

# AGENDA

## 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

### Tuesday 15 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



**LUCCIO CERCARELLI**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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city of  
**PALMERSTON**

*A Place for People*

# COUNCIL AGENDA

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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 1 February 2022 pages 10638 to 10647 be confirmed.

6.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

7 MAYORAL REPORT

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
23.1	External Presentation Request	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(e) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.
25.1.1	Council Property Agreements and Contracts	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(b) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.
25.1.2	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(i) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.
26.2.1	Review of Confidential Matters	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

## 11 PETITIONS

## 12 NOTICES OF MOTION

## 13 OFFICER REPORTS

# COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.1.1
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Council Policy Review Schedule
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 15 February 2022
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Governance Lead, Caroline Davidson
<b>APPROVER:</b>	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 presents Council with a Policy Review Schedule for the term of the 10<sup>th</sup> Council.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Council Policies support the strategic direction of the City of Palmerston and guide the organisation's decision making.
- It is good governance for Council to review all policies at least once during the Council's term to ensure they are consistent, compliant and reflect the intent of the Council.
- A Council Policy Review Schedule has been developed for the term of the 10<sup>th</sup> Council.
- Council may review Policies at any time as a result of legislative changes, Council Decisions or any other such circumstances that would justify a review.
- It is recommended that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised the power to make minor administrative changes to Council Policies without the need for undertaking a full review.
- This Report also identifies four new Council Policies that are required to be developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019* and *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Council Policy Review Schedule be received and noted.
2. THAT effective 16 February 2022 pursuant to Section 40 of the *Local Government Act 2019* Council hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to make non-substantive administrative changes to Council Policies, that does not change the context of a policy.

### BACKGROUND

Council policies are a major component of the governance framework for the City of Palmerston. They support the strategic direction of Council and guide the organisation's decision-making process.

Policies serve to ensure decisions are consistent, and in accordance legislation and the Council's strategic goals.

It is good governance for Council to review all policies at least once during the Council's term to ensure they are consistent, compliant and reflect the intent of the Council.

## DISCUSSION

A Council Policy Review Schedule has been developed for the principles of good governance, providing a clear and unambiguous line of decision making, accountability and responsibility.

Reviewing Council Policies ensures that policies are:

- Developed in a consultative, comprehensive and consistent manner;
- Supportive and consistent with the City of Palmerston Community Plan and other strategic plans;
- Providing a clear understanding of the Council's responsibility and accountability in policy development and review;
- Consistent with and meet the compliance requirements of legislation;
- Not duplicating legislation;
- Written in plain English and easy to understand;
- Providing broad parameters for guiding and setting boundaries to influence the actions of Council;
- Guiding Council's decision making and inform the public about how Council will normally act.

Council currently holds 39 Council Policies. These policies fall into two categories that are required by legislation or good governance practice. A table is provided below identifying the types of policies Council currently holds and recommends its review period.

Council Policy	Identified in legislation	Good governance practice	Review regularity
Community Consultation		✓	Once in Term
Edible Pocket Garden		✓	Once in Term
Laneway Management		✓	Once in Term
Lighting Up Palmerston		✓	Once in Term
Preserving our Urban Forest		✓	Once in Term
Recognition of Service to the Community		✓	Once in Term
Borrowing		✓	Once in Term
Credit Card by CEO	✓		Once in Term
Debt Collection		✓	Once in Term
Financial Reserve		✓	Every two years
Fraud and Corruption		✓	Once in Term
Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships		✓	Once in Term
Investments		✓	Annually
Procurement	✓		Council must review within 12 months of commencement
Rate Concession	✓		Annually
Rating Policy		✓	Once in Term
Related Party Disclosure		✓	Once in Term
Security Payments		✓	Once in Term
Appointment of Deputy Mayor		✓	Once in Term
Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing	✓		Once in Term
Breach of Code of Conduct by Elected Member	✓		Once in Term
Code of Conduct for Chief Executive Officer	✓		Every two years
Caretaker	✓		Once in Term

Casting Vote	✓		Once in Term First Meeting after a general election
Confidential Information	✓		Once in Term Council must review within 12 months of commencement
Elected Member Allowances and Expenses	✓		Once in Term
Elected Member Casual Vacancies	✓		Once in Term
Gifts and Benefits for Elected Members	✓		Once in Term
Human Resource Management	✓		Once in Term
Media		✓	Once in Term
Open Data		✓	Once in Term
Political Involvement in Council Events		✓	Once in Term
Privacy	✓		Once in Term
Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference		✓	Every two years
Shared Services	✓		Once in Term
Alcohol Management		✓	Once in Term
Asset Management		✓	Once in Term
Lease of Council Property		✓	Once in Term
Outdoor Dining		✓	Once in Term

Legislation does not provide for the regularity for review, however it is identified that some policies require a review more often than once within a term such as:

- Financial Reserve
- Investments
- Rate Concession
- Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference

A Policy Review Schedule for the 10<sup>th</sup> Council Term has been developed by area provided at **Attachment 13.1.1.1.** and by period provided at **Attachment 13.1.1.2.**

The following policies have already been reviewed by Council this term:

- Appointment of Deputy Mayor
- Casting Vote
- Annual Financial Statements
- Public Benefit Concession for Commercial Ratepayers
- Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record

Council may review policies at any time. They may be reviewed as a result of legislative changes, Council Decisions or any other such circumstances that would justify an earlier review. The only exception being the Casting Vote Policy, which can only be adopted at the first meeting following a general election and cannot be altered thereafter.

There are at times minor administrative changes required to Council Policies, due to template updates, formatting requirements and inconsistencies. For this reason, it is being recommended that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve minor administrative changes that are not substantive and do not change the context of a policy.

As a note for Council, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019* and *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the following Council Policies are being developed:

Council Policy	Date to be presented
Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record	February 2022
Gifts and Benefits by Chief Executive Officer	April 2022
Use of Accountable Forms by Members	May 2022
Allowances and Benefits for the Chief Executive Officer	June 2022

## CONSULTATION PROCESS

Where appropriate, community and stakeholder consultation are undertaken in relation to the review or development of Council Policies.

All Council Policies are available for viewing on the Council's website:

<https://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au/>.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of this schedule reviews all Council Policies ensuring good governance, consistency, and compliance.

## BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

## RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

A Council Policy will remain in place unless revoked or amended by Council resolution.

Policies are developed when required by legislation, where there is either complexity or lack of clarification in legislation, strategic objectives or community needs or expectation.

Policies are essential instruments in providing effective and consistent controls, reducing risks to individuals and the Council.

As identified in the Strategic Risk Register, Council establishes a Policy Review Schedule as a control improvement, to effectively implement government practices.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

- 4 Fails to effectively design and implement contemporary governance practices  
Context: Strong foundations to hold the City and Administration to account.

## 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. Council Policy Review Schedule by Area [**13.1.1.1** - 1 page]
2. Council Policy Review by Schedule by Period [**13.1.1.2** - 1 page]

# COUNCIL AGENDA

## Attachment 13.1.1.1

10th Council Policy Review Schedule by Area		2022				2023				2024				2025		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Community	Community Consultation															
	Edible Pocket Garden															
	Laneway Management															
	Lighting Up Palmerston															
	Preserving our Urban Forest															
	Recognition of Service to the Community															
Finance	Borrowing															
	Credit Card by CEO															
	Debt Collection															
	Financial Reserve															
	Fraud and Corruption															
	Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships															
	Investments															
	Procurement															
	Rate Concession															
	Rating Policy															
	Related Party Disclosure															
	Security Payments															
	Appointment of Deputy Mayor															
	Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing															
Governance	Breach of Code of Conduct by Elected Member															
	Code of Conduct for Chief Executive Officer															
	Caretaker															
	Casting Vote															
	Confidential Information															
	Elected Member Allowances and Expenses															
	Elected Member Casual Vacancies															
	Gifts and Benefits for Elected Members															
	Human Resource Management															
	Media															
	Open Data															
	Political Involvement in Council Events															
	Privacy															
	Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference															
	Shared Services															
	Alcohol Management															
	Asset Management															
	Lease of Council Property															
	Outdoor Dining															

CARETAKER

# COUNCIL AGENDA

## Attachment 13.1.1.2

10th Council Policy Review by Period		
Year	Quarter Month	Council Policy
2022	Q1	Political Involvement in Council Events
		Alcohol Management
	Q2	Rating Policy
		Elected Member Allowances and Expenses
		Rate Concession
		Confidential Information
	Q3	Procurement
		Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference
		Financial Reserve
		Edible Pocket Garden
	Q4	Investments
		Code of Conduct for Chief Executive Officer
		Fraud and Corruption
2023	Q1	Media
		Security Payments
		Related Party Disclosure
		Privacy
	Q2	Lease of Council Property
		Rate Concession
	Q3	Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships
		Human Resource Management
	Q4	Breach of Code of Conduct by Elected Member
		Investments
		Community Consultation
2024	Q1	Debt Collection
		Recognition of Service to the Community
		Audio/Audiovisual Conferencing
	Q2	Outdoor Dining
		Rate Concession
		Preserving our Urban Forest
		Open Data
	Q3	Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference
		Financial Reserve
		Credit Card by CEO
	Q4	Investments
		Laneway Management
		Asset Management
		Gifts and Benefits for Elected Members
2025	Q1	Lighting Up Palmerston
		Caretaker
		Borrowing
	Q2	Elected Member Casual Vacancies
		Rate Concession
		Shared Services
	Q3	CARETAKER PERIOD

# COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.1.2
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Bailey Circuit Laneway - stormwater modelling
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 15 February 2022
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	General Manager of Infrastructure, Nadine Nilon
<b>APPROVER:</b>	General Manager of Infrastructure, Nadine Nilon

### COMMUNITY PLAN

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

### PURPOSE

This report provides Council with the results of stormwater modelling undertaken by a consultant and outlines recommendations based on the findings.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Since March 2020 Bailey Circuit laneway has undergone temporary part time closure treatment, with daily night-time closures from no earlier than 9:00pm, to no later than 6:30am in accordance with the *Laneway Management Policy* (Policy).
- A laneway closure application was submitted to Council 6 September 2021 for Bailey Circuit, Driver.
- The Bailey Circuit laneway does contain an overland flow path, resulting in it not meeting the criteria for permanent closure in accordance with the Policy.
- Council considered the Laneway closure at its 16 November 2021 Council meeting and determined to undertake a stormwater assessment (flood modelling study) to better understand the risks relating to the temporary and a potential permanent closure.
- The stormwater assessment has indicated that the laneway does become inundated with overland stormwater flows in both minor and major flood events. The maximum flow depth based on current information is calculated to be 200mm.
- The assessment also identified the potential minor inundation of private property, as the study did not include detailed survey information, this is now required to understand the potential risk to properties.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Bailey Circuit Laneway Storm Water Modeling be received and noted.
2. THAT Council notes that further detailed stormwater assessments are underway for the Bailey Circuit stormwater catchment area and outcomes of the assessments will be reported to Council no later than December 2022 to ensure all information is available for the 12 month laneway night-time closure review.
3. THAT Council does not amend the night-time laneway closure times for the Bailey Circuit laneway and that they continue in accordance with the *Laneway Management Policy*.

### BACKGROUND

Since March 2020 Bailey Circuit laneway has undergone temporary part time closure treatment, with daily night-time closures from 9:00pm to 6:30am. Due to reported anti-social behaviour, a laneway closure application was submitted to Council 6 September 2021 for Bailey Circuit, Driver.

In accordance with the Policy, the laneway closure was not recommended due to Bailey Circuit, Driver being identified as an 'Overland Stormwater Flow Path'. A laneway is not able to be closed in accordance with the Policy if it has the stormwater flows due to the risk of blocking and/or negatively impacting the stormwater system which would likely have an impact on private properties.

The application to close Bailey Circuit laneway was considered by Council at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Council Meeting 16 November 2021:

#### *Laneway Closure Request – Bailey Circuit*

1. THAT Report entitled Laneway Closure Request – Bailey Circuit be received and noted.
2. THAT the Mayor write to the relevant Minister(s) in relation to anti-social behaviour and potential multi-agency approach to address reported issues in Bailey Circuit, Driver.

***CARRIED 10/103 – 16/11/2021***

3. THAT the night-time closure of the Bailey Circuit laneway continues for a further 12 months, with a further review no later than December 2022 and that a flood modelling study with regard to closure and a review of current night-time closure hours by 15 February 2022.

***CARRIED 10/104 – 16/11/2021***

The letter to the relevant Minister(s) has occurred, and this report addresses the third decision, to undertake a flood modelling study and review of night-time closure hours.

### DISCUSSION

A flood modelling study has been undertaken for the catchment area flowing into Bailey Circuit with readily available data and information. Figure 1 shows the modelling study area and extent of the catchment. The stormwater moves from the south and eastern areas of the catchment to the northwest outfall at Elrundie Avenue, with much of the network flowing through the Bailey Circuit laneway. The catchment area draining to the laneway entrance on Bailey Circuit is approximately 20 hectares, and the total catchment area draining to Elrundie Avenue is approximately 29 hectares.



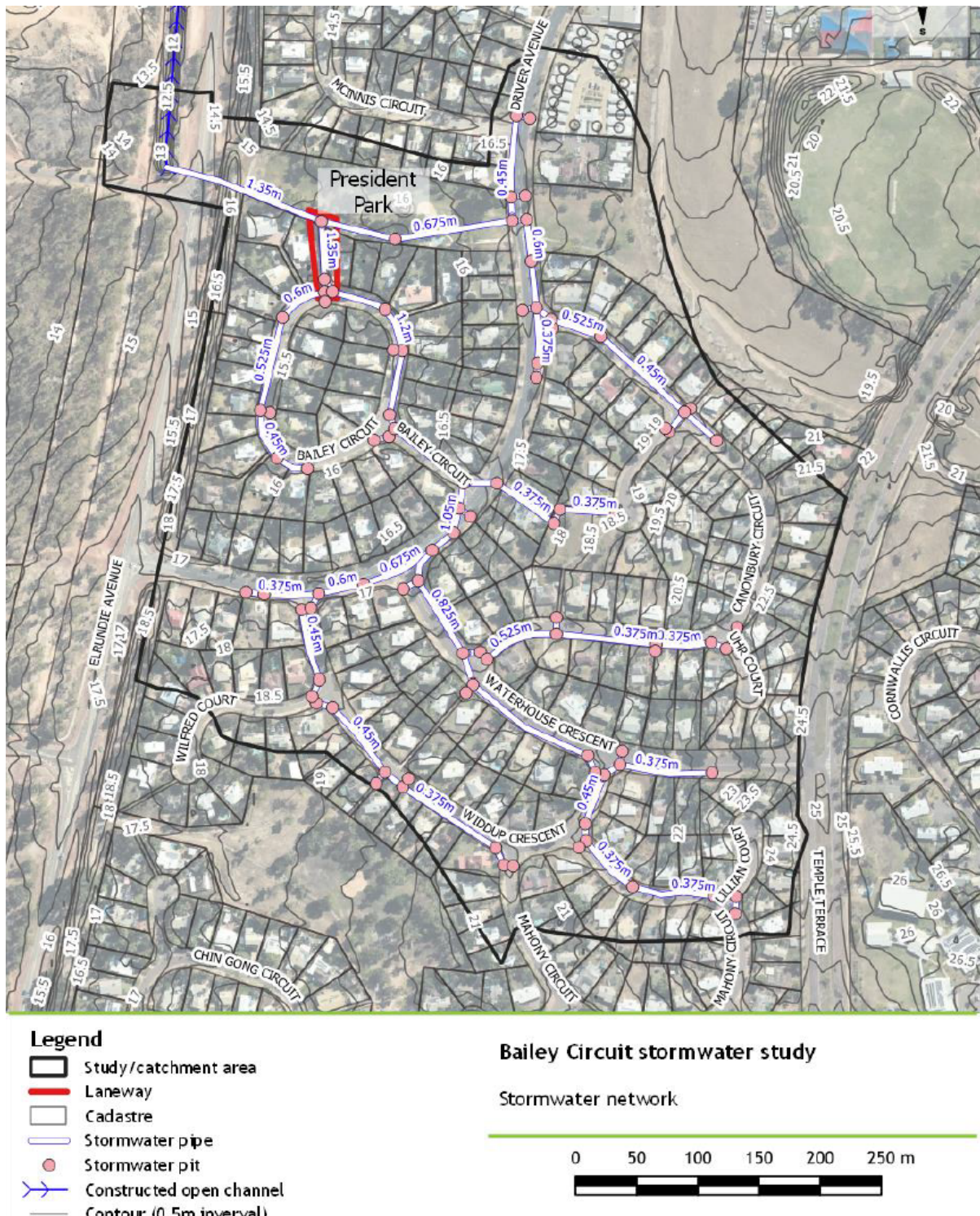


Figure 1: Catchment area (black line) and stormwater network

The catchment area is drained via underground stormwater pipe networks located within the streets and parklands. The underground stormwater network discharges to an open drain channel on the western side of Elrondie Avenue. Overland flow is directed along streets to the Bailey Circuit laneway, and when the underground pipes (including the 1350mm pipe within the laneway) are at capacity, overland flow can



occur through the laneway into President Park, before discharging into Elrundie Avenue stormwater infrastructure.

To understand how the laneway functions as part of the stormwater network, modelling was conducted with existing conditions (open and clear laneway for overland flow) and then conducted with a blocked laneway (no overland flow through the laneway).

The storm water event used in the modelling is the same major storm water event that all new subdivision and developments are designed to. Specifically, this is a 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP), is often referred to as Q100 event and correlates to what would be expected to occur in a storm that may happen once in 100 years. As with all stormwater events, a Q100 could occur 2 years in a row, and then not again for 100 years, it is just a volume and expected occurrence reference, which aligns with the NT Subdivision Development Guidelines. The stormwater network (including road surface drainage) is typically decided to have the capacity to handle Q100 rain events.

It should be noted that Driver was constructed prior to the current standards and rainfall modelling data, so this is used as a reference rather than a specific outcome for this investigation. The development at the time when it was designed in the late 1980s would have met the relevant standards. In relation to this review as standards have changed over time, the two main elements being considered are the safety of the community (ie are flows slow enough and shallow enough depending on location) and the protection of property (ie is property damage likely).

Another key factor with this assessment is the data available for use. Detailed survey data was not utilised as this would have resulted in significantly more time and cost. The mapping survey information, as constructed information and other data available through NTG were utilised and are typical for high-level flood modelling to understand water movement. Therefore, if decisions were to be made that were a higher risk, or cost, then additional survey information would be required to.

### **Stormwater Function**

The stormwater assessment modelled peak flood depths under existing conditions for a 1% AEP flood. The results confirmed that the laneway acts as an overland flow path, with a flood depth of approximately 200mm with the total volume of flow approximately 1 cubic metre per second. The combined velocity and depth of the flows are within acceptable limits, indicating that the flows have low risk of being a public safety issue.

The assessment also identified that anything above a 50% AEP (which is expected to occur more than once every 2 years) would result in a depth of approximately 130mm of overland flow within the laneway.

The modelling for the existing function of the stormwater identified that there is the potential for lower-level driveways and properties to have some inundation of stormwater. This is not unexpected considering the age of the development and quality of survey data. A detailed survey will be undertaken to ensure the model is accurate for these locations prior to consideration of potential impact of future works required to mitigate the impact of stormwater on these properties.

If the laneway was blocked due to an obstruction, there would be a negative impact on properties. The model identified that inundation levels of properties would increase by 40mm in 1% AEP flood and increase velocities and inundation of properties.

The modelling did consider potential alternative options to reduce the impact on properties. These are extensive works and could cost in the order of \$1 million to increase underground stormwater capacity and not have the laneway function as an overland flow.

As private properties have been identified as potentially having some inundation, there may be the need to increase the overland flow within the laneway as a more cost-effective alternative to underground infrastructure. As mentioned previously, further survey and modelling is required, which will assist to determine the risk and options for Council. As such, it is not recommended to close the laneway or undertake any works without this further information.

### **Laneway Considerations**

As the laneway is confirmed to act as an overland stormwater flow in anything greater than a 50% AEP flood, the current gate configuration has been considered. The gates currently have a bit of a gap at each end so water is able to flow through. The gates will be inspected and modified to ensure that there is suitable flow capacity for the 200mm required from the current assessment.

As the laneway will remain as a night-time closure for the 12-month period as per the November decision, this will enable the further survey and modelling to occur with minimum risk to the community or properties. The outcome of the further work will be reported to Council as relevant, and no later than the 12-month period (November 2022).

Considering the laneway for closure prior to this further assessment occurring would not be recommended. The stormwater assessment is required separately before considering any further actions with the laneway.

### **Laneway Opening and Closing Times**

The Council decision also required the review of night-time closure hours. Consultation with the security has confirmed that an alternative closure time would be possible for this laneway, based on their current activities. However, this has the risk of setting a precedent and if additional laneways were to be considered for alternative times, there would be an operational and potential cost impact of additional security services.

In reviewing the CCTV footage statistics from November 2020, of the average of 29 movements per day, there are approximately;

- 6.5 movements between 7pm and 8pm, and
- 1.5 movements after 8pm.

Whilst the footage is over 12 months old, the usage is not considered to have significantly changed. However, there is the option to undertake a new survey over a 3week period.

As over 27 percent of usage is after 7pm and to ensure consistency of laneway management, it's not recommended to adjust the closure times of the laneway.

### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

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

- WRM Water & Environment

There was no community consultation required during the preparation of this Report.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The *Laneway Management Policy* applies to activities relating to the management of the Bailey Circuit laneway, as referenced within this Report.

### **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The stormwater modelling assessment cost approximate \$10,000 (ex GST). Additional survey and modelling is anticipated to cost in the order of \$15,000. This will be funded from operational budgets.

The cost of amending the gates to enable stormwater flow will be low and within operational budgets.

The cost of ongoing night-time closures and gate maintenance is in the order of \$6,000 per year, and the installation of CCTV is in the order of \$5,000. These costs are funded through current operations budgets.

There is the potential for capital costs being required to upgrade infrastructure as a result of the modelling and potential impact on private properties. This will be further explored following the survey and updated modelling.

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

The Policy outlines the purposes of preserving the network of laneways within the City and guiding decisions to ensure vital functions of laneways are taken into account when considering treatment options. The recommended approach regarding the stormwater assessment and closure hours ensures a consistent approach in accordance with the Policy.

As discussed through this report, there is a risk to the stormwater function of the stormwater catchment should the laneway be closed full time. The additional survey and assessment will enable the potential risks identified to private properties, and the laneway, to be considered further prior to any decisions relating the laneway.

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.

### **ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environment sustainability implications for this Report.

### **COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

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

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

# COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.1.3
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	myPalmerston 2022
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 15 February 2022
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli
<b>APPROVER:</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli

## COMMUNITY PLAN

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

## PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council direction accepting a Northern Territory Government partnership to deliver myPalmerston in 2022 to support the local economy.

## KEY MESSAGES

- In August 2020 Council resolved to undertake the myPalmerston Local Business Voucher Scheme (Scheme) in partnership with the Northern Territory Government (NTG), over three rounds in September, October and November 2020.
- A total of \$220,000 was allocated for the three rounds and was funded in partnership with the NTG.
- The \$220,000 myPalmerston Local Business Voucher Scheme investment boosted the Palmerston economy by \$1,220,536.72 over the three rounds.
- A total of 11,353 users and 91 business were registered to participate throughout the scheme.
- The program was considered a success.
- In addition to the vouchers the City of Palmerston (CoP) continues to support business and the community via free community venue hire, free pool access, free outdoor dining areas, free parking and private public spaces upgrade contributions scheme.
- The NTG Chief Minister has written to Council seeking a partnership to deliver myPalmerston in 2022 to further support the local economy.
- An offer of two-for-one up to maximum of a \$300,000 contribution from the NTG has been made.
- Council would need to contribute a minimum of \$20,000 up to a maximum of \$150,000 to attract Government contribution, however Council can contribute more.
- MyPalmerston 2022 would be managed under the same terms and conditions of the 2020 rounds.
- The supporting of myPalmerston would be in keeping with CoP Local Economic Plan launched in August 2021.
- This report recommends CoP partner with NTG to deliver myPalmerston 2022 with Council contributing a total of \$200,000 and NTG contributing a total of \$300,000, a total of \$500,000 to support the local Palmerston economy.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled myPalmerston 2022 be received and noted.

2. THAT Council accepts the Northern Territory Government offer to partner in delivering myPalmerston 2022 as outlined in report entitled myPalmerston 2022, with the Northern Territory Government financial contribution being \$300,000 and City of Palmerston contribution being \$200,000.
3. THAT Council approves immediate funding of its contribution of \$200,000 towards myPalmerston 2022 being funded from 2021/2022 operational savings in wages and salaries (\$143,000) and Local Government Association of the Northern Territory membership fees (\$57,000).
4. THAT pursuant to Section 40(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2019* Council hereby delegated to the Chief Executive Officer the power to negotiate and finalise the agreement for the City of Palmerston myPalmerston Local Business Voucher Program for 2022 as outlined in Report entitled myPalmerston 2022.

### **BACKGROUND**

In August 2020 Council resolved to undertake the myPalmerston Local Business Voucher Scheme in partnership with the NTG, over three rounds in September, October and November 2020.

The Scheme was designed to assist the local economy affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council contributed \$60,000 with the NTG contributing \$60,000 comprising dollar-for-dollar matching plus an additional \$50,000 incentive for each of rounds two and three. Council managed the process including all indirect costs.

The \$220,000 myPalmerston (2020) investment boosted the Palmerston economy by \$1,220,536.72 over the three rounds.

The Scheme focuses on local Palmerston businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$10 million.

A total of 11,353 users and 91 businesses were registered to participate throughout the 2020 Scheme.

Terms for businesses being able to participate included:

- Business must be located and operating in Palmerston.
- Must be a GST registered business with a valid ABN or CAN.
- The business should not have an annual turnover in excess of \$10 million.
- Retail, Hospitality and Tourism sector businesses are eligible to apply.
- Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (Revision 1.0) will be utilised to assess the eligible sectors.
- The business has been operational for over six months at the time of registration.
- For multiple businesses operating under one ABN, each trading name must be registered individually.
- The business should operate a physical shopfront within the Palmerston municipality.
- The Merchant will be required to generate an invoice for the sale of goods and services. The GST must be calculated appropriately on the full value of the transaction.
- Solely online businesses are not eligible.
- Home based businesses may not be eligible.
- Multinational and National franchises may not be eligible.
- The following limitations being exempt; gift vouchers, alcohol, tobacco and gambling.

There are no limitations on registration of users, they do not need to be Palmerston residents however must use the vouchers at a registered Palmerston business.

In addition to the myPalmerston scheme, CoP continues to focus on the economy with a variety of programs both non COVID-19 and COVID-19 related.

These include but are not limited to:

- Free parking.
- No outdoor dining fees.
- Free community venue hire.
- Liveable Cities Grant for commercial properties to upgrade public spaces within private allotments.
- Supporting 'Buy Local'.
- Free Palmerston Pool access.

City of Palmerston adopted the Palmerston Local Economic Plan in August 2021. The plan was developed in partnership with the NTG and is designed to develop and drive the Palmerston economy. Delivering myPalmerston 2022 local businesses is in line with the outcomes in the Community Plan and Local Economic Plan.

This Report seeks Council direction regarding the NTG offer to delivery in partnership myPalmerston 2022.

### DISCUSSION

On 1 February 2022, the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory wrote to Council with an offer for CoP to deliver myPalmerston in 2022 being **Attachment 13.1.3.1**.

The offer is a two-for-one matching funding arrangement with a minimum of \$20,000 to be contributed by CoP and a maximum contribution by NTG of \$300,000.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Council has acted to support the local economy and community including partnerships with the NT and Australian Governments.

The Community Plan identifies that; *"When businesses thrive, families also thrive and our City becomes more liveable"*.

The CoP Local Economic Plan (August 2021) identifies numerous actions including COVID-19 responses to develop and support Palmerston's local economy. Local businesses have and continue to articulate the difficulties and challenges they are facing as a result of COVID-19.

Given the success of myPalmerston in 2020, the offer by the NTG and Council's Community and Local Economic Plan it is being recommended that Council accepts the NTG offer and deliver myPalmerston 2022 under the same terms and conditions of the previous scheme.

The Government has indicated it would like the vouchers delivered in one round as soon as practical.

In reviewing the offer, it is being recommended that Council maximise the program by contributing at least \$150,000 to attract the NTG co-contribution of \$300,000. By maximising the available program, we will maximise benefit to the local economy and businesses and as well as social well-being.



A review of existing budget and operations has been identified and funding opportunities have been identified in the area of salaries and wages (\$143,000) and Local Government Association of the Northern Territory membership (\$57,000). It will be recommended that Council's contribution be from these areas within the existing 2021/2022 budget. These savings mean that Council could contribute \$200,000. This would see myPalmerston 2022 be a total of \$500,000 voucher scheme and could result in an injection of \$2,750,000 into the Palmerston local economy.

The terms and conditions of myPalmerston 2022 will be as per the 2020 program. Council will work with the NTG to re-establish the app, associated contracts and prior to public access the registration of businesses.

The initial Business registration process that will need to be undertaken by Council will be to ensure they meet the required merchant eligibility criteria determined by the program and ensuring businesses have a suitable time to register. As per 2022 Council will utilise estimated professional services to assist with this process to ensure timelines and accountability. Based on the 2020 process it is expected that the community would be able to access the vouchers in early to mid-March.

### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

A communications plan will be implemented that will manage the business registration period followed by promotion funding to and during the availability of the Scheme. CoP will utilise available platforms such as provided media, social media and web page.

It is anticipated based on the 2020 experience that given participation the Councils and previous Scheme that people and businesses familiarity will make the process easier.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications for this Report.

### **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Financial matters have been identified and discussed in the body of this Report.

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

If CoP does participate it may be criticized for not maximising opportunities to support local businesses, the local economy and well-being of the community.

Council will need to ensure there are appropriate controls in place to ensure that fraudulent claims do not occur or significantly minimised.

Council will need to ensure voucher payments made are supported by appropriate evidence (e.g. invoice, contract, receipt) and what documentary evidence should the Council seek to verify that the transactions to which vouchers relate are legitimate transactions.

In relation to the proposed scheme this would involve the Council requiring businesses to submit copies of invoices, sales dockets, receipt books etc. to substantiate that the transactions to which the voucher claim relates has occurred. It should be noted that this requirement is unlikely to detect collusion between a customer and the business.

To mitigate potential issues and ensure timelines CoP will be again engaging Merit Partners probity auditors and chartered accounts to assist in business registrations, compliance and managing the program. Merit partners assisted CoP in the 2020 Scheme.

Where required CoP will also seek legal advice as required.

CoP will implement and further improve measures in place in 2020 and lessons learnt.

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.
- 4 Fails to effectively design and implement contemporary governance practices  
Context: Strong foundations to hold the City and Administration to account.
- 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.
- 7 Fails to be agile to respond to opportunities and challenges  
Context: Ensuring the organisation is positioned to respond quickly to take up opportunities and respond to challenges both internally and externally.

### **ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environment sustainability implications for this Report.

### **COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

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

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. 20220201 - Letter from Chief Minister Michael Gunner to Mayor Pascoe-Bell [13.1.3.1 - 1 page]



CHIEF MINISTER

Parliament House  
State Square  
Darwin NT 0800  
chief.minister@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146  
Darwin NT 0801  
Telephone: 08 8936 5500  
Facsimile: 08 8936 5576

Ms Athina Pascoe-Bell  
Mayor  
City of Palmerston  
PO Box 1  
PALMERSTON NT 0831

Dear Mayor

Since the commencement of the COVID-19 pandemic, my Government has acted quickly to support local business and regional economies. Our partnership in 2020 and 2021 to launch and co-fund myPalmerston provided over \$1.2 million of economic stimulus to Territory owned small business and provided discounted products and services to the Palmerston community.

Trading conditions for our hospitality and retail sector continue to be challenging, and my Department has again held discussions with the City of Darwin and LGANT regarding opportunities to support the sector and industry. We have now created a funding pool of \$1 million to establish another round of this program across the Territory.

To assist with the successful implementation of this program, I would like to offer your council the following assistance to deliver a new round of the myPalmerston discount program:

- "Two-for-one" matched funding up to a maximum of \$300,000 NT Government contribution - with a minimum council contribution of \$20,000;
- The costs of re-establishing the myPalmerston website and technical support, including licencing costs for the technology developed by the City of Darwin for six months; and,
- Support for a relaunch of the program with local businesses in your council region.

The participation and feedback from the public and the Palmerston business community was extremely strong for the previous round of this program. This opportunity to support and assist hospitality and tourism businesses is one that I am keen to support and deliver.

If you and your council are keen to further explore or discuss this opportunity, the relevant contact is Maree De Lacey, Executive Director Local Government and Regional Development at Department of the Chief Minister [Maree.DeLacey@nt.gov.au](mailto:Maree.DeLacey@nt.gov.au) or (08) 8999 8573.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL GUNNER

- 1 FEB 2021

IF YOU ARE PREPARED  
TO GO HIGHER WE ARE  
MORE THAN HAPPY TO  
SUPPORT



# COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.1.4
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Second Quarter Budget Review 2021-22
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 15 February 2022
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Finance Manager, Gayu Sivaraj
<b>APPROVER:</b>	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 for the Second Quarter Budget Review of the 2021/22 Budget.

## KEY MESSAGES

- Councils Second Quarter Budget Review is based on year-to-date results to 31 December 2021 and the movements result in no change to the overall service delivery.
- Council continues to deliver a balance budget at the end of Second Quarter Budget Review by considering cost savings, unanticipated income and long-term benefits to our community.
- The net impact to the revised budget after approved First Budget Review movements and recommended Second Budget Review movements is 1% increase to operating income and 1% decrease in operating expenditure.
- Operational Income to increase by \$201,720 mainly due to Insurance reimbursement and grant income received.
- Operational Expenditure to reduce by \$71,801 mainly due to re-allocation of FiberSense Technology expenditure to Capital. This results in no change to the service delivery of the project.
- Capital expenditure to increase by \$273,521 due to the recognition of insurance reimbursement for vandalised parks last financial year
- \$10,000 transferred from the Waste Management Reserve to fund the Home Composting Rebate program as per Council Decision 10/109.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Second Quarter Budget Review 2021-22 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the Second Quarter Budget Review 2021/22, pursuant to Division 4 (8) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* as presented as **Attachment 13.1.4.1** to Report entitled Second Quarter Budget Review 2021-22.
3. THAT Council adopts the movements for 2021/22 as per **Attachment 13.1.4.1** to Report entitled Second Quarter Budget Review 2021-22.
4. THAT Council notes the reserve movements for 2021/22 of a transfer of \$10,000 from waste management reserve to fund the Home Composting Rebate previously approved.

## BACKGROUND

Council adopted the 2021/22 Budget on 6 July 2021 as part of the 2021/22 Municipal Plan. Council adopted the First Quarter Budget Review movements on 16 November 2021.

At the Second Ordinary Council Meeting of 16 November 2021, Council made the following decisions:

### *Home Composting Rebate Program*

1. THAT Report entitled Home Composting Rebate Program be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve the Home Composting Rebate Program, with a rebate value of up to \$50 (including GST) for commencement in January 2022.
3. THAT Council adopts an immediate reserve movement of \$10,000 from the Waste Management Reserve to fund the Home Composting Rebate Program.

*CARRIED 10/109 – 16/11/2021*

In line with Section 9 Local Government (General) Regulations Council must review the budget twice a financial year however City of Palmerston undertakes three budget reviews per financial year. The budget reviews consider Council's current requirements against the Original Budget to ensure Council can deliver on the services outlined in the Municipal Plan 2021/22 and grant commitments made to funding bodies.

## DISCUSSION

This Report includes the recommended Second Budget Review movements for Council's consideration. The movements outlined below do not result in a service delivery change to the community.

### Operational Income

Operational Income increases by \$201,720 in the Second Budget Review. The net movements resulted from:

- Insurance reimbursement of \$189,000 received for the vandalised parks (Joan Fejo. George and Hobart parks) that have now been repaired. Parks have already been replaced.
- Increase of \$43,908 in Youth Services to recognise grant income received for the Urban Jams program.
- Decrease of \$15,479 in Office of the Chief Executive Officer to reduce the additional Federal Assistance Grant payment that was previously recorded as an increase to the anticipated income in 1<sup>st</sup> Budget review. This results in no change to the overall delivery of the Ninja Warrior project. Design works for Ninja Warrior project are underway and we are on track as previously reported.
- Decrease of \$15,709 in Roads and Transport to reduce the additional Federal Assistance Grant payment that was previously recorded as an increase to the anticipated income in 1<sup>st</sup> Budget review. This results in a corresponding decrease to the laneway expenditure however has no impact on the overall laneway management.

### Operational Expenditure

Operational expenditure decreases by \$71,801; Council's total operational expenditure is still \$41.6 million. The net movement is resulting from:

- A decrease of \$15,709 in Laneway management expenditure that was previously increased in the 1<sup>st</sup> budget review for the additional Federal Assistance Grant income explained above under Operating income. This results in no change to the overall laneway management.
- An increase of \$43,908 in the Youth Services to offset grant income received for the Urban Jams program.

- A decrease of \$100,000 in Information & Technology for FibreSense Operational expenditure which is being re-allocated to the FibreSense Capital expenditure budget.
- All other movements in operational expenditure including movements between Cost Centres, Departments and Directorates are detailed in **Attachment 13.1.4.1** and do not impact Council's overall budgeted expenditure.

### Capital Income

There are no capital income budget movements to be reported in this Report.

### Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure increased by \$273,521, bringing the total capital expenditure budget for 2021-22 financial year to \$20,539,474 through the following movements:

- Decrease of \$15,479 for the Ninja Warrior Obstacle Course shade that was previously increased in the 1<sup>st</sup> Budget review for the additional Federal Assistance Grant income explained above under Operational income.
- Increase by \$189,000 for Tiverton Park project funded from the playground program.
- Increase by \$100,000 for the FibreSense project re-allocated from the operational budget.

### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

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

- Executive Leadership Team
- Senior Leadership Team
- Budget Officers

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications for this Report.

### **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The budget and resource implications are detailed in body of this Report and the attachments.

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

In accordance with Section 203 of the *Local Government Act* the Budget amendments will be published on Council's website, notified to the Agency and an advertisement will be placed in the NT News.

The recommended amendment to the budget does not impact the long-term financial plan. Therefore, Council is not required to amend the long-term financial plan in line with Section 9 (2) *Local Government (General) Regulation*.

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**

There are no environment sustainability implications for this Report.

### **COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**



*A Place for People*

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

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Movement Form [13.1.4.1 - 1 page]
2. Revised Budget and Reserves [13.1.4.2 - 2 pages]

# COUNCIL AGENDA

## Attachment 13.1.4.1

### OPERATIONAL INCOME

Department	Operational Income	Movement
Office of the CEO	Reduce the additional Federal Assistance Grant payment that was previously recorded as an increase to the anticipated income in 1st Budget review.	-\$15,479.00
Roads & Transport		-\$15,709.00
Governance	Insurance reimbursement received for the vandalised parks (Joan Fejo. George and Hobart parks) that have now been repaired.	\$189,000.00
Youth Services	Grant Funds for Urban Jams program	\$43,908.00
		<b>\$201,720.00</b>

### OPERATIONAL EXPENSE

Department	Operational Expenditure	Movement
Road & Transport	Corresponding reduction in Laneways management expenditure that was previously increased in line with Federal Assistance Grant income in 1st Budget review	-\$15,709.00
Youth Services	Corresponding increase to the expenditure for Urban Jams funded through the grant income.	\$43,908.00
Financial Services	Transfer from Tree watering budget to increase budget for Truxor services	\$26,316.00
Open Space		-\$26,316.00
Information & Technology	Reallocated to Fibre Sense capital budget	-\$100,000.00
Elected Member	Reallocated Budget to cover Elected Members inauguration and Capital entitlements costs	\$9,000.00
Office of the CEO		-\$9,000.00
Public Relations and Communication	Transfer from Advertising costs and other expenses to Professional services & Subscriptions	-\$70,384.00
Public Relations and Communication		\$70,384.00
Waste	Transferred from waste management reserve to fund the Home Composting rebate program as per Council decision 10/109	\$10,000.00
		<b>-\$61,801.00</b>

### CAPITAL EXPENSE

Project	Operational Expenditure	Movement
Ninja Warrior Playground	Corresponding reduction in Ninja Warrior Project expenditure that was previously increased in line with Federal Assistance Grant income in 1st Budget review	-\$15,479.00
Park Infrastructure	Insurance reimbursement received for the vandalised parks (Joan Fejo. George and Hobart parks) that have now been repaired.	\$189,000.00
FibreSense Technology	Reallocated from Fibre Sense operational expenditure budget	\$100,000.00
		<b>\$273,521.00</b>

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**31/12/2021**

	Original Budget	1st Review Increase/ (Decrease) \$	2nd Review Increase/ (Decrease) \$	Revised Annual Budget \$
<b>Operating Income</b>				
Rates & Annual Charges	29,475,948	0	0	29,475,948
Statutory Charges	140,450	0	0	140,450
User Charges & Fees	687,637	0	0	687,637
Interest & Investment Revenue	636,804	12,917	0	649,721
Other Income	331,000	0	189,000	520,000
Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	2,757,877	191,002	12,720	2,961,599
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>34,029,716</b>	<b>203,919</b>	<b>201,720</b>	<b>34,435,355</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Employee Costs	10,932,833	-95,102	0	10,837,731
Professional Services	1,935,074	-237,266	-76,500	1,621,308
Auditor's Remuneration	35,000	0	0	35,000
Operating Lease Rentals	22,423	0	0	22,423
Energy	1,045,555	0	0	1,045,555
Materials & Contractors	10,965,969	-104,080	-42,025	10,819,864
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	10,608,000	0	0	10,608,000
Elected Members Expenses	391,511	0	500	392,011
Legal Expenses	258,200	-22,500	0	235,700
Water Charges	1,415,073	0	0	1,415,073
Telephone & Other Communication Charges	259,889	-7,800	0	252,089
Community Grants	250,000	0	0	250,000
Other Expenses	3,753,044	-47,500	56,224	3,761,768
FILOC Internal Loan	227,316	0	0	227,316
Borrowing Costs	39,585	0	0	39,585
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>42,139,472</b>	<b>-514,248</b>	<b>-61,801</b>	<b>41,563,423</b>
<b>Net OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-8,109,756</b>	<b>718,167</b>	<b>263,521</b>	<b>-7,128,068</b>
<b>Capital Income</b>				
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	50,000	0	0	50,000
Developer Contributions	288,750	0	0	288,750
Grants received	16,442,312	-5,913,098	0	10,529,214
<b>Total Capital Income</b>	<b>16,781,062</b>	<b>-5,913,098</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,867,964</b>
<b>Net SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) transferred to Equity Statement</b>	<b>8,671,306</b>	<b>-5,194,931</b>	<b>263,521</b>	<b>3,739,897</b>
<b>Capital Expenses</b>				
Asset Purchase	3,724,693	1,293,309	45,871	5,063,873
Asset Upgrade	16,665,356	-1,417,404	227,650	15,475,602
<b>Total Capital Expenses</b>	<b>20,390,049</b>	<b>-124,096</b>	<b>273,521</b>	<b>20,539,474</b>
Less Non Cash Expenditure	10,608,000	0	0	10,608,000
<b>Net CAPITAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-1,110,743</b>	<b>-5,070,835</b>	<b>-10,000</b>	<b>-6,191,578</b>
Borrowings	1,000,000	0	0	1,000,000
Repayment of Borrowings	-234,634	0	0	-234,634
Reserve Movement	345,377	5,070,835	10,000	5,426,212
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

# COUNCIL AGENDA

## Attachment 13.1.4.2

### STATEMENT OF RESERVES - Budget Movements 2022

OTHER RESERVES	Opening Balance \$ 01/07/2021	Original Budget 2022 to Reserves \$	Original Budget 2022 from Reserves \$	1st Review 2022 to Reserves \$	1st Review 2022 from Reserves \$	2nd Review 2022 to Reserves \$	2nd Review 2022 from Reserves \$	Balance at the EOY 2022 \$
<b>Externally Restricted Reserves</b>								
Unexpended Grants Reserve	212,956	250,000	(360,693)	-	(411,889)	-	-	(309,626)
<b>Externally Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>212,956</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>(360,693)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(411,889)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(309,626)</b>
<b>Internally Restricted Reserves</b>								
Election Expenses Reserve	150,000	-	(150,000)	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster Recovery Reserve	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
Unexpended Capital Works Reserve	4,589,920	-	-	-	(4,589,920)	-	-	(0)
Developer Funds In Lieu Of Construction	2,060,939	515,316	(300,000)	-	-	-	-	2,276,255
Waste Management Reserve	3,143,682	-	(700,000)	-	-	-	(10,000)	2,433,682
Asset Renewal Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Major Initiatives Reserve	614,949	-	-	180,974	-	-	-	795,923
<b>Internally Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>11,059,490</b>	<b>515,316</b>	<b>(1,150,000)</b>	<b>180,974</b>	<b>(4,589,920)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>6,005,860</b>
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>								
Working Capital Reserve	7,580,915	500,000	(100,000)	-	(250,000)	-	-	7,730,915
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>	<b>7,580,915</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>(100,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(250,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,730,915</b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>18,853,360</b>	<b>1,265,316</b>	<b>(1,610,693)</b>	<b>180,974</b>	<b>(5,251,809)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>13,427,148</b>

Reserve balances as at 01/07/2021 include 2020/21 year-end adjustments

# COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.1.5
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Zuccoli Community Hub Community Consultation
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 15 February 2022
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Executive Officer - Strategic Projects, Francheska Gobel
<b>APPROVER:</b>	General Manager of 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 to inform Council of the response to feedback on the Zuccoli Community Hub Master Plan design, gained from recent community consultation and seeks Council's approval of the resulting finalised Master Plan.

## KEY MESSAGES

- Council has received a Crown Term Lease for Lot 13503 and Lot 15612 (A) Zuccoli from the Northern Territory Government, for the purpose of developing a contemporary Community Hub and maintaining the Mitchell Creek area.
- In developing the proposal to secure the land, Council developed site concepts which it submitted to the Northern Territory Government as part of requesting the land.
- The Crown Lease Term requires Council to present a final Master Plan to the Northern Territory Government, Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.
- Council has completed community consultation to gauge feedback from the community on the proposed Master Plans for the Zuccoli Community Hub.
- A total of 288 feedback responses were received, with a majority of survey responses received from an online survey (153).
- Of the online feedback, 64 per cent of the 153 survey respondents said they liked the whole concept, and 30 per cent said they liked parts but not all of the concept.
- Overall people supported the proposed design but wanted confirmation that Council had considered elements such as adequate shade, cultural elements, security, a diverse and inclusive playground, a professionally designed skate park and pump track, the inclusion of natural vegetation and adequate parking.
- Many of the matters identified will form part of the detail design that will proceed after confirmation of the Master Plan and were already intended to be included by Council.
- Officer's recommendations in response to feedback is included within this Report.
- Council is underway with finalising an application to the Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund, Round Six, seeking funding towards the Zuccoli Community Hub project.
- The final Master Plan which takes into consideration the community consultation outcomes is attached to this report for approval by Council and if approved will be presented to the Minister.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Zuccoli Community Hub Community Consultation be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve the final Zuccoli Community Hub Master Plan as provided as **Attachment 13.1.5.1** to Report entitled Zuccoli Community Hub Community Consultation that has been amended in response to feedback gained through community consultation as outlined in this report.
3. THAT the Mayor write to the Northern Territory Government, Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics presenting the final Zuccoli Community Hub Master Plan for approval as per the conditions of the sites Crown Term Lease.
4. THAT Council notes the submitted City of Palmerston Building Better Regions Fund Round Six submission for Zuccoli Community Hub was amended to a funding request of \$3,175,000 to ensure compliance to the funding conditions of this round.
5. THAT Council write to all the community members and stakeholders who submitted feedback as part of the consultation process, thanking them for their contribution and advise them of the outcome and project progress.

### BACKGROUND

At the First Ordinary Council Meeting of 14 December 2021 Council made the following decisions:

#### *Zuccoli Community Hub Community Consultation*

1. *THAT Report entitled Zuccoli Community Hub Community Consultation be received and noted.*
2. *THAT a draft final Masterplan which takes into consideration the community consultation outcomes be developed and presented to Council in February 2022.*

***CARRIED 10/131 - 14/12/2021***

The projects history dates back to 2018, where *Prójects* was created, and consists of a suite of strategic projects, including *Where We Live Matters – Zuccoli Community Hub*.

In July 2020, Council engaged in negotiations with the Northern Territory Government on identifying potential land within Zuccoli.

Following discussions with the Northern Territory Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIPL), DIPL entered a period of public advertising and feedback between 26 March 2021 and 16 April 2021, regarding Councils application for a Crown Term Lease (CTL), for the purpose of a contemporary community hub and maintaining the Mitchell Creek Corridor, on identified Lot 13503 and Lot 15612 (A) Zuccoli. The area identified for the development of the Community Hub is Lot 13503 being approximately 3.04ha, the remaining area is remanent bushland and Mitchell Creek.

City of Palmerston is currently working towards finalising a CTL with the Northern Territory Government.

Community consultation commenced post 2021 City of Palmerston Local Government Election period in accordance with Councils *Caretaker Policy*. A five-week Zuccoli Community Hub Consultation was held



between 7 October 2021 and 15 November 2021; an extension of three days due to COVID-19 lockdowns impacting community door knocks and stakeholder meetings.

At the First Ordinary Council Meeting of 14 December 2021, Council staff presented consultation feedback for review. Council endorsed that a draft final Master Plan be developed, that takes into consideration community feedback into the design.

## DISCUSSION

Community consultations continues to demonstrate Council's commitment to community engagement.

The aim of community consultation was to inform, consult and involve the community in the proposed development of Zuccoli Community Hub. The overall goal was to communicate the draft Master Plan, obtain feedback, questions, ideas and gauge levels of support and sentiments of facilities included the plan and the overall proposal. These would be incorporated into the final Master Plan.

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

Stakeholders were in favour of the family friendly aspect of the Zuccoli Community Hub and element inclusions, particularly the dog park, walking trail and potential for a new café. It was largely agreed that the Zuccoli Community Hub was appropriate for the area.

Consultation revealed the top four priority elements of the Zuccoli Community Hub, and are as follows:

1. Mitchell Creek walking trails
2. Café Space
3. Dog Park
4. Skate Park

Following a review of the consultation feedback, the following themes emerged for consideration.

Feedback received	
Security	<p><u>Issue:</u> A reoccurring theme was the security of the complex. The perception among some community members was the Zuccoli Community Hub would attract more antisocial behaviour.</p> <p><u>Solution:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include CCTV monitoring at the Zuccoli Community Hub.</li> <li>• Consider lighting of the facilities, including when and how it will be lit, and how that may impact surrounding properties.</li> <li>• Further security measures if required</li> </ul>
Shade	<p><u>Issue:</u> There is concern over volume and quality of shade over the Zuccoli Community Hub area. Concern was also raised with losing shade from existing trees. It was suggested to keep as many established trees as possible.</p> <p><u>Solution:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was requested that during surveying works in November 2021 that trees over 2m were to be identified. However, of the few that were identified on the site, most were</li> </ul>

	<p>towards the back (drain system) of the complex, and a few identified along the verge, which limits any suitable trees available in the main activity areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native vegetation will be kept where possible, with the addition of future shade producing tree varieties into the design.</li> <li>• Durable and large shade casting shade systems be considered over the playground, with further shade provided within or near the outdoor basketball courts, pump track skate park, community garden, dog park, garden of reflection and playground.</li> <li>• Shaded areas are provided external to the Community Centre and a large, covered plaza entry; no changes are proposed here.</li> </ul>
Skatepark and Pump track	<p><u>Issue:</u> Recommendations from the public encourage Council to engage a design specialist to ensure the skate park meets the needs of the skating community. Some concerns were raised over the anti-social behaviours that skate park and pump track may attract.</p> <p><u>Solution:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council ensures as per its usual processes that it uses subject matter experts in the design and construction of specialist features.</li> </ul>
Playground	<p><u>Issue:</u> Noise that playgrounds produce could be an issue and has potential to attract antisocial behaviour. Feedback also suggested a playground that is suited for all ages of children, includes water play, and caters for those with disabilities.</p> <p><u>Solution:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The design is to consider noise pollution and avoiding anti-social behaviour elements.</li> <li>• Incorporate suitable design elements that meet a range of ages, including those with disabilities.</li> </ul>
Café Space	<p><u>Issue:</u> The café space should not detract from other local businesses in the area, and should be a commercial business, not run by Council.</p> <p><u>Solution:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring there is collaboration between the Zuccoli Plaza with any new retailers in this area.</li> </ul>
Parking	<p><u>Issue:</u> Several residents raised concerns over parking availability, particularly given the high-density living and narrow streets of Zuccoli. This is most concerning in peak times, such as weekends, early mornings and evenings.</p> <p><u>Solution:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The revised Master Plan features additional parking to address community concern.</li> </ul>
Accessibility	<p><u>Issue:</u> Public transport will provide a way for some people to get to the Zuccoli Community Hub and there is no bus stop nearby for accessibility and inclusion.</p> <p><u>Solution:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Council submit a request to the Northern Territory Government for the inclusion of a bus stop external to the Zuccoli Community Hub along existing route on Tuckeroo Boulevard and that Council will construct pathways as required to ensure connectivity.</li> </ul>
Community Garden	<p><u>Issue:</u> Concern over the area becoming messy and unkept.</p>

	<p><u>Solution:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is potential to invite community bodies or new community bodies to manage the community garden space with short term or long-term leases or arrangements.</li> <li>• Ensure the design is suitable for community use and encourage growing of local foods to increase community use and therefore ownership.</li> <li>• Council to monitor and provide assistance as required.</li> </ul>
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Further specific feedback was provided in response to the Master Plan as below. Most of the below requests are things that would be considered as part of Council's usual processes and will be more clearly defined in detailed designs but for clarity officers have provided the following comments.

Improvement Request	Included	Comment
More suitable shade	Yes	Suitable shade structures will be incorporated into the design to ensure sufficient shade is provided over or near outdoor facilities.
Waterplay (within the dog park)	Yes	Water play has been included in stage 1 of the dog park element to be delivered commencing this financial year.
Cultural elements on walking trails	Yes	Cultural elements, such as plaques or information boards are to be incorporated into walking trails, such as through the designed with relevant consultants.
All ages playground	Yes	The playground design aims to incorporate young to old children and is designed to reduce noise pollution.
Playground design inclusive of those with disabilities and those on the spectrum	Yes	The design will incorporate elements that address access and inclusion.
CCTV	Yes	CCTV (internal and external) to be included.
Security Lighting	Yes	To be included and further consideration made on light pollution and localities.
Professionally designed Skate Park and Pump Track	Yes	Subject matter experts to be engaged in the design process, with focus also on reducing anti-social elements.
Ensuring some existing trees or native vegetation are kept	Yes	To incorporate where possible.
Additional Parking	Yes	As part of the design process parking numbers would be at minimum, compliant with planning requirements. In consideration of feedback, additional parking has been incorporated into the final Master Plan.

Since consultation, progression has been made towards finalising the design of the dog park element, which can be seen within the entire overall proposed concept design, as **Attachment 13.1.5.1** to this Report. Further detailed designs will be produced as the stages progress which will reflect the requests from the community as outlined above.

A Council endorsed Report on the dog park design development was presented at the First Ordinary Council Meeting held of 2 February 2022, within Report entitled Zuccoli Community Hub Dog Park.

On Councils endorsement of Report entitled Zuccoli Community Hub Community Consultation, approved improvement requests will be actioned accordingly.

Prior to Council undertaking any works at the site, Council must submit to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics for approval of the Master Plan for the development of the land.

## CONSULTATION PROCESS

The engagement process involved a mix of strategies, including a media event involving the Mayor and Minister Lawler raising awareness on the proposal in August 2021. A five-week long consultation process followed, held between 7 October 2021 and 15 November 2021. A number of tools and tactics were involved including:

- Fact sheet mailed to Zuccoli residents;
- Website content;
- Fly through impression video;
- Online survey;
- Letterbox drop of factsheet;
- Two media releases;
- Social media posts on City of Palmerston platforms;
- Stakeholder calls and emails;
- Stakeholder meetings;
- Door knocks; and
- Four local community public display stands.

A total of 288 feedback responses were received, with a majority of survey responses received from an online survey (153).

Overall feedback on the proposed development was positive. Support from stakeholders and the community was most evident via the online survey, where 64 per cent of the 153 survey respondents said they liked the whole concept, and 30 per cent said they liked parts but not all of the concept.

Constructive feedback was provided on most of the proposed developments facilities and are outlined in this Report. Council have considered the communities feedback, and an improvement request register and Councils' responses are detailed in the table within the discussion section of this Report.

Further information on the community consultation feedback can be found within Report entitled Zuccoli Community Hub Community Consultation presented to the First Ordinary Council of 14 December 2021.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this Report.

## BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The overall cost of the Zuccoli Community Hub is estimated to be \$20 million (GST exclusive) and will be delivered over a five-year period starting with the construction of a dog park in 2022.

Council have committed \$2.5 million (GST exclusive) towards the project and is reflected in Councils Long Term Financial Plan. The balance remains subject to obtaining external funding.

City of Palmerston have submitted a Building Better Regions Fund Round Six submission funding request of \$3.175 million. This is down from the proposed \$5 million to ensure compliance to the funding conditions of this round. This application funding seeks to support Zuccoli Community Hub elements, being a community building and children's library. The estimated costs of these elements are between \$6 to \$7.5 million.

Council will continue to advocate for different avenues for external funding.

## **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.
- 6 Fails to deliver the strategic vision for the City  
Context: Ensuring vision is delivered effectively & efficiently, progress is measurable & celebrated.
- 7 Fails to be agile to respond to opportunities and challenges  
Context: Ensuring the organisation is positioned to respond quickly to take up opportunities and respond to challenges both internally and externally.

Given strong community support, the community are expecting to see progress on the proposed Zuccoli Community Hub project. Timely processes and approvals are therefore expected by the community.

Council will not be able to accommodate all individual requests raised via the community consultation, and some residents may feel like they were not heard through the process. This Report aims to have addressed the main themes and specific items of feedback,

The ongoing development of this project is subject to receiving external funding, and Council is committed to advocate for further external funding. Should Council be unsuccessful with the BBRF application, Council will continue to seek external funding.

Prior to Council undertaking any works at the site, Council must submit to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics for approval of the Master Plan for the development of the land. The Crown Term Lease outlines conditions that are required to be met by the Master Plan including but not limited to full and appropriate use of the site and Council's funding program for the development of the land. Master Plans are subject to change and will be communicated appropriately if this is required. If the Minister does not approve the final Master Plan, officers will recommend actions to Council via a subsequent report.

