



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday, 1 February 2022

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

Date: Tuesday, 1 February 2022

Time: 5:30pm

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

Webcasting: [MS Teams Link to Webcast](#)

**Scott Waters
Chief Executive Officer**

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis (Chair)

Deputy Lord Mayor Sylvia Klonaris

Alderman Paul Arnold

Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

Alderman Justine Glover

Alderman Brian O'Gallagher

Alderman Mick Palmer

Alderman Peter Pangquee

Alderman Morgan Rickard

Alderman Vim Sharma

Alderman Ed Smelt

Alderman Amye Un

Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

OFFICERS

Chief Executive Officer, Scott Waters

Chief Financial Officer, Simone Saunders

General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr

Acting General Manager Innovation, Emma Young

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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 - 7 December 2021

Special Ordinary Council Meeting - 10 January 2022

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

11 PETITIONS

12 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

13 NOTICES OF MOTION**13.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - INDEPENDENT LIVING VILLAGE****Common No.:****Attachments:** Nil

I, Alderman Sylvia Klonaris, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 1 February 2022, I will move the following motion:-

MOTION

1. THAT Council officers provide a report in the first quarter of 2022 assessing the feasibility for investing and developing an Independent Living Village in the Municipality of Darwin and determine this projects inclusion as a priority for this council.
2. THAT this report includes in the assessment other local councils in Australia, such as the Blue Haven Kiama Council, that have established similar successful Continuums of aged care services, that will ultimately provide a wide range of services for people in the Darwin Municipality to enable an independent living community for our seniors and people of all ages living with a disability.
3. THAT this report identifies the most suitable location within the Darwin Municipality, taking into consideration proximity to Royal Darwin Hospital, and other relevant amenities such as health services and transport corridors.
4. THAT this report includes an analysis of scenarios to consider likely build costs and funding models, including opportunities for private partnering (cost versus revenue options) to build the village.
5. THAT this report considers opportunities for operational partnerships with educational institutions and health care, and other service providers.

REASON:

This motion supports the opportunity for Council to invest in an Independent Living Village that will provide a lifestyle option for people who would otherwise not have the option to live independently. This includes people of all ages with a disability, as well as our aging residents.

Other Councils around Australia have recognised the need for such infrastructure and these developments have proven to be highly sought after and provide those Councils with positive revenue.

Nineteen percent (19%) of Darwin's population is over the age of 55. This is an emerging age group who will be planning their retirement and seeking to continue living in Darwin. The Village will enable residents to easily transition their level of care in response to their individual needs including retirement and support. It is time to invest in the appropriate infrastructure that will ensure we avoid the ongoing exodus of our seniors to other states, and possibly attract more people to live in our beautiful city.

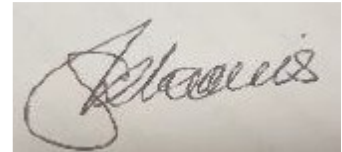
As the population of our aged and people living with a disability increases, this Village will provide the infrastructure and support, our they require to lead a healthy and socially connected lifestyle in Darwin.

This motion supports initiatives to grow the economy and retain people and jobs in Darwin by increasing Darwin's overall economic capacity and activity through population attraction and retention.

Council is in a prime position to develop a village that offers an affordable retirement and independent living environment with a range of community spaces such as cafés, health services & programs, recreation and exercise areas.

The 2030 Advocacy & Partnerships Strategy states that “All the City of Darwin’s strategies and plans recognises council advocacy role in supporting and enhancing the social, economic, and environmental health and wellbeing of the community”. The development of an Independent Living Village in Darwin will be an integral strategy to meet this criterion. I am asking Council today to support this motion, to investigate the potential for an independent Living Village that will provide social, economic and environmental health and wellbeing benefits for the Darwin community.

Signed by me at Darwin this 20 December 2021

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sylia Klonaris', is written on a light-colored rectangular piece of paper.

ALDERMAN SYLIA KLONARIS

13.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - SENIOR FUN BUS**Common No.:****Attachments:** Nil

I, Alderman Sylvia Klonaris, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 1 February 2022, I will move the following motion:-

MOTION

1. THAT Council officers provide a report to council at the first ordinary meeting in March 2022 to assess the feasibility of providing a Seniors type fun bus offering for our active seniors in the municipality. Officers should consider the dates, times, locations for any current and future programs to activate seniors in our community and connect the legacies from our seniors to our youth.

Key issues:

- Its is critical we provide a pathway for our seniors to connect with community – an initiative like this “legacy connect” with provide the vehicle to commence this important support for all our community.
- Activates a Senior Fun Bus connecting to outdoor exercise stations and programs.
- FEB FIT month of programs and activities
- Initiatives proposed through the YAC strategy with Darwin’s demographics of Youth being 0-14 years 18% and Senior being 55 years+ 19% the need to activate a transport/movement initiative for our seniors.
- That that emerging demographics from 55 to 65 are equal to our current 65 and over – doubling the needs in the next 10 years.
- The intention is to have the YAC propose and activate other programs to be included in the report such as, Transport Initiatives, Exit Trails, linking at our community centre and working partnerships within other agencies and networks and support services.
- Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and COTA is also consulted in the process, so everyone belongs.
- The Senior Fun bus will support all ages and fit for purpose which includes outdoor exercise station and with people living with a disability to help better connect with people in our community to be social and active.
- The Senior community who are vulnerable want better access so they can be engaged, to also feel safe and supported by being able to be more active to access programs, services and allowing them to be better equipped to navigate within the community.

REASON:

Darwin does not have fit for purpose designated transport program to engage in our senior community. In other states and regions this is provided via the volunteer agencies. This program will provide access and inclusion to all seniors and people living with a disability.

Seniors and people who living with a disability are less likely to attend events due to the restricted access, cost, or inability to independently travel themselves. The Seniors Bus will provide the capability to better engage the seniors to be more active and improve engagement to participate.

This is currently offered to the youth “kids’ fun bus” offered by council and shown to be successful in engaging and promoting healthy living in the municipality by connecting to service providers. This will provide the connection to community programs, services and improve lifestyle experiences in the Darwin region for the seniors.

NDIS plans offered to seniors and people living with a disability to support them to access transport services to make life easier and interact in community to attend social activities as this is an essential part of their wellbeing.

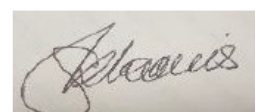
Council has an obligation to support seniors in our community to provide them with suitable services. The Senior Bus provides this service to support and allow to participate in sports, pools, social and recreational activities, and council libraries, within the Darwin municipality.

Additional Data 2020 ABS

Noting that there will be 19.65% increase of older population of the emerging demographics from 55 to 65 are equal to our current 65 and over – doubling the needs in the next 10 years.

Age		
0 - 4		5,850
5 - 9		5,194
10 - 14		4,629
15 - 19		4,370
20 - 24		5,896
25 - 29		9,392
30 - 34		8,734
35 - 39		7,011
40 - 44		6,169
45 - 49		5,844
50 - 54		5,473
55 - 59		4,961
60 - 64		4,212
65 - 69		3,275
70 - 74		1,986
75 - 79		1,231
80 - 84		594
All ages		85,323
85 and over		502

Signed by me at Darwin this 20 December 2021



ALDERMAN SYLVIA KLONARIS

14 ACTION REPORTS

14.1 RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - ESTABLISHMENT

Author: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services

Authoriser: General Manager Community

Attachments: 1. Terms of Reference Reconciliation Advisory Committee [↓](#)
2. Reconciliation Groups and Committees [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Reconciliation Advisory Committee be received and noted.
2. THAT Council establishes the Reconciliation Advisory Committee, pursuant to Section 82 of the *Local Government Act 2019* and adopts the Committee Terms of Reference at **Attachment 1**.
3. THAT Council appoint the following Council members to the Reconciliation Advisory Committee for the period 1 February 2022 to 30 June 2022:
Alderman _____; and
Alderman _____ as Alternate

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to establish the Reconciliation Advisory Committee and adopt the terms of reference.

KEY ISSUES

- In accordance with the Local Government Act 2019 the Reconciliation Advisory Committee needs to be established by Council.
- On 11 August 2020 Council endorsed City of Darwin's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP): Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan August 2020 – July 2022.
- The RAP was developed with guidance from the Reconciliation Action Plan Steering Committee.
- As the Steering Committee term has ended, it is now proposed to establish a Reconciliation Advisory Committee to advise Council.
- The proposed terms of reference for the Committee are at **Attachment 1**.

DISCUSSION

On 11 August 2020, Council endorsed City of Darwin's first Reconciliation Action Plan: Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan August 2020 – July 2022. The development of this Plan was guided by a Steering Committee made up of staff and external stakeholders and included Elected Members. The Steering Committee term ended in late 2021.

It is proposed the Reconciliation Advisory Committee will replace the Steering Committee and in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019 needs to be formally established by Council, proposed terms of reference are at **Attachment 1**.

The Committee's purpose is to advocate, inform and guide Council on reconciliation actions and efforts to strengthen the relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous peoples for the benefit of all Australians living within, working, studying or visiting the City of Darwin.

If the Committee is established Council will need to appoint an Elected Member to the Committee, advertise for community members and extend invitations to relevant organisations as per the terms of reference. A further report would be required to seek Council's appointment of community members, it is envisaged that the first committee meeting would be in April 2022.

City of Darwin's Reconciliation Action Plan is implemented by the internal Reconciliation Action Implementation Group, in addition a Staff Support Network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff has been established. **Attachment 2** outlines the groups that formally support Reconciliation within the City of Darwin.

Funding for the current Reconciliation Action Officer position ends in August 2022, a further report will be presented to Council to consider establishing a full-time position in this role.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 11 August 2020 meeting Council resolved:

RESOLUTION ORD239/20

1. THAT the report entitled Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2022 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2022.
3. THAT following Council endorsement, the City of Darwin Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2022 be submitted to Reconciliation Australia for final approval.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	<p>5 A Vibrant and Creative City</p> <p>5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity</p>
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	<p>Is Funding identified: Existing budget will be utilised to establish the Reconciliation Advisory Committee for 21/22.</p> <p>City of Darwin's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan August 2020- July 2022 expires at the end of July. Work on the next Reconciliation Action Plan will commence by April 2022.</p> <p>Funding for the Reconciliation Action Officer position ends in August 2022, a further report will be presented to Council to consider establishing a full-time position and future resource requirement.</p>
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS	Legislation:

OR IMPACTS	<p>Local Government Act 2019</p> <p>Policy:</p> <p>City of Darwin Governance Framework</p>
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	<p>Nil</p>
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>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).</p>



RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

GOVERNANCE

1 PURPOSE

The Reconciliation Advisory Committee is an Advisory Committee to Council. Its purpose is to advocate, inform, and guide Council on reconciliation actions and efforts to strengthen the relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians living within, working, studying or visiting the City of Darwin.

2 SCOPE

The Reconciliation Advisory Committee operates to advocate, inform and support Council 's approach to reconciliation.

3 AUTHORITY/DELEGATION

The Reconciliation Advisory Committee is an Advisory Committee to Council and does not have any delegation to make decisions. The Committee can put recommendations to Council for endorsement, and then may be responsible for completing the action determined by Council resolution.

4. FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Reconciliation Action Committee are to:

- a) Guide the implementation of City of Darwin's *Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) August 2020 – July 2022* and advise on the development of the next iteration of the RAP.
- b) Represent the reconciliation needs of the Darwin community to the City of Darwin.
- c) Advise Council on ways to actively contribute to the development and implementation of best practice policies, procedures, planning and programming to support reconciliation outcomes.
- d) Identify actions that City of Darwin may take to improve reconciliation within its facilities, services and programs.
- e) Identify gaps, issues and challenges in achieving reconciliation that City of Darwin can advocate for and/or partner with businesses, services and organisations to address.
- f) Advocate for reconciliation as an active goal by providing education and information to improve community awareness of the importance of reconciliation, by promoting the histories, cultures and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the City of Darwin.
- g) Keep Council informed of industry developments, standards and legislation which can improve reconciliation within City of Darwin services, facilities, and programs.

5. MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019*, the City of Darwin shall appoint suitably

CITY FOR PEOPLE. CITY OF COLOUR.

Reconciliation Advisory Committee		Page 1 of 4
Version: 1	Decision Number: ORDXXX/XXX	Adoption Date: xx/xx/2022
Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer		Next Review Date: xx/xx/202x

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RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

GOVERNANCE

qualified individuals to be members of the Committee based on selection criteria related to their expertise, experience, dedication, and commitment to the purpose of the group.

The domains of expertise relevant to this Committee are:

- *Understanding and experience of issues impacting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities*
- *Community services and cultural development*
- *Education, employment, and training*
- *Recruitment and/or human resourcing, and*
- *Safety and well-being services*

Membership provisions

- a) Up to four (4) community members, and
- b) Up to six (6) organisational memberships consisting of representation from:
 - i. Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
 - ii. Larrakia Development Corporation
 - iii. Organisation with a higher status RAP than City of Darwin ('Stretch' or 'Elevate')
 - iv. Commonwealth or Northern Territory Government
 - v. Education, Employment or Training provider
 - vi. Community or Not-for-Profit organisation
- c) One Elected Member (and one Alternative Elected Member)

Membership will expire if a member does not attend three (3) consecutive regular meeting occasions without an approved leave of absence.

Representatives shall be nominated by a member organisation and are required to send a briefed alternative delegate should the nominee be unavailable.

The Term of Membership for Community members is two (2) years. Community members if absent, are unable to send a proxy.

Observers with specialist skills and experience may also attend by invitation of the Committee and/or Council.

5.1 CHAIR

The Committee Chair is responsible for:

- Ensuring the good conduct of meetings in accordance with the role and functions of the Committee; and
- Ensuring that the Committee's recommendations and actions are in line with the Terms of Reference.

The Committee Chair will be elected by committee members at their first meeting.

The Committee Chair may be called upon to represent the Committee to Council.

The committee may appoint a Deputy Chair for the purpose of chairing a meeting if the Chair is not present or at a meeting as required.

5.2 MEMBERS

Members are appointed to represent the interests and needs of the community relevant to the committee purpose.

Organisational members are appointed to represent the interests and views of their

CITY FOR PEOPLE. CITY OF COLOUR.

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RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

GOVERNANCE

member organisation relevant to the committee purpose.

6 MEETINGS

6.1 FREQUENCY AND LOCATION

Subject to direction by Council, the Committee will set its meeting schedule the calendar year prior.

The Committee will meet at least four (4) times per year and no more than eight (8) times annually, between February and November.

Time and location of meetings is to be determined by the Committee.

Special meetings can be convened by the Chief Executive Officer on the request of the Chair, or most committee members. The Chief Executive Officer will then issue a Notice of Meeting with the time, date and location of the meeting, and the items to be discussed at the special meeting.

6.2 VOTING

A resolution of the Committee will be passed by a majority vote. A majority vote of half plus one (1) of the members present at the meeting.

The Chair must exercise, in the event of an equity of votes, a second or casting vote.

7 CODE OF CONDUCT

All members are accountable to the *Local Government Act 2019* Code of Conduct, Schedule 1. This includes the requirement to declare gifts and/or benefits.

8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

On appointment to a Committee, all members must identify if there are any conflicts of interests in performing their role on the committee.

Conflicts of Interest must also be identified at any meeting in which a member has a conflict of interest on a matter.

9 REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

9.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the Committee and any changes will be put to Council for endorsement.

9.2 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

At the end of each calendar year, the Committee will conduct an annual review of the Committee to assess outcomes against these terms of reference.

The review and any amendments to the Terms of reference will be provided to Council at the commencement of each calendar year.

10 RESPONSIBILITY AND ACTION

CITY FOR PEOPLE. CITY OF COLOUR.

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RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

All members of the Committee will be asked to sign the Terms of Reference as part of their induction to the Committee, to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 2019* as members of a Council appointed Committee.
These Terms of Reference were adopted by Council on **XXXXXX (date)** 2022.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

GOVERNANCE

CITY FOR PEOPLE. CITY OF COLOUR.

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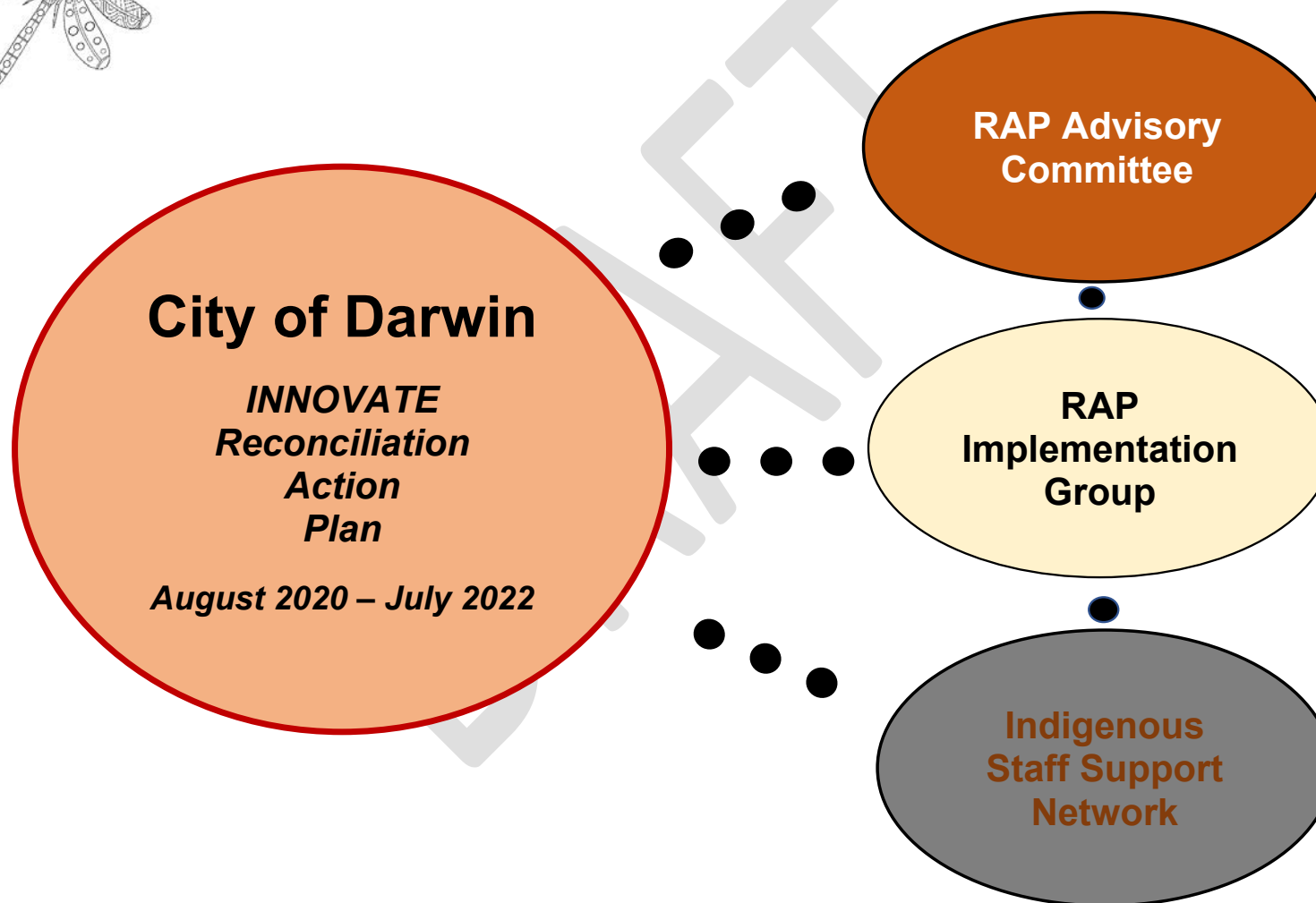
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CITY OF DARWIN

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN (RAP) IMPLEMENTATION GROUP



RAP Advisory Committee:

- This committee began as a *steering* committee and is seeking conversion to an *advisory* committee.
- This committee originally formed as the RAP Working Group in November 2019, with the purpose of developing the first RAP for City of Darwin.
- Once established formally as an Advisory committee it will have formal reporting duties to council (via Infocouncil).
- Members will include external community members and stakeholders, supported by City of Darwin staff.
- A minimum of 50% the committees' membership must be comprised of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

RAP Implementation Group:

- Membership includes internal staff from diverse department within the City of Darwin.
- Members are charged with the actioning the deliverables identified in the RAP.
- RAP Implementation Group meets on a monthly basis to track RAP deliverables.
- Outcomes of the work undertaken by this group are reported to the RAP Steering Committee.

Indigenous Staff Support Network:

- Membership is comprised of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees of the City of Darwin.
- The network provides a culturally-safe space for members to discuss any issues they may be experiencing and uses the knowledge of its members and support of City of Darwin to find solutions.
- The network meets every second month for presentations, discussions, professional development training etc.
- The Mentoring program is housed within this group.

14.2 PROPOSED BOUGAINVILLEA EVENT

Author: Executive Manager Growth & Development Services
Authoriser: Acting General Manager Innovation
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled 'Proposed Bougainvillea Event' be received and noted.
2. THAT further investigation into the Bougainvillea Event does not proceed at this stage.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide to Council information on the possibility of a Bougainvillea Festival in Darwin.

KEY ISSUES

- The Bougainvillea Festival commenced in 1979 as a floral festival aimed at promoting the beautification of the city post Cyclone Tracy.
- The Bougainvillea Festival included contests, competitions, a Grand Parade, sporting events, a rally and Mardi Gras.
- The Bougainvillea Festival shifted focus in the 1990s to focus on cultural performances and arts and became the Darwin Festival in 1996.
- City of Darwin allocates \$150,000 cash and \$18,000 in-kind to the Darwin Festival.
- City of Darwin will provide \$60,000 in sponsorship to other events in 2021-22.
- One City of Darwin Officer current leads production of approximately 20 City of Darwin events per year.
- There have been 145 major event permits approved this year for hosting an event on City of Darwin land. Of these, 13 relate to the multicultural and floral themes of the historic Bougainvillea Festival.
- It is recommended that reinvigoration of this event does not proceed due to resource constraints and a lack of demand for an additional festival with an already very strong event schedule across the calendar year.

DISCUSSION**History of the Bougainvillea Festival**

The Bougainvillea Festival was born out of the destruction of Cyclone Tracy which struck Darwin Christmas Eve in 1974. In 1977, the Northern Territory Director of Health, Dr Charles Gurd, suggested celebrating the town's revival with a festival that would draw the community together and reflect the optimism of those determined to rebuild. Staged in July 1979, the Bougainvillea Festival, held on the first anniversary of the granting of self-government for the Northern Territory, was a floral festival aimed at promoting the beautification of the city.

The early years of the Festival featured such events as the Bougainvillea Queen of Quests competition, Home Garden contests, the Grand Parade - a floral procession with floats and decorated bikes - sporting events, a billy-cart derby, birdman rally and a Mardi Gras.

The Festival shifted its focus toward community arts in the 1990s, with a vision of becoming a cultural focus for the region through a greater emphasis on cultural performances and arts activities. Artists were recruited to work with community associations and schools to invigorate the Grand Parade, and Indigenous communities and Asia Pacific cultural groups were encouraged to have greater participation.

In 1996, Darwin's annual celebration became known as the Festival of Darwin.

Darwin Festival

City of Darwin has allocated \$150,000 cash and \$18,000 in-kind to the Darwin Festival through the 2021-22 sponsorship budget. Darwin Festival is managed by The Darwin Festival Inc.

Darwin Festival is the Northern Territory's leading international arts festival that connect communities through the celebration of culture and the arts. Darwin Festival is an important event for the development, commission and employment of Territory artists and arts workers, providing sector development, employment opportunities and audience access to arts and culture.

Other City of Darwin sponsored events

City of Darwin has provided the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair with \$10,000, the Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival with \$25,000, Sunbuild Top End Grand Fondo with \$10,000, the Karama Country Music Muster with \$10,000 and City 2 Surf with \$5,000 this financial year.

The International Relations Program supported Glenti with \$6,000 and the Indian Street Food Festival with \$2,000 sponsorship last financial year. Other event sponsorships included the Browns Mart Shimmer \$10,000, Darwin Show \$12,000, NAIDOC Week \$10,000, Tropical Light Bruce Munro Exhibition \$5,000, NT Writers Festival \$575 and The Beat Festival \$10,000 in 2019-20.

City of Darwin managed events

City of Darwin currently has two Council officers working in the events space; one who facilitates City of Darwin events and one that provides support and permits to organisations who host events across the Darwin municipality.

City of Darwin currently manages at least one event in each month of the year, excluding March and November. These months are the period when prior organisation is essential for the busy dry season, Christmas and new year period in the lead up to the Bombing of Darwin.

The annual schedule for City of Darwin managed events delivered by the Community Events Producer is currently as follows:

2021

Date	Event	Venue
21 Jan	Citizen of the year presentation	Function area Civic Centre
26 Jan	Australia Day Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony	Darwin Convention Centre
19 Feb	Bombing of Darwin Day Commemorative Service	The Cenotaph
25 April	Support for Anzac Day parade traffic management	Darwin CBD
2, 4, 12 May	Band in the park series – band of the first brigade	Various parks in each ward
2 June	RAAF 100 year anniversary, freedom of entry of parade and civic reception	CBD and Civic Centre
3 July	40 year anniversary NORFORCE freedom of entry parade and civic reception	CBD and Civic Centre
22- 24 July	Darwin Show	Showgrounds
26 Aug	RAAF 100 year anniversary, freedom of entry of parade and civic reception	CBD and Civic Centre
5,12,19 Sep 3 Oct	Arafura Wind Ensemble	Various parks in each ward
9 Oct	RAAF 100 year anniversary, freedom of entry of parade and civic reception	CBD and Civic Centre
24 Oct	Band of the first Brigade performance	Sunset Park Nightcliff

Christmas 2021

Date	Event	Venue
3 Dec	Staff Christmas Breakfast	Double Tree Hilton Esplanade
3 Dec	Christmas tree lights launch and Christmas in the City	The Mall, Smith Street
4 - 24 Dec	Santa Village and Fun in the Parks team	Westlane Arcade
11 Dec	Karama Family fun fair - Waters Ward	Karama Shopping Plaza
19 Dec	Casuarina Christmas Pool party – Richardson Ward	Casuarina Pool Gsell St
23 Dec	Nightcliff foreshore Christmas Bike ride – Chan Ward	Nightcliff Pool start/finish
23 Dec	Nightcliff foreshore Carols by the Sea	In front of Nightcliff Pool

Schedule for early 2022

Date	Event	Venue
20 Jan	Announcement of Citizen of the year	Function centre
26 Jan	Australia Day Flag raising and citizenship ceremony	Darwin Convention Centre
17 – 21 Feb	Bombing of Darwin 80 th Anniversary Tour City of Darwin presents <i>from the frontline</i> the immersive 80 th Anniversary Limited Edition Tour Collection	Sea Darwin <i>Frontline Cruise</i> , Royal Flying Doctor Service Tourist Facility, Darwin Military Museum and Darwin Aviation Museum.

		Explore the museums at your own pace.
18 Feb	Arafura Wind Ensemble presents 80 th Anniversary from Engagement to Peace a Homage	Christ Church Cathedral Civic Park, Smith Street
19 Feb	Bombing of Darwin Day Commemorative Service	The Cenotaph
19 Feb	Arafura Wind Ensemble presents 80 th anniversary From Engagement to Peace a homage	Christ Church Cathedral, Civic Park Smith Street

There have been 145 event permits approved this year for hosting an event on City of Darwin land. When reviewing the events that relate to the multicultural and floral themes of the historic Bougainvillea Festival, the below events have been delivered in 2021:

Date	Event	Venue
26 Jan	Celebrating Aboriginal Culture and Survival Day	Civic Park
27 Mar	Holi Festival	East Point
30 April	Greek Easter Festival	CBD
1 May	Indian Street Food Festival	Smith Street Mall
2 May	Greek Easter Family Day	East Point
3 June	Mabo Day	Jingili Water Gardens
June	Greek Glenti	Bicentennial Park
19 June	India at Mindil	Raintree Park and The Mall
16, 17 July	NAIDOC Family Day, March	Jingili Water Gardens, Civic Park & CBD Roads
August	Darwin Festival	Civic Park, Bicentennial Park
17 Aug	Indonesian Independence Day Ceremony	CBD
19 Sep	Mid Autumn Festival	Raintree Park
November	Laksa Festival	Various

Proposed Bougainvillea Festival

The proposed Bougainvillea Festival would cost between \$70,000 and \$90,000 for traffic management, materials, advertising and an event management consultant to lead due to resource constraints within City of Darwin.

The Bougainvillea Festival of the past was a free event. The return on investment would be through activating the city and potential visitor spend across the municipality.

It is recommended that reinvigoration of this event does not proceed due to resource constraints and a lack of demand for an additional festival with an already very strong event schedule across the calendar year.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held 12 October 2021, Council resolved:

18.7 BOUGAINVILLEA FESTIVAL**RESOLUTION ORD443/21**

Moved: Alderman Justine Glover

Seconded: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

THAT a report be provided to Council on the possibility of a Bougainvillea Festival.

CARRIED 12/0

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	5 A Vibrant and Creative City 5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Budget/Funding: \$70,000 to \$90,000 Is Funding identified: No
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Legislation: N/A Policy: N/A
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: N/A Tactics: 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).

14.3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OUTCOME - WALKWAY 183 - CHAMBERS CRESCENT TO FAWCETT COURT MALAK

Author: Darwin Safer City Program Coordinator

Authoriser: General Manager Community

Attachments: 1. Community Consultation Correspondence [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Community Consultation Outcome – Walkway 183 Chambers Crescent to Fawcett Court, Malak be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve the ongoing 24/7 closure of Walkway 183.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the outcomes of the community consultation undertaken during December 2021 following an incident that led to an immediate 24/7 closure of Walkway 183.

KEY ISSUES

- Walkway 183 has been under a night-time closure for several years.
- The night-time closure was implemented due to ongoing issues and reports of antisocial behaviour in and around the walkway, which was negatively impacting residents.
- City of Darwin employ a private security firm to open the walkway each morning and close it each night.
- In December 2021, a security guard was assaulted while undertaking the evening closure of the walkway.
- Due to the serious nature of the assault, the walkway was closed 24/7 while community consultation was undertaken to determine community impact of an ongoing closure.

DISCUSSION**Council Managed Walkways**

City of Darwin manages 246 walkways across the municipality. This includes 22 walkways which are closed on an ongoing 24/7 basis, and 19 which are closed each night and reopened for access during the day.

Council-owned walkways are an integral part of Darwin's pedestrian network. Many provide critical connectivity between residential areas and community facilities such as schools, shopping centres and public transport. Suburban walkways were originally designed to provide the shortest, most convenient pedestrian access within the suburbs, as opposed to pedestrians following the road network.

Council's management of walkways must balance the requirement of maintaining an accessible pedestrian network with sustainable asset management and protection, while considering public safety and community amenity.

As any closure will affect pedestrian access and neighbourhood amenity, several factors are considered to ensure there is sufficient evidence to recommend a closure. Without substantive evidence, Council will work closely with residents, relevant authorities and stakeholders to address public safety issues rather than closing walkways.

Consideration of Closures

Factors considered prior to the ongoing, temporary, or night-time closure of a walkway include:

- value of the walkway connecting pedestrian to essential community infrastructure
- future suburban planning or growth of suburbs
- recognition that closing one walkway often shifts 'problem' behaviour to the next closest walkway or another part of the suburb and that these areas may see an escalation of issues
- the potential impact night-time closure may have on residents whose properties directly adjoin the walkways (especially relevant if residents' adjoining fences are shorter than the height of the installed walkway gates), and the increased risk of people accessing private property to circumvent a walkway closure.

Antisocial Behaviour and Walkways

The presence of walkways in a neighbourhood does not automatically assume and/or create antisocial behaviour in walkways. Antisocial behaviour is changeable and related to a range of community factors such as:

- neighbourhood composition
- the proximity of community amenities
- seasonal factors.

Night-time walkway closures are supported if there is evidence of sustained and significant negative impact to residents. Consideration to closure is given when large numbers of community complaints are received, or proactive petitions are presented supporting closure of a particular walkway.

Relevant Information Related to Walkway 183

- Walkway 183 provides pedestrian connectivity to and from Chambers Crescent to Fawcett Court, Malak.
- It is one of three walkways which run from Chambers Crescent to Fawcett Court. The other two walkways are Walkways 180 and 241. Walkway 180 is under an ongoing 24/7 closure, while walkway 241 is open 24/7. The area in which the three walkways are situated has high levels of public housing, with multiple high level and single-story unit

blocks.

- The area experiences high levels of antisocial behaviour and has been the subject of multiple complaints to City of Darwin across several years, resulting in the ongoing closure of Walkway 180 and the management of Walkway 183, including its night-time closure.

The decision to implement an ongoing 24/7 closure of Walkway 183 was in response to an assault experienced by a City of Darwin contractor. The assault took place during the routine night-time closure of the walkway. The security contractors undertook a risk assessment and determined that to continue night closure management of the walkway, additional funding would be required to facilitate the employment of two security guards to close the walkway.

Community Consultation

In December 2021, City of Darwin Officers undertook a community consultation process to determine community impact and/or support for the ongoing 24/7 closure of Walkway 183. Residents were advised through signage displayed at the walkway and via direct correspondence **Attachment 1**.

Consultation Outcomes

During the consultation period, 142 letters were letterbox-dropped in the immediate area, inviting residents to comment on potential community impact of maintaining a 24/7 ongoing closure of the walkway. Feedback on the proposed 24/7 ongoing closure of Walkway 183 was provided by five residents whose properties adjoin the walkway. All five residents strongly support the 24/7 ongoing closure of Walkway 183 providing reasons such as ongoing antisocial behaviour, safety and security. NTG Urban Housing Operations staff also provided support for the 24/7 ongoing closure of Walkway 183 as there are adequate alternative access routes.

Officer Recommendations

Closure of this walkway will not unduly inconvenience pedestrians in the area as the additional distance required to utilise Walkway 241 is negligible.

While there is minimal response to the consultation, there have been no complaints since the walkway has been closed.

Given Walkway 241 is approximately 50 meters away and will remain open 24/7, providing pedestrian access, the consultation outcomes and the additional costs required to manage this walkway through night-time closure, it is recommended Walkway 183 be closed on an ongoing 24/7 basis.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 13 July 2021 meeting Council resolved:

RESOLUTION ORD365/21

1. THAT the report entitled Walkway Closure Assessment Procedure be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the Walkway Closure Assessment Procedure.
3. THAT this report be deemed a confidential document and be treated as such in accordance with Section 99 of the Local Government Act 2019 and that the document remains Confidential unless Council decides otherwise by resolution.
4. THAT the Decision be moved into Open at the conclusion of the meeting

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	2 A Safe, Liveable and Healthy City 2.1 By 2030, Darwin will be a safer place to live and visit
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE	The ongoing security costs for night-time closure of a walkway is between \$1,700 and \$2,700 per annum depending on location. The estimated additional cost to employ a second security officer to

IMPLICATIONS	maintain night-time closure of Walkway 183 is \$18,250.
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	<p>Legislation: Local Government Act 2019 (Section 270) and the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 (Section 64).</p> <p>Policy: Walkway Closure Assessment Procedure</p>
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	<p>Engagement Level: Consult</p> <p>Community consultation in response to complaints, included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage placed in the walkway requesting community engagement and information in relation to the use of the walkway. • A letterbox drop was undertaken to properties in the immediate area. • Direct and indirect engagement with residents, including phone calls, emails, and face to face contact. <p>Discussions with the contracted security company.</p>
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>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).</p>



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17 December 2021

Dear Resident

Community Consultation

Proposed Closure of Walkway 183 (Chambers Crescent to Fawcett Court, Malak)

City of Darwin is considering closing **Walkway 183**. This walkway has previously been closed at night and opened in the morning. Due to recent incidents it is currently closed and will remain so, until Council decides how it will be managed.

City of Darwin is seeking your feedback regarding the closure of this walkway. All feedback provided will be included in a consultation report that will be presented to Council to make a decision. Please note all feedback is confidential and individuals will not be identified in the consultation report.

Feedback can be provided by Sunday, 2 January 2022 via an email to safercity@darwin.nt.gov.au or by phone on 8930 0300.

Yours faithfully

MATT GRASSMAYR
GENERAL MANAGER
COMMUNITY & REGULATORY SERVICES

...2



Location of walkway



14.4 ANIMATED SIGN APPLICATION T&C INVESTMENTS

Author: Planning Officer
Executive Manager Growth & Development Services

Authoriser: Acting General Manager Innovation

Attachments:

1. Proposed Animated Advertising Sign [↓](#)
2. Original Approved Advertising Sign [↓](#)
3. Existing Advertising Sign [↓](#)
4. Sign Location [↓](#)
5. Illumination Details [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Animated Sign Application T&C Investments be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approves the sign application from T&C Investments and issue a Signs Permit for the advertising sign to be located within Lot 9791 (289) Trower Road, Casuarina, and to be extended out over the road reserve (verge), subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) All messages displayed on the animated advertising sign shall be in accordance with City of Darwin Policy No. 042 - Outdoor Advertising Signs Code.
 - (b) No third-party advertising will be permitted to be displayed on the animated advertising sign.
 - (c) Messages on the animated advertising sign shall change at no less than one minute intervals.
 - (d) No colours or shapes that could be confused with regulatory signs (in this case, no green) shall be displayed on the animated advertising sign.
 - (e) No flashing/spinning/blinking/videos or animations, including if there is a fault (system needs to have appropriate fault detection in place) shall be displayed on the animated advertising sign.
 - (f) The sign needs to be legible from a distance (should test at a size/font that is easily readable by drivers travelling at the speed limit).
 - (g) Illumination levels should be monitored and be adjusted when required, so the advertising sign is not so bright to distract from the traffic signals and oncoming traffic.
 - (h) Complete messages are to be contained on the animated sign during any interval of change.
3. THAT Council approves T&C Investments to permit non-profit community organisations and community event advertising on the animated advertising sign, as detailed in this report, and subject to the following condition:
 - (a) Advertising space can only to be used for non-profit community organisations and their community events and must be unpaid advertising.
 - (b) Advertising space is not to be rented/leased to any company that is not non for profit, nor used for political advertising, or any event advertising other than community events.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a sign application from T&C investments, owners of Lot 9791 (289) Trower Road Casuarina, who are seeking Council's approval to place a permanent animated free-standing advertising sign over the Trower Road, road reserve (verge), refer **Attachment 1**.

KEY ISSUES

- The applicant is seeking Council's support to include an animated advertising sign – LED panel in the existing advertising sign.
- As the proposed animated sign is located over the road reserve, Council is required to consider the application.
- The proposal includes the opportunity for the land owner to advertise non-profit community organisations and community event advertising on the animated advertising sign.
- The sign is situated quite high, located on a bend and in close proximity to a signalised pedestrian crossing.
- A Traffic Impact Assessment confirms that if conditions are applied, the sign is not expected to be a risk to traffic movements along Trower Road.
- The applicant is requesting the sign be displayed for 24 hours, and each message being displayed for 10 seconds intervals.
- Due to the distance the sign can be viewed, a one minute time interval has been recommended.

DISCUSSION

In 2005, T & C Investments received a council Sign Permit to display an advertising sign which was placed within the property boundary and extended out over the road reserve, refer **Attachment 2**.

The advertising sign was recently modified without Council authorisation, refer **Attachment 3**.

The land owners are intending to incorporate a LED Screen into the sign, and through discussions with City of Darwin officers, have applied to Council to obtain a Sign Permit for the proposed animated advertising sign. As the existing sign no longer complies with the Sign Permit issued by Council, Council is to consider this proposal as new sign application.

The proposed advertising sign has a total height of 10.150m and the signage panel is 4m wide x 5.150m in height, totalling 20.6m² in area. The sign has a clearance of 5m from the footpath to the bottom edge of the sign. **Attachment 4** indicates that approximately 3m of the advertising sign will overhang the road reserve.

It is noted that the original sign approved by Council, as shown at **Attachment 2**, had a total height of 10m and the signage panel was 4m wide x 5m in height, totalling 20m².



289 Trower Road

The applicant provided the following as special merits for Council's consideration.

The advertising sign will:

- Further enhance and promote our tenants by utilising modern contemporary technology to compliment the new refurbishment undertaken at 289 Trower Road, Casuarina NT in 2019-2020.
- Maintain responsible advertising in accordance with the DCC's (sic) advertising guidelines, Outdoor Media Association (OAM) Code of Ethics and Digital Signage Policy and the Australian Association of National Advertisers policy guidelines.
- Have auto brightness adjustment through PE sensor for night-time decrease in NIT rating. The NIT rating can be manually adjusted to adhere to Council requirements.
- T&C will ensure the sign is legible from a distance and the software can be configured to any font size attached example based on our tenant i-Med. The slide is set up at screen size proportionally and pixel rating, as demonstrated in **Attachment 1**.
- Default to black if no content is available and in the event of power outage, the screen/s will reset to previous content and settings once power is restored.
- In accordance with City of Darwin's advertising guidelines, T & C Investments Pty Ltd (T&C) confirm no third-party advertising.

The following uses provided by the applicant are discussed in detail in this report:

- The standard average is 10 seconds per message with direct instant change (no transition). This would be ample time for any vehicle not to see more than (x1) transition per passing of the sign.
- To promote community events as per the City of Darwin's advertising guidelines.

Traffic Impact Assessment

As the advertising sign is situated quite high it can be viewed for some distance along Trower Road. It is also located on a bend and in close proximity to a signalised pedestrian crossing and as such, City of Darwin officers requested that the applicant provide a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) to assess the advertising sign. The submitted TIA didn't satisfy City of Darwin officers, so a peer review was undertaken. The recommendation received by City of Darwin from the review included that if the following conditions are met, then the sign is unlikely to affect vehicular safety:

- No colours or shapes that could be confused with regulatory signs (in this case, no green)
- No flashing/spinning/blinking/videos or animations, including if there is a fault (system needs to have appropriate fault detection in place) – it is noted that the applicant has confirmed that any fault identified, the screen will turn off.
- The sign needs to be legible from a distance (should have test at a size/font that is easily readable by drivers travelling at the speed limit)
- The illumination level should be monitored and be adjusted when required so the advertising signs is not so bright to distract from the traffic signals and oncoming vehicles

These conditions be included in any sign permit issued.

Attachment 5 provides the illumination details.

Operation Times

The applicant has informed Council that the LED screen will be operating 24 hours per day, seven days per week, with complete messages changing at a minimum of 10 seconds each.

Council has the option to restrict the operating hours and the length of time each message can be displayed for.

The sign is located adjacent businesses operating 24 hours per day, and is already permanently illuminated, therefore the proposal to operate the LED screen for 24 hours is not expected to affect the amenity of the surrounding area.

The sign can be partly viewed from the intersection of Trower Road / Vanderlin Drive and fully viewable from the Trower Road / Linton Street intersection. It takes 30 seconds to drive from Vanderlin Drive to the proposed advertising sign along Trower Road (not taking into consideration traffic signals) and this would result in the sign changing a minimum of three times in this period. To ensure that the sign reduces risk, Council should consider extending the timing of each message to 30 seconds, or to one minute.

At thirty seconds, a motorist may view one to two changes, and at one minute it will be expected that the same message will be displayed for most of the travel time, with one change most likely (not taking into consideration traffic signals). It has been recommended that messages on the animated advertising sign change no less than one minute intervals.

Community Advertising

This is the first application received by City of Darwin for community advertising to be included on and managed by a private business on an advertising sign. With newer advertising technologies becoming cheaper, more businesses are looking at animated signs for advertising. Under the Signs Code, permanent fixed community advertising signs are considered third party advertising and as such, are prohibited to be displayed away from the premises of the event. As temporary advertising is proposed, the proposed advertising sign could be providing another option for non-profit organisations to advertise their events on, in addition to the City of Darwin banner sites.

The Signs Code defines third party advertising as advertising that provides information about:

- a. services and goods that are not produced, provided or sold on the premises, or
- b. businesses, events or activities not carried out or associated with the premises

It does not include:

- a. Sponsorship advertising
- b. or advertising on vehicles or trailers which are predominantly utilised as a mode of transport and with signage indicating services or goods produced, provided or sold as a major activity of the company or person to which or whom the vehicle is registered; or the business, events or activities substantially carried out by the company or person to which or whom the vehicle is registered.

As the sign will be managed by the landowners or their agent, it could be expected that not all community advertising proposed to be displayed on the subject sign will comply with City of Darwin's policies. However, the non-compliance advertising should only remain for a short time, and any obvious breaches to the Signs Code can be enforced by Council officers.

The applicant provided the following criteria that will be used to identify organisations and events that will be permitted to advertise on the animated sign:

Community organisations that are not-for-profit

- Community events that encourage and promote:
 - Local community event/festival
 - Local participation
 - Fostering community spirit
 - Local sporting and recreational activities
 - Focuses on social inclusion and community wellbeing
 - Quality arts, cultural and heritage activities
 - Healthy lifestyles and serve the greater good of people and communities
 - Local schools/education

Other community groups that may wish to display their local events could be along the lines of:

- Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
- Darwin Festival
- Darwin Greek GleNTi Festival
- School Fetes such as Essington School and Greek School Festival
- Cyprus Festival
- NT Cancer Council Week and/ or NT Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea
- NT Girl Guides
- Local Soccer/sporting group events etc
- Other such type events.

Conclusion

Advertising Sign

It is recommended that Council approve the animated advertising sign as submitted and permit the inclusion of community advertising within the sign, as Council should be encouraging businesses to help support not for profit and local community groups and events.

The following conditions should also be included in the permit:

- All messages displayed on the animated advertising signs shall be in accordance with City of Darwin Policy No. 042 - Outdoor Advertising Signs Code.
- No third-party advertising will be permitted to be displayed on the animated advertising sign.
- Advertising space for non-profit community organisations and community events on the animated advertising sign shall be unpaid advertising.

- No colours or shapes that could be confused with regulatory signs (in this case, no green)
- No flashing/spinning/blinking/videos or animations, including if there is a fault (system needs to have appropriate fault detection in place) – it is noted that the applicant has confirmed that any fault identified, the screen will turn off.
- The sign needs to be legible from a distance (should have test at a size/font that is easily readable by drivers travelling at the speed limit).
- The illumination level should be monitored and be adjusted when required so the advertising signs is not so bright to distract from the traffic signals and oncoming vehicles
- Complete messages are to be contained on the animated sign during any interval of change.

Timing

The sign is located adjacent to businesses operating 24 hours per day, and is already permanently illuminated, therefore the proposal to operate the LED screen for 24 hours is not expected to affect the amenity of the surrounding area.

To reduce traffic risks, it is recommended that messages on the animated advertising sign shall change no less than one minute intervals.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

N/A

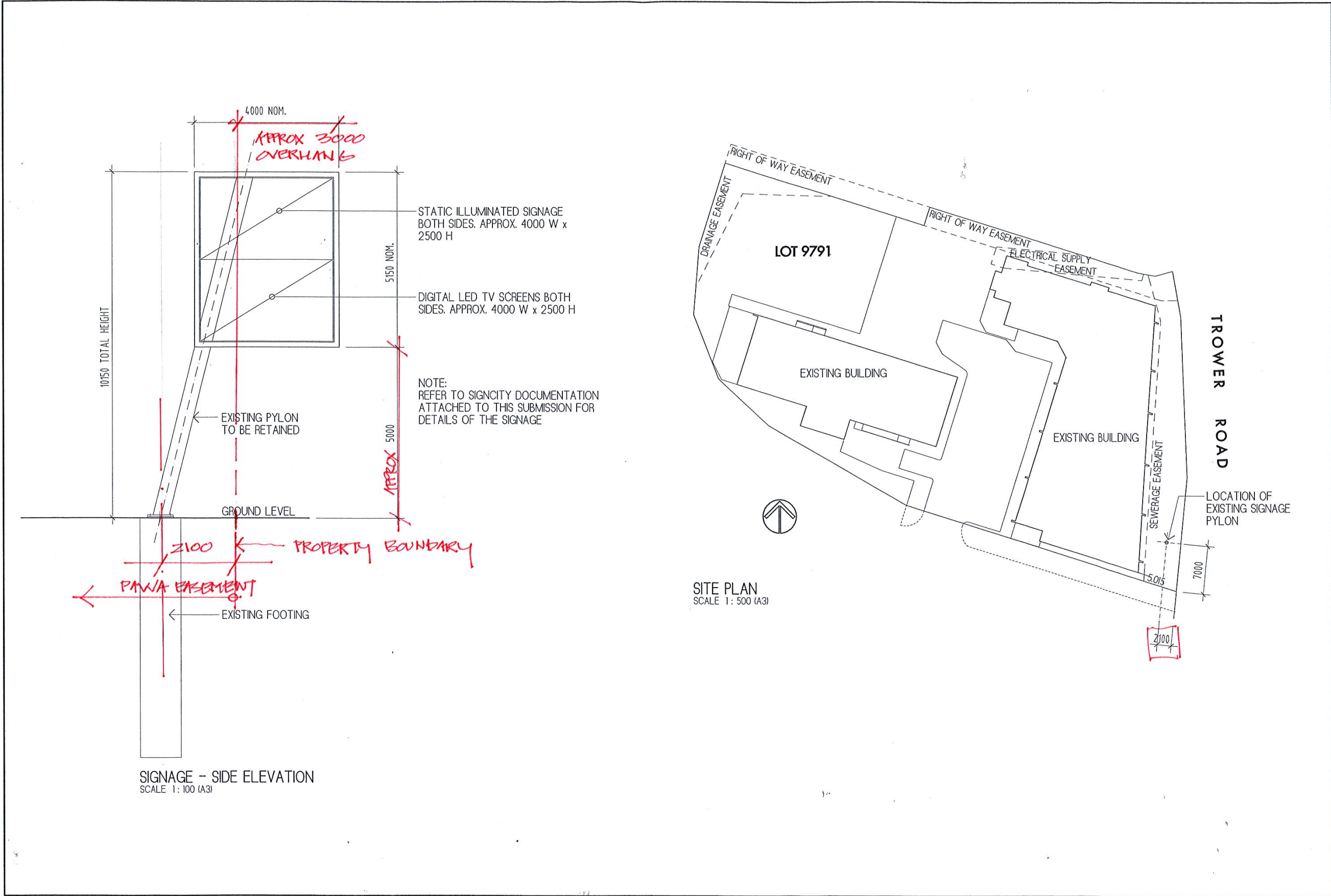
STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	1 A capital city with best practice and sustainable infrastructure 1.1 By 2030, a number of strategic infrastructure projects will be developed and delivered
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Budget/Funding: N/A Is Funding identified: N/A
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Legislation: Darwin City Council By-Laws Policy: Policy No 042 - Outdoor Advertising Signs Code
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: N/A Tactics: 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).











1. NOTES TO SIDE ELEVATION AMENDED		PM 5.07.21
No.	AMENDMENT	DRN CH DATE

draftLink

PO Box 1461 DARWIN NT 0801 Ph. 0413 833 843
Email: drink@bigpond.net.au ABN 85 666 599 367

COPYRIGHT draftLink	
JOB TITLE	
FACADE UPGRADE	
289 (LOT 9791) TROWER ROAD, CASUARINA	
T & C INVESTMENTS	

USE FIGURED DIMENSIONS IN PREFERENCE TO SCALE	
DRAWING TITLE	
PROPOSED SIGNAGE	

ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE VERIFIED AND CHECKED ON JOB	
DATE	FEB 18
DATE	FEB 18
DRAWN	PM
CHECKED	
SCALE	AS NOTED
JOB No.	DL19/447
DRAWING No.	A01
ISSUE No.	REV. 1

Advertising Sign Specifications

Supply & install (x2) 4000mm x 2000mm LED full colour screens / 6mm pitch to each side of pylon.

Clad the rest of the sign with none illuminated composite panel / Corporate 289 + tenants names

Screen specifications

- Full Colour Matrix RGB LED Screen – 4000mm x 2000mm /
- Text & full colour graphics to sign resolution – 6mm pitch – resolution – 666 x 333 pixels
- TB6 Dual Port + Redundant ports
- Brightness Sensor/Function Card – (brightness adjusted automatically at night – brightness can also be manually set to council required nit rating)
- Nova Cat5/ Fibre Converter CV320
- Total A - 240V/15A Circuits – 20/3
- Sign Software & training inclusive
- Calendar Scheduling
- All windows fonts
- Message effects including jump, flash, roll, wipe, explode, snow and random
- Scrolling message sign ability
- Time & Date display if desired
- Count Up or Down to an event data
- Auto dimming for night operation (sensor included)
- Thermal and Electrical overload protection
- Electrical power surge and spike arresting
- Meanwell switch mode power supplies – self resetting
- IP65 rated
- Front or rear servicing sign cabinets with hot swap cell replacement

1

Sign structure specifications

Screen frame as per engineered section 40 specifications

Communications Specifications

Communications to sign will be GSM

Software Specifications

Content can be managed as stand alone on your server or nominated control PC / Customisable including split screen scenarios at your request. Cloud based options also available for remote content management if required.

