

ANNUAL REPORT



2023/2024





Image above: Larrakia smoking ceremony
Cover image: Esplanade

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LARRAKIA COUNTRY

City of Darwin acknowledges the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of all the land and waters of the Greater Darwin region.

To the Larrakia, Darwin is known as Garramilla. The original language of the Larrakia is Gulumirrgin (pronounced Goo-loo-midgin).

Often referred to as “Saltwater People”, the Larrakia lived, loved, birthed, hunted and survived a life on pristine coastal and inland areas. Established ‘song lines’ connecting Larrakia people to Country penetrate throughout their land and sea, allowing stories and histories to be told and retold for future generations. Scientific evidence dates Aboriginal presence in northern Australia to 60,000 years.

The Larrakia culture and identity is rich and vibrant. In the footsteps of the Larrakia people, City of Darwin will continue to foster this culture and identity by creating a vibrant community together.



"THE LARRAKIA CULTURE AND IDENTITY IS RICH AND VIBRANT."

PRESTIGIOUS ACCOLADES ACKNOWLEDGE CITY OF DARWIN LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

City of Darwin’s leadership in international relations activities has been formally recognised with the award of two prestigious accolades from Sister Cities Australia and the 2023 Chief Minister’s Export Awards.

The 2022 Darwin International Virtual Trade Show was awarded the National Tourism and Trade Award from Sister Cities Australia, an association of cities, towns, shires, ports and states that have a sister city relationship. The International Virtual Trade Show was a two-day online program hosted by City of Darwin in June 2022 that encouraged businesses and organisations from Darwin and its sister and friendship cities to create relationships, connections and opportunities worldwide. More than 100 businesses and organisations from the tourism, education, and trade sectors attended. The event was delivered across multiple time zones and in numerous languages while borders were closed.

The Darwin International Dragon Boat Festival was nominated for the 2023 Chief Minister’s Export Awards and won the ‘Excellence in events/international trade delegations supporting Northern Territory export activities and businesses’ award, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Dragon Boat Festival was joined by more than 100 delegates from Darwin’s sister and friendship cities, as well as 4,000 local participants, and was broadcast locally, nationally and internationally to millions of viewers across the globe. The Festival saw more than 88 million people from home and abroad actively reacting to the event before, during and post event and included key events such as the International Trade Show and a number of business networking events.



Pre-cyclone clean-up

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1. INTRODUCTION



1.1 ABOUT OUR ANNUAL REPORT

City of Darwin is pleased to present the 2023/24 Annual Report. The report outlines City of Darwin's performance against the goals and outcomes for the fifth year of our strategic plan, *Darwin 2030: City for People. City of Colour* and achievements of the *2023/24 Municipal Plan* and budget. It also provides an insight into our aspirations for the future to ensure we remain on track to deliver on our 2030 vision. The annual report includes City of Darwin's audited financial statements for the 2023/24 financial year.

The annual report is City of Darwin's primary tool for reporting to our community and stakeholders on service delivery and financial performance and is a vital part of our overall governance framework and commitment to transparency and accountability. Our community and stakeholders include Darwin residents and ratepayers, local business owners, potential investors, community groups, government agencies, funding bodies and present and future staff.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)* (the Act), all councils must present an annual report to the Minister for Local Government by 15 November each year. The annual report must include a copy of the council's audited financial statements for the relevant financial year and contain an assessment of the council's performance against the objectives stated in the relevant municipal plan adopted for the relevant financial year, applying indicators of performance set in the plan.

In addition to meeting our legislative obligations, the objectives of this report are to:

- communicate our vision and strategic directions with the community
- instil community confidence in our ability to show strong leadership and deliver on our promises
- demonstrate our commitment to good governance as an accountable and transparent local government
- promote City of Darwin and Council to investors locally and with our international neighbours and partners
- build confidence and satisfaction in the partnerships which are being created with other levels of government, community groups, local business and industry leaders through key projects and services
- recognise the achievements of our organisation
- promote City of Darwin as an employer of choice for future staff.



Image: Playground revitalisation, Councillors Ed Smelt and Peter Pangquee

1.2 LORD MAYOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOREWORD

We are pleased to present the 2023/24 City of Darwin Annual Report.

This year has seen excellent progress towards achieving the objectives included in our 10-year strategic plan *Darwin 2030: City for People. City of Colour*, with many projects coming to fruition that will benefit the Darwin community.

We are incredibly proud of our vibrant, colourful, cool, clean and green city and we strive to ensure Darwin is seen as a creative, innovative, connected, healthy and environmentally responsible capital city.

Greening our municipality continues to be a major focus and we are pleased to report that we planted over 4000 trees this year, as well as giving away more than 16,000 plants to the community as part of our extremely popular native plant giveaways. Streetscape greening saw the Cavenagh Street project completed, which involved landscaping the median strip from Knuckey Street to Searcy Street. The busy city street now features an avenue of shade trees that contribute to keeping the city cool, clean and green.

Darwin has an energetic and eclectic arts and culture scene, and we are pleased to report that we provided more than \$400,000 in sponsorship and in-kind support to a variety of exhibitions, festivals and events this year, including the Darwin Fringe Festival, the Royal Darwin Show, the 2024 NT Writers' Festival and the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair. This investment helped to attract more than 350,000 visitors to Darwin and increase gross regional product by \$56 million.

Laneways and small streets are the veins of our city, providing pathways to explore all the wonderful things to see and do throughout the municipality. We launched the Laneways and Small Streets Action Plan in 2023 to unlock the full potential of our laneways, as part of the Darwin City Deal. We are excited to see our laneways come alive as part of this partnership with the Australian Government and Northern Territory Government. Chapel Lane is the next laneway to receive a revamp, and we thank city stakeholders, Larrakia people and the community for their feedback and vision for the area.

Our young people keep our city buzzing with their energy and enthusiasm, and we implemented several initiatives catered to our youth, including expanding our popular LAUNCH program which provides young people opportunities for active community participation.

The range of events and activities on offer is informed by young people and the community via our 2022-2026 Youth Strategy.

Our flagship community infrastructure project, the \$26.8 million Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre, progressed ahead of schedule and opened to the community in July 2024. The new centre is a modern, family-friendly facility for the whole community to enjoy. The centre was jointly funded by City of Darwin, who contributed \$19.3 million, and the Australian Government, who contributed \$7.5 million.

In July 2023 we unveiled a public artwork that carries significant cultural and social value, a striking sculpture called *Mirragma Gunugurr-wa*, at Bicentennial Park. The artwork was created by Larrakia artists and took its name from the Larrakia word for 'bamboo raft', which the Larrakia people used to cross the ocean from Cox Peninsula to Darwin.

After a comprehensive community engagement process and its largest review in the past 30 years, we released new By-laws which focus on reflecting the views and expectations of Darwin residents. The modernised By-laws cover a range of topics that are important to our residents, including animal management and events, parking and public places, waste management and recycling.

Fostering and building relationships with partners from across the globe is key to positioning Darwin as a vibrant, inclusive and prosperous city, and we were thrilled to receive two prestigious accolades this year. The 2022 Darwin International Virtual Trade Show was awarded the *National Tourism and Trade* award from Sister Cities Australia and the Darwin International Dragon Boat Festival was nominated for the 2023 Chief Minister's Export Awards and won the *'Excellence in events/international trade delegations in supporting NT export activities and businesses'* award, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

After undertaking considerable stakeholder and community engagement across multiple stages, we released a comprehensive master plan for Bundilla Beach. Community feedback informed the draft master plan's design principles including creating a connected community, with safe and accessible connections; an environmental resource that enhances the natural environments; and a foreshore area that can be enjoyed by all members of the community as well as visitors to our city.



Lord Mayor and CEO, City of Darwin

Ensuring City of Darwin's continued advancement and contribution to economic growth requires active participation, and it was rewarding to see new research this year that showed our city's core nighttime economy experienced a resurgence in 2022. *Measuring the Australian Night Time Economy 2021-22* used annual analysis to measure the size of the Australian night time economy. Darwin experienced some of the highest percentage growths nationally in multiple sectors, including an increase in the number of establishments and growth in employment.

Once again, we held our popular Christmas events program, which featured a range of interactive and free family events across the municipality during November and December. The *'A Very Darwin Christmas Pageant'*, delivered in collaboration with the Northern Territory Government, was well attended with record numbers singing and dancing their way through the city streets.

December 2024 marks 50 years since Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin, devastating the city and tragically resulting in the loss of 70 lives. To support the community in commemorating this historic event, we launched a Cyclone Tracy 50th Anniversary Commemoration Grants Program which supports community groups and organisations in holding events and activities to observe and honour a crucial part of Darwin's history.

Elected Members continue to drive initiatives that improve community infrastructure and beautify Darwin streetscapes through the Better Suburbs program and community infrastructure. Projects are focussed on improving the amenity of Darwin and delivering services, with Elected Members engaging with the community to identify priorities that are important to the local area. Several projects were delivered including the Bagot Oval Carpark Redevelopment, Goyder Road streetscape, Cavenagh Street median landscape upgrade, Playground refurbishments, greening at Fitzer Drive and Muirhead dog park, plus more.

Essential infrastructure remains a focus for Council and surveys and assessment of underground stormwater assets were undertaken across nine suburbs with 17 locations identified as a priority for works. Early maintenance activities took place to improve drain function and reduce mosquito breeding across 14 sites in Ludmilla, Rapid Creek, Alawa and Karama. Upgrades to essential roads and extensive resurfacing was completed in addition to the duplication of Lee Point Road, resurfacing of the carpark at the Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre and resealing of the road surfaces at Seabright Crescent, Trower Road, Service Road, Willaroo Crescent, Allen Street, Fitzmaurice Drive and Hinkler Crescent.

A by-election for Lyons Ward was held in September 2023 and we welcomed Councillor Sam Weston when he was sworn in by the Lord Mayor in October 2023. Councillor Weston hit the ground running, making an active contribution in Council meetings, and building strong relationships with constituents across the municipality.

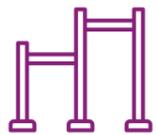
Our focus remains on delivering services and projects that are important to the community. The City of Darwin 2023/24 Municipal Plan contained a total of 50 actions across the five strategic directions and governance framework. As at 30 June 2024, 44 actions were complete, two are ongoing with monitoring and the remaining four are on track to be delivered within the due dates.

We extend our appreciation to Elected Members, staff, our partners and our community for what has been an exceptional year of delivering for Darwin and for creating a vibrant and inclusive community.

**The Hon. Lord Mayor
Kon Vatskalis**

**Chief Executive Officer
Simone Saunders**

1.3 ABOUT OUR CITY



19 EXERCISE STATIONS
ACROSS 12 PARKS



22,023 DRIVEWAYS



41 PUBLIC AMENITY
FACILITIES



590HA GREEN
SPACE



8 TENNIS COURTS
AT 3 LOCATIONS



3 COMMUNITY
CENTRES



10,127
STREET AND PUBLIC
LIGHTING



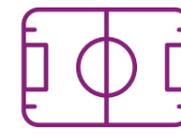
421KM
STORMWATER
INFRASTRUCTURE



36,267
RATEABLE
ASSESSMENTS



475KM ROADS



19 SPORTING GROUNDS
AND OVALS



3 SWIMMING POOL
FACILITIES



7 CHILDCARE
CENTRES



4 LIBRARIES



221 PARKS



3,668 PARKING
BAYS



1 VELODROME



1 SKATE
PARK



126
PLAYGROUNDS



614KM
FOOTPATHS AND
WALKWAYS IN TOTAL



136
WATER BUBBLER
DRINKING FOUNTAINS

2. OUR HIGHLIGHTS



2.1 SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE

PRIORITIES TO PROGRESS

The 2023/24 Municipal Plan identified eight priorities to progress and achievements against these are reported under the relevant strategic direction highlights on pages 48-77.

- Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre
- Enterprise IT system
- Play Space
- Footpaths
- Stormwater and roads
- Better Suburbs and greening
- Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility
- Smart Darwin



2023/24 summary of strategic performance

Strategic direction	2022/23 results	2023/24 results	Remaining actions to be reported in future years until 2030
 A capital city with best practice and sustainable infrastructure	2 completed 4 in progress	1 completed 3 in progress	3
 A safe, liveable and healthy city	5 completed 9 in progress	2 completed 7 in progress	7
 A cool, clean and green city	6 in progress	1 completed 5 in progress	5
 A smart and prosperous city	10 in progress	10 in progress	10
 A vibrant and creative city	2 completed 5 in progress 1 not yet due	5 in progress 1 not yet due	6

Table 1 2023/24 summary by performance – Darwin 2030 Strategic Plan

Image: Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre

2.1.1 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Municipal Plan

The 2023/24 Municipal Plan contains a total of 50 actions across the five strategic directions and governance framework. As at 30 June 2024, 44 actions were complete, two require monitoring and the remaining four are on track to be delivered within the first quarter of 2024/25, seeing 88 per cent of items completed.

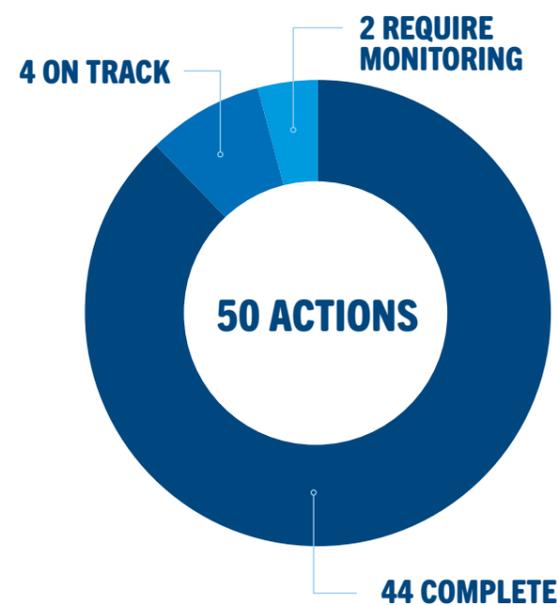
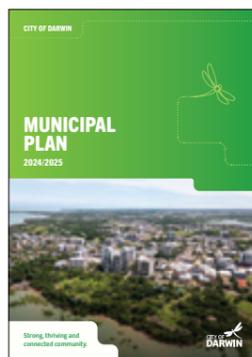


Figure 1 2023/24 Municipal Plan action performance

Performance of other strategies and plans during 2023/24

City of Darwin has adopted several strategies and plans which support the delivery of Darwin 2030: City for People. City of Colour.



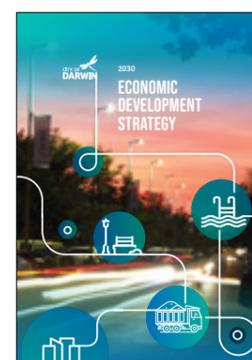
Climate Emergency Strategy

- Delivery of free workshops to the community in how to save energy in your home, and sponsorship of Sustainable House Day, showcasing energy efficient homes in Darwin.
- Energy audits complete across key City of Darwin assets, including Parap and Nightcliff pools, West Lane and Dragonfly car parks, and Casuarina Library.
- Planning and design of an environmental sensor network across Darwin has been completed where eight sensor poles will be installed at key locations to collect micro-climate data that will inform cooling, greening and movement strategy initiatives.
- Completed a comprehensive annual organisational greenhouse gas emissions profile on the previous complete financial year data and made structural improvements to City of Darwin's emissions reporting process.



Customer First Strategy

- Continued first contact resolution methodology rollout through consolidation of functions.
- Continued monitoring of customer demands to improve management of call flow.
- Continued identifying opportunities for customer service provision enhancements in the new Civic Centre.
- Documented information continues to be updated in line with plain language principles and the updated Writing Style Guide.
- Continued regular review of current customer service processes to enhance value for customers.



Economic Development Strategy

- Provided \$386,500 sponsorship and \$21,553 in-kind support in 2023/24 financial year, attracting 350,500 visitors, increasing gross regional product by \$56 million.
- Implemented the internal Strategic Property Plan 2030 with review of all tenant leases and licences and adoption of the Walkway Management and Land Acquisition and Disposal policies.
- The Sister City Action Plan was implemented with the launch of a Darwin-Kalymnos scholarship program and the Darwin Sister City Award – Visual Storytelling Photography Competition.
- 203 comprehensive event permits and 306 small event permits issued for activities occurring on City of Darwin land and improvements to public venues were implemented with extended public wi-fi services to key recreational areas including Mindil Beach and Anula, enhancing digital connectivity.



Greening Darwin Strategy

- Native plant giveaways continued with more than 16,000 plants provided to the community during 2023/24.
- More than 280 street and park trees were planted across the municipality, with 56 of these located along key transit routes, including 15 within the city centre on Cavenagh Street.
- A comprehensive fauna survey of East Point Reserve was completed. Ecologists recorded 108 different native animal species, including threatened species, indicating that biodiversity has remained stable since the previous survey undertaken in 2016.
- Finalisation of an East Point Reserve Biodiversity Management Plan 2024-2029, incorporating the recent fauna survey findings and recommendations to enhance the reserve's biodiversity.
- Sponsored the delivery of a local native flora, fauna and biodiversity science education program to ten schools within the municipality, delivered by Landcare NT.



Library Strategy

- User experience principles have been used to enhance customer interactions with several updates: improved access and security in the Casuarina Library courtyard with new flooring and fencing; a refreshed youth area with updated furniture and a mural created with local young artists; and the installation of new shelving, seating, and a height-adjustable self-loan kiosk with added accessibility features at Nightcliff Library.
- The partnership with Darrandirra Child and Family Centre has been strengthened through weekly Fun Bus visits in November and December, and monthly mobile library and story time sessions. A new cultural connections collection and display has been added to Nightcliff Library.
- Casuarina Library held a Reconciliation Week event featuring stories by Aunty June Mills, a smoking ceremony, and a basket weaving activity.
- More than 15 staff members have taken on different roles to gain a broader understanding of the public library environment and staff rotations between library branches have been assessed and implemented.



Movement Strategy

- The Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) and Pedestrian Guidelines and Parking Framework and Management Plan 2030 approved.
- Smart parking wayfinding signs installed at three entries to Darwin city centre.
- Undertook engagement on traffic speeds and lowered speeds to 40km/hr in Darwin city centre.
- Beam commenced across City of Darwin, offering increased safety and more diverse offerings in micromobility.
- Trower Road shared path stage 1 was designed, and construction began.
- Implemented people and active transport technology at Rapid Creek and Nightcliff to optimise urban planning.
- Active Routes to School and Open Streets project collaboration with Bicycle Network was established for Nightcliff Primary School and Karama Primary School.



Play Space Strategy

- Community engagement on Bundilla Beach masterplan included feedback on skateable surfaces and other play space infrastructure.
- Council commitment to the development of new Regional Playground in Waters Ward focused on multigenerational play.
- Three playgrounds replaced, each with constructed shade.
- Play space and basketball court completed at Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre.
- Rolled out public wi-fi to various play spaces including pools, parks, Mindil Beach, and Anula, providing enhanced digital services to support community engagement and recreational activities.
- Continued analysis of place data insights at skate park and obstacle course to improve play space planning and usage.



Reconciliation Action Plan

- Launch of the new Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan in August 2023.
- 2023 NAIDOC March had the most significant attendance by City of Darwin staff and elected members thus far.
- Three-year sponsorship of NAIDOC Week confirmed with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation in 2023.
- New Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week grants program delivered.
- Delivery of the Reconciliation Roadshow across City of Darwin.
- First Nations Staff Support Network participation in culturally appropriate mental health first aid training.
- Delivery of City of Darwin Reconciliation Week Program including external events at Casuarina Library and performances by Larrakia artists including the Youth Mill and Aunty June Mills.



Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

- Finalised construction and commissioning of a 15 megalitre leachate storage pond.
- Further pre-sorting at stage 2 has resulted in increasing levels of steel and concrete recovery and increasing compaction rates through the shredding of bulky waste.
- 2,400 mattresses have been separated and shredded and 500 tonnes of tyres were also diverted from landfill and shredded.
- Successful delivery of the pre-cyclone clean-up to reduce the risk of cyclone hazards, with 40 per cent of all material collected diverted away from landfill for recycling or reuse.
- New cardboard compactor installed and commissioned.
- The Shoal Bay Education Centre now complete and operational.
- An extensive external environmental audit has been completed in consultation with the Environmental Protection Authority with 90 per cent of audit actions implemented to further strengthen environmental compliance.



Youth Strategy

- New collaborations/partnerships with Group Training NT, Darwin Community Arts, Melaleuca, Bagot Community, NT Youth Parliament and Museum and Gallery of the NT.
- Secured funding from Northern Territory Government for an external provider for LAUNCH Night Series in 2024.
- Successful pilot of Pathfinders NT as external provider for LAUNCH Night Series.
- Continued to support a youth media team to enable increased focus on promotion of activities and events across Darwin.
- Delivery of MAGNIFY Youth Event.
- Participation in Youth Parliament and a suite of other leadership training opportunities for young people.

2.2 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

The following provides a snapshot of City of Darwin's income and expenditure for 2023/24.

Income – 5 year trend				
2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
\$107.9M	\$116.7M	\$123.9M	\$124.2M	\$139.4M

Expense – 5 year trend				
2019/21	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
\$124.3M	\$127.6M	\$135.4M	\$137.4M	\$132.5M

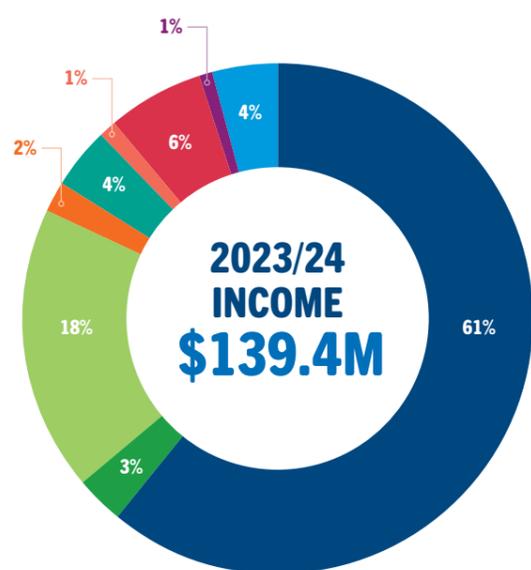


Figure 2 Income 2023/24

2023/24 Income category	\$'000
Rates revenues	84,937
Statutory charges	3,568
User charges	25,825
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2,497
Investment and interest income	5,065
Other income and reimbursements	1,615
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	9,156
Contributed assets	1,280
Asset disposal and fair value adjustments	5,448
Total income	139,391

Table 2 Actual income 2023/24 by category

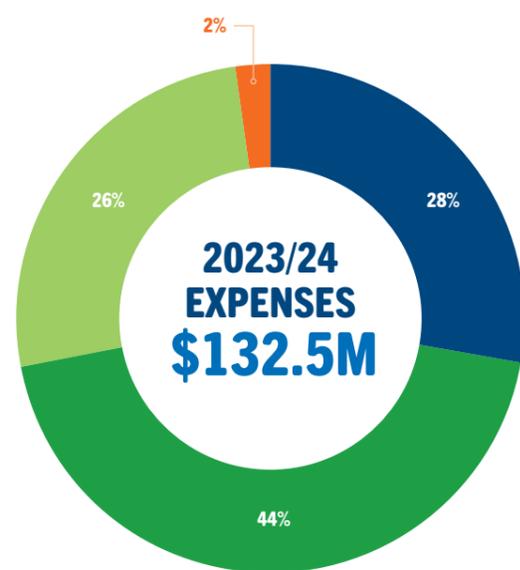


Figure 3 Expenses 2023/24

2023/24 Expenses category	\$'000
Employee expenses	37,126
Materials, contracts and other expenses	57,877
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	34,262
Finance costs	3,242
Total expenses	132,507

Table 3 Actual expenses 2023/24 by category

The following provides a snapshot of City of Darwin's capital expenditure for 2023/24.

2023/24 capital expenditure	\$'000
Buildings	18,813
Stormwater drainage	2,550
Transport	5,982
Pathways	1,538
Public lighting	772
Plant and equipment	1,293
Parks and reserves	2,788
Other assets	199
Waste management infrastructure	1,488
Total capital expenditure	35,423

Table 4 Actual capital expenditure 2023/24 by asset class

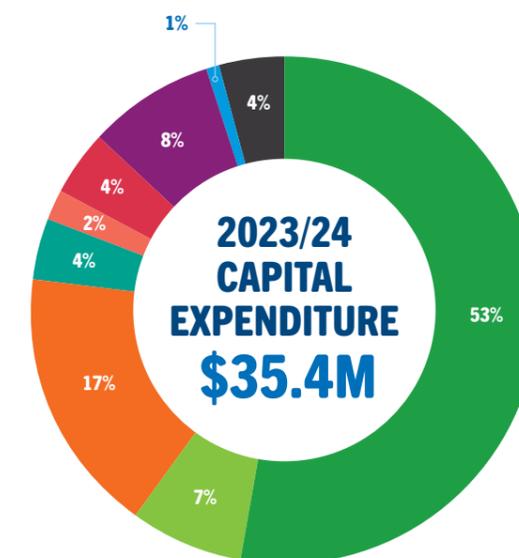


Figure 4 Capital expenditure 2023/24



Ambon yacht race

2.3 EXTERNAL GRANTS AND FUNDING

Securing external funding is an important function of City of Darwin and provides an opportunity to deliver key projects in accordance with community expectations whilst keeping rate increases to a minimum. External funding includes government operational subsidies and grants. Funding recognised in 2023/24 is outlined in Table x below.

Annual recurring grants and operational subsidies

Program	Funding agency	2023/24 funding recognised \$
Public library funding	Northern Territory Government, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities	1,494,120
Mosquito control program	Northern Territory Government, Department of Health	218,775
Financial Assistance Grant (FAA) – general purpose	Australian Government, Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, administered via the Northern Territory Grants Commission	122,135
Fun Bus	Northern Territory Government, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities	106,673
Financial Assistance Grant (FAA) – roads	Australian Government Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, administered via the Northern Territory Grants Commission	93,627
Total annual recurring grants and operational subsidies		2,035,330

Table 5 External operational subsidies and funding 2023/24. External operational subsidies and funding 2023/24. A significant portion of the Financial Assistance Grants for 2023/24 were released in the previous financial year.

One-off grants and sponsorships

Program	Funding agency	2023/24 funding recognised \$
Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre	Australian Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	7,500,000
Local roads and community infrastructure program – Phase 4	Australian Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	366,418
Capital funding for various projects in Darwin municipality	Northern Territory Government, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics	250,333
Cyclone Tracy	Northern Territory Government, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	200,000
Graffiti control	Northern Territory Government, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics	150,000
Bundilla Park activation	Northern Territory Government, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	189,666

Program	Funding agency	2023/24 funding recognised \$
Darwin City Deal – Darwin city greening Smith Street improvement project	Northern Territory Government, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics	159,382
Lee Point Road upgrades	Northern Territory Government, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	150,000
Local government immediate priority grant – Casuarina Library upgrade	Northern Territory Government, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	141,000
Chapel Lane revitalisation	Northern Territory Government, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics	101,384
Traffic bollards Malak	Northern Territory Government, Community Safety Coordination Centre	91,000
Garramilla irrigation works	Northern Territory Government, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics	81,524
Cardboard compactor	Northern Territory Government, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade	73,318
LAUNCH night series	Northern Territory Government, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities	40,928
Tourism towns asset program	Northern Territory Government, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade	36,165
Bundilla Lagoon recreational fishing	Northern Territory Government, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade	32,709
Australia Day	National Australia Day Council	15,000
Gaming after dark sessions	Northern Territory Government, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities	14,750
Australia Day	Australia Day Council Northern Territory	2,250
International Women's Day	Northern Territory Government, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities	2,000
Seniors month	Northern Territory Government, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities	1,600
Inspired NT science communication	Charles Darwin University	1,500
Young Territory Author sponsorship	City of Palmerston	909
Total one-off grants and sponsorships		9,601,836
Total external funded programs and projects 2023/24		11,637,166

Table 6 External funding recognised as income in 2023/24

Grant income in the table above and in the Financial Statements is recognised in accordance with AASB 1058. This is in the year that milestones are achieved and may differ to the financial year in which the funds are received.

3. OUR COUNCIL



3.1 DEMOCRATIC LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Council is made up of 13 elected members, one of whom is the Lord Mayor. The Lord Mayor and councillors (collectively, the elected members) are elected by the community to represent the interests of the community. Elected members are empowered by the Act to make decisions for the municipality. They perform their role by taking part in Council meetings, policy development, setting strategic directions, decision-making and community engagement. To achieve a strong common purpose and commitment to the community, elected members provide information to their constituents regarding Council decisions and activity and are available to community members wishing to express their concerns and opinions. Strong democratic governance is required for City of Darwin to deliver Darwin 2030: City for People. City of Colour.

The role of elected members

The Lord Mayor and councillors must act in accordance with section 44 of the Act when representing City of Darwin and:

- represent the interests of all residents and ratepayers
- provide leadership and guidance
- facilitate communication between the members of the council's constituency and the council
- be properly informed to enable participation in the deliberations of the council and its community activities
- ensure, as far as practicable, that the council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately in carrying out its statutory responsibilities
- ensure that council resources are used prudently and solely in the public interest
- actively monitor the financial affairs of the council.

By-election

Councillor Paul Arnold resigned as an elected member effective 22 May 2023. A by-election for Lyons Ward was held on Saturday 2 September 2023 and Sam Weston was duly elected after receiving 53 per cent of the primary votes. Councillor Sam Weston was sworn in by the Lord Mayor on Tuesday 17 October at the Civic Centre.