## **ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Through the community consultation process several environmental implications were raised including:

- Shading of the proposed project elements, including reduced shade from existing trees;
- Incorporating existing native vegetation into the design; and
- Noise and lighting pollution.

These environmental implications have been considered and are addressed within tables in the discussion section of 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. Zuccoli Community Hub Master Plan [13.1.5.1 - 1 page]





# COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.5.1

## LEGEND

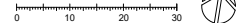
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## MASTER PLAN UPDATED

1:500 @ A1, 1:1000 @ A3

SCALE 1:500



ISSUED FOR INFORMATION



# COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.1.6
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Draft Disability Inclusion and Access Plan
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 15 February 2022
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Executive Manager Community and Library Services, Anna Ingram
<b>APPROVER:</b>	General Manager of 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 approval to commence public consultation on the draft Disability Inclusion and Access Plan (Plan), being the first strategy to be developed within Council's adopted Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible (IDA) Policy Framework.

## KEY MESSAGES

- City of Palmerston is committed to creating a community where every individual is given equal rights of access not only to council services, activities and facilities, but throughout the broader community.
- The draft Disability Inclusion and Access Plan is the first strategy to be developed within Council's adopted Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible (IDA) Policy Framework, and outlines actions to identify and remove barriers to equitable participation over a three-year period.
- The draft Disability Inclusion and Access Plan has been created to ensure that the four principles of the IDA Policy Framework are actioned in a way that ensures that City of Palmerston and all of its services, activities and facilities offer equal access and opportunity for all people to participate in their community.
- Officers recommend public consultation for a period of 60 days on the draft Disability Inclusion and Access Plan, with a specific focus on the disability sector and other key stakeholders before presentation of a final version of the document to Council for adoption at the conclusion of the consultation period.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Draft Disability Inclusion and Access Plan be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approves public consultation for a period of 60 days on the draft City of Palmerston Disability Inclusion and Access Plan as presented as **Attachment 13.1.6.1** to Report entitled Draft Disability Inclusion and Access Plan before presentation of a final version of the plan with incorporated feedback from the community consultation to be presented to Council for adoption at the conclusion of the consultation period.

## BACKGROUND

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting on 20 July 2021, Council adopted the Inclusive Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework.

Following the development of an implementation strategy, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting on 19 October 2021, Council made the following decisions:

*Implementation Strategy for Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework*

1. *THAT Report entitled Implementation Strategy for Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework be received and noted.*
2. *THAT the draft Disability Inclusion and Access Plan be presented to Council by the 2nd Ordinary Meeting in February 2022.*

*CARRIED 10/52 – 19/10/2021*

City of Palmerston's existing Disability Access Strategy was developed in 2016 and is overdue for updating, as it no longer meets the specific needs of those living with disability in the community, nor does it align with contemporary knowledge, language and practice regarding disability inclusion and accessibility.

The draft Disability Inclusion and Access Plan (Plan) as presented as **Attachment 13.1.6.1**, is the first strategy to be developed within Council's adopted Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible (IDA) Policy Framework, and outlines actions to identify and remove barriers to equitable participation over a three-year period. The draft Plan aligns with the City of Palmerston Community Plan and helps to guide future practice for increased disability inclusion, access and representation across all facets of Council.

Endorsement of the draft Plan is timely within a broader context, with Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 having been recently launched. The strategy recognises that all levels of government are responsible for supporting people with disability to reach their full potential, as equal members of the community. In addition, the Northern Territory's first Disability Strategy is currently in a period of consultation with City of Palmerston providing input and feedback as part of a working group.

### DISCUSSION

City of Palmerston is committed to creating a community where every individual is given equal rights to inclusion and access not only to council services, activities and facilities, but throughout the broader community.

The IDA Policy Framework was created as a supporting document to the City of Palmerston's Community Plan which contains objectives and strategies for the City of Palmerston across six outcome areas: Family and Community, Vibrant Economy, Cultural Diversity, Future Focus, Environmental Sustainability and Governance. Many of these relate directly and indirectly to showcasing Palmerston's diversity and to increasing inclusion and accessibility for people of all backgrounds, ages, abilities and circumstances.

The draft Plan has been created to ensure that the four principles of the IDA Policy Framework; Visible, Collaborative, Embedded and Always Improving are actioned in a way in which ensures that the City of Palmerston and all of its services, activities and facilities offer equal access and opportunity for all people to participate in their community, in alignment with the outcome areas in the Community Plan.

The draft Plan adopts a social model of disability – which recognises that a community is made up of people with many abilities and that it is barriers that exist within societal attitudes, practices and structures that restrict and prevent equity and inclusion, not an individual's impairment.

The draft Plan outlines actions to identify and remove barriers to equitable participation over a three-year period. This may include, but is not limited to improvements to:

- Civic Engagement – increased participation in planning, decision making and policy setting in matters which affect community members;
- Community Leisure and Social Participation – increased participation in community, leisure and social events through the application of inclusion, diversity and accessibility principles;
- Economic Participation – increased opportunities for employment, self-employment, career progression, enterprise development, education and training, and as consumers;
- Built and Natural Environment – increased access to buildings and facilities owned and managed by Council such as the Library, Recreation Centre and Swimming Pool, parks, playgrounds and outdoor spaces, transport, parking and pedestrian treatments, infrastructure projects, street and public space signage and artwork;
- Communication – improvements to access to information including website and social media, formal documents, letters, emails, notices and invitations, face to face, online and telephone experiences, feedback and complaints, awareness and education initiatives and Council's approach to advocacy and positive messaging;
- Council Culture, Services and Operation – improved access to Council services including permits, recycling and waste management, community grants, rates collection and environmental initiatives will incorporate principles of inclusion, diversity and accessibility to ensure equitable access and participation in all the City of Palmerston has to offer;
- Broader public consultation will also be important to gain the perspective of people with lived experience in our community.

This plan is aspiration and aims to cover all actions required to make City of Palmerston a truly accessible City. However, this has resulted in the draft Plan including significant actions which are likely to require close consideration of human and financial resourcing as well as identifying priorities and timeframes. This will be further considered following the committee and budget process. The action planning will need prioritisation against available budget and resources.

Officers recommend broad public consultation for a period of 60 days on the draft Plan, with a specific focus on the disability sector and other key stakeholders. This will ensure that the plan accurately represents the needs of the community, and any feedback or adjustments can be included before presentation of a final version of the document to Council for adoption at the conclusion of the consultation period.

Once the document is endorsed it will be used to advocate to the Australian and Northern Territory Government's for funding support as a matter of community priority.

## **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

In preparing the draft Plan, Council engaged Matrix on Board Consulting to consult with the following community organisations:

- Diversability
- Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- Helping People Achieve (HPA)
- Palmerston Seniors Network
- Autism NT
- Headspace
- City of Palmerston Council staff

Should the proposed public consultation be approved by Council, the above listed organisations will be invited to participate again, along with the following organisation at minimum.

- Darwin Community Legal Services (Disability Advocacy Group)
- APM Palmerston
- Variety NT
- NTG Office of Disability
- Clubhouse Territory
- Northern Territory Primary Health Network
- Anglicare NT
- Carers NT
- Carpentaria Disability Services
- Hands on People
- Integrated Disability Action Inc
- Life Without Barriers
- Total Recreation
- Rising for the Disabled NT
- Disabled Sports NT

The draft Plan will also go out for broader public comment for the general community to comment as well as persons with lived experience.

The period of community consultation would commence immediately following this decision. A range of methods for consultation will be used including:

- Web page with free text feedback box for comment
- Online survey
- Phone interviews and Face-to-face focus groups with identified stakeholder groups where appropriate.

It is proposed that the consultation will be advertised via media release, 'Have your Say' page on the website, as well as print and social media posts. Staff will also actively promote the consultation to their various community networks.

Council's Infrastructure team will ensure that the consultation for the draft Plan and any actions arising from the adoption of the final Disability Inclusion and Access Plan are aligned and integrated with current practices Council already undertakes to meet accessibility requirements.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The draft Plan sits within Council's adopted IDA Policy Framework, as the first strategy to be developed. The draft Plan is intended to update Council's current Disability Access Strategy (2016).

### **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The draft Plan includes significant actions which are likely to require consideration of human and financial resourcing as well as identifying priorities and timeframes. This will be further considered following the committee process. The action planning will need prioritisation against available budget and resources.

Council engaged Matrix on Board Consulting to undertake the consultation and document development of both the draft and final versions of the IDA Policy Framework, as well as the draft Plan. Additional costs will be incurred for the next stage of the draft Plan consultation as well as finalising of the document for adoption, for an approximate cost of \$13,000, which will be covered by Council's adopted operational budget.

Council has an existing approved capital budget allocation for accessibility infrastructure, which is expended on a range of projects such as automatic doors on disabled access toilets, as well as accessible pathways, kerb and crossing upgrades. This budget has been in place for many years and feedback has been taken from the Community through forums such as the Senior Committee on priority projects.

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

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.
- 7 Fails to be agile to respond to opportunities and challenges  
Context: Ensuring the organisation is positioned to respond quickly to take up opportunities and respond to challenges both internally and externally.

No specific legislation needs to be taken into consideration for this Report, however the legislation requirements detailed within the draft plan have been taken into consideration during the research and development phase.

Although Council is yet to adopt the draft Plan, it does operationally deliver a range of programs and practices in this area, including considering accessibility requirements in building upgrades and designs, pathways, and online content, as well as access and inclusion activities such as Seniors Fortnight. This mitigates any immediate risk in not yet having an updated plan in place.

### **ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

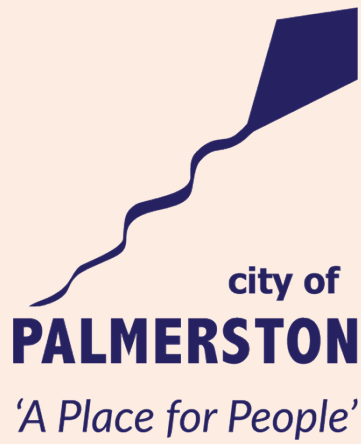
There are no environment sustainability implications for this Report.

### **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 Disability Inclusion and Access Plan [13.1.6.1 - 19 pages]



## **Draft Disability Inclusion and Access Plan 2021 - 2024**



**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.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Australian Bureau of Statistics defines disability as “any limitation, restriction or impairment which restricts everyday activities and has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months.” In its 2018 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), it was found that there were 4.4 million Australian with a disability, representing 17.7% of the population. Almost 10% of people with a disability over the age of 15 reported experiencing discrimination because of their disability.

Disability can impact on a person’s ability to secure employment, access education and to participate in social and community activities. Exclusion and discrimination have serious detrimental effects on a person’s mental health and emotional wellbeing. Australia’s implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and National Disability Strategy and various State and Territory disability inclusion strategies provide some solutions for the barriers and challenges people with disability face, but we have a long way to go. Local Government can play an important role in improving the day to day lives of people with disabilities.

The City of Palmerston is committed to creating a city where every individual is given equal rights of access to not only council services and facilities, but throughout the community. As noted in Australia’s National Disability Strategy:

*“People with disability want the same things as everyone else, whether that is forming personal relationships, having a family, taking part in continuous learning or enjoying retirement. Young people with disability have the same aspiration to grow up, get a job and leave home as other young people – and they deserve the same opportunity.”<sup>1</sup>*

The City of Palmerston adopts the social model of disability – which recognises that a community is made up of people with many abilities and that it is the barriers that exist within societal attitudes, practices and structures that restrict and prevent equity and inclusion, not an individual’s impairment. We view impairment as an expected part of human diversity, and aspire to accommodate it as a natural and embedded part of our services, facilities and community. This aspiration aligns with Australia’s National Disability Strategy and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Barriers to equitable participation may exist in buildings, outdoor spaces, streets and footpaths, websites, programs, events, policies and in people’s attitudes. The Disability Inclusion and Access Plan, which forms part of Palmerston’s Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework, outlines the actions we will take to identify and remove as many of these barriers as possible over the next three years.

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<sup>1</sup> Commonwealth of Australia, National Disability Strategy. Retrieved from: <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/publications-articles/policy-research/national-disability-strategy-2010-2020>

## COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

### Overview of Palmerston

The City of Palmerston is located about 20 kilometres south east of the Darwin CBD, and includes the suburbs and localities of Archer, Bakewell, Bellamack, Driver, Durack, Farrar, Gray, Gunn, Johnston, Marlow Lagoon, Mitchell, Moulden, Palmerston City, Pinelands, Rosebery, Woodroffe, Yarrowonga and Zuccoli.<sup>2</sup> It is the second largest and fastest growing city in the Northern Territory – our annual population growth rate is just over 5%.<sup>3</sup> In June 2019, the population of Palmerston was 38,270 with a median age of 30 years. 11% of our population are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, with a median age of 20 years.

Residents of Palmerston enjoy significant open space – over 171 hectares, including 57 playgrounds and over 100 parks. There are two shopping centres, a GP Super Clinic, a swimming and fitness centre, a recreation centre, several sporting grounds and a water park. There is significant infrastructure growth and development underway and planned, including a detailed master plan for the city centre. Council run over 170 community events and programs annually.<sup>4</sup>

The 2016 Census reported that approximately 4% of our population is over 64 years of age, 3% need assistance with activities of daily living and 8% provide unpaid assistance to people with disabilities.<sup>5</sup>

### City of Palmerston Council

The City of Palmerston governs essential community services such as waste management, domestic animal management, playgrounds and recreational facilities, and the city's library. The Elected Council consists of the Mayor and seven Elected Members, including the Deputy Mayor.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Regional Development Australia (Northern Territory), City of Palmerston LGA City Profile. Retrieved from: <https://profile.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory/about?WebID=200>

<sup>3</sup> City of Palmerston, Palmerston Community Plan

<sup>4</sup> City of Palmerston Website. Retrieved from: <https://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au/live/about-palmerston>

<sup>5</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia 2018 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC). Retrieved from : <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/disability/disability-ageing-and-carers-australia-summary-findings/2018>

<sup>6</sup> City of Palmerston Website. Retrieved from: <https://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au/council/about-council>

## LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The City of Palmerston operates within a legislative context that includes international, national, and Northern Territory legislation and standards, plans, strategies and frameworks that address inequity, discrimination, exclusion and lack of access experienced by people living with a disability.

### International (United Nations)

United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Together these three documents form the 'International Bill of Human Rights' and set out fundamental human rights to be universally protected
The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	
The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	International human rights treaty of the United Nations intended to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

### National

Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986	Sets out Australia's obligations under the International Bill of Human Rights and related Conventions and Declarations.
Fair Work Act 2009	Equity in employment and workplace conditions
Web Accessibility National Transition Strategy	The Australian Government's adoption and implementation of Web content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0 (WCAG 2.0) Level AA
Digital Service Standard	13 criteria to help government agencies design and deliver services that are simple, clear and easy to use.
Disability Discrimination Act 1992	Makes disability discrimination unlawful and promotes equal rights, opportunities and access for people with disability
Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 (Premises Standards)	Aims to ensure dignified, equitable, cost-effective and reasonably achievable access to buildings, and facilities and services within buildings, is provided for people with a disability
Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (Transport Standards)	The Transport Standards set the framework for public transport operators and providers to remove discrimination against people with disability to access public transport services
National Disability Strategy 2010-2020	Framework to ensure Australia fulfils its obligations following the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<a href="#">National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)</a>	Service delivery and funding model that sets out the way that people with disability are provided with the supports they need to live the life they want to lead and to achieve their goals and aspirations. An agreement between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.

### Northern Territory

Anti-Discrimination Act 1992	Promotes recognition and of the principle of the right to equality of opportunity of persons regardless of an attribute; and eliminates discrimination against persons on the ground of race, sex, sexuality, age, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, breastfeeding, impairment, trade union or employer association, religious belief or activity, political opinion, affiliation or activity, irrelevant medical record or irrelevant criminal record in the area of work, accommodation or education or in the provision of goods, services.
Local Government Act 2008	Defines the purposes and functions of local government as well as providing the legal framework for establishing and administering Councils.

## ABOUT THIS PLAN

The Palmerston Disability Inclusion and Access Plan is part of a suite of documents that direct and drive the work of the City of Palmerston:

### Palmerston Community Plan

As a regional hub, and a community that is growing in size and diversity, the City of Palmerston has committed to be 'A Place for People', a welcoming vibrant family city that fosters diversity and unity, where everyone belongs and where everyone is safe. This commitment is documented in our Community Plan, which contains objectives and strategies grouped into six outcome areas:

- Family and community
- Vibrant Economy
- Cultural Diversity
- Future Focused
- Environmental Sustainability; and
- Governance

The annual Municipal Plan and Budget reflect and align with the outcomes and objectives of the Community Plan, which sets the direction and priorities for Council's work and decision making over the next ten years.

### Palmerston Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework

The City of Palmerston's Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework (IDA Framework) reflects the commitment of Council that all the people of Palmerston have equal access and opportunity to enjoy and participate in their community. Written in consultation with diverse community organisations and community members and closely aligned with the Community Plan, the IDA Framework sets out key principles and actions to remove barriers, address challenges and embrace opportunities and innovations that celebrate diversity and promote equity and unity. Included in the IDA Framework is the commitment to develop strategies addressing the needs of specific community groups – these include:



- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Youth
- Families, Children and Seniors
- People with a Disability

### Palmerston Disability Inclusion and Access Plan

This document, the Palmerston Disability Inclusion and Access Plan (DIAP) meets the commitment in the IDA Framework to develop strategies and actions to achieve equity of access and inclusion in all areas of Council's responsibility for people living with a disability. The DIAP follows the principles and structure set out in the IDA Framework and includes strategies and actions identified in the Community Plan and during consultations with disability services organisations, council staff and community members. The DIAP will ensure that Council meets both its obligations under anti-discrimination legislation and the expectations of the residents of Palmerston. Along with the Community Plan, IDA Framework and the other specific inclusion and access plans, the DIAP will be used by Council to inform annual plans for the Council and its Departments.

A community inclusion and access advisory group, which will include people with lived experience of the challenges and barriers faced by people with a disability, will champion the DIAP and provide feedback, guidance and advice as actions are implemented. Reporting against the DIAP will be included in the regular Council reporting mechanisms.

At a minimum, the DIAP will be reviewed and updated after three years – in 2024.

## INCLUSION AND ACCESS IN PALMERSTON

During consultations, participants were asked what they felt the City of Palmerston did well in relation to inclusion and access for people with a disability, and what most needed to be improved. This is what we learned:

### What we do well:

- City of Palmerston has conducted extensive consultations with the local community, seeking ideas, opinions and priorities through the development of the Community Plan and the IDA Framework.
- The Library and Recreation Centre is welcoming, and staff are approachable and inclusive.
- The Recreation Centre and the Palmerston Regional Basketball Association have run sports programs for people of all abilities.
- The sensory environment at the reception area of Council facilities such as the library is done well, there is not too much noise or chaos that could overwhelm people who are sensitive.
- The program of events is varied and interesting and provides opportunities for social participation.
- The Swimming Pool is an excellent venue for all kinds of people and the community is looking forward to the planned upgrades.
- Provision of outlets suitable for charging mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs are being included in Council facilities.

### What we need to improve:

- Parking is always a concern – it would be good to not only have more reserved parking for people with a disability parking permit, but also more covered parking and other options such as time limited drop off and pick up zones that are suitable for buses used by disability services to transport their clients.

- Some of the mobility accommodations are not well located or integrated with existing entrances and exits. This can cause problems for mixed groups who, for example, have some people who need assistance navigating a ramp and others who do not. There also needs to be handrails for every set of steps.
- Accessible toilets and changing rooms are not always well designed, located or signposted. Outdoor events need to have appropriate toilet and changing room facilities.
- More signage that incorporates symbols, pictures and tactile markers.
- Promotion of events and programs needs to be more timely and easier to access, many people with disabilities need to organise transport and/or support workers to participate and this can take some time.
- Council could work with local venues – such as Palmerston Water Park and the Cinemas – to increase inclusion and accessibility.
- Transport can be a problem. Many people with a disability must use public transport or rely on transport provided by disability service organisations. Events and activities that are held in the evenings, on weekends or far from public transport create barriers to participation.

## KEY PRINCIPLES

During the consultation process for Palmerston's IDA Framework, four key principles were identified. These principles will be considered and evaluated in all planned actions to increase inclusion and accessibility, including those outlined in this Disability Inclusion and Access Plan:

### Visible

This principle means

**that** respect and celebration of our diversity is obvious and everywhere – through physical markers such as signage, artwork in public spaces, exhibitions, statements, acknowledgements, awards, community grants, programs and events. This will encourage us to learn about each other and about our history, accept and encourage different perspectives and build positive relationships and social capital.

**that** role models representing all types of Palmerston citizens are supported and promoted – from Alderman to Council staff to community leaders and innovators. This will help people 'see themselves' as part of their community and encourage civic participation, community engagement and leadership.

**that** accessibility accommodations are everywhere they can be, are easy to identify, find and use, and are a consistent part of the physical and social landscape of Palmerston. This will inspire and encourage people to participate in their community with a sense of belonging, safety and ease.

### Collaborative

This principle means

**that** the Council proactively engages with community organisations, groups and citizens, creating and supporting an active local network of expertise, lived experience and passion. This will increase opportunities for a wider range of community members to become involved with their community, and will provide Council with a wealth of knowledge from which to draw.

**that** people with lived experience of exclusion and access barriers are at the heart of strategies to increase inclusion, diversity and accessibility in Palmerston. This will ensure that our actions are meaningful, relevant, practical and most importantly, effective.

**that** local businesses, organisations and individuals work together to develop and implement innovations to create an equitable, enjoyable, respectful and safe community for everyone. This will mean that Palmerston grows and improves as a socially cohesive community, with opportunities for every person, institution and organisation to engage and contribute in their own way.

#### Embedded

This principle means

**that** inclusion, diversity and accessibility are considered and reviewed consistently across all Council services, venues and activities. This will create a common experience for all community members and create an environment that is easy to navigate, understand, engage with and enjoy equally for all residents.

**that** all Council systems, policies, procedures, strategies and plans consistently document and reflect the principles and strategies of accessibility, diversity and inclusion. This will support staff to fulfil Council's commitments, and ensure consistent application across all areas of Council operations.

**that** staff, volunteers, partners and stakeholders of the City of Palmerston receive training and are supported and celebrated for work that promotes a welcoming, safe inclusive and accessible environment for all people. This will contribute to a Council wide culture of embracing diversity, promote and highlight successes and encourage insight, professional development and increased knowledge and expertise across Council teams.

#### Always Improving

This principle means

**that** the City of Palmerston celebrates and builds on its strengths and successes, always striving to 'level up' and innovate. This will provide encouragement and momentum in applying the principles of inclusion, diversity and accessibility across all Council and across the community of Palmerston.

**that** the Council has a multi-faceted, accessible and proactive approach to obtaining and acting on feedback from the diverse population of Palmerston, partners and stakeholders. This will ensure that actions taken are evidence based and informed by the people that are impacted and affected.

**that** the City of Palmerston routinely and regularly reviews and updates plans and strategies for improving inclusion, diversity and accessibility. This will ensure that growth, demographic changes, advancements and innovations in best practice are identified and incorporated for the benefit of the Palmerston community.

## GOALS AND ACTIONS

### Civic Engagement

Civic engagement occurs when citizens of a society participate in planning, decision making and policy setting in matters which affect them. This can be participating in scheduled community consultations and deliberative democracy activities (such as those that led to the development of the Community Plan), being included in a community Advisory Group, Committee or Network, providing feedback or complaints about specific issues or problems, or even becoming an Elected Member of Council. Social cohesion and strong communities grow when diverse people with different perspectives are actively and positively working together to create their community.

Goal	Actions
1. People with a disability are actively involved in the consultations, planning, implementation and review of Council activities.	1.1 The IDA Advisory Group will include people with lived experience of disability.
	1.2 Council committees and advisory groups working on issues that impact the community – such as the Palmerston Safe Communities Committee – will include people with lived experience of disability.
	1.3 Council will work with the IDA Advisory Group, disability service organisations and people with lived experience of disability to identify and remove barriers to participating in Council meetings, forums, and consultations. Strategies will be included in Council’s ‘Accessible Consultations and Meetings Guidelines’.
	1.4 Council will use events and programs such as those celebrating the International Day of People with Disability to hold forums to discuss key issues and ideas for increasing inclusion and accessibility.
	1.5 Public Council documents will be available in a range of accessible formats including Plain English, Large Print, Auslan, Audio Recordings and Braille.
2. People with a disability are encouraged and supported to become leaders in their community.	2.1 Council will work with the IDA Advisory Group, disability service organisations and people with lived experience of disability to support existing leadership development programs and explore new ways to build capacity and confidence for people with disability to use their talents and skills to drive positive change.

### Community, Leisure and Social Participation

The City of Palmerston's annual program of events, celebrations and community recreation and sport programs are key strengths of Council. Consultation participants involved in developing this framework commended Council staffs' efforts to provide welcoming and accessible events, particularly at the Library, Recreation Centre and Swimming Pool. There are many opportunities to increase participation in these and other community, leisure and social events through the application of inclusion, diversity and accessibility principles.

Goal	Actions
3. There are more options for leisure, recreation and physical activity that include and accessible for people of all abilities in Palmerston.	3.1 Council's annual calendar of events and programs will include consultation and planning for participation by people of all abilities – through increasing accessibility accommodations of existing activities and/or providing additional related events or activities tailored to meet the needs of people with disability.
	3.2 Council will work with disability services, local organisations and people with lived experience of disability to increase the accessibility and inclusion of events, programs and activities in the community.
	3.3 Council will work with young people with lived experience of disability to identify more community, leisure and recreation opportunities for people over 12 years of age.
4. Community events and recreation and leisure activities and programs are more inclusive and accessible for people with a disability.	4.1 Council will work with the IDA Advisory Group, disability service organisations and people with lived experience of disability to identify and remove barriers to participation. Strategies will be included in Council's 'Accessible and Inclusive Events Guidelines'.
	4.2 <b>Promotion</b> of events, activities and programs will include information about accessibility accommodations such as parking, drop off and pick up zones, accessible toilets and changing rooms, quiet zones, lifts and ramps etc.
	4.3 <b>Promotion</b> of events, activities and programs will be conducted as early as possible to allow time for arrangements to be made, and will be distributed to disability services organisations to include in their communication channels with participants.

### Economic Participation

Economic participation is more than just jobs, it includes all of the ways people contribute to their local economy, including through employment, self-employment, career progression, enterprise development, education and training, and as consumers.

Pathways to employment was a priority identified during the consultations and recent and proposed changes to the way that employment supports are funded and provided through the National Disability Insurance Scheme presents opportunities for Council and local businesses to increase opportunities for people with disabilities to enter the local workforce.

Goal	Actions
5. Increased employment, work experience and volunteering opportunities for people with disabilities at the City of Palmerston.	5.1 Council will review and update employment and volunteering policies and procedures to include practices that increase accessibility for people with disabilities.
	5.2 Council will consult with disability employment services and people with lived experience of disability to explore ways to increase opportunities, inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities.
6. People with disabilities in Palmerston have increased support to gain local employment.	6.1 Council will work with local businesses, training and education institutions and disability services, organisations to explore ways to increase employment opportunities and pathways for people with disabilities in Palmerston, including through direct support, provision of information regarding relevant government programs and advocacy.
	6.2 Council will consider ways to support social enterprises and businesses that provide employment for people with disabilities.
7. People with disabilities have increased opportunities to contribute to the local economy.	7.1 Council will encourage and support local businesses and organisations to find ways to lower the costs of activities, products and services – for example through subsidies, discounts or special offers.
	7.2 Council will review its Procurement policies to identify ways to support local social enterprises and businesses that provide employment for people with disabilities.



### Built and Natural Environment

The built and natural environment includes buildings and facilities owned and managed by Council such as the Library, Recreation Centre and Swimming Pool, parks, playgrounds and outdoor spaces, transport, parking and pedestrian treatments, infrastructure projects, street and public space signage and artwork. Council works in partnership with the Northern Territory Government to create a city that has the infrastructure, buildings and outdoor space that meets the needs and aspirations of the Palmerston community. Several major developments and projects are currently underway, including SWELL, the revitalisation of Palmerston's Swimming and Fitness Centre, Gray Community Hall Redevelopment, improvements to Marlow Lagoon Dog Park, improvements to the Library and the development of a Play Space strategy.

Goal	Actions
8. Council facilities and buildings are inclusive and accessible for people of all abilities.	8.1 In collaboration with the IDA Advisory Group, qualified access consultants and people with lived experience, Council will continue to implement a program of regular accessibility reviews and upgrades of all existing venues, facilities, equipment and furnishings.
	8.2 Council will continue to ensure that all infrastructure developments, redevelopments and refurbishments meet accessibility and inclusion standards and incorporate the principles of Universal Design.
	8.3 Council will continue improvements to access and inclusion in infrastructure and town planning, including plans for the CBD and the Play Spaces Strategy.
	8.4 Council will continue to increase the accessibility of playgrounds, parks and other public outdoor spaces through its scheduled review and maintenance program, including increasing the amount of accessible playground equipment, ensuring entrance and egress accessibility and location of accessible public toilets and changing rooms.
9. The City of Palmerston is a strong advocate for an inclusive and accessible Palmerston.	9.1 Council will work with the Northern Territory Government to ensure that barriers to accessibility and inclusion are addressed in infrastructure projects and plans.
	9.2 Council will support local businesses, venues and facilities to identify and address barriers to accessibility and inclusion.
10. Challenges and barriers relating to transport and parking accessibility are identified and resolved.	10.1 Council will explore ways to increase and improve the availability of disability parking, drop off and pick up zones and other forms of reserved parking.
	10.2 Council will work with the Northern Territory Government and other relevant agencies to identify and implement ways to improve the accessibility of the public transport

system, including buses, bus stops and connectivity.