14.5 LORD MAYOR - PROCESS REGARDING CHANGE OF TITLE OF ALDERMAN TO COUNCILLOR**Author:** Chief Executive Officer**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:**
1. **Constitutional Review Submission Report 1** [↓](#)
2. **Ministerial Submission 2020** [↓](#)**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report entitled Lord Mayor – process regarding change of title of Alderman to Councillor be received and noted.
2. THAT Council make changes to its constitution and endorses the following amendments to the naming of Elected Members
 - The singular title Alderman and collective title Aldermen be ceased as the naming of elected members
 - The singular title Councillor and collective title Councillors be implemented as the naming of elected members
3. THAT Council seek Ministerial Approval through the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet to effect the change and that upon approval changes are made immediately on an electronic basis and over time as budget permits for non-electronic, ie. printed collateral
4. THAT there is no change to the naming of the Principal Member being that of Lord Mayor
5. THAT the Lord Mayor write to the Minister as per this resolution of Council seeking approval
6. THAT the Chief Executive Office write to the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet seeking approval

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to enact a Lord Mayor Minute and resolution of Council in making change to the elected member title at the City of Darwin

KEY ISSUES

- At Council's last constitutional review it was viewed by the Council at the time that the name Alderman/Aldermen be retained
- The 23rd City of Darwin Council has requested advice to change the title of Alderman/Aldermen on the basis of modernising the Council and providing a more contemporary and recognised title for elected members

DISCUSSION

A constitutional review was undertaken, resolved upon by Council and submitted to the Minister 12 months prior to the last Local Government election. At that time it was viewed by the Council to retain the elected member title of Alderman/Aldermen. However, the 23rd City of Darwin Council has requested a more contemporary and modern approach be undertaken to naming and it is the view of Council Officer's that the change is majority supported by the Council. Council Officer's support this change of title and see this as an ongoing step in modernising the City of Darwin. While the change provides no material difference to the running of the Council, it does provide a non-gender specific title that ensures the principles of equality are upheld.

It could be argued that there is no material difference and change should not occur, however the title is derived circa 1300's in the naming of early Council members in London. Where the term "Auld Man" meaning "Old Man" was the title of Council members at the time. This has been modernised as the English language has progressed to Alderman/Aldermen, none-the-less the original meaning still stands and is not representative of a modern and contemporary Local Government representing all within the Community.

As a result it is recommended that resolve upon these changes and seek approval from the Minister and endorsement through the Department.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 26 October 2021 meeting Council resolved:

THAT the Chief Executive Officer provide a report to Council detailing the process required to remove the elected member title of Alderman/Aldermen and replace with the title of Councillor/Councillors.

At the 26 May 2020 meeting Council resolved:

1. THAT the report entitled 2019/20 Constitutional Arrangements Review (Electoral Representation Review – S23 Local Government Act) and attachments, be received and noted.

2. THAT Council receives the Constitutional Review Consultation Paper provided at Attachment 1 for community consultation from 31 January 2020 to 21 February 2020.

3. THAT pursuant to Section 23 of the Local Government Act 2008 and Section 63 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008, Council resolves to retain the structure and composition of its Constitutional Arrangements as follows:

(a) Retain the existing name of the Council, City of Darwin

(b) Retain the existing external boundary of the municipality

(c) Retain the title of the elected members as Alderman

(d) Retrain the number of elected members as twelve in addition to the Lord Mayor (total of 13 elected members)

(e) Retain a ward structure comprising of four wards and ward names being Chan, Lyons, Richardson and Waters

(f) Retain the current level of elected member representation per ward, three elected members (Aldermen) per ward

(g) That the Ward structure be as follows:

Chan Ward (Ward 1) All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs of Coconut Grove, East Point, Fannie Bay, Jingili, Ludmilla, Millner, Nightcliff and Rapid Creek.

Lyons Ward (Ward 2) All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs of Bayview, Darwin City, Larrakeyah, Parap, Stuart Park, The Gardens, The Narrows and Woolner.

Richardson Ward (Ward 3) All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs of Alawa,

<p>Brinkin, Buffalo Creek, Casuarina, Holmes, Leanyer, Lee Point, Lyons, Muirhead, Nakara, Tiwi and Wanguri.</p> <p>Waters Ward (ward 4) All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs of Anula, Berrimah, Charles Darwin, Coonawarra, Eaton, Hidden Valley, Karama, Malak, Marrara, Moil, Wagaman, Winnellie and Wulagi</p> <p>4. THAT Council endorses the Review of Constitutional Arrangements Report, Attachment 2, for submission to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development.</p>	
STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	<p>6 Governance Framework</p> <p>6.2 Roles and Relationships</p>
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	<p>Budget/Funding: Nil</p> <p>Is Funding identified: Nil</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>Existing Position No: Nil</p> <p>Contractor: Nil</p>
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	<p>Legislation:</p> <p>LG Act 2019</p> <p>Policy:</p> <p>Constitutional Review 2020 and associated policies</p>
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	<p>Engagement Level: Inform</p> <p>Tactics:</p> <p>Upon approval from the Minister, advice is provided to the community</p> <p>Internal:</p> <p>Preparation is made via internal changes to electronic documents</p> <p>External:</p> <p>LGANT and Northern Territory Government Whole of Community</p>
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>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).</p>

SUBMISSIONS REPORT

REVIEW OF CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (Elector Representation)

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS

A report prepared for the
City of Darwin

May 2020



Disclaimer

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1. INTRODUCTION

Section 23 of the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2008 (the Act) requires each council to make an assessment of the adequacy of the constitutional arrangements currently in force, in order to determine whether they provide the most effective possible representation for the council area.

The review currently being conducted by the City of Darwin commenced in July 2019 and has progressed to the point where the public consultation stage has been completed. Council must now give consideration to the submissions that have been received from the community; and determine what changes, if any, it proposes to bring into effect in respect to its future composition and structure.

Any proposed amendments to the existing composition and/or structure of Council will come into effect at the date of the next Local Government election (i.e. Saturday 28th August 2021).

Please note, due to difficulties experienced by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission, detailed updated elector data pertaining to the City of Darwin was not available at the time of preparing this report. As such, the elector data presented herein is as at 7th June 2019. However, we are aware that, during the period 7th June 2019 - 6th March 2020, the total number of elector numbers within the City of Darwin decreased by 643 (i.e. 50, 118 to 49,475), with decreases being experienced in all wards (i.e. Chan Ward -71; Lyons Ward -453; Richardson ward -27; and Waters Ward -92). These fluctuations could have been due to the movement of electors/residents; and/or an updating of the elector roll for the May 2019 federal election.

Updated elector data will be provided to Council at the earliest opportunity.

2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Neither the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2008 nor the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008 contain provisions that specify what constitutes appropriate public consultation in regards to the subject electoral review. This being the case, Council staff initiated a process which followed established Council protocol and included the following.

- The display of information on Council's web-site, more specifically the community engagement platform "Engage Darwin". Information regarding the review in general; the public consultation process; the key review issues; and Council's preferred proposal was provided on the "Electoral Representation Review" page. This page invited submissions from the community during the period 31st January 2020 – 21st February 2020; and provided direct links to the "Consultation Paper", a map of the proposed future ward structure and the electronic submission page.

During the period 29th January 2020 – 25th February 2020 the "Electoral Representation Review" page recorded 230 visits; with the proposed ward map being viewed and/or downloaded 22 times and the "Consultation Paper" viewed and/or downloaded 15 times.

- A media release from the then Acting Lord Mayor (dated 30th January 2020). This document advised that the review was being undertaken; provided general information about the review issues; and directed interested persons to the Council web-site (Engage Darwin).
- The provision of a "Question and Answer" document was posted on the "Engage Darwin" web-page to provide responses to general questions regarding the review issues and review process.
- The promotion of the review on Council's facebook page. This action reached 3,391 people; and attracted 348 engagements (i.e. 20 likes/comments/shares and 328 "clicks" on the post).

Copies of documents relevant to the aforementioned are provided in **Attachment A**.

At the expiration of the twenty-one (21) day public consultation period (i.e. 5.00pm on Friday 21st February 2020) Council had received two (2) submissions, both via the Council's community engagement platform "Engage Darwin". Copies of these submissions are provided in **Attachment B**.

Both of the submissions received expressed the view that the suburb of Fannie Bay should remain in the Lyons Ward. Neither respondent addressed any other issue.

The receipt of such a small number of submissions is disappointing but not necessarily unexpected. By comparison, at this stage of the previous reviews (October 2010 and July/August 2014) Council received only one (1) and six (6) submissions respectively. Whilst the two submissions received cannot be considered to reflect the attitudes of a community comprising more than fifty thousand electors, they do give some insight into the thoughts and preferences of a small portion of the local community, as they specifically relate to the suburb of Fannie Bay.

The issue of moving the suburb of Fannie Bay to the Lyons Ward is addressed later (refer 3.6.4 Suburb of Fannie Bay).

3. FUTURE COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

Council has now reached the stage of its review process where it must identify what changes, if any, it proposes to make to its current composition, ward structure, name and/or municipal boundary. More specifically, **Council must make formal decisions in respect to all of the following issues.**

A considerable amount of information regarding the key issues has previously been provided to the elected members (refer the "Information Paper" dated June 2019 and the "Consultation Paper" dated December 2019). Members are requested to review this information should they desire to give further consideration to any issue.

Should Council opt for significant variations to the proposal which was presented in the "Consultation Paper", consideration will have to be given to undertaking further public consultation so as to inform the community of Council's changed position; and afford the opportunity for community comment on the specific variations.

3.1 TITLE OF ELECTED MEMBERS

The elected members of the City of Darwin have long held the title of Alderman, with the use of this title being confirmed during the past electoral reviews (i.e. 1999, 2003, 2006, 2011 and 2015).

Earlier in the current review process Council determined that the title of Alderman should be retained because it has long been known and accepted by the community; is appropriate for the elected members of a council of the status of the City of Darwin; and little or no practical benefit will likely be achieved by changing the title of the elected members at this time.

Of the submissions received, neither provided comment on the issue of the title of the elected members.

3.2 ELECTOR REPRESENTATION

Council has previously expressed the belief that:

- the existing number of elected members (i.e. twelve Aldermen) has served the City of Darwin well over many years; and can continue to provide fair, adequate and direct representation of the existing communities located throughout the council area;
- the City of Darwin is likely to experience further growth in elector numbers within the foreseeable and, as such, the retention of twelve elected members should serve to ensure that the workloads of the elected member's will continue to be manageable;
- the existing level of representation and the resultant elector ratio (1:4,177) is comparable with the elector representation arrangements of similarly sized councils across the country; and
- a change to the existing level of representation is not warranted at this time.

Neither of the submissions received addressed the matter of the number of elected members required to provide adequate and fair representation.

3.3 WARDS/NO WARDS

Wards guarantee some form and level of direct representation to all parts of the council area and existing communities of interest, although legislation does not require an elected representative of a ward to reside within the ward that he/she represents.

The abolition of wards (no wards) affords the opportunity for the electors to vote for all of the vacant positions on Council. However, under such an arrangement there is the potential for the elected members to come from the more heavily populated parts of the council area, which may leave other communities within the council area without any “direct” representation.

Council has previously expressed support for the continued division of the council area into wards.

Whilst the two submissions received did not specifically address the issue of wards/no wards, both expressed the opinion that the suburb of Fannie Bay should be retained within the Lyons Ward. This is seen as tacit support for the retention of a ward structure.

3.4 WARD REPRESENTATION

Council has previously expressed support for a structure which provides three elected representatives in each ward, as it is considered to:

- ensure balance and continuity in elector representation throughout the council area;
- afford continued representation within and of a ward should one or two elected ward members be absent;
- enable the ward members to reach a majority decision on issues of debate; and
- provide flexibility in communication between the ward members and the local community.

Neither of the submission received addressed the issue of ward representation.

3.5 WARD NAMES/IDENTIFICATION

Council has previously expressed the opinion that the existing ward names should be retained as they are longstanding; of local heritage/local government significance; and are known and accepted by the community.

The two submissions received by Council were silent on this issue.

3.6 WARD STRUCTURE

Council needs to formally commit to a ward structure which serves to provide adequate and fair representation; exhibits an equitable distribution of electors between the proposed wards; takes into account the criteria and principles espoused under Regulation 63; and takes into consideration the opinions expressed within the two submissions that were received during the public consultation stage of the review process.

Either of the structures presented in 3.6.2 Proposed ward structure; or 3.6.4 Amended ward structure (Suburb of Fannie Bay) are considered to be appropriate and acceptable.

3.6.1 Current ward structure

The current ward structure cannot be retained by Council as it exhibits significant imbalance in the number of electors between the existing wards, especially in the case of the Lyons and Waters Wards (refer Table 1). The limited elector data available at this time indicates that this situation has basically not improved since June/July 2019.

Table 1: Elector distribution - current ward structure

Ward	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio	% Variation
Chan	3	11,594	1:3,865	- 7.47
Lyons	3	14,457	1:4,819	+15.38
Richardson	3	13,546	1:4,515	+ 8.11
Waters	3	10,521	1:3,507	-16.04
Total/Average	12	50,118	1:4,176.5	

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7th June 2019)

As indicated earlier, Regulation 63(3)(a) requires that, where a council area is divided into wards, Council must consider the desirability of the number of electors for each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election. Essentially, this provision seeks to provide adequate and fair representation in accordance with the fundamental democratic principle of "one person, one vote, one value".

3.6.2 Proposed ward structure

Council previously gave "in principle" support for the ward structure which was presented in the "Consultation Paper". This ward structure achieves a more equitable distribution of electors between wards (compared to the current ward structure); and maintains whole suburbs (communities of interest) within a ward. The proposed amendments to the existing ward structure are as follows.

- The suburbs of Fannie Bay, East Point (part only) and Ludmilla (part only) have been moved from the current Lyons Ward to the proposed Chan Ward.
- The suburbs of The Narrows and part Woolner (part only) have been moved from the current Waters Ward to the proposed Lyons Ward.
- The suburb of Moil has been moved from the current Chan Ward to the proposed Waters Ward.
- The suburb of Wagaman has been moved from the current Richardson Ward to the proposed Waters Ward.

Table 2: Elector distribution - Proposed ward structure

Ward	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio	% Variation
Chan	3	12,463	1:4,154	- 0.53
Lyons	3	12,768	1:4,256	+1.90
Richardson	3	12,246	1:4,082	- 2.26
Waters	3	12,641	1:4,214	+0.89
Total/Average	12	50,118	1:4,176.5	

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7th June 2019)

A copy of the map of the proposed ward structure is provided in Attachment C.

Council must now formalise its acceptance of, and support for, the proposed ward structure; or alternatively formally identify a preferred alternative ward structure.

3.6.3 Amended ward structure (Suburb of Wagaman)

Whilst agreeing "in principle" to the proposed ward structure presented in the "Consultation Paper", Aldermen Bouhoris and Lambrinidis both expressed the opinion that the suburb of Wagaman and the communities therein have more in common with the communities and development within the proposed Richardson Ward than the proposed Waters Ward.

An alternative ward structure, moving the suburb of Wagaman from the proposed Waters Ward back to the proposed Richardson Ward has been developed (refer Attachment D).

The distribution of electors under this ward structure option is not equitable; and will likely only get worse as a consequence of the anticipated future population/elector growth in the northern part of the council area (e.g. Lee Point and Muirhead). This being the case, further significant adjustments to all of the proposed ward boundaries will likely be required to rectify this situation.

Table 3: Elector distribution – Amendment to the proposed ward structure
(Suburb of Wagaman to the proposed Richardson Ward)

Ward	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio	% Variation
Chan	3	12,463	1:4,154	- 0.53
Lyons	3	12,768	1:4,256	+1.90
Richardson	3	13,546	1:4,515	+8.10
Waters	3	11,341	1:3,780	-9.49
Total/Average	12	50,118	1:4,176.5	

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7th June 2019)

3.6.4 Amended ward structure (Suburb of Fannie Bay)

The two respondents favoured the retention of the suburb of Fannie Bay in the proposed Lyons Ward.

Fannie Bay is a long-established suburb of Darwin; and is located adjacent the western coastline, approximately 5.0 kilometres north of the central business district. The suburb contained 2,043 eligible electors (as at 7th June 2019); and has long been incorporated within the Lyons Ward.

The current ward structure exhibits a significant imbalance in the distribution of electors between the wards (refer Table 1). In order to achieve one of the primary objectives of the review, that being to have the number of electors within each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election (refer Regulation 63(3)(a) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008), approximately 2,000 electors have to be moved out of the existing Lyons Ward.

To incorporate/retain the suburb of Fannie Bay within the proposed Lyons Ward, all of the wards within the proposed future ward structure (as presented to the community in the Consultation Paper) have had to be reviewed and amended. An example of an amended ward structure which incorporates Fannie Bay in the Lyons Ward has been developed (refer Attachment E). This ward structure overcomes the Fannie Bay and Wagaman issues; purports a reasonably equitable distribution of elector between wards (refer Table 4); and allows for future anticipated growth in the Richardson Ward (which over time should serve to even out the initial imbalance in the elector distribution).

To achieve this outcome the suburbs of Bayview and The Narrows have had to be moved to the proposed Waters Ward; the suburb of Wagaman has moved to the proposed Richardson Ward; and the suburb of Alawa has moved to the proposed Chan Ward.

Table 4: Elector distribution – Amendment to the proposed ward structure
(Suburb of Fannie Bay to the proposed Lyons Ward)

Ward	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio	% Variation
Chan	3	11,818	1:3,939	- 5.68
Lyons	3	13,096	1:4,365	+4.52
Richardson	3	12,148	1:4,049	- 3.05
Waters	3	13,056	1:4,352	+4.20
Total/Average	12	50,118	1:4,176.5	

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7th June 2019)

Should Council be of the mind to adopt this ward structure in preference to that which was presented in the "Consultation Paper", there may not be the need to formally present it to the community for consideration and comment. Whilst the ward structure is different to the previously presented ward structure, it has been developed in accord with the community feedback received during the consultation process.

An alternative to this ward structure option would be to move the suburb of Brinkin from the proposed Richardson Ward to the proposed Chan Ward. This would provide scope for a greater increase in future elector numbers in the proposed Richardson Ward; and increase the elector numbers within the proposed Chan Ward to the point close to the average number of electors per ward (i.e. -0.86% variation to the elector ratio).

3.6.5 Suburb of Berrimah

There has previously been some discussion about the potential impact of incorporating the remaining part of the suburb of Berrimah into the City of Darwin, and the likely affect thereof on the Council ward structure.

Recent data suggests that there are approximately 331 electors residing in the suburb of Berrimah, with 297 of these residing in the City of Darwin (i.e. approximately 34 residing outside the City of Darwin). This being the case, if the whole of the suburb of Berrimah was to be included within the City of Darwin, the additional 34 electors would likely have little impact upon any ward structure at least in the short-term (and perhaps at least until the next scheduled review in 2023/2024).

This situation will change considerably if the "Northcrest" development (which lies in Berrimah but outside of the council area) comes into consideration. This project proposes (in part) 2000 additional "housing" allotments and 40 medium density residential development sites over the next 10 – 13 years. This equates to an estimated additional 7,500 residents, but there is no certainty as to when or at what rate this increase in population (and electors) will likely occur.

No action need be taken regarding this matter at this time, although the current review does afford the opportunity for Council to raise the issue of a possible future boundary change with the Minister.

4. COUNCIL NAME AND BOUNDARIES

The opportunity exists for Council to consider possible future changes to its name and/or external boundaries as part of the current review.

4.1 COUNCIL NAME

Council received "city" status in January 1959 (known as the Darwin City Council) and the Council name was formally changed to the City of Darwin in August 2012. Neither of the submissions received during the consultation process sort a change to the name of Council.

Council has previously indicated that it is not contemplating a change to its name. This position needs to be confirmed or changed by way of a formal resolution.

4.2 COUNCIL BOUNDARIES

The inclusion of the remainder of the suburb of Berrimah (i.e. "Berrimah Farm" or the aforementioned "Northcrest" development) and the Darwin waterfront precinct into the City of Darwin have received informal consideration in the past. The benefits and impacts of incorporating these areas of land, and any other neighbouring parcels of land, within the bounds of the City of Darwin will require considerable investigation and analysis.

Neither of the respondents provided any comment/opinion regarding the issue of the Council boundaries.

Council needs to formalise its position in respect to the issue of the current municipal boundaries and/or any proposed amendments thereto.

5. SUMMARY

The City of Darwin has completed the public consultation stage of the review of its constitutional arrangements, attracting two (2) public submissions. Council has now reached the stage of the review process where the elected members have to make final decisions regarding the future composition and structure of Council, taking into account the information previously provided and the submissions received.

Council has previously agreed ("in principle) to retain:

- the existing name of the Council;
- the existing external boundary of Council;
- the title of the elected members (i.e. Alderman);
- the number of elected members (i.e. twelve in addition to the Mayor);
- a ward structure comprising four wards; and
- the level of representation per ward (i.e. three elected members (Aldermen) per ward);
- the existing names of the wards (i.e. Chan, Lyons, Richardson and Waters).

If Council so desires, it should now formally resolve to adopt the aforementioned decisions.

As for the issue of the future division of the council area into wards, Council previously presented its preferred future ward structure to the local community in the "Consultation Paper". The only two submissions received during the public consultation process favoured the retention of the suburb of Fannie Bay in the Lyons Ward (rather than the Chan Ward, as proposed). In addition, Aldermen Bouhoris and Lambrinidis previously suggested that the suburb of Wagaman should be retained within the proposed Richardson Ward. Both of these suggestions affect the configuration of the proposed ward structure and the distribution of electors between the proposed wards.

Amended ward structures based on the aforementioned suggestions have been presented for consideration by the elected members.

Council must now formally decide which ward structure it intends to bring into effect (for a four year period) at the date of the next Local Government election (August 2021).

As for the issue of the current municipal boundaries, if Council opts not to pursue any change at this time, it can still advise the Minister of its intentions in regards to this matter and pursue possible future boundary amendments as a matter separate to the review.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the City of Darwin resolve as follows.

1. To note and receive the two (2) submissions received during the public consultation process.
2. The title of the elected members (excluding the Lord Mayor) continues to be "Alderman".
3. The future Council of the City of Darwin continues to comprise the Lord Mayor and twelve (12) Aldermen.
4. The council area be divided into four wards, as per the proposed ward structure presented in the "Consultation Paper", so as to achieve a more equitable distribution of elector numbers between wards.
5. Each of the proposed future wards be represented by three (3) Aldermen.
6. The existing ward names/titles of Chan, Lyons, Richardson and Waters be retained.
7. Neither the name nor the municipal boundaries of Council be changed at this time; but the issue of possible future amendments to the municipal boundary be given further consideration as a matter separate to the current review of elector representation.
8. A final report to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development (pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2008) be prepared regarding the review of the constitutional arrangements undertaken by Council.

ATTACHMENT A

**Website page
Media Release
Question & Answer document
facebook page**

3/4/2020

Electoral Representation Review | Engage Darwin

[Home](#) » [Electoral Representation Review](#)

Electoral Representation Review



Every four years Council reviews the way it represents the community. Council considers key issues such as population changes and nation wide trends to decide on a structure that will provide the best community representation. In reviewing the representational structure Council has decided to keep most aspects the same, with some minor changes to ward boundaries.

The proposed representational structure for City of Darwin remains;

- Council name: City of Darwin
- Number of elected members: twelve plus Lord Mayor (ratio of one elected member per 4,177 electors)
- Title of elected members: Alderman
- Number of wards: four (with minor boundary changes)
- Number of elected members per ward: three
- Ward names: Chan Ward, Lyons Ward, Richardson Ward, Waters Ward

The Consultation Paper provides the full details of the review and Council's decision making;

[Electoral Representation Review Consultation Paper](#)

Changes to Ward Boundaries

The only change in Council's proposed structure is to some of the Ward boundaries. The current Ward structure has uneven elector numbers in each Ward, mainly due to recent growth in the suburbs of Lyons and Muirhead. The proposed new Ward boundaries achieve an even balance of electors in each Ward. The map below shows the proposed changes or click to download.



<https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/representation-review>

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3/4/2020

Electoral Representation Review | Engage Darwin



The Ward boundary changes include;

- Fannie Bay, East Point (part only) and Ludmilla (part only) moved from the current Lyons Ward to the proposed Chan Ward
- The Narrows and Woolner (part only) moved from the current Waters Ward to the proposed Lyons Ward
- Moil has been moved from the current Chan Ward to the proposed Waters Ward
- Wagaman has been moved from the current Richardson Ward to the proposed Waters Ward

The proposed representational structure and ward boundary changes will come into effect after the next Council election in August 2021. Local Council is the level of government closest to the community. You vote for your Elected Members and they are there to represent you. Have your say on how this works.

SUBMISSIONS

engage Darwin Ack Invited

<https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/representation-review>

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3/4/2020

Electoral Representation Review | Engage Darwin

Council invites community feedback on the proposed representational structure and the Ward boundary changes.

You need to be signed in to take this survey



[Sign In](#)

[Register](#)

Key Dates

Feedback closes
21 February 2020

Document Library

-  Consultation Paper Electoral Representation Review (1.32 MB) (pdf)
-  Map - Proposed new ward boundaries (551 KB) (pdf)

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<https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/representation-review>

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Media Release 30 January 2020

CITY OF DARWIN

Community Consultation for Electoral Representation Review Changes Commences

The community is being encouraged to have their say as part of an electoral representation review.

City of Darwin is required to undertake an electoral representation review every four years in order to meet Local Government Act requirements.

The review commenced in July 2019 and is expected to be completed by 30 June, 2020 and has included a series of stakeholder workshops.

A community consultation will be open from today through 21 February, 2020.

One of the key issues for consideration is proposed changes to Ward electoral boundaries for City of Darwin's four Wards, Chan, Richardson, Waters and Lyons.

Acting Lord Mayor George Lambrinidis said "The increased number of apartments in some suburbs and housing growth in newer suburbs, means boundaries of existing Wards may need to move to ensure fair elector representation."

"Fair and equitable representation for all rate payers is a key goal of Council and we are investigating whether the recent population growth in some Darwin suburbs is compromising this."

Other matters being considered as part of the electoral representation review include the naming of proposed Wards, the number of Wards and the number of Elected Members to represent the municipality.

"We are inviting the community to have their say on line or in person," said Acting Lord Mayor Lambrinidis.

Any changes to City of Darwin's current electoral representation will come into effect following the next Council election in August 2021.

For more information go to - <https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/representation-review>

Contact: City of Darwin Media Advisor: Jane de Gault (P) 8930 5504 (M) 0466 207 090

COPY**City of Darwin Electoral Representation Review****Q&A's****1. What is an Electoral Representation Review?**

Every four years Council conducts a review of the electoral structure of City of Darwin, to ensure that voters are represented fairly and equitably.

The review considers a number of factors, including population changes, the nature and complexity of services Council provides and geographic size, in determining any proposed changes.

2. When did the review take place?

Council completed the review in January 2020.

3. What IS proposed to change?

Council is recommending minor changes to some of the ward boundaries.

The proposed ward boundary changes will affect residents of Fannie Bay, East Point (part only), Ludmilla (part only), Narrows, Woolner (part only), Moil and Wagaman.

Suburb	Currently in	Change to
Fannie Bay	Lyons Ward	Chan Ward
East Point (part only)	Lyons Ward	Chan Ward
Ludmilla (part only)	Lyons Ward	Chan Ward
Narrows	Waters Ward	Lyons Ward
Woolner (part only)	Waters Ward	Lyons Ward
Moil	Chan Ward	Waters Ward
Wagaman	Richardson Ward	Waters Ward

4. What is NOT proposed to change?

Council has not recommended any changes to the representational structure for City of Darwin, which remains as per below:

Council Name	City of Darwin	
No. of Elected Members	Twelve + Lord Mayor	<i>Ratio of one Elected Member per 4,177 voters.</i>
Title of Elected Members	Alderman	
No. of wards	Four	
No. of Elected Members per ward	Three	
Ward names	Chan Ward, Lyons Ward, Richardson Ward, Waters Ward	

5. How will the proposed changes affect residents?

- These changes will not take effect until after the next Council election in August 2021.
- * Residents who live in suburbs affected by the ward boundary changes will be represented by different Elected Members.

** Residents can approach any Elected Member to discuss concerns, regardless of ward boundaries.*

6. Can the community access the full report?

The community can read the full *Electoral Representation Review Consultation Paper* (make hyperlink to report) on the Engage Darwin page.

7. How can the community provide feedback?

Head to the Engage Darwin website to share feedback:

<https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/representation-review>

8. Why is Council seeking the community's feedback and why should the community share their feedback?

Local Council is the level of government closest to the community. It is important for the community to have a say on how they are represented.

Elected Members represent the community's voice in the Council Chambers. Access to and visibility of Elected Members in the community directly impacts how effectively voters are represented.

9. What date does the consultation close?

The consultation closes on 21 February 2020.

10. Who can I contact to discuss the consultation further?

- A City of Darwin Elected Member
- Vanessa Green
Executive Manager Governance, Strategy and Performance
Phone: 8930 0531
Email: engage@darwin.nt.gov.au
- Fiona Van der Weide
Governance and Legislation Advisor
Phone: 8930 0670
Email: engage@darwin.nt.gov.au

11. What happens after the consultation closes?

The community's feedback will be presented to Elected Members for consideration in a report to Council. **The final decision...(TBC)**

20

ATTACHMENT B

Public submissions

**Respondent No:** 1**Login:** darwin62**Email:** costak62@bigpond.com**Responded At:** Jan 31, 2020 08:09:15 am**Last Seen:** Jan 30, 2020 22:37:13 pm**IP Address:** 42.241.166.114**Q1. Please provide your submission below**

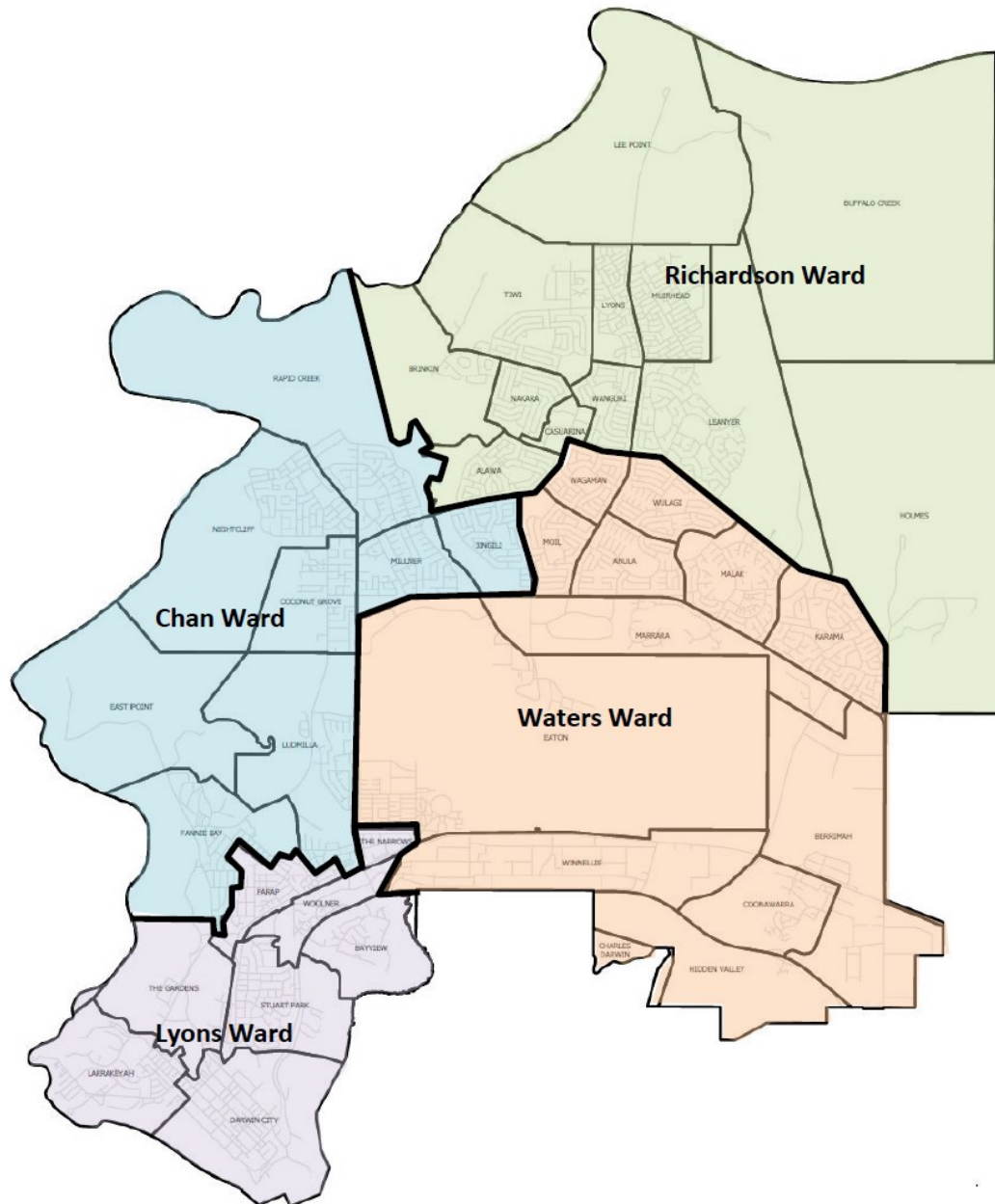
I wouldn't of thought that Fannie bay go to Chan. They are in my opinion as being in "town", Lyon Ward.

**Respondent No:** 2**Login:** Jensco**Email:** gypccs1@bigpond.com**Responded At:** Feb 05, 2020 08:56:39 am**Last Seen:** Feb 04, 2020 23:22:53 pm**IP Address:** 101.174.146.9**Q1. Please provide your submission below**

We would prefer Fannie Bay to stay in the Lyons electorate Thanks

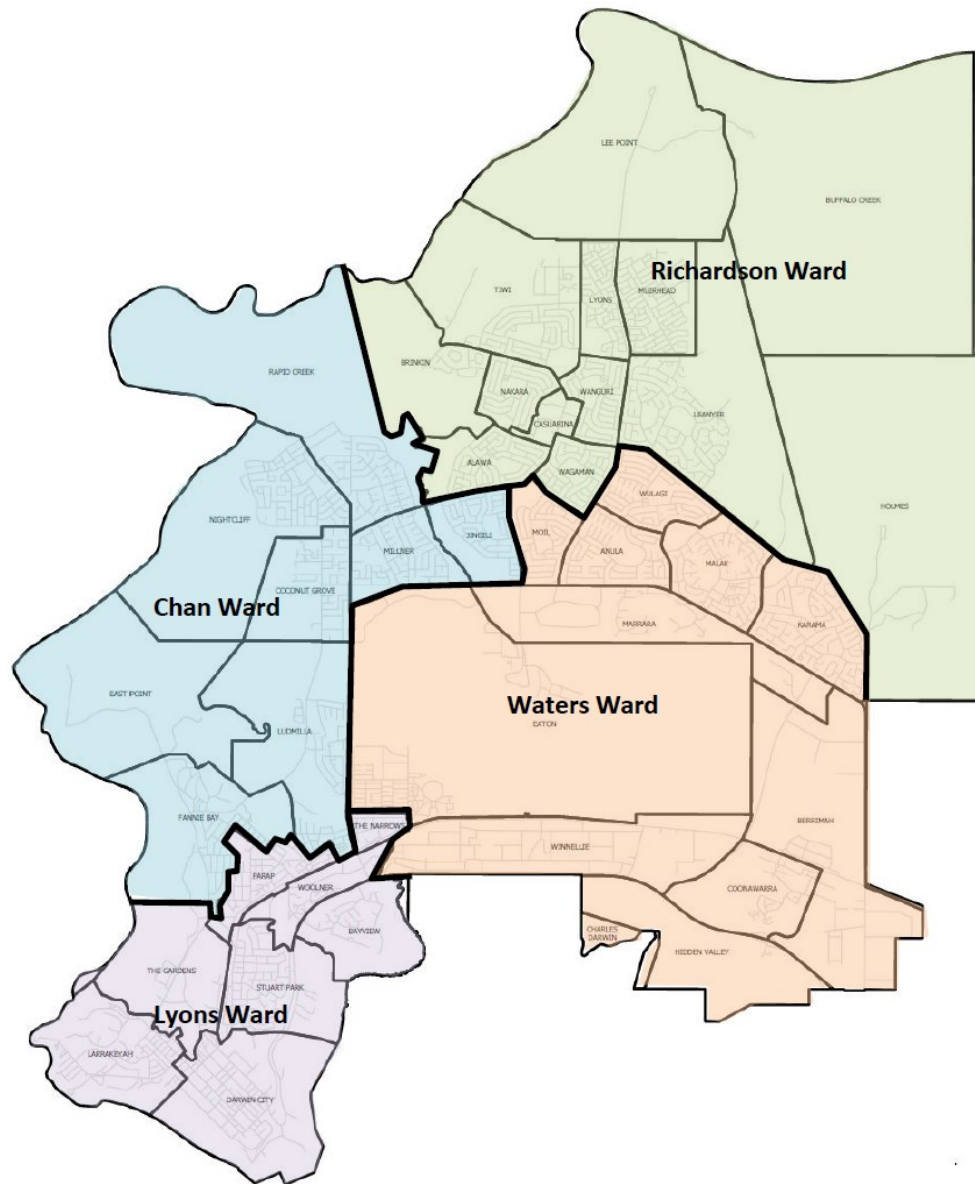
ATTACHMENT C

Proposed ward structure



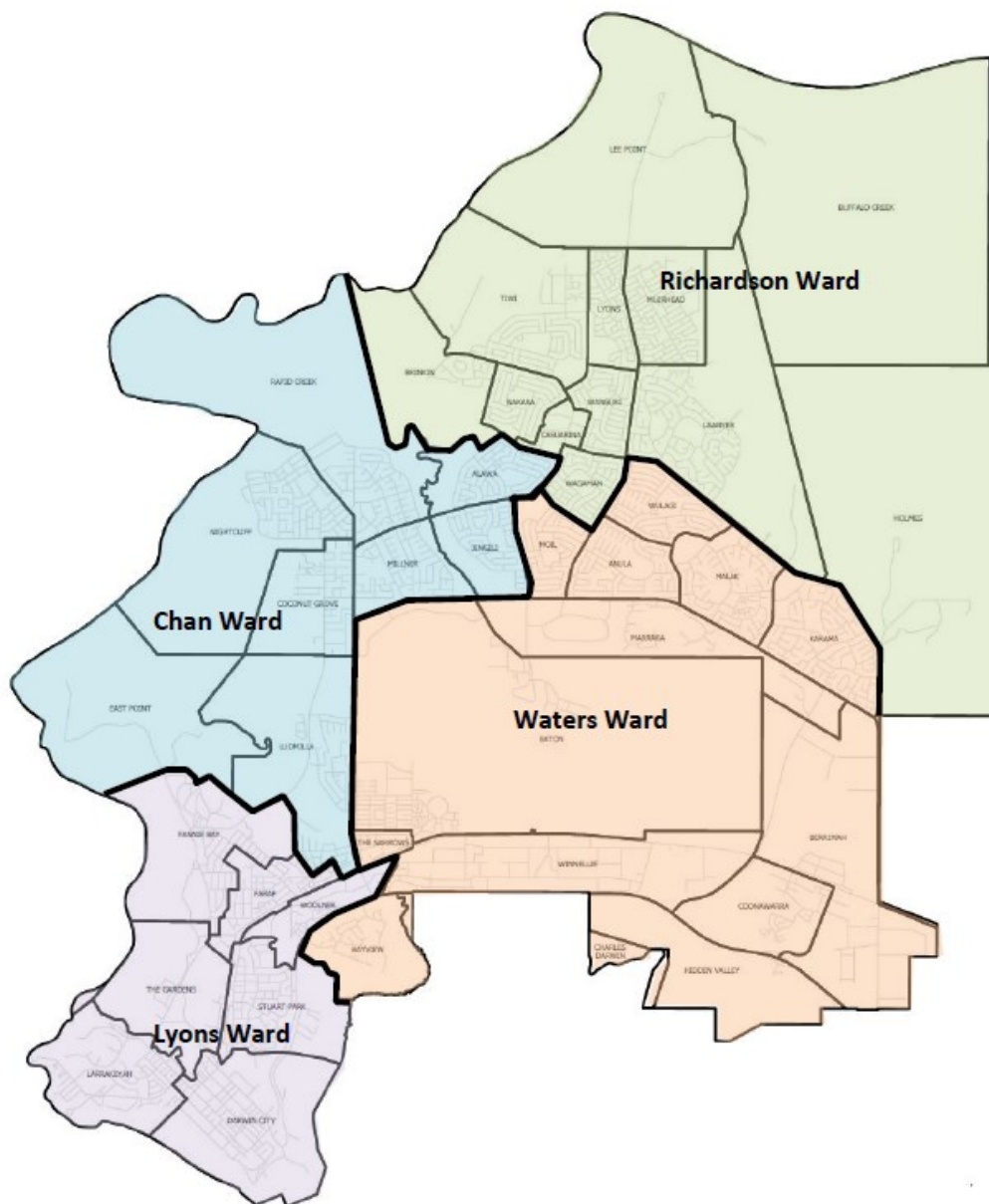
ATTACHMENT D

Amended ward structure (Suburb of Wagaman)



ATTACHMENT E

Amended ward structure (Suburb of Fannie Bay)





Review of Constitutional Arrangements

A report to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development

Pursuant to the provisions of
Section 9 of the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2008

May 2020

Disclaimer

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1. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 23(1)(c) of the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2008 (the Act), the City of Darwin has undertaken a review of all aspects of its composition and structure so as to ensure the adequacy of the constitutional arrangements presently in force and, in particular, whether they provide the most effective possible representation for the council area. It is the intention of Council that the proposal presented herein will come into effect at the next scheduled Local Government periodic general election on the 28th August 2021.

The key issues addressed during the course of the review included:

- the level of elector representation (i.e. the number of elected members) required to provide effective representation of the electors and adequately perform the roles and responsibilities of Council;
- whether the municipality should continue to be divided into wards or whether wards should be abolished;
- the identification of the optimum ward structure and determination of the level of representation for each ward;
- the titles of the elected members;
- the names/titles of any proposed future wards;
- the name of Council; and
- the municipal boundaries of Council

This report is presented for consideration under the provisions of Section 9 of the Act.

The report provides details pertaining to the review process; includes copies of all documents relevant to the review; outlines the review process undertaken by Council; and explains the rationale behind Council's decisions.

2. BACKGROUND

City of Darwin is the principal and guiding Council in the Northern Territory. It incorporates the central business district and two-thirds of the population of the capital city (i.e. an estimated 82,886 residents as at 2019). As such, the City of Darwin differs from other Councils in the Northern Territory because of its metropolitan character; its identity and involvement at the national level of Local Government; and its roles, responsibilities and protocols as a capital city Council.

The current elected Council comprises the Lord Mayor and twelve (12) Aldermen; and the City is divided into four (4) wards (i.e. Lyons, Chan, Richardson and Waters), with each ward being represented by three (3) Aldermen. A map depicting the current ward structure has been provided in **Attachment A**; and elector data pertaining to the existing ward structure is provided in the following table.

Table 1 – Elector Numbers - Existing Ward Structure

Ward	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio	% Variation
Chan	3	11,523	1:3,841	- 7.84
Lyons	3	14,004	1:4,668	+13.22
Richardson	3	13,519	1:4,506	+ 9.29
Waters	3	10,429	1:3,476	-15.69
Total/Average	12	49,475	1:4,123	

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 10th March 2020)

Council acknowledges that there is an imbalance in the elector numbers and elector ratios between the existing wards, especially in the case of the Lyons and Waters wards. Accordingly, Council has opted for an amended ward structure which addresses this disparity.

Council previously reviewed its constitutional arrangements in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2010/2011 and 2014/2015. Essentially on each occasion Council resolved to retain the composition of Council (i.e. the Lord Mayor and twelve Aldermen, and the level of representation in each of the four wards to three Aldermen); but made minor adjustments to the boundaries of the then existing ward structures so as to ensure that the number of electors in each ward was near to equal (as practicable).

The City of Darwin formally commenced its current review in July 2019; and conducted the review with references to the provisions of Sections 11, 23 and 44 of the Act; the provisions of Regulation 63 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008 (the Regulations); and elector data provided by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission.

The review undertaken by Council was concluded at a meeting held on the 31st March 2020, at which time it resolved to make no changes to the existing name, municipal boundaries and/or composition of the City of Darwin, but introduce an amended ward structure.

3. PROPOSAL

Having duly completed a review of its composition and ward structure, pursuant to the provisions of Section 23 of the Act, the City of Darwin proposes only make changes to its ward structure in order to achieve a more equitable distribution of electors between wards. This being the case, it is proposed that the following constitutional arrangements come into effect at the date of the next Local Government election (i.e. Saturday 28th August 2021).

- a) The principal member of the elected Council will be the Lord Mayor, to be elected by the community at city-wide elections, as per the provisions of Section 44 of the Act.
- b) The elected members (other than the Lord Mayor) bear the title of Alderman.
- c) The elected Council will comprise the Lord Mayor and twelve (12) Aldermen (i.e. total of thirteen (13) elected members).
- d) The City will continue to be divided into four (4) wards, with each ward being represented by three (3) Aldermen.
- e) The wards will continue to be identified as Chan (ward 1), Lyons (ward 2), Richardson (ward 3), and Waters (ward 4)
- f) The proposed ward structure will be as described hereinafter.

Chan Ward (ward 1)

All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs of Coconut Grove, East Point, Fannie Bay, Jingili, Ludmilla, Millner, Nightcliff and Rapid Creek.

Lyons Ward (ward 2)

All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs of Bayview, Darwin City, Larrakeyah, Parap, Stuart Park, The Gardens, The Narrows and Woolner.

Richardson Ward (ward 3)

All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs of Alawa, Brinkin, Buffalo Creek, Casuarina, Holmes, Leanyer, Lee Point, Lyons, Muirhead, Nakara, Tiwi and Wanguri.

Waters Ward (ward 4)

All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs of Anula, Berrimah, Charles Darwin, Coonawarra, Eaton, Hidden Valley, Karama, Malak, Marrara, Moil, Wagaman, Winnellie and Wulgari.

A map depicting the proposed ward structure has been provided as **Attachment B**; and elector data pertaining to the proposed ward structure is provided in the following table.

Table 2: Elector distribution - Proposed ward structure

Ward	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio	% Variation
------	---------	----------	---------------	-------------

Chan	3	12,463	1:4,154	- 0.53
Lyons	3	12,768	1:4,256	+ 1.90
Richardson	3	12,246	1:4,082	- 2.26
Waters	3	12,641	1:4,214	+0.89
Total/Average	12	50,118	1:4,176.5	

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7th June 2019)

In addition, Council resolved to retain the name "City of Darwin" and not to seek any changes to its current municipal boundaries at this time. Notwithstanding the latter, Council has an interest in the "Northcrest" development on "unincorporated" land ("Berrimah Farm") adjacent the south-eastern boundary of the Council, as well as the Darwin Waterfront Precinct. Council has indicated a preparedness to enter into future discussions regarding the possible expansion of its municipal boundaries should such a proposal provide better local governance.

4. REVIEW PROCESS

The following is a summary of the review process undertaken by Council, and associated activities, in chronological order.

Date	Event
29 April 2019	Council engaged the services of C L Rowe and Associates Pty Ltd (the consultants) to assist with the conduct of the review.
14 May 2019	The consultants and senior council staff discussed the review issues, process and schedule.
3 June 2019	The consultants consulted the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (Iain Loganathan, Electoral Commissioner) regarding the review being undertaken by Council and requested relevant elector data.
9 July 2019	<p>The consultants conducted a workshop with Council; presented an "Information Paper"; and generally discussed the key issues of elected member numbers; the title of elected members; the division of the city into wards, or the abolition of wards; ward representation; and ward titles. The paper also provided (for comparison purposes) details pertaining to elector representation within numerous Councils across the country.</p> <p>Council endorsed the review process to include one public consultation stage.</p> <p>("Information Paper" - Attachment C).</p>
17 September 2019	The consultants conducted a workshop with Council and primarily discussed the future number of elected members and a range of ward structure options.
5 November 2019	The consultants conducted a workshop with Council and further discussed the key issues. Council made "in principle" decisions in respect to the issues of the title of the elected members; the number of future elected members; the retention of wards; the preferred future ward structure; ward names; the Council name; and the Council boundary.
10 December 2019	<p>A draft "Consultation Paper" (for public consultation purposes) was presented to Council for consideration. Council endorsed the paper for community consultation from 31 January 2020 to 21 February 2020.</p> <p>("Consultation Paper" - Attachment D; Agenda item & Minutes - Attachment E).</p>
Date	Event

30 January 2020	<p>A media release from the Acting Lord Mayor advised that the review was being undertaken; provided general information about the review issues; and directed interested persons to the Council web-site (Engage Darwin).</p> <p>(Copy of media release – Attachment F).</p>
31 January 2020	<p>Information regarding the review in general; the public consultation process; the key review issues (including the consultation closing date); and Council's preferred proposal was provided on the "Electoral Representation Review" page of the community engagement platform "Engage Darwin" web-page. The page provided direct links to the "Consultation Paper"; a map of the proposed future ward structure; and the electronic submission page.</p> <p>A "Question and Answer" document was also posted on the "Engage Darwin" web-page to provide responses to general questions regarding the review issues and/or process.</p> <p>(Copy of web-site page – Attachment G; copy of Question & Answer document – Attachment H).</p>
4 February 2020	<p>The review was promoted on Council's facebook page (to 3,392 people).</p> <p>(Copy of facebook page – Attachment I).</p>
21 February 2020	<p>At the close of the public notification period (21 days), two (2) electronic submissions had been received by Council.</p> <p>(Copies of submissions– Attachment J).</p>
26 May 2020	<p>Council considered a report pertaining to the submissions; made formal resolutions in regards to the issues of the Council name and boundaries; the title of the elected members; the number of elected members required to provide fair and adequate representation; the division of the City into wards; ward names; the level of ward representation; and the preferred future ward structure.</p> <p>(Copy of "Submissions Report" – Attachment K; Agenda item & Minutes - Attachment L).</p>

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The public consultation process commenced on Friday 31st January 2020; followed established Council protocol and Council's Community Engagement Policy No 025; and included the following.

- The display of information on Council's web-site, more specifically the community engagement platform "Engage Darwin". Information regarding the review in general; the public consultation process; the key review issues; and Council's preferred proposal was provided on the "Electoral Representation Review" page. This page provided direct links to the "Consultation Paper"; a map of the proposed future ward structure; and the electronic submission form.

During the period 29th January 2020 – 25th February 2020 the "Electoral Representation Review" page recorded 230 visits; with the proposed ward map being viewed and/or downloaded 22 times and the "Consultation Paper" viewed and/or downloaded 15 times.

- A media release from the then Acting Lord Mayor (dated 30th January 2020). This document advised that the review was being undertaken; provided general information about the review objectives and issues; and directed interested persons to the Council web-site (Engage Darwin).
- The provision of a "Question and Answer" document was posted on the "Engage Darwin" web-page to provide responses to general questions regarding the review issues and/or review process.
- The promotion of the review on Council's facebook page. This action reached 3,391 people; and attracted 348 engagements (i.e. 20 likes/comments/shares and 328 "clicks" on the post).

Copies of documents relevant to the aforementioned are provided in **Attachments F - I**.

At the expiration of the twenty-one (21) day public consultation period (i.e. 5.00pm on Friday 21st February 2020) Council had received two (2) submissions, both via the Council's community engagement platform "Engage Darwin".

Both of the submissions received expressed the view that the suburb of Fannie Bay should remain in the Lyons Ward; and neither respondent addressed any other issue.

Copies of the submissions are provided in **Attachment J**. Please note, the names and addresses of the respondents have been withheld for confidentiality reasons, however these details are available and will be provided upon request.

6. PROPOSAL RATIONALE

6.1 PRIMARY ISSUES

Council's comments and opinions, as they relate to the issues relevant to the future composition and structure of the City of Darwin, are provided hereinafter.

6.1.1 Principal Member

Section 42 of the Act specifies that the principal member of the City of Darwin is to have the title Lord Mayor; and Section 44 of the Act requires the Lord Mayor is to be elected by the community.

6.1.2 Aldermen

The elected members of the City of Darwin have long held the title of Alderman, with the use of this title being confirmed during the past five electoral reviews (i.e. 1999, 2003, 2006, 2010/2011 and 2014/2015). As such, the use of the title is long established and known by the community

Whilst the title of Alderman is gender specific, its use is consistent with other municipal councils within the Northern Territory (i.e. the City of Palmerston and the Katherine Town Council) and three councils in Tasmania, including the City of Hobart.

6.1.3 Wards/No Wards

Council considered the option of abolishing wards, recognising that the benefits included:

- the electors being afforded the opportunity to vote for all of the positions on Council;
- the potential for small communities to be directly represented on Council (subject to sufficient support being raised for a candidate);
- the most supported candidates from across the City will likely be elected, rather than candidates who may be favoured by the peculiarities of the ward based electoral system;
- the elected members generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward, but the City as a whole;
- the elected members should be free of parochial ward attitudes;
- candidates for election to Council will require the genuine desire, ability and means to succeed and serve on Council; and
- the lines of communication between Council and the community should be enhanced, given that members of the community would not feel obliged to necessarily consult with their specific ward representatives.

Notwithstanding the above, Council favoured the retention of wards because:

- wards guarantee some form and level of direct representation to all parts of the council area and existing communities of interest;
- elected representatives of wards can focus on local issues as well as council-wide issues;
- elected representatives of wards may be known to their ward constituents (and vice versa);

- elected representatives of wards can have an affiliation with the local community and an understanding of the local issues and/or concerns;
- the task and expense of contesting a ward election may be less daunting to prospective candidates;
- Council only has to conduct elections and supplementary elections within the contested wards (potential cost saving); and
- ward based elections have the potential to deliver elected members from different parts of the council area, potentially resulting in a greater diversity of skill sets, experience, expertise and opinions amongst the elected members.