"STRONG DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IS REQUIRED FOR CITY OF DARWIN TO DELIVER DARWIN 2030: CITY FOR PEOPLE. CITY OF COLOUR."

Image: Darwin City

3.2 ELECTED MEMBERS



The Hon. Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Ph: 0499 384 233
lord.mayor@darwin.nt.gov.au

Lord Mayor

- President of Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)
- Top End Regional Organisations of Councils (TOPROC)
- Council of Capital Cities Lord Mayors (CCCLM)
- NT Ministerial Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs (MACMA)
- Administrative Review Committee (Chair)
- Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee (Chair)
- Cyclone Tracy Commemoration Advisory Committee (Chair)
- Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee (Chair)
- International Relations Advisory Committee (Chair)
- Tree Advisory Committee (Chair)
- The Lord Mayor is an ex officio member of all Council committees.



CHAN WARD

Chan Ward comprises the suburbs of Coconut Grove, East Point, Fannie Bay, Jingili, Ludmilla, Millner, Nightcliff, and Rapid Creek.



Councillor Ed Smelt

Elected 2021

Ph: 0448 914 933
ed.smelt@darwin.nt.gov.au

- Administrative Review Committee (alternate)
- Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee (alternate)
- Risk Management and Audit Committee



Councillor Morgan Rickard

Elected 2021

Ph: 0483 129 394
morgan.rickard@darwin.nt.gov.au

- Administrative Review Committee
- Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee
- East Point Reserve Advisory Committee (alternate)
- Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee
- Tree Advisory Committee



Councillor Peter Pangquee

Elected 2017

Ph: 0499 417 632
peter.pangquee@darwin.nt.gov.au

- Administrative Review Committee
- Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee
- Reconciliation Advisory Committee
- Development Consent Authority
- Local Government Code of Conduct Panel
- Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)
- Tourism Top End



LYONS WARD

Lyons Ward comprises the suburbs of Bayview, Darwin City, Larrakeyah, Parap, Stuart Park, The Gardens, The Narrows and Woolner.



Councillor Amye Un

Elected 2021

Ph: 0499 382 948
amy.e.un@darwin.nt.gov.au

- Administrative Review Committee (alternate)
- Cyclone Tracy Commemoration Advisory Committee (alternate)



Councillor Mick Palmer

Elected 2015

Ph: 0418 892 943
mick.palmer@darwin.nt.gov.au

- Administrative Review Committee
- Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee
- Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee
- East Point Reserve Advisory Committee
- Tree Advisory Committee (alternate)
- Development Consent Authority
- Local Government Code of Conduct Panel



Councillor Sam Weston

Elected 2023

Ph: 0499 389 462
sam.weston@darwin.nt.gov.au

- Administrative Review Committee (alternate)



RICHARDSON WARD

Richardson Ward comprises the suburbs of Alawa, Brinkin, Buffalo Creek, Casuarina, Holmes, Leanyer, Lee Point, Lyons, Muirhead, Nakara, Tiwi and Wanguri.



Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Elected 2017

Ph: 0438 274 386
jimmy.bouhoris@darwin.nt.gov.au

- Administrative Review Committee (alternate)
- Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee
- Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee (alternate)
- Information Communication Technology Steering Committee
- International Relations Advisory Committee (alternate)
- Reconciliation Advisory Committee (alternate)
- Risk Management and Audit Committee
- Sister City Advisory Committee (alternate)
- Youth Advisory Committee
- Council on the Ageing NT Board
- Development Consent Authority (alternate)



Councillor Vim Sharma

Elected 2021

Ph: 0499 387 043
vim.sharma@darwin.nt.gov.au

- Administrative Review Committee (alternate)



Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe

Elected 2012

Ph: 0414 893 733
rebecca.wantderowe@darwin.nt.gov.au

- Administrative Review Committee (alternate)
- Youth Advisory Committee (alternate)
- Local Government Code of Conduct Panel



WATERS WARD

Waters Ward comprises the suburbs of Anula, Berrimah, Coonawarra, Eaton, Hidden Valley (part only), Karama, Malak, Marrara, Moil, Wagaman, Winnellie and Wulagi.



Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Elected 2021

Ph: 0477 938 621
sylvia.klonaris@darwin.nt.gov.au

- Administrative Review Committee (alternate)
- Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
- Information Communication Technology Steering Committee (alternate)
- Sister City Advisory Committee
- Council on the Ageing NT Board of Management



Councillor Kim Farrar

Elected 2022

Ph: 0499 373 881
kim.farrar@darwin.nt.gov.au

- Administrative Review Committee (alternate)
- Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee
- Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (alternate)
- Cyclone Tracy Commemoration Advisory Committee



Councillor Brian O'Gallagher

Elected 2021

Ph: 0499 395 473
brian.ogallagher@darwin.nt.gov.au

- Administrative Review Committee (alternate)
- International Relations Advisory Committee
- Risk Management and Audit Committee

3.3 ELECTED MEMBER ALLOWANCES

Elected member allowances are set by the Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal each year. The Report and Determination No. 1 of 2023 – Determination of Allowances for Members of Local Government Councils was made on 24 January 2023 and tabled in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly on 14 February 2023.

The Determination sets the value of allowances for councillors, deputy principal members, and the principal member. Allowances are paid in accordance with City of Darwin Elected Members Expenses, Facilities and Support Policy.

Principal Member (Lord Mayor)	
Type of allowance	Principal member allowance from 1 July 2023
Principal Member allowance	\$127,200.00
Councillor allowance	\$31,000.00
Vehicle allowance	\$25,000.00
Professional development allowance	\$4,000.00
Deputy Principal Member (Deputy Lord Mayor)	
Type of allowance	Deputy principal member allowance from 1 July 2023
Deputy Principal Member allowance	\$23,800.00
Councillor allowance	\$31,000.00
Extra meeting allowance	Up to 2 hours \$200.00 Between 2 and 4 hours \$300.00 More than 4 hours \$500.00 (maximum payable for any one day) Capped at \$10,000 per financial year
Professional development allowance	\$4,000.00
Elected members	
Type of allowance	Elected member ordinary base allowance from 1 July 2023
Councillor allowance	\$31,000.00
Extra meeting allowance	Up to 2 hours \$200.00 Between 2 and 4 hours \$300.00 More than 4 hours \$500.00 (maximum payable for any one day) Capped at \$10,000 per financial year
Professional development allowance	\$4,000.00
Vehicle allowance	Capped at \$5,000.00 per financial year Travel exceeds 50 kilometres from home base, Vehicle allowance will be in the form of kilometre allowance, at rates set by the Australian Taxation Office each year

Table 7 Shows the maximum amount payable for the 2023/24 financial year

The following table provides an itemisation of any allowances paid to elected members for the 2023/24 financial year.

Elected Member	Councillors' allowance	Lord Mayor allowance	Deputy Lord Mayor allowance	Acting Lord Mayor allowance	Vehicle Allowance	Additional meeting allowance	Annual professional development allowance	Total allowances
Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis	\$31,000.00	\$127,200.00			\$25,000.00			\$183,200.00
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris	\$31,000.00		\$5,934.11			\$9,600.00	\$4,355.42	\$50,889.53
Councillor Kim Farrar	\$31,000.00					\$7,600.00	\$2,864.85	\$41,464.85
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris	\$31,000.00			\$10,454.70		\$8,000.00	\$4,123.87	\$53,578.57
Councillor Brian O'Gallagher	\$31,000.00					\$7,700.00	\$5,737.26	\$44,437.26
Councillor Mick Palmer	\$31,000.00					\$7,000.00		\$38,000.00
Councillor Peter Pangquee	\$31,000.00		\$2,151.93			\$10,000.00		\$43,151.93
Councillor Morgan Rickard	\$31,000.00					\$6,500.00		\$37,500.00
Councillor Vim Sharma	\$31,000.00					\$300.00		\$31,300.00
Councillor Ed Smelt	\$31,000.00		\$7,499.15	\$2,439.43		\$8,600.00	\$2,886.58	\$52,425.16
Councillor Amye Un	\$31,000.00					\$5,800.00		\$36,800.00
Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe	\$31,000.00					\$5,600.00		\$36,600.00
Councillor Sam Weston	\$24,350.97		\$7,890.41			\$6,100.00		\$38,341.38

3.4 ELECTED MEMBER EXPENSES REIMBURSED 2023/24

There are several expenses which elected members incur whilst fulfilling their roles. Expenses incurred and reimbursed in accordance with City of Darwin Elected Members Expenses, Facilities and Support Policy are outlined in the table below:

Elected Member	Expense
nil	nil

Table 8 Elected Members expenses reimbursed.

Members of the 23rd Council are provided with a phone and laptop to conduct Council business.

3.5 ELECTED MEMBER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2023/24 the allowance for elected member professional development was \$4,000. The total amount claimable each year is the total of two years, being based on the annual allowance, plus one year drawn in advance or one year's remaining balance from a previous year. This amount includes all associated costs such as travel, conference fees, meals and accommodation.

Elected Member	Professional development course/conference	Location	Total costs, including travel
Councillor Brian O'Gallagher	Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) National Congress	18 to 21 March 2024, Melbourne	\$5,737.26
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris*	Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) – National General Assembly	2 to 5 July 2024, Canberra	\$4,355.42
Councillor Kim Farrar*	Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) – National General Assembly	2 to 5 July 2024, Canberra	\$2,864.85
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris*	Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) – National General Assembly	2 to 5 July 2024, Canberra	\$4,123.87
Councillor Ed Smelt*	Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) – National General Assembly	2 to 5 July 2024, Canberra	\$2,886.58
Lord Mayor and Councillor Peter Pangquee	Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) – National General Assembly	2 to 5 July 2024, Canberra	Attended as LGANT representatives

Table 9 Elected Member professional development expenses

*Conference took place in July 2024; however expenses were incurred during the 2023/24 FY.

3.6 MEETING ATTENDANCE

23rd Council members	Ordinary meetings attended	Ordinary meetings apology	Special meetings attended	Special meetings apology	Briefings	Workshops
Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis	14	5	0	0	10	5
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris	18	1	0	0	18	5
Councillor Kim Farrar	18	1	0	0	16	5
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris	17	2	0	0	17	5
Councillor Brian O’Gallagher	18	1	0	0	17	5
Councillor Mick Palmer	17	2	0	0	16	4
Councillor Peter Pangquee	16	3	0	0	11	4
Councillor Morgan Rickard	15	4	0	0	13	3
Councillor Vim Sharma	14	5	0	0	1	0
Councillor Ed Smelt	19	0	0	0	16	4
Councillor Amye Un	17	2	0	0	16	5
Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe	13	6	0	0	14	4
Councillor Sam Weston	13	0	0	0	12	5
Ordinary Council Meetings Held	19					
Special Council Meetings Held			0			
Briefings Held					18	
Workshops Held						5

Councillor Sam Weston’s first Council meeting was 17 October 2023

3.7 COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

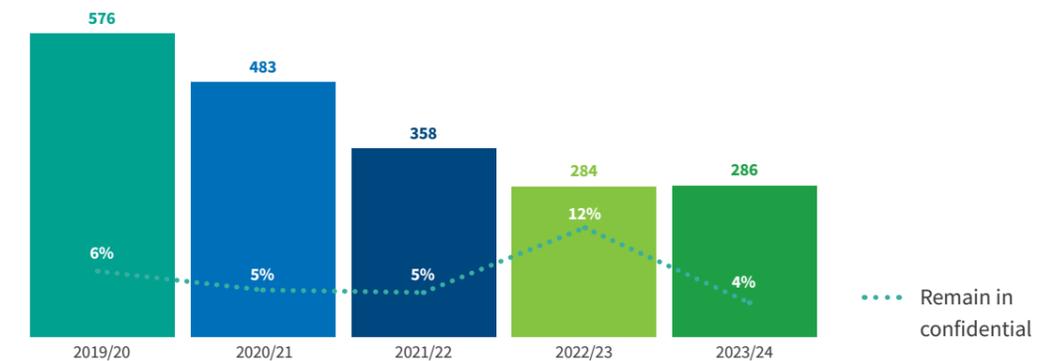
To improve transparency, customer service, access to the elected members and for the public to observe Council decision making without the need to attend, all ordinary and special Council meetings are live webcast via MS Teams, subject to being closed for confidential business.

Council holds a 30-minute public forum, open to all members of the public, prior to the last ordinary Council meeting each month. The purpose of the public forum is to provide an avenue for members of the public to engage with elected members. The Lord Mayor chairs the public forum to ensure it is conducted in an orderly manner and directs questions to councillors and/or the Chief Executive Officer for response. The Chair ensures that all participants are given an opportunity to speak.

COUNCIL DECISIONS

Some decisions made by Council are considered confidential in accordance with the Act and Council policy. These decisions are reviewed on a periodic basis with the majority moved into open. At 30 June 2024 only 4 per cent of Council decisions remained in confidential.

Council decisions



3.7.1 Committees (executive, advisory and audit)

In accordance with the Act, Council may appoint a committee which may be executive or advisory in nature. Executive committees carry out functions on behalf of the Council which have been delegated to it. Council appoints elected member committee membership at the commencement of each term of Council for a period of 12 months and thereafter annually. The current City of Darwin executive committees are the Administrative Review Committee and the Chief Executive Officer’s Performance Appraisal Committee.

Council must also establish and maintain an audit committee. The City of Darwin audit committee is the Risk Management and Audit Committee.

The following pages outline Council’s executive, advisory and audit committees’ structure and representation as at 30 June 2024.

Executive committee	Purpose	Membership
Administrative Review	To conduct internal reviews of decisions pursuant to Chapter 18 of the Act and to carry out the financial functions of Council pursuant to Section 17 of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> .	Lord Mayor (Chair) Councillor Mick Palmer Councillor Peter Pangquee Councillor Morgan Rickard All remaining elected members are appointed as alternate members
Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal	To conduct performance appraisals of the Chief Executive Officer.	Lord Mayor (Chair) Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris Councillor Kim Farrar Councillor Mick Palmer Councillor Peter Pangquee

Table 10 Executive committees

Advisory committee	Purpose	Membership
Access and Inclusion Advisory	To advocate, inform, and guide Council on improved access and inclusion for all people, including people with disabilities, living, working, studying in or visiting Darwin.	Councillor Sylvia Klonaris Councillor Kim Farrar (alternate)
Arts and Cultural Development Advisory	To advocate, inform and guide Council on improving its positive impact on communities and culture in Darwin.	Councillor Morgan Rickard Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris (alternate)
Cyclone Tracy Commemoration Advisory	To provide recommendations to Council to enable an informed decision to be made on the delivery of the program of events and activities for the 50th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy.	Lord Mayor (Chair) Councillor Kim Farrar Councillor Amye Un (alternate)
Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory	To strengthen the tourism, historical, cultural, and educational prospects of the raft of events and activities relating to Darwin's military heritage and its impact on the citizens of the Northern Territory.	Lord Mayor (Chair) Councillor Mick Palmer Councillor Ed Smelt (alternate)
East Point Reserve Advisory	To provide advice to Council on matters outlined in the Committee's roles and functions. The Committee will provide recommendations to Council to enable an informed decision to be made on the management of East Point Reserve.	Councillor Mick Palmer Councillor Morgan Rickard (alternate)
Information Communication Technology (ICT) Steering	To ensure accountability and governance oversight of the ICT function with a particular focus on assessment and monitoring of ICT projects, decision making and outcomes. In addition, the governance and oversight of ICT infrastructure, networks, and security.	Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris Councillor Sylvia Klonaris (alternate)
International Relations Advisory	To advocate, inform, and support Council with its international relations strategy, while supporting a whole of Council approach to community, cultural and economic development.	Lord Mayor (Chair) Councillor Brian O'Gallagher Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris (alternate)

Advisory committee	Purpose	Membership
Reconciliation Advisory	To advocate, inform, and guide Council on reconciliation actions and efforts to strengthen the relationships between First Nations and non-First Nations people, for the benefit of all Australians living, working, studying in or visiting Darwin.	Councillor Peter Pangquee Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris (alternate)
Sister City Advisory	To provide cross-cultural understanding and build vibrant and connected communities and generate mutual benefits for both cities through educational, cultural, professional, economic, and humanitarian exchange.	Councillor Sylvia Klonaris Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris (alternate)
Tree Advisory	To provide advice to Council on matters outlined in the Committee's roles and functions. The Committee will provide recommendations to Council to enable an informed decision to be made on the management of the Greening Strategy 2021.	Lord Mayor (Chair) Councillor Morgan Rickard Councillor Mick Palmer (alternate)
Youth Advisory	To give young people a say in voicing their concerns on matters and issues that are important to them and are related to Council. The Committee also assists young people involved to develop leadership, communication, teamwork, and public speaking skills.	Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe (alternate)

Table 11 Advisory committees



Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre

Outside committees with City of Darwin appointed representation

Outside committee		City of Darwin appointed representative
Activate Darwin Advisory Board	Oversees the strategy and delivery of Activate Darwin. There are three sub-committees, chaired by board members to provide advice and scrutinise their approach.	Chief Executive Officer
Council of Capital Cities Lord Mayors (CCCLM)	To provide a national corporate entity for the effective coordination and representation of the special interests of the capital cities of the Australian states and Northern Territory in their relations with other spheres of government.	Lord Mayor
Council on the Ageing NT Board of Management (COTA)	To promote the well-being of senior Territorians aged 50 years and over and First Nation Territorians aged 45 years and over.	Councillor Sylvia Klonaris Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris (alternate)
Development Consent Authority (DCA) Northern Territory	To determine the development applications within the municipality. The DCA may also be appointed to hold public hearings or a reporting body hearing on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.	Councillor Mick Palmer Councillor Peter Pangquee Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris (alternate)
Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)	Peak body representing local government in the Northern Territory.	Lord Mayor Councillor Peter Pangquee
NT Ministerial Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs (MACMA)	The council aims to provide a voice for the multicultural community on issues of interest as well as high level and strategic advice to the Minister of Multicultural Affairs.	Lord Mayor
Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee	To ensure a consultative approach to water management and planning.	Councillor Morgan Rickard
Top End Regional Organisations of Councils (TOPROC)	Proactively identifies matters of collective priority for communities within the Greater Darwin region and provides a strong leadership and voice to advance solutions.	Lord Mayor
Tourism Top End	The primary role of the Board is to provide strategic direction to Tourism NT and strategic advice to the Minister. It provides leadership and vision through strategy formulation and policy development whilst meeting its legislative, financial and governance obligations.	Councillor Peter Pangquee

Table 12 Outside committees with City of Darwin appointed representation

Appointments by the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)

Outside committee		City of Darwin appointed representative
Local Government Code of Conduct Panel	The Local Government Unit will investigate complaints about a council that is in potential breach of legislative requirements.	Councillor Mick Palmer Councillor Peter Pangquee Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe

Table 13 Appointments by the Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT)

RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

The City of Darwin Risk Management and Audit Committee (RMAC) is established in accordance with section 86 of the Act. The purpose of RMAC is to provide independent assurance and assistance to the Council and the Chief Executive Officer in matters relating to the monitoring of the risk management framework, financial reporting processes, compliance, performance of auditors and the audit program.

PKF Merit was appointed to audit the 2023/24 financial statements and report to Council on the results of that audit. In particular, the auditor is required to report on any material irregularity in the Council's accounting practices or the management of Council's financial affairs identified during the audit.

The results of the annual external audit process were presented to RMAC on 18 October 2024. It is RMAC's role to review and recommend to the Council's Chief Executive Officer the suitability of the annual financial statements for certification and inclusion in the annual report.

Council received an unqualified audit of its 2023/24 financial statements with no matters of a significant nature brought to the attention of RMAC by the auditor.

RMAC met four times during the 2023/24 financial year and in addition to the 2022/23 annual financial statements provided oversight on a number of items including:

- 2022/23 Annual Report
- risk management framework

- internal audit assurance
- external audit reporting
- provision of audit services
- fraud control
- emergency management
- work health and safety/human resources.

RMAC reviewed and made recommendations to Council on several internal and external policies and procedures including:

- Investment Policy
- Asset Management Plan – land under roads
- Unclaimed Money Policy
- Internal Audit and Assurance Policy and procedure
- Risk Management Policy
- Allocation of Surplus Funds Policy
- Financial Reserve Policy
- Terms of Reference for the Information and Communications Steering Committee
- Terms of Reference for the Risk Management and Audit Committee.

The Risk Management and Audit Committee is supported by the Chief Executive Officer and senior staff.

Risk Management and Audit Committee	Members	Meeting attendance
To make recommendations to Council relating to risk management and audit matters as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • internal controls • financial management • emergency and waste management • risk management framework, including strategic, operational and project risk assessments • internal and external audit functions • annual financial statements and other performance reporting documents 	Roland Chin (Chair)	4
	George Araj	4
	Sanja Hill	2
	Joe McCabe	4
	Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris	3
	Councillor Brian O'Gallagher	4
	Councillor Ed Smelt	4
Total Risk Management and Audit Committee meetings held		4

Table 14 Risk Management and Audit Committee members and meeting attendance 2023/24

4. OUR PEOPLE AND SAFETY



4.1 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

City of Darwin operates on a four-hub structure, which aligns to the priorities of the Act and allows for a more agile organisation focused on collaboration and streamlined decision making.



OFFICE OF THE LORD MAYOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Simone Saunders, Chief Executive Officer

- Governance and Strategy
- Marketing, Communications and Engagement
- Office of the Lord Mayor and CEO



CORPORATE

Natalie Williamson, General Manager

- Corporate and Customer Service
- Finance
- Human Resources and Safety
- ICT Project Management Office
- Infrastructure



INNOVATION

Alice Percy, General Manager

- Digital Innovation
- Environment, Climate and Waste
- Growth and Economic Development
- Technical Services



COMMUNITY

Matt Grassmayr, General Manager

- Community and Cultural Services
- Library and Family Services
- Operations
- Regulatory Services

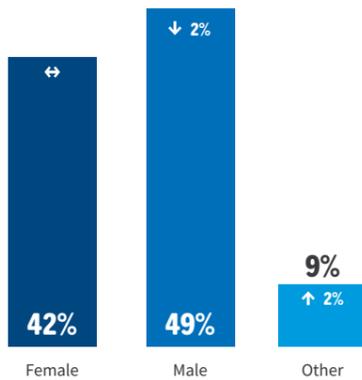
Image: Fun Bus

4.2 WORKFORCE PROFILE

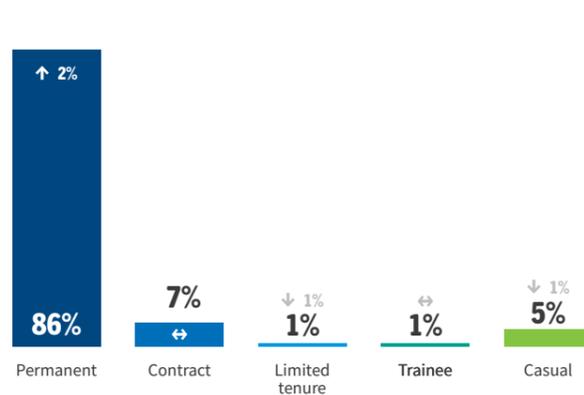
The workforce profile provides valuable insights into the composition of our workforce and is used to inform workforce management strategies and policy.



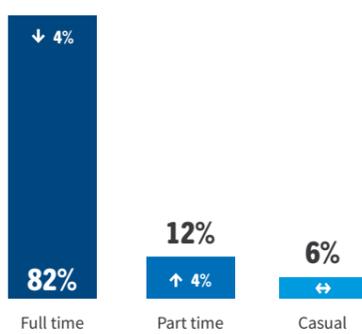
GENDER



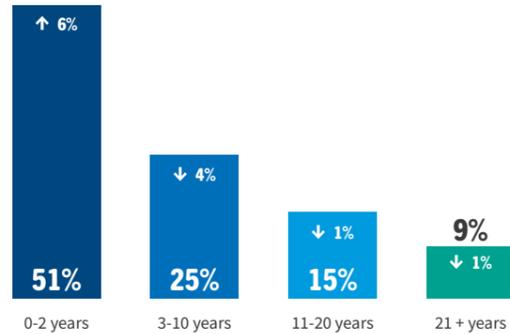
EMPLOYMENT TYPE



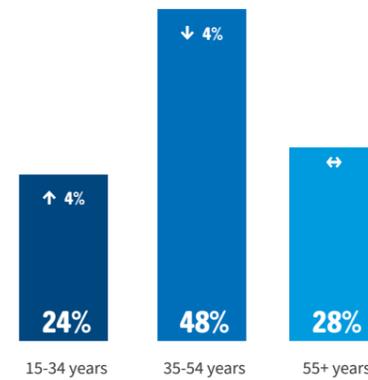
WORKFORCE STATUS



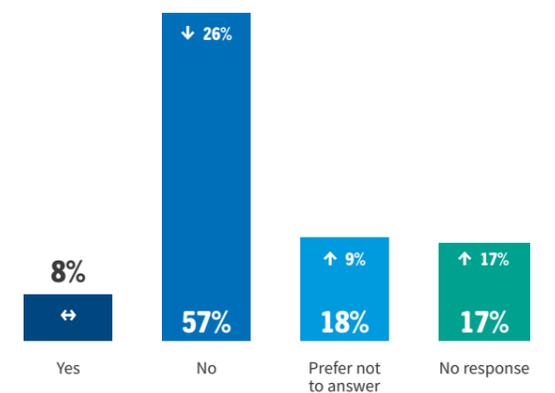
WORKFORCE TENURE



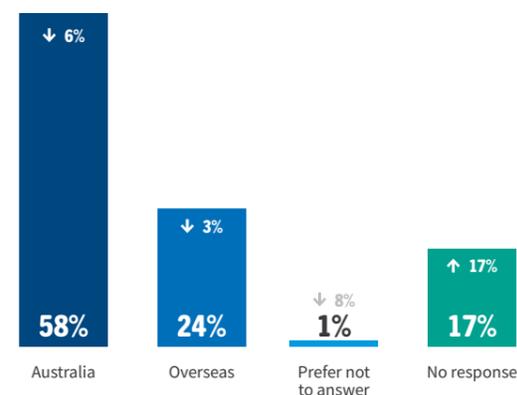
AGE OF WORKFORCE



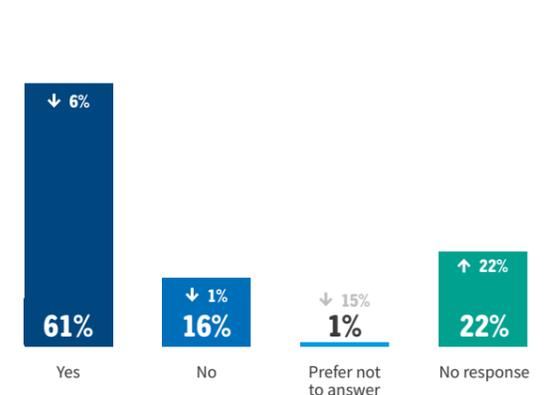
FIRST NATIONS WORKFORCE



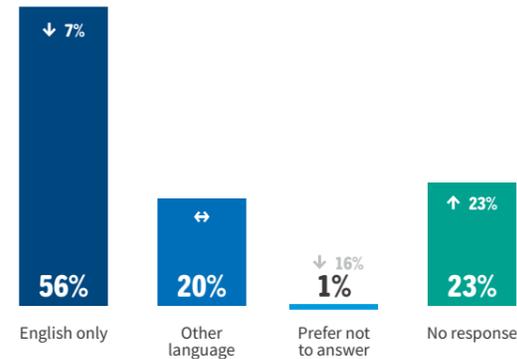
WORKFORCE COUNTRY OF BIRTH



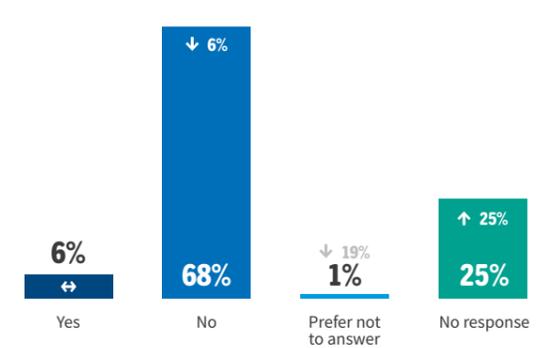
WORKFORCE LANGUAGE – ENGLISH AS FIRST



WORKFORCE LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME



WORKFORCE DISABILITY



Percentage change from 2022/23 are indicated with arrows ↑ ↓ ↔

4.3 OUR VALUES AND AWARDS

In July and December 2023, City of Darwin recognised our corporate values, comprising customer services, accountability, respect, excellence and solidarity (CARES) plus our activity and efforts in the areas of reconciliation, environmental sustainability, enterprise leadership, and workplace health and safety through our staff awards process. These awards are in place to encourage, recognise and celebrate our employees and align to our Performance Management Framework.

Due to the sheer number of compelling nominations received from fellow staff members, multiple winners were identified across some categories for their outstanding contributions to City of Darwin.



