 'a really fun and engaging night' and 'I loved it.....it was awesome' The event highlighted award-winning comedians including Amy Hetherington (MC), Graeme Lewis, Richard Fejo, Danielle Andrews, Tim Read, Brent Watkinson, Danielle Aquilina, Hanada Ghazala, Shalom Kaa and Kel Balnaves. Several young people also got involved in the show, delivering some high-class comedy.
- This year the festival hosted the NBL 3 x 3 Big Hustle NT Championships. The event was delivered in partnership with PaRBA, Basketball NT and Mad Events and included 24 teams and 96 players who competed in the tournament. The inclusion of the event under the NBL 3x3 Big Hustle program allowed the participants to achieve International Basketball Federation (FIBA) standings in the 3x3 national basketball pathway. Palmerston NAIDOC Committee were engaged to deliver a Welcome to Country, with One Mob Dancers performing traditional cultural dance and inviting players to join them for their final dance. One of the many highlights of the event was the outdoor basketball court backing on to the mural painted by local artists Tony, Trent and Shaun Lee. The outdoor court showcased Council's work in the public art space and demonstrated to the wider community the Recreation Centre's capacity to host a diverse range of events and activities.
- Suburban Sounds took the finale event to the suburbs. Closing the festival, Electric Fields headlined the concert. As J-MILLA and his younger brother Yung Milla took the stage the youth of Palmerston showed their excitement to have them back performing and inspiring the next generation of local artists. Other highlights included the family atmosphere, free glitter tattoos, inflatables, and GIF photobooth. The Sk8board Design Competition, Early Bird Prize and Lucky Door Prize were officially awarded by Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell at this event.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

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

- Community Services Team
- Communications and Media Team

In preparing this report, the following external parties were consulted:

- Festival Partners
- Youth Working Group
- Geek Culture Collaborative and Geek Squad
- Northern Territory Government, Department of the Chief Minister

A Palmerston Youth Festival Working group was established with 55 young community members being involved at various stages throughout the planning process. The group were consulted on the overall festivals program content and events, promotional activities, and marketing materials.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Under the funding agreement, the Northern Territory Government grant contribution is \$300,000.00 per year with City of Palmerston contributing an additional \$50,000.00 per year. Grant funding has been committed for three consecutive years from 2021 to 2023.

City of Palmerston have ensured all funding requirements have been met, including allocating \$25,000.00 for competitions and prizes, and \$25,000.00 for partnerships.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

1 Fails to effectively regain the trust from all stakeholders

Context: Council needs to be credible and trusted by those within and external to the Council.

The festival funding agreement with NTG is for three consecutive years. A festival report (September 2021) will be presented to NTG to demonstrate that all the contract funding requirements and special conditions have been met. City of Palmerston works in partnership with the NTG as the key stakeholder. Any risks around this relationship are mitigated by intentionally involving NTG stakeholders throughout the festival's planning processes and key updates are provided to NTG throughout. Initial assessment by staff is that NTG are pleased with the festival's delivery and outcome.

8 Fails to develop effective relationships and manage expectations of relevant parties

Context: Engagement and communication with stakeholders (internal and external to the Council).

As part of the delivery of the Palmerston Youth Festival, staff engaged and worked in partnership with several community partners. The festival's success was dependent on maintaining and managing relationships with the key partners. Staff worked extensively to ensure that effective working relationships were maintained and managed expectations through the development of partnership agreements, this was further supported through consistent communication and the coordination of strategic meetings.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no environment sustainability implications for this report.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2021 Palmerston Youth Festival [13.1.2.1 - 23 pages]



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Palmerston Youth Festival 2021 Summary

City of Palmerston delivered the second Palmerston Youth Festival over seven days between 10-16 July 2021. The program centered around two major events and five smaller bespoke events. They were as follows:

Saturday 10 July – Geekfest Top End



Image: Geekfest Top End Opening 2021 – Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran, Chief Minister Michael Gunner, Minister Eva Lawler, Minister Lauren Moss and Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell.



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

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Geekfest Top End (GFTE) was a free, all ages interactive event celebrating all things gaming, Anime, Cosplay and 'geek' culture.

2021 was the fourth consecutive year that City of Palmerston has delivered the Geekfest event, it was the second time the event was included as part of the Palmerston Youth Festival.

In 2021, Geekfest activated the City Centre and was delivered across the Library, Goyder Square and Recreation Centre. The attendance numbers were excellent with approximately 3800 attendees.



Image: Geekfest 2021 – Goyder Square with Arena MC Paige Horrigan

Geekfest's interactive activities included:

- A new Major Arena to showcase the Esports and Cosplay Competition. It also hosted the debut performance from Top End Wrestling, which included Melbourne-based Erica Reid, a proud Wiradjuri woman pro wrestler named 'Dream Time Voodoo Witch', who joined the Top End Wrestling team to support their first event.
- Australian Esports League, who facilitated the Esports and Cosplay Competitions with the support of Level Up Esports and the Geek Culture Collaborative. The Prize Pool for both competitions was \$10,000. 25 Cosplayers and over 64 Esports Competitors entered the competitions.
- Free Gaming Zone which included PC Console, Virtual Reality Gaming, Fortnite Fitness, Just Dance and a NEW Game Developers Testing station. This station showcased 4 computer games that were created in 8 weeks by Palmerston Youth mentored by Larrakin Interactive. The young people involved in developing the games had the opportunity to speak with Chief Minister Michael Gunner and Minister Lauren Moss about their project.
- Adult Gaming Zone designed for older youth 18-25 and Adults. A Mortal Kombat tournament ran in this space for the 18+ crowd and the CDU Cosplay, Anime and Table Tennis Society student group ran the CATTs Café with roving performers and treats for anyone visiting the room.
- Medieval Land located on the Boulevard, hosted by Experience Kaos Horde which showcased medieval history and included displays, a chainmail and leather workshops, and blacksmith showing how to make swords.



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- Kids Zone which included Lego Brick Build, Sand Art, Glitter Tattoos, Circus Skills, Bubbles, Balloons, Party Animals and Roving Performers.
- Zone 3 who hosted the Laser Tag Arena in the middle of Goyder Square.
- Japanese Domestic Market motor imports (JDM) held a car display.
- Palmerston Library hosted the Escape Room experience, Tabletop Gaming, Chess Tournament, Technology Stalls, Social Playground GIF Booth, Twitch Streaming and 'Just Dance' Workshops and two panels 'Local in Technology' and 'Cosplay Life' with special guest cosplayer 'Where is Danielle' who zoomed in due to lockdown restrictions.
- Chill Zone in the Recreation Centre Foyer showcased the Sk8board Design Exhibit and Virtual Street Art Display.
- Live DJ Emily Rose broadcasting music throughout the event



Image: Attendees testing the 4 games developed by young people.

Image: Emerging Game Developers discussing Game Development opportunities with Chief Minister Michael Gunner and Minister Lauren Moss.





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Image: Medieval Land facilitated by Kaos Horde – Blacksmithing display



Image: Cosplay Competition Winners with Chief Minister Michael Gunner and City of Palmerston Alderman Henderson and Morrison



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Geekfest Top End also included the following special guest activities:



Australian Esports League (AEL)

AEL collaborated with our local adult working group the Geek Culture Collective and youth group Level Up Esports to deliver the Esports and Cosplay Competitions. Due the lockdown alternative AEL staff were sent from Melbourne instead of Sydney.

Special Guest Cosplayer 'Where is Danielle' zoomed in and was able to meet attendees via a Zoom Panel hosted by local cosplayers.

Image: Local Shout Casters Lachlan and Jackson step in for the AEL team that could not attend due to the lockdown in Sydney.

Top End Wrestling



Image: Special Guest Pro Wrestler – Erika Reid the Dream Time Voodoo Witch.

Top End Wrestling held their debut event at Geekfest Top End 2021. City of Palmerston flew in Brad Jones the original organiser for Pro Wrestling Darwin to support and mentor the new local group, as well as supporting their debut performance he also provided training for the group the day following our event. Their initial launch event was cancelled in 2020 so the group were very excited to perform at Geekfest Top End 2021. City of Palmerston also flew in from Melbourne, Erica Reid a proud Wiradjuri woman pro wrestler named 'Dream Time Voodoo Witch', who joined the Top End Wrestling team to support their first event. Erika shared that she loved Palmerston and thanked Top End Pro Wrestling for letting her represent during NAIDOC Week at the Palmerston Youth Festival.



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Sunday 11 July – Great Duck Race



The Inaugural Great Duck Race had an attendance of 350 young people and families. This event was held at the Palmerston Water Park. Our festival partner Palmerston and Regional Basketball Association (PaRBA) worked with NTG and Life Saving NT to host Palmerston's first ever Duck Race. Young people completed a challenge to enter two rounds that were held on the day. Local youth resident, Paige Horrigan MC'd the event and made the day "quacking" good fun, with many a duck pun made.

Interactive activities included, learning flips and tricks with Build Up Skateboarding, a blow-up obstacle course for racing through, mechanical bull riding and art /colouring activities. Many yellow ducks were colored and decorated. DJ Slinky attended and pumped out the tunes including an impromptu crowd Macarena with the Lifeguards from Surf Life Saving NT joining in on the fun.



Image: Rubber Ducks Ready to Race, carried by PaRBA Mentor, Youth Volunteer and Surf Lifesaving Guard.



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

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Image: Youth MC Paige Horrigan Mc-ing



Image: Young people registering their ducks in the race.



Image: Rubber Ducks getting some sun at the Palmerston Water Slides



Image: The Golden Duck prize



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Monday 12 July – Comedy Gold



Returning in 2021 Comedy Gold was hosted in the Pop Up Park at the back of the Palmerston Recreation Centre. Showcasing award winning comedians including:

- Amy Hetherington (MC)
- Graeme Lewis
- Richard Fejo
- Danielle Andrews
- Tim Read
- Brent Watkinson
- Danielle Aquilina
- Hanada Ghazala
- Shalom Kaa and
- Kel Balnaves.

It was an intimate event which made young people comfortable to get up and have a cheeky joke in the open mic section. Special Guest comedians highlighted this was the best show they had done in a long time and how funny it was to be heckled by young community members.



Image: MC and Festival Partner Amy Hetherington warming up the crowd



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

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Image: Group Photo of our special guest comedians



Image: Young People participating in the Open Mic Section of Comedy Gold



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Tuesday 13 July – Rookie Cooks



This year 'On the Menu' and Level Up Esports delivered Rookie Cooks Cupcake Decorating Masterclass. Mel from On the Menu gave demonstrations of professional frosting preparation and piping techniques to achieve the perfect 'rosette'. 76 young people enjoyed the creative challenge, and many produced four or more unique creations.

As sessions of cupcake decorating took place, Level Up Esports entertained waiting participants with Virtual Reality Fruit Ninja and other food related gaming options, and our young attendees enjoyed watching the movie 'Ratatouille' as they waited their turn.



Images: Young people and special visitors for the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet getting creative and learning to decorate cupcakes.



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Wednesday 14 July – 3 x 3 Big Hustle NT Championships



Palmerston and Regional Basketball Association (PaRBA) partnered with Basketball Northern Territory to deliver the 3 x 3 Big Hustle NT Championships. With 500 people in attendance this event took over the Palmerston Recreation Centre, External Carpark and Pop-Up Park areas.

As part of the daily Youth Drop-in Sports, PaRBA qualified ten teams to compete in the 3 x 3 Big Hustle NT Championships event. This allowed young people in Palmerston who may not usually have a pathway to organised sport to compete at an NT Championship. A further fourteen teams entered through the Basketball NT registration process, with twenty-four teams competing on the day. All teams played in the spirit of the event with great sportsmanship shown.

Basketball NT and Mad Events were engaged by PaRBA to assist with the tournament delivery and the addition of the outdoor drop in show court in front of the Recreation Centre mural added to the atmosphere of the night.

The inclusion of the event under the NBL 3x3 Big Hustle program allowed the participants to achieve FIBA (the International Basketball Federation) standings in the 3x3 national basketball pathway setting the young people up for future events and tournaments.



A two-point shoot-out competition was held and fiercely contested. The 3 x 3 competition was of a high standard, and the last game of the night for the u18 competition was decided on the buzzer by the final basket! Prize packs were provided by the City of Palmerston as part of the Youth Festival with all 24 teams and 24 runners up all receiving packs, presented by Deputy Mayor Garden.

Image: City of Palmerston Deputy Mayor Amber Garden and John Mitchell CEO of Basketball NT awarding prizes.



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Image: One Mob Dancers.



Palmerston NAIDOC Committee were engaged to deliver the Welcome to Country, with One Mob Dancers performing traditional cultural dance and inviting players to join them for their final dance.

PaRBA Level Up Esports delivered a gaming lounge in the foyer of the Recreation Centre and Build Up Skateboarding ran a skateboarding clinic in the Pop-Up Park, both activities had high levels of youth engagement. The activity providers are youth led and facilitated, delivered by young people for young people.

Image: Build Up Skateboarding teach young people how to skate and do tricks.



NBL commented to the partners that the backdrop to the outdoor court was the best backdrop a 3 x 3 Big Hustle had ever had!

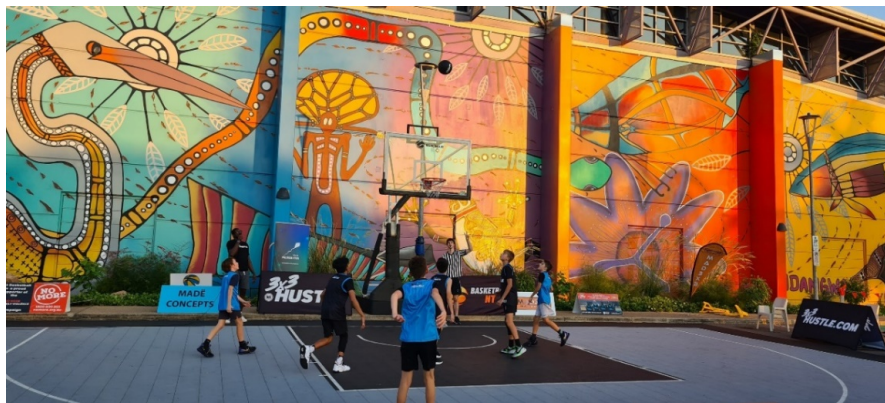


Image: City of Palmerston Mural backdrop for the outdoor court.



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Thursday 15 July – On the Hunt @ Events



Event Cinemas collaborated with The GG Social (a CDU Student Group) and Level Up Esports (Youth Esports Organisation) to deliver On the Hunt @ Events.

On the Hunt included a Scavenger Hunt, and gaming experience followed by the viewing of *Bittersweet* by Felix Hill, the winning entry for the Palmy Short Film Competition and 2 block buster releases, *Space Jam* and *Fast and Furious 9*.

Pre-registration was required for the Scavenger Hunt with all other gaming activities included themed room setup for PS4 gaming, laser tag going in the Vmax Lounge. VR gaming in the main foyer, and Switch gaming on the TV in the lounge followed by Switch Gaming on the Massive Vmax screen from 2:30pm.

GG Social delivered the Scavenger Hunt, where teams of 4 – 6 participants, navigated their way through Gateway to complete challenges. The fastest group to complete the challenge won 4 VMAX tickets donated by Event Cinemas. 20 teams competed. The Level Up Esports team (funded through a CoP Community Benefit Scheme grant) need a big shout out for the great job they did, engaging and mentoring youth of all ages who attended the day.

This was the first time Level Up used the big screen to deliver and Esports experience. All attendees were in awe of viewing Switch Gaming on the Vmax big screen.

Image: Level Up Esports hosting SWITCH Gaming projected on to VMAX Cinemas Big Screen





2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

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Level Up Esports are already in discussion with the Manager of Event Cinemas to partner in High School Esports tournaments and other events.



Image: The GG Social having a well-earned break after running the Scavenger Hunt.

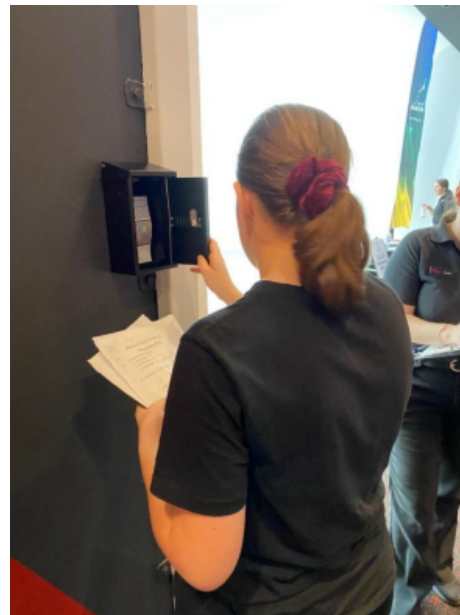


Image: Young Person Unlocking the Safe of the Scavenger Hunt

Friday 16 July – Suburban Sounds

City of Palmerston closed the festival with a free community concert. With a beautiful sunset at the Palmerston Raiders Rugby League oval, the event provided a chilled vibe and family friendly atmosphere for all ages.

The concert line-up included:

- Local talents Jaxon De Santis and DJ Emily Rose and Yung Milla.
- Interstate artists from South Australia included J-MILLA and Electric Fields headlining the concert.



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Unfortunately, due to advice from the Chief Health Officer, pre-organized interstate artists DJ Tiger Lily and Havana Brown were unable to travel to the NT due to the border restrictions in place.

Event entertainment included glitter face painting, inflatables, and a GIF photobooth to create a festival atmosphere.



Image: J-MILLA meeting local fans and taking photos with the young people at the concert



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Image: Young MILLA entertaining the crowds



Image: Headline act Electric Fields.



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS



Image: Covid Safety was our number one Priority at every event during the festival.



Image: Suburban Sounds gave families an Opportunity to celebrate with the young People of Palmerston.

Competitions

Part of the funding agreement is to commit \$25,000 to be used for prizes during the festival.

This year's festival included seventeen competitions and opportunities to win prizes which included:

- 6 x Esports Tournaments
- 1 x Cosplay Competition
- 1 x The Great Duck Race
- 3 x 3 Big Hustle NT Championships
- 1 x Palmy Short Film Competition
- 1 x Sk8board Design Competition
- 2 x Early Bird Prize
- 1 x Palmerston Youth Festival Lucky Door Prize and
- 1 x The Overall Evaluation Giveaway

Competition Highlights

Geekfest Top End Competitions

- Geekfest Top End aimed to diversify the competitions and ensure the participation of female and non-binary competitors. Council worked with local Youth Group Level Up Esports and Australian Esports League to achieve this with the introduction of a special tournament specifically for female and non-binary gamers.
- Council also worked with the festival's youth working group to ensure the Cosplay Competition was more inclusive and informed on the advice of the young people.



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

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Image: Geekfest Top End Esports Trophies

Image: High School Teams Rocket Team
Tournament - Winners



Image: Winners of the Under 9's



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

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Image: Winners of the 10-17's

The Great Duck Races



- Two rounds of duck races were held with 160 ducks in total participating.
- Prizes of \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$100 for third place were awarded in both races. As well as 4 \$50 Luck Duck prizes awarded

Image: Lucas Babbington winner of the Golden Duck with Alderman Henderson.

3 x 3 Big Hustle NT Championships

- As part of the daily Youth Drop-in Sports, PaRBA qualified ten teams to compete in the 3 x 3 Big Hustle NT Championships event. This allowed young people in Palmerston who may not usually have a pathway to organised sport to compete at an NT Championship. A further fourteen teams entered through the Basketball NT registration process, with twenty-four teams competing on the day. All teams played in the spirit of the event with great sportsmanship shown.
- The inclusion of the event under the NBL 3x3 Big Hustle program allowed the participants to achieve FIBA (the International Basketball Federation) standings in the 3x3 national basketball pathway setting the young people up for future events and tournaments.
- Prize packs were provided by the City of Palmerston as part of the Youth Festival with all 24 teams and 24 runners up all receiving packs, presented by Deputy Mayor Garden.



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

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Image: Two of the winning teams from the 3 x 3 Big Hustle NT Championships receiving their prizes from Deputy Mayor Garden.



Palmy Short Film Comp



'Bittersweet', the Palmy Short Film winning entry looked great on the Vmax screen with rave review from attendees.

The emerging videographer/director Felix Hill was asked how this made her feel and she said, "it was really really cool, thanks so much". She left with a sense of pride to see her film on the big screen.

Felix is excited to participate in the upcoming youth Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) film project.

Image: Felix Hill, Winner of the Palmy Short Film Competition



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

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Image: Bittersweet on the VMAX Cinema

Sk8board Design Comp

- This competition was well engaged, and all the boards were taken within a week of the launch. 27 boards were returned and exhibited at the Palmerston Recreation Centre.
- There were 4 prizes given out.
- The official judging panel included, Mayor Athena Pascoe-Bell, Alderman Henderson and Executive Manager Community and Library Services Lifestyle and Community. The judges deliberated and awarded First place to Isabelle Craven, Second place to Kiara Thompson and Third place to Nate Marshall. All prizes were awarded at the finale event Suburban Sounds.
- There was also a People's Choice category, which was voted by the community.

Image: Community voting on the Sk8board Design Competition.





2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

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Image: Sk8board Design Competition Winners at Suburban Sounds with Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell and Deputy Mayor Amber Garden.

The Palmerston Youth Festival Lucky Door Prize and Early Bird Prize. Finally, to support covid safety requirements Council ticketed the events for the festival. This was an opportunity to capture contact details and keep attendees informed if changes were required



2021 PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL

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due to covid. To encourage registration two enticing giveaways were provided. The Early Bird Draw was drawn from young people that registered prior to festival opening. Two lucky young people were awarded a \$500 gift voucher to their favourite store in Palmerston.

The major competition was the 'Palmerston Youth Festival Lucky Door Prize'. Young people were automatically entered into the draw through their registration and attendance at the festival's weeklong events. The prize for this was a Top End Tourism Voucher worth \$4400. This prize was won by Charlize Pitkin.



Image: Charlize Pitkin - Volunteer - Geeksquad, Youth Media Team and the PYF working group.

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| AGENDA ITEM: | 13.2.1 |
| REPORT TITLE: | Community Plan Health Check Outcomes |
| MEETING DATE: | Tuesday 3 August 2021 |
| AUTHOR: | Director Organisational Services, Silke Maynard |
| APPROVER: | Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli |

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council to receive and note the Community Plan Health Check and consider actions identified through stakeholder feedback.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Community Plan as developed in 2018 in collaboration with DemocracyCo and Palmerston residents has become Council's governing document and provides guidance for all Council activities.
- A Health Check of the Community Plan was undertaken in 2021 to review the progress of implementation of the Community Plan and its key outcomes.
- The Health Check consisted of a Community Workshop with Palmerston residents and Focussed Conversation Sessions with other stakeholders.
- Key Improvement Suggestions have been identified and Council is already undertaking a number of actions to deliver on the Key Improvements which have been identified.
- A further review of the Community Plan measures will occur during the term of the Tenth Council, to align with the Inclusion, Diversity and Accessible Framework and Palmerston Local Economic Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Community Plan Health Check Outcomes be received and noted.
2. THAT Council notes the Key Improvement Suggestions and the related actions being implemented as presented as **Attachment 13.2.1.1** to Report entitled Community Plan Health Check Outcomes.
3. THAT the Mayor writes to the participants of the Community Plan Health Check advising them of the outcomes of the consultation and thanking them for their contribution.

