Agenda

Ordinary Council Meeting

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 27 October 2026

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Council Chambers Darrandirra
Level 1, Civic Centre
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin

Webcasting: MS Teams Link to Webcast

Simone Saunders

Chief Executive Officer

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor Peter Styles (Chair)

Deputy Lord Mayor Sam Weston

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris

Councillor Nicole Brown

Councillor Shani Carson

Councillor Kim Farrar

Councillor Julie Fraser

Councillor Edwin Joseph

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

Councillor Clarence McCarthy-Grogan

Councillor Mick Palmer

Councillor Peter Pangquee

Councillor Patrik Ralph

OFFICERS

Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr

General Manager Corporate, Natalie Williamson

General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2 THE LORD'S PRAYER

3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 Apologies

4.2 Leave of Absence Granted

4.3 Leave of Absence Requested

5 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

5.1 Electronic Meeting Attendance Granted

5.2 Electronic Meeting Attendance Requested

6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting - 29 September 2026

8 MOVING OF ITEMS

8.1 Moving Open Items into Confidential

8.2 Moving Confidential Items into Open

9 MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / LORD MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Public question submission received

11 PETITIONS

Nil

12 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

Nil

13 ACTION REPORTS

13.1 CITY OF DARWIN STRATEGIC AND PRIORITY PROJECTS REVIEW

Author: **Manager Advocacy and Policy**

Authoriser: **Chief Executive Officer**

Attachments: **1. Draft Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030** ⇩

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled City of Darwin Priority Projects Review be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030 at **Attachment 1.**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present City of Darwin's refreshed Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030 for adoption by Council.

KEY ISSUES

- City of Darwin previously operated under the Priority Projects Plan 2021-2023 and Strategic Projects Prospectus 2019/20, which outlined the organisation's approach to leveraging strategic partnerships with funding bodies.
- These documents were reviewed and restructured into the Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030.
- The draft refresh of the Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030, in a format pre-graphic design, was presented and endorsed by Council on 29 September 2026.
- The Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030 at **Attachment 1** communicates the City of Darwin's strategic and priority projects, funding required, and prospective partners.

DISCUSSION

The draft of a refreshed Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030 communicates City of Darwin's priority projects and guides efforts for advocacy and partnerships to deliver key projects towards 2030.

On 11 June 2024, Council adopted the Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030, a new project advocacy document developed by reviewing and updating the former Strategic Projects Prospectus and the 2021-2023 Priority Projects documents.

With progress made on a number of priority projects in the document, including the Civic Centre redevelopment, and recognising new City of Darwin priorities and advocacy opportunities, Council endorsed for a refresh the Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030 for the remaining three years of its life.

At the July Forum, Elected Members were invited to make email submissions to inform options for refreshing the advocacy document Elected Members have reflected on the current lists of Strategic and Priority Projects, and discussed opportunities to refresh the lists, including with replacement projects such as the new Civic Centre community plaza or drawn from existing or aligned priorities and unfunded New Initiatives. Further discussion and workshop was undertaken at the September Forum.

The pre-graphic designed draft Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030 was presented to Council on 29 September 2026, and Council endorsed the draft document proceeding to graphic design.

The draft graphically designed refresh of the Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030 is provided at **Attachment 1.**

The Chief Executive Officer, General Managers, Executive Managers, and Manager Advocacy and Policy will continue to lead the execution of the refreshed Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030.

No budget is allocated for the execution of the Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030, with all budgetary decisions tied to funding decisions for specific projects.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 16 April 2024 meeting Council resolved:

RESOLUTION ORD121/24

1. THAT the report entitled Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the Strategic and Priority Projects Plan 2030.
3. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019.*
4. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 10/0

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	1 A capital city with best practice and sustainable infrastructure 1.1 By 2030, a number of strategic infrastructure projects will be developed and delivered
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	**Budget/Funding:** N/A Is Funding identified: N/A Existing Position No: N/A Contractor: N/A

LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	**Legislation:** Nil **Policy:** Governance Framework Communications and Media Policy Advocacy and Partnerships Plan
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	**Engagement Level:** Consult **Tactics:** Content on City of Darwin website, including publishing a digital copy of the Strategic and Priority Projects Plan. **Internal:** Chief Executive Officer General Manager Community General Manager Corporate General Manager Innovation Executive Manager Marketing, Communications and Engagement Elected Members at a workshop on 5 March 2024 **External:** Public (inform) and stakeholders (consult)
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

CITY OF DARWIN

STRATEGIC AND PRIORITY PROJECTS PLAN

2030



City for people.
City of colour.

CITY OF DARWIN



Austin Lane at night

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF 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.

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.

Larrakia artist Trent Lee performing a smoking ceremony at the launch of mirragma gunugurr-wa, The Esplanade

MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We invite governments, funding partners and stakeholders to join us in delivering an ambitious program of strategic and priority projects that will help shape Darwin's future.

Investing in our city's infrastructure not only strengthens our physical foundations but supports future growth, ensuring Darwin continues to evolve as a dynamic, liveable and future-ready city.

Our projects aim to improve service delivery, support economic development, enhance community wellbeing, and strengthen Darwin's unique tropical lifestyle and tourism appeal. From revitalising public spaces and community facilities to advancing sustainability and innovation, these projects respond to the evolving needs of our residents, businesses, stakeholders and visitors.

This Plan continues to advance the priorities of our community and deliver on the vision of Darwin 2030: City for People. City of Colour.

Refreshed in 2026, the Plan provides a clear framework for both Strategic Projects and Priority Projects. Strategic Projects are significant, city-shaping initiatives that require long-term planning, partnerships and investment. Priority Projects are smaller-scale initiatives that address immediate community needs, deliver tangible benefits and support Council's broader strategic objectives.

The Plan supports City of Darwin's strategic directions to develop a cool, green and clean city; create a smart and prosperous city; promote a vibrant and creative city; foster a safe, liveable and healthy community; and deliver best-practice, sustainable infrastructure befitting a capital city.

In line with the recently adopted Access Strategy, accessibility and universal design principles will be considered in the planning, design and delivery of all new projects. The Plan also identifies opportunities to deliver dedicated accessibility improvements and pursue external funding and partnerships to advance access and inclusion outcomes across Darwin.

With its strategic location, strong connections to Asia, young and diverse population, and significant growth opportunities, Darwin is well positioned for investment. City of Darwin will continue to seek funding, grants, partnerships and advocacy opportunities to help deliver the projects outlined in this Plan. While Council remains focused on advancing these priorities, the delivery, timing and scope of these projects will be influenced by the availability of external funding and partner contributions.

The Hon. Lord Mayor Peter Styles

Chief Executive Officer Simone Saunders



The Honourable Lord Mayor Peter Styles and Chief Executive Simone Saunders

"INVESTING IN OUR CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE NOT ONLY STRENGTHENS OUR PHYSICAL FOUNDATIONS BUT SUPPORTS FUTURE GROWTH, ENSURING DARWIN CONTINUES TO EVOLVE AS A DYNAMIC, LIVEABLE AND FUTURE-READY CITY."

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Summary of commitments sought

Project	Prospective partner/s	Prospective partner portfolio	Funding	Funding source
Civic Centre Community Plaza and Precinct	Private	Tourism, hospitality, retail and development opportunity	$12.5M	Own Source Grant Funding Private Investment
	AG	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sports and the Arts		
Lameroo Beach Seascape	Private	Hospitality and tourism opportunities	Planning $ 1.0M Works $175.0M	Grant Funding Private Investment
	AG	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sports and the Arts		
	NTG	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet		
Shoal Bay Circular Economy Precinct	Private	Commercialisation opportunities	$16.4M	Own Source Grant Funding Private Investment
	AG	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water		
	NTG	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations		
Bundilla Precinct Revitalisation (Medium Term)	Private	Small tourism and hospitality opportunities	$12.0M	Grant Funding Private Investment
	NTG	Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet		
Safer Suburbs Revitalisation	NTG	NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services Department of Logistics and Infrastructure	$7.5M	Own Source Grant Funding
Active Transport Network, including Coastal Cultural Trail	AG	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sports and the Arts	$15.5M	Own Source Grant Funding
	NTG	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations		
Darwin Amphitheatre Revitalisation	AG	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sports and the Arts	$13.4M	Own Source Grant Funding
	NTG	Department of People, Sport and Culture		

Note: These strategic projects are not presented in any prioritised order. Key: AG – Australian Government NTG – Northern Territory Government

STRATEGIC PROJECTS OVERVIEW

$12.5M — **CIVIC CENTRE COMMUNITY PLAZA AND PRECINCT**

This next phase of the transformative Civic Centre Redevelopment project presents opportunities to revitalise the heart of the city centre.

$175.0M — **LAMEROO BEACH SEASCAPE**

A transformation of the lower Esplanade and Lameroo Beach area into an iconic lifestyle and tourism destination with linkages to the Darwin Waterfront Precinct. $1M in seed funding is sought to prepare a 'Lameroo Vision' masterplan and undertake engagement.

$16.4M — **SHOAL BAY CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRECINCT**

Development of a resilient and sustainable resource recovery precinct, including leading waste to energy technology, powered with onsite renewable energy generated from landfill gas.

$12.0M — **BUNDILLA PRECINCT MEDIUM TERM REVITALISATION**

Continuing renewal of this social, cultural and recreational precinct to retain residents, attract tourists and maintain the area's natural assets while enhancing connections between the city centre and East Point Reserve.

$7.5M — **SAFER SUBURBS REVITALISATION**

Enhancing community safety and amenity through investment in our suburban infrastructure, such as children's and pedestrian crossings, lighting and footpaths.

$15.5M — **ACTIVE TRANSPORT NETWORK AND COASTAL CULTURAL TRAIL**

Making it easier for people to move around our municipality by improving streetscapes, infrastructure and connectivity while reducing the impact of transport on the environment and seizing opportunities for locals and visitors to explore Darwin's rich First Nations and multicultural heritage and unique history among the beauty of the coastline with a new Coastal Cultural Trail.

$13.4M — **DARWIN AMPHITHEATRE REVITALISATION**

Redevelopment of Darwin's premier outdoor performance venue to meet the future needs of residents, visitors and the creative industry. Delivering enhancement to creative and cultural infrastructure.

CIVIC CENTRE COMMUNITY PLAZA AND PRECINCT

City of Darwin is delivering a once-in-a-generation redevelopment of the Civic Centre. The redevelopment and relocation of the city's administration building presents opportunities to develop a new Community Plaza of varying levels of scale that will connect the new Civic Centre to the heart of the city.

Once the new Civic Centre is completed in 2028, the existing building is expected to be removed to make way for a vibrant and welcoming space for people to gather, connect and participate in community and business activities.

At the heart of the site will be Galamarrma, the Tree of Knowledge, a place of deep cultural importance. City of Darwin is committed to respecting and celebrating this tree and is exploring how it can be protected and become a key feature of any design.

City of Darwin is seeking funding to deliver a new cool, green and welcoming space that strengthens connections between the city centre, Darwin Waterfront Precinct and surrounds, facilitating year-round movement; and will become a focal point for tourism, showcasing Darwin's rich history, vibrant culture, and unique attractions.

The driver

The existing Civic Centre site presents a unique opportunity to create a new and welcoming public space in the heart of Darwin. With the Civic Centre redevelopment progressing, the current site could be transformed into a community asset that better serves residents, workers and visitors, with additional opportunities to revitalise the surrounding area with an integrated plaza and precinct revitalisation.

The answer

With the redevelopment of City of Darwin's Civic Centre building well advanced,investment is now sought to deliver an integrated, accessible Community Plaza and broader precinct revitalisation that maximises the opportunity created by the relocation of the municipality's civic functions.

The vision

The level of ambition, to be confirmed by Council following consideration of the outcomes of recently completed community engagement on the new Community Plaza, is to develop a new plaza and wider precinct that:

- welcomes everyone and is easy to access and enjoy
- brings people together and builds civic pride
- connects naturally with the city around it
- provides opportunities for play, learning and interaction
- reflects our tropical way of life.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

LOCAL INPUT

$12.5M
BUDGET

2 YRS
CONSTRUCTION TIMEFRAME

LOCAL OUTPUT

$23M
TOTAL VALUE

16
JOBS

REGIONAL OUTPUT

$24M
TOTAL VALUE

17
JOBS



City of Darwin Civic Centre at night

LAMEROO BEACH SEASCAPE

Darwin's city centre offers entertainment, shopping, dining and green, urban spaces. It is bordered by a harbour, with Lameroo Beach at the base of Bicentennial Park. Bicentennial Park weaves along the west of the city centre, and with its elevated position offers impressive views of the Darwin Harbour and beyond to the Timor Sea.

An all-year-round accessible swimming beach and foreshore development is a unique opportunity for Darwin, enabling a key connective element across the city centre whilst creating a sense of place and diversification to Darwin's tourism offerings. The development of the Lower Esplanade and Lameroo Baths would cement Darwin's position as a world-class tourist destination and enhance our city's liveability by harnessing the beauty of the tropical green space between the city centre and Darwin Waterfront Precinct to create a unique recreational experience.

The development will be a catalyst for public and private investment in foreshore developments, giving existing business operators the confidence to expand, while attracting unique and contemporary offerings to the area.

An initial investment of $1M is sought to commence this project including a 'Lameroo Vision' masterplan and community engagement.

The driver

The western corridor of the Darwin city centre is underdeveloped, does not provide linkage to the Darwin Waterfront Precinct and there are few walkable connections between all city centre attractions. There is no beach access and for a harbour city there are few opportunities for safe swimming or year-round beach swimming.

The answer

Near shovel-ready transformational project providing improved infrastructure and site activation that will help develop new opportunities for local supply chain businesses, revitalise tourism operators and further cement Darwin as the vibrant capital of the north. Improve environmental integrity by making the beachfront more resilient to cyclones and storm surges while increasing urban greenspace.

The vision

A swimming beach and foreshore walkway in Darwin that would encourage the community and visitors to frequent the city centre including:

- A safe swimming beach
- A new sea wall
- Beachfront amenities and surf lifesaving facilities
- Restaurants, cafes and tourism ventures
- A continuous linking boardwalk between the Darwin Waterfront Precinct and Doctors Gully
- Enhanced green space in the city centre, including revitalisation of grassed areas on the Esplanade

ECONOMIC IMPACT

LOCAL INPUT

$175.0M
BUDGET

3 YRS
CONSTRUCTION TIMEFRAME

LOCAL OUTPUT

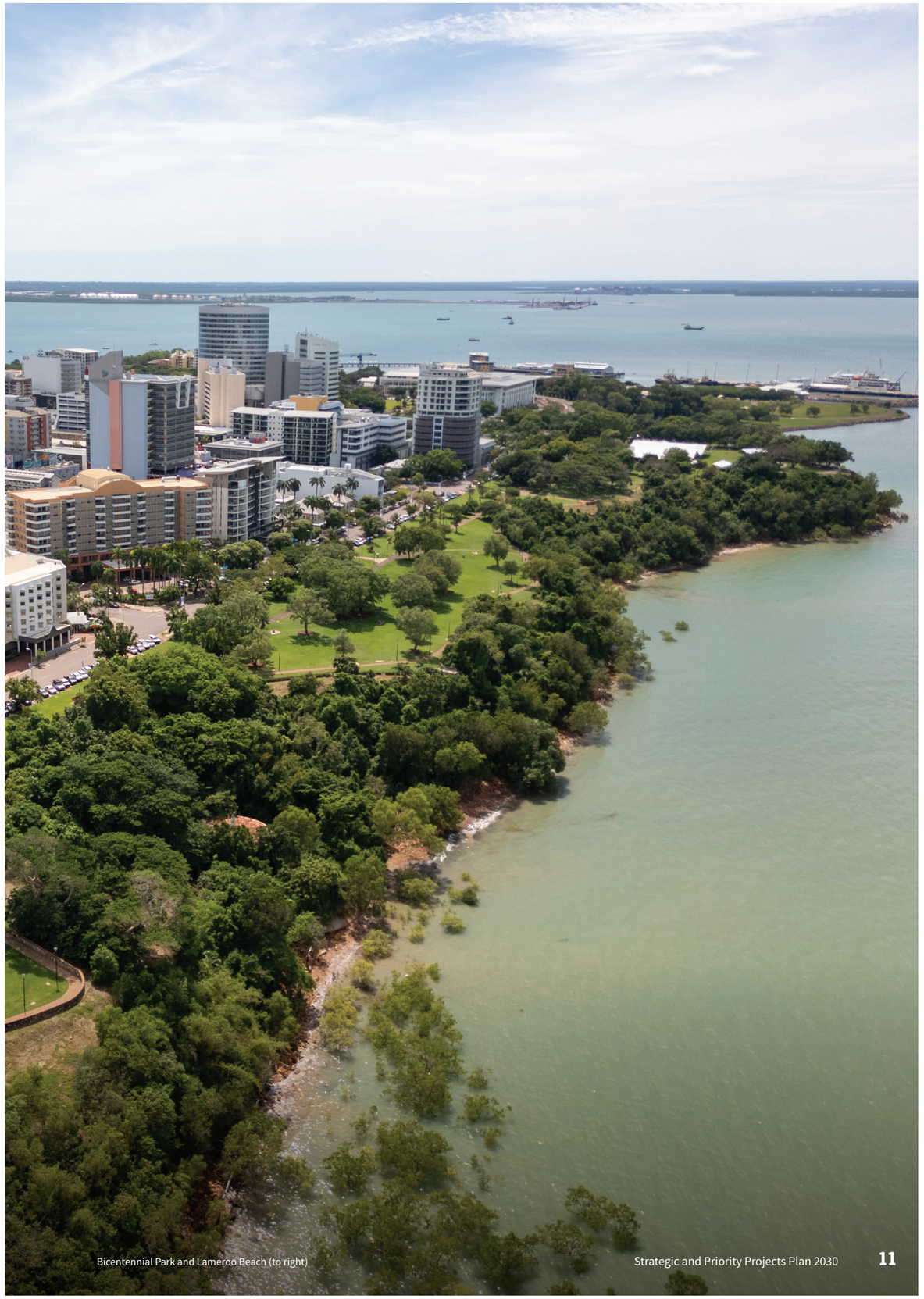
$321.7M
TOTAL VALUE

226
JOBS

REGIONAL OUTPUT

$331.2M
TOTAL VALUE

225
JOBS



Bicentennial Park and Lameroo Beach (to right)

SHOAL BAY CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRECINCT

Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility is the largest waste and resource recovery facility in the Northern Territory and will continue to play a pivotal role in transitioning the Northern Territory towards a circular economy. In alignment with both Federal and Northern Territory Government policy, City of Darwin is committed to delivering on the 2030 City of Darwin Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy, embracing opportunities associated with increasing waste diversion from landfill, resource recovery, and recycling.

To achieve this, we are aiming to partner with all levels of government, business and organisations for the development of a resilient and sustainable resource recovery sector in the greater Darwin region that is powered by our onsite renewable energy generated from landfill gas.

The driver

The great majority of recycling activities occur outside of the Northern Territory and there is significant potential for the development of leading sustainable waste, and circular economy outcomes for the community that are suited to the local context.

The answer

City of Darwin are looking to partner and co-invest with all levels of government, business and organisations in the development of a resilient and sustainable resource recovery sector in the greater Darwin region, including introduction of leading waste to energy technology

The vision

The vision at Shoal Bay is to develop a hub of activity, including:

- Diverting organics from landfill and converting waste into valuable products
- Building systems and infrastructure for materials to be reused and recycled
- Optimising energy recovery from landfill, including with waste to energy technology
- An education centre with facilities for recycling education, community gatherings and a café.

ECONOMIC IMPACT (* EXCLUDING WASTE TO ENERGY)

LOCAL INPUT

$16.4M
BUDGET

3 YRS
CONSTRUCTION TIMEFRAME

LOCAL OUTPUT

$30.1M
TOTAL VALUE

24
JOBS

REGIONAL OUTPUT

$31M
TOTAL VALUE

25
JOBS

BUNDILLA PRECINCT MEDIUM-TERM REVITALISATION

City of Darwin is pursuing investment to continue the vision of the Bundilla Beach Masterplan that strengthens and enhances the natural values of the Bundilla Precinct area; a space that offers more than 200 square metres of public green space and coastal land in Fannie Bay. Significant community engagement has been undertaken to inform the masterplan for the Bundilla Precinct, with a focus on enhancing existing the natural, social and cultural value of the area.

The driver

Bundilla Beach is identified by the broader community as an unsafe and underutilised parcel of public coastal land in Darwin that is not delivering upon its full potential for the community of Darwin and visitors to the region.

The answer

The fully consulted Bundilla Beach Masterplan looks to revitalise the area to deliver activation and improve on the existing cultural and social infrastructure to deliver the areas full potential while protecting and enhancing its environmental values in Darwin's growing urban environment. Implemented in three phases the master plan provides a staged, costed and considered program of works to realise the opportunity that Bundilla provides to the community. the first stage of the precinct's revitalisation is completed and City of Darwin is seeking investment opportunities for the delivery of the second – medium term – stage.

The vision

To continue to revitalise the Bundilla Beach area to activate and transform it into an inviting recreational and leisure precinct, for example:

- Recreational and leisure facilities such as accessible fishing platforms, skateable surfaces and spaces for relaxation, socialising and reflection
- Greening and landscaping
- Art, creative and cultural infrastructure
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Shared paths and nature trails.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

LOCAL INPUT

$12.0M
BUDGET

18 MTHS
CONSTRUCTION TIMEFRAME

LOCAL OUTPUT

$22M
TOTAL VALUE

28
JOBS

REGIONAL OUTPUT

$22.6M
TOTAL VALUE

29
JOBS

SAFER SUBURBS REVITALISATION

City of Darwin is committed to providing safe and liveable neighbourhoods for all residents of Darwin. Investment is needed in our suburban infrastructure that enhances community safety, movement and amenity.

The driver

Transport in Darwin is car centric and there are increasing pedestrian and cycling movement safety concerns being raised by the community. To encourage alternative transport and movement around our City, we need active and safe transport corridors which improve the liveability of the city suburbs.

The answer

The solution is to provide discrete infrastructure improvements at identified hotspots such as lighting of key pathways, pedestrian refuges, children's crossings and other Local Area Traffic Management infrastructure improvements to enhance public space participation and safety.

The vision

Following a municipality-wide review, City of Darwin identified the need for new children's crossings, traffic management and pedestrian facilities, and greenbelt lighting, paths and bollards in our suburbs. The review was informed by Australian Standards, Austroads Guide to Road Design, City of Darwin's Local Area Traffic Management and Pedestrian Facilities Guidelines and considers City of Darwin's Movement Strategy. These priorities have been identified through an equitable and consistent approach to assessing safety concerns across Darwin's 400-kilometre road network and include:

- Six upgraded children's crossings at five schools
- Seven new local area traffic management and pedestrian facilities across multiple suburbs
- Shared path lighting, paths and bollards.

City of Darwin spends around $600,000 on local area traffic management and pedestrian crossing facility projects each financial year. The timing of the implementation of these projects is based on priority, as assessed under the Local Area Traffic Management and Pedestrian Facilities Guidelines.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

LOCAL INPUT

$7.5M
BUDGET

18 MTHS
CONSTRUCTION TIMEFRAME

LOCAL OUTPUT

$8.2M
TOTAL VALUE

18
JOBS

REGIONAL OUTPUT

$14.1M
TOTAL VALUE

18
JOBS

ACTIVE TRANSPORT NETWORK AND COASTAL CULTURAL TRAIL

City of Darwin's Movement Strategy provides a framework to align transport investment and policy decisions with the aspirations of the community. Developed with extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community, the Strategy identified key opportunities to improve movement around Darwin by making it easier for people to move around our municipality by improving streetscapes, infrastructure and connectivity while reducing the impact of transport on the environment. This project combines delivery of a safer, more connected active transport network with the creation of a Coastal Cultural Trail that showcases Darwin's unique natural, cultural, military and multicultural heritage.

The driver

Greater Darwin's transport system is far from sustainable as private cars dominate mobility in the region. At the same time, many culturally significant and historically important locations along Darwin's coastline are not well connected, celebrated or interpreted for residents and visitors.

There is an opportunity to create a connected network that supports cycling, walking and micromobility while strengthening access to and appreciation of Darwin's unique coastal assets.

The answer

Investment to extend recently installed active transport lanes within the city centre and to close identified critical gaps in the broader network will allow for the realisation of the strategy objectives.

Delivery of these elements, combined with advocacy for additional greening and shading of transit corridors, will enable residents and visitors to move around our municipality improving connectivity while reducing the impact on the environment.

Complementing this network, the Coastal Trail will connect the city centre to East Point through a series of upgraded pathways, wayfinding, interpretation and cultural experiences, creating a destination that supports recreation, tourism, community wellbeing and active lifestyles.

The vision

Darwin's path infrastructure responds to many different needs – from short distance trips for shopping, school trips and recreation, to long distance commuting. Providing safe and attractive routes for cycling and micro-mobility benefits the environment and users. Darwin has huge potential for increasing cycling and active transport, which can be realised through improvements to the path network and environment.

The ambition is to create a comprehensive network of safe and attractive routes suitable to all abilities including:

- Active transport lanes to enable movement in to and across the city centre
- Identify and close active transport gaps in pathways within the suburbs.
- Development of a Coastal Cultural Trail connecting the city centre to East Point, including upgraded coastal paths, interpretative signage, wayfinding, cultural storytelling and more.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

LOCAL INPUT

$15.5M
BUDGET

3 YRS
CONSTRUCTION TIMEFRAME

LOCAL OUTPUT

$28.4M
TOTAL VALUE

13
JOBS

REGIONAL OUTPUT

$29.2M
TOTAL VALUE

18
JOBS



National Indigenous Music Awards at the Amphitheatre

DARWIN AMPHITHEATRE REVITALISATION

The creative sector is a significant driver of tourism and impacts the local economy,

Our performing arts sector fosters our identity and connection and has provided an opportunity for local artists to access the national and international stage. Jessica Mauboy and the late Dr Gurumul Yunupingu performed to their first audiences in Darwin before being launched nationally and internationally. Darwin's vibrant creative sector includes individual artists at all levels of practice; organisations and businesses that work across creative industries; as well as those who rely on creative people for their success such as producers, hospitality and other industries. It engages audiences across all cultural backgrounds and provides a distinctive point of difference to those audiences.

The Darwin Amphitheatre is a unique outdoor venue where residents and visitors can indulge in our relaxed tropical lifestyle and enjoy national and international performances. City of Darwin has a strategic plan to invest in this unique creative space to better support city activation, cultural participation, tourism and economic growth, and the delivery of iconic experiences through the transformation of the Darwin Amphitheatre.

The driver

The Darwin Amphitheatre is the city's premier outdoor entertainment venue, originally constructed in 1965, without significant upgrade the current venue does not meet today's standard requirements for safety and industry good practice due to its outdated user amenities and general condition. Darwin is constrained when competing for acts of scale that require larger production due to the aging infrastructure and limitations on current performance infrastructure capacity and capability.

The answer

Investment in the venue strongly aligns with the NT Government's Restoring the Territory Lifestyle Strategy, the City of Darwin Creative Strategy 2030 and the National Cultural Policy Revive. An investment in this cultural infrastructure will deliver an improved facility that holds significant community and heritage values to bring wider benefits to the Darwin region and local tourism opportunities. This investment will support festivals, local creative organisations and be a meeting place for the presentation of cultural work from across the Northern Territory's diverse population including our remote communities.

The vision

- Development of feasibility study/masterplan
- Accessibility upgrades
- Structural upgrades
- Enhancements to audience experience and comfort, including audio-visual, production, staging equipment and amenities

ECONOMIC IMPACT

LOCAL INPUT

$13.4M
BUDGET

1YR
CONSTRUCTION TIMEFRAME

LOCAL OUTPUT

$24.5M
TOTAL VALUE

31
JOBS

REGIONAL OUTPUT

$35.3M
TOTAL VALUE

32
JOBS

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Summary of commitments sought

#	Project	Prospective partner/s	Prospective partner portfolio	Funding	Funding source
1	Dinah Beach Road Upgrade	AG	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Sport and the Arts	$8.0M	Own Source Grant Funding
		NTG	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure		
2	Waters Ward Multigenerational Recreation Space (Stages 2 and 3)	AG	Department of Health, Disability & Ageing	$2.9M	Own Source Grant Funding
		NTG	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure		
3	Bagot Park Masterplan	NTG	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure	$3.3M	Own Source Grant Funding
4	Parap Village Masterplan	NTG	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure	$16.2M	Own Source Grant Funding
5	Nightcliff Village Masterplan	NTG	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure	$3.2M	Own Source Grant Funding
6	Energy efficiencies, renewables and solar upgrades on City of Darwin properties	AG	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	$1.2M	Own Source Grant Funding
		NTG	Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations		
7	**All oval upgrades**	**NTG**	**Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development**	**$16.55M**	**Own Source** **Grant Funding**
	Oval Infrastructure Classification Plan for all local ovals	NTG	Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development	$0.4M	Own Source Grant Funding
	Wagaman Oval Upgrade	NTG	Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development	$3.0M	Own Source Grant Funding
	Anula Oval Upgrade	NTG	Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development	$3.0M	Own Source Grant Funding
	Gardens Oval Upgrades	NTG	Department Housing, Local Government and Community Development	$6.75M	Own Source Grant Funding Private Investment
8	Footpath renewal in the city centre	NTG	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	$10.7M	Own Source Grant Funding
9	Coastal resilience	AG	Coastal resilience study and assessment based on opportunities for funding	Assessment $0.3M	Own Source Grant Funding
		NTG	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment	Works $TBA	

Note: These priority projects are not presented in any prioritised order

PRIORITY PROJECTS PROFILES

Dinah Beach Road Upgrade

Dinah Beach Road links Tiger Brennan Drive to the Stuart Highway, via a short section of Duke Street. With intensive residential development already on one side, this is considered an important transport link. The road is currently in a poor condition and is of a rural cross-section. The upgrade of this road would address these issues as well as enhance liveability through the provision of improved street lighting.

