

Visual Story

Darwin Christmas Pageant

Saturday 15 November 2025



What is a Visual Story?

A Visual Story is a visual & written accessible guide to assist you with your visit.

Visual stories are used to prepare a person for and increase the predictability of a new environment or situation. This helps bring familiarity to a process and to reduce anxiety and stress.

This guide provides information on how to access the Darwin Christmas Pageant, what to expect when you arrive and who to ask for assistance.

About City of Darwin

Darwin has a diverse and vibrant community. City of Darwin is proud to support our community by delivering a range of recreational facilities, events, services and programs.

You can find out more accessibility information about City of Darwin on the website:

[Access and Inclusion | City of Darwin | Darwin Council, Northern Territory](#)



About the Darwin Christmas Pageant

Held annually in November, the Pageant is a free family-friendly event that marks the beginning of the festive season in Darwin City, while celebrating and bringing together our thriving local community.

The parade showcases the creativity and endless festive spirit of the Darwin community.

The program of events begins with the new Makers Market, moving onto the Darwin Christmas Pageant, followed by the Lord Mayor's Lighting of the Christmas Tree and an all-new event the Christmas Concert in Civic Park.



When is the Pageant?

The Darwin Christmas Pageant will be on **Saturday 15 November 2025**.

Below are the approximate times:

- 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm Makers Markets – The Smith Street Mall.
- 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm Darwin Christmas Pageant – City Centre.
- 7:00 pm to 7:15 pm Lord Mayors Lighting of the Christmas Tree – The Smith Street Mall.
- 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Christmas Concert - Civic Park.

For pageant updates and full event details, scan the QR code or visit darwin.nt.gov.au/Christmas



About the Pageant Route:

The Pageant begins from the corner of the Esplanade and Knuckey street. Participants will drive, march, walk and dance down Knuckey and turn right on into Cavenagh Street. Then they'll head right down Harry Chan Avenue (Bus Terminal), turning left onto Smith Street, where the Pageant will officially conclude at Civic Park.



PLAN YOUR PAGEANT DAY!

- PARADE ROUTE
- BEST VIEWING SPOTS ON ROUTE
- NO PUBLIC ACCESS
- PARKING
- WATER BUBBLER STATION
- FOOD TRUCKS
- AUSLAN TRANSLATOR
- WATER TRAILER
- ROAD CLOSURE
- BUS INTERCHANGE ON SEARCY ST (HARRY CHAN INTERCHANGE CLOSED)

Getting there

Driving : To maximise safety during the Darwin Christmas Pageant, full road closures will be in place around the City Centre from 5:00 pm. With streets reopening from 7:30 pm, vehicles will be able to exit the area by following traffic sign directions.

Public Transport: The Bus Interchange will be relocated to Searcy Street for the day. This is approximately a 600m walk to Raintree Park and The Mall.

For more information on road closures, please refer to the route map or visit visit darwin.nt.gov.au/Christmas