BACKGROUND

In late 2018 Council engaged DemocracyCo to work with a diverse group of Palmerston community members as part of the Palmerston People's Forum to consider the future they wanted for Palmerston. The group settled on six core outcomes for Palmerston.

The Community Plan was adopted by Council in 2019 and has since been the governing document for all of Council's work. Since the Community Plan's adoption, it has influenced and driven the direction of

Council's Municipal Plan, Budget and the Long-Term Financial Plan's. The Community Plan, particularly the six core outcomes, are a driving force for Council and its staff providing a strong focus for Council's service delivery.

DISCUSSION

In early 2021, Council re-engaged DemocracyCo to coordinate a Health Check for the Community Plan to understand what has been achieved, to ensure Council is still working towards the outcomes of the Plan, identify any new goals, to update the plan if required, and to recommit to the Plan and its purpose.

The Health Check was conducted in stages, with DemocracyCo arranging Focussed Conversation Session's for key stakeholders and hosting a Community Workshop to obtain feedback from members of the wider Community.

An overview of the findings from the Focussed Conversations and Community Workshop is presented as **Attachment 13.2.1.1**. The Attachment includes an overview of what actions Council is already taken on the suggested improvement areas and what Council is planning to do further.

The Focussed Conversation Sessions were scheduled for Council Staff, a youth group and Larrakia Nation. Due to lack of participation, the youth group Focused Conversation did not go ahead. Nevertheless, the other Focussed Conversations developed the following improvement areas:

- Deepening collaboration with and support for First Nations Peoples.
- Economic development and vibrant CBD.
- Stronger engagement with diverse community.
- Promote healthy living through community hubs.

Beyond the Focussed Conversations, Council has again reached out to its community and residents for feedback. In an independent facilitated community workshop, residents were given the opportunity to share their suggested key priorities for Council.

The detailed report of DemocracyCo facilitating this workshop can be found in **Attachment 13.2.1.2**. In summary the group of community members identified the following big priorities:

- Inclusion of indigenous people in planning for indigenous people.
- Framework for inclusivity and diversity.
- Meaningful engagement.
- Progress reporting on Community Plan.
- Economic development and a vibrant CBD.

The above listed improvements show that between our engaged stakeholder groups and the community representatives, focuses are similar, and Council has actioned and planned for these priorities.

Council has already developed a strong partnership with Larrakia Nation, through ongoing meetings and the inclusion of them and others in key networks. We are providing dignity services from Council facilities and in support with groups like Orange Sky. We are working towards the displaying of Larrakia protocols in Council facilities and parks, as well as the delivery of customised training to our staff. And through the development of the Inclusion, Diversity and Accessibility (IDA) Framework, Council has identified Larrakia Nation as an important network partner and the need for the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan.

Council has developed the Palmerston Local Economic Plan (PLEP) and influenced the development of the Central Palmerston Area Plan. Going forward, Council will focus on supporting our business community with the detailed actions outlined in the PLEP.

Council has placed value in engaging with our community and has used innovative approaches in the past, for example for the development of the Animal Management Plan. As part of the recently approved IDA Framework Council will develop supplementary plans focussing on our diverse community. This will be supported by the Communications Strategy.

One of Council's key *Prójects* is the Swimming, Wellness, Events, Leisure, Lifestyle (SWELL) project to refurbish the Palmerston Aquatic Centre. This work will build another important community facility to promote healthy living.

The overall Health Check has concluded that the current Plan is still relevant and overall Council is delivering on what the community is seeking, with some suggested actions that will reinforce the already identified outcomes.

As mentioned above, Council has developed an IDA Framework and the PLEP as well as working on a Sustainability Strategy which will assist with some of the recommended improvements, without having to adjust the Community Plan itself.

Council will review the measures identified for the outcomes and align them with the focus of the other Plans adopted by Council as mentioned above. This work will be undertaken during the term of the Tenth Council.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

DemocracyCo completed a thorough consultation process through focussed conversations with specific stakeholders and a Community Workshop to hear directly from members of our community. All feedback has been documented and provided back to Council for consideration.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this Report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Community Plan Health Check was included in the 2020-21 budget.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Community Plan was originally developed by the community for the community, and the community holds this document in high regard. The Health Check has identified actions to deliver on the identified outcomes, and Council is currently developing Frameworks and Plans, that will work alongside the Community Plan and target some of the Key Improvement Areas. The Community Plan overall is still relevant and current.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

1 Fails to effectively regain the trust from all stakeholders

Context: Council needs to be credible and trusted by those within and external to the Council.

6 Fails to create and deliver the strategic vision for the City

Context: Ensuring a vision is enduring and clear to all relevant stakeholders, guiding future decision making, delivered effectively and efficiently, and that progress is measurable and celebrated.

7 Fails to be agile to respond to growth opportunities

Context: Ensuring the organisation is positioned to respond quickly to take up opportunities for growth both internally and externally.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Recommendations provided by DemocracyCo under *Quick Wins*, identify that promoting a sustainable city is a priority for our community members. Council is continuing to improve environment sustainability through multiple projects and initiatives.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Plan Health Check Key Improvements and Quick Wins [**13.2.1.1** - 7 pages]
2. Community Plan Health Check Community Workshop Report [**13.2.1.2** - 16 pages]



A Place for People

COUNCIL AGENDA

Attachment 13.2.1.1

COMMUNITY PLAN HEALTH CHECK

KEY IMPROVEMENTS & QUICK WINS

| Improvement Area | Recommendation | What Council already delivers | What Council is working towards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deepening collaboration with Larrakia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant effort is required to build a stronger, more functional and collaborative relationship between council, Larrakia and other First Nations Peoples. Cultural awareness training for council should occur ASAP. Acknowledgement, consideration and engagement with Larrakia should be front of mind across all areas of council, at all times. <p>QUICK WINS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an urgent need for access to drinking water, toilets and showers in places that are easily accessible for First Nations people. Find a regular, permanent and embedded way to engage with Larrakia. Implement cultural awareness programs for council staff and elected members as soon as possible. Distribute Larrakia protocols posters and cards widely. Implement signage that acknowledges Larrakia as the traditional owners of the land of Palmerston. | <p>Council has a strong relationship and partners with Larrakia Nation in several ways and forums, like the Palmerston Safe Communities Committee.</p> <p>Council is providing dignity services through collaboration with other community groups and provision of facilities at the Recreation Centre and library including the outreach work out of these facilities.</p> | <p>Larrakia Nation have also been identified as a key group member for the advisory group that will be developed under the Inclusion, Diversity and Accessibility (IDA) Framework.</p> <p>We are working together on displaying Larrakia protocols in open space and Council facilities around Palmerston and developing suitable training for staff.</p> |
| Strong advocacy for thoughtful and considered city planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council should be a stronger advocate for the needs of Palmerston and all its diverse people with Territory and Federal government. The CBD is lacking vibrancy and amenity. | Council has been collaborating with the Northern Territory Government on the Central Palmerston Area Plan, that will now give guidance for the future of the Palmerston CBD. | CBD Masterplans will be reviewed based on the Central Palmerston Area Plan. |
| Use the 'wisdom of the crowd' to tackle the tricky issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship building and engagement will be critical to realising the potential of Palmerston and to tackle tricky social issues – with the business community, the NT and Federal Government, young people, Larrakia and other First Nations peoples and the many other cultural and community groups of Palmerston. Engagement should happen “where the people are”. | Council developed a <i>Consultation Policy</i> that focuses on meaningful and engaging consultation with our community, reaching out to our residents for input into Council decision making. | <p>A communications strategy is under development to further outline Council's commitment in engaging with our community.</p> <p>Council will develop a suitable scorecard for ease of reporting and</p> |



A Place for People

COUNCIL AGENDA

Attachment 13.2.1.1

COMMUNITY PLAN HEALTH CHECK

KEY IMPROVEMENTS & QUICK WINS

| Improvement Area | Recommendation | What Council already delivers | What Council is working towards |
|--|--|---|--|
| | <p>QUICK WINS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a “plan on a page” snapshot of the Community Plan and provide updates on where the objectives and measures are tracking over time. | Council has been utilising the Community Outcomes in Council reports, Position Descriptions, and other Council documents. It has structured the Annual Report and Municipal Plan around the outcomes of the Community Plan. | include this into the 2021-22 Annual Report. |
| Build strength and resilience into existing community hubs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Youth Centres are wonderful community resources and need more support. • The Larrakia Culture and Family Centre and The Palmerston Indigenous Network are key organisations that support local community members and hold deep cultural knowledge. They understand the needs of their communities, are well connected and trusted. They urgently need more support and resources to further the work they do with their community. • Sports facilities are an excellent resource for developing programs to connect, promote healthy living and act as a ‘universal language’ between diverse groups. <p>QUICK WINS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support sport more as a way to allow people to interact, improve health, bridge gaps and act as a universal language. | Council has been offering community facilities free of charge since 2020, together with events and programs focussing on a healthy community, like Brekky in the Park and Activate. | <p>A review of facility hire fee structure will be undertaken in 2021 to ensure reasonable access for the benefit of our community.</p> <p>The development of the Swimming Wellness Events Leisure Lifestyle (SWELL) project will be an important sporting facility to connect and promote healthy living.</p> |
| Stronger Local Economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving CBD vibrancy and amenity will assist in building a stronger economy, ‘lifting the spirit’ and retaining people to live, work and play in Palmerston. • Tourism might not be a high focus in the short term. Longer term there could be opportunity to promote Palmerston as a day trip destination. • Improving relationships between council and local businesses will assist with creating a thriving local economy. | Council has developed the Palmerston Local Economic Plan (PLEP) that outlines necessary actions for Council, the Northern Territory Government and the business community to drive a strong local economy. | The first 12 to 18 months of this plan focus on relationship building with the business community to ensure success of the PLEP. |



A Place for People

COUNCIL AGENDA

Attachment 13.2.1.1

COMMUNITY PLAN HEALTH CHECK

KEY IMPROVEMENTS & QUICK WINS

| Key Priorities | Recommendations | What Council already delivers | What Council is working towards |
|--|---|---|--|
| A coordinated plan for indigenous people that includes indigenous people in planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should lead in bringing together key players to plan to provide better facilities and services for rough sleepers in partnership with Police, NT government, Social Services, Local Businesses and Community members. • The plan should be designed for and with Indigenous people. • The plan should reduce harm and support people better and enable swift allocation of resources for priority issues. | <p>Council has adopted the Inclusion, Diversity and Accessibility (IDA) Framework that will focus on actions to support our vision for Palmerston as a 'Place for People'.</p> <p>But already now, Council has regular meetings with Police, relevant Northern Territory Government departments and Larrakia Nation to collaborate on the support for our indigenous community.</p> | The IDA Framework commits Council to the development of supplementary plans, of which one is a Reconciliation Action Plan. |
| Inclusivity and diversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should establish a framework for inclusivity across Palmerston • Focus should be on vulnerable populations – disadvantaged families, elderly, people with a disability. • The framework should involve all people being involved actively in all aspects of community life in Palmerston. | <p>Council has adopted the IDA Framework that will focus on the development of supplementary plans, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. - Reconciliation action Plan. - Youth Inclusion Plan. - Families, Seniors and Children Plan. | |
| Community voice and meaningful engagement on complex issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should create a mechanism for informed community engagement on the big and complex issues facing our community. This engagement should be informed by evidence, data and our collective community experience. • All engagement should be focussed on collective impacts methods and be strengths based. | Council developed a <i>Consultation Policy</i> that focuses on meaningful and engaging consultation with our community, reaching out to our residents for input into Council decision making. | A communications strategy is under development to further outline Council's commitment in engaging with our community. |



A Place for People

COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.2.1.1 COMMUNITY PLAN HEALTH CHECK

KEY IMPROVEMENTS & QUICK WINS

| Key Priorities | Recommendations | What Council already delivers | What Council is working towards |
|----------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders and community should work together more, with Council – to collectively address issues that matter | <p>Council already utilises several advisory groups and networks to collaborate with community groups and other levels of government in wholistically addressing some concerns within the community, for example the Palmerston Safe Communities Committee, Palmerston Seniors Advisory Committee and Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network.</p> | |
| Youth Voice in the Chamber | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council should actively pursue changes to the Local Government legislation to enable a Youth Alderman for Palmerston Council should retain and continue to deepen engagement with youth in multiple ways. | <p>Council has an active Youth Participation Network and encourages participation by young residents.</p> <p>The development of a designated Youth Alderman is not within Council's control and contrasts with the democratic system of a parliamentary setup.</p> <p>Council provides information to all residents to encourage anyone to stand in a Local Government election, representing the diversity of our community.</p> | |



A Place for People

COUNCIL AGENDA

Attachment 13.2.1.1

COMMUNITY PLAN HEALTH CHECK

KEY IMPROVEMENTS & QUICK WINS

| Key Priorities | Recommendations | What Council already delivers | What Council is working towards |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Transparency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress and achievements towards the Community Plan should be visible for all. A mechanism should be created to monitor and report on Council progress. | Council has been utilising the Community Outcomes in Council reports, Position Descriptions, and other Council documents. It has structured the Annual Report and Municipal Plan around the outcomes of the Community Plan. | Council will develop a suitable scorecard for ease of reporting and include this into the 2021-22 Annual Report. |
| CBD Hub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vibrancy should be actively pursued for the town centre / CBD district. Markets and events to be retained. Shops and businesses incentivised and encouraged to call Palmerston home Focus on embracing the future – ie electric car charging points | Already, Council provides support to the Palmerston markets, delivers activation events like the On Frances series and offers electric car charging points. | As mentioned above Council has and will be working on the development of the Palmerston CBD with the Northern Territory Government and the business community through the actions of the Palmerston Local Economic Plan and other strategic planning. |
| Community Ownership of the Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow the Community to formally induct the newly elected Council to the Plan – thereby ensuring Aldermen understand the importance of the Plan and the centrality of it to community | The Community Plan has been a focus for Council and the reporting against the delivery on this strategic plan has been imbedded in Council's plans, annual reporting and the annual community satisfaction survey. | <p>The Community Plan is Council's strategic vision for the community and will form an important part of the induction program for the newly elected Council.</p> <p>This Health Check in particular will give newly Elected Members the most recent feedback of our community.</p> |
| Communications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use all forms of communication, including old-fashioned noticeboards and newsletters to ensure that all people, from all walks of life can connect with Council updates Close the loop when collecting data – tell us what you found out! | Council developed a <i>Consultation Policy</i> that focuses on meaningful and engaging consultation with our community, reaching out to | A communications strategy is under development to further outline Council's commitment in engaging with our community. |



A Place for People

COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.2.1.1 COMMUNITY PLAN HEALTH CHECK

KEY IMPROVEMENTS & QUICK WINS

| Key Priorities | Recommendations | What Council already delivers | What Council is working towards |
|--|--|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and encourage positive discourse about Palmerston, especially on social media, to continue to build a positive narrative. | our residents for input into Council decision making. | |
| Encourage home / community pride | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build understanding about the importance of clean and tidy streetscapes Encourage maintenance of properties (rubbish, lawns, cars on verges, weed matting) through incentives and healthy competition Clean up Palmerston events Explore storage lockers for rough sleepers so their belongings can be stored safely and neatly | Council is already working with the community on beautification projects, like the verge beautification program and long grass audits. We promote Neighbour Day and organise inclusion programs such as Brekky in the Park. | |
| Sustainable city | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable practices through modelling – reduce water dependant urban plantings and replace with drought tolerant varieties, maintain irrigation systems Collect green waste and improve recycling / re-use practices around the City | Council has already been focussing on sustainable tree planting as part of the Liveable Cities project. Recycling and waste management improvements are reviewed ongoingly to ensure sustainable and innovative solutions. | Council is currently developing a Sustainability Strategy that will focus on specific actions over the coming years. |
| Events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep outdoor drama and movie nights happening Use events to build a community that is inclusive and welcoming of all, celebrating cultural diversity | Council has been delivering programs particularly aimed at celebrating the diversity of our community, like the Multicultural festival, first Pride event in 2021, annual NAIDOC celebrations and events like Fab on Frances. | |
| Engage youth and older people actively | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue programs and variety of ways to keep youth actively involved in learning and their community | Council runs various networks and committees that focus on the diverse needs of our community. | Council has adopted the IDA Framework that will focus on the development of supplementary plans, being: |



A Place for People

COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.2.1.1 COMMUNITY PLAN HEALTH CHECK

KEY IMPROVEMENTS & QUICK WINS

| Key Priorities | Recommendations | What Council already delivers | What Council is working towards |
|----------------|-----------------|---|---|
| | | Council has an active Youth Participation Network and Seniors Advisory Committee. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.- Reconciliation action Plan.- Youth Inclusion Plan.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Families, Seniors and Children Plan. |



City of Palmerston Health Check

Community Workshop Report

May 2021



"I felt really proud of the work we did on the Community plan – we're seeing progress, seeing things happening.

It's now time to shift focus across all the plan – to think and act holistically."



Introduction

The following report summarises what democracyCo heard from the Community Plan Health Check workshop conducted with members of the Palmerston Community on the evening of the 6th May 2021.

The workshop included 13 participants who offered to come along to the session. 11 of the participants had contributed to the Community Panel process – so had deep knowledge of the Community Plan.



City of Palmerston Community Plan Health Check

The 'Big' Priorities

A coordinated plan for indigenous people that includes indigenous people in planning

- Council should lead in bringing together key players to plan to provide better facilities and services for rough sleepers in partnership with Police, NT government, Social Services, Local Businesses and Community members.
- The plan should be designed for and with Indigenous people.
- The plan should reduce harm and support people better and enable swift allocation of resources for priority issues.

Inclusivity and diversity

- Council should establish a framework for inclusivity across Palmerston
- Focus should be on vulnerable populations – disadvantaged families, elderly, people with a disability.
- The framework should involve all people being involved actively in all aspects of community life in Palmerston.

Community voice and meaningful engagement on complex issues

- Council should create a mechanism for informed community engagement on the big and complex issues facing our community. This engagement should be informed by evidence, data and our collective community experience.
- All engagement should be focussed on collective impacts methods and be strengths based.
- Stakeholders and community should work together more, with Council – to collectively address issues that matter

Youth Voice in the Chamber

- Council should actively pursue changes to the Local Government legislation to enable a Youth Alderman for Palmerston
- Council should retain and continue to deepen engagement with youth in multiple ways.

Transparency

- Progress and achievements towards the Community Plan should be visible for all. A mechanism should be created to monitor and report on Council progress.

CBD Hub

- Vibrancy should be actively pursued for the town centre / CBD district.
- Markets and events to be retained.
- Shops and businesses incentivised and encouraged to call Palmerston home
- Focus on embracing the future – ie electric car charging points

Quick Wins

Community Ownership of the Plan

- Allow the Community to formally induct the newly elected Council to the Plan – thereby ensuring Aldermen understand the importance of the Plan and the centrality of it to community

Communications

- Use all forms of communication, including old-fashioned noticeboards and newsletters to ensure that all people, from all walks of life can connect with Council updates
- Close the loop when collecting data – tell us what you found out!
- Promote and encourage positive discourse about Palmerston, especially on social media, to continue to build a positive narrative.

Encourage home / community pride

- Build understanding about the importance of clean and tidy streetscapes
- Encourage maintenance of properties (rubbish, lawns, cars on verges, weed matting) through incentives and healthy competition
- Clean up Palmerston events
- Explore storage lockers for rough sleepers so their belongings can be stored safely and neatly

Sustainable city

- Promote sustainable practices through modelling – reduce water dependant urban plantings and replace with drought tolerant varieties, maintain irrigation systems
- Collect green waste and improve recycling / re-use practices around the City

Events

- Keep outdoor drama and movie nights happening
- Use events to build a community that is inclusive and welcoming of all, celebrating cultural diversity

Engage youth and older people actively

- Continue programs and variety of ways to keep youth actively involved in learning and their community



Community Workshop

The Process

democracyCo facilitated one community workshop, in addition to three Focussed Conversations which together reflect the Health Check on the City of Palmerston Community Plan.

Participants were recruited from the democracyCo database of 66 original community members who expressed an interest in being part of the Community Planning Panel in 2018. Council also advertised the process on social media. 13 participants attended the workshop.

The process for the workshop asked the community to reflect on all 6 of the plan outcomes namely:

- Why that outcome mattered so much
- How they felt it was going by reflecting on
 - o What aspects of addressing that outcome were going well
 - o What aspects were not going so well
- The workshop then explored a range of ideas which participants generated around priority actions and initiatives. democracyCo worked with the group to theme these into 'Big' Priorities and Quick Wins.
- democracyCo also asked the group to identify their aspirations for Palmerston, and the ways in which that aspiration should be met.

During the workshop, Mayor Pascoe-Bell and Silke Maynard (Director Organisational Services) joined the workshop for 30mins to say thanks to the group for their participation.

Community Aspirations

As part of the Health Check process, the community were asked to share their aspirations for Palmerston – and reflect on what would be needed to ‘get there’.

| Aspiration | How to get there |
|---|---|
| My hope for Palmerston is for better engagement with all residents and stakeholders | To get there take bigger risks and step out of the comfort zone of being busy for the sake of being busy |
| My hope and inspiration for Palmerston is for it to be a safe, environmentally friendly, and prosperous city | This can happen by ensuring all community members are productive, accountable and respectful of each other |
| That the ethos around community planning is passed on through successive councils. That community voice is a core commitment, no matter the personalities involved, leading to a long term vision. We should have local and place based solutions to priority problems and a happy safe and inclusive place where people love to live | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive community voice in the induction of Council - Improved reporting and accountability of Council to that community voice (we can be a resource for council) - That reflective process is to include council employees and city representatives - we need to turn up the communication |
| That Palmerston becomes aspirational and inspirational as a community. Make the world sit up and notice Palmerston. Be a place to live study visit etc | Brave leaders, brave businesses, and brave residents. Be brave to change thinking towards how we work live and play. Be inclusive, even outsiders have opinions about making the place interesting |
| Palmerston to be a vibrant city, creating opportunities for all to grow share and involve community. To be imaginative and creating this place in which we belong. Ever adapting to changing environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community mindedness - Cultural mindedness - Environmental mindedness - Economic minded, not wasteful but using resources with great intentions & outcomes - Futuristic, what place we want our children to live, be and realise |
| A community with pride in its environment, living in harmony where all members are embraced and have equal opportunity | Shared economic opportunity and a common view on the hope and aspiration where all members of the community contribute |
| Mitchell is not conducive to residential living but it's ideal for proper botanical gardens and a nature park | Re-zone to make this happen and let people make it happen |

Develop a defined CBD where services, jobs and shops are all based with smaller shops and services in the suburbs

A planning system which is rational and realistic about the services and facilities which are appropriate for a city of this size. Do not permit fracturing and competing to the detriment of all (shops going broke etc)

My hope for Palmerston needs a safe supportive community where everyone is included and lives a happy and relaxed lifestyle this includes socialisation and being environmentally friendly

Communication between the whole community, safety services, council, businesses and children get everyone involved and include the schools. Establish incentives, right credits which help community members contribute to a fantastic lifestyle

I'd like to see defunct old things repurposed or refurbished

For example the boa Bowling Green at the golf course, we could take the opportunity to re establish a working RSL with an actual venue which doesn't rely on the goodwill of others. With vacant buildings we could use them better for community value.