13 JOBS

$14.0M TOTAL OUTPUT

Waters Ward Multigenerational Recreation Space (Stages 2 and 3)

In response to the needs of Waters Ward residents and the priorities outlined in our Play Space Strategy, City of Darwin is seeking to construct stages 2 and 3 of the Waters Ward Multigenerational Recreation Space. The Waters Ward has a higher density of public housing seen in other areas of the municipality, with many young families, seniors and migrants calling this area of Darwin home. A regional multigenerational playground will activate existing greenspaces, providing places and spaces where families, friends and the community can gather and interact. Stage 2 of the project includes pathways, toilets and seating, while Stage 3, expands on the play elements, including low thrill zones and nature play. Progressing this community infrastructure will contribute to making Darwin a more liveable, healthy and inclusive city.

4 JOBS

$5.3M TOTAL OUTPUT

Bagot Park masterplan

Bagot Park serves as a passive and active recreation hub in Darwin's northern suburbs, boasting a network of facilities to support local sports, including football and cycling, which are surrounded by open green spaces. A masterplan has been developed to reinvigorate Bagot Park, which aims to balance the needs of nearby residents and the park's users, while taking into consideration the expectations of stakeholders and community. With this fully consulted masterplan in place, an opportunity exists to commence immediate works on a pipeline of shovel-ready projects. Key aspects of the proposed next stage of the masterplan includes: shared pathway network, multigenerational playspace, exercise facilities, and an accessible toilet facility

4 JOBS

$6.0M TOTAL OUTPUT

Parap Village masterplan

Parap Village is the heart of Darwin's art and culture scene, with one of the highest densities of art galleries in the municipality. It is also home to the iconic Saturday Parap Markets, which draw locals and visitors alike to savour foods from each corner of the globe; to shop for fresh produce; and to explore winding stalls adorned with local arts and crafts. In 2021, a masterplan was developed for the Parap Village area, which aims to improve shade, comfort and access to the area, whether by active, public or private transport. Projects that can immediately be delivered under the fully consulted masterplan include parking realignment, tree planting, landscape upgrades, construction of shade structures, public lighting improvements, and installation of additional seating, among other initiatives. There is also an opportunity to work with existing galleries to provide public art commissions for local creatives.

12 JOBS

$25.4M TOTAL OUTPUT



Concept drawing from Nightcliff Village masterplan

Nightcliff Village masterplan

A staged and prioritised masterplan has been developed for Nightcliff Village following a comprehensive stakeholder and community consultation process. Featuring a program of shovel-ready projects, the focus of the masterplan is to enhance existing features of the Nightcliff Village beyond use for the ever-popular weekend markets. The masterplan will create a vibrant local centre that transforms Nightcliff Village into an inviting and comfortable space with activated store frontages and laneways that will make it a vibrant community hub throughout the week and at nighttime. Key enhancements will include improved pedestrian access, activation of laneways, integrated public art opportunities for local creatives, additional landscaping, and upgrades to seating, shading and stormwater drains.

4 JOBS

$5.9M TOTAL OUTPUT

Energy efficiencies, renewables and solar upgrades on City of Darwin properties

With a property portfolio of 66 assets with a fair value of $415.8 million, undertaking energy efficiency upgrades and installing renewable infrastructure on City of Darwin properties is a crucial step towards reaching the emissions reduction targets in our Climate Emergency Strategy. Installation of renewables, such as solar photovoltaic cells and batteries, will reduce energy costs and reliance on traditional power grids; shield ratepayers and businesses from price volatility; and foster economic resilience.

By improving the energy efficiency of our properties, we can significantly reduce our impact on the environment and cut our operational costs. Some upgrades we will seek to include implementing advanced lighting systems; upgrading heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems with smart controls and high-efficiency units can optimise temperature regulation; installing energy-efficient windows; implementing smart building automation systems; and conducting regular energy audits to identify areas for improvement.

Through these initiatives, City of Darwin can set a best-practice example for developers, property owners and tenants across the municipality in reducing carbon emissions, contributing to efforts to combat climate change.

2 JOBS

$2.2M TOTAL OUTPUT

City of Darwin's major ovals

One of City of Darwin's goals is to create a safe, liveable and healthy city, and investing in our sporting infrastructure is one way we can support our community to become more active, healthy and connected. City of Darwin has 19 public ovals across the municipality available for a range of sports, community events and informal physical activity uses.

City of Darwin engages with the Peak Sporting Bodies to determine infrastructure upgrades and priorities for sporting ovals to meet current and future needs and this input is considered by Council as it balances broad community need, identifying four ovals as priorities for upgrades. Work is underway to develop an improvement plan for significant improvements to Darwin's signature sporting oval, Gardens Oval, and near shovel-ready projects are ready investment at Fannie Bay, Wagaman and Anula Ovals.

17 JOBS

$29.9M TOTAL OUTPUT

Oval infrastructure classification plan for all local ovals

City of Darwin advocates for investment to undertake an assessment of infrastructure needs for all local-category ovals: Anula, Chrisp Street, Dinah Beach, Fannie Bay, Jingili, Moil, Nakara, Tiwi, Wagaman, Wanguri and Wulagi. This plan would include infrastructure provision for a range of sporting and lifestyle uses.

<1 JOBS

$0.7M TOTAL OUTPUT

Footpath renewal in the city centre

With key attractions, lively nightlife, a burgeoning café scene and first-rate services wall-to-wall in the city centre, Darwin is a walkable city that beckons locals and visitors to wander its streets to discover its secrets. Darwin can put its best foot forward through the installation of new tiled footpaths throughout our vibrant city centre. Building on a recently completed trial project delivered by local suppliers, staged continuation of this initiative will allow City of Darwin to respond to targets set in our Climate Emergency and Economic Development Strategies and will see our city's footpaths blend seamlessly into the surrounding environments while adding a timeless charm to the heart of Darwin.

6 JOBS

$19.6M TOTAL OUTPUT

Coastal resilience

With a harbour five times the size of Sydney's, Darwin's rugged yet pristine coastline provides the backdrop for our laid-back outdoor lifestyle; provides a natural haven for our unique flora and fauna; and contributes to the city's positioning as a premier international tourist destination. Coastal resilience works, from natural defences like mangrove restoration to engineered solutions such as seawalls, are vital for safeguarding these natural assets against flooding, erosion, and storm damage. Investing in coastal resilience reduces long-term disaster recovery costs and fosters sustainable development. This project seeks initial funding to review and update previous assessment works undertaken by expert assessors, and secondly, external investment for a response works package focused on enhancing the resilience of coastlines along Mindil Beach, Fannie Bay, Nightcliff and East Point through the review of existing work done by expert assessors.

TBA* JOBS

$TBA* TOTAL OUTPUT

*AFTER ASSESSMENT REPORT

Note: Economic impact assessments for projects in this Plan are based on 2025 data



Bicentennial Park Play Space

Harry Chan Avenue
GPO Box 84 Darwin NT 0801

For enquiries phone us from
8am – 5pm on 8930 0300
or email darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au

DARWIN.NT.GOV.AU

CITY OF DARWIN

13.2 PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Author: **Council and Grants Support Officer**

Authoriser: **A/Manager Office of Council and CEO**

Attachments: **Nil**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Public Holiday be received and noted.
2. THAT Council, pursuant to Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)* approve for the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for Tuesday, 26 January 2027 (Australia Day public holiday) be held on Wednesday, 27 January 2027.
3. THAT Council note a public forum will be held at the Civic Centre commencing at 5.00pm on Wednesday 27 January 2027.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for council to approve an alteration in the current meeting schedule due to a gazetted public holiday which falls on a scheduled council meeting day.

KEY ISSUES

- The first Ordinary Council Meeting of 2027 is scheduled for 26 January 2027 (Australia Day public holiday).

DISCUSSION Pursuant to section 90(4) of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Council may alter the adopted schedule for ordinary meetings at a subsequent meeting. City of Darwin officers recommend that Council amend the meeting schedule where a scheduled meeting falls on a gazetted public holiday.	
PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION N/A	
STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	6 Governance Framework 6.3 Decision Making and Management
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	**Budget/Funding:** N/A **Is Funding identified:** N/A **Existing Position No:** N/A **Contractor:** N/A
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	**Legislation:** *Local Government Act 2019* *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* **Policy:** Meetings Policy
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	**Engagement Level:** Inform **Tactics:** Nil **Internal:** Elected Members **External:** Nil
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

14 RECEIVE & NOTE REPORTS

14.1 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2026

Author: **Manager Accounting Services**
Executive Manager Finance

Authoriser: **General Manager Corporate**

Attachments: **1. Monthly Financial Report - September 2026** ⇩

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Monthly Financial Report – September 2026 be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the financial position of Council for the period ended 30 September 2026.

Further, this report and the contents are required to be presented to Council in compliance with the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

KEY ISSUES

The Monthly Financial Report includes:

- Income Statement, which compares actual YTD income and expenditure against YTD budget.
- Fund Flow Statement (Monthly Operating Position), which outlines the effect on General Funds.
- Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet), which outlines what Council owns (assets) and what it owes (liabilities) at a point in time.
- Notes to the Balance Sheet, this includes further details on the Cash Balance, Trade Debtors, Trade Creditors, and a statement on Council's current payment and reporting obligations.
- Lord Mayor and Chief Executive Officer council credit card transactions.
- Investments, which provides details of treasury activities, investments as at month end.
- Procurement Reporting, which is a summary of contract variations and exempt procurement.
- Capital Expenditure and Funding, which compares YTD capital expenditure and funding against YTD budget.
- Planned Major Projects Capital Works, provides a high-level financial overview of our major projects at a point in time.

DISCUSSION

September 2026 – Year to Date Results

The year-to-date operating result until 30 September 2026 is **a deficit of $2.8M compared to a Budgeted deficit of $6.3 M** as highlighted in the table below.

	YTD Actual $'000	YTD Budget $'000	Variance $'000
Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	**(2,843)**	**(6,279)**	**3,436 Favourable**

Commentary

The 30 June 2026 Annual Financial Statements have not yet been adopted with the 2025/26 Annual Report scheduled to be presented at the Council meeting on 27 October 2026. Accordingly, this report is being provided as an abridged monthly financial report.

Council adopted the Carry Forwards 2025/2026 and year end Reserve Balances at the September 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting and budget amendments now reflect as the Revised Budget. The budget variations presented in the report and supporting attachments are consistent with the Council resolutions, however on review, a discrepancy was identified in the summary table within the body of the report. This does not affect the budget variations or the resolutions adopted.

Please find below additional commentary for the material variances.

Income

Total Operating Income achieved $39.6M, tracking above the YTD budget by $4.4M (+12%).

User fees and charges totalled $11.6M, exceeding the YTD budget by $3.4M, primarily due to higher revenue from the Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility and reflects increased commercial weighbridge activity and higher volumes of waste received. Noting there are corresponding increases in expenses and reserve provisioning requirements that are direct costs associated with this increased waste facility revenue. Statutory charges are also reflecting a favourable variance, largely from enforcement activities and work permits issued.

Expenditure

Total Expenses incurred $42.4M, exceeding the YTD budget by $0.9M (-2%).

Employee costs are reporting a favourable variance of $1.3M against budget, however this variance does not reflect the timing of employee entitlements and utilisation of temporary labour hire and contractors, which is categorised under Materials, Contracts and Services.

Materials, Contracts and Services are $1.8M above the YTD budget, with the unfavourable variance spread across a range of expenditure accounts and sections. Significant variances will continue to be monitored to identify any emerging cost pressures and inform the budget review.

Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment expenses are tracking above YTD budget, due to the increase in the re-valuation of stormwater drainage and street and public lighting assets recognised in June 2026. Depreciation is a non-cash expense and will be subject to a future budget review for realignment.

Statement of Fund Flows

The variances are related to a mismatch in the timing of projects and budget profiles, and the reasons described above under the operating statement commentary.

Capital expenditure and Transfers from Reserves relates to timing of capital projects. Major projects which span financial years will be realigned at a budget review to reflect the current years expenditure forecast.

Cash and Investments Note A

City of Darwin has achieved 4.91% on weighted average interest rate on its end of month cash and investment portfolio of $92M (excluding loan offsets of $36.7M). This result represents a continued outperformance against the Bloomberg AusBond 90 Day Bank Bill Index benchmark of 4.77%.

Compliance remained strong during the month, with no investment policy breaches recorded. All investments were maintained within approved credit, term, and counterparty limits.

Accounts Receivable (Trade Debtors) Note B

This section provides the aged debtors outstanding for general debtors and infringements.

Accounts Payable (Trade Creditors) Note C

Accounts Payable owing at end of month at the time of reporting. City of Darwin recognises the liability of invoices once goods are receipted as received.

Procurement Reporting

Under the Local Government (General) Regulations, Council is required to disclose at the next Council meeting and on the City of Darwin website:

- contract variations:
  - where a tender was not required, however the total cost exceeds $100,000, or
  - where a contract requiring a tender is varied by 10%.
- exempt procurement greater than $100,000.

Contract Variations

There were no reportable contract variations for September 2026.

Delegated Procurement Decisions ($5 million to $10 million)

There were the following procurement decisions under delegated authority resulting in a financial liability between $5 million and $10 million for August 2026.

Vendor	Supply	Cost	Contract Number
Jacana Energy	Supply of Retail Electricity for City of Darwin	$5,000,000.00	2026-021
Veolia Environmental Services	City of Darwin Kerbside Waste Collection Services	$74,685,377.00	2025-032

Exempt Procurement

Vendor	Supply	Cost	Applicable Exemption
NT Recycling Solutions	Recyclables Processing	$157,143.23	Reg 38(1)(i) only one supplier
Proper Creative Darwin Pty Ltd	Road Surface Treatment Installation	$154,260.00	Reg 38(1)(i) only one supplier
Technology One Ltd	ECM Annual Support and Maintenance Fee	$95,446.00	Reg 38(1)(d) the renewal of an existing licence

Certification by the CEO to the Council

That, to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief:

(1) The internal controls implemented by the council are appropriate; and

(2) The council's financial report best reflects the financial affairs of the council.

S.Saunders

CEO Signed

22 October 2026

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	6 Governance Framework 6.3 Decision Making and Management
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	N/A
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Part 2 Division 7 the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* require that a monthly financial report is presented to Council each month setting out: a) the actual income and expenditure of the council for the period from the commencement of the financial year up to the end of the previous month; and b) the most recently adopted annual budget; and c) details of any material variances between the most recent actual income and expenditure of the council and the most recently adopted annual budget. Regulation 17(5) Part 2 Division 7 the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 require that the monthly report must be accompanied by: a) certification, in writing, by the CEO to the council that, to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief: i. the internal controls implemented by the council are appropriate; and ii. the council's financial report best reflects the financial affairs of

	the council; or b) if the CEO cannot provide the certification – written reasons for not providing the certification. The report is compliant with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2019* and *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	N/A
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

Interim Income Statement For the Period Ended 30 September 2026	2026/27			
	YTD			FY
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Revised Budget
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Operating Income				
Rates	21,272	21,227	45	84,908
Charges	2,685	2,704	(19)	10,814
Statutory Charges	1,479	1,042	437	3,330
User Fees and Charges	11,611	8,214	3,397	32,927
Operating Grants and Subsidies	341	343	(2)	2,523
Interest / Investment Income	1,220	1,018	202	4,070
Commercial & Other Income	970	674	296	2,437
Total Income	**39,578**	**35,222**	**4,356**	**141,009**
Operating Expenses				
Employee Expenses	10,026	11,332	1,306	45,325
Materials, Contracts & Services	21,544	19,761	(1,783)	70,804
Elected Member Allowances	189	210	21	839
Elected Member Expenses	-	5	5	21
Council Committee Allowances	1	5	4	20
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	10,219	9,458	(761)	37,833
Interest Expenses	442	730	288	4,848
Total Expenses	**42,421**	**41,501**	**(920)**	**159,690**
Budgeted Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	**(2,843)**	**(6,279)**	**3,436**	**(18,681)**
Capital Grants Income	-	113	(113)	5,477
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	**(2,843)**	**(6,166)**	**3,323**	**(13,204)**

Interim Statement of Fund Flows

Monthly Statement of Operating Position

For the Period Ended 30 September 2026

	2026/27			
	YTD			FY
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Revised Budget
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Net Operating Result from Income Statement	**(2,843)**	**(6,279)**	**3,436**	**(18,681)**
Add Non Cash Items				
Add Back Depreciation (Non-Cash)	10,219	9,458	761	37,833
Add Back Other Non-Cash Items	0	0	0	1,868
Total Non Cash Items	**10,219**	**9,458**	**761**	**39,701**
Less Additional Outflows				
Repayment of borrowings & advances	(1,398)	(1,838)	440	(7,351)
Capital Expenditure	(10,280)	(3,090)	(7,190)	(72,515)
Total Additional Outflows	**(11,678)**	**(4,928)**	**(6,750)**	**(79,867)**
Add Additional Inflows				
Capital Grants Income	0	113	(113)	5,477
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	201	125	76	3,500
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	35,590	1,511	34,079	49,869
Total Additional Inflows	**35,791**	**1,749**	**34,042**	**58,847**
Net Increase (-Decrease) in Funds	**31,489**	**0**	**31,489**	**0**

Interim Statement of Financial Position as at 30 September 2026	2026/27 Actual $'000	Note	FY Revised Budget $'000
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank & Investments	68,174	A	15,167
Cash at Bank & Investments - externally restricted	38,142	A	31,659
Cash at Bank & Investments - internally restricted	25,482	A	25,482
Trade & Other Receivables	13,302	B	15,629
Rates & Charges Receivables	63,407		-
Inventories	356		272
Total Current Assets	**208,863**		**88,209**
Non-Current Assets			
Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	1,492,668		1,377,141
Other Financial Assets	1,258		2,500
Total Non Current Assets	**1,493,926**		**1,379,641**
Total Assets	**1,702,789**		**1,467,850**
Current Liabilities			
Trade Payables & Other Payables	16,708	C	22,032
Accruals	5,689		-
ATO & Payroll Liabilities	- 569	C	-
Rates Revenue struck (in advance)	72,583		-
Borrowings	5,535		7,649
Provisions	6,785		7,886
Lease Liabilities	896		118
Total Current Liabilities	**107,627**		**37,685**
Non-Current Liabilities			
Trade & Other Payables	6		-
Borrowings	68,723		60,713
Provisions	51,800		50,319
Lease Liabilities	432		-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	**120,961**		**111,032**
Total Liabilities	**228,588**		**148,717**
NET ASSETS	**1,474,201**		**1,319,133**
Equity			
Accumulated Surplus	334,393		262,858
Asset Revaluation Reserve	1,076,184		999,134
Other Reserves	63,624		57,141
TOTAL EQUITY	**1,474,201**		**1,319,133**

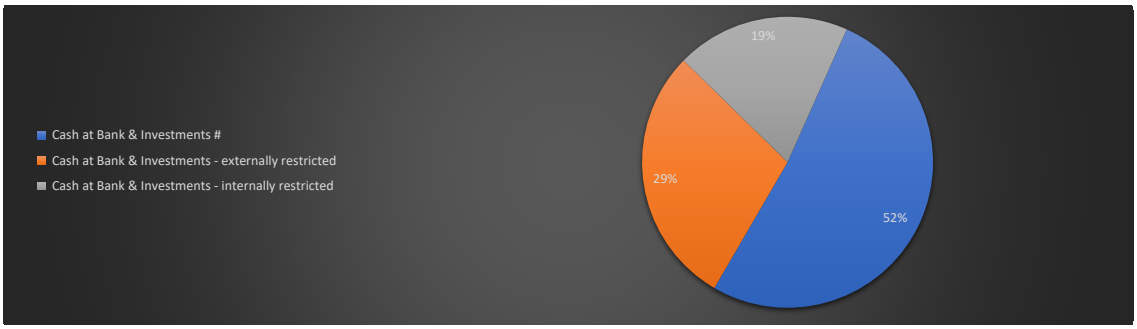
*Please note that these reports are unaudited management financial reports. Information contained in the reports were current as at the date of the reports and may not reflect any event or circumstances which occurred after the reports were completed.
* Closing reserve and Carry Frward balances are yet to be adopted by Council. Accordingly, the balances presented are subject to change.

Interim Monthly Balance Sheet Report (Notes to the Statement of Financial Position) as at 30 September 2026

Note A. Details of Cash and Investments Held

Investments Report attached, which provides details of treasury activities, investments as at the end of the Month. City of Darwin has achieved 4.91% on weighted average interest rate (excluding Cash on Call) on its September 2026 cash and investment portfolio of $92M (excluding $36.7M Variable Loans Surplus/Offset). There have been no investment policy breaches in this month. The Investment Reports include surplus cash funds that are placed against variable loans. These funds are considered 'at call' as they can be accessed in short time frames. The reduction in the investment portfolio is primarily attributable to funds being utilised for the delivery of major capital projects and is consistent with the expected local government cash flow profile at this stage of the financial year.

Cash at Bank & Investments	$'000
Cash at Bank & Investments #	68,174
Cash at Bank & Investments - externally restricted	38,142
Cash at Bank & Investments - internally restricted	25,482
Total Cash at Bank & Investments	**131,798**



Cash at Bank & Investments includes Cash on Call of $36.7M

Note B. Statement of Trade Debtors*	Past Due 1 – 30 Days	Past Due 31 – 60 Days	Past Due 61-90 Days	Past Due 90+ Days	Total *
Other Trade Receivables and Other Receivables	**$7,731,159**	**$2,985,788**	**$1,508,730**	**$1,076,479**	**$13,302,155**
Total Trade and Other Receivables	**$7,731,159**	**$2,985,788**	**$1,508,730**	**$1,076,479**	**$13,302,155**

Note C. Statement on Trade Creditors*	Past Due 1 – 30 Days	Past Due 31 – 60 Days	Past Due 61-90 Days	Past Due 90+ Days	Total*
General Trade Creditors	**($3,228,604)**	**($29,562)**	**($87,313)**	**($17,626)**	**($3,363,106)**
ATO & Payroll Liabilities	**$568,622**				**$568,622**
Other Trade Payables & Other Payables	**($13,344,559)**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**($13,344,559)**
Total Trade and Other Payables	**($16,004,541)**	**($29,562)**	**($87,313)**	**($17,626)**	**($16,139,043)**

Note D. Statement on Australian Tax Office (ATO) and Payroll Obligations

The Council has met its payment and reporting obligations for GST, Fringe Benefits Tax, PAYG withholding tax, superannuation, and insurance for the month Sep 2026.

*Please note that these reports are unaudited management financial reports. Information contained in the reports were current as at the date of the reports and may not reflect any event or circumstances which occurred after the date the reports were completed.
*Closing reserve and Carry Forward balances are yet to be adopted by Council. Accordingly, the balances presented are subject to change.

Table 4. Member and CEO Council Credit Card Transactions for the Month
For the Month Ended 30 SEP 2026

Cardholder Name: CEO

Transaction Date	Amount $	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
14-Sep-26	22.44	UBER *TRIP HELP.UBER.C Sydney AUS	TRAVEL
14-Sep-26	23.47	UBER *TRIP HELP.UBER.C Sydney AUS	TRAVEL
11-Sep-26	25.83	UBER *TRIP HELP.UBER.C Sydney AUS	TRAVEL
10-Sep-26	21.53	UBER *TRIP HELP.UBER.C Sydney AUS	TRAVEL
Total	**93.27**		

Cardholder Name: Lord Mayor

Transaction Date	Amount $	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
		NIL	
Total	**-**		

INVESTMENTS REPORT TO COUNCIL
AS AT
30 September 2026

Investment and Cash at Call/Offset Distribution by Term to Maturity

Term to Maturity Policy Limits
There have been no breaches in Term to Maturity Policy limits for the month of SEP 2026

Term to Maturity Category	% of Total Portfolio	Term to Maturity (Policy Max.)	Term to Maturity (Policy Min.)
Less than 1 Year			
Term Deposits	62%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	2%		
Floating Rate Notes	0%		
General Surplus on Variable Loans	33%		
Bonds	0%		
Less than 1 Year Total	**96%**	**100%**	**30%**
Greater than 1 Year less than 3 Years			
Term Deposits	0%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	0%		
Floating Rate Notes	2%		
Bonds	0%		
Greater than 1 Year less than 3 Years Total	**2%**	**70%**	**0%**
Greater than 3 Years			
Term Deposits	0%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	0%		
Floating Rate Notes	2%		
Bonds	0%		
Greater than 3 Years Total	**2%**	**30%**	**0%**
Greater than 5 Years			
Term Deposits	0%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	0%		
Floating Rate Notes	0%		
Greater than 5 Years	**0%**	**10%**	**0%**
Total	**100%**		

Investment Distribution by Portfolio Credit Rating

Portfolio Distribution Credit Rating Limits
There have been no breaches in Portfolio Credit Rating Limits for the month of SEP 2026

Credit Rating - Maximum Individual Limit	ADI	Counterparty	% of Total Portfolio	Individual Counterparty Limits of Total Investments
AA-	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	**14%**	**50%**
	National Australia Bank Ltd	National Australia Bank Ltd	**17%**	**50%**
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	**39%**	**50%**
	ANZ Banking Group Ltd	ANZ Banking Group Ltd	**18%**	**50%**
BBB+	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	**2%**	**10%**
	Great Southern Bank	Great Southern Bank	**5%**	**10%**
BBB	Maitland Mutual Bank Ltd	Maitland Mutual Bank Ltd	**2%**	**10%**
	Heritage and People's Choice Limited	Heritage and People's Choice Limited	**1%**	**10%**
	Defence Bank Ltd	Defence Bank Ltd	**2%**	**10%**
Grand Total			**100%**	

Credit Rating - Maximum Portfolio Limit	% of Total	Policy Limit
AAA to AA-	**88%**	**100%**
A+ to A-	**2%**	**60%**
BBB+ to BBB	**10%**	**30%**
BBB-	**0%**	**0%**
Total	**100%**	

INVESTMENT AND CASH AT CALL/OFFSET REPORT TO COUNCIL
AS AT
30 September 2026

Instrument	Institution Category	Counterparty	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Credit Rating (LT)	Credit Rating (ST)	Inv Type	FRN ONLY (Maturity Date - last pmt)	Principal $	% Portfolio
INVESTMENT	MAJOR BANK	ANZ Banking Group Ltd	10 November 2026	4.58%	AA-	A1+	TD		$2,000,000	2.04%
			1 December 2026	4.45%	AA-	A1+	TD		$3,031,142	3.10%
			27 October 2026	4.78%	AA-	A1+	TD		$3,031,808	3.10%
			2 February 2027	4.82%	AA-	A1+	TD		$3,000,000	3.06%
			9 February 2027	4.91%	AA-	A1+	TD		$3,000,000	3.06%
			9 March 2027	5.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		$3,000,000	3.06%
			30 December 2026	5.52%	AA-	A1+	FRN	31 March 2028	$500,000	0.51%
		ANZ Banking Group Ltd Total							$17,562,951	17.94%
		Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	17 November 2026	5.25%	AA-	A1+	TD		$2,000,000	2.04%
			30 September 2026	4.50%	AA-	A1+	BOS		$1,981,548	2.02%
		Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd Total							$3,981,548	4.07%
		National Australia Bank Ltd	16 February 2027	5.34%	AA-	A1+	TD		$2,000,000	2.04%
			8 December 2026	5.25%	AA-	A1+	TD		$3,062,827	3.13%
			28 September 2027	5.75%	AA-	A1+	TD		$2,082,941	2.04%
		National Australia Bank Ltd Total							$7,145,769	7.21%
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	20 October 2026	4.10%	AA-	A1+	TD		$3,312,290	3.38%
			10 November 2026	4.33%	AA-	A1+	TD		$3,322,667	3.39%
			13 October 2026	4.53%	AA-	A1+	TD		$3,195,848	3.26%
			6 October 2026	4.45%	AA-	A1+	TD		$5,000,000	5.11%
			1 December 2026	4.44%	AA-	A1+	TD		$2,099,819	2.14%
			23 February 2027	5.35%	AA-	A1+	TD		$2,000,000	2.04%
			4 May 2027	5.49%	AA-	A1+	TD		$2,177,474	2.22%
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd Total							$21,108,099	21.56%
	MAJOR BANK Total								$49,798,366	50.78%
	OTHER	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	27 November 2026	5.27%	A-	A-	FRN	28 November 2029	$2,000,000	2.04%
		Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd Total							$2,000,000	2.04%
		Great Southern Bank	3 November 2026	5.23%	BBB+				$4,407,836	4.50%
		Great Southern Bank Total							$4,407,836	4.50%
		Maitland Mutual Bank Ltd	8 November 2026	6.03%	BBB	A2	FRN	10 May 2027	$2,000,000	2.04%
		Maitland Mutual Bank Ltd Total							$2,000,000	2.04%
		Heritage and People's Choice Limited	19 January 2027	5.25%	BBB+				$1,000,000	1.02%
		Heritage and People's Choice Limited Total							$1,000,000	1.02%
		Defence Bank Ltd	12 January 2027	4.70%	BBB	A2	TD		$2,000,000	2.04%
		Defence Bank Ltd Total							$2,000,000	2.04%
	OTHER Total								$11,407,836	11.65%
INVESTMENT Total									$61,206,202	62.43%
VARIABLE LOAN SURPLUS	MAJOR BANK	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	30 September 2026	0.00%	AA-	A1+	General Surplus -		$10,000,000	10.21%
		Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd Total							$10,000,000	10.21%
		National Australia Bank Ltd	30 September 2026	0.00%	AA-	A1+	General Surplus -		$9,633,900	9.84%
		National Australia Bank Ltd Total							$9,633,900	9.84%
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	30 September 2026	0.00%	AA-	A1+	General Surplus -		$17,075,422	17.44%
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd Total							$17,075,422	17.44%
	MAJOR BANK Total								$36,709,322	37.49%
VARIABLE LOAN SURPLUS Total									$36,709,322	37.49%
Grand Total									$97,915,524	100%

