

# AGENDA 1st Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday 1 February 2022

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





## TABLE OF CONTENT

1	ACK	(NOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	4
2	OPE	NING OF MEETING	4
3	APC	DLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	4
	3.1	Apologies	4
	3.2	Leave of Absence Previously Granted	4
	3.3	Leave of Absence Request	4
4	REC	QUEST FOR AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING	4
5	DEC	CLARATION OF INTEREST	4
	5.1	Elected Members	4
	5.2	Staff	4
6	CON	NFIRMATION OF MINUTES	4
	6.1	Confirmation of Minutes	4
	6.2	Business Arising from Previous Meeting	4
7	MA	YORAL REPORT	4
	7.1	Mayoral Update Report - January 2022	5
8	DEP	PUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	8
		BLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)	
10		NFIDENTIAL ITEMS	
	10.1	Moving Confidential Items into Open	8
	10.2	Moving Open Items into Confidential	R



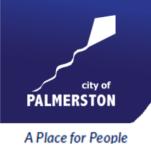
10.3 Confidential Items	8
11 PETITIONS	8
12 NOTICES OF MOTION	8
13 OFFICER REPORTS	8
13.1 Action Reports	9
13.1.1 Council Policy - Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record	9
13.1.2 Sustainability Strategy	14
13.1.3 Play Space Strategy Consultation Outcomes	39
13.1.4 Zuccoli Community Hub - Off Leash Dog Exercise Area	61
13.2 Receive and Note Reports	71
13.2.1 Finance and Governance October to December 2021 Quarterly Report	71
13.2.2 Adopt a Lake	78
14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE	84
14.1 Information	84
14.2 Correspondence	84
15 REPORT OF DELEGATES	84
16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS	84
17 GENERAL BUSINESS	84
18 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	84
19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC	84
20 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON	84



- 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 18 January 2022 pages 10627 to 10634 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 - January 2022

MEETING DATE: Tuesday 1 February 2022
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 the recent activities of the Mayor, on behalf of Council.

### **KEY MESSAGES**

- Met with the Minister Littleproud, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia.
- The Council commenced the first Ordinary Meeting of 2022 with a Smoking Ceremony performed by Larrakia Man, Trent Lee.
- We celebrated Australia Day with a Flag Raising, Citizenship and Australia Day Awards ceremony, a fantastic attendance including the Administrator of the Northern Territory and Chief Minister.
- Met with the Mayor of Litchfield, Doug Barden.
- Attended the Grand Opening of the Australian International Islamic College in Darwin.
- Radio Interview with ABC Radio, Head Honcho Segment.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Report entitled Mayoral Update Report - January 2022 be received and noted.

### DISCUSSION

### Meeting with Minister Littleproud

I would like to thank Minister Littleproud for meeting with me, in which is always a busy schedule for Commonwealth Ministers when they visit the NT. We had a productive meeting discussing Palmerston's current and proposed projects, including SWELL and Zuccoli Community Hub.

At the time of writing this report, Gray Community Hall was set to open on Monday 31 January, 2022. This project would not have been possible without the assistance of direct funding from the Commonwealth.

### First Ordinary Council Meeting of 2022

On 18 January Council held its first Ordinary Council Meeting for the year of 2022. The Council Meeting began with a Smoking Ceremony performed by Larrakia Man, Trent Lee at the entry way to the Civic Plaza. The ceremonious fire was lit prior and each Elected Member were asked to walk through the smoke to wash away impurities before commencing the first Ordinary Council Meeting.

I look forward to all of the fantastic things that the Tenth Council are set to achieve in 2022.





### Australia Day

On 26 January we celebrated with a Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony. The Australian Defence Force Tri Service performed the raising of the Australian National Flag whilst the talented Shalom Kaa sung the National Anthem. We reflected on our great culture and camaraderie and also welcomed our newest citizens.

We welcomed conferees who came from Ghana, Bangladesh, Philippines, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, Nepal, India, Ireland, Vietnam, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, Cyprus, Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Canada, Thailand, Nigeria and Papua New Guinea who on this day, made their commitment in becoming Australian Citizens. We were honoured to have Paige Horrigan Ambassador for Australia Day and Young Citizen of the Year 2021 who assisted with the presentation of certificate and gift.

After this I then announced the Student Citizen award winners, this award is a way of acknowledging our outstanding young students. This award is to recognise the student who show a sense of fair play, generosity of spirit, concern for others, cultural understanding, positive attitude and involvement within the school/wider community. The winners are Cooper Duck, Toby Anderson, Stella Di Toro, Karen Scott, Jayden Chapman, Georgia Doll and Chloe Wong. Congratulation's students!

For the final part of the Australia Day celebration, the presentation of the Australia Day Council – Local Government Awards for the City of Palmerston. Zimpride – Zimbabwean Community received the award for community event of the year. Veronica Matipira received the award for 2022 citizen of the year. And Isabelle Craven received the award for 2022 young citizen of the year. Congratulations to all, this is a fantastic achievement!

I would like to thank all of our guests for attending including Chief Minister Michael Gunner, Administrator of the Northern Territory Vicki O'Halloran, Member for Drysdale Eva Lawler, Member for Brennan Marie-Clare Boothby, Sentator for the Northern Territory Dr Sam McMahon, MLA's and federal members, representatives from the Australian Defence Force, members of Consular Corps, Mayor of Litchfield Council and President of Coomalie Community Government Council, City of Palmerston Councillor's, Board Member of Australia Day Council Northern Territory Kym Cairns and all of our distinguished guests.



On Australia Day, we reflect, respect, and celebrate.



### **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
25.1.1	Personal Information	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.
25.1.2	Complaint of a Contravention of the Code of Conduct	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(f) 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 in relation to a complaint of a contravention of the code of conduct.

- 11 PETITIONS
- 12 NOTICES OF MOTION
- 13 OFFICER REPORTS



### **COUNCIL REPORT**

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 13.1.1

**REPORT TITLE:** Council Policy - Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record

MEETING DATE: Tuesday 1 February 2022

AUTHOR: Finance Manager, Gayu Sivaraj

**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 adopt a new policy in accordance with the *Local Government Act* 2019.

### **KEY MESSAGES**

- As per the *Local Government Act 2019*, Council may by resolution adopt a new policy outlining the criteria for a person to gain access to assessment records relating to an allotment.
- The policy outlines the criteria whom is considered to have sufficient interest in an assessment record, and the information available to the person.
- The key difference between Local Government Act 2008 and Local Government Act 2019 (Act) is that the old legislation allowed for copies of assessment records to be made available to public for inspection free of charge whereas the new legislation allows for Council to adopt a policy to determine sufficient interest that limits access to the assessment records
- Council currently does not charge for the inspection of assessment records but charges \$50 for a written extract of the assessment. Per the Act, this can be determined by the Council and will be reviewed in preparing the Fees and Charges for 2023 financial year.

### RECOMMENDATION

- 1. THAT Report entitled Council Policy Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record be received and noted.
- 2. THAT Council endorse the new Council Policy being Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record as presented as **Attachment 13.1.1.1** to Report entitled Council Policy Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record.

### **BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the Act, Council may adopt a policy to provide guidance on what constitutes a sufficient interest in the assessment record. The policy is ensuring access to assessment records where required whilst protecting data in line with the Privacy Act.

### **DISCUSSION**



A new Council Policy entitled Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record (Policy) has been drafted, as presented as **Attachment 13.1.1.1** to this Report to outline the criteria for a person to be considered as having sufficient interest to have access to Council assessment records in relation to an allotment.

As per the Act, there are certain persons that have access to the assessment records information relating to an allotment. A person is deemed to have sufficient interest in an assessment record if:

- the person is an owner, occupier, lessee or agent of the owner;
- the person is an owner, occupier, lessee or agent of the owner of the adjoining land
- the person is a legal practitioner or a licensed conveyancer requesting a rates search on the behalf of purchaser of an allotment;
- the person is a Chief Executive Officer of a Territory Government Agency

If the person is not one of the above, a statutory declaration needs to be submitted along with reason for the request, what the information will be used for, that the information will be kept confidential and give declaration that the information will not be used for any other purpose.

The Act does not specify if requests to access assessment records need to be in writing. However, as Section 230 of the Act allows Council to develop a policy to assess and determine what constitutes sufficient interest, staff have established a process where a form needs to be completed upon request to assess if the request meets the above sufficient interest criteria.

The new process combined with policy will ensure staff collect and retain the requestor's name and contact details, the reason for the request to ensure there is no commercial interest, our decision on the request before the assessment record can be accessed by the requestor. Once a person applies for access to a specific assessment, the Chief Executive Officer of Council will review the information obtained through the form and determine if the person/s requesting the information are eligible to access the information, weigh up the public interest and if necessary, seek approval from the ratepayer for release.

Before the new requirement, Council did not have any forms in place in relation to the access of assessment records. Before *Local Government Act 2019* came into effect the previous legislation Section 152 of Local Government Act 2008 allowed for the assessment records to be made available for inspection free of charge by any member of the public at the Council's public office. When a request was made to inspect the assessment record, staff noted the requestor's name, viewed identification to verify details against our system.

As per our current fees and charges schedule for 2021/22, Council charges \$50 incl GST for a written extract of an assessment however does not charge for inspection of the records at Council's office. In accordance with Act the following may inspect or copy the assessment record free of charge:

- In relation to the part of the record for particular land an owner, occupier or lessee of the land or the adjoining land; or
- an agent of the owner, occupier or lessee of the land or the adjoining land;
- the Chief Executive Officer of a Territory Government Agency.

Council will review and consider changes to the fees and charges if required for 2022/23 budget

### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

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

- Financial Accountant
- Executive Leadership Team



The following external parties were consulted in preparing this Report:

Department of Chief Minister

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

If adopted, this Policy will become a new Policy of Council and published on Council's website.

### **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Council charges a \$50 inc GST fee for written extracts of the assessment records and allows inspection of assessment record at Council's office free of charge. Once the new Policy is adopted, Council will review the fees and charges for this service in 2022/23 budget preparation.

### **RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

This Policy will ensure that access to assessment record details is minimised and in the public interest and private data is protected.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

1 Fails to effectively regain the trust from all stakeholders

Context: Council needs to 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**

1. Draft Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record Policy [13.1.1.1 - 2 pages]



Name:	Sufficient Interest	Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record				
Type:	Council Policy	Council Policy				
Owner:	Chief Executive Of	ief Executive Officer				
Responsible Officer:	Director of Finance	Director of Finance and Governance				
Adopted Date:	[Approval Date]	[Approval Date] Next Review Date: [Next Revi				
Records Number:		Council Decision:				

### 1 PURPOSE

This Policy outlines the criteria for a person to be considered as having sufficient interest to have access to the council assessment record in relation to an allotment.

### 2 PRINCIPLES

Council is committed to facilitate access to the assessment record in relation to an allotment if the person requesting access has a sufficient interest.

### 3 DEFINITIONS

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

Term	Definition
Allotment	An allotment is a parcel of land or part of a parcel of land.
Assessment Record	Brief description of each allotment and Unimproved Capital Value, including name and postal address of owner(s), principal ratepayer (if not the owners) and rating category.
Сору	To inspect and write down information. No photo or photocopying of the rate assessment is allowed.
CEO of the Agency	The Chief Executive Officer of a Territory Government Agency
Rates Search	Information as per the Assessment Record plus the rates and charges for the current financial year, including payments received and balance remaining.
Sufficient Interest	Is interest that is not commercial, except in the request for a rates search in relation to sale of property.

### 4 POLICY STATEMENT

### 4.1. Criteria

City of Palmerston will use the below criteria to determine whether a person has a sufficient interest in the assessment record in relation to an allotment:

- 4.1.1. The person is an owner, occupier, lessee or agent of the owner;
- 4.1.2. The person is an owner, occupier, lessee or agent of the owner of the adjoining land;
- 4.1.3. The person is a legal practitioner or a licensed conveyancer requesting a rates search on the behalf of purchaser of an allotment;
- 4.1.4. The CEO of an Agency;
- 4.1.5. The person if not one of the above points, completes a statutory declaration that provides:
  4.1.5.1.A reasonable explanation whether personal or professional in nature for making a request to inspect the assessment record and what the information will

SUFFICIENT INTEREST IN THE ASSESSMENT RECORD

Page 1 of 2



- be used for. It is not considered to be sufficient interest if the interest is commercial in nature.
- 4.1.5.2. That the information inspected and/or copied from the assessment record will be kept confidential
- 4.1.5.3. That the information inspected and/or copied from the assessment record will not be used for any other purpose that has not been identified in the reasons provided under 4.1.5.1

### 4.2. Determining

The CEO will take into account the public interest and the risk of detriment to the owner or principal ratepayers in granting access to the assessment record.

- 4.2.1. If deemed necessary, the CEO reserves the right to seek approval from the owner/ratepayer prior to releasing assess to the assessment record.
- 4.2.2. The application of this policy maybe varied in exceptional circumstances by the CEO.
- 4.2.3. Any other considerations prescribed by regulation.



### **COUNCIL REPORT**

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 13.1.2

**REPORT TITLE:** Sustainability Strategy **MEETING DATE:** Tuesday 1 February 2022

**AUTHOR:** Urban and Environment Planner, Damien Scalora **APPROVER:** General Manager Infrastructure, Nadine Nilon

### **COMMUNITY PLAN**

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

### **PURPOSE**

This Report seeks Council approval to adopt the Sustainability Strategy 2022, replacing the previous Sustainability Strategy (2013-2018).

### **KEY MESSAGES**

- The City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2022 has been developed to support and guide continued delivery of programs that address environmental sustainability.
- The Strategy retains a focus on outcomes specific to environmental sustainability, looking at the community's and organisations relationship to our surrounds.
- The Strategy incorporates feedback from community consultation undertaken in October 2021 and presented to Council in November 2021.
- Four themes frame the Strategy, each with priorities and actions that will drive its implementation.
- The Sustainability Strategy is intended to sit alongside other Council strategies to deliver upon the Community Plan and address all dimensions of sustainable development.
- An action plan has been developed with targets to support and monitor the activities identified within the Sustainability Strategy.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. THAT Report entitled Sustainability Strategy be received and noted.
- 2. THAT Council adopt the City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy presented as **Attachment 13.1.2.1** to Report entitled Sustainability Strategy.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Sustainability Strategy presented is a continuation Council's focus on progressing sustainable development in the municipality. Strategically, this is demonstrated through the previous City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018, and more recently through outcome five of the Community Plan. This outcome focuses on Environmental Sustainability, seeing Palmerston as an environmentally friendly, liveable city that promotes renewable practices and sustainability.



At a project level, Council has continued to deliver programs improving outcomes under environmental sustainability. This is exemplified by capital works projects delivering solar power for Council facilities, waste management initiatives at Archer Waste management Facility and in the community, and an ongoing focus on cooling the city through tree planting initiatives.

The new Sustainability Strategy will support objectives under the Community Plan, and further capacity and direction to explore opportunities to evolve operations in this space. Reports to Council have been ongoing throughout the strategy's development progress. The most recent of which was presented at the Second Ordinary Council meeting of 16 November 2021. This provided a report to Council on outcomes from consultation for the draft Strategy. Consultation feedback was supportive of the positive directions taken in the development of the strategy, and feedback highlighted community capacity and interest in this space.

The Council decision from the 16 November 2021 Meeting was:

Sustainability Strategy

2. THAT a Report on the final Sustainability Strategy be presented to Council in February 2022.

Decision Number 10/108

The Sustainability Strategy (Strategy) is intended to sit alongside other Council strategies to deliver upon the Community Plan, integrating with plans such as the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible (IDA) Framework and the Palmerston Local Economic Plan, which address social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. The Sustainability Strategy presented therefore retains a focus on environmental sustainability, targeting outcomes specifically within the environmental dimension of sustainable development. The Strategy recognises the sphere of influence as a Local Government in the Northern Territory system, with Northern Territory Government (NTG) also sharing responsibilities in the environmental sustainability space.

Complementary strategies are evident across the NT, evidenced by NTG draft strategies and plans surrounding Circular Economy and Water Security. Of relevance to several goals under the Palmerston Sustainability Strategy is the Darwin Heat Mitigation and Adaption Strategy, delivered under the City Deals initiative, which acknowledges that heat and how it's responded to will influence the future in the top end.

The following discussion outlines key elements of the Strategy and highlights several upcoming actions to continue momentum on implementation. It also outlines potential to explore greater relationships with research bodies operating in the Top End to increase effective planning and responses to environmental sustainability challenges.

### **DISCUSSION**

Council's objective through the Strategy is to:

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

The Strategy is framed around four themes to guide sustainable development in the Palmerston environment. These themes and subsequent actions have been developed through a review of Council's



Community Plan and other leading documents, review of local government exemplars, elected member workshops, internal officer discussions and recent community consultation. The four themes are:

<u>Theme One</u>: Protecting our Urban Ecology and Natural Environment.

The physical assets, our urban and natural environment.

Theme Two: Empowering and Connecting our Community.

Connections relating to how our community travels and engages with sustainability practices.

Theme Three: Future Focused on Efficiencies.

Evolving management approaches to address environmental impacts.

Theme Four: Lead with Purpose.

Leading initiatives and supporting industry.

Contained under each of these themes, are priorities and goals coordinating a focus on achieving the above objective. Actions are listed within the Strategy, though these are not exhaustive and further projects may evolve over the life of Strategy.

Since the November 2021 report to Council, these actions have been refined and an implementation plan is provided to support monitoring and implementation tracking of the Strategy. The Action Plan 2022-2027 is presented as **Attachment 13.1.2.2.** 

The Strategy contains several targets around suitably measured priorities, which are effective in providing an indication of success. As Council's capabilities and processes develop there may be opportunities to revisit these target measures and build in further measures where they are deemed effective for the community. Providing the Action Plan as a reference document separate to the strategy, allows it to remain a working document for Council to continue to refine and work towards.

The primary target areas referenced in the implementation plan are below:

Indicator	Measure	Target
Urban Heat Mitigation	Canopy Cover	<ul> <li>5% increase by 2026 from 2021 baseline</li> <li>Validate external agency measure for 2020 of 29.5% (down 4.4% from 2016)</li> </ul>
Engagement with Community and Leading Sustainability	Annual Community Plan performance score – promoting environmental sustainability	<ul> <li>Performance score of at least 7.5 against this measure on the annual Community Plan survey (measures out of 10)</li> <li>2021 score of 6.55, 2019 score of 6.36</li> </ul>
Waste Management Behaviours	Recycling/resource recovery - Diversion of waste from landfill	<ul><li>Annual diversion rate of at least 30% by 2026</li><li>2021 baseline of 12%</li></ul>
	Contamination rates - Comingled recycling bin contamination	<ul><li>Less than 25% by 2026</li><li>2021 contamination rate of 53.5%</li></ul>

There are several actions under the strategy representing existing programs to be expanded including waste management initiatives (community education and Archer Waste Facility upgrades), preserving our urban forest and increasing the proportion of energy from alternative sources at Council facilities.



### Existing projects include:

- Annual tree planting program and verge tree planting;
- Community planting programs;
- Irrigation efficiencies;
- Procurement policy;
- Purchase of hybrid fleet vehicles for Council fleet; and
- Installation of solar power at several Council facilities and as value ads to projects (Civic Centre Car park shade structures).

### **Next Steps**

The Strategy will be considered in future project and planning undertaken by Council. Some targets will be able to be achieved within existing programs, whilst others will require separate projects and resources to achieve. The actions will be monitored and updated to Council through quarterly reports, annual reports and other relevant updates, with relevant projects identified within the budget process or through identified opportunities (such as grant funding).

In addition to the continued operational improvements within Council, there are several areas of immediate focus to highlight following adoption of the Strategy.

### Water Efficiencies Review

Goal 3.1 - Limit environmental impacts and expenditure associated with Council's consumption of energy and water.

- Reduce irrigation of non-activated lawn areas, such as median strips and explore other focus areas to target irrigation changes
- Support irrigation and energy efficiencies with coordinated community information and messaging

Council currently irrigates a number of non-activated lawn areas, including open drains and some road reserve areas and there are opportunities to engage across all four themes of the Sustainability Strategy in addition to Goal 3.1. As an action from the Strategy, further work will be undertaken to review existing water usage and develop informed options for Council's consideration where there is a change to service levels.