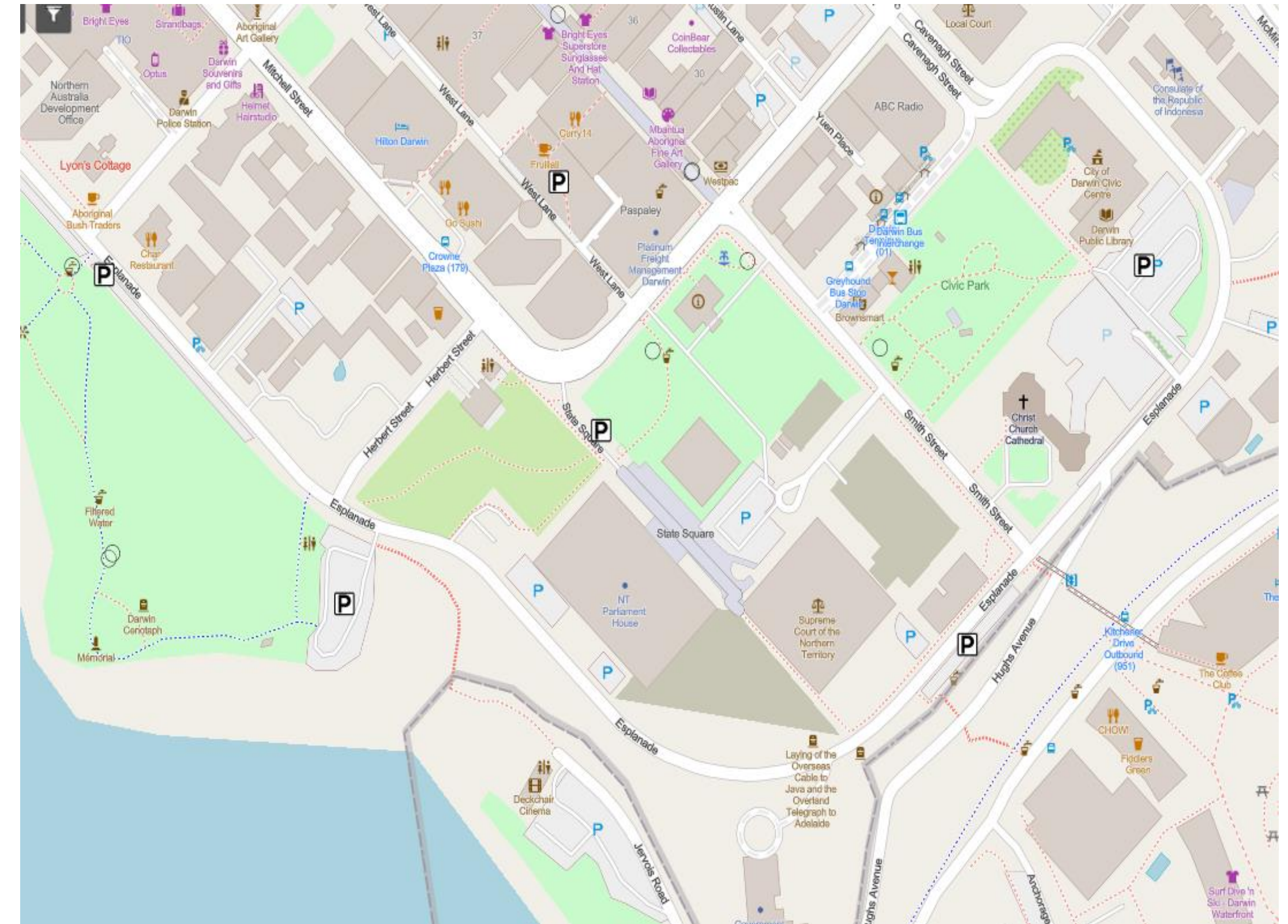


Where should I park ?

Free on-street parking from 2:00 pm and free off-street parking all day. You can park at the following car parks below:

- West Lane Carpark (FREE all day, extended hours till 10:30 pm)
- State Square Carpark
- Fort Hill (Darwin Waterfront)
- Nichols Place Carpark (limited parking)
- Dragonfly Carpark (FREE all day, extended hours till 10:30 pm)

You can also park at available on-street parking spaces outside of the pageant route and walk into the locked down area after 5:00 pm.



[View Map](#)

Drop-off zones

Austin Lane Access:

Enter Austin Lane via Edmund Street, drop off at **Spain Place**, and exit onto **Cavenagh Street**.

Although Austin Lane is normally a “No Entry” zone from Edmund Street, temporary access will be permitted as the road will be closed at the Knuckey Street end for the event.

Harry Chan Avenue Access:

Enter Harry Chan Avenue via Hughes Avenue and drop off in front of the **Civic Centre Manager’s parking area**. Vehicles can then enter **Nichols Place** car park and exit the same way back toward **Hughes Avenue**.

My arrival at the Darwin Christmas Pageant

I can watch the floats parade from:



Along Knuckey Street



Raintree Park



This year, the stage will be diagonally across Smith Street and Harry Chan Avenue

Who will I see, and who can help me?

There is no information booth, City of Darwin staff will be wearing **yellow high viz vests**.



What to expect during the event

There will be many people walking in the parade wearing costumes, dancing and playing music. There may be large vehicles like boats and animals (such as snakes).

After the performances, people may clap their hands. This is to thank the performers.

The event runs for around 2 hours. I can come at any time and leave at any time.

There will be loud noises.



Things to consider

The Pageant event will be: Hot, noisy with loud music and crowded.



