

ENCL NO

## DARWIN CITY COUNCIL

Date: 13/09/08

### REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	CORPORATE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE/OPEN	<b>APPROVED:</b>	FC
<b>FROM:</b>	DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES	<b>APPROVED:</b>	LC
<b>REPORT NO:</b>	08A0176	<b>APPROVED:</b>	AB
<b>COMMON NO:</b>	1199973		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CLOSURE OF WALKWAY 198 KARAMA CRESCENT TO KWINANA COURT, KARAMA		

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#### ITEM NO:

#### SYNOPSIS:

This report recommends the night closure of Walkway No 198 between Karama Crescent and Kwinana Court, Karama.

#### GENERAL:

Walkway No 198 is classified Category C – non-essential.

In May 2007, Council received a letter from Neighbourhood Watch NT requesting that Council install lighting and enforce a night closure of this walkway to protect elderly residents from antisocial behaviour by youths.

A letter box drop was carried out during April 2008, seeking resident's response to the proposed permanent closure of the walkway. Of the 29 responses to the survey, 17 households favoured a permanent closure; 12 households wanted no closure of the walkway and of these, 5 favoured a night time closure. Of the 17 households who favoured a permanent closure, only 3 lived next to the walkway.

In June 2008, the Member for Karama submitted a petition requesting night closure of this walkway, containing 33 signatures, of which only 10 were local residents. The petition was tabled at Council meeting held 24 June 2008.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

If a night closure were approved, the estimated cost of gates would be \$2,000, and the average cost for security to lock and unlock approximately \$3,800 per annum. The cost to provide lighting for a walkway is approximately \$25,000. It is considered that adjoining owners would not be interested in purchasing the land, as they are all occupied by units.

## **CONSULTATION:**

Community Services, Technical Services, Neighbourhood Watch.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS:**

This memo is a result of Community Services investigation into anti-social behaviour issues relating to a walkway in Karama and a recommendation for its closure.

The original request was lodged by the Karama Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for a night time closure of the walkway running between Kwinana Court and Karama Crescent. Kwinana Court is a Territory Housing complex of aged and disabled residents who live directly behind Karama Shopping Centre. Walkway 198 allows access between Kwinana Court and Karama Crescent and is a category C walkway which may be closed under the provisions of Council Road Closures procedure permanently with little impact to the community (see map below).

## **Regulatory Services Comment**

Regulatory Services Officers play a role in identifying the reason for closing a walkway and what effects a closure may have on the wider community.

In this instance the reason behind the request is anti-social behaviour by a number of youths who use the walkway to carry out unlawful activities, including vandalism, criminal damage to property and as an avenue to evade apprehension by authorities.

This was confirmed by Casuarina Police who supplied data regarding the responses and patrols carried out by Police for anti-social activity occurring in or near the vicinity of the walkway between Kwinana Court and Karama Crescent. The Police would strongly support the closure of this walkway.

If Council were to close and sell the Kwinana Court walkway, cost would be minimal as the landholders on either side of the walkway may buy up the walkway as is part of the procedure. The four properties that bound Kwinana Court walkway are all units. Three of the four properties are owned by the Northern Territory Housing Commission and the purchasing of additional land by the Commission may not be a viable option.

If Council were to close the egress points on a night time basis there would be costs involved in the provision and installation of gates, the consultation with and notification to the public, as well as the ongoing maintenance and opening and closing costs, which is contracted to an outside security service.

### **Social Planner Comment**

The main purpose of the walkway is to provide a pedestrian connection between the Karama Shopping Centre and residents of Kwinana Court. The closure of this walkway would mean some residents of Kwinana Court will need to walk an extra 50 to 100 metres to reach the Karama Shopping Centre.

There is another walkway (number 195) about 100 metres west of the subject walkway which provides a pedestrian connection between Karama Primary School, Koolinda Crescent and Karama Crescent. Council recently resolved to permanently close walkway 195 between Karama Crescent and Koolinda Crescent.

Although the results of the recent survey favoured a permanent closure there a number of issues that do not support this action. One is that three of the four properties on the boundary of the walkway are owned by Northern Territory Housing and the sale of the walkway may not be possible or practical. Also once sold and closed the walkway is lost forever reducing the pedestrian connectivity within the neighbourhood.