6.1.4 Ward Structure

Having resolved to continue to divide the City into wards, Council considered a number of ward structure options but resolved in favour of the proposed structure because it rectified the existing imbalance in the distribution of electors between wards; is a modified version of the existing ward structure which is known and accepted by the community; and should withstand anticipated fluctuations in elector numbers over the next four years.

6.1.5 Ward Identification

Council has long assigned the names of past Lord Mayors to identify the wards.

- Harry Chan was a long-time resident of Darwin; a local businessman; a past member of the then Darwin City Council (1959 - 1966); a past Lord Mayor of the Darwin City Council (1966 – 1969); and the first elected president of the then NT Legislative Council.
- John “Tiger” Lyons was a lawyer; a past Lord Mayor of the Darwin Municipal Council in 1958 – 1959; served on Council until 1963; and was subsequently elected to the then NT Legislative Council (1963 – 1968).
- Lucius (Bill) Richardson was the first elected Lord Mayor of the Darwin Municipal Council (1957 - 58) and was Lord Mayor of the Darwin City Council (1969 – 1971).
- Ken Waters was an Alderman on the Darwin City Council (1963 – 1973); and Lord Mayor of the Darwin City Council (1971 – 1972).

Council is of the opinion that the existing ward names should be retained as they are of local heritage and local government significance; are longstanding; and are known and accepted by the community.

6.1.6 Elected Members

When determining the appropriate number of elected members to provide the desired level of elector representation, Council sought some guidance from the structures of various Councils of a similar size and/or nature from across the country.

This exercise proved to be inconclusive, as did comparisons with the other local government authorities within the Northern Territory, simply because no two councils are considered to be identical in terms of their area, elector numbers, topography, demographics and/or character. Details pertaining to other

cited Councils were provided in both the "Information Paper" (refer **Attachment A**) and the "Consultation Paper" (**Attachment B**).

The City of Darwin, despite being relatively small in area (i.e. approximately 112km²), already has the highest number of electors and the highest elector ratio of all of the councils within the Northern Territory. Whilst Council is aware that a reduction in the number of elected members will provide some financial savings in regards to administrative and operating costs (including member's allowances), it is mindful that any changes to the number of elected members has to:

- ensure a sufficient number of elected members are available to manage the affairs of Council;
- present the required diversity of experience and opinions within the chamber;
- provide an appropriate level of representation to the electors and various communities;
- not exacerbate elected member's workloads; and
- provide adequate lines of communication between the community and Council.

After due consideration Council determined that the existing number of elected members (i.e. twelve Aldermen) remained the optimum arrangement for the City of Darwin. The current elector ratio of approximately 1:4,123 (i.e. an average of 4,123 electors being represented by each Alderman) is manageable (in terms of elected member workloads), and is considered to be comparable to several other capital city Councils and a good number of other Councils throughout Australia that are of a similar size (in terms of elector numbers). Furthermore, a structure comprising twelve Aldermen has served the City of Darwin well over many years; and should continue to provide fair and adequate representation despite the anticipated future growth in elector numbers.

It was also noted that no submissions calling for a change in the number of elected members were received by Council during the consultation process.

6.1.7 Level of Ward Representation

Council considered single-member and multi-member ward representation options.

Council accepted that single-member wards are generally small in area; allow the local community to elect their representative; afford the elected member the opportunity to be more accessible to their constituents; and enable the elected member to concentrate on issues of local importance. However, Council did not favour this level of ward representation because under such a structure it is generally difficult to identify suitable ward boundaries; maintain whole communities of interest; and/or achieve an equitable distribution of electors between wards. The work load of the elected member can also be demanding; and absenteeism of the elected ward member (for whatever reason and/or period) would leave the ward with no formal/elected representation.

Council supported the retention of multi-member wards (i.e. three elected members per ward) as it was considered that such a structure:

- allowed for the sharing of duties and responsibilities amongst the elected members;
- can achieve a greater diversity in the characteristics, skill-set and opinions of the elected members;
- enables the ward members to reach a majority decision on issues of debate;

- lessens the likelihood of ward parochialism;
- affords continuous ward representation should a member be absent;
- is generally a relatively simple structure given the likely size of the wards;
- may be perceived as providing more direct lines of communication between the elected ward members and their ward constituents; and
- has greater ability to maintain whole identified communities of interest within the one ward.

Council also accepted that varying levels of ward representation within a structure based on multi-member wards has no disadvantage provided the elector ratios within all of the wards are similar. However, Council did consider that any such structure can be seen to lack balance and/or equity, with the larger wards (in elector and elected member numbers) being perceived as potentially having a greater, more influential voice on Council.

The decision of Council to retain a ward structure with equal representation in each ward (i.e. three elected members per ward) ensures balance and continuity in elector representation throughout the City.

6.1.8 Council Name

The Local Government Ordinance Bill (assented to in November 1955) provided for the creation of the Darwin Municipal Council. Council received "city" status in January 1959 (known as the Darwin City Council) and the Council name was formally changed to the City of Darwin in August 2012.

During the review process Council indicated that it was not contemplating a change to its name but sought the comments and/or suggestions of the local community in respect to this matter. The lack of any submissions calling for a change to the name of Council was construed as support for Council's position.

6.1.9 Council Boundaries

Council has previously given some consideration to the potential impacts of incorporating the remaining part of the suburb of Berrimah and the Darwin Waterfront Precinct into the City of Darwin, and the likely affects thereof on the Council ward structure.

Whilst neither of these opportunities would significantly impact upon the proposed future ward structure of the City in the short-term, this situation could change significantly if the "Northcrest" development (which lies in Berrimah but outside of the council area) is taken into consideration. This project proposes (in part) 2000 additional "housing" allotments and 40 medium density residential development sites over the next 10 – 13 years. This equates to an estimated additional 7,500 residents, however, there is no certainty as to when or at what rate this increase in population (and electors) will likely occur.

During the course of the review Council indicated that it was not contemplating any changes to its external boundaries at this time. The lack of any submissions regarding this matter seemingly supported Council's stated position. Notwithstanding this, it should be noted that the City of Darwin remains open and willing to enter into dialogue in relation to expanding the council boundary to enable better local governance in the Northern Territory.

6.2 REGULATION 63, LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ELECTORAL) REGULATIONS 2008

Throughout the course of the review, specific attention was paid to those provisions of Regulations 63(2) and 63(3), given their relevance to the circumstances of the City of Darwin. Brief comments pertaining to Council's findings and opinions in respect to the various issues covered by these provisions are provided hereinafter.

6.2.1 Communities of Interest - Regulations 63(2)(a) and 63(3)(d)

For the purpose of the review, Council determined "communities of interest" to be generally defined as aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment. Accordingly, "communities of interest" can be identified by considering factors including neighbourhood communities; history and heritage communities; sporting facilities; community support services; recreation and leisure communities; retail and shopping centres; work communities; industrial and economic development clusters; and environmental and geographic interests. Further, an analysis of the demographic data and profile of the council area provides socio-economic indicators relevant to "communities of interest".

The City of Darwin incorporates the central business district; forty-one (41) established and/or developing suburbs; the airport precinct; open space; and significant commercial, retail and industrial precincts. Further, there is substantial diversity in the characteristics, circumstances and socio-economic status of the various community sectors.

The complexities associated with the "community of interest" concept were taken into account when Council developed the proposed ward structure, opting to ensure that whole suburbs (i.e. perceived established communities of interest) are included within a proposed ward, thereby protecting and maintaining their identity and character. As a consequence, under the proposed ward structure no suburbs are divided between the proposed wards.

6.2.2 Communication and Travel - Regulation 63(2)(b)

The City of Darwin is a long established capital city which covers only approximately 112km²; includes a central business district and surrounding established urban suburbs; exhibits a comprehensive road network; and is serviced by a functional public transport system. As such, the residents within the City of Darwin do not suffer the detrimental effects of remoteness or distance (unlike some communities within regional councils).

Council is of the opinion that the proposed ward structure and level representation will continue to provide a proven communication network between the local communities within, and elected members of, the City of Darwin. Further, community access to information and communication technology through mobile telephones, the internet and social media has increased exponentially during the recent past, and these advances generally make communication with the community an easier task.

6.2.3 Population Density and Trends - Regulation 63(2)(c) & (d)

When identifying the most appropriate future ward structure for the City of Darwin, consideration was given to the following information, as allowances needed to be made to accommodate any identified or likely future fluctuations in elector numbers. All of the indicators suggest continued population growth (and therefore increased elector numbers) across the City of Darwin within the foreseeable future.

6.2.3.1 Elector Numbers

Elector data provided by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission during the course of the review indicated that the elector numbers within the City increased from 47,172 in 2015 to 50,118 in 2019 (i.e. +2,926 or 6.24%), with 96.7% of the total increase occurring in the suburbs of Muirhead, Darwin, Stuart Park, Parap and Fannie Bay.

6.2.3.2 Residential Development

Council identified the following residential growth opportunities which may serve to increase elector numbers in the foreseeable future and, as such, took these into consideration when developing its proposed ward structure.

- Significant growth is envisaged in the northern suburbs of the council area, with on-going residential development within the suburb of Muirhead and the potential for approximately 800 dwellings (in stages) in the neighbouring suburb of Lee Point.
- The on-going residential in-fill and redevelopment within the inner suburbs of the council area (i.e. The Gardens, Stuart Park, Parap, Woolner, Bayview, Fannie Bay, The Narrows and part of Ludmilla) in accordance with the Darwin Inner City Area Plan; and the central suburbs (i.e. the Waterfront, Darwin City Centre, Cullen Bay, Larrakeyah, Frances Bay and the former Tank Farm) in accordance with the Central Darwin Area Plan.

6.2.3.3 Population

Australian Bureau of Statistics data (ABS 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Estimated Resident Population) indicates that the estimated population for the City:

- increased moderately during the period 1996 – 2006 (3,043 or 4.41%);
- increased significantly during 2006 – 2016 (13,102 or 18.35%); and
- declined slightly in 2016/2017 (-122 or -0.15%) and declined further during 2017/2018 (1,337 or -1.56%).

Notwithstanding the recent trend, the data indicates that the population of the council area increased by 9,513 or 13.47% during the period 1996 – 2018.

Australian Bureau of Statistics "Quickstats" also indicates that the estimated population for the council area increased from 69,455 in 2001 to 78,804 in 2016 (i.e. +9,349 or 13.46%), with dwelling numbers increasing from 27,847 to 33,449 (+5,602 or 20.11%) over the same period.

Council is aware that the accuracy and usefulness of the above aforementioned may be questionable, given the duration of time which has elapsed since the collection of the base data; the assumptions which have been made in respect to fertility, mortality and migration rates; and the changing circumstances of the City of Darwin.

6.2.4 Physical Features - Regulation 63(2)(e)

The City of Darwin covers approximately 112km². Whilst the City is built on a low bluff overlooking the harbour, the remainder of the council area is generally flat and low-lying.

The prominent physical features which were taken into account when assessing and identifying the most appropriate ward structure included, but were not limited to, the extensive local road network; existing watercourses and green belts; and the Darwin International Airport (and RAAF Base Darwin).

As the proposed ward structure exhibits ward boundaries which are aligned with long established suburb boundaries (many of which align with prominent roadways), it is considered that the proposed ward boundaries will be readily identified and accepted by the community.

6.2.5 Equitable Distribution of Electors - Regulation 63(3)(a)

As indicated earlier, Council acknowledges that there is a significant imbalance in the elector numbers and elector ratios between the existing wards, especially in the case of the Lyons and Waters wards. The proposed ward structure addresses this disparity.

In addition, Council supports the implementation of the proposed ward structure because it is a variation of the existing ward structure (with minimum amendments to the existing ward boundaries); maintains whole suburbs (communities of interest) within a ward; and allows for anticipated future growth in elector numbers.

6.2.6 Demographic and Geographic Nature of the Wards – Regulation 63(3)(c)

The proposed wards will be similar, in terms of character, topography and demographics, to the wards in the existing ward structure.

The proposed Chan and Richardson Wards will continue to primarily comprise residential development in the form of detached dwellings on individual allotments, with some medium density residential development, as well as some commercial and retail precincts to accommodate the day-to-day needs of the local communities. In addition, the Richardson Ward will continue to contain the suburbs of Muirhead and Lee Point wherein much of the new residential development takes place.

The proposed Lyons Ward will continue to incorporate the waterfront precinct, the central business district of Darwin, high rise and medium density residential development, considerable public open space and recreation areas, as well as the established residential and commercial precincts immediately to the north of the central business district.

The proposed Waters Ward will continue to contain a significant residential precinct to the north and north-east, as well as the airport, industrial precincts and an expanse of conservation land.

7. CONCLUSION

The City of Darwin has completed a review of its constitutional arrangements, as required by the provisions of Section 23 of the Local Government Act 2008.

Having duly considered all matters relevant to the current elector representation within the City of Darwin; and undertaken consultation with the community, Council has formed the opinion that the following arrangements provide the most effective possible future representation for the electors within the council area.

- The Council continue to comprise the Lord Mayor and twelve (12) Aldermen (i.e. total of thirteen (13) elected members).
- The City continue to be divided into four (4) wards, with each ward being represented by three (3) Aldermen.
- The wards continue to be identified as Chan (ward 1), Lyons (ward 2), Richardson (ward 3), and Waters (ward 4)
- The proposed ward structure will be as depicted in **Attachment B**.

In addition, Council has resolved not to seek any changes to its name and/or municipal boundaries at this time. Notwithstanding this, as previously indicated, Council remains open and willing to enter into dialogue in relation to expanding the council boundary (e.g. to incorporate the remainder of the suburb of Berrimah and/or the Darwin waterfront precinct), should such action serve to provide better local governance in the Northern Territory.

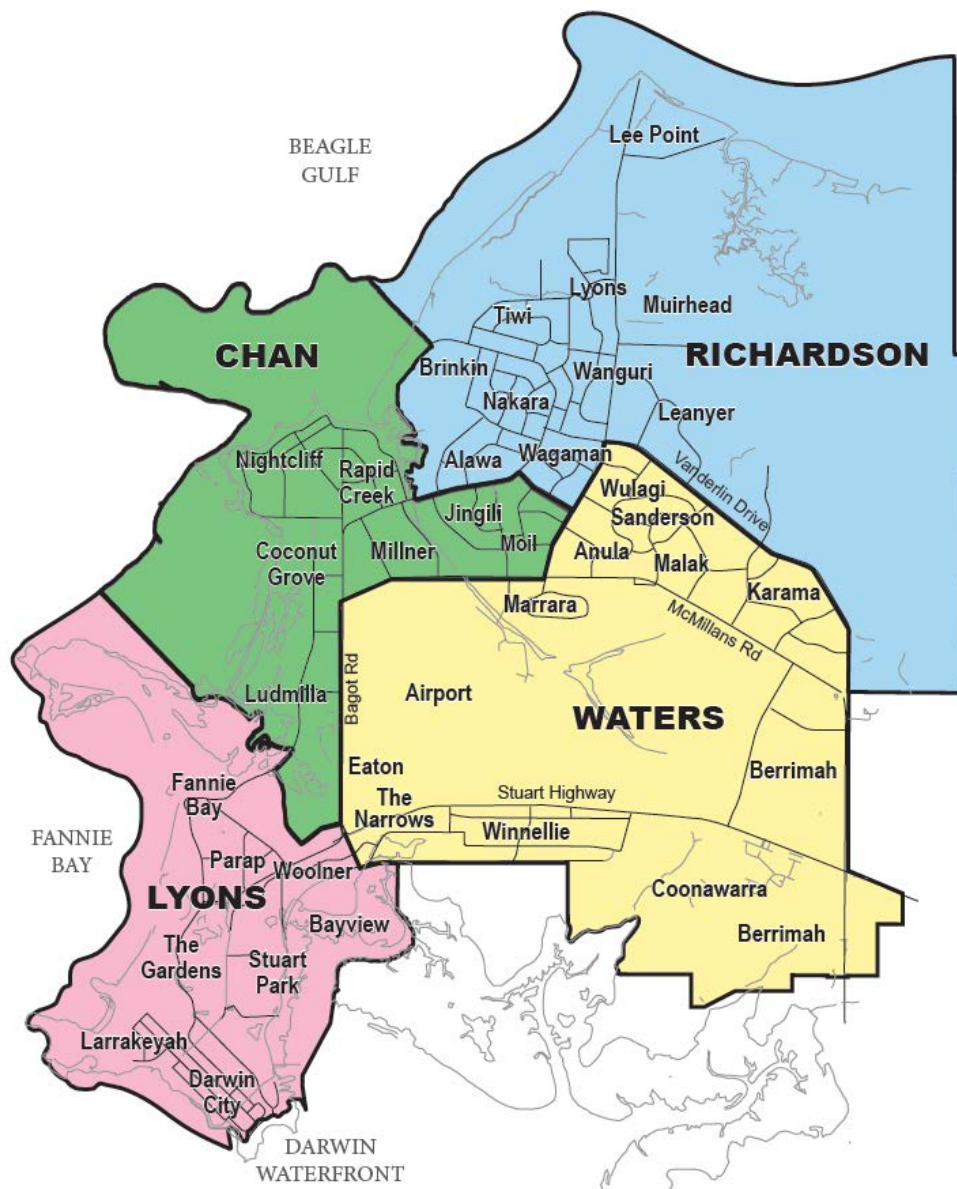
This report is referred to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development (pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of the local Government Act 2008) to demonstrate the comprehensive nature and process of the review undertaken by Council; and to present the proposed new wards structure for consideration and endorsement.

Should you require any additional information or wish to discuss any aspect of the review, please do not hesitate to contact Vanessa Green, Executive Manager – Governance, Strategy and Performance, on telephone (08) 8930 0531 or e-mail Vanessa.green@darwin.nt.gov.au.

Scott Waters MAICD MLGMA
Chief Executive Officer

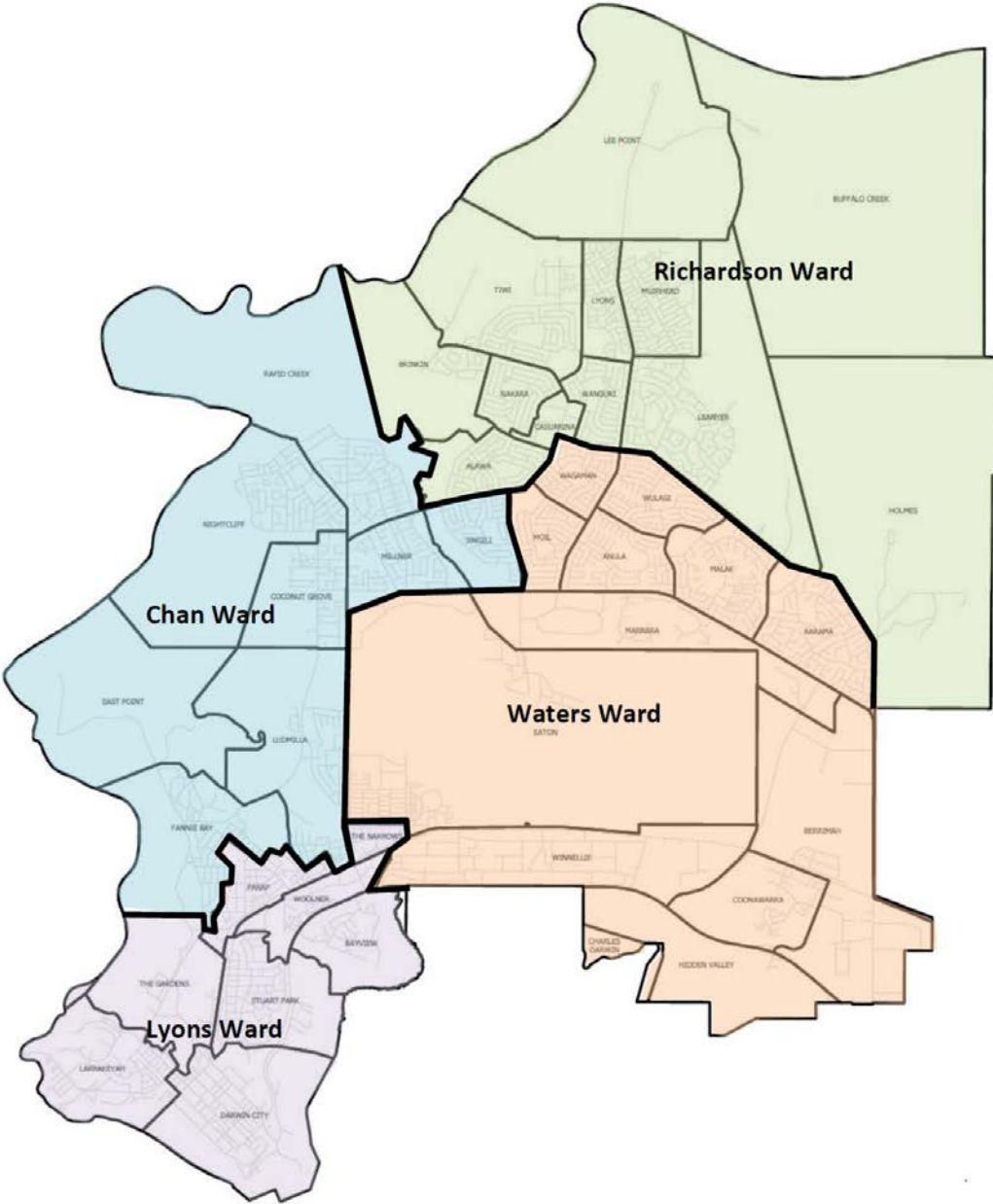
ATTACHMENT A

Current ward structure



ATTACHMENT B

Proposed ward structure



ATTACHMENT C
"Information Paper"



INFORMATION PAPER

REVIEW OF CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS
(Electoral Review)

June 2019



1.0 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 Section 23(1)(c) of the Local Government Act 2008 (the Act) requires that a municipal plan contain the Council's most recent assessment of the adequacy of the constitutional arrangements presently in force and, in particular, whether they provide the most effective possible representation for the area.
- 1.2 Section 23(2) of the Act requires an assessment of Council's constitutional arrangements be undertaken at least once in the Council's term (i.e. every four years).
- 1.3 Regulation 63 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008 (the Regulations) requires the following.

When carrying out an electoral review, Council must give proper consideration to:

- community of interests (economic, social and regional);
- communication and travel (with special reference to disabilities arising out of remoteness or distance);
- population trends;
- population density; and
- physical features.

If the council area is divided into wards, the council must also consider the following matters:

- the desirability of the number of electors for each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election;
- the desirability of keeping the area of each ward containing rural and remote areas as small as practicable;
- the desirability of keeping the demographic and geographic nature of each ward as uniform as practicable;
- the desirability of including an identifiable community wholly within one ward if practicable.

In carrying out its electoral review, Council must consult with the Electoral Commissioner.

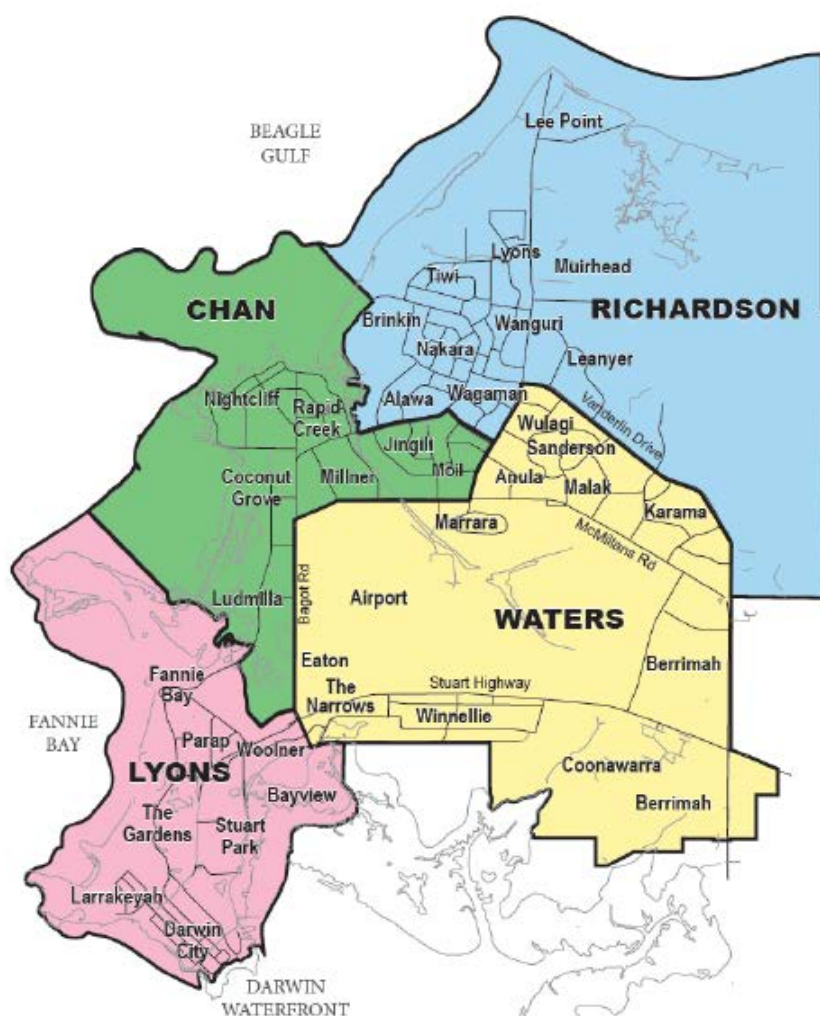
- 1.4 Council should complete its electoral review at least twelve months before the next general election (i.e. by August 2020).
- 1.5 The proposed Local Government Act 2019 will have all future electoral reviews (and final determinations in respect thereto) made by the Local Government Representation Committee which will comprise the CEO of LGANT, the Electoral Commissioner, the Surveyor-General and a person to be appointed by the Minister (likely to be the Auditor-General). This being the case, the current review will be the last opportunity for Council to determine its future composition and structure.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Darwin Municipal Council was established in November 1955 and the first members (i.e. a Mayor and 12 councillors) were elected in July 1957.

- 2.2 Council received city status in January 1959 (known as the Darwin City Council) and the first Lord Mayor was elected in November 1979.
- 2.3 Council has previously undertaken reviews of its electoral representation in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2010/2011 and 2014/2015. There has been no change to the composition and/or structure of Council since 1999, apart from variations to the boundaries of the ward structure in order to achieve a more equitable distribution of electors between wards.
- 2.4 The name of the Council was formally changed to the City of Darwin on the 3rd August 2012.

Figure 1: Current ward structure



3.0 REVIEW ISSUES

- 3.1 The number of elected members required to adequately represent the community and perform the roles and responsibilities of Council.
- 3.2 The title of the elected members.
- 3.3 The division of the council area into wards or the abolition of wards.
- 3.4 The number and configuration of wards (if required).
- 3.5 The level of representation within each ward (and the elector ratio in each ward).
- 3.6 The name of the council area and any proposed wards.
- 3.7 Potential changes to the external boundaries of Council.

4.0 REVIEW PROCESS

- 4.1 The Act does not contain a prescribed process for an "electoral review".
- 4.2 Council has stipulated that its current review be completed by the 1st June 2020.
- 4.3 An indicative review schedule, based on Council's initial requirement of two public consultation stages, is as follows.

July 2019	Initial workshop with Council, including the provision of an "Information Paper" to the elected members.
September 2019	Presentation of the draft "Discussion Paper" to Council (including a number of ward structure options) for consideration and authorization (for public consultation).
October 2019	Undertake the initial public consultation (minimum three weeks) seeking feedback on the information provided in the "Discussion Paper".
December 2019	Council to consider the public submissions received; discuss the key review issues; and determine its preferred future composition and ward structure (if required).
February 2020	Presentation of the draft "Option Paper" to Council for consideration and authorization (for public consultation). The paper will detail Council's preferred future composition and structure; the rationale pertaining to the decisions; the consultation process undertaken; and the submissions received.
March 2020	Undertake the second public consultation (minimum of 3 weeks) seeking comments on Council's preferred composition and structure.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| April 2020 | Council to consider the public submissions received; discuss the key review issues; and make final decisions regarding its future composition and ward structure (if required). |
| June 2020 | Presentation of the draft "final report" (to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development) for review and adoption by Council. |
- 4.4 An indicative alternative review schedule, based on one public consultation stages, is as follows.
- | | |
|----------------|--|
| July 2019 | Initial workshop with Council, including the provision of an "Information Paper" to the elected members. |
| September 2019 | A second workshop with the elected members to discuss all key issues; and to consider ward structure options. Council to make "in principle" decisions regards its preferred future composition and Structure. |
| November 2019 | Presentation of the draft "Option Paper" to Council for consideration and authorization (for public consultation). The paper will contain all information pertaining to the review process and the key issues; will detail Council's preferred future composition and structure; and will detail the rationale behind Council's decisions. |
| January 2020 | Undertake public consultation (minimum three weeks) seeking feedback on Council's preferred composition and structure option(s), as provided in the "Options Paper". |
| March 2020 | Council to consider the public submissions received; discuss the key review issues; and make final decisions regarding its future composition and ward structure (if required). |
| May 2020 | Presentation of the draft "final report" (to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development) for review and adoption by Council. |

5.0 COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

- 5.1 Section 42(2)(a) of the Act specifies that the principal member of the City of Darwin is to have the title Lord Mayor; and Section 44(1)(a) of the Act requires the Lord Mayor to be elected by the community.
- 5.2 Council has previously resolved that the elected members (other than the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor) have the title of "Alderman".
- 5.3 The Act does not stipulate the titles of elected members, nor does it identify the appropriate number of elected members or the elector ratio for a Council.

- 5.4 Of the four other municipal councils in the Northern Territory, two (the City of Palmerston and the Katherine Town Council) comprise an elected Mayor and Aldermen, whilst the remaining two councils (Litchfield Council and Alice Springs Town Council) comprise an elected Mayor and Councillors.
- 5.5 The title of councillor is an acceptable alternative; is utilised by councils across the Northern Territory; is less formal than that of Alderman; is more contemporary; is not gender specific; and is consistent with the title adopted by the majority of Councils throughout Australia.
- 5.6 Regardless of their title, all elected members (not including the principal member) have the same roles and responsibilities. Section 35 of the Act specifies that the role of a member is:
- to represent the interests of all residents and ratepayers of the council area;
 - to provide leadership and guidance;
 - to facilitate communication between the members of the council's constituency and the council;
 - to participate in the deliberations of the council and its community activities; and
 - to ensure, as far as practicable, that the council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately in carrying out its statutory responsibilities.

6.0 ELECTOR REPRESENTATION

- 6.1 Regulation 63(3)(a) states that, if a council area is divided into wards, Council must consider the desirability of the number of electors for each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election. This essentially seeks to provide adequate and fair representation in accordance with the fundamental democratic principle of "one person, one vote, one value".
- 6.2 Table 1 indicates that there is currently a considerable imbalance in elector numbers/elector ratio between the existing wards. To achieve a more equitable distribution of electors between the wards the existing ward boundaries will have to be amended.

Table 1: Elector distribution - current ward structure

Ward	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio	% Variation
Chan	3	11,594	1:3,865	- 7.47
Lyons	3	14,457	1:4,819	+15.38
Richardson	3	13,546	1:4,515	+ 8.11
Waters	3	10,521	1:3,507	-16.04
Total/Average	12	50,118	1:4,176.5	

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7th June 2019)

- 6.3 Elector ratio is the average number of electors represented by an elected member (Alderman).

- 6.4 Table 2 indicates that the number of elector numbers has increased by 2,946 (6.24%) since February 2015. Most of this elector growth occurred in the Lyons and Richardson wards (i.e. Muirhead (+1,286), Darwin (+648), Stuart Park (+340), Parap (+288) and Fannie Bay (+287).

Table 2: Elector variations per ward (2015 - 2019)

Ward	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Variation	% Increase
Chan	11,527	11,594	67	0.58
Lyons	12,992	14,457	1,465	11.27
Richardson	12,309	13,546	1,237	10.04
Waters	10,344	10,521	177	1.71
Total/Average	47,172	50,118	2,946	6.24

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (February 2015 and June 2019)

- 6.5 The Act provides no guidance in respect to what constitutes an acceptable variation in elector numbers and/or elector ratios between wards.
- 6.6 Alternative ward structure options can be considered with the view to identifying a ward structure which will provide a more equitable balance of electors over the four (4) year period between reviews; and allows for anticipated future fluctuations in elector numbers.

7.0 NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS

- 7.1 Neither the Act nor the Regulations provide any guidance as to what constitutes an appropriate number of elected members for a Council.
- 7.2 A comparison of Council's elector representation arrangements with those of the other municipal councils (as per Table 3) offers little assistance given that none of the cited councils are similar to the City of Darwin in regards to character, structure or size (elector numbers).

Table 3: Elector details - existing Northern Territory municipalities

Council	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio
Katherine (528km ²)	6	6,175	1:1,029
Alice Springs (327km ²)	8	15,169	1:1,896
Palmerston (95.6km ²)	8	22,247	1:2,781
Litchfield (2914km ²)	4	12,268	1:3,067
Darwin (112km ²)	12	50,118	1:4,177

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (June 2019)

- 7.3 A comparison with the elector representation arrangements of the regional councils is of little or no assistance, given that these councils generally cover large areas; exhibit open rural character/natural landscape; incorporate a number of smaller settlements and communities; and contain relatively small elector numbers.

- 7.4 A comparison with the elector representation arrangements of the City of Darwin with those of the other capital cities indicates that the number of elected members and the elector ratio applicable to the City of Darwin are relatively consistent with the arrangements of the smaller capital cities, but are significantly at odds with the arrangements for the larger cities of Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Table 4: Elector representation, various capital cities

Council	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio
City of Perth* (8km ²)	6	11,424	1: 1,904
City of Adelaide (15.6km ²)	11**	25,420	1: 2,311
City of Hobart (77.9km ²)	11	37,624	1: 3,420
City of Darwin (112km ²)	12	50,118	1: 4,177
City of Melbourne (36.2km ²)	9	104,929	1:11,659
City of Sydney (25km ²)	9	141,369	1:15,708
Brisbane City (1367km ²)	26	744,915	1:28,506

* Denotes currently suspended

** City of Adelaide has 7 ward councillors plus 4 "area" councillors

Source: Various Electoral Commission election reports (2016 - 2018)

- 7.5 There needs to be sufficient elected members to lead and form the core of the Council committees; to share the demands placed upon them by their constituents; to provide adequate lines of communication between the community and Council; to reflect the desired diversity within Council; and to assure the range of viewpoints that spurs innovation and creativity in Council planning and decision-making.
- 7.6 The City of Darwin is likely to experience reasonable growth in elector numbers within the foreseeable future through the development of existing residential sites/estates, higher density residential development, urban renewal and infill development. One likely consequence of this future growth will be an increase in the workload of the elected members (i.e. the greater the number of electors, the greater the potential for more issues and demands).
- 7.7 Any proposal at this time to increase the number of elected members (on the premise of the need to maintain an appropriate level of representation within a growing community) will likely require considerable justification, given the associated costs and the existence of larger councils (both in terms of elector numbers and area) located throughout the nation which seemingly function appropriately with less elected members than Council's current composition.
- 7.8 Arguments in favour of an increase in elected members include:
- enhancing the lines of communication between Council and the community;
 - the greater the number of elected members, the greater the likelihood that the elected members will be more familiar with the experiences of, and issues confronting, the local community;
 - the greater the number of elected members, the more diverse the skill sets, expertise, experience and opinions; and
 - an increase in the number of elected members may provide greater opportunity for community scrutiny and can make the elected members more accountable to their immediate constituents.

- 7.9 Conversely, a reduction in the number of elected members may serve to facilitate deliberations in Council and may result in some cost saving to Council (e.g. maximum elected member's allowances of \$49,270.79 as at the 1st July 2019, including the annual base, electoral, additional meeting and professional development allowances).
- 7.10 If considering a reduction in the number of elected members, care must also be taken to ensure that:
- sufficient elected members are available to attend to the roles and responsibilities of Council;
 - the elected member's workloads do not become excessive;
 - there is an appropriate level of elector representation;
 - a diversity in member's skill sets, experience and backgrounds is maintained; and
 - adequate lines of communication will exist between a growing community and Council.
- 7.11 Consideration should also be given to whether Council should comprise an even or odd number of elected members (not including the Lord Mayor). Whilst there are no inherent disadvantages with either option, an odd number of elected members may serve to decrease the likelihood of a tied vote of Council and thereby avoid the need for the Lord Mayor to exercise the right of a "casting" vote (in accordance with existing Council Policy 43 - "Meetings, Meeting Procedures and Committees").

8.0 WARDS/NO WARDS

- 8.1 The Act and the Regulations indicate that a council area may or may not be divided into wards.
- 8.2 Where a council area is not divided into wards, the elected members are elected by the community "at large" to represent the whole of the council area.
- 8.3 The advantages of a ward structure include:
- wards guarantee some form and level of direct representation to all parts of the council area and existing communities of interest;
 - elected representatives of wards can focus on local issues as well as council-wide issues;
 - elected representatives of wards may be known to their ward constituents (and vice versa);
 - elected representatives of wards can have an affiliation with the local community and an understanding of the local issues and/or concerns;
 - the task and expense of contesting a ward election may be less daunting to prospective candidates;
 - Council only has to conduct elections and supplementary elections within the contested wards (potential cost saving); and
 - ward based elections have the potential to deliver councillors from different parts of the council area, potentially resulting in a greater diversity of skill sets, experience, expertise and opinions amongst the elected members.

- 8.4 The disadvantages of a ward structure include:
- elected representatives of wards do not have to reside within the ward that they represent and, as such, may have no affiliation with the local community and/or empathy for the local issues and/or concerns;
 - electors can only vote for councillors/candidates within their ward;
 - candidates can be favoured by the peculiarities of the ward based electoral system (e.g. candidates elected unopposed or having attracted less votes than defeated candidates in other wards);
 - elected representatives of wards may develop ward-centric attitudes and be less focussed on the bigger council-wide issues;
 - ward boundaries are lines which are based solely on elector distribution and may serve to divide the community rather than foster civic unity;
 - despite comparable ward elector ratios, uneven levels of representation between wards and/or the physical sizes of wards can create a perception of imbalance in voting power within Council; and
 - elected representatives of wards generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward but the council area as a whole and, as such, the need for wards is questionable.
- 8.5 The advantages of a "no wards" structure (i.e. the abolition of wards) include:-
- "no wards" is the optimum form of democracy as the electors vote for all of the vacant positions on Council;
 - the most supported candidates from across the council area will likely be elected;
 - the elected members should be free of ward-centric attitudes;
 - the lines of communication between Council and the community should be enhanced, given that members of the community will be able to consult with any and/or all members of Council, rather than feel obliged to consult with their specific ward members;
 - the structure still affords opportunities for the small communities within the Council area to be directly represented on Council, if they are able to muster sufficient support for a candidate;
 - successful candidates generally have to attract no more votes than they would have received/required under a ward based election.
- 8.6 The disadvantages of a "no wards" structure include:-
- the elected members could come from the more heavily populated parts of the council area rather than from across the whole of the council area;
 - a single interest group could gain considerable representation on Council;
 - council-wide elections will not guarantee that elected members will have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the whole council area;
 - Council has to conduct elections and supplementary elections across the whole of the council area (at a significant expense);
 - under the "no wards" structure the more popular or known elected members may receive more enquiries from the public (i.e. inequitable workloads); and
 - potential candidates for election to Council may be deterred by the perceived difficulties and expense associated with contesting council-wide elections.
- 8.7 At present only three municipal councils (i.e. the City of Palmerston, Alice Springs Town Council and Katherine Town Council) and two small councils (i.e. Belyuen Community Government Council and Wagait Regional Council) have no wards.

- 8.8 Council can attempt to retain its current ward structure however, such a decision may be difficult to justify, given the ever increasing imbalance in elector numbers between wards (refer Table 2, page 6).
- 8.9 Alternative ward structure options based on a varying number of elected members (to be determined by Council) will be presented to Council (for consideration and discussion) at the second stage of the review process.

9.0 WARD REPRESENTATION

- 9.1 Single member wards are generally small in area and therefore afford the elected member the opportunity to be more accessible to their constituents and able to concentrate on issues of local importance. Due to the small size of the wards it is generally difficult to identify suitable ward boundaries; maintain an equitable distribution of electors between wards; maintain entire communities of interest within a ward; and sustain significant fluctuations in elector numbers. The work load of the elected member can also be demanding, and absenteeism by the elected member (for whatever reason and/or period) will leave the ward without representation.
- 9.2 Multi-councillor wards are generally larger in area and therefore the overall ward structure can be relatively simple. Elected member absenteeism can be easily covered; the work load of the individual elected members can be reduced; there are greater perceived lines of communication between the elected members and their constituents; there is greater potential to preserve whole communities of interest within a ward; a greater diversity in the characteristics, skill-set, experience and opinions of the elected may be achieved; and the likelihood of ward-centric attitudes is reduced given that the ward is represented by two or more individuals.
- 9.3 There are no inherent disadvantages associated with varying levels of representation between wards, however, such structures can be seen to lack balance and/or equity, with the larger wards (in elector and elected member numbers) being perceived as having a greater, more influential voice on Council, even if the elector ratios within the wards are consistent.

10.0 WARD IDENTIFICATION

- 10.1 Council currently assigns names of heritage significance to identify the wards (e.g. Chan, Lyons, Richardson and Waters). This is a conventional means of ward identification and appears to have been accepted by the electors over a significant period of time.
- 10.2 The alternative means of ward identification are limited. The allocation of letters, numbers or direction points (e.g. north, south, east and west) are considered to be acceptable, but it is suggested that these methods lack imagination and fail to reflect the character and/or history of the city.

11.0 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (REGULATION 63)

- 11.1 Regulation 63(2)(a) and 63(3)(d) require Council give proper consideration to **communities of interests** in the council area, including economic, social and regional interests; and the desirability of including an identifiable community wholly within one ward if practicable.
- 11.2 For the purpose of this review, "communities of interest" can be defined as aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment. They can be identified by considering factors relevant to the physical, economic and social environment; regional communities; history and heritage communities; and environmental and geographic interests.
- 11.3 The City of Darwin incorporates the central business district; considerable established and developing residential areas; the airport precinct; open space; and significant commercial, retail and industrial precincts.
- 11.4 Where practicable whole suburbs (i.e. perceived established communities of interest) will be included within a single ward (in any future ward structure), thereby protecting and maintaining the identity and character of the community.
- 11.5 Regulation 63(2)(b) seeks consideration of the issues of **communication and travel** in the council area, with specific reference to disabilities arising out of remoteness or distance.
- 11.6 The City of Darwin is a long established capital city which covers only approximately 112km²; includes the central business district and the surrounding established urban suburbs; exhibits a comprehensive road network; and is serviced by a functional public transport system. As such, the residents within the City of Darwin do not suffer the effects of remoteness or distance. Further, community access to information and communication technology through mobile telephones, the internet and electronic media has increased exponentially during the recent past, and these advances generally make communication between Council and the community an easier task.
- 11.7 Regulations 63(2)(c and d) require Council give proper consideration to the **trend of population changes** in the area; and the **density of population** in the area.
- 11.8 Australian Bureau of Statistics data (ABS 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Estimated Resident Population) indicates that the estimated population for the council area increased moderately during the period 1996 – 2006 (3,043 or 4.41%); increased significantly during 2006 – 2016 (13,102 or 18.35%); but then declined slightly in 2016/2017 (-122 or -0.15%) and declined further during 2017/2018 (1,337 or -1.56%).
- 11.9 Notwithstanding the recent trend, the above data indicates that the population of the council area increased by 9,513 or 13.47% during the period 1996 – 2018.
- 11.10 Australian Bureau of Statistics "Quickstats" indicates that the estimated population for the council area increased from 69,455 in 2001 to 78,804 in 2016 (i.e. +9,349 or 13.46%), with dwelling numbers increasing from 27,847 to 33,449 (+5,602 or 20.11%) during the same period.

- 11.11 Table 2 (page 6) indicates that the elector numbers within the council area increased from 47,172 in 2015 to 50,118 in 2019 (i.e. +2,926 or 6.24%), with 96.7% of the total increase occurring in the suburbs of Muirhead, Darwin, Stuart Park, Parap and Fannie Bay.
- 11.12 Council's Innovation, Growth and Development Department (personal communication with Cindy Robinson, Manager, City Planning) has identified the following residential growth opportunities which may occur within the council area in the foreseeable future. These growth opportunities may serve to increase elector numbers and should therefore be taken into consideration when considering any potential future ward structures.
- a) Significant growth is envisaged in the northern suburbs of the council area, with on-going residential development within the suburb of Muirhead and the potential for approximately 800 dwellings (in stages) in the neighbouring suburb of Lee Point.
 - b) The on-going residential in-fill and redevelopment within the inner suburbs of the council area (i.e. The Gardens, Stuart Park, Parap, Woolner, Bayview, Fannie Bay, The Narrows and part of Ludmilla) in accordance with the Darwin Inner City Area Plan; and the central suburbs (i.e. the Waterfront, Darwin city centre, Cullen Bay, Larakeyah, Frances Bay and the former Tank Farm) in accordance with the Central Darwin Area Plan.
- 11.13 Regulation 63(2)(e) requires Council consider the **physical features** of the council area.
- 11.14 The physical features which will be taken into account when reviewing the existing ward structure and/or development alternative ward structure options include, but will not be limited to, the local road network; suburb boundaries; existing watercourses and greenbelts; and the airport.
- 11.15 Regulation 63(3) requires that, if the council area is divided into wards, the council must consider a number of specified matters. These matters have been previously addressed (refer 8.0 WARDS/NO WARDS).

12.0 COUNCIL NAME AND BOUNDARIES

- 12.1 The opportunity exists for Council to consider possible future changes to its name and/or external boundaries, as well as the likely impacts thereof in terms of future elector representation (including the configuration of any future ward structure options).
- 12.2 At the time of the previous review in 2014/2015 Council was aware of the release of "Berrimah Farm" for future residential and commercial land uses; the issue of the possible future amalgamation of the City of Darwin and the City of Palmerston; and the on-going matter of the Darwin Waterfront area.
- 12.3 Council has not pursued a name change or an amendment to the external council boundaries at either of the previous electoral reviews.

ATTACHMENT D

"Consultation Paper"

CONSULTATION PAPER



Review of Representation Arrangements
(Electoral Representation Review)
Section 23 of the Local Government Act 2008)

January 2020

Disclaimer

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Darwin is undertaking a review of the current constitutional arrangements ("the review") in accordance with the provisions of Section 23(1) of the Local Government Act 2008, so as to assess the adequacy of the constitutional arrangements presently in place and, in particular, whether they provide the most effective possible elector representation for the council area. It is Council's intention that the review be completed by the 30th June 2020; and that any agreed amendments to the future structure and/or composition of Council be put into effect at the Local Government elections scheduled for August 2021.

Since commencing the review in July 2019, Council has held several workshops and considered the relevant key issues, including:

- the composition of Council (i.e. the number of elected members (excluding the Lord Mayor) required to adequately and fairly represent the electors of the city and perform the roles and responsibilities of Council);
- the title of the elected members (excluding the Lord Mayor);
- whether the city should continue to be divided into wards or whether the existing ward structure should be abolished (requiring "council-wide" elections for all vacant positions);
- potential ward structure options (based on the range of 8 – 12 elected members) which exhibited an equitable distribution of electors between the wards;
- the identification/naming of any proposed future wards; and
- the need and/or desire to amend the name of the Council and/or the existing municipal boundaries.

Council's current ward structure exhibits a significant imbalance in elector numbers between the existing wards, in particular the Lyons and Waters Wards. The provisions of Regulation 63 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008 require that, if a council area is divided into wards, Council must consider the desirability of the number of electors for each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election. This being the case, the current ward structure of Council cannot be retained.

Council has agreed that the following future constitutional arrangement model be presented for consideration by the local community.

- The current composition of Council (i.e. the Lord Mayor and twelve Aldermen) be retained.
- The council area continue to be divided into four wards (albeit in an amended configuration).
- The existing ward names (i.e. Chan, Lyons, Richardson and Waters) be retained.
- Each of the proposed wards be represented by three Aldermen.

Council is now seeking feedback from the community. This public consultation stage of the review process affords interested members of the community the opportunity to examine information relevant to the review issues; and to make a submission expressing their views pertaining to the future composition and structure of Council.

1

1. INTRODUCTION

The City of Darwin is undertaking an "electoral review" in accordance with the requirements of Section 23 of the Local Government Act (the Act) 2008. The review must:

- assess the constitutional arrangements presently in force;
- determine whether the current constitutional arrangements provide the most effective possible elector representation for the council area;
- be undertaken at least once in the Council's term; and
- be completed by the end of June 2020 (as required by Council).

The public consultation presently being undertaken by Council affords all interested members of the community the opportunity to express their views in respect to the proposed future composition and structure of Council, as detailed herein.

It should be noted that any proposed amendments to the existing composition and/or structure of Council will come into effect at the next Local Government election in August 2021.

Key issues relevant to the review include:

- the title of the elected members (excluding the Lord Mayor);
- the number of elected members required to adequately represent the community and perform the roles and responsibilities of Council;
- the division of the council area into wards or alternatively the abolition of wards; and
- if wards are preferred, the number of required wards; the level of representation within each ward; and the name/title of any proposed ward.

This report addresses key issues of the review, and provides information pertaining to the provisions of relevant legislation; elector data; elector representation ratios; levels of ward representation; comparisons with the constitutional arrangements other similarly sized councils; demographic trends; population projections; and potential residential development opportunities which may impact upon future elector numbers.

Whilst the Act affords Council the opportunity to review its current name and municipal boundaries, changes in respect to these issues are not being contemplated at this time. Notwithstanding this, Council welcomes the thoughts and suggestions of the community in regards to these matters.

Information pertaining to the issues relevant to the future composition and structure of Council, and the rationale behind Council's proposal, is provided hereinafter for consideration and comment.

2. REVIEW PROCESS

Council must ensure that all aspects of its composition and structure, including the division or potential division of the council area into wards, are comprehensively reviewed at least once in every term of Council (i.e. every four years). In order to ensure that the review will be comprehensive and transparent, Council has adopted the following process.

2.1 Internal Workshops

The elected members have considered and discussed all issues relevant to the review at workshops conducted in July, September and November 2019.

This Consultation Paper outlines the future composition and structure proposed by Council; and presents information in respect to all of the key review issues so as to enable interested members of the community to make an informed submission regarding Council's proposal and/or alternatives thereto.

2.2 Public Consultation

This is the current stage of the review process.

The community is being made aware of the electoral review and the future composition and structure which Council proposes to bring into effect at the next periodic election in August 2021.

The public consultation stage will be 21 days in duration, commencing on Friday 31st January 2020 and concluding at 5.00pm on Friday 21st February 2020.

Interested members of the public are invited to make submissions via the following means.

Online: <http://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au>
In Person: Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin
By Mail: City of Darwin, GPO Box 84, Darwin NT 0801
Email: engage@darwin.nt.gov.au
Phone: 8930 0300

All submissions received will be duly considered by Council; and any person who makes a submission will be afforded the opportunity to make a verbal presentation to Council (if so desired), at a future meeting of Council (date to be determined).

2.3 Final Decision

Following consideration of the public submissions Council will determine the outcome of the review. The decisions and all supporting information relevant to the review process (including copies of all public submissions) will be contained within a report which will be forwarded to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development.

Any proposed changes to Council's composition and/or ward structure will be considered by the Minister and, if approved, will come into effect at the next Local Government election (i.e. August 2021).

The public will be notified of the outcome of the review via Council's community engagement platform Engage Darwin.

3. BACKGROUND AND CURRENT STRUCTURE

The Local Government Ordinance Bill, which was assented to in November 1955, provided for the creation of the Darwin Municipal Council; and the first members of Council (i.e. a Mayor and 12 councillors) were subsequently elected in July 1957. Council received "city" status in January 1959 (known as the Darwin City Council) and the Council name was formally changed to the City of Darwin in August 2012.

Council has previously undertaken reviews of its electoral representation in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2011 and 2015. Following each previous review Council resolved to retain twelve (12) Aldermen and four (4) wards (albeit in an amended configuration to ensure a more even distribution of electors between the wards), with each ward being represented by three (3) Aldermen.

The City of Darwin is still divided into four (4) wards, with each ward being represented by three (3) Aldermen. The principal member of Council continues to be the Lord Mayor (as specified by the Act) who is elected by the community.

Table 1 provides details of the elector representation within the current ward structure, including the number of elected members and electors per ward, and the difference in the elector ratios (i.e. the average number of electors represented by an alderman) between the existing wards. It clearly indicates the imbalance in the number of electors between the existing wards, especially in the case of the Lyons and Waters Wards (i.e. 3,936 electors difference).