Things that I can bring/ do

I can use the quiet area.

I can ask for help from staff.

I can bring some things that help me feel calm and safe.

These might include:

- Noise cancelling headphones
- Sensory items
- Water bottle
- Mobile phone



Auslan Interpreter

An Auslan interpreter will be attending both the Darwin Christmas Pageant and the Christmas Concert. The Auslan Interpreter will be on the right hand side for both the Pageant main stage on Smith Street and Harry Chan Ave and Christmas Concert main stage in Civic Park.



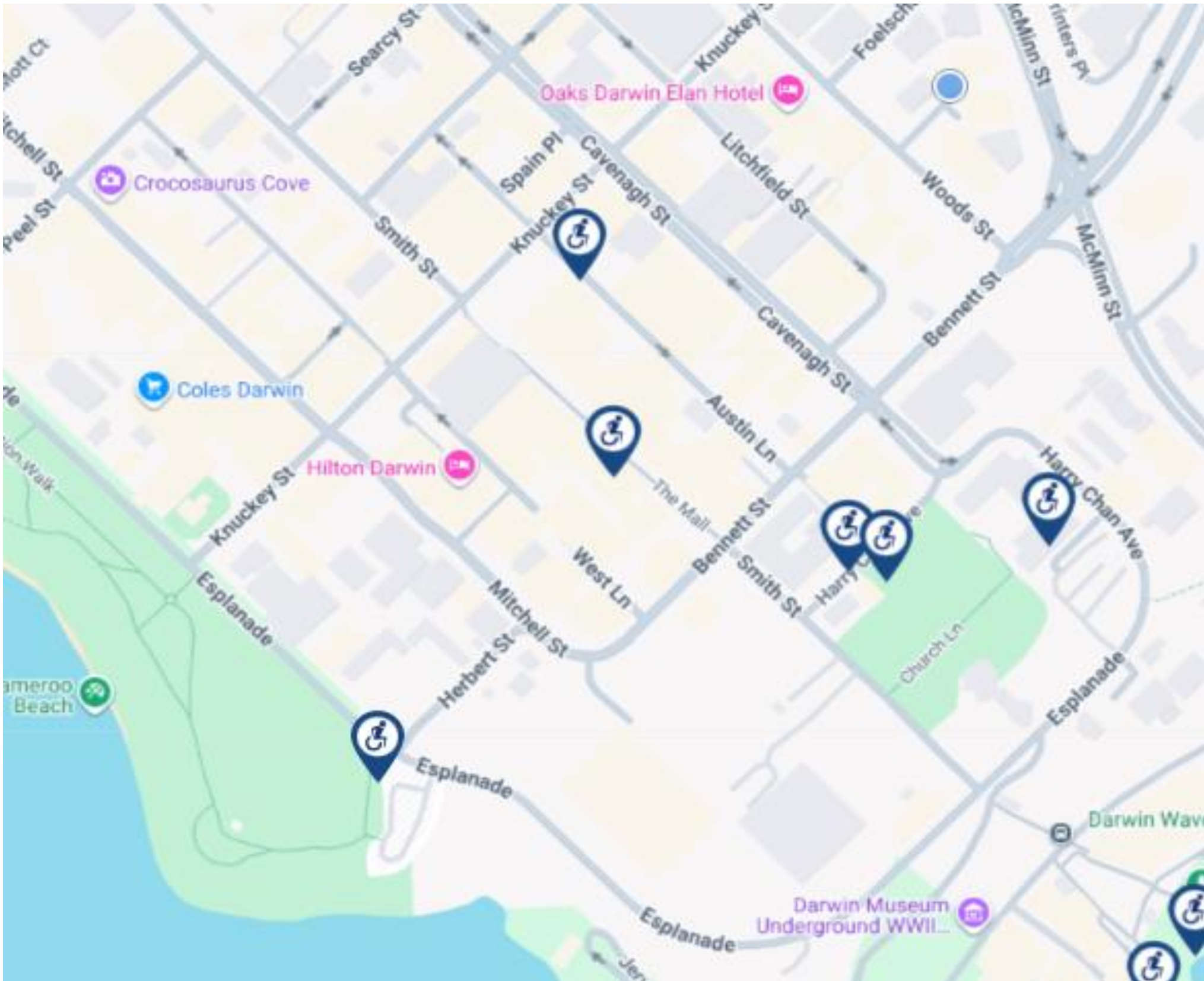
Additional Accessibility Features

- **Nature/ Quiet area** - Civic Park offers beautiful large shady trees, creating a cool and peaceful environment. The natural shade provides a relaxing area for a quiet comfortable space outdoors.