### Communication

Effective, inclusive and accessible communication will support and amplify the exciting and comprehensive actions Council will be undertaking to achieve the community's vision for Palmerston. This includes the Council website and social media, formal documents, letters, emails, notices and invitations, face to face, online and telephone experiences, feedback and complaints, awareness and education initiatives and Council's approach to advocacy and positive messaging about Palmerston. In the Palmerston Community Plan, Council made a strong commitment to improving communications with the community, including providing timely and relevant news and updates, adopting a relevant and inspiring social media approach and changing the feedback process into one of learning.

Goal	Actions
<b>11.</b> The City of Palmerston's website meets the requirements of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines WCAG 2.0.	<b>11.1</b> Council will review the website against the guidelines and develop and implement a plan to make required changes to ensure compliance.
<b>12.</b> Increased availability of Council information in accessible formats.	<p><b>12.1</b> In consultation with the <b>IDA Advisory Group and people with lived experience, Council will implement a prioritised plan to provide information in a number of accessible formats such as large print, Plain English, audio recordings, captions, Auslan and Braille.</b></p> <p><b>12.2</b> Council will include information about how to request alternative formats on Council documents, promotional material and information resources.</p> <p><b>12.3</b> Council staff will be provided with training and easy pathways to find information and resources regarding how to request interpreters and translations for information and communication with community members.</p>
<b>13.</b> Palmerston residents have several different ways to receive information and communicate with Council.	<p><b>13.1</b> Council communication strategies will incorporate multiple accessible and inclusive channels including online, posters and newsletters, captions for audio visual communication, telephone and in person.</p> <p><b>13.2</b> Council will review its enquiries, feedback and complaints' mechanisms to ensure people of all abilities have clear and easy to access ways to communicate with them.</p> <p><b>13.3</b> Council will work with disability services organisations to identify collaborative ways to disseminate information to people with disabilities.</p>

### Council Culture, Services and Operations

It is the role of Council to continually strive to co-create a community in collaboration with our residents. It is the people who work for and with Council and the internal systems that guide them which create an organisational culture which supports this aspiration. Provision of all Council services including permits, recycling and waste management, community grants, rates collection and environmental initiatives will incorporate principles of inclusion, diversity and accessibility to ensure equitable access and participation in all the City of Palmerston has to offer.

Goal	Actions
<b>14.</b> Council's commitment to inclusion and access for people of all abilities is integral to the organisation's culture.	<b>14.1</b> Municipal and Departmental plans will include actions from this Disability Inclusion and Access Plans, with progress towards goals included in individual, team, department and Council reports.
	<b>14.2</b> Disability awareness, mental health first aid and other relevant training modules will be included in staff training programs.
	<b>14.3</b> Council will develop a recognition program to recognise staff for innovations and exceptional work in promoting inclusion, diversity and accessibility.
	<b>14.4</b> Staff and citizen surveys will include questions and requests for feedback relating to inclusion and access for people with disabilities.
<b>15.</b> All services, programs and activities include consideration of inclusion and accessibility factors.	<b>15.1</b> Council will ensure that online services meet the Australian Government's Digital Service Standard Criteria.
	<b>15.2</b> Internal planning processes will include reviewing and upgrading accessibility and inclusion strategies.
	<b>15.3</b> Regular reviews of policies, procedures and processes will include review of accessibility and inclusion to identify and remove barriers for people with disabilities.

## RESOURCES

### ORGANISATION WEBSITES

Association for Children with Disability	<a href="https://www.acd.org.au/">https://www.acd.org.au/</a>
Australian Human Rights Commission	<a href="https://humanrights.gov.au">https://humanrights.gov.au</a>
Australian Local Government Association	<a href="https://alga.asn.au">https://alga.asn.au</a>
Beyond Blue	<a href="https://www.beyondblue.org.au">https://www.beyondblue.org.au</a>
Centre for Inclusive Design	<a href="https://centreforinclusivedesign.org.au">https://centreforinclusivedesign.org.au</a>
Changing Places	<a href="https://changingplaces.org.au">https://changingplaces.org.au</a>
Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commission	<a href="https://adc.nt.gov.au">https://adc.nt.gov.au</a>
Northern Territory Lived Experience Network (mental illness, suicide)	<a href="https://livedexperiencenet.net">https://livedexperiencenet.net</a>
Sane Australia	<a href="https://www.sane.org">https://www.sane.org</a>
Scanlon Foundation (Social Cohesion)	<a href="https://scanlonfoundation.org.au">https://scanlonfoundation.org.au</a>
Transhub	<a href="https://www.transhub.org.au/language#glossary">https://www.transhub.org.au/language#glossary</a>
Welcoming Cities Network	<a href="https://welcomingcities.org.au/the-standard/">https://welcomingcities.org.au/the-standard/</a>
World Health Organisation Age Friendly World network	<a href="https://extranet.who.int/agefriendlyworld/">https://extranet.who.int/agefriendlyworld/</a>

### Checklists

Accessibility starter kit	<a href="http://www.aarts.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Checklist-AccessibilityStarterKit-2016.docx">http://www.aarts.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Checklist-AccessibilityStarterKit-2016.docx</a>
Building maintenance	<a href="http://www.aarts.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Checklist-Venue2BuildingMaintandAccess.docx">http://www.aarts.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Checklist-Venue2BuildingMaintandAccess.docx</a>
Centre for Inclusive Design Accessibility Checking Tools	<a href="https://centreforinclusivedesign.org.au/index.php/tools/2020/03/31/accessibility-testing-tools/">https://centreforinclusivedesign.org.au/index.php/tools/2020/03/31/accessibility-testing-tools/</a>
City of Darwin, Accessible and Inclusive Events	<a href="https://www.darwin.nt.gov.au/council/about-council/publications-and-forms/accessible-and-inclusive-events">https://www.darwin.nt.gov.au/council/about-council/publications-and-forms/accessible-and-inclusive-events</a>
Inclusive Events Checklist	<a href="https://centreforinclusivedesign.org.au/index.php/blog/2017/05/10/checklist-for-inclusive-events-and-meetings/">https://centreforinclusivedesign.org.au/index.php/blog/2017/05/10/checklist-for-inclusive-events-and-meetings/</a>
Marketing and Communications	<a href="http://www.aarts.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Checklist-MarketingandCommunications.docx">http://www.aarts.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Checklist-MarketingandCommunications.docx</a>
Signage & Communications	<a href="http://www.aarts.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Checklist-MarketingandCommunications.docx">http://www.aarts.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Checklist-MarketingandCommunications.docx</a>
Ticketing, seating and services	<a href="http://www.aarts.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Checklist-Venue4TicketingSeatingandServices.docx">http://www.aarts.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Checklist-Venue4TicketingSeatingandServices.docx</a>
Transport and parking	<a href="http://www.aarts.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Checklist-Venue1TransportandParking.docx">http://www.aarts.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Checklist-Venue1TransportandParking.docx</a>

### Children

Touched by Olivia (Inclusive Play Spaces)	<a href="http://touchedbyolivia.com.au/get-involved/resources/">http://touchedbyolivia.com.au/get-involved/resources/</a>
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### Civic Engagement

Ohio State University – Kirwan Institute, The Principles for Equitable and Inclusive Civic	<a href="http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/ki-civic-engagement.pdf">http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/ki-civic-engagement.pdf</a>
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Engagement: A guide to  
transformative change

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# COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.2.1
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	NT Strategic Water Plan - Direction Paper
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 15 February 2022
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Urban & Environment Planner, Damien Scalora
<b>APPROVER:</b>	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 report is to inform Council of the City of Palmerston (CoP) submission made in relation to the Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan.

## KEY MESSAGES

- The Northern Territory Government (NTG) is developing a Strategic Water Plan for the NT to set the agenda on water management through to 2050.
- There is a growing need for more robust planning around water security in the NT as competing demands grow, and challenges become more apparent.
- A Directions Paper was developed by NTG, outlining ten directions to provide water security in the NT.
- Feedback was invited on the paper, and City of Palmerston provided a submission highlighting relevance to the Sustainability Strategy 2022, and current water infrastructure projects and opportunities.
- Submissions were required by the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2022.

## RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report entitled NT Strategic Water Plan - Direction Paper be received and noted.

## BACKGROUND

The Northern Territory Government is developing a Strategic Water Plan for the NT to set the agenda on water management through to 2050. The plan is intended to address water security in the Territory, an important undertaking given the conditions relating to environment, location, changing climate and ongoing pressure to ensure sustainable growth.

In addressing water security in the NT, The Office of Water Security was established to develop the plan and consult with key stakeholders. A Directions Paper was developed for consultation and complements actions resulting from the 2018 Water Regulatory Reform Directions Paper, which emphasised the regulatory framework of water policy in the NT

Once developed the Strategic Water Plan will sit amongst a variety of NTG strategies and plans supporting sustainable development. On climate the NT has developed the Northern Territory Climate Change Response: Towards 2050, providing a policy framework to enable the NT to manage climate change risk and opportunities. There is also relation to another important document being the 2020 Territory Economic Reconstruction Committee (TERC) Report. Measures outlined in the subject Water Plan Directions Paper seek to support a bankable investment environment and commitments outlined under the TERC report.

Of note for Council is the Strategic Water Plans relevance to the recently adopted Sustainability Strategy 2022, presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Council Meeting on 1 February 2022. Within the Sustainability Strategy there are areas that link with aspects under the NT Strategic Water Plan – Directions Paper.

Council officers provided a response to the NT Strategic Water Plan – Directions Paper **Attachment 13.2.1.2**, with submissions due to The Office of Water Security by 4 February 2022. The submission responds to directions contained within the paper of relevance to Council and provides links to the Sustainability Strategy to demonstrate Council's action within this space. The submissions also ensure larger projects which have direct relevance to considerations of water security and infrastructure are captured as plans and directions develop.

### DISCUSSION

#### *Overview of The Strategic Water Plan – Directions Paper*

In developing a future Strategic Water Plan, the Directions Paper has been used engage with the community and key stakeholders **Attachment 13.2.1.2**. The final plan will set the agenda on water management through to 2050 and address water security in the Territory.

The Directions Paper highlights the growing need for more robust planning around water security in the NT as competing demands grow, and challenges become more apparent. These demands relate to aspirations under the economy, and associated population and industry growth. With such significant projects and changes to the current state of play, the Directions Paper calls for a new era of water awareness and water management maturity.

Principles have been developed to inform water security planning and decisions under the NT Strategic Water Plan, which are evidenced in the Directions Paper. These are:

- Safe and Reliable – relating to human health and wellbeing
- Evidence Based – best available science and knowledge to inform water resourcing
- Sustainable – considers the long term and intergenerational equity
- Efficient – adoption of recycling, reuse, and fit-for purpose systems
- Trust and transparency – recognising water as shared resource
- Fair and accountable – defined responsibilities and processes

The Paper is split by ten directions, proposed to provide for water security:

1. Water Governance is contemporary and coordinated
2. Drinking Water is safe
3. Water use is efficient and productive
4. Water supports jobs and economic growth
5. Cities, town and communities use the whole water cycle
6. Aboriginal connections to water are valued
7. Water dependent environmental values are protected



8. Water science, knowledge, skills and innovation are enhanced
9. Territorians are engaged in water stewardship
10. Water resources management can adapt to change

Under each of the directions there are a number of accompanying pathways that seek to deliver outcomes. These pathways would form the basis of tangible next steps. Council's response is provided as **Attachment 13.2.1.1**, and the following provides a high-level discussion to inform Council on the basis of the response.

### *City of Palmerston Submission*

As discussed above, the basis of the City of Palmerston's response is steeped in the Sustainability Strategy 2022. The overlap demonstrates the potential for coordinated approaches to better enable and support the Palmerston community.

The topic of water efficiencies and water productivity was explored through the submission. Given Council's water consumption for its open space and community infrastructure, there are significant opportunities to focus activity within this space. Demand management mechanisms exist as outlined under the Directions Paper. While the Directions Paper notes the NTG's role leading role, City of Palmerston is well-positioned to demonstrate leadership in this space.

The submission outlines potential improvements relating to water productivity, namely of the open space network. As previously reported to Council, this relates to Goal 3.1 of the Sustainability Strategy 2022, seeking to limit resource consumption through a range of actions including:

- 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 officers are undertaking a review of existing water usage to identify these efficiency opportunities. Part of the work will involve developing informed options for Council's consideration where there is a change to service levels.

The submission also touches on the built form and potential for development to include greater consideration for water sensitivity in design. Primarily this relates to a growing understanding of water management and its emphasis in the planning and development process, and a potential need to recognise much of what the Directions Paper discusses on competing demands.

The submission outlines current Council projects, which have direct relevance to the discussion of water security and water supply infrastructure. Council is awaiting a final report from the Palmerston groundwater study which has been undertaken by NTG. This report will inform City of Palmerston's aquifer study, and the submission seeks to raise this as a priority.

The Palmerston Recreational Lake is in the initial stages of project planning to understand its potential and feasibility. Growing recreational water opportunities in Palmerston is seen to benefit local economy outcomes and continue to grow the lifestyle opportunities necessary in Palmerston to attract and retain local workforces to the region. The Manton Dam Return to Service infrastructure project was recently announced, which is scheduled to occur over the next 3-4 years. While further detailed design and stakeholder engagement is expected for the project, the project may further provide for a gap in recreational offering, particularly as populations grow in the region.

Water security decisions and planning in the Northern Territory are already underway, as demonstrated by recent announcements for Manton Dam and the Adelaide River Off-Stream Water Storage (AROWS). Feedback on the Directions Paper closed on 4 February 2022, and feedback will inform next steps in the development of the Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan.

### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

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

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications for this report. As discussed within this report, Council's submission is relevant to the Sustainability Strategy recently adopted.

### **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

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

This report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

- 2 Fails to be sustainable into the long term  
Context: Optimising the financial, social and environmental sustainability of the City.
- 6 Fails to deliver the strategic vision for the City  
Context: Ensuring vision is delivered effectively & efficiently, progress is measurable & celebrated.

### **ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

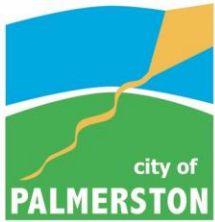
There are notable implications to environmental sustainability as a result of the subject of the report. Water security in the NT requires evolved planning to deal with growing challenges relating to competing demands and accommodating sustainable development. Development of the NT Strategic Water Plan by NTG is envisioned to increase water management maturity, necessary to ensure the environment is still able to support future generations.

### **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. 20220202 - Co P Response NT Strategic Water Review [13.2.1.1 - 3 pages]
2. NT Strategic Water Plan - Directions Paper [13.2.1.2 - 22 pages]



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4 February 2022

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**RE: Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan – Directions Paper**

Dear Sir/Madam

The City of Palmerston (Council) welcomes the development of the Strategic Water Plan as part of a greater commitment to addressing water security in the Northern Territory. A Strategic Water Plan is an important document through its own objectives, addressing matters of social and economic sustainable development. It is complementary to recent environmental response directions provided by the Northern Territory Government (NTG), including the Northern Territory Climate Change Response: Towards 2050.

Council has recently adopted its Sustainability Strategy 2022, which retains a focus on the environmental dimension of sustainability. The document can be found within the Publications and Strategies section of Council's website; <https://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au/council/forms-and-publications/publications>. The Strategy recognises the sphere of influence as a Local Government in the Northern Territory system, and responsibilities shared. It recognises the important role of Council in facilitating local outcomes and linking local community to wider sustainability issues.

The Sustainability Strategy 2022 complements aspects of the Directions Paper, highlighting the potential for coordinated approaches to better enable and support the Palmerston community. Council officers have reviewed the NT Strategic Water Plan – Directions Paper and provide the following response to the identified directions considered most relevant to Council.

### **Direction 3 - Water use is efficient and productive**

Under Council's Sustainability Strategy, a key theme is a future focus on efficiencies. Targeted actions seek to build upon previous successes through efficiencies in the public open space irrigation systems. This forms part of the larger body of work including developing a Water Saving Action Plan under the Strategy.

Council has identified potential improvements relating to water productivity, reviewing irrigation practices in the open space network. Implementation of a change of irrigation service levels relies on coordinated community messaging that demonstrate the needs to shift practices, and the ultimate value this serves for the community. Council has prioritised a focus under the Sustainability Strategy of greater empowerment and connecting the community to sustainable practices, reliant on effective communication.

This approach largely falls under the demand management mechanism as listed in the Directions Paper. Council's intent is to partner with existing expertise and programs, such as NT Living Water Smart, to support this whole of community and government approach.

As a Council, City of Palmerston is well positioned to demonstrate leadership in this space and plays a facilitating role in the multi-faceted approach the Directions Paper discusses. Council welcomes opportunities to be involved in implementation of these objectives relating to demand management mechanisms and improving whole-of-water-cycle approaches.

**Direction 5 - Cities, towns and communities use the whole water cycle**

The primary relevance of Direction 5 to Council is captured in the above emphasis on water productivity. As a large consumer of water, expected for urban populations, Council is seeking to better implement whole-of-water-cycle approaches within the municipality. This relates to a better understanding local system needs when undertaking periodic repairs and ensuring future systems of our developing areas are suitably designed.

These future systems relate largely to developing areas which the Directions Paper discusses. Learnings from current and past developments should be applied to future developing areas, specifically in larger developing urban areas such as in Greater Holtze. This requires greater coordination between industry, government, and Councils.

While Council has discretion in applying respective policy and operational directions to development, there is potential to improve consideration during the planning and design process. Outcomes require a balance around current and future community expectations of amenity and 'green spaces', alongside elements of water sensitive urban design. Council recognises there is potential for review of awareness and application of this balance, particularly during the initial stages of planning. This entails a greater understanding of how these design considerations relate to NT Subdivision Development Guidelines.

Also under this Direction, possible pathways reference 'priority population centres'. It's not clear what this refers to, and the future strategy may better define this for clarity.

**Direction 9 - Territorians are engaged in water stewardship**

Council has an important role to play in supporting delivery of messaging to local community, and facilitating opportunities for local initiatives. In addressing pathways forward to better communicate water security and stewardship matters, coordinating programs between NTG and Council would be beneficial in delivering consistent messaging.

**Palmerston Recreational Lake**

Council has identified an opportunity for the development of a Recreational Lake in Palmerston and has commenced the initial stages of project planning to understand feasibility and delivery options. A potential location has been identified in the future suburb of Mitchell.

The Recreational Lake proposal supports the City's ambitions under the Local Economic Plan and Community Plan to attract and retain a local workforce and continue to grow recreational offerings within the municipality. Under the Directions paper, economic growth across industries is explored under Direction 4. Primarily, the Recreational Lake would be supportive of local industry (direct and indirect), with commercial and tourism opportunities associated with a significant recreational offering.

The provision of an alternative Recreational Lake to Manton Dam may be timely with the intent to return this dam to service to better address water security in the NT. While the full limitations to recreational opportunities are not yet understood, offering an alternative recreational option in Palmerston may enable timely and effective delivery of water security measures associated with Manton Dam. The location identified offers an opportunity that is local and accessible to large populations.

Clarity around of timing and water resourcing of related projects may provide greater indication on needs for recreational water opportunities and better inform potential involvement of Council. Pathways under Directions 4 that explore investment options of

major water supply infrastructure may capture and support development of this concept should priorities align.

**Water Harvesting and Reuse**

In evolving whole-of-water-cycle approaches there remains potential to explore opportunities around stormwater harvesting, aquifer recharge and wastewater treatment. Council welcomes the opportunity to be involved in these investigations where relevant for the municipality.

Council is seeking to commence its Water Aquifer Preservation study, on the Palmerston Dolostone aquifer. It's noted that Council is awaiting final reports resulting from the Palmerston groundwater study commissioned by Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security to assist in informing City of Palmerston's development of the aquifer study.

Should you wish to discuss the above further, please contact Damien Scalora, either by email: [damien.scalora@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:damien.scalora@palmerston.nt.gov.au) or phone (08) 8935 9918.

Yours sincerely



Nadine Nilon  
General Manager Infrastructure

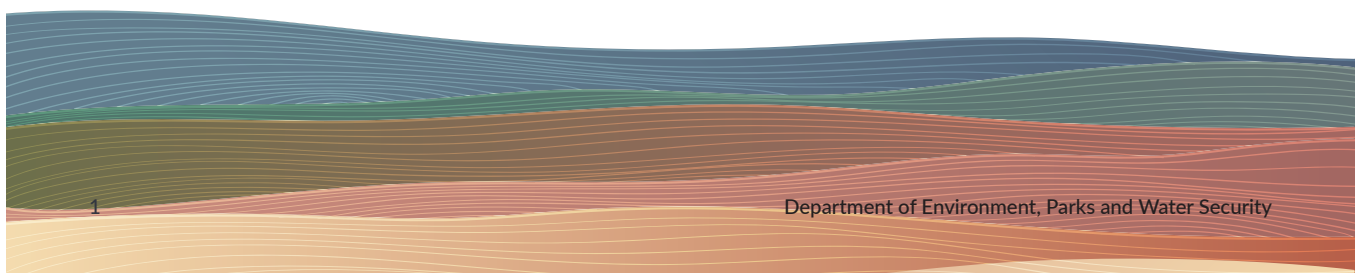
Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan

# Directions Paper

September 2021

## Water security is ensuring that our water is effectively managed and that its supply and use is reliable, resilient, efficient and environmentally sustainable.

The Northern Territory Government respectfully acknowledges the First Nations people of this country and pays respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to their leaders past, present and emerging. While this Directions Paper uses the term 'Aboriginal', it should be read to include both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Territorians.





### Purpose

This Directions Paper outlines possible pathways to improve water security for the Northern Territory and invites comment on them as well as other suggestions. The paper, and the feedback and ideas it generates through consultation, will inform the development of a Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan.

The Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan will set the agenda to 2050 to address all aspects of water security in the Territory, from ensuring effective governance, regulation and management of water, to certifying that drinking water is safe and reliable and that water is used efficiently and sustainably to grow the economy and protect the environment. The plan will be based on evidence, good regulatory practice, and community values and aspirations for water.

The ideas proposed in this Directions Paper are based on immediate priorities as well as consideration of long-term policy and program reform, options for water infrastructure and a commitment to economic development and healthy ecosystems. They have been informed by previous debate and discussion in the Northern Territory raised through industry proposals, community fora and advocacy on water resource management. The ideas complement actions resulting from the 2018 Water Regulatory Reform Directions Paper, which focused on reforms to the regulatory framework guiding water resource protection, allocation and management in the Northern Territory.

This paper considers not only water resource management, but also the water services and supply systems and its regulation, to ensure contemporary, fit for purpose governance arrangements are in place for Territorians. Measures outlined in the Directions Paper will also serve to support a bankable investment environment and commitments outlined in the [2020 Territory Economic Reconstruction Committee \(TERC\) Report](#)<sup>1</sup>.

Proposals also follow the principles set down in the National Water Initiative and consider recent commentary in the [Productivity Commission's review of national water reform](#)<sup>2</sup>. They recognise the applicability of these perspectives to the Northern Territory context and the maturity of our water regulatory settings and markets, as well as lessons learned from other Australian jurisdictions.

At its core, the Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan must be informed and supported by the community it will serve both now and into the future. To this end, the Plan will use public feedback on the Directions Paper alongside direct engagement to capture the community's views on how best to achieve long-term water security for Territorians.

1 <https://ntrebound.nt.gov.au/reports/final-report>

2 <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/water-reform-2020#report>

## Principles

Water security planning and decisions in the Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan will be based on the following principles:

- Safe and reliable - Drinking water for human health and wellbeing is prioritised.
- Evidence Based - Supply, use, management and protection of water resources will be based on the best available science and knowledge, with the precautionary principle used with respect to the appropriate environmental setting when evidence is absent.
- Sustainable - Water policy, management and planning decisions will consider long-term sustainability, intergenerational equity, and future risks and opportunities.
- Efficient - Ensure that water is supplied and used efficiently and conservatively, with recycling, reuse and fit-for-purpose use adopted wherever practical and possible.
- Trust and Transparency - Water is a shared resource and decisions and information about its supply, use, management and protection will be publicly accessible, and include community and stakeholder input to build trust and confidence.
- Fair and Accountable - Decisions will be based on clear roles, responsibilities and processes. Decisions will maximise public benefits, recognising that water has social, economic, cultural and environmental, as well as intrinsic values.

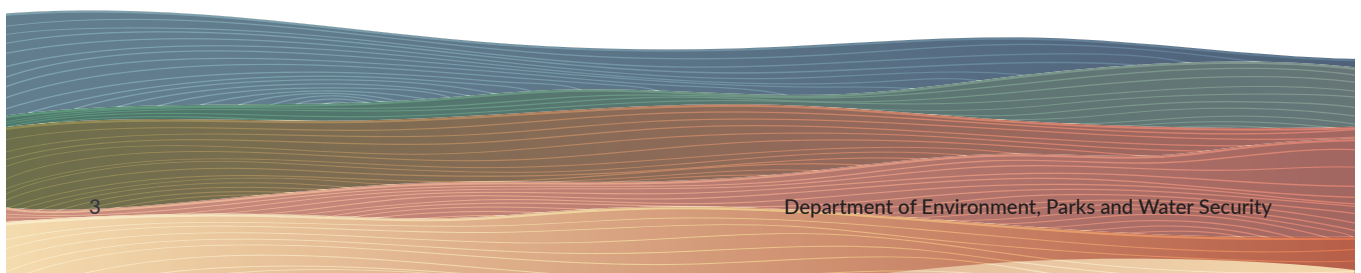
## Water in the Territory

Water is valuable. It is essential for life and livelihoods, and its security is important now and for future generations.

The availability of water resources in the Northern Territory is governed by the annual monsoon and regional geology. In the Top End, wet season rains feed large river systems and regional and local groundwater storages, and can result in widespread flooding. In Central Australia, the presence of extensive underground aquifers has allowed settlement and development in an otherwise mostly arid environment.

This image of monsoonal rains and vast desert aquifers suggests bountiful supplies of available freshwater and has, in part, led to Territorians becoming the highest per capita users of water in Australia and to calls for water to propel exponential development. In reality however, freshwater supplies are constrained - river flows vary markedly from year to year, there are few practical dam sites, smaller aquifers 'fill and spill', and evaporation is high. In the south, groundwater recharge is unreliable or sporadic, and in some places, the groundwater is thousands of years old. Some water users in the south rely on marginal aquifers due to the local geology constraints.

Water has many important values to Territorians and competing demands for water is now one of the greatest challenges we face as a community. Until now the Northern Territory's sparse population and relatively low level of development of land and industry have meant that water has, by and large, been made available and managed through assessment of water resources and water



licensing. With aspirations for a growing population and economy, a new era of water awareness and management maturity is needed with future water use guided by a clear knowledge of the resource, careful planning and, in some instances, informed trade-offs.

Our knowledge of our water resources comes from decades of ground and surface water monitoring and a long standing program of water drilling and resource assessment focused on areas where there has been demand for water. However, significant gaps remain in our knowledge of some water systems, and this compounds the challenge of managing water.

Communities and industry need reliable, safe water and long term confidence in its ongoing supply in order to plan ahead and grow. There is widespread expectation that the government should guarantee all communities have enough safe drinking water. But in some locations natural resources of freshwater are limited in size and quality, making the provision of adequate potable water a serious and expensive challenge. Mature community debate about how to address these circumstances will help determine future investment priorities.

From a water perspective, government can support industry through robust water-related legislative and regulatory frameworks, and policies, programs and innovations that ensure the amount of water extracted from a particular resource does not compromise its productive base or key environmental assets and functions. Given that some water sources are now reaching their sustainable limits, it is now important to look at non-traditional water sources and new mechanisms to achieve this.

The Northern Territory has experienced few water restrictions due to drought or other shortages. This means that very little attention has been paid to water efficiency, water productivity (the benefit derived from a given amount of water) or to identifying 'back-up' water sources for population centres. However, as climate change impacts become more apparent and water security issues more prominent, contingency planning must advance.

Territorians recognise the importance of water to the natural environment and the key role this plays in their lifestyle and why they live here. They know that water is associated with important values in Aboriginal culture and that water-dependent ecosystems also underpin a whole range of economic values such as fishing and tourism. Territorians need to be confident that water taken from the environment is properly valued and used productively.

The Territory Government is dedicated to working collaboratively with the community to achieve the right balance between water demand and supply, and to have the right arrangements in place to oversee this into the future. As this challenge becomes ever more complex, a modern, informed and adaptable approach to water security needs to be established through a Strategic Water Plan.

Office of Water Security

The new portfolio of Minister for Water Security and the Office of Water Security was established in 2020 to comprehensively focus on [water security](#)<sup>3</sup> and to facilitate a holistic approach to water and water management.

The Office of Water Security will lead the Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan and establish whole-of-government policy development and coordination on water policy for the Northern Territory. Its role is separate from the Water Resources Division of the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security which administers water resource management legislation, and from those agencies responsible for the infrastructure, delivery or regulation of water supply and sewerage services in urban and remote areas.

Directions

Ten directions forward are proposed to provide for water security:



Each direction is explained below and accompanying pathways proposed to improve water security in that topic area.