### **Urban Heat Mitigation and Data Informed Decisions**

Goal 1.3 - Urban heat mitigation and increased canopy cover.

CSIRO is part of the Darwin Living Lab, an initiative resulting from the City Deal initiative of government agencies. Much of the challenges and key objectives under the living lab and associated activities are similar to that faced by the Palmerston community. In response to the Draft Strategy, CSIRO representatives provided an indication of alignment with several priorities under the Sustainability Strategy as presented as **Attachment 13.1.2.3** to this Report. Through the Sustainability Strategy and wider project work, there may be opportunity for further engagement with CSIRO to provide specialist services or advice, and build collaboration around project Council identifies as priorities.

### **Resource Consumption**

Goal 3.1 - Limit environmental impacts and expenditure associated with Council's consumption of energy and water

• Increase proportion of energy used from renewable energy sources at Council owned facilities



 Develop internal processes and capabilities for monitoring of resource consumption and integrate with environmental sensors.

Council has already undertaken recent projects within this space, exemplified by the structure at Civic Plaza adding solar panels for alternative power sources. Further opportunities are be reviewed for similar value add options to projects. Council officers are also building internal processes by further utilising capabilities of the Azility energy management software program to monitor consumption and inform change actions.

### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

Community consultation occurred from 20 September 2021 to 15 October 2021, as previously reported to Council at the Second Ordinary Meeting of 16 November 2021. Community consultation sought to ensure what priorities the community had when it came to environmental sustainability, to ensure that Council's strategy best reflected these desires. A short online survey was developed asking about respondents' relationship with sustainability and their view of Council's role.

Survey respondent outlined personal initiatives they undertake day to day to live more sustainably, much of which was indicative of the broader actions Council is seeking to evolve under the Strategy. Topical matters like avoiding plastic, recycling, and reusing, water monitoring particularly in the dry, purchasing locally and ethically, and focusing on regenerating environmental values, featured prominently. Also noted was the intent to use alternative travel options when moving locally, which is directly influenced by the environment facilitated in their surrounds.

Respondents saw Council acting in various roles to support sustainability, primarily through enabling and facilitative methods. Responses identified education and awareness as key drivers of change, though some noted the need for more targeted actions or programs, to bring along the whole of community rather than only those proactive in this space. Broadly the feedback received in consultation reiterated the intentions and content of much of the draft Strategy, and consultation allowed additional elements to be added or further explored under the final Sustainability Strategy now presented.

The Sustainability Strategy is also informed by other community driven documents, such as the Community Plan providing a greater integration with wider feedback expressed by the community.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications for this Report.

### **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Council has provided \$150,000 for Sustainability Programs as part of the 2021/2022 Capital Works programming. This covers capital initiatives within priorities and supports larger programs. The Sustainability Strategy will support prioritising further rollout of future capital programs. Project requiring funding will develop through future budget processes and other opportunities as they arise.

### RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The previous Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018 has expired and will be replaced with this Sustainability Strategy.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:



2 Fails to be sustainable into the long term Context: Optimising the financial, social and environmental sustainability of the City.

### **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 building of internal processes and actions. 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**

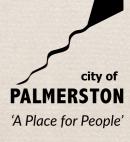
We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

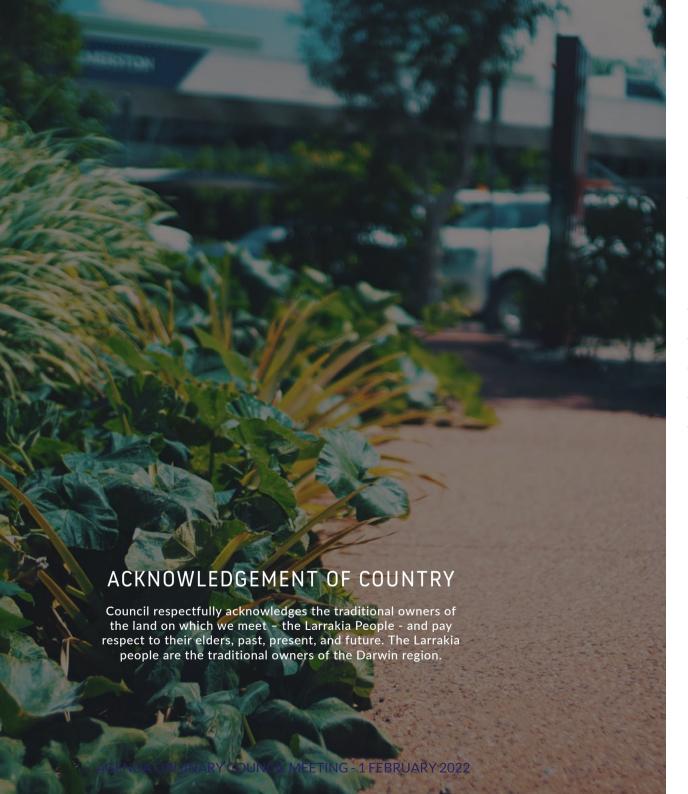
### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Sustainability Strategy 2022 [13.1.2.1 13 pages]
- 2. Sustainability Strategy Targets and Action Plan 2022-2027 [13.1.2.2 4 pages]
- 3. CSIRO response to Co P Draft Sustainability Strategy [13.1.2.3 2 pages]



SUSTAINABILITY
STRATEGY 2022





## COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.1

### **CONTENTS**

City of Palmerston and sustainability					
What is sustainability?	4				
Environmental sustainability	4				
City of Palmerston and our community	4				
Our sustainability progress	4				
Council's objective	6				
Council's role					
Sustainability Framework					
Summary of themes and priorities	7				
Themes and priorities	8				
Theme 1 – Protecting our urban ecology and natural environment	8				
Theme 2 - Empowering & connecting our community	12				
Theme 3 - Future focused on efficiencies	16				
Theme 4 - Lead with purpose	20				

## COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.1

### City of Palmerston and sustainability

### WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

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 generations to meet their own needs'. The report concluded with a call to action that promoted balanced economic, social and environmental needs.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Environmental outcomes are frequently associated when discussing matters around sustainability. The environmental dimension of sustainability is widely encapsulating with concepts including our immediate surrounds, life-support systems and sources of livelihood. Outcomes in Palmerston influence how we live, work and play. A liveable environment refers to one that is clean, safe, provides access to basic needs, and enables a sense of place and community.

This Sustainability Strategy retains a focus on the environmental dimension, dimension, looking at our interaction with the natural and built environment. It seeks to preserve our natural assets, reduce our collective impacts and evolve our practices, so that liveability and opportunities for future generations are not compromised.

### CITY OF PALMERSTON AND OUR COMMUNITY

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

Balanced decision-making is increasingly important as our population grows and environmental impacts become increasingly evident. Climatic conditions are rapidly changing, and our positioning here in the Top End provides vulnerabilities with these changes. As an organisation, 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, are elements of sustainability.

### OUR SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS

This Strategy replaces the previous Strategy formulated in 2013, now developed in alignment with the Community Plan. It is a continuation of the City of Palmerston's commitment to sustainable development, highlighted through a number of initiatives Council has implemented.

### **HIGHLIGHT INITIATIVES**

- Solar power at Council facilities
- Waste diversion improvements through Archer Waste Management Facility upgrades
- Smart technology control lights installed across the municipality
- Liveable 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



### COUNCIL'S OBJECTIVE

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

### COUNCIL'S ROLE

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

- An attitude towards continual improvements.
- Recognising 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.
- Facilitate and involve community in decisions.

### SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK



### ENVIRONMENT

The physical asset, our urban ecology and natural environment



### COMMUNITY

Connections, relating to how our community travels and connects with sustainable practices



**GOVERNANCE** 

Evolving our approaches to reduce environmental impacts



### **ECONOMY**

Leading initiatives, supporting local industry to address environmental impacts

In developing the strategy and future actions, four 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.

### COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.1

### Summary of themes and priorities

THEME	PRIORITIES				
1.	<b>1.1 Ecological preservation</b> Protection and restoration of natural ecosystems and reduce threats to biodiversity				
Protecting our urban ecology and natural environment	1.2 Parks and green space     Equitable access to sustainable infrastructure and community green space				
	1.3 Urban heat mitigation Urban heat mitigation and increased canopy cover				
2.	2.1 Engaged with sustainability  Community wide sustainability through education, awareness and engagement				
Empowering and connecting community	2.2 Connected communities  Enhancing movement within our communities and to our green infrastructure				
	2.3 Sustainable events  Council events demonstrate sustainable practices and promote our environmental surrounds				
3. Future focused	3.1 Resource consumption Limit environmental impacts and expenditure associated with Council's consumption				
on efficiencies	3.2 Waste diversion Waste diverted from landfill and reduce waste generated from Council activities				
4. Lead with purpose	4.1 Responsible investment and procurement Supporting local businesses and industry through investment and procurement				
Leau With purpose	4.2 Lead initiatives  Demonstrating sustainable initiatives to the community and for the community				
	4.3 Support industry and innovations Incentivise and support local businesses				

### Themes and priorities

### THEME 1: PROTECTING OUR URBAN ECOLOGY AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

A healthy natural environment is the corner stone of day-to-day living, with ecosystem services underpinning human well-being. It influences the air we breathe, the water we drink, the recreational spaces we enjoy and the foundations of our economy.

We recognise 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 recognised as vital assets that regulate our surrounds and support lifestyle of our current and future community.

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 liveability of future generations we must focus our efforts on mitigating these.

### **PRIORITIES**

1. ECOLOGICAL PRESERVATION



2. PARKS AND GREEN SPACE



3. URBAN HEAT MITIGATION



### **KEY DOCUMENTS**

- Edible Pocket Gardens (Policy)
- Preserving Our Urban Forest (Policy)
- Lake Management Plan

## COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.1



### **BACKGROUND**

Palmerston has developed into a largely urban centre, nestled in rich environmental surrounds. The Mitchell Creek Catchment area is an environmental asset that has been somewhat intersected with urban development over the past decade. Due to significant urbanisation 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 (NTG), 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.



Goal: Protection and restoration of natural ecosystems and reduce threats to biodiversity



### EXISTING INITIATIVES

Implementing Council's Lakes Management Plan seeks to increase the health of these water 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.

### **ACTIONS**

- Implement Lakes Management Plan.
- Partner with NTG to reduce reliance groundwater resources and explore strategies around Council water consumption.
- Implement recommendations resulting from 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.
- Develop weed and fire management plans.
- Review and update of planting and vegetation management programs which provides a focus on species density and diversity.
- Advocate within future land use planning for protection where suitable of environmental corridors.
- Investigate opportunities to expand the Council tree species list include pollinator species, edible species, habitat trees and threatened species.



### **BACKGROUND**

Parks and green space provides communal areas to connect and socialise supporting the wellbeing of the community.

With this in mind, there is a need to retain and enhance the use of these spaces, and ensure equitable access across our municipality. Placing higher social and economic value on our green spaces recognises the role they have in the community.

Having a predominately urban form elevates the importance of public open space and entails a need for accessibility across our open space network. This means 'open space' considers the useability, accessibility and the integration required for daily community needs. 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 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 and improving inclusion and accessibility outcomes of play spaces.



### 1.3 URBAN HEAT MITIGATION

### BACKGROUND

The effects of urban heat 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 urban areas, such as Palmerston, are particularly susceptible to storing and radiating heat. With the 'development' comes clearing of the existing canopy whilst simultaneously adding grey cover of hard surfaces which then limits the existing and future planting abilities.

Additionally, hazard events such as cyclones and storms have a significant affect on the 'green coverage'. Increasing the amount of green space within the municipality works to reduce surface temperature of our urban environments, providing shade and working to cool and clean the air.

Complexities in our environment, and growth and development trends highlight that greening our city must take a coordinated approach, due to the mix of land tenures and interests. Focusing efforts now on mitigating effects, supports liveability 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 has an Urban Forest Policy to manage risk and requests relating to tree removal, highlighting the importance of maintaining existing cover.

### Goal: Equitable access to sustainable infrastructure and community green space

### **ACTIONS**

- 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.
- Look to develop further community garden and edible planting, with effective planning on project locations and governance.

### Goal: Urban heat mitigation and increased canopy cover

### ACTIONS

- Develop partnerships with CSIRO, NTG and other Local Governments, to improve use of datasets in decision making around greening.
- Develop a Greening Plan, that supports canopy cover monitoring and considers future movement programming.
- Undertake a baseline study to determine monitoring approaches to urban heat and allow measurement of progress.
- Expand community planting programs through partnerships with local businesses, community groups and non-for-profit organisations.
- Develop community awareness programs and work with institutions to improve community messaging around tree preservation.

**888** trees planted in 2020/21

365

participants in verge beautification



### **THEME 2: EMPOWERING AND CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY**

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

Promoting sustainable behaviours is a coordinated effort, involving various government, non-profit and advocacy bodies. Council plays a key role in linking local systems to wider stakeholders. This involves facilitating local opportunities to engage, allowing residents to see their local changes as part of the collective.

As a community facing organisation there is opportunity and responsibility to empower and support our community.

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 critical, particularly when facing a changing climate and challenges of an existing car-centric development.

Council delivers a range of programming and events for Palmerston residents. Doing so sustainably models to the community how environmental impacts can be reduced. It acknowledges our role as a main service provider which is part of the collective effort.

### **PRIORITIES**

1. ENGAGING WITH



2. CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



3. SUSTAINABLE EVENTS



### **KEY DOCUMENT**

· Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework

## COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.1

### 2.1 ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES

### 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 already leading within their communities.

It's important to ensure messaging of Council priorities and activity is translated to the community. Strong engagement and activity under this theme is crucial for implementation of the wider strategy.

### **EXISTING INITIATIVES**

- Waste education campaigns are ongoing and help reinforce or introduce behaviours that support recycling and diversion rates.
- In 2021 Council supported Student Voice Positive Choice (SVPC) through funding for student designed recycling bin stickers.
- Environmental Grants are offered by Council to support projects where there is a demonstrated improvement that can be achieved in the environment.



Goal: Community wide sustainability throug education, awareness and engagement

### **ACTIONS**

- Provide free sustainability community workshops utilizing a variety of mediums (webinar, newsletter, participatory), and organisations.
- 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 on envrionmental sustainability.
- Actively promote and review successes of the Environmental Benefits Grants program to encourage uptake from schools, businesses, community groups and non-for-profits.
- Develop community engagement toolkit to address urban tree coverage and sustainable irrigation practices, both relevant to public as well as private land.
- Explore opportunities to integrate and promote Indigenous knowledge systems and languages within open space environments.
- Support relationships with schools to grow existing programs targeting environmentally sustainable outcomes.



### **BACKGROUND**

Enhancing the appeal and attraction of alternative transport options promotes a number of sustainable benefits. These are well-established, supporting environmental and liveability 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 prioritising pedestrian and alterative transport movement over cars.

### **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) prioritises walking and pedestrian activity through our city centre.

Goal: Enhancing movement within our communities and connecting to our green infrastructure

#### ACTIONS

- Coordinate pathway programming with tree planting opportunities to increase useability of our network.
- Develop online tools to promote ease of access to Council Parks and Play
  Spaces
- Development of a movement and connectivity plan that facilitates an increase in community uptake of alternative transport and outdoor recreation connections.
- Review strategies and program opportunities to support priority areas for green infrastructure rollout based on NTG and Council planning documents
- Continue to promote the utilization of outdoor and open space areas for community event programming.
- Develop trails and connections between pathway networks and community, environmental and recreational assets to activate sites and encourage use.



## COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.1

### 2.3 SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

### BACKGROUND

Council has an extensive list of programs and events each year 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, impacts of environmental concerns can be raised within the community.

Events can either exhibit high waste-generating behaviours and resource consumption or model potential alternatives.

Outdoor event programming connects community to the environment and provides a landscape for people to see what reducing their environmental impacts seeks to preserve.

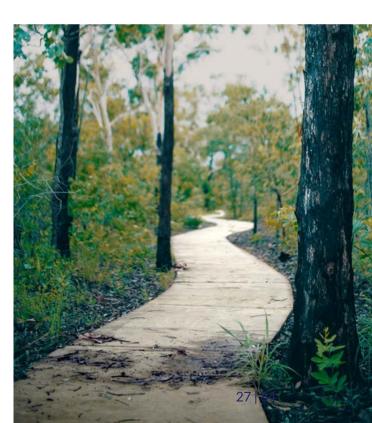
### **EXISTING INITIATIVES**

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: Council events demonstrate sustainable practices and promote our environmental surrounds

### **ACTIONS**

- Introduce a ban on single use plastics from all events held on Council land including markets
- Recycling bins available at all Council events
- Develop and implement a Sustainable Events Authorized Statement to be used for Council planned events and review annually.
- Develop an Event Planning Guide that supports community organisations implement their own sustainable events.



### **THEME 3: FUTURE FOCUSED ON EFFICIENCIES**

A focus on efficiencies and continual improvement is central to the long-term goal of sustainability. It emphasises how we can reduce our impact, by constantly looking to what we can do better.

It's crucial Council understand how we consume energy, water and emissions we directly produce. Through monitoring and measuring these impacts we can work on management strategies. Ultimately this will support transitioning to a greater proportion of clean energy reserves and ensure we are doing our part to mitigate impacts on our environment.

Council manages a range of assets for community and organisational use. Limiting resource consumption and evolving our processes can reduce environmental impacts and deliver more sustainable operating costs.

### **PRIORITIES**

1. RESOURCE CONSUMPTION



2. WASTE DIVERSION



### **KEY DOCUMENT**

Asset Management Plan



## COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment

3.1 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. However, there are also opportunities to reduce water usage in areas not providing active use benefits, recognizing the environment of the top end and issues of water security.

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 City of Palmerston both in terms of cost to the community, and the environment.

While efficiencies can vary in size and scale all contribute when considered collectively. 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 has implemented solar at its facilities, including the Recreation Centre and Library, and expanding upon parking shade structures at other facilities.

### **ACTIONS**

- Investigate current Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Council operations and identify reduction and mitigation strategies.
- Reduce irrigation of non-activated lawn areas, such as median strips and explore other focus areas to target irrigation changes.
- Support irrigation and energy efficiencies with coordinated community information and messaging.
- Develop and implement a Water Saving Action Plan.
- 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.
- Develop internal processes and capabilities for monitoring of resource consumption, and integrate with environmental sensors.

### GOAL

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



### BACKGROUND

The increase 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 supports other strategies to better manage our community knowledge and attitude to waste.

### **EXISTING INITIATIVES**

- Five rubbish trucks have been rolled out utilising AI technology to manage collection.
- Empowerment of community attitudes to waste are supported through the Reboot your Loot and youth recycling campaigns.
- Youth recycling campaigns, such as the SVPC (Student Voice Positive Choice) recycling bin sticker campaign.

Goal: Improve waste diversion from landfill within the community and reduce waste generated from Council activities

### **ACTIONS**

- Investigate sustainable education and awareness to roll out at Council facilities, particularly focused on plastic.
- Reduce amount of waste generated by Council activities, involving community events and community engagement
- Engage with business on how Council can support more sustainable waste behaviours from both customers and businesses.

2612

tonnes of waste diverted from landfill in 2019

12%

diversion rate achieved in 2020



### **THEME 4: LEAD WITH PURPOSE**

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 recognises local capacity building benefits. It also demonstrates that as a purchaser of services, we are responsible in doing our best to support those within industry committed to sustainable development.

Our organisational 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

### **PRIORITIES**

1. INVESTMENT AND PROCUREMENT



2. LEAD INITIATIVES



3. SUPPORT TO INDUSTRY



### **KEY DOCUMENT**

· Procurement Policy

## COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.1

### 4.1 INVESTMENT AND PROCUREMENT

### BACKGROUND

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

We can further our sustainable development initiatives through procurement practices, building capabilities of suppliers that operate 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 desire 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: 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.
- Develop procurement guidelines and tools to support staff engagement with sustainable procurement.