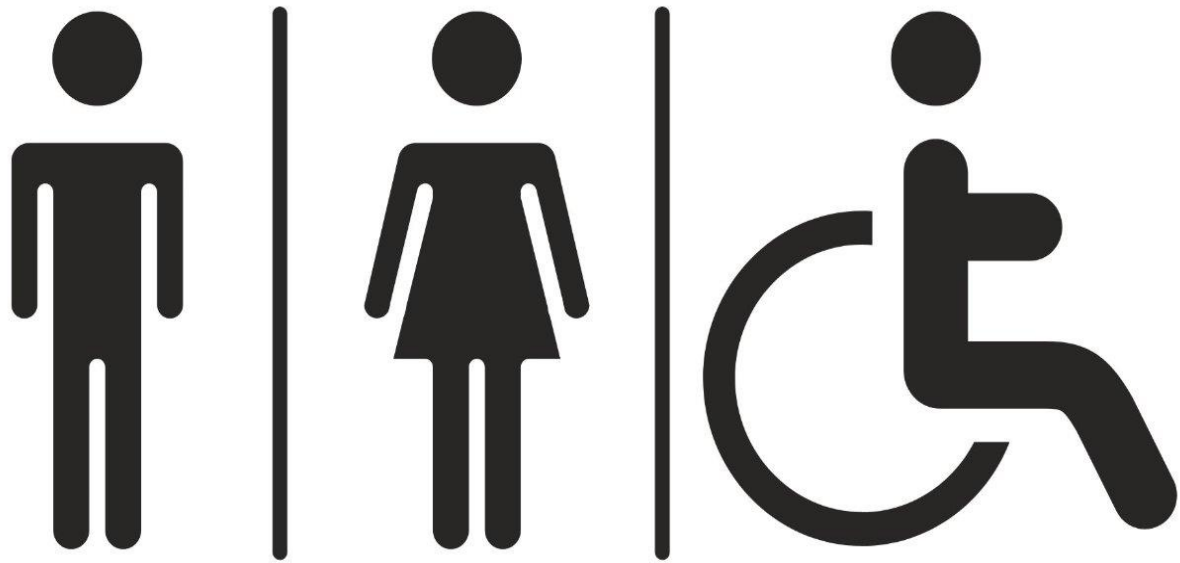
You can ask for help from staff **who are wearing yellow vests** to find some quiet areas.

- **Additional Accessible Parking** – *** While no additional accessible parking has been added, existing on-street and off-street accessible parking remains available close to the event***
- **Cold water** – It can be very hot at the pageant. There are drinking fountains available in The Mall, Bennett Street and Civic Park.

Toilets in Darwin City



<https://www.toiletmap.gov.au/>



 **Austin Lane** 
[Austin Lane, Darwin City](#)
318 m

OPEN: 24 hours

 **Cenotaph** 
[49 Esplanade, Darwin City](#)
700 m

OPEN: 24 hours

 **Darwin Terminus** 
[Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin](#)
392 m

OPEN: Mon-Fri 6:40am-4:30pm

 **West Lane Arcade** 
[27 Smith Street, Darwin City](#)
400 m

OPEN: 7am-7pm

 **Civic Park** 
[12 Smith Street, Darwin City](#)
396 m

OPEN: 24 hours

What happens if it rains?

Rain, hail or shine – the Darwin Christmas Pageant will go-on!

Being in November, it might be a good idea to pack an umbrella or a poncho.

To ensure our attendees and pageant participants are safe, if there is a storm or lightning in the area, then the parade will be paused until it moves away.



End of the event

When the event is finished, the host will thank everyone for coming and say goodnight.

People will then start to go home.

I can leave whichever way is most convenient to me.



Thank you for visiting!



We hope you enjoy the
Darwin Christmas Pageant
2025.

If you have questions or
access requirements,
please contact the
City of Darwin Events Team:

08 8930 0300

darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au



darwin.nt.gov.au