To inform the Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan, feedback is invited on each direction and which pathways are best, which may not work, and what is missing.

3 <https://watersecurity.nt.gov.au/home>

### 1. Water governance is contemporary and coordinated

Good governance is at the heart of ensuring water security for Territorians, through modern and efficient institutions working together under appropriate legislation, policies and processes.

The Northern Territory manages its water through a water resource regulator, utilities regulator and public water supply utility, which is an arrangement consistent with other Australian jurisdictions. Responsibility for water policy and legislation is shouldered by the Northern Territory Government, spread across a number of departments and entities, each with its own legislation, remit and accountable Minister. This is important to ensure critical responsibilities are met and remain independent of each other but may limit coordination and comprehensive forward planning on water.

A first step towards improved water governance and better water security in the Northern Territory was the establishment of a Ministerial portfolio for Water Security and a new Office of Water Security. The role of the Office of Water Security first and foremost is to develop and drive implementation of the Strategic Water Plan, but there may be other functions and responsibilities that could be centrally delivered or administered by the Office into the future.

In the Northern Territory, the Treasurer is the Regulatory Minister for the economic regulation of water supply and sewerage services and Power and Water Corporation is the provider of water supply and sewerage services in declared licenced areas. The Territory Government has identified opportunities to improve economic regulation of water supply and sewerage services to support the long-term interests of customers. This will involve consultation on the review of policies and the regulatory framework for water service delivery and wastewater services.

There is also a Controller of Water Resources appointed under the Water Act as the principal decision-maker for the allocation of water resources, including issuing of water extraction licences. In the 2018 Northern Territory Water Regulatory Reform Directions Paper, it was identified that this role, which has been held by the Chief Executive Officer (and representatives) of the Department of Environment Parks and Water Security for more than a decade, is also responsible for approving water resources policy. This arrangement and the perception of conflict between the two roles is managed through careful adherence to administrative law principles. However, there is an opportunity to more clearly split the role of Controller from the Department. This could be achieved through the establishment of a separate person, entity or office for the Controller of Water Resources. How this function could be delivered into the future warrants consideration as part of the overall assessment of the most appropriate water governance for the Territory.



### Possible pathways forward include:

1. Clarify the roles and improve co-ordination of Northern Territory Government agencies in areas of policy, regulation and service provision.
2. Continue reforming the [Water Act 1992](#)<sup>4</sup> to manage water resources in the Northern Territory effectively and efficiently, with success measured against the principles and proposed outcomes set out in the Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan.
3. Reform the economic regulatory framework for water supply and sewerage services to improve transparency and accountability of service providers, and serve the long term and evolving interests of customers and communities, including appropriate service level standards and customer protections.
4. Consider a separate entity or person to perform some or all of the roles and functions of Controller of Water Resources under the Water Act, particularly the decisions related to access to water resources.
5. Continue to proactively participate in the national water reform agenda and associated partnerships to support good governance.

## 2. Drinking water is safe

Most Territorians have ready access to water that is safe to drink as evidenced by Power and Water Corporation's program of monitoring and public reporting. However, some communities rely on water with high levels of naturally occurring chemicals such as nitrate and manganese, and other communities face risks from man-made pollutants.

Like other Australian jurisdictions, the Northern Territory uses the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines to determine the health risks of any individual supply of water. The guidelines are based on the best available science and are periodically updated by the National Health and Medical Research Council. The Northern Territory also contributes to research to ensure that Territory drinking water issues are recognised in the guidelines.

While Northern Territory laws grant powers to regulate water quality, no formal standards are set for areas served by [Power and Water Corporation](#)<sup>5</sup> and its subsidiary, Indigenous Essential Services (IES) Pty Ltd. Instead, the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines are applied through an agreement between Power and Water Corporation and the Northern Territory Department of Health. The agreement defines how the agencies will monitor risk, respond to incidents, publicly report on their findings and refer a matter to the Chief Health Officer. Power and Water Corporation also publishes data on drinking water quality and associated management activities, as well as priorities for continuously improving the management of water in the towns and communities it serves.

Water quality in remote communities is a priority for the Northern Territory Government. There are over 400 remote Aboriginal communities that are partially supported by the Northern Territory Government

<sup>4</sup> <https://depws.nt.gov.au/water/legislation/water-act>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.powerwater.com.au/about/what-we-do/water-supply/drinking-water-quality>

however, the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines are nominated as an objective for water supplies, but adherence has not been monitored or publicly reported. Recent investments to address water quality issues include improving disinfection, new treatment technology, upgrading infrastructure and developing new, cleaner water sources. However, there are limited regulatory requirements and a lack of transparency in respect to service provision occurring in the Territory outside of declared licence areas and for those customers living in these areas of the Territory.

In areas not serviced by the Northern Territory Government, such as the mining towns of Jabiru and Nhulunbuy, water is sourced independently with no public reporting of drinking water quality. The same applies to settlements that rely on unregulated private water supplies, including many remote tourist resorts, outstations, cattle stations, roadhouses, and mining and construction camps.

### Possible pathways forward include:

1. Explore options for safeguarding public drinking water supplies, paying particular attention to the needs of remote Aboriginal communities.
2. Invest in technologies and other innovations that will provide affordable solutions to drinking water quality issues.
3. Involve the residents of remote communities in developing and implementing drinking water management plans that safeguard water quality and help build water knowledge.
4. In towns and communities not serviced by Power and Water Corporation or IES Pty Ltd, work with key stakeholders to improve drinking water quality management.
5. Ensure land use activities and practices in the recharge areas or catchments of public and community drinking water supplies protect water supplies from pollution.
6. Continue to invest in science that helps understand the incidence and risks of water borne diseases and other water-quality related health risks in the Northern Territory.

## 3. Water use is efficient and productive

Improving water use efficiency and water productivity go hand in hand. Indeed, water efficiency measures are likely to be the most cost effective means to increase water availability for beneficial use and to derive maximum benefit from that use. The Territory lacks a sufficient range of incentives and tools for this task because long term water scarcity has not been as acute as in some parts of Australia where water resources have already reached over allocation and access to water is now limited. However, with water resources now reaching full allocation in some areas, mechanisms such as those below could be pursued:

### (i) Manage demand

Demand management aims to conserve water by reducing water use and increasing water use efficiency. It can reduce costs by deferring the need for new water supplies and efficiency is a fundamental premise of water security.



Territorians consume water at home at a rate 1.5 to 5 times that of the average Australian. While some of this use can be explained by a hot and humid or dry climate, much is due to leaks, wastage and use on gardens. Programs such as Power and Water Corporation's '[Living Water Smart](https://www.livingwatersmart.com.au/)<sup>6</sup>' and the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security's '[Help Stop the Drop](https://depws.nt.gov.au/water/water-resources/help-stop-the-drop)<sup>7</sup>' as well as industry initiated efficiency projects such as the efficiency project being delivered by NT Farmers play a part, but more work is needed. Industry, governments and businesses can also use less water.

Stepping up demand management requires a multi-faceted approach that may include promoting water-efficient appliances, machinery, manufacturing processes and crop varieties, water recycling through industrial and greywater systems, as well as smart technologies and rainwater tanks. Education programs, market mechanisms, regulation and other incentives could support any approach.

The challenge is achieving a whole of community and government approach that shifts norms and encourages every Territorian to use water more efficiently and productively. A generational change in water use attitudes is needed to better value our water resources and supply.

### (ii) Use water licences and trading

Where water is allocated under an extraction licence it is important it is used productively and efficiently. Water licence conditions can recover unused water entitlements from licence holders to prevent water being stored or 'banked'. Licences can also allocate water in stages, with each new stage being granted depending on the licence holder having achieved agreed milestones. Future measures could include incentives for water licence holders to achieve water use efficiencies, with requirements linked to risk and the volume of water licensed. Earning longer licence terms for supporting agreed measures could be one such incentive.

In some regions where water is fully allocated there is growing interest in water trading. This is permitted under the Water Act where a water allocation plan is declared. Trade is recognised and encouraged under the National Water Initiative to ensure water is used productively and moved from one development to another according to need, without government intervention. Trading prices are not set by government or statute (by and large) but the trading rules and processes are, through legislation and policy. These rules need to be revised to facilitate trade arrangements between existing licence holders, and for new entrants where there is no impact on environmental outcomes or on the rights of other water users.

### (iii) Value of water

Under the Water Act there is a right for landholders to access water for stock and domestic purposes, and there is no intention to change this right. However, where a proponent wishes to access water for development, a water extraction licence is required. In the Northern Territory there are essentially no fees for water allocated through a water extraction licence, nor for the licence itself, although licence holders bear the risk and costs of installing and maintaining water

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.livingwatersmart.com.au/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://depws.nt.gov.au/water/water-resources/help-stop-the-drop>

infrastructure as well as for treating and pumping water. In many areas of the Northern Territory these costs are substantial.

Although the National Water Initiative supports a user-pays principle with fees based on the cost of providing water management and administration services, and revenue going to supporting these services, the Northern Territory needs to determine the best way to ensure efficient use of water resources and certainty for investors.

Water resource pricing regimes apply in most other jurisdictions in Australia, with arrangements varying by State and Territory and by catchment or system. They can include a price per megalitre allocated or used, an annual resource management fee and administrative charges. Prices are set through government pricing orders. The high prices for water often referred to in highly competitive markets interstate are not directly comparable to a Territory context. Those prices are based on unbundled and perpetual water entitlements and a much larger supply and demand setting.

A price on water extraction and/or water licences in the Northern Territory is consistent with the user pays principle and could help offset the rising costs of water investigation, allocation, monitoring, compliance and administration, as well as encourage a shift from low productivity water uses to higher ones. Pricing could also stimulate trade, as with no price on water licensed entitlements are often tightly held even when trading is available. The challenge for the Northern Territory is to develop a framework that ensures good water resource management while not impeding business activity through unintended or unforeseen pricing outcomes. The framework needs to consider the relatively high costs of development in remote areas, the rights of licence holders, how to ensure transparency, and mechanisms to adjust to changing circumstances.

For public water supplies, the cost of supplying water is recovered through consumer water bills which include a charge based on the volume of water used. Improving our understanding of the current and efficient cost of water supply and sewerage services will demonstrate the value of these services to water users and the community, and may inform Territory wide water supply and sewerage services economic regulatory reform.

### Possible pathways forward include:

1. Collaborate with industry to identify ways to significantly improve water efficiency, recycling and reuse, develop appropriate policy and establish demonstration sites with early adopters.
2. Learn from successful programs elsewhere to deliver effective incentives for water efficiency, leak minimisation and improved water literacy. Independently review water supply-side and demand-side management programs and develop a demand-side management strategy for the Territory.
3. Examine water use by Government agencies (Territory, local and Commonwealth agencies based here) and demonstrate leadership in saving water through water conservation and efficiency measures.

4. Continue reforms in water licensing that encourage productive and efficient water use. This may include reviewing guidelines for calculating crop water requirements.
5. Encourage water trading by identifying and addressing barriers, and streamlining administration.
6. Investigate options for a water and sewerage services pricing framework that is reflective of the cost of providing the services, including a pricing framework for extraction licences applicable to the Northern Territory that will support water security.

#### 4. Water supports jobs and economic growth

Water is a key enabler of the Northern Territory economy. Recently, the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission released a blueprint to grow the value of the Territory economy from \$26 billion to \$40 billion by 2030. Secure, sustainable supplies of water can assist industry growth and help foster vibrant, prosperous regions and communities, and an important task is to map projections of future water needs for economic development by industry sector and region.

Territory industries that typically use relatively large volumes of water include irrigated horticulture and cropping, aquaculture, manufacturing, mining, on-shore gas production and downstream processing and value adding (e.g. hydrogen production). Other industries also reliant on water – though in a non-extractive way – include tourism, recreation and commercial and recreational fishing.

In the Territory, debate over how much water should be made available for economic and industry development, and under what terms, has centred on sustainable allocations from natural resources of water (particularly groundwater) and policy settings for water extraction licences. However, if new demands for water for economic development are to be met, this debate needs to move beyond refining water allocation and licensing issues to identify ways to significantly increase the amount of water available for use and improve access to water, while protecting environmental and cultural flows and considering climate change and other possible impacts.

Innovations in water capture, storage and technology focused on maximising water productivity when and where water is seasonally available, can optimise supply in a changing climate. Given the distinctive seasonality of rainfall in the Top End, work is underway to define rules and allocations for harvesting wet season flows. This includes harvesting floodwaters in off-river storages as well as capturing overland flow in small dams across creeks in upper catchment areas that are dry for most of the year. Opportunities for 'managed aquifer recharge' where floodwaters are pumped into natural groundwater storages, are also being explored as a way of optimising available water. Lastly here, finding ways to use poorer quality water resources for suitable industries could also significantly increase availability from natural supplies.

As well as smarter use of existing ground and surface water resources, consideration should be given to technology, innovation and regulation to ensure water reuse and recycling at scale where cost effective, and to investigate novel ways to source water. Recycled water use is currently

limited in the Northern Territory owing to a lack of necessity to date, a view that water is plentiful, and cost, but now may present a real opportunity for the Northern Territory. Examining barriers, creating incentives and establishing trials, as well as identifying funding opportunities, could lead to significant improvements in water availability and security in the Northern Territory.

Economic development is heavily reliant on access to water. Currently, industry can source water from a reticulated network, by a direct arrangement with a water utility, or via water supplied under a licence arrangement using infrastructure maintained by the licence holder. With the right regulatory and policy settings, the Northern Territory could explore how to sustainably increase access to water especially for agricultural and industry precincts, and co-located developments, through off-take storage using cooperatives, shared storage and supply infrastructure, and encouraging private utility providers to deliver water to developments. These options can improve reliability of supplies, reduce costs and increase the use of poorer quality water.

Other options to improve water security for economic development, some of which are already underway, include lengthening the tenure of licences for water licence holders at full development who have been compliant water users, using expression-of-interest processes to allocate water rather than 'first in, first served', and establishing [Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves](#)<sup>8</sup>. Frameworks that recognise the value of water and stimulate trade to pave the way for a water market or markets, as well as improving understanding of the sustainable yields of existing water resources, are also helpful as discussed elsewhere in this paper.

In the short term, [new water infrastructure](#)<sup>9</sup> options are being investigated by the Territory Government and Commonwealth Government to support the economic growth of Darwin. A first assessment of options has short-listed returning Manton Dam to service, constructing an off-river storage to capture floodwaters of the Adelaide River and increasing efforts to save water. These surface water options are being compared against desalination and water recycling options. A more detailed business case is underway to identify the best approach to meet future industrial, agricultural and urban demands for water.

### Possible pathways forward include:

1. Audit expected water requirements for economic development by region and industry to help define infrastructure and investment priorities.
2. Work with partners to improve the supply of water for industry development, including options for managed aquifer recharge, wastewater treatment and private supply cooperatives and services.
3. Continue work on developing options for investing in major water supply infrastructure to enable economic growth of the Darwin region.
4. Work with holders of Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves to ensure this water is used to create jobs and economic growth by providing advice, business support, resources and incentives.
5. Accelerate a coordinated assessment and monitoring program to develop better base

<sup>8</sup> [https://depws.nt.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/457553/SWRC-Policy-Framework\\_A4\\_V1.pdf](https://depws.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/457553/SWRC-Policy-Framework_A4_V1.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <https://watersecurity.nt.gov.au/darwin-region-future-water-supply>

knowledge of our water resources to de-risk investment; and encourage sustainable development through co-location and shared infrastructure.

6. Continue with policy and regulatory reforms to lengthen water licence tenures; invite expressions-of-interest to encourage investment; and deliver a surface water harvesting policy.
7. Consider expanding the economic regulatory framework to include developer contributions and methodology for bulk water pricing in order to provide certainty to private sector investors.

### 5. Cities, towns and communities use the whole water cycle

Water supplies to Territory cities, towns and communities require a high level of investment in infrastructure and long lead times to deliver expected levels of service. The economics of future investments and service expectations need to respond well in advance to changing drivers such as technological innovations, a focus on sustainability, climate change and water security through whole-of-water cycle sources.

Water supply planning needs to look ahead to ensure that water availability in population centres meets drinking water needs and does not unnecessarily constrain growth. The Northern Territory Government is working with partners to ensure adequate water supplies, now and into the future. In Darwin, this is through examining options for recommissioning Manton Dam, building Adelaide River Off-stream Water Storage and managing water demand. In other towns, plans are in place or investigations underway to secure future supplies. In remote communities, investments include improved water treatment, new bores network upgrades and installing meters to monitor and reduce water use.

Longer term supply planning, however, needs to more fully embrace whole-of-water-cycle approaches to improve water security. Techniques here include water recycling and re-use, stormwater management and improved wastewater treatment at domestic, business and industry scales. This approach can provide diverse and sustainable water supplies but low-cost, low-maintenance options suited to the Northern Territory still need to be found. Exciting innovations in similar climates in Australia and internationally are emerging and engineering guidelines and services will need updating to meet these new needs.

A whole-of-water-cycle approach enhances liveability and lifestyle. For example, rather than use large volumes of drinking water to sustain greenery, parks, sports ovals, streetscapes and gardens their irrigation systems can be designed differently. Techniques include maximising surface permeability, using vegetation to intercept runoff, using deep soil pits, monitoring water use and soil moisture with smart sensors and, where possible, re-designing stormwater drainage and using fit-for purpose quality water.

A key challenge for whole-of-water-cycle approaches is prioritising economic investment and gaining community commitment.



### Possible pathways forward include:

1. Investigate opportunities for collaborative research and trials of integrated whole-of-water cycle water management in cities, towns and communities and into water-sensitive industrial project proposals across the Northern Territory.
2. Integrate whole-of-water cycle approaches into planning for identified priority population centres. This may include water sensitive designs, stormwater management, recycled water and groundwater replenishment.
3. Require water service providers to invest in water stewardship and conservation, and formalise a framework for establishing trigger points for declaring water restrictions.
4. In addition to existing annual water quality reporting, ensure regular public reports on water security for identified priority population centres, including documenting reliability, sustainability, resilience to climate change and water efficiency achievements.

## 6. Aboriginal connections to water are valued

Aboriginal Territorians have strong spiritual, social and customary connections with water, and traditional practices that accord with seasonal conditions. Many Traditional Owners and custodians have cultural obligations to protect water-dependent cultural values and can benefit from their legal connection to the land and sea. More meaningful engagement with Aboriginal people about water and around decision-making on water-related rights, interests, services, values and aspirations, is an opportunity for the Northern Territory.

To protect water-dependent cultural values such as water-dependent sacred sites, totems and traditional harvests, it is important to co-design methods to document such values and for Aboriginal people and their representative bodies to undertake this work. Cultural water requirements then need to be determined at different levels of risk, and appropriate programs established to monitor the health of selected sites or harvests.

Significant advances have been made in helping Aboriginal people gain access to water for economic development. Amendments in 2020 to the Water Act 1992 now give legal effect to the Territory's Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve policy, as well as to the new 'beneficial use' category of Aboriginal Economic Development.

Water allocation plans are now required to allocate at least 10% of the available consumptive pool to the Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve where eligible land exists. Since 2018, Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves totalling over 44,000 ML have been established in two declared water allocation plans. Combined with current Aboriginal groundwater entitlements, this is equivalent to nearly 14% of current licensed groundwater entitlements. The size of the Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve will increase over the next few years as new water allocation plans are declared and this is provided for by ensuring water licencing decisions are made to protect future allocations for Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves in a plan. The real challenge now is how to effectively progress

plans and to mobilise access to reserved water to create actual social and economic benefits for Aboriginal Territorians.

### Possible pathways forward include:

1. Establish a forum for Aboriginal Territorians to provide advice on:
  - policy, plans and actions that deliver benefits from Aboriginal rights and interests in water;
  - meaningful engagement with Aboriginal Territorians; and
  - how to best incorporate traditional knowledge into water-related matters.
2. Where water-dependent cultural values may be impacted by water management decisions, partner with Traditional Owners and their organisations to co-design methods to identify and prioritise them and determine their water requirements. Develop agreed guidelines for determining cultural water requirements in relevant plans and monitoring programs.
3. Improve Aboriginal involvement in decision making, water investigations, water allocation planning and management. Support Aboriginal language groups to participate in [Water Advisory Committees](#)<sup>10</sup> and Aboriginal Reference Groups.
4. Create opportunities for Aboriginal people to be involved in managing water resources including through jobs and services provided by Aboriginal business and ranger groups.

## 7. Water-dependent environmental values are protected

Water-dependent species and ecosystems require surface water or access to ground water to survive. Fish, turtles, macroinvertebrates, aquatic plants, riverside vegetation, floodplain billabongs, flood-outs, monsoon vine thickets, rainforest and woodlands are some Territory examples of water-dependent environmental values.

As well as having intrinsic value, these ecosystems underpin the productive base of many water resources by helping to clean water, stabilise sediments, create soil profiles that absorb water and buffer the impacts of climate change. Water-dependent ecosystems also underpin other important economic values, such as commercial and recreational fisheries, the Northern Territory's tourism sector, businesses related to recreational activities and the Territory lifestyle and identity, all critical to attracting people to live and work in the Northern Territory. In addition, water-dependant ecosystems provide amenity and food including traditional harvests, have cultural and spiritual values, and contribute to landscape function.

Key challenges in protecting water-dependent ecosystems include identifying them in the first place and quantifying their water requirements at different levels of risk. To function properly, these ecosystems require not just adequate volumes of water but the right seasonal patterns and variety of hydrological conditions. It is therefore important to understand their health under different water regimes as well as identify ecological thresholds for survival in a changing climate. Once this is achieved, indicators that will trigger management action must be identified and monitored.

<sup>10</sup> <https://depws.nt.gov.au/boards-and-committees/water-advisory-committees>



Other challenges to protecting water-dependent ecosystems include safeguarding ecosystems from pollution, and maintaining the connections between floodplains and rivers, which can be disrupted by physical barriers such as roads or weirs and by consistently low water levels. Essentially a whole-of-catchment and integrated surface-groundwater approach is needed.

In the case of Territory water resources that are already over allocated, it is essential to protect environmental values and other public benefits from further loss and to identify and implement a pathway to recovery. Ultimately it is better to avoid over allocation in the first place. Investor and community confidence cannot be established or maintained when over allocation is allowed, since a secure water future for the Northern Territory needs sustainable, resilient and reliable supplies.

### Possible pathways forward include:

1. Clarify how environmental water requirements are met, and develop agreed guidelines for determining key environmental values and their water requirements.
2. Continue to develop better policy, legislation and regulations to ensure key water-dependent environmental values are protected, including through water allocation plans and licence conditions.
3. Expand capacity to monitor and publicly report on the health of water-dependent ecosystems to able to adjust actions to protect key values and demonstrate good management.
4. Investigate and better understand environmental values that depend on river to floodplain connections.
5. Develop water quality guidelines (non-drinking water) for high value and/or high risk waterways and aquifers, and embed these in monitoring, management and reporting.

## 8. Water science, knowledge, skills and innovation are enhanced

To support water security and maximise economic opportunities arising from water, investment is needed in water science, knowledge sharing, skills and innovation. As demands on water supplies increase, it is critical to better understand water resources and water services systems and to use this knowledge to make evidence based decisions from operational, policy and program perspectives.

In the Northern Territory, water-related research needs are extensive. With only limited resources available it is important to prioritise needs and carefully target investment, and to encourage investment from the private sector and other external sources.

The Northern Territory Government is focused on building partnerships with industry, academia, land councils and other organisations to deliver science, knowledge and innovation that is relevant to key water security needs. Building local capacity in these areas is particularly important for long term water security and because much published research does not apply in the Northern Territory. There are also significant opportunities for research and innovation here that could be shared with other tropical and arid regions of the globe.

Respectfully tapping into local knowledge, including traditional knowledge, as well as building on advances in knowledge management, needs to be recognised for its contribution to water security and mechanisms to achieve this encouraged.

Water-related education and training can help achieve water security through increasing the capacity of the Northern Territory workforce. Programs could include skills sharing, professional development, micro-credentials and technology transfer programs.

Finally, technologies such as inexpensive sensors, smart devices, real-time monitors, drones, machine learning, communication IT and big data processing are transforming water planning and management, and the Northern Territory needs to take advantage of these 'digital water' opportunities.

### Possible pathways forward include:

1. Enhance scientific monitoring, modelling and assessment of water resources to ensure allocations are based on a level of understanding related to risk, and identify triggers for further scientific investigation and adaptive management.
2. Continue the Northern Territory's soil, water and biodiversity assessment program to support sustainable economic development.
3. Support priority research initiatives by, for example, proactively developing partnerships such as establishing a water research partnerships officer.
4. Increase private sector and industry contributions to water-related investigations through, for example, water extraction licence conditions or water pricing mechanisms.
5. Work with academic organisations such as Charles Darwin University to encourage post-graduate research on Territory water issues.
6. Use appropriate digital platforms and forums to promote water related knowledge and management, and to make information more accessible to Territorians.
7. Recognise and reward excellence in water innovation, knowledge sharing and research.

## 9. Territorians are engaged in water stewardship

All Territorians have a role to play in water security through water stewardship, which means being accountable for, and engaged in, using water resources wisely. Stewardship also includes participating in decisions on how water resources are planned, managed and protected, now and on behalf of future generations.

Opportunities for water stewardship are many and include improving water literacy (for example where does my water come from, how is it managed?), not wasting water, ensuring uses are water

efficient, water sensitive design, catchment land care and participating in consultations such as this Directions Paper.

The Northern Territory Government has a clear duty to take the lead in water stewardship by demonstrating how water resources are sustainably consumed, managed and protected, and through encouraging stewardship by others. For water services, Power and Water Corporation's Living Water Smart program includes many activities in water stewardship. For water resources, the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security provides avenues to comment on draft policies, plans and other documents via the 'Have your Say' portal, and opportunities to help develop or review water allocation plans by joining a Water Advisory Committee or Aboriginal Reference Group, and by direct engagement with stakeholder groups.

Engagement challenges for government include gaining the attention of busy people and having the ability and commitment to take on feedback, especially informed and representative feedback. They also include explaining information clearly, tailoring the timing and processes for engagement, and being able to maintain existing stakeholder participation through, for example, good communication and facilitation, timely responses and outputs and by sharing expectations upfront.

As well as having the time, energy and resources for water stewardship activities, engagement challenges for community groups, industry and non-government organisations can include accessing appropriate science and knowledge, understanding the processes and legislation that oversee water management, and being aware of the constraints and trade-offs involved in water-related decisions.

Communities who actively engage in water-related decisions and see their input valued, help consolidate government's social licence to operate. Engagement, openness and transparency all facilitate trust in water-related decisions, which in turn fosters stable policy, confidence for investors and satisfied community members, in other words a more secure water future.

### Possible pathways forward include:

1. Develop a whole-of-government and community plan for Territorians to be leaders in water stewardship. Co-design regional water stewardship programs to respond to local needs.
2. Better communicate water security and stewardship matters, for example by posting water security and stewardship news and linking this to peak body networks.
3. Improve the effectiveness of community engagement by improving access to water information, improving the clarity of information and by supporting community water literacy.
4. Ensure engagement goals are clear by adopting the International Association for Public Participation's terms to either 'inform', 'consult', 'involve', 'collaborate' or 'empower'.
5. Ensure Water Advisory Committees are well-informed, appropriately resourced and have a tenure aligned with the planning cycle.

## 10. Water resources management can adapt to change

Achieving water security requires an adaptive approach to uncertainty and change. Adaptive management uses policies, procedures and monitoring to pre-empt and thoughtfully adjust management actions in response to new information.

Climate change is a good example of where an adaptive approach to water management is needed. Across the Northern Territory, average temperatures are rising in all seasons, with more hot days and warm spells. An increased intensity of extreme rainfall events is expected, with fewer but more powerful tropical cyclones. Overall rainfall totals are also changing, possibly increasing, but model predictions vary and some trends remain unclear, masked by high natural variability in rainfall within years and across decades.

Climate change will cause changes in runoff, recharge, aquifer storage, evapotranspiration, waterway health and water quality. All or any of these factors may constrain the amounts of water available for people and the environment, so work is required to improve predictive models, to test assumptions and scenarios, and to be able to respond to model predictions. How climate change affects water use, whether by industry, household or the environment, is still being investigated, with initial forecasts of higher water demand due to hotter temperatures and greater evapotranspiration. Again, more research is needed to explore and quantify likely scenarios.

A more immediate question is whether the Northern Territory has enough water to satisfy demand after a series of poor wet seasons in the Top End or extended dry periods in the arid south. These conditions could occur in the next few years and may be more common in the future. How can groundwater and surface water resources meet drinking water needs as well as requirements for high priority environmental and cultural water, while also providing adequate water for industry? The Territory's Annual Announced Allocations provide a good starting point, but a review of current arrangements could ensure that adequate management tools, systems and processes are in place.

Other possible changes to water systems include pollution, natural hazards, population changes and extensive land-use changes. Ways to improve resilience and respond to sudden changes (e.g. contamination or blackwater fish kills) must be organised in advance.

In planning for water security the Northern Territory also needs to consider greenhouse gas emissions related to water use and management. For example, pumping water over long distances using electricity generated from fossil fuels could be minimised to help reach the Territory's target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and ensure energy costs are constrained.