N.B.
**INV TYPE - FRN = interest rate is the 'Coupon Margin' established on issue date, this plus 3M BBSW provides the yield for the current coupon period.*
**MATURITY DATE - FRN = the interest coupon payment date not actual FRN maturity date (paid every 91 days).*

CBA General Bank Funds	**$30,069,564**
NAB General Bank Funds	**$47,104**
WBC General Bank Funds	**$341,505**
Total Funds	**$128,373,697**
Less Variable Loans Offset (Cash on Call)	**-$36,709,322**
Total Investment & Cash (less offset)	**$91,664,375**
Total Budgeted Investment Earnings	**$3,260,330**
Year to Date Investment Earnings	**$990,430**
Weighted Ave Rate	**3.07%**
Weighted Ave Rate (excluding Cash on Call)	**4.91%**
BBSW 90 Day Rate	**4.77%**
Bloomberg AusBond (Bank Bill Index)	
Trust Bank Account	**$15,390**

Table 2.1 Capital Expenditure and Funding
By class of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

Capital Expenditure For The Period Ended 30 September 2026	2026/27			
	YTD Actuals $	YTD Budget $	YTD Variance $	FY Annual Budget $
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BY ASSET CLASS:				
Land and Improvements	0	0	0	0
Buildings and Structures (includes parking building)	4,596,120	199,187	(4,396,933)	37,154,794
Environmental	20,295	252,284	231,989	1,208,676
Stormwater Drainage	1,008,738	0	(1,008,738)	4,496,000
Roads & Pathways	1,007,005	252,251	(754,754)	10,130,832
Street & Public Lighting	338,128	107,499	(230,629)	518,295
Waste Management Infrastructure	2,120,304	853,746	(1,266,558)	8,242,609
Plant & Equipment	445,855	616,248	170,393	4,692,305
Parks, Playgrounds and Reserves	696,642	775,523	78,881	5,591,441
Public Art	46,761	33,126	(13,635)	479,979
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	**10,279,850**	**3,089,864**	**(7,189,986)**	**72,514,931**
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY*:				
Operating Income	2,313,553	596,437	(1,717,116)	16,217,952
Capital Grants	652,283	915,307	263,024	5,459,587
Transfer from Reserves	6,027,265	1,578,120	(4,449,145)	17,337,392
Borrowings	1,286,750	0	(1,286,750)	30,000,000
Sale of Assets (including trade-ins)	0	0	0	3,500,000
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	**10,279,850**	**3,089,864**	**(7,189,986)**	**72,514,931**

*YTD Funding of expenditure is assumed to be consumed in line with YTD Capital Expenditure

* Please note that these reports are unaudited management financial reports. Information contained in the reports were current as at the date of the reports and may not reflect any event or circumstances which occurred after the date the reports were completed.
Revised Budget is the Original Budget plus adopted Carryforwards and Budget Variations

Report on Planned Major Capital Works
For The Period Ended 30 September 2026

Class of Assets	By Major Capital Project	Total Prior Year(s) Actuals $ (A)	YTD Actuals $ (B)	Total Actuals $ (C = A + B)	Total Planned Budget $ (D)	Total Yet to Spend $ (E = D - C)	Expected Project Completion Date
Buildings	Civic Centre and Plaza Precinct Development	11,451,494	4,435,257	15,886,751	47,600,000	31,713,249	30/06/2028
Buildings	Civic Centre Public Carpark/CBD Parking	30,000,000	0	30,000,000	30,000,000	(0)	30/06/2028
Buildings	Project Contingency	170,976	0	170,976	2,000,000	1,829,024	30/06/2028
Waste Management Infrastructure	Shoal Bay Waste Management Site - Stage 7 Construction	3,922,391	2,120,304	6,042,695	9,380,000	3,337,305	30/06/2027
Transport	R2R - Lee Point Road Upgrade	179,367	16,995	196,362	6,400,000	6,203,638	30/06/2027
TOTAL		**45,724,228**	**6,572,556**	**52,296,785**	**95,380,000**	**43,083,215**	

* Please note that these reports are unaudited management financial reports. Information contained in the reports were current as at the date of the reports and may not reflect any event or circumstances which occurred after the date the reports were completed.

14.2 ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES - CIVIC CENTRE COMMUNITY PLAZA

Author: **Executive Manager Marketing, Communications and Engagements**

Authoriser: **Chief Executive Officer**

Attachments:
1. **Civic Centre Community Plaza Outcomes Summary Report ⇩**
2. **Civic Centre Community Plaza Consultation Report ⇩**

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Engagement Outcomes - Civic Centre Community Plaza be received and noted

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to share the outcomes of the Civic Centre Community Plaza community engagement process.

KEY ISSUES

- City of Darwin plans to transform the current Civic Centre site into a new community plaza, creating a space where people can visit, connect and engage in community and business activities. The Civic Centre Community Plaza will be constructed on the site of the current Civic Centre on Harry Chan Avenue.
- City of Darwin engaged True North Strategic Communication (True North) to design and lead a consultation program to understand community views, values and aspirations to guide the development of the plaza.
- The community engagement process ran for 6 weeks from Monday 20 July to Friday 28 August 2026.
- A Civic Centre Community Plaza summary report is available at **Attachment 1**.
- A Civic Centre Community Plaza consultation report is available at **Attachment 2.**

There was a strong engagement from the community and stakeholders during consultation, likely due to the large number of engagement methods and available opportunities to provide feedback. The sentiment from community members and stakeholders was mostly positive when discussing the proposed Civic Centre Community Plaza.

Most were excited to hear that City of Darwin would be transforming the current Civic Centre site into a new, open space that the community could use and enjoy and were enthusiastic to be a part of the consultation process.

There were approximately 5,900 interactions with the engagement tools during consultation, with 572 people providing direct feedback through a survey response, stakeholder meetings, briefing or email submission. There were 2,135 votes and written ideas received through the Plaza Puzzle interactive display.

In addition to direct engagement, advertising activities and engagement tools generated approximately 79,000 views and distributions, including:

- Fact sheet (hard copy) distribution – 823
- Engage Darwin webpage reach – 1,890
- Social media reach – 55,114
- Newspaper reach – 20,832

Several key themes emerged during consultation from the feedback and ideas received across all engagement methods and tools. The themes below are based on topics repeatedly mentioned throughout consultation and presented in order of how often they were raised:

- Natural and shaded areas
- Accessibility and inclusivity
- Safety and security
- Highlighting Darwin's multiculturism and history
- Beautifying and activating the space
- A space for the whole community
- Parking

Overall, feedback indicated the plaza should be a welcoming, shaded and accessible area for the whole community to come together and use. Highlighting the unique Territory lifestyle and multiculturalism as important to the community and should be considered as a key part in the plaza design.

DISCUSSION

With endorsement from Council, City of Darwin officers conducted a stakeholder and community engagement process for 6 weeks from Monday 20 July to Friday 28 August 2026.

Consultation adhered to the Engagement Institute's (formerly IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation and was conducted at the levels of inform and consult depending on the interest and influence levels of the stakeholders and community.

Engagement Objectives

To inform the future design of the Civic Centre Community Plaza, a proposed public space to be developed on the site of the current Civic Centre following completion of the new Civic Centre building. The objectives of consultation were to:

- understand community and stakeholder values for the plaza
- understand how the community and stakeholders would like to use the space and any existing concerns or issues associated with the area
- explore ideas and aspirations for the plaza
- increase awareness of how the plaza connects with the current Civic Centre redevelopment and differentiate the two spaces
- understand how the plaza will be used by different age groups, abilities and backgrounds to make the space inclusive and accessible
- understand cultural priorities and expectations
- build a shared vision for the plaza, creating shared ownership, understanding and support for the space
- gather input on specific facilities, amenities and elements to be included in the space

Communications and Engagement Tactics

City of Darwin, in partnership True North Strategic Communication (True North), used communications and engagement tactics such as:

- Interactive Display (the Plaza Puzzle) available at City of Darwin locations (Civic Centre, Libraries)
- Community and Information stalls
- Dedicated email address and phone number
- Engage Darwin Project Page
- Survey (online and hard copy)
- Fact Sheet – available at pop up community stalls and City of Darwin locations (Civic Centre, Libraries)
- Talking points (FAQs) for Customer Service and Libraries
- Elected Member Briefing and Talking Points
- Media release
- Vibrant newsletter (community newsletter)
- News article on City of Darwin website
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Emails to key stakeholders
- Letterbox Drop to Community
- CEO newsletter to City of Darwin staff
- Intranet article
- Social media – organic and paid
- NT News advertisements

Engagement Reach and Outcomes

There were approximately 5,900 interactions with the engagement tools during consultation, with 572 people providing direct feedback through a survey response, stakeholder meetings, briefing or email submission.

There were 2,135 votes and written ideas received through the Plaza Puzzle interactive display. In addition to direct engagement, advertising activities and engagement tools generated approximately 79,000 views and distributions, including:

- Fact sheet (hard copy) distribution – 823
- Engage Darwin webpage reach – 1,890
- Social media reach – 55,114
- Newspaper reach – 20,832

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	6 Governance Framework 6.4 Accountability
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	**Budget/Funding:** N/A **Is Funding identified:** N/A
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	**Legislation:** *Local Government Act 2019* **Policy:** Community Engagement Policy
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	**Engagement Level:** Inform and Consult **Internal:** • Elected Member Briefing and Talking Points • CEO newsletter to City of Darwin staff • Intranet article **External:** • Interactive Display (the Plaza Puzzle) available at City of Darwin locations (Civic Centre, Libraries) • Community and Information stalls • Dedicated email address and phone number • Engage Darwin Project Page • Survey (online and hard copy) • Fact Sheet – available at pop up community stalls and City of Darwin locations (Civic Centre, Libraries) • Talking points (FAQs) for Customer Service and Libraries • Media release • Vibrant newsletter (community newsletter) • News article on City of Darwin website

	• Stakeholder Meetings • Emails to key stakeholders • Letterbox Drop to Community • Social media – organic and paid • NT News advertisements
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

City of Darwin

Civic Centre Community Plaza
Outcomes Summary Report

Prepared by True North Strategic Communication
October 2026

Version No.	Issue Date	Prepared by:	Approved by:	Approval Date
V1	1 Oct 2026	True North		
V2	16 Oct 2026	True North	City of Darwin	16 Oct 2026
V3				

Recipients are responsible for eliminating all superseded documents in their possession

Consultation statement
True North Strategic Communication is guided by the principles of good community engagement, based on people's level of interest and concern as outlined by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2).
Our role is to provide stakeholders and the general public with objective information, so they can provide informed feedback on consultation projects. We give people the opportunity to provide input that is balanced and reflective of the range of community views to independently provide the best possible guidance to decision makers.
Our practice reflects professional standards and ethical standards for human research including anonymity, confidentiality, record storage and keeping people informed.

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Consultation

City of Darwin plans to transform the current Civic Centre site into a new community plaza, creating a space where people can visit, connect and engage in community and business activities. The Civic Centre Community Plaza (the plaza) will be constructed on the site of the current Civic Centre on Harry Chan Avenue which will be demolished following construction of the new Civic Centre in 2028.

City of Darwin engaged True North Strategic Communication (True North) to design and lead a consultation program to understand community views, values and aspirations to guide the development of the plaza.

Consultation ran for 6 weeks from Monday 20 July to Friday 28 August 2026.

The **objectives** of consultation were to:

- understand community and stakeholder values for the plaza
- understand how the community and stakeholders would like to use the space and any existing concerns or issues associated with the area
- explore ideas and aspirations for the plaza
- increase awareness of how the plaza connects with the current Civic Centre redevelopment and differentiate the 2 spaces
- understand how the plaza will be used by different age groups, abilities and backgrounds to make the space inclusive and accessible
- understand cultural priorities and expectations
- build a shared vision for the plaza, creating shared ownership, understanding and support for the space
- gather input on specific facilities, amenities and elements to be included in the space
- manage community expectations about the plaza and what is feasible to include in the concept design
- continue to demonstrate City of Darwin's commitment to transparent and genuine community engagement
- increase community and stakeholder participation through a range of feedback opportunities
- demonstrate City of Darwin is achieving its mission as outlined in its strategic plan.

Consultation adhered to the Engagement Institute's (formerly IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation (shown below) and was conducted at the levels of *inform and consult* depending on the interest and influence levels of the stakeholders and community.

Level of engagement	Promise to the public
Inform	*We will keep you informed*
Consult	*We will keep you informed, listen to your concerns and provide feedback on how the public's input influenced the decision*
Involve	We will work with you to ensure your concerns are reflected in the alternatives developed, and provide feedback on how the public's input influenced the decision
Collaborate	We will look to you for advice, ideas and solutions and incorporate those into the decisions as much as possible
Empower	We will implement what you decide
© International Association for Public Participation Australasia Limited (IAP2 Australasia) trading as Engagement Institute.	

The following tools and tactics were used during consultation:



Engagement

A wide range of community members and stakeholders took part during consultation through a range of engagement methods as shown below.

There were approximately 5,900 interactions with the engagement tools during consultation, with 572 people providing direct feedback through a survey response, stakeholder meeting, briefing or email submission. There were 2,135 votes and written ideas received through the Plaza Puzzle interactive display.

Elected Member briefing	•1 session with 13 attendees
Survey	•485 online responses •50 hard copy responses
Plaza Puzzle interaction	•2,135 votes and written ideas received
Information stalls	•337 people attended to provide feedback or interact
Stakeholder meetings	•8 stakeholder meetings with 21 attendees led by True North •4 meetings led by City of Darwin
Dedicated email address and phone number	•3 emails received
Social media	•2,903 interactions (likes, comments, shares and link clicks)

In addition to this direct engagement, advertising activities and engagement tools generated approximately 79,000 views and distributions, including:

- fact sheet (hard copy) – 823
- Engage Darwin webpage – 1,890
- social media – 55,114
- newspaper – 20,832.

As community members and stakeholders may have engaged with the consultation multiple times and across different engagement methods, these figures may include duplicate interactions and should not be interpreted as unique individuals.

Feedback

Several key themes emerged during consultation from the feedback and ideas received across all engagement methods and tools. Feedback and ideas received from all engagement methods and tools has been considered equally. The themes below are based on topics repeatedly mentioned throughout consultation and presented in order of how often they were raised.



Natural and shaded areas

Providing an open, green and natural space with shade was one of the most important aspects for all community members and stakeholders. Community members value Civic Park and the open space it provides and would like to see green space and shade prioritised within the future plaza. Protecting the long-term health of Galamarrma, the Tree of Knowledge, was also the most important priority for survey respondents, which could be achieved through creating more of a natural space and allowing Galamarrma to grow and thrive.

Shade, greenery and comfort received the most votes from community members across all the Plaza Puzzle interactive displays, supported by shade and cooling being one of the most important elements of a community space to survey respondents.

A number of community members and stakeholders would like to see native trees and plants in the plaza to reflect the tropical Territory lifestyle. Using trees and natural elements to provide shade and cooling was prioritised by community members and stakeholders, along with suggestions to create a community garden or walkable trail with different plants.

Accessibility and inclusivity

Ensuring the plaza is a space that is accessible and inclusive to all in the community was often mentioned during consultation. Community members and stakeholders felt strongly that if this was

to be a place for the community to enjoy, all people should be able to access and enjoy this regardless of their age or ability.

Ideas provided as to how the plaza could be accessible and welcoming for all included:

- sensory rooms with options for different ages/needs
- communication boards for those with limited or no sight
- large number of carparks available for those with wheelchairs of walking devices
- smooth and wide pathways
- accessible toilets and rooms for parents
- safe pedestrian connections and crossings
- dedicated accessible seating and rest areas.

Of the 5 priority areas included in the Plaza Puzzle interaction, connection and accessibility received the least number of votes from the community. Feedback provided by community members highlighted they didn't feel the need to vote for this area as they believed it should be automatically included and prioritised in the plaza design.

Safety and security

Safety and security were reported as factors discouraging community members and stakeholders from currently using the Civic Centre space. This is also something that was frequently mentioned during the information stalls and stakeholder meetings as needing to be addressed and considered when designing the plaza.

While many stakeholders and community members prioritised having a shaded area, it was mentioned this may contribute to antisocial behaviour and would dissuade people from using the plaza. Some suggestions were made by community members and stakeholders to have a large fence around the plaza to be locked at night, have paid security on site to remove any aggressive or unsavoury people, and ensure there was sufficient lighting at night.

Cleanliness of the space was a consideration for community members and stakeholders as they have concerns about hazardous rubbish associated with the antisocial behaviour that occurs in the city.

Highlighting Darwin's multiculturalism and history

Highlighting Darwin's diverse history and multicultural community was frequently raised by community members and stakeholders during consultation. The history of the Civic Centre site with its ties to the Chinese community and Larrakia people, the cultural significance of Galamarrma, and the current Civic Centre building used by the wider community were important points during conversations with many people wanting to see this featured in the plaza.

Creating a space honouring all the different cultures that make up the Darwin community, not just focusing on certain cultures, was also important with community members. Ideas on how this could be showcased within the plaza included:

- multicultural markets or food vendors being available
- festivals held at the plaza such as the Indonesian festival
- plaques with significant cultural information about the space
- different cultural gardens with plants native or special to certain cultures.

Other suggestions also included having a historic timeline wall to display important dates in Darwin's history which could be created in collaboration with different historic and cultural groups.

Community members said they would like to have a place they can feel proud of and bring visiting friends and family to see the vibrant and multicultural community of Darwin.

Beautifying and activating the space

Activating the space for events, markets, performances and cultural festivals was a repeating idea for community members and stakeholders. Attending events and performances was chosen as the top use of the plaza by survey respondents and supported by discussions in stakeholder meetings.

Creating an amphitheatre in the plaza or a small stage with seating was an idea that was submitted numerous times throughout consultation. Suggestions were also made to create an extension of Civic Park to create a larger area to be used during Darwin Festival and hold various performances and events throughout the year.

Community members and stakeholders also mentioned beautifying the area and having the plaza serve as a visual focal point that attracts and draws visitors into the space. There were suggestions to create a connection with Cavenagh Street and the rest of the city through design features. Using Galamarrma as the entrance point to the plaza and incorporating other entrance structures such as an archway was also suggested to create a visually appealing space. Other visual elements suggested for the plaza design included the use of public art installations and having art exhibition facilities available to showcase the talents of local artists.

A space for the whole community

Community members and stakeholders' values and aspirations for the plaza and how the space should be used varied across the consultation. Different user groups, such as parents with children, visitors, city workers or creative groups, put forward different ideas for the plaza which suited their interests and needs.

The main point taken from these ideas, however, is to create a space the whole community can use and benefit from. When asked what this may look like, community members and stakeholders suggested having:

- multi-purpose rooms that can be hired/reserved with tables, chairs and AV capabilities
- facilities to support events or performers such as a small stage and power and electricity connection points
- a building with capabilities to be enclosed during the wet season but open up during the dry season.

Community members often mentioned having a playground or water play elements like a splash pad for young children, but also areas for teenagers and adults to enjoy together to create intergenerational activities.

Majority of respondents from the online and hard copy surveys indicated they would be more likely to use the plaza once improvements are made to the current space, which would create a new gathering place for the community.

Parking

Questions about parking were commonly asked throughout consultation due to the current Civic Centre development being constructed on the site of the old car park. Community members and stakeholders wanted to understand if there would be alternative parking available so the plaza could be accessed easily.

Many indicated parking should be free as the plaza will be a space for the community, while others mentioned they would prefer to pay with cash rather than using the City of Darwin PayStay application. There were also suggestions to ensure car parks were suitable for people in wheelchairs and for those with children.

The length of stay for the car parks was mentioned, with community members noting it should be for longer than the standard 2 hours available in the city otherwise they may not visit the plaza.

In the online survey, parking was also mentioned by respondents as something that currently limits them from spending time in the Civic Centre precinct.

Overall analysis

There was a strong level of engagement from the community and stakeholders during consultation, likely due to the large number of engagement methods and opportunities available to provide feedback. The sentiment from community members and stakeholders was mostly positive when discussing the plaza. Most were excited to hear that City of Darwin would be transforming the current Civic Centre building into a new space the community could use and enjoy and were thankful to be a part of the consultation process.

Feedback received from community members and stakeholders about the Plaza Puzzle interaction was very positive. The interaction at the information stalls was an effective method to encourage participation and engagement from the community, especially with younger children and teenagers. People also preferred to interact with the Plaza Puzzle and cast their vote rather than providing any ideas or feedback on the plaza. City of Darwin library staff advised that the interactions at each of the libraries was popular with the community with a wide range of ages interacting together and sparking conversations about the plaza.

Overall, feedback indicated the plaza should be a welcoming, shaded and accessible area for the whole community to come together and use. Highlighting the unique Territory lifestyle and multiculturalism is important to the community and should be considered as a key part in the plaza design.

Recommendations

An engagement report and this outcome summary report have been prepared following the 6 week consultation period for the plaza. The recommended next steps for City of Darwin are to:

1. Consider the feedback and ideas received from the community and stakeholders to inform a concept design for the plaza.
2. Publicly release the outcomes summary report on the Engage Darwin consultation webpage.
3. Close the feedback loop with the key stakeholders who engaged during consultation by directly emailing the outcomes summary document.
4. Keep the community and stakeholders informed of the plaza project updates and allow for further consultation on the concept design to create a space for the community.
5. Reengage with nearby residents, key stakeholders and community members on the concept design and next steps.

City of Darwin

Civic Centre Community Plaza Consultation Report

Prepared by True North Strategic Communication
October 2026

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Consultation statement
True North Strategic Communication is guided by the principles of good community engagement, based on people's level of interest and concern as outlined by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2).
Our role is to provide stakeholders and the general public with objective information, so they can provide informed feedback on consultation projects. We give people the opportunity to provide input that is balanced and reflective of the range of community views to independently provide the best possible guidance to decision makers.
Our practice reflects professional standards and ethical standards for human research including anonymity, confidentiality, record storage and keeping people informed.

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Executive summary

Consultation

City of Darwin engaged True North Strategic Communication to design and lead the consultation program for the Civic Centre Community Plaza (the plaza).

Consultation was open for 6 weeks from Monday 20 July to Friday 28 August 2026.

The objectives of the consultation were to:

- understand community and stakeholder values for the plaza
- understand how the community and stakeholders would like to use the space and any existing concerns or issues associated with the area
- explore ideas and aspirations for the plaza
- increase awareness of how the plaza connects with the current Civic Centre redevelopment and differentiate the 2 spaces
- understand how the plaza will be used by different age groups, abilities and backgrounds to make the space inclusive and accessible
- understand cultural priorities and expectations
- build a shared vision for the plaza, creating shared ownership, understanding and support for the space
- gather input on specific facilities, amenities and elements to be included in the space
- manage community expectations about the plaza and what is feasible to include in the concept design
- continue to demonstrate City of Darwin's commitment to transparent and genuine community engagement
- increase community and stakeholder participation through a range of feedback opportunities
- demonstrate City of Darwin is achieving its mission as outlined in its strategic plan.

The following tools and tactics were used during consultation:



Feedback

There were approximately 5,900 interactions with the engagement tools during consultation through the following engagement tools:

- Elected Member briefing
- survey (online and hard copy)
- Plaza Puzzle interactive display
- 10 information stalls
- 12 stakeholder meetings
- dedicated email address and phone number
- social media.

The key themes raised during consultation are shown below in order of most frequently mentioned.



- **Natural and shaded areas** – community members and stakeholders support the plaza being an open, green and natural space providing shade, along with shade and cooling and protecting the long-term health of Galamarrma, the Tree of Knowledge.
- **Accessibility and inclusivity** – feedback shows strong support for an accessible and inclusive space for all in the community regardless of their age or ability. Community members felt this aspect should be automatically included and prioritised in the plaza design.
- **Safety and security** – community members and stakeholders said safety and security issues would discourage them from currently using the Civic Centre precinct. There were suggestions for safety measures to prevent antisocial behaviour.
- **Highlighting Darwin's multiculturalism and history** – community members and stakeholders have a strong interest in a space honouring the different cultures that make up the Darwin community, including the history of the Civic Centre site with its ties to the Chinese community and the cultural significance of Galamarrma to the Larrakia people.
- **Beautifying and activating the space** – community members and stakeholders are interested in activating the space for events, markets, performances and cultural festivals, along with creating an amphitheatre or a small stage with seating.
- **A space for the whole community** – feedback suggests creating a space the whole community can use and benefit from, including different user groups such as parents, teenagers and children.
- **Parking** – feedback highlights an interest in alternative parking so the plaza could be accessed easily, along with suggestions to ensure the car parks were suitable for people in wheelchairs and those with children.

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Background

City of Darwin plans to transform the current Civic Centre site into a new community plaza, creating a space where people can visit, connect and engage in community and business activities.

The Civic Centre Community Plaza (the plaza) will be constructed on the site of the current Civic Centre on Harry Chan Avenue which will be demolished following construction of the new Civic Centre in 2028.

The plaza will connect the new Civic Centre with Civic Park and Cavenagh Street to create a Civic Precinct. This will allow City of Darwin to return this space back to the community, create a connection between the Darwin Waterfront and CBD, while showcasing and providing additional protection to Galamarrma, the Tree of Knowledge.

Methodology

Approach

City of Darwin engaged True North Strategic Communication (True North) to design and lead the consultation program for the plaza. True North prepared a consultation and engagement plan to guide the consultation activities.

Consultation was open for 6 weeks from Monday 20 July to Friday 28 August 2026.

The approach was tailored to achieve the consultation goal and objectives by engaging with key stakeholders, nearby residents and businesses and the wider Darwin community. The approach ensured people of all ages, abilities and cultures could be involved and were provided with numerous opportunities for people to participate.

There were also some consultation activities led by City of Darwin during consultation. These have been included in this report for completeness of consultation engagement, however any feedback provided from these activities has not been considered in this report's analysis as it was not independently captured by True North. This ensures the findings and analysis accurately reflect the engagement activities and feedback captured by True North as the independent consultation lead.

Level of engagement

True North adheres to the Engagement Institute's (formerly IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation (see below). The consultation was conducted at the levels of *inform and consult* depending on the interest and influence levels of the stakeholders and community.

Level of engagement	Promise to the public
Inform	*We will keep you informed*
Consult	*We will keep you informed, listen to your concerns and provide feedback on how the public's input influenced the decision*
Involve	We will work with you to ensure your concerns are reflected in the alternatives developed, and provide feedback on how the public's input influenced the decision

Collaborate	We will look to you for advice, ideas and solutions and incorporate those into the decisions as much as possible
Empower	We will implement what you decide
© International Association for Public Participation Australasia Limited (IAP2 Australasia) trading as Engagement Institute.	

Goals and objectives

The **goal** of the consultation was to understand community views, values and aspirations to guide the development of the plaza.

The **objectives** of the consultation were to:

- understand community and stakeholder values for the plaza
- understand how the community and stakeholders would like to use the space and any existing concerns or issues associated with the area
- explore ideas and aspirations for the plaza
- increase awareness of how the plaza connects with the current Civic Centre redevelopment and differentiate the 2 spaces
- understand how the plaza will be used by different age groups, abilities and backgrounds to make the space inclusive and accessible
- understand cultural priorities and expectations
- build a shared vision for the plaza, creating shared ownership, understanding and support for the space
- gather input on specific facilities, amenities and elements to be included in the space
- manage community expectations about the plaza and what is feasible to include in the concept design
- continue to demonstrate City of Darwin's commitment to transparent and genuine community engagement
- increase community and stakeholder participation through a range of feedback opportunities
- demonstrate City of Darwin is achieving its mission as outlined in its strategic plan.

Tools and tactics

The following tools and tactics were used throughout consultation to achieve the consultation objectives.



Fact sheet

A designed fact sheet with information about the project and consultation was prepared and provided to stakeholders and the community during consultation. The fact sheet also included a QR code which linked to the consultation webpage on Engage Darwin.

At the beginning of consultation, the fact sheet was letterbox dropped to approximately 800 nearby residents and businesses, displayed on the Engage Darwin consultation webpage and emailed to 15 key and general 58 stakeholders. The fact sheet was also available for community members at the community information stalls, with 23 fact sheets distributed.

Engage Darwin webpage

A dedicated consultation webpage was available on Engage Darwin. All information relating to the project and consultation was included, along with a link to the online survey, contact details, fact sheet, FAQs, map of the plaza and poster.