July 2023 Awards

Category	Recipient
CARES individual	Kelsey Arnold Charmaine Davis
CARES team	Finance
WHS individual	Maia Doyle
WHS team	Urban Bushland and Vegetation
Environmental sustainability	Libby Gleeson
Reconciliation	Tony Vincent Shelley Cook
Enterprise leadership	Lisa Spann
Executive enterprise leadership	Irene Frazis

December 2023 Awards

Category	Recipient
CARES individual	Claire Scicluna Audrey Marceau Gordon Killick
CARES team	Animal Management Team
WHS individual	Sarah Doecke
WHS team	City Maintenance – Lyons Ward
Environmental sustainability	David Yates Jnr
Reconciliation	Joanne O'Reilly Robert Pocock
Enterprise leadership	Anthony Jones
Executive enterprise leadership	Nick Fewster

4.4 STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

City of Darwin is committed to providing training, development, and employment programs to ensure the skills and knowledge of our people are maintained and developed to support the delivery of services to our community and achievement of our strategic objectives.

During the 2023/24 financial year, City of Darwin hosted or organised more than 88 professional development opportunities, falling into the following training categories:

- mandatory, compliance and legislative
- business and occupational
- leadership development.

Moreover, we held six orientation days and six Working with Cultural Differences sessions for new staff, with over 100 and 80 participants respectively.

Mandatory and compliance activities constituted 35 per cent of all training activities and they included but were not limited to: legislative, compliance, competencies, and licences. Effort around mandatory and compliance was channelled into scheduled refresher courses to ensure employees remained competent, with approximately 76 of 136 staff having their tickets and licences renewed. Refresher courses constituted approximately 15 out of 27 compliance sessions.

A total of 65 per cent of the training budget was utilised to support the development of business, occupational and leadership skills, which represents an increase of 16 per cent compared to the previous financial year. This continuing strong trend emphasises City of Darwin's commitment to supporting the upskilling of our workforce to address key and emerging learning needs.

Professional development training was delivered in response to the training requirements identified through City of Darwin's annual performance and development reviews, a process that ensures training needs align with business performance and strategic objectives. Following a thorough review and analysis of the learning needs, we managed to distribute the training budget across all teams

and delivered well-planned training programs.

The leadership program was one of this year's key areas of focus. As part of this internally designed program, all leaders sharpened their skills around managing performance, underpinned by the principles of people-centred leadership and enterprise-wide thinking.

A cohort of City of Darwin's leaders completed a three-day internal course on project and change management. Additionally, the entire workforce attended a one-day Leader Within session, designed to support the development of leadership qualities in each employee and encourage everyone to understand that great leadership starts with self and how we behave every day.

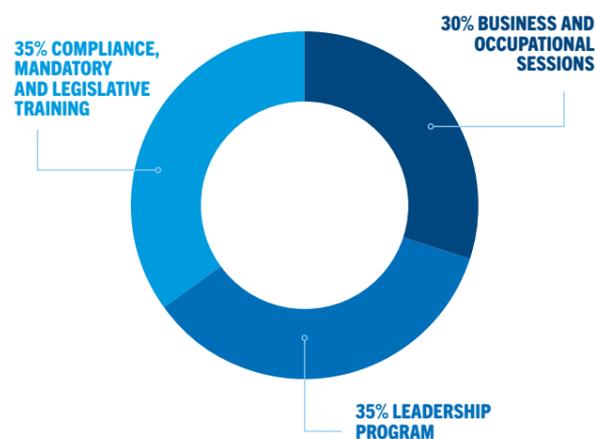
During the 2023/24 financial year, 24 staff (around 6 per cent of the workforce) participated in the Employee Study Assistance Scheme (ESAS), a reimbursement scheme through which employees can gain formal qualifications relevant to their current or prospective role at City of Darwin.

Of the 24 staff who participated in the scheme, 16 were seeking vocational and eight tertiary education qualifications. With seven current staff enrolments, project management is the most popular discipline studied, followed by horticulture, and information studies with four enrolments each. Project management's top position in the ranking is indicative of the increasing value of this skill and its impact on meeting City of Darwin's strategic objectives.

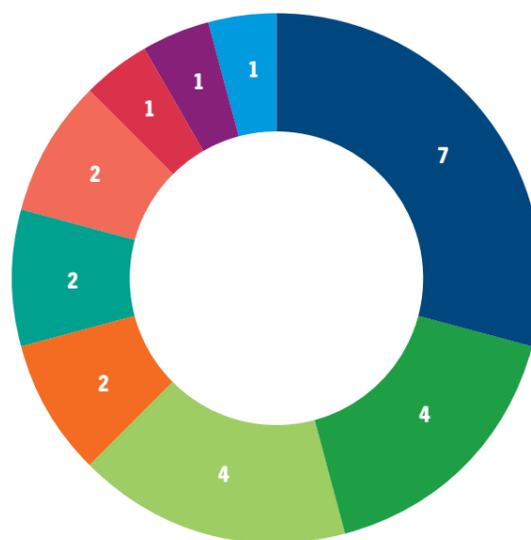
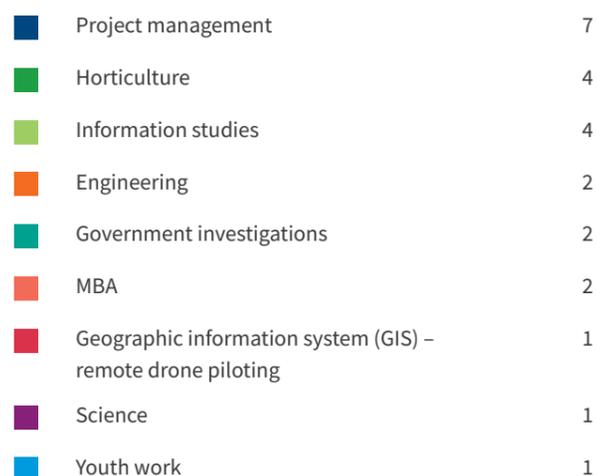
City of Darwin is committed to identifying and retaining talent by offering opportunities to workforce. The list of City of Darwin early career professionals keeps expanding, with trainees, apprentices, and graduates in the below fields:

- Graduate librarian
- Graduate digital communications
- Certificate IV in Workplace Health and Safety (trainee)
- Certificate III in Community Services (trainee)
- Certificate III in Information Technology (trainee)
- Certificate III in Irrigation Technology (apprentice)
- Certificate III in Civil Construction (apprentice)

Types of staff training provided Sept 2023 - June 2024



Subjects studied



4.5 WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

City of Darwin is dedicated to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for all its employees and visitors. To fulfill this commitment, we have undertaken a full review and redevelopment of our Workplace Health and Safety Management System (WHSMS) which has been finalised this financial year. This system ensures that we uphold our commitment and legal obligations to prioritise the safety of our people. During this period, we have transitioned from traditional paper-based incident reports to a digital incident reporting system.

Throughout 2023/24, our focus has been on implementing the revised WHSMS, which consists of a range of documents including a strategic management framework, policies, procedures and daily-use templates. These policies and procedures emphasise the importance of consultation and training at various levels within the organisation.

The WHSMS concentrates on key areas for continuous improvement, which are as follows:

- safety conscious people – we strive to nurture a positive safety culture, motivate our workforce to prioritise safety, and empower our leaders to be safety advocates
- healthy and safe workplaces – we have developed and will continue to maintain a comprehensive WHSMS, providing essential training to our workforce
- health and wellbeing growth – our efforts involve educating our staff on mental health and wellness, aiming to minimise the risk of psychosocial injuries through relevant initiatives
- safety systems and technology – we have implemented systems and technology to enhance compliance and streamline activities.

Workplace health and safety awards

City of Darwin, as part of its biannual employee awards, recognises individuals and teams that have made significant contributions to health and safety within the organisation. The awards cover individual or team contribution and acknowledge efforts such as displaying exceptional safety leadership, maintaining best practices, fostering a safety-positive culture, and implementing improvements in workplace health and safety (WHS) through problem-solving, safety enhancements, and lasting safety systems or processes.

The 2023/24 award winners can be found on page 42.

Staff health initiatives

City of Darwin facilitated two key health initiatives for our people during 2023/24. Participation in our Influenza vaccination clinics was slightly higher than in the previous financial year. Additionally, City of Darwin offered skin checks for staff working primarily outdoors. City of Darwin continued to encourage and support staff who are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19 through provision of COVID-19 vaccination leave.

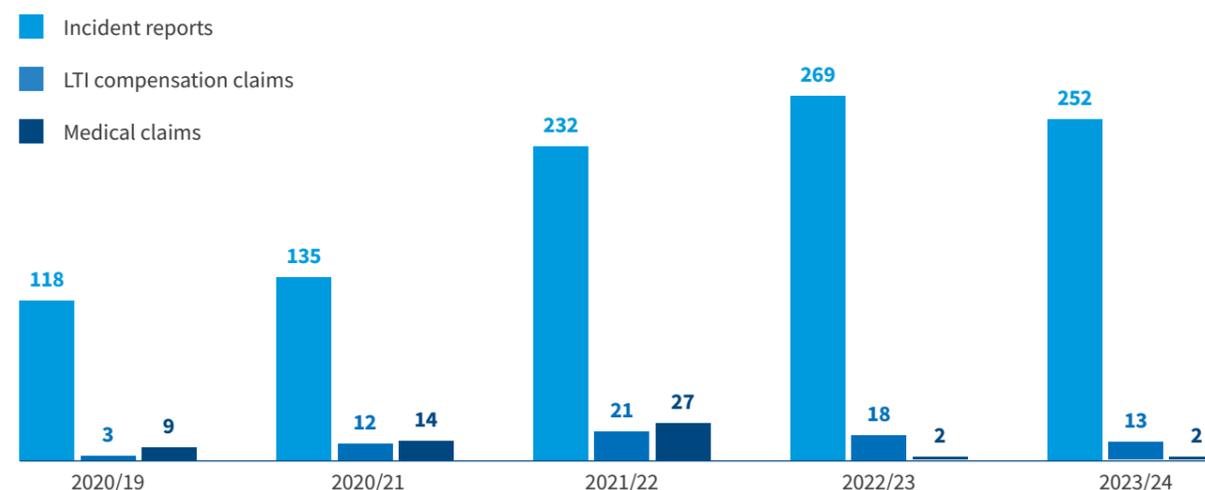
To ensure staff health and wellbeing continues to be a priority, City of Darwin employs a dedicated Employee Wellbeing Advisor. A key function of the role is to identify and implement health and wellbeing initiatives for our people.

Workplace health and safety performance dashboard

During the 2023/24 financial year 252 incidents were reported, which marks a decrease compared to the previous year, as shown in the figure below. This decrease is attributed to a proactive approach of the leadership team, which has fostered a safety-conscious workforce and the active participation of all staff in the WHS continuous improvement journey.

The WHS and Human Resources team have worked together to improve the injury management procedure and better support our employees in the initial stages of an injury or illness, should one occur. This improvement has seen a significant decrease in workers' compensation lost time and medical claims.

Annual figures – all reported incidents, lost time injury (LTI) claims and medical only claims



5. OUR PERFORMANCE



DARWIN 2030: CITY FOR PEOPLE. CITY OF COLOUR.



A capital city with best practice and sustainable infrastructure



A safe, liveable and healthy city



A cool, clean and green city



A smart and prosperous city



A vibrant and creative city

UNDERPINNED BY CITY OF DARWIN'S GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK



Vision and culture



Roles and relationships



Decision making and management



Accountability

COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC ROLES HAVE BEEN DEFINED AS



Provider



Funder



Regulator



Partner



Facilitator



Advocate

OUR ANNUAL REPORT LEGEND

City of Darwin utilises a number of icons throughout the report that denote achievement or progress as outlined in the table below.

2023/24 Measures of performance		
Completed	Action or project is completed.	COMPLETED ✓
On track	Program, action or project is in progress with no major disruptions or delays.	ON TRACK →
Monitor	Action or project requires active monitoring.	MONITOR —
Not commenced / deferred	Program, action or project will not progress or is deferred. Commentary will show the intended course of action.	NOT STARTED ✕

Table 15 Measures of performance icon. Operational performance objectives are set in the City of Darwin Municipal Plan 2023/24. This report showcases City of Darwin's achievements against these goals, and highlights other initiatives undertaken throughout the year.



5.1 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1



A capital city with best practice and sustainable infrastructure



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

City of Darwin has a number of existing and identified strategic infrastructure projects, some of which are currently unfunded. Infrastructure projects that are not funded will be scoped, appropriate funding sources identified, and built into City of Darwin's Long-Term Financial Plan to ensure they are delivered. City of Darwin will actively pursue opportunities to fund strategic projects through public private partnerships, joint ventures, government grant programs and other suitable funding mechanisms.

Target: by 2030, a number of strategic infrastructure projects will be developed and delivered.

Strategic action	2022/23 progress	2023/24 progress	Comment
Develop a priority infrastructure plan 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	The internal Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030 has been adopted by Council and will be used to target external funding opportunities.
Implement City of Darwin's asset management framework 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	A building condition survey was conducted in 2023/24, and the buildings and land revaluations are nearing completion.
Maintain existing City of Darwin assets to ensure best value for money and utilisation is achieved 	ON TRACK →	COMPLETED ✓	Programs and projects continue to be delivered in accordance with available asset management plans, policy, guidelines and best practice as part of City of Darwin's business as usual operations.
Increase utilisation of the City of Darwin's land and community assets 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Council endorsed a new Commercial Outdoor Activities Policy. The street food program continues to be successful.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1: OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Deliver the 2023/24 Capital Works Program	ON TRACK →	A comprehensive capital works program has been delivered, which includes a number of scoping, planning and construction projects. At 30 June 2024, 93 per cent of the program was completed, with the remainder of the program completed at the time of publication.
Deliver the 2023/24 Better Suburbs and Enhancement Projects	ON TRACK →	City of Darwin elected members drive a community-led annual Better Suburbs program and in 2023/24 have achieved 89 per cent completion against the program. The full list of identified Better Suburbs projects is provided in Appendix 8.2. The balance of the program has been completed at time of publication.
Deliver the Lee Point Road Project	COMPLETED ✓	The finalisation of the road reconstruction and duplication of a section of Lee Point Road has been completed between Asche Street and Coleman Street, including landscaping.
Continue asset condition assessments for Council's stormwater infrastructure	COMPLETED ✓	Stormwater infrastructure condition assessments and cleaning remains an ongoing annual priority. The 2023/24 program has been completed within the approved funding.
Implement a Strategic Property Plan 2030 for City of Darwin properties to ensure sustainability	COMPLETED ✓	A risk assessment on the property portfolio has been completed throughout the year, with regular review now scheduled. Valuations have been completed for 70 per cent of City of Darwin's rental portfolio. A Lease and Licencing Policy has been drafted and lease and licencing templates created.



Lee Point road duplication



Cavenagh Street greening project (Lord Mayor)

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1 HIGHLIGHTS

Civic Centre redevelopment

A procurement process was undertaken in the 2023/24 financial year, designed to ensure that the Civic Centre redevelopment aligns with the City of Darwin's vision and meets the diverse needs of the community. Proposals were sought from parties interested in contributing to the redevelopment including private developers and investors eager to play a role in shaping the future of the city.

The redeveloped Civic Centre is intended to be delivered on its current site in the heart of Darwin, with direct linkages to Darwin Waterfront, Northern Territory Art Gallery and the city centre. It will include City of Darwin office and meeting spaces, a library and a function area. Proposals must also respect and give prominence to Galamarrma, the Tree of Knowledge, to ensure it is protected, as well as re-establishing a visual and social connection to the unique landmark.

Enterprise IT system

A priority of the 2023/24 Municipal Plan was progression of a four year transformation program to deliver an enhanced user experience, customer service, data and information management, and improved process integration and transparency. Initiatives include a dedicated Customer Relationship Management Solution (CRM), Learning and Development platform, enhanced document and record management capabilities. Darwin 2030. City for People. City of Colour. will serve as a key input into the journey which will also require change management, a strong governance framework and quality assurance.

The upgrade to Ci Anywhere, City of Darwin's records management system, took place over several months, prior to successfully going live late in November 2023 with migration to the cloud completed April 2024.

Smart controllers for street lights

During the year 3G controllers for 600 street and public lights in Darwin were converted to smart controllers. This enables smart troubleshooting, programming and immediate fault reporting as well as providing asset management and maintenance data. The smart controllers will improve our services and the safety of public road users.

Lee Point Road

City of Darwin successfully delivered the stage 1 upgrade of Lee Point Road through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program funded by the Australian Government. The works included the duplication of a section of Lee Point Road from the Asche Street intersection to Coleman Street, creating two lanes in each direction. A complementary landscape of trees and grassing was completed by City of Darwin as part of the Northern Territory Government Immediate Priority Grants program.

Footpaths

Contributing towards a safer, vibrant and inclusive community, City of Darwin is committed to providing safe and accessible footpaths throughout the municipality. More than \$750,000 was invested in renewing footpaths in 2023/24 to enhance accessibility and safety of pedestrians. Under the footpath renewal program, a new footpath was constructed on Bayview Street and Trower Road, and an accessible path was constructed for the Fannie Bay Oval.

Stormwater and roads

As part of City of Darwin's commitment towards best practice and sustainable infrastructure, \$1.41 million was invested in stormwater renewal and upgrades including the Dick Ward Drive culvert upgrade and Edwards Street stormwater pipe replacement. An additional \$1.8 million was spent on road surfacing and renewal with ten locations being renewed. City of Darwin owns and maintains 475 kilometres of roads and 420 kilometres of stormwater infrastructure within the municipality. These are essential community infrastructure that require continuous extension, maintenance, repair and replacement works.

Better Suburbs and greening

2023/24 marks the fourth year of the Better Suburbs program to deliver an annual streetscape beautification and community infrastructure program. Projects are focussed on improving the amenity of Darwin and delivering services specific to each ward. Small projects have arisen from the community's effective engagement with elected members and identifying priorities that are important to the community. Greening our municipality continues to be at the forefront of elected member priorities with several projects being delivered including the Cavenagh Street median landscape upgrade, Fitzer Drive community planting, Goyder Road verges landscape upgrade, and Muirhead dog park tree planting.



5.2 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2



A safe, liveable and healthy city



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

Target: by 2030, Darwin will be a safer place to live and visit

Strategic action	2022/23 progress	2023/24 progress	Comment
<p>Work with key partners to improve safety in the municipality through the further development of City of Darwin's CCTV network and smart city technology</p> 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	<p>Discussions continue with NT Police regarding CCTV in the Darwin city centre, including access to the infrastructure for movement analytics.</p> <p>New sensors have been installed across the municipality to measure movement.</p>
<p>Implement City of Darwin business continuity plans to enable appropriate responses to disaster and man-made events that could impact on the safety of the community, City of Darwin staff and City of Darwin assets</p>   	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	<p>Development of City of Darwin's business continuity plans remain underway, with key program areas identified for review on an annual basis. An ICT disaster recovery plan was delivered in 2023/24, and City of Darwin's Cyclone Plan has been reviewed.</p>



Image: Walk 'n Wag activity

Target: by 2030, Darwin will be increasingly recognised as a liveable city

Strategic action	2022/23 progress	2023/24 progress	Comment
Partner with the Australian Government and Northern Territory Government to deliver on the Darwin City Deal 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	The State Square and Civic Centre Precinct continues to progress. The design for Chapel Lane is complete, and Cavenagh Street beautification has also been completed. The Smith Street beautification project was released for community engagement in June 2024.
Promote Darwin as a more attractive place to live and work 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Proactive engagement with stakeholders continues, including promotion of Darwin through international visits and delegations, as well as the suite of programs and events held throughout the year.
Work with the Northern Territory Government on a long-term plan for City of Darwin to take on an increased role in planning decisions within the municipality 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	City of Darwin continued to work with Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to discuss Movement Strategy actions, place and liveability planning and the Northern Territory Government's Strategic Directions Planning Policy to work in alignment with City of Darwin's objectives.
Increase utilisation of Darwin's beaches and foreshores 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Mindil Beach Markets continued through 2023/24. The street food program has seen an increase in number of vendors, and a large number of comprehensive event permits across our foreshores were issued.
Develop a Social Infrastructure Plan that outlines City of Darwin facilities and services that meet the long-term social needs of the city 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	The Play Space Strategy was endorsed by Council in July 2023 with an aim to ensure accessible and inclusive play spaces for all. Consultants have been engaged for the Place and Liveability Plan project, with the first engagement activities completed at the Seniors Expo on the 29 June 2024.



Parap Tennis courts

Target: by 2030, Darwin residents will be more active and healthy

Strategic action	2022/23 progress	2023/24 progress	Comment
Increase the total kilometres of walking and cycling paths, including shaded pathways, to improve community connectivity and mobility 	ON TRACK →	COMPLETED ✓	A total increase to the network of 0.86 kilometres was achieved in line with the Movement Strategy. Projects identified through the Movement Strategy continue to inform priorities and infrastructure needs, and hence has been marked as completed in 2023/24.
Provide an accessible network of City of Darwin parks and recreation facilities that encourage active living for all ages and abilities 	ON TRACK →	COMPLETED ✓	City of Darwin's recently endorsed Play Space Strategy informs principles and priorities for accessible parks and recreation facilities. As a result this action has been marked as completed against the Darwin 2030 Strategic Plan.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2: OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Target: by 2030, Darwin will be a safer place to live and visit

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Deliver the Making Mindil Safe project stage 2	MONITOR —	Stage 2A of the Making Mindil Safe project was designed in full during the reporting year and is scheduled for completion in early 2024/25.
Deliver the 2023/24 animal management program and services	COMPLETED ✓	Regulatory Services delivered animal management programs and other services, including investigations, patrols, and behavioural and education initiatives across the year, including an animal desexing program.
Continue to partner with the Northern Territory Government to deliver City Safe Security Patrol Services in the city centre	COMPLETED ✓	A joint funding agreement with City of Darwin and the Northern Territory Government saw the continued delivery of the City Safe Patrols program, targeting anti-social behaviour in the Darwin city centre.



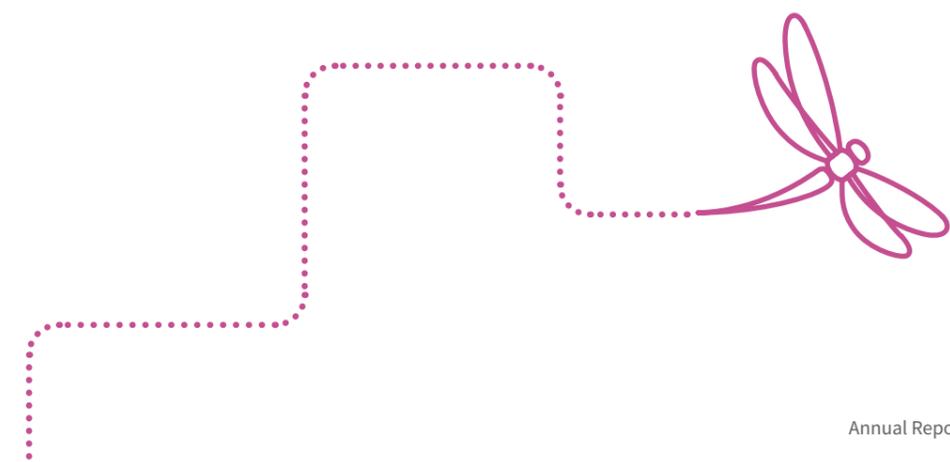
Exercise station, Nightcliff Foreshore

Target: by 2030, Darwin will be increasingly recognised as a liveable city

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Deliver the 2023/24 Movement Strategy annual funded program	COMPLETED ✓	The Laneways and Small Streets Action Plan was launched under the Darwin City Deal. The LATM guidelines were approved by Council, and accessible parking upgrades have been delivered in Nichols Place. Speed was reduced to 40km/h in most of the Darwin city centre in November 2023.
Deliver the 2023/24 Play Space Strategy annual funded program	COMPLETED ✓	The identified program for 2023/24 has been delivered, which includes the replacement of three playgrounds, and the Play Space Strategy continues to inform the upgrade and replacement schedule of key recreation infrastructure, while planning for identified gaps.
Deliver placemaking planning and opportunities across the municipality	COMPLETED ✓	A masterplan for Bundilla Beach has been delivered, along with the design for the Chapel Lane project, creating opportunities for placemaking, and creating connection with space across the Darwin municipality.
Participate in City Deal initiatives, including the State Square and Civic Precinct Redevelopment	COMPLETED ✓	City of Darwin remains engaged in the State Square and Civic Precinct central heart concepts. Reporting year initiatives include progress on Chapel Lane, and work towards the CSIRO Living Lab Research Plan 2024-2026.

Target: by 2030, Darwin residents will be more active and healthy

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Deliver the annual milestone progress on the Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre Project	COMPLETED ✓	The Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre was delivered ahead of schedule, with practical completion achieved on 6 June 2024. The facility opening was held in July 2024.
Deliver the Healthy Darwin program across the municipality	COMPLETED ✓	Healthy Darwin remains a well-attended and successful program, delivering a wide variety of programs and activities across the municipality throughout the whole year.
Complete an audit which identifies locations for cycling and micromobility infrastructure opportunities	COMPLETED ✓	An audit has been completed, with information received now being utilised to develop an active transport plan. The Darwin city centre has been identified as a key priority for City of Darwin.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2 HIGHLIGHTS

Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre

City of Darwin was pleased to deliver the Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre ahead of schedule in June 2024. This is a modern, family-friendly facility for the whole community to enjoy. It has three pools, including an 8 lane, 50-metre pool, a temperature-controlled, 6 lane 25-metre learn to swim pool and a resort-style lagoon pool featuring an aqua tower, fountains and water squirts.

City of Darwin specifically designed the centre to ensure it has increased accessibility, including zero-depth access to all pools and equal access to amenities, buildings, playgrounds and open play and recreation areas. The centre also has a large, grassed area, 3 x 3 basketball court and a dry play area featuring a unique sensory dome, the first of its kind in the Northern Territory.

The Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre was jointly funded by City of Darwin, which contributed \$19.3 million and the Australian Government, which contributed \$7.5 million. The Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre is City of Darwin's flagship infrastructure project and realises the Council's goal of developing a capital city with best practice and sustainable infrastructure.

Play Spaces

City of Darwin's Play Space Strategy 2023-2030 is the framework for the development and management of play spaces and active recreations sites within the Darwin municipality. The Strategy assists City of Darwin to prioritise works within available resources whilst setting a long-term vision to meet the future needs of the community. During 2023/24 \$420,000 was invested to replace three playgrounds in Easter Park, McMillans Road Greenbelt, and Clark Crescent Park, and to replace the softfall on the Arafura Playground. All works were practically complete by June 30 with some minor defects and grass establishment required.

Our Play Space Strategy ensures future provision and maintenance of inclusive playgrounds that attract a wide cross section of our community.

Safer children's crossings

This year, brand-new active children's crossings were established on Bauhinia Street in Nightcliff and Mitchell Street in the city centre. The Sanderson children's crossing also underwent improvement. Works included the construction of kerbs, ramps, signs and line marking, tree removal and demolition of old footpaths.

A children's crossing is a part-time crossing that operates when one or more orange children crossing flags are displayed. The crossing is marked by white lines on the road and by red and white striped posts on each kerb that remind motorists to slow down. Active children's crossings provide a safe way for children and other pedestrians to cross the road especially during school hours. These crossings prioritise pedestrian safety and help reduce the risk of accidents.

Speed limit reductions

After considering community feedback, best practice in other major capital cities, and to support City of Darwin's Movement, Economic Development and Greening Strategies, the speed limit across most streets in the Darwin city centre was reduced to 40km/hr from 1 November 2023. City of Darwin engaged with the community for feedback and the majority was supportive of extending the current 40km/hr areas to encompass most Darwin city centre streets other than Daly and McMinn Streets, Esplanade and Garramilla Boulevard.

By expanding the 40km/hr speed limit across much of the Darwin city centre the city becomes a safer and easier place for people to move around. It also means opportunities for people-friendly spaces like parklets – small, green spaces that are extensions of footpaths to sit, relax or eat – bike and scooter lanes, and al fresco dining.

Animal management desexing and awareness program

To foster responsible pet ownership within Darwin and promote the registration of healthy pets, City of Darwin delivered an animal management desexing and awareness program during the year. The \$320,000 program funding included a \$122,100 contribution from the Northern Territory Government through an Immediate Priority Grant.

Five desexing rounds were conducted, with pet owners only required to pay a \$10 fee for the surgery. Residents across all suburbs had the chance to register their pets for the program on designated dates, with a round available throughout the year for low socioeconomic residents. This program served a crucial community service by assisting pet owners facing financial difficulties, addressing nuisance behaviours, and contributing to reduce the incidence of unwanted dogs and associated impoundment costs.

During the program, pets scheduled for the procedure were also microchipped, and an amnesty was granted for pet registration. This strategy allowed the Animal Education Team to educate City of Darwin residents on the benefits of

desexing, microchipping, and registration, which facilitates animal management monitoring of pets and reuniting them with their families if received at the pound. The program also developed online dog training videos for pet owners to access free resources to assist with their dog's nuisance behaviours and an animal education children's book.

The book features characters Louie the Dog and Luna the Cat, who guide children through important topics such as safe interactions with pets, responsible pet ownership, and protecting wildlife by keeping cats indoors. The interactive content includes engaging games. The book is set to be printed and introduced to City of Darwin residents during 2024/2025.