### Possible pathways forward include:

1. Undertake regular risk assessments across the Northern Territory to determine priorities for water resources planning and management, and publicly report on condition and trends.
2. Develop contingency plans for water scarcity situations and work to ensure water systems are resilient to unplanned events, including consideration of the impacts of climate change.
3. Review water resource modelling, planning and licencing procedures to ensure climate change and other high risk scenarios are considered in decisions. This includes continuing to improve Annual Announced Allocation processes to meet water security objectives.
4. Improve interactions between the Water Act and the Planning Act, as well as associated regulations and processes, to support sustainable development and protect water-dependent environmental and cultural values.
5. Include greenhouse gas emissions when appraising investments in water infrastructure and use.
6. Determine how to best support water users, including licence holders, to prepare for and adapt to significant changes in water availability caused by flood, drought and climate change.

### Next Steps

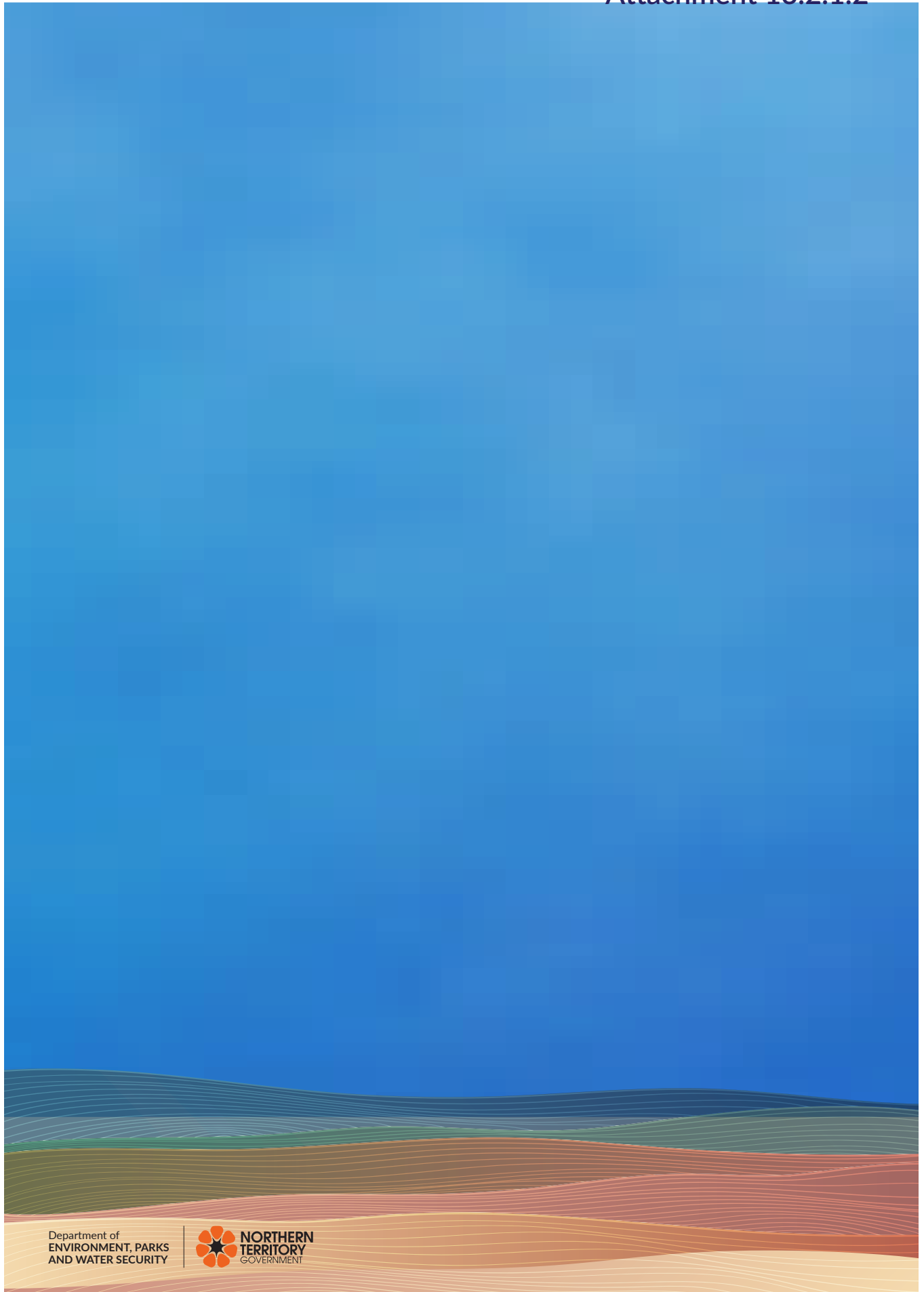
The Office of Water Security invites feedback on each direction and which pathways are best, which may not work, and what is missing. This feedback will be used to inform the Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan.

The Office of Water Security is able to meet with you to discuss this paper and the ideas in it in more detail and can be contacted on 08 8924 4164. Alternatively, you may wish to provide a written response to: [WaterSecurity.NTG@nt.gov.au](mailto:WaterSecurity.NTG@nt.gov.au)

Please note that responses may be published online unless confidentiality is requested.

To view other publications released by the Office of Water Security refer to our website at: [watersecurity.nt.gov.au](http://watersecurity.nt.gov.au)

The Office of Water Security will continue to work with all stakeholders as well as Australian and Northern Territory Government agencies to inform the direction and delivery of the Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan.



Department of  
ENVIRONMENT, PARKS  
AND WATER SECURITY





# COUNCIL REPORT

2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.2.2
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Financial Report for the Month of January 2022
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 15 February 2022
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Financial Accountant, Tinashe Gomo
<b>APPROVER:</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli

## COMMUNITY PLAN

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

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Report is to present to Council the Financial Report for January 2022.

## KEY MESSAGES

- Council's Operating expenditure is tracking well to Budget with an overall 61% spent (including commitments) of the \$41 million Revised Annual Budget and 89% of the Year To Date (YTD) Budget.
- Capital income is at 11% and capital expenditure is at 33% against the Revised Annual Budgets. Measures are in place to deliver budgeted capital programs as planned. Nevertheless, some projects are underspent on expenditure as they rely on grant funding expected to be received this year such as the \$20 million SWELL project which is one of the major initiatives. Gray Community Hall has been officially handed over to Council from the contractor and a certificate of occupancy was issued as part of it.
- \$1.8 million was paid out to Local Suppliers, making 92% of the monthly creditor payments.
- Infringements outstanding as of 31 January 2022 is \$29K and has seen a decline over the months due to active debt recovery. The outstanding amount relates to 335 infringements of which 135 infringements are unpaid from prior years.
- \$17.7K, made up of 18 debtors, are over 90 days. These debtors constitute 46.6% of all outstanding debtors. Council is actively following up on debts over 90 days.
- The City of Palmerston is tracking well with measures in place to address areas of underspend or reduced income in capital operations.

## RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report entitled Financial Report for the Month of January 2022 be received and noted.

## BACKGROUND

In accordance with *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 - Part 2 (Division 7)*, the proceeding month's Financial Report must be presented to Council. Accordingly, the commentary below and **Attachment 13.2.2.1** present the financial position of Council at the end of January 2022. The additional information provided in this Report includes payment and reporting obligations for insurance, Councillor expenses and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) certification.



In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019* and *Local Government (General) Regulations*, Council must be tabled with a report on variations to contracts that exceed 10% and public quotes which exceed a value of \$150,000. This Report includes all recorded variations for January 2022.

## DISCUSSION

The information below is provided to assist with the terminology used throughout the Report:

- Revised Annual Budget is the total Budget per the municipal plan for the 2021/22 financial year and includes all Budget review movements.
- Year to date (YTD) Budget – is the budget equivalent from 1 July to the current reporting date.
- Year to date (YTD) Actual – is the actual income and expenditure from 1 July to the current reporting date.

### Operating Income

Description	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget
Office of the Chief Executive	932,118	243,610	26%
Finance and Governance	23,015,327	21,891,319	95%
Community and Culture	1,716,673	1,191,109	69%
Infrastructure	8,569,517	7,600,085	89%
Total (City of Palmerston)	34,233,635	30,926,123	90%

- Total operating income is at 90% of the Revised Annual Budget and 96% of the YTD Budget as per attachment.
- \$243K in the Office of the Chief Executive relates to Federal Assistance Grant funding. The difference from the Budget is the remaining of Federal Assistance grant expected to be received towards the end of the year.
- All other directorates are tracking well to Budget. The majority of the income for Finance and Governance is from Rates levied \$21 Million; Community and Culture from annual Public Library grant funding \$596K, Service Agreement \$135K and Dog registration \$239K; Infrastructure from Waste charge levied \$6.8 Million, Federal Assistance Grant funding \$306K and Odegaard rentals of \$260K.

### Operating Expenditure

Description	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actual + Committed \$	% YTD Actual + Committed of Annual budget
Office of the Chief Executive	-1,473,926	-952,667	65%
Finance and Governance	-13,819,721	-8,531,082	62%
Community and Culture	-7,754,104	-4,502,130	58%
Infrastructure	-18,577,473	-11,266,850	61%
Total (City of Palmerston)	-41,625,224	-25,252,728	61%

- Total operating expenditure is 61% of the Revised Annual Budget, including commitments and 89% of the YTD Budget.
- All directorate expenditures are tracking well. Highlights of expenditure per directorate are as follows: Office of the Chief Executive, includes \$157k for legal expenses and elected member

expenses of \$485K which are explained under the Elected members expenses further in this report; Finance and Governance includes \$708K in Insurance, \$7 Million in Depreciation of assets and \$137K in professional services mainly spent towards the Community Satisfaction Survey, Annual review for investment property and Local economic plan; Community and Culture, \$182K Staff training, \$752K in community events such as Hooked on Palmerston, Youth festival, Christmas wonderland, On Francis, FlicNics, Halloween and Territory day; Infrastructure, \$4.4 Million on waste management, \$2.7 Million on Mowing, Vegetation management, landscaping and irrigation, \$616K on street lighting and street light maintenance.

## Capital Income

Description	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget
Office of the Chief Executive	500,000	500,000	100%
Finance and Governance	50,000	100,955	202%
Community and Culture	44,219	0	0%
Infrastructure	10,273,745	621,240	6%
<b>Total (City of Palmerston)</b>	<b>10,867,964</b>	<b>1,222,195</b>	<b>11%</b>

- Capital income is at 11% of the Revised Annual Budget and 28.16% of the YTD Budget. The majority relates to the milestone payment for Gray Community Hall Redevelopment and the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment of the Fibersense Smart Technology project, the rest is related to proceeds from sale of four vehicles that offsets some of the capital expenditure on fleet purchases. . To date Council is still waiting for some grant funds to be received, including the Building Better Region Funding (BBRF) for the Swimming, Wellness, Events, Leisure and Lifestyle (SWELL) project, 21/22 Black Spot from NTG which should be received just before year end and the \$400K also from NTG as part of their Local Government Priority Infrastructure Fund.

## Capital Expenditure

Description	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actual + Committed \$	% YTD Actual + Committed of Annual budget
Office of the Chief Executive	0	0	0%
Finance and Governance	-452,499	-241,725	53%
Community and Culture	-563,510	-419,878	75%
Infrastructure	-19,249,944	-6,121,560	32%
<b>Total (City of Palmerston)</b>	<b>-20,265,953</b>	<b>-6,783,163</b>	<b>33%</b>

- Capital expenditure including commitments, is at 33% of the Revised Annual Budget; with majority of the spend relating to Tiverton Park Playground, Gray Community Hall Redevelopment and pathway works such as Zenith Circuit in Woodroffe.

- Finance and Governance includes expenditure related to five fleet purchases and some of the expenditure is offset from proceeds arising through vehicles traded in.
- Community and Culture includes expenditure for the Library Recording and Sound Studio and the art work sculpture at the newly renovated Gray Community Hall. The certificate of occupancy of the studio has been recently issued but it isn't available to be used by the Community yet.
- The Directorate of Infrastructure has seen the below projects completed as of end of January:
  - Civic Plaza Solar Shade.
  - Civic Plaza Air Conditioning.
  - Landscaping works at Temple Terrace (Greening and Cooling the City Liveability program).
  - Six pathway projects on various locations.
- The other key project in Infrastructure include the Smart Technology project (FiberSense) project that is currently at 35% of the total budget with some of the works scheduled for in August 2022. Exelooos for Marlow Lagoon and Joan Fejo arrived last month for which the installation and commissioning will start late February and anticipated to be completed by April.
- \$6.7M is the total year to date on actuals and commitments on capital projects. The Revised Annual Budget of \$20.2M includes projects carried forward from previous financial year and 1<sup>st</sup> budget review movements.

## Reserves

Reserve balances have been updated to reflect the closing balance of the audited Annual General Purpose Financial Statements 30 June 2021 in line with Council resolution 10/53 – 19/10/2021, plus the 1<sup>st</sup> budget review movements adopted in line with Council Resolution 10/106 – 16/11/2021. Reserve balance as at 31 January 2022 is \$13.4M which is \$2M more than the anticipated budgeted reserve balance and this confirms City of Palmerston is financially sustainable in the long term. Below outlines the different reserves held by the Council:

### Reserves per Council Policy 'Financial Reserves'

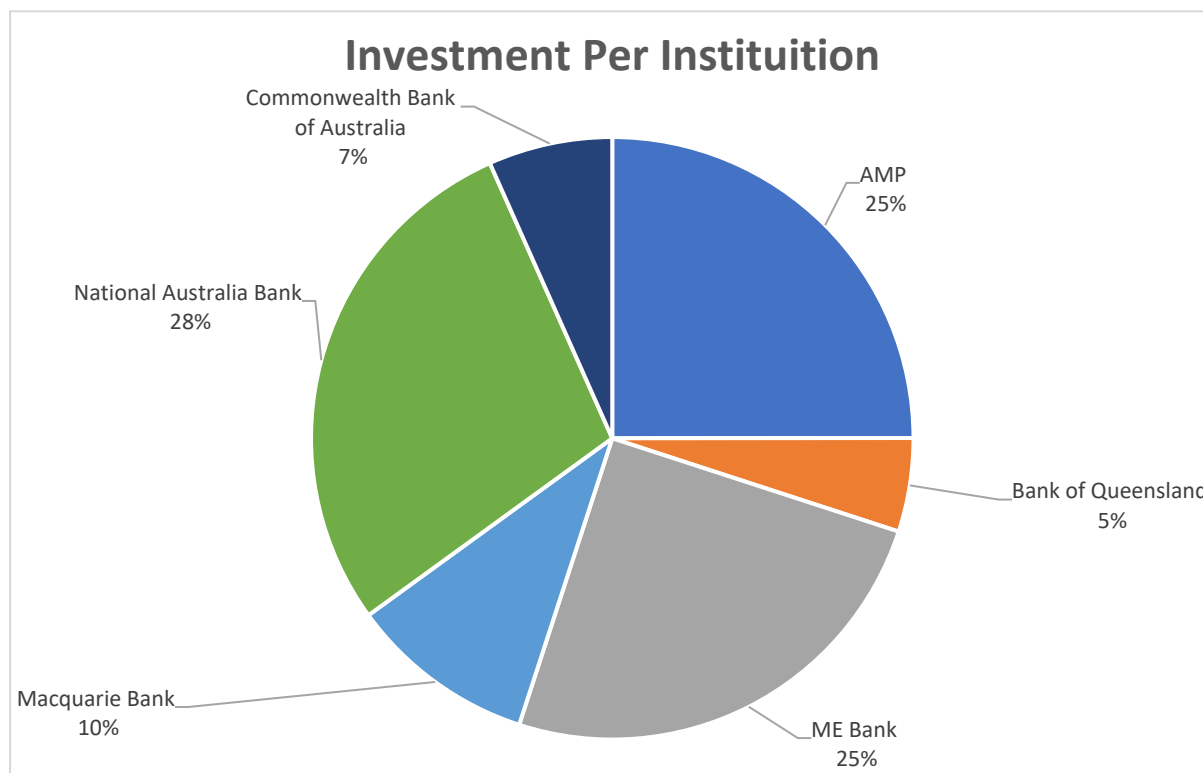
**Externally restricted reserves**- subject to legal requirements that govern the use of the funds. The reserve includes funds that have not been utilised for the purpose for which they were received, and an obligation or requirement to return funds to its contributor exist.

**Internally restricted reserves**- not subject to legal requirements governing the use of the funds. The reserve has been established for a specific internal purpose, however, if that purpose does not eventuate or Council changes its priorities the funding can be diverted to other purposes except for the waste management reserve. Funds in the waste management reserve cannot be used or allocated to any other purpose as it is restricted to waste management expenditure.

**Unrestricted reserve** - not subject to any legal obligations. The funds in this reserve are not currently allocated to a specific purpose.

## Investments and Cash

- As of 31 January 2022, Council held \$30.018M in term deposits across six separate financial institutions. The investment portfolio is compliant with Council Policy *FIN06 Investments*.
- Cash held by Council in the bank as of 31 January 2022 was \$4,857,238.
- The breakup between institutions is:



#### Outstanding Rates

- Section 2.4 – Debtor Control Accounts, as presented as **Attachment 13.2.2.1**, reflects the number of properties overdue per financial year as well as the cumulative overdue amounts. Rates that stay overdue for more than three years qualify for the sale of land process under the *Local Government Act 2019*. Council places an overriding statutory charge on the property to start this process, which gives Council priority over other registered and unregistered mortgages, charges, and encumbrances except a previously registered overriding statutory charge. Council currently holds overriding statutory charges over-all properties with overdue debt rated prior to 2017/18.
- Council's overdue rates are currently worth \$3.68M from 4,909 properties, including outstanding amounts from 2015/16. This increase from last month is a timing difference as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rates instalment became due on 30 January 2022.
- Rates outstanding plus interest at the end of January 2022 were 11.73% of all levied rates.

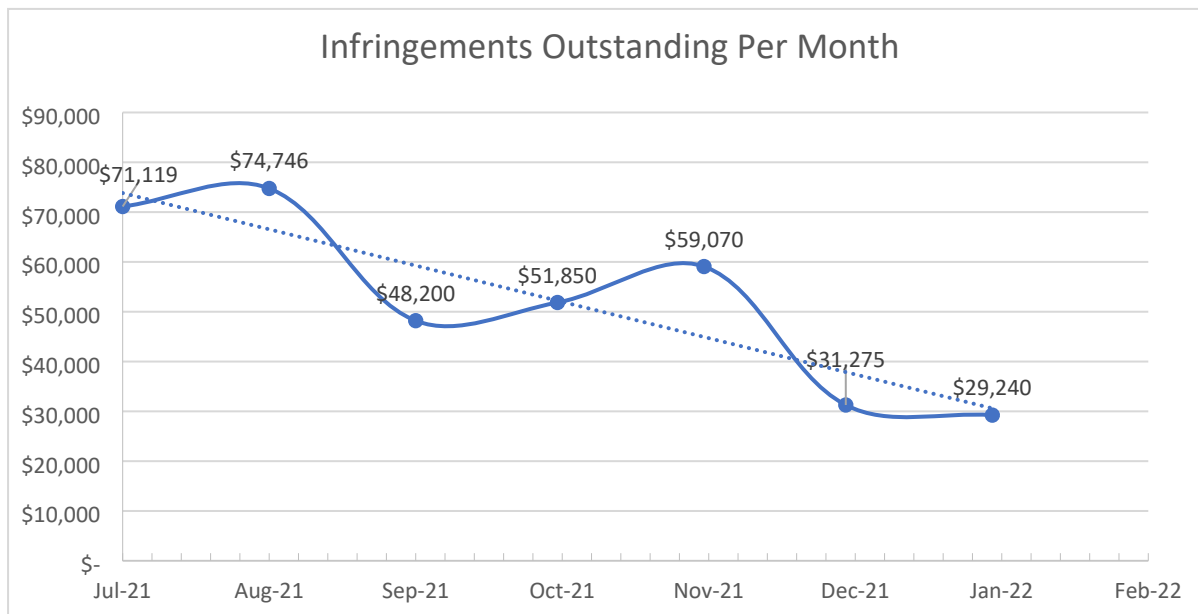
#### Elected Member Expenses

- Section 2.11 - Elected Member expenses summarise expenses or benefits related to Elected Members under Section 109 of the *Local Government Act 2019* Section 109. Elected Members expenditure is currently at \$485K; \$177K relates to Elected Member allowances, and over \$300K relates to election expenses, civic functions, and other administrative support.

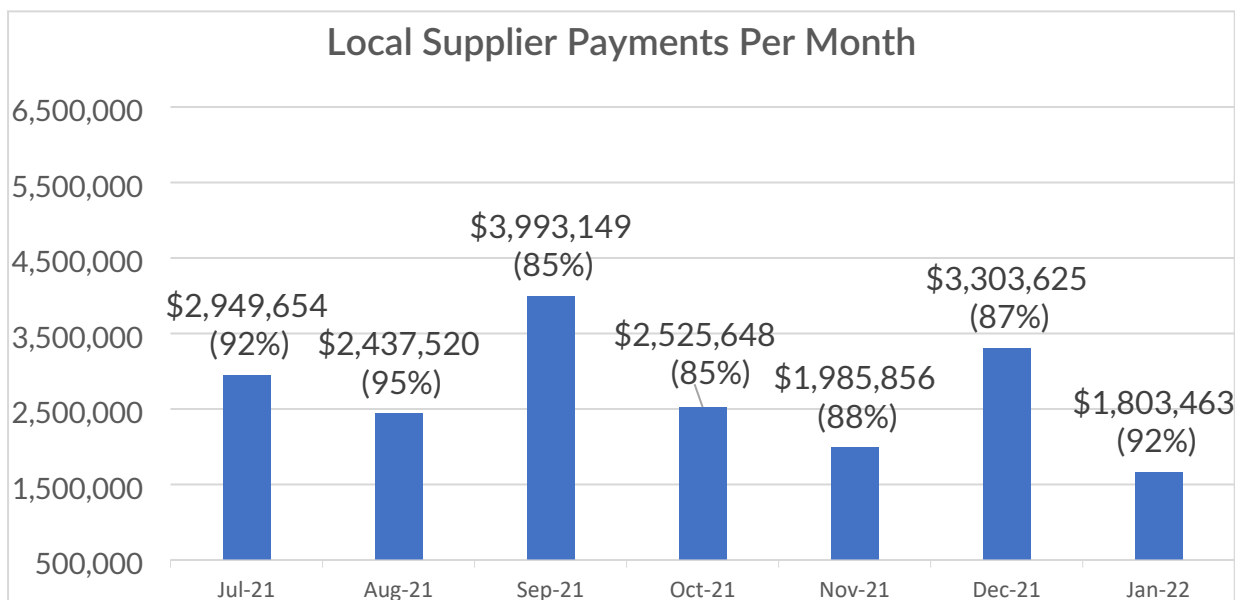
#### Trade Debtors and Creditors

- 43.1% of all Debtors are over 90 days, amounting to \$17,748 and staff are actively following up on the outstanding debts. The next step will be to refer these debtors to the debt collectors.
- 64% of Infringements debtors are from 2021/22 (200 infringements); 25% from 2020/21 (60 Infringements), and the remaining 11% (75 infringements) are from prior years. Infringements outstanding have been declining over the months due to active debt recovery with an outstanding

balance of \$29K as of 31 January 2022. The graph below provides an overview of the infringements outstanding as tracked over the months since the start of the financial year.



- 92% of the monthly creditor payments have been made to local suppliers. The table below provides an overview of the local supplier payments made this financial year:



## Waste Charges

The purpose of Section 2.8 - Waste Charges in **Attachment 13.2.2.1**, is to supply a YTD overview of Council's progress against its budgeted Waste Reserve movement.

### Loans

- Council approved an internal loan for \$3.3M to fund Making the Switch in August 2018 (Council decision 9/0243), and an external loan for \$1.96M to fund the final stage of remediation works at the previous Archer Landfill site in 2018/19.
- The internal loan for Making the Switch has been drawn upon, with the corresponding figures shown in Section 2.10 - Council Loans of **Attachment 13.2.2.1**. The loan repayments as of January 2022 is \$158,849, and interest is \$37,230. The outstanding loan balance as of 31 January 2022 is \$2,665,383; the next repayment will be on 31 March 2022.
- The loan for Archer Landfill Rehabilitation of \$1.96M was drawn upon on 28 June 2019. The loan repayments as of January 2022 is \$115,943 and interest is \$21,243. The outstanding loan balance is \$1,394,358; the next repayment will be on 31 March 2022. Details of the loan are provided in Section 2.10 - Council Loans of **Attachment 13.2.2.1**.

### Tax and Insurance

- Council is compliant with payment and reporting all tax liabilities as outlined below.
- \$34,301 has been paid for Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) to the Australian Tax Office (ATO) for the FBT Period October 2021 to December 2021.. The next instalment is due in April 2022 for the March quarter.
- \$1,388,138 has been paid to the ATO for Pay As You Go Tax (PAYG). In addition, Council has paid \$424,582 towards employee's superannuation YTD.
- The last Business Activity Statement was lodged on 21 January 2022 for the month ended 31 December 2021, and the GST refund was \$194,859.

The Council has all required insurances to manage the current risk exposure, payments have been made, and reporting is compliant with insurance requirements.

### Contract Variations

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019* and *Local Government (General) Regulations*, a report on variations to contracts that exceed 10% and public quotes that exceed a value of \$150,000 must be published at first notice. Council has no contract variation in the month of January 2022.

### CONSULTATION PROCESS

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

- Finance Manager
- Senior Procurement Advisor
- Operational Accountant

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Investments are compliant with Council Policy *FIN06 Investments*.

### 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:

- 2 Fails to be sustainable into the long term

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

The Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 - Part 2 (Division 7) prescribes that:

*Monthly financial reports to Council*

- (1) *The CEO must, in each month, give the Council a report setting out:*
  - a. *The actual income and expenditure of the Council for the period from the commencement of the financial year up to the end of the previous month; and*
  - b. *The most recently adopted Revised Annual Budget; and*
  - c. *Details of any material variances between the most recent actual income and expenditure of the Council and the most recently adopted Revised Annual Budget*
- (2) *If a council does not hold a meeting in a particular month, the Report is to be laid before the council committee performing the Council's financial functions under regulation 19 for the particular month.*
- (3) *The Report must be accompanied by:*
  - (a) *a certification, in writing, by the CEO to the Council that, to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief:*
    - (i) *the internal controls implemented by the Council are appropriate; and*
    - (ii) *the Council's financial Report best reflects the financial affairs of the Council; or*

With the monthly finance report being laid before Council, Council is adhering to legislative requirements and ensure ongoing monitoring of financial sustainability.

### **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. Monthly Financial Report January 2022 [13.2.2.1 - 24 pages]





# Financial Management Reports

January 2022

- ❖ 1. Executive Summary
- ❖ 2. Financial Results

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January 2022

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	2.4	Debtor Control Accounts
	2.5	Financial Indicators
	2.6	Creditor Accounts Paid
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	2.8	Waste Charges
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	2.11	Elected Member Allowances

## Certification By Chief Executive Officer

I, Luccio Franco Ceracarelli, the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Palmerston, hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief:

- ❖ The internal controls implemented by Council are appropriate; and
- ❖ The Council's Financial Report for January 2022 best reflects the financial affairs of Council.