The webpage was visited 1,890 times during consultation, with a breakdown of visits and survey submissions (contributions) shown below. The webpage received a higher number of visits at the beginning of consultation as expected with people becoming aware of consultation through the range of methods mentioned below. Visits and contributions remained largely consistent throughout consultation, with webpage visits again peaking from 18 August with the introduction of Facebook advertising to raise awareness.

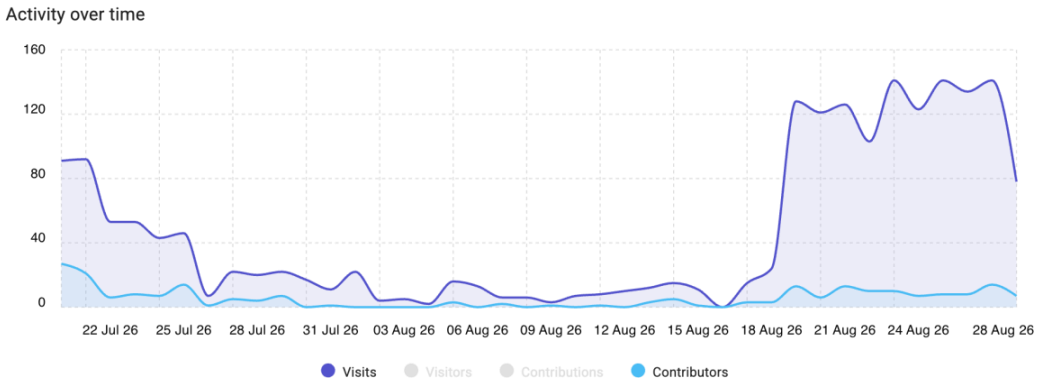


Figure 1: number of visits and contributions made on the consultation webpage

Survey (online and hard copy)

A survey was used to capture feedback and understand community and stakeholder views and ideas for the space. The survey was available online through the Engage Darwin webpage and hard copies were available at City of Darwin libraries and the Civic Centre. Overall, there were 535 survey responses, with 485 online responses and 50 hard copy responses.

Interactive display – the Plaza Puzzle

A static interactive display, the Plaza Puzzle, was designed to be used throughout consultation. The Plaza Puzzle provided an opportunity for the community to help solve the puzzle of what the plaza would be by voting on the element that matters most to them in the space. Puzzle piece tokens were available to take and drop in a clear box that linked with their priority for the plaza.

The voting options were:

- History, heritage and culture
- Events and activations
- Shade, greenery and comfort
- Recreation and youth spaces
- Connection and accessibility.

People were also able to write their own ideas down on a puzzle card to cast their vote this way.

The main Plaza Puzzle display was available for the community to interact with at the Civic Centre throughout consultation, along with smaller versions of the display at each of the City of Darwin libraries and each of the community information stalls.

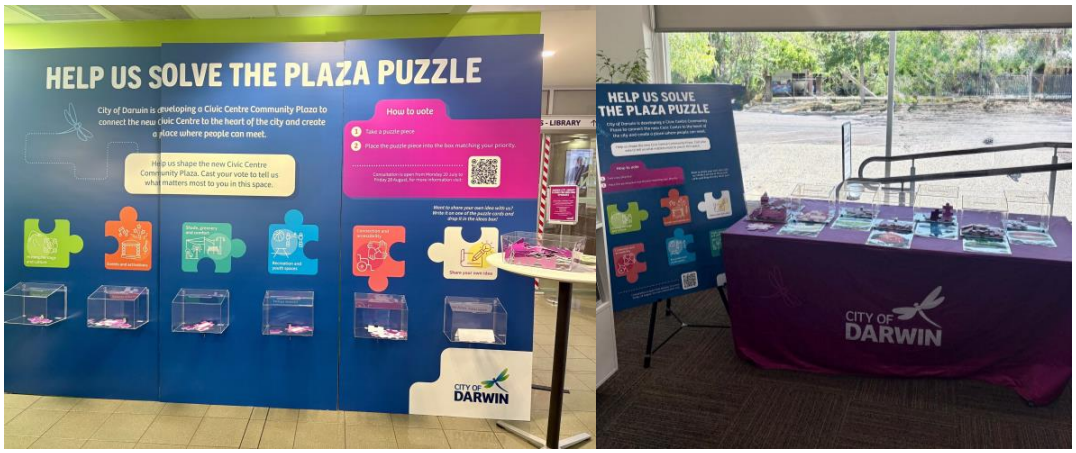


Figure 2: the Plaza Puzzle interactive display at the Civic Centre and Nightcliff library

A total of 2,135 votes and ideas were submitted by community members across all of the displays during consultation.

Community information stalls

Community information stalls were held during consultation to provide the wider community with an opportunity to ask questions about the plaza, provide their feedback and ideas and engage with the interactive display – the Plaza Puzzle. Project fact sheets were available for community members to take, along with an iPad available to complete the online survey.

Nine information stalls were initially planned in the consultation strategy however during consultation an additional information stall was added in place of a visioning workshop with key stakeholders. Nearby residents and key stakeholders were invited to this stall, along with the wider community, to provide an additional opportunity to share their thoughts and ask questions.

True North facilitated 9 of the information stalls, but was not present at the session led by City of Darwin at the Royal Darwin Show on Thursday 23 July. The Plaza Puzzle interaction was present at this session where community members were able to interact and ask questions of the City of Darwin staff present. No feedback was provided for this session.

The information stall locations, times and number of people who attended are shown below.

Royal Darwin Show
Thursday 23 July
led by City of Darwin

Royal Darwin Show
Friday 24 July
10am - 12pm
157 attendees

Royal Darwin Show
Saturday 25 July
12pm - 2pm
56 attendees

Smith Street Mall
Thursday 30 July
11am - 1pm
11 attendees

Parap Village Markets
Saturday 8 August
8am - 10am
21 attendees

Darwin Festival
Friday 14 August
5pm - 7pm
29 attendees

Casuarina Square
Sunday 16 August
10am - 12pm
16 attendees

Mindil Beach Sunset Markets
Thursday 20 August
5pm - 7pm
21 attendees

Malak Community Markets
Saturday 22 August
5pm - 7pm
17 attendees

Civic Centre
Thursday 27 August
3pm - 5pm
8 attendees

Stakeholder meetings

One-on-one meetings were offered to 15 key stakeholders to provide an opportunity for them to share their thoughts and ideas for the plaza. Key stakeholders were identified based on their level of interest and influence in the project, ensuring there was a diverse spread of interest areas and values reflective of the diverse community.

A topic guide was prepared to guide discussions during the stakeholder meetings with key messages and a range of questions that each stakeholder would be asked during the meeting.

As consultation progressed, further key stakeholders were identified and offered meetings as some of the initial key stakeholders declined to meet. Of the total 17 key stakeholders, 8 groups participated in a meeting with True North as shown below.

Key stakeholder	Meeting offered	Meeting accepted	Details
Initial key stakeholders			
City of Darwin Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee	✓	✗	Not enough current committee members to hold a meeting. The consultation information and webpage link was shared with the current committee members to provide feedback.
City of Darwin Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee	✓	✗	Contacted via phone and email twice. Meeting not accepted.
City of Darwin Youth Advisory Committee	✓	✗	Not enough current committee members to hold a meeting. The consultation information and webpage link was shared with the current committee members to provide feedback.

Integrated Disability Action Inc	✓	✗	Contacted via phone and email 10 times. CEO is unavailable to meet.
Council on the Ageing NT (COTA NT)	✓	✓	
Larrakia Nation	✓	✗	CEO advised he regularly meets with City of Darwin CEO and will provide feedback directly.
Larrakia Development Corporation	✓	✗	Contacted via phone and email 5 times. Meeting not accepted.
Chung Wah Society	✓	✓	
Environment Centre NT	✓	✓	
DCOH	✓	✓	
Chamber of Commerce	✓	✗	Contacted via phone and email 6 times. Meeting not accepted.
Darwin City Retailers Association	✓	✓	
Darwin Community Arts	✓	✓	
Multicultural City of Darwin of the Northern Territory	✓	✗	Contacted via phone and email 7 times. President unable to meet.
Historical Society of the Northern Territory	✓	✗	Feedback was provided at the Royal Darwin Show information stall with no further feedback to contribute.
Additional key stakeholders			
Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia	✓	✓	
Autism NT	✓	✓	

In addition to these stakeholder meetings, City of Darwin also hosted 4 meetings with the following groups:

- U3A Darwin (community group)
- City of Darwin Reconciliation Advisory Committee
- City of Darwin Operations Staff
- City of Darwin All Staff.

Letterbox drop

The fact sheet was distributed to approximately 800 residents and businesses surrounding the Civic Centre at the beginning of consultation. The areas included in the letterbox drop were:

- Harry Chan Avenue
- Austin Lane
- Yuen Place
- McMinn Street
- Woods Street
- West Lane
- Smith Street
- Stokes Hill Road
- Cavenagh Street
- Bennett Street
- Esplanade
- Kitchener Drive.

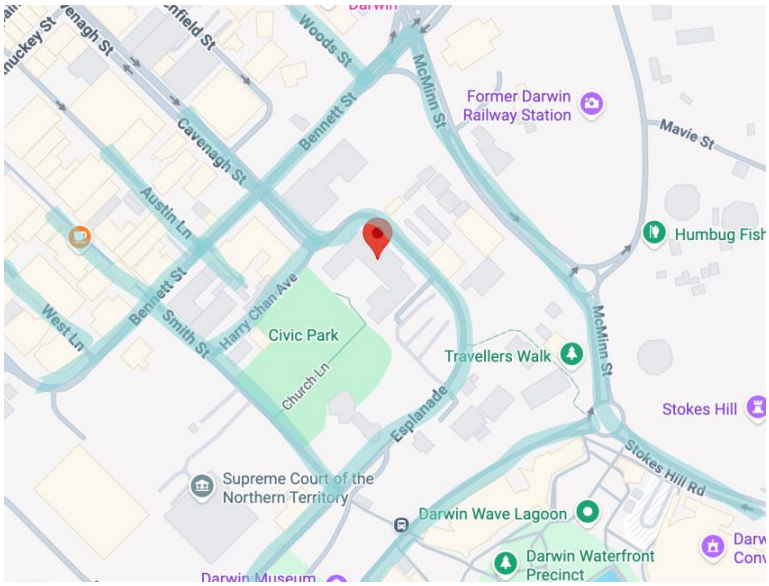


Figure 3: letterbox drop area

Elected Member briefing

Prior to the start of consultation, a briefing and workshop was conducted with the City of Darwin Elected Members on Tuesday 9 June from 6pm to 7:30pm.

This session sought to:

- provide the Elected Members with an overview of the consultation and planned approach
- discuss the Elected Members' priorities for the plaza and their preferred facilities, amenities and design features.

The session was facilitated by True North with City of Darwin staff members present.

Dedicated email address and phone number

A dedicated True North email address and phone number were available throughout consultation for community members and stakeholders to contact for any questions or feedback. The contact details were available on the consultation webpage, fact sheet and poster.

There were 3 emails with feedback received during consultation but no phone calls.

Newspaper and digital advertising

City of Darwin used a range of advertising methods to promote the consultation, including newspaper, social media and external newsletter.

Newspaper

A media release was prepared and sent on Monday 20 July, resulting in an online article published by NT News and a feature in the NT News printed newspaper on Thursday 23 July 2026.

Paid advertising across digital and print newspapers were also used to increase awareness of consultation. There were 2 digital ad placements and one print ad placement generating approximately 20,832 impressions/views of the advertisements.

Social media

Both organic and paid posts and stories were used on City of Darwin's Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts to promote consultation. An organic post was published at the start of consultation across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, along with 8 Facebook and Instagram stories being used to promote each of the information stalls.

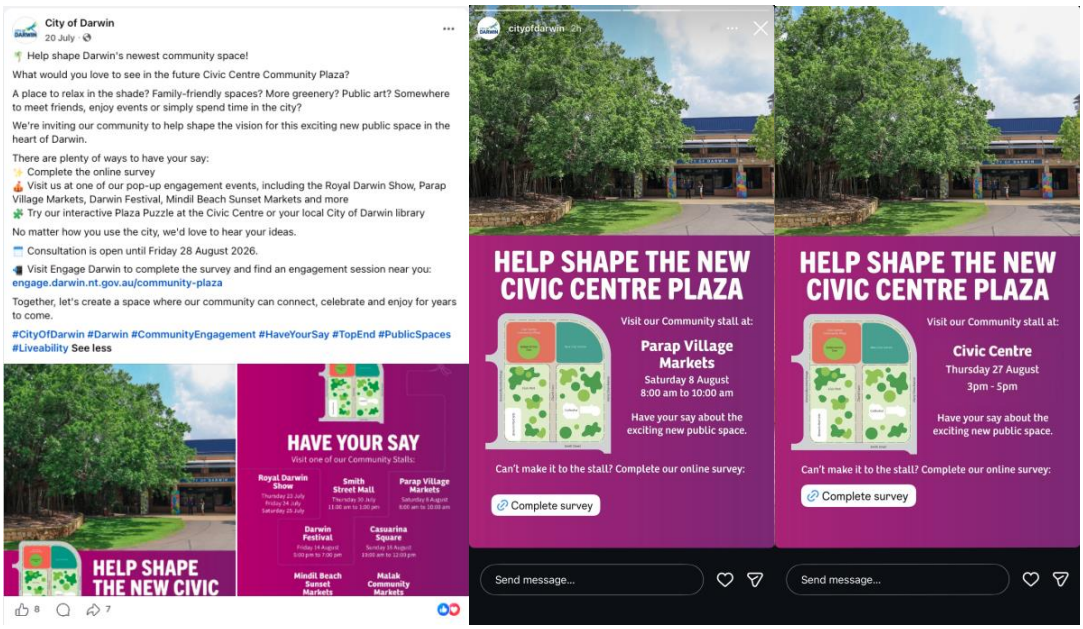


Figure 4: Consultation launch post and stories promoting information stalls

From 18 August to 28 August, City of Darwin also had a paid advertising post running on Facebook and Instagram to increase awareness and engagement with the consultation.

External newsletter – Vibrant Darwin

Consultation information was included in the August 2026 edition of Vibrant Darwin, City of Darwin's external, community-facing newsletter. This invited recipients of the newsletter to take part in consultation, providing information of the different engagement methods and linked to the Engage Darwin webpage.

Feedback

A wide range of community members and stakeholders took part during consultation through a range of engagement methods as shown below.

There were approximately 5,900 interactions with the engagement tools during consultation, with 572 people providing feedback through a survey response, stakeholder meeting, briefing or email submission. There were 2,135 votes and written ideas received through the Plaza Puzzle interactive display.

Elected Member briefing	•1 session with 13 attendees
Survey	•485 online responses •50 hard copy responses
Plaza Puzzle interaction	•2,135 votes and written ideas received
Information stalls	•337 people attended to provide feedback or interact
Stakeholder meetings	•8 stakeholder meetings with 21 attendees led by True North •4 meetings led by City of Darwin
Dedicated email address and phone number	•3 emails received
Social media	•2,903 interactions (likes, comments, shares and link clicks)

In addition to this direct engagement, advertising activities and engagement tools generated approximately 79,000 views and distributions, including:

- fact sheet (hard copy) – 823
- Engage Darwin webpage – 1,890
- social media – 55,114
- newspaper – 20,832.

As community members and stakeholders may have engaged with the consultation multiple times and across different engagement methods, these figures may include duplicate interactions and should not be interpreted as unique individuals.

Elected Members briefing and workshop

Elected Members were asked to put forward their ideas for the amenities, features and design elements for the plaza. The intention for the plaza is to provide a space for the whole community to gather, connect and engage in personal and business activities.

From the ideas received, the following themes emerged from the Elected Members.



Elected Members were then asked to vote for their priority ideas as not all ideas can be delivered on. Below are the priority ideas ranked in order of highest to least votes received by the Elected Members.

Idea	Votes received
Heritage timeline wall	5
Demolish existing building and expand Civic Park	4
Amphitheatre – place to watch footy/sports/events	3
South Bank style walk way	3
Community voices shaping the design	3
Tropical gardens and flower display	2
Amphitheatre – small bands, shows and level seating	1
Some open space to mimic festivals (e.g. Darwin Festival)	1
Open plaza with hard stand and green space	1
Space for community markets	1
Cool green lawn with hard stand for performance	1
Think tropical, Singapore, band stand	1
Reflective shaded water feature	1
Prominence for the Tree of Knowledge	1
Connection to Civic Park	1
Multi-use facility with green space and court	1
Mini-museum	1
Repurposing the blue roof and pillars	1

Detailed notes from the briefing can be found at Appendix A.

Survey

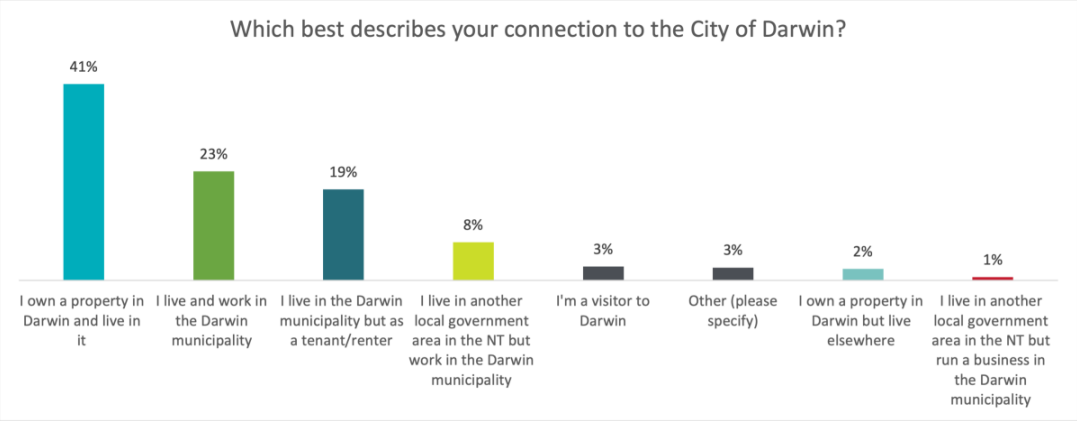
The survey was available to complete either online or via hard copy. A total of 535 survey responses were completed, 485 online and 50 through a hard copy.

The online and hard copy survey responses will be analysed and reported on separately, as a portion of the hard copy responses had incomplete answers and would skew the data. Separate reporting of the surveys allows for reliability and accuracy in the interpretation of results.

Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Online survey

More than half of survey responses (60%) came from people aged between 30-49 years, 30% of respondents were over 50 years old, 9% of respondents were aged between 18-29 years and 1% of online respondents were under 18. Most respondents either live or work in the Darwin municipality (92%).



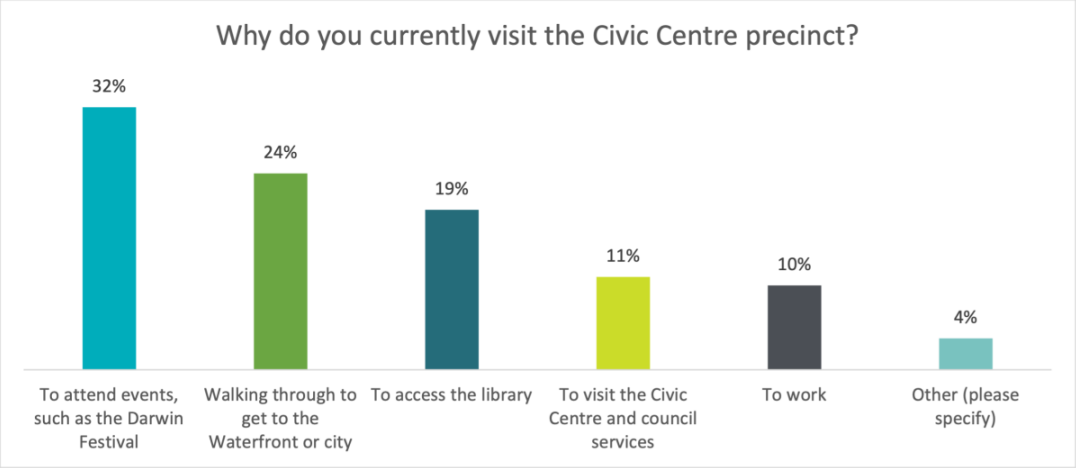
There was a mostly even spread from respondents when asked how frequently they visit the Civic Centre precinct. The order of frequency from highest to lowest recorded was:

1. A few times a year - 27%
2. Weekly - 20%
3. Monthly - 18%
4. Daily - 16%
5. Rarely - 13%
6. Never - 5%
7. Other - 1%

Over half of respondents (56%) said they currently visit the Civic Centre precinct to either attend events or walking through to reach the Waterfront or city. Accessing the library was chosen by 19% of respondents.

Of the 4% of respondents who selected 'other', common answers included:

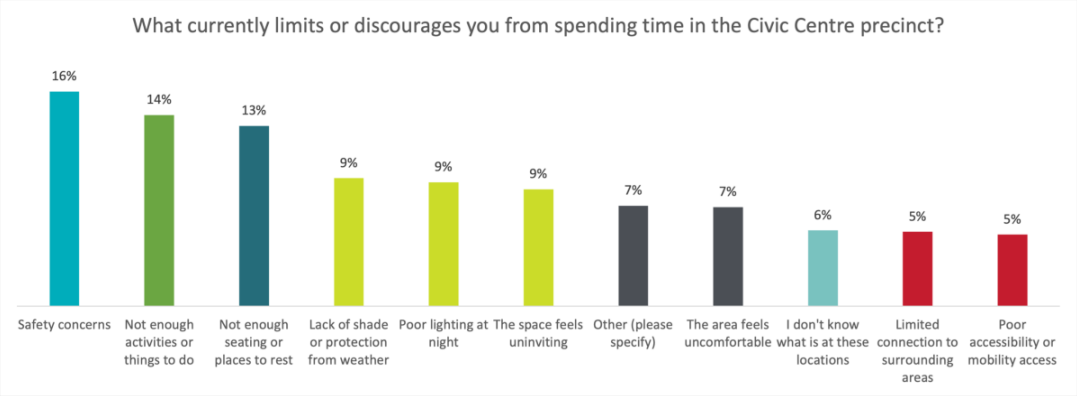
- taking lunch in the park
- going for a walk and walking their dog
- attending City of Darwin meetings
- visiting Brown's Mart.



The top 5 choices respondents selected for what currently limits or discourages them to visit the Civic Centre precinct were:

Safety concerns	Not enough activities or things to do	Not enough seating or places to rest	Lack of shade or protection from weather	Poor lighting at night

Of the 7% of respondents who selected 'other', 47% of responses related to lack of parking or parking costs as a limiting factor to using the area.



Respondents were asked to rank what matters most to them in a community space from 1 to 9, with 1 being the most important and 9 being the least. On average, safety and comfort was chosen as the most important to respondents. The below shows the average ranking from respondents.

Rank	Option
1	Safety and comfort
2	Shade and cooling
3	Nature and greenery
4	Events and activities
5	Accessible and easy to use for people of all abilities
6	Places to connect with others
7	Sustainability
8	Arts, culture and history
9	Spaces to work, meet and learn

Respondents were provided an option to share anything else that matters to them, with 35% of respondents providing an answer. Of these responses, 4 main themes emerged.

Safe, accessible and inclusive space

- *"Safety concerns matter the most for me."*
- *"More disability parking and security cameras."*
- *"There are not a lot of popular spaces that are accessible to neurodivergent people."*

Comfotable, green and climate appropriate

- *"A place that is useful all year round."*
- *"Shading, cooling, seating and weather protection are important."*
- *"Make the space feel light, green and inviting."*

Connection, recreation and activation

- *"A playground would be nice."*
- *"A space for families to connect."*
- *"Create an amphitheatre for events."*

Celebrate Darwin's identity and culture

- *"A welcoming space for all that reflects what is unique about Darwin."*
- *"The Tree of Knowledge. The Larrakia culture and history!"*
- *"It would be wonderful to have a system where people can learn about the history of Darwin in one place."*

Respondents were also asked to describe what they would like the plaza to look and feel like. Of these responses, the most frequently repeated words are shown below.



The top 5 facilities, amenities or design features most important to respondents to create a welcoming, safe and connected space were:

1. Shaded seating areas with benches, tables and chairs
2. Tropical landscaping with shade, trees and garden beds
3. Accessible public amenities, including toilets, baby change facilities and a parent room
4. Café, kiosk and outdoor dining spaces
5. Play and interactive cooling features, such as nature play, water play or misting elements

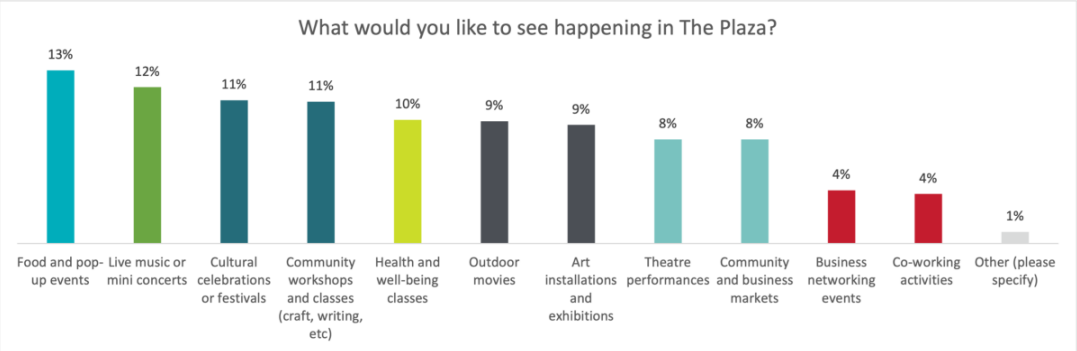
The top 5 elements respondents feel would make the plaza most accessible, inclusive and welcoming for everyone were:

1. Lighting to improve safety and visibility at night
2. Accessible seating and rest areas
3. Safe pedestrian connections and crossings
4. Smooth, wide pathways
5. Easy access from surrounding streets and destinations

In line with previous responses, respondents would prefer to see events, cultural celebrations and community classes at the plaza. Business networking events and co-working activities received the least number of responses, both with 4% each.

Some answers from respondents who selected 'other' include:

- *"An area to encourage public speaking & discourse"*
- *"A skateable area that fills a gap as we're the only capitol city in Australia without a skatepark within the CBD"*
- *"Just keep the spending down so the rates are lowered, if people want to organise these things let them, but don't spend so much of our rates on events"*
- *"Something about birds, bees and plants, gardening workshops, tropical gardening and plants. Nowhere do we in the NT highlight our wonderful birdlife."*



Respondents were asked to rank certain design features to reflect Darwin's unique identity and community from 1 to 6, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least. On average, tropical landscaping and design features was the most important. The below shows the average ranking from respondents.

Rank	Option
1	Tropical landscaping and design features
2	Community gathering spaces
3	Spaces for cultural events and performances
4	Celebration of local history
5	Multicultural representation and storytelling
6	Public art installations

Respondents were also asked if there was anything else they would like prioritised to reflect Darwin's unique identity and community. Of the 24% of respondents who provided an answer, the main focus was on highlighting the history of Darwin and the multicultural community. Storytelling and education were also frequently mentioned, along with natural, green spaces for people to gather together.

Galamarrma, the Tree of Knowledge, is an important part of the Civic Centre. Respondents were asked to rank what is most important to them for how Galamarrma be incorporated in the plaza from 1 to 8, with 1 being the most important and 8 the least. On average, protecting its long-term health was the most important. The below shows the average ranking from respondents.

Rank	Option
1	Protecting its long-term health
2	Recognising its cultural and historical significance
3	Making Galamarrma a focal point within the plaza
4	Creating shaded gathering spaces around the tree

5	Ensuring respectful access to the area
6	Including lighting or features that highlight the tree at night
7	Creating a quiet place for reflection and learning
8	Providing opportunities for storytelling and education

Some respondents also provided further answers on what should be considered for Galamarrma, some comments include:

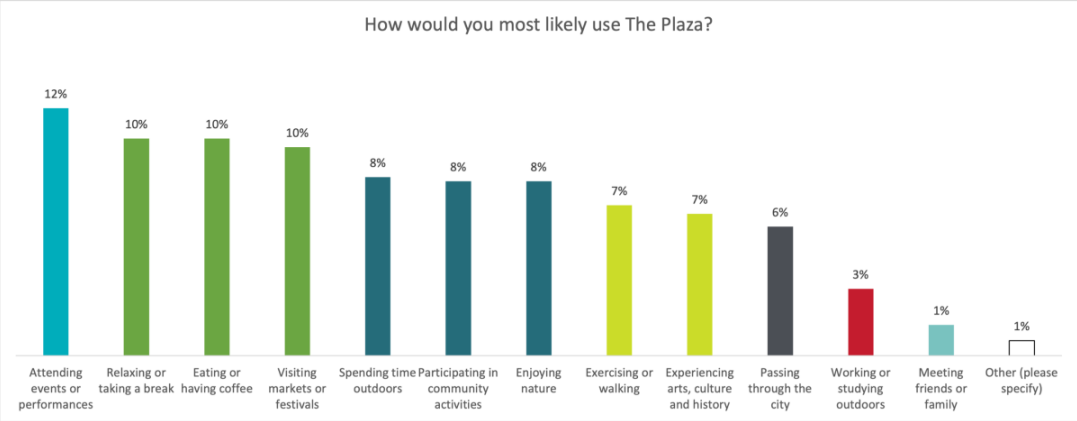
"A sculpture or board where visitors can write a piece of wisdom, advice, or a life lesson on a leaf-shaped tag and hang it on a nearby structure. Examples: 'Always listen before you speak.' 'Take the chance.' 'Respect Country.'"

