



# **MINUTES**

**Tree Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, 23 November 2023**

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN  
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM BIDJPIDJI (MEETING ROOM 1), LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE,  
HARRY CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN  
ON THURSDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 9:00 AM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Morgan Rickard  
Larrakia Nation Ben Smith  
Parks and Wildlife Bryan Harty  
Community Member Dr Greg Leach  
Alternate Councillor Mick Palmer

**OFFICERS:** Matt Grassmayr (General Manager Community)  
Tracy Bignell (Executive Manager Operations)  
Lisa Spann (Manager Parks and Open Spaces)  
Jamie Lewis (Senior Coordinator Parks and Reserves)  
Emma Smith (Coordinator Environment and Climate Change)  
Karen Long (Senior Administration Officer)  
Claire Scicluna (Supervisor Operations Services)  
Bonne Zhao (Administration Officer)

**APOLOGY:** Chairperson Kon Vatskalis  
NT Arboriculture Association Richard Kenyon  
Australian Institute Landscape Architects Fiona Eddleston  
Community Member Adam Grainger

**GUESTS:** Nil

**Order Of Business**

	Appointment of Chair .....	4
<b>1</b>	<b>Meeting Declared Open .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Country .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Apologies &amp; Leave Of Absence .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Electronic Attendance .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest of Members and Staff .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Actions Arising from Previous Minutes .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Presentations .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Officer Reports.....</b>	<b>5</b>
9.1	Meetings Dates and Committee Review .....	5
9.2	Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations - Canopy Coverage .....	7
<b>10</b>	<b>Member Reports .....</b>	<b>7</b>
10.1	Preferred Tree Species .....	7
<b>11</b>	<b>General Business.....</b>	<b>8</b>
11.1	Tree Management and Tree Asset Management Plans.....	8
11.2	Closing Comments .....	8
<b>12</b>	<b>Next Meeting .....</b>	<b>8</b>

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TAC010/23**

Moved: Alternate Councillor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Larrakia Nation Ben Smith

THAT Councillor Morgan Rickard is appointed as chair for the meeting.

**CARRIED 5/0**

**1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**

THAT the Chair declared the meeting open at 09:03am.

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

*City of Darwin acknowledges that we are living and working on Larrakia Country. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region. We pay our respects to the Larrakia elders past and present and support emerging Larrakia leaders now and into the future. City of Darwin is committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.*

**3 APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE****3.1 Apologies**

Chairperson Kon Vatskalis

NT Arboriculture Association Richard Kenyon

Community Member Adam Grainger

Australian Institute Landscape Architects Fiona Eddleston

**3.2 Leave of Absence****3.3 Leave of Absence Notified****4 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE****5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF****5.1 Declaration of Interest by Members****5.2 Declaration of Interest by Staff**

## 6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TAC011/23

Moved: Larrakia Nation Ben Smith

Seconded: Community Member Dr Greg Leach

THAT the minutes of the Tree Advisory Committee Meeting held on 24 August 2023 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 5/0**

## 7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

## 8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

## 9 OFFICER REPORTS

### 9.1 MEETINGS DATES AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TAC012/23

Moved: Parks and Wildlife Bryan Harty

Seconded: Councillor Morgan Rickard

1. THAT the report named Frequency of Meetings and Committee Review be received and noted.
2. THAT the Tree Advisory Committee sets its meeting schedule for 2024 as follows:
  - a) meetings to be held on the fourth Thursday of the month
  - b) meetings to be held from 9.00am to 10.00am
  - c) meetings to be held at City of Darwin and electronically via Teams
  - d) four meetings to be held on:
    - i. 22 February 2024
    - ii. 23 May 2024
    - ii. 22 August 2024
    - iv. 28 November 2024
3. THAT the Tree Advisory Committee notes the review undertaken for 2023 at **Attachment 1**.
4. THAT the Tree Advisory Committee notes that the Terms of Reference will be reviewed at the first scheduled meeting in 2024.

**CARRIED 5/0**

## Annual Review - 2023

Committee Functions	Result
Functions of the Committee achieved	<p>The committee has achieved its functions in 2023 reviewing the following documents and making recommendations to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Darwin Greening Strategy</li> <li>• Report Establishing a Resilient Urban Forest for Darwin</li> <li>• Preferred Trees for Darwin (including colourful, tropical and flowering options)</li> <li>• Trees Not Recommended to be Planted</li> </ul>
Committee scheduled their frequency of meetings, times and locations the calendar year prior	Four meetings were scheduled for 2023
Membership Provisions of the Committee achieved	<p>The committee has maintained consistent organisational representation and community membership throughout 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two community members</li> <li>• Australian Institute of Landscape Architects</li> <li>• Northern Territory Arboriculture Association</li> <li>• Larrakia Nation</li> <li>• Parks and Wildlife (George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens)</li> <li>• Urban Development Institute of Australia (NT) – noting organisational representative advised in August unable to continue to represent UDIA</li> </ul>
Number of scheduled meetings for the calendar year achieved	All four meetings for 2023 have had quorum
Achievements / Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopted a schedule in February for delivery of advice to Council on matters outlined in the committee's terms of reference.</li> <li>• Provided recommendations to Council that were adopted relating to the City of Darwin Greening Strategy, Report Establishing a Resilient Urban Forest for Darwin, Preferred and not recommended to be planted lists and the Trial Species list excluding one recommendation on canopy coverage.</li> <li>• Council has requested further clarification from the committee on canopy coverage in the Darwin Greening Strategy</li> </ul>

**9.2 TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - CANOPY COVERAGE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TAC013/23**

1. THAT the report on canopy coverage be received and noted.
2. THAT Tree Advisory Committee members provide further clarification on their recommendation that Council endorses a 1% change to canopy coverage as the target over the 10 years of the greening strategy for consideration at the next committee meeting.

**AMENDMENT**

Moved: Councillor Morgan Rickard

Seconded: Larrakia Nation Ben Smith

1. THAT the report on canopy coverage be received and noted.
2. THAT the Tree Advisory Committee members recommend that a 33% increase to canopy coverage as the target over the remainder of the greening strategy for consideration at the next committee meeting and an officers report to be provided to the next Committee meeting, subject to CSIRO data modelling.

**CARRIED 5/0****10 MEMBER REPORTS****10.1 PREFERRED TREE SPECIES****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TAC014/23**

Moved: Councillor Morgan Rickard

Seconded: Alternate Councillor Mick Palmer

THAT the Tree Advisory Committee notes that Fiona Eddleston provides the consolidated list of proposed preferred tree species to City of Darwin staff prior to the next meeting.

**CARRIED 5/0**

## 11 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 11.1 TREE MANAGEMENT AND TREE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TAC015/23

Moved: Councillor Morgan Rickard

Seconded: Parks and Wildlife Bryan Harty

THAT a scoping paper be presented at the May 2024 meeting outlining the benefits, processes, resource implications, funding requirements, and indicative timeframes for capturing and valuing trees as a financial asset.

**CARRIED 5/0**

### 11.2 CLOSING COMMENTS

1. Community Member Greg Leach to send Royal Darwin Hospital published paper to Administration for distribution to the Tree Advisory Committee members.
2. General Manager Community conveyed thanks to the Tree Advisory Committee for the work achieved throughout the year.
3. Councillor Morgan Rickard thanked City of Darwin staff for their hard work and contribution to the City.

## 12 NEXT MEETING

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 at 09:00am

Meeting closed at 09:47am.