My hope and inspiration for Palmerston is peace, safety, prosperity

Good governance, good business opportunities and no pandering to minorities at the expense of the majority. Ethics and integrity - community comes first. No political interference

Plan Outcomes

The below 6 outcomes were the focus of the Health Check

- Family and Community
- Vibrant Economy
- Cultural Diversity
- Environment and Sustainability
- Future Focus
- Governance

How is the plan going?

The following pages summarise the detailed responses participants gave to the key health check questions:

- why does this outcome matter to community?
- what's going well?
- what's not going so well?



City of Palmerston Community Plan Health Check

Family & Community

Family and community are the heart and soul of the plan.

We have families and want to feel safe where we live and have an improving quality of life.

Having a caring, supportive community leads to a sense of belonging.

What's going well / positive signs:

- The markets are going well because they are family and child oriented
- Sporting initiatives support and enable families to do positive activity together.
- Self-contained youth drop-in sport - works well because its designed in a way which works for young people
- Swell - we're really looking forward to it
- Social media is a great support for community – helps us address crime support families, children and also care for our environment / animals better

What's not going so well / worrying signs:

- There is limited recreation – more needed
- Crime and antisocial behaviour is not being addressed well. Some sections of community do not participate and are not given the opportunity to help address it
- Playspaces – for children with disabilities – inclusive spaces, there is a need to create more of these. Needs to be incorporated into the playground strategy.
- Social activities are not well advertised
- There is no assistance will disadvantaged and vulnerable families around life skills and mentor support
- Social media is a place where negative comments affect the brand of palmerston and impact on feeling of safe community for families.
- Play Spaces for all age groups

Key Plan Improvement suggested for Family and Community

Its time to focus in on the complex social problems in our community – vulnerability, inclusion and building thriving family units. Whole of life focus to support families to be stronger together and thrive – recreation, sport, mentoring, positive connections and interventions.

Vibrant Economy

Our economy is important because it helps us lead the lives we want to lead. It also recognises who we are.

Growing the business sector, in turn supports individual families through provision of jobs and investment returns

Our economy keeps the city alive.

What's going well / positive signs:

- Pop up shops give small businesses a go
- centre owners installing subsidised companies - attracts businesses and help shops not to be empty and provides jobs. But is it a real solution in the long term?
- People feel safer here so they're more likely to shop here
- it feels like the city is growing
- we survived well as a whole during COVID-19

What's not going so well / worrying signs:

- Empty CBD, oversupply of shops gateway didn't do us any favours and has impacted on the vibrancy of the CBD
- level of customer service in local businesses - many are rude when you try to shop local.
- no sustained economic growth
- lack of population size. We live in a large economy model whereas our community needs a small economy niche model
- We need things to attract tourists
- opportunity to bring associations and organisations to Palmerston Use their office space. Council could provide buildings for rent.

Key Plan Improvement suggested for Vibrant Economy

Find ways to reinvigorate and activate the CBD. More people, more going on!

Cultural Diversity

Our diversity enriches our lives – in so many ways.

It includes all types of diversity – not just cultural. Age, ability, generational, experience.

Embracing diversity (ie appreciating others) can reduce conflict and opens up different ideas and different solutions.

What's going well / positive signs:

- The markets there are lots of different stalls
- There are culturally diverse opportunities for example how many days which brings cultures together
- Youth events represent young people and involve young people
- Drag queen story time - shows youngsters that there are different people in the world
- Access to diversity for example larrakia elders - more open engagement and a more accessible and open interaction
- Free pool access has meant that more people can come who might not have been able to because of lack of money. This promotes friendship and diversity.
- The youth centre at the pool is a great facility. It has reduced the number of hungry kids on the street with nothing to do

What's not going so well / worrying signs:

- There are limited examples of employees with diverse workforces
- Some public housing areas are a real problem
- There is a lack of indigenous representation and participation in community events and consultation
- The name of this outcome needs to change to be simply diversity - age, gender, background, disability etc
- No formal youth representation on council
- Lack of cohesion in particular cultures and communities which leads to a lack of representation in our community of those cultures

Key Plan Improvement suggested for Cultural Diversity

Remove the word 'cultural' from the diversity outcome. We need to embrace diversity across the board, not simply cultural.

Focus on inclusivity and diversity in everything Council does.

Environment and sustainability

The Northern Territory environment is fundamentally different and a distinguishing feature, and living in nature and in a green shady cool city is important to community. The new council has done a wonderful job of greening up the place – and we want to see it continue.

What's going well / positive signs:

- Solar panels are great they're generating electricity and reducing prices
- seeing freshly mowed lawns - it's a pleasure to walk around it's neat and tidy. the same applies to green verges and it helps cool our town
- tree planting is helping to cool and create a micro environment. it also involves the community
- our simple recycling system is great
- there are lots of green spaces throughout the city
- the new swimming pool is accommodating everyone with relaxation, teashops and free entry
- bike paths and pavements - good work being done, more needed

What's not going so well / worrying signs:

- Green verges are not native and have high water use
- rubbish placed in recycling is being dumped and not reused or repurposed
- cars parked on verges and footpaths
- lots of hooners with loud car noise and tyre marks on roads
- little public transport and limited timetables
- waste of water - sprinkler systems in temple terrace are not maintained leading to extreme water overuse
- there's a shade deficit in all children's parks and no shade at dog parks
- we need to get rid of midges

Key Plan Improvements suggested for Environment & Sustainability

- Focus on beautification and neighbourhood pride (clean and tidy)
- Improve recycling, reduction of waste and reuse initiatives
- Plant drought tolerant natives that keep the city green all year round and reduce water
- Maintain irrigation systems to support sensitive water use

Future Focus

We need to have an eye on this the whole time – if we lose sight of this we will go nowhere.

Our future is not necessarily about young people, older folks are moving to Palmerston – multigenerational future.

It's important to keep progressing with new housing and schools to attract a variety of people.

“I want to live here and I want to keep my grandchildren here”

What's going well / positive signs:

- Decrease population means that we need to increase preparedness for changes and challenges into the future
- Good progress on future sustainability with lights and retirement villages
- Palmerston is increasingly becoming inspiring place to be and affordable. Once you are here you find out. Attracts families and older folks
- Covid lead to improvements with more people relocating from the south
- Recycling initiatives

What's not going so well / worrying signs:

- How is Palmerston Council informing and shaping Territory legislation on key social issues
- Recycling grey water in the lakes - there is a perception that there's not much going on in terms of recycling water, waste and rubbish in an eco-friendly and sustainable way
- Electric car hubs, recharge points – we need to get amongst this, and could lead the way in adoption / encouragement of this
- Innovation is long term and needs a long term vision -but innovation is also about how we are learning from other cities in similar environments
 - Smart cities – we need to do more. We don't know enough in the community about this
- Infrastructure planning takes a long time frame. If we want electric cars next year we should started planning for it already... we need to have a long term view for infrastructure – 10-15 years ahead.
 - Its not too late to start. Difficulty for council – they need to think beyond their tenure. Previous councils haven't had this foresight.

Key Plan Improvements suggested for Future Focus

Potential Measures:

- Council to play a pivotal role in the long term planning of the Palmerston city and community to ensure plans suit community aspirations
- Leading the way in smart city / technology adoption
- Building / Asset creation for the future, not just for the 'now'

Governance

Trust and confidence is vital. So too is a Council that works for and with its community, for now and into the future. It's important to make plans and stick to them – we see our Council doing that.

What's going well / positive signs:

- Previous council was self interested and made selfish decisions with disastrous consequences and lots of money wasted. The current council have plans and stick to them. They have made so many improvements including lighting parks and community consultation etc
- Leadership is important – Our Mayor is respected and valued because she chooses to be a leader
- It is clear that the council value process – and making decisions drawing on evidence.
- Community consultation is going well. There wasn't any prior to this council and any community input was ignored. However engagement could be improved
- Governance – its clear they stick to the plan, we need to make sure that the new Council also sticks to the plan
- the plan has been actioned - Streetlighting went ahead, use of the library space and Goyder Square. We were listened to in regards to parking metres
- consultations run by the council - new council new mayor in new focus
- council are more accessible and open to hearing from the public

What's not going so well / worrying signs:

- we are concerned that politics may creep in via new elected members. Council should not be politically aligned, they should serve the needs of the residents not political parties
- Want to see some more reporting on the plan – how are we doing, how is it tracking – dashboard. Clever ways to share the data – hover on pictures on the website and some pop-ups appear.
- No youth in decision making roles
- Need to ensure that council continues to engage the community – would love to see more community involved
- IT & communication is not great especially for those that don't have computers
- there's not a lot of newsletters on notice boards which help us understand what's happening in council
- There is little or no community transport for disabled and elderly
- Want to see a youth alderman on Council – specific youth voice, Bylaw change.
 - Need to see better representation of young people in council – could the youth committee report to Council instead of council staff
 - Civics and the importance of young people involved in decision making
 - Need to see more of young people / older people determining / decision making
 - Youth action plan expires this year – how will this be created for the next 3 years? I want to be involved.
- We know that new people coming into a role want to make their mark, don't understand history and don't understand how the Plan was developed
 - Need to educate the new Council – to bring them on board, allow them to own the plan as well.
 - Presentation / delegation from community to Council to explain the Plan – and what it means to us – there has been a particular environment here which has enabled this to occur – and we need to help new people to understand this.

Key Plan Improvements suggested for Governance

- Reporting on the plan to be transparent and regular – a dashboard
- Community desire to 'induct' the new Council to the Community Plan
– to ensure community ownership is understood
- Improve engagement and keep involving community in decision making
- Youth Alderman – lead a legislative change



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COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| AGENDA ITEM: | 13.2.2 |
| REPORT TITLE: | Rollover of Capital Works |
| MEETING DATE: | Tuesday 3 August 2021 |
| AUTHOR: | Director Organisational Services, Silke Maynard |
| APPROVER: | Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli |

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council approval to transfer the capital rollovers, and the unexpended grants from the 2020-21 financial year into Reserves, and then transfer out of reserves in the 2021-22 financial year.

KEY MESSAGES

- As part of the year end process, staff have reviewed the capital expenditure and projects to identify works that require roll over into the new financial year.
- Council had budgeted \$13.837m in capital work in 2020-21 with some major projects scheduled to be delivered within the 2021 dry season.
- The total amount of projects recommended to be continued and finalised in 2021-22 is \$7,663,022.27.
- Necessary reserve and budget transfers are recommended to Council based on the funding of the projects.
- A breakdown of the programs, including funding requirements and target completion dates is included within this Report.
- All recommended movements will be included in the First Budget Review 2021-22.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Rollover of Capital Works be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the capital works rollover movements for 30 June 2021 of:
 - \$4,589,919.88 transferred to Unexpended Capital Works Reserve.
 - \$698,501.39 recognised as Unexpended Grants.
3. THAT Council adopts the capital works rollover movements and associated expenditure as of 1 July 2021 of:
 - \$4,589,919.88 transferred from Unexpended Capital Works Reserve.
 - \$698,501.39 recognised as Capital Income.
4. THAT all capital works rollover movements will be included in the First Budget Review 2021-22.

BACKGROUND

Council started the 2020-21 financial year with a capital works program planned to deliver to the value of \$6,139m. Progressively through the year Council gained funding allowing for capital works projects to be brought forward which resulted in a final revised capital works budget of \$13,837m for the 2020-21 financial year.

As part of the yearend process, staff have reviewed capital expenditure and projects to identify works that will need to be rolled over into the 2021-22 financial year to allow for completion of works on our community infrastructure.

Beyond this movement into the financially restricted reserves, a supplementary report will be submitted to Council in conjunction with the Annual Report 2020-21 to allocate the remaining end of year movements for Council's other cash backed Reserves as the financial statements are finalised.

DISCUSSION

The analysis of the capital works expenditures in 2020-21 identified 46% of the revised budget were spent. The review focussed on rolling over the capital budgets that are linked to projects, where:

- Construction has already commenced,
- Works have been issued to contractors, or
- There is significant community value in allowing the budget to be spent in the following year.

The Annual Financial Statements are currently being prepared and based on reconciliations undertaken it is recommended to carry over budgets to facilitate the completion of the 2020-21 capital works program in 2021-22.

With a significant amount of capital projects co-funded by other levels of government, it is also recommended to transfer unexpended grants into the reserve at 30 June 2020 and transfer out in 2021-22 to facilitate a timely project schedule.

Dependent on the funding, projects will need to be recognised in the annual financial statements either as unexpended capital works (Council's own contribution to the project), as unexpended Grants (either in Reserves or as a liability) or if grants funds have not been received yet as grant and expenditure in the 2021-22 Budget.

All the below listed projects, will be finalised within the 2021-22 financial year, with timelines given indicatively in the table.

| Project | Target Completion Date | Proposed Rollover (\$) | Unexpended Capital Works (\$) | Unexpended Grants (\$) | Grant income and expenditure to be added to 2021-22 Budget (\$) |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Replacement of Play Equipment | October 2021 | 246,424.00 | 246,424.00 | | |
| Annual Road Reseal Program | October 2021 | 933,495.00 | 603,495.00 | | 330,000.00 |
| All Ability Access Improvements | Completed July 2021 | 22,007.88 | 22,007.88 | | |

| Project | Target Completion Date | Proposed Rollover (\$) | Unexpended Capital Works (\$) | Unexpended Grants (\$) | Grant income and expenditure to be added to 2021-22 Budget (\$) |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Durack Community Centre Building Works | September 2021 | 19,271.46 | 19,271.46 | | |
| Fleet Replacements | December 2021 | 97,499.00 | 97,499.00 | | |
| Library Building Works | December 2021 | 42,230.00 | 42,230.00 | | |
| Irrigation Refurbishment | October 2021 | 124,920.00 | 124,920.00 | | |
| Marlow Lagoon Renewal of Pathways | August 2021 | 41,712.00 | 41,712.00 | | |
| Dog Pound Renewal | December 2021 | 341,654.92 | 168,030.00 | 86,124.92 | 87,500.00 |
| Replacement of Softfall | October 2021 | 52,500.00 | 52,500.00 | | |
| New Pathways | August 2021 | 64,545.00 | 64,545.00 | | |
| Road Traffic Calming and Pedestrian safety Improvements | July 2021 | 23,496.00 | 23,496.00 | | |
| Sustainability Program (Solar Panels and LED Civic car park) | November 2021 | 412,452.51 | 412,452.51 | | |
| Civic Centre Building Works | August 2021 | 39,180.00 | 39,180.00 | | |
| Recreation Centre Building Works | August 2021 | 106,182.11 | 106,182.11 | | |
| Temple Terrace Liveable Cities Project | July 2021 | 55,190.00 | 55,190.00 | | |
| Public Art | January 2022 | 113,800.00 | 113,800.00 | | |
| LED Lighting at Recreation Centre and Library | January 2022 | 127,734.00 | 119,472.00 | 8,262.00 | |
| Library Modernisation Plan | January 2022 | 94,219.47 | 50,000.00 | 44,219.47 | |

| Project | Target Completion Date | Proposed Rollover (\$) | Unexpended Capital Works (\$) | Unexpended Grants (\$) | Grant income and expenditure to be added to 2021-22 Budget (\$) |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Mitchell Creek Escarpment Feasibility Study | June 2022 | 149,166.00 | 50,000.00 | 99,166.00 | |
| Road Reconstruction Works | October 2021 | 331,390.00 | 180,000.00 | 73,595.00 | 77,795.00 |
| Library Recording Studio | November 2021 | 206,761.01 | 206,761.01 | | |
| Gray Community Hall Refurbishment | December 2021 | 1,560,251.91 | 250,751.91 | | 1,309,500.00 |
| Landscaping & Shade Aquatic Centre carpark | October 2021 | 120,000.00 | | 31,694.00 | 88,306.00 |
| Joan Fejo Accessible Play Equipment | September 2021 | 6,500.00 | | | 6,500.00 |
| Smart Technology Program (FirbeSense) | November 2021 | 1,500,000.00 | 1,500,000.00 | | |
| Marlow Lagoon Exeloo | December 2021 | 184,470.00 | | 71,970.00 | 112,500.00 |
| Joan Fejo Exeloo | December 2021 | 185,470.00 | | 72,970.00 | 112,500.00 |
| Joan Fejo Shade | August 2021 | 110,500.00 | | 35,500.00 | 75,000.00 |
| Dog Park Zuccoli | November 2021 | 350,000.00 | | 175,000.00 | 175,000.00 |
| TOTAL (\$) | | 7,663,022.27 | 4,589,919.88 | 698,501.39 | 2,374,601.00 |

It is therefore recommended that \$4,589,919.88 be transferred to the Unexpended Capital Works Reserve for 2020-21 and drawn down upon in 2021-22 financial year. Further, \$698,501.39 are to be recognised as unexpended grants either in financial reserves or as liabilities. The finalised movements for the financial reserves for grants will be presented to Council as past of all other reserve movements once the financial statements are finalised.

All relevant transactions are recommended to be included in the first Budget Review for the 2021-22 budget ensuring transparency.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

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

- Executive Leadership Team
- Senior Leadership Team

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

All reserve movements require a decision of Council as per Council Policy *FIN19 – Reserves*.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The rolling over of incomplete capital works to the 2021-22 financial year, will not impact the bottom line, as all projects have been funded in this financial year. The budget and resource movements are described in the body of this Report.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

- 1 Fails to effectively regain the trust from all stakeholders

Context: Council needs to be credible and trusted by those within and external to the Council.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no environment sustainability implications for this Report.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| AGENDA ITEM: | 13.2.3 |
| REPORT TITLE: | Animal Management By-Laws Review Update - July 2021 |
| MEETING DATE: | Tuesday 3 August 2021 |
| AUTHOR: | Regulatory Services Manager, Jocelyn Cull |
| APPROVER: | Director Lifestyle and Community, Amelia Vellar |

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval for the Chief Executive Officer to finalise drafting instructions using the guiding principles informed by community consultation for the update of the *Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws*.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Council's current Animal Management By-laws were enacted in 1999 and have had no significant content change since their enactment.
- Council has undertaken a process of community consultation where the community was asked their opinions on the various elements of the Palmerston Animal Management By-laws review.
- The consultation ran from Tuesday 9 March 2021 to Saturday 8 May 2021 with information provided on the City of Palmerston website, social media posts, a discussion paper and accompanying online and hard copy survey.
- City of Palmerston staff met with community members at various locations within the municipality over the extended access period of 60 days consultation.
- City of Palmerston staff members were also available to talk with individual community members and groups such as the Palmerston Animal Management Advisory Committee and dog park users.
- Feedback to the 27 questions was received from 260 people and one special interest organisation.
- 205 "free text" responses were received.
- The majority of feedback was received from residents living in Roseberry, Durack, Bakewell, and Woodroffe.
- The highest level of response was received 35-44-year old's (26.95%).
- Council held a workshop to analyse the extensive feedback.
- The animal management areas identified as significant in the consultation process were assessed and categorised as to where they would be best placed to be adequately regulated and enforced which included via the creation of new by-laws, through other existing legislation or via Council policy.
- The findings from the community consultation have informed Council's approach to the drafting instructions including guiding principles for the Office of the Parliamentary Council.
- Drafting instructions for the update of the *Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws* will be developed by Council staff with external legal support.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Animal Management By-Laws Review Update - July 2021 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council in accordance with section 40(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* delegates power to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise drafting instructions for changes to the *Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws* as detailed in the report entitled Animal Management By-Laws Review update.

BACKGROUND

At the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 November 2020, Council endorsed the following recommendations:

Animal Management By-Laws Update and Public Consultation Discussion Paper

1. THAT the report entitled *Animal Management By-Laws Update and Public Consultation Discussion Paper* be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses a review of the *Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws 1999* to ensure that they are modern and reflective of the community's needs, utilising the process outlined in the report entitled *Animal Management By-Laws Update and Public Consultation Discussion Paper*.
3. THAT a Council workshop be held in early February 2021 regarding the discussion paper for community consultation regarding the animal management by-laws.
4. THAT a report be presented on the outcomes of the community consultation key findings and recommendations in regard to animal management by-law requirements to Council at the Second Ordinary Meeting in May 2021.

CARRIED 9/1386 - 17/11/2020

At the 1st Ordinary Council Meeting of 2 March 2021, Council endorsed the following recommendations:

Animal Management By-Laws Review Discussion Paper and Survey Questions

1. THAT the report entitled *Animal Management By-Laws Review Discussion Paper and Survey Questions* be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the *Animal Management By-Laws Review Discussion Paper and accompanying survey questions* for the purpose of Community Consultation for a sixty-day period, as detailed within Report entitled *Animal Management By-Laws Review Discussion Paper and Survey Questions*, including minor amendments to clarify issues relating to dangerous dogs and nuisance animals.

3. THAT a Report on the outcomes of Community Consultation regarding the Animal Management By-Laws Review Discussion Paper and survey questions be presented to Council following conclusion of the consultation period at the Second Ordinary Meeting in May 2021.

4. THAT the Report and Council Decisions relating to Report entitled Animal Management By-Laws Review Discussion Paper and Survey Questions be moved to the Open Minutes at the Council meeting of 2 March 2021.

CARRIED 9/1525 - 02/03/2021

At the 2nd Ordinary Council meeting of 18 May 2021, Council endorsed the following recommendations:

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation Update

1. THAT Report entitled Animal Management By-Laws Consultation Update be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approves that a workshop be held with Elected Members to review the Community Consultation regarding the Animal Management By-Laws findings.
3. THAT a further Report on the outcomes of Community Consultation regarding the Animal Management By-Laws including recommendations be presented to Council, following the Elected Members workshop, by the 1st Ordinary Council Meeting of July 2021.

CARRIED 9/1640 - 18/05/2021

Council's current animal management by-laws were enacted in 1999 and have had no significant change since their enactment. While they have served their purpose, they are no longer reflective of the community's needs or modern legislative drafting.

Council has identified an update of the current Animal Management By-laws to meet community expectations as a priority action. In order to do this, consulting with community to understand people's views, opinions and appetite for change was essential.

The discussion paper, as presented at **Attachment 13.2.3.1**, was a key component of community engagement and was designed as a communication tool to inform the community about Council's current and proposed animal management protocols and prompt community feedback.

The discussion paper included a series of feedback prompts throughout which the public could answer by taking an online or hard copy survey which had more detailed questions than the discussion paper, as presented at **Attachment 13.2.3.2**.

After endorsement by Council, the Discussion Paper and accompanying survey were officially launched on Tuesday 9 March 2021 for community consultation which closed on Saturday 8 May 2021.