"Main priority absolutely the continued health of the tree, including in any considerations around seating (other than ground). If any lighting considerations, perhaps gentle and/or not always on?"

"I think it should become a "knowledge space" for the library to connect into with reading spaces as well as spaces for the library to have some of its more chill events, talks and activities."

"Please continue to protect and preserve the Tree of Knowledge for future generations. I think it would be a good idea to have a low protective barrier around the tree to discourage people from climbing it, as this could damage the tree and also pose a safety risk. It would also be nice to have a new, larger information sign sharing the tree's history and cultural significance, so more people can learn about and appreciate its story. Finally, I'd love to see comfortable seating around the tree, allowing people to quietly sit, relax, and admire its beauty while enjoying the natural shade."

When asked how they would likely use the plaza, attending events or performances was chosen the most frequently by respondents.



Majority of respondents (91%) answered they would be more inclined to visit the Civic Centre precinct once improvements are made to the area. Respondents were provided an option to share any other feedback, with 28% of respondents providing an answer. Some comments include:

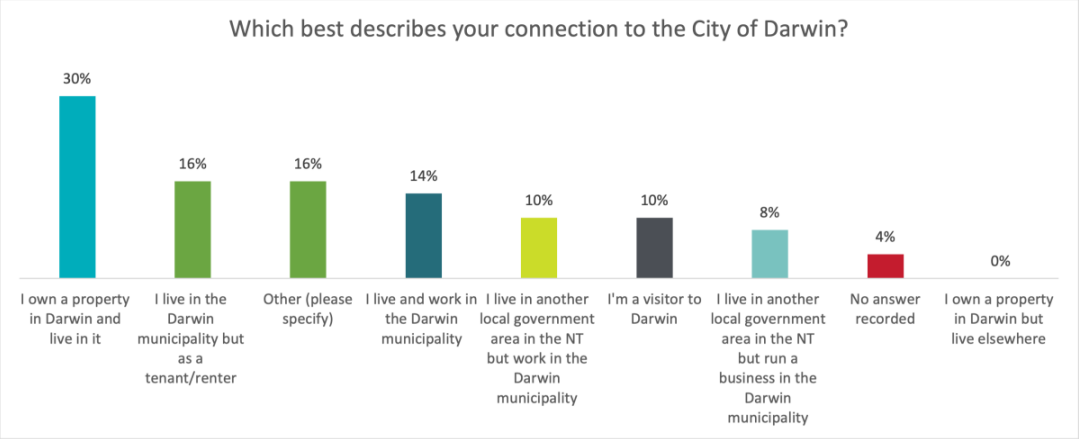
- *"It must be designed as a place that people genuinely want to visit every day, with cafés, community events, markets, public art, entertainment and flexible spaces."*

- *"Make an amphitheatre for Darwin Festival. Ensure the lights work in Nichols Place car park at night when events are on."*
- *"Consideration needs to be made for the surrounding streets and access to this area. It is challenging as it stands, with a mixture of residential and businesses it is a confusing area. The buses are great but there needs to be more access to make sure this centre is used accordingly."*
- *"Please ensure accessible for deaf blind and there are facilities for parents that are kept clean."*
- *"Security needs improvement in the whole area to deter people from drinking, loitering, fighting, smoking weed etc."*
- *"Please protect Galamarrma and ideally, improve his growing conditions."*
- *"Any improvements to its current state is appreciated. As a local, the current access to the City of Darwin building and the amount of rubbish in the park is embarrassing."*

The detailed online survey responses can be found at Appendix B.

Hard copy survey

The largest portion of respondents (38%) were aged 30-49, followed by those aged under 18 (20%), over 65 (16%), 50-64 (14%) and 18-29 (12%). Most respondents were female (66%), followed by male (32%) and those who prefer not to mention their gender (2%). Over half of respondents (60%) either live or work in the Darwin municipality, and 18% of respondents live in another government area but work or run a business in the Darwin municipality.



There was a relatively even spread from respondents when asked how frequently they visit the Civic Centre precinct. The order of frequency from highest to lowest recorded was:

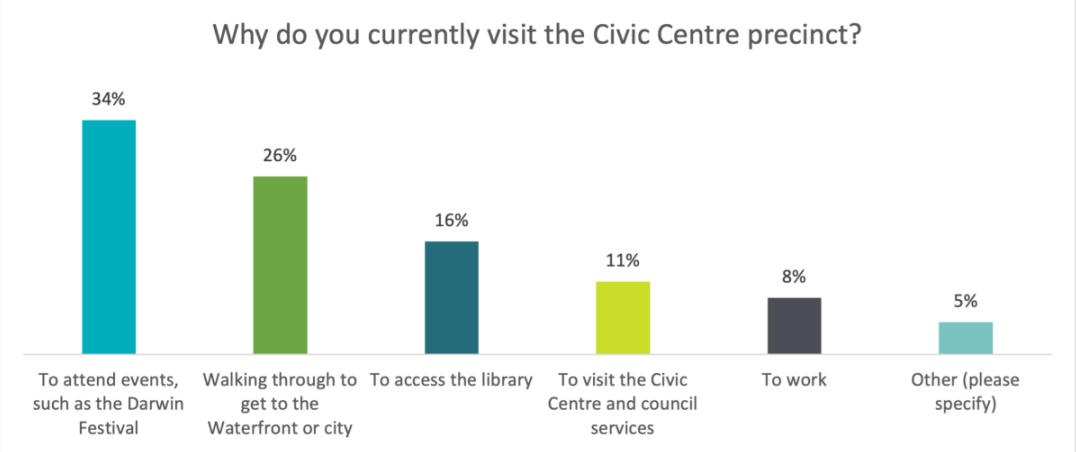
1. Rarely – 24%
2. Weekly – 24%
3. A few times a year – 20%
4. Monthly – 14%
5. Other – 6%

6. Never – 4%
7. Daily – 4%.

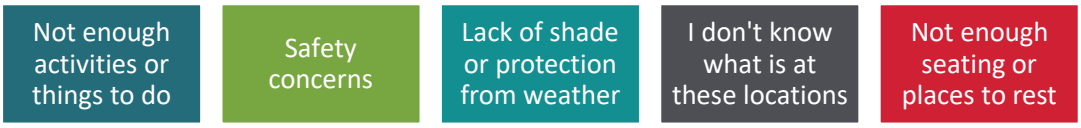
'Other' responses received indicated they haven't been to the Civic Centre precinct yet or going a few times a year only because they didn't need to, but they would visit more if the space is nice. The question was not answered by 4% of respondents.

Attending events was selected as the top reason respondents visit the Civic Centre precinct, followed by walking through the precinct to get to the Waterfront or city and accessing the library. Of the 5% of respondents who selected 'other', answers included:

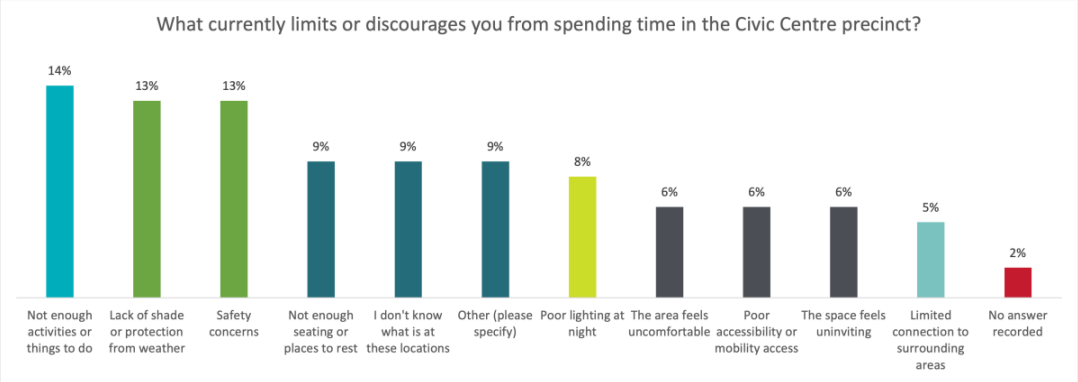
- *"Try not to"*
- *"Off the bus"*
- *"Kid."*



The top 5 reasons respondents selected for what currently limits or discourages them to visit the Civic Centre precinct were:



Of the 9% of respondents who answered 'other', 56% of responses related to lack of parking or parking costs and 22% related to personal time constraints as limiting factors to using the area. This question was not answered by 2% of respondents.



The highest ranked category that matters most to respondents in a community space is safety and comfort. The question had an incomplete or no answer from 32% of respondents. The below shows the average ranking from respondents.

Rank	Option
1	Safety and comfort
2	Shade and cooling
3	Nature and greenery
4	Accessible and easy to use for people of all abilities
5	Events and activities
6	Arts, culture and history
7	Sustainability
8	Spaces to work, meet and learn
9	Places to connect with others

Respondents were provided an option to share anything else that matters to them, with 40% of respondents providing an answer. Of these responses, 5 main themes emerged.

Community space

- *"Seeing my friends at the library."*
- *"No lengthy cost blow-outs. More community engagements in the community."*

Play and relaxation

- *"A cafe for food. A shelter that supplies the necessities to the homeless and a place to walk dogs."*
- *"Play spaces for all ages and abilities."*

Culture and history

- *"Culture."*
- *"Expand the history of Darwin, photographic display."*
- *"Connection to culture."*
- *"Togetherness, all cultures."*

Safety and lighting

- *"Too many itinerants."*
- *"Safety mainly."*

Shade and cooling

- *"I love Darwin and visit regularly. As it is hot, trees, shade and water are very important."*
- *"More green spaces."*
- *"Less high rise, more parks, nature, shade, community gardens, dog friendly spaces."*

Respondents were also asked to describe what they would like the plaza to look and feel like, with 41% of respondents answering. Of these responses, the words shown below were frequently mentioned.



The top 5 facilities, amenities or design features most important to respondents to create a welcoming, safe and connected space were:

1. Shaded seating areas with benches, tables and chairs
2. Drinking fountains and bottle refill stations
3. Accessible public amenities, including toilets, baby change facilities and a parent room
4. Play and interactive cooling features, such as nature play, water play or misting elements
5. Play equipment and playground infrastructure

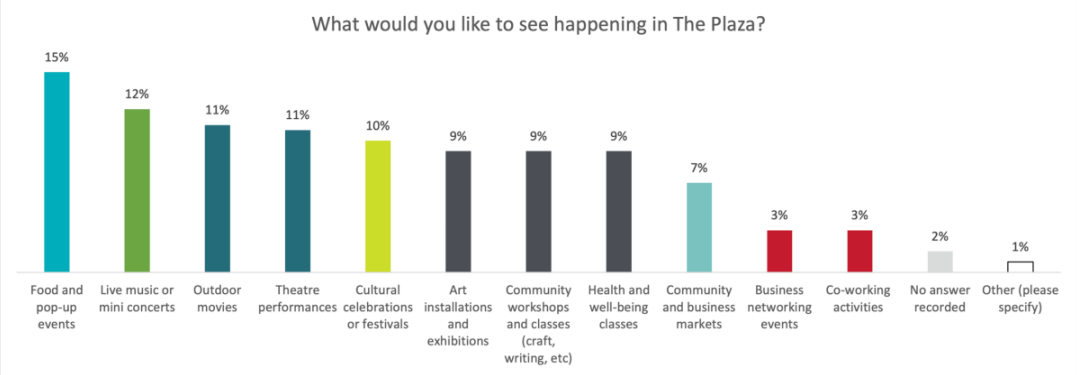
The top 5 elements respondents said would make the plaza accessible, inclusive and welcoming for everyone are:

1. Smooth, wide pathways
2. Lighting to improve safety and visibility at night
3. Safe pedestrian connections and crossings
4. Accessible seating and rest areas
5. Easy access from surrounding streets and destinations

Respondents would most like to see events, music and performances at the plaza. Outdoor movies and cultural celebrations were also highly ranked activities. In line with the online survey results, business and co-working activities received the lowest responses with 3% each. The question was not answered by 2% of respondents.

Answers from respondents who selected 'other' include:

- *"Speakers corner"*
- *"Dog friendly."*



Respondents were asked to rank certain design features to reflect Darwin's unique identity and community from 1 to 6, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least. This question had an incomplete or no answer from 26% of respondents.

Multicultural representation and storytelling were most important to respondents, followed by public art installations. The below shows the average ranking from respondents.

Rank	Option
1	Multicultural representation and storytelling
2	Public art installations
3	Spaces for cultural events and performances
4	Celebration of local history
5	Tropical landscaping and design features
6	Community gathering spaces

Respondents were also asked if there was anything else they would like prioritised to reflect Darwin's unique identity and community. Of the 22% of respondents who provided an answer, history was most frequently mentioned, followed by art and murals, water features, an ambience similar to Mindil Beach and no commercialisation of public owned assets.

Respondents were asked to rank what is most important to them for how Galamarrma, the Tree of Knowledge, can be incorporated in the plaza from 1 to 8, with 1 being the most important and 8 the least. This question had an incomplete or no answer from 28% of respondents.

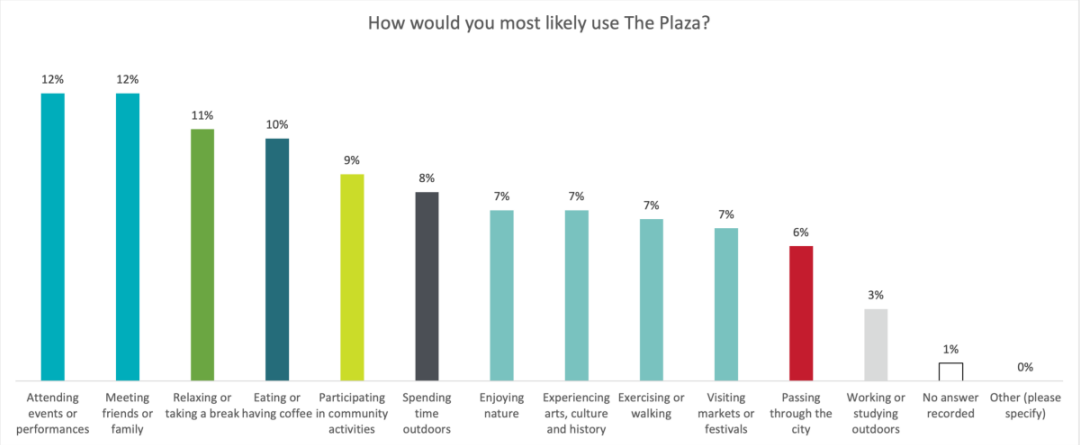
On average, protecting its long-term health was the most important to respondents. The below shows the average ranking from respondents.

Rank	Option
1	Protecting its long-term health
2	Providing opportunities for storytelling and education
3	Creating shaded gathering spaces around the tree
4	Ensuring respectful access to the area
5	Recognising its cultural and historical significance
6	Include lighting or features that highlight the tree at night
7	Making Galamarrma a focal point within the plaza
8	Creating a quiet place for reflection and learning

Some respondents also provided further answers on what should be considered for Galamarrma, some comments include:

- *"A sign that lights up. Hand prints of local children on the concrete around"*
- *"Aboriginal cultural knowledge celebration"*
- *"Fairy lights"*
- *"Please preserve it."*

When asked how they would likely use the plaza, attending events or performances and meeting friends or family were chosen most frequently by respondents.



Majority of respondents (80%) answered they would be more inclined to visit the Civic Centre precinct once improvements are made to the area and 8% of respondents said they would not be more inclined.

Respondents were asked to provide additional feedback about the plaza. Of the 18% of respondents who answered, some comments include:

- *"Please do this without hurting the environment."*
- *"Can be safe and good for community."*
- *"It sounds like a great initiative!!"*
- *"Get rid of local drinking."*
- *"Get rid of antisocial behaviour."*
- *"No commercialisation, no business."*
- *"Please include dog friendly spaces."*

The hard copy survey responses can be found at Appendix C.

Plaza Puzzle

The Plaza Puzzle provided an interactive and fun way for the community to take part in consultation and share their priorities and ideas for the plaza. Community members could either cast their vote for their priority area of the plaza or write down their own idea.

The Plaza Puzzle was available for the community to interact with at various locations throughout consultation:

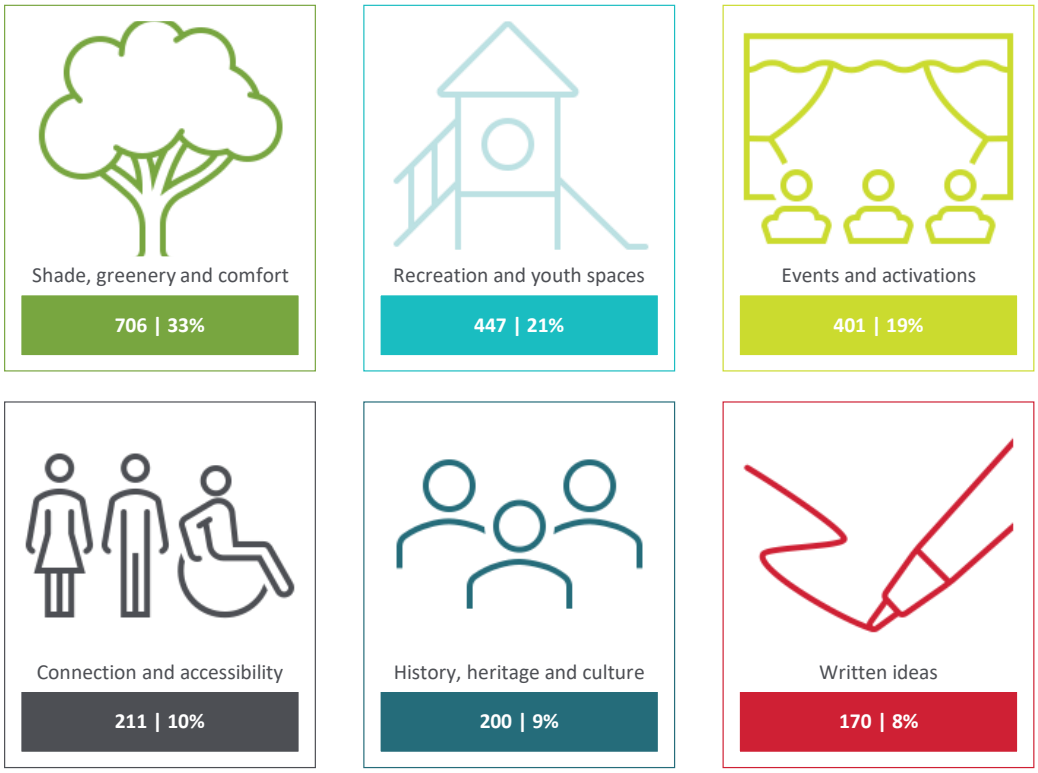
- Civic Centre
- Darwin City library
- Karama library
- Nightcliff library
- Casuarina library

- 10 information stalls.

In addition to the information stalls, the Plaza Puzzle was also present at the Royal Darwin Show in the City of Darwin tent across 3 days. This was manned each day by a City of Darwin staff member, providing instructions and information to the community to interact, and ensuring votes were placed correctly. True North was present on Friday 24 July and Saturday 25 July during the information stall times.

A total of 2,135 votes and written ideas were received from the community with shade, greenery and comfort emerging as the community's leading priority, receiving 33% of votes.

The priority areas and total votes and percentages are shown below in order of highest to lowest votes received.



There were 170 written ideas submitted by the community which outlined different equipment, infrastructure, needs, values and feelings for the plaza. There were several recurring and similar ideas that emerged which are shown below, along with the approximate number of mentions.

Idea	Approximate number of mentions
Shade, shady spaces, shaded paths	20
Greenery, trees, green spaces, native plants	17
Playgrounds	13
Youth spaces, youth activities, youth facilities	10
Accessibility, inclusive access, wheelchair access	9

Water play, splash pads, fountains, water parks, pools	9
Community gathering spaces, event spaces, venues for hire	8
Seating, benches, comfortable seating	7
Cultural activities, cultural representation, cultural events	7
Cafes, food spaces, places to eat	6
Basketball courts, hoops	5
Performance spaces, amphitheatres, music venues	5
Historical representation, Darwin history	4
Community gardens, edible gardens, fruit trees	4
Gaming, VR facilities	4
Better parking	4

Some notable ideas received include:

"A beautiful relaxing green shady area with benches to relax and have lunch would be fantastic."

"Be a study centre for students who want to have a comfortable place to study and group rooms that people can book."

"Access points for device charging – outdoors! Shade/greenery is a must. Art/colour and sitting/eating spaces."

"Showcase the unique Top End plants we have. Lots of native trees!!!"

"Include an amphitheatre and skateable surfaces."

"Family oriented space where kids/toddlers come together have play, eat and spend time."

The breakdown of votes for each location can be found at Appendix D and the complete list of written ideas received can be found at Appendix E.

Information stalls

During consultation, 10 information stalls were held, with 9 of these facilitated by True North and one facilitated by City of Darwin. Approximately 337 stakeholders and community members attended the displays to understand more about the project, provide feedback or interact with the Plaza Puzzle. There were 23 fact sheets taken by community members at the information stalls.

Most community members who attended the stalls preferred to vote on the Plaza Puzzle rather than providing verbal feedback.

A summary of the number of attendees and feedback gathered at each of the information stalls attended by True North is outlined below.

Date and time	Location	Attendees	Feedback summary
24/07/2026 10am - 12pm	Royal Darwin Show	• 157 people	• Questions asked about where the plaza will be, where the current Civic Centre is and if parking will be available

			• Important to have spaces for families and kids
25/07/2026 12pm - 2pm	Royal Darwin Show	• 56 people	• Accessibility is important. City of Darwin should speak with advocacy groups such as Dementia NT • Greenery should be included with amenities such as big grass areas and plants in the form of living walls and covered structures, as seen on Cavenagh Street • Highlight the building's history and heritage, including the townhall
30/07/2026 11am - 1pm	Smith Street Mall	• 11 people • 1 fact sheet taken	• The whole area is currently very under-utilised • The space can be used for veteran support services, events and activations • The space should connect people to history • Accessibility should be a key priority. Amenities such as footpaths, building access and carpark should be accessible • Provide clean toilets and extend parking time
08/08/2026 8am - 10am	Parap Village Markets	• 21 people • 9 fact sheets taken	• It's great to have and expand a new space for festivals • Recreation spaces are great and should be accessible for everyone • Highlight all cultures to show their contributions in shaping the city of Darwin • the plaza should be a place for more markets
14/08/2026 5pm - 7pm	Darwin Festival	• 29 people • 2 fact sheets taken	• It would be great to have a place to bring visiting friends and family • Accessibility is the most important thing to consider • The space should be interactive, safe and family-friendly
16/08/2026 10am - 12pm	Casuarina Square	• 16 people	• Culture is very important. The space should bring and connect people together • Currently there is not enough shade
20/08/2026 5pm - 7pm	Mindil Beach Sunset Markets	• 22 people	• There should be a place that shows the entire history of Darwin, with a focus beyond the bombing of Darwin and Cyclone Tracy
22/08/2026 5pm - 7pm	Malak Community Markets	• 17 people • 5 fact sheets taken	• Concern that shade can attract unwanted anti-social behaviour • Questions asked about the new Civic Centre development
27/08/2026 3pm - 5pm	Civic Centre	• 8 people	• The space should keep green open spaces and be connected to the Civic Park, complementing the new Civic Centre

		• 6 fact sheets taken	• Concerns with potential itinerant issues as there are currently some problems at the space during early mornings

Notes from each of the information stalls can be found at Appendix F.

Stakeholder meetings

A meeting was offered to 17 key stakeholders during consultation, with 8 stakeholders accepting a meeting with True North. A summary of the feedback gathered during these meetings is outlined below, with detailed meeting notes found at Appendix G.

Date	Stakeholder	Feedback summary
05/08/2026	Chung Wah Society	• Strong support and desires for a permanent Chinese heritage exhibition and display of excavated Chinese artifacts in the new Civic Centre. • Frustrations over limited consultation with Chung Wah Society in the past and perceived underrepresentation of Chinese heritage and historical impacts in the area. • Support for the plaza as a community space that celebrates the Tree of Knowledge and complements the new library. • Accessibility, adequate parking and spaces that support community events and festivals are important and wanted in the space.
14/08/2026	DCOH	• Interest in understanding the community feedback received throughout consultation, and how these ideas for the community plaza will be realised by City of Darwin. • The space should be accessible and suitable for all people and ages, including tourists travelling through Darwin. Activation, infrastructure and landscaping should be considered, along with security and surveillance to deter anti-social behaviour. • The space should complement the new Civic Centre development and connect with Civic Park. • Sentiment that City of Darwin alone will be unable to fund delivery of the plaza and should seek a joint funding model with other governments and developers to deliver a lasting asset that the community want for this space.
18/08/2026	Council on the Ageing NT	• The space should be accessible, safe and suitable for people of all ages, including seniors. Implement levelled amenities and safety measures. • The place should include facilities for seniors, such as brain games, exercise equipment and space and senior and intergenerational activities. • The place should include multicultural exhibitions or pictures that show the contributions of different community groups in making the city of Darwin.

		• Suggestion to change the name of Civic Centre Community Plaza to Galamarrma Park.
20/08/2026	Darwin City Retailers Association	• Strong support for transforming the space into a community precinct that connects the city with the Waterfront and encourages people to spend more time in the city. • Flexible uses such as markets, pop-up retail, community events and festivals were preferred over permanent retail tenancies, with infrastructure designed to support these activities. • Shade, greenery, cooling measures and tropical design is essential to making the space comfortable and usable year-round. • The plaza should create a strong sense of Territory identity by celebrating Darwin's history, culture and diversity, while providing opportunities for play, recreation, connection and community gathering.
20/08/2026	Environment Centre NT	• It's important to implement heat mitigation strategies for both the dry and wet seasons, particularly focusing on shade, greenery and cooling structures. • Accessibility should be a key priority. Community members with different ability or accessibility needs should be able to access amenities such as car parks and toilets. • Cultural safety and community cohesion are important considerations to ensure people of all backgrounds can enjoy the space. • It's important to consider how the space can be used during both the wet and dry season.
25/08/2026	Autism NT	• It's important to cater to communities with disabilities with accessible facilities such as indoor and outdoor spaces, quiet retreat spaces, sensory rooms and communication boards. • Accessible public toilets should be a key priority. They should be located at focal points of the Community Plaza. • Provide public spaces to host programs and workshops, with access to power and water and availability during weekends.
26/08/2026	Darwin Community Arts	• Strong support and desire for flexible, year-round community spaces, sensory rooms and indoor exhibition venues. • It's important to ensure that any art exhibition infrastructure delivers clear community value and benefits. • Climate resilience should be a key consideration, including temperature-controlled indoor spaces and activities. • There's a need for more public toilets around the Civic Centre precinct.

		• Support for improved connectivity between the Civic Centre precinct and Smith Street.
26/08/2026	Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia	• Supportive of the consultation and the opportunities the community have had to help shape the space. • Preference is to have an open, green shaded space with cultural gardens to reflect Darwin's multicultural community and tropical environment. • Features and ideas included an amphitheatre, stage, community hall or rooms, café, food courts and regular markets and events. • The location and proximity to the bus interchange is a strength of the space which could attract the community and visitors. • Highlighted the importance of creating an inclusive space that strengthens community connection and support cultural activities.

In addition to the meetings facilitated by True North, City of Darwin also held 4 meetings with existing staff, advisory and community forums to capture feedback which was provided to True North. This feedback will not be considered in this report's analysis as it was not independently captured by True North.

A summary of these interactions is listed below, with additional information found at Appendix H.

Stakeholder	Summary
U3A Darwin (community group)	• Strong interest in the plaza project with questions and suggestions made • Interest in having the history of Darwin and its heritage reflected in the plaza • Connections between the Waterfront, Civic Centre precinct and the city • Concerns about the potential for antisocial behaviour • Need for comfortable and accessible seating for people to stop and enjoy, not just pass through • The plaza can improve walkability within Darwin city and connect different areas • Questions asked about integration with the library and car parking availability.
City of Darwin Reconciliation Advisory Committee	• City of Darwin staff presented an overview of the plaza consultation to encourage participation from members in the consultation • No specific feedback provided, session was used to raise awareness of the project and encourage participation • Larrakia Nation CEO was present at this session and City of Darwin staff encouraged him to consider engaging to provide input on behalf of the Indigenous community.
City of Darwin Operations Staff Monthly Hub Meeting	• City of Darwin staff attended the monthly operations meeting to present an overview of the plaza consultation to encourage participation • Feedback focused on waste management and maintaining the cleanliness of the plaza once built including:

	- Having enough bins present in the plaza - Considering how waste and bin services would access and service the space - Ensuring the design supports ongoing cleanliness and practical maintenance.
City of Darwin All Staff Breakfast	• City of Darwin staff provided an overview of the consultation at the annual mid-year all staff breakfast and encouraged staff to participate in consultation, particularly by interacting with the Plaza Puzzle • No specific feedback provided, session was used to raise awareness of the project and encourage participation.

Emails from community members

There were 3 emails received during consultation from community members providing ideas and feedback for the plaza as shown below.