Animal management at a glance

2586
 CUSTOMER ACTION
 REQUESTS

21 WALK N WAG
 EVENTS ATTENDED
 BY **361 COMMUNITY**
 MEMBERS

433
 NUISANCE BARKING
 INVESTIGATIONS

205
 PETS MICROCHIPPED

24 ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR
 WORKSHOPS WITH **108**
 PEOPLE ENGAGED

1415 
 CATS REGISTERED

6561 
 DOGS REGISTERED

NUMBER OF CONSULTS FOR NUISANCE BARKING ISSUES, DOG BEHAVIOURAL ISSUES, CAT CONTAINMENT ISSUES CONDUCTED

16 BY ANIMAL
 EDUCATION OFFICERS

17 PEOPLE
 ENGAGED

252 DOG ATTACK
 INVESTIGATIONS

ANIMAL EDUCATION OFFICERS ATTENDED 1 SCHOOL WITH 9 STUDENTS ENGAGED

882
 CALLS FOR
 UNCONTAINED ANIMALS/
 ANIMALS AT LARGE

376 PARASITE CONTROL TREATMENTS ADMINISTERED TO CATS AND DOGS FROM FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ANIMAL MANAGEMENT IN RURAL AND REMOTE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES (AMRRIC)



5.3 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3



A cool, clean and green city



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

Target: by 2030, Darwin will be recognised as a clean and environmentally responsible city

Strategic action	2022/23 progress	2023/24 progress	Comment
Develop a best practice environmental management plan 	ON TRACK →	COMPLETED ✓	Environmental management plans have been completed, and an environmental management system is being reviewed for implementation to align with delivery of the environmental management plans.
City of Darwin will have zero net emissions from operations by 2030 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Activities included annual emissions monitoring, energy audits of City of Darwin assets, auditing of energy software tracking and the inclusion of energy efficiency upgrades to our buildings within the 2023/24 capital works program.
Deliver projects that will cool the Darwin city centre 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Cavenagh Street greening project completed, with 15 new trees included in the centre median. Other greening projects including Smith Street revitalisation, and works on Mitchell Street have progressed through different stages of design.
Ensure City of Darwin open spaces contribute to the city's biodiversity 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	A biodiversity management plan has been developed for Rapid Creek, as well as a cane toad management plan for East Point. City of Darwin's Environment and Climate Change Grants continue to support initiatives to support open spaces and biodiversity.
Contribute to Northern Territory Government's 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	A partnership with Environment Centre NT has seen the delivery of several Coolmob programs, including a home energy efficiency workshop. Continued advocacy in the development of the CCCLM Climate Change Strategic Action Plan for 2024-2027. Key focus areas include advocacy for strengthening energy efficiency standards, electrification of public transport, and funding for climate resilience and adaptation projects.
Facilitate forums for environmental service providers to share information and develop relationships within the sector and with other industries 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Attended the circular economy symposium where City of Darwin collaborated on the development of initiatives and presented at a workshop with other stakeholders and facilitated workshops on emissions.

Image: Native plant giveaway

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3: OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Target: by 2030, Darwin will be recognised as a clean and environmentally responsible city

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Deliver the 2023/24 Greening Darwin Strategy annual funded actions	COMPLETED ✓	Across the year there were 465 planned street and park, city centre and new initiative trees planted, a further 136 customer request trees were planted, and 16,000 native giveaway trees were distributed.
Deliver the 2023/24 Climate Strategy annual funded programs	COMPLETED ✓	Energy audits of Council assets were undertaken, and City of Darwin partnered with the Northern Territory Government and Bicycle Network to conduct active transport surveys. Data collection for annual emissions monitoring was finalised.
Deliver the 2023/24 Waste Management and Resource Recovery annual funded program	COMPLETED ✓	Developed waste management and resource recovery community education resources and delivered education sessions. Commenced processing of mattresses to increase utilisation of airspace and have shredded tyres for reuse in a circular economy.
Deliver the final capping on landfill areas stage 3/4 at Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility	COMPLETED ✓	Capping at stage 3/4 has been finalised. Relevant construction and independent environmental auditor assessment documentation has been submitted to Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority.
Stage 2 expansion and stage 7 design of landfill for Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility	ON TRACK →	Detail progressed to 90 per cent and is on target to meet project construction timeframe of 2027.
Finalise a best practice Environmental Management System for City of Darwin operations	COMPLETED ✓	The environmental management system manual has been developed with a change management plan to be developed to embed into the organisation.
Partner with City Deal partners to deliver the Heat Mitigation and Adaption Strategy and Urban Living Priorities	COMPLETED ✓	Engagement with Northern Territory Government on tree retention with a memorandum of understanding underway to prevent tree removal and replace lost trees. Partnerships remain in place with CSIRO and other stakeholders to provide advice and advocate on heat mitigation strategies and liveability.



★ SNAPSHOT

622
Gardens for
Wildlife members

Lakeside Community Garden

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3 HIGHLIGHTS

Micromobility vehicles

Beam micromobility vehicles became operational within Darwin in December 2023, replacing City of Darwin's previous provider, Neuron. Beam is climate-neutral certified and has pledged to be carbon negative by 2025.

Across the past three years, City of Darwin has embraced emerging technologies and transport solutions that benefit the environment, local residents, businesses and the tourism industry, including the use of motorised or e-scooters in the municipality. The introduction of a micromobility vehicle operation has allowed Darwin residents and visitors convenience, sustainability and an eco-friendly mode of transportation.

In the first four months of Beam operation:

- 14,911 CO₂ emissions have been saved in Darwin
- 10,000 unique riders
- 57 per cent of Beam trips replaced a car journey
- \$1.9 million economic activity generated by Darwin rider spend.

Motorised scooters are a great option for commuters, providing a quick, effortless and inexpensive mode of transport to move around the city. They provide a great opportunity to activate areas of the city that have been under-utilised while helping to achieve our goal of creating a cool, clean and green city by reducing emissions.

Environment and climate change grants

Each year City of Darwin allocates \$50,000 in community grants for local projects that aim to deliver positive and measurable environmental outcomes for City of Darwin and the community. Community organisations receiving City of Darwin environment and climate change grants for 2023/24 financial year were:

- Stuart Park Childcare Centre to implement landscaping and passive cooling strategies to enhance climate resilience and educate other childcare centres.
- Childbirth Education Australia to promote the use of modern cloth nappies as an alternative to disposable nappies
- Biodiversity Watch for research to minimise the effects of cane toads on Darwin's goanna population
- Landcare NT to establish a native flora, fauna and biodiversity science education in Darwin schools.

Working with our community

Following the Territory Day fireworks, staff and volunteers cleaned up 5.5 tonnes of debris from our coastline to manage the environmental impact of firework debris on Darwin's marine ecosystem.

As part of the 2023 Darwin Harbour Clean Up program the City of Darwin team helped to clean up Nightcliff foreshore, collecting over a thousand items of litter that take many years to decompose and can be hazardous to marine life.

During the 2023 pre-cyclone cleanup 478 tonnes of materials were collected, with 191 tonnes or 40 per cent of this being diverted from landfill, an improvement on the 38 per cent diverted in 2022.

Volunteers from local businesses, schools and community groups were out collecting litter across Darwin as part of Clean Up Australia Day again in early March 2024. Most local groups focused on the Rapid Creek/Casuarina foreshore area this year where City of Darwin supported the groups by providing waste collection services.

Recycled tyres in local roads

Tyre Stewardship Australia supported City of Darwin to trial the use of crumbed rubber within road upgrade projects. The crumbed rubber, made from end-of-life tyres, was applied to both Hinkler Crescent and Allen Street as part of the road upgrade program. The trial has built contractor knowledge in this process, allowing City of Darwin to assess the performance of this product and increase the use of recycled products procured by City of Darwin to support a circular economy.

Gardens for Wildlife

Membership numbers continue to grow for the popular Gardens for Wildlife program, where residents create habitats for local wildlife within their gardens. The program also runs events so that the community have an opportunity to see and learn about Darwin's unique wildlife up close. This year local bee expert Barry Conde hosted a native bee workshop and covered the habits of native bees, how they can be supported in Darwin and provided local honey tastings. Other events included 'Possum Night at East Point' with experts and possums from Darwin Wildlife Sanctuary, and a morning 'Biodiversity Walk and Talk through East Point Monsoon Forest' with local naturalist Tissa Ratnayake.



Leachate treatment plant at Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility



Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility

City of Darwin's initiatives at Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility and its transformation into a circular economy were presented at the Accelerating the Future Symposium in October 2023. The symposium was organised by the Northern Territory Government's Innovation Territory and was held at Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex in conjunction with the World Solar Challenge and October Business Month. This symposium brought together experts from across the Northern Territory and around the world to explore how renewable energy, transport and a circular economy can accelerate the Northern Territory towards a sustainable \$40 billion economy.

City of Darwin is a recipient of the Australian Government's Recycling Modernisation Fund, which enabled the purchase and installation of a static cardboard compactor at Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility. This is a dollar-for-dollar grant with \$90,000 from the Australian Government supported by an additional contribution of \$90,000 from City of Darwin. The compactor will improve the quality of cardboard recycled and compact cardboard for more efficient transportation of cardboard that will reduce vehicle greenhouse gas emissions. The cardboard compactor is one of many initiatives that will support City of Darwin's commitment to diverting waste from landfill and strengthening Northern Territory's circular economy.

★ SNAPSHOT

156 Water samples collected from Lake Alexander as part of the monitoring program to ensure the lake meets the guidelines for recreational water quality.

Environment sensor network

In partnership with CSIRO, City of Darwin has finalised the design of a new environmental sensor network across the municipality that provides real time data insights which will support environmental management and the 2030 City of Darwin Greening Darwin and Climate Emergency strategies.

Eight fixed locations will monitor sites at Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility, Muirhead, Leanyer, Marrara, Nightcliff, Ludmilla, Mindil Beach and the Darwin city centre with a mobile sensor providing further data to inform the design and impact of new City of Darwin projects that are designed to shade and cool the city.

Leachate management at Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility

Commissioning of the new leachate treatment plant at Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility delivered successful treatment of leachate to meet stringent environmental protection regulations. Treating up to 140 kilolitres of raw leachate per day has also meant that City of Darwin has been able to reduce legacy leachate storage levels, ensuring the facility provides future capacity for community waste storage and management.

Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility environmental audit

A major environmental audit for Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility has been undertaken to measure the success of recent infrastructure upgrades, highlight areas for improvement and strengthen Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility as an environmentally compliant and sustainable waste management and resource recovery facility for many decades to come. The audit, undertaken by an independent assessor, led to the actioning of 22 onsite operational improvements, with more to come in 2024/25, taking Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility to the next level in best practice waste management and environmental protection.

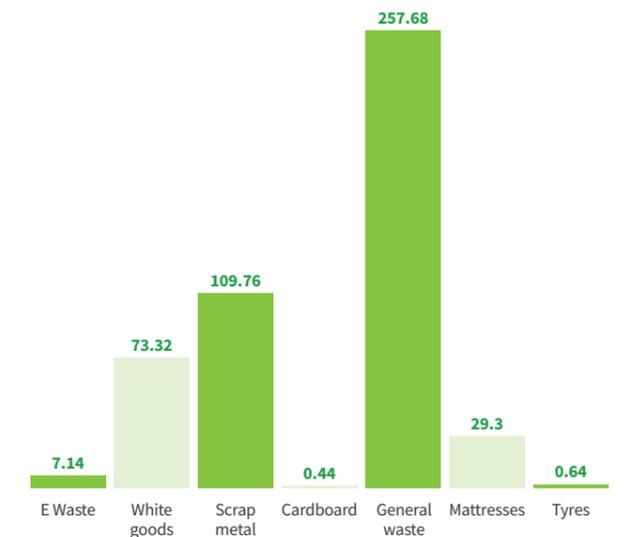
Graphs for cyclone clean-up waste diversion

Total tonnage collected

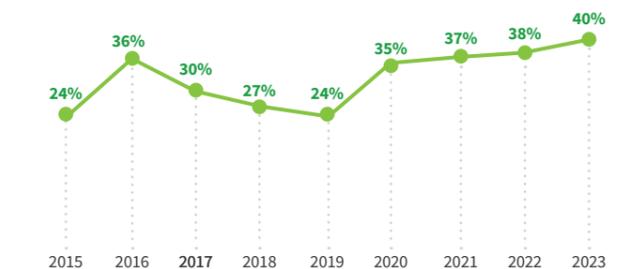


Collection by material

Total collected: 478.28 tonnes



Diversion rate (%)





5.4 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4



A smart and prosperous city



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

Target: by 2030, Darwin will be recognised globally as a smart city

Strategic action	2022/23 progress	2023/24 progress	Comment
Implement and evolve #SmartDarwin and its pillars by 2030 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Smart City Framework and Management Plan has been developed and endorsed. YourDarwin added to City of Darwin website and now in alignment with City of Darwin's strategic directions.
Lead innovation for the city and facilitate relevant activities to support these initiatives 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Work has been underway on an Innovation Toolkit, which will be rolled out next financial year. City of Darwin presented at the LGANT conference and the Innovation Symposium.
Support the development of business centres that foster industry engagement, collaboration and innovation across all markets 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Provided sponsorship for the Northern Territory Planning Symposium, held in Darwin by Planning Institute of Australia and presented on liveability. Finalised an Economic Development Action Plan 2024-2026, which includes workshops and insights for businesses.
Develop innovation hubs for our community and future generations 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Development of a place and liveability plan has commenced, with initial workshops held in June. This plan is scheduled to be finalised in 2024/25.
Support life-long learning opportunities through the provision of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) programs 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	STEAM programs continue to engage with members of the community. A recent collaboration with the Library Lounge program allowed seniors to build a robot. City of Darwin Libraries continue to work with Questacon and have hosted the Questacon Science Activity Tubs for the school holidays. LEGO Club continues to draw a large audience, and Casuarina Library welcomed visitors from Tipperary Station School.

Image: STEAM station at Casuarina Library

Target: by 2030, Darwin will have attracted and retained more residents and will offer sustainable investment opportunities

Strategic action	2022/23 progress	2023/24 progress	Comment
Implement an economic development plan for the city 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Delivery of the internal Strategic Property Plan 2030 has commenced, providing opportunities to support growth and service delivery through effective utilisation of City of Darwin's leasable assets.
Support initiatives to increase the population of Darwin through engagement with business and industry, and all levels of Government 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	City of Darwin continues to engage through advocacy and partnerships to deliver the Economic and Development Plan and maintain relationships with key stakeholders across government and industry. Officers met with the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Logistics and Australian Government representatives to discuss the draft National Urban Policy and the impact to Darwin.
Promote Darwin as a great destination to live, work, study and invest 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Salty Plum Stories podcast launched in August 2023 sharing Darwin stories with the world. Lord Mayor presented at the World Cities Summit.
Support initiatives to grow the economy and retain people and jobs in Darwin 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	An exciting 31 projects supported through the 2024 sponsorships program that will see a range of services, events and economic development activities delivered for Darwin.
Deliver the international relations program to leverage business growth and economic development opportunities for the city 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	A friendship city relationship with Ho Chi Minh City has commenced and remains ongoing, along with additional progress towards a friendship city proposal with the City of Joetsu. Hosted the 2024 Australia China Friendship Society National Conference for the Lord Mayor's dinner.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4: OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Target: by 2030, Darwin will be recognised globally as a smart city

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Deliver 2023/24 components of the Smart City Initiatives.	COMPLETED ✓	Updated data insights dashboards have been implemented to facilitate data informed decision making, with progress continuing for wider implementation.
Implement Customer Service Strategy annual actions	COMPLETED ✓	Continuous improvement consolidating first contact resolution opportunities ongoing and part of business as usual.
Implement Library Strategy annual actions	COMPLETED ✓	The Libraries for People Library Strategy 2020-24 has been completed.
Deliver 2023/24 outcomes from the ICT Roadmap	COMPLETED ✓	The multi-year ICT Roadmap Program continues, with significant progress made on the implementation of a learning management system.
Upgrade City of Darwin's electronic records management system	COMPLETED ✓	Electronic records management system upgrade to the cloud is complete with training provided across the organisation.
Develop an Innovation Toolkit to empower City of Darwin staff and the community to deliver innovative outcomes	COMPLETED ✓	Innovation Toolkit to be utilised next financial year in alignment with the City of Darwin training program and place and liveability planning.

Target: by 2030, Darwin will have attracted and retained more residents and will offer sustainable investment opportunities

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Promote Darwin as a great destination to live, work, study, visit and invest through various channels.	COMPLETED ✓	Lord Mayor presented at the World Cities Summit in June 2024 promoting Darwin with 3500 delegates and trade visitors. Sponsorship program awarded with numerous economic development projects and events supported that will promote Darwin to the world.
Deliver an International Relations Program.	COMPLETED ✓	Commenced a scholarship program for Darwin and Kalymnos students to learn Greek and English. Continued to deliver on the Sister Cities Action Plan, including the first stage of the Visual Storytelling Photography Competition.
Promote City of Darwin via official website and social media accounts.	COMPLETED ✓	Delivering on a program of work across a variety of projects and channels to promote City of Darwin and our initiatives.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4 HIGHLIGHTS

Data analytics reports

Reports on data insights have been finalised for Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility vehicle access, Wanguri exercise utilisation, cruise ship data analysis, Darwin Festival 2023, and Jingili skate park utilisation.

Analytics reports were also received for International Women's Day walk, Malak obstacle course and Nightcliff Foreshore. Ongoing analysis of Smith Street traffic is being conducted. These reports identify areas where movement stays steady at specific times as well as identify places with lesser or more movement compared to previous months. Such data identifies patterns and helps with infrastructure and maintenance planning.

Free public wi-fi

The City of Darwin free public wi-fi project continues across a number of locations and facilities. The City of Darwin ICT and Digital Innovation teams, the Y NT and libraries worked together to enable services as we transitioned to a new provider in early 2024. The Smart Darwin free wi-fi network has been discontinued and City of Darwin now uses City of Darwin Free Wi-Fi across the city centre, with signage updated to reflect the change.

LAUNCH Night Series

LAUNCH Night Series is a high quality, long running youth engagement program for ages 12-17. The program provides young people with a healthy and positive space to connect with friends on Saturday nights. Participants engage in a range of sport and wellbeing activities, cook and eat a healthy meal together and are provided with uniforms and transport to and from the venue. With matched funding from the Northern Territory Government, we have been able to engage an external partner to deliver the program on our behalf. Engagement of a delivery partner is growing capacity of the youth sector as well as enabling extension of support to participants outside of Saturday nights. Pathfinders NT will deliver LAUNCH Night Series for the duration of the 2024 calendar year.

Fun Bus

Weekly Fun Bus visits to Darrandirra Child and Family Centre were introduced this year as part of City of Darwin's family and children's services. These visits are supplemented by delivery of a monthly mobile library and story time.

The Fun Bus operates weekdays between 9:30 am and 11:30 am at different locations throughout the municipality of Darwin, offering free mobile playgroups in a fun and informal setting for children aged 0-5.

At Fun Bus, children can engage in new experiences, interact with other children and adults and learn and develop social and creative skills through play. The Fun Bus is not only a fun and engaging place for children, parents and carers can benefit in several ways through meeting other parents and develop new friendships, while sharing ideas, information, concerns and experiences.

Mural mentoring project

The youth area at Casuarina Library has undergone a colourful transformation thanks to the talents of four emerging artists under the mentorship of local artist Caleb Schatz. This is our third mural mentoring project, designed to give young artists who have experience working at small scale, the opportunity to share their work in a public space while practicing painting larger pieces. This initiative not only celebrates the prowess of our emerging artists but also contributes to the visual richness of our community spaces.

Amber Shepherd, Bethany O'Shea, Ifa Shiddiq and Jarrah Watson were the local artists chosen to work on the project. The mural mentoring project is a collaboration between City of Darwin's LAUNCH youth program and libraries. The project aligns with LAUNCH's mission to amplify young people's voices and highlight the positive contributions young people make to our community. The new mural was unveiled at the Casuarina Library as part of Geektacular.



Artists Jarrah Watson and Caleb Dude for LAUNCH Darwin's mural mentoring project, Casuarina Library, 2023



Geektacular

City of Darwin's annual Geektacular event was held at the Casuarina Library on Saturday 20 January 2024. Geektacular aims to connect young people with our libraries, which are a fantastic free community resource that can be enjoyed by people of any age. Created by young people for young people, Geektacular is a highlight of the wet season holiday calendar, offering a huge range of hands-on activities at no cost.

Geektacular is a celebration of youth, creativity, and culture and is a great example of young people contributing to the creative and cultural life of our city. It is a youth-led event that celebrates imagination and community engagement for all ages. A minimarket of local young creatives, a cosplay competition, board games arena, Dungeons and Dragons, the Stepping Stones art exhibition, gaming and e-sports competitions and much more all featured in this year's Geektacular. This year's Geektacular also featured a 'Lo-fi Lounge' for people who are sensory sensitive, with headphones offering a choice of fantasy soundtracks, nature sounds and lo-fi beats.

Parking technology upgrade

As a key initiative of the Movement Strategy, City of Darwin sought independent analysis of current parking practice, the use of technology and future parking options for the Darwin city centre. Key findings from the review led to a series of actions for City of Darwin to implement including upgrading City of Darwin's meters to 4G and pay-by-plate solutions, provide a pay-by-phone system to increase available options, provide a better enforcement solution, provide an electronic permit solution, and provide systems that are integrated, improve efficiencies, safety and performance. Rollout commenced in 2023/24 and will be finalised in 2024/25.

Library statistics

432,893

ITEMS
CIRCULATED

396,134

LIBRARY
VISITS

17,205

FUN BUS
ATTENDEES

89,301

INTERNET SESSIONS
ON LIBRARY PCS
AND WI-FI

843

LIBRARY EVENTS
WITH 23,043
PEOPLE ATTENDING

111,458

E-RESOURCE
LOANS FROM ALL
SOURCES



5.5 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5



A vibrant and creative city



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5

Target: by 2030, Darwin will be recognised as an iconic destination

Strategic action	2022/23 progress	2023/24 progress	Comment
Partner with other stakeholders to grow the visitor economy of Darwin 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Completed the Larrakia Development Corporation Tourism Incubator program in 2023. Shared information with partners around City of Darwin's Strategic and Priority Projects Plan, sponsorship and events programs.
Deliver a City of Darwin events program and support other event programs that engage locals and attract visitors 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Delivered an exciting events program including a stall at the Darwin Show, a Christmas program, Australia Day event, the Bombing of Darwin, and many others. Commenced work on delivery of a Cyclone Tracy 50th Anniversary Commemoration event.
Support the promotion of Darwin as a cruise ship and yachting destination and as a home port for expedition ships 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Ongoing membership on the Darwin Destination Management Working Group and Cruise Working Group. Continued to support cruise tourism through in-kind support of tourist shuttle and bus drop off and collection in the Darwin city centre.

Target: by 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our culture

Strategic action	2022/23 progress	2023/24 progress	Comment
Promote Darwin as a destination known for its First Nation cultures and landmarks 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	Revitalised the Seven Seasons sign in the Smith Street Mall. Developed a Darwin visitor trails project which will include a Larrakia welcome to country.
Fund the Darwin Entertainment Centre to deliver programs and services that create a cohesive, connected and culturally enriched community 	ON TRACK →	ON TRACK →	City of Darwin continues to contribute funds for the Darwin Entertainment Centre, enabling delivery of programs and services that facilitate a cohesive, connected and culturally enriched community.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5: OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Target: by 2030, Darwin will be recognised as an iconic destination

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Deliver a City of Darwin annual events program and events management, including partnering with NTG to deliver the Christmas pageant	COMPLETED ✓	Delivery of a comprehensive City of Darwin events program, which included the Christmas pageant. Representation and partnerships ongoing with Activate Darwin.
Partner with key stakeholders through the Cruise Tourism and Greater Darwin Destination Management Plan working groups	COMPLETED ✓	Representation on the Destination Darwin and Cruise Tourism working groups ongoing throughout the year. Shared information with the partners of the Greater Darwin Destination Management Plan working group about City of Darwin's Strategic and Priority Projects prospectus and sponsorship program for 2024.
Develop and implement a Creative Strategy	COMPLETED ✓	The Creative Strategy 2024-2030 was endorsed by Council in February 2024, and will commence from 1 July 2024.

Target: by 2030, Darwin will have attracted and retained more residents and will offer sustainable investment opportunities

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Develop the new Innovation Reconciliation Action Plan	COMPLETED ✓	Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan launched in August 2023, and works commenced immediately on delivering the actions under the plan.
Deliver the 2023/24 Community Grants program to support and enable community events and programs including those celebrating culture, arts and diversity	COMPLETED ✓	Community grants recipients are delivering on activities for 2023/24. Funded items can be found in the Appendices (refer pages 154-156).
Deliver the 2023/24 Youth Strategy annual actions	COMPLETED ✓	Delivered the 2024 Couch Surfing program, and encouraged participation Youth Parliament, as well as supported the engagement of Pathfinders NT in delivering the LAUNCH Night Series program.
Develop the next Access and Inclusion Strategy	MONITOR —	Procurement process deferred in 2023/24; the new Access and Inclusion Strategy will be developed as a priority in 2024/25.
Deliver the 2023/24 communications, media and marketing program	COMPLETED ✓	Highlights include ongoing proactive media and public relations, as well as a suite of engagements for City of Darwin led projects. Key engagements include the Bundilla Beach Masterplan, Chapel Lane Redevelopment, and the Smith Street Streetscaping project. A full list of engagements can be found on pages 87-89.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5 HIGHLIGHTS

Christmas Pageant

'A very Darwin Christmas' pageant was held on Saturday 18 November 2023 in the Darwin city centre and was attended by more than 13,000 people. More than 650 Territorians and 40 Christmas themed floats walked, danced, sang and paraded from the Esplanade through the heart of the Darwin city centre. The vibrant floats included a giant Laksa, singing shark, reindeers on roller skates, and Santa, bringing festive cheer to the heart of the city.

This free and beloved community event marked the beginning of the holiday season, celebrating the rich and diverse culture in the Territory and paying tribute to the wonderful people who live in our community.

The parade ended at Smith Street Mall where City of Darwin Lord Mayor's lighting of the Christmas Tree officially welcomed the festive season to our beautiful, tropical city and began the city's festivities with Christmas-themed lighting displays throughout the Mall and Candy Cane lane in Raintree Park.



mirragma gunugurr-wa

Darwin is now home to a major new public artwork in Bicentennial Park, a striking sculpture called mirragma gunugurr-wa. The artwork, featuring a four-metre-high mermaid's tail, was created by Larrakia artists and took its name from the Larrakia word for bamboo raft.

Set to become a cultural landmark in Darwin, this wonderful piece of art will be another way people can interact with Larrakia culture on Larrakia land.

City of Darwin is proud to have partnered with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation on this project. Larrakia artists Trent Lee and Roque Lee worked with First Nations public art consultants GARUWA Creative, using recycled aluminium to create the work and tell the story of how bamboo rafts were used for transport by Larrakia people.

The raft and the mermaid tail both represent significant cultural and historical stories; the designs and Larrakia language on the base offer further meaning and context. A QR code on the artwork takes visitors to a City of Darwin web page that showcases two videos – one on Larrakia language and the other on the artwork. These videos were supported by Regional Arts Funds Cultural Tourism Accelerator and Tourism NT.

City of Darwin established a memorandum of understanding with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation who selected the two Larrakia Artists Roque Lee and Trent Lee. City of Darwin then invited expressions of interest from public art consultants nationally and GARUWA Creative was successful in its bid to lead this work.

Image at top of page: mirragma gunugurr-wa by Larrakia artists Uncle Roque Lee and Trent Lee. A public art collaboration between City of Darwin, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation and GARUWA Creative, 2023

Gestures: celebrating 10 years of the free space studio

Darwin lit up with vibrant and colourful art, featuring works by local visual artists with disabilities as part of a lightbox exhibition celebrating ten years of the Free Space Studio.

The 'Gestures: Celebrating 10 Years of the Free Space Studio' collection was selected for the latest City of Darwin Lightbox Exhibition, which aims to elevate and promote Darwin creatives by displaying works from local artists across the municipality.

These exhibitions offer a unique and compelling way of showcasing art from local artists as well as contributing to the vibrancy of our city. City of Darwin is committed to providing opportunities to support local creatives, including emerging artists, those in the middle of their careers, artists with diverse abilities, and fully established artists.

The Lightbox Exhibition Program provides an opportunity for us to partner with local curators to promote local work, for the benefit of our community and for visitors to our city. City of Darwin has worked with Arts Access Darwin, who facilitate the Free Space Studio, to curate artworks from a selection of local artists for this exhibition. The Free Space Studio is the only dedicated accessible studio space in Darwin, offering art workshops and upskilling opportunities for local visual artists with disabilities. In line with City of Darwin's Creative Strategy 2024-2030, the Lightbox Exhibition Program provides the opportunity to showcase work from Darwin creatives.

The artworks are on display in 10 lightboxes located across the Smith Street Mall, at the entrance to the Dragonfly Carpark on Cavanagh Street and at the Nightcliff Pool.



Councillor Sam Weston and artist Annie Moors with her work *John*, from Gestures series curated by Arts Access Darwin for Lightbox Exhibitions, Nightcliff Pool, 2024



Happy Place artwork by Gloria Richards, East Point Reserve, 2023

Creative Strategy

City of Darwin's Creative Strategy 2024-2030 was developed this year for implementation from 1 July 2024, to lead us from today to our future vision where creativity is more highly valued, embedded and visible in the Darwin community. We know creativity makes this city a better place, we know it impacts tourism and economic development, and our sense of who we are. Our strategy aims to be broad enough to include cultural practices – such as traditional dance, music, song, ceremony, arts and crafts – and practices that are newer, like digital art and games design. Darwin's vibrant creative sector includes individual artists at all levels of practice, organisations and businesses who work across creative industries, as well as those who rely on creative people for their success. This strategy also considers audiences who are drawn to creative work made and shared here. It is flexible and responsive to unplanned opportunities over its seven-year life, as well as being part of the considered plans we have for our city moving forward.