Given the sensitive nature of the subject matter and importance of broad consultation, an extensive consultation was undertaken over an extended period increasing the access period from 21 days up to 60 days.

A key point of difference with this review is the additional step of preliminary community consultation in the by-law's development process. It is understood that this is the first time such an approach has been used in this jurisdiction, which Council believes will support an inclusive and transparent process.

On conclusion of consultation, Council officers collated and analysed the consultation data and investigated follow up areas.

The analysed feedback and resulting guiding principles formulated from the community consultation will inform the development of drafting instructions that will be submitted to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

DISCUSSION

Consultation Approach

The consultation aim was to find out the community's opinions on Animal Management By-law review areas.

The consultation ran from Tuesday 9 March 2021 to Saturday 8 May 2021 with information provided on the City of Palmerston website, the Animal Management By-Laws Review Discussion Paper and accompanying survey (available online and in hard copy) and social media posts on the City of Palmerston Facebook page.

The consultation also targeted identified groups such as the Palmerston Animal Management Advisory Committee and Dog Park users.



Image 1: Council officers at a 'pop up' stand to discuss the consultation at Marlow Lagoon dog park.

Consultation Goals and Objectives

The consultation goal was to understand what the community thinks of potential animal management by-law review areas, and the community's priorities in this area.

The objectives of this consultation were to:

- gauge the level of community support for the animal management by-laws review and update;
- understand community priorities for potential categories of reform;
- help Council formulate general principles for drafting instructions; and
- continue to demonstrate Council's commitment to community engagement.

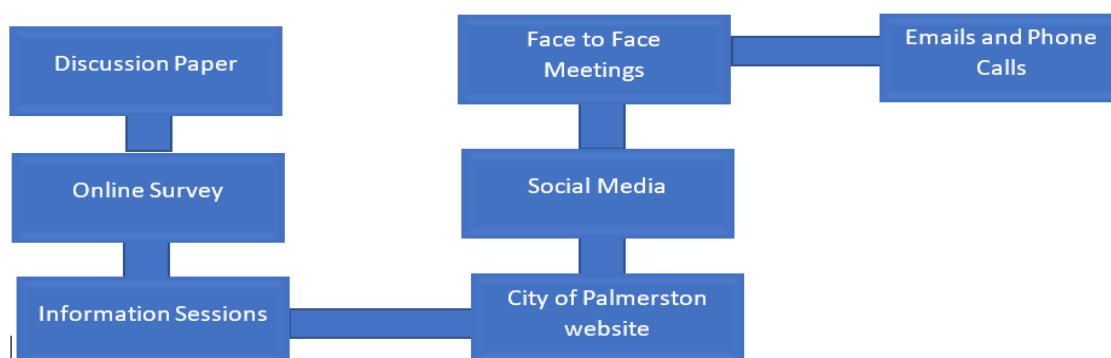
Methodology

The approach for the animal management by-laws review focused on:

- targeting stakeholders through existing channels, groups and organisations;
- providing general information to all stakeholders;
- providing information sessions at various locations to inform community members about the review and to invite questions and feedback;
- meeting with key stakeholders with a high level of interest in the review;
- promoting the consultation via media releases, display signage, online information, the discussion paper and staff presence at various venues and events; and
- encouraging stakeholders to complete an online survey (or hardcopy preference).

Tools and Tactics

The consultation was open for sixty days from Tuesday 9 March 2021 to Saturday 8 May 2021. The tools and tactics included:



Feedback Responses

Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback via online survey, hard copy survey, email, phone call, in person at the information sessions or at a face-to-face meeting. People were also provided with information via the City of Palmerston Facebook page. Most feedback was via the online and hard copy survey.

The main tool of collecting feedback as part of this consultation was the survey. People were directed to provide feedback online through Facebook posts linked directly to the survey and filling out hard copy surveys at the community information sessions.

A total of 260 people completed the survey. 221 surveys were completed on-line and 39 were submitted to Council in hard copy format. A total of 94.14% of respondents live in Palmerston, 5.86% live in the rural area or northern suburbs.

A total of 74.32% of survey respondents were rate payers and 85.02% identified themselves as pet owners.

The highest number of age group response for survey participants included 35-44 (26.95%), 25-34 (23.44%), 45-54 (16.41%) and 55-64 (16.02%).

Feedback Summary

Community feedback indicated strong support of the following principles / measures:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Dog Attacks and Menaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a range of new penalties for dog attacks and menaces. |
| Dangerous Dog Declaration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability for a dangerous dog declaration and associated control measures. |
| Cat Registration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of cat registration. |
| Licensing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licences for more than two dogs / cats dependant on block size and dwelling type; licences must be re-issued if living arrangements change and extension of licensing requirements to cats. |
| Microchipping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory microchipping for dogs and cats prior to registration. |
| Animals at Large | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of animals at large offences to include cats. |
| Animal Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory animal education attendance for nuisance barking. |

Community feedback indicated less support for the following principles / measures:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Resourcing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to pay additional rates to cover the expansion of animal management services to include cats, birds and poultry. |
| Nuisance Barking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancelled registration for nuisance barking. |
| Dog Attacks and Menaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordering the owner to remove their dog to a different jurisdiction; euthanising the dog. |
| Nuisance Animals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs destroying property; cats destroying property / fauna; offensive odour from dogs and cats defecating; offensive odour from cats spraying; cat fighting, and vermin associated with birds / poultry. |

Guiding Principles

Council's guiding principles will inform the drafting instructions issued to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

The principles may be high level statements which encompass community expectations in the areas of responsible pet ownership, community safety and enjoyment of local amenities and appropriate environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Guiding principles are important as they lay the foundations and provide the authority for the basis of by-law amendments. They are broad, community-based 'need statements' which encompass a variety of related issues to be addressed. They are also fundamental for Council policy development and implementation at operational level.

Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet staff from the Local Government division have indicated to Council the importance of establishing sound guiding principles and policy positions in order to effectively inform the drafting process for by-law revisions. Council's consideration in this area is the next step following community consultation.

In terms of a starting premise, the guiding principles are simply a reiteration of the community's feedback such as:

Council supports the:

- introduction of a range of new penalties for dog attacks and menaces.
- ability for a dangerous dog declaration and related control measures to be put in place.
- introduction of cat registration and licencing and associated conditions.
- compulsory microchipping for dogs and cats prior to registration.
- extension of animals at large offences to include cats.
- ability for Council to have the power to order the installation of a barking monitoring device.
- compulsory animal education attendance for nuisance barking.

Specific reference can be made to City of Palmerston's Community Plan and the vision for Palmerston as 'A Place for People'. The general principles reflect the core outcomes of Palmerston being a safe and family friendly community and an environmentally friendly, liveable city that promotes renewable practices and sustainability.

The proposed guiding principles reflect community feedback gathered from the extended 60-day community consultation process, a summary of which is presented at **Attachment 13.2.3.3**.

Administrative Changes

In addition to the proposed changes to the animal management by-laws based on guiding principles developed through community consultation, Council will look to incorporate necessary by-law administrative changes. This step will ensure that model and contemporary by-law standards are met which will allow for effective application of regulatory powers,

Council will be making the following changes to the current by-laws:

- classification of by-law offences as strict liability offences;
- by-law penalties to be aligned with the Penalty Units Act 2009 (NT);
- 'tightening' of the nuisance barking definition; and
- other administrative changes.

Policy Development

Community consultation clearly indicates changes to community expectations and requirements for animal management within the municipality. As a Council priority area, by-laws will be updated, the process of which can take 18-24 months for full implementation.

The revised animal management by-laws will necessitate the update of Council's animal management policy framework, including preparation of new and revised policies:

- concurrently where they are consistent with existing by-laws; or
- after the gazettal of the new by-laws where these policies are dependent on the revised animal management by-laws.

Animal education initiatives will be developed to support the implementation of the animal management policy framework in both the short and longer term.

A schedule to assist in the planning and development of animal education initiatives is currently being prepared by the Regulatory Services team.

Fees and Charges

Changes to animal management regulatory activities, particularly those that lead to an expansion of services, has the potential to increase operating costs. Impact in this area is yet to be understood and further ongoing analysis will be required following confirmation of service changes.

Increased animal management regulatory costs may however be partially off-set by anticipated increases in regulatory services fees and charges as well as increases in applicable penalty rates.

Council fees and charges are reviewed on an annual basis which will allow time in which to identify, consult and implement any increased future service costs.

Next Steps

Following endorsement of this report, Council staff with external legal support will commence the drafting instruction process and liaise with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel and Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet.

Policy development and education initiatives will be developed throughout the anticipated 18-24-month timeline for implementation of the new animal management by-laws.

Given the length of time to complete a by-law review, Council will receive progress updates to keep Elected Members informed.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

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

- Regulatory Services Lead
- Regulatory Services Senior Ranger

Council staff consulted with the following external parties in the preparation of this report:

- Solomon Gaturu, Manager Legislation and Policy, Local Government and Regional Development, Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet
- Angela O'Donnell, Senior Policy Advisor, Government Relations and External Affairs, City of Darwin
- Nicole Davenport, Regulatory Services Program Leader, Litchfield Council
- Danny Wauchope, Partner, JKW Law
- Teresa Hall, Partner, Ward Keller

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report however when Animal Management By-Laws are formalised, new Council policies and procedures will need to be created to reflect the new by-laws and direct Council on animal management education, regulation and compliance. Existing operational policies and animal education initiatives will be continuously improved and strengthened.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Subject to the extent and scope of adoption of revised by-laws and associated regulatory policies and procedures, there may be an impact on council resourcing and the associated budget implications. This may be somewhat off-set by increased registrations but there is still likely to be a significant short-fall in funding. Any need for budget adjustments will be presented to Council for approval.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Details the risk any decision made from this report may relate to or explain why there is no risk. What legal information has been sourced to assist with a decision to be made from this report.

This report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

1 Fails to effectively regain the trust from all stakeholders

Context: Council needs to be credible and trusted by those within and external to the Council.

The timeframe from preliminary community consultation through to the forwarding of drafting instructions and ultimate enactment of by-laws can be extensive. This may result in community frustration, scepticism, and mistrust of the legitimacy of the activity. Extensive timeframes can be mitigated somewhat by the utilisation of the model by-laws for content and structure, particularly so given the level of familiarity that the Office of Parliamentary Counsel has with that body of work.

There are diverse and potentially conflicting views from the community in relation to the discussion paper. This may result in unclear direction or means by which to proceed in reference to animal management areas. This potential can be alleviated by effective engagement through clear and effective communications outlining key areas and possible implications, and also any limitations on the ambit of the proposed by-laws to manage community expectations.

There is also a risk that despite community consultation any proposed changes from Council may not meet Parliamentary Councils standards and they may not support Council's proposed by-law changes.

The development of by-laws and investigation of key risk areas is a specialist area. As such, legal expertise will be procured as is needed.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Subject to the extent of the revised by-laws, there may be positive environmental sustainability implications through enhanced preservation of fauna in the local area particularly in relation to cats.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. CoP Animal By Laws Discussion Paper March 2021 [13.2.3.1 - 16 pages]
2. Animal Management By- Laws Consultation -Survey [13.2.3.2 - 11 pages]
3. Animal Management By-Laws Review Areas - Community Consultation Findings [13.2.3.3 - 3 pages]

CITY OF PALMERSTON

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT BY-LAWS REVIEW

DISCUSSION PAPER



This Discussion Paper includes a series of feedback prompts throughout which you can answer by taking the online survey. Scan this QR code using your phone camera.

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1. INTRODUCTION

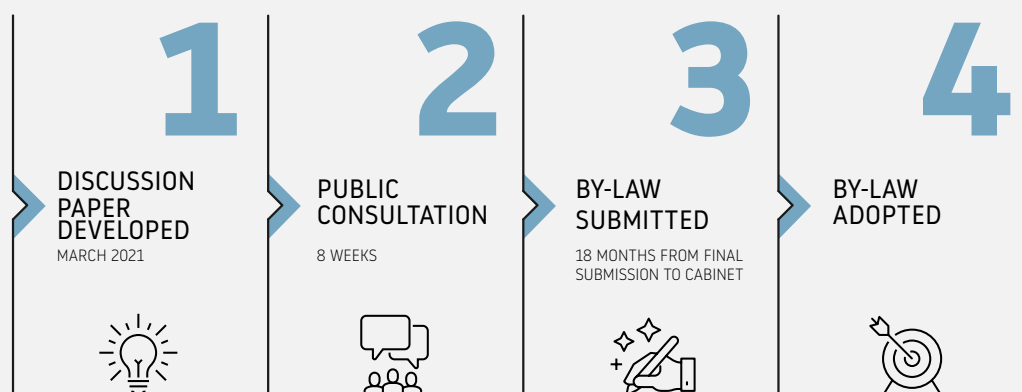
City of Palmerston is committed to providing quality animal management services to our community. A set of by-laws govern the way we manage animals in our municipality and a review is needed to improve our service delivery and meet the changing needs of the Palmerston community.

Council's current animal management by-laws were enacted in 1999 and have had no significant change since their enactment. While they have served their purpose, they are no longer reflective of the community's needs or modern legislative drafting.

Council has identified an update of the current animal management by-laws to meet community expectations as a priority action. In order to do this, there is a process we need to follow, including consulting with the community to understand people's views, opinions and appetite for change.

Developing this Discussion Paper is a key component of community engagement and has been designed as a communication tool to gauge feedback from the community about Council's current and proposed animal management practices.

This Discussion Paper includes a series of feedback prompts throughout which you can answer by taking our [online survey](#). To access the survey or for more information on how you can provide feedback on Council's Animal Management By-Laws, visit palmerston.nt.gov.au. A hard copy survey can also be mailed out to you upon request by emailing palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au.



2. BACKGROUND

The City of Palmerston 2020 Community Survey found animal management is considered a key service provision by our community.

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Council's animal management capabilities continue to improve with the introduction of service initiatives including after hour animal patrols, the employment of an Animal Education Officer and the introduction of several proactive, community-based programs.

In 2019-20, Council's educational events included responsible pet ownership, understanding animal behaviour, registration incentives and microchip awareness. These events received positive feedback from the community.

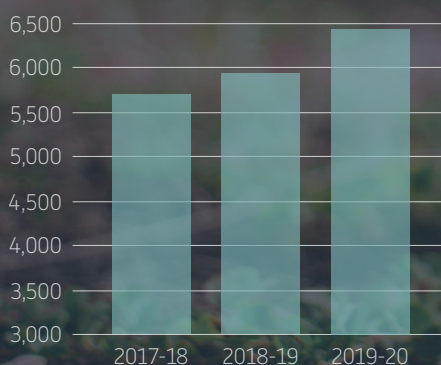
Animal management has scope to further improve, particularly given increasing levels of pet ownership in the municipality. In 2019-20, 6429 dogs were registered in Palmerston with a number of additional unregistered dogs identified in the community. This compares to 5931 dogs registered in 2018-19 and 5696 dogs registered

in 2017-18. City of Palmerston's population is expected to increase by 1.2 per cent annually and we anticipate dog ownership and registration will also subsequently continue to grow.

Increased dog ownership has seen an increase in animal management concerns by the community, including an increase in reports of dogs at large, barking complaints and dog attacks / menaces. Council has also received complaints regarding cats, birds and poultry, including noise complaints (roosters and birds), damaging local fauna (cats), excessive pet ownership and associated nuisance smell complaints.

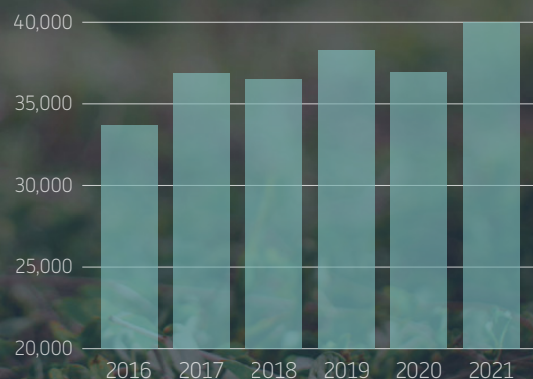
We need to review and update our by-laws to continue delivering effective animal management to protect public health, safety and amenity in the City of Palmerston.

DOG REGISTRATIONS



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POPULATION GROWTH



2.1 By-Laws

A municipal by-law is a piece of legislation which Councils use to respond to issues and community needs within their respective municipalities.

City of Palmerston, as with all municipal councils within the Northern Territory, derives its power to pass by-laws from the Local Government Act 2008 (NT). By-laws must comply with the principles set out in section 189 of that Act and, as a matter of law, can only be made within the by-law making power provided for in the Act.

The City of Palmerston has enacted by-laws in policy areas such as public places, signs, hoardings and animal management.

The development of new Animal Management By-Laws must follow a number of key steps which is mandated by legislation.

The high-level steps in making a by-law are as follows:

1. Council undertakes consultation on the by-law with key stakeholders.
2. Council works with the Office of Parliamentary Council to draft the by-law.
3. The by-law is signed by the authorised person.
4. The by-law is forwarded to the responsible Minister for approval and signing of the Gazette notice.
5. The signed notice is published in the Northern Territory Government Gazette.
6. The by-law is tabled in the Legislative Assembly within three sitting days after the by-laws have been notified in the Gazette.
7. The by-law comes into effect.

The full process of by-law preparation and enactment can take quite some time; around 18-24 months from initial and ongoing consultation, drafting, publication and enactment.

Council is committed to working in partnership with the community to make this process as efficient as possible.

2.2 Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws

The Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws have controlled and regulated animals within the municipality since they were first enacted in 1999. While reasonably fit for purpose, the by-laws face a number of challenges including issues such as:

- They do not address animal management issues relating to cats, birds, poultry or other animals,

- They do not allow for the declaration of dangerous dogs after an identified and established dog attack or dog menace; and
- Existing infringements may not be an adequate deterrent as penalties have not increased in more than 20 years and are no longer comparable to other jurisdictions. The by-laws do not adopt the penalty unit regime established under the Penalty Units Act 2009 (NT) which allows for reasonable inflation and to remain consistent with one another.

The Palmerston (Animal Management) By-Laws have existed with only minor amendments since they were enacted. Good governance suggests that legislation, including by-laws, should be regularly reviewed in order to remain relevant to evolving community standards and expectations.

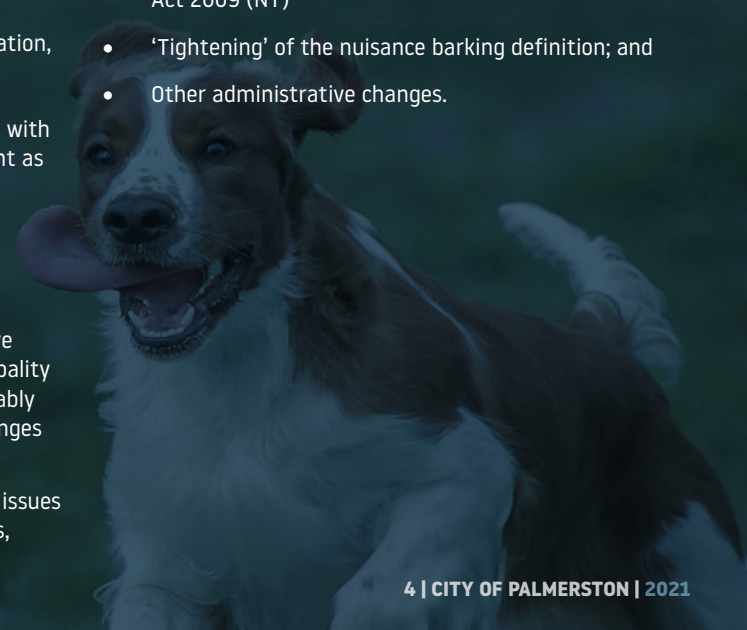
A review will ensure that by-laws remain current, are fit for purpose and remain consistent with similar jurisdictions and developments in the law.

Council will work with and listen to community concerns to address animal management issues and challenges as we start the process of updating our by-laws.

2.3 By-Law Changes

To reach model and contemporary by-law standards which will allow for effective application of regulatory powers, Council will be making the following changes to the current by-laws:

- Classification of by-law offences as strict liability offences,
- By-law penalties to be aligned with the Penalty Units Act 2009 (NT)
- 'Tightening' of the nuisance barking definition; and
- Other administrative changes.



3. COUNCIL RESOURCING

Council services provided for the community are predominately funded by rates. Rates are Council's main source of income and are used to provide essential infrastructure and services. This income is also used to improve services and for the provision of facilities, programs, activities and capital works.

Animal management is considered a key service provision by our community. While dog registration fees generate some funding for this area, animal management is largely supported by rates. Animal management is therefore a subsidised service as not all rate payers are pet owners. Council subsidises this service for the benefit of the wider community. Effective animal management enhances local amenity which creates a safe and enjoyable place to live.

Any change to the animal management by-laws will impact the way Council's regulatory services provisions work. If the by-laws are expanded to cover other animal categories or existing regulations are changed it will more than likely require more regulatory control and enforcement which will cost Council more money. In this sense, additional resources may result in additional costs. We must therefore carefully consider changes to the by-laws especially during community consultation so you can be fully informed about the financial impact on Council services and resourcing.

4. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW AREAS

The following sections detail the animal management areas that are subject to review. The information is included to provide details about concerns within the topic area and proposed improvements.

4.1 Dog Barking

Many people keep animals for companionship however noisy animals may greatly reduce the quality of life for neighbours and increase neighbourhood tensions. In Australia, each state or territory has its own laws on how domestic animals are to behave and be controlled by their owners. These laws extend to acceptable levels of noise created by animals so they do not unreasonably interfere with the peace, comfort or enjoyment of a person in their home or property.

Excess dog barking is a complex issue. People have different work / rest requirements (i.e. nine to five day jobs verses night time shift work) as well as varying tolerance levels for neighbourhood noise. The trend towards smaller residential block sizes and dwellings may also exacerbate the issue of barking dogs with alleged offenders in closer ear-shot to their neighbours. It may also be the case that smaller block sizes and dwellings are not suitable for multiple animals.

While regulations can be tightened and improved, there is no 'one size fits all' for barking complaints which continues to be a challenging area for local authorities Australia-wide.



CURRENT SITUATION

Dog barking complaints within the City of Palmerston have increased. 221 dog barking complaints were received by Council in 2020. This increased from 165 complaints in 2019 and 160 in 2018.

Dog owners can be fined for noise amounting to nuisance, however it can be quite challenging to substantiate a case of nuisance barking through the use of barking diaries and ranger patrols. Currently Council does not have the ability to order the installation of a barking monitor device on the relevant animal or at the owner's property to investigate the complaint. There are also no additional measures Council can implement that could better help resolve the core issue.



PROPOSED CHANGES

Council could have the power to order the fitting or installation of a barking monitor to an animal or at a property to effectively monitor nuisance barking complaints. Council could also implement additional measures to support owners dealing with excessive barking including animal education sessions and further penalties for consistent barking issues including amended registration conditions, cancelled registration and seizure of the offending animal.