Luccio Franco Ceracarelli  
Chief Executive Officer

# COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.2.2.1

## Section 2 Financial Results

### 1.2 - Executive Summary as at

31 January 2022

% of year passed

58%

Description	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actual \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Committed \$	% Committed of Annual Budget	YTD Actual + Committed \$	% YTD Actual + Committed of Annual budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget
<b>Operating Income</b>									
Rates & Annual Charges	29,475,948	28,348,699	96%	0	0%	28,348,699	96%	29,452,198	96%
Statutory Charges	140,450	74,189	53%	0	0%	74,189	53%	81,920	91%
User Charges & Fees	687,637	563,940	82%	0	0%	563,940	82%	484,375	116%
Interest & Investment Revenue	649,721	435,825	67%	0	0%	435,825	67%	384,386	113%
Reimbursements	0	-125	0%	0	0%	-125	0%	0	0%
Other Income	331,000	366,639	111%	0	0%	366,639	111%	197,416	186%
Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	2,948,879	1,194,075	40%	0	0%	1,194,075	40%	1,560,081	77%
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>34,233,635</b>	<b>30,983,242</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>30,983,242</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>32,160,376</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>									
Employee Costs	-10,837,731	-5,926,960	55%	-25,550	0.2%	-5,952,510	55%	-6,408,460	92%
Professional Services	-1,697,808	-756,659	45%	-199,324	12%	-955,983	56%	-1,031,469	73%
Auditor's Remuneration	-35,000	-23,484	67%	0	0%	-23,484	67%	-20,419	115%
Operating Lease Rentals	-22,423	-11,604	52%	-14,371	64%	-25,975	116%	-13,078	89%
Utilities	-2,460,628	-1,107,020	45%	0	0%	-1,107,020	45%	-1,429,157	77%
Materials & Contractors	-10,861,889	-5,026,868	46%	-2,191,238	20%	-7,218,106	66%	-6,410,940	78%
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	-10,608,000	-6,188,000	58%	0	0%	-6,188,000	58%	-6,188,000	100%
Elected Members Expenses	-391,511	-185,169	47%	0	0%	-185,169	47%	-228,375	81%
Legal Expenses	-235,700	-121,598	52%	-53,530	23%	-175,128	74%	-149,369	81%
Telephone & Other Communication Charges	-252,089	-166,260	66%	-65,864	26%	-232,125	92%	-171,624	97%
Donations, Sponsorships & Grants	-250,000	-76,495	31%	-10,000	4%	-86,495	35%	-166,661	46%
Software, Hardware, Stationery, Subscriptions	-1,185,345	-667,073	56%	-93,564	8%	-760,637	64%	-764,405	87%
Other Expenses	-2,014,578	-1,340,062	67%	-288,361	14%	-1,628,423	81%	-1,356,812	99%
Insurance	-505,621	-498,173	99%	0	0%	-498,173	99%	-505,621	99%
FILOC Internal Loan	-227,316	-158,849	70%	0	0%	-158,849	70%	-113,658	140%
Borrowing Costs	-39,585	-58,473	148%	0	0%	-58,473	148%	-30,332	193%
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>-41,625,224</b>	<b>-22,312,747</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>-2,941,803</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>-25,254,550</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>-24,988,380</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-7,391,589</b>	<b>8,670,495</b>		<b>-2,941,803</b>		<b>5,728,692</b>	<b>-78%</b>	<b>7,171,996</b>	<b>121%</b>

# COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.2.2.1

## Section 2 Financial Results

### 1.2 - Executive Summary as at

31 January 2022

% of year passed

58%

Description	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actual \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Committed \$	% Committed of Annual Budget	YTD Actual + Committed \$	% YTD Actual + Committed of Annual budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget
<b>Capital Income</b>									
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	50,000	100,955	202%	0	0%	100,955	202%	50,000	202%
Developer Contributions	288,750	39,240	14%	0	0%	39,240	14%	288,750	14%
Grants received	10,529,214	1,082,000	10%	0	0%	1,082,000	10%	-4,678,598	-23%
<b>Capital Income</b>	<b>10,867,964</b>	<b>1,222,195</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,222,195</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>-4,339,848</b>	<b>-28%</b>
<b>Net SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) transferred to Equity Statement</b>	<b>3,476,376</b>	<b>9,892,690</b>		<b>-2,941,803</b>		<b>6,950,887</b>	<b>200%</b>	<b>2,832,149</b>	<b>349%</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>									
Asset Purchase	-5,018,002	-1,688,533	34%	-523,662	10%	-2,212,195	44%	-2,128,309	79%
Asset Upgrade	-15,247,952	-3,215,274	21%	-1,355,694	9%	-4,570,968	30%	2,880,017	-112%
<b>Capital Expenditure *</b>	<b>-20,265,953</b>	<b>-4,903,807</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>-1,879,356</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>-6,783,163</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>751,708</b>	<b>-652%</b>
Less Non-Cash Expenditure	-10,608,000	-6,188,000	58%	0	0%	-6,188,000	58%	-6,188,000	100%
<b>NET CAPITAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-6,181,578</b>	<b>11,176,883</b>		<b>-4,821,159</b>		<b>6,355,724</b>	<b>-103%</b>	<b>9,771,857</b>	<b>114%</b>
Borrowings	1,000,000	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1,000,000	0%
Repayment of Borrowings	-234,634	-115,943	49%	0	0%	0	0%	-117,317	99%
Reserve Movement	5,416,212	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	-5,416,212	0%
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,060,940</b>		<b>-4,821,159</b>		<b>6,355,724</b>		<b>5,238,328</b>	<b>211%</b>

\* Capital expenditure budget includes first budget review movements and capital work rollover from 2020-21. It also includes the deferral of the SWELL project spend to the 2022-23 financial year



7/2/2022

Approved by: Finance Manager

## Section 2 Financial Results

### 2.1 - Budget Summary Report as at % of year passed

31 January 2022  
58%

#### Operating Income

Description	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>					
Office of the CEO	932,118	243,610	26.14%	317,690	76.68%
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>	<b>932,118</b>	<b>243,610</b>	<b>26.14%</b>	<b>317,690</b>	<b>76.68%</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>					
Governance	45,000	202,547	450%	45,000	450%
Director Finance & Governance	66,891	42,837	64%	39,018	110%
Financial Services	106,561	124,271	117%	48,795	255%
Rates	22,796,875	21,578,783	95%	22,722,210	95%
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>	<b>23,015,327</b>	<b>21,948,438</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>22,855,023</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>					
Events Promotion	2,000	2,000	100%	2,000	100%
Library Services	934,523	775,900	83%	796,033	97%
Senior Citizens	2,000	1,350	68%	2,000	68%
Youth Services	300,000	43,908	15%	300,000	15%
Animal Management	357,250	322,978	90%	291,640	111%
Parking & Other Ranger Services	120,900	44,973	37%	74,855	60%
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>	<b>1,716,673</b>	<b>1,191,109</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>1,466,528</b>	<b>81%</b>

## Section 2 Financial Results

### 2.1 - Budget Summary Report as at % of year passed

31 January 2022  
58%

#### Operating Income

Description	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Civic Centre	105,000	85,199	81%	61,250	139%
Driver Resource Centre	0	1,909	0.00%	0	0.00%
Director Infrastructure	3,000	7,086	236%	1,750	405%
Private Works	35,070	22,765	65%	20,455	111%
Recreation Centre	0	-109	0.00%	0	0.00%
Roads & Transport	1,110,614	306,418	28%	336,244	91%
Subdivisional Works	68,400	59,187	87%	39,903	148%
Waste Management	6,801,273	6,857,371	101%	6,801,273	101%
Odegaard Drive Investment Property	446,160	260,260	58%	260,260	100%
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>8,569,517</b>	<b>7,600,085</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>7,521,135</b>	<b>101%</b>
	<b>34,233,635</b>	<b>30,983,242</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>32,160,376</b>	<b>96%</b>



### Section 2

### Financial Results

2.1 - Budget Summary Report as at  
% of year passed

31 January 2022  
58%

#### Operating Expenditure

	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Committed \$	% Committed of Annual Budget	YTD Actual + Committed \$	% YTD Actual + Committed of Annual budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>									
Elected Members	-532,081	-483,808	91%	-1,511	0%	-485,318	91%	-352,744	137%
Office of the CEO	-941,845	-418,606	44%	-48,742	5%	-467,348	50%	-577,711	72%
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>	<b>-1,473,926</b>	<b>-902,414</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>-50,253</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-952,667</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>-930,455</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>									
Director Finance & Governance	-387,728	-276,290	71%	-1,191	0%	-277,481	72%	-217,722	127%
Records Management	-252,201	-132,423	53%	-31,276	12%	-163,699	65%	-142,946	93%
Financial Services	-11,639,225	-6,921,906	59%	-90,441	1%	-7,012,347	60%	-6,655,888	104%
Rates	-290,188	-171,428	59%	0	0%	-171,428	59%	-243,651	70%
Governance	-1,250,379	-904,308	72%	-1,818	0%	-906,126	72%	-1,033,419	88%
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>	<b>-13,819,721</b>	<b>-8,406,355</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>-124,727</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-8,531,082</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>-8,293,626</b>	<b>101%</b>
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>									
Arts & Culture	-86,000	-32,619	38%	-22,479	26%	-55,098	64%	-51,900	63%
Community Development	-1,252,109	-546,141	44%	-10,527	1%	-556,669	44%	-761,577	72%
Diversity and Inclusion Activities	-3,000	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	-1,750	0%
Events Promotion	-496,435	-271,612	55%	-44,542	9%	-316,155	64%	-274,935	99%
Families & Children	-46,500	-12,147	26%	-16,558	36%	-28,705	62%	-16,290	75%
Health and Wellbeing Services	-36,500	-13,745	38%	-4,537	12%	-18,282	50%	-19,210	72%
Library Services	-1,735,003	-933,591	54%	-61,832	4%	-995,423	57%	-1,024,519	91%
Senior Citizens	-6,500	-5,080	78%	0	0%	-5,080	78%	-6,500	78%
Youth Services	-359,800	-325,006	90%	-23,296	6%	-348,301	97%	-332,635	98%
Director Community & Culture	-553,851	-309,327	56%	-726	0%	-310,053	56%	-321,030	96%
Safe Communities	-28,000	-16,025	57%	-220	1%	-16,245	58%	-18,088	89%
Customer Experience	-422,331	-207,168	49%	0	0%	-207,168	49%	-244,799	85%
People	-759,819	-497,739	66%	-25,617	3%	-523,356	69%	-434,570	115%
Public Relations and Communications	-776,469	-403,874	52%	-45,271	6%	-449,145	58%	-447,052	90%
Animal Management	-160,606	-95,723	60%	-50,109	31%	-145,832	91%	-91,605	104%
Parking & Other Ranger Services	-1,031,181	-528,648	51%	-522	0%	-529,170	51%	-624,252	85%
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>	<b>-7,754,104</b>	<b>-4,198,447</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>-306,234</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>-4,504,682</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>-4,670,711</b>	<b>90%</b>

### Section 2

### Financial Results

2.1 - Budget Summary Report as at  
% of year passed

31 January 2022  
58%

#### Operating Expenditure

	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Committed \$	% Committed of Annual Budget	YTD Actual + Committed \$	% YTD Actual + Committed of Annual budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget
<b>Infrastructure</b>									
Information Technology	-1,462,463	-786,476	54%	-132,130	9%	-918,606	63%	-1,007,080	78%
Aquatic Centre	-719,270	-397,618	55%	-48,789	7%	-446,406	62%	-418,655	95%
Archer Sports Club	-183	-105	57%	0	0%	-105	57%	-108	97%
Civic Centre	-413,517	-181,320	44%	-70,833	17%	-252,152	61%	-240,842	75%
Depot	-81,215	-34,601	43%	-17,295	21%	-51,896	64%	-46,935	74%
Driver Resource Centre	-19,244	-9,760	51%	-2,020	10%	-11,779	61%	-12,104	81%
Emergency Operations	-23,000	-4,000	17%	0	0%	-4,000	17%	-23,000	17%
Gray Community Hall	-42,712	-2,021	5%	-468	1%	-2,489	6%	-24,710	8%
Director Infrastructure	-741,916	-274,947	37%	-11,932	2%	-286,879	39%	-445,587	62%
Open Space	-5,247,756	-2,202,798	42%	-507,118	10%	-2,709,916	52%	-3,125,304	70%
Private Works	-96,346	-18,602	19%	0	0%	-18,602	19%	-56,630	33%
Recreation Centre	-279,773	-121,901	44%	-64,570	23%	-186,471	67%	-171,054	71%
Roads & Transport	-1,502,826	-586,366	39%	-310,127	21%	-896,493	60%	-831,139	71%
Stormwater Infrastructure	-160,000	-50,096	31%	-65,584	41%	-115,680	72%	-105,000	48%
Street Lighting	-1,028,316	-545,295	53%	-71,681	7%	-616,975	60%	-572,577	95%
Subdivisional Works	-20,000	-15,552	78%	0	0%	-15,552	78%	-20,000	78%
Waste Management	-6,453,124	-3,409,604	53%	-1,003,227	16%	-4,412,831	68%	-3,830,516	89%
Odegaard Drive Investment Property	-136,427	-83,380	61%	0	0%	-83,380	61%	-77,529	108%
Durack Heights Community Centre	-29,785	-13,367	45%	-15,240	51%	-28,607	96%	-17,106	78%
CBD Car Parking	-60,600	-33,750	56%	-38,850	64%	-72,600	120%	-27,019	125%
Goyder Square	-59,000	-33,972	58%	-100,726	171%	-134,698	228%	-40,693	83%
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>-18,577,473</b>	<b>-8,805,531</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>-2,460,589</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>-11,266,120</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>-11,093,588</b>	<b>79%</b>
	<b>-41,625,224</b>	<b>-22,312,747</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>-2,941,803</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>-25,254,550</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>-24,988,380</b>	<b>89%</b>

## Section 2 Financial Results

### 2.1 - Budget Summary Report as at

% of year passed

31 January 2022

58%

#### Capital Income

	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>					
Office of the CEO	500,000	500,000	100%	379,000	132%
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>379,000</b>	<b>132%</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>					
Financial Services	50,000	100,955	202%	50,000	202%
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100,955</b>	<b>202%</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>202%</b>
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>					
Library Services	44,219	0	0%	44,219	0%
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>	<b>44,219</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>44,219</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Aquatic Centre	5,120,000	0	0%	-5,880,000	0%
Civic Centre	173,625	0	0%	173,625	0%
Gray Community Hall	1,310,779	582,000	44%	1,310,779	44%
Director Infrastructure	1,950,000	0	0%	-339,000	0%
Open Space	836,106	0	0%	586,106	0%
Roads & Transport	1,194,485	0	0%	-25,327	0%
Subdivisional Works	288,750	39,240	14%	288,750	14%
Waste Management	400,000	0	0%	72,000	0%
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>11,273,745</b>	<b>621,240</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>-3,813,067</b>	<b>-16%</b>
<b>Less Borrowings</b>					
<b>Loan</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>10,867,964</b>	<b>1,222,195</b>	<b>11.25%</b>	<b>-4,339,848</b>	<b>-28.16%</b>

Section 2  
Financial Results

2.1 - Budget Summary Report as at 31 January 2022

% of year passed 58%

Capital Expenditure

	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	YTD Committed \$	% Committed of Annual Budget	YTD Actual + Committed \$	% YTD Actual + Committed of Annual budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget
<b>Office of the Chief Executive</b>									
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>									
Financial Services	-452,499	-241,725	53%	0	0%	-241,725	53.42%	-134,999	179%
<b>Finance &amp; Governance</b>	<b>-452,499</b>	<b>-241,725</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-241,725</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>-134,999</b>	<b>179%</b>
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>									
Library Services	-369,710	-183,270	50%	-188,064	51%	-371,334	100.44%	-211,761	87%
Director Community & Culture	-193,800	-27,995	14%	-20,549	11%	-48,544	25.05%	-49,000	57%
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>	<b>-563,510</b>	<b>-211,265</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>-208,613</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>-419,878</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>-260,761</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>									
Information Technology	-1,570,000	-401,698	26%	-62,140	4%	-463,838	30%	-1,147,000	35%
Aquatic Centre	-5,220,000	-111,688	2%	-90,550	2%	-202,239	3.87%	7,370,000	-2%
Civic Centre	-465,835	-77,030	17%	-48,094	10%	-125,123	26.86%	-121,887	63%
Depot	-14,400	0	0%	0	0%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Driver Resource Centre	-10,000	0	0%	0	0%	0	0.00%	-5,000	0%
Gray Community Hall	-1,687,986	-989,665	59%	-692,732	41%	-1,682,397	99.67%	-1,653,793	60%
Director Infrastructure	-1,223,146	-431,535	35%	-85,543	7%	-517,078	42.27%	-205,453	210%
Open Space	-2,909,734	-1,424,680	49%	-235,262	8%	-1,659,942	57.05%	-1,613,208	88%
Recreation Centre	-159,982	-28,244	18%	0	0%	-28,244	17.65%	-28,244	100%
Roads & Transport	-3,620,590	-538,363	15%	-71,728	2%	-610,091	16.85%	-494,776	109%
Stormwater Infrastructure	-150,000	-13,747	9%	-6,000	4%	-19,747	13.16%	-10,000	137%
Street Lighting	-790,000	-238,756	30%	-257,296	33%	-496,052	62.79%	-514,900	46%
Subdivisional Works	-300,000	-96,580	32%	-84,636	28%	-181,216	60.41%	-190,000	51%
Waste Management	-1,100,000	-81,323	7%	-33,893	3%	-115,215	10.47%	-210,000	39%
Durack Heights Community Centre	-28,271	-17,507	62%	-2,870	10%	-20,377	72.08%	-28,271	62%
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>-19,249,944</b>	<b>-4,450,817</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>-1,670,743</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>-6,121,560</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>1,147,468</b>	<b>-388%</b>
	<b>-20,265,953</b>	<b>-4,903,807</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>-1,879,356</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>-6,783,163</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>751,708</b>	<b>-652%</b>

Section 2  
Financial Results  
2.2 Reserves Schedule

	Balance	TO RESERVES				FROM RESERVES				Balance
	as at	Original	Budget Reviews			Original	Budget Review			as at
	1/07/2021	Budget \$	1st Review \$	2nd Review \$	3rd Review \$	Budget \$	1st Review \$	2nd Review \$	3rd Review \$	30/06/2022
<b>Externally Restricted Reserves</b>										
Unexpended Grants Reserve	212,956	250,000	0	0	0	360,693	411,889	0	0	-309,626
	212,956	250,000	0	0	0	360,693	411,889	0	0	-309,626
<b>Internally Restricted Reserves</b>										
Election Expenses Reserve	150,000	0	0	0	0	150,000	0	0	0	0
Disaster Recovery Reserve	500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500,000
Unexpended Capital Works Reserve	4,589,920	0	0	0	0	0	4,589,920	0	0	0
Developer Funds In Lieu Of Construction	2,060,939	515,316	0	0	0	300,000	0	0	0	2,276,255
Waste Management Reserve	3,143,682	0	0	0	0	700,000	0	0	0	2,443,682
Asset Renewal Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major Initiatives Reserve	614,949	0	180,974	0	0	0	0	0	0	795,923
	11,059,490	515,316	180,974	0	0	1,150,000	4,589,920	0	0	6,015,860
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>										
Working Capital Reserve	7,580,915	500,000	0	0	0	100,000	250,000	0	0	7,730,915
	7,580,915	500,000	0	0	0	100,000	250,000	0	0	7,730,915
<b>Total Reserve Funds*</b>	18,853,360	1,265,316	180,974	0	0	1,610,693	5,251,809	0	0	13,437,148



7/2/2022

Approved by: Finance Manager

Section 2

Financial Results

2.3 Investments Management Report

INVESTMENTS REPORT TO COUNCIL AS AT31/01/2022

COUNTERPARTY	RATING	AMOUNT	INTEREST RATE	MATURITY DATE	DAYS TO MATURITY	INSTITUTION TOTALS	%COUNTER PARTY
People's Choice Credit Union	S&P A2	\$ 6.79	0.00%			\$ 6.79	0.00%
AMP	S&P A2	\$ 1,500,000.00	0.35%	April 20, 2022	79		
AMP	S&P A2	\$ 1,500,000.00	0.75%	July 6, 2022	156		
AMP	S&P A2	\$ 1,500,000.00	0.80%	August 24, 2022	205		
AMP	S&P A2	\$ 1,000,000.00	1.00%	November 23, 2022	296		
AMP	S&P A2	\$ 1,000,000.00	1.00%	December 21, 2022	324		
AMP	S&P A2	\$ 1,000,000.00	1.10%	January 25, 2023	359	\$ 7,500,000.00	24.99%
Bank of Queensland	S&P A2	\$ 1,508,788.36	0.41%	July 13, 2022	163	\$ 1,508,788.36	5.03%
Members Equity Bank	S&P A2	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.45%	February 2, 2022	2		
Members Equity Bank	S&P A2	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.45%	March 23, 2022	51		
Members Equity Bank	S&P A2	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.45%	April 6, 2022	65		
Members Equity Bank	S&P A2	\$ 1,000,294.52	0.47%	June 29, 2022	149		
Members Equity Bank	S&P A2	\$ 1,500,000.00	0.43%	September 7, 2022	219		
Members Equity Bank	S&P A2	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.42%	October 5, 2022	247		
Members Equity Bank	S&P A2	\$ 1,001,687.67	0.67%	December 8, 2022	311	\$ 7,501,982.19	24.99%
Macquarie Bank Limited	S&P A1	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.40%	September 21, 2022	233		
Macquarie Bank Limited	S&P A1	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.40%	October 19, 2022	261		
Macquarie Bank Limited	S&P A1	\$ 1,003,643.84	0.50%	November 9, 2022	282	\$ 3,003,643.84	10.01%
National Australia Bank	S&P A1+	\$ 1,500,000.00	0.32%	February 23, 2022	23		
National Australia Bank	S&P A1+	\$ 1,500,000.00	0.33%	March 9, 2022	37		
National Australia Bank	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.32%	May 4, 2022	93		
National Australia Bank	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.32%	May 18, 2022	107		
National Australia Bank	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.32%	June 1, 2022	121		
National Australia Bank	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.33%	June 15, 2022	135		
National Australia Bank	S&P A1+	\$ 1,503,498.08	0.69%	January 11, 2023	345	\$ 8,503,498.08	28.33%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.41%	July 27, 2022	177		
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	S&P A1+	\$ 1,000,000.00	0.41%	August 10, 2022	191	\$ 2,000,000.00	6.66%
TOTAL SHORT TERM INVESTMENT		\$ 30,017,919.26	Average Days to Maturity		178	100.00%	
% OF TOTAL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO	A1 & A1+ (max 100%)	45.0%	A2 (max 60%)	30.0%	A3 (max 40%)	0%	75%
Weighted Average Rate		0.48%	BBSW 90 Day Rate Benchmark		0.0750%		
GENERAL BANK FUNDS		\$ 4,857,238.38	Total Year To Date Budget Investment		-\$ 58,333.31		
TOTAL ALL FUNDS		\$ 34,875,157.64	Total Year to Date Investment Earnings		-\$ 77,906.90		

Cashflow of Investments

PROPERTY INVESTMENT

PROPERTY ADDRESS	VALUATION BASIS	VALUE	INCOME YTD	EXPENSE YTD	NET PROFIT YTD	COMPARATIVE YTD YIELD AT CASH RATE OF 1%
48 Odegaard Drive, Rosebery	Fair Value	\$ 5,400,000	\$ 260,260	\$ 41,101	\$ 219,159	31,808

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Approved by: Finance Manager

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31 January 2022

2.4 Debtor Control Accounts

SUNDRY DEBTORS:

	BALANCE	CURRENT	30 DAYS	60 DAYS	90 DAYS	OVER 90 DAYS	
	41,175.98	3,100.00	15,244.00	5,083.60	5,658.00	12,090.38	
	100.00%	7.53%	37.02%	12.35%	13.74%	29.36%	

RATES:

REPORT MONTH	OVERDUE \$	Payments Received in Advance \$	OVERDUE % OF RATES INCOME				
Jan-22	\$3,683,112	\$577,513	11.73%				
Jan-21	\$3,263,219		10.68%				

TOTAL OVERDUE BY YEAR AND NUMBER OF PROPERTIES

Year	Charged in 2021/2022	Charged in 2020/2021	Charged in 2019/2020	Charged in 2018/2019	Charged in 2017/2018	Charged in 2016/2017	Charged in 2015/2016
Overdue Amount	\$2,789,971	\$484,959	\$214,135	\$122,634	\$46,797	\$18,333	\$6,283
Cumulative Number Of Properties	4909	448	141	71	28	16	5

The overdue amount for 2021/22 is the September Rates plus interest charged on overdue rates and waste charges from prior years

INFRINGEMENTS:

		2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Animal Infringements	21,255	14,210	6,595	450	0
Public Places	1,215	1,080	135	0	0
Parking Infringments	6,770	3,455	580	2,695	40
Litter Infringements	0	0	0	0	0
Signs	0	0	0	0	0
Other Law and Order	0	0	0	0	0
Net Balance on Infringement Debts	29,240.00	18,745.00	7,310.00	3,145.00	40.00
	100.00%	64.11%	25.00%	10.76%	0.14%
Nmber of Infringments	335.00	200.00	60.00	74.00	1.00



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## Section 2

### Financial Results

#### 2.5 - Financial Indicators

	Target	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>Operating Surplus Ratio</b>					
Total Operating Surplus/Deficit	> 0.00%	-21.59%	-23.09%	-18.67%	25.50%
Total Operating Income					
This indicator shows the extent to which operational expenses are covered by operational income, and if in surplus, how much is available to use for other purposes such as capital expenses. This has been calculated from the forecast budget.					
<b>Debt Service Ratio (External Loans)</b>					
EBITDA	> 2	11.87	10.23	15.94	0.00
Net Debt Service Cost					
This ratio measures the availability of cash to service debt including interest, principal, and lease payments. Council's Net debt service ratio shows Council's debts (Annual principal repayment + interest) in relation to Council's Net income before Tax & Interest.					
<b>Rate Coverage Percentage</b>					
Rate Revenues	60% - 75%	66.24%	67.15%	66.30%	65.44%
Total Revenues					
This indicator shows the percentage of total revenue raised through rates income.					
<b>Rates &amp; Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage</b>					
Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding	<5%	11.73%	11.28%	33.14%	23.77%
Rates & Annual Charges Collectible(Levied)					
This percentage shows Council's total rates outstanding against rates payable to Council in this financial year. The rate will decrease as instalment dates pass.					

## SECTION 2

### Financial Results

2.6 - Creditor Accounts Paid      January 2022

	Creditor Name	Creditor Payment Type	Amount \$
4256	AMP Bank	Investment	1,000,000.00
V03451	M&J Builders Pty Ltd	General Creditors	245,811.29
2	Australian Taxation Office - PAYG	General Creditors	209,291.68
2587	Top End RACE	General Creditors	170,920.20
3936	Arafura Tree Services and Consulting	General Creditors	105,127.00
5104	JLM Contracting Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	103,819.11
87	Industrial Power Sweeping Services Pty	General Creditors	91,288.98
V00773	Akron Group NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	62,283.20
1607	Sterling NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	60,260.11
V03556	Belgravia Health & Leisure Group Pty Ltd	General Creditors	42,636.37
V03073	Programmed Property Services	General Creditors	41,651.48
185	Bridge Toyota	General Creditors	40,671.32
V02312	Harris Kmon Solutions Pty Ltd	General Creditors	37,290.00
V00295	Jacana Energy	Utilities	35,866.90
3787	Total Event Services T/A Top End Sounds P/L	General Creditors	33,924.00
V03791	Marsh Pty Ltd	General Creditors	31,900.00
V01860	Hays Specialist Recruitment (Australia) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	28,474.80
938	Nightcliff Electrical	General Creditors	27,263.08
V02162	RMI Security - Conigrave Pty Ltd	General Creditors	20,922.34
V01789	Next Energy Lighting Pty Ltd	General Creditors	19,569.00
V01537	Ben's Tree Service Pty Ltd	General Creditors	15,855.00
5508	Open Systems Technology Pty Ltd - CouncilFirst	General Creditors	13,655.40
4190	National Australia Bank	General Creditors	13,281.83
V03328	Territory Weed Management Pty Ltd	General Creditors	12,606.00
V01619	Merit Partners Pty Ltd	General Creditors	11,781.00
3683	Area9 IT Solutions	General Creditors	11,174.61
5031	All Aspects Recruitment & HR Services	General Creditors	11,085.26
4269	RTM - NT Electoral Commission	General Creditors	11,000.00
V03625	Red Appointments NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	10,729.73
V01971	Signify Pty Ltd	General Creditors	10,157.40
V03761	Various Creditors	Refunds & Reimbursements	9,700.00
V01118	Wilson Security Pty Ltd	General Creditors	8,983.31
V00157	McArthur Management Services (Vic) P/L	General Creditors	8,800.00
V00682	Leigh Dyson Plumbing	General Creditors	8,516.00
V03255	Joanna del Nido	General Creditors	7,600.00
V00599	Athina Pascoe-Bell	Elected Members	7,582.25
V00368	iWater NT Pty Ltd	General Creditors	7,331.50
4065	Southern Cross Protection Pty Ltd	General Creditors	7,327.05
26	Viva Energy Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	6,895.66
V01612	News Corp Australia	General Creditors	6,437.29
53	Eggins Electrical	General Creditors	6,243.48
3438	NT Shade & Canvas Pty Ltd	General Creditors	6,122.60
V01584	Salary Packaging Australia	General Creditors	5,706.91
V00614	RTM - Dept. of the Attorney General and Justice	General Creditors	5,588.00
4963	Centratech Systems Pty Ltd	General Creditors	5,461.79
V03775	Irrigation Australia Ltd	General Creditors	5,225.00
V03346	AKJ Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	5,076.50

## SECTION 2

### Financial Results

2.6 - Creditor Accounts Paid    January 2022

	Creditor Name	Creditor Payment Type	Amount \$
169	Palmerston Cricket Club Inc	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	5,000.00
V01009	Australian Parking and Revenue Control Pty Limited	General Creditors	4,950.00
V03463	Top End Landscaping	General Creditors	4,840.00
5615	EcOz Environmental Consulting	General Creditors	4,455.00
V01397	RSPCA Darwin	General Creditors	4,310.95
3099	Iron Mountain Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	4,191.69
V03299	Planning for Communities P/L - Trustee R&R Family	General Creditors	4,158.00
V00939	Defend Fire Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	4,007.85
V00607	DKJ projects. architecture Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,630.00
1581	NT Broadcasters Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,569.50
V02491	Hydro-Plan Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,553.00
V01569	Benjamin Giesecke	Elected Members	3,359.24
V01570	Sarah Louise Henderson	Elected Members	3,308.65
V03184	Cross Developments Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,300.00
4029	Totally Workwear Palmerston	General Creditors	3,260.20
5131	Core Traffic Control Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,240.60
V02563	Amcom Pty Ltd Acc no 68842	General Creditors	3,218.13
V03692	Lucid Consulting Engineers (NT) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	3,157.00
V00474	Lane Communications	General Creditors	2,944.20
V00193	Amcom Pty Ltd Acc no CN5439	General Creditors	2,733.50
V00443	Top End Hydraulic Services P/L T/A Forecast Machin	General Creditors	2,661.03
V03648	Mark Fraser	Elected Members	2,646.16
V00730	Tip Top Circus Entertainment	General Creditors	2,330.00
V03727	Fleet Choice NT	General Creditors	2,318.00
2161	GHD Pty Ltd	General Creditors	2,272.60
2977	Optic Security Group NT	General Creditors	2,071.10
V01572	Lucy Morrison	Elected Members	2,055.05
V01579	Damian Hale	Elected Members	2,053.38
V03771	Indian Cultural Society Darwin	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	2,000.00
V01573	Amber Garden	Elected Members	1,895.05
V01106	Darwin Toilet Hire	General Creditors	1,782.00
V01812	C R Campbell - Electrical and Data Contractors	General Creditors	1,776.50
4398	Quality Indoor Plants Hire	General Creditors	1,746.13
V02402	George's Tech Repairs	General Creditors	1,640.00
V03694	Anna Goat t/a Silver Goat	General Creditors	1,633.50
4737	D & L Plumbing & Gasfitting	General Creditors	1,609.30
V00694	Subscribe-Software Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,591.00
V01420	CENTRELINK (PAYROLL)	General Creditors	1,552.06
5526	Wallbridge & Gilbert	General Creditors	1,534.50
V02306	Well Done International Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,533.84
V03651	Danielle Eveleigh: (Main Account - BankSA)	Elected Members	1,428.38
V01486	Brainium Labs Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,400.00
V03596	Zesty Productions	General Creditors	1,390.00
3648	Mobile Locksmiths Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,353.00
3594	Comics NT	General Creditors	1,331.00
2336	Flick Anticimex Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,285.13
4007	The Ark Animal Hospital Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,240.00