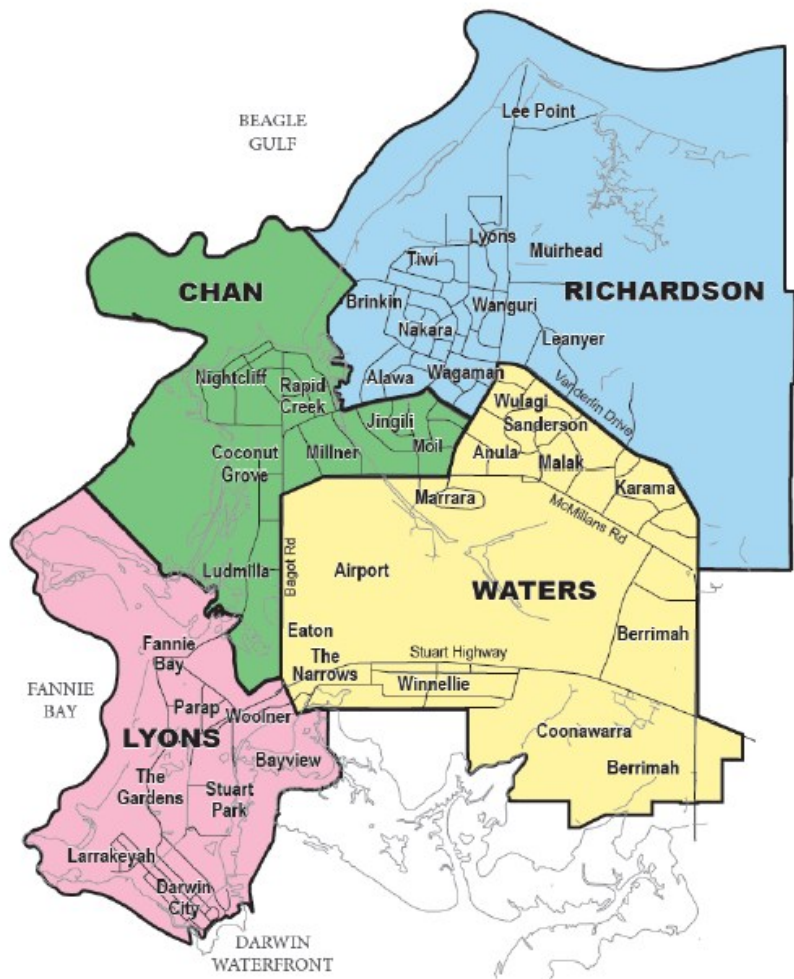
Table 1: Elector distribution - current ward structure

Ward	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio	% Variation
Chan	3	11,594	1:3,865	- 7.47
Lyons	3	14,457	1:4,819	+15.38
Richardson	3	13,546	1:4,515	+ 8.11
Waters	3	10,521	1:3,507	-16.04
Total/Average	12	50,118	1:4,176.5	

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7th June 2019)

Alternatives to the existing ward structure need to be considered with the view to identifying a ward structure which affords the desired level of representation; provides a more equitable distribution of electors between wards; and allows for anticipated future fluctuations in elector numbers. Such action would be in accord with Regulation 63(3)(a) which states that, if a council area is divided into wards, Council must consider the desirability of the number of electors for each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election. Essentially, this provision seeks to provide adequate and fair representation in accordance with the fundamental democratic principle of "one person, one vote, one value".

Figure 1: Current ward structure



4. PROPOSED FUTURE COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

The elected members of Council propose that the future composition and structure of the City of Darwin should be as follows.

- The Council continue to comprise the Lord Mayor (elected by the community) and twelve (12) Aldermen.
- The City of Darwin be divided into four (4) wards, as described hereinafter and depicted in Figure 2.

Ward 1:	All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs/localities of Coconut Grove, East Point, Fannie Bay, Jingili, Ludmilla, Millner, Nightcliff and Rapid Creek.
Ward 2:	All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs/localities of Bayview, Darwin City, Larrakeyah, Parap, Stuart Park, The Gardens and Woolner.
Ward 3:	All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs/localities of Alawa, Buffalo Creek, Brinkin, Casuarina, Holmes, Leanyer, Lee Point, Lyons, Muirhead, Nakara, Tiwi and Wanguri.
Ward 4:	All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs/localities of Anula, Berrimah, Charles Darwin, Coonawarra, Eaton, Hidden Valley, Karama, Malak, Marrara, Moil, The Narrows, Wagaman, Winnellie and Wulagi.
- Each of the proposed wards is to be represented by three (3) Aldermen.
- The proposed wards are to continue to be named/identified as Chan (Ward 1); Lyons (Ward 2); Richardson (Ward 3); and Waters (Ward 4).

It should be noted that:

- the proposed future composition and structure of Council will come into effect at the next periodic Local Government election in August 2021;
- Council's proposal may be reviewed following consideration of any submissions which may be received as a consequence of the current public consultation process; and

In order to achieve a more equitable distribution of electors between wards, as per the proposed ward structure, the current ward structure has been amended as follows (also refer Figure 3).

- The suburbs of Fannie Bay, East Point (part only) and Ludmilla (part only) have been moved from the current Lyons Ward to the proposed Chan Ward.
- The suburbs of The Narrows and part Woolner (part only) have been moved from the current Waters Ward to the proposed Lyons Ward.
- The suburb of Moil has been moved from the current Chan Ward to the proposed Waters Ward.
- The suburb of Wagaman has been moved from the current Richardson Ward to the proposed Waters Ward.

Figure 2: Proposed ward structure

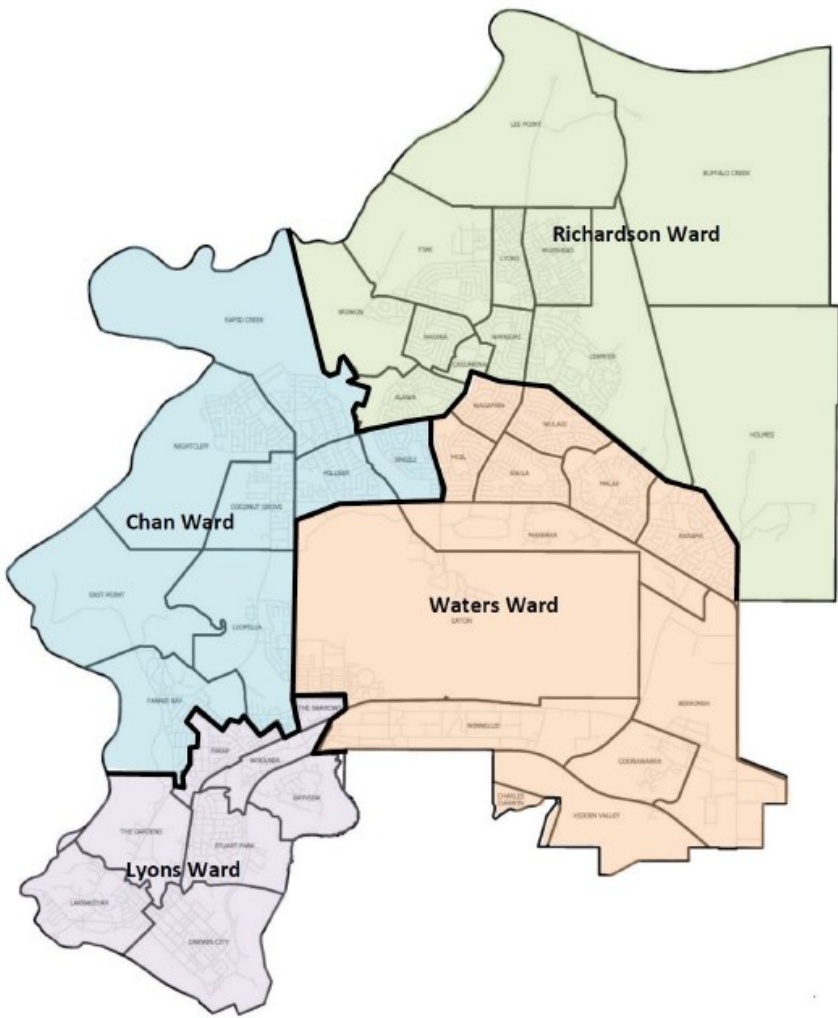
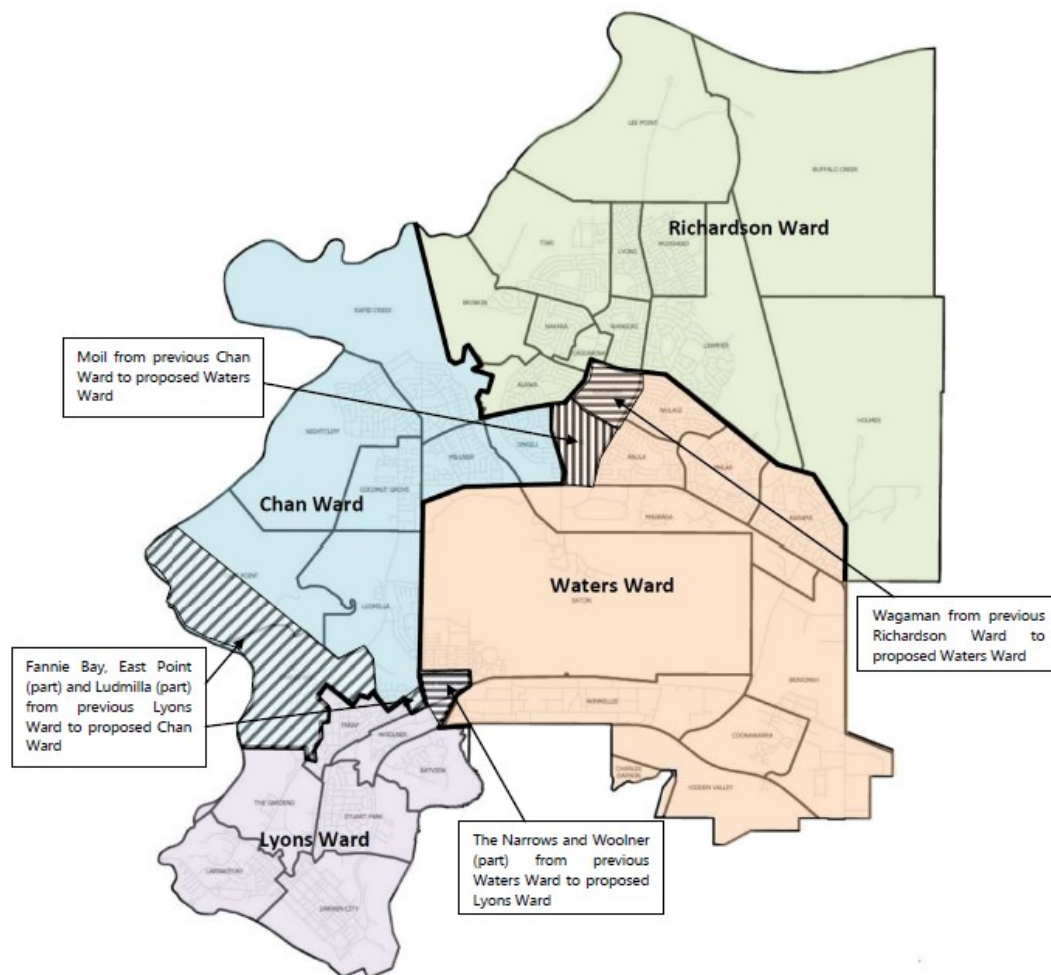


Figure 3: Variations between the proposed and current ward structures



5. COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

5.1 Principal Member

Section 42(2)(a) of the Act specifies that the principal member of the City of Darwin is to have the title of Lord Mayor; and Section 44(1)(a) of the Act requires the principal member to be elected by the community. As such, the office of the principal member is not an issue for review.

5.2 Alderman or Councillor

The Act does not identify the title to be given to an elected member (other than the principal member).

The elected members of City of Darwin have long held the title of Alderman, with the use of this title being confirmed during the past electoral reviews (i.e. 1999, 2003, 2006, 2011 and 2015).

Of the other councils in the Northern Territory, only two (i.e. the City of Palmerston and the Katherine Town Council) have aldermen, although the Katherine Town Council is promoting a change to councillors as part of its current electoral review. Further, the trend across the nation is away from the title of alderman, with only two councils in Tasmania currently having aldermen, although one of these (i.e. the City of Hobart) is already transitioning to councillors.

The alternative title of councillor is generally well accepted by the communities within other councils across the country; is less formal than "alderman"; is more contemporary; is not gender specific; and is consistent with the title adopted by the majority of Councils throughout Australia.

Regardless of their title, all elected members (except the principal member) have the same roles and responsibilities. Section 35 of the Act specifies that the role of a member is:

- to represent the interests of all residents and ratepayers of the council area;
- to provide leadership and guidance;
- to facilitate communication between the community and the council;
- to participate in the deliberations of the council and its community activities; and
- to ensure, as far as practicable, that the council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately in carrying out its statutory responsibilities.

Council believes that the title of Alderman has long been known and accepted by the community; is appropriate for the elected members of a council of the status of the City of Darwin; and little or no practical benefit will be achieved by changing the title of the elected members at this time.

6. ELECTOR REPRESENTATION

Regulation 63(1) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008 requires Council to assess *"whether the constitutional arrangements presently in force for electoral representation provide the most effective possible representation for the local government area of the council."* This being the case, the review needs to identify (in part) the number of elected members who are required to provide adequate and fair representation of the electors of the council area; and to perform the roles and responsibilities of Council.

As there is no established formula or guideline to assist in determining an appropriate level of elector representation for the City of Darwin, the community will have to call upon their experiences in dealing with Council, as well as take some guidance from the structures of other councils. Similarly, the elected members have had to draw upon their practical experience in dealing with their constituents and their understanding of the demands of the office; as well as consider the structures of other councils within the Northern Territory and, to a lesser degree, from across the nation.

A comparison of the elector representation arrangements of the other municipal councils in the Northern Territory, as detailed in Table 2, indicates that the City of Darwin, despite being relatively small in area, has the highest number of electors; and the highest elector ratio (i.e. the average number of electors represented by an elected member) of the cited Councils.

Table 2: Elector details - Northern Territory municipalities

Council	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio
Katherine (528 km ²)	6	6,175	1:1,029
Alice Springs (327 km ²)	8	15,169	1:1,896
Palmerston (95.6 km ²)	8	22,247	1:2,781
Litchfield (2914 km ²)	4	12,268	1:3,067
Darwin (112 km²)	12	50,118	1:4,177

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (June 2019)

A comparison with the elector representation arrangements of the regional councils within the Northern Territory is of little or no assistance, given that these councils generally cover expansive areas of open rural land/natural landscape and contain relatively small elector numbers which are either contained within small communities or spread sparsely across the council area.

Comparisons with the other capital city councils (refer Table 3) also provides little assistance or guidance, given the difference in the size and character of the council areas; the elector numbers; the number of elected members; and the local government structures of the various states. For example, the Brisbane City Council is the largest council in Australia in terms of elector numbers; is the largest of the capital city councils in regards to area; and the elected members therein operate on a full-time (paid) basis, conducting their business from a ward office with support staff. By contrast, the elected members of the City of Darwin serve as a community service, receiving relatively modest allowances and moderate levels of administrative and technical support.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, a comparison with the elector representation arrangements of the City of Darwin with those of the other capital cities indicates that the number of elected members and the elector ratio applicable to the City of Darwin are relatively consistent with the arrangements of the smaller capital cities, but are significantly at odds with the arrangements for the larger cities of Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Table 3: Elector representation, various capital cities

Council	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio
City of Perth (8 km ²)	6	11,424	1: 1,904
City of Adelaide (15.6 km ²)	11*	25,420	1: 2,311
City of Hobart (77.9 km ²)	11	37,624	1: 3,420
City of Darwin (112 km²)	12	50,118	1: 4,177
City of Melbourne (36.2 km ²)	9	104,929	1:11,659
City of Sydney (25 km ²)	9	141,369	1:15,708
Brisbane City (1,367 km ²)	26	744,915	1:28,506

* City of Adelaide has 7 ward councillors plus 4 "area" councillors

Source: Various Electoral Commission election reports (2016 - 2018)

Table 4 provides elector details of the interstate councils which comprise similar elector numbers to that of the City of Darwin. This data indicates that most of the cited councils have fewer elected members and higher elector ratios than the City of Darwin.

Table 4: Elector details - Various interstate councils (similar elector numbers)

Council	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio
Mitcham (SA – 75.7 km ²)	13	48,043	1:3,696
City of Darwin (112 km²)	12	50,118	1:4,177
Blue Mountains (NSW – 1,431 km ²)	12	59,051	1:4,921
Bass Coast (Vic – 864 km ²)	9	46,280	1:5,142
Greater Shepparton (Vic – 2,422 km ²)	9	46,359	1:5,151
Canning (WA – 64.8 km ²)	10	52,767	1:5,277
Camden City (NSW – 201 km ²)	9	51,990	1:5,777
Latrobe (Vic – 1,426 km ²)	9	58,849	1:6,539
Coffs Harbour (NSW – 1,175 km ²)	8	54,174	1:6,772
Nillumbik (Vic – 435 km ²)	7	48,969	1:6,996
Rockhampton (Qld – 11,836 km ²)	7	54,340	1:7,763

Source: State Electoral Commissions (data as at 2016 – 2018)

Consideration has also been given to the composition of the larger councils throughout the country which contain 50,000 or more electors. These councils included the larger regional hubs in Queensland (e.g. Townsville City Council; Cairns Regional Council; Mackay Regional Council; and Rockhampton Regional Council) and the largest of the councils in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. Whilst 70% of the identified councils were represented by 7 – 11 elected members/councillors, the average number of elected members per council in the cited states is approximately 11.4; 11.3; 14; 9.4; and 12.7 respectively.

Given that no two councils are identical in terms of their location, topography, character, demographics, area or size (i.e. elector numbers and population), it is difficult to draw any sound conclusions from the information provided, other than to accept that there are councils of a similar size to, or larger than, the City of Darwin which seemingly operate successfully with fewer elected members.

A decrease in the number of elected members (Aldermen):

- will increase the elector ratio for the council area to 1:4,556 (eleven members), 1:5,012 (ten members), 1:5,569 (nine members) and 1:6,265 (eight members), all of which are still relatively consistent with the elector ratios of the councils cited in Tables 3 and 4;
- may serve to facilitate and expedite deliberations in Council; and
- may result in some cost saving to Council (e.g. elected member's allowances (total claimable) which will be a maximum of \$46,890.02 as at the 1st July 2014, including the annual base, electoral, additional meeting and professional development allowances).

On the downside, a reduction in the number of elected members will reduce the lines of communication between Council and the community; and will likely increase the demands placed upon, and the workloads of, the elected members who, although serving as a community service, commit significant time and effort in order to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.

Regardless, there needs to be sufficient elected members to:

- lead and form the core of the Council committees;
- participate in discussion and decision making within the Council chamber;
- meet and share the demands placed upon them by their constituents;
- provide adequate lines of communication between the community and Council; and
- provide the desired diversity in skill sets, experience and backgrounds so as to ensure a range of viewpoints necessary to spur discussion, innovation and creativity in Council planning and decision-making.

Another consideration is that the City of Darwin is likely to experience further growth in elector numbers within the foreseeable future through the development of existing residential sites/estates, higher density residential development, urban renewal and infill development. One likely consequence of this future growth will be an increase in the workload of the elected members (i.e. the greater the number of electors, the greater the potential for more issues and demands). The actual extent and timing of any of this future development (and resultant increase in elector numbers) is difficult to quantify (with any certainty) at this time.

Any proposal at this time to increase the number of elected members (on the premise of the need to maintain an appropriate level of representation within a growing community) will likely require considerable justification, given the associated costs and the existence of larger councils (both in terms of elector numbers and area) located throughout the country which seemingly function appropriately with less elected members than Council's current composition.

The final issue which may impact upon the number of elected members is whether Council should comprise an even or odd number of elected members. Whilst there is no inherent disadvantage with either option, an odd number of members (including the Lord Mayor who has both a deliberative vote and a casting vote) will, under most circumstances, overcome the potential for a tied vote of Council.

Council believes that the existing number of elected members (i.e. twelve Aldermen) has served the City of Darwin well over many years; and can continue to provide fair, adequate and direct representation of the existing communities located throughout the council area.

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In addition, it is considered that this level of representation and the existing elector ratio (1:4,177) is comparable with the elector representation arrangements of similarly sized councils across the country; and the workloads of the elected member's should continue to be manageable.

Given the above, Council is of the opinion that a change to the existing level of representation is not warranted at this time.

7. WARD STRUCTURE

7.1 Wards/No Wards

The provisions of Section 9 of the Act and Regulation 63(3) infer that a council area may or may not be divided into wards.

7.1.1 Wards

The advantages of a ward structure include:

- wards guarantee some form and level of direct representation to all parts of the council area and existing communities of interest;
- elected representatives of wards can focus on local issues as well as council-wide issues;
- elected representatives of wards may be known to their ward constituents (and vice versa);
- elected representatives of wards can have an affiliation with the local community and an understanding of the local issues and/or concerns;
- the task and expense of contesting a ward election may be less daunting to prospective candidates;
- Council only has to conduct elections and supplementary elections within the contested wards (potential cost saving); and
- ward based elections have the potential to deliver councillors from different parts of the council area, potentially resulting in a greater diversity of skill sets, experience, expertise and opinions amongst the elected members.

The disadvantages of a ward structure include:

- elected representatives of wards do not have to reside within the ward that they represent and, as such, may have no affiliation with the local community and/or empathy for the local issues and/or concerns;
- electors can only vote for councillors/candidates within their ward;
- candidates can be favoured by the peculiarities of the ward based electoral system (e.g. candidates elected unopposed or having attracted less votes than defeated candidates in other wards);
- elected representatives of wards may develop ward-centric attitudes and be less focussed on the bigger council-wide issues;
- ward boundaries are lines which are based solely on elector distribution and may serve to divide the community rather than foster civic unity;
- despite comparable ward elector ratios, uneven levels of representation between wards and/or the physical sizes of wards can create a perception of imbalance in voting power within Council; and
- elected representatives of wards generally consider themselves to represent not only their ward but the council area as a whole and, as such, the need for wards is questionable.

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7.1.2 No Wards

The abolition of wards would result in all elected members representing the council area as a whole, rather than a ward.

The advantages of a "no wards" structure include:

- "no wards" is the optimum form of democracy as the electors vote for all of the vacant positions on Council;
- the most supported candidates from across the council area will likely be elected;
- the elected members should be free of ward-centric attitudes;
- the lines of communication between Council and the community should be enhanced, given that members of the community will be able to consult with any and/or all members of Council, rather than feel obliged to consult with their specific ward members;
- the structure still affords opportunities for the smaller communities to be directly represented on Council, if they are able to muster sufficient support for a candidate and vote; and
- successful candidates generally have to attract no more votes than they would have received/required under a ward based election.

The disadvantages of a "no wards" structure include:

- the elected members could come from the more heavily populated parts of the council area rather than from across the whole of the council area;
- a single interest group could gain considerable representation on Council;
- council-wide elections will not guarantee that elected members will have any empathy for, or affiliation with, all communities across the whole council area;
- Council has to conduct elections and supplementary elections across the whole of the council area (at a significant expense);
- under the "no wards" structure the more popular or known elected members may receive more enquiries from the public (i.e. inequitable workloads); and
- potential candidates for election to Council may be deterred by the perceived difficulties and expense associated with contesting council-wide elections

At present only three municipal councils (i.e. the City of Palmerston, the Alice Springs Town Council and Katherine Town Council) and two small regional councils (Wagait Regional Council and Belyuen Community Government Council) have no wards.

Council proposes the division of the city into wards as it ensures direct representation of all electors and the individual communities and/or suburbs within the council area.

7.2 Ward Representation

7.2.1 Single Member Wards

Single member wards:

- allow the local community to elect their representative;
- afford the elected member the opportunity to be more accessible to their constituents; and
- enable the elected member to concentrate on issues of local importance (rather than just the bigger council-wide picture).

On the downside the work load of the elected member can be demanding and absenteeism of the elected ward member (for whatever reason and/or period) will leave the ward without direct representation (as there is no legislative provisions for a short-term proxy member).

7.2.2 Multi-Member Wards

Multi-member wards (i.e. wards with two or more elected members):

- allow for the sharing of duties and responsibilities amongst the elected members;
- can achieve a greater diversity in the characteristics, skill-set and opinions of the elected members;
- lessen the likelihood of ward parochialism;
- increase the lines of communication between the community and Council (within a ward);
- afford continuous ward representation should a member be absent; and
- can be larger in area and therefore can afford the opportunity to maintain whole identified communities of interest within the one ward.

Varying levels of ward representation within a structure based on multi-member wards has no disadvantage provided the elector ratio within all of the wards is similar. However, such a structure can be seen to lack balance and/or equity, with the larger wards (in elector and elected member numbers) being perceived as having a greater, more influential voice on Council.

Council proposes a structure which provides three Aldermen in each ward, as it ensures balance and continuity in elector representation throughout the city; affords continued representation of a ward should one or two elected ward members be absent; enables the ward members to reach a majority decision on issues of debate; and provides flexibility in communication between the ward members and the local community.

7.3 Ward Identification

Council currently assigns names of past mayors to identify the wards. This means of ward identification is conventional and appears to have been accepted by the local community over a significant period of time.

Harry Chan was a long-time resident of Darwin; a local businessman; a past member of the then Darwin City Council (1959 - 1966); a past Mayor of the Darwin City Council (1966 – 1969); and the first elected president of the then NT Legislative Council.

John "Tiger" Lyons was a lawyer; a past Mayor of the Darwin Municipal Council in 1958 – 1959; served on Council until 1963; and was subsequently elected to the then NT Legislative Council (1963 – 1968).

Lucius (Bill) Richardson was the first elected mayor of the Darwin Municipal Council (1957 - 58) and was Mayor of the Darwin City Council (1969 – 1971).

Ken Waters was an Alderman on the Darwin City Council (1963 – 1973); and Mayor of the Darwin City Council (1971 – 1972).

The alternative means of ward identification are limited. The allocation of letters, numbers, direction points (e.g. north, south, east and west), names of heritage significance and/or local features are all considered to be acceptable, but some of these methods lack imagination and/or fail to reflect the character and/or history of the city.

Council is of the opinion that the existing ward names should be retained as they are of local heritage significance; longstanding; and are known and accepted by the community.

7.4 Proposed Ward Structure

Regulation 63(3) states that, if a council area is divided into wards, Council must consider the desirability of the number of electors for each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election. The Regulations also seek to include an identifiable community wholly within one ward (if practicable).

The proposed ward structure, as described and depicted earlier (refer pages 6 and 7), is a variation of the existing ward structure, with amendments to the existing ward boundaries so as to achieve a more even balance of elector numbers between wards (refer Table 5). Whilst Council proposes this ward structure, it is not committed to adopting the structure without firstly taking into account the thoughts and comments of interested community members.

Table 5: Elector distribution - Proposed ward structure

Ward	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio	% Variation
Chan	3	12,463	1:4,154	- 0.53
Lyons	3	12,768	1:4,256	+1.90
Richardson	3	12,246	1:4,082	- 2.26
Waters	3	12,641	1:4,214	+0.89
Total/Average	12	50,118	1:4,176.5	

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7th June 2019)

Council proposes the amended ward structure presented herein as it is purports minimal changes to the existing ward boundaries; achieves a more equitable distribution of electors between wards; and maintains whole suburbs (communities of interest) within a ward.

8. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Regulation 63(2) stipulates that, when carrying out an electoral review, a Council must give proper consideration to the following matters.

- Communities of interest in the area including economic, social and regional interests.
- Types of communication and travel in the area with special reference to disabilities arising out of remoteness or distance.
- The trend of population changes in the area.
- The density of population in the area.
- The physical features of the area.

In addition, the provisions of Regulation 63(3) require Council take into account the following when the council area is to be divided into wards.

- The desirability of the number of electors for each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election.
- The desirability of keeping the area of each ward containing rural and remote areas as small as practicable.
- The desirability of keeping the demographic and geographic nature of each ward as uniform as practicable.
- The desirability of including an identifiable community wholly within one ward if practicable.

8.1 Communities of Interest

For the purpose of electoral review proposals, "communities of interest" can be defined as aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment. They can be identified by considering factors relevant to the physical, economic and social environment; regional communities; history and heritage communities; and environmental and geographic interests.

The City of Darwin incorporates the central business district; forty-three (43) established and/or developing suburbs; the airport precinct; open space; and significant commercial, retail and industrial precincts. Further, there is substantial diversity in the characteristics, circumstances and socio-economic status of the various community sectors.

Given the complexities of the "community of interest" concept, a simple solution is to ensure (where practicable) that whole suburbs (i.e. perceived established communities of interest) are included within a single ward, thereby protecting and maintaining the identity and character of the community within the suburb.

8.2 Communication and Travel

The City of Darwin is a long established capital city which covers only approximately 112km²; includes a central business district and surrounding established urban suburbs; exhibits a comprehensive road network; and is serviced by a functional public transport system.

18

As such, the residents within the City of Darwin do not suffer the detrimental effects of remoteness or distance (unlike some communities within regional councils).

Further, community access to information and communication technology through mobile telephones, the internet and electronic media has increased exponentially during the recent past, and these advances generally make communication between the community and Council (and vice versa) an easier task.

8.3 Demographic and Population Trends

Australian Bureau of Statistics data (ABS 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Estimated Resident Population) indicates that the estimated population for the council area:

- increased moderately during the period 1996 – 2006 (3,043 or 4.41%);
- increased significantly during 2006 – 2016 (13,102 or 18.35%); and
- declined slightly in 2016/2017 (-122 or -0.15%) and declined further during 2017/2018 (1,337 or -1.56%).

Notwithstanding the recent trend, the data indicates that the population of the council area increased by 9,513 or 13.47% during the period 1996 – 2018.

Australian Bureau of Statistics "Quickstats" also indicates that the estimated population for the council area increased from 69,455 in 2001 to 78,804 in 2016 (i.e. +9,349 or 13.46%), with dwelling numbers increasing from 27,847 to 33,449 (+5,602 or 20.11%) during the same period.

In addition, elector data provided by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission indicates that the elector numbers within the council area increased from 47,172 in 2015 to 50,118 in 2019 (i.e. +2,926 or 6.24%), with 96.7% of the total increase occurring in the suburbs of Muirhead, Darwin, Stuart Park, Parap and Fannie Bay.

Council has also identified the following residential growth opportunities which may serve to increase elector numbers in the foreseeable future and, as such, should therefore be taken into consideration when considering any potential future ward structures.

- Significant growth is envisaged in the northern suburbs of the council area, with on-going residential development within the suburb of Muirhead and the potential for approximately 800 dwellings (in stages) in the neighbouring suburb of Lee Point.
- The on-going residential in-fill and redevelopment within the inner suburbs of the council area (i.e. The Gardens, Stuart Park, Parap, Woolner, Bayview, Fannie Bay, The Narrows and part of Ludmilla) in accordance with the Darwin Inner City Area Plan; and the central suburbs (i.e. the Waterfront, Darwin City Centre, Cullen Bay, Larrakeyah, Frances Bay and the former Tank Farm) in accordance with the Central Darwin Area Plan.

Finally, the "Northcrest" development on "unincorporated" land ("Berrimah Farm") adjacent the south-eastern boundary of the City of Darwin has the potential to realise 2,000 additional allotments/houses and 40 medium density residential development sites. This development potentially realise an additional 7,500 residents.

A residential development of this scale has the potential to impact upon the future elector numbers within the City of Darwin, either by being incorporated within the city at some time in the future (which is an option under consideration by relevant parties) or by affecting the future housing demand within the city which could potentially slow population/elector growth within the city.

The potential impacts of the "Northcrest" development should be noted at this time.

8.4 Physical Features

The council area covers approximately 112 km² and whilst the city precinct is built on a low bluff overlooking the harbour, the remainder of the council area is generally flat and low-lying.

The prominent physical features which will be taken into account when reviewing the existing ward structure and/or developing alternative ward structures include, but should not be limited to, the extensive local road network; suburb boundaries; existing watercourses and green belts; and the airport.

9. COUNCIL NAME AND BOUNDARIES

The opportunity exists for Council to consider possible future changes to its name and/or external boundaries, as well as the likely impacts thereof in terms of future elector representation (including the configuration of any future ward structure options), as part of its current review.

The aforementioned "Northcrest" development on "unincorporated" land ("Berrimah Farm") adjacent the south-eastern boundary of the Council, as well as the Darwin waterfront precinct, have been issues which have received informal consideration in the past. The benefits and impacts of incorporating these areas land, and any other neighbouring parcels of land, within the bounds of the City of Darwin will require considerable investigation and analysis.

Whilst Council is not contemplating any changes to either its name or external boundaries at this time, it is prepared to consider the suggestions and comments of the community in regards to these issues.

10. PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Interested members of the community are invited to make a submission expressing their views on the key issues and information contained within this report, as well as the proposed future composition and structure of Council outlined therein.

Submissions will be accepted during the consultation period from Friday 31st January 2020 until 5.00pm on Friday 21st February 2020; and can be made via the following means.


Online: <http://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au>
In Person: Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin
By Mail: City of Darwin, GPO Box 84, Darwin NT 0801
Email: engage@darwin.nt.gov.au
Phone: 8930 0300

Further information regarding the electoral review can be obtained by contacting Vanessa Green, Executive Manager Governance, Strategy and Performance, on telephone (08) 8930 0300.

ATTACHMENT E

Agenda Item and Minutes (10 December 2019)

14.6	2019/20	CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW (ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW - S23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT)
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Common No.:**Author:** Executive Manager Governance, Strategy & Performance**Authoriser:** General Manager Government Relations & External Affairs**Attachments:** 1. Constitutional Review Consultation Paper **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the Constitutional Review Consultation Paper for the purpose of community consultation from 31 January 2020 to 21 February 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled 2019/20 Constitutional Arrangements Review (Electoral Representation Review – S23 Local Government Act) be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses the Constitutional Review Consultation Paper provided at Attachment 1 for community consultation from 31 January 2020 to 21 February 2020.

KEY ISSUES

- The purpose of a Constitutional Review is to assess whether a council's constitutional arrangements provide the most effective representation for residents.
- The review must be completed 12 months prior to the next Local Government General Election in August 2021.
- On 9 July 2019, Council endorsed the review process to include one public consultation stage. Public feedback will be sought on the Consultation Paper which outlines Council's proposed constitution for the municipality.
- For the purpose of Community Consultation, Council proposes that the constitutional arrangements to be implemented from the August 2021 Local Government Elections are:
 - Lord Mayor and 12 Aldermen
 - The title of Alderman to be retained
 - 4 wards and structure of 3 Aldermen per ward to be retained (with amendments to current boundaries)
 - Ward names to be retained
 - Council name to be retained

BACKGROUND

Every 4 years (or within the term of council) a constitutional arrangements review must be undertaken for the local government area.

Council has engaged C L Rowe & Associates to facilitate this review.

C L Rowe & Associates presented an Information Paper to the confidential briefing sessions held in September and November 2019. Outcomes from these sessions have been included as Council's proposed constitutional arrangements within the Discussion Paper, Attachment 1.

Council has opted for a model with one round of public consultation. Public consultation will occur on the 'Discussion Paper' and the review will be completed by June 2020.

DISCUSSION

C L Rowe & Associates presented an Information Paper to the confidential briefing sessions held in September and November 2019.

Subsequent to those briefings, a Consultation Paper has been prepared outlining Council's proposed constitutional arrangements.

The key changes proposed by Council relate to ward boundaries. Key changes are:

- The suburbs of Fannie Bay, East Point (part only) and Ludmilla (part only) have been moved from the current Lyons Ward to the proposed Chan Ward.
- The suburbs of The Narrows and part Woolner (part only) have been moved from the current Waters Ward to the proposed Lyons Ward.
- The suburb of Moil has been moved from the current Chan Ward to the proposed Waters Ward.
- The suburb of Wagaman has been moved from the current Richardson Ward to the proposed Waters Ward.

The Consultation Paper will be presented to Council to endorse for the purposes of community consultation.

Community consultation will commence on Friday 31 January 2020 and conclude at 5.00pm on Friday 21 February 2020.

Consultation will occur via Council's online community engagement platform Engage Darwin and as outlined in the consultation paper.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies as outlined in the 'Darwin 2030 City for People. City of Colour. Strategic Plan':

Goal

6 Governance Framework

Outcome

6.3 Decision Making and Management

Key Strategies**LEGISLATIVE/POLICY**

The review process and community consultation period meets the requirements of the Local Government Act 2008.

CONSULTATION**Internal**

In preparing this report, the following City of Darwin officers were consulted:

- Internal consultation which has included Council's Strategic Directions Group has occurred.

External

- This report presents the discussion paper compiled by C L Rowe and Associates.

BUDGET/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the review has been provided for in current operational budgets. Council will incur minimal costs to update marketing and communication materials as a result of the proposed new ward structure if adopted.

RISK

The Consultation Paper outlines Council's proposed constitutional arrangements to come into effect from the next election scheduled for August 2021. The review is to conclude 12 months prior to the election.

There is scope within the project timeline to consider feedback from the community if it is contrary to Council's proposal.

LEGAL

Refer to Legislative/Policy implications.

ARTS, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Not assessed.

14.6 2019/20 CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW (ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW - S23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT)**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the Constitutional Review Consultation Paper for the purpose of community consultation from 31 January 2020 to 21 February 2020.

RESOLUTION ORD613/19

Moved: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT the report entitled 2019/20 Constitutional Arrangements Review (Electoral Representation Review – S23 Local Government Act) be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses the Constitutional Review Consultation Paper provided at **Attachment 1** for community consultation from 31 January 2020 to 21 February 2020.

CARRIED 12/0

14.7 UPDATE OF CITY OF DARWIN LIQUOR LICENCE FRAMEWORK - LIQUOR ACT 2019**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of a new process for Elected Members to review liquor licence applications. This is due to recent changes to liquor licence application timelines and processes by the Liquor Commission, under the NT's new Liquor Act (2019).

RESOLUTION ORD614/19

Moved: Alderman Emma Young

Seconded: Alderman George Lambrinidis

1. THAT this report entitled Update of City of Darwin Liquor License Framework – Liquor Act 2019 be received and noted.
2. THAT the Council endorse a new process for the review of liquor licence applications (including objecting) whereby Elected Members can review licence applications via the Elected Members Intranet and email a summary due to new notification processes and reduced timeframes being introduced by Licencing NT in response to requirements under the Liquor Act 2019, as provided in **Attachment 1** to this report.

CARRIED 12/0

ATTACHMENT F

Media Release



Media Release 30 January 2020

CITY OF DARWIN

Community Consultation for Electoral Representation Review Changes Commences

The community is being encouraged to have their say as part of an electoral representation review.

City of Darwin is required to undertake an electoral representation review every four years in order to meet Local Government Act requirements.

The review commenced in July 2019 and is expected to be completed by 30 June, 2020 and has included a series of stakeholder workshops.

A community consultation will be open from today through 21 February, 2020.

One of the key issues for consideration is proposed changes to Ward electoral boundaries for City of Darwin's four Wards, Chan, Richardson, Waters and Lyons.

Acting Lord Mayor George Lambrinidis said "The increased number of apartments in some suburbs and housing growth in newer suburbs, means boundaries of existing Wards may need to move to ensure fair elector representation."

"Fair and equitable representation for all rate payers is a key goal of Council and we are investigating whether the recent population growth in some Darwin suburbs is compromising this."

Other matters being considered as part of the electoral representation review include the naming of proposed Wards, the number of Wards and the number of Elected Members to represent the municipality.

"We are inviting the community to have their say on line or in person," said Acting Lord Mayor Lambrinidis.

Any changes to City of Darwin's current electoral representation will come into effect following the next Council election in August 2021.

For more information go to - <https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/representation-review>

Contact: City of Darwin Media Advisor: **Jane de Gault (P) 8930 5504 (M) 0466 207 090**

ATTACHMENT G

Website page

3/4/2020

Electoral Representation Review | Engage Darwin

[Home](#) » [Electoral Representation Review](#)

Electoral Representation Review



Every four years Council reviews the way it represents the community. Council considers key issues such as population changes and nation wide trends to decide on a structure that will provide the best community representation. In reviewing the representational structure Council has decided to keep most aspects the same, with some minor changes to ward boundaries.

The proposed representational structure for City of Darwin remains;

- Council name: City of Darwin
- Number of elected members: twelve plus Lord Mayor (ratio of one elected member per 4,177 electors)
- Title of elected members: Alderman
- Number of wards: four (with minor boundary changes)
- Number of elected members per ward: three
- Ward names: Chan Ward, Lyons Ward, Richardson Ward, Waters Ward

The Consultation Paper provides the full details of the review and Council's decision making;

[Electoral Representation Review Consultation Paper](#)

Changes to Ward Boundaries

The only change in Council's proposed structure is to some of the Ward boundaries. The current Ward structure has uneven elector numbers in each Ward, mainly due to recent growth in the suburbs of Lyons and Muirhead. The proposed new Ward boundaries achieve an even balance of electors in each Ward. The map below shows the proposed changes or click to download.

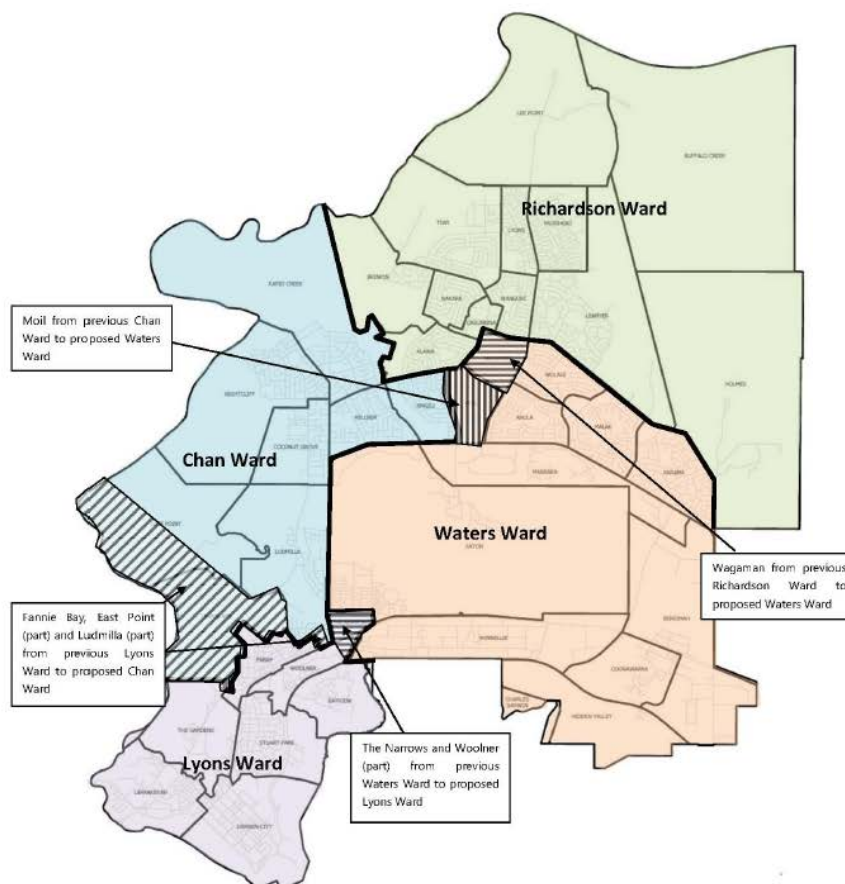


<https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/representation-review>

1/5

3/4/2020

Electoral Representation Review | Engage Darwin



The Ward boundary changes include;

- Fannie Bay, East Point (part only) and Ludmilla (part only) moved from the current Lyons Ward to the proposed Chan Ward
- The Narrows and Woolner (part only) moved from the current Waters Ward to the proposed Lyons Ward
- Moil has been moved from the current Chan Ward to the proposed Waters Ward
- Wagaman has been moved from the current Richardson Ward to the proposed Waters Ward

The proposed representational structure and ward boundary changes will come into effect after the next Council election in August 2021. Local Council is the level of government closest to the community. You vote for your Elected Members and they are there to represent you. Have your say on how this works.

SUBMISSIONS

engage Darwin Ack Invited



<https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/representation-review>

2/5

3/4/2020

Electoral Representation Review | Engage Darwin

Council invites community feedback on the proposed representational structure and the Ward boundary changes.

You need to be signed in to take this survey



[Sign In](#)

[Register](#)

Key Dates

Feedback closes
21 February 2020

Document Library

-  Consultation Paper Electoral Representation Review (1.32 MB) (pdf)
-  Map - Proposed new ward boundaries (551 KB) (pdf)

Who's Listening

Vanessa Green

Executive Manager Governance, Strategy and Performance

Phone 8930 0531

Email engage@darwin.nt.gov.au

VG

Fiona Van der Weide

Governance and Legislation Advisor

Phone 8930 0670

Email engage@darwin.nt.gov.au

FV



<https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/representation-review>

3/5

3/4/2020

Electoral Representation Review | Engage Darwin

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5/5

ATTACHMENT H

Question & Answer document

City of Darwin Electoral Representation Review

Q&A's

1. What is an Electoral Representation Review?

Every four years Council conducts a review of the electoral structure of City of Darwin, to ensure that voters are represented fairly and equitably.

The review considers a number of factors, including population changes, the nature and complexity of services Council provides and geographic size, in determining any proposed changes.

2. When did the review take place?

Council completed the review in January 2020.

3. What IS proposed to change?

Council is recommending minor changes to some of the ward boundaries.

The proposed ward boundary changes will affect residents of Fannie Bay, East Point (part only), Ludmilla (part only), Narrows, Woolner (part only), Moil and Wagaman.

Suburb	Currently in	Change to
Fannie Bay	Lyons Ward	Chan Ward
East Point (part only)	Lyons Ward	Chan Ward
Ludmilla (part only)	Lyons Ward	Chan Ward
Narrows	Waters Ward	Lyons Ward
Woolner (part only)	Waters Ward	Lyons Ward
Moil	Chan Ward	Waters Ward
Wagaman	Richardson Ward	Waters Ward

4. What is NOT proposed to change?

Council has not recommended any changes to the representational structure for City of Darwin, which remains as per below:

Council Name	City of Darwin	
No. of Elected Members	Twelve + Lord Mayor	<i>Ratio of one Elected Member per 4,177 voters.</i>
Title of Elected Members	Alderman	
No. of wards	Four	
No. of Elected Members per ward	Three	
Ward names	Chan Ward, Lyons Ward, Richardson Ward, Waters Ward	

5. How will the proposed changes affect residents?

- These changes will not take effect until after the next Council election in August 2021.
- * Residents who live in suburbs affected by the ward boundary changes will be represented by different Elected Members.

** Residents can approach any Elected Member to discuss concerns, regardless of ward boundaries.*

6. Can the community access the full report?

The community can read the full *Electoral Representation Review Consultation Paper* (make hyperlink to report) on the Engage Darwin page.

7. How can the community provide feedback?

Head to the Engage Darwin website to share feedback:

<https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/representation-review>

8. Why is Council seeking the community's feedback and why should the community share their feedback?

Local Council is the level of government closest to the community. It is important for the community to have a say on how they are represented.

Elected Members represent the community's voice in the Council Chambers. Access to and visibility of Elected Members in the community directly impacts how effectively voters are represented.

9. What date does the consultation close?

The consultation closes on 21 February 2020.

10. Who can I contact to discuss the consultation further?


- A City of Darwin Elected Member
- Vanessa Green
Executive Manager Governance, Strategy and Performance
Phone: 8930 0531
Email: engage@darwin.nt.gov.au
- Fiona Van der Weide
Governance and Legislation Advisor
Phone: 8930 0670
Email: engage@darwin.nt.gov.au

11. What happens after the consultation closes?

The community's feedback will be presented to Elected Members for consideration in a report to Council. **The final decision...(TBC)**

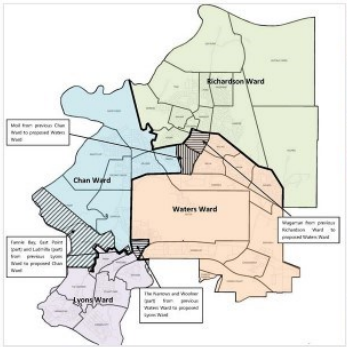
ATTACHMENT I


Facebook post



City of Darwin
4 February · 🌐

Ward boundaries in Darwin may be changing.
Will your suburb be affected?
Share your feedback prior to 21st Feb.





Electoral Representation Review
Every four years Council reviews the way it repres...

Electoral Representation Review
Every four years Council review

3,391
People reached

348
Engagements

👤 Geni Andrew Pearce, Nina Bellairs and 3 others · 2 Comments 1 share

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 🌐

Performance for your post

3,391 People Reached

20 Likes, Comments & Shares ⓘ

8 Likes	8 On Post	0 On Shares
11 Comments	8 On Post	3 On Shares
1 Shares	1 On Post	0 On Shares

328 Post Clicks

0 Photo views	255 Link clicks	73 Other Clicks ⓘ
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide post	1 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

ATTACHMENT J

Public submissions



Respondent No: 1
Login: darwin62
Email: costak62@bigpond.com

Responded At: Jan 31, 2020 08:09:15 am
Last Seen: Jan 30, 2020 22:37:13 pm
IP Address: 42.241.166.114

Q1. Please provide your submission below

I wouldn't of thought that Fannie bay go to Chan. They are in my opinion as being in "town", Lyon Ward.



Respondent No: 2
Login: Jensco
Email: gypccs1@bigpond.com

Responded At: Feb 05, 2020 08:56:39 am
Last Seen: Feb 04, 2020 23:22:53 pm
IP Address: 101.174.146.9

Q1. Please provide your submission below

We would prefer Fannie Bay to stay in the Lyons electorate Thanks

ATTACHMENT K

"Submissions Report"

ATTACHMENT L

Agenda item and Minutes (31 March 2020)

14.6 LORD MAYOR - TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RE-ESTABLISHMENT

Author: Chief Executive Officer
Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Lord Mayor – Tree Advisory Committee Re-establishment be received and noted.
2. THAT Council re-establish the Tree Advisory Committee to review the 2018 Tree Advisory Committee report and ensure alignment to the City of Darwin Greening Strategy 2021.
3. THAT Council invite all previous members to return to the Committee and that any vacancies are filled via an expression of interest for community representatives and their appointment be resolved upon by the Council.
4. THAT the Lord Mayor is appointed Chair of the re-established committee
5. THAT Council Officer secretariat and management support of the committee is shared between the Community and Innovation Hubs

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to re-establish the Tree Advisory Committee

KEY ISSUES

- City of Darwin has endorsed a new Greening Strategy in 2021
- This Strategy had been delivered against the current Tree Advisory Committee report findings 2018
- After discussions with the Lord Mayor and unanimous resolution of the Council it is viewed as prudent to have the external committee review the Greening strategy
- The review would ensure 3rd party oversight with the alignment and where possible endorse species that are colourful, tropical and flowering

DISCUSSION

Tropical Cyclone Marcus was a Category 2 Tropical Cyclone that heavily impacted Darwin's urban forest on 17 March 2018.

- Council established the Tree Reestablishment Advisory Committee (TRAC) to provide recommendations on suitable tree species for replanting and best practice in re-establishing trees.
- Regardless of Council's best efforts or following best practice, it must be acknowledged tree failures and losses will occur during storm events.
- 194 species of trees have been identified on the preferred planting list for Darwin.
- 25 species of trees have been presented as not recommended for planting in Darwin

The full report and details are contained within the linked URL below:

[Tree Re-establishment Advisory Committee | City of Darwin | Darwin Council, Northern Territory](#)

Given that nearly 4 years have passed since TC Marcus removed over 10 000 mature trees within the municipality and that the report provided direction at the time, it is viewed that the re-establishment of the committee is prudent. It will allow for the external committee to review Council's Greening Strategy and also provide further advice in relation to additional species to be added that provide beautification of the Municipality.

Once Council has considered and resolved upon the re-establishment Council Officer's will commence contacting former committee members to gauge their interest in participating again and where there are vacancies that these are filled on an expression of interest basis and resolution of the Council.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 13 November 2018 meeting Council resolved:

- THAT Report Number 18CO0050 CB:jh entitled Establishing A Resilient Urban Forest For Darwin, be received and noted.
- THAT Council note and thank the members of the Tree Re-establishment Advisory Committee.
- THAT Council endorse the 'Preferred Trees for Darwin' as listed in Appendix A, for use in its future replanting programs.
- THAT Council endorse the 'Trees Recommended Not To Be Planted' as listed in Appendix B, and that these would not be used in its future replanting programs.
- THAT Council endorse the development of an Urban Forest Strategy that incorporates, where applicable, the best practise recommendations of the Tree Re-establishment Advisory Committee and is presented to Council in a further report at 1st Ordinary April.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	3 A Cool, Clean and Green City 3.1 By 2030, Darwin will be recognised as a clean and environmentally responsible city
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Budget/Funding: Nil Is Funding identified: Nil Nil Existing Position No: Nil Contractor: Nil
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS	Legislation:

OR IMPACTS	Nil Policy: TRAC Report and Greening Strategy
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: Inform Tactics: Contact be made with former members of the committee Internal: Community and Innovation Hub to jointly co-ordinate External: Interest community members to fill vacancies via EOI that is resolved upon by the Council
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).

15 RECEIVE & NOTE REPORTS**15.1 7 SEASONS 7 SENSES INCUBATOR PROGRAM**

Author: Executive Manager Growth & Development Services
Authoriser: Acting General Manager Innovation
Attachments: 1. Tourism Vision [↓](#)
2. Tourism Framework [↓](#)
3. Revised Seven Seasons, Seven Senses Vision [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled 7 Seasons 7 Senses Incubator Program be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the 7 Seasons 7 Senses Incubator Program recently developed through the Destination Darwin Tourism Vision and Framework in response to Darwin's COVID-19 tourism emergency and in support of the NT Tourism's regional destination management planning.

KEY ISSUES

- Darwin is facing a tourism emergency and the experiences unique to our municipality have been underdeveloped for a long period of time.
- At a workshop in October 2020, City of Darwin in collaboration with key stakeholders developed a vision and preliminary framework for Darwin as a destination.
- This vision has now evolved into development of a 7 Seasons 7 Senses Incubator Program led by City of Darwin in collaboration with key stakeholders. This provides City of Darwin with an opportunity to foster and build capability in an important economic sector for our city at a time of significant importance and opportunity in responding from the global pandemic.
- Tourism NT is currently developing a series of regional destination management plans and is sub categorising Greater Darwin within this regional planning as a unique destination. The 7 Seasons vision has been included within their draft destination management plan.