QUESTIONS

Do you agree with Council having the ability to implement additional enforcement measures for nuisance barking listed below?

- Council should have power to order the installation of a barking monitoring device
- The number of dogs allowed to be kept on a property / dwelling should correlate to the lot size
- Amended registration conditions for nuisance barking
- Cancelled registration for nuisance barking
- Compulsory animal education attendance for nuisance barking.

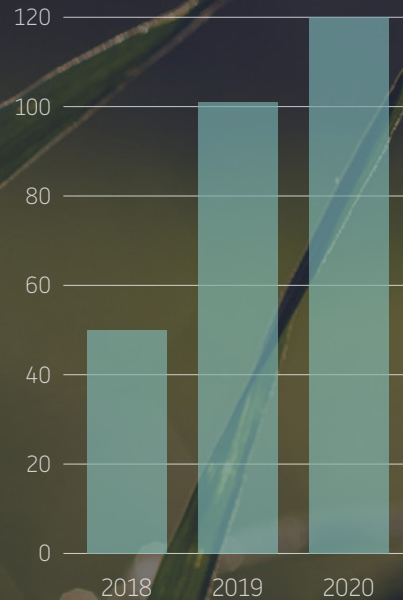
4.2 Dog Attacks / Menaces

It is the responsibility of pet owners to ensure their dog does not bite or act aggressively towards other people or animals. Dog attacks can be frightening for all involved (including owners) and may result in serious injury to people and can be fatal for animals.

Within the City of Palmerston, there were 120 dog attack complaints received in 2020. This was an increase from 101 complaints received in 2019 and 50 in 2018.

Different jurisdictions in Australia apply various penalties when a dog attack occurs depending on its severity.

Dog Attacks / Menaces



CURRENT SITUATION

Currently, when a dog attack occurs within the municipality, an investigation takes place and depending on the outcome, cancellation of existing registration or penalty infringements may apply. The owner may also voluntarily elect to surrender their dog to the City of Palmerston.



PROPOSED CHANGES

Council is looking to include a range of new penalties that can be used independently or in conjunction depending on the severity of the attack, including:

- A fine scale so the penalty is suited to the severity of the attack
- Officially registering the dog as a 'Declared Dangerous Dog' with conditions attached such as wearing a muzzle
- Ordering the owner to remove their dog to a different jurisdiction – in other words, to find the dog a new home in another community
- Euthanising the dog.

QUESTIONS



Do you agree there should be a 'sliding fine scale' used for dog attacks to reflect the severity of the incident i.e. \$250-1000?

Do you support Council having the ability to implement the additional penalties listed below if a dog is declared as dangerous?

- Officially registering the dog as a Declared Dangerous Dog with conditions attached such as wearing a muzzle
- Ordering the owner to remove their dog to a different jurisdiction – in other words, to find the dog a new home in another community
- Euthanising the dog.



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4.3 DECLARED DANGEROUS DOG

All residents have the right to feel safe in our community. Many people keep a dog to deter trespassers and burglars. There is no problem with this providing that it does not become a danger to other people or animals, excluding vermin (e.g. rats and mice).

CURRENT SITUATION

Council does not currently have the ability to register dogs as Declared Dangerous Dogs. Other jurisdictions apply this in instances where a dog aggressively attacks a person or other animal causing physical injury or death, the dog has menaced a person, or displayed unreasonable aggression. Declaring a dog as dangerous means Councils can better protect the community's safety and wellbeing while also helping improve the animal's wellbeing.

PROPOSED CHANGES

Under revised by-laws there is the potential to introduce provisions relating to a dangerous dog declaration. This declaration can apply where a dog aggressively attacks a person or other animal, causing physical injury or death.

Where a dog has been shown to behave in a way that fits the dangerous dog description, it can be subject to a local government ruling and be declared as a dangerous dog. This means that the dog is subject to a range of specific controls including:

- Being desexed and microchipped
- Confined to a special enclosure within the owner's property
- Undertaking behaviour modification
- Wearing a muzzle and lead when being exercised
- Affixing a visible 'dangerous dog' sign to the property
- Mandatory obligation to notify other council of dangerous dog relocation
- Mandatory notification to Council if the owner intends to keep the dog at a different location for an extended period of time
- Compulsory reporting to Council if the dog has attacked or been involved in an attack
- Compulsory notification to Council if the dog is missing, dies or if ownership is transferred
- Prospective purchasers to be informed of the dog's status.

In addition, the owner may also be required to undertake specific animal education training.

In the case of the dog being particularly aggressive

QUESTIONS



Do you agree Council should be able to declare dogs as dangerous?

Do you agree with Council having the ability to implement the specific controls listed below for dangerous dogs?

- Being desexed and microchipped
- Confined to a special enclosure within the owner's property
- Undertaking behaviour modification and/or training
- Wearing a muzzle and lead when being exercised
- Affixing a visible 'dangerous dog' sign to their property
- Mandatory notification to Council if the owner intends to keep the dog at a different location for an extended period of time
- Mandatory obligation to notify other council of dangerous dog relocation
- Compulsory reporting to Council if the dog has attacked or been involved in an attack
- Compulsory notification to Council if the dog is missing, dies or if ownership is transferred
- Prospective purchasers to be informed of the dog's status.

Do you agree that owners should pay more for initial and ongoing registration of dogs who have been declared dangerous?

Do you agree that in some instances more than one penalty should apply i.e. a fine in line with the attack severity and registering the dog as a declared dangerous dog?

4.4 NUISANCE ANIMALS

While barking dogs are the most common problem, other animals such as birds and poultry can also cause a noise nuisance. Animal nuisance may also extend to offensive odours or behaviour.



CURRENT SITUATION

Our current by-laws only address noise issues due to dogs. Resident feedback suggests this category of nuisance could be extended to cover noises from other animals that occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it has a disturbing effect on the state of reasonable mental, physical or social well-being of a person. Examples include a neighbour's pet bird persistently screeching or a cat persistently fighting or meowing.

Council received 19 noise complaints concerning poultry in 2020 which has increased from 16 in 2019 and three in 2018. Council received two nuisance noise complaints for birds in 2020 and there are no recorded bird complaints from previous years.



PROPOSED CHANGES

Under revised by-laws there is the potential to introduce provisions to give Council the power to regulate nuisance behaviour by cats and other animals. If Council expands into this regulatory area more resourcing would be needed which may result in an increase to rates. Council needs to consider this resourcing challenge carefully while also assessing whether Council is the best placed body to govern nuisance animals other than dogs given the available expertise in other agencies such as the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) or the Department of Health.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT REQUESTS



QUESTIONS

- Have you experienced problems relating to cat noise?
- Have you experienced problems relating to bird/poultry noise?
- Have you experienced nuisance behaviour from other animals? If so, what were the major issues?
- Would you be prepared to pay additional rates to cover the expansion of this service?



4.5 LICENSING

According to the Australian Companion Animal Council (the peak body representing pet ownership and the pet industry in Australia), the national average of dog ownership per hundred people in Australia is 18 dogs per hundred people. The Northern Territory has the highest ownership of dogs with 20 dogs per hundred people. In 2019/20, 6429 dogs were registered in the City of Palmerston. With a current population of approximately 37 000 people in Palmerston, this equates to approximately 19 dogs per hundred people.

CURRENT SITUATION

Under our existing by-laws, people that wish to keep more than two dogs, but no more than six, must apply to Council for a licence. After receiving an application, Council then works with the applicant to assess the ability of the owner to look after the dogs. All immediate neighbours of the applicant's property are contacted by Council for comment. Council then makes a determination on whether to grant the licence based on the evidence from the assessment and outcomes of the consultation with the neighbours.

Council issued 48 licences for residents to keep more than two dogs at a property in 2020 which is a notable increase from 23 in 2019 and nine in 2018.

An issue for the City of Palmerston in this area is the trend for smaller residential development block sizes and changes to dwelling types i.e. more townhouses, units and flats. Arguably the number of dogs kept at one property should be proportionate to and dependant on the owner's block size in order to safeguard the animals' welfare.

City of Palmerston does not currently limit how many cats can be kept at a premises.

PROPOSED CHANGES

Council is considering reviewing its licensing requirements to state:

- Licences for more than two dogs / cats is dependant on block size and dwelling type
- Licence holders must request a re-issued licence if their living arrangements change.

QUESTIONS



Should the applicant's size of property be a key consideration in whether a licence should be granted to home between 2-6 dogs?

Should the applicant's dwelling type be a key consideration in whether a licence should be granted?

Should a licence holder have to reapply if they move properties?

Should licensing provisions be extended to cats?

4.6 ANIMALS AT LARGE (STRAY CATS)

An animal is considered at large when it is found wandering outside of its premises without its owner i.e. a dog that has escaped from a property or has become separated and is roaming some distance away. An animal is also considered at large when it is not under effective control by the owner. For instance, if a dog is being walked off lead in a non-designated off lead area, it is considered roaming free and uncontained.

CURRENT SITUATION

Council's current by-laws only apply to dogs at large. Council received 1115 complaints about dogs at large in 2020. This was a decrease from the 2019 figure of 1178 complaints but an increase from 917 complaints in 2018. Trend analysis indicates that approximately 57 per cent of all dogs at large are impounded at Council facilities.

In other jurisdictions, if a cat is found at large outside the premises of the owner at any time, the owner is guilty of an offence. This policy is in place to encourage responsible pet ownership and to minimise any nuisance or risk to fauna from wandering cats.

The number of complaints Council receives about cats at large fluctuates. Council received 11 complaints for cats at large in 2020, 27 complaints in 2019 and only two in 2018.

PROPOSED CHANGES

Council can consider extending its by-laws to include penalties for cats at large. If this by-law area is expanded, there will be the need for additional resources in Council's Regulatory Services to allow for increased Rangers for education and enforcement. This may result in increased Council rates to cover these services.

QUESTIONS



Do you think the animals at large offence should also include cats?

Do you think any other category of animal should be included in an at large by-law provision?

4.7 REGISTRATION OF CATS

Under the current by-laws, all dogs over the age of three months must be registered in the City of Palmerston. Registration provides Council with a description of the dog, identifies the owner and provides their contact information in case the dog gets lost or goes wandering. In some councils in Australia, the requirement for registration has now been extended to cats. This has been introduced in an attempt to control cat numbers and help protect wildlife in a local area.

CURRENT SITUATION

Registration of pets currently only applies to dogs in the City of Palmerston.

PROPOSED CHANGES

City of Palmerston is considering making it a requirement for cats to be registered and is analysing the implications. Council may require more resources to regulate this additional area which could increase the cost of pet registration or subsidise the increased service cost through a rate increase for all residents.

QUESTIONS



Do you think cat registration should be introduced?

Would you be prepared to pay additional rates to cover the expansion in this service?

4.8 MICROCHIPPING

Animal microchipping for identification purposes is strongly encouraged for all dog owners by the City of Palmerston. A microchip is a permanent method of electronic identification. The chip itself is very small (about the size of a grain of rice) and is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades at the back of an animal's neck. Each chip has a unique number that is detected using a microchip scanner.

CURRENT SITUATION

There is currently a \$10 reduction in annual registration costs for dogs that have been microchipped, however it is not a compulsory requirement for registering your dog.

PROPOSED CHANGES

Council is considering the benefits and implications of making microchipping compulsory to register a pet in City of Palmerston. Microchipping a dog gives them the best chance of being identified and returned to their owner if they become lost or stolen.

QUESTIONS



Do you think microchipping should be compulsory for dogs prior to registration?

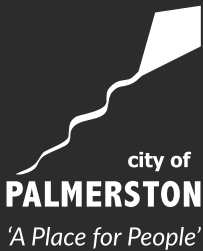
Do you think microchipping should be compulsory for cats if they were required to be registered within the municipality?

5. FURTHER QUESTIONS / FEEDBACK

We want to hear what you think about our current and proposed changes to the animal by-laws. You can answer our feedback prompts by taking our online survey, available at palmerston.nt.gov.au. To request a hard copy of this document and the survey, contact Regulatory Services on **(08) 8935 9977** or email palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au.

6. NEXT STEPS

Community consultation for the review of the Palmerston (Animal Management) By-laws will take place over an eight-week period. Once consultation has ended Council will analyse and collate the feedback in a consultation report. This feedback will be used to inform a set of guiding principles for the drafting of new by-laws. Council will work with the Office of Parliamentary Council during this drafting process and the new Animal Management By-Laws will come into effect once all legal requirements are finalised.



Civic Plaza
1 Chung Wah Terrace,
Palmerston, NT 0830
palmerston.nt.gov.au

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Animal Management By-Laws Consultation

Have your say on animal management in Palmerston

Please read the Animal Management By-Laws Discussion Paper on our website before completing this survey. It contains the information you need to provide informed responses, including the reasons for Council's proposed changes to the animal management by-laws.

To request a hard copy of the document and survey:
Email palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au or,
Call 08 8935 9900.

Background

City of Palmerston is committed to providing quality animal management services to our community. A set of by-laws govern the way we manage animals in our municipality and a review is needed to improve our service delivery and meet the growing and changing needs of the Palmerston community.

Council's current animal management by-laws were enacted in 1999 and have had no significant change since their enactment. While they have served their purpose, they are no longer reflective of the community's needs or modern legislative drafting.

Council has identified an update of the current animal management by-laws to meet community expectations as a priority action. In order to do this, there is a process we need to follow, including consulting with community to understand people's views, opinions and appetite for change.

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation

About you

The purpose of this survey is to gather information from the community for City of Palmerston's review of its Animal Management By-Laws. All data collected for this survey will remain confidential and be provided in an aggregated format that does not identify individuals. Your personal details will not be used in any way except as specified in the survey and will not be made available to any other party.

1. Age

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Under 18 | <input type="radio"/> 45-54 |
| <input type="radio"/> 18-24 | <input type="radio"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="radio"/> 25-34 | <input type="radio"/> 65+ |
| <input type="radio"/> 35-44 | |

2. What Suburb do you live in?

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Farrar | <input type="radio"/> Driver |
| <input type="radio"/> Johnston | <input type="radio"/> Durack |
| <input type="radio"/> Zuccoli | <input type="radio"/> Marlow Lagoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Moulden | <input type="radio"/> Woodroffe |
| <input type="radio"/> Bellamack | <input type="radio"/> Bakewell |
| <input type="radio"/> Gunn | <input type="radio"/> Rosebery |
| <input type="radio"/> Gray | <input type="radio"/> Durack Heights |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) | |

3. Are you a City of Palmerston rate payer?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

4. Do you have any pets?

- ☐ Yes, dog/s
- ☐ Yes, cat/s
- ☐ Yes, bird/s or poultry
- ☐ No

Yes, other (please specify)

5. Contact information for receiving updates on City of Palmerston’s animal management by-laws

Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation

4.1 Dog Barking

The following questions relate directly to the sections listed in the Animal Management Discussion Paper. Reading this document before completing the survey will give you all the information you need to answer these questions. You can use the section numbering below to correlate it to the information in the Discussion Paper.

6. Do you agree with Council having the ability to implement additional enforcement measures for nuisance barking listed below?

| | Yes | No | Unsure or neutral |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Council should have power to order the installation of a barking monitoring device | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The number of dogs allowed to be kept on a property / dwelling should correlate to the lot size | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Amended registration conditions for nuisance barking | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cancelled registration for nuisance barking | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Compulsory animal education attendance for nuisance barking | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation

4.2 Dog Attacks/Menaces

7. Do you agree there should be a ‘sliding fine scale’ used for dog attacks to reflect the severity of the incident i.e. \$250-1000?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure or neutral

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation
4.2 Dog Attacks/Menaces

8. Do you support Council having the ability to implement the additional penalties listed below if a dog is declared as dangerous?

| | Yes | No | Unsure or neutral |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Officially registering the dog as a Declared Dangerous Dog with conditions attached such as wearing a muzzle | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ordering the owner to remove their dog to a different jurisdiction – in other words, to find the dog a new home in another community | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Euthanizing the dog | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation

4.3 Declared Dangerous Dogs

9. Do you agree Council should be able to declare dogs as dangerous?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation

4.3 Declared Dangerous Dogs

10. Do you agree with Council having the ability to implement the specific controls listed below for dangerous dogs?

| | Yes | No | Unsure or neutral |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Being desexed and microchipped | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Confined to a special enclosure within the owner's property | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Undertaking behaviour modification and/or training | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wearing a muzzle and lead when being exercised | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | Yes | No | Unsure or neutral |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Affixing a visible 'dangerous dog' sign to their property | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mandatory notification to Council if the owner intends to keep the dog at a different location for an extended period of time | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Compulsory reporting to Council if the dog has attacked or been involved in an attack | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Compulsory notification to Council if the dog is missing, dies or if ownership is transferred | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prospective purchasers to be informed of the dog's status | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

11. Do you agree that owners should pay more for initial and ongoing registration of dogs who have been declared dangerous?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Other (please specify)

12. Do you agree that in some instances more than one penalty should apply i.e. a fine in line with the attack severity and registering the dog as a declared dangerous dog?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation

4.4 Nuisance Animals

13. Have you experienced problems relating to cat noise?

☐ Yes

☐ No

14. Have you experienced problems relating to bird/poultry noise?

☐ Yes

☐ No

15. Have you experienced problems relating to offensive odours from domestic animals, nuisance noise or unhealthy conditions causing pest and vermin issues?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ If yes, please specify the type of animal and problem you have experienced

16. Would you be prepared to pay additional rates to cover the expansion of this service?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation

4.5 Licensing

17. Should the applicant's size of property be a key consideration in whether a licence should be granted to home between 2-6 dogs?

☐ Yes

☐ No

18. Should the applicant's dwelling type be a key consideration in whether a licence should be granted?

☐ Yes

☐ No

19. Should a licence holder have to reapply if they move properties?

☐ Yes

☐ No

20. Should licensing provisions be extended to cats?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation

4.6 Animals at Large (stray cats)

21. Do you think the animals at large offence should also include cats?

☐ Yes

☐ No

22. Do you think any other category of animal should be included in an at large by-law provision?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ If yes, please specify what animals you think should be included

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation

4.7 Registration of Cats

23. Do you think cat registration should be introduced?

☐ Yes

☐ No

24. Would you be prepared to pay additional rates to cover the expansion in this service?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation

4.8 Microchipping

25. Do you think microchipping should be compulsory for dogs prior to registration?

☐ Yes

☐ No

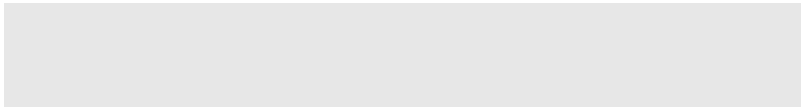
26. Do you think microchipping should be compulsory for cats if they were required to be registered within the municipality?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Animal Management By-Laws Consultation

27. Do you have any other comments you would like to make about Council's animal management by-laws?



Appendix 3: Animal Management By-Laws Review – Community Consultation Findings

| Area | Include | Where | Comments |
|---|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| DOG BARKING | | | |
| Council should have the power to order the installation of a barking monitoring device. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| The number of dogs allowed to be kept on a property / dwelling should correlate to the lot size. | Yes | Policy provision | To be accommodated in revised CoP animal management policy framework |
| Amended registration conditions for nuisance barking. | Yes | Policy provision | To be accommodated in revised CoP animal management policy framework |
| Cancelled registration for nuisance barking. | No | NA | NA |
| Compulsory animal education attendance for nuisance barking. | Yes | Policy provision | To be accommodated in revised CoP animal management policy framework / animal education initiative |
| DOG ATTACKS / MENACES | | | |
| 'Sliding fine scale' used for dog attacks to reflect severity of incident i.e. \$250-\$1,000. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| Council ability to implement additional penalties if dog declared dangerous; additional penalties to include: | | | |
| Officially registering the dog as a Declared Dangerous Dog with conditions attached such as wearing a muzzle. | Yes | By-Law provision Policy provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws / |
| Ordering the owner to remove their dog to a different jurisdiction – in other words, to find the dog a new home in another community. | No | NA | NA |
| Euthanising the dog | Yes | By-law provision Policy provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws / |
| DECLARED DANGEROUS DOG | | | |
| Council should have the power to declare dogs as dangerous. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| Council ability to implement specific control measures; additional penalties to include: | | | |
| Being desexed and microchipped. | Yes | Policy provision | To be accommodated in revised CoP animal management policy framework / animal education initiative |
| Confined to a special enclosure within the owner's property. | Yes | Policy provision | To be accommodated in revised CoP animal management policy framework |

Appendix 3: Animal Management By-Laws Review – Community Consultation Findings

| Area | Include | Where | Comments |
|--|---------|------------------|--|
| Undertaking behaviour modification and / or training. | Yes | Policy provision | To be accommodated in revised CoP animal management policy framework |
| Wearing a muzzle and lead when being exercised. | Yes | Policy provision | To be accommodated in revised CoP animal management policy framework |
| Affixing a visible 'dangerous dog' sign to their property. | Yes | Policy provision | To be accommodated in revised CoP animal management policy framework |
| Mandatory notification to Council if the owner intends to keep the dog at a different location for an extended period of time. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| Mandatory obligation to notify other councils of dangerous dog relocation. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| Compulsory reporting to Council if the dog has attacked or been involved in an attack. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| Compulsory notification to Council if the dog is missing, dies or if ownership is transferred. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| Prospective purchasers to be informed of the dog's status. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| Owners to pay more for initial and ongoing registration of dogs who have been declared dangerous. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| In some instances more than one penalty to apply i.e. a fine in line with the attack severity and registering the dog as a declared dangerous dog. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| NUISANCE ANIMALS | | | |
| Have you experienced problems relating to cat noise? | No | NA | NA |
| Have you experienced problems relating to bird / poultry noise? | No | NA | NA |
| Have you experienced nuisance behaviour from other animals? If so, what were the major issues? | No | NA | NA |
| Would you be prepared to pay additional rates to cover the expansion of this service? | No | NA | NA |
| LICENSING | | | |
| The applicant's size of property to be a key consideration in whether a licence should be granted to home between 2-6 dogs. | Yes | Policy provision | To be accommodated in revised CoP animal management policy framework |
| The applicant's dwelling type to be a key consideration in whether a licence should be granted. | Yes | Policy provision | To be accommodated in revised CoP animal management policy framework |

Appendix 3: Animal Management By-Laws Review – Community Consultation Findings

| Area | Include | Where | Comments |
|---|----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A licence holder is to reapply if they move properties. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| Licensing provisions to be extended to cats. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| ANIMALS AT LARGE (STRAY CATS) | | | |
| Animals at large offence to also include cats. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| REGISTRATION OF CATS | | | |
| Cat registration to be introduced. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| Residents to pay additional rates to cover the expansion of this service. | No | NA | NA |
| MICROCHIPPING | | | |
| Microchipping to be compulsory for dogs prior to registration. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |
| Microchipping to be compulsory for cats prior to registration. | Yes | By-Law provision | To be proposed in updated by-laws |

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| AGENDA ITEM: | 13.2.4 |
| REPORT TITLE: | Sustainability Strategy – Draft for Consultation |
| MEETING DATE: | Tuesday 3 August 2021 |
| AUTHOR: | Urban and Environment Planner, Damien Scalora |
| APPROVER: | Director City Growth and Operations, Nadine Nilon |

COMMUNITY PLAN

Environmental Sustainability: Palmerston is an environmentally friendly, liveable city that promotes renewable practices and sustainability.