## SECTION 2

### Financial Results

2.6 - Creditor Accounts Paid    January 2022

Creditor Name		Creditor Payment Type	Amount \$
4561	Bendesigns	General Creditors	1,221.00
5676	Royal Wolf Trading Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	1,212.75
5417	Institute of Public Works Engineering	General Creditors	1,200.00
V03425	CSS Services Pty Ltd ITF Corporate Statagic System	General Creditors	1,179.75
V03308	Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation	General Creditors	1,100.00
5611	Steelmans Tools and Industrial Supplies	General Creditors	1,015.10
V03653	Truline Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	926.86
3788	HPA Incorporated	General Creditors	900.00
V02160	Drag Territory	General Creditors	900.00
V00271	NTIT (Fuji Xerox Business Centre NT)	General Creditors	882.56
4513	Southern Cross Austereo Pty Ltd	General Creditors	880.00
V01673	Groove Vitality (Kelly Hayes)	General Creditors	850.00
V01810	Jacana Energy - Payroll Deductions	General Creditors	830.00
V03751	WANT Geotechnics Pty Ltd	General Creditors	825.00
V01277	Express Studios	General Creditors	800.00
V03502	Francis Diatschenko	General Creditors	800.00
V02332	Bellridge Pty Limited	General Creditors	706.30
435	Palmerston Regional Business Association (PRBA)	General Creditors	700.00
V00399	Palmerston & Regional Basketball Assoc (PARBA)	General Creditors	700.00
V03665	Bilske Investments Pty Ltd T/A Outback Pest Co	General Creditors	660.00
2199	SBA Office National	General Creditors	635.34
V00332	Stacie Selwood T/a Hyper The Clown	General Creditors	610.00
V03292	Blume Designs	General Creditors	572.00
V03176	FUJIFILM Business Innovation Australia Pty Ltd	General Creditors	546.70
2186	Optus Billing Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	510.00
V03703	Kcreativ	General Creditors	500.00
V03746	Kim Koole Music	General Creditors	500.00
V02167	Sanity Music Stores Pty Ltd	General Creditors	496.36
V01590	MSKK Pty Ltd T/A Trojon Contractors	General Creditors	495.00
V02595	Herron Todd White (Nothern Territory) Pty Ltd	General Creditors	440.00
V00882	Darwin Photography Professionals	General Creditors	420.00
617	Barnyard Trading	General Creditors	415.53
V03652	Danielle Eveleigh (\$400 Only - Bendigo Bank)	Elected Members	400.00
V03752	Seashells Coffee & Treats	General Creditors	399.00
V02364	Shipping Containers Leasing Pty Ltd	General Creditors	396.00
35	WINC Australia Pty Limited	General Creditors	346.87
5387	Odd Job Bob - Darren John Fillmore	General Creditors	341.88
3098	Roadshow Films Pty Ltd	General Creditors	330.00
5036	Dormakaba Aust P/L T/as Territory Door Services	General Creditors	330.00
V02861	PETstock (Darwin) Pty Ltd T/A PETstock Berrimah	General Creditors	289.40
V00022	Officeworks	General Creditors	284.37
V03729	Edwin McGrath	General Creditors	280.00
285	Australian Communications & Media	General Creditors	277.00
V01936	Arjays Sales & Services Pty Ltd	General Creditors	266.75
4508	News 4 U	General Creditors	261.30
18	Integrated Land Information System	General Creditors	255.60
V00617	Mojo Collective Pty Ltd	General Creditors	247.50

## SECTION 2

### Financial Results

2.6 - Creditor Accounts Paid January 2022

Creditor Name	Creditor Payment Type	Amount \$
399 St John Ambulance (NT) Incorporated	General Creditors	243.60
V00542 Industry Health Solutions	General Creditors	209.00
3428 Bunnings Group Limited	General Creditors	201.26
V03760 T for Thomas	Grants, Sponsorships, Donations & Prizes	200.00
V02075 FL Pools Pty Ltd T/a Figleaf Pool Products	General Creditors	186.00
V01691 Blackwoods	General Creditors	176.36
5122 NT Electrical Group	General Creditors	165.00
V00075 Mercury Group of Companies Pty Ltd (T/A Fit2Work)	General Creditors	162.36
22 Norsign Pty Ltd	General Creditors	156.75
V01069 Zest for Life Zumba - Sophie M Nicaisse	General Creditors	150.00
V02029 Server Room Specialists	General Creditors	83.60
V01309 Free2Dance	General Creditors	60.00
V00250 Ward Keller	General Creditors	55.00
V01938 Windcave Pty Limited	General Creditors	49.50
2915 Territory Uniforms	General Creditors	16.00
V02545 Amazon Web Services Inc	General Creditors	2.02
		2,803,463.02


Percentage of this month's payments made to local suppliers (excludes investments placed) 92%



7/2/2022

Approved by: Manager Finance

## SECTION 2 Financial Results

2.7 - Creditor Accounts Outstanding		January 2022
Creditor No.	Creditor Name	Amount \$
V00368	iWater NT Pty Ltd	9,839.50
V00318	StatewideSuper Clearing House	7,712.56
V00711	Line Marking NT Pty Ltd	3,066.80
4737	D & L Plumbing & Gasfitting	2,794.00
V03625	Red Appointments NT Pty Ltd	2,069.94
V01009	Australian Parking and Revenue Control Pty Limited	1,815.00
4561	Bendesigns	1,480.60
V02595	Herron Todd White (Nothorn Territory) Pty Ltd	1,320.00
V01596	Darwin Honda	640.90
V00773	Akron Group NT Pty Ltd	498.92
3648	Mobile Locksmiths Australia Pty Ltd	387.00
5036	Dormakaba Aust P/L T/as Territory Door Services	363.00
V01812	C R Campbell - Electrical and Data Contractors	352.00
35	WINC Australia Pty Limited	270.05
V03769	Beatrice Dubach	50.00
5508	Open Systems Technology Pty Ltd - CouncilFirst	(12.65)
5640	Think Water - Winnellie & Virginia	(6,989.96)
4190	National Australia Bank	(13,281.83)
		12,375.83
Please note that the Think Water credit relates to a Credit Note issued by Supplier to be offset against future invoices		
Please note that the NAB credit relates to the Credit Card End of Month automatic Payment waiting for invoices to be entered after reconciliations are completed		
Please note that all creditors are outstanding less than 30 days		
		
07/02/2022		
Approved by: Manager Finance		

## Section 2 Financial Results

### 2.8 - Waste Charges as at

31 January 2022

#### Waste Management

	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	Commitment \$	% Committed of Annual Budget	YTD Actuals + Commitments \$	% YTD Actual + Committed of Annual budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget
<b>Income</b>									
Rates & Charges	6,801,273	6,857,371	100.82%	0	0.00%	6,857,371	100.82%	6,801,273	101%
Capital Grants Received	400,000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	72,000	0%
<b>Income</b>	<b>7,201,273</b>	<b>6,857,371</b>	<b>95.22%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>6,857,371</b>	<b>95.22%</b>	<b>6,873,273</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>									
Employee Costs	-640,533	-373,644	58.33%	0	0.00%	-373,644	58.33%	-373,644	100%
Professional Services	-40,000	-34,063	85.16%	-14,970	37.43%	-49,033	122.58%	-12,778	267%
Educational Resources	-80,000	-21,555	26.94%	0	0.00%	-21,555	26.94%	-46,665	46%
Grants / Donations/Contributions Paid	-20,000	-24,656	123.28%	0	0.00%	-24,656	123.28%	-11,665	211%
Utilities	-20,000	-3,967	19.83%	0	0.00%	-3,967	19.83%	-11,412	35%
Street Sweeping	-320,000	-174,209	54.44%	-158,944	49.67%	-333,153	104.11%	-186,669	93%
Litter Collection	-538,000	-216,334	40.21%	-88,699	16.49%	-305,033	56.70%	-313,838	69%
Domestic Bin Collection	-2,146,891	-1,087,638	50.66%	-282,817	13.17%	-1,370,455	63.83%	-1,255,442	87%
Kerb Side Collections	-160,000	-198,838	124.27%	-1,320	0.82%	-200,158	125.10%	-160,000	124%
Tip Recharge Domestic Bin collection	-858,169	-464,939	54.18%	-129,324	15.07%	-594,263	69.25%	-500,599	93%
Transfer Station	-1,223,766	-575,426	47.02%	-271,164	22.16%	-846,589	69.18%	-713,867	81%
Loan Repayments	-39,585	-21,243	53.67%	0	0.00%	-21,243	53.67%	-30,332	70%
Tip Recharge Transfer Station	-366,180	-213,090	58.19%	-55,990	15.29%	-269,080	73.48%	-213,605	100%
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>-6,453,124</b>	<b>-3,409,604</b>	<b>52.84%</b>	<b>-1,003,227</b>	<b>15.55%</b>	<b>-4,412,831</b>	<b>68.38%</b>	<b>-3,830,516</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>									
Reserve Funded Capital Works	-1,100,000	-80,833	7.35%	-50,453	4.59%	-131,285	11.94%	-1,100,000	7.35%
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>-1,100,000</b>	<b>-80,833</b>	<b>7.35%</b>	<b>-50,453</b>	<b>4.59%</b>	<b>-131,285</b>	<b>11.94%</b>	<b>-1,100,000</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Borrowings</b>									
Repayments - Archer Loan Principal	-234,634	-115,943	49.41%	0	0.00%	-115,943	49.41%	0	
<b>Borrowings</b>	<b>-234,634</b>	<b>-115,943</b>	<b>49.41%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>-115,943</b>	<b>49.41%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>-586,485</b>	<b>3,250,991</b>		<b>-1,053,679</b>		<b>2,197,312</b>		<b>1,942,757</b>	

  
Approved by: Finance Manager  
7/2/2022



Section 2  
Financial Results

2.9 - Commercial Leases as at 31 January 2022

Commercial Leases

	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	Commitment \$	% Committed of Annual Budget	Total YTD Actuals + Commitments \$	% YTD Actual + Committed	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget
<b>Income</b>									
Library Services	22,676	18,960	83.61%	0	0.00%	18,960	84%	13,226	143%
Director Finance & Governance	66,891	42,837	64.04%	0	0.00%	42,837	64%	39,018	110%
Civic Centre	105,000	85,199	81.14%	0	0.00%	85,199	81%	61,250	139%
<b>Income</b>	<b>194,567</b>	<b>146,996</b>	<b>75.55%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>146,996</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>113,494</b>	<b>130%</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>									
Director Finance & Governance	-12,171	-9,572	78.64%	-378	3.11%	-9,950	82%	39,018	-25%
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-12,171</b>	<b>-9,572</b>	<b>78.64%</b>	<b>-378</b>	<b>3.11%</b>	<b>-9,950</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>39,018</b>	<b>-25%</b>
<b>Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>182,396</b>	<b>137,424</b>		<b>-378</b>		<b>137,046</b>		<b>152,512</b>	

Library Services includes lease held by The Nook

Civic Centre includes the lease held by Adult Mental Health

Director Finance and Governance includes the leases held by Peter McGrath and Palmerston Re-Engagement Centre

McGees Management Fees charged to Director Organisational Services each month

 7/2/2022  
Approved by: Finance Manager

### Section 2 Financial Results

#### 2.10 - Council Loans

31 January 2022

##### Internal Loan - Making the Switch Balances

1st Withdrawal June 2019	640,000
2nd Withdrawal June 2020	2,583,849
Public lighting officer June 2020	114,000
<b>Project Cost taken from FILOC</b>	<b>3,337,849</b>
Repayments 2019/20	(200,000)
Repayments 2020/21	(313,615)
<b>Loan Balance at 1/07/2021</b>	<b>2,824,233</b>

##### Internal Loan - Making the Switch

Principal as of 1/7/2021	Principal Loan Repayments for 2021/22	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Interest for 2021/22	Interest YTD	Loan balance as of 30/06/2022
2,824,233	321,849	158,849	70,309	37,230	2,502,384
	<b>321,849</b>	<b>158,849</b>	<b>70,309</b>	<b>37,230</b>	<b>2,502,384</b>

The above table shows the total loan amount taken from the FILOC Reserve. The interest rate is fixed at 2.60% for the duration of the loan and is paid on a quarterly basis. The loan repayments will end in 2029. The final loan value for this project is \$3,223,849 not including employee costs for the Public Lighting Officer.

<b>External Loan - Archer Landfill Rehabilitation Balances</b>	
<b>Loan from NAB</b>	<b>1,960,000</b>
Total Loan Amount	1,960,000
Repayments 2019/20	(221,414)
<b>Repayments 2020/21</b>	<b>-228,285</b>
Loan Balance at 1/07/2021	1,510,301

##### External Loan - Archer Landfill Rehabilitation

Principal as of 1/7/2021	Principal Loan Repaid as at 1/07/2021	Principal Loan Repayments YTD	Interest for 2021/22	Interest YTD	Loan balance as of 30/06/2022
1,510,301	234,504	115,943	39,585	21,243	1,275,797

The External Loan - Archer Landfill Rehabilitation is for a term of 8 years commencing 28 June 2019 and concluding 30 June 2027. The interest rate is fixed at 2.78% for the duration of the loan and is paid on a quarterly basis.



7/2/2022

## Section 2 Financial Results

### 2.11 - Elected Member Expenses

31 January 2022

#### Elected Members

	Revised Annual Budget \$	YTD Actuals \$	% YTD Actuals of Annual Budget	Commitment \$	% Committed of Annual Budget	YTD Actuals + Commitments \$	% YTD Actual + Committed of Annual budget	YTD Budget	% YTD Actuals of YTD Budget
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>									
Uniforms / Clothes Purchased	0	-1,079	0.00%	0	0.00%	-1,079	0.00%	0	0.00%
Mayoral Allowance	-87,636	-50,106	57.18%	0	0.00%	-50,106	57.18%	-51,121	98%
Mayoral Electoral Allowance	-23,066	-13,208	57.26%	0	0.00%	-13,208	57.26%	-13,454	98%
Mayoral Professional Dev Allowance	-3,753	-2,555	68.07%	0	0.00%	-2,555	68.07%	-2,188	117%
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	-32,405	-18,363	56.67%	0	0.00%	-18,363	56.67%	-18,900	97%
Deputy Mayoral Electoral Allowance	-5,768	-3,271	56.70%	0	0.00%	-3,271	56.70%	-3,367	97%
Elected Members Allowances	-94,570	-55,954	59.17%	0	0.00%	-55,954	59.17%	-55,167	101%
Elected Members Electoral Allowance	-34,606	-20,442	59.07%	0	0.00%	-20,442	59.07%	-20,186	101%
Elected Members Professional Dev Allowance	-26,272	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	-15,323	0%
Elected Members Meeting Allowance	-63,049	-11,310	17.94%	0	0.00%	-11,310	17.94%	-36,778	31%
Information Technology Capital Entitlement	-1,986	-5,329	268.33%	0	0.00%	-5,329	268.33%	-1,156	461%
Communications Entitlement	-6,400	-2,811	43.93%	0	0.00%	-2,811	43.93%	-3,735	75%
Acting Mayor Allowance	-10,000	-1,441	14.41%	0	0.00%	-1,441	14.41%	-5,835	25%
Acting Mayor Electoral Allowance	-2,000	-379	18.96%	0	0.00%	-379	18.96%	-1,165	33%
Contractors	-101,680	-266,048	261.65%	0	0.00%	-266,048	261.65%	-101,680	262%
Stationery & Office Consumables	-500	-710	141.98%	0	0.00%	-710	141.98%	-290	245%
Printing & Photocopying Costs	-2,000	-674	33.68%	0	0.00%	-674	33.68%	-1,169	58%
Furniture & Equipment expensed	-1,390	-390	28.06%	0	0.00%	-390	28.06%	-810	48%
Other Expenses	-7,500	-9,569	127.58%	-379	5.05%	-9,947	132.63%	-4,375	219%
Food & Catering Costs	-10,500	-7,708	73.41%	-314	2.99%	-8,022	76.40%	-6,125	126%
Entertainment Costs	0	0	0.00%	-818	0.00%	-818	0.00%	0	0.00%
Course Seminar & Conference Registration	-10,000	-12,116	121.16%	0	0.00%	-12,116	121.16%	-5,835	208%
Air Travel	-4,000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	-2,335	0%
Travel Accommodation	-2,000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	-1,165	0%
Travel Related Costs Other	-1,000	-347	34.65%	0	0.00%	-347	34.65%	-585	59%
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>-532,081</b>	<b>-483,808</b>	<b>90.93%</b>	<b>-1,511</b>	<b>0.28%</b>	<b>-485,318</b>	<b>91.21%</b>	<b>-352,744</b>	<b>137%</b>



7/2/2022

Approved by: Finance Manager

# COUNCIL REPORT

### 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.2.3
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	City of Palmerston - Community Benefit Scheme - February Update
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 15 February 2022
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Community Facilities Officer, Rachel Fosdick
<b>APPROVER:</b>	General Manager of Community and Culture, Amelia Vellar

### 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 Community Benefit Scheme 2021/22 applications to date.

### KEY MESSAGES

- City of Palmerston provides funding to eligible individuals and community groups that meet the criteria to assist Council to deliver on City of Palmerston's vision of "A Place for People".
- This year the Community Benefit Scheme (CBS) has a 2021/2022 budget of \$230,000 for grants, donations, sponsorships, and scholarships.
- The Environmental Initiative Grant (EIG) budget is \$20,000.
- Currently \$61,443 has been expended in the CBS budget, \$45,422 committed in this financial year for on-going sponsorship and \$18,131 is expended in the EIG budget.
- Currently \$115,004 remains available for future projects and events.
- To date this financial year, City of Palmerston has received 47 CBS applications.
- Two Individual Representation Support applications were received this month. One progressed for assessment, and one did not meet the eligibility criteria.
- In this reporting period, one Team Representation Support application was received from Cyclone Boxing for \$2,000 and one application was received from Satellite City BMX Club to replace a compressor damaged in a recent storm. These are both still under assessment.
- Two sponsorship applications were received from commercial entities. Both did not meet the eligibility criteria.
- Riding for the Disabled NT (RDANT) also submitted a sponsorship application is currently progressing through the assessment process.
- Palmerston RSL ANZAC Day three-year agreement final payment of \$10,000 was processed.
- A new look promotional campaign of the CBS will be launched late February/early March to encourage more applications.

### RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report entitled City of Palmerston - Community Benefit Scheme - February Update be received and noted.

## BACKGROUND

Palmerston provides grant, donation and sponsorship funding to eligible community groups which offer activities, projects, and services that assist Council to deliver on its Community Plan outcomes and objectives and its ongoing plans to ensure that Palmerston continues to be "A Place for People".

Council initiatives such as the extension of free venue hire till 30 June 2023 negates the need for applications for in-kind support for that purpose, if/when venue fees are reintroduced applications for waived fees will also reoccur. Free parking in the city centre also benefits individuals and groups, especially around activities and community events at venues such as Palmerston Recreation Centre, Palmerston Library, Goyder Square and Civic Plaza.

## DISCUSSION

A copy of City of Palmerston Approved CBS Applications February 2022 Update is provided as **Attachment 13.2.3.1** to this Report.

### Individual Representation Support

Two Individual Representation Support applications were received. One application was received to attend the NT under 16 Girls – Australian Junior Championships for Basketball in Perth, Western Australia in July 2022. This applicant had previously been successful in the 2021/22 financial year and had returned the funds to City of Palmerston due to the scheduled event being cancelled. This allowed the applicant to reapply and meet the criteria.

One application did not meet the eligibility criteria due to a previous successful application this financial year.

One Team Representation Support application was received from Cyclone Boxing for \$2,000. This application was seeking funds to purchase equipment and resources to attend the Australian Boxing Championships in Adelaide South Australia. Cyclone Boxing is a Palmerston based organisation and have advised the City of Palmerston logo will be placed on the competing teams boxing jerseys.

### Grants and Donations

One application was received from Satellite City BMX Club (SCBC) to replace a compressor damaged in a recent storm. The compressor operates the start gate for both the five and eight metre ramps. Without the compressor, riders are unable to race the track. SCBC requested \$2,000 to cover the cost of the replacement equipment. This application is under assessment.

### Sponsorship

Two sponsorship applications were received from commercial entities. Both applications did not meet the eligibility criteria under the *FIN18 Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships*.

Another further sponsorship application was received but did not progress due as it did not meet the eligibility criteria due to a previous successful application this financial year.

Riding for the Disabled NT (RDANT) sponsorship application is currently progressing through the assessment process and will be presented to Council as it is over \$2,000 in value.

### Multi-Year Agreement

Palmerston RSL ANZAC Day three-year agreement final payment of \$10,000 was processed.

A three-year agreement commenced 1 January 2020 to assist the Palmerston RSL in the provision of activities and events for the community to attend on Anzac Day on 25 April over 2020, 2021, and 2022.

This agreement includes the delivery of the 2022 ANZAC Day Commemorative Dawn and Morning Services in Palmerston. Additionally, the Palmerston RSL will be responsible for the coordination and delivery of all aspects of the event including the booking of suppliers and the engagement of key stakeholders within the Palmerston community. City of Palmerston is acknowledged through promotional materials such as pull up banners.

## Acquittals

Palmerston Rovers Football Club (PRFC) have acknowledged City of Palmerston with logo placement for the 2022 Palmerston Cup. PRFC received \$5,000 in the 2020/21 financial year and agreed to acknowledge City of Palmerston. PRFC were also successful in a 2021/22 CBS grant.



*Image: Palmerston Rovers acknowledgement of City of Palmerston CBS funding.*

## CONSULTATION PROCESS

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

- Executive Manager Community and Library Services

A new look promotional campaign of the CBS will be launched late February/early March to encourage more applications. This will be a widespread campaign that will be reported on in next month's CBS report.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council Policy *FIN18 Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships* provides governance and outlines the support that is available through the Community Benefit Scheme.

## BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The CBS budget for the 2021/2022 fiscal year for grants, donations, sponsorships, and scholarships is \$230,000.

The EIG budget for the 2021/2022 fiscal year under CBS is \$20,000. Currently \$18,131 has been expended with \$1,869 remaining for new projects.

The EIG budget is anticipated to be successfully expended as officers are working to identify eligible projects and community organisations.

Currently \$61,443 has been expended in the CBS budget, \$55,422 committed in this financial year for, one two year and three three-year on-going sponsorship and \$18,131 is expended in the EIG budget.

Currently \$115,004 remains available for future projects and events.

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

### **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. City of Palmerston Approved CBS Applications February 2022 Update [13.2.3.1 - 4 pages]



City of Palmerston Approved Community Benefit Scheme Applications					
Representation Support - Donation					
Date	Activity	Amount Requested	Amount Committed	Amount Spent	Balance
21 May 2021	U12s 2021 School Sport NT Touch Championships (football) (boys) - Kawana Waters, Sunshine Coast, QLD	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
21 May 2021	U15s 2021 School Sport NT Touch Championships (football) (girls) - Kawana Waters, Sunshine Coast, QLD	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
24 May 2021	U13s National Tennis Teams Event - Gold Coast Queensland	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
28 May 2021	One Hockey 15U Bantam Tournament (ice-hockey) - Melbourne	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
28 May 2021	One Hockey 15U Bantam Tournament (ice-hockey) - Melbourne	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
18 June 2021	U12s 2021 School Sport NT Touch Championships (football) (girls) - Kawana Waters, Sunshine Coast, QLD	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
27 July 2021	National Youth Championships – Touch Football Sunshine Coast, Queensland	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
27 July 2021	National Youth Championships – Touch Football Sunshine Coast, Queensland	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
4 August 2021	NT U 14s Rugby Union - Toowoomba Queensland	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
5 August 2021	National Youth Championships – Touch Football Sunshine Coast, Queensland	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
5 August 2021	National Youth Championships – Touch Football Sunshine Coast, Queensland	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
5 August 2021	National Youth Championships – Touch Football Sunshine Coast, Queensland	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
12 August 2021	U16 Australian Junior Basketball Championship Darwin, NT	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
1 September 2021	North Queensland Athletics Championships	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
4 September 2021	U16 Australian Junior Basketball Championship Darwin, NT	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	

## COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.2.3.1

22 October 2021	Queensland Nga Hau e Wha Māori Rugby League	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
18 November 2021	Follow Your Dream Dance	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
5 January 2022	Cyclone Boxing	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	in process
9 December 2021	Follow Your Dream Dance	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
18 January 2022	NT u16 Girls – Australian Junior Championships	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	in process
25 January 2022	Track and Field Championships	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	ineligible
<b>Total Year to Date (YTD)</b>		<b>\$7,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,500.00</b>	
22 June 2021	Calisthenics GC Cali Dance Eisteddfod 30 July – 1 August 2021 – Helensvale, Gold Coast Qld	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
23 June 2021	NT U 14 Cyclones Championships Basketball	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	
<b>Total YTD - repaid to CoP</b>		<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	
<b>Sponsorships, Donations and Grants</b>					
14 May 2021	IT equipment	\$12,539.00	\$0.00	\$11,599.00	
4 August 2021	Aus v USA Women's Olympic Women's Football	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	
18 September 2021	Equipment Resources	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	
4 October 2021	Alterations to electrical outlets	\$4,044.00	\$0.00	\$4,044.00	
3 November 2021	Support with Palmerston Home Game	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
23 November 2021	First Aid Training and Equipment	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	
24 November 2021	Christmas Celebration	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
6 December 2021	NTFL - Sepsis Awareness	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
7 December 2021	NT Branch Conference	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	
6 January 2022	Equipment Resources	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	in process
14 January 2022	Big Day Out	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	ineligible
17 January 2022	Youth Conference	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	in process
19 January 2022	Resources - Football	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	ineligible
<b>Total Year to Date (YTD)</b>		<b>\$56,483.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$36,543.00</b>	
<b>Multi Year Agreements</b>					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Committed</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>	
6 January 2022	Equipment and Resources	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	in progress

# COUNCIL AGENDA

## Attachment 13.2.3.1

2 year on going to be paid 2022	Cricket 365 x 2 years 16 March 2021 - 1 October 2022	\$25,422.00	\$25,422.00	\$0.00	
3 year on going to be paid 2022	Palmerston & Rural Seniors Fortnight x 3 years 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2024	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	
3 year on going to be paid 2022	ANZAC Day Services x 3 years 1 January 2020 - 30 December 2022	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	
3 year on going paid July 2021	Tiwi Fishing Program x 3 years 1 July 2020 - 30 June 2023	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	
Committed		\$95,422.00	\$45,422.00	\$20,000.00	
Annual School Awards					
28 October 2021	Good Shepherd Lutheran College Palmerston	\$100.00		\$100.00	
28 October 2021	Gray Primary School	\$100.00		\$100.00	
28 October 2021	Palmerston Christian School	\$100.00		\$100.00	
1 November 2021	Moulden Primary School	\$100.00		\$100.00	
29 November 2021	Woodroffe Primary School	\$100.00		\$100.00	
29 November 2021	Bakewell Primary School	\$100.00		\$100.00	
29 November 2021	Forest Parade Primary School	\$100.00		\$100.00	
29 November 2021	Rosebery Primary School	\$100.00		\$100.00	
6 December 2021	Zuccoli Primary School	\$100.00		\$100.00	
		\$900.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	
Total Year to Date (YTD)		\$153,305.00	\$45,422.00	\$61,443.00	
Total Year To Date (YTD)			\$45,422.00	\$61,443.00	\$123,135.00
Environmental Initiatives Grants					
Date	Activity	Amount Requested	Amount Committed	Amount Spent	Balance
3 July 2021	Community Garden Rebuild – Harvest Corner	\$16,131.00	\$0.00	\$16,131.00	
5 August 2021	Wildcare - Show bags	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
Total Year to Date (YTD)		\$18,131.00	\$0.00	\$18,131.00	\$1,869.00

## COUNCIL AGENDA

### Attachment 13.2.3.1

Date	Activity	Amount Requested	Amount Committed	Amount Spent	Balance
Running Total			\$55,422.00	\$79,574.00	\$115,004.00

**14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**14.1 Information**

**14.2 Correspondence**

**15 REPORT OF DELEGATES**

**16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

**17 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**18 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 1 March 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**

# MINUTES

## 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

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

## PRESENT

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### 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

Nil

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_



## 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

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

		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 <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(b) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information 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 <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(b) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information 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.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

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.
3. 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

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### 14.2.1 Local Government Immediate Priority Grant Approval

Moved: Councillor Hale  
Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT correspondence from the Minister 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.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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Chair

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Print Name

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Date

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_