City of Darwin supports and invests in creative people and organisations across our municipality. We do this in a range of ways including through public art commissions, sponsorship, community grants, direct engagement, venues, exhibitions, creative enhancements, operating subsidies and significant in-kind support for festivals and events. We provide internal and external art consultancy services through two part-time Arts and Cultural Development Officers and City of Darwin's Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee (ACDAC) meets at least four times each year to provide specialist advice to Council.



Reconciliation Week at Nightcliff Library

Reconciliation Action Plan

In August 2023 City of Darwin confirmed its commitment to strengthening relationships with First Nations peoples and building equality with the launch of its 2020-25 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The new RAP will drive meaningful reconciliation action across City of Darwin through its focus on collaboration with First Nations organisations.

City of Darwin consulted with Larrakia organisations, as well as our Reconciliation Advisory Committee and First Nations Staff Support Network to develop our new RAP. This is more than a just a strategy – it is a reflection of City of Darwin's values and commitment to creating meaningful change, one step at a time.

The Innovate RAP has been endorsed by Council and Reconciliation Australia and includes a comprehensive framework of deliverables across the next two years. Key initiatives include developing guidelines for engaging with First Nations organisations, establishment of a First Nations Community Development Program, and delivery of a plan to increase the number of First Nations employees at City of Darwin.

Salty Plum Stories

City of Darwin has launched Salty Plum Stories, a fascinating podcast series featuring six individual stories of multicultural life in Darwin.

Darwin is a beacon of success for multiculturalism and the new podcast series reveals stories from people who live in Darwin but have come from other cultures. Everyone has a story, and people with a different cultural background have incredibly rich and interesting stories to tell. The six-part series is hosted by well-known Larrakia woman Nicole Brown, and features six different people from Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian, Greek, Filipino and Timorese communities.

And why Salty Plum? They're a little bit sweet, a little bit sour and a little bit salty. Some say if you've never tasted one, you've never been to the real Darwin.

You can listen to all the Salty Plum Stories podcasts on Spotify, Apple and via the City of Darwin's Discover Darwin website.

★ CITIZENSHIP SNAPSHOT



774
New citizens

21
Ceremonies held

71
Countries represented



Citizen of the Year Award winners



Lord Mayoral Award winners

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

2024 Citizen of the Year Award – John Gregory Tate

This year's winner of City of Darwin's Citizen of the Year award has been recognised for his incredible dedication to the Nightcliff Cricket Club and its extended community.

Across the years, John has held multiple committee positions and has been the driving force behind securing several of the club's sponsorship and fundraising sources. John has been heavily involved in the Club's annual fundraiser, the clean-up of the Amphitheatre after Darwin Symphony Orchestra concerts, which includes the collection of recyclable cans and bottles to generate great financial benefits for the club.

John has been recognised for his tireless efforts in supporting the club and its players, including coaching the women's team, umpiring for the NT Cricket Association, and curating the pitch to make it one of the best cricket grounds in the Territory.

2024 Young Citizen of the Year Award – Jules Gabor

Jules Gabor has been recognised for being a leader in the community and for advocating for youth, mental health and equal opportunity.

At only 18 years old, Jules already holds several important roles in our community and plays an active role in her community ensuring that young people's voices are heard.

With a keen focus on mental health, Jules uses her platform as a youth advocate to help others have their voice and opinions amplified. She advocates for young multicultural, queer people in the community and is passionate about giving opportunities to others.

Jules has started her own podcast called 'Heart to Heart: Stories Unleashed' to benefit individuals, community activities and the community in general.

2024 Community Activity of the Year – Vietnamese Lantern Festival

The Vietnamese Lantern Festival received a record number of nominations and was recognised for providing an opportunity for locals and tourists to explore and experience Vietnamese culture. Its impact extended past the Vietnamese community by acting as a bridge for cultural exchange and providing an opportunity for individuals from various backgrounds to learn about, and appreciate, the richness of Vietnamese heritage.

The event featured rich and diverse activities that celebrated Vietnamese cuisine, origin and culture, and it made a significant contribution to the community as a unifying platform for the Vietnamese population in Darwin. It also served as an educational tool, offering children insights into their parents' history and cultural roots by creating a connection to their heritage.

The Vietnamese Lantern Festival created a space for people to come together and was a playground for fostering connections and celebrating the most significant festival in Vietnamese culture.



LORD MAYORAL AWARDS

The Lord Mayoral Awards recognise individuals with a disability who have made outstanding contributions to the community by advocating for the rights and wellbeing of people with disabilities. The awards are held in conjunction with the International Day of People with Disability, Carnival of Fun.

The Rising Star Award

A person under 25 years of age, who makes an ongoing contribution to their school, workplace or community, advocating for the rights and well-being of people with disability.

Winner – Toby Reynolds

A member of the Sing Song Signers and a talented sports person, Toby Reynolds has been awarded the Rising Star award for his participation in community activities and prowess on the sporting field.

Toby has represented the Northern Territory at the Special Olympics in ten pin bowling and in athletics as a junior, and currently plays Rising Stars basketball and participates in winners league bowling and athletics.

Toby was recognised for his efforts in leading by example while advocating for people with disabilities through his participation and success in various sports and activities.

Toby connects with people through sports, and his participation has allowed him a better understanding of individuals with disabilities as well as helped him develop different communication tools and styles.

The Champion Award

A person, who has made an outstanding contribution to the community, advocating for the rights and well-being of people with a disability.

Champion – Izzy Dak

A passionate advocate for people with lived experience of disability, Izzy Dak has been awarded the Champion Award for his tireless work in various working groups and advisory boards, including the Northern Territory Primary Health Network Access and Advisory Group.

Izzy is a life member of Integrated disAbility Action and in the last 12 months has volunteered at many events including the Carnival of Fun, All Abilities Expo, Australia Day Oz Fusion 2023 and the Royal Darwin Show.

A genuinely kind person, Izzy was recognised for easily building relationships by taking the time to make himself available to the community, enabling people with a disability to share confidences with him.

Izzy utilises his proactive attitude to advocate on behalf of people with a disability by raising issues in the community.



5.6 CITY OF DARWIN GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Vision and Culture

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Continue to implement City of Darwin's integrated strategic planning framework	ON TRACK →	Tier 1 and tier 2 reports are presented on a regular basis, in line with the Strategic Planning Framework.
Proactive risk management in supporting operations and project delivery	COMPLETED ✓	The Risk Management Framework is operational and embedded across the organisation. A review of the Policy and Procedure was conducted in 2023/24. Risk register development and reporting continues as business as usual with supporting systems and resources.

Roles and Relationships

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Establish and maintain productive and positive relationships with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, First Nations and government stakeholders to work in collaboration to improve public amenity	COMPLETED ✓	Assertive outreach and reconciliation programs continue to work with stakeholders to improve public amenity. An initial memorandum of understanding has been signed with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation.
Provide operating subsidies and sponsorships in line with City of Darwin's Funding Guidelines	COMPLETED ✓	City of Darwin's annual sponsorships and in-kind support program has been delivered in full, seeing a total of \$1,446,396 expended to support programs across the municipality. A further \$184,507 was provided for special purpose grants.
Advocate City of Darwin's position at national and local levels for the benefit of the Darwin community	COMPLETED ✓	An Advocacy and Partnerships Plan has been developed, which includes a link to LGANT to support and advocate for local government. Continued engagement with CCCLM.

Decision Making and Management

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Implement new City of Darwin By-laws in compliance with legislative requirements	COMPLETED ✓	New City of Darwin By-Laws came into effect on 2 October 2023. Policies and procedures are being updated to reflect new by-laws.
Review and refine workplace health and safety management framework and document suite	COMPLETED ✓	Comprehensive workplace health and safety management system review has been completed, and documents continue to be audited and refined in line with review cycle to ensure compliance and continuous improvement.
Implement Council's Privacy Management Framework and annual actions	COMPLETED ✓	Privacy Policy adopted and work commenced on actions.

Accountability

2023/24 deliverables	Status	Comment
Deliver unqualified 2022/23 City of Darwin audited financial statements	COMPLETED ✓	Unqualified audited financial statements delivered and adopted by Council on 31 October 2023.
Deliver the 2022/23 Annual Report	COMPLETED ✓	Completed and submitted as per legislative requirements.
Deliver the 2023/24 internal audit program	COMPLETED ✓	Contract management audit nearing completion. Internal audit project plan to establish a forward plan for internal audit priorities will be developed following strategic risk review which is well advanced.



5.7 2023/24 STRATEGIC AND MAJOR PROJECTS

City of Darwin major projects are operations or capital projects with budgets that exceed \$1 million. Each year, City of Darwin identifies a number of major projects which are fundamental to delivering on the Darwin 2030: City for People. City of Colour. Strategic Plan. These projects may be delivered within an annual budget cycle or scheduled and funded across multiple years.

Project	Description and comments	Budget	30 June 2024 result
Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre	A new world-class community facility with 3 pools for all ages and abilities, including an 8 lane, 50-metre pool, a temperature-controlled, 6 lane 25-metre pool and a resort-style lagoon pool featuring an aqua tower, fountains and water squirts. The centre also has a large, grassed area, basketball half-court and a dry play area featuring a unique sensory dome. Jointly funded by City of Darwin and the Federal Government.	\$26.8m	COMPLETED ✓
Better Suburbs	City of Darwin will continue to invest in the Better Suburbs Projects program to upgrade streetscapes and community infrastructure in our suburbs as part of Council's commitment to achieve a vision of a City for People. City of Colour. The full list of projects can be found in Appendix 8.2.	\$2.57m	ON TRACK →
Road resurfacing and renewal	Roads are essential community infrastructure which require continuous maintenance and repair works. Asphalt reseals were completed on Seabright Crescent, Trower Service Road, Willeroo Street, Allen Street, Fitzmaurice Drive, Hinkler Crescent, and Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre car park.	\$1.8m	ON TRACK →
Lee Point Road duplication and road reconstruction	City of Darwin successfully obtained Australian Government funding for the upgrade of Lee Point Road, through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program. Works to duplicate a section of Lee Point Road from Asche Street intersection to Coleman Street intersection creating two lanes in each direction have now been completed.	\$2.62m	COMPLETED ✓
Plant and equipment replacement program	City of Darwin has purchased 20 utility vehicles, an aerator, a 4x4 electric buggy, pressure cleaners, firefighting unit, mini excavator and trailer, tipper and trailer and BBQ trailer.	\$3.2m	ON TRACK →

Project	Description and comments	Budget	30 June 2024 result
Stormwater upgrades	Prioritisation is directed at immediate requirements, guided by the asset management system. Through our condition assessments of stormwater infrastructure, high-risk areas were identified for immediate rectification works, including: Edwards Street, Parap, Freshwater Road and Mayhew Crescent intersection, Jingili, Freshwater Road, Jingili, Dick Ward Drive and George Park, Fannie Bay.	\$3m	ON TRACK →
Information and communications technology (ICT) Roadmap	City of Darwin continues an information and communication technology transformation program to deliver an enhanced user experience, customer service, data and information management, and improved process integration and strategy. Funding for the ICT Roadmap was deferred.	\$3.15m	MONITOR →
Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility upgrade works	Projects completed in 2023/24: delivery of a cardboard compactor, camera system, weighbridge access control, leachate irrigation system, stages 3 and 4 final cap and construction, leachate pond. Projects which remain underway: stage 2 expansion and cell 7 design works.	\$18m	ON TRACK →
Redevelopment of Civic Centre	The project will include a new City of Darwin office and a state of-the-art Council chambers with a large public gallery and offer community meeting rooms and significant off-street parking to ensure a reduction in bitumen heat sink and meet our city's future needs for off-street parking. The procurement process remains underway.	\$45m	ON TRACK →
Chapel Lane revitalisation	The laneway development will encourage movement through the space, enhance the pedestrian experience, and improve economic outcomes for local businesses through the activation of space. The design phase has been completed and includes features such as a pedestrian plaza to encourage people to eat and meet, trees and shade structures, new lighting and smart city infrastructure.	\$1.35m	ON TRACK →
Bundilla Park activation	The Bundilla Beach masterplan has been completed, and construction will be staged with stage 1 delivering public lighting, a new dog park, a 3x3 basketball court, new pathways to improve connectivity, toilets, BBQ tables and shelters. This was funded by a \$3 million grant from the Northern Territory Government and \$500,000 from City of Darwin.	\$3.5m	ON TRACK →

6. LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE



Artist John Milikens with his (untitled) artwork, from Gestures series curated by Arts Access Darwin for Lightbox Exhibitions, The Smith Street Mall, 2024

LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

The *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)* details the information which must be captured within the Annual Report.

Under section 291 of the Act the content of the annual report must include:

- A copy of the council's audited financial statements (refer pages 102-147)
- An assessment on council's performance against the objectives stated in the municipal plan (refer pages 46-83)
- An itemisation of any shared services the council has entered
- Details of any delegations of the council's functions and powers to a council committee
- An itemisation of any amounts of fees or allowances paid to committee members (refer pages 29-31 and 96)
- A summary of community engagements and consultations undertaken by the council (refer pages 87-89)
- An assessment of council's performance of service delivery and projects (refer pages 46-83)
- Comparison of the council's actual performance against budget with a reason for the material variations (refer pages 94-97)

6.1.1 Shared services

The Shared Services Policy was adopted by Council on 22 February 2022. During 2023/24 City of Darwin participated in one shared service:

- Library Courier Services shared by City of Darwin, City of Palmerston and Litchfield Council – \$3060 of \$9180.

6.1.2 Delegations

On 28 September 2021, the 23rd Council reviewed its statutory delegations and pursuant to section 40 of the Local Government Act, adopted the following delegations to Council committees and the Chief Executive Officer:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL COMMITTEE

The power to:

- conduct and finalise a performance evaluation and review of the Council's Chief Executive Officer; and
- any other power and functions delegated to it under its Terms of Reference from time to time.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Its powers under section 324 of the Local Government Act to:

- investigate, inquire into and make recommendations to Council on matters raised in application to review a decision in accordance with Part 18.1 of the Local Government Act; and
- any other powers and functions delegated to it under its Terms of Reference from time to time; and
- its powers under section 19 of the Local Government (General), to carry out, on behalf of the Council, financial functions of the Council in the months the Council does not hold an ordinary meeting.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

To:

- monitor compliance by the Council with the proper standards of financial management; and
- monitor compliance by the Council with Northern Territory Local Government Legislation and Accounting Standards; and
- authorise the Committee or its members to:
 - obtain any information it requires from any member of staff and/or external party,
 - discuss any matters with the external auditors, or other external parties,
 - request, via the Chief Executive Officer, the attendance of any member of staff at committee meetings,
 - obtain external legal or other professional advice, as considered necessary to meet its responsibilities,
- any other powers and functions delegated to it under its Terms of Reference from time to time.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Or any person acting in the position of Chief Executive Officer

- all of the powers, functions and duties under the Local Government Act 2019 (NT) and Local Government Regulations 2021 subject to any conditions and or limitations specified in legislation, Council policy and procedure or by Council resolution with the exception of:
 - the powers, functions and duties under Section 35, regarding the adoption of the municipal plan.
 - the powers, functions and duties in Section 64, appointment to fill a casual vacancy on the council.
 - the powers, functions and duties under Section 82 to establish or abolish council committees; and
 - the powers, functions and duties under Part 6.4, meetings of electors.
- all of the powers, functions and duties of all other Acts and Regulations under which Council has a vested power, function or duty, subject to any legislative restrictions, conditions and limitation, Council Policy and Procedure.
- the powers and functions under the City of Darwin By-laws 1994, subject to any legislative restrictions, conditions and limitation, Council policy and procedure.
- that such powers and functions may be further delegated by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Section 168 of the Local Government Act 2019 (NT) as the Chief Executive Officer determines, unless otherwise indicated herein.

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2019 (NT), the Chief Executive Officer has been appointed as an Authorised Person.

On 15 March 2022 these delegations were modified to clarify the limitations on financial liabilities as required by section 40(3)(b) of the Act and Council resolved that:

In accordance with Section 40(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2019 (NT) the following financial liabilities will require Council approval:

- Any loan borrowings, entering mortgages, issuing of bonds or similar undertaking excluding minor transactions as defined in the borrowing guidelines;
- Where Council enters a fixed purpose contract and anticipated expenditure is over \$10 million (ex GST);
- Where Council enters a period contract and \$10 million expenditure (ex GST) is expected to occur in any year;
- Where Council enters a panel contract and anticipates expenditure over \$10 million for a project (ex GST) or \$10 million (ex GST) per year for a service;
- Other circumstances where City of Darwin would create a financial liability of \$10 million (ex GST) or more.

6.1.3 Freedom of information

In accordance with the *Information Act 2002*, residents and customers may request access to information (freedom of information) which is either personal to them or information related to City of Darwin business. In 2023/24, City of Darwin received 9 freedom of information requests. 1 related to access to personal information and 8 related to City of Darwin information.



- Applications to access personal information
- Applications to access City of Darwin information or a mix
- Accepted applications withdrawn
- Applications not accepted
- Total applications

2023/24 Information Act 2002 applications	
Information requests	9
Personal	1
Council Information	8

6.1.4 External complaints

City of Darwin's Customer Feedback Policy establishes the framework for handling complaints received about the behaviours of individuals or the performance of Council. A complaint may relate to an elected member, City of Darwin staff, volunteer worker or City of Darwin contractor. In addition, members of the public may make complaints directly to the Ombudsman, Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet or the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC).

In 2023/24 two complaints were received, both of which were resolved. This continues the trend in a reduction of complaints annually since 2021/22.

6.1.5 Community engagement

City of Darwin is committed to open, transparent and responsive engagement with our stakeholders and the community. We design our engagement process to reflect our diverse population and continue to incorporate the input and feedback we received into our decision making.

- Engagement instils community confidence in our ability to show strong leadership and deliver our promises. It also builds confidence and satisfaction in the partnerships we are creating with our stakeholders and the community.
- Community and stakeholder engagement is a planned process which provides significant benefits to City of Darwin:

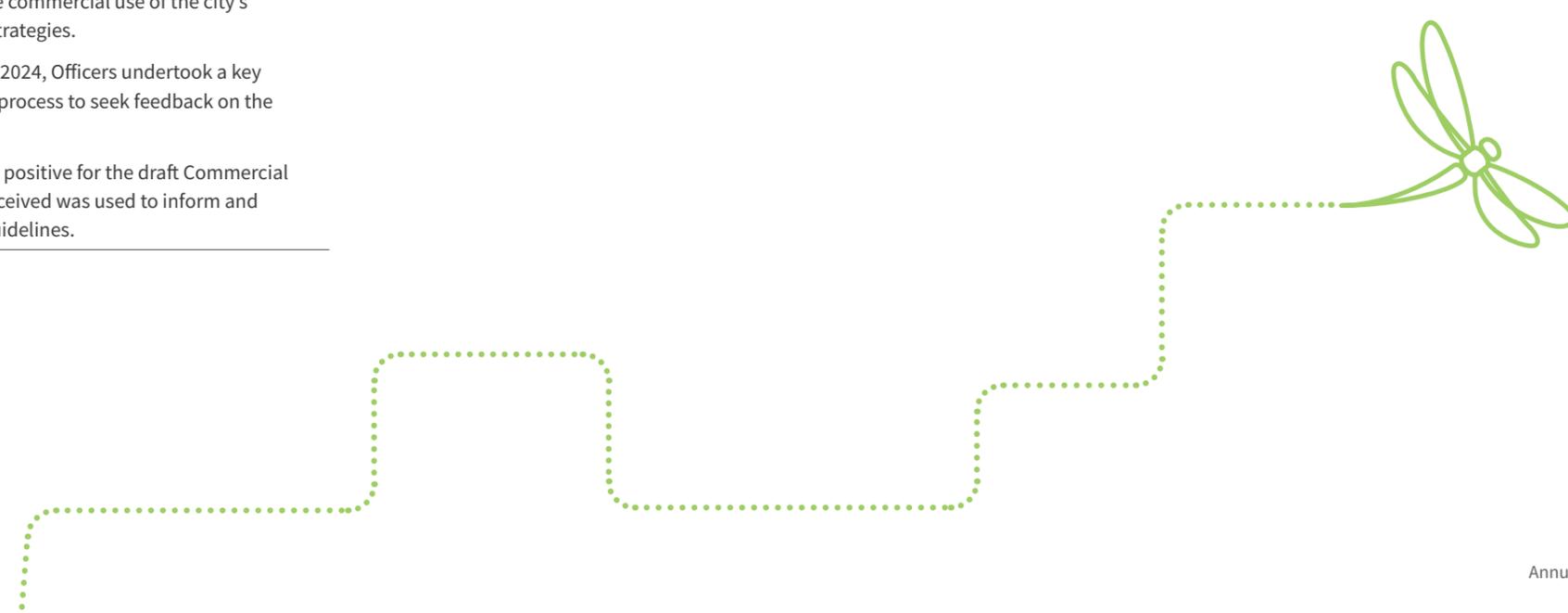


During 2023/24 City of Darwin undertook several engagement processes including:

Project	Timing	Engagement information
Chapel Lane redevelopment	21 August to 8 September 2023	<p>The Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and City of Darwin, in partnership with city stakeholders, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation and the community, are working together to implement a range of projects that will transform our city under the Darwin City Deal.</p> <p>In August 2023 the Laneways and Small Streets Action Plan was released. The Action Plan was developed to assist Darwin City Deal partners to improve connectivity within the city centre through revitalised laneways and walkways providing safe and easy access through the city. The Northern Territory Government Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics has allocated \$1.35 million to City of Darwin to redevelop Chapel Lane.</p> <p>In August 2023, a key stakeholder and community engagement process was undertaken to gain a better understanding on the current usage, preferences and design priorities for the redevelopment project.</p> <p>All feedback received was used to inform and develop the design. The works are scheduled to commence dry season 2024 and are expected to be completed by mid-2025.</p>

Project	Timing	Engagement information
Development of Masterplan for Bundilla	16 October to 12 November 2023	<p>City of Darwin is investing \$500,000 and received \$3 million in funding from the Northern Territory Government to improve amenity, public recreation opportunities and safety elements in the Bundilla Beach area.</p> <p>A tender for the services to undertake the master planning and engagement process was completed in late August 2023.</p> <p>The Bundilla Beach Masterplan engagement process ran in October to November 2023 and built on previous consultation conducted to seek feedback from stakeholders and the community about the needs, aspirations and future uses of Bundilla Beach area. The engagement process also sought to garner feedback on the proposed deliverables for the masterplan's first stage of construction, jointly funded by the Northern Territory Government and City of Darwin.</p> <p>The overarching sentiment supported small-scale redevelopment activity that enhances and protects the natural assets of the area, and that large-scale and commercial development activity was not supported.</p>
Nightcliff Oval change rooms	22 January to 5 February 2024	<p>A proposal under the revised Nightcliff Oval Masterplan for AFL NT to construct a new fit-for-purpose, four-room change room complex, aimed at providing a safe, inclusive environment for oval users.</p> <p>Receiving endorsement from Council, a stakeholder and community engagement process was conducted from late January to early February 2024.</p> <p>The objective of the engagement was to ensure that the Nightcliff Oval changeroom proposal had strong input from key stakeholders and the broader community.</p> <p>The sentiment from survey responses was positive with 90.4 per cent in support of the proposal for AFL NT to construct new change room facilities.</p>
Commercial Outdoor Activities Policy	25 March to 8 April 2024	<p>City of Darwin's Climate Emergency, Economic Development, Greening, and Movement Strategies create a framework to align the use of land in the care, control and management of City of Darwin with the aspirations of the community.</p> <p>The Commercial Outdoor Activities Policy, together with the associated guidelines, aim to set out the vision for the commercial use of the city's outdoor spaces, in alignment with these strategies.</p> <p>With endorsement from Council, in March 2024, Officers undertook a key stakeholder and community engagement process to seek feedback on the draft policy.</p> <p>The sentiment from survey responses was positive for the draft Commercial Outdoor Activities Policy, and feedback received was used to inform and develop the final policy and supporting guidelines.</p>

Project	Timing	Engagement information
Bundilla Beach Masterplan	17 April to 1 May 2024	<p>Following the previous engagement process on the Bundilla Beach Masterplan, this engagement process was undertaken to ensure the masterplan reflected the aspirations and needs of the community as captured in phase one of the engagement process undertaken from 16 October to 12 November 2023.</p> <p>With endorsement from Council, City of Darwin undertook an engagement process to seek feedback from stakeholders and the community from mid-April to early May 2024.</p> <p>Most stakeholders and community members welcomed the proposed draft Bundilla Beach Masterplan, and the overall tone of the engagement process was deemed to be positive.</p>
Draft Municipal Plan 2024/25	1 May to 23 May 2024	<p>Community engagement was sought to provide feedback on City of Darwin's draft 2024/25 Municipal Plan.</p> <p>Community feedback was a key component in determining the priority projects and programs for the next financial year.</p>
Smith Street streetscape project	11 June to 28 June 2024	<p>In the 2023 budget, the Northern Territory Government identified \$3 million for the activation, greening and cooling of Smith Street.</p> <p>With endorsement from Council, City of Darwin conducted an engagement process in June 2024 to seek feedback from stakeholders and the community on two draft concept design options to upgrade a section of Smith Street, from Knuckey Street to Whitfield Street.</p> <p>The objectives of the engagement were to inform people of the project, explore the current usage and preferences of the area, and seek feedback on the design priorities for the streetscape improvements.</p> <p>The overall sentiment from survey responses was positive for the Smith Street Streetscape improvements project and feedback received was used to inform and progress the most preferred concept design.</p> <p>Following community engagement and the finalisation of the designs, construction is anticipated to commence in March 2025 with works expected to be completed by June 2025.</p>



6.1.6 Risk Management Framework

City of Darwin's Risk Management Policy outlines City of Darwin's commitment and approach to risk management and risk appetite. The Risk Management Policy and framework has been developed in accordance with the International Standard for Risk Management ISO 31000:2018. The principles considered within the framework consider risk management to be:

- an integrated and integral component of organisation activities
- inclusive of stakeholder views and perceptions
- customer to include internal and external organisational requirements
- dynamic to respond to environment and future changes
- operating within a structured and communicated framework
- lead by demonstrated commitment from elected members, senior management and staff.

A strategic risk assessment identified 12 risks associated with achieving City of Darwin's Strategic Plan and includes the existing controls as well as future opportunities for the organisation to mitigate or further reduce these risks. Operational and project risk development continued throughout the year. Risk opportunities will be considered in future municipal and business planning processes, along with future reviews of City of Darwin's Strategic Plan.

The risk that City of Darwin fails to:	Inherent risk	Residual risk
Be financially sustainable into the long term	High	Low
Develop and facilitate effective relationships and partnerships and manage key stakeholders and their expectations	Medium	Low
Attract, retain and develop our people to our culture	Extreme	Medium
Effectively design and implement fit for purpose contemporary governance practices	Extreme	Low
Prepare for, respond to, and recover from internal / external critical events	High	Very low
Support the safety and wellbeing of staff and the community	High	Very low
Operate in compliance with regulatory environment	Extreme	Low
Be innovative with everything it does	High	Low
Identify, deliver and maintain the right infrastructure assets	Extreme	Medium
Maintain long term planning and thinking	Extreme	Low
Design, implement and evolve the way that it delivers value to its internal and external customers	Medium	Very low
Establish itself as a credible government for Darwin	Medium	Low

Table 16 City of Darwin strategic risk profile.