PURPOSE

This report presents the Draft City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy to Council for adoption, providing an update on its development and advice on next steps of community consultation.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Draft City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy (The Strategy) has been developed and will undergo community consultation after the upcoming Council caretaker period ends.
- Feedback received through consultation will determine suitability of the current priorities and refine actions.
- The Strategy retains a focus on outcomes specific to environmental sustainability, looking at our relationship to and impact on our surrounds.
- It is framed around four themes, each with several priorities to guide future action.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Sustainability Strategy – Draft for Consultation be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the Draft Sustainability Strategy for the purpose of a 21 day public consultation, commencing 20 September 2021, being **Attachment 13.2.4.1** of Report entitled Sustainability Strategy – Draft for Consultation.
3. THAT a Report on the outcomes of the Community Consultation regarding the Draft Sustainability Strategy be presented to the Second Ordinary November 2021 Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND

At the 1st Ordinary Council Meeting of 2 March 2021 Council made the following decisions:

13.2.2 Sustainability Strategy Update

1. *THAT Report Number entitled Sustainability Strategy Update be received and noted.*
2. *THAT a Council workshop be held for the Sustainability Strategy in March 2021*

CARRIED 9/1509 – 02/03/2021

This report supports the Draft City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy **Attachment 13.2.4.1** providing an overview of its development and advice on next steps.

Development of content within the Draft Strategy has evolved through an iterative process. This has involved internal discussions with officers on what sustainability means in their roles and workshopping held with elected members in March 2021. Evolution of the strategy built upon the initial stages of the Strategy's development which looked to best practice examples and Council's strategic priorities, particularly in relation to the Community Plan, to frame outcomes.

Previous reporting to Council has discussed the need for the strategy and detailed sustainability generally in relation to City of Palmerston.

The following discussion outlines the framework as presented in the Draft Strategy, to assist in understanding how and why the strategy is presented as it is. It will also advise of the next stages of development, being the community consultation and how this will be utilised to assist in presenting a final strategy.

DISCUSSION

This strategy has a focus on outcomes specific to environmental sustainability, looking at our relationship to and impact on our environment and surroundings. While sustainability considers and integrates within a number of dimensions, the focus on environmental sustainability has two main drivers. Firstly, it recognises our sphere of influence as a Local Government and integrates with Council operations. Secondly, there is significant surrounding work already or proposed to be undertaken which incorporates wider sustainability in the realms of economic and social. Examples of this include Council's Community Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Procurement Policy, and Local Economic Plan. These plans are equipped to deal with the detailed responses and actions relating to their specific areas.

Strategy Outline

The framework for the strategy has evolved from pillars of sustainability previously presented, this being consideration of environment, economic, community (social) pillars alongside a focus on governance due to Council operations. The below image illustrates how these pillars informed the themes of the strategy.



Image 1 – Sustainability pillars and themes developed for the strategy

Development of the strategy around these considerations led to the four themes which will assist in guiding actions and measurements of progress. These themes were distilled through wider foundational work including staff discussions, review of Council's strategic priorities and relevant exemplars. As detailed above these developed as:

1. The physical asset, our urban and natural environment
Theme 1 → Protecting our urban ecology and natural environment
2. Connections relating to how our community travels and engages with sustainable practices
Theme 2 → Empowering and connecting our community
3. Evolving management approaches to address environmental impacts
Theme 3 → Future focused on efficiencies
4. Leading initiatives and supporting industry
Theme 4 → Lead with purpose

A summary of themes and priorities as provided in the strategy, are presented in **Attachment 13.2.4.2**. This provides a high-level summary of how the strategy is framed and will be a key reference piece in consultation.

The summary illustrates 11 priorities to focus Council actions. As an example, under the theme of protecting our urban ecology and natural environment, it outlines priorities of ecological preservation, parks and green spaces and urban heat mitigation. These priorities have been developed reflecting Council's strategic direction, internal discussions, key documents and wider best practice within local government sustainability.

Each priority has a corresponding goal that guides future actions. These actions are designed to allow Council to build programming into these sustainability concepts as well as direct specific next steps. The actions are not exhaustive, and it is intended that the consultation will allow refinement of these actions.

Following consultation feedback, an assessment of the suitability of the priorities and actions contained within the Draft Strategy will occur. This will confirm or suggest modifications where applicable to these areas. From this it is intended to confirm measures of success, including targets which will be presented in the final strategy. While some of these measures have already been developed, some require further planning and input from the consultation process around priorities to ensure robustness of targets.

Examples of draft targets and measures of success are listed below to provide an indication on the types of targets that will support the strategy:

- 15% reduction in electricity consumption for Council buildings (Theme 3 – Future focused on efficiencies)
- Canopy cover baseline % and future planning % (Theme 1 – Protecting our urban ecology and natural environment)
- Increase in environmental initiatives grants applied for and used by 2025 (Theme 2 Empowering and connecting communities)

These targets are less reliant on community consultation, being largely operational and data driven. What's of greater importance as part of the consultation is to confirm the priorities of the community. This will ensure the strategy is on the right track, to then allow identification of targets that best measure and monitor our progress towards these community priorities.

Next Steps

| Task | Anticipated timeline |
|--|---|
| Community Consultation (Draft Strategy) | 20 th September – 11 th October |
| Review of community feedback | October |
| Refine priorities and actions, develop measures of success and operational targets | October |
| Present final Strategy to Council and accompanying consultation summary report | Late November |

CONSULTATION PROCESS

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

- City Sustainability Manager
- Communications Manager

The Draft Strategy will be released for community consultation on 20 of September (following the caretaker period) and will run for 21 days. The purpose of the consultation is to assess whether community values and desires align with that presented within the Draft Strategy.

Consultation activity will promote the Draft Strategy to the community and provide an engaged and focused platform to provide feedback. A detailed communication plan is linked to the Strategy which outlines a number of strategies to engage and receive feedback. Communication tactics include online survey, media releases and advertising through social media.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report. Future reporting will seek to recommend adoption of a final strategy.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The previous Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018, has expired and therefore there is a risk that council is undertaking projects not aligned to an overall strategy. This is being managed through projects aligning with Council's community plan and other policies, however the proposed Strategy will provide evidence based guidance of Council's priorities and direction towards sustainable development.

This report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

2 Is not sustainable into the long term

Context: Optimising the financial, social and environmental sustainability of the Council.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability is highly applicable due to the nature of the strategy. The strategy will promote focused actions to better inform Council programming and support the management and monitoring through development of targets or identifying where targets are required. The strategy will provide an integrated approach to environmental sustainability, supporting Council's ongoing work on the sustainability focus under the Community Plan.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

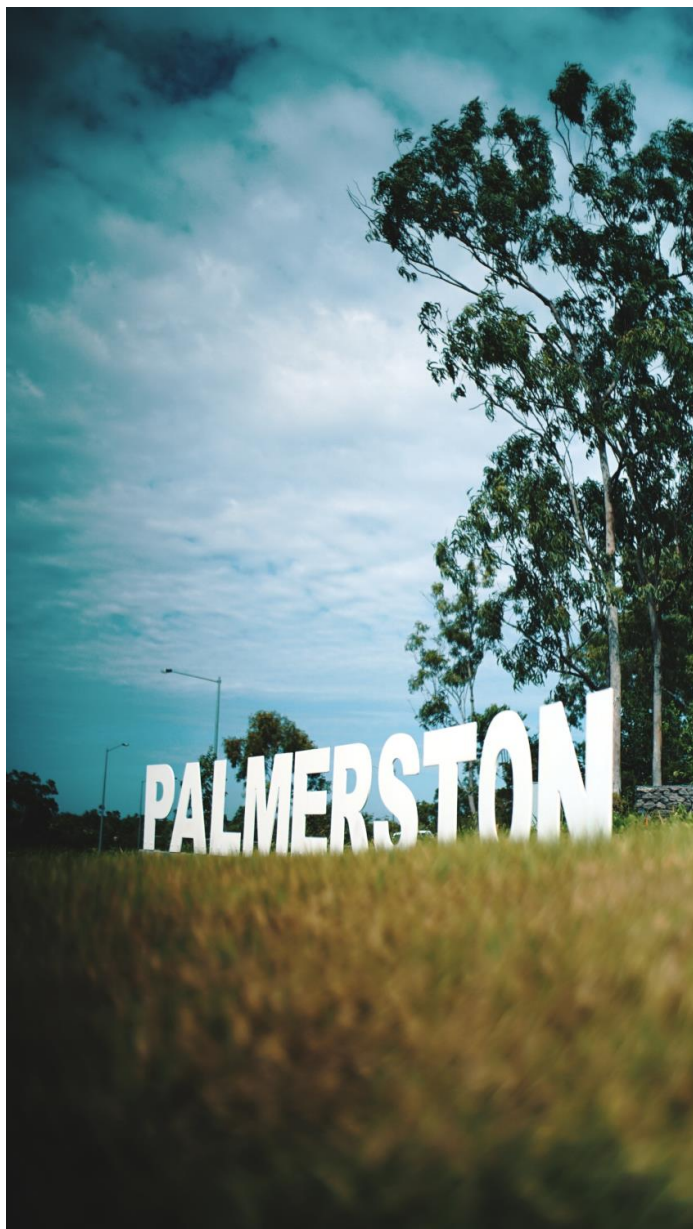
ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Sustainability Strategy - 2021.07.22 [13.2.4.1 - 25 pages]
2. Summary Slide - Draft Sustainability Strategy [13.2.4.2 - 1 page]



Sustainability Strategy
2021
DRAFT

city of
PALMERSTON
'A Place for People'



Contents

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| 6 | Council's objective |
| 7 | Developing the strategy |
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| 10 | Theme 1 – Protecting our urban ecology and natural environment |
| 14 | Theme 2 - Empowering & connecting our community |
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| 21 | Theme 4 - Lead with purpose |



SUSTAINABILITY AND COUNCIL



1.1 WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

To achieve sustainability, an organization must consider environmental, social, and economic elements

The concept of sustainability is complex, crossing disciplines and work streams, with success reliant on an integrated approach. Environmental stewardship is an integral part of sustainable development but not the only consideration. Intertwined with it are the dimensions of society, culture and economy.

Sustainability is often thought of as a long-term goal, while the term sustainable development refers to the processes and pathways to achieve it. A report introduced by the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) provided an early and still widely accepted definition for sustainable development, being 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future'. The report concluded with a call to action that promoted balanced economic, social and environmental needs.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental outcomes are most frequently associated when discussing matters around sustainability. Environmental sustainability itself is still widely encapsulating. It's often thought of as the trees, water and air we breathe, the resources we rely on. However, it extends to much more, defining how we live, work and play. It captures all our surrounds, influencing how we interact with one another, how we travel and where we stay.

This strategy retains a focus on outcomes specific to environmental sustainability, looking at our relationship to and impact on our surroundings. It seeks to preserve our natural assets, reduce our collective impacts and evolve our practices, so that livability and opportunities for future generations are not compromised.

1.3 CITY OF PALMERSTON & OUR COMMUNITY

As the fastest growing centre in Northern Territory, containing an estimated population of nearly 40,000, Palmerston play as vital role in supporting and contributing to the Greater Darwin region. This will continue to evolve as development envisioned in surrounding centres under the Darwin Regional Land Use Plan (2015) occurs.

Balanced decision-making is increasingly important as influence broadens and impacts on our environment become more evident. As an organization, Council has a responsibility to lead with influence and integrity, recognizing our reach within the community and the services we provide.

Our responsibility to the community aligns with priorities set out in the Community Plan. Steeped within this plan, developed by members of the community, are elements of sustainability. Six outcomes contained within the City of Plamerston Community Plan.

xx | Draft Sustainability Strategy

1.4 OUR SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS

The development of this strategy builds upon the previous Sustainability Strategy, formulated in 2013, supporting objectives developed within the Community Plan. It is a continuation of the City of Palmerston's commitment to sustainable development, highlighted by a number of initiatives Council has already implemented.

These initiatives demonstrate the importance of sound governance and leadership, supporting Council to deliver sustainable services to the community.

Highlight Initiatives

- Solar on council's buildings Recreation Centre and Library
- Smart technology control lights installed across the municipality
- Livable Cities initiative focused on increasing canopy cover and greening

Community Plan Outcomes

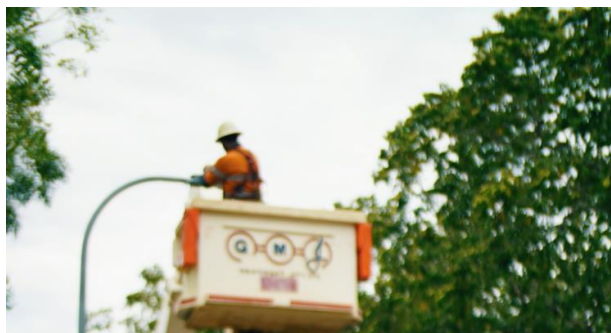
1. Family & Community
2. Vibrant Economy
3. Cultural Diversity
4. Future Focused
5. Environmental Sustainability
6. Governance



2.1 COUNCIL'S OBJECTIVE

Support and empower growth in Palmerston by working with the community, government and industry; to ensure our environment and livability is protected and enhanced for current and future generations.





2.2 COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council staff and management will be guided by this objective and focus on sustainable development through:

- An attitude towards continual improvements
- Recognizing our position to facilitate sustainable behaviours within the community
- Leading with integrity and purpose to deliver outcomes
- Asking critical questions at the right times
- Leveraging our diverse skillsets and internal consultation opportunities
- Ensuring balanced decision-making



2.3 DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

The strategy developed around the quadruple bottom line approach to decision making previously discussed. This being consideration of environmental, economic, community (social) needs alongside governance. This is illustrated on the below diagram.

In developing the strategy and future actions, 4 themes evolved, reflecting council's sphere of influence on environmental outcomes. These priority themes are detailed below and are presented as the framework of the strategy on the following page.



2.4 SUMMARY OF THEMES & PRIORITIES



Ecological preservation

Protection and restoration of natural ecosystems



Parks and Green Spaces

Equitable access to sustainable infrastructure and community green space



Urban heat mitigation

Urban heat mitigation and increased canopy cover



Engaged with sustainability

Community wide sustainability through education, awareness and engagement



Connected communities

Enhancing movement within our communities & to our green infrastructure



Sustainable events

Council events demonstrate sustainable practices & integrate with environment



Resource consumption

Limit environmental impacts and expenditure associated with council's consumption



Waste diversion

Waste diverted from landfill and reduce waste generated from council activities



Responsible investment and procurement

Supporting local businesses and industry through investment & procurement



Lead initiatives

Demonstrating sustainable initiatives to the community and for the community



Support industry & innovations

Incentivize and support local businesses





THEMES & PRIORITIES

Protecting our urban ecology and natural environment

Ecological
Preservation



Parks and Green
Space



Urban Heat
Mitigation



A healthy natural environment is the corner stone of day-to-day living. It provides the air we breathe, the water we drink, the recreational spaces we enjoy and the foundations of our economy.

We recognize that all human activity has an impact, and that the decisions we make today determines our tomorrow. This relates not only to matters of preservation but to developing greater resilience in our built environment for future generations.

Palmerston is home to rich environmental eco-systems, and as stewards of the local environment there is a responsibility to ensure we are managing the environments we call home. These should be recognized as vital assets that not only support livability of our current community but offer unique growth opportunities.

Increasingly, the role of useable green space is seen to correlate to individual and community health. Which is why protecting and enhancing our public open spaces, supports our future generations health.

Climate in the top end is distinctive, and while it supports the unique landscapes, it also presents challenges to our relationship within the built environment. Urban heat effects are well documented, and to support livability of future generations we must focus our efforts now on mitigating these effects.

Key Documents

Edible Pocket Gardens (Policy)

Preserving Our Urban Forest
(Policy)

Lake Management Plan

ECOLOGICAL PRESERVATION

BACKGROUND

Palmerston has developed as a largely urban centre, nestled in rich environmental surrounds. The Mitchell Creek Catchment area is an environmental asset which much of the recent decades urban development intersects. Due to significant urbanization within this area, and ongoing management issues around fire and weed invasion, several priority actions focus on restoration of this asset.

With large portions of this land owned by Northern Territory Government, collaboration becomes a key approach to resolving actionable next steps. Similarly, impacts on and from use of our water systems require partnering with relevant NTG agencies, and exploring outcomes the environment can sustain.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Recently the City of Palmerston adopted its Lakes Management Plan. Next steps involve implementation of this plan to increase the health of these bodies alongside regular maintenance issues.

Council is undertaking a natural assessment project to understand the current landscape within key areas of the Mitchell Creek Catchment, including where to focus environmental strategies.

Goal 1(a) Protection and restoration of natural ecosystems

Actions

- Implement Lakes Management Plan
- Partner with NTG to monitor ground water use and explore strategies around Council bore use
- Review findings of the Mitchell Creek Catchment Natural Assessment Project and develop an Environmental Management Program for the catchment area.
- Map, monitor and manage declared weeds across LGA
- Review of current planting procedures and update of planting programs
- Advocate within future land use planning for protection where suitable of environmental corridors
- Review and update Council tree species list to include pollinator species, edible species, and habitat trees

PARKS & GREEN SPACE

BACKGROUND

Parks and green spaces provide spaces for community to connect, social bonds to build and offers wellbeing benefits.

With this in mind, not only is there a need to retain and improve our spaces, but also ensure there is equitable access across our municipality. Placing higher social and economic value on our green spaces recognizes their role in the community.

Having a predominately urban form brings with it a need to ensure accessibility in our environment and elevates the importance of public open space. This means open space that considers useability, access and integrates with the daily needs of the community. Whilst Palmerston caters to significant proportion of young families, a diverse set of open space opportunities must continue to be explored.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

The City of Palmerston Playground and Play Space Strategy will guide future improvement works of play spaces in the municipality. Amongst other considerations the strategy considers equitable access to diverse play experiences.

Goal 1(b): Equitable access to sustainable infrastructure and community green space

Actions

- Development of a movement and connectivity plan that facilitates increase community uptake of alternative transport and outdoor recreation connections
- Implementation of the Playground and Play Space Strategy to focus park expenditure
- Promote community ownership of green space and natural elements through programming
- Develop communication tools for use online and at Council facilities that promote use of natural areas in Palmerston
- Focus on park facilities such as end of trip facilities within our parks to encourage users to stay
- Promote to community abilities to grow edible plants in sections of their local park
- Interactive opportunities for community engagement with indigenous and edible plant species
- Review strategies to support priority areas for green infrastructure rollout based on NTG and Council planning documents

URBAN HEAT MITIGATION

BACKGROUND

Urban heat effects occur where green cover is lost to concentration of hard surfaces, often in the form of bitumen roads and car parks, which as dark surfaces absorb, store and radiate heat.

Developing areas are particularly susceptible, with urban development clearing existing canopy cover levels whilst simultaneously adding this grey cover of hard surfaces. Increasing the coverage of tree and other green cover, works to reduce surface temperature of our urban environments, providing shade and working to cool and clean the air.

Complexities in our environment, growth and development trends highlight that greening our city must take a coordinated approach, with mix of land tenures and interests.

Focusing efforts now on mitigating effects, supports livability challenges faced by future generations.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Liveable cities has been a Major Project by Council, seeking to increase green cover through tree planting and supporting amenity upgrades.

Council produced our Urban Forest Policy, to manage risk and requests relating to tree removal, highlighting the importance on maintaining existing cover.

Key Statistics

625
trees planted in 2019

320
participants in verge
beautification

Goal 1(c)

Urban heat mitigation and increased canopy cover

Actions

- Develop partnerships with CSRIO, NTG and other LGA's, to improve use of datasets in decisions making around tree planting,
- Develop a City of Palmerston Greening Strategy, that supports canopy cover monitoring, opportunities for temporary and permanent greening and considers future transport and movement programming
- Expand community planting programs through partnerships with local businesses, community groups and non-for profit organisations.
- Continue and expand on the 'Verge Assistance' program, to increase resident maintained green infrastructure on verges
- Coordinate pathway replacement and repair programs with tree planting program to increased shading across Palmerston's walking networks
- Develop community awareness programs and work with institutions to understand improvements on communicating key messages around tree preservation
- Undertake a baseline study to determine monitoring approaches to urban heat and allow measurement of progress

As our community grows and our environment changes, there are inevitably challenges presented. Alongside these challenges there are opportunities to evolve our usual way of doing things and embed sustainable approaches in our daily behaviors.

Promoting sustainable behaviours occurs across the board, through various government, non-profit and advocacy bodies. Council has a role in facilitating local opportunities to engage, allowing residents to see their local changes as part of the collective.

As a community facing organization there is opportunity to empower and support our community alongside our core delivery of services.

Serving a predominately urban area presents opportunities in connecting our community. Better connectivity from where we live, work and play encourages more sustainable transport uptake. A built environment that supports this is crucial, particularly when facing challenges of climate and existing car centric development.

Council delivers a range of programming and events for Palmerston residents. Doing so sustainably, offers a chance to model to the community examples of how we can reduce environmental impacts. It acknowledges our role as part of the collective efforts to make these necessary changes.

Key Documents

Inclusion, Diversity and Accessibility Framework

Empowering & connecting our community



Engaging with Communities



Connected Communities



Sustainable Events

ENGAGED WITH SUSTAINABILITY

BACKGROUND

Community-wide shifts to more sustainable practices has altered consumption behaviours. Individuals are driving change not only for themselves but for their wider local community.

Council's role is to promote these sustainable behaviours across a spectrum of the community and facilitate the collective impacts of Palmerston residents. Whether this be creating awareness for those wanting to implement new sustainable behaviours, or empowering those well equipped with this knowledge and wanting to do their own work. It's important to ensure messaging of Council priorities and activity is translated to the community.

An example is the focus retaining urban tree canopy. In conjunction with Council programming and policy, community messaging needs to support these outcomes. Implications and collective impacts are not just restricted to our public spaces, but extend to the entire environment, regardless of land tenure.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Waste education campaigns are ongoing and help reinforce or introduce behaviours that support recycling and diversion rates.

Environmental Grants are offered by Council to support projects where there is a demonstrated improvement that can be achieved in the environment.

Goal 2(a)

Community wide sustainability through education, awareness and engagement

Actions

- Provide free sustainability community workshops utilizing a variety of mediums (webinar, newsletter, participatory), and organizations
- Develop information packages and tools to assist community members achieving sustainability aspirations, such as uptake in solar energy alternatives. Monitor level of engagement with these tools.
- Integration of IDA framework in delivery of community messaging
- Recognize and celebrate community achievements in sustainability on Council's web and social media pages
- Investigate sustainable programs to roll out at Council run facilities and key community interface points
- Expand on the current Environmental Benefits Grants program to encourage schools, businesses, community groups and non-for-profit to undertake tree planting on private property

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

BACKGROUND

Enhancing the appeal and attraction of alternative transport options to cars promotes a number of sustainable benefits. These are well-established, supporting environmental and livability outcomes as well as social and economic value in our local community.