Community member	Summary
[redacted]	• A statement multicultural community building that complements the new City of Darwin chambers • A precinct that promotes connectivity through Civic Park • A precinct that incorporates a multi-purpose event and exhibition space • A thriving, living, evolving and participatory community space with infrastructure for community gathering and events • A place of knowledge and discovery, helping community members to: - explore their own personal history - understand Darwin's role in a global context - learn about the communities who shaped Darwin • A space that implements a progressive, contemporary, people-first approach • A space where a visitor enters as a spectator and leaves as a contributor.
[redacted]	• Show the Darwine Chinese Community's historic contributions to the city of Darwin • Implement a mini "Chinese Garden" within a small area • Implement the architecture of shade areas • Further information about the history of site of the Civic Centre was also given: - The current Civic Centre precinct is located on what was previously the heart of Chinatown prior to World War 2 - The evacuation of Darwin and near-complete destruction of Chinatown were not the best moments in Darwin history - The Tree of Knowledge was a central point of the community and a crossroad between White Australians on Smith Street and Chinese Australians on Cavenagh Street.

[redacted]	• Make provisions for an area that is suitable and conducive to dancing.

Some community members provided detailed submissions with attachments. All email submissions and attachments can be found at Appendix I.

Social media

Throughout consultation there were 9 organic posts and stories shared across City of Darwin's Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages. Paid advertising was also active from 18-28 August to increase awareness and reach.

The following table shows the approximate total engagement numbers across all City of Darwin social media platforms during consultation.

	Views	**Interactions (like, comment, share)**	**Link clicks**
Organic posts and stories	13,565	71	229
Paid posts and stories	41,549	*N/A*	2,603

Comments from the paid advertisement post on Facebook include:

"Kids park, splash pad, gym, shade! Always more shade."

"Free parking."

"That would be a first. Engaging the City City of Darwin Rate Payers in a decision how they spend our money."

"This seems a little late. However, one suggestion: do not demolish the old building, but rather develop it as a communithy space."

"Don't touch the trees."

"6 foot fence around the block."

Sentiment from the Facebook advertisement was mixed which may be a result of the timing of City of Darwin's announcement of its decision to postpone the Pre-Cyclone Clean Up for 2026. This created some negative commentary with certain community members online. A full breakdown of the social media statistics and comments received on social media can be found at Appendix J.

Analysis

Key themes

Several key themes emerged during consultation from the feedback and ideas received across all engagement methods and tools. Feedback and ideas received from all engagement methods and tools has been considered equally. The themes below are based on topics repeatedly mentioned throughout consultation and presented in order of how often they were raised.



Natural and shaded areas

Providing an open, green and natural space with shade was one of the most important aspects for all community members and stakeholders. Community members value Civic Park and the open space it provides and would like to see green space and shade prioritised within the future plaza. Protecting the long-term health of Galamarrma, the Tree of Knowledge, was also the most important priority for survey respondents, which could be achieved through creating more of a natural space and allowing Galamarrma to grow and thrive.

Shade, greenery and comfort received the most votes from community members across all the Plaza Puzzle interactive displays, supported by shade and cooling being one of the most important elements of a community space to survey respondents.

A number of community members and stakeholders would like to see native trees and plants in the plaza to reflect the tropical Territory lifestyle. Using trees and natural elements to provide shade and cooling was prioritised by community members and stakeholders, along with suggestions to create a community garden or walkable trail with different plants.

Accessibility and inclusivity

Ensuring the plaza is a space that is accessible and inclusive to all in the community was often mentioned during consultation. Community members and stakeholders felt strongly that if this was to be a place for the community to enjoy, all people should be able to access and enjoy this regardless of their age or ability.

Ideas provided as to how the plaza could be accessible and welcoming for all included:

- sensory rooms with options for different ages/needs
- communication boards for those with limited or no sight
- large number of carparks available for those with wheelchairs of walking devices
- smooth and wide pathways
- accessible toilets and rooms for parents

- safe pedestrian connections and crossings
- dedicated accessible seating and rest areas.

Of the 5 priority areas included in the Plaza Puzzle interaction, connection and accessibility received the least number of votes from the community. Feedback provided by community members highlighted they didn't feel the need to vote for this area as they believed it should be automatically included and prioritised in the plaza design.

Certain community members and stakeholders, such as DCOH, Autism NT and Darwin Community Arts, also expressed interest in working with City of Darwin to create an inclusive and accessible design for the plaza.

Safety and security

Safety and security were reported as factors discouraging community members and stakeholders from currently using the Civic Centre space. This is also something that was frequently mentioned during the information stalls and stakeholder meetings as needing to be addressed and considered when designing the plaza.

While many stakeholders and community members prioritised having a shaded area, it was mentioned this may contribute to antisocial behaviour and would dissuade people from using the plaza. Some suggestions were made by community members and stakeholders to have a large fence around the plaza to be locked at night, have paid security on site to remove any aggressive or unsavoury people, and ensure there was sufficient lighting at night.

Cleanliness of the space was a consideration for community members and stakeholders as they have concerns about hazardous rubbish associated with the antisocial behaviour that occurs in the city.

Highlighting Darwin's multiculturalism and history

Highlighting Darwin's diverse history and multicultural community was frequently raised by community members and stakeholders during consultation. The history of the Civic Centre site with its ties to the Chinese community and Larrakia people, the cultural significance of Galamarrma, and the current Civic Centre building used by the wider community were important points during conversations with many people wanting to see this featured in the plaza.

Creating a space honouring all the different cultures that make up the Darwin community, not just focusing on certain cultures, was also important with community members. Ideas on how this could be showcased within the plaza included:

- multicultural markets or food vendors being available
- festivals held at the plaza such as the Indonesian festival
- plaques with significant cultural information about the space
- different cultural gardens with plants native or special to certain cultures.

Other suggestions also included having a historic timeline wall to display important dates in Darwin's history which could be created in collaboration with different historic and cultural groups. Community members said they would like to have a place they can feel proud of and bring visiting friends and family to see the vibrant and multicultural community of Darwin.

Beautifying and activating the space

Activating the space for events, markets, performances and cultural festivals was a repeating idea for community members and stakeholders. Attending events and performances was chosen as the

top use of the plaza by survey respondents and supported by discussions in stakeholder meetings with the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia, Darwin City Retailers Association and DCOH.

Creating an amphitheatre in the plaza or a small stage with seating was an idea that was submitted numerous times throughout consultation. Suggestions were also made to create an extension of Civic Park to create a larger area to be used during Darwin Festival and hold various performances and events throughout the year.

Community members and stakeholders also mentioned beautifying the area and having the plaza serve as a visual focal point that attracts and draws visitors into the space. There were suggestions to create a connection with Cavenagh Street and the rest of the city through design features. Using Galamarrma as the entrance point to the plaza and incorporating other entrance structures such as an archway was also suggested to create a visually appealing space. Other visual elements suggested for the plaza design included the use of public art installations and having art exhibition facilities available to showcase the talents of local artists.

A space for the whole community

Community members and stakeholders' values and aspirations for the plaza and how the space should be used varied across the consultation. Different user groups, such as parents with children, visitors, city workers or creative groups, put forward different ideas for the plaza which suited their interests and needs.

The main point taken from these ideas, however, is to create a space the whole community can use and benefit from. When asked what this may look like, community members and stakeholders suggested having:

- multi-purpose rooms that can be hired/reserved with tables, chairs and AV capabilities
- facilities to support events or performers such as a small stage and power and electricity connection points
- a building with capabilities to be enclosed during the wet season but open up during the dry season.

Community members often mentioned having a playground or water play elements like a splash pad for young children, but also areas for teenagers and adults to enjoy together to create intergenerational activities.

Majority of respondents from the online and hard copy surveys indicated they would be more likely to use the plaza once improvements are made to the current space, which would create a new gathering place for the community.

Parking

Questions about parking were commonly asked throughout consultation due to the current Civic Centre development being constructed on the site of the old car park. Community members and stakeholders wanted to understand if there would be alternative parking available so the plaza could be accessed easily.

Many indicated parking should be free as the plaza will be a space for the community, while others mentioned they would prefer to pay with cash rather than using the City of Darwin PayStay application. There were also suggestions to ensure car parks were suitable for people in wheelchairs and for those with children.

The length of stay for the car parks was mentioned, with community members noting it should be for longer than the standard 2 hours available in the city otherwise they may not visit the plaza.

In the online survey, parking was also mentioned by respondents as something that currently limits them from spending time in the Civic Centre precinct.

Overall analysis

There was a strong level of engagement from the community and stakeholders during consultation, likely due to the variety of engagement methods and opportunities available to provide feedback. The sentiment from community members and stakeholders was mostly positive when discussing the plaza. Most were excited to hear that City of Darwin would be transforming the current Civic Centre building into a new space the community could use and enjoy and were thankful to be a part of the consultation process.

Feedback received from community members and stakeholders about the Plaza Puzzle interaction was very positive. The interaction at the information stalls was an effective method to encourage participation and engagement from the community, especially with younger children and teenagers. People also preferred to interact with the Plaza Puzzle and cast their vote rather than providing any ideas or feedback on the plaza. City of Darwin library staff advised that the interactions at each of the libraries was popular with the community with a wide range of ages interacting together and sparking conversations about the plaza.

There were some community members and stakeholders that were sceptical of the plaza and whether this would create an increase in rates payable by the community. Funding was also questioned by stakeholders as to whether City of Darwin could realistically deliver a space that is reflective of what the community want to see. These concerns were also raised by some community members following City of Darwin's announcement to postpone the pre-cyclone clean-up program for 2026. This announcement was made towards the end of the consultation period and may have affected the community's views of City of Darwin generally and the plaza, however the level of impact is unknown.

Overall, feedback indicated the plaza should be a welcoming, shaded and accessible area for the whole community to come together and use. Highlighting the unique Territory lifestyle and multiculturalism is important to the community and should be considered as a key part in the plaza design.

Recommendations

This report has been prepared following the 6 week consultation period for the plaza. The recommended next steps for City of Darwin are to:

1. Consider the feedback and ideas received from the community and stakeholders to inform a concept design for the plaza.
2. Publicly release the outcomes summary report (prepared by True North) on the Engage Darwin consultation webpage.
3. Close the feedback loop with the key stakeholders who engaged during consultation by directly emailing the outcomes summary document.
4. Keep the community and stakeholders informed of the plaza project updates and allow for further consultation on the concept design to create a space for the community.

5. Reengage with nearby residents, key stakeholders and community members on the concept design and next steps.

Appendix

Appendix A - Elected Member briefing notes
Appendix B - Online survey results
Appendix C - Hard copy survey results
Appendix D - Plaza Puzzle interaction votes
Appendix E - Plaza Puzzle written ideas
Appendix F - Information stall notes
Appendix G - Stakeholder meeting notes
Appendix H - City of Darwin facilitated meeting notes
Appendix I - Community member email submissions
Appendix J - Social media statistics and comments

14.3 OVAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

Author: **Coordinator Recreation and Leisure**
Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services

Authoriser: **General Manager Community**

Attachments: **Nil**

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Oval Infrastructure Upgrades be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the updated priorities from Peak Sporting Bodies for infrastructure upgrades at City of Darwin Ovals.

KEY ISSUES

- In February 2024, Council acknowledged the Peak Sporting Bodies' (PSB) priorities for infrastructure upgrades and oval lighting, for consideration regarding future sporting oval upgrades.
- City of Darwin Officers have liaised with AFL NT, Football NT and NT Cricket to review the existing priority list.
- This report summarises the Peak Sporting Bodies' revised list of infrastructure and sports field lighting priorities.
- In June 2026 City of Darwin executed funding agreements with the Northern Territory Government (NTG) for installation of sports field lights and upgrades at Wanguri Oval, and oval infrastructure projects at Nakara Oval, Kahlin Oval and Gardens Oval.

DISCUSSION

Background

City of Darwin's Sports Field Plan 2016 – 2026 guides the use, development and management of sporting ovals across the City of Darwin. A key objective of this plan is to identify and investigate facility needs for eligible sports within the municipality, particularly primary users AFL, Cricket and Football.

One of the guiding principles of the Sports Field Plan is that:

- Council will only enter leasing arrangements with Peak Sporting Bodies.

This principle enables Peak Sporting Bodies to define priorities across their clubs for the development of their sporting codes and for the purposes of coordination.

Recent upgrades

Since 2024 the following infrastructure improvements have been completed:

- Construction of new change rooms at Bagot, Malak Oval and Fannie Bay Ovals
- Installation of new canteen at Nightcliff Oval
- Upgrade to existing changerooms and pathways at Nightcliff Oval
- Installation of storage sheds at Nakara, Wanguri and Wulagi Ovals
- Irrigation, boundary fence and AFL Posts replaced at Alawa Oval 2

In progress:

- Kahlin Oval Cricket Net Training lights
- Nightcliff Oval Changerooms

In February 2024 Council acknowledged the Peak Sporting Bodies' priorities for infrastructure upgrades and oval lighting, for consideration regarding future sporting oval upgrades.

Consultation with Peak Sporting Bodies

During July to September this year Officers liaised with AFL NT, Football NT and NT Cricket to review the existing priority list. NRL NT was contacted to review their priorities for Anula Oval but to date have not responded.

Oval Infrastructure Priorities

Summary of top four infrastructure priorities for each PSB is outlined in the table below:

Priority	NT Cricket	AFL NT	Football NT
1	Additional two synthetic pitches Priority for Moil or Wagaman ovals	Gardens Oval 1 AFL NT Venue Improvement Plan Gardens Oval 2 AFL NT Venue Improvement Plan (match day infrastructure)	Nakara Oval Progress masterplan projects
2	Gardens Oval 2 Turf Wicket Block, unisex changerooms	Fannie Bay Oval AFL goal posts, surface works, upgrade toilets, storage	Malak Oval Carpark upgrade
3	Anula Oval Synthetic pitch	Bagot Oval AFL goal posts and storage	Gardens Oval 2 Changerooms, accessible toilets, storage/office

4	Gardens Oval 1 New turf wicket block and upgrades to grandstand and changerooms	Wanguri Oval Gender neutral changerooms and storage	Fannie Bay Oval Upgrade toilet block & additional storage

Oval Lighting Priorities

A summary of lighting priorities is outlined in the table below, noting it excludes Wanguri Oval lights, as funding has been identified to undertake this project.

Priority	NT Cricket	AFL NT	Football NT
1	Gardens Oval 2 500 lux lights **only if a turf wicket is also installed*.	Gardens Oval 2 300 lux	Fannie Bay Oval 200 lux
2	Nightcliff Oval Upgrade to 500 lux	Fannie Bay Oval 200 lux	Nakara Oval 200 lux
3	Gardens Oval 1 Upgrade to 1000 lux	Anula Oval 200 lux	Malak Oval Upgrade to 200 lux
4		Moil Oval 200 lux	Gardens Oval 2 200 lux
5		Jingili Oval 200 lux	Jingili Oval 200 lux
6		Wagaman Oval 200 lux	Wulagi Oval 200 lux
7		Tiwi Oval 200 lux	
8		Wulagi Oval 200 lux	

Northern Territory Government Funded Projects

In June 2026 City of Darwin executed funding agreements with the Northern Territory Government for $1.5M for installation of sports field lights and upgrades at Wanguri Oval and a funding agreement for the Darwin Plan projects that included oval infrastructure projects at Nakara Oval, Kahlin Oval and Gardens Oval.

Community and Stakeholder consultation will be required for these projects. Level of consultation will be determined once scope of works is finalised for each project.

Projects are detailed below:

Nakara Oval Masterplan

$1.1M is provided to develop works identified in the Nakara Oval Masterplan, including refurbishing the existing toilet block, delivering new community facilities for sports, training and outdoor lifestyle, and installation of sports lighting.

Council provided in-principle support for the Nakara Oval Masterplan in 2021. Football NT were sent a copy of the Masterplan and are in discussion with Azzurri United Football Club to identify the priorities for the current funding, in line with the masterplan.

Kahlin Oval Upgrades

$2M to upgrade Darwin Cricket Club facilities at Kahlin Oval.

Kahlin Oval Masterplan provided in-principle support in 2019. Since then, upgrades have occurred to the boundary fence, shed and training net lights. The final item identified on the masterplan is an upgrade to changerooms/clubhouse. NT Cricket are discussing with Darwin Cricket Club to identify the scope of works for this project.

Gardens Oval Upgrades

$2M is provided to deliver upgrades to infrastructure for Gardens Oval 1 and 2, including sports field lighting and changerooms.

Council provided in-principle support for the AFL NT Venue Improvement Plan in 2024.

Officers will work with AFL NT, NT Cricket and Football NT to identify the scope of works for the available funds, in consideration of the AFL NT Venue Improvement Plan.

Wanguri Oval Upgrades

$1.5M is provided to deliver sports field lighting and upgrades to Wanguri Oval, with any unspent funding to be allocated in support of the Nakara Oval Upgrades project, noting this project will be subject to community consultation.

Next Steps

A Project Control Group (PCG) has been formed to oversee all four projects funded by the NTG with representatives from:

- City of Darwin
- Northern Territory Government
- AFL NT
- NT Cricket
- Football NT

The PCG will oversee all aspects of the projects including planning and design, stakeholder and community engagement, procurement, through construction and handover.

Projects outlined that are not currently funded will be considered if other funding becomes available. Peak Sporting Bodies will be encouraged to seek funding opportunities in line with City of Darwin's processes.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 27 February 2024 meeting Council resolved:

RESOLUTION ORD074/24

1. THAT the report entitled Updated Oval Infrastructure Priorities be received and noted.
2. THAT Council note the updated Peak Sporting Bodies' priorities for future infrastructure upgrades and oval lighting detailed in **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2.**

CARRIED 11/0

RESOLUTION ORD094/24

1. THAT the report entitled AFL Northern Territory – Gardens Oval Venue Improvement Plan be received and noted.
2. THAT Council provide in-principle support for AFL Northern Territory to seek funding for infrastructure projects listed in the Gardens Oval Improvement Plan.

3. THAT final approval for any infrastructure upgrades at Gardens Oval Precinct be subject to:
   (a) Funding confirmation
   (b) The outcomes of stakeholder and community engagement
   (c) Detailed design and technical specifications being to the satisfaction of City of Darwin
   (d) Financial planning for ongoing maintenance and renewal.
4. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019.*
5. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 11/0

At the 30 March 2021 meeting Council resolved:

RESOLUTION ORD139/21

1. THAT the report entitled Nakara Oval Masterplan be received and noted.
2. THAT Council provide in-principle support for University Azzurri's Nakara Oval Masterplan as detailed in Attachment 1 of the report entitled Nakara Oval Masterplan, in order to seek funding for development at Nakara Oval.
3. THAT approval for any upgrades proposed in the Nakara Oval Masterplan are subject to:
   (a) The outcomes of a community engagement process;
   (b) Technical specifications being to the satisfaction of the General Manager Engineering & City Services;
   (c) Financial planning for any ongoing maintenance and renewal.

CARRIED 7/2

At the 29 January 2019 meeting Council resolved:

1. THAT Report Number 19C0105 CB:kl entitled Kahlin Oval Master Plan, be received and noted.
2. THAT Council provide in-principle support for Darwin Cricket Club's Kahlin Oval Master Plan as detailed in **Attachment A** of Report Number 19C0105 CB:kl entitled Kahlin Oval Master Plan, in order to seek funding for development at Kahlin Oval.
3. THAT approval for any upgrades proposed in the Kahlin Oval Master Plan are subject to:
   i. the outcomes from Council's community engagement process;
   ii. technical specifications being to the satisfaction of the General Manager Engineering and City Services;
   iii. financial planning for any ongoing maintenance and renewal.
4. THAT this decision be moved into open.

DECISION NO.22\1285 (29/01/19) Carried unanimously

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	2 A Safe, Liveable and Healthy City 2.3 By 2030, Darwin residents will be more active and healthy
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	**Budget/Funding:** City of Darwin has executed funding agreements with Northern Territory Government for: Wanguri Oval $1.5M

	Nakara Oval $1.1M Kahlin Oval $2M Gardens Oval $2M There is currently no budget identified for any future major upgrades to infrastructure at Council ovals. The stakeholder priorities have been provided to ensure Council has an agreed priority list for infrastructure upgrades if funding opportunities arise.
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Nil
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	**Engagement Level:** Consult Stakeholders involved in determining priorities: • AFL NT • NT Cricket • Football NT
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

14.4 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2026 (Q1)

Author: **Manager Risk and Customer Experience**

Authoriser: **Executive Manager Corporate and Customer Service**

Attachments:
1. **Strategic Plan Action Report Q1 2026/27** ⇩
2. **Municipal Plan Action Report Q1 2026/27** ⇩

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Quarterly Performance Report – July to September 2026 (Q1) be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to proactively inform Council and the community on the performance against adopted strategies and plans.

KEY ISSUES

- The *Darwin 2030: City for People. City of Colour.* Strategic Plan sets the direction for all strategic plans for the City of Darwin.
- Quarterly performance reports track progress in delivering on the Strategic and Municipal Plan and is utilised to inform the Annual Report each year.

DISCUSSION

City of Darwin has been implementing its strategic planning and performance reporting framework since the adoption of the *Darwin 2030: City for People. City of Colour.* Strategic Plan in July 2019. The below provides the 2026/27 quarter 1 highlights against the Strategic and Municipal Plans.

Quarter 1 Highlights – Strategic Plan:

There are 26 actions within the Strategic Plan active during 2026/27. Of these actions, 25 are on track, and one is listed as not yet due. See **Attachment 1** for full details of City of Darwin's Q1 performance against the Strategic Plan.



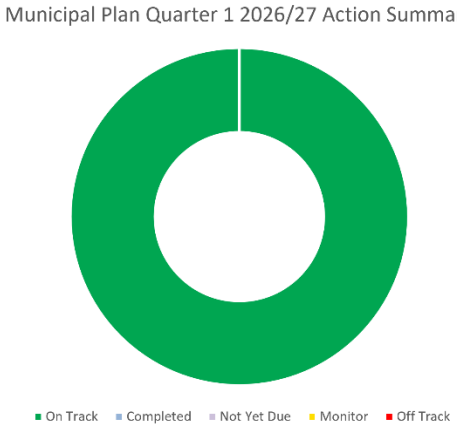
Highlights from this quarter include:

- Asset condition data for stormwater drainage continues to be collected, with 70% of the network now covered
- Delivered the 2026 Darwin Fusion program, promoting Darwin as an attractive place to work and live to international partners
- The sponsorship program supported significant events across Darwin including the Darwin Fringe Festival, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair and Darwin Festival
- Installed a business directory kiosk in the Smith Street Mall, including a wrap with Larrakia artwork.

The action marked as not yet due is the development of a Multicultural Framework, this has been scheduled for commencement in 2028/29.

Quarter 1 Highlights – Municipal Plan:

Within the 2026/27 Municipal Plan there are 15 actions for delivery, including five actions which fall under the Governance Framework. A summary of performance against each action in this quarter is located at **Attachment 2**. Of these actions all 15 are marked as on track.



Highlights from this quarter include:

- completed data analytics and commenced consultation for the Darwin City Centre parking plan
- community engagement for the Civic Centre precinct was conducted, with a report to be presented to Council in October 2026
- annual greening targets are on track, with 184 street and park trees planted, 79 customer request trees fulfilled, and 12 city centre trees planted

• project milestones have been met for the Waters Ward Multigenerational Recreation Space and the stage 7 putrescible cell at Shoal Bay. There were three actions carried forward from the Municipal Plan 2025/26. Of these all three remain on track against revised targets.	
PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION Not applicable. Each quarterly report is considered on its own merit.	
STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	6 Governance Framework 6.4 Accountability
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	**Budget/Funding:** Nil **Is Funding identified:** Nil Corporate Hub is responsible for coordinating the City of Darwin Performance Reporting.
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	**Legislation:** *Local Government Act 2019* Section 34 – Contents of municipal, regional or shire plan (1)(d) Municipal Plan must define indicators for judging the standard of the Council's performance. **Policy:** Darwin 2030 – *City for People. City of Colour.* Strategic Plan, Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	**Engagement Level:** Inform **Internal:** The actions contained within the Strategic Plan and 2026/27 Municipal Plan have been reviewed, and Quarter 1 updates are provided by responsible executive managers and managers. Hub general managers approve performance and status updates for responsible actions as part of this reporting framework. **External:** Quarterly Performance Report: July to September 2026 (Q1) will inform the City of Darwin 2026/27 Annual Report and reporting is part of the open session of Council, so public at the time meeting agendas are issued for an Ordinary Meeting.
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026/27 ACTION SUMMARY

Strategic Direction (SD)	Target	Action	Responsible Executive Manager (EM)	Progress Comment	Action Status	Original Start Date	Expected End Date
Target: By 2030, a number of strategic infrastructure projects will be developed and delivered							
SD1	TAR1	Implement City of Darwin's Asset Management Framework	EM Infrastructure	Q1 2026/27 – Stormwater asset management plan draft under review.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2028
SD1	TAR1	Develop a Priority Infrastructure Plan	EM Technical Services	Q1 2026/27 – Asset condition data for stormwater drainage is continuing to be collected. Approximately 70% of the network is now covered.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2028
SD1	TAR1	Increase utilisation of the City of Darwin's land and community assets	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – There are a total of 4 current tenants that have signed new lease agreements, 3 at Nightcliff Community Centre and one at West Lane Arcade. Lyons and CAALC cafe tenancy discussions progressing well.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2028
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be increasingly recognised as a liveable city							
SD2	TAR2	Promote Darwin as a more attractive place to live and work	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – Greater Darwin Brand Toolkit is progressing and nearing completion. City of Darwin hosted 2026 Darwin Fusion, with 7 international relations events and activations across 3 days that promoted Darwin as an attractive place to work and live to international partners.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD2	TAR2	Work with the NT Government on a long term plan for Council to take on an increased role in planning decisions within the municipality	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – Green Factor Tool developed to assess quality of greening in new developments. Presented to Planning Commission about the Place and Liveability Plan.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD2	TAR2	Increase utilisation of Darwin's beaches and foreshores	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – The street food program is continuing. City of Darwin delivered the Garramilla International Food Fair for the second year in a row on the Esplanade. Sponsorship provided to the Darwin Harbour Clean-Up.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be recognised as a clean and environmentally responsible city							
SD3	TAR1	Facilitate forums for environmental service providers to share information and develop relationships within the sector and with other industries	EM Environment, Climate and Waste Services	Q1 2026/27 – Supported the Top End Eco Fair, hosting 3,500 attendees and included stalls, walks and talks by experts celebrating Darwin's unique biodiversity and native habitats. Gardening Australia aired an episode on Darwin featuring City of Darwin's East Point revegetation program and other Greening Darwin initiatives.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD3	TAR1	Council will have zero net emissions from operations by 2030	EM Environment, Climate and Waste Services	Q1 2026/27 – Data and information on City of Darwin's organisational greenhouse gas emissions trajectory and emissions reduction opportunities have been added to the Data Insights Platform.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD3	TAR1	Deliver projects that will cool the Darwin City Centre	EM Environment, Climate and Waste Services	Q1 2026/27 – Eleven trees planted along Daly Street and one in the Mall. Ongoing tree pit refurbishments to support health and longevity of planted trees.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030

SD3	TAR1	Ensure Council open spaces contribute to the city's biodiversity	EM Environment, Climate and Waste Services	Q1 2026/27 – Workshops, events and school excursions delivered, educating on and promoting Darwin's biodiversity, including a native bee workshop for Seniors Month, native plant survey at East Point, and ecosystem restoration with CDU students at East Point. Cane Toad Bust completed at East Point. Participated in the Larrakia Darwin Harbour Clean-up.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be recognised globally as a smart city							
SD4	TAR1	Support the development of business centres that foster industry engagement, collaboration and innovation across all markets	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – Provided sponsorship for October Business Month. Preparing to host a workshop as part of OBM to promote the Greater Darwin Brand to local businesses and engage with business on the future focus on the Economic Development Plan. Delivered 2026 Darwin Fusion. Delivered the Mall kiosk and wayfinding project.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR1	Develop innovation hubs for our community and future generations	GM Innovation	Q1 2026/27 – Inaugural Minecraft challenge launched where schools can submit proposals in Minecraft for the new Civic Plaza. Applications received and will be assessed shortly.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR1	Lead innovation for the city and facilitate relevant activities to support these initiatives	GM Innovation	Q1 2026/27 – Expansion of the Smart sensor network to 5 new Active Transport sites and Chapel Lane. Mall Business Directory installed and kiosk wrapped with Larrakia artwork. Property Team rolled out the new ePermits platform and hosted a parking information session during Seniors Month at the Casuarina Library to assist seniors to better understand parking in the CBD including how to use parking meters, virtual meters and the PayStay app.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR1	Support life-long learning opportunities through the provision of STEAM programs	EM Library and Family Services	Q1 2026/27 – During National Science Week, libraries delivered hands-on activities under the theme “Seeds of Science: Nurturing Knowledge for All,” encouraging curiosity, exploration and interest in science. Other programs included creative library bag decorating for Seniors Month, Lego Club, STEAM Zone, and Gaming and Crafting, providing opportunities for creativity, learning, technology, Virtual Reality and STEM activities.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR1	Implement and evolve the #SmartDarwin and its pillars by 2030	GM Innovation	Q1 2026/27 – Smart City Framework and Management Plan progressing well with new stories added to the Data Insights Platform and updates to the Liveability Platform. New smart sensors rolled out at multiple locations. Mall Kiosk added.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
Target: By 2030, Darwin will have attracted and retained more residents and will offer sustainable investment opportunities							
SD4	TAR2	Implement an Economic Development Plan for the city	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – Delivered Darwin Fusion and progressing the Greater Darwin brand toolkit development. Delivered Chapel Lane and activated the space during Darwin Fusion. Approved an outdoor dining permit for the area.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR2	Develop an International Relations Program to leverage business growth and economic development opportunities for the city	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – Progressed the selection and appointment of committee members for the Sister City Advisory Committee, undertook preparation to release EOIs for Tourism, Business and International Relations Advisory Committee. Progressed the development of Action Plans for each of City of Darwin's Sister Cities.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030