DISCUSSION

Discussions with Tourism NT and Tourism Top End in early October 2020 proposing the development of a vision for Darwin as a destination were met with enthusiasm and welcomed the opportunity as such to align with the current development of the regional destination management plans being delivered across the Northern Territory at present.

It was proposed by City of Darwin to facilitate a workshop to investigate with a key cohort of stakeholders the strengths and weaknesses and also the opportunities and threats the City of Darwin presents in 2021-2030. The workshop was facilitated by the team at Travconsult and the attached vision and the development of a preliminary framework was proposed. Refer **Attachment 1** Framework and **Attachment 2** vision presentation.

Continued discussions with key stakeholders have led to development of an updated vision (**Attachment 3**) with 7 Seasons and 7 Senses (sight, sound, taste, touch, scent, spirit and being) and development of the 7 Seasons 7 Senses Incubator Program.

The goal of the 7 Seasons 7 Senses Incubator Program is to develop and share distinctly Darwin experiences with domestic and international visitors via the unique lens of the Larrakia people. A journey of 7 Seasons to awaken the 7 senses; to engage with stories of the past, celebrate those of the present and together, create new guest experiences for future generations.

The Program will:

- Develop local business capabilities to deliver compelling 7 Seasons 7 Senses experiences and empower industry with the tools and skills necessary to deliver the vision.
- Educate stakeholders on how to incorporate the 7 Seasons 7 Senses vision and concepts into building unique experiences with correct and consistent messaging.
- Create market share by educating key trade partners and potential visitors on 7 Seasons 7 Senses.
- Develop high quality experiences with captivating stories that showcase the 7 Seasons 7 Senses.
- Build high level service standards at the tourism face to meet and exceed service needs and expectations of visitors.
- Monitor the results of marketing and visitor satisfaction.
- Monitor the extent to which the program increases the visitor length of stay and the spread of stay across the seven seasons.
- Continually improve capacity, capability and consistency and encourage growth, innovation, changing needs and expectations of domestic and international markets.

This is an opportunity to build capability of local businesses, promote Darwin as a unique destination and extend the visitor season across the year ultimately leading to further investment and economic growth for Darwin businesses and the greater Darwin region. With an estimated 10 per cent increase in just domestic visitor nights this leads to additional direct effects of:

- \$82.5 million in expenditure
- 315 long term jobs
- \$35.8 million in value added expenditure

Larrakia Nation, the Darwin Convention Centre, Hospitality NT, Neuron and NT Airports have confirmed that they are keen to be involved in the Program.

The 7 Seasons 7 Senses Incubator Program will be delivered in stages, with Stage 1 'Introducing the 7 Seasons 7 Senses vision' already underway by TravConsult. Stage 1 includes

<p>a gap analysis, support with building awareness in the community, and delivery of a stakeholder engagement workshop in February 2022 with selective tourism businesses (small, medium, large) to ensure buy-in at all levels so that the businesses understand what is in it for them and are ready to collaborate, partner and move forward with a launch in the dry season when the Discover Darwin website is launched.</p> <p>A Tender was released on the 16 December 2021 to deliver Stage 2 of the 7 Seasons 7 Senses Incubator Program to build capability of local Darwin businesses to create unique 7 Larrakia Seasons, 7 Senses (sight, sound, taste, touch, scent, spirit and being) tourism experiences that will ultimately extend the visitor season across the year, leading to further investment and economic growth for the greater Darwin region.</p> <p>Stage 3 – creating market share via demand and Stage 4 – ongoing support and marketing will be tendered at a later date.</p> <p>The opportunity that a vision that not only promotes Darwin as a destination but also clearly outlines the framework for industry and stakeholders to build capability in the development of these experience marks a transformational shift for our city and as such accelerates the realisation of these benefits associated for our economy and our Coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery.</p>	
<p>PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION</p> <p>N/A</p>	
<p>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</p>	<p>5 A Vibrant and Creative City</p> <p>5.1 By 2030, Darwin will be recognised as an iconic destination.</p>
<p>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>Budget/Funding: Up to \$160,000 Stage 1 and 2</p> <p>Is Funding identified: Yes</p> <p>Budget No: Partnerships, grant applications and Neuron fees.</p>
<p>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</p>	<p>Legislation: <i>Local Government Act 2019</i></p> <p>Policy: Policy No. 013 – Tourism Promotion</p>
<p>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION</p>	<p>Engagement Level: Involve</p> <p>Tactics: Workshop delivered in 2020 and further proposed workshop in February with industry and stakeholders.</p>
<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</p>	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>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).</p>

distinctly
DARWIN...

7 Seasons, 6 Senses



vision

To share *distinctly* Darwin experiences with domestic & international visitors via the unique lens of the mighty Larrakia People...

A journey of the 7 seasons to awaken the 6 senses (sight, sound, taste, touch, scent & spirit); to engage with stories of the past, celebrate those of the present & together, create new guest experiences for future generations.

© 2021

PROPOSED OUTCOME



For Darwin to become the
city of choice to visit
any time of the year



compelled by a *sensory* and
experiential journey of the Larrakia
7 seasons, 6 senses





Gulumoerrgin (Larrakia):

Indigenous language for Darwin & the surrounding regions of Cox Peninsula & Gunn Point in the Northern Territory

Members of the Gulumoerrgin (Larrakia) language group, from the Darwin region in the Northern Territory, worked with CSIRO to create a calendar using their seasonal knowledge.

Let's explore how this calendar will serve as the foundation for sustainable & authentic tourism experiences to set Darwin apart from any other destination.

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Gulumoerrgin (Larrakia) 7 Seasons Calendar

- Dalay (Monsoon season)
- Mayilema (Spear grass, Magpie Goose egg & Knock 'em down season)
- Damibila (Barramundi & Bush fruit time)
- Dinidjanggama (Heavy dew time)
- Gurrulwa (Big wind time)
- Dalirrgang (Build-up)
- Balnba (Rainy season)




Image: jenny_gillot

Delat: January/February Monsoon season

Long awaited replenishment of our parched land.
Floodplains become temporary lakes with birth of
new plants and life.

Big Red apple & Pink wild apple are fruiting.
Breeding season for saltwater crocodiles &
barramundi are multiplying upstream of the
floodplains.



Mayilema: March/April Knock-em Down season

A season of plenty.

Mayilema (speargrass) is knocked down by the tail end of the monsoon.

Dragonflies herald the end of rain. Floodplains drain into the ocean, creating the ideal ecosystem for barramundi as they move downstream, an abundance of salmon & red claw yabbies at creek & river mouths.

Goose eggs hatch as speargrass heads brown.

Flatback turtles lay eggs & at the time of the Easter full moon, we collect eggs responsibly.

Image: Shoreline.designs

TRAVCONSULT © 2021

Damibila: May/June Season of the Barramundi & Bush Fruit

The skies clear with high clouds, cold gentle winds blow down the blossoms, a sign that the flowers are calling the cold weather. It is a time for bush fruit like Billy Goat or Kakadu plums – plentiful & delicious for men & birds alike. Red-tail black cockatoos herald this season.



TRAVCONSULT © 2021



**Dinidjanggama: June/July
Heavy Dew Time**

This is the coldest & driest time of the year as paradoxically thick dew settles heavily at the dawn of each day. Dry woodland plants & eucalypts bloom, native bees collect nectar for sugarbags. Bushfires lay bare the ground for regeneration of plants & grass – essential as food for wallabies & kangaroos. Magpie geese feed with their young & as floodplains become parched, waterlilies are in full blossom, a vibrancy of colour across the shallow



© 2021



Gurrulwa guligi: August/September Big Wind Time

Big winds blow from all directions, drying up country, finally settling with the northwest wind at the season end.

The long-necked turtle furrows into the sand, awaiting the next rains.

Wattles signpost stingrays and cockles are fat and plentiful. Cycad nuts are ready for harvest. It is a time for feasting on the plains. Yellow Kapok flowers signify a time for ceremonies, celebrations of life, rebirth and rejuvenation of country and people.

Dalirrgang: September/October Build Up

Country is holding its breath. Thunder & lightning are spectacular, and humidity begins its crescendo. It is as if the skies are barely bound by an invisible bladder swollen with rain threatening to burst... It is a season of King Tides & box jelly fish. Red flowering Kurrajong tell us that sharks are fat, the flying foxes feast on juicy mangoes & the possum tucker, Cocky Apples, shed their flowers on the ground, a white perfumed carpet intensified by the Build Up.




Balnba: November/December Season of the First Rains

Finally. Release! Spectacular electric storms regularly light up the night skies, the exchange of negative and positive between the cloud and earth. Plums of all sorts abound. Mud crabs and favourite shellfish are exposed on the mud flats & collected in this season. Gulppula (green tree frogs) are at their most vocal, a karaoke party every night, Darwin's town crier that the Big Rains are coming!

Image: benjamingphotography

TRAVCONSULT © 2021

**Marrying
7 Seasons as
described with
these 6 Senses:**

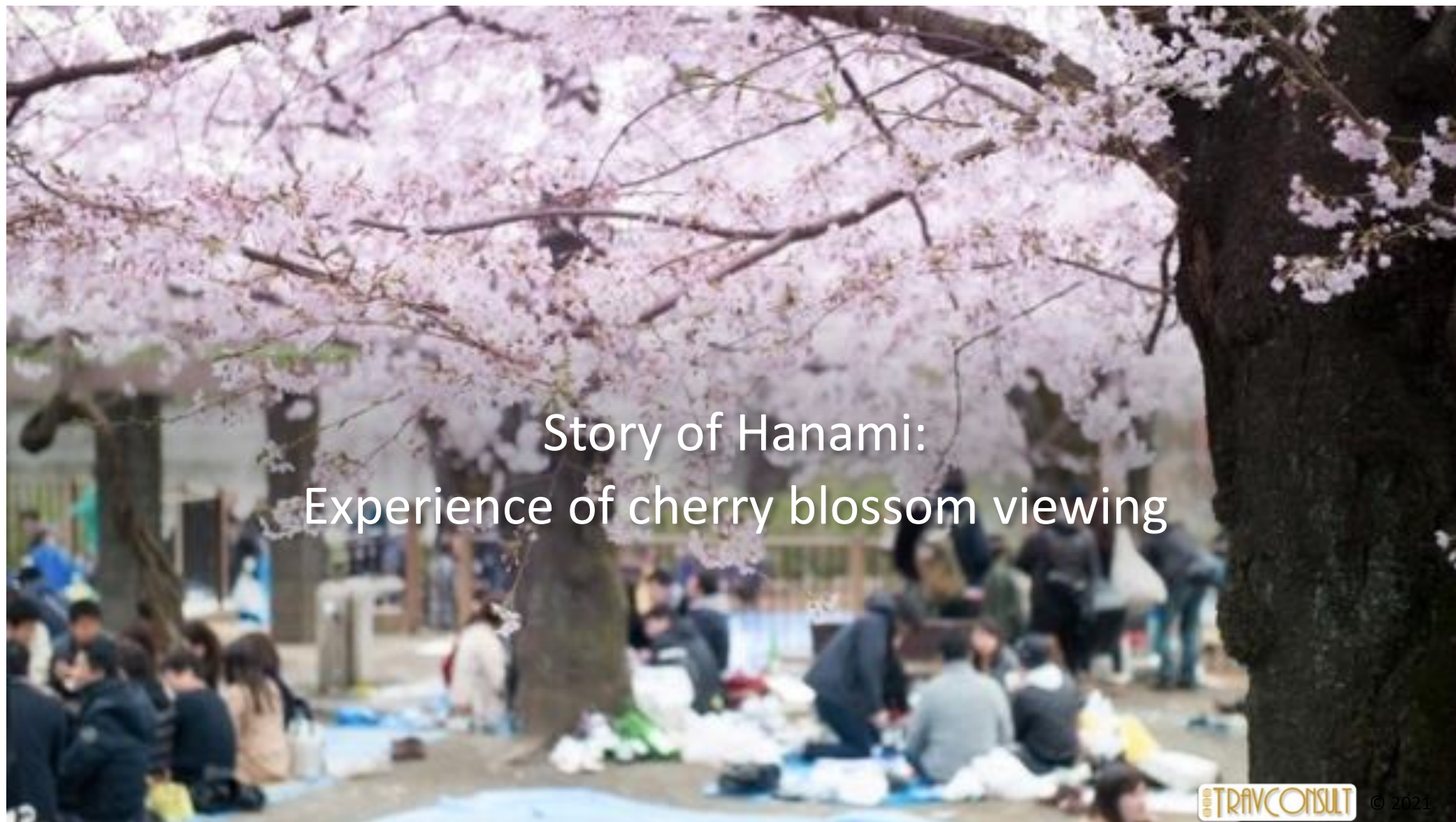
- 
- Smell
 - Taste
 - Sight
 - Sound
 - Touch
 - Spirit

Case Study Japan: Contextualizing the Story of Spring to delivering Experiences



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Food, Castle, Festival Tours - All 6 Senses Engaged!

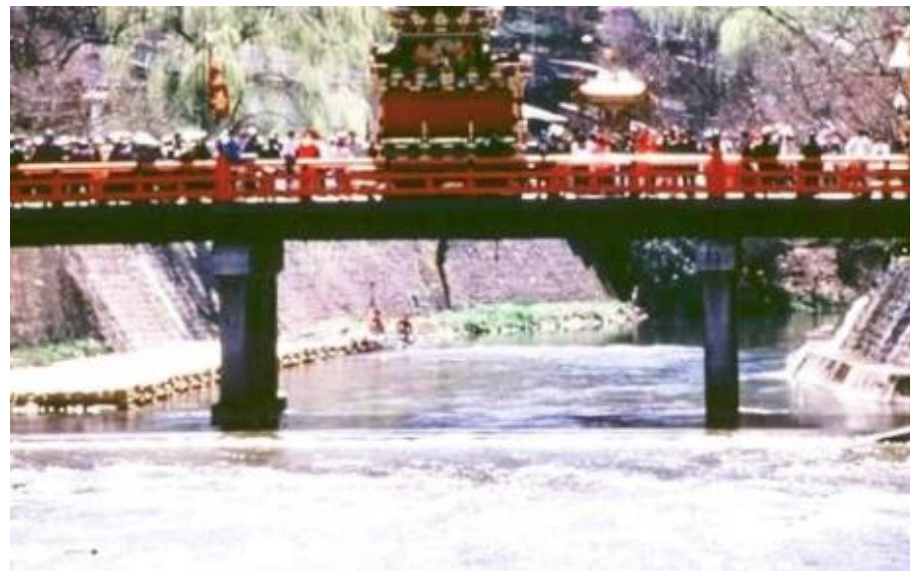


2022 Food & Cherry Blossom Tour of Kyushu, Japan

14 days

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Departure Dates



2022 Cherry Blossom Tour of Central Japan

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Journey through rustic alpine villages bursting with cherry blossoms and take part in the spectacular Takayama Festival. Once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Departure Dates



© 2021

Special Foods of Spring

Ume | 梅



Tai | 鯛



Photo by iStock.com/bonchan

Sakura mochi | 桜餅



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Décor & Special Foods of Spring



TRAVCONSULT © 2021



Bonus mention: Sakura taiyaki | 桜たい焼き



Stories of Spring



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RICH HISTORY OF PEOPLE, PLACE, PRODUCTS, EVENTS

42 unique experiences
to be developed &
shaped
from the 7 Seasons &
6 Senses

Multi-culturalism – tapping into unique cultural
seasonal links back to Larrakia

E.g., Laksa Festival: Build Up of Heat

Military history – important dates linking back
to the 7 seasons to deepen connection

E.g., Bombing of Darwin began in the
Monsoon Season

BUSH PRODUCTS: Indigenous-led bush product
discovery, showcase production usage, food
experiences

Water is our Life: marine experiences

Dalay Monsoon: Celebrate the Sacred
Saltwater Crocodile

Big Wind Time: Darwin Festival

distinctly Darwin 7 Seasons, 6 Senses

- Include Darwin cultural events, festivals and activities to provide the local, ***authentic stories behind the journey***
- Unique to Larrakia, unique to Darwin
- Provides **template** that can be used by Darwin tourism suppliers & greater businesses with interstate guests & when in the future, international markets
- **Greater participation** by Darwin tourism & greater business community
- Drive economic growth & tourism sustainability throughout the year

NEXT STEPS:

Develop tourism framework around the vision, build tourism & business community capacity & capability, collaborate with key stakeholders & partners for a holistic approach for sustainability & successful marketing & execution of the vision

TravConsult Delivery Process for 7 Seasons 6 Senses Framework

PROPOSED PROJECTS			
PROJECT 1: ONBOARDING	PROJECT 2: CAPACITY & CAPABILITY BUILDING	PROJECT 3: CREATE MARKET SHARE VIA DEMAND	PROJECT 4: MONITOR OUTCOMES & IMPROVE EXPERIENCES
Key Objective of Onboarding: To ensure buy-in at all levels so that everyone understands the 7/6, what's in it for them & are ready to collaborate, partner & move forward with the strategic action plan, develop online resource for 7/6	Key Objective of capacity & capability building: To educate & ensure industry understands how to apply Larrakia 7 seasons calendar with added depth & texture of 6 senses within tourism context; to empower industry with the tools & skills necessary to deliver the vision; educate Trade on 7/6	Key Objective of creating market share via demand To ensure we reach & attract the right target market for the 7/6 experiences & grow Darwin's visitor base into the future	Key Objectives of Monitoring outcomes & improving experiences To continually improve industry capacity/capability/consistency, prevent stagnation; encourage growth, 7/6 experience innovation, remain relevant as a destination for changing needs/expectations of domestic & international markets
Project Responsibility: TravConsult in conjunction with City of Darwin (COD); collaboration with Tourism Northern Territory, Tourism Top End (TTE), Larrakia Leaders	Project Responsibility: TravConsult in conjunction with COD Collaboration with TNT, Tourism Top End (TTE), Larrakia Leaders, key stakeholders etc	Ongoing responsibility: City of Darwin, Tourism NT, TTE Project Responsibility: TravConsult	Ongoing responsibility: City of Darwin Project Responsibility: TravConsult
Proposed format: Phase 1: Gap Analysis, identify opportunities for 7/6 experience, commence online resource development Phase 2: Create Leader's Workshop to launch 7/6 Vision & to gain buy-in of all stakeholders <i>"Better together: distinctly Darwin 7 Seasons 6 Senses"</i> (Feb '21 – April '21)	Proposed format: Phase 2 continued: Create Series of Workshops to build capability of all stakeholders (April '21 – June '21) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>"Transforming distinctly Darwin experiences with the 7/6 Approach"</i> (July '21 – June '22) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>"distinctly Darwin Guest Experience"</i> - <i>"Discover distinctly Darwin Industry Challenge"</i> 	Proposed format: 1. Workshop event for trade partners, key opinion leaders, Instagram specialty groups <i>"Discover distinctly Darwin Trade Challenge"</i> 2. As international tourism resumes, these marketing opportunities need to be explored & tailored to suit new guests from Asia Proposed format: WORKSHOP (July '22 – Dec '22) <i>"Asian Market Intelligence in the New World"</i>	Proposed format: WORKSHOP (Jan '23 – June '23) <i>"distinctly Darwin 7/6 Experiences Innovation"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Innovate service delivery to domestic guests</i> - <i>Innovate service delivery to international guests</i>

PHASE	PROJECT 1: ONBOARDING DETAILED DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME	TRAVCONSULT FEE (GST Excl.)
Pre-liminary Phase	Deliver VISION EXPLANATION & PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (attached PDF docs) Receive debrief from JS and COD from their presentation to stakeholders of Darwin's tourism vision, <i>"distinctly Darwin 7 Seasons 6 Senses"</i> - Identify any issues that may prevent successful rollout of vision to Darwin's tourism industry, wider businesses and community - Determine final guiding principles for framework document	FEBRUARY '21	\$5,000.00
Phase 1	Visit Darwin: GAP ANALYSIS, IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR 7/6 Experiences (existing & potential) - gain in-depth insights and learnings about Larakia Nation's 7 seasons via interviews & workshop with Larakia Nation elders - gain in-depth insights & learnings on Darwin's WW2 history (interviews with local WW2 historians etc) - gain in-depth insights & learnings from key members of Darwin's multi-cultural community – Greek, Filipino, Chinese etc. - debrief on findings & learning from above with JS & COD, key stakeholders (e.g., festivals, events, tourism leaders) - identify any issues that may prevent successful rollout of vision to Darwin's tourism industry, wider businesses and community. - work with COD & TNT to create structure, storage site & access permissions for online 7/6 Larrakia Calendar Knowledge Bank (7/6 LCKB) resource - begin adding intel & marketing collateral (e.g., logo, colour palette, designs to be created by Larrakia Nation in conjunction with COD) to 7/6 LCKB - Determine dates for Phase 4.	MARCH '21	Phases 1 – 3 (Mar '21 – Jun '21) \$60,000.00
Phase 2	Creation & Development - Create Leaders Level Presentation for launch of <i>"Better together: distinctly Darwin 7 Seasons 6 Senses"</i> - Create Workshop for rollout of <i>"Transforming distinctly Darwin experiences with the 7/6 Approach"</i> - Create Wider Business & Community Specific Workshops for rollout of <i>"Better together: distinctly Darwin 7 Seasons 6 Senses"</i> - continue adding intel & marketing collateral to online 7/6 LCKB	MARCH – APRIL '21	
Phase 3	Visit Darwin: Onboarding - Deliver 1 x Leaders Launch of <i>"Better together: distinctly Darwin 7 Seasons 6 Senses"</i> ; introduce concept of online 7/6 LCKB & how-to-use - Deliver 2 x Sector-Specific Front-line Level Workshops <i>"Transforming distinctly Darwin experiences with the 7/6 Approach"</i> Deliver 1 x Wider Business/Community Workshop <i>"Better together: distinctly Darwin 7 Seasons 6 Senses"</i>	APRIL – JUNE '21	

PHASE	PROJECT 2: CAPACITY & CAPABILITY BUILDING	TIMEFRAME	TRAVCONSULT FEE (GST Excl.)
Phase 4	Creation & Development - Create Workshop to create pride & passion in Darwin, vision & delivering high service standards <i>"distinctly Darwin Guest Experience"</i> - Create Workshop to lift product knowledge region, hidden gems of Darwin <i>"Discover distinctly Darwin Industry Challenge"</i> Online Resource Development Continue to develop 7/6 LCKB	JULY '21 – AUG '21	Phases 4 – 6 (July '21 – Jun '22) \$120,000.00
Phase 5	Visit Darwin: Capacity & Capability Building Deliver total of 6 x Industry Workshops <i>"distinctly Darwin Guest Experience"</i> 6 x Industry <i>"Discover distinctly Darwin Industry Challenge"</i>	SEP '21 – JUNE '22	
Phase 6	Written feedback immediately after each workshop Touch base with leaders/participants to follow up on who/what/how implementation of learnings to determine outcomes Gather stakeholders' guest feedback		
PHASE	PROJECT 3: CREATE MARKET SHARE VIA DEMAND	TIMEFRAME	TRAVCONSULT FEE (GST Excl.)
Phase 7	Creation & Development Workshop event for trade partners, key opinion leaders, Instagram specialty groups <i>"Discover distinctly Darwin Trade Challenge"</i> <i>Work with COD & TNT, TTE, tourism industry to engage, organize event, logistics, marketing, collaborate</i> Workshop to prepare Business Development Managers & Leaders for new Asian/international markets <i>"Asian Market Intelligence in the New World"</i>	JULY '22 – AUG '22	Phase Phases 7 – 9 \$ 45,000.00
Phase 8	Visit Darwin: Deliver 1 x Event <i>"Discover distinctly Darwin Trade Challenge"</i> Deliver 2 x High Level Market Intelligence Workshop to prepare for new Asian/international markets <i>"Asian Market Intelligence in the New World"</i>	SEP '22 – DEC '22	
PHASE	PROJECT 4: MONITOR OUTCOMES & IMPROVE EXPERIENCES	TIMEFRAME	TRAVCONSULT FEE (GST Excl.)
Phase 9	Creation & Development Workshops for all key stakeholders <i>"distinctly Darwin 7/6 Experiences Innovation"</i> - <i>Innovate 7/6 experiences & service delivery to domestic guests</i>	JAN '23 – FEB '23	Phase 9 – 10 \$60,000.00

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovate 7/6 experiences & service delivery to international guests Online Resource Development Continue to develop 7/6 LCKB		
Phase 10	Visit Darwin: Deliver 4 x Workshops “distinctly Darwin 7/6 Experiences Innovation” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovate experiences & service delivery to domestic guests - Innovate experiences & service delivery to international guests Online Resource Development Add new experiences/update from workshop outcomes Continue to develop 7/6 LCKB	MAR '23 - JUNE '23	
EXTRA NOTES: The fees quoted are TravConsult consultancy fees. Additional budget for the Discover Distinctly Darwin Challenges will need to be costed. It is recommended that participating host businesses in the Challenges to be paid by the COD via the Darwin City Deals.			
AT THE END OF EACH PROJECT: Continue to monitor outcomes & improve experiences Written Progress Report for COD after each project			
Additional Fees & Charges: The Client is responsible for the payment of all travel and related expenses, and accommodation including all meals and internet access/business centre expenses incurred by TravConsult and its staff relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the preparation • the facilitation • the completion ... of all contracted workshops/presentations, post-workshop monitoring and coaching, seminars, training and consulting. NB International or Domestic Flights over four hours will be at business class or higher. The Client is responsible for the provision of, and all payments relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the hiring charges for an appropriate venue, including light refreshments for breaks. • the hiring charges for a data projector and screen for PowerPoint presentation and any other audio-visual requirements for all contracted workshops, post-workshop monitoring and coaching, seminars, training and consulting. NB These charges are additional to the workshop & consulting fees and will be itemised in detail and billed as accrued.			
Payment Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of the contracted total amount for the Workshop (s) / Presentation (s) / Coaching / Consulting is required as a <u>non-refundable deposit</u>, to secure TravConsult's services for the requested date/s of the Client's Project. 			

- For mid-term to long-term contracts, monthly instalments shall be made in advance with a one-month deposit to be made prior to commencement of the project.
- All payments outstanding 7 days after the final contracted Workshop (s) / Presentation (s) / Coaching / Consulting will incur an additional administrative charge of 10% of the total outstanding amount. This additional administrative charge will be applied weekly to the total outstanding amount until all payments due are received in full.
- Bank transfer, credit card, cheque or cash accepted as payment.

Cancellation Policy

- No refunds given.
- However, Workshop (s) / Presentation (s) / Coaching / Consulting can be rescheduled to a later date within a 6-month period.

distinctly
DARWIN...

7 Seasons, 7 Senses



Curruwa guligi! - Big wind time

SEPTEMBER

Dairgang - Build up

OCTOBER

Dairgang - Heavy dew time

NOVEMBER

Dairgang - Heavy dew time

DECEMBER

Dairgang - Heavy dew time

JANUARY

Dairgang - Heavy dew time

FEBRUARY

Dairgang - Heavy dew time

MARCH

Dairgang - Heavy dew time

APRIL

Dairgang - Heavy dew time

MAY

Dairgang - Heavy dew time

JUNE

Dairgang - Heavy dew time

JULY

Dairgang - Heavy dew time

AUGUST

Dairgang - Heavy dew time

SEPTEMBER

vision

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Optimizing Seasonality



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Indigenous language for Darwin & the surrounding regions of Cox Peninsula & Gunn Point in the Northern Territory

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Image: jenny_gillot

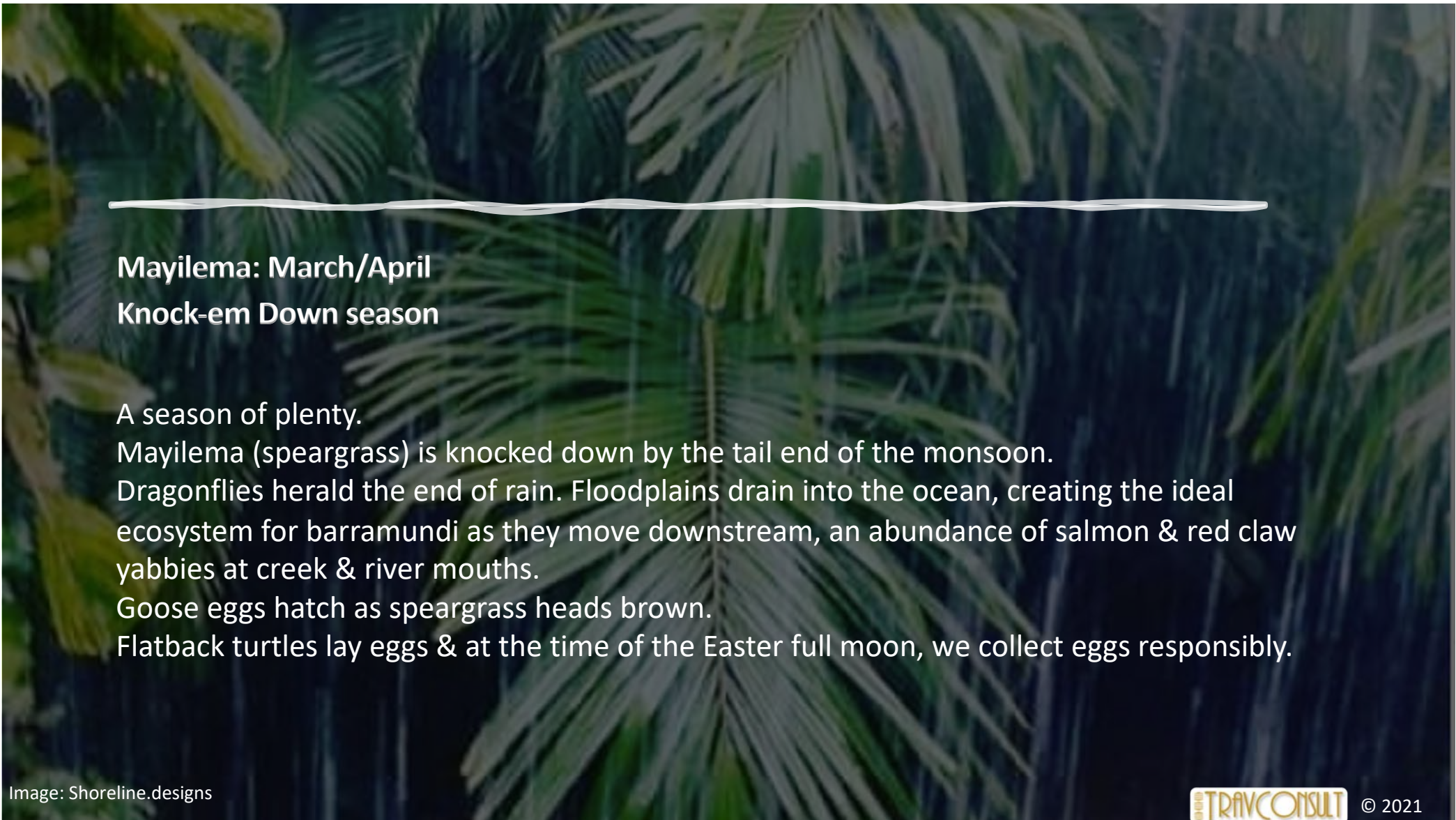
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© 2021



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Image: Shoreline.designs

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Image: benjamingphotography



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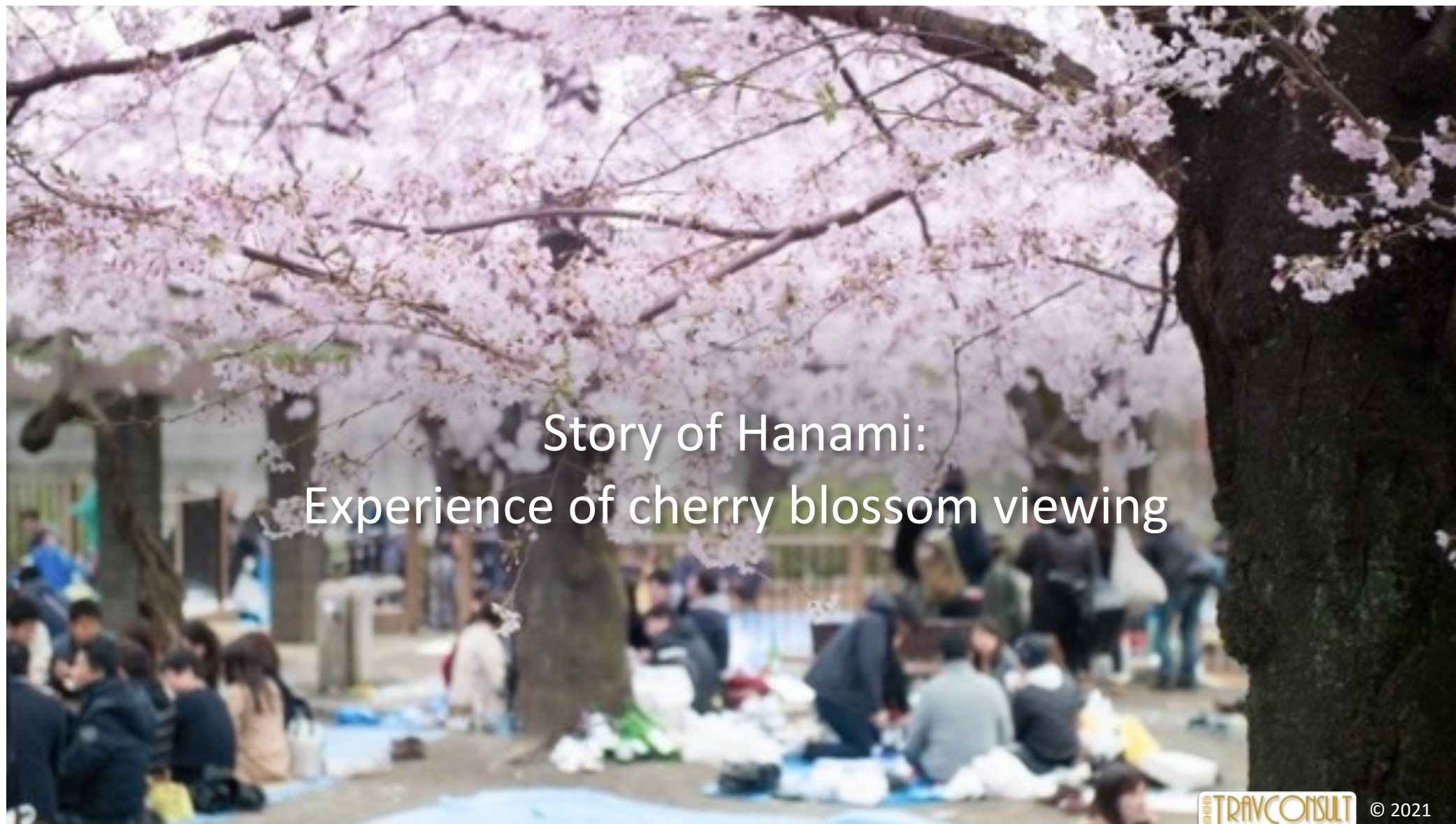
- 
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Departure Dates



© 2021

Special Foods of Spring

Ume | 梅



Tai | 鯛



Photo by iStock.com/bonchan

Sakura mochi | 桜餅



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Décor & Special Foods of Spring





Bonus mention: Sakura taiyaki | 桜たい焼き



Stories of Spring





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Water is our Life: marine experiences

Dalay Monsoon: Celebrate the Sacred
Saltwater Crocodile

Big Wind Time: Darwin Festival



© 2021

distinctly Darwin 7 Seasons, 7 Senses

- Include Darwin cultural events, festivals and activities to provide the local, ***authentic stories behind the journey***
- Unique to Larrakia, unique to Darwin
- Provides **template** that can be used by Darwin tourism suppliers & greater businesses with interstate guests & when in the future, international markets
- **Greater participation** by Darwin tourism & greater business community
- Drive economic growth & tourism sustainability throughout the year

NEXT STEPS:

Develop tourism framework around the vision, build tourism & business community capacity & capability, collaborate with key stakeholders & partners for a holistic approach for sustainability & successful marketing & execution of the vision



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15.2 SISTER CITY COMMITTEE UNCONFIRMED MINUTES - 13 JANUARY 2022

Author: Manager International Business Relations
Executive Manager Growth & Development Services

Authoriser: Acting General Manager Innovation

Attachments: 1. Unconfirmed Minutes [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Sister City Committee Unconfirmed Minutes – 13 January 2022 be received and noted.

PURPOSE

This report aims to present the Unconfirmed Minutes from the Sister City Advisory Committee meeting on 13 January 2022.

KEY ISSUES

- City of Darwin received \$89,000 (GST exclusive) from the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations to deliver the Darwin Dragon Boat Festival in 2022, or 2023 if the international delegation can not travel. City of Darwin will provide a cash contribution of \$10,000 (GST exclusive) to match the funding as per the Funding Agreement. A Working Group is being set up with members from various key stakeholders to support the planning and delivery of this event.
- The Darwin International Virtual Trade Show is planned for the 22 - 23 June 2022 and will include presentations, workshops, and facilitated one-on-one meetings. The two day program will include the topics of Tourism, Education, Migration, Doing Business, and Investment.
- The Committee endorsed to recommend City of Darwin to commence direction discussions with the City of London, UK, with the intent to form a Friendship City Relationship. A separate report will be presented to Council for a resolution.
- The Sister City Advisory Committee was provided the updates on the Milikapiti sister city program, including the donation of two tipper trucks to the Tiwi Islands Regional Council and Milikapiti beaches clean-up proposal.

DISCUSSION

The Sister City Committee (the Committee) Unconfirmed Minutes of 13 January 2022 are presented at **Attachment 1** for Council's information.

Darwin International Virtual Trade Show 2022 Update

The Committee was provided the update on the development of the Trade Show platform and was invited to provide in-kind support on the 22 and 23 June 2022.

The Committee members will provide in-kind support as translators and facilitators to answer the questions about Darwin for the guests on the event dates.

Dragon Boat Festival

The 2022 Dragon Boat Festival (the Festival) will be held in Darwin in June 2022 or June 2023 if the international delegation cannot travel to Darwin in 2022. The Festival will be a two day program consisting of the Darwin Excellence Showcase Day and the Dragon Boat Racing Day.

On Dragon Boat Racing Day (friendship type of boat race), the Chinese dragon boat teams and official delegations from Darwin's Sister and Friendship Cities in China and local dragon boat teams, communities, and businesses in Darwin. The Darwin Excellence Showcase Day will develop an itinerary/program for the Chinese delegation that will include a welcome reception, site visits, tours, and cultural activities to deepen their understanding of Darwin and the Australian culture.

The Committee appoints Mr. Alan Jape to represent the Committee in the Sister City Committee Working Group.

The Dragon Boat Festival Working Group (the Group) is set up to advocate, inform, and support Council to plan and deliver the Darwin Dragon Boat Festival. The Group provides support, knowledge, information, and connection to the City of Darwin to host the Dragon Boat Festival.

Chinese New Year Celebration

The Committee recommends the City of Darwin turn the civic centre building light into Red color and do a social media post to celebrate this most important Festival in China. Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is the most important celebration in China, with cultural and historical significance. The new year celebration is a 15-day celebration that starts from the Chinese New Year eve from 31 January end with the Lantern Festival on 15 February 2022.

A New Friendship City Proposal with London, UK

The Chairman of Darwin Waterfront Board presented at the Sister City Committee to propose a New Friendship City relationship with London, UK.

The Committee endorsed the proposal, and a separate report will present to Council for a resolution.

Sister City Budget

The Committee was updated on the status of the 2021/22 budget with a total amount of \$7,049.82 for new projects in the remaining 2021/22 FY.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the Ordinary Meeting on 14 July 2020, Council resolved:

THAT Council has delegated to the Chief Executive Officer the power to allocate the Sister City Committee budget to key projects to best achieve policy objectives, on the Committee's recommendation.

**STRATEGIC PLAN
ALIGNMENT**

4 A Smart and Prosperous City

4.2 By 2030, Darwin will have attracted and retained more residents and will offer sustainable investment opportunities

BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Budget/Funding: Yes Is Funding identified: Yes Existing Position No: Contractor: Yes
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Legislation: Local Government Act 2019 Policy: Policy 053 International Relations and Sister Cities
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: Tactics: NA Internal: NA External: NA
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).



MINUTES

Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, 13 January 2022

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
SISTER CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM ON, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY CHAN AVENUE,
DARWIN
ON THURSDAY, 13 JANUARY 2022 AT 5.00 PM - 6.30 PM**

PRESENT: Mr Alan Jape, Ms Emily Tyaemaen Ford, Mr Ping Lu, Ms Vida Ruth Goodvach, Mr Terry Hartin, Ald Jimmy Bouhoris, Ald Sylvia Konaris

OFFICERS: Ms Cherry Cai

APOLOGY: Ms Themis Magoulas, Mr Tony Miaoudis, Ms Jane Wang, Ms Christine Silvester

GUESTS: Mr Richard Fejo

Order Of Business

1	Meeting Declared Open	3
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3	Apologies & Leave Of Absence	3
4	Electronic Attendance	3
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6	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	3
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9.1	Sister City Committee Budget Report.....	4
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9.3	2022 Darwin Dragon Boat Festival.....	5
9.4	Milikapiti (Tiwi Islands) Sister City Program update	5
10	Member Reports	5
10.1	Sponsorship Request from India@Mindil 2022.....	5
10.2	Sister City New Project Proposal.....	6
10.3	Chinese New Year	6
11	General Business.....	6
11.1	General Business Discussion.....	6
12	Next Meeting	7

1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5.01 pm.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

Mr Tony Miaoudis, Ms Jane Wang, Ms Themis Magoulas, Ms Christine Silvester

3.2 Leave of Absence

Nil

3.3 Leave of Absence Notified

Nil

4 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

Mr Alan Jape, Ms Emily Tyaemaen Ford, Mr Ping Lu, Ms Vida Ruth Goodvach, Mr Terry Hartin, Ald Jimmy Bouhoris, Ald Sylvia Konaris

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**5.1 Declaration of Interest by Members**

Nil

5.2 Declaration of Interest by Staff

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Mr Ping Lu

Seconded: Mr Terry Hartin

That the minutes of the Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting held on 21 October 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**8 PRESENTATIONS****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Ald Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Ald Sylvia Konaris

That the presentation be received and noted.

That the Sister City Committee recommends City of Darwin to commence direct discussions with the City of London, UK, with the intent to form a Friendship City Relationship.

CARRIED**9 OFFICER REPORTS****9.1 SISTER CITY COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Mr Terry Hartin

Seconded: Mr Alan Jape

1. THAT the report entitled Sister City Committee Budget Report be received and noted.

CARRIED**9.2 DARWIN INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL TRADE SHOW 2022 UPDATE****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Ald Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Ald Sylvia Konaris

1. THAT the report entitled Darwin International Virtual Trade Show 2022 be received and noted.
2. THAT Committee members nominate members to provide in-kind support on 22 and 23 June 2022.
 - Terry – photography video skills
 - Vida – facilitation
 - Emily - facilitation
 - Alderman Bouhoris - facilitation
 - Alderman Klonaris - facilitation
 - Ping – mandarin translator
 - Alan – mandarin translator

Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

13 January 2022

3. THAT the Committee recommends City of Darwin to promote the Trade Show to the Darwin business and multicultural communities through flyers, social media, library, etc.
4. THAT the Committee recommends City of Darwin to provide the Communication Plan with key dates as early as possible.
5. THAT the Committee recommends City of Darwin to liaison with the multicultural groups for any cultural performance videos to be displayed at the Trade Show, for example, Glenti, Philipo Group, etc.
6. THAT the Committee recommends City of Darwin to invite the multicultural groups to participate in the Trade Show.
7. THAT the Committee recommends City of Darwin to produce a welcome video at the Trade Show.

CARRIED**9.3 2022 DARWIN DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Mr Terry Hartin

Seconded: Mr Ping Lu

THAT the report be received and noted.

That the Sister City Committee appoints Mr Alan Jape to represent at the 2022 Dragon Boat Festival Working Group.

CARRIED**9.4 MILIKAPITI (TIWI ISLANDS) SISTER CITY PROGRAM UPDATE****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Mr Terry Hartin

Seconded: Mr Ping Lu

That the report be received and noted.

CARRIED**10 MEMBER REPORTS****10.1 SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FROM INDIA@MINDIL 2022****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Mr Ping Lu

Seconded: Ald Jimmy Bouhoris

Page 5

Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

13 January 2022

That the report be received and noted.

That the Committee recommends the City of Darwin informs India@Mindil to explore the sponsorship opportunity in the City of Darwin.

CARRIED**10.2 SISTER CITY NEW PROJECT PROPOSAL****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Ms Vida Ruth Goodvach

Seconded: Mr Ping Lu

THAT the report be received and noted.

THAT the Sister City Committee recommends providing another report after the Darwin International Virtual Trade Show 2022.

CARRIED**10.3 CHINESE NEW YEAR****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Mr Terry Hartin

Seconded: Ms Emily Tyaemaen Ford

That the report be received and noted.

That the Sister City Committee recommends the City of Darwin promotes the Chinese New Year 2022.

CARRIED**11 GENERAL BUSINESS****11.1 GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Mr Terry Hartin

Seconded: Ms Vida Ruth Goodvach

That the report be received and noted.

That the Committee recommends City of Darwin provides the below:

- Time Table of Sister City Committee events and projects 2021/22.
- Sister City Committee explores the opportunities to sponsor the cultural dancing group to perform at the Darwin festivals.
- Clarify the communication guideline with each sister city government.

Sister City Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

13 January 2022

CARRIED**12 NEXT MEETING****MOTION****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCCCC001/22**

Moved: Ald Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Ald Sylvia Konaris

1. That the next meeting will be held from 5.00 pm – 6.30 pm on Thursday 14 April 2022.

CARRIED**13 Closure of Meeting****MOTION****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SCCCC002/22**

Moved: Ald Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Ald Sylvia Konaris

That the meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

CARRIED

15.3 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Author: Manager International Business Relations
Executive Manager Growth & Development Services

Authoriser: Acting General Manager Innovation

Attachments: 1. Unconfirmed Minutes [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled International Relations Advisory Committee Unconfirmed Minutes be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Unconfirmed Minutes from the International Relations Advisory Committee meeting on 19 January 2022.

KEY ISSUES

- The Committee was presented with the following reports, details in **Attachment 1**.
 - 2022 Darwin Dragon Boat Festival
 - 7 Seasons 7 Senses Incubator Program
 - Darwin International Virtual Trade Show 2022 update
 - International Bid Champion Grant Program
- The Committee received the verbal updates from:
 - Darwin International Airport
 - Darwin Port
 - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
 - Sister City Committee
 - City of Darwin
 - Migration NT

DISCUSSION**2022 Darwin Dragon Boat Festival**

The Committee nominated a member to represent the Dragon Boat Festival Working Group.

The 2022 Dragon Boat Festival (the Festival) will be held in Darwin in June 2022 or June 2023 if the international delegation cannot travel to Darwin in 2022. The Festival will be a two-day program consisting of the Darwin Excellence Showcase Day and the Dragon Boat Racing Day.

7 Seasons 7 Senses Incubator Program

City of Darwin provides the Committee with information regarding the 7 Seasons 7 Senses Incubator Program recently developed through the Destination Darwin Tourism Vision and Framework in response to Darwin's COVID-19 tourism emergency and support of the NT Tourism's regional destination management planning.

Darwin International Virtual Trade Show 2022 Update

City of Darwin has sought three quotes to develop the Trade Show platform and service and is currently assessing the quotes.

Next Step

- Trade Show platform development
- Two-day program development
- Lord Mayor welcomes video production
- Formal invitations in March/April

International Bid Champion Grant Program

In late 2021, the Darwin Convention Centre launched its International Bid Champion Grant Program. The Grant of \$10,000 per annum (to be shared by no more than two successful applications) is intended to build awareness of Darwin as a premier events destination by partnering with academic and industry specialists in the local community, to leverage resources and expertise in attracting future international conferences to Darwin.

Members Updates**Airport CEO Tony**

RAT test are available in the airport for the passengers. 15,000 passengers through the international terminal. Assume 60%-80% of the pre-covid numbers in the dry season. Health screen rules need to change to create a better visitor experience.

Port CEO Darren

Increase in trade through the ports, particularly construction, cars, and agriculture. Update on international shipping and domestic and international routes handling fee.

DFAT Sandra

Request a meeting with the Lord Mayor for the new Ambassador to Timor-Leste in early Feb. Australia is providing an initial package of \$1m to meet urgent humanitarian requests from Tonga, including shelter, kitchen, and hygiene. Details will be sent via email after the meeting. DFAT supports the City of Darwin's Trade Show and 7 Seasons 7 Senses Incubator Program.

Sister City Chair Vida

Thanks to Lord Mayor and City of Darwin for donating two tipper trucks to the Tiwi Regional Council as part of the Sister City program; Sister City Advisory Committee is exploring the opportunity to sponsor dance groups at the Darwin Festival.

Acting GM of Innovation

Alice: Discover Darwin's website is underway and will be launched before June 2022.

Migration NT

- Interim NT Worker Attraction Campaign 2022
- NT International Engagement Strategy
- NT Business & Migration Strategy
- Increased hours for International students
- UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement
- Australian Agriculture Worker Visa

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 14 July 2020 Ordinary meeting, Council resolved:

14.1 REVIEW OF SISTER CITIES COMMITTEES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICY 053

RESOLUTION ORD177/20

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

1. THAT the report 'Review of Sister Cities Committees and International Relations Policy 053' be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the revised Sister Cities Committees and International Relations Policy with immediate effect.
3. THAT Council adopt the proposed Terms of Reference for one Sister City Committee and one International Relations Advisory Committee, to replace the existing Committee structure (which includes six separate committees) effective immediately.
4. THAT Council approves the consolidation of the five Sister City Subcommittees into a single Sister City Committee.
5. THAT Council approves the appointment (for the period 2020-22) of:
 - two Elected Members and two alternate Elected Members to the International Relations Advisory Committee and Sister City Committee; and
 - Nominated community members to the Sister City Committee and International Relations Advisory Committees.
6. THAT Council, pursuant to Section 32 (2) of the Local Government Act 2008 hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to;
 - nominate Committee Chairs drawn from the Committee membership.
 - allocate the Sister City Committee budget to key projects to best achieve policy objectives, on the recommendation of the committee.

CARRIED 10/0

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	<p>4 A Smart and Prosperous City</p> <p>4.2 By 2030, Darwin will have attracted and retained more residents and will offer sustainable investment opportunities</p>
BUDGET / FINANCIAL /	<p>Budget/Funding: NA</p>

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Is Funding identified: NA Existing Position No: NA Contractor: NA
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Legislation: Local Government Act 2019 Policy: Policy 053 International Relations and Sister Cities
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: Inform Tactics: NA Internal: NA External: NA
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>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).</p>



MINUTES

International Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, 19 January 2022

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY CHAN AVENUE,
DARWIN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2022 AT 10:40AM – 11:25PM**

PRESENT: Lord Mayor of City of Darwin The Hon. Kon Vatskalis, Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris, CEO of Darwin International Airport Tony Edmondstone, CEO of Darwin Port Darren Lambourn, GM of Darwin Convention Centre Peter Savoff, Chairman of Darwin Waterfront Board Richard Fejo, Sister City Chair Vida Goodvach, Top End Tourism Board member Ms Sam Bennet, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, NT Office Sandra Henderson, Acting General Manager Innovation Dr Alice Percy

OFFICERS: Ms Cherry Cai

APOLOGY: Austrade Stephanie Smith, Migration NT Pompea Sweet

GUESTS: Nil

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10.2	Darwin International Virtual Trade Show 2022 update	6
10.3	International Bid Champion Grant Program	7
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11.1	Verbal Updates	7
11.2	Verbal Updates – Out of Meeting item.....	8
12	Next Meeting	9
13	Closure of Meeting.....	9

UNCONFIRMED

1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.40 am.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

Austrade Stephanie Smith
Migration NT Pompea Sweet

3.2 Leave of Absence

Nil

3.3 Leave of Absence Notified

Nil

4 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

Lord Mayor The Hon. Kon Vatskalis
Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris
CEO of Darwin International Airport Tony Edmondstone
CEO of Darwin Port Darren Lambourn
GM of Darwin Convention Centre Peter Savoff
Chairman of Darwin Waterfront Board Richard Fejo
Sister City Chair Ms Vida Goodvach
Top End Tourism Board Ms Sam Bennet
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, NT Office Sandra Henderson
Acting General Manager Innovation Dr Alice Percy

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**5.1 Declaration of Interest by Members**

Nil

5.2 Declaration of Interest by Staff

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Chairman of Darwin Waterfront Richard Fejo

That the minutes of the International Relations Advisory Committee held on 27 October 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED**7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Nil

8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS**9.1 2022 DARWIN DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL****RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the report be received and noted.

That the International Relations Advisory Committee appoints Ms Vida Goodvach to represent at the 2022 Dragon Boat Festival Working Group.

CARRIED**9.2 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Lord Mayor The Hon. Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

That the report be received and noted.

CARRIED

9.3 CONGRATS LETTER FROM INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Lord Mayor The Hon. Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

That the report be received and noted.

That the Committee endorses to provide a congratulation letter to Stephanie Smith for having a baby.