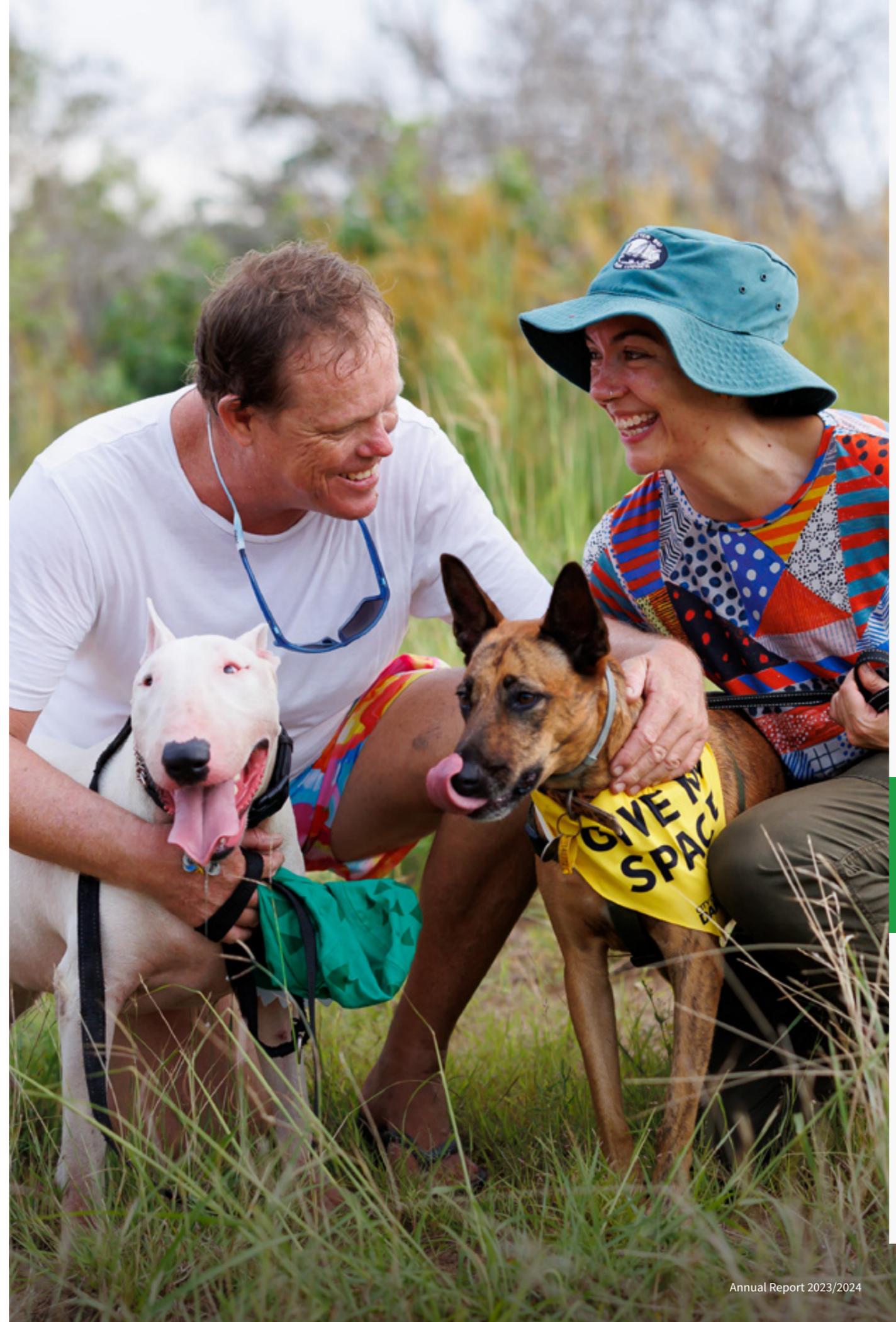


Image: Walk 'n Wag

7. FINANCES



7.1 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

City of Darwin achieved an unqualified opinion from audit for its financial statements, and were completed within the statutory timeframes. The end of 2023/24 financial year result was an operating deficit of \$9.0 million compared to the amended operating budgeted deficit of \$18.4 million, representing a \$9.4 million improvement to budget. City of Darwin has a budgeted operating deficit as it does not fund the non-cash expense of depreciation but rather funds its capital replacement and improvement program for assets. The main variance between the final result and the budget is related to savings in materials, contracts and services, employee expenses and additional income earned on investment returns.

Throughout the financial year City of Darwin recognised total operating income of \$123.5 million, higher by \$5.2 million than the previous year, performing well in most categories. City of Darwin's expenditure increased by \$1.1 million to \$132.5 million compared to last financial year. The increase in materials, contracts and services and finance costs has been offset by a reduction in depreciation expenses.

\$35.4 million was expended on community infrastructure, with notable projects completed being Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre, playground replacements, stormwater renewal and upgrade projects and works at the Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility such as pond 3, capping of cells 3 and 4 and the cardboard compactor. Other projects completed or substantially progressed include the Better Suburbs projects, playground softfall refurbishments and road resurfacing and renewal works.

The 2023/24 financial year resulted in an increase in City of Darwin's net assets by \$12 million from the previous year to \$1.25 billion. City of Darwin ended the year with a positive liquidity position, a slight decrease from 2022/23, and reflects the increase in current liabilities for the closure of a loan facility that is due in 2024/25.

City of Darwin's restricted cash reserves decreased by \$8.7 million, with significant capital projects completed in the 2023/24 financial year. This resulted in a reduction in the required amount in end of year carry forward reserves.

The audited financial statements present City of Darwin's final financial results for the 2023/24 financial year. Full details of City of Darwin's audited financial statements are available on pages 101-147 within this Annual Report.



Image: Bombing of Darwin ceremony

7.2 FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT 1. COMPARISON OF ACTUAL PERFORMANCE AGAINST BUDGET

Table 1.1 Income and expenditure statement

	2024 FY Original budget \$'000	2024 FY Final budget \$'000	2024 FY Actual performance \$'000	Variation between final budget and actual performance \$'000
Operating income				
Rates	75,118	75,118	75,437	319
Charges	9,406	9,406	9,500	94
Statutory charges	2,338	2,721	3,568	847
User fees and charges	29,532	25,075	25,358	283
Operating grants and subsidies	6,116	2,142	2,497	355
Interest / investment income	3,104	3,104	5,065	1,961
Commercial and other income	2,151	2,151	2,082	(69)
Total income	127,765	119,717	123,507	3,790
Operating expenses				
Employee expenses	40,560	39,754	37,126	2,628
Materials, contracts and services	61,477	59,822	57,174	2,648
Elected member allowances	795	795	686	109
Elected member expenses	64	44	0	44
Council committee allowances	10	10	17	(7)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	32,425	34,250	34,262	(12)
Finance expenses	3,948	3,448	3,242	206
Total expenses	139,279	138,123	132,507	5,616
Budgeted operating surplus/ (deficit)	(11,514)	(18,406)	(9,000)	9,406

* Other income and user fees aligned to annual budget reporting categorisation

Table 1.2 Annual operating position

	2024 FY Original Budget \$'000	2024 FY Final budget \$'000	2024 FY Actual result \$'000	Variation between final budget and actuals \$'000
Operating surplus/(deficit)	(11,514)	(18,406)	(9,000)	9,406
Remove non-cash items				
Add back depreciation	32,425	34,250	34,262	12
Add back other non cash items	904	1,029	2,148	1,119
Total non-cash items	33,329	35,279	36,410	1,131
Less additional outflows				
Capital expenditure	(19,020)	(55,752)	(35,423)	20,329
Repayment of borrowings	(5,614)	(5,260)	(4,975)	285
Total additional outflows	(24,634)	(61,012)	(40,398)	20,614
Add additional inflows				
Add capital grants	952	12,041	9,156	(2,884)
Proceeds from borrowings	0	6,000	0	(6,000)
Sale of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	500	500	80	(420)
Transfers from/(-to) reserves	1,367	24,539	8,771	(15,768)
Transfers from unrestricted cash		1,060		(1,060)
Total additional inflows	2,819	44,139	18,007	(26,132)
Net operating position	0	0	5,019	5,019



STATEMENT 2. REASONS FOR MATERIAL VARIATIONS BETWEEN THE FINAL BUDGET AND ACTUAL PERFORMANCE

Operating income

Most areas saw operating income performing close to target, showing an overall positive variance of \$3.8 million from the amended budget. The positive variance primarily stemmed from returns on the City of Darwin investment portfolio, with timing of capital programs leading to higher cash balances and anticipated interest rates exceeding forecasts. Statutory charges experienced increased revenue. This income stream includes work permit income from developments and parking enforcement activities within the city centre. Additionally, there was a positive variance in operational grant income due to the timing of grant funding, which was received at the end of the financial year for programs to be delivered in the 2024/25 financial year.

Operating expenses

The favourable variance between budget and actuals is \$5.6 million. This is a result of a combination of factors:

Expenses for employees remained below budget due to vacant positions throughout the year. The open positions were a result of the ongoing difficulty in recruitment of suitably qualified staff with tight labour markets and low unemployment rates. Additionally, employee expenses decreased because of a higher discount rate applied to provision calculations. This partially lowered the liability and reduced expenses on the Income Statement.

The favourable variance in expenditure for materials and contracts is attributed to lower spending on contractors and services. Specifically, the waste management division achieved operational savings by sourcing clean landfill cover and reducing fuel expenses through the Benevap system going offline. These savings are considered to be one-time for the 2023/24 financial year and are transferred to the waste management reserve for future infrastructure and operational requirements. In addition, savings were realised in the budget for elected member allowances due to a vacancy during the financial year and entitlements not being fully utilised.

Capital expenditure

City of Darwin invested significantly towards community assets in the 2023/24 financial year with new assets completed such as the Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre, projects at Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility – stages 3 and 4 capping and the construction of pond 3, as well as the continuous annual renewal of existing assets. The variance in the capital program is due to the timing of projects that span multiple financial years and are being carried over into the 2024/25 financial year for continuation. This includes projects at Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility stage 2 expansion, the plant and equipment replacement program, parking meter replacement program and the ICT roadmap capital program. The transfer of carried forward projects to reserves for continuation in the new year is also reflected in the variance related to transfers to reserves.

Capital grants

The recognition of grant income is in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AASB1058; as such, grant funds received for key projects Bundilla Park activation, Chapel Lane revitalisation and Smith Street improvements have a budget timing variance at end of financial year. Projects are progressing in the 2024/25 financial year and are included in the carry forward reports.

Proceeds from borrowings

The budget relates to timing of execution of borrowings for Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility stage 2 expansion. The borrowings were executed early in the 2024/25 Financial year.

Non-cash items

Other non-cash items is the annual discount unwinding of the waste remediation provisions. The annual budget is based on the prior year calculation as future indexation estimates are unknown; this will vary to the final results. The annual unwinding is transferred to the waste remediation reserve at year end, funded from the waste management reserve.

The transfer from unrestricted cash is the budgeted movement of working capital in accordance with Council's Allocation of Surplus Funds Policy. There are no 'actuals' on this line; reserve transfers occurred in line with Resolution ORD800/23.

STATEMENT 3. TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR EACH COUNCIL COMMITTEE

For the year ending 30 June 2024	Council committee allowances \$'000	Council committee expenses \$'000	Total \$'000
Risk Management and Audit Committee	11	0	11
ICT Steering Committee	6	0	6
Total	17	0	17

Table 17 Total expenditure for each Council committee



International Women's Day march

7.3 KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

Council indicators

Percentage of rate debtors outstanding	Target	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	<5%	6.5%	5.8%	6.4%

This indicator is designed to measure City of Darwin's effectiveness in recovering debts legally owed to it.

Debt servicing ratio	Target	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	<10%	2.6%	3.8%	4.9%

This indicator is designed to show what proportion of revenue is required as a commitment to fund City of Darwin's loan repayments. Finance costs excludes interest expense of unwinding Waste remediation liabilities as non cash item.

Liquidity ratio	Target	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	≥1.5:1	2.22:1	2.86:1	2.12:1

This indicator is designed to measure whether City of Darwin has the ability to pay its debts as they fall due and is expressed as a factor of one. The ratio is calculated as (current assets minus externally restricted reserves)/ (current liabilities).

Rates ratio	Target	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	60%-70%	61.4%	61.1%	64.1%

This indicator is designed to measure City of Darwin's ability to cover its day to day expenses through its own rates and annual charges.

Operating surplus/(deficit)	Target	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Break-even	(\$7.8M)	(\$13.1M)	(\$9.0M)

This indicator is designed to provide information on the result of ordinary operations including depreciation, which is a non cash expense. City of Darwin does not fund depreciation rather it funds the capital expenditure program.

Operating surplus/(deficit) before depreciation	Target	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	\$25M – \$35M	\$23.9M	\$22.2M	\$25.3M

This indicator is designed to provide information on the result of ordinary operations before depreciation, which is a non cash expense. Excluding depreciation gives the amount of operating income over and above operating expenses that is available to fund capital expenditure.

Asset sustainability ratio	Target	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	100%	16.1%	40.3%	53.8%

This indicator is designed to indicate the extent to which City of Darwin is renewing its assets. A ratio of 100% or more indicates that City of Darwin spends at least the amount of depreciation each year on renewing assets.

% Annual expenditure within budget	Target	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	95%-105%	101.4%	98.4%	95.9%

This indicator is designed to measure how effective City of Darwin's budgeting practices are by measuring how close actual expenditures incurred were to original budget.

Targets reflect the Long Term Financial Plan 2023-2033 and City of Darwin's Borrowing Policy.



7.4 GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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City of Darwin

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Chief Executive Officer's Statement

Chief Executive Officer's Statement

I, Simone Saunders, the Chief Executive Officer of City of Darwin (the Council), hereby certify that the Annual Financial Statements to the best of my knowledge, information and belief:

- been drawn up in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, the *Local Government Act 2019* (LGA) and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* so as to present fairly the financial position of the Council and the results for the year ended 30 June 2024; and
- are in accordance with the accounting and other records of Council.



Simone Saunders
Chief Executive Officer

18 October 2024

City of Darwin

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Understanding the Council's financial statements

Introduction

Each year, individual Local Governments across the Northern Territory are required to present a set of audited Financial Statements to their council and community.

About the certification of financial statements

The financial statements must be certified by the Chief Executive Officer as "presenting a true and fair view" of the Council's financial results for the year and ensuring both responsibility for and ownership of the financial statements across council.

What you will find in the statements?

The financial statements set out the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

The format of the financial statements is standard across all Northern Territory Councils and complies with both the accounting and reporting requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements incorporate four "primary" financial statements:

1. **A Statement of Comprehensive Income**
A summary of Council's financial performance for the year, listing all income and expenses.
2. **A Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)**
A 30 June snapshot of Council's financial position including its assets and liabilities.
3. **A Statement of Changes in Equity**
The overall change for the year (in dollars) of Council's "net wealth".
4. **A Statement of Cash Flows**
Indicates where Council's cash came from and where it was spent.

About the notes to the financial statements

The Notes to the Financial Statements provide greater detail and additional information on the four Primary Financial Statements.

About the Independent Auditor's Report

Council's Financial Statements are required to be audited by external auditors (that generally specialise in Local Government).

In the Northern Territory, the Auditor provides an audit report, with an opinion on whether the Financial Statements present fairly the Council's financial performance and position.

Who uses the financial statements?

The financial statements are publicly available documents and are used by (but not limited to) councillors, residents and ratepayers, employees, suppliers, contractors, customers, and financiers including banks and other financial institutions.

Deficit budgeting

The Council budgets for a deficit as it does not fund depreciation; rather it funds capital purchases and any loan funding.

This is in accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* Part 2 Divison 4, and section 202 of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Income			
Rates revenue	2a	84,937	80,282
Statutory charges	2b	3,568	2,484
User charges	2c	25,825	21,944
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	2g	2,497	7,806
Investment and interest income	2d	5,065	4,012
Reimbursements	2e	573	812
Other income	2f	1,042	927
Total income		123,507	118,267
Expenses			
Employee costs	3a	37,126	37,082
Materials, contracts and other expenses	3b	57,877	56,336
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	3c	34,262	35,304
Finance costs	3d	3,242	2,662
Total expenses		132,507	131,384
Operating Deficit		(9,000)	(13,117)
Physical resources received free of charge	2i	1,280	548
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2g	9,156	5,398
Asset disposal and fair value adjustments	4	5,448	(6,000)
Net Income (Deficit)		6,884	(13,171)
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)			
Revaluation Increment - Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	9a	5,170	–
Total amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result		5,170	–
Total other comprehensive income		5,170	–
Total Comprehensive Income (Loss)		12,054	(13,171)

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalent assets	5a	54,657	48,618
Trade and other receivables	5b	15,942	14,372
Other financial assets (investments)	5c	65,187	76,410
Inventories	5d	265	267
Total current assets		136,051	139,667
Non-current assets			
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	7	1,258,365	1,252,204
Total non-current assets		1,258,365	1,252,204
TOTAL ASSETS		1,394,416	1,391,871
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8a	23,744	22,904
Borrowings	8b	12,749	4,897
Provisions	8c	6,794	7,079
Lease liabilities	8d,15	951	922
Total current liabilities		44,238	35,802
Non-current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8a	10	12
Borrowings	8b	44,994	57,821
Provisions	8c	50,236	54,401
Lease liabilities	8d,15	1,460	2,411
Total non-current liabilities		96,700	114,645
TOTAL LIABILITIES		140,938	150,447
Net assets		1,253,478	1,241,424
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		301,425	285,770
Asset revaluation reserves	9a	867,298	862,128
Other reserves	9b	84,755	93,526
Total Council Equity		1,253,478	1,241,424

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	Accumulated surplus	Asset revaluation reserves	Other reserves	Total equity
2024					
Balance at the end of previous reporting period		285,770	862,128	93,526	1,241,424
Net Income/(Deficit) for the Year		6,884	–	–	6,884
Other comprehensive income					
Gain on revaluation of IPP&E	7a	–	5,170	–	5,170
Other comprehensive income		–	5,170	–	5,170
Total comprehensive income		6,884	5,170	–	12,054
Transfers between Reserves		8,771	–	(8,771)	–
Balance at the end of period		301,425	867,298	84,755	1,253,478
2023					
Balance at the end of previous reporting period		300,937	862,128	91,530	1,254,595
Net Income/(Deficit) for the Year		(13,171)	–	–	(13,171)
Other comprehensive income					
Gain on revaluation of IPP&E	7a	–	–	–	–
Other comprehensive income		–	–	–	–
Total comprehensive income		(13,171)	–	–	(13,171)
Transfers between Reserves		(1,996)	–	1,996	–
Balance at the end of period		285,770	862,128	93,526	1,241,424

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Cash flows from operating activities			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Rates Receipts		84,937	80,515
Statutory Charges		3,568	2,484
User Charges		25,825	22,186
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions		2,497	7,806
Investment Receipts		5,065	3,224
Reimbursements		1,615	1,739
<u>Payments</u>			
Finance Payments		(1,094)	(1,260)
Payments to Employees		(37,373)	(36,940)
Payments for Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses		(62,029)	(58,824)
Net cash generated in operating activities	11b	23,011	20,930
Cash flows from investing activities			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Net Disposal of Investment Securities		11,223	18,535
Sale of assets		80	495
Amounts received specifically for new/upgraded assets		13,702	4,096
<u>Payments</u>			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets and new/upgraded assets		(35,993)	(39,176)
Net cash used in investing activities		(10,988)	(16,050)
Cash flows from financing activities			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Proceeds from borrowings		–	31,002
<u>Payments</u>			
Repayment of Bonds & Deposits		(87)	(8)
Repayment of Lease Liabilities		(922)	(508)
Repayments of borrowings		(4,975)	(3,298)
Net cash (used in)/generated from financing activities		(5,984)	27,188
Net increase in cash held		6,039	32,068
plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents at beginning of period		48,618	16,550
Cash and cash equivalents held at end of period	11a	54,657	48,618
Additional Information:			
plus: Investments on hand – end of year	5c	65,187	76,410
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments		119,844	125,028

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Contents of the Notes accompanying the General Purpose Financial Statements

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Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by Council in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(1) Basis of preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations, the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2019*, the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* and other relevant Northern Territory legislation.

The financial report, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accrual basis by measurement at fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities.

The financial report was authorised for issue on 18 October 2024.

1.2 Historical cost convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. All amounts are stated in Australian dollars.

1.2 Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards, requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Council's accounting policies.

The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of these Notes.

1.3 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

(2) The local government reporting entity

The City of Darwin ("the Council") is incorporated under the NT Local Government Act and has its principal place of business at Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin. These financial statements include the Council's direct operations and all entities through which Council controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas have been eliminated.

Trust monies and property held by Council but subject to the control of other persons have been excluded from these financial statements.

(3) Income recognition

The Council recognises revenue under *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (AASB 1058) or *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Council expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when a not-for-profit (NFP) entity enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the Council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the Council. In this case, the Council recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

Rates and Charges

Rates and Charges are recognised at the commencement of rating period. Rates overpaid at the end of the reporting period are classified as a current liability.

Non-cash contributions

Non-cash contributions with a value in excess of the recognition thresholds as stated in Note 1 - 6.2 are recognised as revenue and as non-current assets. Non-cash contributions below the threshold are recorded as revenue and as current assets.

Interest Income

Interest received from term deposits is accrued over the term of the investment.

Other Income

Other Income is recognised when it is probable that future economic benefit will flow to the Council and these benefits can be measured reliably.

Construction contracts

Construction works undertaken by Council for third parties are generally on an agency basis where the third party reimburses Council for actual costs incurred, and usually do not extend beyond the reporting period. Reimbursements not received are recognised as receivables and reimbursements received in advance are recognised as "payments received in advance".

For works undertaken on a fixed price contract basis, revenues are recognised over time using the input method, with costs incurred compared to total expected costs used as a measure of progress. When it is probable that total contract costs will exceed total contract revenue, the expected loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

(4) Cash, cash equivalents and other financial instruments

Cash and Cash Equivalents include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Trade and Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019*. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition, except for trade receivables from a contract with a customer, which are measured at the transaction price. A detailed disclosure of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments forms part of Note 13.

(5) Inventories

Inventories held in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average cost on a continual basis, after adjustment for loss of service potential. Any amount by which cost exceeds the net realisable value has been recognised as an expense.

5.1 Real estate assets developments

Real Estate Assets developments have been classified as Inventory in accordance with AASB 102 and are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Cost includes the costs of acquisition, development, borrowing and other costs incurred on financing of that acquisition and up to the time of sale. Any amount by which cost exceeds the net realisable value has been recognised as an expense. There is no such assets held by Council at balance date.

Revenues arising from the sale of property are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when settlement is completed.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

5.2 Other real estate held for resale

Properties not acquired for development, but which Council has decided to sell as surplus to requirements, are recognised at the carrying value at the time of that decision.

Certain properties, auctioned for non-payment of rates in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019* but which failed to meet the reserve set by Council and are available for sale by private treaty, are recorded at the lower of the unpaid rates and charges at the time of auction or the reserve set by Council. Holding costs in relation to these properties are recognised as an expense when incurred. There is no such land held by Council at balance date.

(6) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

6.1 Initial recognition

All assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held "ready for use". Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, and direct labour on the project. Capital works in progress is stated at cost, net of accumulated impairment losses, if any.

6.2 Materiality

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each type of asset. In determining (and in annually reviewing) such thresholds, regard is had to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life.

Capitalisation thresholds applied during the year are: items of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment with a total value of less than \$5,000 are treated as an expense in the year of acquisition. All other items of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are capitalised.

Where homogenous items are purchased with each individual item less than the threshold (\$5,000) consideration is given to capitalisation based on materiality and practicality.

6.3 Subsequent recognition

All material asset classes are revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. Significant uncertainties exist in the estimation of fair value of a number of asset classes including land, buildings and associated structures and infrastructure. Further detail of these uncertainties, and of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided at Note 7.

Non-current physical assets measured at fair value are revalued, where required, so that the carrying amount of each class of asset does not materially differ from its fair value at the reporting date. This is achieved by engaging independent, professionally qualified valuers to determine the fair value for each asset class of property, plant and equipment at least once every 4 years. An exception is the valuation of land under roads which may be carried out internally every 4 years.

In the 2024 financial year the land and land improvements, the land under roads, and buildings were valued by an independent, professional qualified valuer.

Any revaluation increment arising on the revaluation of assets is credited to the appropriate class of the revaluation reserve, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrement for the class previously recognised as an expense. A decrease in the carrying amount on revaluation is charged as an expense to the extent it exceeds the balance, if any, in the revaluation reserve of that asset class.

On revaluation, accumulated depreciation is restated proportionately with the change in the carrying amount of the asset and any change in the estimate of remaining useful life.

Separately identified components of assets are measured on the same basis as the assets to which they relate.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

Significant uncertainties exist in the estimation of fair value of a number of asset classes including land, buildings and associated structures and infrastructure. Further details of these uncertainties, and of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided at Note 7.

6.4 Depreciation of non-current assets

Other than land, land under roads and waste remediation assets, all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis which, in the opinion of Council, best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values of classes of assets are reviewed annually.

Land is not depreciated as it has an unlimited useful life.

Waste remediation assets are depreciated based on the rate of utilisation of airspace of landfill cells in proportion to total available airspace at the beginning of the reporting period.

Where assets have separately identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned useful lives distinct from the asset to which they relate. Any expenditure that increases the originally assessed capacity or service potential of an asset is capitalised and the new depreciable amount is depreciated over the remaining useful life of the asset to the Council.

Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are listed below. Depreciation periods for infrastructure assets have been estimated based on the best information available to Council. Where the Council receives additional information regarding the estimated service potential and useful life of an asset, and deems it to have a material effect on the useful life as specified by the asset class below, the Council may apply a revised useful life. Care should be used in interpreting financial information based on these estimates.

The classes and useful lives of property, plant and equipment recognised by the Council are:

Plant & Equipment

Plant & Machinery	3 to 20 years
Office Equipment	5 to 50 years
Computer Equipment	2 to 10 years

Other Assets

Other Structures	3 to 100 years
Office Furniture	5 to 20 years

Parks & Reserves

Park Furniture & Structures	5 to 60 years
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Buildings

Fitout & Fittings	40 years
Floor Covering	20 years
Main (Uncomponetised)	20 to 100 years
Roof	40 to 60 years
Services	40 years
Structure	60 - 150 years

Stormwater Drainage

Pipes & Pits	80 years
Open Lined/Unlined Drains	15 to 80 years
Subsoil Drainage	80 years

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

Transport

Sealed Roads - Formation	Infinite
Sealed Roads - Pavement	15 to 120 years
Sealed Roads - Surface	7 to 50 years
Kerb & Channels	80 years
Roundabouts	60 years

Pathways

Driveways	15 to 80 years
Pathways	15 to 80 years

Public Lighting

Base Station	20 years
Lamp	15 years
Pole	40 years
Underground Cable	80 years

Other Infrastructure Assets

Traffic Signals	40 years
Car Parks - Formation	Infinite
Car Parks - Pavement	15 to 120 years
Car Parks - Surface	30 to 50 years

Waste Management & Remediation

Waste Management Infrastructure	3 to 30 years
Waste Remediation	Airspace Consumption

6.5 Impairment

Assets whose future economic benefits are not dependent on the ability to generate cash flows, and where the future economic benefits would be replaced if Council were deprived thereof, are not subject to impairment testing.

Other assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount (which is the higher of the present value of future cash inflows or value in use).

Where an asset that has been revalued is subsequently impaired, the impairment is first offset against such amount as stands to the credit of that class of assets in Asset Revaluation Reserve, any excess being recognised as an expense.

6.6 Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs in relation to qualifying assets (net of offsetting investment revenue) have been capitalised in accordance with AASB 123 *Borrowing Costs*. The amounts of borrowing costs recognised as an expense or as part of the carrying amount of qualifying assets are disclosed in Note 3, and the amount (if any) of interest revenue offset against borrowing costs in Note 2. As permitted by AASB 123, Council may elect to recognise borrowing costs as an expense in the period in which they incurred regardless of how the borrowings are applied.

(7) Investment property

As at 30 June 2024 Council has not classified any assets as Investment Properties.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(8) Payables**8.1 Goods and services**

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

8.2 Payments received in advance and deposits

Amounts other than grants received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

(9) Borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred and are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Borrowings are carried at their principal amounts which represent the present value of future cash flows associated with servicing the debt. Interest is accrued over the period to which it relates, and is recorded as part of "Payables".

All borrowing costs are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

No borrowing costs have been capitalised on qualifying assets for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Council has not received any interest free loans.

(10) Employee benefits**10.1 Salaries, wages and compensated absences**

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based oncosts) measured in accordance with AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based oncosts) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

Sick leave

Liabilities for non vesting sick leave are recognised as expense at the time when the leave is taken and measured at the rates paid or payable, and accordingly no liability has been recognised in these reports.

10.2 Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Hostplus Superannuation Scheme and other schemes as chosen by employees.

The superannuation expense for the reporting period is the amount of the contribution the Council makes to the superannuation plan which provides benefits to its employees.

(11) Provisions for reinstatement, restoration and rehabilitation

Close down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure and the removal of residual materials and remediation and rehabilitation of disturbed areas. Where these can be reliably estimated, close down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs and are carried at the net present value of estimated future costs.

Rehabilitation and closure costs have been recognised for the Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility. The provision will be reviewed annually and adjustments disclosed in Note 8(c).

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

The facility will be closed to further waste disposal in 2034 unless the lease is negotiated to extend that. The net present value of the estimated future costs includes post closure and monitoring costs in accordance with NT Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) Landfill Guidelines for up to 30 years beyond 2034.

(12) Leases**Accounting policy**

The Council assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

12.1 Council as a lessee

The Council recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

i.) Right-of-Use Assets

The Council recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease. Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received and the estimate of costs to be incurred to restore the leased asset. Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets.

The right-of-use assets are also subject to impairment. Refer to the accounting policies above - Impairment of non-financial assets in Note 1- 6.5.

ii.) Lease Liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the Council recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Council uses its incremental borrowing rate or the interest rate implicit in the lease.

iii) Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Council applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to its short-term leases of machinery and equipment (i.e., those leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date). It also applies the low-value assets recognition exemption to leases of office equipment that are considered to be low value. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(13) Equity accounted Council businesses

Council does not operate any businesses required to be equity accounted.

(14) Goods and Services Tax (GST) implications

In accordance with Urgent Issues Group (UIG) abstract 1031 "*Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax*"

- Receivables and creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

(15) New accounting standards and interpretations

The AASB has issued Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations which are not effective at 30 June 2024, these standards have not been adopted by Council and will be included in the financial statements on their effective date. Where the standard is expected to have a significant impact for Council then further information has been provided in this note.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or before 1 July 2023

- AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates
- AASB 2021- 6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards

The following list identifies all the new and amended Australian Accounting Standards, and Interpretation, that were issued but not yet effective at the time of compiling these statements that could be applicable to Councils.

Effective for NFP annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024

- AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current and associated standards (amended by AASB 2021-6 and AASB 2022-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Non-current Liabilities with Covenants)
- AASB 2023-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Supplier Finance Arrangements
- AASB 2022-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback
- AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities.