### BACKGROUND

Demonstrating how sustainability can be implemented day to day and within and by our organisation, inspires best practice. As a Council these initiatives provide locally relevant examples to the community, who are part of a much wider global discussion. While showing what can be done, we can also demonstrate what benefits this directly brings.

Leading in this regard is also about showing local business that we prioritise 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 collaboration. We can also look for other examples of best practice, leveraging both local government and industry experiences.

#### EXISTING INITIATIVES

Council is increasing its proportion of sustainable fleet vehicles, purchasing hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles. These are supported by a new plug-in charging station available for free use within the city centre.

### BACKGROUND

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

4.3 SUPPORT INDUSTRY INNOVATIONS

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.

### Goal: Demonstrating sustainable initiatives to the community and for the community

### **ACTIONS**

- Monitor Council's heavy plant fleet and investigate alternatives.
- 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.

6 of the 22 fleet vehicles are hybrid variations

### Goal: Incentivise and support local businesses to drive innovation and capacity

### **EXISTING INITIATIVES**

The Palmerston Local Economic Plan has been completed. This plan outlines how we will strengthen economic outcomes, and what our focus areas are. Elements of the Plan are reflected within aspirations of this Strategy.

### **ACTIONS**

 Provide incentives and education opportunities for small to medium enterprises to improve energy and water efficiency in their operations.

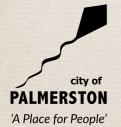
COUNCIL AGENDA STRATEGY | 23

Aftachment 13.1.2.1

- Promote and encourage partnering with the Australian Business Energy Service, which offers energy audits and consultation on ways to save.
- Encourage development of solar energy generation operations, and explore opportunities for rate incentives for '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 improved sustainability, including developing user dashboard.
- Local Economic Plan outcomes around working groups and business engagement, promotes sustainable development within agendas.



### COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.1



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### SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY - TARGETS AND ACTION PLAN

### SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

The following reference document supports implementation and monitoring of the City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy 2022. The Action Plan lists out actions under each theme and identifies a priority between 1-3 (1= short-term; 3 = longer term). Where these actions are identified as short term, this reflects existing capabilities to action, urgency to action and prerequisites to support other longer term actions. The plan also outlines information on implementation by detailing how actions may progress and high level benefits. The plan is provided as a reference document to the Sustainability Strategy 2022 to allow it to remain a working document for Council to continue to refine and work towards.

### **TARGETS**

Targets have been developed to support monitoring of progress against the themes under the Sustainability Strategy. These targets are identified as being effective and represent areas of influence by Council. As Council's capabilities and processes develop there may be opportunities to revisit these target measures and build in further measures where they are deemed effective for the community.

Indicator	Measure	Target	Baseline
URBAN HEAT MITIGATION	Canopy Cover	Positive green cover increase by 2027 of 5%	Validate 2021 measures  External agency measure of 29.5% (2020) 4.4% from 2016
ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY AND LEADING SUSTAINABILITY	Annual Community Plan performance score – promoting environmental sustainability	Performance score of at least 7.5%	Performance score of 6.55 (2021); 6.36 (2019)
WASTE	Recycling/resource recovery - Diversion of waste from landfill	Annual diversion rate of at least 30% by 2027	Kerbside diversion rates 12% (2021) and 15% (2018)
MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOURS	Contamination rates -Comingled recycling bin contamination	Less than 25% by 2027	Contamination rates 53.5% (2021)

	Action	Priority	How	Benefits			
	1.1 Protection and restoration of natural ecosystems and reduce threats to biodiversity						
	Implement Lakes Management Plan	1	Explore viability of options contained in LMP, with review in 2022	Enhanced water quality and ecosystem functioning			
	Partner with NTG to reduce reliance groundwater resources and explore strategies around Council water consumption	1	Participate in water security discussions and engage in coordinated approaches to water efficiencies in the NT	Considers whole of system inputs and consolidates on resources			
	Implement recommendations resulting from the Mitchell Creek Catchment Natural Assessment Project and develop an Environmental Management Program for the catchment area.	1	Work to implement recommendations where it reflects strategic priorities and resourcing	Protects and restores a significant environmental and community asset			
	Map, monitor and manage declared weeds across LGA	1	Identify target areas to value, engage with NTG Weeds branch to coordinate resources	Understand whole of system, and inform where to focus resources			
	Develop Weed and fire management plans	2	Utilise mapping knowledge and identification of high value areas to prioritise program	Consolidation of resourcing and targeting of specific areas			
NMENT	Review and update of planting and vegetation management programs which provides a focus on species density and diversity	3	Collaborate with leading agencies such as Botanic Gardens, DPR, to introduce endemic species to the broader horticulture industry. Link with lawn irrigation sustainability reviews, build opportunities in planting programs	More opportunities for species growth, amenity interest, and fauna support			
VIRO	Advocate within future land use planning for protection where suitable of environmental corridors	1	Engage in NT Planning processes and with local environment groups	Protect unique features and assets for Palmerston community			
AL EN	Investigate opportunities to expand the Council tree species list include pollinator species, edible species, habitat trees and threatened species	2	Review current tree species list and options available under each category	Diverse species growth, amenity interest and biodiversity support			
2	1.2 Equitable access to sustainable infrastructu	ure and co	mmunity green space				
URBAN ECOLOGY & NATURAL ENVIRONMEN	Promote community ownership of green space and natural elements through programming	1	Enhancing connections to spaces and movement, engaging with community groups for important environmental assets such as Mitchell Creek	Community ownership and identification with natural assets that supports increased use			
(SOT	Develop communication tools for use online and at Council facilities that promote use of natural areas in Palmerston	1	Develop map to communicate clearly opportunities in these spaces and promote easy accessible use	Residents and visitors able access key information to invite them to use spaces			
N ECO	Look to develop further community garden and edible planting, with effective planning on project locations and governance	3	Identify potential areas and assess effectiveness based on location and capacity/interest to build community governance	Community ownership of space, edible varieties allowing engagement with more sustainable living practices.			
BA	1.3 Urban heat mitigation and increased canopy cover						
URI	Develop partnerships with CSRIO, NTG and other LGA's, to improve use of datasets in decision making around greening.	1	Identify existing data and research needs and identify where partnerships may support large project and program priorities.	Support in decision making, building of capabilities in urban heat space as evidenced in other states. Coordinated approach to urban heat in region			
	Develop a Greening Plan, that supports canopy cover monitoring and considers future movement programming	2	Greening Plan to address and link with programming and planning around movement	Deliver upon Community Plan objective, support for programming and planting			
	Undertake a baseline study to determine monitoring approaches to urban heat and allow measurement of progress	1	Develop baseline for canopy cover in 2021 by validating external estimates of cover in Palmerston	Establishes baseline to measure and monitor progress of planting. Informs decisions on planting locations			
	Expand community planting programs through partnerships with local businesses, community groups and non-for-profit organisations.	3	Build capacity through projects such as Mitchell Creek Study and Zuccoli Hub, and look to provide access to Council's technical expertise and facilities	Community driven, authentic community capacity building opportunities.			
	Develop community awareness programs and work with institutions to improve community messaging around tree preservation	1	Use Council promotional channels to inform community of greening benefits, both for public and private lands.	Recognises the mosaic of land tenures across municipality, contributing to overall heat mitigation			

### AGENDA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 1 FEBRUARY 2022

## COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.2 Benefits

Action 2.1 Community wide sustainability through education, awareness and engagement Provide free sustainability community workshops Identify priority areas for program (waste, Utilise existing community utilizing a variety of mediums (webinar, newsletter recycling, water efficiency) where it aligns capacity and support their participatory), and organisations with possible investment and programs governance and organisation of 2 (e.g. composting, public irrigation changes). Identify potential audiences and delivery managers Develop information packages and tools Pair with sustainability workshops and identify Community interaction with to assist community members achieving target campaigns where there are recurring sustainability concepts. 3 sustainability aspirations, such as untake in solar issues energy alternatives. Monitor level of engagement with these tools. Integration of IDA framework in delivery All sustainability programs to be reviewed Community messaging addresses of community messaging on environmental under IDA framework and internal officers. diverse needs of Palmerston sustainability Actively promote and review successes Review current process, Grants support Utilise community canacity and expand possibilities (e.g. planting of the Environmental Benefits Grants framework - including but not limited program to encourage uptake from schools, to modelling on what's possible, case study outside of public land and existing businesses, community groups and non-for-profits examples and greater community promotion programming) Develop a community engagement toolkit to Review existing tools and communication Support for planting on both address urban tree coverage and sustainable toolkits (Greener Spaces Better public and private land irrigation practices, both relevant to public as well Places Australia) and adapt to City of as private land. Palmerston messaging Explore opportunities to integrate and promote Build relations with Larrakia nation for proper Recognition of rich culture and naming, and engagement potential history ongoing in Palmerston Indigenous knowledge systems and languages and plant species within open space environments. Support relationships with schools to grow Allocate resourcing to staff to support delivery Initiatives throughout and continue existing programs targeting of programs over each year. local community, passed environmentally sustainable outcomes. on to households, and managing future behaviours. 2.2 Enhancing movement within our communities and connecting to our green infrastructure Coordinate pathway programming with tree Internal processes ensure early engagement Use of the pathway network planting opportunities to increase useability of between pathway programming and open enhanced through amenity and space to align value add future comfort our network Develop online tools to promote ease of access to Improvements directed under the Play Space Greater value, informing users of council Parks and Play Spaces Strategy, Includes website and story maps and local facilities and accessibilities to make relevant and adaptable for intended users Development of a movement and connectivity Linking with Greening Plan and tree planting Movement is enhanced and links plan that facilitates increase community uptake programming. Identify high use and target with greening programs. routes, to guide greening and amenity. Build of alternative transport and outdoor recreation connections connections to outdoor spaces and end of trip destinations Build in consideration of CPAP into internal Prioritises rollout of green Review strategies and program opportunities to support priority areas for green infrastructure program planning for greening and networks. infrastructure and aligns with rollout based on NTG and Council Future consideration on movement plans and existing strategy. planning documents high use areas Continue to promote the utilization of outdoor Continue existing programming, and look Community links to outdoor and open space areas for community event at creating outdoor spaces adaptable and suitable to accommodate future programming programming Develop trails and connections between pathway Link movement programming with Create recreation opportunities networks and community, environmental and recreational programming and for community, encouraging recreational assets to activate sites and encourage healthy Palmerston initiatives. Engage with casual and passive use. user groups of these spaces (BMX, PT's etc) on what potential needs are for these spaces 2.3 Council events demonstrate sustainable practices and promote our environmental surrounds Introduce a ban on single use plastics from all Engage with stakeholders, such as market Waste generated on Council land events held on Council land including markets holders to understand their transition needs. reduced with indirect impacts Develop single use plastic policy relevant for in the influence it creates for events on council land visitors Recycling bins available at all Council events Implement at Council events Increase diversion rates from 1 and organise disposal to Archer Council facilitated activities. Develop and implement a Sustainable Events Develop template for use internally and As a large event provider our Authorized Statement to be used for Council events will include research and promote use across organisation. planned events and review annually. planning

Build upon internal planning evolutions for

sustainable events and provide a platform/

resource that provides tips and tools for best

Address range of production and

consumption behaviours from events. 34 | 84

Develop an Event Planning Guide that supports

community organisations implement their own

sustainable events

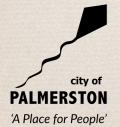
	Action	Priority	How	Benefits			
	3.1 Limit environmental impacts and expenditure associated with Council's consumption of energy and water						
	Investigate current Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Council operations and identify reduction strategies	2	Establish baseline reporting abilities to frame where targeted actions may be needed. Routinely audit energy consumption of Council's facilities	Identify where reduction strategies are needed			
	Reduce irrigation of non-activated lawn areas, such as median strips and explore other focus areas to target irrigation changes	1	Shift away from servicing expectations of these non-activated lawns. Supported through community messaging and assessment criteria to ensure consistency across the municipality	Significant water savings acknowledging the climate of the Top End, and infrastructure constraints			
S	Support irrigation and energy efficiencies with coordinated community information and messaging	1	Support public irrigation servicing changes, as well as aligning with private messaging	Community support ensures continued political and organisational will			
CIENCIE	Develop and implement a Water Saving Action Plan	2	Identify current infrastructure upgrades requirements, and baseline measuring needs to inform future actions from a water savings action plan	Water savings are targeted and ensure water security issues for the Top End are being actively addressed			
FUTURE FOCUSED ON EFFICIENCIES	Energy Savings Action Plan that identifies energy consuming assets and develop cost-effective and administrative energy savings.	3	Develop plan after initial investigation into GHG and other emission from Council facilities. Reliant of ability to monitor and track data	Representative of sustainability values, and efficiency benefits			
SED	Increase proportion of energy used from renewable energy sources at Council owned facilities.	2	Continue with energy efficiency upgrades across Council facilities and buildings.	Reduced GHG emissions			
RE FOCL	Develop internal processes and capabilities for the monitoring of resource consumption, and integrate with environmental sensors	2	Review of current programs and dashboard abilities and integrate with regular reporting	Ongoing measuring abilities, and skillsets, best placed to leverage funding opportunities.			
2	3.2 Improve waste diversion from landfill within the community and reduce waste generated from Council activities						
Ξ	Improve waste and resource recovery services, including waste processing capabilities at Archer Waste Management Facility	1	Deliver site upgrades to improve recycling opportunities and behaviours from users	Greater diversion from Archer facility			
	Reduce amount of waste generated by Council activities, involving community events and community engagement	1	Events in accordance with developed single use plastic policy. Alternative options are developed for community engagement and communications brief to include consideration of sustainability to value ad	Council activities demonstrates smart use of resources, and reduce amount of single use waste produced.			
	Engage with business on how Council can support more sustainable waste behaviours from both customers and businesses	3	Tie in with committee work developed under the local economic plan. Engage with local business owners on barriers and opportunities for Council to facilitate waste improvements.	Coordinated approach that considers more than residential waste			

COUNCIL AGENDA

How Attachment 13,1.2.2

	Action	Priority	How Attachment	Benefits 1.2.2			
	4.1 Supporting local businesses and indust	ry through	council investment and procurement decisions				
	Broaden tender and quotation assessment criteria that gives preference to businesses that proactively foster green businesses, green jobs, and green practices.	3	Potential changes are explored at next policy review point	Businesses build their capacity in this space to better addresses procurement suitability.			
	Develop procurement guidelines and tools to support staff engagement with sustainable procurement and sustainable purchasing for Council operations	2	Develop policy or authorised statement around Sustainable Purchasing on Stationary in Council offices and facilities and implement use of recycle paper	Direction provided to support integration of sustainability considerations			
	4.2 Demonstrating sustainable initiatives to the community and for the community						
	Monitor Council's heavy plant fleet and investigate alternatives to reduce emissions and consumption	3	Review local government exemplars and options for future fleet upgrades.	Aligns with wider Council fleet ambitions			
	Investigate use of recycled plastics and sustainable life cycle processes in furnishing within council open space	2	Review exemplars locally and integrate, and identify areas to pilot projects.	Options for reuse of materials, in ongoing and direct infrastructure for Council.			
	Support installation of more EV Charging Stations	3	Support promotion and facilitation of outcomes the NT EV Strategy and implementation plan, including collaboration on guidelines	Addresses consumer concern and barriers to local adoption of EV vehicles			
SE	Provide E-waste recycling at council facilities	1	Permanent facility and drop off available at all Council facilities	Permanent fixture, and greater awareness of option to dispose appropriately			
EAD WITH PURPOSE	Council consultation and engagement processes consider sustainability in their communications plan	1	Internal communications brief to address sustainability, in terms of value add of materials selected. Explore alternatives for commonly used options to ensure ready alternatives are available (e.g. corflute).	Outward activity with community demonstrates consideration for sustainability and reduces unnecessary waste produced by Council			
<u>\</u>	4.2 Incentivise and support local businesses to drive innovation and capacity						
LEAD \	Provide incentives and education opportunities for SMEs to improve energy and water efficiency in their operations	3	Engage with local business to gauge interest and identify suitable infrastructure or resources to support	Coordinated approach that considers more than residential usage			
	Promote and encourage partnering with the Australian Business Energy Service, which offers energy audits and consultation on ways to save.	2	Utilise communications and event opportunities locally, encouraging uptake of these services	Leverages existing services capabilities			
	Encourage development of solar energy generation operations, and explore opportunities for rate incentives for 'Solar Based Businesses'.	3	Review current uptake of solar for businesses, as well as barriers or areas of incentive	Coordinated approach that seeks multiple levers to engage with business			
	Investigate development of retrofit program for existing tenanted/ community buildings to improve energy and water use efficiencies, reducing business overheads	2	Attain interest and possibilities in commercial buildings that may suit such programs locally. Then develop engagement processes	New methods adopted for older structures			
	Promote, encourage, and enhance City of Palmerston's Open Data Hub, so that local investors can make data driven decisions when undertaking local investment	1	Identify possible users for such a tool and useability. Council contractors utilise data mapping tools	Offer opportunity to utilise existing data to build capabilities			
	Continue to evolve smart city initiatives that focus on improvements on sustainability, including developing a user dashboard	2	Develop key questions smart city initiatives seek to answer and consider internal capacity to monitor data and use in decisions	Build capabilities to manage data.			
	Local Economic Plan outcomes around working groups and business engagement, promotes sustainable development within agendas	1	Under the Palmerston Local Economic Plan, a working group committee will be established.	Local economic planning considers sustainability where facilitated by CoP			

### COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.2



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PALMERSTON.NT.GOV.AU

# COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.3



CSIRO 564 Vanderlin Dr, Berrimah NT 0828

csiro.au | ABN 41 687 119 230

December 7, 2021

Damien Scalora
City Growth and Operations
City of Palmerston
PO Box 1
Palmerston NT 0831

Dear Damien

### RE: Invitation to provide input to City of Palmerston's Draft Sustainability Strategy

I am writing following the meeting on 1 December 2021 where we explored opportunities for CSIRO and the Darwin Living Lab to support implementation of City of Palmerston's Draft Sustainability Strategy (the Strategy) and how research can improve sustainability and liveability outcomes for the City of Palmerston.

Our initial meeting identified opportunities for our existing research capability to help support several of the priorities under the key themes of the Strategy. Key research initiatives of relevance are as follows.

## **CSIRO-led Darwin Living Lab (Darwin City Deal)**

The Darwin Living Lab is part of the Darwin City Deal. It's a 10-year research collaboration between CSIRO, the Australian and Territory Governments and City of Darwin. The lab will test and evaluate heat mitigation measures and inform tropical urban design for Darwin by using real world experiments. It will measure improvements in the city's liveability, sustainability and resilience. The intent is to translate this work into products and services for other tropical cities. For details see: <a href="https://research.csiro.au/darwinlivinglab/">https://research.csiro.au/darwinlivinglab/</a>. The recently launched Cooling Darwin <a href="https://research.csiro.au/darwinlivinglab/">Heat Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy</a> provides more details on actions to be implemented by the Territory Government over the coming eight years and the role of CSIRO.

# **NESP Sustainable Communities and Waste (SCaW) Hub**

Announced in late 2020, the SCaW Hub is led by UNSW in partnership with CSIRO and several other leading Australian universities. It has a focus over the next seven years to provide research to reduce the impacts of plastic, support sustainable people-environment interactions, and offer management options for hazardous substances and pollutants to minimise environmental and human health impacts. While still in the process of co-designing research plans, the recent NT Stakeholder Roundtable (3 September 2021) engaged and briefed key stakeholders from the region including the City of Palmerston. For more information on the SCaW Hub: <a href="https://www.smart.unsw.edu.au/research-programs/sustainable-communities-and-waste-hub.">https://www.smart.unsw.edu.au/research-programs/sustainable-communities-and-waste-hub.</a>

The CSIRO-led Darwin Living Lab has expertise aligned to areas of your Draft Strategy. CSIRO as Australia's national science agency, however, can also draw on broader expertise from across our organisation that could inform sustainability priorities of City of Palmerston. In providing input, the approach we always take in CSIRO is to be evidence-based, drawing on the outcomes and implications of our relevant scientific work. As a science agency CSIRO does not advocate, defend, or publicly canvas the merits of government policies.