CARRIED**10 MEMBER REPORTS****10.1 SEVEN SEASONS, SEVEN SENSES INCUBATOR PROGRAM****RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Lord Mayor The Hon. Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT the report entitled Seven Seasons, Seven Senses Incubator Program be received and noted.
2. THAT the Committee received the below comments:
 - Richard Fejo will follow up with Larrakia about the Incubator program;
 - Vida suggests putting this at the Darwin International Trade Show 2022 event;
 - Sandra will promote to Austrade and DFAT key markets;
 - Tony: will promote in the Airport Ad infrastructure.

CARRIED**10.2 DARWIN INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL TRADE SHOW 2022 UPDATE****RECOMMENDATIONS**

Moved: Ms Vida Goodvach

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT the report entitled Darwin International Virtual Trade Show 2022 be received and noted.
2. THAT Committee members are invited to participate in the event as keynote speakers and/or facilitators of a workshop, based on their skills, capacity and interest.
3. THAT the Committee members provide the below feedback/advice on the two-day event programs to City of Darwin to plan the event.

CARRIED

10.3 INTERNATIONAL BID CHAMPION GRANT PROGRAM**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report be received and noted.
2. THAT the Committee received the below comment:
 - o Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will support and promote this program.

CARRIED

11 GENERAL BUSINESS**11.1 VERBAL UPDATES****RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. THAT the Committee received the below verbal updates:

Airport CEO Tony

RAT is available in the airport for the passengers. 15,000 passengers through the international terminal. Assume 60%-80% of the pre-covid numbers in the dry season. Health screen rules need to change to create a better visitor experience.

Port CEO Darren

Increase in trade through the ports, particularly construction, cars, and agriculture. Update on international shipping and domestic and international routes handling fee.

DFAT Sandra

Request a meeting with LM for the new Ambassador to Timor-Leste in early Feb. Australia is providing an initial package of \$1m to meet urgent humanitarian requests from Tonga, including shelter, kitchen, and hygiene. Details will be sent via email after the meeting. DFAT supports the City of Darwin's Trade Show and 7 Senses 7 Seasons Incubator Program.

Sister City Chair Vida

Thanks to Lord Mayor and City of Darwin for donating two tipper trucks to the Tiwi Regional Council as part of the Sister City program; Sister City Advisory Committee is exploring the opportunity to sponsor dance groups at the Darwin Festival.

Acting GM of Innovation

Alice: Discover Darwin's website is underway and will be launched before June 2022.

Migration NT

- o Interim NT Worker Attraction Campaign 2022
- o NT International Engagement Strategy
- o NT Business & Migration Strategy
- o Increased hours for International students

International Relations Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

19 January 2022

- UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement
- Australian Agriculture Worker Visa

CARRIED**11.2 VERBAL UPDATES – OUT OF MEETING ITEM****RECOMMENDATIONS**

- That the report be received and noted.
- THAT the Committee received the below updates from Migration NT Pompea Sweet via email on 19 Jan 2022 including:

Interim NT Worker Attraction Campaign 2022

- That campaign is scheduled to commence late January and will run for 6 weeks.
- Target Audience: Australia – NSW, VIC, SA and WA. International – London, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland and NZ
- Platform: social media and Youtube

NT International Engagement Strategy

- Next step - Final strategy to progress to Cabinet consideration

NT Business & Migration Strategy

- Draft under development

Increased hours for International students

- Announced on 13 January 2022. Australian Government lifted the 40 hour per fortnight work limitation placed on student visas.
- International students and working holiday makers (backpackers) can return to Australia for work and holiday – need to be double vaccinated with approved vaccines in accordance with Australian Government rules.

UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement

- Whilst FTA has been signed; still a way to go as implementation provisions of the agreement do not commence immediately.
- FTA still needs to be tabled and passed by both Houses of Federal Parliament.
- Once that has happened, the agreement will enter into force 30 days later.
- HOWEVER – some components of the FTA will still take time to operationalise. ie Working Holiday Maker component – age limit increase to 35 years and 3 year stays in Australia will occur within 2 years of FTA coming into force.

Australian Agriculture Worker Visa

- Bilateral negotiations continue with countries to opt in.
- Migration NT is working with DFAT (Sandy Henderson) to bid for NT to be pilot jurisdiction with Indonesia.

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held from 10.30-12.00 am Thursday 14 April 2022.

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.25 am.

UNCONFIRMED

15.4 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 2021

Author: Executive Manager Finance
Senior Accountant
Financial Controller

Authoriser: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. Monthly Financial Report - November 2021 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Monthly Financial Report – November 2021 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 November 2021.

Further, this report and the contents are required to be presented to Council in compliance with the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations 2019.

KEY ISSUES

As there was no 2nd Ordinary Council meeting in December 2021, this report was made available to the public via the City of Darwin website on Tuesday 21 December 2021. It will also be received by Council at the 1st Ordinary Meeting on 1 February 2022.

The Monthly Financial Reporting pack includes:

- Income Statement, which compares actual income and expenditure year to date (YTD), against the amended budget.
- Statement of Cash Flows, which groups transactions into the categories of Operating, Investing, and Financing. The statement eliminates depreciation and discloses totals for asset sales and purchases, as well as loan drawdowns and repayments. Finally, it discloses transfers to & from cash backed Reserves.
- Statement of Financial Position, which outlines what Council owns (assets) and what it owes (liabilities) at a point in time.
- Investments, which provides details of Treasury activities, Investments
- Rates and Receivables Report which provides a summary of outstanding Rates and Debtors.
- Creditors Report, which reports a summary of creditor payments.

DISCUSSION**November 2021 – Year to Date Result**

The operating result for November 2021 YTD is a **deficit of (\$2.60M). Budget (\$6.42M).**

After including capital income received, the Net Surplus is **\$1.48M** against a YTD budgeted **deficit of (\$2.83M)**. This has resulted in a favourable **\$4.32M** variance overall.

	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000
Net Surplus/ (Deficit)	1,481	(2,834)	4,315

Commentary

The net operating result of (\$2,601K) deficit is better than our expected results by \$3,815K. This is mainly due to User Fees and Charges (Waste), being higher than anticipated by \$4,078K and Employee Expenses being lower than anticipated by \$518K. Also of note is the Capital Grants & Contributions income being above budget by \$500K. Additional commentary for category lines follows:

Income

Total Operating Income is tracking ahead of the YTD budget by \$4.16M

Rates Revenue

Rates & Annual Charges income shows a positive variance of \$126K.

Statutory Charges

This includes fines and animal management income. This category is on track with a minor variance.

User Fees & Charges

The favourable variance mostly relates to Waste Fees, as they have continued to track above forecast YTD by \$4,016K. This stems from an increase for the commercial weighbridge charges through a larger volume of disposal material.

Operating Grants & Subsidies

This is tracking in line with the budget.

Interest & Investment Income

As the cash rates remain low, it will remain challenging for interest income to achieve budget by year end.

Other Income

Includes lease income, reimbursements (e.g. insurance recovery, fuel tax credits), sale of small plant proceeds and other miscellaneous income. This category is on track with a minor variance.

Capital Grants & Contributions

Capital grants from DIPL were received ahead of budgeted timing.

Expenditure

Total Expenses are tracking above YTD budget by \$349K, broken down by Materials & Services (\$1,138K) being above budget while Depreciation \$205K, Employee Costs \$518K and Elected

Member \$33K, where all below the YTD budget.

Employee Expenses

Employee costs report a positive variance of \$518K but it is expected that as vacancies are filled this will be on budget by the year end.

Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses

Materials, Contracts and Other expenses has an amended annual budget of \$51.34M and this line incorporates various expenditure types. Combined, this budget line is over budget (with a YTD variance of \$1,138K).

Waste Management is overspent by over \$2M, which is a direct offset by the increase in waste revenue.

Other programs of note that are underspent include; Buildings & Facilities, Parks & Reserves, and Roads Maintenance, mainly due to commitments which have yet to come to hand.

Interest Expenses & Depreciation and Amortisation

At this early point in the year there are no significant matters requiring comment.

Treasury Comment

The national economic data released in November was positive, however the RBA remain cautious due to both unemployment and underemployment rates. We note that the RBA updated its inflation forecast with a more positive outlook in estimates by December 2023.

City of Darwin has achieved 0.41% on weighted average interest rate on its November investment portfolio of \$124.05M. There have been no investment policy breaches in this month.

Accounts Receivable (Debtors)

This section considers the receipt timing of Rates collection and any general Debtors outstanding. The performance on Rates recovery is compared to the prior year. The report also includes information on, aged debtors including general debtors, infringements, and Rates arrears.

Accounts Payable (Creditors)

The Accounts Payable owing at the 30th November 2021 was \$4,289,946. This amount forms part of the Trade and Other Payables line on the Statement of Financial Position. City of Darwin recognises the liability of invoices once entered and approved. Due to a delay in the authorisation process, an invoice was paid outside payment terms. In summary the Aged Trail Balance of Accounts Payable invoices was; \$634K being over 90 days, \$445K being between 30 & 90 days, with all other trade payables being aged less than 30 days.

The Council has met its payment and reporting obligations for GST, Fringe Benefits Tax, PAYG withholding tax, superannuation, and insurance for the month of November 2021.

Our internal accounting conventions for monthly reporting currently recognise the Council Rates that attributable to that month and for YTD and then progressively throughout the year.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	6 Governance Framework 6.3 Decision Making and Management
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE	N/A

IMPLICATIONS	
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	<p>Part 2 Division 7 the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> require that a monthly financial report is presented to Council each month setting out:</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(b) the most recently adopted annual budget; and</p> <p>(c) details of any material variances between the most recent actual income and expenditure of the council and the most recently adopted annual budget.</p> <p>As there was no 2nd Ordinary Council meeting in December 2021, this report was made available to the public via the City of Darwin website on Tuesday 21 December 2021. It will also be received by Council at the 1st Ordinary Meeting on 1 February 2022</p> <p>This report remains in compliance with the requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2008 and Regulations</i> and is being transitioned to the new requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i>.</p> <p>This report is considered to be of a higher level of statutory compliance as outlined above.</p>
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	N/A
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>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).</p>

Income Statement

For the Period Ended 30 November 2021

	2021/22						2020/21	
	YTD Nov 2021	YTD Nov 2021	YTD	FY	FY	YTD	LY	Actuals (Audited)
	Actual \$'000	Amended Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000	Original Budget \$'000	Amended Budget \$'000	Act v Amend Budget %		
Operating Income								
Rates & Annual Charges	32,069 64%	31,943 69%	126	76,666	76,666	100%	On Forecast	74,428
Statutory Charges	1,117 2%	1,058 2%	59	2,358	2,358	106%	On Forecast	2,110
User Fees & Charges	13,405 27%	9,327 20%	4,078	21,769	21,769	144%	Above forecast	24,994
Operating Grants & Subsidies	2,510 5%	2,498 5%	12	5,578	3,623	100%	On Forecast	6,356
Interest / Investment Income	360 1%	464 1%	(104)	1,113	1,113	78%	Below forecast	1,536
Other Income	869 2%	875 2%	(6)	1,780	1,810	99%	On Forecast	1,151
Total Income	50,330	46,165	4,164	109,264	107,338	109%		110,575
Operating Expenses								
Employee Expenses	15,072 30%	15,590 34%	518	37,504	37,592	97%	On Forecast	35,567
Materials & Contracts	24,011 48%	22,873 50%	(1,138)	49,941	51,344	105%	On Forecast	53,188
Elected Member Allowances	249 0%	277 1%	28	733	733	90%	On Forecast	649
Elected Member Expenses	39 0%	44 0%	5	64	64	89%	On Forecast	378
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	13,382 27%	13,633 30%	251	32,720	32,720	98%	On Forecast	30,939
Interest Expenses	177 0%	164 0%	(13)	2,350	2,350	108%	On Forecast	1,215
Total Expenses	52,930	52,581	(349)	123,312	124,803	101%		121,937
Budgeted Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	(2,601)	(6,417)	3,815	(14,048)	(17,466)	41%		(11,362)
Capital Grants & Contributions Income	4,082	3,582	500	12,173	15,083	114%	On Forecast	6,140
Asset Disposal Income (Loss) & Fair Value Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	0%	-	(5,652)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	1,481	(2,834)	4,315	(1,875)	(2,383)	-52%		(10,874)

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Period Ended 30 November 2021

	2021/22			
	YTD Nov 2021	FY	FY	YTD v Amend
	Actual \$'000	Original Budget \$'000	Amended Budget \$'000	Budget %
Funds From Operating Activities				
Net Operating Result From Above	1,481	(1,875)	(2,383)	
Add back depreciation (not cash)	13,382	32,720	32,720	
Add back Other Non Cash Items	-	629	629	
Net Funds Provided (or used in) Operating Activities	14,864	31,474	30,966	
Funds From Investing activities				
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	149	1,040	1,040	14%
Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	(11,717)	(91,466)	(86,579)	14%
Net Funds Provided (or used in) Investing Activities	(11,568)	(90,426)	(85,539)	
Funds From Financing Activities				
Proceeds from borrowings & advances	12,440	29,500	45,060	28%
Repayment of borrowings & advances	(246)	(3,085)	(3,085)	8%
Net Funds Provided (or used in) Financing Activities	12,194	26,415	41,975	
Net Increase (-Decrease) in Funds Before Transfers	15,490	(32,537)	(12,600)	
Transfers from (-to) Reserves	3,816	32,537	12,600	
Net Increase (-Decrease) in Funds After Transfers	19,305	0	0	

Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 November 2021

	2021/22			2020/21
	YTD Nov 2021	FY	FY	Audited
	Actual \$'000	Original Budget \$'000	Amended Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000
Current Assets				
Cash at Bank & Investments	47,591	20,359	12,088	24,491
Cash at Bank & Investments - externally restricted	44,474	24,561	40,654	40,654
Cash at Bank & Investments - internally restricted	32,666	11,403	40,301	40,301
Trade & Other Receivables	38,020	9,749	9,749	10,125
Inventories	367	420	420	358
Non Current Assets Held for Sale	0	0	0	0
Total Current Assets	163,117	66,492	103,212	115,929
Non-Current Assets				
Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	1,191,810	1,024,356	1,024,356	1,193,623
Lease Right of Use Assets	4,524	4,752	4,752	4,524
Total Non Current Assets	1,196,333	1,029,108	1,029,108	1,198,147
TOTAL ASSETS	1,359,450	1,095,600	1,132,320	1,314,076
Current Liabilities				
Trade & Other Payables	11,230	21,421	21,421	23,698
Rates Revenue struck (in advance)	44,833	0	0	0
Borrowings	595	3,194	3,194	1,423
Provisions	7,894	7,307	7,307	21,376
Lease Liabilities	829	806	806	813
Total Current Liabilities	65,380	32,728	32,728	47,310
Non-Current Liabilities				
Trade & Other Payables	6,588	0	0	16
Borrowings	21,044	48,805	48,805	8,604
Provisions	33,200	25,315	25,315	26,392
Lease Liabilities	3,841	4,652	4,652	3,841
Total Non Current Liabilities	64,672	78,772	78,772	38,853
TOTAL LIABILITIES	130,053	111,500	111,500	86,163
NET ASSETS	1,229,398	984,100	1,020,820	1,227,913
Equity				
Accumulated Surplus	324,513	331,300	323,029	323,029
Asset Revaluation Reserve	823,928	616,836	616,836	823,929
Other Reserves	80,956	35,964	80,955	80,955
TOTAL EQUITY	1,229,398	984,100	1,020,820	1,227,913

**INVESTMENTS REPORT TO COUNCIL
AS AT
30 November 2021**

Investment 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 November 2021

Term to Maturity Category	% of Total Portfolio	Term to Maturity (Policy Max.)	Term to Maturity (Policy Min.)
Less than 1 Year			
Term Deposits	76%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	17%		
Floating Rate Notes	1%		
Less than 1 Year Total	93%	100%	30%
Greater than 1 Year less than 3 Years			
Term Deposits	0%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	0%		
Floating Rate Notes	2%		
Bonds	2%		
Greater than 1 Year less than 3 Years Total	4%	50%	0%
Greater than 3 Years			
Term Deposits	0%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	0%		
Floating Rate Notes	1%		
Bonds	2%		
Greater than 3 Years Total	3%	30%	0%
Greater than 5 Years			
Term Deposits	0%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	0%		
Floating Rate Notes	0%		
Greater than 5 Years	0.00%	10%	0%
Total	100.00%		

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 November 2021

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	35.08%	50.00%
	National Australia Bank Ltd	National Australia Bank Ltd	24.81%	50.00%
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	BankSA	13.04%	50.00%
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	0.96%	50.00%
	Northern Territory Treasury Corporation	Northern Territory Treasury Corporation	3.85%	50.00%
A+	Macquarie Bank	Macquarie Bank	0.96%	30.00%
	Suncorp Metway Limited	Suncorp Bank	4.33%	30.00%
BBB+	Bank of Queensland Ltd	Bank of Queensland Ltd	5.85%	10.00%
	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	7.25%	10.00%
	Bank of Queensland Ltd	Members Equity Bank Ltd	0.00%	10.00%
BBB	Teachers Mutual Bank Limited	Teachers Mutual Bank Limited	0.96%	10.00%
	AMP Bank Ltd	AMP Bank Ltd	2.90%	10.00%
Grand Total			100.00%	

Credit Rating - Maximum Portfolio Limit	% of Total	Policy Limit
AAA to AA-	78%	100.00%
A+ to A-	5%	45.00%
BBB+ to BBB	17%	30.00%
BBB-	0%	0.00%
Total	100.00%	

**INVESTMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL
AS AT
30 November 2021**

Institution Category	Counterparty	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Credit Rating (LT)	Credit Rating (ST)	Inv Type	FRN ONLY (Maturity Date - last pmt)	Principal \$	% Portfolio
MAJOR BANK	BankSA	26 April 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,007,249	2.89%
		17 May 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		24 May 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,514,544	1.46%
		14 June 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,524,041	1.47%
		3 May 2022	0.32%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		23 August 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,003,423	2.89%
		30 August 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,503,826	1.45%
	BankSA Total							\$13,553,084	13.04%
	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	18 January 2022	0.34%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		18 January 2022	0.38%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		22 February 2022	0.35%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		22 February 2022	0.41%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		22 March 2022	0.36%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		15 February 2022	0.34%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		7 December 2021	0.30%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		25 January 2022	0.34%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		23 August 2022	0.43%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,503,717	1.45%
		26 July 2022	0.42%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		11 January 2022	1.16%	AA-	A1+	FRN	11 January 2024	\$1,000,000	0.96%
		25 October 2022	0.54%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,504,373	1.45%
		9 August 2022	0.50%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,504,833	1.45%
		2 December 2021	0.20%	AA-	A1+	BOS		\$17,432,682	16.78%
	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd Total							\$36,445,604	35.08%
	National Australia Bank Ltd	22 February 2022	0.32%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,536,592	1.48%
		22 March 2022	0.34%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		26 April 2022	0.32%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,513,873	1.46%
		26 April 2022	0.33%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		17 May 2022	0.34%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,529,073	1.47%
		17 May 2022	0.31%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,515,938	1.46%
		19 April 2022	0.30%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,539,554	1.48%
		19 April 2022	0.31%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,000,000	1.92%
		24 May 2022	0.32%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,057,863	2.94%
		14 June 2022	0.35%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,513,912	1.46%
		30 August 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,009,352	0.97%
		4 October 2022	0.39%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,013,233	2.90%
		25 October 2022	0.39%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,538,375	1.48%
		12 July 2022	0.46%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,507,048	1.45%
		9 August 2022	0.43%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,507,336	1.45%
	National Australia Bank Ltd Total							\$25,782,148	24.81%
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	24 January 2022	1.18%	AA-	A1+	FRN	24 April 2024	\$1,000,000	0.96%
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd Total							\$1,000,000	0.96%
	Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (NTTC)	15 December 2022	0.50%	AA-	A1+	BOND		\$2,000,000	1.92%
		15 December 2024	1.30%	AA-	A1+	BOND		\$2,000,000	1.92%
	Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (NTTC) Total							\$4,000,000	3.85%
MAJOR BANK Total								\$80,780,836	77.74%
OTHER	AMP Bank Ltd	3 May 2022	0.65%	BBB	A2			\$1,505,049	1.45%
		1 November 2022	1.00%	BBB	A2			\$1,505,984	1.45%
	AMP Bank Ltd Total							\$3,011,032	2.90%
	Bank of Queensland Ltd	23 August 2022	0.39%	BBB+	A2			\$1,506,133	1.45%
		13 September 2022	0.54%	BBB+	A2			\$1,528,383	1.47%
		1 November 2022	0.57%	BBB+	A2			\$1,533,695	1.48%
		29 November 2022	0.62%	BBB+	A2			\$1,506,393	1.45%
	Bank of Queensland Ltd Total							\$6,074,605	5.85%
	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	18 January 2022	0.35%	BBB+	A2			\$1,500,000	1.44%
		22 February 2022	0.35%	BBB+	A2			\$1,500,000	1.44%
		22 March 2022	0.35%	BBB+	A2			\$3,037,960	2.92%
		15 February 2022	0.35%	BBB+	A2			\$1,500,000	1.44%
	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd Total							\$7,537,960	7.25%
	Macquarie Bank	14 February 2022	0.88%	A+	A1	FRN	6 February 2025	\$1,000,000	0.96%
	Macquarie Bank Total							\$1,000,000	0.96%
	Suncorp Bank	19 April 2022	0.33%	A+	A1	TD		\$1,502,088	1.45%
		3 May 2022	0.32%	A+	A1	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
		7 June 2022	0.32%	A+	A1	TD		\$1,500,000	1.44%
	Suncorp Bank Total							\$4,502,088	4.33%
	Teachers Mutual Bank Limited	28 January 2022	0.96%	BBB	A2			\$1,000,000	0.96%
	Teachers Mutual Bank Limited Total							\$1,000,000	0.96%
OTHER Total								\$23,125,686	22.26%
Grand Total								\$103,906,521	100.00%

N.B.

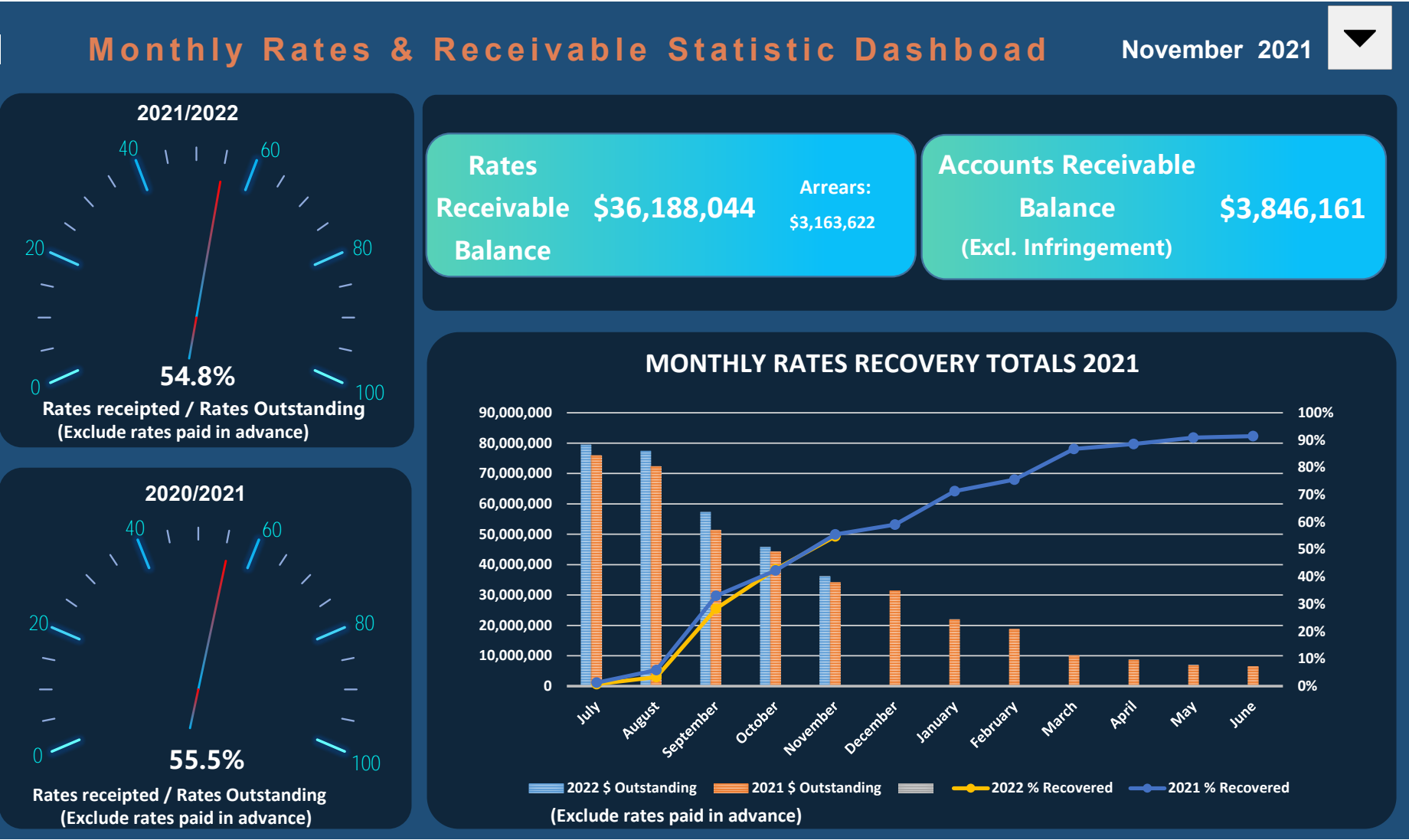
*INV TYPE - FRN = interest rate is the 'Coupon Margin' established on issue date, this plus 3M BBSW provides the yield for the current coupon period.

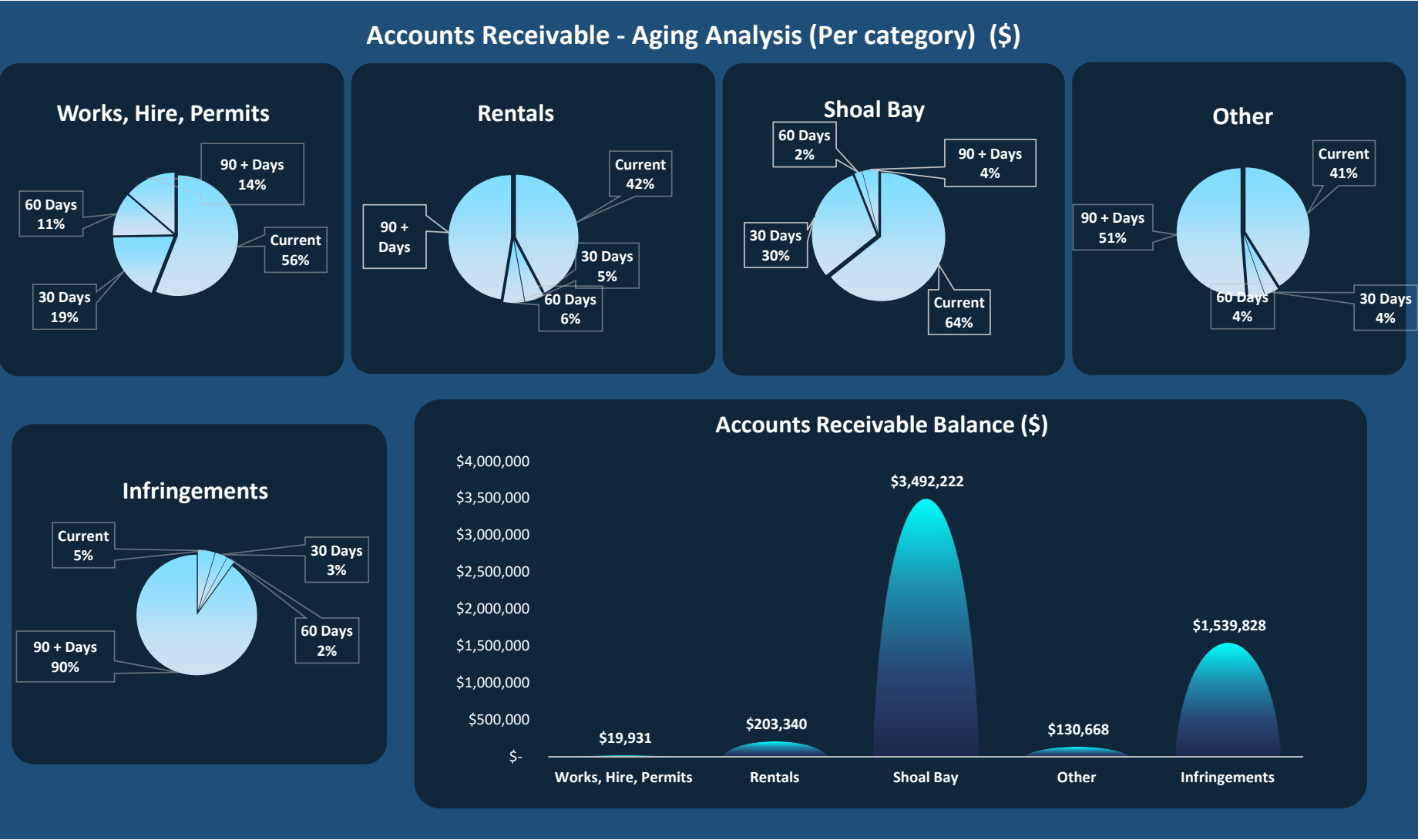
*MATURITY DATE - FRN = the interest coupon payment date not actual FRN maturity date (paid every 91 days).

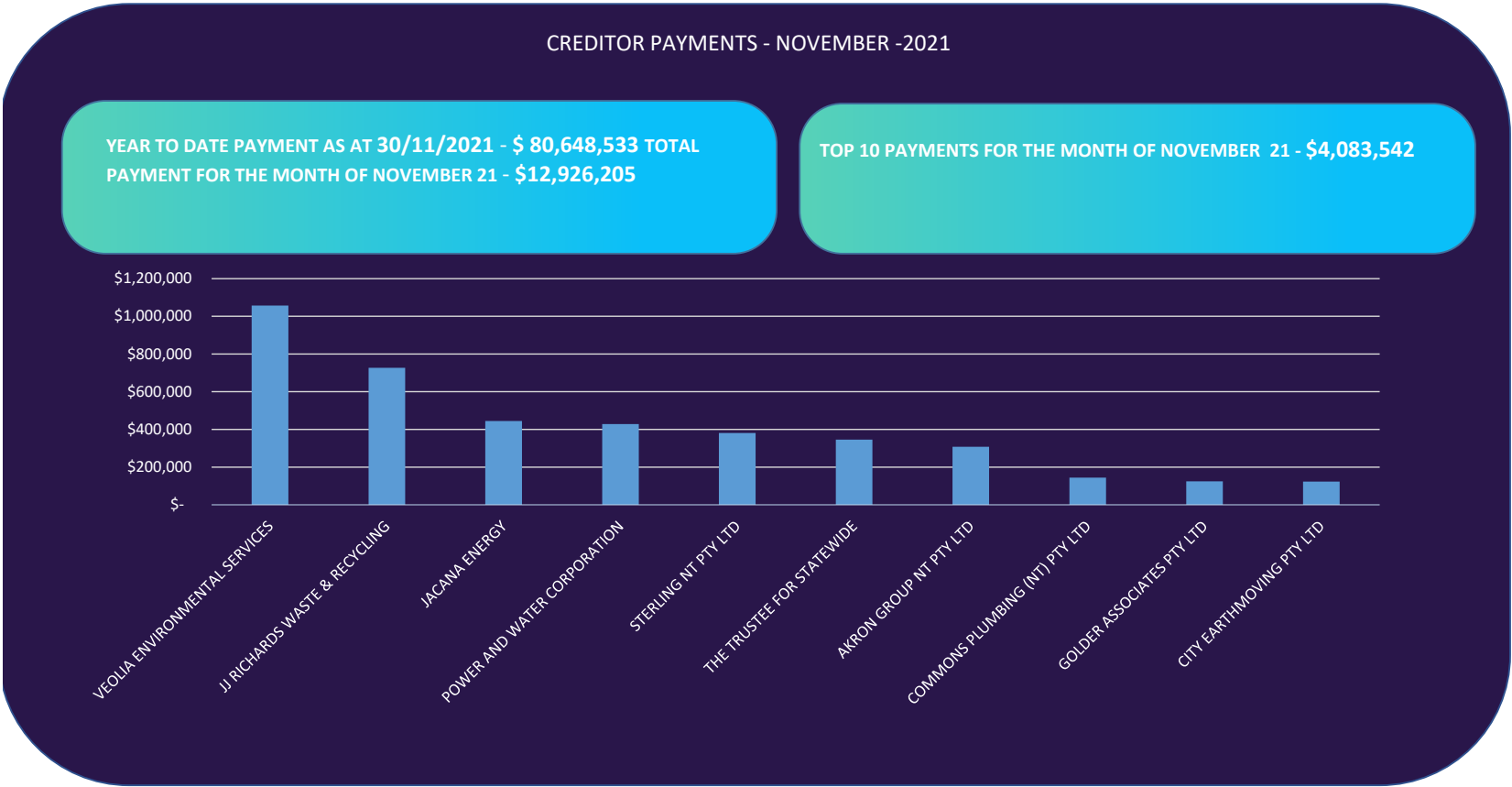
General Bank Funds	\$14,445,913
NAB Offset Funds	\$5,701,213
Total Funds	\$124,053,648
 Total Budgeted Investment Earnings	 \$812,937
 Year to Date Investment Earnings	 \$157,251
 Weighted Ave Rate	 0.41%
BBSW 90 Day Rate	0.05%
Bloomberg AusBond (B:	0.06%

Council has an arrangement with its financial institution the Commonwealth Bank of Australia to offset Council's overdraft facility against pooled funds held in Council's Trust Account and General Account

Trust Bank Account	\$456,989
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15.5 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - DECEMBER 2021

Author: Executive Manager Finance
Senior Accountant
Financial Controller

Authoriser: Chief Financial Officer

Attachments: 1. Monthly Financial Report - December 2021 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Monthly Financial Report – December 2021 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 31 December 2021.

Further, this report and the contents are required to be presented to Council in compliance with the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations 2019.

KEY ISSUES

As there is not a Council meeting in January, this report will be made available to the public via the City of Darwin website on Tuesday 25 January 2022. It will also be received by Council at the First Ordinary Meeting on 1 February 2022.

The Monthly Financial Reporting pack includes:

- Income Statement, which compares actual income and expenditure year to date (YTD), against the amended budget.
- Statement of Cash Flows, which groups transactions into the categories of Operating, Investing, and Financing. The statement eliminates depreciation and discloses totals for asset sales and purchases, as well as loan drawdowns and repayments. Finally, it discloses transfers to and from cash backed Reserves.
- Statement of Financial Position, which outlines what Council owns (assets) and what it owes (liabilities) at a point in time.
- Investments, which provides details of Treasury activities, investments.
- Rates and Receivables Report which provides a summary of outstanding Rates and Debtors.
- Creditors Report, which provides a high level summary of creditor payments.

DISCUSSION**December 2021 – Year to Date Result**

The operating result for December 2021 YTD is a **deficit of (\$3.50M). Budget (\$8.34M).**

After including capital income received, the Net Surplus is **\$0.54M** against a YTD budgeted **deficit of (\$3.34M)**. This has resulted in a favourable **\$3.88M** variance overall.

	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000
Net Surplus/ (Deficit)	538	(3,344)	3,882

Commentary

The net operating result of (\$3,502K) deficit is better than our expected results by \$4,841K. This is mainly due to User Fees and Charges (Waste), being higher than anticipated by \$5,022K. Additional commentary for category lines follows:

Income

Total Operating Income is tracking ahead of the YTD budget by \$5.37M

Rates Revenue

Rates & Annual Charges income shows a positive variance of \$158K.

Statutory Charges

This includes fines and animal management income. This category is on track with a minor variance.

User Fees & Charges

The favourable variance mostly relates to Waste Fees, as they have continued to track above forecast YTD by \$5,037K. This stems from an increase for the commercial weighbridge charges through a larger than forecast volume of disposal material. The increase is mainly asbestos contaminated materials from the Greater Darwin Region, and has a consequential increase in expenses.

Operating Grants & Subsidies

This is tracking in line with the budget.

Interest & Investment Income

As the cash rates remain low, it will remain challenging for interest income to achieve budget by year end.

Other Income

Includes lease income, reimbursements (e.g. insurance recovery, fuel tax credits), sale of small plant proceeds and other miscellaneous income. This category is on track with a minor variance.

Capital Grants & Contributions

The Capital Grants & contributions were below budget by \$959K. This is mainly due to the timing of Blackspot and Road to Recovery Grants. The Council's Capital Grants and Contributions are expected to achieve budget by the end of the financial year.

Expenditure

Total Expenses are tracking above YTD budget by \$524K, broken down by Materials & Services (\$1,745K) being above budget while Depreciation \$301K, Employee Costs \$801K and Elected Member \$60K, where all below the YTD budget.

Employee Expenses

Employee costs report a positive variance of \$801K but it is expected that as vacancies are filled this will be closer to budget by the year end.

Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses

Materials, Contracts and Other expenses has an amended annual budget of \$51.34M and this line incorporates various expenditure types. Combined, this budget line is over budget (with a YTD variance of \$1,745K).

Waste Management is overspent by over \$3.76M, which is a direct offset by the increase in waste income.

Other programs of note that are underspent include; Buildings & Facilities, Climate Change and Environment and Roads Maintenance, mainly due to commitments which have yet to come to hand.

Interest Expenses & Depreciation and Amortisation

At this point in the year there are some timing variances but no significant matters requiring comment.

Treasury Comment

The national economic data released in December was positive. The RBA has not released any monetary policy statements in January 2022, however in December the RBA remained cautious due to unemployment and underemployment rates, and the uncertainty regarding the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

City of Darwin has achieved 0.46% on weighted average interest rate on its December investment portfolio of \$112.26M. New investments of note for December were the \$6M invested into Green Term Deposits. There have been no investment policy breaches in this month.

Accounts Receivable (Debtors)

This section considers the receipt timing of Rates collection and any general Debtors outstanding. The performance on Rates recovery is compared to the prior year. The report also includes information on, aged debtors including general debtors, infringements, and Rates arrears.

Accounts Payable (Creditors)

The Accounts Payable owing at the 31st December 2021 was \$2,701,343. This amount forms part of the Trade and Other Payables line on the Statement of Financial Position. In summary the Aged Trail Balance of Accounts Payable invoices were: \$39K being over 90 days, \$1,039K being between 30 & 90 days, with all other trade payables being aged less than 30 days. The City of Darwin recognises the liability of invoices once approved, there have been slight delays in approval over the month of December.

The Council has met its payment and reporting commitments for GST, Fringe Benefits Tax, PAYG withholding tax, superannuation, and insurance for the month of December 2021.

Our internal accounting conventions for monthly reporting currently recognise the Council Rates that attributable to that month and for YTD and then progressively throughout the year.

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	<p>Part 2 Division 7 the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> require that a monthly financial report is presented to Council each month setting out:</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(b) the most recently adopted annual budget; and</p> <p>(c) details of any material variances between the most recent actual income and expenditure of the council and the most recently adopted annual budget.</p> <p>As there is no Council meeting in January, this report will be made available to the public via the City of Darwin website on Tuesday 25 January 2022. It will also be received by Council at the First Ordinary Meeting on 1 February 2022.</p> <p>This report remains in compliance with the requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2008 and Regulations</i> and is being transitioned to the new requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i>.</p> <p>This report is considered to be of a higher level of statutory compliance as outlined above.</p>
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	N/A
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>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).</p>

Income Statement

For the Period Ended 31 December 2021

	2021/22								2020/21
	YTD Dec 2021		YTD Dec 2021		YTD	FY	FY	YTD	LY
	Actual \$'000		Amended Budget \$'000		Variance \$'000	Original Budget \$'000	Amended Budget \$'000	Act v Amend Budget %	Actuals (Audited)
Operating Income									
Rates & Annual Charges	38,491	64%	38,333	70%	158	76,666	76,666	100% On Forecast	74,428
Statutory Charges	1,281	2%	1,233	2%	49	2,358	2,358	104% On Forecast	2,110
User Fees & Charges	16,129	27%	11,107	20%	5,022	21,769	21,769	145% Above Forecast	24,994
Operating Grants & Subsidies	2,698	4%	2,536	5%	162	5,578	3,623	106% Above Forecast	6,356
Interest / Invetment Income	515	1%	556	1%	(42)	1,113	1,113	92% Below Forecast	1,536
Other Income	1,042	2%	1,025	2%	17	1,780	1,810	102% On Forecast	1,151
Total Income	60,155		54,790		5,365	109,264	107,338	110% Above Forecast	110,575
Operating Expenses									
Employee Expenses	18,038	28%	18,839	30%	801	37,504	37,592	96% Below Forecast	35,567
Materials & Contracts	29,012	46%	27,267	43%	(1,745)	49,941	51,344	106% Above Forecast	53,188
Elected Member Allowances	297	0%	349	1%	52	733	733	85% Below Forecast	649
Elected Member Expenses	39	0%	47	0%	8	64	64	83% Below Forecast	378
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	16,059	25%	16,360	26%	301	32,720	32,720	98% On Forecast	30,939
Interest Expenses	212	0%	270	0%	59	2,350	2,350	78% Below Forecast	1,215
Total Expenses	63,657		63,133		(524)	123,312	124,803	101% Above Forecast	121,937
Budgeted Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,502)		(8,344)		4,841	(14,048)	(17,466)	42%	(11,362)
Capital Grants & Contributions Income	4,040		4,999		(959)	12,173	15,083	81% Below Forecast	6,140
Asset Disposal (Loss) & FV Adjustments	-		-		-	-	-	0% -	(5,652)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	538		(3,344)		3,882	(1,875)	(2,383)	-16%	(10,874)

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Period Ended 31 December 2021

	2021/22			YTD v Amend Budget %
	YTD Dec 2021 Actual \$'000	FY Original Budget \$'000	FY Amended Budget \$'000	
Funds From Operating Activities				
Net Operating Result From Above	538	(1,875)	(2,383)	
Add back depreciation (not cash)	16,059	32,720	32,720	
Add back Other Non Cash Items	-	629	629	
Net Funds Provided (or used in) Operating Activities	16,597	31,474	30,966	
Funds From Investing activities				
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	149	1,040	1,040	14%
Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	(17,134)	(91,466)	(86,579)	20%
Net Funds Provided (or used in) Investing Activities	(16,985)	(90,426)	(85,539)	
Funds From Financing Activities				
Proceeds from borrowings & advances	12,440	29,500	45,060	28%
Repayment of borrowings & advances	(1,182)	(3,085)	(3,085)	38%
Net Funds Provided (or used in) Financing Activities	11,258	26,415	41,975	
Net Increase (-Decrease) in Funds Before Transfers	10,870	(32,537)	(12,598)	
Transfers from (-to) Reserves	3,405	32,537	12,598	
Net Increase (-Decrease) in Funds After Transfers	14,275	0	0	

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31 December 2021

	2021/22			2020/21
	YTD Dec 2021	FY	FY	Audited
	Actual	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Actual
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current Assets				
Cash at Bank & Investments	38,247	20,359	20,359	24,491
Cash at Bank & Investments - externally restricted	44,890	24,561	41,850	40,654
Cash at Bank & Investments - internally restricted	32,660	11,403	26,493	40,301
Trade & Other Receivables	35,020	9,749	9,749	10,125
Inventories	365	420	420	358
Total Current Assets	151,182	66,492	98,871	115,929
Non-Current Assets				
Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	1,194,550	1,024,356	1,019,467	1,193,623
Lease Right of Use Assets	4,524	4,752	4,752	4,524
Total Non Current Assets	1,199,074	1,029,108	1,024,219	1,198,147
TOTAL ASSETS	1,350,256	1,095,600	1,123,090	1,314,076
Current Liabilities				
Trade & Other Payables	9,737	21,421	21,421	23,698
Rates Revenue struck (in advance)	38,428	0	0	0
Borrowings	241	3,194	3,194	1,423
Provisions	7,894	7,307	7,307	21,376
Lease Liabilities	829	806	806	813
Total Current Liabilities	57,129	32,728	32,728	47,310
Non-Current Liabilities				
Trade & Other Payables	6,588	0	0	16
Borrowings	21,044	48,805	48,805	8,604
Provisions	33,200	25,315	25,315	26,392
Lease Liabilities	3,841	4,652	4,652	3,841
Total Non Current Liabilities	64,672	78,772	78,772	38,853
TOTAL LIABILITIES	121,801	111,500	111,500	86,163
NET ASSETS	1,228,454	984,100	1,011,590	1,227,913
Equity				
Accumulated Surplus	323,570	331,300	326,412	323,029
Asset Revaluation Reserve	823,928	616,836	616,836	823,929
Other Reserves	80,956	35,964	68,342	80,955
TOTAL EQUITY	1,228,454	984,100	1,011,590	1,227,913

**INVESTMENTS REPORT TO COUNCIL
AS AT
31 December 2021**

Investment 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 December 2021

Term to Maturity Category	% of Total Portfolio	Term to Maturity (Policy Max.)	Term to Maturity (Policy Min.)
Less than 1 Year			
Term Deposits	77%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	12%		
Floating Rate Notes	1%		
Bonds	2%		
Less than 1 Year Total	91%	100%	30%
Greater than 1 Year less than 3 Years			
Term Deposits	4%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	0%		
Floating Rate Notes	2%		
Bonds	2%		
Greater than 1 Year less than 3 Years Total	8%	50%	0%
Greater than 3 Years			
Term Deposits	0%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	0%		
Floating Rate Notes	1%		
Bonds	0%		
Greater than 3 Years Total	1%	30%	0%
Greater than 5 Years			
Term Deposits	0%		
Business Online Saver Accounts	0%		
Floating Rate Notes	0%		
Greater than 5 Years	0.00%	10%	0%
Total	100.00%		

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 December 2021

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	28.55%	50.00%
	National Australia Bank Ltd	National Australia Bank Ltd	26.01%	50.00%
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	BankSA	12.92%	50.00%
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	6.67%	50.00%
	Northern Territory Treasury Corporation	Northern Territory Treasury Corporation	3.81%	50.00%
A+	Macquarie Bank	Macquarie Bank	0.95%	30.00%
	Suncorp Metway Limited	Suncorp Bank	4.29%	30.00%
BBB+	Bank of Queensland Ltd	Bank of Queensland Ltd	5.79%	10.00%
	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	7.19%	10.00%
BBB	Teachers Mutual Bank Limited	Teachers Mutual Bank Limited	0.95%	10.00%
	AMP Bank Ltd	AMP Bank Ltd	2.87%	10.00%
Grand Total			100.00%	

Credit Rating - Maximum Portfolio Limit	% of Total	Policy Limit
AAA to AA-	78%	100.00%
A+ to A-	5%	45.00%
BBB+ to BBB	17%	30.00%
BBB-	0%	0.00%
Total	100.00%	

INVESTMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL
AS AT
31 December 2021

							FRN ONLY			
Institution Category	Counterparty	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Credit Rating (LT)	Credit Rating (ST)	Inv Type	(Maturity Date - last pmt)	Principal \$	% Portfolio	
MAJOR BANK	BankSA	26 April 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,007,249	2.87%	
		17 May 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		24 May 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,514,544	1.44%	
		14 June 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,524,041	1.45%	
		3 May 2022	0.32%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		23 August 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,003,423	2.86%	
		30 August 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,503,826	1.43%	
	BankSA Total							\$13,553,084	12.92%	
	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	18 January 2022	0.34%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		18 January 2022	0.38%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		22 February 2022	0.35%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		22 February 2022	0.41%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		22 March 2022	0.36%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		15 February 2022	0.34%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		25 January 2022	0.34%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		23 August 2022	0.43%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,503,717	1.43%	
		26 July 2022	0.42%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		11 January 2022	0.20%	AA-	A1+	BOS		\$12,435,270	11.85%	
		11 January 2022	1.16%	AA-	A1+	FRN	11 January 2024	\$1,000,000	0.95%	
		25 October 2022	0.54%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,504,373	1.43%	
		9 August 2022	0.50%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,504,833	1.43%	
	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd Total							\$29,948,192	28.55%	
	National Australia Bank Ltd	22 February 2022	0.32%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,536,592	1.46%	
		22 March 2022	0.34%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		26 April 2022	0.32%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,513,873	1.44%	
		26 April 2022	0.33%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		17 May 2022	0.34%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,529,073	1.46%	
		17 May 2022	0.31%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,515,938	1.45%	
		19 April 2022	0.30%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,539,554	1.47%	
		19 April 2022	0.31%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,000,000	1.91%	
		24 May 2022	0.32%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,057,863	2.91%	
		14 June 2022	0.35%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,513,912	1.44%	
		30 August 2022	0.37%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,009,352	0.96%	
		4 October 2022	0.39%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$3,013,233	2.87%	
		25 October 2022	0.39%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,538,375	1.47%	
		12 July 2022	0.43%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,507,336	1.44%	
		9 August 2022	0.46%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,507,048	1.44%	
		29 November 2022	0.63%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
	National Australia Bank Ltd Total							\$27,282,148	26.01%	
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	24 January 2022	1.18%	AA-	A1+	FRN	24 April 2024	\$1,000,000	0.95%	
		6 December 2022	0.57%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,000,000	1.91%	
		5 December 2023	1.22%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,000,000	1.91%	
		3 December 2024	1.62%	AA-	A1+	TD		\$2,000,000	1.91%	
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd Total							\$7,000,000	6.67%	
	Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (NTTC)	15 December 2022	0.50%	AA-	A1+	BOND		\$2,000,000	1.91%	
		15 December 2024	1.30%	AA-	A1+	BOND		\$2,000,000	1.91%	
	Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (NTTC) Total							\$4,000,000	3.81%	
	MAJOR BANK Total								\$81,783,424	77.96%
	OTHER	AMP Bank Ltd	3 May 2022	0.65%	BBB	A2			\$1,505,049	1.43%
			1 November 2022	1.00%	BBB	A2			\$1,505,984	1.44%
AMP Bank Ltd Total							\$3,011,032	2.87%		
Bank of Queensland Ltd		23 August 2022	0.39%	BBB+	A2			\$1,506,133	1.44%	
		13 September 2022	0.54%	BBB+	A2			\$1,528,383	1.46%	
		1 November 2022	0.57%	BBB+	A2			\$1,533,695	1.46%	
		29 November 2022	0.62%	BBB+	A2			\$1,506,393	1.44%	
Bank of Queensland Ltd Total							\$6,074,605	5.79%		
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd		18 January 2022	0.35%	BBB+	A2			\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		22 February 2022	0.35%	BBB+	A2			\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		22 March 2022	0.35%	BBB+	A2			\$3,037,960	2.90%	
		15 February 2022	0.35%	BBB+	A2			\$1,500,000	1.43%	
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd Total							\$7,537,960	7.19%		
Macquarie Bank		14 February 2022	0.88%	A+	A1	FRN	6 February 2025	\$1,000,000	0.95%	
Macquarie Bank Total							\$1,000,000	0.95%		
Suncorp Bank		19 April 2022	0.33%	A+	A1	TD		\$1,502,088	1.43%	
		3 May 2022	0.32%	A+	A1	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
		7 June 2022	0.32%	A+	A1	TD		\$1,500,000	1.43%	
Suncorp Bank Total							\$4,502,088	4.29%		
Teachers Mutual Bank Limited		28 January 2022	0.96%	BBB	A2			\$1,000,000	0.95%	
		Teachers Mutual Bank Limited Total							\$1,000,000	0.95%
OTHER Total								\$23,125,686	22.04%	
Grand Total								\$104,909,110	100.00%	

N.B.

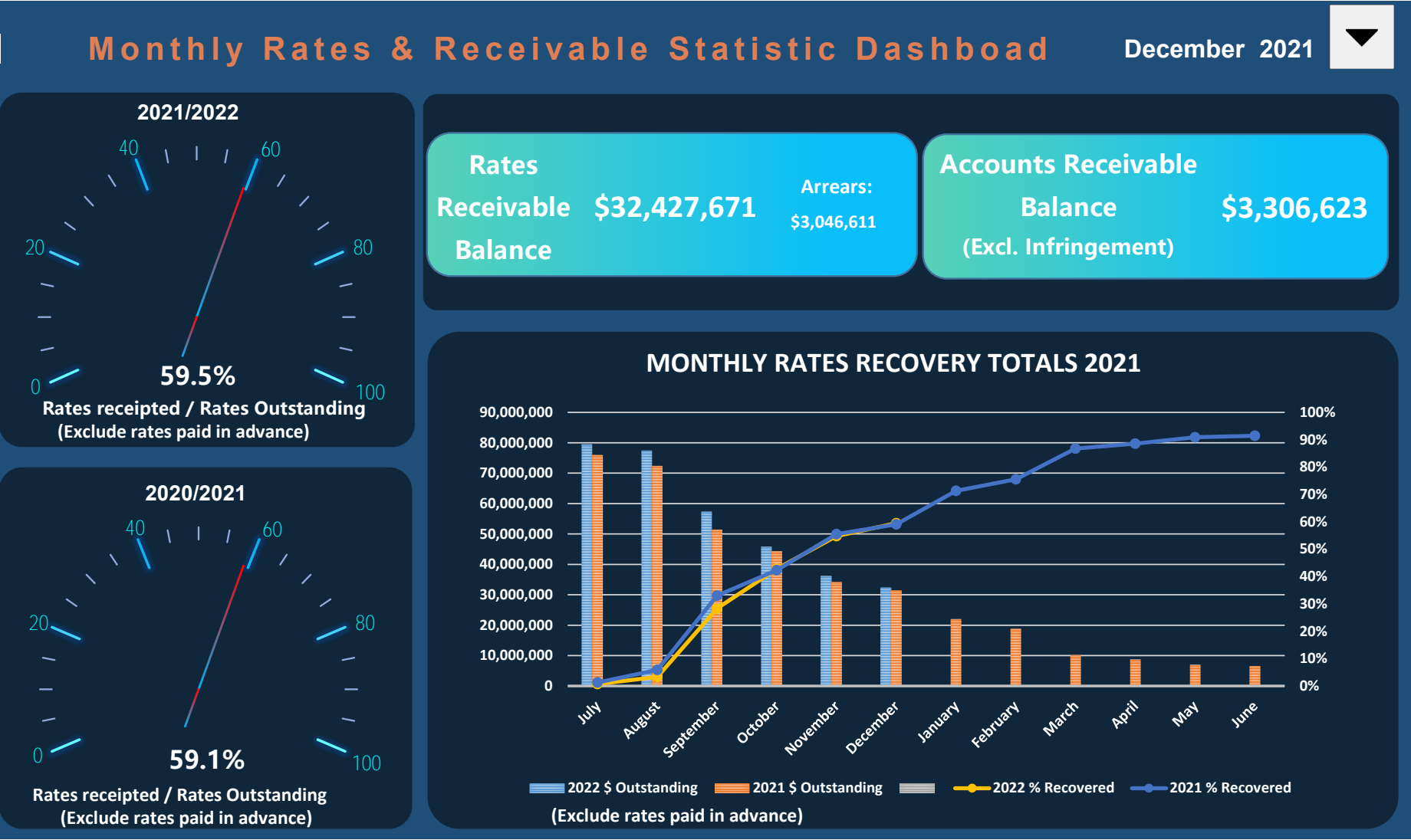
*INV TYPE - FRN = interest rate is the 'Coupon Margin' established on issue date, this plus 3M BBSW provides the yield for the current coupon period.