Effective for NFP annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025

- AASB 2023-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Lack of Exchangeability
- AASB 2014-10 Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture (amended by AASB 2015-10, AASB 2017-5 and AASB 2022-7)

Effective for NFP annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2026 for public sector

- AASB 17 Insurance Contracts (amended by AASB 2020-5, AASB 2022-1, AASB 2022-8 and AASB 2022-9 Insurance Contracts in the Public Sector)

(16) Comparative figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

When the entity retrospectively applies an accounting policy, makes a retrospective restatement, or reclassifies items in its financial statements, a third statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period, in addition to the minimum comparative financial statements, must be disclosed.

(17) Disclaimer

Nothing contained within these statements may be taken to be an admission of any liability to any person under any circumstance.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2. Income

\$ '000	2024	2023
(a) Rates revenue		
General rates		
General rates	74,340	70,389
Total general rates	74,340	70,389
Other rates (including service charges)		
Domestic Waste Management	9,500	8,856
Parking - Special Rates	1,097	1,027
Other	-	10
Total other rates (including service charges)	10,597	9,893
Total rates revenue	84,937	80,282
(b) Statutory charges		
Animal registration fees and fines	488	443
Fines and Penalties - Other	4	5
Licences and Permit Fees	1,231	788
Parking Fines	1,831	1,214
Other	14	34
Total statutory charges	3,568	2,484
(c) User charges		
Cemeteries	60	74
Community centres	197	160
Parking Fees	4,495	4,457
Property lease	1,304	1,339
Sundry Sales	172	183
Waste Disposal Tipping Fees	19,225	15,239
Other	372	492
Total user charges	25,825	21,944
(d) Investment and interest income		
Interest from Overdue Rates and Charges	955	885
Interest on Investments / Financial Assets	4,110	3,127
Total Investment and Interest Income	5,065	4,012

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2. Income (continued)

\$ '000	2024	2023
(e) Reimbursements		
Insurance and Other Recoupments	126	167
Legal Fees Recovery - Rates and Charges	399	598
Other	48	47
Total reimbursements	573	812
(f) Other income		
Other	1,042	927
Total other income	1,042	927
(g) Grants, subsidies and contributions		
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		
Developer Contributions - Carparking Shortfall	–	(94)
Developer Contributions - Infrastructure	–	322
Waste Management Infrastructure	90	250
Recreation Facilities & Other Infrastructure	7,831	200
Transport (including Roads and Pathways Funding)	606	3,225
Urban Enhancement Infrastructure	629	1,495
Total amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	9,156	5,398
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions		
Other grants, subsidies and contributions - operating		
Federal Assistance Act - General Component	122	2,671
Federal Assistance Act - Road Component	94	3,117
Graffiti Management	150	–
Heritage & Cultural	217	70
Library	1,513	1,461
Mosquito Control	219	219
Other grants, subsidies and contributions	182	268
Total other grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	2,497	7,806
The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 12.		
Total grants, subsidies, contributions	11,653	13,204
(i) Sources of grants		
Commonwealth government	7,866	4,010
State/Territory Government	3,768	8,893
Other	19	301
Total	11,653	13,204

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2. Income (continued)

\$ '000	2024	2023
(h) Conditions over grants and contributions		
Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be expended for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet expended in accordance with those conditions, are as follows:		
Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period	19,725	22,091
Less:		
Developer Contributions for Infrastructure	(331)	–
<i>Expended during the current period from revenues recognised, or held as grant contract liabilities, in previous reporting periods</i>		
Unexpended Grants	(931)	(5,910)
Subtotal	(1,262)	(5,910)
Plus:		
<i>Amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period, or held as grant contract liabilities, but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions</i>		
Developer Contributions for Infrastructure	526	549
Unexpended Grants	5,723	2,995
Subtotal	6,249	3,544
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period	24,712	19,725
Net decrease in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period	4,987	(2,366)
(i) Physical resources received free of charge		
Infrastructure	1,280	548
Total physical resources received free of charge	1,280	548
(j) Grants/Subsidies - Cash Received		
Cash Received during the financial year		
\$'000	2024	2023
Operational		
Northern Territory Government	2,477	7,733
Other	20	68
Subtotal operational	2,497	7,801
Capital		
Commonwealth Government	7,272	1,179
Northern Territory Government	5,648	3,532
Subtotal capital	12,920	4,711
Total grants/subsidies cash received	15,417	12,512

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Expenses

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
(a) Employee costs			
Salaries and wages		33,184	32,894
Superannuation	16	3,561	3,523
Workers' compensation insurance		612	816
Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT)		59	125
Other		60	30
Less: capitalised and distributed costs		(350)	(306)
Total operating employee costs		37,126	37,082
Total number of employees (full time equivalent at end of reporting period)		334	339
(b) Materials, contracts and other expenses			
(i) Prescribed expenses			
Auditor's remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		121	83
- Other Review Services		82	46
Bad and doubtful debts		393	326
Elected Members Allowances		686	667
Elected Members Other		-	10
Operating Leases		51	26
Subtotal - prescribed expenses		1,333	1,158
(ii) Other materials, contracts and expenses			
Advertising and Marketing		273	222
Bank Charges		396	384
Contractors, Materials, and Other Services		38,655	35,023
Darwin Entertainment Centre		680	680
Donations, Contributions and Assistance		849	828
Fuel and Registration		567	2,640
Insurance (excl. Workers Comp'n)		2,188	2,036
Legal		896	843
Other Expenses (repayment of grants previously recognised as income)		35	1,266
Other Materials and Services		137	146
Postage		123	104
Power		2,285	2,099
Printing and Stationery		173	166
Professional Services		1,013	1,465
Subscriptions and Registrations		2,407	2,045
Telephone and Communications		402	525
Travel and Training		460	306
Water and Effluent		5,005	4,400
Subtotal - other material, contracts and expenses		56,544	55,178
Total materials, contracts and other expenses		57,877	56,336

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Expenses (continued)

\$ '000	2024	2023
(c) Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		
(i) Depreciation and amortisation		
Buildings	2,947	2,943
Infrastructure		
- Stormwater drainage	5,553	5,502
- Pathways	2,805	2,765
- Public Lighting	2,153	2,012
- Transport	9,702	9,577
- Waste Management Infrastructure	2,294	1,687
- Waste Remediation	2,116	4,164
Plant and equipment	2,739	2,871
Right-of-use assets	910	842
Parks & Reserves Infrastructure	1,933	1,828
Other assets	1,110	1,113
Subtotal	34,262	35,304
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment	34,262	35,304
(d) Finance costs		
Interest on leases	91	100
Interest on loans	1,003	1,160
Unwinding of present value discounts	2,148	1,402
Total finance costs	3,242	2,662

Note 4. Asset disposal and fair value adjustments

\$ '000	2024	2023
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		
(i) Assets renewed or directly replaced		
Proceeds from disposal	80	495
Less: carrying amount of assets sold	(845)	(2,952)
Loss on Disposal	(765)	(2,457)
Fair value adjustments		
Remeasurement Adjustment/Revaluation Decrements Expensed	6,213	(3,543)
Total fair value adjustments	6,213	(3,543)
Net Income/(Loss) on Disposal or Revaluation of Assets	5,448	(6,000)

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Current assets

\$ '000	2024	2023
(a) Cash and cash equivalent assets		
Cash on hand at bank	9,630	12,231
Deposits at call	45,027	36,387
Total cash and cash equivalent assets	54,657	48,618

(b) Trade and other receivables

Rateable Revenue and Charges	5,716	5,010
Accrued revenues	182	99
Debtors - general	5,779	5,268
Govt. Grants, Subsidies, Contributions and Donations	1,612	1,550
GST recoupment	606	748
Prepayments	769	877
Interest on Investments	1,407	1,096
Interest and Extra Charges	1,776	1,467
Subtotal	17,847	16,115
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Debts	(1,905)	(1,743)
Total trade and other receivables	15,942	14,372

(c) Other financial assets (investments)

Bonds	2,000	3,000
Floating Rate Notes	12,100	11,100
Term Deposits	51,087	62,310
Total other financial assets (investments)	65,187	76,410

Other financial assets are composed of investments and debt instruments. Amounts included in other financial assets that are not expected to be received within 12 months of reporting date are disclosed in Note 13.

\$ '000	2024	2023
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(d) Inventories

Stores and materials	265	267
Total inventories	265	267

Note 6. Non-current assets

Nil Financial Assets, Equity Accounted Investments in Council Businesses, and Other Non-Current Assets.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment

(a) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

\$ '000	Fair Value Level	Asset movements during the reporting period										as at 30/06/24						
		At Fair Value	Initial Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Accumulated Impairment	Carrying amount	Asset Additions New / Upgrade	Asset Additions Renewals	WDV of Asset Disposals	Depreciation Expense (Note 3c)	WIP Transfers & Transfers	Adjustments & Transfers	Revaluation Increment/ (Decrement) to Equity (ARR) (Note 9)	At Fair Value	Initial Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Accumulated Impairment	Carrying amount
Capital work in progress		-	55,085	-	-	55,085	-	-	-	-	(3,584)	-	-	51,501	-	-	-	51,501
Land - Under Roads	3	44,131	-	-	-	44,131	-	-	-	-	-	3,287	-	47,418	-	-	-	47,418
Land and Improvements	2	340,645	1,843	-	-	342,488	-	-	-	-	-	(26,983)	-	315,505	-	-	-	315,505
Buildings	3	133,606	3,843	(80,315)	-	57,134	2,210	170	(71)	(2,947)	-	28,866	(463)	168,532	41	(83,674)	-	84,899
Infrastructure																		
- Stormwater drainage	3	435,502	1,982	(249,537)	-	187,947	642	435	(5)	(5,553)	-	-	-	435,451	3,059	(255,044)	-	183,466
- Transport	3	500,223	5,665	(176,351)	-	329,537	4,035	2,028	(418)	(9,702)	-	-	-	498,942	11,728	(185,189)	-	325,481
- Pathways	3	145,105	2,858	(53,465)	-	94,498	1,587	1,155	(129)	(2,805)	-	-	-	144,805	5,600	(56,098)	-	94,307
- Public Lighting	3	89,018	2,125	(48,621)	-	42,522	1,022	767	(1)	(2,153)	-	-	-	89,015	3,914	(50,773)	-	42,156
- Waste Management Infrastructure	3	23,092	13,861	(22,741)	-	14,212	20,206	-	-	(2,294)	-	-	-	23,092	34,067	(25,035)	-	32,124
- Waste Remediation	3	35,822	-	(9,097)	-	26,725	-	-	-	(2,116)	-	-	-	35,822	-	(11,213)	-	24,609
Right-of-use assets														6,296	-	(4,036)	-	2,260
Plant and equipment														39,244	1,332	(2,739)	-	40,455
Parks & Reserves Infrastructure														43,296	1,958	(1,933)	-	45,730
Other assets														27,965	1,193	(1,110)	-	28,851
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment														1,753,440	197,767	(698,784)	(219)	1,252,204
Comparatives														1,757,165	166,165	(670,051)	(219)	1,253,060

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

(b) Valuation of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

Valuation of assets

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various Accounting Standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a "level" in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Refer to Note 7a for the disclosure of the Fair Value Levels of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment Assets.

Information on valuations

Fair value hierarchy level 2 valuations - Certain land, and the buildings and structures thereon, are shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 2 valuation inputs. They are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, with directly or indirectly observable adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of land - Valuations of Crown land, community land and land subject to other restrictions on use or disposal, shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 3 valuation inputs, are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, but include adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset that are not directly or indirectly observable in that market, or the number and / or amount of observable adjustments of which are so great that the valuation is more fairly described as being based on level 3 valuation inputs.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of buildings, infrastructure and other assets - There is no known market for buildings, infrastructure and other assets. These assets are valued at depreciated current replacement cost. This method involves:

- The determination of the cost to construct the asset (or its modern engineering equivalent) using current prices for materials and labour, the quantities of each being estimated based on recent experience of this or similar Councils, or on industry construction guides where these are more appropriate.
- The calculation of the depreciation that would have accumulated since original construction using current estimates of residual value and useful life under the prime cost depreciation method adopted by Council.

This method has significant inherent uncertainties, relying on estimates of quantities of materials and labour, residual values and useful lives, and the possibility of changes in prices for materials and labour, and the potential for development of more efficient construction techniques. Accordingly, formal sensitivity analysis does not provide useful information.

Other information

Upon revaluation, the current new replacement cost and accumulated depreciation are re-stated such that the difference represents the fair value of the asset determined in accordance with AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*: accumulated depreciation is taken to be the difference between current new replacement cost and fair value. In the case of land, current replacement cost is taken to be the fair value.

Highest and best use

All of Council's non financial assets are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use in relation to Local Government.

Fair Value Measurement

The requirements of AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* have been applied to all valuations undertaken as shown by the valuation dates by individual asset classes below.

Capital Works in Progress

- Basis of valuation: Original cost

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

Land and Land Improvements

- Basis of valuation: Market Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2024
- Valuer: Brightly Australia Pty Ltd
- Critical assumptions:
 - The Direct Comparison Method was used for the valuation of Council's properties with an open market value which refers to the properties zoned for residential, commercial or industrial. The valuation considered the size, shape, location and exposure of the particular site. The Council owned industrial land has been simply valued as industrial land as if owned by a private proprietor.

A number of properties that were not considered to have an open market value include sites such as road and drainage reserves, waterfront reserves and parks. Hence the value of these types of properties has been based on the sales prices achieved on the open market for adjoining and neighbouring land. Council property surrounded by residential land has been valued by reference to the sale prices achieved for neighbouring residential land. In some cases, these values have been discounted to reflect the physical attributes of each Council owned property. The degree of discount varies from site to site, according to its shape, size, contour, access etc. The zoning of the property has not been given any particular weight, given that the site is zoned to reflect the public use, rather than its alternative use if held in private hands.

As a result the Council's assets portfolio is classified as having been valued using Level 2 valuation inputs.

- Results: A decrement in land valuation of \$26.9M

Land Under Roads

- Basis of valuation: Adjusted Site Value
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2024
- Valuer: Brightly Australia Pty Ltd
- Critical assumptions:
 - There were impediments in determining the value of Land Under Roads such as the identifiable acquisition cost for Land Under Roads is seldom; it cannot generally be disposed of; there is usually no readily available market; there is no income attributable to the road; and potentially other entities and the public also retain rights over such land.

The valuation method utilised the statutory Site Value which is a general representation of the land's use and locational attributes. Site Value is at a particular date and assumes no improvements on the land. It is regularly and periodically recalculated on an individual property-by property basis using the application of specific up-to-date market determined sales data. Reference to a site value rate per square meter (or hectare) was used in determining the value of Land Under Road.

The Site Value was adjusted by 70% due to the urban environment of the municipality and to arrive at the raw land value which represents an appropriate basis upon which to measure the value of roadway land. It was further adjusted for access and carriageway rights value by 15% and infrastructure assets value by 10%. The total discount applied was 95% to determine the value of Land Under Roads.

As a result the Council's assets portfolio is classified as having been valued using Level 3 valuation inputs.

- Results: An increment in land under roads valuation of \$3.29M.

Buildings and Other Structures

- Basis of valuation: Written down current replacement cost
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2024
- Valuer: Brightly Australia Pty Ltd
- Critical assumptions:
 - Inputs to the valuation include the design and construction, average cost of construction, and obsolescence score for each asset or component. These are supported by observable evidence obtained via inspection and market evidence, they have been classified as Level 2 inputs. The unobservable inputs used to assess the level of remaining service potential required extensive professional judgement and impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value. As such these assets were classified using Level 3 valuation inputs.
 - This method is based on determining the Current Replacement Cost of the modern equivalent (or cost of reproduction where relevant) and then adjusting for obsolescence. Where applicable, this approach estimated the replacement cost for each asset by componentising the assets into significant parts with different useful lives.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

As a result, the revaluation for Council's assets portfolio is classified as having been valued using Level 3 valuation inputs.

The Useful Life of the asset is the period between which the future economic benefits embodied in that asset are expected to be consumed by the users. Council's useful lives have been derived from reference and benchmarking with the *IPWEA Asset Management and Financial Management Guidelines, Practise Note 12 2017 Useful Life of Infrastructure*, and where known construction dates, assessing remaining service potential as derived from visual inspections to determine total estimated useful lives. The remaining service potential was determined using consumption patterns derived from Brightly Australia's suite of benchmark profiles and other reference materials (such as IPWEA Practice Notes).

In the valuation, the depreciation expense was calculated using the straight-line methodology, there have been no residual values applied to the infrastructure asset classes, and no assets were identified to be held in excess of their recoverable amount.

- Results: An increment in building valuation of \$28.9M

Infrastructure

- Basis of valuation: Written down current replacement cost
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2022
- Valuer: Assetic Pty Ltd and Council inputs (Stormwater Drainage and Public Lighting)
- Date of valuation: 30 June 2021
- Valuer: Assetic Pty Ltd and Council inputs (Transport & Pathways)
- The revaluation of Transport & Pathways Infrastructure assets by Assetic Pty resulted in a increment in Roads & Pathways of \$207.1M at 30 June 2021.
- Critical assumptions:
 - The approach estimated the replacement costs for each asset by componentising the assets into significant parts with different useful lives and taking into account a range of factors. While the unit rates based on the square metres or similar capacity could be supported from market evidence (level 2) other inputs (such as estimates of pattern of consumption and asset condition) required extensive professional judgement and impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value. Therefore these assets were classified as having been valued using level 3 valuation inputs.

The observable market evidence used to support the unit rates included evidence from actual construction contracts, comparison to rates adopted by reference councils and against industry construction cost guides.

During the year there were a number of new projects completed where the actual cost was recorded and the impact of depreciation at year end was negligible. While these could be classified as valued at level 2 given the low proportion of the total portfolio that these represented and the likelihood that in future valuations they would most likely be valued at level 3 the policy adopted is that all road network infrastructure assets are deemed to be valued at level 3.

The main level 3 inputs used are derived and evaluated as follows:

Asset Condition – The nature of road network infrastructure is that there are a very large number of assets which comprise the network and as a result it is not physically possible to inspect every asset for the purposes of completing a valuation. As a consequence reliance is placed on the accuracy of data held in the asset management system and its associated internal controls. This includes regular planned inspections and updates to the system following maintenance activities and renewal treatments. Likewise, especially for storm water network infrastructure, a large portion of the portfolio is located underground and may only be inspected on an irregular basis.

To provide assurance over the accuracy of this information and taking into account the cost-benefit of undertaking physical inspections the valuation relies upon a sampling approach where the data held in the system is verified by a physical inspection. While the sampling approach, combined with internal controls associated with the asset management system, provides a high level of comfort over the condition data held in the asset management system it does not provide a guarantee that all the data is correct and the condition as recorded is valid as at the date of valuation.

Relationship between asset consumption rating scale and the level of consumed service potential – Under the cost approach the estimated cost to replace the asset is calculated and then adjusted to take account of accumulated depreciation. In order to achieve this, the Valuer determines an asset consumption rating scale for each asset type based on the inter-relationship between a range of factors. These factors and their relationship to the fair value require professional judgment and include asset condition, legal and commercial obsolescence and the determination of key depreciation related assumptions such as residual value, useful life and pattern of consumption of the future economic benefit. The consumption rating scales were based initially on the past experience of the valuation firm and industry

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

guides and were then updated to take into account the experience and understanding of Council's own engineers, asset management and finance staff. The results of the valuation were further evaluated by confirmation against Council's own understanding of the assets and the level of remaining service potential.

- Results:
 - The revaluation of Stormwater Infrastructure assets by Assetic Pty resulted in a increment in Stormwater of \$41.1M at 30 June 2022.
 - The revaluation of Street & Public Lighting Infrastructure assets by Assetic Pty resulted in a decrement in Street & Public Lighting of \$3.6M at 30 June 2022.

Waste Management and Remediation

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value

Plant and Equipment

- Basis of valuation: Original cost

Parks and Reserves Infrastructure

- Basis of valuation: Original cost

Other Assets

- Basis of valuation: Original cost

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Liabilities

\$ '000	2024		2023	
	Current	Non Current	Current	Non Current
(a) Trade and other payables				
Creditors and Accruals	10,621	–	14,138	–
Payments received in advance	82	–	68	–
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements	1,126	–	1,231	–
Accrued expenses - finance costs	179	–	331	–
Accrued Expenses - Leases	–	10	–	12
Deposits, retentions and bonds	588	–	675	–
Rates Paid in Advance	3,236	–	3,157	–
Contract Liabilities - Grants	7,912	–	3,304	–
Total trade and other payables	23,744	10	22,904	12

(b) Borrowings

Loans	12,749	44,994	4,897	57,821
Total borrowings	12,749	44,994	4,897	57,821

All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council.

(c) Provisions

Employee entitlements (including oncosts)	6,794	861	6,720	1,077
Post Closure Site Rehabilitation	–	31,725	115	34,743
Cell Capping - Stage 2	–	6,863	–	7,574
Cell Capping - Stage 3/4	–	–	244	–
Cell Capping - Stage 5	–	2,942	–	2,984
Cell Capping - Stage 6	–	7,845	–	8,023
Total provisions	6,794	50,236	7,079	54,401

Landfill Rehabilitation Provision

Council has measured and recognised remediation provisions for Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility post closure and cell capping liabilities. The provision is in accordance with AASB 137 - *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*. The provision has been calculated by determining a best estimate of the current cost to rehabilitate the landfill site that can be reliably measured. Initial recognition includes post closure site rehabilitation estimates and cell capping estimates. The estimates are indexed by 3.27% (RBA average 3 year CPI inflation forecast) and discounted at a rate of 4.31% to arrive at the Net Present Value (NPV) of the liability.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Liabilities (continued)

Movements in provisions

2024 (current and non-current) \$ '000	Cell Capping				Post Closure Site Rehabilitation 2024
	Stage 2 2024	Stage 3/4 2024	Stage 5 2024	Stage 6 2024	
Opening balance	7,574	244	2,984	8,023	34,858
Add: unwinding of present value discounts	304	–	120	323	1,401
(Less): payments	–	(244)	–	–	–
Add (Less) Remeasurement Adjustments & Additions	(1,015)	–	(162)	(501)	(4,534)
Closing balance	6,863	–	2,942	7,845	31,725

\$ '000	2024		2023	
	Current	Non Current	Current	Non Current

(d) Other liabilities

Lease Liabilities	951	1,460	922	2,411
Total other liabilities	951	1,460	922	2,411

The Lease Liabilities relate to the Right-of-Use Assets recognised on the Statement of Financial Position under AASB16.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Reserves

\$ '000	as at 30/06/23		as at 30/06/24
	Opening Balance	Increments (Decrements)	Closing Balance
(a) Asset revaluation reserve			
Land - Under Roads	–	3,287	3,287
Land and Improvements	318,418	(26,983)	291,435
Buildings	31,535	28,866	60,401
Infrastructure			
- Stormwater drainage	140,730	–	140,730
- Transport	233,005	–	233,005
- Pathways	135,035	–	135,035
Other assets	3,405	–	3,405
Total asset revaluation reserve	862,128	5,170	867,298
Comparatives	862,128	–	862,128

\$ '000	as at 30/06/23			as at 30/06/24
	Opening Balance	Tfrs from (-to) Operations	Tfrs from (-to) Capital	Closing Balance
(b) Other reserves				
Externally Restricted				
CBD Carparking Shortfall - Developer Contributions	13,763	447	–	14,210
CBD Carparking Shortfall - Rate Levy	15,953	1,633	(82)	17,504
Developer Contributions	2,044	64	(331)	1,777
Highway/Commercial Carparking Shortfall	54	2	–	56
Market Site Development	534	53	–	587
Other Carparking Shortfall	392	13	–	405
Waste Management	884	1,618	(1,041)	1,461
Waste Remediation	3,504	2,648	(137)	6,015
Unexpended Grants	169	229	(40)	358
Total Externally Restricted Reserves	37,297	6,707	(1,631)	42,373
Comparatives	43,752	301	(6,756)	37,297
Internally Restricted				
Asset Replacement & Refurbishment	3,624	903	(582)	3,945
Carry Forward Works	22,543	(4,210)	(11,834)	6,499
DEC Asset Replacement & Refurbishment	143	–	–	143
Disaster Contingency	2,260	144	–	2,404
Election Expense Reserve	300	48	–	348
Environmental	58	(14)	–	44
IT Strategy	4,711	(449)	–	4,262
Nightcliff Community Hall	100	18	–	118
Off & On Street Car Parking	2,225	792	(59)	2,958
Plant & Vehicle Replacement	5,621	1,945	(477)	7,089
Public Art	317	–	154	471
Sale of Land	14,327	–	(227)	14,100
Total Internally Restricted Reserve	56,229	(823)	(13,024)	42,382
Comparatives	47,778	5,451	3,000	56,229
Total Other Reserves	93,526	5,884	(14,655)	84,755
Comparatives	91,530	5,752	(3,756)	93,526

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Reserves (continued)

Purposes of reserves

Asset revaluation reserves

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non-current assets (less any subsequent impairment losses, where applicable).

Other reserves

Externally Restricted Reserves

Externally restricted reserves are restricted cash held in accordance with external legal requirements. The use of these reserves must comply with legal requirements.

Carparking Shortfall-Developer Contributions (includes Highway/Commercial & Other Carparking Shortfall)

These reserves hold contributions from property developers to be used to fund future car parking infrastructure in line with the developer contribution plans.

CBD Carparking Shortfall - Rate Levy

This reserve holds income generated from parking special rates to be used for the provision, operation and maintenance of land, facilities and improvements for or in connection with the parking of vehicles in the central business district.

Market Site Development

This reserve holds lease income from Mindil, Nightcliff, Parap and Malak markets to provide for future upgrades of market sites.

Developer Contributions (other than car parking)

These reserves hold contributions from developers to be used to fund future road and stormwater drainage construction.

Waste Management

This reserve holds funds to be used for the future development of the Shoal Bay Waste Disposal site or alternative waste disposal methods.

Waste Remediation

This reserve is a subledger of the parent Waste Management Reserve and holds funds for rehabilitation and post closure costs of the waste site.

Unexpended Grants

This reserve holds unspent non reciprocal grants and contributions received subject to specific expenditure requirements. The funds are held in reserve until expended in accordance with the grant or contribution conditions.

Internally Restricted Reserves

All other reserves are generally identified by Council resolution or operational requirements for funds set aside for the future replacement or renewal of major assets or for unanticipated major expenditure such as a natural disaster. These reserves are not subject to external legal restrictions and if required, can be utilised by the Council for other purposes.

Asset Replacement & Refurbishment

This reserve holds funds for the future rehabilitation of major assets and the allocation and utilisation of surplus funds in accordance with Council policy no. 3020.100.E.R Allocation of Surplus Funds.

Carry Forward Works

This reserve holds funds relating to projects that have not been completed in the current financial year but have been identified to be completed in a future period.

DEC Asset Replacement & Refurbishment

This reserve holds funds to pay for the future replacement or upgrade of assets at the Darwin Entertainment Centre.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Reserves (continued)

Disaster Contingency

This reserve holds funds to provide for possible insurance and other expenses associated with responding to a natural disaster.

Election Expense

This reserve holds funds to provide for the costs associated with holding the next Council election.

Environmental

This reserve holds funds for future environmental projects relating to City of Darwin's Climate change and Environment action plans and other associated plans.

IT Strategy

This reserve has been created for staged computer replacements and upgrades and other associated IT strategic programs.

Nightcliff Community Hall

This reserve holds lease income from Nightcliff Community Hall to provide for future upgrades of the facility.

Off & On Street Parking

Holds funds from on and off street car parking operations to provide for future development of car parking in the CBD.

Plant & Vehicle Replacement

This reserve holds funds to meet the cost of replacement of plant. The reserve can also be used for acquisition of IT equipment and software if balance exceeds plant replacement program.

Public Art

This reserve holds funds to provide for future public art projects.

Sale of Land

This reserve holds funds from sale of land proceeds in accordance with Council resolutions as effected.

Note 10. Assets subject to restrictions

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
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The uses of the following assets are restricted, wholly or partially by legislation or other externally imposed requirements. The assets are required to be utilised for the purposes for which control was transferred to Council, or for which the revenues were originally obtained. Internally restricted assets are created by resolution of Council and established for internal purposes.