### **CSIRO**

Australia's National Science Agency

# COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.3

CSIRO welcomes the invitation to be part of the City of Palmerston's sustainability strategy journey, whether that is through the provision of expert advice or through potential future collaborations. The Darwin Living Lab provides the best vehicle for engaging with CSIRO on the next stages of your process. CSIRO has extensive experience in working with governments (at all levels) in providing research evidence and advice to inform sustainability strategies, which we are happy to discuss. We understand that you are still finalising the Strategy and developing an Action Plan through consultation with stakeholders. As an initial input, CSIRO would welcome the opportunity for a follow-up meeting or workshop to progress the conversation, responding to any queries relating to current activity, and opportunities for collaboration.

CSIRO has had a physical presence in Greater Darwin for over a half century and we are actively growing our local capability with seven new staff or affiliates arriving over next nine months. Building on synergies with our ten-year commitment to the Darwin Living Lab, we look forward to having the opportunity to explore potential collaborations that support your sustainability strategy based on science and technology. To further this conversation, please direct any enquiries to my colleague Stephen Cook in the first instance.

Kind regards

Dr Chris Chilcott

Deputy Director, CSIRO Land and Water Research Leader Northern Australia

( Chillot

chris.chilcott@csiro.au

08 8944 8422

CSIRC

Australia's National Science Agency



# **COUNCIL REPORT**

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 13.1.3

**REPORT TITLE:** Play Space Strategy Consultation Outcomes

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday 1 February 2022

**AUTHOR:** Urban and Environmental Planner, Damien Scalora **APPROVER:** General Manager Infrastructure, Nadine Nilon

#### **COMMUNITY PLAN**

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

# **PURPOSE**

This Report presents the Palmerston Play Space Strategy Consultation Outcomes and the Play Space Strategy to Council for adoption, following consultation on the draft Strategy in November 2021.

## **KEY MESSAGES**

- The Palmerston Play Space Strategy (Strategy) has been developed to ensure a more robust and consistent approach to playground planning in the City's open space network.
- The Strategy is directed by a vision and guiding principles, seeking to provide quality play spaces that are welcoming, creative and accessible to all and that contribute to the liveability of the city.
- Following community engagement in June 2021, consultation was undertaken in November 2021 on the draft Strategy.
- Feedback on the draft Strategy confirmed guiding principles and commended the intent of the Strategy, particularly around creating more diverse play opportunities and a focus on enhancing accessibility.
- From 2019/20 to 2021/22 Council has invested over \$2 million in the capital renewal and upgrade of play space areas, and approximately \$1.5 million per year in open space operations and maintenance.
- The Strategy will support future capital programming.

# **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. THAT Report entitled Play Space Strategy Consultation Outcomes be received and noted.
- 2. THAT Council adopt the Palmerston Play Space Strategy as presented as **Attachment 13.1.3.1** to Report entitled Play Space Strategy Consultation Outcomes.

# **BACKGROUND**

Through 2021 Council embarked on developing a Play Space Strategy for Palmerston, seeking to ensure a more robust and consistent approach to playground planning in the City's open space network. Palmerston is home to 58 play spaces, as well as additional parks and landscape corridors. Activating these spaces provides the community opportunity to meet, socialise play and engage within our outdoor environments.



These play spaces are crucial for the City's relatively young demographic. The Strategy outlines how play is a critical part of growth and learning for children, helping them with a range of developmental needs. Beyond the individual, these spaces have a key role in supporting the health and wellbeing of the Palmerston community.

As a Council there is strong interest in developing and maintaining inclusive, diverse and quality play spaces, and this is reflected by community desires expressed throughout consultations.

Several reports have been provided to Council throughout the Strategy's development, informing of various activities undertaken throughout the process. The most recent report provided the draft Strategy for Council endorsement to undergo consultation.

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

# Draft Play Space Strategy for Consultation

- 1. THAT Report entitled Draft Play Space Strategy be received and noted.
- 2. THAT Council endorse the Draft Palmerston Play Space Strategy for the purpose of a 21 day community consultation commencing in November 2021, being Attachment 13.1.4.1 of Report entitled Draft Play Space Strategy.
- 3. THAT a Report on the outcomes of the community consultation regarding the Draft Palmerston Play Space Strategy be presented to Council no later than February 2022.

CARRIED 10/79 - 02/11/2021

Consultation on the draft Strategy built upon previous community engagement undertaken in May and June 2021. This initial community engagement largely informed the guiding principles of the Strategy alongside other foundational research and analysis.

The recent feedback received on the draft Strategy has been incorporated where it relates to the Strategy and is outlined below in the discussion. The discussion also provides further background in seeking Council's adoption of the Strategy.

# **DISCUSSION**

# **Consultation Outcomes**

Consultation on the draft Strategy occurred from 19 of November 2021 to 10 December 2021. This built on initial engagement undertaken in 2021 which involved development of a survey distributed through networks, and community listening posts. Schools across Palmerston were also invited to comment and engaged through a design your own playground activity. Several classes responded, and information was analysed to support what children's needs were at a high level. This included looking at options for more creative risk, such as that involved in nature-based play.

The recent feedback on the draft was widely supportive of the Strategy and general intent to create quality and diverse play spaces, acknowledging the role these spaces play in community health and wellbeing.

The majority of comments reiterated existing elements captured in the draft Strategy. This included:

Emphasising a need for shade across equipment and seating given top end conditions.



- Preference from parents also reiterated desires for rubber softfall over sand.
- Focus on inclusion, noting accessibility equipment (swings).
- Parks need to be welcoming environments for parents to be able to gather.

There were some comments that provided input not captured in the draft Strategy, and as such changes have been made in the final document. This includes:

- Consideration of public indoor play spaces, as its difficult to use spaces all year round due to climate.
- Suitable shelter for wet season play opportunities.

There were a number of submissions that related to specific parks. This site-specific feedback has been collated, along with feedback from earlier community engagement activities, to be considered in the future planning of projects. Such data will be used in addition to other general requests Council receives, under the direction of the Strategy, to ensure community input is utilised whilst providing an equitable and consistent approach to parks and playground planning.

# Play Space Strategy

The Strategy consists of a planning framework developed to guide decisions about the planning, design and provision of play spaces in Palmerston. This includes:

- Vision statement;
- Guiding principles;
- Hierarchy; and
- Priority areas.

Design guidelines have also been developed, provided as a reference document to the Strategy. These guidelines sit separate to the adopted Strategy as they provide operational guidance for new and upgraded infrastructure.

The Strategy is intended to be relevant for the next 10 years, as informed by the discussion paper produced in August 2021. Community profile data and suburb distributions incorporated population projections over a period from 2021-2031.

The vision and guiding principles have been largely collated through foundational background work reviewing Council's strategic directions, community profile and engagement outcomes. The vision statement has been slightly altered from the draft, capturing ambitions for City of Palmerston as below:

City of Palmerston is committed to providing a network of play spaces that appeals to and enables all in our community to play, socialise and be active outdoors. Our quality play spaces will be welcoming, creative and accessible to all and contribute to the liveability of our City.

Guiding principles are retained as previously presented, reiterated through the draft feedback. These principles were distilled from the key issues and opportunities for play spaces in Palmerston and are organised around the following:

- 1. Importance of play;
- 2. Play environment as community gathering spaces;
- 3. Diverse and quality play spaces;
- 4. Access for all;
- 5. Community involvement and influence;
- 6. Engagement with nature;
- 7. Sustainability; and
- 8. Partnering.

These guiding principles are evidenced in strategic actions which will serve as next steps in implementing the Strategy, as well as actions to keep in mind for capital project delivery over the upcoming years. This



includes looking for opportunities to further accessible play space opportunities and improving whole of site design opportunities beyond singular pieces of equipment.

The hierarchy contained in the strategy provides for three classifications of play spaces — local, major and regional. While Council currently has the same classifications, these are not well-defined, making application of levels of services difficult. The hierarchy will support designs of future play space upgrades and provide consistency for planning for equitable access across the municipality.

There are five priority areas in the Strategy, listed below. Each with corresponding strategic actions directed by the guiding principles.

- 1. Implement the play space planning framework.
- 2. Increase the diversity and quality of play experiences.
- 3. Increase community involvement and information.
- 4. Improve connectivity and linkages.
- 5. Improve maintenance and resourcing.

As mentioned, design guidelines have also been developed as a reference document to the Strategy, presented as **Attachment 13.1.3.2** to this Report. These guidelines are categorised by design considerations, with the checklist prompting users (Council officer, consultants, developers) to address items as criteria. This will support future project design planning, such as the site planning proposed for Hobart Park to accommodate the Ninja Warrior Obstacle Course.

### **Next Steps**

The first priority area looks at implementing the planning framework. This will involve an audit of all play spaces in Palmerston to assess how they relate to the play space hierarchy. In doing so this will also identify where changes or improvements may be needed to support future programming. Part of this will also focus on identifying play spaces that can improve accessibility, and what considerations need to be given to design upgrades.

Through informing the Strategy, data was consolidated to develop a baseline audit of all play spaces. This will be refined to add assessment on accessibility features and opportunities for improvement. This expected to occur both internally (already commenced) with potential external consultant engagement where necessary to value add in the new financial year (scheduled August).

In developing future capital programming, actions will be emphasised under priority area two, to increase diversity and quality of play experience. A project demonstrating these initiatives is evidenced by the Ninja Warrior Obstacle Course to be delivered in 2022. Similarly, Council is continuing to look at improving connectivity and linkages throughout the network, with a view to integrate new recreational and outdoor offerings in these networks. This is anticipated to occur in 2022/2023 pending project budget approval.

Another activity to occur is the improvement of communication tools and readily available information for the community on these spaces in the open space network. This is scheduled to occur by mid-year 2022. This will support residents and visitors to easily identify suitability of play spaces and invite residents to visit new spaces.



### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

Consultation on the draft Strategy occurred from 19 November 2021 to 10 December 2021, with promotion online and advertisement in the NT News. Consultation was also promoted through various community networks and agencies, most appropriately was the Palmerston Kids Network.

The consultation for the draft Strategy was directed through Council's *Have Your Say* page and emphasised the guiding principles to prompt feedback. These guiding principles represent the framework for action at a high level, allowing discussion at a less technical level, but still highly applicable to the strategy. Each guiding principle provided a short description when selected, to ensure consistent messaging and understanding with the community.

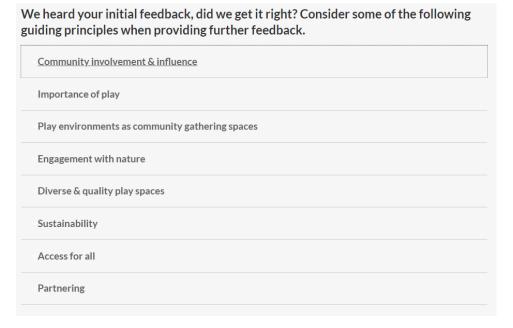


Image- Snapshot from City of Palmerston website guiding feedback specific to the strategy.

19 submissions were received in response to the draft Strategy which builds upon earlier community engagement in May 2021 (157 surveys, four community listening posts, local school design invitations). Consultation outcomes are discussed above under the Discussion, highlighting the Strategy captured much the feedback from the community with some new additions.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications for this Report.

## **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Play Space Strategy will support decisions on the playground and open space infrastructure capital works programs. Following an audit of existing play spaces in Palmerston, funding may be required and allocated to ensure timely delivery of upgrades, in line with priorities.

From 2019/20 to 2021/22 Council has invested over \$2 million in the capital renewal and upgrade of play space areas. This includes \$800,000 on the Tiverton Park playground refurbishment and upgrade, \$260,000 on Phyllis Uren Park, \$450,000 on toilet facilities in Marlow Lagoon and Joan Fejo and over \$100,000 on accessible play and additional shade at Joan Fejo Park. Operationally, maintenance of



parks and open spaces costs in the order of \$1.5 million per year. The above figures exclude irrigation and tree maintenance and capital projects.

## RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Strategy will be a high-level document that supports strategic approaches to future playground improvements. This will minimise risks of not meeting the needs of the community. Without the Strategy, there is a risk of reduced effectiveness in playground delivery.

This report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

6 Fails to deliver the strategic vision for the City
Context: Ensuring vision is delivered effectively & efficiently, progress is measurable & celebrated.

## **ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

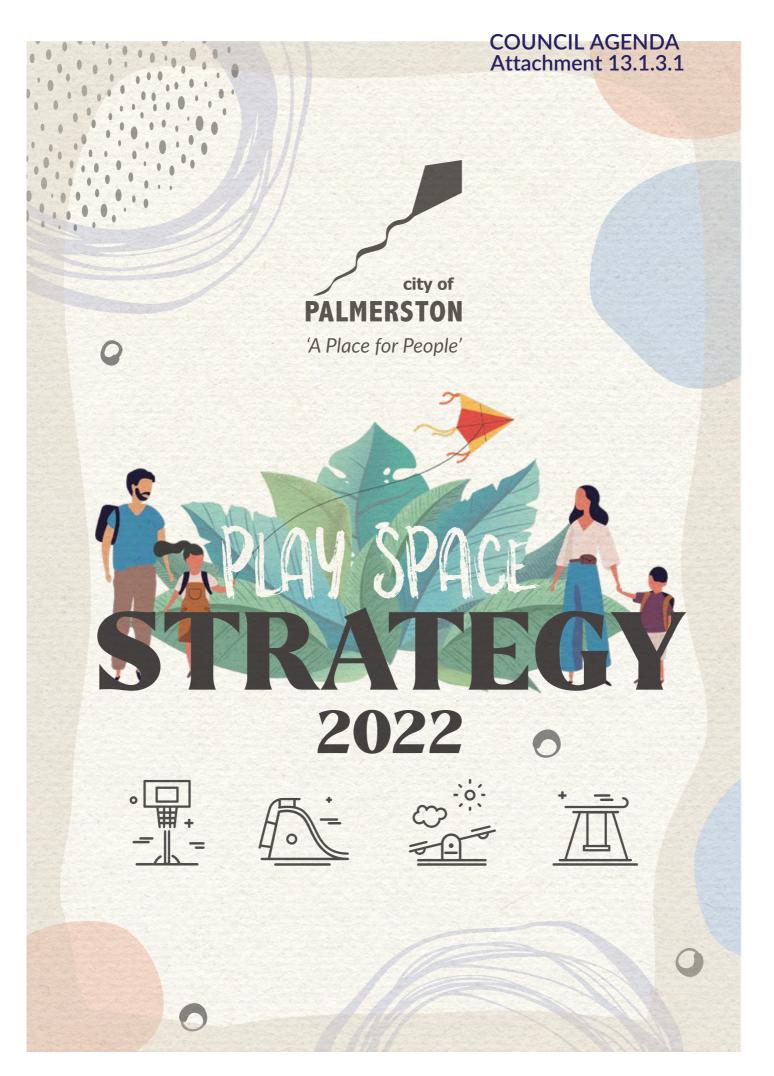
The Strategy does include sustainable development approaches when considering how Council can support maintenance activity of the playground network and their surrounds, as well as wider promotion of community access to outdoors and natural landscapes.

# **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. Play Space Strategy 2022 [13.1.3.1 11 pages]
- 2. Play Space Design Guidelines and Checklist [13.1.3.2 5 pages]



# PALMERSTON

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we meet – the Larrakia People - and pay respect to their elders, past, present, and future. The Larrakia people are the traditional owners of the Darwin region.

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# DEFINITIONS

#### **Amenities**

Play spaces include amenities such as water bubblers, seating and other furniture, litter bins, shade structures, shelters, public toilets, BBQs, paths and paving, fencing, lighting, and other items. These elements are intended to add to the play experience for families and children and address risk and safety issues.

# Active recreation

Active recreation refers to physical activity undertaken in leisure time and not part of structured competitive sport. This may include walking, running, bike riding, ball games, swimming, or gym/physical workouts. In park or open space settings, equipment or facilities that may support active recreation include tennis hit up walls, exercise stations and basketball half courts that may form part of a play space.

# Inclusion and accessibility

Inclusion is 'the act of enabling all groups of people within a society to have a sense of belonging and to be able to participate in community life. It is based on fundamental values of equity, equality, social justice and human rights.' Inclusion occurs when all people feel valued and respected, are connected to their fellow citizens, have access to opportunities and resources and can contribute their perspectives and talents to improve their community.

Accessibility means that everyone – no matter their age, abilities, background, gender or circumstances – has equal opportunities to participate in their community and to reach their goals and aspirations. Accessibility involves recognising and removing any barriers – physical or otherwise – that make it harder for some people than it is for others to give and receive information, attend events, participate in recreation and social activities, work, study, or volunteer, receive services or otherwise be involved in all aspects of a good and satisfying life.

#### In an inclusive and accessible play space:

- All elements of the play space are disability accessible including the play equipment or play elements, the
  amenities, and the paths of travel to the play space and within the play space.
- · All members of the community feel welcome, comfortable, and safe to use the play space.
- . The surrounding environment is welcoming and accessible.
- Information about the play space is easily available.

# Passive recreation

Passive recreation differs from active recreation in that it is less energetic and informal in nature, is pursued alone or with others, requires little if any equipment, and is undertaken primarily for its emotional and wellbeing benefits. Examples include playing with children in play or open spaces, walking, playing card games, picnicking and bush walking.

#### Play spaces and playgrounds

The term playgrounds and play spaces are often used interchangeably. In this Strategy, the term play space refers to any purpose-built setting for children's play. Play spaces are typically located in a park or open space area, and frequently include play equipment or ball courts, but they may also include or entirely consist of play elements such as trees, rocks and logs, sand, planting, mounding, or other natural or made elements provided for the purpose of play. Play spaces can include open grass areas, and may also include areas of planting, art works and landscape elements to provide a diversity of play experiences.

The term playground is usually used to describe a public place designed to provide an environment predominantly for children that facilitates play. A playground may have traditional play equipment and infrastructure and complementary facilities in addition to landscaping. A playground may be located within a play space.

#### **Play elements**

Play elements include natural or constructed items such as boulders and logs, sand, planting, earth forming, sculptures and play equipment, which typically have other purposes and sources, but have been brought into a play space to support and enhance children's play.

#### Play equipment

Play equipment refers to purpose designed structures intended to support children's play. These may be custom-built items but are purpose-designed and built for children's physical, creative, imaginative, or social play. Play equipment aims to enable safe, engaging, interactive, challenging, and inclusive play opportunities.

#### Natural play or nature-based play

This refers to play which occurs in the natural environment. This type of play provides children with opportunities to explore and undertake imaginative play.

#### Softfall

This is an impact absorbing medium installed on the ground beneath play equipment that slows the falling child down over the greatest possible distance. Typical materials used are rubber surfacing and sand.

# WHY A PLAY SPACE STRATEGY?

Play is a critical part of growth and learning for children, helping them to develop physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually. It supports the learning of lifelong skills such as problem solving, independence, self-awareness, creativity, resilience, and the ability to deal with change. Play also provides important motivation for children to become active, extend themselves, and engage with others.

Play spaces have a key role in supporting the health and wellbeing of the Palmerston community, providing important opportunities for children to play, to explore, and to learn. They are also important for young people and adults, providing spaces for socialising, exercise, active recreation, and play. As the primary provider of play spaces in Palmerston, Council has a strong interest in developing and maintaining inclusive, diverse, and quality play spaces. This Strategy outlines Council's commitment to providing play spaces which support and strengthen the health and wellbeing of the Palmerston community.