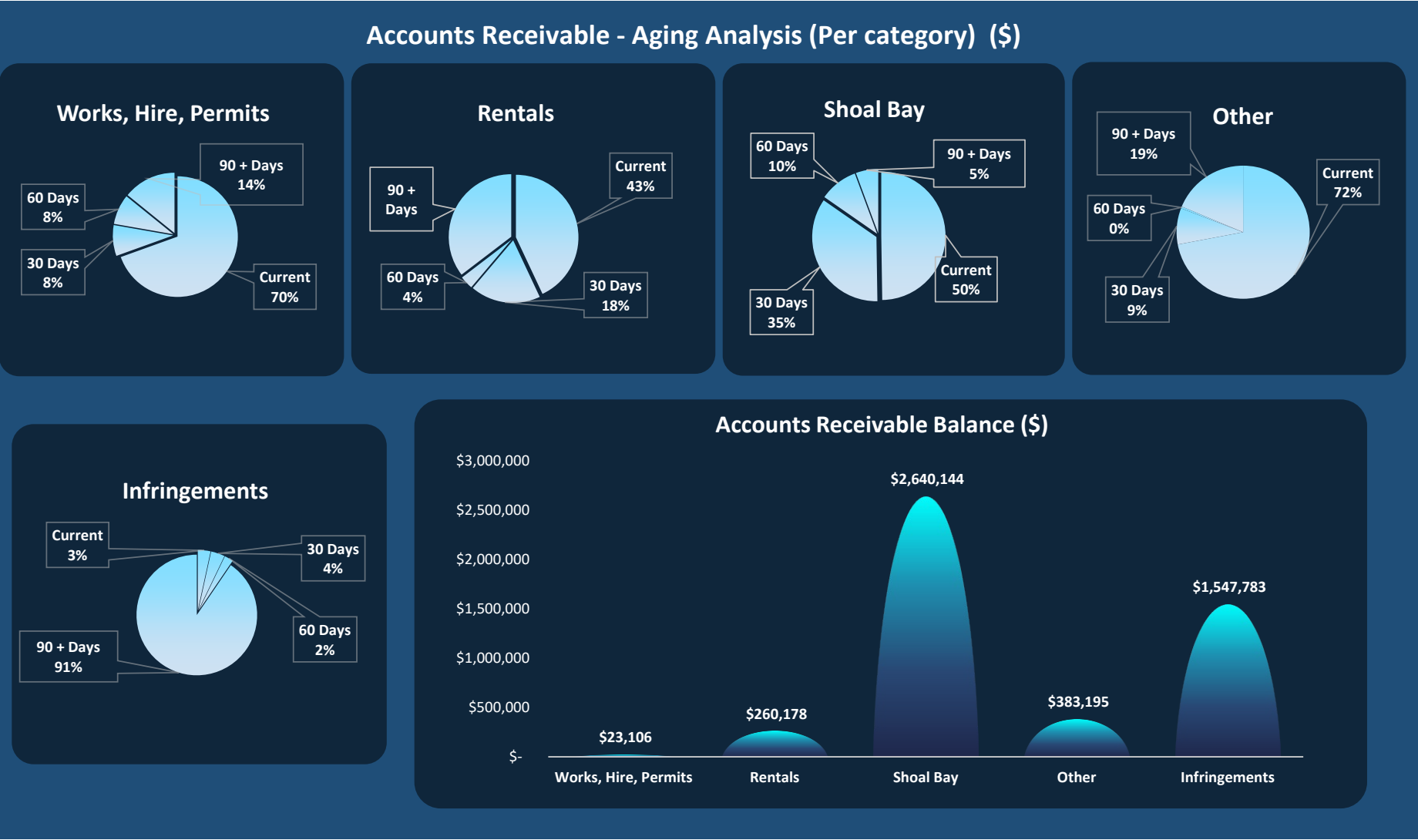
*MATURITY DATE - FRN = the interest coupon payment date not actual FRN maturity date (paid every 91 days).

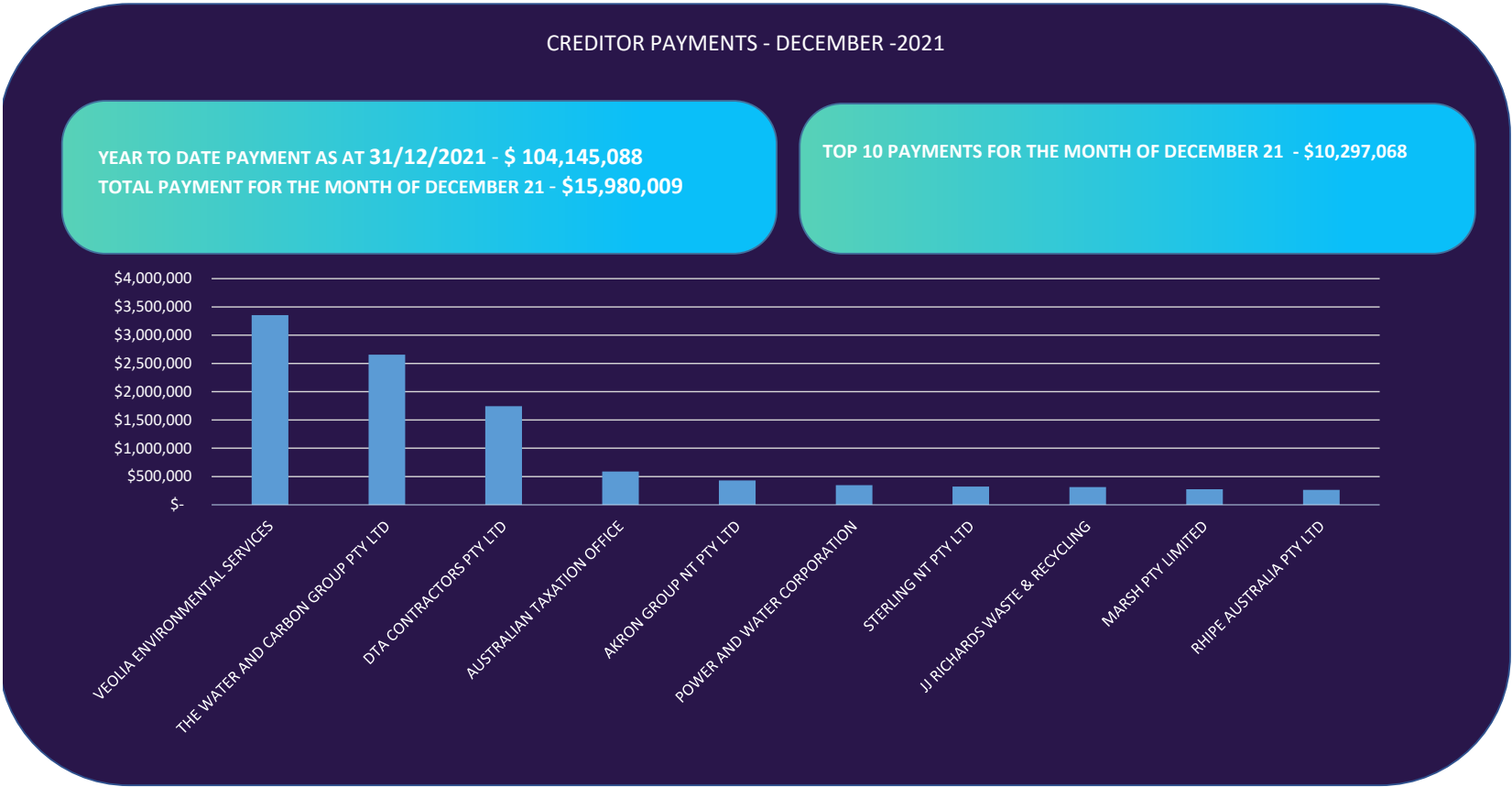
General Bank Funds	\$5,526,277
NAB Offset Funds	\$1,822,224
Total Funds	\$112,257,610
 Total Budgeted Investment Earnings	 \$812,937
 Year to Date Investment Earnings	 \$200,617
 Weighted Ave Rate	 0.46%
BBSW 90 Day Rate	0.07%
Bloomberg AusBond (B:	0.04%

Council has an arrangement with its financial institution the Commonwealth Bank of Australia to offset Council's overdraft facility against pooled funds held in Council's Trust Account and General Account

Trust Bank Account	\$456,989
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15.6 NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTORAL COMMISSION - CITY OF DARWIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT QUADRENNIAL ELECTIONS REPORT AND COSTS

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. City of Darwin 2021 Local Government Election Report [↓](#)
2. City of Darwin Itemised costs 2021 Election [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Northern Territory Electoral Commission – City of Darwin Local Government Quadrennial Elections Report and Costs be received and noted.
2. THAT Council receive the attached reports and pose any questions or concerns to the Electoral Commissioner when the Commissioner presents to Council.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with the City of Darwin 2021 Local Government Election Report and itemised election costs received by the Chief Executive Officer on 21 December 2021

KEY ISSUES

- The 2021 Quadrennial Elections were affected by the COVID19 Pandemic
- This added extra cost and also can be in part the reason for low voter turn out
- Recent changes to the Electoral Act and associated legislation have halved the fine amount for non-voters and makes pursuing non-voters cost prohibitive
- The cost estimate of approximately \$550 000.00 was well below the actual cost of running the election
- City of Darwin has finalised payment for the election costs

DISCUSSION

The 2021 Quadrennial elections were held on Saturday 28 August 2021. During the campaign and early voting period there was a COVID19 Pandemic lockdown that did have an impact on early voter turnout and also added additional costs. The report provides background and information in relation to the impact of the Pandemic as well as additional costs. It also details where a small number of complaints were received and this was primarily due to slow moving lines on the actual election day and polling centres. The itemised costs are not in-dispute and payment to the electoral commission has been finalised as per the service level agreement.

The report then details all elements of the election and provides full detail of the outcomes of each available position to be elected.

There are recommendations contained within page 17 of the attached report which will be worked through with the Electoral Commissioner. The Commissioner will be presenting to the full Council within the closed section of this ordinary meeting.

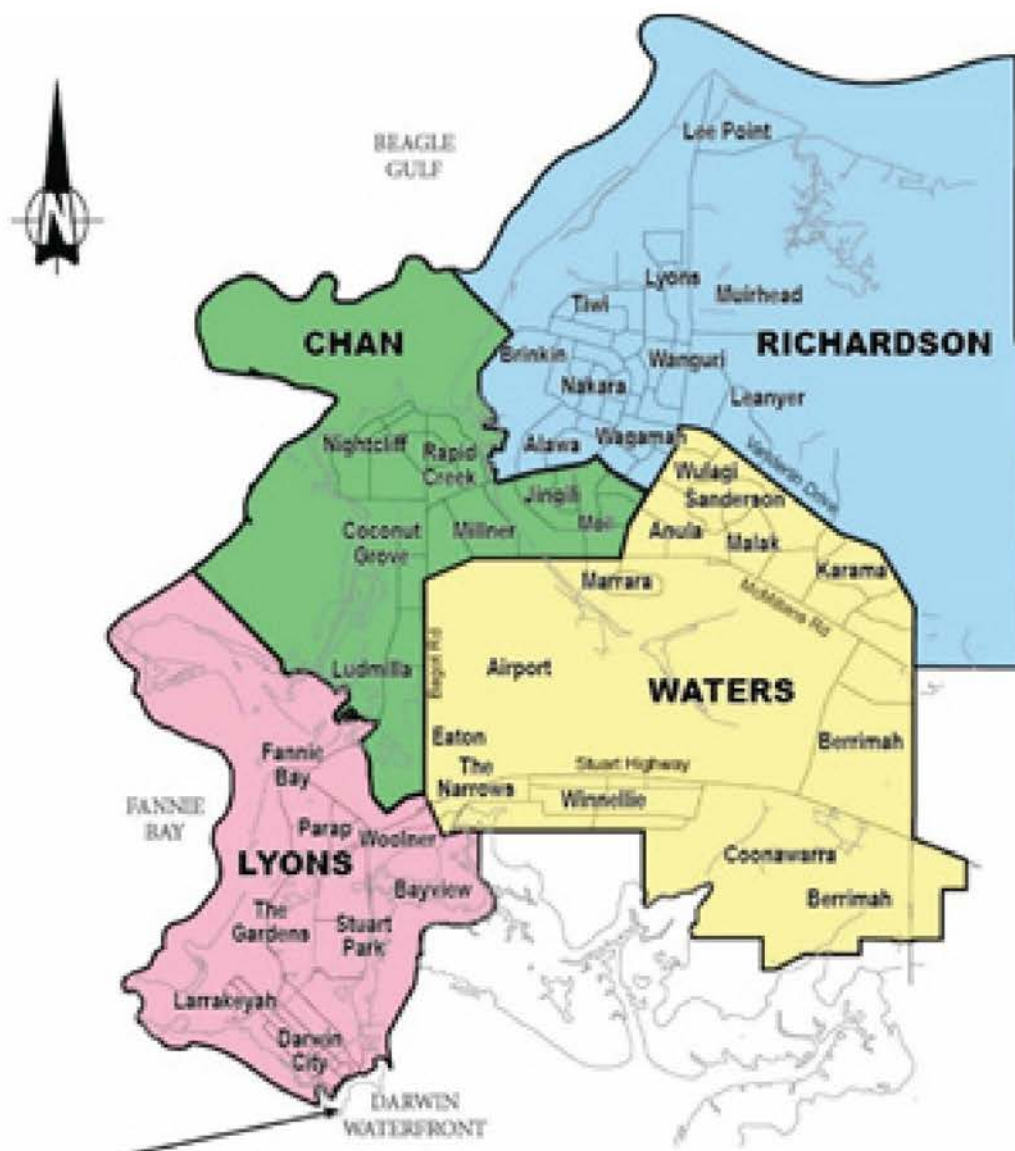
PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Nil

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	6 Governance Framework 6.2 Roles and Relationships
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Budget/Funding: \$750 000.00 Is Funding identified: Yes election reserve Existing Position No: Nil Contractor: Nil
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Legislation: LG Act 2008/2019; Electoral Act 2004 Policy: Nil
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: Nil – advisory report
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>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).</p>



City of Darwin Election Report



NOTE: Electors enrolled for addresses in the Darwin Waterfront Precinct are **NOT** required to vote as it is not within the Darwin City Council area. Contact the NTEC for further information.

2021 Local Government Elections - City of Darwin report



Northern Territory
Electoral Commission
 EVERY vote counts!

Election timetable

2021 Local Government Elections

28 August 2021

Date	Time	
Friday 16 July		Nominations open
Tuesday 27 July	5:00 pm	Electoral roll closes
Thursday 5 August	12:00 noon	Nominations close
Friday 6 August	12:00 noon	Declaration of nominations, draw for position on ballot papers
Monday 9 August		Postal vote mail-out commences
Monday 16 August	8:00 am	Early voting commences
		Mobile voting commences
Tuesday 24 August	6:00 pm	Overseas postal voting despatches cease
Thursday 26 August	6:00 pm	All postal voting despatches cease
Friday 27 August	6:00 pm	Early voting ceases
Saturday 28 August	6:00 pm	Primary counts of postal, mobile and early votes commence
		Election day
	8:00 am	Election day voting commences
	6:00 pm	Election day voting ceases
		Mobile voting ceases
		Primary counts of ordinary, postal and early votes commence
Monday 30 August	9:00 am	Declaration vote verification checks, commence recheck of all counts
Thursday 2 September	9:00 am	Primary counts of accepted declaration votes, further postal counts
Friday 10 September	12:00 noon	Deadline for receipt of postal votes
		Final counts of postal votes commence
	6:00 pm	Distribution of preferences
Monday 13 September	10:00 am	Declaration of the election result

Correct as at 22 November 2021

2021 Local Government Elections - City of Darwin report

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For more information go to www.ntec.nt.gov.au

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BACKGROUND

Elections

Election day for the 2021 Local Government Elections was Saturday 28 August. Local government general elections in the Northern Territory cover 17 local government areas and include 60 separate elections for 159 positions. For the City of Darwin, there were 5 elections: one mayoral and one for each of its 4 wards:

- Chan Ward – 3 aldermen
- Lyons Ward – 3 aldermen
- Richardson Ward – 3 aldermen
- Waters Ward – 3 aldermen

Legislation

This was the first general election under the new *Local Government Act 2019* (which commenced 1 July 2021), with further electoral legislative and regulations changes included in amendments passed in May and June 2021.

The key changes relating to local government elections resulting from these amendments are:

- Changes to declaration voting that allows electors who turn up at a voting centre, but are not enrolled (or are enrolled for an interstate address) to still cast a vote that can be admitted to the count. The declaration envelope acts as an enrolment form which is forwarded to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) for processing. If the person is able to be enrolled, their vote is added to the count. Previously, declaration votes would result in updated enrolments, but their ballot papers would not be included in the count.
- Financial disclosure requirements were simplified so that only candidates who receive reportable donations and loans are required to complete a return, and disclosure timeframes were generally aligned to those in the *Electoral Act 2004*. (The financial disclosure requirements do not come into effect until 1 July 2022, so were not relevant to the 2021 Local Government Elections.)
- Other amendments included changes to the election timetable and nomination requirements.

Service Charter

The service charter (one document for all councils) provided an overview of service commitments and associated standards that councils could expect from the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC). The charter also described how councils could assist in the delivery of the elections and thereby offset some of their costs. These are detailed in individual service level agreements that the NTEC had with each council.

Service Level Agreement

As part of its service level agreement signed 31 March 2021, the City of Darwin opted to provide or facilitate the following for its elections:

- a candidate information session in partnership with the Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT)
- the use of Casuarina Library for early voting and election day voting at no cost
- support the use of the Darwin Entertainment Centre as an early voting centre and election day voting centre
- identify and sign disabled parking spots at the Darwin Entertainment Centre and Parap Primary School voting centres
- the loading zone in Briggs Street for the return of materials on election night

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- promotion of the election via its social media outlets and front counter rolling message service
- Signage locations provided around City of Darwin for the placement of banners at no cost.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

There were changes to the internal boundaries of the City of Darwin gazetted in December 2020 resulting from a review of electoral representation conducted by the council.

These changes included:

- Wagaman moved from Richardson Ward to Waters Ward
- The Narrows moved from Waters Ward to Lyons Ward
- Fannie Bay moved from Lyons Ward to Chan Ward
- There were no changes to the number of members in each ward.

ENROLMENT

At the close of the electoral roll on Tuesday 27 July 2021 at 5:00pm there was a total of 51,060 electors enrolled in the City of Darwin. This was a 1.9% increase in enrolment from previous local government general elections held in 2017.

Enrolment numbers per ward were as follows:

- Chan Ward – 12,537
- Lyons Ward – 13,159
- Richardson Ward – 12,526
- Waters Ward – 12,838

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Campaign overview

The public awareness campaign for the 2021 Local Government Elections was implemented in two broad phases. The first phase focused on awareness and enrolment. The second was a call to action for all eligible Territorians to vote.

The roll out of the public awareness campaign for the 2021 Local Government Elections commenced on 21 June and continued through until the declaration of the results on 13 September 2021. Social media was the primary channel used to promote the election Territory wide. Television, radio, digital and print media were also integral parts of the media mix.

In-language radio, TV and social media content was also created to promote the election throughout remote areas and communities in the Territory. Based on recommendations from the Aboriginal Interpreter Service and Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia, content was developed in 9 Aboriginal languages which were geo-targeted to the regions where the languages are spoken.

Broadly understood Aboriginal languages such as Kriol and Arrernte were used right across the northern and southern parts to the Territory respectively to ensure that content developed in at least one relevant language other than English was available Territory wide.

Website

The website for the 2021 Local Government Elections was launched early June and provided comprehensive information for candidates and electors. The site was designed to be the primary source of information for voters about enrolment and voting options, times and locations and results.

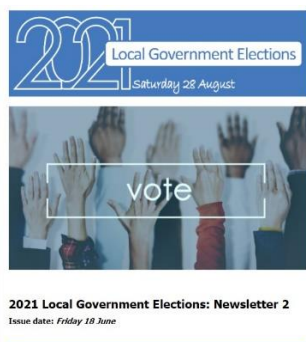
For candidates, the site provided information about nominating, campaigning, voting and scrutineering processes.

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The following table shows website engagement for the election period (21 June through to 13 September) as well as specific City of Darwin results and information page engagement, prior to and post election day.

Total website page views	865,814
City of Darwin mayor results page views	13,805
City of Darwin alderman results page views (all wards)	46,219
City of Darwin list of mayoral candidates	7,266
City of Darwin list of alderman candidates (all wards)	20,993
Other City of Darwin content related page views	31,581
Total City of Darwin content related page views	119,864

Newsletters



A total of 10 election specific newsletters were emailed to stakeholders including councils and candidates, from 28 May through to 9 September. The newsletters kept stakeholders up to date with topics ranging from nomination information through to details of vote counting. The newsletters were also available on the NTEC website and links were shared on the NTEC's Facebook page.

Advertising – radio, television, social media

NTEC branded advertisements of 15 seconds were developed for radio, television and social media. The advertisements carried simple, concise messages such as: 'check your enrolment', 'are you correctly enrolled?', 'early voting has started', and 'vote now'.

All advertisements promoted the NTEC website as the prime source of information for electors to 'find out more'.

These advertisements were also translated into 9 Aboriginal languages and broadcast on the CAAMA, Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia, Yolngu Radio and TEABBA radio networks throughout the Territory.

In-language versions were also broadcast on Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia TV and ICTV channels and were geo-targeted to their respective language areas on social media.

The stock advertisements were run on social media in conjunction with a series of video logs (vlogs) featuring well-known Territorians such as Charlie King, who promoted key election messages on behalf of the NTEC.

A number of social media advertisements were developed in collaboration with Bellette Media featuring Territorians raising awareness about the elections.

Facebook engagement statistics show that the vlog format advertisements proved highly successful. In total, 8 of the 42 social media advertisements were produced in either a vlog or light-hearted format. Those 8 advertisements accounted for 152,988 video views from the campaign total of 377,810 views.

English language radio advertisements were broadcast on Hot 100 and Mix-FM stations in the Top End and Sun FM and 8HA in Central Australia.

English language television advertisements were broadcast on Channel 7, Channel 9 and Imparja networks. Placement of these was focused on 'event' TV, or high-rating programs and popular sports such as AFL and NRL matches.

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Direct digital and print advertising

With a large decline in print media options since the 2017 general elections, newspaper advertising for the 2021 Local Government Elections was largely restricted to statutory advertising requirements as prescribed under the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2021. These advertisements ran in **the NT News as the Territory's primary, widely-circulated newspaper.**

However, further publications with a digital presence such as Alice Springs News Online, Tennant Creek and District Times and Katherine Times were also engaged for location targeted aspects of the campaign.

Direct digital advertising placements on millennial, tech-savvy platforms such as EA Games and NewsXtend, proved highly successful in terms of campaign awareness.

From 92,893 video impressions served on EA Games, a view through rate of 89.9 per cent was achieved, or put another way, there were 83,486 complete views of the two 15 second advertisements run across the campaign.

The NewsExtend platform also served 298,501 impressions Territory-wide and achieved 30,805 complete views of awareness video advertisements.

The following tables outline relevant statistics for different advertising channels and platforms.

Television

Network	Dates aired	Number of advertisements
Channel 7 Darwin	04/07/2021 – 28/08/2021	202
Channel 7 Central		228
Channel 9		78
Imparja		127
ICTV		120
ABA		124
Bold: Channels aired throughout City of Darwin Council region		Total 879

Radio

Network	Dates aired	Number of advertisements
Hot 100	04/07/2021 – 28/08/2021	158
Mix FM		157
CAAMA		168
TEABBA		109
ABA		141
Yolngu Radio		104
Sun FM		104
8HA		104
Bold: Channels aired throughout City of Darwin Council region		Total 1,045

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Social media

Campaign	Reach	Impressions	Click through rate
2021 Local Government Elections – overall	168,472	2,825,293	1.07%*
City of Darwin geo-targeted ads#	98,620	743,864	0.94%

*Industry standard 0.89%

#Includes only ads targeted to run in City of Darwin Council area. Does not include Territory wide run ads which were also served in the City of Darwin area.

Call centre

A call centre was established on Monday 2 August and ran until 6pm on 28 August, election day. Staff assisted electors with a variety of enquiries related to the election during this period.

Enquiry type	Enquiry numbers
Total phone calls	1,522
Emails to ntec@nt.gov.au	261
Front counter	88
Formal complaints	43

Street banners

The NTEC placed large banners ranging in size from 4 metres x one metre up to 8 metres x one metre in high traffic locations around the City of Darwin to promote awareness of the 2021 Local Government Elections.

The following table details where and when those banners were located and what message they carried.

Banner location	Message	Display dates
Gardens Oval	ENROL TO VOTE	12/07 – 25/07
	VOTE EARLY	09/08 – 23/08
	VOTE SATURDAY	23/08 – 28/08
Ludmilla overpass	ENROL TO VOTE	12/07 – 25/07
Cnr McMillans and Bagot roads	ARE YOU CORRECTLY ENROLLED	12/07 – 25/07
	VOTE EARLY	09/08 – 23/08
	VOTE SATURDAY	23/08 – 28/08
Stuart Highway, Berrimah	ENROL TO VOTE	12/07 – 25/07
	VOTE EARLY	09/08 – 23/08
	VOTE SATURDAY	23/08 – 28/08
Trower Road	ENROL TO VOTE ONLINE	12/07 – 25/07
	VOTE EARLY NOW	09/08 – 23/08
	VOTE SATURDAY	23/08 – 29/08

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Candidate information sessions

There were one candidate information session organised by the LGANT in partnership with the council, which the NTEC presented at. The table below provides details about this session.

Date	Location	Number of attendees
21 July 2021	City of Darwin Civic Centre	17

Email and SMS

Electors who have provided either their mobile phone number or email address or both are able to be contacted directly by the NTEC. Those electors in the City of Darwin council area received 4 messages before election day, 28 August. Details of those messages were:

Message	Email	Date Sent	SMS	Date Sent
Enrolment	21,308	19-07-2021	25,926	22-07-2021
Voting suspended (COVID-19)	*971	16-08-2021	23,870	16-08-2021
Vote now, early voting (post lockdown)	19,319	19-08-2021	23,870	19-08-2021
Last day/s to vote#	13,052	26-08-2021	14,341	28-08-2021
Totals	54,650		88,007	

*Sent only if no SMS contact

#Sent only to electors who had not voted

Other promotional activities

The NTEC hosted stalls on the show circuit promoting the upcoming 2021 Local Government Elections in Katherine and Darwin only. Stalls were ready to be run in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek but these shows were cancelled due to a COVID-19 lockdown.

The NTEC also attended the annual Welcome to the Top End Expo for Defence families and held a stall at the NAIDOC week celebrations in Darwin.

VOTING SERVICES

Nominations

Nominations opened Friday 16 July and closed on Thursday 5 August at 12:00 noon. For the City of Darwin there were a total of 25 accepted nominations for councillor and 6 accepted nominations for mayor.

The declaration of nominations was held in on Level 1 of the NTEC office building at 80 Mitchell Street, Darwin. The event was attended by candidates, the general public, council representatives and media. A random number generator selected the ballot paper position for each candidate and results were uploaded onto the NTEC website and Facebook page as soon as the draw was completed.

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City of Darwin – summary of accepted nominations/candidates

Mayor	Kon VATSKALIS
	Gary John HASLETT
	Amye UN
	Calvin DONALDSON
	Leah POTTER
	Robin LAWRENCE

Ward	Nominations
Chan Ward - Alderman (3 vacancies)	Morgan RICKARD
	Sally GEARIN
	Ed SMELT
	Jeff BORELLA
	Peter PANGQUEE

Lyons Ward -Alderman (3 vacancies)	Carol PHAYER
	Calvin DONALDSON
	Mick PALMER
	Sue SHEARER
	Adam TROYN
	Andrew LEE
	Paul ARNOLD
	Amye UN

Richardson Ward - Alderman (3 vacancies)	Martine SMITH
	Jimmy BOUHORIS
	Edwin JOSEPH
	Vim SHARMA
	Rebecca WANT DE ROWE
	Rajeev THAYIL

Waters Ward - Alderman (3 vacancies)	Robin LAWRENCE
	Andrew John ARTHUR
	Sylvia KLONARIS
	Gary John HASLETT
	Justine GLOVER
	Brian O'GALLAGHER

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Electronic mark-off

An electronic voter mark-off system is now used in all voting centres across the Northern Territory. The system records when someone has voted anywhere in the NT in real time. Where there is no internet coverage, each netbook stores the voter mark off information until such time as there is internet coverage which allows the netbooks to synchronise and send the information to NTEC offices.

Voting centres are issued paper copies of the certified lists as an emergency backup option in case of complete failure of the electronic mark off system.

The system also prevents multiple voting, as a voter who is marked off electronically in one voting centre or who has completed a postal vote will appear in all voting centres as already voted.

ELECTION

Early voting

Early voting services were offered for two weeks (from Monday 16 August to Friday 27 August) at 8 early voting centres across the Territory, including 2 in the City of Darwin area at the Darwin Entertainment Centre and Casuarina Library. However, from 12 noon, Monday 16 August to 12 noon, Thursday 19 August, early voting was suspended Territory wide due to a COVID lockdown. To offset the loss of service to electors, early voting times were extended.

The table below shows the number of votes issued at each early voting centre (EVC) for this election, with comparison statistics from the 2017 City of Darwin elections.

Early voting statistics compared – City of Darwin.

Voting centre	2021 Local Government Elections - Votes issued	2017 Local Government Elections - Votes issued
Alice Springs EVC	39	69
Casuarina EVC	9,267	6,377
Coolalinga EVC	227	124
Darwin Civic Centre EVC	N/A	1,356
Darwin EVC	4,758	3,795
Katherine EVC	36	49
Palmerston EVC	269	N/A
Tennant Creek EVC	4	9
Yarrawonga EVC	614	N/A
Total	15,214	11,779

Note – City of Palmerston were suspended during the 2017 NT Council Elections so there were no early voting centres located there.

Mobile voting – urban institutions

Urban mobile voting teams attended hospitals and correctional centres to provide patients and inmates an opportunity to vote. These teams issued 2 votes in Alice Springs, 379 votes across Darwin and Palmerston and 1 vote in a regional area to City of Darwin electors.

Postal voting

All electors have the option to postal vote. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, postal voting services were provided to all residents of urban aged care facilities (rather than in-house mobile voting as provided previously) throughout the Territory. As Australia Post could not guarantee the delivery and return of postal votes to overseas addresses within the legislated timeframes, due to the impact of COVID-19 on international flights, no postal votes were sent overseas. The table below provides further details about postal votes for Central Desert Regional Council residents.

Postal voting statistics – City of Darwin

Description	Number
Number of postal vote applications received	4,274
Number of postal votes issued	3,704
Number of postal vote applications rejected	570
Number of postal votes returned	3,347
Number of postal votes added to the count	2,861
Number of postal votes rejected	486

The reasons for rejecting postal vote applications were:

- multiple applications received from the same elector (387)
- overseas elector (114)
- too late for Australian address (47)
- called and rejected on request by elector (19)
- age care – incapacitate (2)
- insufficient postal address (1)

The reasons for rejecting returned postal votes were:

- postal vote not signed (165)
- ordinary vote issued i.e. elector marked off as having voted in person (164)
- postal vote received too late (67)
- postal vote dated too late (47)
- returned to sender (38)
- signatures do not match (5)

Declaration voting

A person who cannot be found on the electoral roll, but is entitled to vote, can be issued with a declaration vote after completing and signing a declaration envelope. Their ballot paper is placed in the envelope and a scrutiny of all declaration envelopes commences the day after election day.

Legislative amendments passed in May 2021 created a savings provision that allows eligible electors who are unenrolled at the close of roll date, a chance for their vote to be admitted to the count. During the declaration scrutiny process, all declaration envelopes are forwarded to the AEC and eligible electors are added to the roll using the envelope as an enrolment form. Where voters are unable to be enrolled, their declaration vote is rejected.

For the City of Darwin, the table below shows the declaration votes admitted to the count and those rejected.

Declaration vote statistics – City of Darwin

Accepted	Rejected	Total
314	17	331

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The main reasons for rejecting declaration votes were:

- elector enrolled for a different local government area to the one they completed the ballot paper for (14). Electors must vote for the area they are enrolled in at the close of electoral roll, even if they have since moved to another NT address.
- insufficient evidence of identity to enrol the person or update their enrolment (2)
- declaration envelope/enrolment form not signed (1)

Election day voting centres

Election day was Saturday 28 August 2021. For the City of Darwin, there were 8 election day voting centres, 2 located in each ward (detailed in the table below), all open from 8:00am to 6:00pm.

Following discussions with the council, it was agreed to reduce the number of election day voting centres due to the increasing trend of early voting by City of Darwin electors. In addition, NTEC proposed to use the 2 Darwin located early voting centres as election day voting centres. Overall, the reduction in election day voting centres was from 10 to 8.

If voting on election day, electors had to vote at a voting centre located within their council area, although any elector could vote at the 2 early voting centres that were also open on election day (Darwin and Casuarina).

Election day voting statistics – City of Darwin

Election day voting centre	Location	Votes taken
Casuarina	Casuarina Library 17 Bradshaw Terrace	2,274
Darwin City	Darwin Entertainment Centre 93 Mitchell St	1,915
Karama	O'Loughlin Catholic College, 70 Mueller Rd	1,944
Leanyer	Leanyer Primary School 114 Leanyer Drive	2,173
Ludmilla	Ludmilla Primary School 41 Bagot Rd	875
Moil	Moil Primary School 37 Lanyon Terrace	1,650
Nightcliff	Nightcliff Middle School 90 Nightcliff Rd	2,195
Parap	Parap Primary School Urquhart St	1,777
Total		14,803

Absent voting

Electors wishing to vote on election day outside of their council area, had the opportunity to vote in Alice Springs, Coolalinga, Katherine, Palmerston or Yarrowonga. This option was not offered in the previous local government general elections in 2017.

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Absent voting statistics – City of Darwin

Location	Votes issued
Alice Springs election day voting centre	20
Coolalinga election day voting centre	115
Katherine election day voting centre	44
Palmerston election day voting centre	92
Yarrowonga election day voting centre	146
TOTAL	417

Participation

Turnout for the City of Darwin election was 66.5%. That means 33,942 electors voted out of a total enrolment figure of 51,060. The turnout rate was slightly lower than at the 2017 elections of 67.3%. The following table details the total number of vote types cast in the election.

Number of votes by voting centre – City of Darwin (based on mayoral votes)

Voting centre	Number of votes counted	% of total votes
Election day voting centres	14,796	43.6%
Early voting centres	15,246	44.9%
Postal voting	2,819	8.3%
Declaration voting	313	0.9%
Absent voting	768	2.3%
Total	33,942	100%

Non-voters

There are 3,096 identified non-voters across the City of Darwin area. The table below shows the age and gender demographics of these non-voters.

Non-voter statistics – City of Darwin

Gender	18-29 years	30-49 years	50-69 years	70+ years	Total
Female	1,922	3,110	1,713	556	7,301
Male	2,485	4,390	2,444	752	10,071
Gender undisclosed	7	2			9
Total	4,414	7,502	4,157	1,308	17,381

Informality

Of the 33,942 ballot papers counted for the both elections, 1,770 (5.2%) of the mayoral ballot papers were considered informal and 1,803 of the alderman ballot papers were considered informal (5.3%), and were therefore not counted.

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Informal vote statistics – City of Darwin

Ballot paper	Intentional	Unintentional	Total
Mayor	1,305	483	1,788
Chan Ward	345	82	427
Lyons Ward	355	70	425
Richardson Ward	389	79	468
Waters Ward	395	88	483
Total	2,789	802	3,591

Voting system

The voting system for local government elections where there are multiple vacancies to fill is proportional representation (PR):

- Electors must number all the boxes on their ballot paper sequentially starting with the number one for their first choice.
- First preference votes for each candidate on formal ballot papers are counted, then a quota is calculated.
- The quota is calculated using the following formula: (total number of formal votes / (number of vacancies + 1)) + 1.
- The candidates with votes equal to or greater than the quota are elected. If all vacancies are filled, the election is complete.
- If not, preferences are distributed to the other candidates until all vacancies have been filled.

To learn more about the PR system, go to the vote counting page on the NTEC website. For single vacancy positions (like a mayor) a preferential count is conducted.

Vote counting – election night

Vote counting began immediately after the close of voting at 6:00 pm on election day. A count of first preference votes for mayor and alderman was undertaken at election day voting centres only. Votes taken at early voting centres and by remote and urban mobile teams were counted at the Darwin scrutiny centre.

Post-election night scrutinies

- A recheck of mayoral votes from all voting centres was undertaken on the Monday after election day. Counts of absent, declaration and postal votes returned during the counting period were undertaken over the 13 days following election day.
- As the mayoral position was a single-vacancy election, all counts were done manually.
- Votes received for the councillor vacancies were entered into an electronic count system that the NTEC uses to count votes using proportional representation (Easy count). All votes are then re-entered for verification purposes.
- Using this system alleviates the need to undertake a fresh re-check of ballot papers as each paper is entered and verified by two different data operators.
- Following the deadline for the receipt of postal votes at 12 noon on Friday 10 September, a distribution of preferences for the mayor was required as the leading candidate did not secure more than 50 per cent of the first preference votes. This count was done manually. The distribution of preferences for the councillor positions was conducted electronically using the Easy Count software.

ELECTION OUTCOMES

There were 6 candidates for the mayor vacancy and 25 candidates contesting 12 aldermen vacancies. The successful candidates and first preference votes received are detailed in the tables below.

Election of mayor

At the close of nominations there were 6 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

Candidate	First preferences
Kon VATSKALIS	18,411
Gary John HASLETT	3,192
Amye UN	4,083
Calvin DONALDSON	456
Leah POTTER	3,964
Robin LAWRENCE	2,066
Total	32,172

The number of votes required to win as per the preferential voting system (more than half) was 16,087. A distribution of preferences was not required as Kon VATSKALIS received more than half the votes in first preferences.

Kon VATSKALIS was duly elected.

Election of 3 aldermen – Chan Ward

At the close of nominations there were 5 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

Candidate	First preferences
Morgan RICKARD	1,873
Sally GEARIN	1,587
Ed SMELT	1,724
Jeff BORELLA	763
Peter PANGQUEE	1,889
Total	7,836

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 1,960. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- Peter PANGQUEE received the quota at count number 2
- Morgan RICKARD received the quota at count number 2
- Ed SMELT received the quota at count number 3

Peter PANGQUEE, Morgan RICKARD and Ed SMELT were duly elected.

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Election of 3 aldermen – Lyons Ward

At the close of nominations there were 8 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

Candidate	First preferences
Carol PHAYER	745
Calvin DONALDSON	96
Mick PALMER	1,515
Sue SHEARER	423
Adam TROYN	1,116
Andrew LEE	712
Paul ARNOLD	1,929
Amye UN	1,134
Total	7,670

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 1,918. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- Paul ARNOLD received the quota at count number 1
- Mick PALMER received the quota at count number 16
- Amye UN received the quota at count number 28

Paul ARNOLD, Mick PALMER and Amye UN were duly elected.

Election of 3 aldermen – Richardson Ward

At the close of nominations there were 6 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

Candidate	First preferences
Martine SMITH	565
Jimmy BOUHORIS	2,879
Edwin JOSEPH	959
Vim SHARMA	1,353
Rebecca WANT DE ROWE	2,320
Rajeev THAYIL	598
Total	8,674

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 2,169. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- Jimmy BOUHORIS received the quota at count number 1
- Rebecca WANT DE ROWE received the quota at count number 1
- Vim SHARMA received the quota at count number 7

Jimmy BOUHORIS, Rebecca WANT DE ROWE and Vim SHARMA were duly elected.

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Election of 3 aldermen – Waters Ward

At the close of nominations there were 6 candidates. An election was duly held and the first preference votes were recorded as follows:

Candidate	First preferences
Robin LAWRENCE	611
Andrew John ARTHUR	677
Sylvia KLONARIS	2,141
Gary John HASLETT	714
Justine GLOVER	1,760
Brian O’GALLAGHER	2,056
Total	7,959

The quota required under the proportional representation voting system was 1,990. Following the distribution of preferences, and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations, the results were as follows:

- Sylvia KLONARIS received the quota at count number 1
- Brian O’GALLAGHER received the quota at count number 1
- Justine GLOVER received the quota at count number 4

Sylvia KLONARIS, Brian O’GALLAGHER and Justine GLOVER were duly elected.

Declaration of the election results

The declaration of election results took place at the City of Darwin Civic Centre at 9:00am on Monday 13 September 2021.

Declared election results for City of Darwin

Lord Mayor	Chan Ward (3 vacancies)	Lyons Ward (3 vacancies)	Richardson Ward (3 vacancies)	Waters Ward (3 vacancies)
Kon VATSKALIS	Peter PANGQUEE Morgan RICKARD Ed SMELT	Paul ARNOLD Mick PALMER Amye UN	Jimmy BOUHORIS Rebecca WANT DE ROWE Vim SHARMA	Sylvia KLONARIS Brian O’GALLAGHER Justine GLOVER

A copy of the full distribution of preferences is available on the 2021 Local Government Elections [results page](#) of the website.

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ELECTION COSTS

Estimate of cost – City of Darwin

Election area	Estimated costs
Public awareness	\$109,586
Staffing	\$223,937
Operational	\$192,606
Sub total	\$526,129
10% GST	\$52,613
Total estimated cost	\$578,742

Actual cost – City of Darwin

Election area	Actual cost
Public awareness	\$71,623
Staffing	\$439,214
Operational	\$145,737
Sub total	\$656,574
10% GST	\$65,657
Total actual cost	\$722,231

The main reason behind the large difference between the estimate and actual costs for the City of Darwin election was a significant under-estimation of staffing costs on behalf of the NTEC. This is partially due to COVID related issues, including the lockdown during the early voting period and additional measures taken to reduce risks. COVID also impacted the ability to second specialist electoral expertise from interstate electoral commissions which is usual practice and saves on costs. None of the interstate specialist staff utilised were seconded. There were also significant increases in the costs for express postage.

It was determined by the Electoral Commissioner that the City of Darwin would be only be invoiced for the estimated amount plus a \$20,000 contribution to offset the COVID-19 costs incurred during this election.

The causes behind the increased staffing and operational costs were explained to Treasury who agreed to meet the shortfall left after the COVID contributions.

POST ELECTION DE-BRIEF

A de-brief of the election activities and outcomes took place with the City Darwin on 17 September 2021. Overall, the council were satisfied with the level of services provided by the NTEC.

City of Darwin were pleased with the decision have two early voting centres based in the council area. It may be viable for future elections to consider other prime locations for additional early voting centres.

It was noted that some candidates were not fully aware of what was required of them in the way of authorisation and advertising guidelines for campaign materials, and this resulted in both informal and formal complaints to the NTEC and council.

A complaint was sent to the CEO of the City of Darwin by a candidate with concerns of the reduced number of voting centres in Waters Ward which resulted in slow moving queues, the lack of disabled parking at the Karama voting centre and concerns over a voting centre that had run out of ballot papers. During the de-brief, it was agreed that NTEC will review the number of voting centres, the venues used and the number of issuing points for the City of Darwin.

ISSUES OF NOTE

- As part of the lease agreements for early voting centres located in shopping centres, it was a condition of hire that no physical campaigning by candidates was permitted to minimise disruption to shoppers. For the first time at an NT election, the NTEC provided displays stands to host candidate how-to-vote material at the entrance to voting centres. Some of the feedback received by councils and the NTEC was those candidates whose material was placed at the bottom of the display stand they were disadvantaged to those candidates over the ones that were given an area higher up. NTEC has sourced a new style of display that will give all candidates even representation for their campaign material.
- The COVID-19 lockdown in the first week of early voting, followed by compulsory mask wearing is likely to influenced voters in choosing to vote on election day rather than voting early. Based on recent trends of early voting becoming the most popular option, the number of election day voting centres was reduced to 2 per ward. On election day however, electors experienced long queues, even with the higher than usual staff numbers at each voting centre. In some voting centres, the lack of shade when queuing was more of an issue than the wait times.
- At the Moil election day voting centre, due to the larger number of voters than anticipated, the allocated supply of ordinary ballot paper ran short. A supplementary supply of ballot papers was delayed, which resulted in some voters having to wait to cast their vote. NTEC have committed to incorporating additional training for the procedures to follow in this circumstance, and will stock all election day voting centres with surplus ballot papers.
- A complaint was received at the NTEC office counter from a candidate reporting a voting centre staff member advising electors in line at an early voting centre at 5:50pm that they would be unable to vote after 6.00pm. All voting staff and managers are instructed to place a staff member at the end of the voting queue at 6.00pm. All electors in the line who were there prior to 6.00pm are given an opportunity to vote, however if an electors turns up after 6.00pm they will be advised they will not be able to vote.
- Another candidate queried an apparent loss of first preference votes during the counting period (there was a reduction in their first preference votes compared with the results published on election night.). The votes counted on election night are an indicative count and a re-check of all votes is conducted on the Monday following election day. An error had occurred for this candidate on election night which was rectified as part of the fresh scrutiny as per normal practice. Candidates are welcome to appoint scrutineers to observe both election night counts and the fresh scrutiny where they can challenge ballot papers.
- The suitability of Casuarina library as an EVC and election-day voting centre needs to be considered. The Casuarina EVC took 3000 additional votes compared to the 2017 election. The premises is suitable during the majority of the early voting period, but on the Friday before the election and election day there were periods where electors has to queue for extended periods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- NTEC and the City of Darwin to meet in person to do a thorough estimate of election costs before the next election.
- Revisit election day voting centre requirements based on 2021 data and logistics in managing public health issues. This includes staffing resources, venues, locations and WHS requirements.
- Consider additional early voting centres in prominent locations which become election day voting centres. Possible locations could include Karama and North Lakes shopping centres. A supplementary early voting centre situated in Casuarina Square or Casuarina Village may alleviate the large number of electors voting at the Casuarina Library.

CITY OF DARWIN
2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS - ITEMISED COSTS

Election area		Actual cost
PUBLIC AWARENESS		\$71,623.02
STAFFING		\$439,213.71
OPERATIONAL	COVID-19 cost contribution	\$20,000.00
	Destruction/rubbish removal	\$270.13
	Information technology (IT)	\$22,362.35
	Postage/freight	\$9,402.77
	Premises	\$20,962.39
	Staff travel expenses	\$18,638.79
	Vehicle hire/charter expenses	\$9,838.49
	Fees/charges and miscellaneous	\$505.41
	Materials:	
	<div> <i>Equipment expenses</i> <i>Document/ballot paper production</i> <i>Consumables</i> <i>Stationery</i> <i>Training costs and resources</i> </div>	\$43,756.74
Sub total		\$656,573.80
10% GST		\$65,657.38
Total actual cost		\$722,231.18

15.7 LG 2030 SEEKING ELECTED MEMBERS COMMENTS TO INFORM ENDORSEMENT AT 2ND ORDINARY MEETING FEBRUARY 2022

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. LG 2030 Strategy Draft [↓](#)
2. FAQ LG 2030 Strategy [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled LG 2030 Seeking Elected Members comments to inform endorsement at 2nd ordinary meeting February 2022 be received and noted.
2. THAT Elected Members provide their Feedback to the Chief Executive Officer no later than Wednesday 9 February 2022 to inform City of Darwin's Council Officer and Elected Member responses to the LG 2030 Strategy

Furthermore; THAT a report consolidating all responses is provided for endorsement at the 2nd ordinary meeting February 2022 and that the endorsed report is provided to the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet as well as LGANT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek input from Elected Members to the Draft LG 2030 Strategy

KEY ISSUES

- The Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet in conjunction with LGANT have been seeking the views of a small and diverse working group within the Local Government sector to deliver a whole of sector strategy
- The draft strategy has sought views of Council Officers and is now seeking the views of all elected members
- The Chief Executive Officer will compile these views and feedback on anonymised and de-identified basis to provide a whole of City of Darwin submission, but the due date of 25 February

DISCUSSION	
<p>LG 2030 is the first such strategy for the Local Government sector in the Northern Territory and it has been jointly delivered by the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet as well as LGANT. City of Darwin has been requested to make a submission with Council Officer's already providing their views to the Chief Executive Officer, it is imperative that Elected Members also have an opportunity to provide input over the next two weeks to inform the submission for endorsement at the next ordinary meeting of the Council on the 22nd of February 2022. The submission will then be provided to LGANT and the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet by the due date being 25 February 2022.</p> <p>This is an exciting step forward for the sector and as the largest Local Government in the Northern Territory it is imperative that the City of Darwin provides a detailed submission and feedback to the draft strategy.</p>	
PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	6 Governance Framework 6.2 Roles and Relationships
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	<p>Budget/Funding: Nil</p> <p>Is Funding identified: Nil</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>Existing Position No: Nil</p> <p>Contractor: Nil</p>
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	<p>Legislation: LG Act 2019</p> <p>Policy: Nil</p>
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	<p>Engagement Level: Inform</p> <p>Tactics: Elected Member feedback direct to Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Internal: Elected Member</p> <p>External: LGANT / NTG</p>
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>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).</p>

WHAT IS LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2030?

The Local Government 2030 Strategy is a collaboration between the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT), the NT's 17 local government councils, and the Northern Territory Government through the Local Government and Regional Development unit in the department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C). It articulates the local government sector's aspirations for a strong, responsive, well-governed sector; what it would look like in 2030; and the strategy for the sector moving from the current state to that vision.

It supports a community benefit, advocacy and influence platform; and provides a clear pathway for the development of a strong, mutually respectful and productive relationship with the Northern Territory and Australian Governments.

It is a Strategy that is ambitious and outlines key areas that will support sustainability and growth. Not all of the goals can be achieved in a ten-year period; the intention is to provide a pathway forward.

NT CONTEXT

The NT has a rich cultural diversity with occupation dating back more than 40 000 years. There are over 100 Aboriginal languages and dialects spoken in the NT and approximately 30% of the population are Aboriginal. The level of social disadvantage is significant and compounded by the reality that almost 77% of the Aboriginal population live in remote areas where services and infrastructure are limited or non-existent.

The local government sector in the Northern Territory is very diverse servicing a land mass of 1.35 million square kilometres, making it Australia's third biggest jurisdiction; but with a population of approximately 250 000 is less than half the population of Tasmania.

The legislative framework outlined in the principles of the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act) enables councils to play a 'broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their local communities'. It includes acting as a representative, informed and responsible decision maker in the interests of its constituency; representing the interests of its area to the wider community; and encouraging and developing initiatives for improving quality of life.

Local governments are primarily resourced through public monies (including rates and grants), and prioritisation by the council is guided by the use of those resources in a fair, effective and efficient manner. Indeed, one of the functions of a council is to make prudent financial decisions.

The Act is based on the following underlying principles:

- Local government is a distinct and essential sphere of government.
- The system of local government;
 - needs to be flexible and adaptable to the diverse interests and needs of the many communities within the Territory; and
 - needs to be comprehensive, democratic, responsive to community needs and accountable both to local communities and the public generally.

The Act is also clear that councils are to cooperate with the NT Government and Australian Government in the delivery of services for the benefit of the council's area, reflecting a focus

on the public benefit when spheres of government collaborate, within their mandates, and in the best interests of their communities.

The distinction between the spheres of government and roles and responsibilities is not always clear, but Local Government is closest to the community and often the first port of call for communities. The challenges for Local Government include limited economies of scale and own-source revenue and lack of a market to build economic development opportunities and achieve efficiencies through competition; legacy issues in relation to infrastructure and assets; a complex operating environment; and workforce capability limitations.