Cash and financial assets

Externally restricted cash	9b	42,372	37,297
Internally restricted cash	9b	42,383	56,229
Total cash and financial assets		84,755	93,526

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 11. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
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(a) Reconciliation of cash

Cash assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

Total Cash & Cash Equivalent Assets	5a	54,657	48,618
Balances per Statement of Cash Flows		54,657	48,618

(b) Reconciliation of change in net assets to cash from operating activities

Net Income (Deficit)		6,884	(13,171)
Non-cash items in the statement of comprehensive income			
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		34,262	35,304
Fair value adjustments		(6,213)	3,543
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as investing activity		(9,156)	(5,398)
Net loss on disposals		765	2,457
Non-cash asset received free of charge		(1,280)	(548)
Non-cash expense		751	326
Premiums & discounts recognised & unwound		2,148	1,402
		28,161	23,915
Add (less): changes in net current assets			
Net (increase)/decrease in inventories		2	37
Net (increase)/decrease in receivables		(1,732)	(2,283)
Net increase/(decrease) in other provisions		(4,308)	(2,673)
Net increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		1,135	1,792
Net increase/(decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		(247)	142
Net cash provided by operations		23,011	20,930

(c) Non-cash financing and investing activities**Acquisition of assets by means of:**

Physical resources received free of charge	2i	1,280	548
Amounts recognised in the statement of comprehensive income		1,280	548
Total non-cash financing and investing activities		1,280	548

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 11. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows (continued)

\$ '000	2024	2023
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(d) Financing arrangements

Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:

Bank overdrafts	100	100
Corporate credit cards	200	200
Cash advance facilities	-	55

City of Darwin

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 12(a). Functions

Functions	Income, Expenses and Assets have been directly attributed to the following Functions / Activities. Details of these Functions/Activities are provided in Note 12(b).									
	OPERATING INCOME		OPERATING EXPENSES		OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME		TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT)	
	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Administration	282	3,886	46,120	49,287	(45,838)	(45,401)	121	-	587,323	594,334
Community Services	413	313	2,892	2,166	(2,479)	(1,853)	79	-	-	-
Economic Affairs	1,609	1,891	1,113	974	496	917	-	173	-	-
Environment	83	50	1,103	1,033	(1,020)	(983)	33	-	-	-
General Purpose Income	78,263	73,416	-	-	78,263	73,416	-	2,671	-	-
Governance	-	-	1,648	1,582	(1,648)	(1,582)	-	-	-	-
Health	219	219	311	345	(92)	(126)	219	219	-	-
Housing and Community Amenities	36,862	26,334	37,755	41,481	(893)	(15,147)	481	1,102	239,540	241,593
Public Order & Safety	2,440	1,914	5,132	4,978	(2,692)	(3,064)	-	122	967	1,620
Recreation and Culture	10,804	2,602	21,421	20,980	(10,617)	(18,378)	10,260	2,298	48,836	34,895
Transport and Communication	8,416	13,588	15,012	14,558	(6,596)	(970)	460	6,619	517,750	519,429
Total functions	139,391	124,213	132,507	137,384	6,884	(13,171)	11,653	13,204	1,394,416	1,391,871

Revenues and expenses includes net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets, amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets and physical resources received free of charge.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 12(b). Components of functions

The activities relating to Council functions are as follows:

Governance

Costs relating to the Council's role as a component of democratic government, including elections, members fees and expenses, subscriptions to local authority associations, meetings of Council and policy making committees, area representation and public disclosure and compliance, together with related administration costs.

Administration

Governance, administration n.e.c., elected members, organisational, support services, accounting/finance, payroll, housing for council employees, human resources, information technology, communication, rates administration, records, occupancy, contract management, customer service, other support services, revenues, LGGC – general purpose, and separate and special rates.

Public Order and Safety

Animal control, enforcement of local government regulations and emergency services.

Health

Administration and inspection, food control, insect/vermin control, noxious plants, other.

Environment

Programs and activities that promote and advocate for the preservation and best practice management of the natural environment.

Community Services

Administration, family day care, child care, youth services, other family and children, aged and disabled, migrant services, aboriginal services, other community services, education.

Housing and Community Amenities

Housing, town planning, domestic waste management services, other waste management services, street cleaning, other sanitation and garbage, urban stormwater drainage, environmental protection, public cemeteries, public conveniences, other community amenities.

Recreation and Culture

Public libraries, community centres, public halls, other cultural services, swimming pools, sporting grounds, parks and gardens, other sport and recreation.

Transport and Communication

Urban roads, bridges, footpaths, parking areas, street lighting, other.

Economic Affairs

Tourism and area promotion, industrial development promotion, other business undertakings.

General Purpose Income

Income not otherwise attributed to other functions or activities includes rates and annual charges, untied General Purpose grants and unrestricted interest and investment income.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 13. Financial instruments

Recognised financial instruments**Bank, deposits at call, short term deposits****Accounting Policy:**

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost; interest is recognised when earned.

Terms & Conditions:

Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 1.22% and 6.04% (2023: 0.37% and 5.52%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 249 days and an average interest rate of 4.80% (2023: 309 days and 4.39%).

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - rates and associated charges**Accounting Policy:**

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.

Terms & Conditions:

Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 18% (2023: 18%). Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the Territory.

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - fees and other charges**Accounting Policy:**

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.

Terms and Conditions:

Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - other levels of government**Accounting Policy:**

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.

Terms and Conditions:

Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of State and Federal Governments.

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value.

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 13. Financial instruments (continued)

Liabilities - creditors and accruals

Accounting Policy:

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.

Terms and Conditions:

Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - interest bearing borrowings

Accounting Policy:

Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate.

Terms & Conditions:

Secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable (semi annually); interest is charged at fixed and variable rates between 1.36% and 6.62% (2023: 1.36% and 6.62%).

Carrying Amount:

Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - leases

Accounting Policy:

Accounted for in accordance with AASB 16 as stated in Note 15.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 13. Financial instruments (continued)

\$ '000	Notes	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year & ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
2024						
Financial assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	5(a)	54,657	–	–	54,657	54,657
Receivables		9,829	–	–	9,829	10,756
Other financial assets	5(c)	65,187	–	–	65,187	–
Total financial assets		129,673	–	–	129,673	65,413
Financial liabilities						
Payables	8(a)	20,508	10	–	20,518	20,518
Current borrowings		12,749	–	–	12,749	12,749
Non-current borrowings		–	41,552	3,442	44,994	44,994
Total financial liabilities		33,257	41,562	3,442	78,261	78,261
2023						
Financial assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	5(a)	48,618	–	–	48,618	48,618
Receivables		8,513	–	–	8,513	8,010
Other financial assets	5(c)	76,410	–	–	76,410	76,410
Total financial assets		133,541	–	–	133,541	133,038
Financial liabilities						
Payables	8(a)	22,904	12	–	22,916	22,848
Current borrowings		4,897	–	–	4,897	4,897
Non-current borrowings		–	50,384	7,437	57,821	57,821
Total financial liabilities		27,801	50,396	7,437	85,634	85,566

The following interest rates were applicable to Council's borrowings at balance date:

\$ '000	2024		2023	
	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value
Fixed / Variable Interest Rates	1.75%	57,743	1.85%	62,718
		57,743		62,718

Net fair value

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 13. Financial instruments (continued)

Risk exposures

Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Council is the carrying amount, net of any impairment. All Council investments are made in accordance with the Council's investing policy and the *Local Government Act 2019*. Except as detailed in Notes 5 & 6 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Ageing of the past due receivables and the amount of any impairment is disclosed in the following table:

\$'000	2024	2023
Receivables		
0 to 30 days overdue	4,691	4,177
31 to 90 days overdue	2,455	1,753
Greater than 90 days overdue	1,150	1,213
Impaired	1,533	1,371
Total	9,829	8,513

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor **currency risk** apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. Council also has available a bank overdraft facility that it can access.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate borrowings and investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 14. Capital expenditure and investment property commitments

\$ '000	2024	2023
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(a) Capital commitments

Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:

Buildings	–	18,075
Infrastructure	1,286	2,700
Plant and equipment	632	164
Waste Management Services	93	1,304
Other	195	–
	2,206	22,243

These expenditures are payable:

Not later than one year	2,206	20,987
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	–	1,256
	2,206	22,243

(b) Other expenditure commitments

Other non-capital expenditure commitments at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:

Audit Services	393	–
Waste Management Services	22,971	33,668
Other Maintenance Contracts	7,618	8,087
Recreation	2,346	569
Security Services	3	–
Other	1,547	702
	34,878	43,026

These expenditures are payable:

Not later than one year	14,259	13,727
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	20,619	29,224
Later than 5 years	–	75
	34,878	43,026

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 15. Leases

(i) Council as a lessee

Terms and conditions of leases

Plant and Equipment

Lease obligations for plant & equipment are related to the provision of waste services by Council. Leases are of varying duration, terms and conditions. No lease imposes any additional restrictions on Council in relation to additional debt or further leasing.

Land and Buildings

Lease obligations for buildings are related to the provision of services by Council including car parks and toilet facilities. Leases are of varying duration, terms and conditions. No lease imposes any additional restrictions on Council in relation to additional debt or further leasing.

Set out below are the carrying amounts of right-of-use assets recognised within infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and the movements during the period:

Right-of-Use Assets

\$ '000	Plant and Equipment	Land and Buildings	Total
2024			
Opening balance	2,382	788	3,170
Depreciation charge	(811)	(99)	(910)
Balance at 30 June	1,571	689	2,260
2023			
Opening balance	3,191	491	3,682
Additions to right-of-use assets	–	329	329
Depreciation charge	(809)	(33)	(842)
Balance at 30 June	2,382	788	3,170

Set out below are the carrying amounts of lease liabilities and the movements during the period:

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Balance at 1 July		3,333	3,841
Additions		–	329
Payments		(922)	(837)
Balance at 30 June		2,411	3,333
Classified as:			
Current	8(d)	951	922
Non-current	8(d)	1,460	2,411

The Council had total cash outflows for leases of \$0.922M. The following are the amounts recognised in profit or loss:

Depreciation expense of Right-of-use assets	910	842
Interest expense on lease liabilities	91	100
Total amount recognised in profit or loss	1,001	942

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 15. Leases (continued)

(ii) Council as a lessor

Leases providing revenue to the Council

Council owns various buildings, plant and other facilities that are available for hire or lease (on a non-cancellable basis wherever practicable) in accordance with the published revenue policy. Rentals received from such leases are disclosed as property lease income in Note 2(c).

(i) Investment property

Rentals received, and outgoings reimbursed, in relation to Investment Property are also disclosed in Note 2. These lease agreements, all of which are classified as operating leases, are made on a non-cancellable basis wherever practicable.

Council has not classified any Land or Buildings as "Investment Property".

\$ '000	2024	2023
Future minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases as at 30 June, are as follows:		
Not later than one year	1,112	1,207
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	1,550	2,421
Later than 5 years	480	634
	3,142	4,262

Note 16. Superannuation

Council makes contributions to superannuation schemes selected by employees under the "choice of fund" legislation. All such schemes are of the accumulation type, where the superannuation benefits accruing to the employee are represented by their share of the net assets of the scheme, and no further liability attaches to the Council.

Accumulation only members receive both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of ordinary time earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (11% in 2023/24; 10.50% in 2022/23). No further liability accrues to the Council as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

Note 17. Interests in other entities

Council has no interest in any Equity Accounted Businesses such as Joint Ventures, Associates & Joint Operations.

Note 18. Contingencies and Assets/Liabilities not Recognised in the Statement of Financial Position

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but knowledge is considered relevant to the users of the financial report in making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of scarce resources.

1. Rehabilitation of Landfill Sites

Council operates a land fill site at Shoal Bay giving rise to an obligation to rehabilitate the site in the future. Post closure and cell capping costs have been recognised as a liability and are disclosed in Note 8(c). The treatment of leachate post closure has been disclosed in Note 8(c).

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 18. Contingencies and Assets/Liabilities not Recognised in the Statement of Financial Position (continued)

2. Other Contingent Liabilities

Council is involved from time to time in various claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its services. It is not practical to estimate the potential liability at this stage.

Council believes that it is appropriately covered for claims through its insurance coverage and does not expect any material liabilities to eventuate.

Note 19. Events after the Reporting Period

Events that occur after the reporting date of 30 June 2024, up to and including the date when the financial statements are "authorised for issue" have been taken into account in preparing these statements.

Council has adopted the date of receipt of the Auditors' Report as the appropriate "authorised for issue" date relating to these General Purpose Financial Statements.

Accordingly, the "authorised for issue" date is 18/10/2024.

Council is unaware of any material or significant "non adjusting events" that should be disclosed.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 20. Related party transactions

Key management personnel

Transactions with key management personnel

CEO Remuneration

The Council CEOs (as defined by under AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosure*) were paid the following total remuneration for the 2024 financial year:

	CEO Simone Saunders
	2024
	\$'000
Short-term benefits	418
Non-cash benefits	2
Total remuneration	420

The related parties of the Council include:

- the key management personnel (KMP) because they have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Council directly and;
- spouses, children and dependants who are close family members of the KMP and;
- any entities controlled or jointly controlled by KMP or controlled or jointly controlled by their close family members

Transactions with Key Management Personnel

The Key Management Personnel of the Council include the Elected Members, CEO and certain prescribed officers under AASB 124. In all, 18 persons were paid the following total compensation:

\$ '000	2024	2023
Total remuneration and allowances paid to Key Management Personnel during the year comprises:		
Short-term employee benefits	1,328	1,218
Non-Cash Benefits	9	28
Elected Members Allowances	686	664
Total	2,023	1,910

Amounts paid as direct reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of Council have not been included above.

As at 30 June 2024, there are no outstanding amounts receivable or payable to/from the Council's KMP. Amounts less than \$2,000 have not been disclosed.

Note 21. Trust Funds

\$ '000	2024	2023
Trust Funds Held for Outside Parties		
Security Deposits and Other	456	456
Darwin Waterfront Corporation	5	8
State Square Carpark	0	128
Total Trust Funds	461	592

Independent audit report to the Chief Executive Officer of City of Darwin

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial report of City of Darwin (“the Council”), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended, notes to the financial statements including a summary of material accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Chief Executive Officer’s Statement.

In our opinion, the financial report of the City of Darwin is in accordance with the *Northern Territory Local Government Act*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of the City of Darwin as at 30 June 2024 and of the Council’s performance for the year ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Local Government (General) Regulations*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board’s APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the ‘Code’) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The Responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

The Chief Executive Officer of the Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Northern Territory Local Government Act and Regulations* and for such internal control as the Chief Executive Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for assessing the Council’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Chief Executive Officer either intends to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council’s financial reporting process.

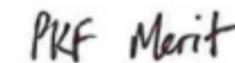
Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council’s internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Chief Executive Officer.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Chief Executive Officer’s use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Council’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Chief Executive Officer and those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



PKF Merit



MunLi Chee
Director

DARWIN

18 October 2024

8. APPENDICES



8.1 CONTRACTS AWARDED 2023/24

Service provided/contract name	Supplier	Location of supplier
Between \$10,000 and \$99,999		
Chapel Lane revitalisation project design	Earl James & Associates	Darwin
East Point fauna survey	EcOz Environmental Services	Darwin
LAUNCH night series	Pathfinders NT	Darwin
Bundilla Beach detailed design consultancy	RPS AAP Consulting Pty Ltd	Darwin
Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility stage 2 audit	Senversa	Interstate
Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility stage 7 audit	Tonkin + Taylor	Interstate
Between \$100,000 and \$249,999		
Smith Street improvements	GHD Pty Ltd	Darwin
Bundilla Beach masterplan	Hames Sharley (NT) Pty Ltd	Darwin
Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility trash and treasure store	HPA Incorporated	Darwin
Place and liveability plan	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd	Interstate
Building condition assessment reports	MBMPL Pty Ltd	Interstate
Brand Darwin	Nous Group	Darwin
Chapel Lane urban design	RPS AAP Consulting Pty Ltd	Darwin
City streetscape beautification	Sterling NT Pty Ltd	Darwin
Driffield Park irrigation laterals installation	Water Dynamics NT	Darwin
Between \$250,000 and \$499,999		
Casuarina Drive shared path bollard lighting	Aussie Mandias Pty Ltd T/A Top End RACE	Darwin
Playgrounds design and construct	Hardy Landscaping NT	Darwin
Darwin free public WIFI managed services provider	Infrastructure Logic Pty Ltd	Interstate
Cavenagh Street landscaping – phase A	Moussellis & Sons Pty Ltd	Darwin

Image: Event for International Day of People with Disability

Service provided/contract name	Supplier	Location of supplier
Between \$500,000 and \$999,999		
Parking meter management/parking services	Australian Parking and Revenue Control Pty Ltd	Interstate
Recruitment services panel	Celotti Workforce, Corestaff NT Pty Ltd, Hays, Larrakia Development Corporation	Darwin
City of Darwin public wi-fi	Infrastructure Logic Pty Ltd	Interstate
Utility vehicles	Kerry's Automotive Group	Darwin
Nightcliff Village laneway upgrades stage 1	Mousellis & Sons Pty Ltd	Darwin
Kinetic sculpture	Phil Price Sculpture	International
Provision of auditing services	PKF Merit	Darwin
Street sweeping services	Specialised Pavement Services Pty Ltd	Darwin
Provision of litter bin collection services	VTG Waste & Recycling Pty Ltd	Darwin
Between \$1,000,000 and \$4,999,999		
Asphalt resealing	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Darwin
Parking management	Orikan Australia Pty Ltd	Interstate
Darwin pools management contract	The Young Men's Christian Association Of The Northern Territory Ltd	Darwin
Over \$4,999,999		
nil		

8.2 BETTER SUBURBS

Lord Mayoral Projects

- Cavenagh Street landscape upgrade from Knuckey Street to Searcy Street (\$370,000) – landscape upgrade of the centre median including new trees, ground covers and an irrigation system.
- Chung Wah Temple entrance (\$75,000) – contribution towards landscape and accessibility upgrades adjacent to the Chung Wah Temple entrance.

Chan Ward

- Rapid Creek shelter and table (\$53,000) – installation of a new weather-protected table on the Rapid Creek foreshore to support community events including parkrun.
- Fitzer Drive community planting (\$16,000) – a community planting day was held where 40 new Northern Territory native trees were planted in the greenspace along Fitzer Drive.

Lyons Ward

- Goyder Road verges (\$15,000) – the large verges at the intersection of Goyder Road and Gilruth Avenue were upgraded to complement the median landscape upgrade completed in the 2022/23 financial year. This included a new irrigation system, trees, ground cover plants and grassing.
- Park seating at Stokes Street Park (\$15,000) – two new park benches were installed in Stokes Street Park including a new accessible pathway. This complements the pedestrian fence that was installed along the Stuart Highway in the 2022/23 financial year, increasing the safety for park users.

Richardson Ward

- Muirhead dog park upgrades (\$33,000) – a comprehensive upgrade was undertaken at the Muirhead dog park including new trees for shading and upgraded facilities for dog drinking water.
- Garamanak Park court upgrade (\$61,500) – resurfacing of the Garamanak Park half court with an International Basketball Association (FIBA) grade tile solution and refurbishment of the existing backboard and hoop.
- Public toilet refurbishments (\$5,000) – three public toilets were refurbished in Alawa, Wanguri and Nakara to support oval users, including new floor treatments, painting of internal walls and upgrade of the internal fittings and lights.

Waters Ward

- Freycinet Park amenities (\$19,500) – upgrade of the amenities in Freycinet Park, Karama including a new multifunction drinking fountain / bottle fill station and a park bench seat.
- Malak obstacle course amenities (\$24,000) – a complementary upgrade of the amenities in the vicinity of the new obstacle course including a new multifunction drinking fountain / bottle fill station, rubbish bin and a park bench seat.
- Traffic calming Moil Crescent (\$114,000) – traffic calming devices were installed along the length of Moil Crescent including a new pedestrian crossing near the Moil Supermarket.



8.3 2023/24 SPONSORSHIPS, COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT GRANTS AND OPERATING SUBSIDIES

Sponsorships

Name of organisation	Event	Cash \$	In-kind \$	Total \$
Darwin Festival	Darwin Festival	150,000	6,444	156,444
Tourism Top End Incorporated	Visitor Information Centre	87,500	7,835	95,335
Returned & Services League of Australia SA Branch, Darwin Sub-Branch	ANZAC Day 2024	28,000	8,000	36,000
Northern Territory Major Events Company	BASSINTHEGRASS, National Rugby League, V8 Supercars and Territory Day		30,000	30,000
Landcare NT	Native Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity Science Education Program	20,000		20,000
Darwin Salties Ltd	Darwin Salties 2024 season	17,000		17,000
Royal Agricultural Society	Royal Darwin Show	16,500		16,500
Nightcliff Arts, Music and Culture Incorporated	2024 Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival – Threading the Foreshore	15,000		15,000
Hospitality NT	Local Produce Award and Aristocrat Technologies Awards for Excellence	10,909		10,909
Darwin Fringe Festival auspiced by Brown's Mart Arts Ltd	Darwin Fringe Festival	10,000	145	10,145
NT Writers Centre	2024 NT Writers' Festival	10,000	50	10,050
Brown's Mart Arts Ltd	Brown's Mart's Artistic Program including the First Nations Writing Program	10,000		10,000
Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation	Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair event	10,000		10,000
Darwin Cycling Club Incorporated	Sunbuild Top End Gran Fondo	10,000		10,000
Skippers at Dundee Pty Ltd	City of Darwin Skippers Cotton Cup	10,000		10,000
Norblast Industrial Solutions C/ – Wisdom Bar & Cafe	Waiver of outdoor dining fees whilst development of site		9,690	9,690
Table Tennis NT	2023 Table Tennis Youth Contender Darwin	5,500		5,500
Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network	The 11th Aboriginal Economic Development Forum	5,000		5,000

Name of organisation	Event	Cash \$	In-kind \$	Total \$
Electric Storm Halloween Music Festival	Electric Storm Halloween Music Festival		4,175	4,175
Integrated Disability Action	International Day of People with Disability	4,000		4,000
Northern Territory Government	October Business Month	3,000		3,000
Evita Production	Darwin Chorale		2,912	2,912
The Array	12 months loan of office furniture and equipment		2,500	2,500
Greek Orthodox Community	Glenti Festival 2024		2,250	2,250
Swashbuckler Productions	A family space on the Mindil Carnival space and a licensed music event on the beach (Crown Land)		1,825	1,825
Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance	NT Media Award	1,600		1,600
Darwin Chorale	Local theatre production		1,440	1,440
CSIRO	Environmental sensor monitoring, Chapel Lane redevelopment		875	875
Use Less Plastic	Too Much Stuff Market – occurs monthly during the dry season		630	630
Multicultural Council NT	Wed weekly Homework Club – school terms (2.45-5.15pm)		350	350
Limitless Kinetic Fitness	Healthy Darwin 2023 Dry Season – Outdoor Bootcamp		320	320
OJFit 4 Life	Healthy Darwin 2023 Dry Season – Empowering Women		320	320
Emily Claire Yoga	Healthy Darwin 2023 Dry Season – Yoga in the Park		320	320
Healthy Living NT	Healthy Darwin 2023 Dry Season – Power Up		320	320
Southern Cross Care	Healthy Darwin 2023 Dry Season – Health in Motion		320	320
Territory Fitness Group	Healthy Darwin 2023 Dry Season – BoxFit Bootcamp		320	320
Darwin Social Chess Club	Sundays weekly 4.15-6.15pm (excluding last Sunday of month)		280	280
Sea Shepherd	Beach Clean-Up Event		256	256
BirdLife Top End	Shorebird Festival – opening reception		120	120
Australian Defence Force	Fundraising – Gunner Bear		80	80

Name of organisation	Event	Cash \$	In-kind \$	Total \$
Team Aquarium	Healthy Darwin 2023 Dry Season – Try A Tri This Dry!		60	60
Movement and Mindset Coaching	Healthy Darwin 2023 Dry Season – Mindful Movement with Maria		40	40
Darwin Clogging	Healthy Darwin 2023 Dry Season – Clogging Dance Classes for All		40	40
Darwin Stingers	Healthy Darwin 2023 Dry Season – Lounge to Laps		32	32
Total		424,009	81,949	505,958

Community grants

Organisation	Program	Initiative	Cash \$	In-kind \$	Total \$
Two Two One Mental Health Charity	Mental Health Night School – trauma through a cultural lens	Facilitation of partnership between a clinical mental health professional and an Indigenous consultant to deliver trauma informed content	10,000		10,000
Vocalective	Elijah by Felix Mendelssohn	Musical performance to bring together a number of Darwin community organisations as participants, audience and volunteer assistants. The groups involved include Vocalective members, the Uniting Church congregation, Darwin Symphony Orchestra players and members of the Arafura Wind Ensemble, the Arafura Collective and the Italian community.	10,000		10,000
Brother to Another Ltd	Brother to Another after hours identity program	This project fills a critical gap of outreach weekend and afterhours activities for youth at risk in the Darwin region. The utilisation of local First Nations role models and known local youth activity providers provides a multi layered approach in supporting young people in at risk times, via strengthening their social, emotional and cultural wellbeing through activity and mentorship.	9,000		9,000
Geek Culture Collective NT	Game On	Game On is an all-ages event featuring a cosplay competition, video game development, tabletop board games, karaoke, e-sports, artists stalls and more.	5,983		5,983

Organisation	Program	Initiative	Cash \$	In-kind \$	Total \$
Deaf Connect	Celebrating National Week of Deaf People 2023	The National Week of Deaf People is a week-long national celebration of deaf individuals and the Australian deaf community. Deaf Connect build an accessible and inclusive event to celebrate community, language, history and culture with a deaf presenter/role model and activities to support deaf culture and bring the wider community together.	5,017		5,017
Happy Yess Community Arts Inc.	A 'bloody good celebration'	A one-off event staged in the second half of 2023 delivering an action-packed night of community vibes, local talent, diverse music and engaging performance led by a local MC.	5,000		5,000
Fathima Ilma Ali auspiced by Melaleuca Australia	Arts and Fashion Show 2023	An art and fashion show, showcasing wearable art by artist Ilma Ali and an exciting line-up of fashion designers. The show includes working with the women of Melaleuca Australia, where women with a migrant or humanitarian visa recently arriving in Australia, model the garments. This is a social impact initiative to help support and build confidence and self-esteem of women, youth and culturally and linguistically diverse individuals newly arriving in Darwin.	5,000		5,000
Top End Pride NT Incorporated	Darwin Pride 2024 Pride March	Top End Pride wants Darwin Pride March 2024 to be 'bigger and greater' than ever before through engagement with local businesses and community groups. The catch phrase for Darwin Pride 2024 is 'Celebrating the differences that connect us!'	5,000		5,000
Multicultural Multigenerational Mainstream Dance Association Incorporated	Darwin K-pop Random Dance 50	The launch of Darwin's first large scale K-pop Random Dance event. From February to June, dance-workshops will be held to teach participants the choreography to 50 songs. This will culminate in an outdoor community Random Dance concert.	5,000		5,000

Organisation	Program	Initiative	Cash \$	In-kind \$	Total \$
Neighbourhood Watch NT (NHWNT)	Youth and Families Movie Screening	NHWNT hosted two movie screenings, during the January and Easter holidays for young people and their families. These events provide a safe space for young people to get together during the holidays. NHWNT staff have educational resources available at the events, including the NHWNT's Neighbourhood Watch 4 Kids program.	5,000		5,000
The Korean Association in Australia Northern Territory Incorporated	Northern Territory K-Pop contest	"Territorians Got Talent". A competition looking for the best K-Pop dancer or team in the Northern Territory in 2024. The Darwin winner will go to Melbourne to participate in the Australia K-Pop contest 2024. The winner of the Australia K-Pop contest will go to Changwon City in Korea in October 2024 to compete against people from other countries.	5,000		5,000
Darwin Malayalee Association Incorporated	Medamasa Ravu 2024	An opportunity for the people of Kerala (southern Indian state) to showcase their culture through dancing, singing and traditional food.	5,000		5,000
Crime Stoppers Northern Territory	Pedestrian Road Safety	Crime Stoppers NT is committed to enhancing road safety and reducing the disproportionately high rates of road trauma for pedestrians, particularly among First Nations. This project develops and delivers a safety campaign targeting pedestrians and motorists in the Darwin environs, tailored to the unique challenges faced by the local community.	5,000		5,000
Menzies School of Health Research	Supporting the wellbeing of First Nations renal patients through social and cultural activities in Darwin	Cultural activities to improve social support and connection to Country for dialysis patients. Chronic kidney disease is a major health concern in the Top End and disproportionately affects First Nations peoples. Many people must relocate to Darwin for lifesaving dialysis treatment.	5,000		5,000
St. Thomas Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church Inc	Easter	Family Funday including multicultural night and food.	5,000		5,000

Organisation	Program	Initiative	Cash \$	In-kind \$	Total \$
Wild North Arts Inc	Wild North Comic Con '24	Wild North Comic Con '24 engages the community through workshops, panel discussions, and film screenings, promoting literacy, creativity, and cultural exchange.	5,000		5,000
Wildcare Incorporated	Show bags	Purchase of calico bags to distribute 'How to live with native wildlife' brochures and other promotional items at fundraising events and school information sessions.	2,000		2,000
Total			97,000		97,000

Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week program grants

Organisation	Program	Initiative	Cash \$	In-kind \$	Total \$
Enterprise Learning Projects	Impact North	Reconciliation Week Change Maker Event	10,000		10,000
Total			10,000		10,000

Environment grants

Organisation	Initiative	Cash \$	In-kind \$	Total \$
Stuart Park Childcare Centre	Implement landscaping and passive cooling strategies to enhance climate resilience and educate other childcare centres	21,000		21,000
Landcare NT	Establish a native flora, fauna and biodiversity science education in Darwin schools	10,000		10,000
Biodiversity Watch	Research to minimise the effects of cane toads on Darwin's goanna population	8,565		8,565
Childbirth Education Australia	Promote the use of modern cloth nappies as an alternative to disposable nappies	7,475		7,475
Territory Native Plants	NT Native Eco Fair	4,417		4,417
Total		51,457		51,457

Cyclone Tracy 50th Anniversary Commemoration Grants Program

Organisation	Initiative	Cash \$
Big Dog Salad	Feature film	5,000
Darwin Symphony Orchestra	Performance of a new Larrakia work	5,000
St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc	Create interpretive signage	5,000
Chung Wah Society	Exhibit at NT Chinese Museum	4,500
Arafura Wind Ensemble	Performance – musical dialogue of the music of the time of Cyclone Tracy	4,050
Kevin McCarthy	Theatre production	2,500
Total		26,050

Operational subsidies for 2023/24

Organisation	Amount per annum \$
Darwin Entertainment Centre	680,000
RSPCA Darwin Regional Branch	125,438
Darwin RSL	35,000
Christmas in Darwin Association	30,000
Darwin City Brass Band	30,000
PAWS Darwin LTD	30,000
Surf Lifesaving Northern Territory	30,000
Total	960,438



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