<sup>3</sup> International Play Association, 1977 (reviewed 1989) Declaration of the Child's Right to Play





# STRATEGY OUTLINE

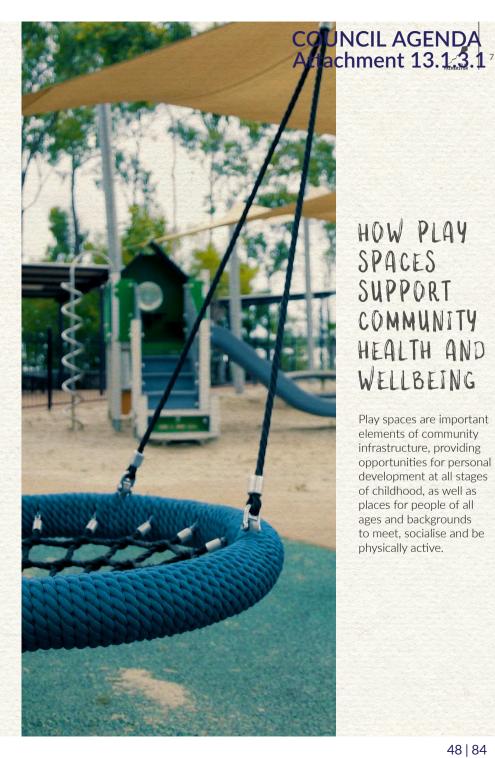
The Play Space Strategy 2022 will guide Council's decision making and investment in play spaces over the next 10 years. It is underpinned by significant background research about:

- the value and benefits of play for children:
- the importance of play spaces for supporting physical activity and community connectedness;
- · Council's existing strategic directions and priorities and how they will influence the Play Space Strategy;
- the current and forecast demographic profile of the Palmerston community;
- an audit of existing playgrounds and play spaces in Palmerston; and
- · the approach to playgrounds and play spaces taken by other local governments;
- · community views and aspirations about playgrounds and play spaces in Palmerston, gathered through a program of consultation and engagement with the community.

In response to the research, the Strategy identifies a vision for play spaces in Palmerston, a hierarchy to help ensure the community has access to a diverse range of play settings and experiences across Palmerston, guiding principles to enable a strategic approach to the provision of play opportunities, and design standards to provide clear guidance for the design of new or redevelopment of existing play spaces.

In addition, a series of high levels recommendations have been outlined to direct Council's resources and decision making about play spaces in Palmerston for the next 10 years.

# VISION GUIDING PRINCIPLES HIERARCHY PRIORITY AREAS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS DESIGN GUIDELINES



# HOW PLAY SPACES SUPPORT COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Play spaces are important elements of community infrastructure, providing opportunities for personal development at all stages of childhood, as well as places for people of all ages and backgrounds to meet, socialise and be physically active.



# CHILDREN

Activities such as rocking, spinning and swinging are important in the development of balance, hearing and vision. Play has a critical role in aiding children to become independent adults as they learn to take risks and conquer challenges. It assists the development of creativity through imaginative play.

Increasingly natural play is being incorporated within play spaces. While playground equipment continues to be important, it is essential that children are able to explore natural environments and not be constrained by manufactured equipment. Providing playgrounds and open spaces which include purpose-built areas together with natural elements, gives children opportunities to explore and undertake imaginative play.

# YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS

Older age groups including young people, adults and older adults share some common benefits with children from participation in play and recreation. Benefits include improved health and wellbeing from participating in physical activities, and benefits associated with social interaction from spending time with friends and family.

# THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Having opportunities to access public outdoor space and to build community connections are particularly important in higher density residential developments where families and individuals may have access to limited private outdoor play space. A public play space gives children an opportunity to play and develop skills they otherwise may not. Larger play spaces in parks and public places where complementary facilities are provided such as barbecues, shelters, toilets, picnic facilities, activities recreation or exercise equipment also cater for families and individuals with limited private facilities.

# COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Play Space Strategy 2022 supports the directions and priorities of Council's key strategies including the Community Plan, Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Framework, Community Infrastructure Plan, Palmerston Art Strategy, and Sustainability Strategy. The directions and priorities most relevant to the Play Space Strategy are:

# A strategic and planned approach:

Council has a strategic and planned approach to guiding the development Palmerston. Playgrounds are vital community assets, and a planned approach including hierarchy and priorities will be consistent with the Council's overall approach to community infrastructure.

# Responsive planning:

Council's planning recognises that Palmerston is a vibrant and culturally diverse community and seeks to respond to the ongoing residential development and the dynamic nature of Palmerston. Council recognises with continued population growth and young age profile there will be increasing demand for playgrounds and other recreation and sporting facilities.

#### Liveability:

Council's emphasis on families and liveability is best evidenced by priorities in the Community Plan. Council has a commitment to providing facilities and services to support families, collaborating with school and community groups, and ensuring access by community members to decision making.

# Inclusion and equity:

While Council's commitment to principles of inclusion and equity is evident in all planning documents, it is most evident in the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework. Implications for the Playground Strategy are a commitment to inclusion and the potential to include design elements that recognise and celebrate the community's indigenous history, cultural diversity and heritage.

#### Sustainability:

Responsible environmental management and a commitment to sustainability principles are clear priorities for Council, as is Council's commitment to ensuring community facilities are responsive to community needs and are fit for purpose. New infrastructure will be developed sustainably, minimise resource use, and meet Environmentally Sustainable Design guidelines.

#### Creativity:

A commitment to the arts and creative endeavours is reflected in the Community Plan and reinforced in the Arts Strategy. This includes enhancing the character and identity of public spaces, public art initiatives and by incorporating creative design elements in infrastructure.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Play Australia, Play Library | Play Australia

# PALMERSTON COMMUNITY PROFILE

# CITY OF PALMERSTON MUNICIPALITY

The Palmerston community is characterised by rapid population growth, a young age profile, pockets of disadvantage, many community members who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, and increasing cultural diversity. Key features of the population are outlined in the following section, along with information about how these will influence the development and operation of play spaces in Palmerston.

# RAPIDLY GROWING POPULATION

39,032 to 50,508 between 2020 - 2031

# HIGHEST POPULATION GROWTH IN ZUCCOLI

notable growth in Farrar, Durack, Yarrawonga / Palmerston City, and Johnston

# ZUCCOLI MOST LIKELY TO SEE A NOTABLE INCREASE IN CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

followed by Farrar, Durack and possibly Yarrawonga / Palmerston City,

# HIGHER DISADVANTAGE IN MOULDEN AND GRAY

but the wider Palmerston community is relatively advantaged

11.2%

of the population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

# HIGHER % OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN PALMERSTON

than in Darwin and Northern Territory

# HIGHEST % OF 0-9-YEAR-OLDS LIVE IN BELLAMACK AND JOHNSTON

followed by Rosebery, Zuccoli and Farrar

# HIGHEST 8 OF 10 - 19-YEAR-OLDS LIVE IN MOULDEN

followed by Driver and Woodroffe

# 2.9 % OF THE COMMUNITY

need help with their daily life due to disability

# INCREASINGLY DIVERSE POPULATION

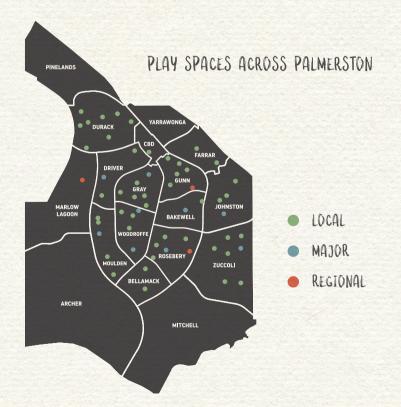
20.2% born overseas in 2016, up from 15.2% in 2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Profile.id, RDA Northern Territory Community Profile. Accessed 29 June 2021: http://profile.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory/and : Northern Territory Government, Population Projections = 2019 release. Available online: Population projections = Department of Treasury and Finance; City of Palmerston, Community Infrastructure Plan 2016 – 2026. Available online: FINAL\_COP\_Comm\_Infrastructure, Plan 2016.pdf (ht.gov.au); ABS, 2016 Census Quickstas. Accessed 29 June 2021: Quickstats (abs. gov.au); Australian Early Childhood Development Census, 2018. Accessed 29 June 2021: Data explorer (aedc.gov.au)



# HOW THIS WILL INFLUENCE PLANNING FOR PLAY SPACES IN PALMERSTON?

- Population growth will drive increased demand for play spaces, particularly in Zuccoli, followed by Farrar, Durack, Yarrawonga / Palmerston City, and to a lesser extent Johnston.
- With a young age profile, play spaces are needed across Palmerston, not just in the communities
  experiencing the highest population growth. In addition, they need to support a diversity of age groups from
  toddlers and preschoolers to primary school aged children, teenagers and adults. This requires diverse play
  spaces including equipment-based playgrounds, nature-based play opportunities, active recreation facilities
  and spaces, exercise equipment, and supporting amenities.
- Higher levels of disadvantage suggest investment in play spaces in Moulden and Gray is particularly
  important with families and children having reduced capacity to access facilities and programs, and less
  access to private transport. In particular nature-based play opportunities should be considered as a priority
  because of the strong links between nature-based play and positive developmental outcomes for children.
- Play spaces should reflect the diversity and culture of the communities in which they are located. With
  a high proportion people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and an increasingly diverse
  community, there is opportunity to reflect this diversity more effectively in Palmerston's play spaces.



# PLAY SPACES TYPES IN PALMERSTON



### 58 PLAY SPACES ACROSS MORE THAN 75 PARKS







47 LOCAL

JOR

3 REGIONAL

# WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THEM?

- Playgrounds and play spaces are generally distributed across the municipality in all residential
  areas providing equitable access for residents.
- While Council has a hierarchy for playgrounds (local, major, regional) which reflects scale, proximity
  and target audience, most playgrounds are designated as local and there is an opportunity to
  clarify the rationale for the current designation and location of major and regional level playgrounds.
  Generally, local playgrounds have basic equipment, are in good condition, have shade from either
  trees or a structure, and having a neat appearance.
- Access to playgrounds is generally good, with many able to be accessed via a concrete footpath.
  In some instances, access is across a grassed area which is problematic for individuals with limited
  mobility or for wheeled items such as wheelchairs, prams, and mobility scooters. Lyndsey Park and
  Widdup Park have other access challenges.
- There is a lack of play equipment that is universally accessible / accessible for people of all abilities.
- Many playgrounds in newer residential estates have immature vegetation and limited natural shade. This will improve as vegetation matures which will also improve the character of the area.
- Many playgrounds have shade structures installed above play equipment and this has increased in recent years. The vast majority of play spaces have some shade available.
- New playgrounds typically have rubberised softfall installed with sand retained in combination in some areas
- Playgrounds predominantly contain manufactured equipment with few offering more natural play elements. Sister Frederick Mangan Park, Digger Park and William Kirby are examples where planting and rocks have been used to add interest and expand play opportunities.
- There are limited locations where play equipment or environments are suitable for adults.
   Typically, this comprises the installation of fitness equipment in a park setting with limited complementary facilities being present.



# WHAT THE COMMUNITY HAS TOLD US

To help inform the development of the Play Space Strategy 2022 the community was engaged through an online survey and community listening posts, and children from local primary schools shared information about what they like the most about their favourite playground, what they would like to change about the playground, their top three play activities and also designed their own playground.

# 157 SURVEYS COMPLETED

- 77% by females
- Most aged 25 49 years
- More than 50% from Zuccoli, Bellamack, Rosebery and Durack

#### 4 COMMUNITY LISTENING POSTS

- · Brekkie in the Park
- Gateway Shopping Centre (x 2)
- Palmerston Library

#### 55 PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

- Gray Primary
   School
- Sacred Heart Primary School

# DRAFT STRATEGY CONSULTATION

- 2<sup>nd</sup> opportunity for community feedback
- 19 submissions on draft strategy

It is important to have access to playgrounds and play spaces close to where people live. The main activities community members undertake when visiting playgrounds and play spaces are playing on the equipment, socialising, and exercising. Having access to spaces and environment which support these activities close to home is important to the community. The survey results indicate that proximity to home is one of the top two reasons why people visit a playground or play space.

Playgrounds and play spaces are an important place children and families spend time socialising. One of the top play activities children like to participate in at playgrounds is hanging out with their friends. For adults, one of the top activities they undertake when they visit playgrounds is socialising e.g. meeting friends or family.

High quality playgrounds and play spaces are extensively used and highly valued. Many people use playgrounds and play spaces once a week or more often, usually close to where they live. But they will travel to access high quality playgrounds and play spaces such as Sanctuary Lakes in Gunn, William Kirby Jones in Zuccoli and Marlow Lagoon. They select these playgrounds or play spaces because of the type of play equipment or play experience they offer.

# For the community, key features of high-quality playgrounds and play spaces are:

- Play and active recreation opportunities offer a range of play experiences and cater for a mix of age groups e.g. playgrounds, exercise equipment, basketball courts, large open spaces for informal play, walking / cycling paths, water play, places to walk or exercise dogs.
- The broader environment is inviting and adds to the play experience e.g. a natural setting, a lake or bushland environment.
- Amenities are readily available and high quality and include shade throughout the day, seating, picnic and BBQ facilities, toilets, and water bubblers.
- Equipment, amenities and spaces are well maintained and clean.
- Play experiences, supporting facilities and access ways are inclusive and accessible for all children and families. It feels like a welcoming and appealing place and is designed to support families and children of all abilities.
- People feel safe using the play space and surrounding areas. Aspects that help people to feel safe are having fencing around the play equipment, particularly to support young children and children with additional needs, lighting, there is little or no antisocial behaviour, materials elected reduce the risk of harm e.g. soft fall rather than sand.

# The community has expressed a desire for Palmerston to offer more diverse play experiences and environments including:

- Nature-based play environments rather than predominantly off the shelf play equipment.
- Play experiences which challenge children and teach them to how to manage risk. The primary school aged children engaged through the consultation are looking for play experiences that allow them to have fun, try new things and take risks. They want to climb, to swing, to fly on a flying fox, and play in water.
- Incorporating creative design elements about local First Nations people and culture, and local flora and fauna
- Offering more active recreation spaces such as basketball courts, skate facilities, water play, exercise
  equipment

#### Demand for play experiences that support older children.

There is a perception that most of the playgrounds and play spaces in Palmerston cater for younger children with few available for children and teenagers aged 10 years or older. In contrast, some in the community have suggested they would like to see more play experiences for children under 2 years of age.

Children have some different ideas to adults about what supports play. Children want to see more sand in playgrounds whereas many adults expressed a strong desire for sand to be removed because of concerns about it being unsafe and dirty. Children are interested in softer surfaces and finishes identifying materials like soft pillows or matting used around trampolines whereas adults are more interested in materials such as ruberised soft fall. Adults have a stronger interest in amenities and the wider play environment, whereas children are more interested in play equipment or play experiences.

Perception that playgrounds in established areas of Palmerston receive limited investment. Of particular concern to some members of the community are the condition of playgrounds and play spaces in Bellamack. Sites identified were Father Gerry Remie Park, Flynn Park and Bellamack Lakes.

# The key things the community would like to be different about playgrounds and play spaces:

- For children priorities are flying foxes including having more, fixing existing ones and making them longer. Also important to change are slides and swings including bigger slides for bigger children.
- For adults the top priorities are the type of play
  equipment or play experience and the amenities
  available, followed by the quality and condition of the
  play equipment or play experience and the type of
  active recreation equipment e.g. half basketball court.
  Other aspects are maintenance of the equipment,
  amenities and surrounding environment.



# KEY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The key issues and opportunities identified through the research and analysis of play spaces in Palmerston are:

- The population growth projected in Palmerston will drive increased demand for playgrounds and play spaces, particularly in Zuccoli, Farrar, Durack, Yarrawonga / Palmerston City, and Johnston. But with a young age profile, playgrounds and play spaces are needed throughout Palmerston.
- Playgrounds and play spaces are valuable for the play experiences, the socialisation opportunities they provide, and the overall contribution to community health and wellbeing.
- A clearer hierarchy of playgrounds and play spaces is needed to ensure a consistent and planned approach to investment and facility design, and allow a considered response to community requests for upgrades.
- An increased focus is needed upon providing more accessible and inclusive play experiences for children, teenagers and adults with a disability in Palmerston. Universally accessible play spaces, equipment, amenities, and paths of travel to spaces and equipment, are important for all playgrounds.
- Consider incorporating a benchmark or commitment to ensure all households have access to playgrounds or play spaces within a certain distance of their home
- A need for more diverse play experiences including nature-based play opportunities, play and active recreation experiences that appeal to older children, teenagers and adults, and creative elements that celebrate the diversity of local communities.

- A focus upon improving the safety and perceptions of safety for play spaces e.g. addressing poor sight lines, fencing play equipment, lighting, reducing antisocial behaviour, and materials selection.
- Increasing Council's investment in the surrounding landscape and amenities that support play spaces.
   There is extensive opportunity to improve the look, feel and experience by improving the planting and landscape surrounding playgrounds. This could assist with providing more shade and with incorporating nature play opportunities.
- Increasing investment in playgrounds and play spaces in communities experiencing disadvantage e.g. Moulden and Gray.
- Improve Council and the community's understanding of the extent of investment in playgrounds and play spaces in established suburbs.
- Strengthen the connectivity between playgrounds and play spaces and other community infrastructure and activity centres.
- Strengthening the sustainability of playgrounds and play spaces.
- Improve the information available to the community about playgrounds and play spaces in Palmerston.
   Ensuring the information responds to what families will be looking for is essential including making sure the information is up to date, providing clear information about the features, equipment, amenities, and accessibility, and providing photos and maps.



# COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.3.1<sup>17</sup>

# PLANNING FRAMEWORK

#### VISION

We are committed to providing a network of play spaces that appeals to and enables all in our community to play, socialise and be active outdoors. Our quality play spaces will be welcoming, creative and accessible to all and contribute to the liveability of our City.

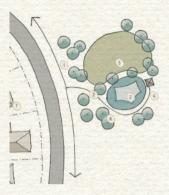
#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- Importance of play: We will invest in play spaces because play is critical to childhood development and to improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.
- 2. Play environments as community gathering spaces: We will design our play spaces not only for play, but also to provide spaces for our community to meet and socialise
- Diverse and quality play spaces: Our play spaces
  will provide diverse and quality play environments.
  Our play spaces will offer positive challenges and
  opportunities for risk taking. The surrounding
  landscape will make our play spaces easy and
  attractive to use.
- 4. Access for all: We will provide play opportunities that are inclusive and can be accessed and enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. All members of our community will have access to play spaces consistent with the indicative catchments outlined in the hierarchy.
- Community involvement and influence: Our community will be actively involved in designing play spaces, and our play spaces will be reflective of our diverse communities and cultures.
- Engagement with nature: Nature play will be a core part of play spaces. We will utilise the surrounding landscape or landform in the design of play spaces to ensure unique and diverse play experiences.
- Sustainability: We will ensure sustainable planning, development, and renewal of play spaces including materials selection, capital renewal program and responsive maintenance.
- Partnering: We will pursue opportunities to co-locate, share, engage or partner with others to provide play environments with schools, the development industry and other institutions.