Local Government is the most trusted form of government.¹ It has a direct impact in terms of wellbeing and concrete services that support liveability. It is often the provider of last resort for essential services such as child care, aged care and disability care and a frontline responder in a crisis such as flooding or COVID19. The Local Government Sector injects over half a billion dollars annually in local expenditure into the NT community, employing approximately 1400 people, and two-thirds of regional staff are Aboriginal. Local Government is represented by 157 Councillors with Aboriginal Councillors comprising two thirds of regional elected members.

WHY?

Well-governed, responsive local governments correlate with strong engaged communities.²

Local government councils, like the other two spheres of government, are led by elected representatives. Within governing legislation and resources, each council sets its own focus as determined by the strategic objectives of the council, consistent with the council's annual and long-term plans. The status as a 'distinct and essential sphere of government' recognises this responsibility, and the public value of three distinct spheres of government.

Local Government represents, delivers, regulates and develops where people live. It is closest to the community, providing good insights into local needs and the capacity to tailor services to local needs.

The role of Local Government continues to expand into a broad range of social and economic services. Its role as a key link in the governance chain is implicit but not always given appropriate recognition or resourcing. Local government capacity and capability continues to be stretched, and this is particularly so in remote areas.

The sector in the NT is relatively young and diverse, and has challenges including limited own-source revenue, legacy issues with infrastructure and assets, a complex operating environment and workforce capability limitations. Unlike most jurisdictions, local government in the NT does not play a role in land planning and development, limiting its levers in terms of sustainable development and requiring both cooperative working and alignments of interest with the NT government.

¹ Griffith University, *Australian Constitutional Values Survey 2014*, Centre for Governance and Public Policy, Griffith University, 2014.

² Local Government Professionals Australia, *Australia in a Century of Transformative Governance, A Federation for Community and Places*, March 2016

The challenges for Local Government in meeting the vision of a strong, well governed and responsive third sphere of government, as identified by the LG 2030 Steering Committee, include:

- Sustainability and resilience
- Social and economic development
- Workforce recruitment and retention and capacity building
- Community engagement and participation
- Improving governance, representation and decision making
- Roles and responsibilities and collaboration and cooperation
- Addressing environmental challenges

The Strategy aims to develop a deliberate, collaborative and strategic approach to addressing these challenges and to define a pathway to a strong, well governed and responsive sector.

The ultimate focus is strong and resilient communities, supported and served by strong, sustainable and well governed local governments working together with other spheres of government, industry and community.

VISION:

To create the most valued, culturally diverse, sustainable and liveable communities in Australia. The Local Government Sector can act as enablers to the vision by being:

- ▶ Relevant, responsive, flexible and central to wellbeing
- ▶ Modern, well-governed, sustainable
- ▶ A respected influencer, player and partner in governance

Building the capacity of local government builds the community's capacity
Professor Roberta Ryan, University of Newcastle, 2020.



1

FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- The role of local government is understood and valued
- Councils are financially sustainable
- Councils are recognised for best practice standards for services that respond to place and context.
- Sustainability is supported by longer term planning, funding and revenue models
- Social and economic status is improved through investment in enabling infrastructure.
- Collaboration between spheres of government, industry and community
- A range of shared support services optimising efficiency and reducing cost to individual councils.
- LGANT is a strong respected voice of local government

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The NT has a small population, widely dispersed across a vast land mass that presents service challenges. While Municipal Councils control their own source revenue through rates and are more financially secure, Regional Councils have very low own source revenues and are dependent on government funding. Changes are needed if sustainability is to be achieved.

Levels of social and economic disadvantage, particularly amongst remote Aboriginal communities, are significant. However investment to address Aboriginal disadvantage is shown to have significant long term productivity impacts.

Service delivery and infrastructure development costs are among the highest in Australia but are fundamental to sustained economic and social outcomes. Regional councils in particular are managing legacy issues with important community assets and infrastructure.

Appropriate resourcing, utilised well can provide a foundation for strong, healthy communities.

SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM

- Conditional Rating is discontinued
- All unincorporated areas are incorporated into council areas
- Develop the evidence base through collation of data, sharing of information and case studies to support changes to funding models.
- Funding models recognise cost of services across diverse communities; and longer term funding assists long-term asset management, planning and workforce development.
- The value of Local Government and place based responses is promoted and place-based co-design approaches to infrastructure and service provision prioritised in negotiations with government, NGOs and the private sector.
- Influence national policy supporting the development of services and infrastructure to remote communities to enable them to thrive.

LONGER TERM

- Adopt best practice, utilising combined expertise and sharing services.
- Develop cross sector and cross-government collaboration to drive efficiency and effectiveness.
- Options identified and progressed for additional services and functions, with funding, to be delivered by local government
- Initiate and enhance cooperation across all spheres of government to address basic infrastructure such as housing and digital connectivity to embed lasting upstream impacts across a range of socio-economic factors, strengthen communities and support more effective Local Government delivery of infrastructure and services.

2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- All spheres of government work together and in partnership with industry and community, to achieve economic development outcomes
- Local productivity is supported by social and community infrastructure
- Collaborative planning for infrastructure and services
- Increased own source revenue and diversified funding
- Flexible, mobile and smart operating environment
- Clear asset management and maintenance strategy developed across government.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Local government is a significant player in the NT economy.

Local government has a key role in underpinning regional economic growth, from infrastructure and services, to attracting and retaining a workforce.

Addressing legacy issues with ageing infrastructure, equipment and waste management provides an economic opportunity but requires resources.

Economic development builds resilience of communities, including in response to crises such as COVID19.

It sustains the diversity, community bonds and connection to place of regional communities.

SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM

- Leverage purchasing power to achieve policy objectives (buy local, inclusive employment, and contracting).
- Implement a trade services panel to assist councils with local procurement.
- Local government is appropriately resourced for provision of services such as early childhood, aged care and disability.
- Promote the economic and jobs contribution of health, education, care (aged and childcare), public administration.
- Negotiate retention of Roads to Recovery model and shape investment to adequately maintain and develop roads.
- Promote population growth, jobs, and liveable communities through collaborative economic planning with all spheres of government, industry and stakeholders
- Provide enhanced support for small business start-up in remote communities

LONGER TERM

- Coordinate with other spheres of government for more integrated planning of enabling infrastructure and secure resourcing for maintaining assets; e.g. roads, housing, education and training, community facilities, health, digital connectivity
- deliver on goals of regional economic growth plans, leveraging the cross-government and industry collaboration
- Develop cross sector regional partnerships to strengthen economic outcomes, including more regional deals along the lines of the Barkly regional deal.
- Grow our regions through efficient, collaborative development planning and approvals to maximise population growth and private investment

3

JOBS, PEOPLE, SKILLS

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- Increased local workforce – providing employment pathways and opportunities for our community.
- Councils have high standards and a strong focus on professional and leadership development.
- Elected members and staff embrace and seek out learning and upskilling.
- Employer of choice – recruiting, rewarding and retaining good people.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Local government is a major employer but faces challenges in recruiting, retaining and developing staff.

Local growth and wellbeing is supported by developing a skilled and committed local workforce.

Workers in local government are directly investing in their community.

Issues around housing, staff facilities and competition for staff means, especially in regional areas, there are high recruitment and retention costs. Reducing staff turnover reduces costs and improves service delivery. This improves councils' relationship with stakeholders that helps make council a more attractive employer which adds to the cycle of retention.

SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM

- Conduct a Territory-wide skills audit and identify skills, capacity and capability and needs.
- Include a focus on growth sectors such as healthcare and social assistance; as well as critical areas of skill shortage such as engineers.
- Support local capacity building and the development of accredited training and certification and professional and leadership development in the Local Government Sector.
- Promote the shared services/shared expertise approach, supported by business case analysis to determine where this can best be applied.
- Secondment, and mentoring opportunities developed across the sector.
- Utilise flexible working and digital connectivity to attract a range of skills and experience
- Address housing and infrastructure deficits to enable the recruitment and retention of regional and remote staff.
- Review options for incentivising recruitment and retention

LONGER TERM

- Promote reforms and provide input to national, state and regional job programs, CDP, and training support programs to enable a place-based, community centric model.
- Influence and access government regional incentives
- Promote local government as an employer of choice

4

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LOCAL VOICE

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- High levels of democratic participation representative of the community with nominations and voter turnout high.
- Local government is valued by its communities, is transparent and accountable
- Planning and service delivery incorporates local knowledge, experience and perspectives
- Councils are agile and responsive, with effective models of community engagement tailored to the needs of their own communities
- Councils are valued by their communities
- Communities are diverse, sustainable and liveable

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Good governance builds trust and public confidence.

It supports the delivery of effective, well managed services and enables Councils to be effective advocates for their community. It encourages more people to be involved and to take pride in their local area.

Local government makes decisions closest to the people the decisions' impact and is best placed to channel community views.

Good governance is critical as Local Government provides infrastructure and services that are vital in addressing the underlying social determinants of disadvantage.

SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM

- Actively seek community input into what they expect councils to deliver to 'create the most valued, culturally diverse, sustainable and liveable communities in Australia'.
- Promote a better understanding of the role of local government and continue to engage in advocacy for the sector.
- Develop a stronger profile and communications and media capability.
- Increase community engagement through community events, feedback forums, and structured and informal engagement appropriate to the constituency.
- Continue to draw on the wealth of local and cultural knowledge and expertise and historical connection to country.
- Support the role of Local Authorities in regional councils in providing a valued conduit between communities and councils.
- Local Government, and Local Authorities, are partners in the development of strategies and priorities such as Local Decision Making, Closing the Gap and Treaty.
- Promote the role of local government and outcomes that can be improved through collaboration with other spheres of government and Aboriginal community controlled organisations to strengthen local governance, place-based responses and community engagement.
- Develop regional partnerships across the private, public and community sectors to deliver more effective engagement and collaborative planning.
- Develop understanding of the role of Council and encourage voter participation and increased nominations.

LONGER TERM

- Utilise innovation and technology to develop and foster interaction.

5

GOOD DECISION MAKING

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- Local government is valued as a well-governed sector, making short term and strategic decisions in the best interests of their communities and the efficient expenditure of public funds
- Strategic decision making
 - Is informed by data and best available information
 - Represents community views and interests
 - Takes into account different views and perspectives
- Local Government takes a proactive approach to decision making, exhibiting strong environmental awareness

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The role of Local Government is fundamental in representing and promoting community outcomes.

Representatives come from a range of backgrounds and experience.

Resources are limited but impact can be significant and so decisions need to add value.

Decisions are not made in isolation and can have impacts beyond the local government sphere.

SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM

- Promote the different roles and responsibilities of Council members, Local Authority members, CEOs and staff.
- Collect information, both qualitative and quantitative, and conduct impact assessments to better support planning and decision making.
- Develop financial literacy and improve financial management.
- Enhance accountability through a focus on integrity and outcomes based and standardised reporting.
- Develop capacity and provide training to staff and elected members to support decision making, including mandatory training

LONGER TERM

- Establish mentoring and expertise networks across the sector to draw on for advice. Include a focus on cross cultural mentoring and establish a pool of Aboriginal local government mentors.
- Commitment to open data platforms and sharing of information across government.
- Collaboration across spheres of government and sectors, recognising overlaps and interrelationships of services, infrastructure and economies.
- Initiate the development of an integrated planning framework with NTG.

6

CROSS-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- Councils are clear in their own roles and responsibilities and how they work with others.
- The mandates and roles of each sphere of government is understood and clear processes for cooperation established.
- There is mutual respect for, and understanding of, the roles, mandates, powers, and resourcing of each of the spheres of government.
- Local government is an influencer and partner in government.
- Collaboration, cooperation and shared problem and planning solving across the spheres of government improves outcomes and efficient allocation of resources.
- Partnerships and project management across government services and infrastructure (no matter who is delivering)
- Clarity of roles within a more holistic approach to provision of services and infrastructure.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Shifting of costs and responsibilities is inefficient and ineffective, creates confusion about who is responsible and compromises outcomes.

Causation is often not easy to pinpoint and wicked problems require a joined up approach. To get the best outcomes the three spheres of government need to work together with a focus on the best interests of communities.

Collaboration is likely to achieve better and more cost effective results than individual efforts.

Citizens don't always distinguish between levels of government. They expect a standard of services and responsiveness and for governments to work together.

SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM

- Adopt co-design and community decision-making principles that underpin outcomes. Emphasise the "from the ground up" approach and the position of trust that Local Government holds.
- Map services and share data, evidence, and information across service and infrastructure providers.
- Identify mutual interests and objectives. Develop collaborative policy and programs with clear goals, responsibilities and built in evaluation and review.
- Seek commitments to long term investment and funding, giving enough time for programs to succeed and for efficient and effective planning and delivery.
- Increase collaboration across Aboriginal governance and through representative organisations.
- work with other spheres of government to identify and implement partnership opportunities

LONGER TERM

- Develop regions through cross-governance and cross-sector agreements.
- Build trust and participation through modelling cooperation.
- Joint approach to resource allocation.

7

ENVIRONMENT

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- Climate change adaptation planning and support.
- There is collaboration between the spheres of government and industry in effective, sustainable waste management solutions
- Pro-active environmental management
- Councils have resources to maximise investment in low emissions technology, infrastructure, recycling and services.
- Reducing transport miles and low emission solutions
- Disaster and crisis preparedness

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Local government operates on the ground and is often the first to be impacted by environmental degradation and climate change impacts.

Local government are part of the response and recovery teams in disasters, such as floods, cyclones, fires. Local Government knows its community and the lay of the land.

Councils have responsibility for waste management, with larger volumes and demand for greater categorisation of waste and use of recycling.

Local government plays a crucial role in public health and safety and supporting sanitation, water security, and energy solutions and infrastructure.

SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM

- Focus on renewable energy and long term waste management solutions
- Planning climate change adaptation and resilience measures.
- Educate and involve the community in environmental sustainability, including using local and cultural knowledge and practices.
- Model energy efficient and sustainable operations and encourage through procurement and investment process.
- Develop a coordinated response to waste management.
- Promote carbon offsets as a local economic opportunity.
- Promote sustainable renewal for disaster recovery and local approaches to restoring degraded environments. Work with the National Disaster and Resilience Agency on mitigation and prevention measures.
- Utilise data and provide input on needs to the new Australian Climate Service.

LONGER TERM

- Address legacy issues of waste management facilities in regional areas in collaboration across spheres of government.
- Work with other spheres of government to develop national waste solutions and incentivise minimisation of waste and the development of markets for waste materials.
- Development of innovative recycling and waste management solutions.
- Support the research and development of smart, sustainable technologies and sustainable solutions designed for the NT context.

Confidential Draft

LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2030

A Strategy For A Strong, Responsive, Well-Governed Local Government Sector

FAQs

What is LG 2030?

The Local Government 2030 Strategy, or LG2030, articulates a long term vision for a strong, responsive, well-governed local government sector and the pathway to getting there.

Who is driving LG 2030?

The concept of LG2030 originated at the November 2019 LGANT conference. It was developed further with local government elected members, CEOs and LGANT. The then Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development, and now Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet partnered with LGANT in this work. Development of the strategy is being guided by a Steering Committee of local government nominees, supported by LGANT and the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet. The Strategy is driven by the local government sector and a draft strategy will be circulated for comment from November 2021 to February 2022.

Why do we need LG 2030?

Local Government is the government closest to the community and councils play a broad and evolving role in promoting the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of their local communities. The sector in the NT faces many challenges including limited own source revenue, lack of economies of scale, inadequate infrastructure, the tyranny of distance and workforce skill, recruitment and retention challenges. There are many immediate issues that are being worked on. At the same time, the Strategy is intended to provide a longer term, strategic pathway forward to develop, grow and sustain the sector.

What is the background to LG 2030?

The project was initiated at the LGANT meeting in November 2019. A Steering Committee of local government representatives was convened and a project plan was approved by LGANT and the then Minister for Local Government in December 2019. Progress was interrupted by COVID 19. The current Minister for Local Government approved the continuation of the plan in October 2020. The project was reactivated in April 2021 with the formal commitment of the new LGANT executive. The Steering Group reconvened in July 2021 and released a draft strategy for initial consultation. A second round of consultation is now being undertaken involving new councils formed by the recent local government elections.

Who are the stakeholders in LG 2030?

LG 2030 is driven by the local government sector. However there are many stakeholders that have an interest in a strong, sustainable, well-governed sector. The Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet regulates the sector and LGANT represents and advocates for the sector and both are involved in supporting LG2030. Cooperation and coordination between the three spheres of government has been identified as a key issue in supporting community outcomes; the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government are also key stakeholders and participants in this work. It is intended that other peak bodies, Land Councils, key Aboriginal organisations, and community organisations will be provided the opportunity for input in developing the Strategy.

How can I provide input to the strategy?

A consultation draft will be released at the LGANT November Conference in Alice Springs. Each council is invited to provide feedback, and engage its community and stakeholders as it considers appropriate. Feedback will be coordinated by LGANT and CM&C, who will also consult across government and with NT wide stakeholders. Comments can be provided to Linda.weatherhead@nt.gov.au

When will consultations close?

Consultations will close on **Friday 25 February 2022**. However, the Strategy is intended to be a living document and will be reviewed regularly.

Once the strategy is finalised, what happens next?

All feedback will be considered and the Strategy finalised through the Steering Committee. The final draft will be provided to the sector for a shorter period for final feedback before it is considered by LGANT and the Minister for Local Government. It is intended that a final strategy will be launched at the LGANT April meeting.

How will we evaluate the strategy and what it has achieved?

An initial 3 year plan will be developed to guide actions under the strategy and progress will be evaluated with a review at the end of three years. A second stage implementation plan will be developed and reviewed at the end of a further three years. A final review will occur in the last 12 months of the Strategy with the intention of informing the development of a new strategy.

16 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

17 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

18 GENERAL BUSINESS**18.1 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT - IMMEDIATE PRIORITY GRANTS - SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION**

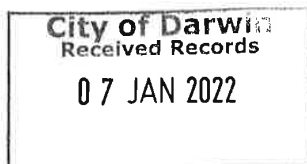
Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Immediate Priority Grant Ministerial Advice [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Incoming Correspondence – Minister for Local Government – Immediate Priority Grants – Successful Application be received and noted.



MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT 0800
minister.paech@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8936 5688

Mr Scott Waters
Chief Executive Officer
City of Darwin
GPO Box 84
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Mr Waters

Scott,

Thank you for the funding application submitted for the Local Government Immediate Priority Grants for 2021-22.

I am pleased to advise that I have approved the following Local Government Immediate Priority Grant to your council:

- \$141 000 – towards the security upgrades for Casuarina Library, that is, replacing the brick wall with a 2.1 metre fence and replacing outdoor flooring with a non-slip surface.

Your council will receive further correspondence from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet regarding payment of this grant.

Yours sincerely

CHANSEY PAECH



18.2 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - GOVERNMENT GAZETTE - DARWIN GENERAL CEMETERY

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Cemetery Closure Gazzetal Notice [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Incoming Correspondence – Government Gazette – Darwin General Cemetery be received and noted.



Northern Territory of Australia

Government Gazette

ISSN-0157-8324

No. G49

8 December 2021



Northern Territory of Australia

*Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012***Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority:
Appointment of Members**

I, Vicki Susan O'Halloran, Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council, under section 10(1)(a) of the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012*:

- (a) appoint Vaughan Rodney Beck to be a member of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (**NT EPA**) from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022; and
- (b) appoint Rodney James Lukatelich to be a member of the NT EPA from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024.

Responsible Minister:

E. D. Lawler
Minister for Environment

V. S. O'Halloran
Administrator

Dated 2 December 2021

Northern Territory Government Gazette No. G49, 8 December 2021



Northern Territory of Australia

Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2014

Appointment of Acting President of Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal

I, Vicki Susan O'Halloran, Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council, under section 13(1)(b) of the *Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2014* and with reference to section 44A of the *Interpretation Act 1978*, appoint Mark Gerard O'Reilly to act as the President of the Tribunal during all periods between 1 January 2022 to 1 April 2022 when Richard Hugh Bruxner is unable to perform the duties of the office.

Responsible Minister:

S. J. M. Uibo
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

V. S. O'Halloran
Administrator

Dated 2 December 2021

Northern Territory Government Gazette No. G49, 8 December 2021



Northern Territory of Australia

*Cemeteries Act 1952***Closing of Cemetery**

I, Chanston James Paech, Minister for Local Government:

- (a) under section 36 of the *Cemeteries Act 1952* (the **Act**) and with reference to section 43 of the *Interpretation Act 1978*, with effect on 14 March 2022, revoke the closing of Darwin General Cemetery made by instrument entitled "Closing of Cemetery" dated 1 April 2003 and published in *Gazette* No. G15 of 16 April 2003; and
- (b) under section 36 of the Act order that, on and from 14 March 2022, burials in Darwin General Cemetery, being Reserve No. 1199, be discontinued except for burials specified in the Schedule.

C. J. Paech
Minister for Local Government

Dated 1 December 2021

Schedule

- 1 Burials in an allotment in the cemetery in respect of which an exclusive right of burial was granted under section 29 of the Act before 1 August 2003.
- 2 Burials in an allotment in the cemetery, in respect of which an exclusive right of burial was granted under section 29 of the Act on or after 1 August 2003 if the exclusive right of burial has been granted to a grantee:
 - (a) who held, immediately before the grant of the exclusive right of burial, an exclusive right of burial (the **former exclusive right of burial**) granted under section 29 of the Act in an allotment in the same cemetery before 1 August 2003; and

Northern Territory Government Gazette No. G49, 8 December 2021

- (b) who surrendered the former exclusive right of burial and, immediately before the surrender, there were no human remains buried and remaining in the allotment in respect of which the former exclusive right of burial was granted, as a result of the exercise of the former exclusive right of burial.



Northern Territory of Australia

Mineral Titles Act 2010

Variation of General Reservation of Land

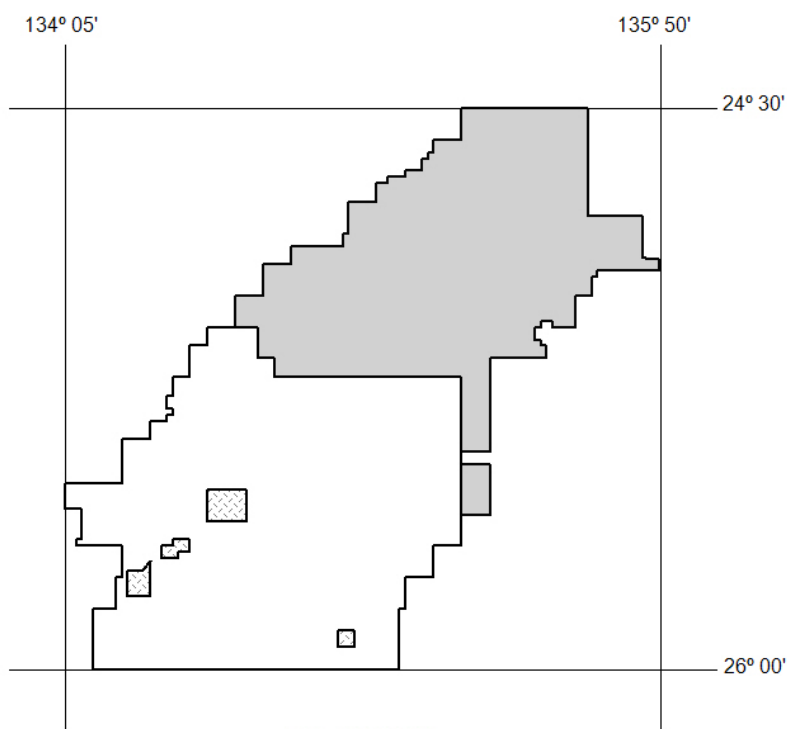
I, Denise Monica Turnbull, Director Mineral Titles, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, as the delegate of the Minister for Mining and Industry, under section 113(4) of the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* and with reference to regulation 92(2) of the *Mineral Titles Regulations 2011* and section 43 of the *Interpretation Act 1978*:

- (a) vary the General Reservation of Land (RL 31283) dated 3 August 2016 and published in Gazette No. S84 of 5 August 2016 by omitting paragraphs (a)(iii), (a)(iv), (a)(v), (a)(vi), (a)(vii), (a)(viii), (a)(ix), (a)(xiii), (a)(xiv), (a)(xvi), (a)(xvii), (a)(xviii), (a)(xix), (a)(xx), (a)(xxii) and (a)(xxiv) of the Reservation, with effect on the date this instrument is published in the *Gazette*; and
- (b) give notice that the variation in paragraph (a) relates to the land shown within thick black lines that is shaded on the plan in the Schedule; and
- (c) state that the reason for the variation of the Reservation is because the land to which the variation in paragraph (a) relates is no longer required for the purpose for which the land was reserved.

D. M. Turnbull
Director Mineral Titles, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
Dated 3 December 2021




Northern Territory Government Gazette No. G49, 8 December 2021

SCHEDULE LOCALITY OODNADATTA



RL 31283
8417 km2

Datum: GDA94

-  Relinquished Area (6334 km2)
-  Retained Area (8417 km2)
-  Excluded from Reserve

Areas excluded from Reserve

Area 1	Area 3
25° 36' 00.000" 134° 37' 00.000"	25° 44' 00.000" 134° 16' 00.000"
25° 31' 00.000" 134° 37' 00.000"	25° 44' 00.000" 134° 18' 28.681"
25° 31' 00.000" 134° 30' 00.000"	25° 24' 25.560" 134° 20' 00.000"
25° 36' 00.000" 134° 30' 00.000"	25° 48' 00.000" 134° 16' 00.000"
	25° 48' 00.000" 134° 16' 00.000"
Area 2	Area 4
25° 40' 00.000" 134° 22' 00.000"	25° 56' 12.044" 134° 56' 13.103"
25° 40' 00.000" 134° 24' 00.000"	25° 53' 26.696" 134° 56' 13.103"
25° 39' 00.000" 134° 24' 00.000"	25° 53' 26.696" 134° 53' 10.262"
25° 39' 00.000" 134° 27' 00.000"	25° 56' 12.044" 134° 53' 10.262"
25° 41' 00.000" 134° 27' 00.000"	
25° 41' 00.000" 134° 25' 00.000"	
25° 42' 00.000" 134° 25' 00.000"	
25° 42' 00.000" 134° 22' 00.000"	

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Northern Territory of Australia

*Traffic Regulations 1999***Authorisation of Analyst**

I, Katherine Joannah Lee, Director Forensic Science Branch, the delegate of the Commissioner of Police, under regulation 60(1) of the *Traffic Regulations 1999*, authorise Sarah Grace Gilley to be an analyst for the purposes of the *Traffic Act 1987*.

Dated 30 November 2021

K. J. Lee
Director Forensic Science Branch

Northern Territory of Australia

*Liquor Act 2019***Notice of Permission for the Consumption of Liquor in City of Darwin Owned Prohibited Public Places**

Under section 200 of the *Liquor Act 2019* and with reference to section 43 of the *Interpretation Act 1978*, City of Darwin revoke the notice entitled "Notice of Permission for the Consumption of Liquor in City of Darwin Owned Prohibited Public Places" dated 27 October 2021 and published in *Gazette* No. G46 of 17 November 2021 and replace as below.

City of Darwin, under section 200 of the Northern Territory *Liquor Act 2019*, gives permission for the consumption of liquor by the public as specified in the following locations. Consumption is only allowed during hours stipulated, within specific locations outlined in the maps attached.

These permissions remain in place until revoked via a notice in the *Gazette*.

Nightcliff Foreshore – Lots 8694; 8657; 8695; 9353; 9647; and 9371 (as per the attached **Map 1** in Schedule 1).

Consumption is only allowed:

- Monday to Friday 5:00pm to 9:30pm; and
- 12:00pm to 10:30pm Saturday and Sunday and Public Holidays.
- A permit system is in place for consumption outside these hours for special events. Permits must be applied for in advance and can be issued by City of Darwin only. Applying for a permit does not guarantee one will be issued and permits once issued are subject to strict conditions.

Mindil Beach Park – Lot 5772 (as per the attached **Map 2** in Schedule 1).

Consumption is only allowed:

- During Mindil Beach Market nights only Thursday and Sunday - 4:00pm to 9:00pm.
- A permit system is in place for consumption outside these hours for special events. Permits must be applied for in advance and can be issued by City of Darwin only. Applying for a permit does not guarantee one will be issued and permits once issued are subject to strict conditions.

East Point Recreation Reserve – Lot 5575 (as per the attached **Map 3** in Schedule 1).

Consumption is only allowed:

- Monday to Friday 5:00pm to 9:30pm and;
- 12:00pm to 10:30pm Saturday and Sunday and Public Holidays.
- A permit system is in place for consumption outside these hours for special events. Permits must be applied for in advance and can be issued by City of Darwin only. Applying for a permit does not guarantee one will be issued and permits once issued are subject to strict conditions.

Bicentennial Park – Lots 5706; 5248; 5249; and 5964 (as per the attached **Map 4** in Schedule 1.)

- A permit system is in place for consumption of liquor for special events. Permits must be applied for in advance and can be issued by City of Darwin only. Applying for a permit does not guarantee one will be issued and permits once issued are subject to strict conditions.

Civic Park – Lot 3981 (as per the attached **Map 5** in Schedule 1.)

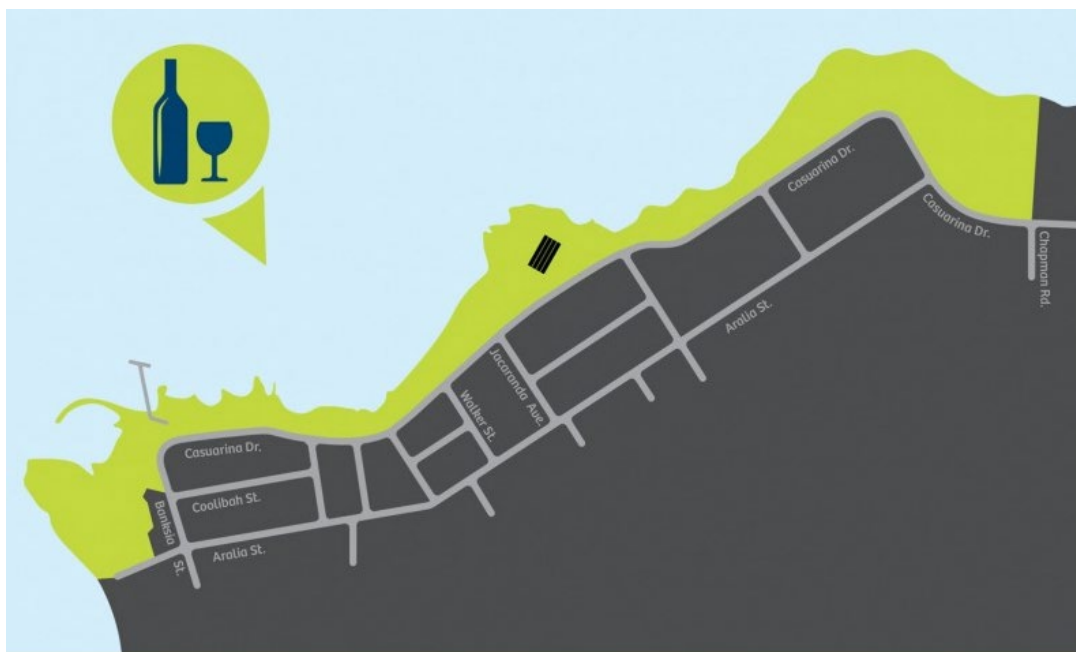
- A permit system is in place for consumption of liquor for special events. Permits must be applied for in advance and can be issued by City of Darwin only. Applying for a permit does not guarantee one will be issued and permits once issued are subject to strict conditions.

Scott Waters
Chief Executive Officer
City of Darwin
Dated: 30 November 2021

Northern Territory Government Gazette No. G49, 8 December 2021

Schedule 1

Map 1: Nightcliff Foreshore



Map 2: Mindil Beach Park



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Map 3: East Point Recreation Reserve



Map 4: Bicentennial Park



Northern Territory Government Gazette No. G49, 8 December 2021

Map 5: Civic Park



Christmas/New Year Publication

The Office of the Parliamentary Counsel will be closed from Monday 27 December 2021 to Monday 3 January 2022 inclusive.

No *Gazette* requests will be actioned during this time.

The last General *Gazette* for 2021 will be published on Wednesday 22 December 2021.

The first General *Gazette* for 2022 will be published on Wednesday 5 January 2022.

The deadline for a Special *Gazette* request on Friday 24 December 2021 is 10.30am. Special *Gazette* requests received after 10.30am on Friday 24 December 2021 will not be actioned until Tuesday 4 January 2022.

Gazette publication information

The Northern Territory Government *Gazette* is published by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

The General *Gazette* is published every **Wednesday**. The closing date for notices is the previous Monday at 12 noon.

Notices will be published in the next issue, unless urgent publication is required.

Special *Gazettes* are published as required.

Gazette publication fees

Fees apply to the publication of notices in the Government *Gazette*.

The cost per notice is as follows:

General *Gazette* (regular timing): \$150

Special *Gazette* (urgent or specific timing): \$400

Submit a Gazette request

A *Gazette* publication request must be submitted using the

For non-government requests please complete this [Gazette request form](#)

18.3 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - MINISTER FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES - UNDERGROUNDING OF POWER SUPPLY IN THE DARWIN REGION

Author: Governance Business Partner

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Incoming Correspondence - Minister for Essential Services [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Incoming Correspondence – Minister for Essential Services – Undergrounding of Power Supply in the Darwin Region be received and noted.



MINISTER FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

City of Darwin
Received Records
19 JAN 2022

Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT 0800
minister.lawler@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8936 5566
Facsimile: 08 8936 5616

The Hon Kon Vatskalis
Lord Mayor
City of Darwin
GPO Box 84
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Lord Mayor *Kon*

Thank you for your recent correspondence in relation to the further undergrounding of power supply in the Darwin region.

In 2018 and as you would be aware, Cyclone Marcus caused widespread and sustained power outages across the Darwin region. The vast majority of these outages were due to damage to the overhead distribution network caused by falling trees onto power lines.

Following restoration of power to the Darwin region, the Government announced Power and Water Corporation would commence a three year program to underground power supply to nine schools in the Northern Suburbs. The nine schools included:

- Alawa Primary School,
- Jingili Primary School,
- Parap Primary School,
- Larrakeyah Primary School,
- Moil Primary School,
- Nemaarluk School,
- St Johns College,
- Stuart Park Primary School, and
- Wagaman Primary School.

Schools were prioritised in order to provide safe places for communities to gather in emergency situations, as well as to ensure our students could return to school quickly following future serious weather events.



- 2 -

Works at the final school concluded in December 2021, and Government is currently considering options for further undergrounding of the network.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eva Lawler', written in a cursive style.

EVA LAWLER

14 JAN 2022

19 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 22 February 2022, at 5:30pm (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section), Council Chambers, Level 1, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin.

20 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

THAT pursuant to Section 65 (2) of the Local Government Act and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Local Government Act:

26.1 Neuron Agreement Six Month Extension

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.

26.2 Lee Point Road Duplication Funding Options

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.

26.3 2022/23 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.

26.4 Endorsement Building Better Regions Fund Round 6 Application

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.

26.5 Citiland Concept Proposal - Bagot Road

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.

26.6 City Safe Patrols - October to December 2021

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.

27.1 On and Off-Street Parking Reserve

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.

21 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON



MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
Tuesday, 7 December 2021**

Reports, recommendations and supporting documentation can be accessed via the City of Darwin Council Website at www.darwin.nt.gov.au, at Council Public Libraries or contact the Committee Administrator on (08) 8930 0670.

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY CHAN AVENUE,
DARWIN
ON TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2021 AT 5:30PM**

- PRESENT:** Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis, Alderman Paul Arnold, Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris, Alderman Justine Glover, Alderman Sylvia Klonaris, Alderman Brian O'Gallagher, Alderman Mick Palmer, Alderman Peter Pangquee, Alderman Morgan Rickard, Alderman Vim Sharma, Alderman Ed Smelt, Alderman Amye Un, Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe
- OFFICERS:** Scott Waters (Chief Executive Officer), Simone Saunders (Chief Financial Officer), Matt Grassmayr (General Manager Community), Joshua Sattler (General Manager Innovation)
- Gemma Perkins (Governance Business Partner), Russell Holden (Executive Manager Finance), Nik Kleine (Executive Manager Program Management), Alice Percy (Executive Manager Growth and Development Services), Katy Moir (Strategic Planning Officer), Fred McCue (Public Relations and External Affairs Advisor), Josie Matthiesson (Manager Marketing and Communications), Joanne Hilliard (Social Media and Communications Officer)
- APOLOGY:** Nil
- GUESTS:** Nil

WEBCASTING DISCLAIMER

The City of Darwin is live webcasting the Open Section of Ordinary Council Meetings. Audio-visual recording equipment has been configured to avoid coverage of the public gallery area and the City of Darwin will use its best endeavours to ensure images in this area are not webcast. However the City of Darwin expressly provides no assurances to this effect and in the event your image is webcast, you will by remaining in the public gallery area be taken to have given the City of Darwin a non-exclusive licence to copy and broadcast your image worldwide for no reward.

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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.

Alderman Justine Glover was not present at the start of the meeting.

Alderman Amye Un was not present at the start of the meeting.

3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**RESOLUTION ORD479/21**

Moved: Alderman Ed Smelt

Seconded: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5.31 pm.

CARRIED 11/0

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**4.1 APOLOGIES**

Nil

4.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Nil

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

Nil

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****RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 114 and 115 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris, declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 18.3.

6.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**RESOLUTION ORD480/21**

Moved: Alderman Vim Sharma

Seconded: Alderman Brian O'Gallagher

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 30 November 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED 11/0

8 MOVING OF ITEMS**8.1 MOVING OF OPEN ITEMS INTO CONFIDENTIAL**

Nil

8.2 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS INTO OPEN

26.3 Parklet Program Update

RESOLUTION ORD483/21

Moved: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Alderman Peter Pangquee

1. THAT the report entitled Parklet Program Update be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse "Concept Option 1" – complete protection with roof structure, for advertisement of the expression of interest process.
3. THAT Council, pursuant to Section 40 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to negotiate and finalise the Parklet lease agreements.
4. THAT this report be deemed a confidential document and be treated as such in accordance with Section 118 of the *Local Government Act 2019* and that the document remains confidential unless Council decides otherwise by resolution.
5. THAT this decision be moved into Open upon endorsement of the preferred concept option.

CARRIED 13/0

27.1 REVIEW OF MINDIL BEACH ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS**RESOLUTION ORD484/21**

Moved: Alderman Morgan Rickard

Seconded: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT the report entitled Review of Mindil Beach Alcohol Restrictions be received and noted.
2. THAT this report be deemed a confidential document and be treated as such in accordance with Section 118 of the *Local Government Act 2019* and that the document remains confidential unless Council decides otherwise by resolution.
3. THAT this decision be moved into Open at the completion of this meeting.

CARRIED 13/0

9 MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / LORD MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

11 PETITIONS

Nil

12 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

Nil

Alderman Justine Glover joined the meeting at 5:33 pm.

Alderman Amye Un joined the meeting at 5:35 pm.

13 NOTICES OF MOTION**13.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - MULTI-CULTURAL PRESENTATION OR INTER-FAITH BLESSING**

I, Alderman Vim Sharma, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 7 December 2021, I will move the following motion:-

RESOLUTION ORD481/21

Moved: Alderman Vim Sharma

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT the Chief Executive Officer or delegate provide a report to Council at the 2nd Ordinary Meeting in February detailing the process of implementing a multi-cultural presentation or inter-faith blessing on a monthly basis at the beginning of the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting for no longer than 15 minutes, this maybe scheduled or on request.

CARRIED 13/0

14 ACTION REPORTS**14.1 1ST BUDGET REVIEW 2021/2022****RESOLUTION ORD482/21**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Alderman Amye Un

1. THAT the report entitled 1st Budget Review 2021/2022 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council amend the 2021/2022 budget in accordance with Section 203 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, as detailed in report entitled 1st Budget Review 2021/2022 and associated attachments one to six.

CARRIED 13/0**14.2 YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES - 11 NOVEMBER 2021 AND AMENDMENT TO TERMS OF REFERENCE****RESOLUTION ORD483/21**

Moved: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

Seconded: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

1. THAT the report entitled Youth Advisory Committee Minutes - 11 November 2021 and Amendment to Terms of Reference be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the amended Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference at Attachment 3.

CARRIED 13/0

14.3 APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVE BODIES AND NOMINATION TO ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**RESOLUTION ORD484/21**

Moved: Alderman Justine Glover

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

1. THAT the report entitled Appointments to External Representative Bodies and Nomination to Animal Welfare Advisory Committee be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the nomination of Alderman Vim Sharma to the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.
3. THAT Council approve the appointment of the following Council Members to External Committees for the period 7 December 2021 to 7 December 2022 as follows:

External Committee	Member	Alternate Member
Council of the Ageing NT Board (COTA)	Alderman Sylvia Klonaris	Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris
Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee	Alderman Morgan Rickard	N/A
Tourism Top End	Alderman Peter Pangquee	Alderman Paul Arnold

CARRIED 13/0**15 RECEIVE & NOTE REPORTS****15.1 2021 PRE-CYCLONE CLEAN UP****RESOLUTION ORD485/21**

Moved: Alderman Brian O'Gallagher

Seconded: Alderman Justine Glover

THAT the report entitled 2021 Pre-Cyclone Clean Up be received and noted.

CARRIED 13/0**15.2 GENERAL RATES REVENUE BY WARD****RESOLUTION ORD486/21**

Moved: Alderman Paul Arnold

Seconded: Alderman Mick Palmer

THAT the report entitled General Rates Revenue by Ward be received and noted.

CARRIED 13/0

15.3 COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021-2023**RESOLUTION ORD487/21**

Moved: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris
Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT the report entitled Communications and Engagement Strategy 2021-2023 be received and noted.

CARRIED 13/0

16 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**RESOLUTION ORD488/21**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis
Seconded: Alderman Morgan Rickard

THAT the following Reports of Representatives be received and noted.

16.1

Alderman Morgan Rickard reported on the dinner with the West Papuan community at the Nightcliff Uniting Church. The Darwin West Papuan community raised the Morning Star, the Independence Flag for the 60th anniversary.

16.2

Lord Mayor reported on the lighting of the Christmas Tree. Thanks to all the Elected Members who participated. Congratulations to Kylie for the excellent event. The event was well attended and the choir was really good.

Lord Mayor also reported on Carols by Candlelight. Amazing performance by local talents. Well presented, 6000 people attended. City of Darwin is the major sponsor for the past 46 years. Well done to all who participated and contributed to the success.

16.3

Alderman Amye Un reported on the cultures in Darwin. Suggestion of exploring a Culture Village.

16.4

Alderman Morgan Rickard reported on the truck giveaway to Tiwi Islands Council. The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer were really appreciative. Well done to the team for making it happen.

Lord Mayor advised that Milikapati has been a Sister City for 40 years. A great gesture and they were appreciative.

16.5

Alderman Sylvia Klonaris congratulated Lord Mayor for the Lord Mayoral Disability Awards. The event was an overwhelming and wonderful event. Would be good to have Nemarluk School attend the entire event.

16.6

Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris reported on the City of Darwin breakfast. The 5th he has attended. Exciting to see staff getting rewarded and particularly those who saved a fellow worker. Good to see the CARES Awards are going in a great direction. Great to get amongst the workers. Thanks to Chief Executive Officer and staff for all the great work for the year, exciting to be part of it.

CARRIED 13/0

17 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**17.1 BINS IN PARKS AND THE COLLECTION SCHEDULE****RESOLUTION ORD489/21**

Moved: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Alderman Vim Sharma

Question

Alderman Sylvia Klonaris queried the process of how bins are allocated in the parks and how frequently they are collected and maintained?

Answer

The General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr responded and advised that there is a program and schedule and took the question on notice.

Alderman Justine Glover advised that the bin was removed from Robyn Lesley Park and that may be the cause.

CARRIED 13/0

17.2 BUFFALO CREEK UPGRADE**RESOLUTION ORD490/21**

Moved: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Alderman Vim Sharma

Question

Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris queried the Aboriginal Area Protection Authority (AAPA) approvals for the Buffalo Creek upgrade.

Answer

The Chief Financial Officer, Simone Saunders responded and advised that City of Darwin has not received an update from Aboriginal Area Protection Authority (AAPA). The Chief Financial Officer to email Elected Members once received.

CARRIED 13/0

17.3 PHOENIX STREET NIGHTCLIFF CAR PARKS**RESOLUTION ORD491/21**

Moved: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Alderman Vim Sharma

Question

Alderman Morgan Rickard requested an update on the car parks on Phoenix Street in Nightcliff and when they would be returned to car parks.

Answer

The Chief Executive Officer responded and advised that the Chief Executive Officer of Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) advised they will come back. Some other topics spoken about was the graffiti stop program. There is great collaboration with City of Darwin and DIPL contractors. There was a conversation about scooters and moving forward with DIPL owned roads.

CARRIED 13/0**17.4 POLICY AND PROCESS ON LANEWAYS****RESOLUTION ORD492/21**

Moved: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Alderman Vim Sharma

Question

Alderman Brian O’Gallagher queried the process regarding laneways and laneways being offered to neighbouring residents.

Answer

The General Manager Community, Matt Grassmayr responded and advised that there is three status of walkways, ongoing 24/7 closure, night time closures and walkways that are open. There is a process for each of those statuses with community consultation. If Council wants to make a decision to permanently close a walkway, Ministerial approval is required. The fourth option is to dispose or sell a walkway, which is a separate process. An unsolicited offer is made, the proposal is put to Council to consider.

Alderman Sylvia Klonaris requested the policy or guideline on laneways. General Manager Innovation, Josh Sattler to provide to Elected Members.

CARRIED 13/0

17.5 FOOTPATH ON HARGRAVE STREET MUIRHEAD**RESOLUTION ORD493/21**

Moved: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Alderman Vim Sharma

Question

Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe queried the status of Hargrave Street footpath. Alderman advised the footpath was previously reported as overgrown and untidy, member advised works have not been undertaken and the footpath is still not clear. When was the path last cleaned and when will it be serviced again and rectified.

Answer

The General Manager, Matt Grassmayr took the question on notice.

CARRIED 13/0**17.6 TRAFFIC ISSUES ON UNION TERRACE****RESOLUTION ORD494/21**

Moved: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Alderman Vim Sharma

Question

Alderman Sylvia Klonaris queried the works on Union Terrace. Not diverting speeding and traffic hazards. Can we review the scope with Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL). There are constant car accidents on Union Terrace.

Answer

The Chief Executive Officer took the question on notice. Technical and Design will be required to do a traffic impact assessment.

CARRIED 13/0**17.7 COMPLAINT REGARDING SCOOTERS****RESOLUTION ORD495/21**

Moved: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Alderman Vim Sharma

Question

Alderman Amye Un followed up a complaint on behalf of a community member regarding scooters.

Answer

The Chief Executive Officer responded and advised that a response will be provided in the next 24 to 48 hours. There are delineations between what City of Darwin can do and Neuron as the operators.

CARRIED 13/0

17.8 CCTV IN STUART PARK**RESOLUTION ORD496/21**

Moved: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Alderman Vim Sharma

Question

Alderman Amye Un requested CCTV in the Stuart Park area.

Answer

The Chief Executive Officer responded and advised that there is currently a CCTV trailer in place. The Assertive Outreach team have been on site to conduct welfare checks with individuals. Assertive Outreach will continue to monitor the area, police have been notified and the CCTV is there.

CARRIED 13/0

18 GENERAL BUSINESS**18.1 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND JUSTICE - REGARDING THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE 2021 REVIEW****RESOLUTION ORD497/21**

Moved: Alderman Mick Palmer

Seconded: Alderman Ed Smelt

THAT the incoming correspondence from the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice regarding the Community Justice Centre 2021 Review be received and noted.

CARRIED 13/0

18.2 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND LOGISTICS - REGARDING APPOINTMENTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AUTHORITY**RESOLUTION ORD498/21**

Moved: Alderman Mick Palmer

Seconded: Alderman Ed Smelt

THAT the incoming correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics regarding the Appointments to the Development Consent Authority be received and noted.

CARRIED 13/0

Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris departed the meeting at 6:31 pm due to a conflict of interest.

18.3 UNDERGROUND POWER LINES

RESOLUTION ORD499/21

Moved: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris
Seconded: Alderman Brian O'Gallagher

THAT Council through the Lord Mayor write to the appropriate Minister requesting an update on the timeframes of undergrounding power in the Suburb of Wagaman, Moil and Berrimah.

CARRIED 12/0

Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris re-joined the meeting at 6:31 pm.

18.4 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

RESOLUTION ORD500/21

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis
Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT Council appoints Alderman Sylvia Klonaris as Deputy Lord Mayor for the period 28 January 2022 to 28 May 2022.

CARRIED 13/0

18.5 RECOGNITION TO GENERAL MANAGER INNOVATION, JOSHUA SATTLER

RESOLUTION ORD501/21

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis
Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

THAT Council acknowledge General Manager Innovation, Joshua Sattler on his contribution to the City of Darwin over the last three years and wish him well in his future endeavours.

CARRIED 13/0

19 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 1 February 2022, at 5:30pm (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section), Council Chambers, Level 1, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin.

20 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT pursuant to Section 65 (2) of the Local Government Act and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Local Government Act:

25.1 Notice of Motion - Governance Health Check

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.

26.1 Civic Centre Redevelopment

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(c)(i) and 51(c)(iii) 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 and information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.

26.2 Dragonfly Carpark Project Completion

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(a) 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.

26.3 Parklet Program Update

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.

27.1 Review of Mindil Beach Alcohol Restrictions

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.

21 Adjournment of Meeting and Media Liaison**RESOLUTION ORD502/21**

Moved: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Alderman Paul Arnold

THAT the open section of the meeting be adjourned at 6.38pm.

CARRIED 13/0

31 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING**RESOLUTION ORD503/21**

Moved: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

THAT the open section of the meeting be resumed at 8.37pm.

CARRIED 13/0

32 CLOSURE OF MEETING**RESOLUTION ORD504/21**

Moved: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

THAT the chair declared the meeting closed at 8.37pm.

CARRIED 13/0

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 December 2021.

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CHAIR



MINUTES

**Special Council Meeting
Monday, 10 January 2022**

Reports, recommendations and supporting documentation can be accessed via the City of Darwin Council Website at www.darwin.nt.gov.au, at Council Public Libraries or contact the Committee Administrator on (08) 8930 0670.

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY CHAN AVENUE,
DARWIN
ON MONDAY, 10 JANUARY 2022 AT 5:30PM**

PRESENT: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis, Alderman Paul Arnold, Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris, Alderman Justine Glover, Alderman Sylvia Klonaris, Alderman Brian O'Gallagher, Alderman Peter Pangquee, Alderman Morgan Rickard, Alderman Vim Sharma, Alderman Amye Un, Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

OFFICERS: Scott Waters (Chief Executive Officer), Simone Saunders (Chief Financial Officer), Matt Grassmayr (General Manager Community), Joshua Sattler (General Manager Innovation)

APOLOGY: Alderman Mick Palmer, Alderman Ed Smelt

GUESTS: Nil

WEBCASTING DISCLAIMER

The City of Darwin is live webcasting the Open Section of Special Ordinary Council Meetings. Audio-visual recording equipment has been configured to avoid coverage of the public gallery area and the City of Darwin will use its best endeavours to ensure images in this area are not webcast. However the City of Darwin expressly provides no assurances to this effect and in the event your image is webcast, you will by remaining in the public gallery area be taken to have given the City of Darwin a non-exclusive licence to copy and broadcast your image worldwide for no reward.

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1 Acknowledgement of Country

2 THE LORD'S PRAYER

3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

RESOLUTION SPE001/22

Moved: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris
Seconded: Alderman Brian O'Gallagher

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:31 pm.

CARRIED 11/0

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION SPE002/22

Moved: Alderman Morgan Rickard
Seconded: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

THAT the apology from Alderman Ed Smelt and Alderman Mick Palmer, be received.

CARRIED 11/0

4.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

NIL

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

NIL

5 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE**5.1 Electronic Meeting Attendance Granted****5.1 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE GRANTED****RESOLUTION SPE003/22**

Moved: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

Seconded: Alderman Brian O'Gallagher

THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 61 (4) of the Local Government Act and Decision No. 21\0009 – 15/04/12, the following member(s) was granted permission for Electronic Meeting Attendance at this Special Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday, 10 January 2022:

- Alderman Justine Glover
- Alderman Peter Pangquee
- Alderman Vim Sharma

CARRIED 11/0

5.2 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

NIL

6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**6.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

NIL

6.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

NIL

7 MOVING OF ITEMS**7.1 MOVING OF OPEN ITEMS INTO CONFIDENTIAL**

NIL

7.1 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS INTO OPEN

NIL

8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS**8.1**

NIL

9 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT pursuant to Section 65 (2) of the Local Government Act and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Local Government Act:

4.1 Commencement of Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Process

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - 51(a) 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.

10 Adjournment of Meeting**RESOLUTION SPE004/22**

Moved: Alderman Brian O'Gallagher

Seconded: Alderman Sylvia Klonaris

THAT the open section of the meeting be adjourned at 5:33pm

CARRIED 11/0

11 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING**RESOLUTION ORD005/21**

Moved: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

Seconded: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

THAT the open section of the meeting be resumed at 6:06pm.

CARRIED 11/0

12 CLOSURE OF MEETING**RESOLUTION SPE006/22**

Moved: Alderman Morgan Rickard

Seconded: Alderman Peter Pangquee

THAT the chair declared the meeting closed at 6.06m.

CARRIED 11/0

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Darwin held on 1 February 2022.

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CHAIR