### **Options**

Council may consider to defer a decision on the future of this walkway until it has complete it walkway policy review

### **ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS:**

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies of the Action Plan of the Darwin City Council 2004 - 2008:

#### 4.1 Public Safety (infrastructure)

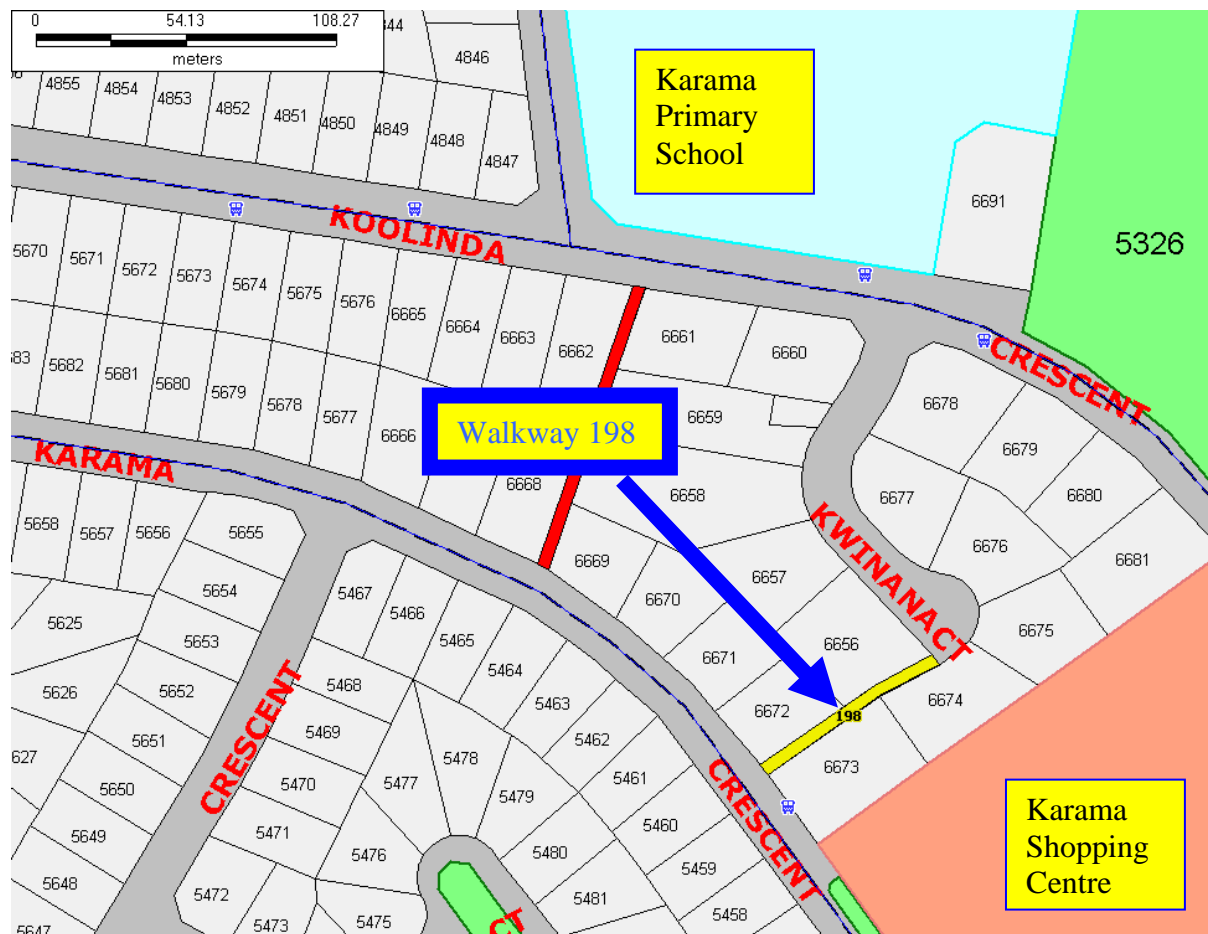
- To provide infrastructure in such a manner that promotes public safety.
- Review existing footpath/nature strip policy to ensure safe public access and visibility.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:**

No environmental implications have been identified.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS:**

May impact on members of the public affected by the closure.



**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That it be recommended to Council:-

- A. THAT report number 08A0176, entitled Closure of Walkway, Karama Crescent to Kwinana Court, Karama be received and noted.
- B. THAT walkway 198 at Kwinana Court and Karama Crescent be closed at night.
- C. THAT local residents be advised of Council's decision in accordance with Council's walkway policy

**LIAM CARROLL**  
**MANAGER BUSINESS SERVICES**

**FRANK CRAWLEY**  
**DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES**

Any queries on this report may be directed to Liam Carroll on 8930 0559.

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KARAMA

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## DECISION

**12. Closure of Walkway 198 Karama Crescent to Kwinana Court, Karama**  
Report No. 08A0176 (13/09/08) Common No. 1199973

(Moir/Dee)

- A. THAT Report Number 08A0176, entitled Closure of Walkway, Karama Crescent to Kwinana Court, Karama be received and noted.
- B. THAT Walkway Number 198 between Kwinana Court and Karama Crescent be closed at night.
- C. THAT local residents be advised of Council's decision in accordance with Council's Walkway Policy.

DECISION NO.20\0768 (30/09/08)

Carried

ACTION: DCORP