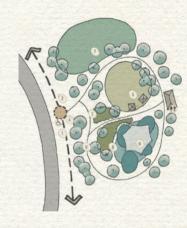
# PLAY SPACE HIERARCHY

FEATURES	Play space classification			
	Local	Major	Regional	
Indicative catchment	Located within 500 metres of every resident.	Located within 2km of all residents.	Strategically located to provide access by bicycle, car or public transport by all residents.	
Setting	Local play spaces meet the needs of the local community, provide for passive recreation and have a minimum level of support amenities and facilities.	Major play spaces cater for a broader catchment, provide a range of play experiences, and are supported by adequate support amenities and facilities.	Regional play spaces are destination sites being large spaces with specially designed play spaces and play elements featuring a diversity of play opportunities and with extensive support amenities and facilities to meet the needs of large numbers of people arriving by car or public transport.	
Play elements	A playground feature, natural play element, and suitable for people of all abilities.	Several playground features, several natural play elements, facilities for active recreation, and suitable for people of all abilities.	Extensive playground features, extensive natural elements, facilities for active recreation, and suitable for people of all abilities.	
Landscape and plantings	A well-maintained park setting including canopy trees for shade.	A well-maintained park setting including canopy trees for shade and additional plantings of interest.	A well-maintained park setting over a large area including canopy trees for shade and a mix of plantings	
Path of travel	Shared paths to playground.	Shared paths to playground and additional paths through park.	Shared paths to playground, additional paths through park and to connect with other open space or play areas.	
AMENITIES				
Taps (dual purpose)	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Seating	Yes	Additional	Extensive	
Litter bins	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Tables and chairs		Limited	Extensive	
Shelter		Yes	Yes	
Public toilets		Yes (discretionary)	Yes	
BBQs		Yes	Yes	
Bike racks		Yes	Yes	



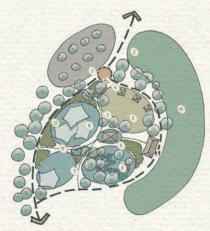
# LOCAL

- 1. Neighbourhood path network
- 2. Disabled accessible paths connecting play space facilities
- 3. Small inclusive playground with shade structure
- 4. Seating area
- 5. Dryland grass kickabout area
- 6. Large canopy shade trees
- 7. Residential houses overlooking play space



# MAJOR

- 1. On-street car parking
- 2. Cycle path connected to the broader cycle network
- 3. Disabled accessible paths connecting play space facilities
- 4. Play space 'welcoming gateway' with bike parking facilities
- 5. Picnic / BBQ area with shelters
- 6. Multi-age inclusive playground with shade structures
- 7. Irrigated grass kickabout area
- 8. Integrated landscaping and gardens
- 9. Large canopy shade trees
- 10. Disabled parking
- 11. Toilet and change facilities



# REGIONAL

- 1. Car park with shade trees
- 2. Cycle path connected to the broader cycle network
- 3. Disabled accessible paths connecting play space facilities
- 4. Play space 'welcoming gateway' with bike parking facilities
- 5. Picnic / BBQ area with shelters
- 6. Multi-age inclusive playground with shade structures
- 7. Older age activity area, possible hardcourt facilities
- 8. Nature based play and exploration area
- 9. Central meeting area
- 10. Irrigated grass kickabout area
- 11. Integrated landscaping and gardens
- 12. Large canopy shade trees
- 13. Disabled parking
- 14. Toilet and change facilities

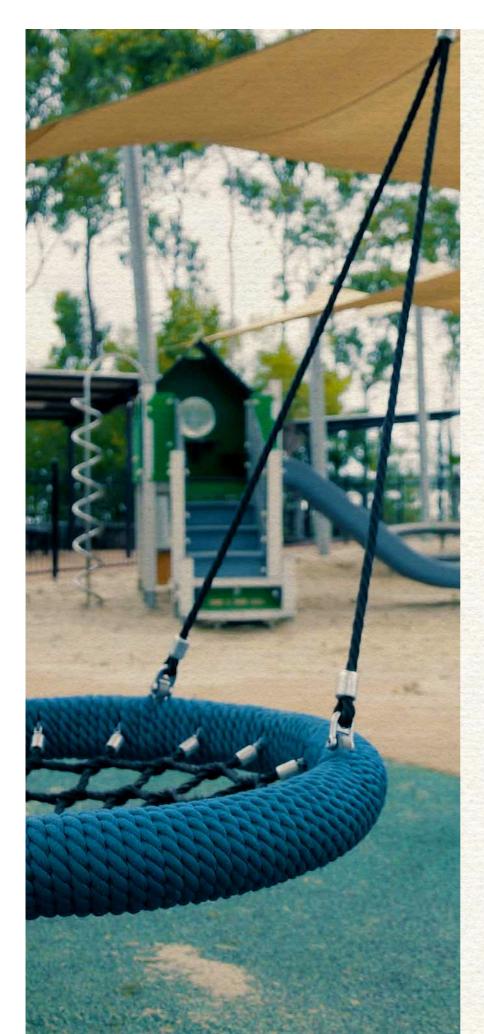


# PRIORITY AREAS

Priority Area		Strategic Actions	
Priority Area 1	Implement the play space planning	Actively use the guiding principles and hierarchy in this Strategy alongside referenced design guidelines to guide the location, design, and development of new play spaces.	
	framework	Complete an audit of all play spaces in Palmerston:	
		To identify where changes and improvements are required to deliver universally accessible play spaces, amenities and surrounding environments.	
		To assess how they relate to the play space hierarchy .	
		To identify where investment will be required to improve the provision and quality of play spaces across the network.	
Priority Area 2	Increase the diversity and	Increase nature-based play opportunities in play spaces across the City of Palmerston.	
	quality of play experiences and	Assess the feasibility of establishing water play facilities in open space and creating more wet season appropriate play space offerings.	
	environments	Prepare and implement a program that will increase the provision of play opportunities for older children, teenagers, and adults including active recreation and exercise equipment.	
		Prepare and implement a program of landscape upgrades to improve the quality of landscape settings and play space surrounds.	
			Identify opportunities to incorporate creative elements into the design of play spaces
		Increase investment in play spaces in areas experiencing a high level of disadvantage to support community health and wellbeing.	
Priority Area 3	Increase community involvement and information.	Develop and document a process to guide Council and developers to actively involve the community in the design of play spaces.	
		Identify opportunities to engage the community in the design of play spaces, ensuring the design reflects the local community in which it is located.	
		Review and improve the information available to the community about play spaces in the City of Palmerston and promote the range of play opportunities available	
		Develop and implement a playground activation plan with a focus on regional, major and new or upgraded playgrounds.	
Priority Area 4	Improve connectivity and linkages	Identify opportunities to improve the connectivity between play spaces and other community infrastructure or activity centres.	
		Review path access to play spaces to enhance accessibility, provide connections to surrounding neighbourhoods, and other open space areas.	
Priority Area 5	Improve maintenance	Review maintenance arrangements for play spaces with a focus upon ensuring they are more responsive to community needs.	
	and resourcing	Review and increase the level of resourcing for play space inspections, maintenance, and upgrades to deliver higher quality play spaces that are more sustainable and responsive to community needs and expectations.	



Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT 0830 P 08 8935 9922 E palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au PALMERSTON.NT.GOV.AU





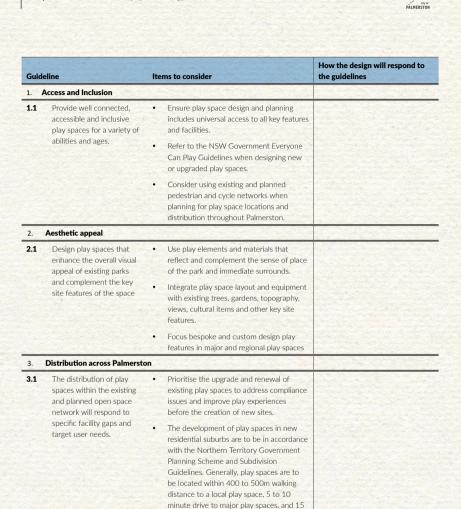
City of PALMERSTON

# PLAY SPACE DESIGN GUIDELINES AND CHECKLIST

## **DESIGN GUIDELINES**

The design guidelines assist in designing play spaces that meet our guiding principles. It is recommended the checklist be completed by officers and / or developers to document how the design guidelines have been considered and applied when developing new or refurbishing play spaces in Palmerston.

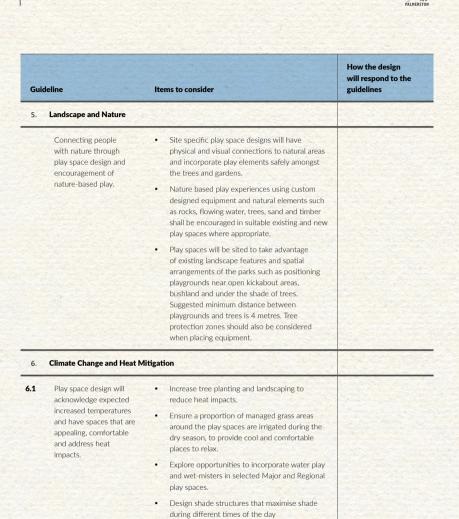
Resources to support the design guidelines are safer design guidelines which increase usage of public places, achieve connection and integration of streets and public places, reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour and create more liveable environments. The NT Government Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles provide a framework for this. The Northern Territory Subdivision Development Guidelines 2020, sets out requirements for new development as well as the layout, design and construction of infrastructure including open space and landscaping.



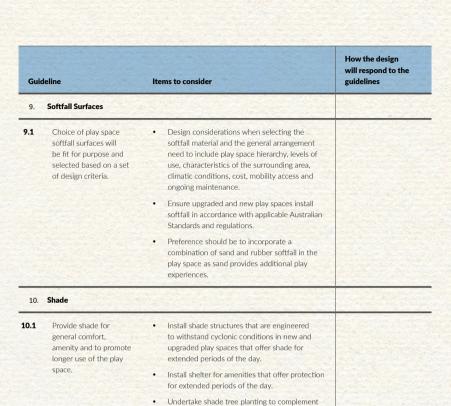
to 20 minute drive to regional play spaces.

Guideline		Items to consider	How the design will respond to the guidelines
4.	Diversity and Age Appropriat	e Play	
4.1	throughout Palmerston specifically catering for the needs of young people	Ensure play space design targeting older age groups incorporate an appropriate level of risk, challenge and adventure for individual development.	
	in the 13 to 18 years age group	<ul> <li>Include facilities and infrastructure that supports social gatherings and informal physical activity.</li> </ul>	
		Play space planning, design and distribution targeting young people needs to consider;	
		<ul> <li>Proximity to public transport and cycleway networks</li> </ul>	
		- Proximity to schools and shops	
		<ul> <li>Size to accommodate multiple facilities and activities</li> </ul>	
		- Opportunities for casual surveillance.	
4.2	Play spaces will provide diversity of play experiences for a range of age groups, abilities and backgrounds.	<ul> <li>When planning and designing new or upgraded play spaces, undertake an assessment of nearby available play equipment and experiences to minimise duplication and maximise variety, including age appropriate play, risk and challenges.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Develop site specific play space designs that maximise the site's key attributes in regards to integrating nature-based play experiences.</li> </ul>	
		Consider culturally appropriate design responses within play spaces by engaging with the local community during the early design and planning phases.	
		Play spaces shall be designed for the different developmental stages of children and adults and consider items such as;	
		- Physical size	
		- Physical ability	
		- Skills	
		- Behavior	
		<ul> <li>Play and activity interests</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Ability to understand risk and dangers.</li> </ul>	





Guideline		Items to consider	How the design will respond to the guidelines
7.	Safety and Risk		
7.1	Provide a safe element of risk in the play spaces to encourage the challenging of physical limits.	Incorporate an appropriate level of risk and adventurous play through the equipment and general layout of the play space that challenges individual child development.	
7.2	Adopt best practice safety and design standards.	Ensure all upgraded and new play spaces meet the requirements of the relevant Australian Standards.	
		<ul> <li>Certification of the design and completed constructed play space is to be undertaken by a suitably qualified professional.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Adopt the Safer by Design safety principles in the positioning and general arrangement of new and upgraded play spaces.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Existing mature trees in the vicinity of the play spaces to be regularly monitored to assess any potential safety issues in relation to limb drop, tree structure and stability.</li> </ul>	
8.	Sustainability		
8.1	Play spaces will consider the environmental and economical impact to ensure they are sustainable in the short and long term.	Consider the environmental impact of play equipment at the planning and design stage of the play space.     Source certified environmentally sustainable.	
		Source certified environmentally sustainable products and materials.	
		<ul> <li>Play space designs will minimise maintenance requirements where possible by;</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>limiting and focusing areas of irrigated, managed lawns to areas directly adjacent to the play space.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Replace large expanses of underutilised grass areas with gardens and native planting</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Minimise the extent of rubber softfall to focus areas where there is heavy use and all ability access is required.</li> </ul>	



constructed shade structures in all play spaces where existing trees don't occur.

Retain as much natural vegetation and bushland as possible, incorporating mature trees into the

design of play spaces.

Guideline		Items to consider	How the design will respond to the guide- lines
11.	Park Furniture		
11.1	Park furniture shall be provided to support the use of play spaces.	Park furniture should be appropriately designed and installed, including path connections and hard surfaces under high use areas.	
		<ul> <li>Site specific design and planning of existing play spaces to determine the appropriate placement and location of park furniture that responds to the character, topography and landscape of each site, should be undertaken to maximise oppor- tunities for surveillance and activation of the space.</li> </ul>	
		Drinking fountains shall be located 10m from the water mainline to reduce standing water issues in pipes.	
		<ul> <li>Park furniture shall be constructed from robust materials that are readily available for replace- ment. Only Major and Regional play space should consider bespoke park furniture.</li> </ul>	
12.	Public Art		
12.1	Opportunities to creatively incorporate public art in the play space will be explored.	Explore options to include functional public art elements at the planning and design stage of new and upgraded Major and Regional play spaces. The art installations will enhance the play experience, respond to the local environ- ment, engage the community and/or express cultural identity.	
		Public art will be planned and procured in accordance with Council's Public Art Strategy.	
		<ul> <li>Public art is not be an 'add on' at the end of the design and construction process. It will be fully planned, budgeted and integrated into the design of the play space.</li> </ul>	





Guideline		e Items to consider	
13.	Fencing		
13.1	Play spaces will be fenced in response to site specific conditions	Fencing around playgrounds will be considered to address safety issues where other design options are not appropriate.  Where fencing is required, alternative forms of fencing to be investigated and the following items to be considered;  Fenced playgrounds limit the points of access to play facilities and reduces opportunities for connection between the playground and surrounding, complementary activity elements / spaces.  Fences have a visual impact and is at odds with the idea of 'open space'.	
14.	Signage		
14.1	Signage installed to display the park name and to identify cultural elements.	<ul> <li>Apply Council standard for Park signage to ensure consistency of messaging.</li> <li>Cultural signage to be approved by Council communications officers.</li> </ul>	
15.	Lighting		
	Lighting extends play and access to exercise equipment.	<ul> <li>Install solar park lighting along main paths in play spaces.</li> <li>Install sufficient lighting to illuminate play and exercise equipment.</li> <li>Ensure there are timers installed for the play and exercise equipment to be turned off at a set time.</li> </ul>	



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# AT luce for Teople

# **COUNCIL REPORT**

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 13.1.4

**REPORT TITLE:** Zuccoli Community Hub - Off Leash Dog Exercise Area

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday 1 February 2022

**AUTHOR:** Executive Officer Strategic Projects, Francheska Gobel **APPROVER:** General Manager Community and Culture, Amelia Vellar

### **COMMUNITY PLAN**

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

# **PURPOSE**

This Report seeks Council's approval of the proposed staged delivery and funding arrangements of the Off Leash Dog Exercise Area at the Zuccoli Community Hub including site preparation.

## **KEY MESSAGES**

- The proposed Off Leash Dog Exercise Area at Zuccoli is one element of the key initiative developed by the Ninth Council as part of *Prójects Where We Live Matters Zuccoli Community Hub*.
- The dog park is proposed to be constructed at the Zuccoli Community Hub site, being Lot 13503 of Tuckeroo Boulevard, Zuccoli.
- City of Palmerston has over 5,000 registered dogs and two designated off leash dog exercise areas.
- The two-existing dog exercise areas are located at Marlow Lagoon and Bakewell Dog Park, with all other areas in the municipality requiring dogs on a leash.
- The Off Leash Dog Exercise Area is the first element being delivered at the currently undeveloped Zuccoli Community Hub site.
- Council engaged a local architect along with a consultant animal behaviour specialist to create the design for the new Zuccoli Dog park, Off Leash Dog Exercise Area.
- Through a recent five-week community consultation period, the proposed Off Leash Dog Exercise Area was listed as the third most essential feature of the Zuccoli Community Hub development.
- The estimated Zuccoli Dog Park project cost is \$1,225,765 (GST exclusive) including substantial costs for the preliminary site works which will be utilised by other elements of the Zuccoli Community Hub such as the public toilet.
- Council has \$350,000 (GST exclusive) of funding for the Zuccoli Dog Park development construction works, via the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program.
- Council has also secured \$250,000 (GST exclusive) of funding for Zuccoli Dog Park project, via the Northern Territory Government.
- It is recommended that a further \$620,965 required for preliminary site works and residual dog park construction costs, be funded from Councils working capital funds reserve.
- The remainder (\$4,800) is to be funded by relevant existing approved Council capital programs.
- The Stage 1 Zuccoli Off Leash Dog Exercise Area once approved is to be commenced immediately.

# **RECOMMENDATION**

1. THAT Report entitled Zuccoli Community Hub - Off Leash Dog Exercise Area be received and noted.



- 2. THAT Council endorse the Zuccoli Dog Park staging plan and concept design, as presented as **Attachment 13.1.4.1** and detailed in Report entitled Zuccoli Community Hub Off Leash Dog Exercise Area to commence delivery this financial year.
- 3. THAT Council endorse the proposed funding and staged approach to deliver preliminary site works and Stage 1 of the Off Leash Dog Exercise Area of the Zuccoli Community Hub as detailed in the Report entitled Zuccoli Community Hub Off Leash Dog Exercise Area
- 4. THAT Council approve the immediate movement of \$620,965 from the Working Capital Reserve for preliminary site works and Stage 1 of the Off Leash Dog Exercise Area of the Zuccoli Community Hub.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2018 Council developed a suite of strategic projects titled *Prójects*. A key initiative was *Where We Live Matters – Zuccoli Community Hub*. One of the Zuccoli Community Hub major elements was a regional dog park.

City of Palmerston currently has over 5,000 registered dogs and two designated off leash dog exercise areas. Marlow Lagoon is the largest and oldest dog park in the municipality, with Bakewell Dog Park established in 2021, after it was recognised, the temporary facility created in 2020 during COVID-19 was a much needed and utilised community asset. In all other areas in the municipality dogs must be on a leash. Bakewell Dog Park includes elements such as an open run area, seating, pathway connection to access points, water, and agility equipment. Marlow Lagoon includes elements such as seating, water, agility equipment, walking loops, lake edge access, fenced designated areas for small dogs, quiet dogs, time out and a main open run area. Both dog parks are very popular with the community and are highly utilised throughout the week and on weekends.

Funding from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program (LRCI) of \$350,000 (GST exclusive) has been secured towards the establishment of a regional dog park in Zuccoli. The funding allocated to this project is required to be spent by 30 June 2021. Council has also previously received \$250,000 from the Northern Territory Government (NTG) Palmerston Council Asset Improvements Grant to be used for the Zuccoli regional dog park.

The dog park was included as a project element in recent community consultation on the proposed Zuccoli Community Hub development, conducted between 7 October 2021 to 15 November 2021. Due to security of funds for the Regional Dog Park element, this element of the project was to be communicated to the community rather than consulted on. Overall feedback received was highly positive, further reinforcing Council's decision to proceed with the dog park. The current dog park design is per **Attachment 13.1.4.1** to this Report. Further information on consultation feedback is provided in the Consultation Process section of this Report.

# **DISCUSSION**

## Dog Park Scope and Design

To enable the Zuccoli Dog Park to differentiate itself from others in the municipality, which are predominately open spaces with agility equipment, the dog park has been designed to be a sensory dog park. The dog park would include a main dog area and quiet dog area. Features such as dog agility equipment would be excluded and instead, natural sensory elements will be installed including scented plants, rocks, dry 'river creek beds', grassed areas, sand pockets and small maintainable natural fauna pockets. This approach provides a point of difference in contrast to other dog parks in the municipality (and the region), aims to reduce maintenance costs, considers environmental impact and sustainability.



A dog park design specialist was engaged for the development of the Zuccoli Dog Park concept design. Elements carefully considered in the design process can be found under *Notes*, on page three of **Attachment 13.1.4.1** to this Report.

The total enclosed Zuccoli Dog Park area is 3,000m² and is scoped in respect to the project budget. In terms of scale, the park overall is closely the size of the current Bakewell Dog Park. This total size of 3000 m² is considered to be the minimum dog park size for a single area, as provided within the South Australian Government *Unleashed – A Guide to Successful Dog Parks* guide. Due to a number of constraints such as funding and site suitability, the total size of the dog park is 3000 m², split into a 2,300m³ active dog area, and 700m² quiet dog area.