SD4	TAR2	Promote Darwin as a great destination to live, work, study and invest	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – Delivered the ASEAN and Partners Forum where City of Darwin and partners promoted Darwin as a gateway to Asia and Australia, and a great destination to live, work and study. Promoted Darwin's economic, livability, investment and business opportunities to international partners through meetings with international governments and diplomatic missions.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR2	Support initiatives to increase the population of Darwin through engagement with business and industry, and all levels of Government	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – Launched EOIs for international trade mission planned in December. Working with Chamber of Commerce and key government, industry and business stakeholders and international partners to promote EOIs and to progress itinerary for trade mission.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD4	TAR2	Support initiatives to grow the economy and retain people and jobs in Darwin	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – Sponsorship program supported significant events across Darwin including the Darwin Fringe Festival, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair and Darwin Festival, attracting international and interstate artists, and supporting the growth of the visitor economy.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be recognised as an iconic destination							
SD5	TAR1	Deliver a City of Darwin events program and support other event programs that engage locals and attract visitors	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – Delivered an activation at the Darwin Show providing opportunities for feedback on the Civic Centre Precinct, and Place and Liveability. Delivered a Father's Day Waters Ward event. Issued comprehensive event permits including Darwin Festival, Darwin Fringe Festival and Thai Grand Festival. Karama Open Street Party was delivered to help encourage children to be more active and commute to and from school.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD5	TAR1	Partner with other stakeholders to grow the visitor economy of Darwin	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – Confirmed sponsorship funding with NTG to deliver the Darwin Christmas Pageant. Partnered with NTG to deliver a welcome reception for international partners for 2026 Darwin Fusion. Delivered a workshop with government and industry partners on the Greater Darwin Brand Toolkit.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD5	TAR1	Support the promotion of Darwin as a cruise ship and yachting destination and as a home port for expedition ships	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – Attended and presented at the NT Cruise Forum.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural history							
SD5	TAR2	Deliver programs and services that create a cohesive, connected and culturally enriched community	General Manager Community	Q1 2026/27 – Continued to deliver programs and services that create a cohesive, connected and culturally enriched community, including Youth programs, Healthy Darwin and activity in partnership with YNT at our pools, STEAM Zones, Storytime and Fun Bus and the Lightbox Art program.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD5	TAR2	Promote Darwin as a destination known for its Aboriginal cultures and landmarks	EM Growth and Development Services	Q1 2026/27 – Sponsored the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair. Provided event permits to National Indigenous Music Awards, NAIDOC week events, Country to Couture. Aboriginal artwork incorporated in the new wayfinding assets, alongside refreshed decals across the Mall.	On track	01/07/2020	30/06/2030
SD5	TAR2	Develop a City of Darwin Multicultural Framework	EM Community and Cultural Services	Not yet due.	Not yet due	01/07/2028	30/06/2030

MUNICIPAL PLAN 2026/27 ACTION SUMMARY

Strategic Direction (SD)	Target	Action	Responsible Executive Manager (EM)	Progress Comment	Action Status	Start Date	End Date
Target: By 2030, a number of strategic infrastructure projects will be developed and delivered							
SD1	TAR1	Deliver the 2026/27 capital works program prioritising stormwater and road renewal works to improve asset sustainability	EM Infrastructure	Q1 2026/27 – Stormwater and road resurfacing program construction underway.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
SD1	TAR1	Progress the Civic Centre and Precinct Redevelopment Project by delivering key 2026/27 milestones	EM Infrastructure	Q1 2026/27 – Project milestones met.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be increasingly recognised as a liveable city							
SD2	TAR2	Progress Waters Ward Multigenerational Recreation Space by delivering key 2026/27 milestones	EM Infrastructure	Q1 2026/27 – Project milestones met, procurement underway for construction contractor engagement.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
SD2	TAR2	Deliver the 2026/27 annual events program, including the Bombing of Darwin commemoration	EM Growth & Development	Q1 2026/27 – Darwin Fusion and Waters Ward Fathers Day events successfully delivered. Planning underway for Christmas events program including Lyons Ward Darwin Christmas Pageant, Santa's Village, Christmas Markets and Christmas Concert.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
SD2	TAR2	Develop a strategic and inclusive Darwin City Centre parking plan to improve access, efficiency and utilisation	EM Growth & Development	Q1 2026/27 – Completed data analytics and commenced stakeholder engagement. Community consultation commences in the next quarter.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be recognised as a clean and environmentally responsible city							
SD3	TAR1	Deliver the 2026/27 Greening Darwin Strategy annual funded actions	EM Operations	Q1 2026/27 – Annual greening targets on track: 184 park and street trees planted, 79 customer request trees fulfilled, 12 CBD area trees planted, and 5,860 plants distributed through the native plant giveaway program.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
SD3	TAR1	Deliver the Stage 7 putrescible cell 2026/27 key milestones at Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility	EM Infrastructure	Q1 2026/27 – Project milestones met, construction nearing completion.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
SD3	TAR1	Progress advanced waste processing opportunities, including exploring partnership models, to support sustainable waste outcomes	EM Environment, Climate and Waste	Q1 2026/27 – Discussions with NTG progressed in developing a scope of works for waste to energy feasibility.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be recognised globally as a smart city							
SD4	TAR1	Deliver priority 2026/27 ICT Roadmap initiatives including a customer relationship management system	ICT PMO Director	Q1 2026/27 – Progress underway for CRM proof of concept.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
Target: By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity							
SD5	TAR2	Deliver the communications, media and marketing program to strengthen community engagement, awareness and participation	EM Marketing Communications and Engagement	Q1 2026/27 – The engagement for the new civic centre forecourt redevelopment was undertaken, with outcomes to be presented to Council in Oct26.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027

Target: Vision and Culture							
SD1	TAR1	Deliver proactive risk management to support operations and project delivery	EM Corporate & Customer	Q1 2026/27 – Legal, ICT, and Procurement and Contracts risk workshops delivered.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
Target: Roles and Relationships							
SD1	TAR1	Advocate Council's position at national and local levels for the benefit of the Darwin community	Chief Executive Officer	Q1 2026/27 – Targeted advocacy has been delivered in line with City of Darwin priority projects and strategic projects with Northern Territory Government and other agencies. Ongoing advocacy continues via ALGA, LGANT and CCCLM.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
Target: Decision Making and Management							
SD1	TAR1	Deliver the 2026/27 Internal Audit program	EM Corporate & Customer	Q1 2026/27 – Scopes for planned internal audits to be prepared in Q2 in line with program schedule.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
SD1	TAR1	Deliver unqualified 2025/26 City of Darwin Audited Financial Statements	EM Finance	Q1 2026/27 – Finalisation of annual financial statements is in progress and on track for presentation to RMAC in October.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027
Target: Accountability							
SD1	TAR1	Deliver the 2025/26 Annual Report	EM Corporate & Customer	Q1 2026/27 – Annual report prepared for presentation to RMAC and Council.	On track	1/07/2026	30/06/2027

15 CORRESPONDENCE

15.1 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION - 2026 CHAN WARD BY-ELECTION REPORT

Author: **A/Manager Office of Council and CEO**

Authoriser: **Chief Executive Officer**

Attachments: **1. 2026 Chan Ward By-Election Report ⇩**

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Incoming Correspondence - Northern Territory Electoral Commission - 2026 Chan Ward By-Election Report be received and noted.

City of Darwin

2026 Chan Ward By-election report



Northern Territory Electoral Commission

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Election summary

On 28 March 2026, the City of Darwin advised the NT Electoral Commission (NTEC) that a casual vacancy had arisen in Chan Ward following the declaration of the result of the 2026 Nightcliff By-election.

Following consultation between the City of Darwin and the NTEC, the election timetable was finalised, with election day scheduled for 30 May 2026.

Key dates

Event	Date
Nominations open	Friday 8 May 2026
Close of electoral roll (5:00pm)	Tuesday 12 May 2026
Nominations close (12 noon) Declaration of nominations (1:00pm)	Thursday 14 May 2026
Postal mail out commences	Monday 18 May 2026
Early and mobile voting commences	Saturday 23 May 2026
Election day (8:00am – 6:00pm)	Saturday 30 May 2026
Deadline for receipt of postal votes Distribution of preferences (final count)	Friday 12 June 2026
Declaration of election results	Monday 15 June 2026
Campaign donation returns due	Saturday 8 August 2026

Enrolment

At the close of roll, there were 12,636 electors enrolled in Chan Ward who were eligible to vote in the by-election.

This is a decrease of 48 electors (or -0.4%) from the most recent election for Chan Ward which was the 2025 Local Government Elections held in August 2025.

Public awareness

Overview

As the 2026 Nightcliff By-election and 2025 Local Government Elections had been held only 2 months and 9 months earlier, respectively, the NTEC's communications approach for the by-election was designed be direct, timely and informative. The information strategy used a range of communication channels and activities across key stages of the election, including:

- a by-election webpage on the NTEC website, established and promoted as the primary source of information for candidates and electors, with other communications directing electors to the website

- social media posts at key stages throughout the election
- direct SMS and email communications to electors, where contact details were available
- statutory public notices
- regular media releases and media appearances
- direct email communication with candidates and candidate representatives.

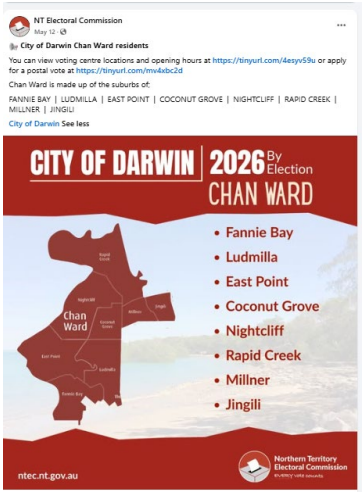
Website

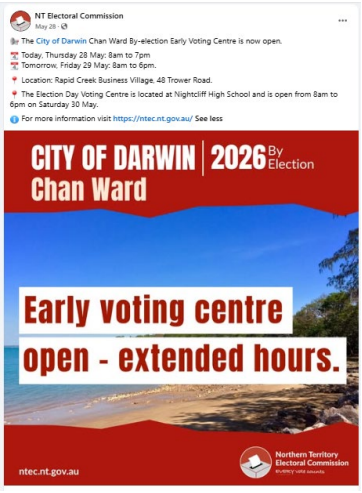
The by-election webpage went live on 6 May 2026 and provided comprehensive information for candidates and electors, including information about nominating, campaigning, the election timetable, voting centre dates, times and locations, financial disclosure and election results.

During the election period, which concluded with the publication of the final count results on 12 June 2026, the NTEC website recorded 14,883 users. The most visited pages were the by-election landing page and 'results' page, followed by the 'when and where to vote' page and the 'list of candidates' page.

Social media

Between 8 May and 12 June 2026, 10 organic posts were published on the NTEC Facebook page, generating a total of 3,420 views. Posts received an average engagement of 24 per post and an average of 156 unique viewers per post.





Direct communications with electors

SMS and email were used to provide timely information to electors who had provided a mobile phone number or email address as part of their enrolment. 7 SMS messages were sent, targeted to key stages of the election:

- advising electors of the by-election and encouraging them to check that their enrolment details were up to date
- providing information about the Chan Ward and available voting services
- providing information about early and postal voting

- advising of extended early voting hours and reminding voters about postal voting
- providing final reminders early voting and election day voting
- reminding outstanding postal voters to complete and return their postal vote
- reminder outstanding postal voters to return their postal votes by the deadline.

The initial SMS was sent to 6,935 electors enrolled in the Chan Ward. Subsequent distributions were refined to exclude electors who had been marked off as having voted or who had applied for a postal vote.

Statutory public notices

3 statutory public notices containing election and voting information were published during the election period. The notices covered the call for nominations and key election dates, the list of candidates and the voting schedule, and the final result. All 3 notices were published on the NTEC and council websites and through social media with the first 2 notices also published in the NT News.

Media

8 media releases were distributed during the election period. The Electoral Commissioner participated in 5 radio interviews, with coverage across ABC Darwin and Mix104.9 and a range of timeslots.

The by-election also received covered in print and digital media, including the NT News and the NT Independent, with multiple articles published during the election period.

Communication with candidates

The NTEC maintained direct communications with candidates and candidate representatives throughout the election. Emails were issued at key stages to provide information about the election process, including initial candidate information, the count timetable, scrutineer arrangements, the final count and the declaration of results event.

Nominations

A candidate information session was held at 4:30pm on Monday 11 May 2026 at the council chambers.

Nominations opened on Friday 8 May 2026 and closed 12 noon on Thursday 14 May 2026.

A total of 8 nominations were accepted, with no rejected or withdrawn nominations.

A declaration of nominations and draw for ballot position took place at the NTEC's Darwin office at 1:00pm on Thursday 14 May 2026 with candidates, media and other election stakeholders invited to attend in person or via Teams.

Accepted nominations

Election	Accepted nominations/candidates (in ballot paper order)
CHAN WARD COUNCILLOR (one vacancy)	Manik GOWDA
	Nick KIRLEW
	Annette GILLANDERS
	Clarence CJ McCARTHY-GROGAN
	Mirella FEJO
	LENNY
	Shiva PANCHALINGAM
	Steve DOHERTY

Age and gender of candidates

AGE	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Councillor	0	1	2	1	2	2

GENDER	Male	Female	Unspecified
Councillor	5	3	-

Voting services

Postal voting

Event	Number	Percentage
Postal votes applications received	1,051	-
Postal votes issued	946	90.0% of applications
Postal vote applications rejected	105	10.0% of applications
Postal votes returned	802	84.8% of postal votes issued
Postal votes not returned	144	15.2% of postal votes issued
Postal votes admitted to the count	688	85.8% of postal votes returned
Postal votes rejected	114	14.2% of postal votes returned

Note: The number of votes admitted does not always equate to the number of postal votes counted. Occasionally returned envelopes are missing a ballot paper or other ballot papers are added to the postal count.

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- Cancelled on request of the elector (overseas GPV*) (33)
- Cancelled on request of the elector (23)
- Enrolled in a different ward within City of Darwin (14)

- Application received too late (11)
- Multiple applications received from the same elector (10)
- Enrolled in a different council area (8)
- Not enrolled (6).

- *GPVs are registered general postal voters. All GPVs with an overseas address were contacted to confirm whether they were likely to receive, complete and return their postal vote within the statutory deadline. Where an elector advised this was unlikely, their postal vote was cancelled on request and an excuse recorded.

The reasons for rejecting (returned) postal votes were:

- Ordinary vote issued (28)
- Postal vote certificate dated after election day (53)
- Postal vote received after deadline (16)
- Returned to sender (17).

Early voting

Early voting was available for a 6-day period starting Saturday 23 May 2026 and continuing from Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026. The early voting centre was located at the Rapid Creek Business Village, which is situated in the Chan Ward.

The early voting centre operated during the following hours:

- Saturday 23 May 8:00am to 3:00pm
- Monday 25 May to Wednesday 27 May 8:00am to 5:00pm
- Thursday 28 May 8:00am to 7:00pm
- Friday 29 May 8:00am to 6:00pm

As a trial, voting hours were extended to 7:00pm on Thursday 28 May to provide an after-hours voting option during the relatively short early voting period. A total of 718 ordinary votes were issued that day, higher than all previous days of the early voting period. Observations by NTEC staff were that a considerable number of electors utilised the extended hours option, however available data does not identify how many votes were issued during the additional 2 hours.

A total of 3,115 ordinary votes and 13 declaration votes were issued at the early voting centre. Early voting accounted for 51.4% of all votes counted for the Chan Ward by-election.

Early votes issued per day

Early voting	Sat 23 May	Mon 25 May	Tues 26 May	Wed 27 May	Thurs 28 May	Fri 29 May	TOTAL
Ordinary votes	523	366	258	318	718	932	**3,115**

Note the number of votes issued does not always equate to the number of votes counted.

Urban mobile voting

An urban mobile voting team visited Darwin Private Hospital and Royal Darwin Hospital on Tuesday 26 May 2026 to provide voting services to eligible Chan Ward electors. The mobile team was able to issue votes to patients, staff and visitors at each facility.

While urban mobile voting teams commonly visit correctional centres, postal voting arrangements were made for the small number of eligible Chan Ward electors at the Darwin

The urban mobile team issued 42 ordinary votes and one declaration vote.

Election day voting

The election day voting centre was located in the gymnasium at Nightcliff High School and operated from 8:00am to 6:00pm on Saturday 30 May 2026.

The election day voting centre issued 2,190 ordinary votes and 7 declaration votes.

Election day voting accounted for 36.2% of all votes counted for the Chan Ward by-election.

Declaration voting

- Total number of declaration votes issued 21
- Declaration votes admitted to the count 20
- Declaration votes rejected from the count 1

The reason for rejecting the declaration vote was:

- Enrolled in a different council area (1)

Voting services summary

Vote type	No. of votes counted	% of total votes
Early voting	3,114	51.4%
Election day voting	2,189	36.2%
Urban mobile voting	42	0.7%
Postal voting	688	11.4%
Declaration voting	20	0.3%
TOTAL	**6,053**	100%

Voting centre arrangements

The NTEC received 2 complaints about the venue used for early voting. The complaints related to accessibility and the external layout of the voting centre, which included the separation of candidates and campaign workers from the entrance by a busy driveway and associated safety concerns.

The matters were noted for consideration in future voting centre planning. By-elections can arise at short notice, which can limit the availability of suitable venues within a council ward. Venue selection also considers factors such as location, availability, layout, safe movement of voters and accessibility.

The NTEC provides measures voting centres to support accessibility and voter assistance. Voting centre staff can assist voters who require support and, where necessary, provide voting services

outside the voting centre.

Election outcomes

Vote counting

Counting commenced following the close of voting at 6:00pm on election day. Counting was undertaken at both the election day voting centre and the NTEC office which served as the scrutiny centre for the by-election.

Election night counting included an initial first preference count of the votes cast at the early voting centre, election day voting centre, urban mobile voting and admitted postal votes received by that date.

Following election night, additional counting activities were undertaken during the 13-day count period:

- **Monday 1 June 2026** – a fresh scrutiny of all election night counts was conducted and declaration vote processing commenced
- **Wednesday 10 June 2026** – a first preference count and fresh scrutiny was conducted for a second intake of admitted postal votes.
- **Friday 12 June 2026** – following the deadline for the receipt of postal votes at 12 noon, an initial count of the final intake of postal votes, together with the admitted declaration votes was completed, followed by a fresh scrutiny.

First preference results

Once all ballot papers had been admitted to the count, the first preference votes recorded for each candidate were as follows:

First preference votes by voting centre

Candidate	Early voting	Election day voting	Urban mobile voting	Postal and declaration voting	TOTAL
Manik GOWDA	112	51	5	24	192
Nick KIRLEW	513	299	3	103	918
Annette GILLANDERS	464	311	9	125	908
Clarence CJ McCARTHY-GROGAN	588	476	4	125	1,193
Mirella FEJO	363	199	8	92	662
LENNY	160	147	3	45	355
Shiva PANCHALINGAM	362	352	6	70	790
Steve DOHERTY	369	241	1	87	698
TOTAL	**3,114**	**2,189**	**42**	**708**	**6,053**

Distribution of preferences and final result

To be elected under the preferential system (used for single vacancies) a candidate must receive an absolute majority of formal votes, that is, more than half of all formal votes cast (50% plus one vote).

For the Chan Ward by-election, the quota required for election was **2,859** votes.

As no candidate received the required quota on first preference votes, a distribution of preferences was conducted.

Distribution of preferences summary

Count	Count stage	Manik GOWDA	Nick KIRLEW	Annette GILLANDERS	Clarence CJ McCARTHY-GROGAN	Mirella FEJO	LENNY	Shiva PANCHALINGAM	Steve DOHERTY	TOTAL
1	First preferences	192	918	908	1,193	662	355	790	698	5,716
2	GOWDA excluded	-192	61	40	26	12	14	29	10	0
	Progressive	0	979	948	1,219	674	369	819	708	5,716
3	LENNY excluded	0	98	70	57	41	-369	53	50	0
	Progressive	0	1,077	1,018	1,276	715	0	872	758	5,716
4	FEJO excluded	0	80	144	317	-715	0	122	52	0
	Progressive	0	1,157	1,162	1,593	0	0	994	810	5,716
5	DOHERTY excluded	0	249	310	128	0	0	123	-810	0
	Progressive	0	1,406	1,472	1,721	0	0	1,117	0	5,716
6	PANCHALINGAM ex.	0	312	195	610	0	0	-1,117	0	0
	Progressive	0	1,718	1,667	2,331	0	0	0	0	5,716
7	GILLANDERS excl.	0	948	-1,667	719	0	0	0	0	0
	Progressive	0	**2,666**	0	**3,050**	0	0	0	0	**5,716**

Clarence CJ McCARTHY-GROGAN was elected at count 7 after receiving 3,050 votes (53.4% of formal votes), exceeding the required quota of 2,859 votes.

Voter turnout

Voter turnout is traditionally calculated by dividing the number of ballot papers counted by the number of enrolled electors. Turnout for the Chan Ward by-election was 47.9%.

Turnout based solely on ballot papers counted does not capture all elector participation. Some eligible electors attempted to participate in the election but were unable to have their vote included in the count.

Turnout and participation summary

Detail	Number or percentage
Enrolment at close of roll	12,636
Total votes counted	6,053
Voter turnout rate – by votes counted	**47.9%**
Additional elector participation (not included in turnout rate)	
Rejected postal vote applications*	44
Rejected returned postal votes*	69
Unreturned postal packs	144
Rejected declaration votes*	1
Valid reason for not voting lodged with NTEC before voting closed	170
Total additional participation	428
Participation rate	51.3%

*Only includes electors eligible to vote and whose participation is not counted elsewhere

The NTEC will undertake non-voter activities following the Chan Ward by-election, with these activities scheduled to commence in August 2026. These activities are not considered part of the conduct of the election, and any associated costs and revenue are the responsibility of the NTEC.

Informality

Informal ballot papers

Election	No. of candidates	Total votes	Informal votes	%
Chan Ward	8	6,053	337	5.6%

Following each election, all informal ballot papers are assessed to determine the elector's likely intent. Informal ballot papers are categorised as either assumed *intentional* informality or assumed *unintentional* informality

Assumed intentional informality includes ballot papers that were deliberately left blank or were otherwise clearly invalid. Assumed unintentional informality refers to ballot papers where the elector appeared to have made an accidental error, despite making a genuine attempt to express their vote or preferences.

Informality summary

Informality type	Number	% of all informal votes
Assumed intentional	289	85.8%
Assumed unintentional	48	14.2%
TOTAL	337	100%

Donations disclosure

All candidates in local government elections are required to submit a campaign donation return if they receive:

- donations of $200 or more
- loans of $1,500 or more.

The disclosure period for this by-election was 1 July 2025 to 29 June 2026. No nil return required if these thresholds are not met.

By the due date of 8 August 2026, 2 candidates submitted a campaign donation return.

Returns have been published on the NT Electoral Commission website.

Election costs

Expense category	Costs
Advertising	$11,681
Destruction/rubbish removal	$7
General expenses	13
Information technology	$6,688
Materials	$1,293
Postage	$4,665
Premises	$11,505
Staff wages	$48,131
Vehicle hire	$676
Sub-total	$84,659
Corporate overhead 15%	$12,699
Sub-total	$97,358
GST (10%)	$9,736
TOTAL	**$ 15,683**

Document control

Document owner	Northern Territory Electoral Commission
Approved by	Northern Territory Electoral Commission

Date	Version	Revision description
9 October 2026	1.0	Final report

16 NOTICES OF MOTION

16.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - PUBLIC FORUM TERMS OF REFERENCE

Attachments: **Nil**

I, Councillor Patrik Ralph, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 27 October 2026, I will move the following motion:-

MOTION

1. THAT Council notes the regular practice, in accordance with our Meetings Policy, of holding Public Forums prior to the last Ordinary Council Meeting of the month, including but not limited to providing and opportunity for:
   (a) Members of the public to come and meet Elected Members and ask them questions regarding council business, the upcoming meeting agenda, and other topics the Chair considers appropriate;
   (b) All Elected Members to contribute to the discussion and answer questions posed to them by members of the public, in compliance with existing meeting procedures and Code of Conduct expectations.
2. THAT Council endorse for a Workshop or Workshops to be held to discuss the following:
   (a) Establishing specific Terms of Reference for the ongoing operation of Public Forums;
   (b) Potential benefits, risks, limitations and opportunities of enhancing administrative protocols, including but not limited to the provision of secretarial support;
   (c) Any amendments that may be made to existing council procedures to encourage and allow further participation and value to be obtained in Public Forums;
   (d) Any Elected Members written feedback and/or suggestions on the operation of Public Forums provided prior to the Workshop.
3. THAT Council note that the Workshop or Workshops would be included within an existing scheduled Forum Meeting so as to not create additional costs associated with an extra meeting.

REASON:

Public Forums are a central part of our Council processes, allowing members of the community to speak to Elected Members as a whole prior and contribute to the decision-making process.

Residents have previously expressed concern and confusion surrounding the operation of these Public Forums. These concerns include what questions may be asked, whether their local Councillors are welcome to contribute and what actions flow from residents participating in the Public Forum.

In support of the continual improvement and growth of this forum, Council should consider the following areas of clarification and enhancement within the establishment of specific Terms of Reference for the Public Forums:

a. Confirming range of council and agenda aligned topics that are included within questions and discussions, also acknowledging that discussions may prompt or be covered in further conversations in the meeting in areas such as reports from representatives or questions by members where agenda items are not always established;

b. Contributions by Elected Members to the Public Forum means that residents can hear from their local Councillor who may be able to assist in the answering of their queries or can gain a better understanding of their area specific concerns;

This motion seeks to enhance areas of ambiguity and find areas of consensus for improvement, further equipping all Elected Members with the ability to respond to community questions and concerns, and provide residents the assurance that their contributions to Public Forums are welcome and matter. It commits Elected Members to the ongoing improvement of Public Forums for the benefit of both residents and Council as a whole. This provides increased certainty and opportunity for our Public Forums to further contribute to good governance and decision making.

Signed by me at Darwin this 19 October 2026



…….....

COUNCILLOR PATRIK RALPH

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

In this section information is provided by officers to facilitate decision-making:

- Facts and data
- Background context and historical information relating to the NOM
- What the next steps would be if the motion is passed, for example “a council report will be prepared and presented by 28 February 2023”

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or pricing has been obtained for this motion:

Public consultation requirements	Nil
External consultant advice	Nil
Legal advice / litigation	Nil
Impacts to existing projects	Nil
Impact to FTE	Nil as Workshops are scheduled with in the Forum Meeting Schedule. Noting that a Workshop in relation to Public Forums as already been requested by the Lord Mayor and scheduled for October.
Budget reallocation	Nil
Capital investment	Nil
Officer time preparing the report requested in this motion	3 Hours
Officer time in receiving and preparing this Administration Comment	1 Hour

16.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Attachments: Nil

I, Councillor Patrik Ralph, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 27 October 2026, I will move the following motion:-

MOTION

1. THAT Council note the enquires made by our community regarding the webcasting of the Ordinary Meetings of Council.
2. THAT Council receive a report to be presented at a future briefing, prior to 31 March 2027, advising of options to publish the recordings of the open section of Ordinary Council Meetings to the official council website.
3. THAT the report considers the associated risks and benefits of publishing the recordings of the open section of Ordinary Council Meetings and relevant comparisons and examples.
4. THAT this report is considered preliminary in nature and that any future budgetary costs, for example the requirement and costs to obtain independent legal or other professional advice, be referred for consideration to the future briefing.

REASON:

Both Northern Territory and Federal parliaments broadcast parliamentary proceedings and provide recordings on their respective websites. This is also the case for other different local government authorities across the country.

The open section of Ordinary Council Meetings (OCMs) are broadcasted live on the official Council website. However, recordings are not made available following the meeting. Council minutes exist to provide a record of the proceedings of meetings, however substance of discussions and debate are often lost. There are also those who may wish to observe Council meetings that are unavailable at the time, and this is an important potential accommodation.

Potential benefits of having these recordings made available following OCMs include:

a. Members of the public having the ability observe the participation of Elected Members questions, debate and voting within OCMs. This by extension, increases accountability for Elected Member behaviour and involvement in the chamber;

b. Elected Members being able to reference their contributions to communicate with residents and also reflect on their own participation in meeting proceedings;

c. Providing broader context to the record of questions, debate, voting and general meeting proceedings.

There are also risks associated with moving forward with the potential change in publishing these recordings and these considerations would be outlined in the proposed future briefing report.

Elected Members may choose to not move forward with this potential change based on the information provided, however it is important that they are provided a balanced and full view before proceeding to this decision.

Signed by me at Darwin this 19 October 2026



…….....