The public realm is crucial in facilitating this. The top end climate is distinct and facing a landscape of increasing temperatures we must look to better adapt to local conditions. Greening initiatives work in conjunction with enhancing movement capabilities, as does supporting safety and prioritisation pedestrian movement over car.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Increased our focus on aligning pathway programming, with tree planting and tree establishment.

Focus on minimum pathway widths to better facilitate movement.

The Central Palmerston Area Plan (CPAP) prioritizes walking and pedestrian activity through our city centre.



Goal 2(b) Enhancing movement within our communities and connecting to our green infrastructure

Actions

- Coordinate pathway replacement and repair programs with tree planting program to increased amenity and comfort of our network
- Develop online tools to promote ease of access to council Parks and Play Spaces
- Investigate programming and strategies (such as movement strategy) that facilitate alternative travel mode choices within the municipality
- Support establishment of Green Connection Priorities within the CPAP, and connections to surrounding uses and areas
- Continue to promote the utilization of outdoor and open space areas for community event programming
- Develop connections between the Escarpment Walk, and other recreational uses.
- Improve end of trip facilities at key sites, including secure bicycle storage facilities

SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

BACKGROUND

Council has an expansive range of programming we undertake each year for the community, ranging in size and frequency. These events take considerable amount of planning, and provide popular opportunities for the community to gather, eat, play and work.

By promoting sustainable approaches during our planning and execution of events, causes of environmental concerns can be raised within the community. Events can exhibit high waste-generating behaviours and resource consumption or model potential the alternative possibilities.

Outdoor event programming enables a direct association to our environment, and provides a landscape for people to see what reducing their environmental impacts seeks to preserve.

It's important to ensure messaging of council priorities and activity are translated to the community.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Council delivers a range of events for the community in our outdoor spaces, connecting community to our natural and built environments. These include our events on Frances series, Brekkie in the Park, and Flicnics.

Goal 2(c)

Council events demonstrate sustainable practices and integrate with environmental surrounds

Actions

- Introduce a ban on single use plastics from all events held on Council land including markets
- Introduce recycling bins into all Council events
- Develop and implement a Sustainable Events Authorized Statement to be reviewed annually and promote wider sustainable event practices
- Prepare annual report monitoring sustainable events statement with achievements and areas to address
- Increase outdoor events and support programming engaging with nature and open space areas, that demonstrate sustainable practices
- Develop an Event Planning Guide that supports community organizations implement their own sustainable events



RESOURCE CONSUMPTION

BACKGROUND

Council operations contribute to municipality's total water consumption, predominately in managing our parks and green spaces. These spaces provide a range of benefits for the community, and play an integral role in supporting the wellbeing and development of our population.

Similarly, other resource consumptive uses such as the Recreation Centre and Library are valuable investments for our growing community. Managing these areas more sustainably benefits both in terms of cost to the community, and the environment.

While efficiencies can vary in size and scale, all contribute when collective impacts are considered. Minor changes to daily processes compound for larger benefits and have the ability to create more indirect effects.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Council has already undertaken significant work within this goal. A focus on reducing ongoing costs and energy consumption is evidenced through recent installation of smart controlled lights in our streets.

Council have also implemented solar at its facilities, including the Recreation Centre and Library.

Key Statistics

517%
annual savings from smart
control lights installed

17%
GHG emissions reduction
2018-2021

13%
energy use reduction
2018-2021

Goal 3(a)

Limit environmental impacts and expenditure associated with council's consumption of energy and water

Actions

- Investigate current Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Council operations and identify reduction and mitigation strategies
- Increase irrigation efficiencies to reduce potable water use in Council Public Open Space
- Develop and implement a Water Saving Action Plan
- Continue with energy efficiency upgrades across Council facilities and buildings
- Routinely audit of energy consumption of council's facilities
- Energy Savings Action Plan that identifies energy consuming assets and develop cost-effective and administrative energy savings.
- Increase proportion of energy used from renewable energy sources at Council owned facilities.



WASTE DIVERSION

BACKGROUND

Humans high rate of consumption and access to goods has led to other issues around how we manage these products at their end of life. Increasingly focus is being placed on circular economy approaches. This entails opportunities at the end of a products life cycles to be reused, refurbished/remanufactured or recycled.

Issues around management of local waste arises due to products that end up stored in landfill, as well as cross contamination of products intended for recycling.

Council provides the Waste Management Facility at Archer. The facility provides an important point for Palmerston residents to allow for responsible disposal and support other strategies to better manage our community knowledge and attitude to waste.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Five new rubbish trucks have been rolled out utilizing AI technology to manage collection.

Empowerment of community attitudes to waste are supported through the reboot your loot and youth recycling campaigns.

Key Statistics

2,612
tonnes of waste diverted from
landfill in 2019

Goal 3(b)

Improve waste diversion from landfill within the community and reduce waste generated from council activities

Actions

- Expand waste education campaigns and diverse audience delivery
- Improve Archer Waste Management Facility to increase diversion rates.
- Investigate sustainable programs to roll out at council run facilities
- Reduce amount of waste generated by council activities
- Introduce recycling waste receptacles into Council's key parks.

Lead with purpose

Investment &
Procurement



Lead Initiatives



Support to
industry



As a major employer and purchaser of services, we must demonstrate the possibilities of sustainable initiatives. While supporting community sustainable practices we can also make direct change through the way we conduct our business.

This captures how we support industry focused on sustainable development. Considering sustainable principles in our procurement processes supports longer term aspirations and recognizes local capacity building benefits. It also demonstrates that as purchaser of services, we are responsible in doing our best to support those within industry committed to sustainable development.

Our organizational reach is not only limited to physical assets, but our staff who take stewardship of implementing actions under this strategy.

We can also look for opportunities to work with industry, to support their own innovations in sustainability. Just as the community plays an important role, industry to has their part to play as a consumer and provider

Key Documents

Procurement Policy



RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT & PROCUREMENT

BACKGROUND

In providing diverse services for our community, council is a significant consumer of goods and services.

We can further sustainable development initiatives through our procurement practices, building capabilities of suppliers operating sustainably. Alongside value for money and local capacity, consideration of wider environmental impacts provide an important lens to view where and who Council ultimately invests in.

Our desires to showcase sustainability initiatives to the community, must extend to our investment procedures, and relationships with suppliers.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Council procurement is guided by our policy, which amongst other things provides consideration to environmental and social sustainability.

This ensures the implications of procurement across the life cycle of the product are assessed, alongside environmental performance of prospective suppliers.

Goal 4(a)

Supporting local businesses and industry through council investment and procurement decisions

Actions

- Broaden tender and quotation assessment criteria that gives preference to businesses that proactively foster green businesses, green jobs, and green practices.
- Measure and report on the sustainability of procurement practice,
- Develop procurement guidelines and tools to support staff engagement with sustainable procurement

LEAD INITIATIVES

BACKGROUND

Showing how sustainability can be implemented day to day and within our organisation, inspires best practice.

As a council these initiatives provide locally relevant examples to the community, which are part of a much wider global discussion. While showing what can be done, we can also demonstrate what benefits this directly brings.

Leading is also about showing local business that we prioritize sustainable development within our business. We want to inspire surrounding local governments to see what's possible, as well as learning from their experiences through better collaboration.

•
•
•

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Council is increasing its proportion of sustainable fleet vehicles, purchasing hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles.

These are support by a new plug-in charging station available for free use within the city centre.

Key Statistics

5
of the 22 fleet vehicles are
hybrid variations

Goal 4(b)

Demonstrating sustainable initiatives to the community and for the community

Actions

- Monitor council's heavy plant fleet and investigate alternatives
- Develop sustainable policy/authorized statement around internal purchasing of stationary within the organization
- Investigate use of recycled plastics and sustainable life cycle processes in furnishing within council open space
- Support installation of more EV Charging Stations
- Provide E-waste recycling at council facilities
- Council consultation and engagement processes consider sustainability in their communications plan



SUPPORT INDUSTRY INNOVATIONS

BACKGROUND

Businesses in Palmerston are important partners to engage with to deliver city wide sustainability.

Some businesses are well equipped with their own sustainable development practices. Engaging with businesses through partnerships and incentives, provides a value-add approach, which benefits our community.

Driving council's own innovations, allows business to better tap into benefits, whether direct or indirect. This includes making data more accessible and continuing to evolve our smart city initiatives.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

The Palmerston Local Economic Plan is nearing completion. This plan will outline how we will strengthen economic outcomes, and what our focus areas are. It is expected that elements of the Plan are reflected within aspirations of this Strategy.

Goal 4(c)

Incentivize and support local businesses to drive innovation and capacity

Actions

- Provide incentives and education opportunities for SMEs to improve energy and water efficiency in their operations
- Promote and encourage partnering with the Australian Business Energy Service, which offers energy audits and consultation on ways to save.
- Encourage the development of solar energy generation operations through Power Purchasing Agreements, provision of Council land for solar farms, rate incentives to 'Solar Based Businesses'.
- Investigate development of retrofit program for existing tenanted/community buildings to improve energy and water use efficiencies, reducing business overheads
- Promote, encourage, and enhance City of Palmerston's Open Data Hub, so that local investors can make data driven decisions when undertaking local investment
- Continue to evolve smart city initiatives that focus on improvements on sustainability
- Local Economic Plan outcomes around working groups and business engagement, promotes sustainable development within agendas



2.4 SUMMARY OF THEMES & PRIORITIES



Ecological preservation

Protection and restoration of natural ecosystems



Parks and Green Spaces

Equitable access to sustainable infrastructure and community green space



Urban heat mitigation

Urban heat mitigation and increased canopy cover



Engaged with sustainability

Community wide sustainability through education, awareness and engagement



Connected communities

Enhancing movement within our communities & to our green infrastructure



Sustainable events

Council events demonstrate sustainable practices & integrate with environment



Resource consumption

Limit environmental impacts and expenditure associated with council's consumption



Waste diversion

Waste diverted from landfill and reduce waste generated from council activities



Responsible investment and procurement

Supporting local businesses and industry through investment & procurement



Lead initiatives

Demonstrating sustainable initiatives to the community and for the community



Support industry & innovations

Incentivize and support local businesses



COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| AGENDA ITEM: | 13.2.5 |
| REPORT TITLE: | Orange Sky CBD Service |
| MEETING DATE: | Tuesday 3 August 2021 |
| AUTHOR: | Community Development Officer - Children & Families, Safe Communities, Liz Middleton |
| APPROVER: | Director Lifestyle and Community, Amelia Vellar |

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval for Orange Sky to continue to conduct an on-going weekly shower and laundry service outside of the Palmerston Recreation Centre following the nine-month trial period.

KEY MESSAGES

- Orange Sky's Northern Territory service launched in July 2018, providing free mobile laundry and shower services and conversation to people experiencing homelessness.
- Orange Sky have been operating on a trial basis outside of the Palmerston Recreation Centre since November 2020.
- 115 washes and 87 showers have been conducted since the commencement of the service.
- Orange Sky volunteers focus on connecting with vulnerable members of the Palmerston community and connect them with other services to support their general wellbeing.
- The Northern Territory has the highest rate of homelessness in Australia and there is a demand for this service in the Palmerston region.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Orange Sky CBD Service be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve Orange Sky to continue to offer their laundry and shower service outside of the Palmerston Recreation Centre for a further 12-month period.
3. THAT a report regarding the outcomes of the Orange Sky operation in Palmerston including a recommendation on whether this service should continue beyond August 2022, be presented to Council at the First Ordinary meeting in July 2022.

BACKGROUND

Orange Sky's Northern Territory service launched in July 2018, providing free mobile laundry and shower services and conversation to people experiencing homelessness. Orange Sky currently services several locations across the Greater Darwin region, including multiple locations across Casuarina, Stuart Park, Darwin City and Parap.

There is currently one other Palmerston service which is located at St Lukes Church, 9 Priest Circuit, Gray. It is offered each Wednesday from 6.00 until 8.00pm.

The initial trial in Palmerston CBD commenced in November 2020, with the use of the service slow to gain momentum, as it relied on word of mouth within the community. Orange Sky provided feedback that some sites require a significant amount of time to build up regular usage and as a result the trial was extended July 2021. The current trial service runs at the rear of the Palmerston Recreation Centre on the half basketball court each Tuesday morning from 8am to until 10am. The service is run in conjunction with Palmerston Recreation Centre operating hours as a precautionary safety measure for the Orange Sky volunteers.



Image: Orange Sky van outside of the Palmerston Recreation Centre

In July 2021, due to increased demand, Orange Sky requested to increase the service to three hours, now running from 8am to 11am to cater to for the additional demand for the service.

DISCUSSION

The Northern Territory has the highest rate of homelessness in Australia according to the Australia Bureau of Statistics data (2016). As can be seen by the usage statistics below, the use of the service since its launch in 2020 in the Palmerston CBD has continued to see an increase in uptake of the service. Orange Sky have indicated they would like the service to continue an on-going basis following the conclusion of the trial period.

Recreation Centre Monthly Shift Data

| Monthly Usage | Service | Shower | Laundry |
|---------------|---------|--------|---------|
| July 2021* | | 21 | 20 |
| June 2021 | | 23 | 24 |
| May 2021 | | 11 | 15 |
| April 2021 | | 12 | 15 |
| March 2021 | | 2 | 4 |
| February 2021 | | 8 | 14 |

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| January 2021 | 2 | 9 |
| December 2020 | 5 | 11 |
| November 2020 | 3 | 3 |
| Total | 87 | 115 |

*To date (20 July).

Some shifts during the wet season months had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, and later due to lack of volunteers which has impacted shift data and usage. The trial period was initially implemented to monitor the impacts of the service on both the operations of the Palmerston Recreation Centre and surrounding businesses. To date, Council has not received any complaints from local businesses regarding the service operating in this location. The service has also not impacted the Palmerston Recreation Centre operations. Orange Sky has expressed interest in expanding their services in Palmerston and working to invite other service providers to attend the site during their shift to support their work with vulnerable community members.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

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

- Executive Manager, Community and Library Services
- Community Facilities Officer

In preparing this report, the following external parties were consulted:

- Orange Sky

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATION

The Orange Sky van utilises Council power for the time it is providing services. This is a minimal cost that is met within existing budgets.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

1 Fails to effectively regain the trust from all stakeholders Context: Council needs to be credible and trusted by those within and external to the Council.

6 Fails to create and deliver the strategic vision for the City Context: Ensuring a vision is enduring and clear to all relevant stakeholders, guiding future decision making, delivered effectively and efficiently, and that progress is measurable and celebrated.

If successful with this application Orange Sky Laundry will enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Council, which sets out all obligations of both Orange Sky and Council. There is a risk that the site could have an impact on the businesses within the CBD and Palmerston Recreation Centre operations. There is also a possibility that an increase in demand for these services will increase with Centrelink moving next door to the Recreation Centre. The usage of these services if approved will be reported through the Lifestyle and Community Quarterly report.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no environment sustainability implications for this report.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| AGENDA ITEM: | 13.2.6 |
| REPORT TITLE: | Community Benefit Scheme Environmental Initiative Grant Application - Gray Community Garden Inc. |
| MEETING DATE: | Tuesday 3 August 2021 |
| AUTHOR: | City Sustainability Manager, Katie O'Neill |
| APPROVER: | Director Lifestyle and Community. Amelia Vellar |

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval to award \$16,131 in grant funding to the Gray Community Garden Inc. from the Environmental Initiatives budget, to support reestablishment of Harvest Corner (Community Garden).

KEY MESSAGES

- Council provides funding through Community Benefit Scheme (CBS) to eligible community groups and organisations.
- The CBS is the Environmental Initiatives Grant, which awards funding to community projects that support and promote sustainable practices.
- Council has received a grant application for \$16,131 under the Environmental Initiatives Grant from Gray Community Garden Inc. to assist reestablishment of Harvest Corner (Community Garden) in Gray. The garden has been impacted on by the redevelopment of Gray Hall and requires reinstatement.
- Harvest Corner is an established shared gardening space for Palmerston residents that allows community members to reconnect with nature, learn new skills, and increase interactions with other community members.
- Harvest Corner also provides a clear environmental benefit to the community through increased greening and cooling of an urban space. It also provides educational opportunities for sustainable living practices.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Community Benefit Scheme Environmental Initiative Grant Application - Gray Community Garden Inc. be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approves \$16,131 in grant funding to the Gray Community Garden Inc. from the Environmental Initiatives budget, to support re-establishment of Harvest Corner (Community Garden), as outlined in the report presented by Gray Community Garden Inc.

BACKGROUND

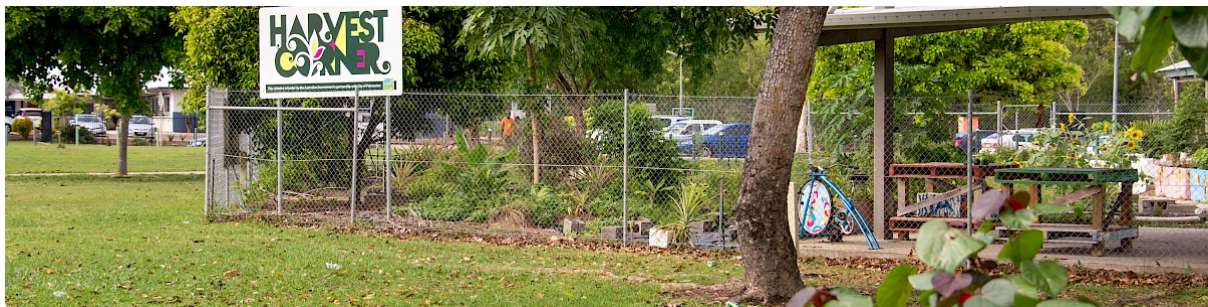
The Gray Community Garden Inc (Harvest Corner) was established as a shared space for Palmerston community members to undertake communal gardening. Harvest Corner provided opportunities for people to reconnect with nature, learn new skills, and increase interactions with other community members. Harvest Corner is located next to the Gray Community Hall, allowing for garden members to collaborate with and participate in other community-based programs.

The Gray Community Hall has been demolished to be rebuilt into an outstanding new venue for the community. As part of the redevelopment, clearing was required within the existing community garden. City of Palmerston has undertaken several consultations with representatives of the garden prior to initiating site clearing. Including regarding the possibility of any assistance that may be available for the reestablishment the garden when the construction and landscaping activities are complete.

One discussion point was the opportunity for funding through the Community Benefit Scheme (CBS), which is eligible to community groups and organisations, for projects and services that benefit the Palmerston community. CBS funding includes grants for environmental initiatives.

DISCUSSION

Council has received a grant application from Gray Community Garden Inc, under the Environmental Initiatives component of CBS, for \$16,131 to assist in the reestablishment of Harvest Corner.



Picture: Harvest Corner before the redevelopment of Gray Community Hall.

The application aims to not only replace the previous garden but include improvements such as:

- Rebuilding the chicken coop and run using recycled product.
- Construction of a new wicking bed for annual food production (an extremely water efficient means of producing large amounts of food).
- The replacement and establishment of several new fruit trees to create a new orchard area.
- The construction of 3 to 5 compost bays along the fence line, which will be accessible to the public.
- Installation of new water-wise irrigation systems.

City of Palmerston will also support the project by:

- Salvaging all reusable material, product, and plants during the demolition of the existing garden (including soil, plants, irrigation infrastructure, outdoor furniture, and equipment).
- Providing new boundary fencing which will slightly increase the area of the garden.

Staff recommend supporting this application as Harvest Corner is an important community asset that promotes wellbeing, sustainable living practices, shared knowledge, and social interaction. The re-

establishment and ongoing operation of the garden also meets Council's environmental sustainability objectives (*objective 5.2 of the Community Plan*) through greening and cooling of urban areas. The added benefit of the project is that it will improve the amenity of the neighbouring newly rebuilt Gray Community Hall.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

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

- Executive Officer - Strategic Projects, Lifestyle and Community

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council Policy *FIN 18 Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships* provides governance and outlines the support that is available through the Community Benefit Scheme. Council's FIN18 policy requires all funding requests more than \$2,000 to be referred to Council with a recommendation.

Council Policy *FIN 18 Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships* also states in section 4.6.1 that to be eligible for funding, commercial entities need to match 50% of the overall project costs. This requirement has been demonstrated in their resource allocation, in which they have committed to supply in-kind support to the value of \$22,550, based on volunteer hours for construction activities (500hrs x \$45.10) and funding from other parties to the value of \$3,000.

City of Palmerston received a completed application from Gray Community Garden Inc (Harvest Corner) which meets all the requirements set out in Council Policy *FIN18, Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships* as follows:

- Application form
- Copy of Budget for Harvest Corner Rebuild
- List of Committee Members
- Committee Meeting Minutes – 30 June 2021
- Audited Financial Report 2020
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Certificate of Currency

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The funding application of \$16,131 is 38% of the total costs anticipated for the project. The applicants have indicated that they will supply in-kind support to the value of \$22,550, based on volunteer hours for construction activities (500hrs x \$45.10) and have sourced other funding to the value of \$3,000.

Attachment 13.2.6.1

The budget for Environmental Initiatives Grant funding for the 2021/2022 financial year is \$20,000. At the time of writing this report none of this budget has been expended and \$20,000 remains available. Should Council choose to grant approval of this grant request, this will result in allocation of \$16,131 from that budget, leaving \$ 3,869 unexpended.

To be noted, as this expenditure is early in the 2021/22 financial year, should on-going applications for environmental projects be received that are more than the remaining funding, the available budget for environmental initiatives will be reviewed. Environmental initiatives are also able to apply through the general Community Benefit Scheme which has a budget of \$130,000.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

- 1 Fails to effectively regain the trust from all stakeholders
Context: Council needs to be credible and trusted by those within and external to the Council.
- 5 Fails to make informed and timely decisions
Context: Ensuring the Council and Administration with decision making delegation have access to the right information, at the right time as context to making its decisions on a timely basis.

Council is currently in the process of redeveloping the Gray Community Hall site so this is the appropriate time to support the Gray Community Garden Inc to redevelop Harvest Corner community garden. Consultation between Council and the applicant continues.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Harvest Corner is Council's first community garden initiative, and since its inception and development through to subsequent management by the incorporated group – Gray Community Garden Inc.- has been an important environmental educational facility.

Redevelopment of this site will allow the continued (and expanded) mentoring, educative and community environmental participation practices that assist Council to achieve its Community Plan objectives around environmental sustainability.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. 20210705 2021 Budget for Harvest Corner Rebuild [8T3U] [13.2.6.1 - 3 pages]

Harvest Corner Rebuild/Expansion

Chicken Coop and Run

The chicken coop and run will be built using as much recycled product as we can such as assorted timber planking, scrap steel and offcut roofing. Netting, framing, watering systems, feeding systems, concrete and assorted fixings will need to be purchased.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Estimated cost of required materials | <u><u>\$2,000</u></u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|

Wicking Bed Construction

Construction of a 9000 x 1800 x 900mm wicking bed for annual food production.