The design has been carefully considered and incorporates dispersed sensory items throughout both areas, and uses strategic placement of park infrastructure, such as seating and water fountains away from entrances, and extra access gates for both areas. These elements aim to reduce associated risks with smaller dog parks.

To enable future development, the dog park is designed to allow for future expansion and is demonstrated on page one of **Attachment 13.1.4.1** to this Report.

To enable the construction of the dog park significant head works or site preparation is required as this element will be the first element on the site. The dog park construction works include preliminary headworks such as service connections, construction of the temporary carpark and planning and design. The dog park can not be built without these site works.

## Costs

A cost analysis of the proposed dog park has occurred, including Preliminary Site Works requirements, against associated projected funding for the project.

The following table details the estimated rolled up project costs into areas of preliminary site works, dog park construction and future stages. The table also outlines the funding allocation and proposed future stages and associated elements. Future stages are, however, are dependent on sourcing funding.

The below table lists the proposed delivery order, estimated costs and proposed allocation of funding:

Zuccoli Dog Park Development – Estimated Costs and Proposed Funding				
Project Scope	Elements Included	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	Proposed Funding	
		(GST excl)	Source	
Current Stage-	Planning / Design	\$620,965	Council Working	
Preliminary Site	Preliminaries		Capital Reserve	
Works for Zuccoli	Demolition		(recommended)	
Community Hub	Civil earthworks			
	Services			
	Pathway			
	Car Park			
	Public toilet including install and			
	connections			
Current Stage-	Landscaping	\$604,800	Australian Government	
Dog Park	Electrical		funded through LCRI	
Construction	Structures		funding (\$350,000)	
including Public	Dog Play Areas			
Toilet – Stage 1	Fencing			



	Waterplay feature stage 1		Northern Territory Government Funded from existing Palmerston Council Asset Improvements Grant (\$250,000)
			The remainder (\$4,800) to be funded by relevant existing approved Council capital programs
Future stage Dog Park Construction – Stage 2	<ul> <li>BBQ</li> <li>Pathway loops within the park</li> <li>Education and agility equipment</li> <li>CCTV (that may come with the overall hub development)</li> <li>Additional lighting</li> <li>Additional seating</li> </ul>	\$320,000	Future funding yet determined
Future stage Dog Park Construction – Stage 3	<ul> <li>Dog water play features</li> <li>Increasing the park size</li> <li>CCTV (that may come with the overall hub development)</li> <li>Waterplay feature stage 2</li> </ul>	\$220,000	Future funding yet determined

The water play element is costly (in the order of \$215,000) and complex to manage, hence the staging. On-going maintenance of dog water play features includes ensuring the associated water quality remains at human grade, as well as ongoing human resourcing, and mechanical maintenance costs. The water play element does not feature in the concept designs as the optimal position is still being finalised.

Consideration to proposed future staged dog park elements are required. Dog park CCTV cameras and additional external pathway lighting could be installed as part of the broader Zuccoli Community Hub development infrastructure. Future progress will be presented back to Council for consideration.

Additional to the dog park concept design, further investigation of the most appropriate car park area to mitigate earthworks (and costs) and establish maintenance access is also being explored.

# Next Steps

**Attachment 13.1.4.1** to this Report details a preliminary dog park concept plan. Local architects, Rossi Architects along with consultant animal behaviour specialists LMH Consulting/Paws4Play are currently engaged with delivering the design and concept planning.

Should Council endorse the proposed approach and design within this Report, Council will commence with a public tender process consisting of the Zuccoli Dog Park preliminary site works and associated construction works. A separate public tender would also follow, including the supply and install of a new public toilet facility located adjacent to the dog park.

Council staff will further investigate the development, implementation and promotion of protocols for the proposed Zuccoli Dog Park. This is likely to include duration of lighting requirements for safety of park users but also aims to address anti-social behaviours, frequency of irrigation, guidance of access



requirement for all park users and managing dog behaviours, including park rules and obligations for those that use the park.

The dog park is expected to be delivered by mid-2022, following council approval and period of public tender process.

Concurrent to the dog park development, Council is actively working on the overall Zuccoli Community Hub Master Plan development and is presented on page one of **Attachment 13.1.4.1** to this Report.

# **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

A five-week long community consultation period, conducted between 7 October 2021 to 15 November 2021 on the Zuccoli Community Hub development, saw strong support on the proposed dog park element. A fenced dog park was ranked third in top element priorities of the proposed Community Hub, after Mitchell Creek walking trails, and a café space.

Overall feedback about the proposed community hub was positive with stakeholders and the wider community is excited about the new recreational space and the potential the proposal has to invigorate the area.

The dog park received overwhelming positive feedback from all stakeholders and community members.

Some concerns were raised over any shared water sources to ensure they don't spread disease. However, access to water remained important to keep dogs' cool. Overall, the community is excited to see the dog park go ahead.

Further information on the Community Consultation feedback can be found within the Agenda from the First Ordinary Council meeting held of 14 December 2021, within Report entitled Zuccoli Community Hub Community Consultation.

Consultation to inform residents will occur prior to construction commencing.

In preparing this Report the following external parties were consulted:

- Rossi Architects
- LMH Consulting/Paws4Play (via Rossi Architects)

In preparing this Report the following City of Palmerston staff were consulted:

- Regulatory Services Education and Policy Lead
- Regulatory Services Manager
- Senior Projects Manager

# **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications for this Report.

# **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The estimated cost of the Zuccoli Community Hub is in the order of \$20 million. The project has been scheduled to be delivered in five years, and is subject to funding.

The estimated Zuccoli Dog Park project cost is \$1,225,765 (GST exclusive) including preliminary site works which will be utilised by other elements of the Zuccoli Community Hub such as the public toilet.



The dog park has funding allocation of \$350,000 from LRCI Program towards the dog park construction, as well previously received \$250,000 from the Northern Territory Government (NTG) Palmerston Council Asset Improvements Grant which will be used towards the project.

This Report seeks approval of \$620,965 from Council's Working Capital Reserve, funding site preliminary works and the balance of associated Dog Park Construction works. The Working Capital Reserve currently has \$7,730,915 available. Approval of this draw is both in line with the intended use of this reserve and will not impact any planned other capital projects that may utilise this reserve.

The full allocation of funding is detailed in the table above.

# **RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

- 5 Fails to make informed and timely decisions
  Context: Ensuring the City and Administration with decision making delegation have access to the right information, at the right time to make decisions on a timely basis.
- 6 Fails to deliver the strategic vision for the City
  Context: Ensuring vision is delivered effectively & efficiently, progress is measurable & celebrated.

Failure to progress on the Zuccoli Dog Park, particularly after ranking third in the community consultation key priorities for the overall Zuccoli Community Hub project, may result in reduced trust and negative feedback from the community. Failure to proceed will also lead to lower amenity supply for residents.

The LRCI funding is also attached to the dog park element at Zuccoli and will not be able to be used for another purpose and needs to be expended by 30 June 2022.

Failure by Council to progress on the Zuccoli Dog Park, will leave less dog exercise areas in Palmerston. This may exasperate barking that occurs when dogs are under-exercised. This is particularly of concern for residents of Zuccoli, due to a suburb profile of high-density housing and reduced yard size, therefore increasing the need for dog exercise zones in the area.

### **ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The dog park project is proposed to be constructed on undeveloped land. Therefore, the associated construction would impact native vegetation and landscape. Site surveyors were requested to identify trees larger than 2m tall on the entire Zuccoli Community Hub site. However, upon assessment, no suitable trees were identified in the dog park vicinity. Therefore, pockets of native vegetation are to be identified and incorporated into the Dog Park design. Sustainability considerations have been taken into account in the designs.

# COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

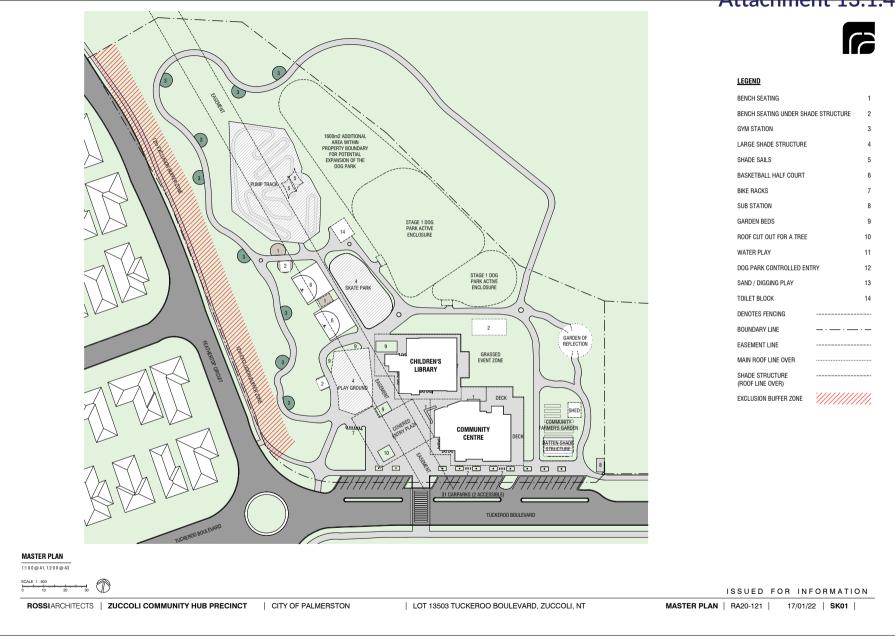
We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.



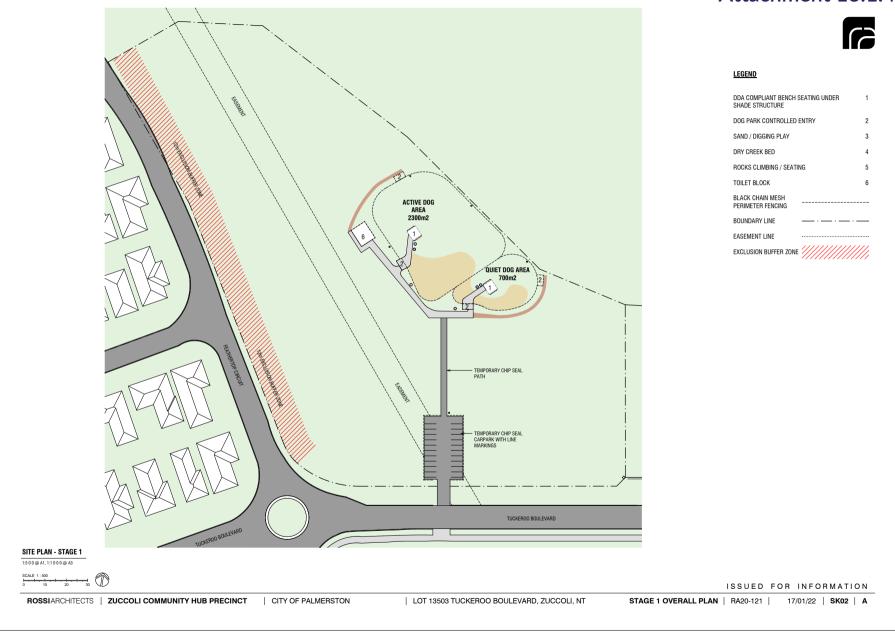
# **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Dog Park Design – Stage 1 [13.1.4.1 - 3 pages]

# COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.4,1



COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.4,1



# COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.4.1





# **COUNCIL REPORT**

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 13.2.1

**REPORT TITLE:** Finance and Governance October to December 2021 Quarterly

Report

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday 1 February 2022

**AUTHOR:** EA to Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Stoney Campbell

**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 summarises the key activities undertaken by the Finance and Governance Directorate during the October to December 2021 quarter.

# **KEY MESSAGES**

The Finance and Governance Directorate provide a quarterly report of its activities. Some highlights include:

- The October to December 2021 quarter recorded an additional 237 ratepayers signing up to receive their notices digitally, bring the total number of ratepayers receiving notices digitally to 2,854, being 20% of all ratepayers.
- Finance paid a total of \$9.022 million to vendors during the quarter, with 87% of these funds, being \$7.85 million, paid to local suppliers.
- The external audit of the annual financial statements for 2020/21 financial year was completed in October 2021 and the external auditors issued an unqualified audit opinion.
- This quarter Procurement awarded four opportunities for Public Quotations.
- While there were no tenders awarded during this quarter, Procurement opened one tender opportunity to the public being the SWELL project for \$15 million and continues to work on 11 other opportunities to be released to the public in early 2022.
- 16 new properties where registered in the quarter bringing the total rateable properties to 14,627 by 31 December 2021.
- Council completed its Annual Report for 2020/2021 which is now available to the public on City of Palmerston's website.

# **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Report entitled Finance and Governance October to December 2021 Quarterly Report be received and noted.

### **BACKGROUND**

During November 2021, City of Palmerston reviewed and updated the Organisation Structure, resulting in some departments being moved into different directorates, and new directorate titles being issued.



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

## **DISCUSSION**

Activities completed during the October to December 2021 quarter are detailed in **Attachment 13.2.1.1** with some highlights identified as below:

#### Rates

Staff have continued to work on updating the debt recovery process for overdue rates, and this quarter seen the second rates instalment being due for payment. The third rates instalment notices were issued to the required ratepayers during December for payment by 30 January 2022.

#### **Tenders**

During the October to December 2021 quarter, the tender for the development of the Swimming, Wellness, Events, Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL) project, valued at \$15 million, was opened for submissions. The Procurement Team is continuing to develop an additional 11 tender opportunities that will be released to the public for submissions in early 2022.

### Freedom of Information

During the quarter, City of Palmerston received seven Freedom of Information (FOI) applications from the public and closed out six of these applications. FOI's are an important component to the transparency of Councils work, and staff prioritise these requests and ensure all work is completed as quickly as possible.

## **Annual Report**

Council adopted its 2020/2021 Annual Report in early November 2021, in accordance with all the legislative requirements. The Annual Report provided our stakeholders, customers and community with an overview of projects and programs invested in and implemented by Council throughout the 2020/2021 financial year in accordance with the Community Plan.

The Annual Report also includes the audited 2020/2021 Financial Statements and some highlights included within the 2020/2021 Annual Report are provided below:

- Sourced \$9.4 million in external grant funding.
- Around 29,000 people attended community events hosted by Council.
- 10,093 people participated in library programs.
- 15,600 followers on Facebook.
- Rangers microchipped 43 dogs and helped organise 42 animal sterilisations.
- Rangers returned 349 missing dogs to their owners.
- Repaired 2,000 + metres of pathways.
- Planted 888 trees to cool and shade the City.
- Collected 12,217 tonnes of general waste and 1,382 tonnes of recyclable waste through kerbside waste collection.
- Achieved a 12% diversion rate for the total waste.
- Upgrade of Marlow Lagoon Dog Park and new dog park established in Bakewell.
- Spent \$11 million on upgrading and building new facilities for Palmerston.
- Repaired 821 streetlights.



#### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

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

- Finance Manager
- Governance and Strategy Manager

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications for this Report.

#### **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

1 Fails to be trusted as a Council Context: Achieving credibility & trust with majority of those within and external to the City.

There are no legal and legislative implications relating to this 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**

1. Finance and Governance October to December 2021 Quarterly Report [13.2.1.1 - 4 pages]



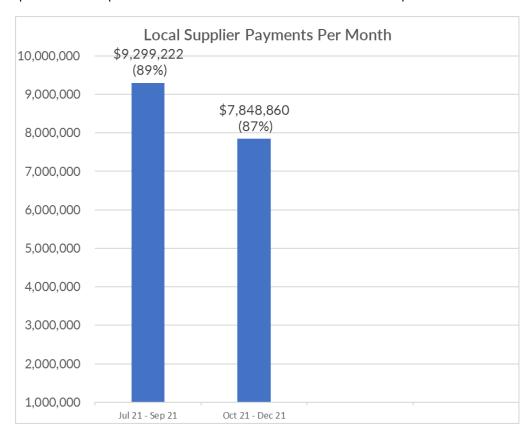
#### QUARTERLY REPORT - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021

#### 2. Community Plan Outcome: Vibrant Economy

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

#### **Accounts Payable**

\$7.849 million has been paid out to local suppliers over the last three months to 31 December 2021. This total makes up 87% of all payments made to Creditors of \$9.022 million over the period. A table is provided below to show the trend line over the last two quarters.



#### 5. Community Plan Outcome: Environmental Sustainability

Palmerston in an environmentally friendly, livable city that promotes renewable practices and sustainability

#### **Online Rates Notices**

2,854 ratepayers are registered to receive their notices online, this total makes up 20% of all ratepayers. 237 ratepayers signed up last quarter, with 207 on Ezybill and 30 on BPay View. City of Palmerston has actively promoted and encouraged ratepayers to sign up to receive their rates notices and reminders online via BPay View and EzyBill rather than paper statements.



#### QUARTERLY REPORT - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021

#### 6. Community Plan Outcome: Governance

Council is trusted by the community and invest in things that the public value.

#### Rates

16 properties from the Zuccoli development were taken on in the quarter ending December 2021, bringing the total of ratable properties to 14,627 by December 2021.

The second rates instalment became due for payment on 30 November 2021. Council has continued with the debt recovery process, with overdue letters being issued on 7 December 2021, with further follow-up in January 2022. The third rates instalment notice will be due for payment on 30 January 2022, with the notices being issued on 24 December 2021.

#### **External Audit**

External Audit concluded smoothly, and Council received an unqualified audit opinion on the 2020/2021 Financial Statements presented in the Annual Report.

#### **Annual Report**

Council adopted its 2020/21 Annual Report during the First Ordinary Meeting on 2 November 2021, in accordance with all the legislative requirements. The Annual Report provided our stakeholders, customers and community with an overview of projects and programs invested in and implemented by Council throughout the 2020/21 financial year in accordance with the Community Plan.

A copy of the Annual Report was published on the Council website and an advertisement was placed in the NT News newspaper. Hardcopies of the Annual Report were also made available in all our Council offices for the public to view and a copy was submitted to the Minister in accordance with the Act.

#### Procurement

During the October to December 2021 quarter, Council has awarded four Public Quote opportunities.

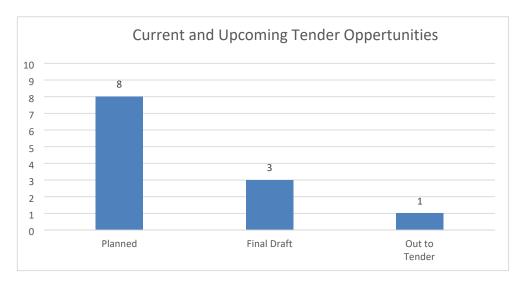
#### **Tenders**

During this quarter, there were no tenders awarded.

Current Tender opportunities and upcoming opportunities are as below:



#### QUARTERLY REPORT - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021



#### Risk Management

Council engaged the Governance Institute of Australia to provide certification programs for staff members on Risk Management Frameworks and Assessing, Analysing and Treating Risks. This training was tailored based on City of Palmerston's current risk management frameworks to ensure staff members are accountable, and are capable to identify, record, assess and manage risks in their day-to-day operations.

#### **Policies**

Council prepared a revision schedule on the policies to be presented during the term of this Council. A report on the revision of Council policies will be presented to Council during the upcoming meeting on 15 February 2022.

#### **Internal Audit**

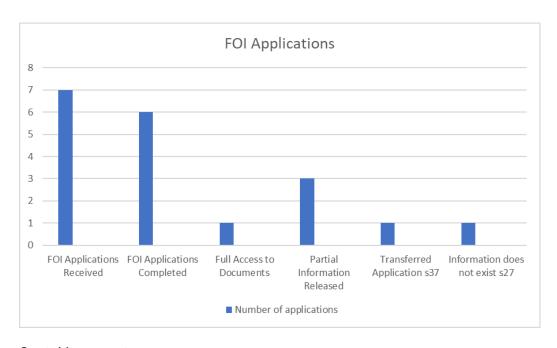
As per our schedule, an internal audit on 'Reporting – Municipal Plan' was to be held in the October to December 2021 quarter. Council conducted a Community Plan Health Check in early 2021 to review the progress of implementation of the Community Plan and identify key improvements. Considering these reviews undertaken on our Community Plan which sets the objectives of our Municipal Plan and the additional works on improving information management, it was decided that the internal audit on 'Reporting – Municipal Plan' was not a requirement for Council at this stage.

#### Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information (FOI) requests are a key component of transparent and open governance, and Council meets these requests as quickly as possible. There were seven FOI requests received by City of Palmerston in the last quarter. Out of those seven, six were completed within the legislative time frames. One application received full access, while three applicants received partial information. One application was transferred to the Northern Territory Government as Council did not hold any information regarding the request. Another application was closed as the information did not exist and the final application from the October to December quarter is still ongoing. The below table shows an overview of the FOI's during the last quarter:



#### QUARTERLY REPORT - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021



#### **Grants Management**

Council received an approved amount of \$100,000 through the Northern Territory Recreational Fishing Grants Scheme (NTRFGS) from the Office of the Minister for Recreational Fishing. The project funding under the NTRFGS was for over a period of 12 months, which aligns with our strategic direction of the Lake's Plan addressing water quality issues. This involves the purchase and installation of aerators in several of the Palmerston Lakes; identified to help keep the waterways rich in oxygen and free of toxic build up.

The following grant applications were submitted in the quarter and are currently under assessment by the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet:

- Immediate Priority Grants 2021-22 Dog Pound Upgrade Stage Three and Four.
- Immediate Priority Grants 2021-22 Regulatory Service Vehicle Custom Holding Pen Conversions.



# COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 13.2.2

**REPORT TITLE:** Adopt a Lake

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday 1 February 2022

**AUTHOR:** Manager City Sustainability, Peter Lander

**APPROVER:** General Manager of Infrastructure, Nadine Nilon

#### **COMMUNITY PLAN**

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

#### **PURPOSE**

This purpose of this Report is to consider opportunities for the community to participate in caring and maintaining for the Palmerston Lakes similar to an 'Adopt a Park' program.

#### **KEY MESSAGES**

- The presence of Salvinia weed in the Palmerston Lakes threatens Council's requirements and community expectations of the lakes and primary and secondary lake functions.
- Council maintains an integrated approach to control Salvinia weed comprising mechanical harvesting and biological control.
- Having regard for Lake management activities there are limited opportunities for the community to
  participate in caring and maintaining for the Palmerston Lakes other than manual harvesting of
  Salvinia weed.
- Community participation in manual harvesting has been considered however is not encouraged given health, safety, environmental and legal risks and given the benefit is relatively marginal compared to the existing weed harvesting program.
- A new weed harvester anticipated to be commissioned in July 2022 (notwithstanding COVID-19 related logistical impacts) is expected to double weed harvesting capacity.
- Council is reviewing options and cost to install additional constructed Salvinia weed disposal and collection site(s) in the larger Lakes to improve weed harvester productivity.
- The continued management of the Palmerston Lakes under the Lake Management Plan including the ongoing implementation of identified maintenance and management practices will contribute to maintaining improved water quality and the lakes primary and secondary functions.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Report entitled Adopt a Lake be received and noted.

#### **BACKGROUND**

At the First Ordinary Council Meeting of 2 November 2021 Council made the following decision:



#### Adopt a Lake - General Business

THAT a report be prepared to consider opportunities for the community to participate in caring and maintaining for the Palmerston Lakes similar to an "Adopt a Park" program acknowledging salvinia is a declared and controlled weed, including the types of activities, risk management, legislation and frequency by the First Ordinary Meeting in February 2022.

CARRIED 8/3001 - 30/01/2018

This Report reviews the potential for an Adopt a Lake style program.

#### **DISCUSSION**

#### Lake Management Overview

The Palmerston Lakes comprise the constructed (Durack, Durack Heights and Sanctuary Lakes) and the natural freshwater Marlow Lagoon. Council manages the Lakes under the Palmerston Lakes Management Plan which documents environmental conditions and functions and provides program guidance through management targets, management measures and water quality monitoring.

The Palmerston Lakes Management Plan identifies that Council requirements and community expectations of the lakes are many and varied and include:

- Stormwater retention and water quality treatment.
- Amenity, recreation and aesthetic values for those living near the lakes.
- Water source for irrigation of the Palmerston Golf Course and Council managed parklands surrounding the lakes.
- Habitat for wildlife including fish, birds and reptiles.
- Recreational fishing (including the periodic stocking of barramundi for this purpose).

The Palmerston Lakes Management Plan also identifies that the primary and secondary functions of each lake Council maintain.

#### Primary functions include:

- Stormwater management (retention and treatment).
- Ecological habitat.

#### Secondary functions include:

- Flood mitigation.
- Visual amenity.
- Irrigation water source (excludes Lake 5, Marlow Lagoon and Durack Heights).
- Recreational Fishing.

The continued management of the Palmerston Lakes under the Lake Management Plan including the ongoing implementation of identified maintenance and management practices will contribute to maintaining improved water quality and the lakes primary and secondary functions.

#### Salvinia Management

The aquatic weed Salvinia Molesta (Salvina) has established in some of the Palmerston Lakes and is the most significant management issue for Council's lake management. The Australian Government has declared Salvinia a Weed of National Significance (WONS) and the Northern Territory Government



(NTG) has declared Salvinia weed Class B weed (control). It is noted that NTG treats Class B weeds also as Class C weeds (prevent entry).

Salvinia is regarded as one of the worst aquatic weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread and economic and environmental impacts. Under optimum conditions Salvinia has potential to double in biomass every 2 days. As observed in the Palmerston Lakes an infestation can cover the entire surface of a water body, reducing aesthetic values and preventing activities such as recreational fishing. Salvinia spreads vegetatively by stem fragments. The presence of Salvinia in the Palmerston Lakes threatens Council's requirements and community expectations of the lakes as identified above.

Activities that Council undertakes or maintains to control Salvinia and to preserve Council requirements and community expectations of the Lakes include:

- Mechanical weed harvesting, removal and disposal.
- Biological control (Salvinia weevil).
- Aeration devices (eg. aeration fountains and lakebed diffusers).
- Water quality monitoring.
- Cleaning of Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs).

It is noted that mowing, landscaping and litter collection also occur in the adjacent managed parklands.

Mechanical weed harvesting is undertaken by Council using a Truxor weed harvester, and this is primary control method for Salvinia. Weed harvest rates are variable and largely dependent on weed mat thickness, lake surface area and the separation distance between weed harvesting and the on bank weed harvesting dump location (for example the longer the distance the harvester traverses to dump the collected weed the lower the harvest rate). A review of harvesting records shows that in the order of 10 m³ of weed is removed per day on average but may range from 8 m³ to 15 m³ per day.

A second Truxor weed harvester has been ordered and is anticipated to be delivered and commissioned in July 2022 notwithstanding COVID-19 related logistical impacts. To support operation of a second Truxor, additional staff have undergone Coxswain training and are now commencing training on the Truxor weed harvester. The commissioning and operation of the second Truxor weed harvester is expected to double Council's weed harvesting capacity and enable the harvesting program to have a regular schedule and holistic management program.

Council embraces an integrated control method for Salvinia and augments mechanical weed harvesting with biological control. The Salvinia weevil is a small, black insect which grows to about two millimetres long. Adult weevils feed on the growing tips, suppressing growth. Larvae tunnel through the horizontal stems, particularly in younger parts of the plant causing the weed to break apart, sink and decompose on the bottom of the waterway. Anecdotal observations in the case of the Palmerston Lakes, is that the weevil has a mild impact on Salvinia in most instances. In such instances the weevil slows Salvinia growth as evidenced by the brownish appearance of Salvinia impacted by the weevils. Also, such impacted Salvinia weed does not form thick dense mats typical of healthy Salvinia and Harvester operators report that such impacted Salvinia weed is more readily or efficiently harvested.

#### 'Adopt a Park'

The potential opportunities for the community to participate in caring and maintaining for the Palmerston Lakes, similar to an 'Adopt a Park' program have been considered. The primary amenity and health concern of the lakes is Salvinia management, as documented above. However, there are limited lake caring and maintenance activities available other than the current approach to Salvinia management.



In relation to general Lake Management activities, these are guided by the Lake Management Plan and similar to Salvinia management, require specific resources to undertake.

A brief review of potential benefits and risks of an Adopt a Lake program is presented below:

#### **Potential Benefits:**

- Community actively embraces and participates in lake management.
- Community sense of ownership, pride, involvement and care for the lakes.
- Community undertakes litter collection and Salvinia weed removal contributing to improved lake health and amenity.

#### Potential Risks:

- Safety:
  - Working on uneven and slippery ground surface and potential exposure to slips, trips and falls risks.
  - Working near, on or in water and drowning risk.
  - Working near, on or in water and crocodile attack risk.
  - Manual work involving bending, twisting and lifting and ergonomic risk.
- Health:
  - Exposure to soil and/or water borne micro-organisms or bacteria such as melioidosis and health risks.
- Legal / Environmental:
  - As a Declared Weed, legal requirements apply to handling and transport of Salvinia for example to prevent spread to other waterways.

Further risk assessment(s) could be undertaken to identify controls to minimise the likelihood of the above potential risks, however for many of identified risks the potential consequence is highly undesirable and/or not acceptable. Council staff and contractors undertake a number of documented processes to mitigate the relevant risks, with specialised equipment and training. This would be impractical for a community member to achieve.

If the above risk elements were able be satisfactorily controlled, a community event style manual harvesting activity may be an option. This could be scheduled and undertaken at one lake per month; it has been calculated that the volume of Salvinia weed material removed over a year would be in the order of 1-2% of the volume of material currently being mechanically harvested for the same period. The level of controls and resources to arrange this type of activity would be significant.

Further to this, Council has previously attempted to manually remove residual Salvinia weed left over from mechanical weed harvesting. The best method developed at the time involved collection of Salvinia using pool scoops and transfer to a wheelbarrow for subsequent collection and disposal. This process was labour intensive and in-effective.

Looking forward Council will continue to operate the weed harvester up to 6 days a week to expediate cleaning of the Lakes. A new harvester anticipated to be commissioned in July 2022 (notwithstanding COVID-19 related logistical impacts) is expected to double weed harvesting capacity at that time. To support operation of a second Truxor, additional staff have undergone Coxswain training and are now commencing training on the Truxor weed harvester.



Council is reviewing options and cost (within existing budget) to install additional constructed Salvinia lake edge collection site(s) in the larger Lakes to further improve weed harvester productivity. The provision of additional strategically located collection sites on the lake edges would reduce the time the weed harvester takes to transport weed to such weed dump and collection sites.

As identified within the Lake Management Plan, the Salvinia removal is just one part of the activities Council undertakes to contribute to maintaining improved water quality and the lakes primary and secondary functions. Other management and maintenance practices undertaken or planned include but are not limited to:

- Water quality monitoring.
- Installation and maintenance of aeration devices.
- Installation and maintenance of sediment load reducing measures.
- Desilting of lakes (long-term plan).
- Community education about aquatic plants and the impacts of human actions.

It is not recommended to establish an 'Adopt a Lake' style program for Palmerston's Lakes. The activities of the Lake Management Plan are within its first year of operation and will continue to be the focus for lake management. This includes community education, with activities such as open days and website information continuing to provide information to interested residents.

#### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

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

- Land Conservation Officer
- Outdoor Workforce Team Leader
- Maintenance Officer
- Open Space Lead

Consultation occurs as relevant to the lake management activities. An open day for residents to speak to staff and see the weed harvester in operation is scheduled for February 2022. Further details around weed management and the location of the weed harvester is included and regularly updated on Council's website.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications for this Report.

#### **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Council currently spends in the order of \$350,000 per year on lake management (including but not limited to weed harvester operation and maintenance, weed collection and disposal, maintenance and operational of aerators and water quality monitoring and reporting). This is in addition to mowing, landscaping and litter collection of the surrounding parklands and maintenance of surrounding infrastructure.

Council is also investing in the order \$265,000 in capital to purchase a second mechanical Truxor weed harvester which is expected to effectively double weed harvesting capacity.

#### **RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:



- 2 Fails to be sustainable into the long term Context: Optimising the financial, social and environmental sustainability of the City.
- 8 Fails to develop effective relationships and manage expectations of relevant parties Context: Engagement & communication with stakeholders (internal and external to the City).

#### **ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The continued management of the Palmerston Lakes under the Lake Management Plan including the ongoing implementation of identified maintenance and management practices will contribute to maintaining improved water quality and the lakes primary and secondary functions and the Environmental Sustainability core outcome 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**

Nil



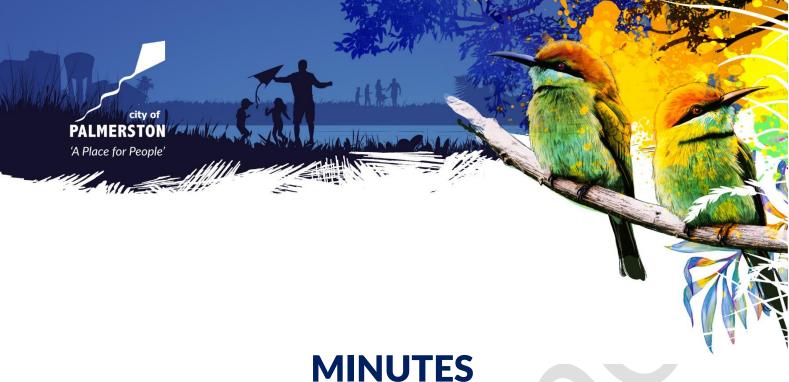
- 14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE
  - 14.1 Information
  - 14.2 Correspondence
- 15 REPORT OF DELEGATES
- 16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS
- 17 GENERAL BUSINESS
- 18 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 15 February 2022 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(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



# **1st Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday 18 January 2022**

The Ordinary Meeting of the City of Palmerston held in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT 0830

# city of PALMERSTON

# **COUNCIL MINUTES**

#### A Place for People

Minutes of Council Meeting held in Council Chambers Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston on Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 5:30pm.

#### PRESENT

**ELECTED MEMBERS** Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell (Chair)

Deputy Mayor Sarah Henderson Councillor Danielle Eveleigh Councillor Mark Fraser Councillor Amber Garden Councillor Ben Giesecke Councillor Damian Hale

Councillor Lucy Morrison

STAFF Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli

Deputy Chief Executive Officer/General Manager

Community and Culture, Amelia Vellar

General Manager Infrastructure, Nadine Nilon City Sustainability Manager, Peter Lander

Minute Secretary, Chloe Hayes

GALLERY



#### A Place for People

#### 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Smoking Ceremony performed by Larrakia Man, Trent Lee

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.

#### 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

Nil

3.2 Leave of Absence Previously Granted

Nil

3.3 Leave of Absence Request

Moved: Councillor Garden

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Henderson

THAT the leave of absence received from Councillor Garden for 9 April to 27 April 2022 inclusive be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/154 - 18/01/2022

#### 4 REQUEST FOR AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING

Nil

#### 5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Elected Members

Nil

5.2 Staff

Nil

#### 6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#### 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved: Councillor Giesecke



#### A Place for People

Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 December 2021 pages 10611 to 10621 be confirmed.

CARRIED 10/155 - 18/01/2022

6.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Nil

7 MAYORAL REPORT

Nil

8 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)

Nil

#### 10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

10.1 Moving Confidential Items into Open

Nil

10.2 Moving Open Items into Confidential

Nil

10.3 Confidential Items

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh Seconded: Deputy Mayor Henderson

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

Item	Confidential	Confidential Clause
	Category	
25.1.1	Council Property Agreements and Contracts	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as

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# **COUNCIL MINUTES**

#### A Place for People

**PALMERSTON** 

		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.
25.1.2	Council Property Agreements and Contracts	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.
26.2.1	Personal Information	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.

CARRIED 10/156 - 18/01/2022

11 PETITIONS

Nil

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

- 13 OFFICER REPORTS
  - 13.1 Action Reports

13.1.1 Community Venue Hire Fees Review

Moved: Deputy Mayor Henderson Seconded: Councillor Eveleigh

- 1. THAT Report entitled Community Venue Hire Fees Review be received and noted.
- 2. THAT Council endorses the continuation of its Community Venue Hire Free Initiative until 30 June 2023 being council venues to be hired by users free of charge with the exemption that private/ business use to be charged as per City of Palmerston's published Fees and Charges for the following venues:
  - Palmerston Recreation Centre;
  - Durack Community Arts Centre;
  - Driver Resource Centre;
  - Palmerston Library Community Room; and
  - Gray Community Hall.



A Place for People

3. THAT the Community Venue Hire – Free Initiative be reviewed as part of the development of City of Palmerston's 2023/2024 Fees and Charges.

CARRIED 10/157 - 18/01/2022

#### 13.1.2 Council to the Community Meetings 2022

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh Seconded: Councillor Hale

- 1. THAT Report entitled Council to the Community Meetings 2022 be received and noted.
- 2. THAT Council approve the continuation of the Council to the Community Meetings including the pre-meeting public forum, in 2022 as a part of the Ordinary Meeting Calendar, for the following Ordinary Meetings:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting 15 March 2022
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting 21 June 2022
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting 20 September 2022

CARRIED 10/158 - 18/01/2022

#### 13.1.3 Community Recording Studio Update

Moved: Councillor Morrison Seconded: Councillor Garden

- 1. THAT Report entitled Community Recording Studio Update be received and noted.
- 2. THAT Council approves the following fees and charges for the Community Recording Studio for 2021/2022 being:
  - Refundable deposit: \$200.
  - Hire rate for commercial and private individuals and organisations \$50 per hour.
  - Hire rate for community and not-for-profit individuals and organisations \$10 per hour.
- THAT Council approves the proposed Larrakia name, Gulwa, meaning "to sing to everyone" as
  the official name for the City of Palmerston Community Recording Studio upon final
  endorsement from Larrakia Nation.

CARRIED 10/159 - 18/01/2022

#### 13.2 Receive and Note Reports

#### 13.2.1 Infrastructure October-December Quarterly Report

Moved: Councillor Hale
Seconded: Councillor Eveleigh

THAT Report entitled Infrastructure October-December Quarterly Report be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/160 - 18/01/2022



#### A Place for People

#### 13.2.2 Public Places Litter Services Standards

Moved: Deputy Mayor Henderson

Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT Report entitled Public Places Litter Services Standards be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/161 - 18/01/2022

13.2.3 Community and Culture Quarterly Report October to December 2021

Moved: Councillor Morrison Seconded: Councillor Hale

THAT Report entitled Community and Culture Quarterly Report October to December 2021 be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/162 - 18/01/2022

#### 13.2.4 Community Benefit Scheme - January 2022 Update

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh Seconded: Councillor Hale

THAT Report entitled Community Benefit Scheme - January 2022 Update be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/163 - 18/01/2022

#### 13.2.5 Financial Report for the Month of December 2021

Moved: Councillor Hale Seconded: Councillor Fraser

THAT Report entitled Financial Report for the Month of December 2021 be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/164 - 18/01/2022

#### 14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Information

Nil

14.2 Correspondence



#### A Place for People

#### 14.2.1 Local Government Immediate Priority Grant Approval

Moved: Councillor Hale Seconded: Councillor Garden

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

CARRIED 10/165 - 18/01/2022

#### 14.2.2 Local Government Immediate Priority Grant Unsuccessful

Moved: Councillor Hale Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT correspondence from the Department of The Chief Minister and Cabinet received on 13 January 2022 entitled Local Government Immediate Priority Grant Unsuccessful be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/166 - 18/01/2022

#### 15 REPORT OF DELEGATES

Nil

#### 16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Nil

#### 17 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

#### 18 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Moved: Councillor Fraser

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Henderson

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 1 February 2022 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED 10/167 - 18/01/2022

#### 19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh Seconded: Councillor Fraser

THAT pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.



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CARRIED 10/168 - 18/01/2022

#### 20 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

Nil

The open section of the meeting closed at 6.01pm for the discussion of confidential matters.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.27pm.

Chair	-
Citali	
Print Name	•
	-
Date	