COUNCILLOR PATRIK RALPH

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

In this section information is provided by officers to facilitate decision-making:

- Facts and data
- Background context and historical information relating to the NOM
- What the next steps would be if the motion is passed, for example “a council report will be prepared and presented by 28 February 2023”

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or pricing has been obtained for this motion:

Public consultation requirements	Nil
External consultant advice	Nil for the preliminary report as requested in this motion
Legal advice / litigation	Nil for the preliminary report as requested in this motion. City of Darwin considered webcasting of Council meetings in various reports and briefings between 2017 and 2021 both within briefings, confidential and open meetings.
Impacts to existing projects	Nil
Impact to FTE	Report will require staff resources from Governance, ICT and Corporate Teams for the preliminary briefing and associated report. Existing works and programs would require reprioritisation, deferral or delay. Refer officer time per below 30 to 40 hours to prepare this report.
Budget reallocation	Nil
Capital investment	Nil
Officer time preparing the report requested in this motion	Preliminary report and briefing 30-40 hours of officer time, noting prior to 31 March 2027 timeframe
Officer time in receiving and preparing this Administration Comment	3 hours

17 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

18 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

19 GENERAL BUSINESS

20 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 24 November 2026, at 5:30 pm (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section), Council Chambers Darrandirra, Level 1, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin.

21 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the Local Government Act *2019* and Regulation 8 of the Local Government Regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 99(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019*:

27.1 City of Darwin Annual Report 2025/26

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

27.2 2027/2028 Budget Development

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

27.3 Proposed Telecommunications Facility

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(b) and 51(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer and information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

27.4 Pool Management Contract

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

27.5 Sister City Advisory Committee Membership Appointment 2026-28

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

27.6 Partnership Opportunity

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

27.7 Memorandum of Understanding

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting

would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

28.1 Corporate Services Quarterly Report - July to September 2026

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(a) and 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual and information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

22 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Unconfirmed

Reports, recommendations and supporting documentation can be accessed via the City of Darwin Website at www.darwin.nt.gov.au, or contact Customer Service on (08) 8930 0300.

MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS DARRANDIRRA, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN
ON TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 5:30 PM

PRESENT:

Lord Mayor Peter Styles (Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris
Councillor Nicole Brown
Councillor Shani Carson
Councillor Kim Farrar
Councillor Julie Fraser
Councillor Edwin Joseph
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris
Councillor Clarence McCarthy-Grogan
Councillor Mick Palmer
Councillor Peter Pangquee
Councillor Patrik Ralph
Councillor Sam Weston

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders
General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr
General Manager Corporate, Natalie Williamson
General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy

APOLOGY:

Nil

GUESTS:

Donna Schakelaar

Unconfirmed

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Unconfirmed

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Unconfirmed

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We the members of City of Darwin acknowledge that we are meeting on Larrakia Country.

We recognise and pay our respects to all Larrakia people, Traditional Owners and Custodian Elders of the past and present.

We support emerging Larrakia leaders now and into the future.

We are committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.

2 THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.

Amen

Councillor Nicole Brown was not present at the start of the meeting at 5:34pm.

3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

RESOLUTION ORD352/26

Moved: Councillor Patrik Ralph
Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:34 pm.

CARRIED 12/0

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 APOLOGIES

Nil

4.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Nil

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

Nil

Unconfirmed

5 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

5.1 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE GRANTED

Nil

5.2 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

Nil

6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

6.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

RESOLUTION ORD353/26

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer
Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

1. THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 114 and 115 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris, declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 13.3 – Road Reserve Ludmilla.

2. THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 114 and 115 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Councillor Julie Fraser, declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 14.3 – Update of Code of Conduct Outcomes and Item 28.3 – Code of Conduct Panel Summary of Descision.

3. THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 114 and 115 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Councillor Kim Farrar, declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 14.3 – Update of Code of Conduct Outcomes.

4. THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 114 and 115 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Lord Mayor Peter Styles, declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 28.3 – Code of Conduct Panel Summary of Descision.

CARRIED 12/0

6.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLUTION ORD354/26

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar
Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris

Unconfirmed

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 August 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED 12/0

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 August 2026 be confirmed subject to administrative amendments requested by Councillor Patrik Ralph on item 17.1 and Councillor Julie Fraser on item 19.2.

8 MOVING OF ITEMS

8.1 MOVING OF OPEN ITEMS INTO CONFIDENTIAL

Nil

8.2 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS INTO OPEN

Nil

8.3 MOVING CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO OPEN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

27.3 ACCESS AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLUTION ORD390/26

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris
Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Appointment of Chair be received and noted.
2. THAT Council appoint Tiffany Brown as Chair of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee from 5 November 2026 to 4 November 2028.
3. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019.*
4. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 12/0

28.1 BRAND TOOLKIT

RESOLUTION ORD391/26

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Brand Toolkit be received and noted.
2. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019.*
3. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

Unconfirmed

CARRIED 13/0

28.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFIDENTIAL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLUTION ORD392/26

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer
Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT the report entitled Advisory Committee Confidential Meeting Minutes be received and noted.
2. THAT this report and any attachments be deemed confidential documents and be treated as such in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019.*
3. THAT the documents remain confidential and that this decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 13/0

28.3 CODE OF CONDUCT PANEL SUMMARY OF DECISION

RESOLUTION ORD393/26

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer
Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

1. THAT the report entitled Code of Conduct Panel Summary of Decision be received and noted.
2. THAT this report and any attachments are not deemed confidential documents in accordance with Regulation 51(2)(b) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.
3. THAT the decision be moved into Open at the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 10/0

9 MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / LORD MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Councillor Nicole Brown joined the meeting at 5:41pm.

10.1 2026 PRE-CYCLONE CLEAN-UP

RESOLUTION ORD355/26

Moved: Councillor Patrik Ralph
Seconded: Councillor Julie Fraser

THAT the following Public Questions and responses as tabled from Rosemary Antonini regarding 2026 Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up be received and noted.

Question 1

Section 22(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)* identifies as a function of Council, carrying out measures to protect its area from natural and other hazards and to mitigate the effects of such hazards. In deciding to postpone the city-wide Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up until May 2027, what assessment did Council undertake of the impact of this decision on cyclone hazard reduction and

Unconfirmed

preparedness for the 2026–27 cyclone season, and how does Council consider the decision consistent with its function under section 22(1)(f)?

Response

Council considered the impact of postponing the city-wide Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up on cyclone preparedness and noted that only around 10% of material collected through the program is waste that could pose a cyclone hazard. Following significant post-Cyclone Fina recovery and clean-up activities across the municipality, Council did not have the internal capacity to deliver the 2026 program. In making its decision, Council considered that cyclone preparedness is a shared responsibility between Council and residents.

Question 2

On what date was the decision to postpone the 2026 Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up made, who authorised the decision and under what Council resolution or delegated authority was it made, and why were residents not advised of the postponement until August 2026, immediately before the service would ordinarily have commenced?

Response

Council considered the 2026 Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up and associated services from February to July 2026. The 2026/27 financial year delivery program was then confirmed within recent City of Darwin communications.

Question 3

Beyond access to Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility and the limited assisted pick-up service, what specific measures will Council undertake before the 2026–27 cyclone season to mitigate potential residential cyclone hazards. Will Council reconsider providing a city-wide pre-cyclone collection before the commencement of cyclone season?

Response

Council continues to support cyclone hazard reduction through free year-round access to the Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility for residents with a tip tag, continued assisted waste collection services for eligible residents, and ongoing community education regarding cyclone preparedness. Council considers these measures provide residents with accessible options to remove potential cyclone hazards and are consistent with Council's function under section 22(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)*. The Northern Territory Government is the lead agency for cyclone preparedness, response, and recovery. The Secure NT website outlines these steps and responsibilities. The pre-cyclone clean-up has been deferred until; May 2027.

CARRIED 13/0

10.2 ITEM 27.3 - 2027 PRE-CYCLONE CLEAN-UP PROGRAM UPDATE – CONFIDENTIAL SESSION, ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 28 JULY 2026

RESOLUTION ORD356/26

Moved: Councillor Patrik Ralph
Seconded: Councillor Julie Fraser

THAT the following Public Questions and responses as tabled from Donna Schakelaar regarding Item 27.3 - 2027 Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up Program Update" – confidential session, Ordinary Council Meeting, 28 July 2026 (closed under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(c)(i)).

Unconfirmed

Question 1

Why was Item 27.3 “2027 Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up Program Update” treated differently from the other confidential items closed on 28 July regarding the immediate release of the decision. Specifically, was a resolution to release it moved and omitted from the minutes, or was none moved at all?

Response

The release of decisions from confidential items is considered on a case-by-case basis, and the timing of release can vary depending on the circumstances and the nature of the information involved. Where a confidential item is considered by Council, a separate resolution may be moved to make the decision public immediately, or the matter may remain confidential until the reasons for confidentiality no longer apply. Those reasons can include ongoing operational planning, commercial considerations, legal matters, negotiations with third parties, or other circumstances where premature disclosure could prejudice Council's interests. The differing treatment of confidential items generally reflects the particular circumstances applicable to each matter and the Council's determination at the time as to whether the grounds for confidentiality continue to apply.

Question 2

Has Item 27.3 “2027 Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up Program Update” been added to the Confidentiality Review Register as per the Council’s Confidential Information and Business Policy (No 1050.100.ER), and on what exact date is the first formal 6-monthly review scheduled to occur?

Response

The Confidential Information and Business Policy requires confidential matters to be included on the Confidentiality Review Register and reviewed at least every six months. The next formal review date would ordinarily be scheduled for January and every six months thereafter as recorded on the Register.

Question 3

Why was the agenda item titled “2027 Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up Program Update” rather than using terms that reflected its actual substance such as a proposed postponement of the 2026 program? Did Council consider separating the high-level policy question of postponement from any genuinely commercially sensitive detail so that ratepayers could be informed of and consulted on the decision to delay the program before it was finalised?

Response

The title of the confidential agenda item is considered appropriate having regard to the range of subject matter being reported to Council at the time.

CARRIED 13/0

11 PETITIONS

11.1 PETITION

RESOLUTION ORD357/26

Moved: Councillor Patrik Ralph
Seconded: Councillor Julie Fraser

Councillor Mick Palmer will present the Petition.

1. THAT the Petition, in relation to the 2026 Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up, be received and noted.
2. THAT the Petition regarding 2026 Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up be referred to Council for

Unconfirmed

consideration.

CARRIED 13/0

12 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

Nil

13 ACTION REPORTS

13.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY CALL FOR MOTIONS

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Julie Fraser
Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT the report entitled Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Call for Motions be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the following motion to be submitted to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory General Meeting on 1 November 2026:

   City of Darwin calls on LGANT to support ALGA Motion 92, adopted unanimously at the 2026 National General Assembly, and advocate to the Australian Government for its implementation, including:

   a) *recognising the increasing and unsustainable financial burden climate impacts, adaptation, resilience and disaster recovery placed on local governments and communities;*

   b) *recognise the inequity where local governments and communities bear these costs despite not being responsible for the 75% of climate pollution generated by major coal, oil, and gas corporations*

   c) *establishing a National Climate Compensation Fund, including a dedicated funding stream for local governments commensurate with the scale of the financial risks identified in the 2025 National Climate Risk Assessment*

   d) *establish a Parliamentary Inquiry into the adequacy of the 2025 National Adaptation Plan, specifically addressing the lack of additional funding for local governments to deliver mandated adaptation responses.*

   e) *identifying adequate and sustainable revenue sources for the Fund, including taxes or levies on coal, oil and gas industries aligned with the climate damage their products cause.*

3. THAT Council endorse the following motion to be submitted to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory General Meeting on 1 November 2026:

   City of Darwin calls on LGANT to endorse the polluter pays principle that those responsible for climate pollution should contribute to the costs of responding to the impacts it causes; ensuring funding arrangements recognise the disproportionate climate risks and costs experienced by remote and regional communities and First Nations peoples, and enable First Nations communities to participate meaningfully in decisions about climate adaptation and resilience affecting their communities and Country.

4. THAT Council endorse the following motion to be submitted to the Local Government

Unconfirmed

Association of the Northern Territory General Meeting on 1 November 2026:

City of Darwin calls on LGANT to advocate for sustainable and predictable infrastructure funding mechanisms that enable local governments to proactively plan, renew, maintain and deliver infrastructure required to support population growth, community liveability and enable economic development, including funding models that recognise whole-of-life asset costs and provide for annual asset renewal and maintenance programs.

AMENDMENT

RESOLUTION ORD358/26

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Call for Motions be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the following motion to be submitted to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory General Meeting on 1 November 2026:

   City of Darwin calls on LGANT to advocate for sustainable and predictable infrastructure funding mechanisms that enable local governments to proactively plan, renew, maintain and deliver infrastructure required to support population growth, community liveability and enable economic development, including funding models that recognise whole-of-life asset costs and provide for annual asset renewal and maintenance programs.

CARRIED 9/4

RESOLUTION ORD359/26

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Call for Motions be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the following motion to be submitted to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory General Meeting on 1 November 2026:

   City of Darwin calls on LGANT to advocate for sustainable and predictable infrastructure funding mechanisms that enable local governments to proactively plan, renew, maintain and deliver infrastructure required to support population growth, community liveability and enable economic development, including funding models that recognise whole-of-life asset costs and provide for annual asset renewal and maintenance programs.

CARRIED 13/0

13.2 CARRY FORWARD BUDGET 2025/2026 AND RESERVE BALANCES AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

RESOLUTION ORD360/26

Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris
Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT the report entitled Carry Forwards Budget 2025/2026 and Reserve Balances as at 30 June 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt carry forward items listed in **Attachment 1** of report Carry Forwards Budget 2025/2026 and Reserve Balances as at 30 June 2026, totalling $4,035,139 by their

Unconfirmed

inclusion in the 2026/2027 Annual Budget.

3. THAT Council adopt the Reserve Balances 2026 total of $99,213,966 listed in **Attachment 2** of report Carry Forward Budget 2025-2026 and Reserve Balances as at 30 June 2026.

CARRIED 13/0

Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris departed the meeting at 5:59 pm due to a declared Conflict of Interest.

13.3 ROAD RESERVE ACQUISITION LUDMILLA

RESOLUTION ORD361/26

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer
Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Road Reserve Acquisition Ludmilla be received and noted.
2. THAT Council provides in-principle support for the proposed closure and disposal of approximately 344m² of road reserve adjacent to the Ludmilla Wastewater Treatment Plant to facilitate critical infrastructure upgrades by Power and Water Corporation.
3. THAT Council, pursuant to Section 40 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2018* delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to commence the statutory road closure and public consultation process.
4. THAT Council notes that a further report will be presented to Council following completion of the public consultation process to consider the outcomes of consultation and seek Council's determination on whether to proceed with the permanent road closure and disposal of the land.

CARRIED 12/0

Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris re-joined the meeting at 6:02 pm.

13.4 APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

RESOLUTION ORD362/26

Moved: Councillor Edwin Joseph
Seconded: Councillor Shani Carson

1. THAT the report entitled Appointments to Council Advisory Committees be received and noted.
2. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **Place, Liveability and Sustainability Advisory Committee** from the 30 September 2026 to 30 September 2027:

   Lord Mayor (Chair)

   Councillor Patrik Ralph

   Councillor Julie Fraser;

   Councillor Mick Palmer as Alternate
3. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **Tourism, Business and International Relations Advisory Committee** from the 30 September 2026 to 30 September 2027:

   Lord Mayor (Chair)

   Councillor Kim Farrar;

   Councillor Sam Weston

Unconfirmed

Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris as Alternate

CARRIED 13/0

13.5 NOMINATIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY BOARD

RESOLUTION ORD363/26

Moved: Councillor Clarence McCarthy-Grogan
Seconded: Councillor Shani Carson

1. THAT the report entitled Nominations for Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Board be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the nomination for Councillor Peter Pangquee to the LGANT Board as President.
3. THAT Council appoint the nomination for Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris as Board Director – Municipal, should Councillor Peter Pangquee be appointed as President.
4. THAT Council appoint the nomination for Councillor Peter Pangquee as Board Director – Municipal, should Councillor Peter Pangquee not be appointed as President.
5. THAT Council appoint the nomination for Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris to the LGANT Board as Director – Municipal, should Councillor Peter Pangquee not be appointed as President and be appointed as Board Director Municipal.

CARRIED 13/0

13.6 REVIEW OF MEMORIAL POLICY

RESOLUTION ORD364/26

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer
Seconded: Councillor Peter Pangquee

1. THAT the report entitled Review of Memorial Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopts the revised Memorial Policy at **Attachment 1**.

CARRIED 13/0

13.7 DOG PARK PETITION FOR DARWIN CBD

RESOLUTION ORD365/26

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer
Seconded: Councillor Sam Weston

1. THAT the report entitled Dog Park Petition for Darwin CBD be received and noted.
2. THAT an amount of $295,000 be referred to the 2027/28 budget process for consideration to establish a dog park in the CBD.
3. THAT an amount of $25,000 per annum be referred to the 2027/28 budget process for consideration of ongoing annual maintenance for a dog park in the CBD.

CARRIED 13/0

Unconfirmed

14 RECEIVE & NOTE REPORTS

14.1 INTERIM MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - AUGUST 2026

RESOLUTION ORD366/26

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

THAT the report entitled Interim Monthly Financial Report – August 2026 be received and noted.

CARRIED 13/0

14.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEE OPEN MEETING MINUTES

RESOLUTION ORD367/26

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston
Seconded: Councillor Peter Pangquee

THAT the report entitled Advisory Committee Open Meeting Minutes be received and noted.

CARRIED 13/0

Councillor Julie Fraser departed the meeting at 6:59 pm due to a declared conflict of interest.

Councillor Kim Farrar departed the meeting at 6:59 pm due to a declared conflict of interest.

14.3 UPDATE OF CODE OF CONDUCT OUTCOMES

RESOLUTION ORD368/26

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

THAT the report entitled Update of Code of Conduct Outcomes be received and noted.

CARRIED 11/0

Councillor Julie Fraser re-joined the meeting at 7:00 pm.

15 CORRESPONDENCE

15.1 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION ORD369/26

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris
Seconded: Councillor Shani Carson

THAT the report entitled Incoming Correspondence - Australian Local Government Association be received and noted.

CARRIED 12/0

Councillor Kim Farrar re-joined the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Unconfirmed

16 NOTICES OF MOTION

16.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE

I, Councillor Shani Carson, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 29 September 2026, I will move the following motion:-

RESOLUTION ORD370/26

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT Council note the strategic objectives contained within City of Darwin 2030: City for People, City of Colour and the Place and Liveability Plan 2050 to improve amenity, liveability and community wellbeing through high-quality public spaces.
2. THAT Council undertake a desktop assessment of irrigation infrastructure across Council-managed parks and public open spaces, including:
   a) parks and open spaces currently serviced by irrigation infrastructure;
   b) opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing irrigation systems through emerging technologies and infrastructure upgrades; and
   c) top three priority locations where investment in irrigation infrastructure may provide enhanced community amenity and environmental benefits.
3. THAT a report be presented to Council by January 2027 outlining the findings of the assessment, including any identified opportunities, constraints and high-level costs associated with future irrigation enhancements.
4. THAT Council note that any proposed capital works arising from the assessment be considered through the 2027/28 budget development process.

CARRIED 13/0

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris departed the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris re-joined the meeting at 7:17 pm.

16.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUSTRALIAN COASTAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION

I, Councillor Julie Fraser, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 29 September 2026, I will move the following motion:-

RESOLUTION ORD371/26

Moved: Councillor Julie Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Edwin Joseph

1. THAT Council approve City of Darwin becoming a member of the Australian Coastal Councils Association Inc. for the 2027-28 financial year;
2. THAT Council note the costs and benefits contained within this motion including;
   a) The annual membership fee is currently $5,233.94 including GST;
   b) Council can appoint an elected member as Council's representative to the Association, with the representative to be determined by Council;
   c) Council can participate in the Association's National Survey on Coastal Hazards; and

Unconfirmed

d) Council endorse to review the benefits and value of membership after 12 months, before renewing membership for a further year.

3. THAT Council refer the membership fee amount of $5233.94 including GST to the 2027/28 budget process.

In Favour: Members Kim Farrar, Julie Fraser, Edwin Joseph and Patrik Ralph

Against: Members Jimmy Bouhoris, Nicole Brown, Shani Carson, Sylvia Klonaris, Clarence McCarthy-Grogan, Mick Palmer, Peter Pangquee, Peter Styles and Sam Weston

LOST 4/9

Lord Mayor Peter Styles departed the meeting at 7:41 pm.

Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris resumed the role of Chair.

Lord Mayor Peter Styles re-joined the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Councillor Sam Weston departed the meeting at 7:56 pm.

Councillor Sam Weston re-joined the meeting at 7:57 pm.

16.3 NOTICE OF MOTION - BAGOT ROAD VEGETATION CLEARING

I, Councillor Julie Fraser, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 29 September 2026, I will move the following motion:-

RESOLUTION ORD372/26

Moved: Councillor Julie Fraser
Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT Council note the substantial vegetation clearing alongside Bunnings Darwin.
2. THAT Council approve, in the following terms, the letter at **Attachment 1** to be sent to the Chief Executive Officer for Bunnings Group Limited and the Chief Executive Officer for Airport Development Group.

LOST 1/12

RESOLUTION ORD373/26

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston
Seconded: Councillor Mick Palmer

THAT in accordance with Meetings Policy No.0043.100.E.R section 3.12.1 that the motion be put.

CARRIED 10/3

Councillor Mick Palmer departed the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris departed the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Councillor Mick Palmer re-joined the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris re-joined the meeting at 8:06 pm.

16.4 NOTICE OF MOTION - CYCLONE TRACY MEMORIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT EAST POINT RESERVE

I, Councillor Julie Fraser, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 29 September 2026, I will move the following motion:-

Unconfirmed

RESOLUTION ORD374/26

Moved: Councillor Julie Fraser
Seconded: Councillor Nicole Brown

1. THAT Council note the information contained within this Notice of Motion – Cyclone Tracy Memorial Infrastructure at East Point Reserve.
2. THAT an amount of $100,000 be referred to the 2027/28 budget process for consideration to enhance the existing infrastructure, landscaping and accessibility at the memorial area, including consideration up to the referred budget amount, for options such as;
   (a) suitable seating, including accessible seating and consideration of shade;
   (b) a drinking-water bubbler or refill station, including water connection, drainage and servicing requirements;
   (c) modest landscaping and beautification appropriate to the memorial's purpose and the East Point setting; and
   (d) any minor access or supporting works required for safe and inclusive use of the area;
3. THAT an amount of $20,000 per annum be referred to the 2027/28 budget process for consideration of ongoing annual maintenance of any approved capital infrastructure, duly adjusted as part of the budget for process to align capital and maintenance value, considering;
   (a) estimated annual increase in operating, cleaning, horticultural and asset-maintenance costs for the existing memorial area and each proposed improvement;

In Favour: Members Julie Fraser, Edwin Joseph, Clarence McCarthy-Grogan, Mick Palmer, Peter Pangquee and Patrik Ralph

Against: Members Jimmy Bouhoris, Nicole Brown, Shani Carson, Kim Farrar, Sylvia Klonaris, Peter Styles and Sam Weston

LOST 6/7

AMENDMENT

RESOLUTION ORD375/26

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston
Seconded: Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT Council note the information contained within this Notice of Motion – Cyclone Tracy Memorial Infrastructure at East Point Reserve.
2. THAT an amount of $100,000 be referred to the 2027/28 budget process within the better suburbs funding allocation, for consideration to enhance the existing infrastructure, landscaping and accessibility at the memorial area, including consideration up to the referred budget amount, for options such as;
   (a) suitable seating, including accessible seating and consideration of shade;
   (b) a drinking-water bubbler or refill station, including water connection, drainage and servicing requirements;
   (c) modest landscaping and beautification appropriate to the memorial's purpose and the East Point setting; and
   (d) any minor access or supporting works required for safe and inclusive use of the area;
3. THAT an amount of $20,000 per annum be referred to the 2027/28 budget process for consideration of ongoing annual maintenance of any approved capital infrastructure, duly adjusted as part of the budget for process to align capital and maintenance value,

Unconfirmed

considering;

(a) estimated annual increase in operating, cleaning, horticultural and asset-maintenance costs for the existing memorial area and each proposed improvement;

LOST 3/10

16.5 NOTICE OF MOTION - TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND ROAD SAFETY ASSESMENTS FOR WATERS WARD

I, Councillor Sylvia Klonaris, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 29 September 2026, I will move the following motion:-

RESOLUTION ORD376/26

Moved: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris
Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

1. THAT Council note the City of Darwin 2030: City for People, City of colour strategic plan to deliver best practice and sustainable infrastructure – supports safe, functional road networks and industrial access and the Place and Liveability Plan 2050 creating a safer, more connected and better functioning city.
2. THAT Council approve to undertake an assessment in accordance with the adopted City of Darwin Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) and Pedestrian Facility Guidelines to determine any local area traffic management and or pedestrian facility works for the following locations within Waters Ward:
   a) Union Terrace, Wulagi;
   b) Lee Point Road intersection precinct, Wulagi; and
   c) Yanyula Drive, Anula/Wulagi.
3. THAT a report be presented to Council in January 2027 that provides the outcome of the LATM assessment including any recent incident summary, concept design options, associated cost estimates and any Black Spot funding eligibility.
4. THAT Council note that any proposed work will be prioritised against other identified LATM and or pedestrian crossing facilities projects for inclusion in a future works program and be referred to the 2027/28 budget process.

CARRIED 7/6

17 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

RESOLUTION ORD377/26

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar
Seconded: Councillor Julie Fraser

THAT the following Reports of Representatives be received and noted.

17.1

Councillor Shani Carson noted that Tuesday, 29 September is National Police Remembrance Day. Councillor Shani Carson attended the memorial service at St Mary's Cathedral in Darwin with Lord Mayor Peter Styles, and Councillor Patrik Ralph. Councillor Shani Carson acknowledged the officers whose names were added to the National Wall of Remembrance this year, as well as those

Unconfirmed

who will be added in 2027. Further acknowledging the important work of police officers in supporting the community and the significance of National Police Remembrance Day in honouring their service and sacrifice.

17.2

Councillor Patrik Ralph reported on the Waters Ward Father's Day Movie night held at Anula Oval on Saturday, 5 September 2026. Thanking the Lyons Ward Councillors who donated lolly bags for attendees, officers, Garuda Football Club who ran the BBQ, Neighbourhood Watch NT, Darwin's Men's Shed and all community members who came together to support the event. It was well attended and a fantastic way to celebrate fathers, father figures and carers in our community and is looking forward to doing something similar next year and building on the event.

17.3

Deputy Lord Mayor Jimmy Bouhoris reported on officiating a citizenship ceremony on Thursday, 24 September on behalf of the Lord Mayor. The Deputy Lord Mayor formally thanked and acknowledged officers who organised and facilitated the ceremony for their professionalism and for delivering a successful event. Positive feedback was received from several attendees regarding the organisation of the event and the facilities at the Lyons Park Community Centre.

CARRIED 13/0

18 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

18.1 CHANGES TO PARKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISABILITY PERMIT PARKING HOLDERS

RESOLUTION ORD378/26

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Patrik Ralph

Question

Councillor Kim Farrar requested an update on the timeframe for the replacement of signage and the distribution of communications regarding changes to parking arrangements for disability permit holders, in accordance with the Notice of Motion – Accessibility and Free Parking for Disability Permit Holders, adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 31 March 2026.

Response

General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy advised that a city-wide parking review is currently underway, with community workshops and stakeholder interviews completed and survey work to commence shortly. A parking engagement report is expected to be presented to Elected Members in late 2026 or early 2027 and signage will be all changed at the same time after Council received this report.

CARRIED 13/0

18.2 BICYCLE RACKS

RESOLUTION ORD379/26

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Patrik Ralph

Question

Unconfirmed

Councillor Julie Fraser requested information on the process and associated costs for installing bicycle racks within the municipality in response to requests from constituents.

Response

Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders advised Councillor Julie Fraser to submit a Notice of Motion identifying the proposed location and budget for the installation of bicycle racks. Further noting that feasibility and installation costs would vary depending on the location.

CARRIED 13/0

18.3 RAPID CREEK POLLUTION

RESOLUTION ORD380/26

Moved: Councillor Shani Carson
Seconded: Councillor Patrik Ralph

Question

Councillor Julie Fraser inquired which agency or governing body is responsible for managing and responding to pollution in Rapid Creek.

Response

General Manager Innovation, Alice Percy took the question on notice.

CARRIED 13/0

19 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

20 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 27 October 2026, at 5:30 pm (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section), Council Chambers Darrandirra, Level 1, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin.

21 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Regulation 8 of the Local Government Regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Unconfirmed

That the Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 99(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019*:

27.1 Business Support

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(e) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with subject to subregulation 51(3) – information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.

27.2 City of Darwin Strategic and Priority Projects Review

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

27.3 Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Appointment of Chair

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation 51(3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

28.1 Brand Toolkit

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(e) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with subject to subregulation 51(3) – information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.

28.2 Advisory Committee Confidential Meeting Minutes

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

28.3 Code of Conduct Panel Summary of Decision

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(f) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with subject to subregulation 51(2) – information in relation to a complaint of a contravention of the code of conduct.

Unconfirmed

22 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

RESOLUTION ORD381/26

Moved: Councillor Sam Weston
Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

THAT the open section of the meeting be adjorned at 8:44 pm.

CARRIED 13/0

THAT the open section of the meeting be resumed at 10:22 pm.

THAT the chair declared the meeting closed at 10:22 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 October 2026.

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CHAIR

Unconfirmed