Wicking beds are extremely water efficient and are an excellent way to produce large amounts of food.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Water Ups Wicking Cells | \$1,210 |
| Joiners | \$192.50 |
| Pond liner | \$433.90 |
| Perlite | \$225 |
| Soil | <u>\$750</u> |
| Total | <u><u>\$2,811</u></u> |

Replacement of Fruit Trees

A number of fruit trees are being removed due to the construction of the new hall. We need to replace these and add more in the new orchard.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Estimated cost of fruit trees | <u><u>\$2,000</u></u> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|

Irrigation

The new garden area will require irrigation. Some parts have been rescued from the demolition and will be reused including our irrigation controller.

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Estimated cost of irrigation installation | <u><u>\$2,000</u></u> |
|---|-----------------------|

Fridge Wicking Bed Replacement

Our fridge wicking beds have been thrown out during the course of the demolition. We will replace them with Biofilta Food Cube Wicking Beds.

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Food Cubes x 6 | \$3,000 |
| Soil | \$180 |
| Rock | \$190 |
| Total | \$3,370 |

Seeds

A selection of annual and perennial seeds to get the new garden space up and running.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Estimated cost of seeds | \$200 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|

Compost Bays for Community Composting

A series of 3-5 compost bays along the fenceline and accessible to the public to be able to drop off compostible materials.

The bays will have visible signage from the street indicating which bay to place your waste and explaining composting methods.

Bays will be made from as much recycled and repurposed materials as possible but will require purchased elements such as fixings etc to keep them safe.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Estimated cost of compost bay construction | \$750 |
| Signage | \$1,000 |
| Total | \$1,750 |

Replacement Signage for Garden and gates

New signs are required for entry gates and main sign facing street.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Estimated cost of signage | \$2,000 |
|----------------------------------|----------------|

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total cost of project | \$16,131 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|

Harvest Corner contribution to project

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Volunteer hours for rebuild 500hrs x \$45.10 | \$22,550 |
| Other grants and donations | \$3,000 |
| Total Harvest Corner Contribution | <u>\$25,550</u> |

COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| AGENDA ITEM: | 13.2.7 |
| REPORT TITLE: | Community Benefit Scheme Sponsorship Application - Palmerston Volunteer Centre, St John Ambulance Australia NT |
| MEETING DATE: | Tuesday 3 August 2021 |
| AUTHOR: | Community Services Lead, Tom Murphy |
| APPROVER: | Director Lifestyle and Community, Amelia Vellar |

COMMUNITY PLAN

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

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval to award \$11,599 in sponsorship funding to Palmerston Volunteer Centre, St John Ambulance Australia NT Inc to purchase Information Technology (IT) equipment to support Palmerston Adult Volunteers and Youth Cadet Program.

KEY MESSAGES

- Council provides funding through Community Benefit Scheme (CBS) to eligible community groups and organisations.
- Council has received a sponsorship application for \$12,539 from a locally based organisation, Palmerston Volunteer Centre, St John Ambulance Australia NT Inc, to purchase IT equipment to support their adult volunteers and youth cadet program.
- Council's FIN18 policy requires all funding requests in excess of \$2,000 to be referred to Council with a recommendation.
- The report recommends Council approves this request, however at the reduced amount of \$11,599, (excludes the purchase of a fridge) due to the potential benefits to the wellbeing of the adult volunteers, cadets and wider Palmerston community.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Community Benefit Scheme Sponsorship Application - Palmerston Volunteer Centre, St John Ambulance Australia NT be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approves \$11,599 in sponsorship funding to St John Ambulance Australia NT Inc to purchase Information Technology (IT) equipment to support adult volunteers and Youth Cadets.

BACKGROUND

City of Palmerston provides funding through the Community Benefit Scheme (CBS) to eligible community groups and organisations, for projects and services that benefit the Palmerston community.

Council's FIN18 policy requires all funding requests in excess of \$2,000 to be referred to Council with a recommendation.

Palmerston Volunteer Centre (PVC) is the Palmerston Branch of St John Ambulance Australia NT Inc, located at Cook Street, Farrar, offering St John Ambulance support at events held in Palmerston and runs a variety of programs for the adult volunteers and youth cadets.

Council has received a sponsorship application for \$12,539, from Palmerston Volunteer Centre, a locally based branch of St John Ambulance Australia NT Inc, to purchase IT equipment and a fridge to support their adult volunteers and youth cadet program. **Attachment 13.2.7.1**

DISCUSSION

In early 2020, at the start of COVID, PVC moved programs and communications to an online model to continue engagement with adult volunteers and youth cadets. This was vital to the continuation of the programs. PVC realised quickly that they needed the appropriate IT equipment to facilitate these sessions remotely.

PVC has advised that *"they have been using one very old, slow and clunky computer for the past two years"* with some volunteer members opting to use personal property to complete tasks instead.

They also state that *"they have received many complaints and concerns from volunteer members not being able to access internal systems from the computer at the Centre"*.

The applicant has provided details that show that any equipment successfully funded, will stay in Palmerston to support adult volunteers and the youth development programs that St John's offer.

The purchase of computers and iPads will enable the continued development of volunteers and support PVC administrative duties. The adult volunteer and cadet programs provide opportunities for the community to connect and build their overall capacity.

As this application is for the provision of items that will assist ongoing programs, rather than an event, proof of purchase, would also be required. Council requires this proof, as part of the funding.

The following information has been provided by PVC, to support their application further:

1. iPads will be used for:

- Online learning options
- Educational quizzes
- Accessing the St John NT Member Learning Portal
- Pre-screen COVID health checks.

2. Desktop computers and laptops will be used to:

- Enable volunteer Superintendents and Divisional Officers to access St John NT data management systems and NT SharePoint pages to update volunteer member details, view and roster volunteers for public duties, record member meetings, hours of volunteering and coordinate the youth program and
- Provide Internet access for leaders, volunteer members and youth participants.

3. Equipment

All equipment will be recorded in an asset register and used weekly as follows:

- Monday and Thursday evenings – Youth Divisions
- Wednesday evenings – Adult Division
- As needed for volunteers allowing Volunteer and Event Coordinators or other St John NT office staff to work from the facility when needed to provide additional on-ground support to the volunteers and youth program.

4. Long Term Plans

The equipment purchased will remain the property of PVC and will not be disbursed or redirected to other divisions of St John Ambulance NT.

The Palmerston Division is a thriving division and the PVC expect to be able to use this equipment for a minimum of 5 years (or more dependent on equipment lifespan)

This new equipment will allow their Youth members to access online learning and quizzes, complete research tasks and for adult members to have functioning, reliable IT systems.

They stated this equipment is important to support their capacity to engage and develop youth and adult volunteer members.

As part of the application, PVC requested a fridge. The provision of a fridge is not recommended, as this is an operational requirement of the facility and does demonstrate broad community benefit. Council officers believe that the provision of the fridge should be provided by St John Ambulance NT.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

There was no consultation required during the preparation of this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council Policy *FIN 18 Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships* provides governance and outlines the support that is available through the Community Benefit Scheme.

City of Palmerston received a completed application from Palmerston Volunteer Centre (Palmerston Branch of St John Ambulance NT Inc) which meets all the requirements sent out in Council Policy *FIN18, Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships* including the following:

- Sponsorship Eligibility Application Form
- Sponsorship Request

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The budget CBS funding for the 2021/2022 financial year is \$130,000. At the time of writing this report \$42,000 has been expended and \$88,000 remains available. Should Council choose to grant approval of this grant request, this will result in allocation of \$11,599 from that budget, leaving \$76,401 unexpended.

RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

1 Fails to effectively regain the trust from all stakeholders

Context: Council needs to be credible and trusted by those within and external to the Council.

Council is responsible for the efficient and sustainable management of the Community Benefit Scheme budget. Funding activities or items that are not seen to be benefitting the Palmerston Community may erode trust in Council and its processes. Council mitigates this risk by following the policy relating to eligibility criteria as outlined in its Policy FIN 18 Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships.

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no environment sustainability implications for this report.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. 20210728 - Sponsorship Request - Palmerston Volunteer Centre - St John Ambulance NT
[13.2.7.1 - 4 pages]

City of Palmerston Sponsorship Request

St John NT Palmerston Youth Program & Adult Volunteer Division Equipment Support

Background

The St John NT Cadet program is a youth development program providing first aid and leadership skill development for Territory young people aged 8 – 25 years.

We aim to develop self-reliant and confident young people who are engaged, switched on and community minded, and who are taking leadership action in their local communities.

Our Cadet program is made up of Juniors (8-11 years of age), Cadets (12-18 years of age) and Youth Leaders (18-25 years of age).

Our Palmerston and Farrar Cadet divisions are thriving, with over 45 young people involved on a weekly basis at our Palmerston Volunteer Centre, 7 Cook Street Farrar.

In addition to the Youth members, we have over 30 adult members who also meet weekly to gain new skills and knowledge and practise their First Aid skills to ensure they are able to support our Palmerston community at events such as Motocross.

Current priorities for the program

The Cadet youth program meets weekly (Monday evenings, Palmerston and Friday evenings, Farrar) at the St John Ambulance NT Volunteer Centre at Cook St, Farrar. As mentioned above, our adult volunteer division also meet weekly for training and practice.

In order to continue to support our over 70 Palmerston-based volunteers (both youth and adult), we need to purchase some IT equipment that will allow us to more effectively provide services for this cohort.

The IT equipment including laptops and ipads will allow us to effectively manage the cadet and adult volunteer divisions, have interactive online training components to our programs and have sign in stations set up. Further, the IT equipment will enable us to engage our groups in a combined face-to-face and online engagement model.

Through the past 18 months with COVID, in order to accommodate appropriate health, safety and social distancing requirements, we have needed to come up with innovative ways to engage our volunteers and young people so that where required, we can connect remotely and continue strong engagement with our participants.

Our team worked hard to create an online workaround to this situation, as our young people are so keen to continue to connect with their peers. We have started running virtual sessions, where the cadets connect in via their laptops or ipads/phones, and we host the session. We also have face to face sessions in this combined model.

In order to effectively run the cadet and volunteer sessions, and to really manage these important programs for the Palmerston community, we need to have fit for purpose equipment.

IT equipment required:

- laptop x 2
- monitors x 2
- desktop computer x 1
- iPads x10

In addition, the centre in Palmerston requires a new fridge for Volunteers to store their lunches etc. It's also an item where they keep fundraising drinks and chocolates for sale.

The IT equipment will be utilised as follows:

- host volunteer meetings virtually

- provide first aid training
- facilitate connection between members
- allow members to sign in using appropriate St John NT COVID systems
- provide leadership and personal development training

The Division leaders will connect in, head office will connect in and the Cadet participants (40 young people) will connect in from their own devices in their homes.

How the project will benefit the City of Palmerston

The St John NT Cadet Program is an important youth development program providing first aid and leadership skill development for Territory young people aged 8 – 25 years. Through this program we aim to develop self-reliant and confident young people who are engaged, switched on and community minded, and who are taking leadership action in their local communities.

Having a positive engagement activity is so vital for young people, and our Cadet Program continues to engage significant numbers of young people across the Territory. That we have over 45 young people from the Palmerston region currently engaged in this program is testament to that.

The current situation with COVID-19 has meant a significant increase in social distancing which can have significant effects on young people's engagement and mental health. It is vital that we pivot, and pivot quickly, to provide an alternative way to continue to engagement and connection with our young people.

Through this particular project, in funding this specific IT equipment, we will ensure continuity of service, and continuation of this vital youth engagement and adult volunteer program.

The Cadet program aims to provide opportunities for:

- positive social engagement with a civic activity
- connection, friendship and support
- develop first aid skills
- develop leadership skills
- train for first aid competitions
- have fun, new experiences
- connect with other likeminded young people from across the Territory, and Australia

We are continuing to utilise the online connection as the young people have really taken it up as a useful engagement tool and we can see that it will add an additional element to our ability to engage and connection with our young people and facilitate connection not just with their own Cadet Division, but with the other Divisions across the Territory (Darwin, Humpty Doo, Katherine, Alice Springs).

Our adult volunteer program engages volunteers who receive first aid training in order to allow them to attend local community events to provide first aid services. Events include sporting events, Shows, markets, concerts and other community events.

Links to Palmerston Community Plan

Objective 1.1 We focus on families

The youth of Palmerston are visible:

- positive stories about them are easily accessible
- young people have a role in provision of services to other young people

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

Council has strong partnerships and works in collaboration with those who provide social services to the community to better coordinate the delivery and effectiveness of these services.

What sources of funding does this project have?

St John NT fund the Cadet and Volunteer Programs as ongoing operational expenses. We have no other sources of funding for this particular project.

Project specifics

We have sourced quotes from Harvey Norman at Berrimah and will endeavour to purchase the equipment from local suppliers as much as possible.

Budget – IT equipment

| | |
|---|----------|
| HP Pavilion desktop computer (R7-3700X/16GB/1TBSSD/4GB GFX) | \$1,747 |
| Laptop x 2 (HP Laptop 15S-FQ2049TU \$1,488 each) | \$2,976 |
| Monitors x2 (ACER SA270B 27 FHD IPS FPD \$218 each) | \$436 |
| iPads x10 (iPad WIFI 10.2 128GB GLD 8 th GEN \$644 each) | \$6,440 |
| Total (IT Equipment) | \$11,599 |

Budget – Whitegoods

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Kelvinator 536Ltr 2 Door T/MNT Freezer | \$940 |
| Total request | \$12,539 |

Note: Harvey Norman quote attached includes discount, also includes price for a number of additional laptops not part of this project (these to be ignored, quote used for individual price only)

Project timeline

As soon as we have secured funding we will purchase the equipment which will then be used in an ongoing capacity as part of the Youth and Adult programs in Palmerston.

Sponsorship package

How we will acknowledge the City of Palmerston

City of Palmerston will be acknowledged in the following ways:

- Annual Report
- Recognition on Social media (Facebook)
- Recognition in our Flashing Lights Newsletter
- Communication to volunteer members



COMMERCIAL QUOTE

Owen Rashleigh

Commercial

HARVEY NORMAN COMPUTERS DARWIN

DARWINSUPA Pty Ltd

A.B.N. 22 588 534 660

Ph: (08) 8922 4128



NT Government Small Business Grant voucher will be accepted

Estimated Start / End date of Works: Up to 12 Weeks from voucher approval.

Payment via 50-50 contribution as per grant Terms and Conditions

Address of works: 50 Dripstone Road, Casuarina, NT 0810,

| | |
|---------------|--|
| DATE: | Friday, 9 April 2021 |
| QUOTE EXPIRY: | Sunday, 9 May 2021 |
| QUOTE NUMBER: | AO 230221-07 St John Ambulance Australia |
| CUSTOMER | |
| CONTACT: | Hussein Barakat |
| EMAIL: | hussein.barakat@stjohnmt.asn.au |
| PHONE: | |

| DESCRIPTION | Availability | QTY | RRP | DISC PRICE PER ITEM INC GST | DISC PRICE TOTALS ITEM EX GST | GST |
|---|--------------|-----|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| KELVINATOR 536 LTR 2 DOOR T/MINT FREEZER | | 1 | \$1,399.00 | \$940.00 | \$854.55 | 85.45 |
| | | | | | | |
| HP PAVILION GMG TG01-0211A (Desktop computer) R7-3700X/16GB/1TBSSD/4GB GFX | | 1 | \$1,799.00 | \$1,747.00 | \$1,588.18 | 158.82 |
| | | | | | | |
| ACER SAZ20B 27 FHD IPS FPD (Monitors) | | 2 | \$229.00 | \$218.00 | \$396.36 | 39.64 |
| | | | | | | |
| HP 15S-FQ2049TU SLV NBK (Laptops) | | 2 | \$1,599.00 | \$1,488.00 | \$2,705.45 | 270.55 |
| | | | | | | |
| IPAD WIFI 10.2 128GB GLD 8TH GEN | | 10 | \$649.00 | \$644.00 | \$5,854.55 | 585.45 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | Total ex GST | \$11,399.09 | \$1,139.91 |

Harvey Norman

**STUDENT
DEVICES**

DEVICES
BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE FOR EDUCATION

Total inc GST

\$12,539.00

14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Information

14.2 Correspondence

15 REPORT OF DELEGATES

16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

17 GENERAL BUSINESS

18 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 17 August 2021 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

THAT pursuant to *section 99(2) and 293(3)(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

20 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, 20 JULY 2021

CITY OF PALMERSTON

**Minutes of Council Meeting
held in Council Chambers
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
on Tuesday 20 July 2021 at 5:30pm.**

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell (Chair)
Deputy Mayor Amber Garden
Alderman Tom Lewis
Alderman Benjamin Giesecke
Alderman Damian Hale
Alderman Sarah Henderson
Alderman Lucy Morrison
Alderman Mick Spick – *Via audio-visual conference*

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Director Lifestyle and
Community, Amelia Vellar
Director City Growth and Operations, Nadine Nilon
Director Organisational Services, Silke Maynard
Communications Manager, Becky Saywell
Minute Secretary, Chloe Hayes

GALLERY

Two Members of the Public

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting – the Larrakia People – and pay my respects to their elders, past, present and future.

2 OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair declared the Meeting open at 5:30pm.

Initials: _____

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

Nil.

3.2 Leave of Absence Previously Granted

THAT the leave of absence received from Alderman Spick for 16 June 2021 to 31 July 2021 inclusive be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/1677 - 15/06/2021

3.3 Leave of Absence Request

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Garden

THAT the leave of absence received from Mayor Pascoe-Bell for 23 July to 25 July 2021 inclusive be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/1720 - 20/07/2021

4 REQUEST FOR AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING

Nil.

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Elected Members

Nil.

5.2 Staff

Nil.

Initials: _____

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved: Alderman Henderson
Seconded: Alderman Morrison

THAT the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 6 July 2021 pages 10484 to 10491, be confirmed.

CARRIED 9/1721 - 20/07/2021

6.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Nil.

7 MAYORAL REPORT

7.1 Mayoral Update Report - June 2021

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell
Seconded: Alderman Henderson

THAT Report entitled Mayoral Update Report – June 2021 be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/1722 - 20/07/2021

8 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

9 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)

Nil.

Initials: _____

10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

10.1 Moving Confidential Items into Open

25.2.1 Local Government Association of the Northern Territory – Membership and Governance Issues, Response

Moved: Deputy Mayor Garden
Seconded: Alderman Lewis

1. THAT Report entitled Local Government Association of the Northern Territory – Membership and Governance Issues, Response be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses the correspondence to LGANT regarding clarification and a further response to membership and governance concerns being **Attachment 25.2.1.1** to Report entitled Local Government Association of the Northern Territory – Membership and Governance Issues, Response.
3. THAT the Mayor write to and meet with the Northern Territory Minister of Local Government advising that Council has sought a further response from LGANT regarding governance concerns and expressing City of Palmerston concerns.
4. THAT the Council Decisions relating to report entitled Local Government Association of the Northern Territory – Membership and Governance Issues, Response be moved to the 20 July 2021 open minutes of the Ordinary Meeting.

CARRIED 9/1735 – 20/07/2021

10.2 Moving Open Items into Confidential

Nil.

10.3 Confidential Items

Moved: Alderman Hale
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Garden

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

Initials: _____

Minute Book Page 10499
2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

| ITEM | REGULATION | GENERAL CATEGORY | REASON |
|--------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 25.1.1 | 51(1)(c)(iv) 51(1)(d) | Legal Advice | <p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and <i>section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i>, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.</p> <p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and <i>section 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i>, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.</p> |
| 25.2.1 | 51(1)(c)(iv) 51(1)(d) | Review of Confidential Matters | <p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and <i>section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i>, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.</p> <p>This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to <i>section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019</i> and <i>section 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i>, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the</p> |

Initials: _____

Minute Book Page 10500

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

| | | | |
|--------|-------------|---|--|
| | | | receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. |
| 25.2.2 | 51(1)(c)(i) | Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review | This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(i) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person. |

CARRIED 9/1722 – 20/07/2021

11 PETITIONS

Nil.

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

13 OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 Receive and Note Reports

13.1.1 Organisational Services Quarterly Report – April to June 2021

Moved: Deputy Mayor Garden
Seconded: Alderman Henderson

THAT Report entitled Organisational Services Quarterly Report – April to June 2021 be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/1724 – 20/07/2021

Initials: _____

13.1.2 Financial Report for the Month of June 2021

Moved: Alderman Morrison
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Garden

THAT Report entitled Financial Report for the Month of June 2021 be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/1725 – 20/07/2021

13.1.3 City of Palmerston Weed Management Program

Moved: Alderman Henderson
Seconded: Alderman Morrison

THAT Report entitled City of Palmerston Weed Management Program be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/1726 – 20/07/2021

13.1.4 Community Benefit Scheme End of Financial Year Update

Moved: Deputy Mayor Garden
Seconded: Alderman Morrison

THAT Report entitled Community Benefit Scheme End of Financial Year Update be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/1727 – 20/07/2021

13.1.5 Lifestyle and Community Quarterly Report, April to June 2021

Moved: Alderman Henderson
Seconded: Alderman Hale

THAT Report entitled Lifestyle and Community Quarterly Report, April to June 2021 be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/1728 – 20/07/2021

Initials: _____

13.2 Action Reports

13.2.1 Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework

Moved: Alderman Spick
Seconded: Alderman Henderson

1. THAT Report entitled Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the City of Palmerston Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework being **Attachment 13.2.1.1**.
3. THAT a report outlining the strategy for implementation of the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework be presented to Council by the Second Ordinary Meeting in October 2021.
4. THAT Council writes to all the community members and stakeholders that provided feedback to the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework to thank them for their input.

CARRIED 9/1729 – 20/07/2021

14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Information

Nil.

14.2 Correspondence

Nil.

15 REPORT OF DELEGATES

Nil.

16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Nil.

Initials: _____

17 GENERAL BUSINESS

17.1 Palmerston Youth Festival

Moved: Deputy Mayor Garden
Seconded: Alderman Giesecke

THAT Council thanks all staff involved in delivering yet another fantastic year of the Palmerston Youth Festival.

CARRIED 9/1730 – 20/07/2021

17.2 Citizenship Ceremony – Sanctuary Lakes

Moved: Alderman Morrison
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Garden

THAT Council expresses its thanks and appreciation to all staff involved in 20 July 2021 Citizenship Ceremony at Sanctuary Lakes.

CARRIED 9/1731 – 20/07/2021

18 NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Moved: Alderman Giesecke
Seconded: Alderman Henderson

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 3 August 2021 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, First Floor, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace Palmerston.

CARRIED 9/1732 – 20/07/2021

19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

Moved: Alderman Henderson
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Garden

THAT pursuant to Section 99(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Section 52 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

CARRIED 9/1733 – 20/07/2021

Initials: _____

20 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

Nil.

The open section of the Meeting closed at 5:53 pm for the discussion of confidential matters.

The Chair declared the Meeting closed at 6:24 pm.

Chair

Print Name

Date

Initials:
