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 Arweena Smit on (08) 8930 0685.

CITY OF DARWIN

COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 14 APRIL 2014

MEMBERS: Member K J Worden (Chairman); The Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor, Ms K M Fong Lim; Member H I Galton; Member G Lambrinidis; Member A R Mitchell.

OFFICERS: Chief Executive Officer, Mr B Dowd; General Manager Community & Cultural Services, Mr J Banks; Manager Community Development, Ms K Hearn; Executive Assistant, Ms A Smit.

Enquiries and/or Apologies: Arweena Smit
E-mail: a.smit@darwin.nt.gov.au  -  PH: 89300 685
OR Phone Committee Room 1, for Late Apologies  -  PH: 89300 519

Committee’s Responsibilities

* Recreation & Leisure
* Children & Youth
* Arts and Culture
* Community Services & Support
* Human Services
* Community Use of Halls, Ovals,
* Playing Fields, Public Pools and other Council Facilities
* Sister Cities Management Community Committee’s

THAT effective as of 16 April 2012 I, pursuant to Section 32 (2)(b) of the Local Government Act 2008 hereby delegates to the Community & Cultural Services Committee the power to make recommendations to Council and decisions relating to Community & Cultural matters within the approved budget.

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1. **MEETING DECLARED OPEN**

The Chairman declared the meeting open at _____ p.m.

2. **APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

2.1 **Apologies**

() 

THAT the apology from The Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor, Ms K M Fong Lim, be received and a Leave Absence be granted.

DECISION NO.21\() (14/04/14)

3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**

4. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

4.1 **Closure to the Public for Confidential Items**

Common No. 1944604

() 

COMMITTEE’S DECISION

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 following Items:-

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<td>information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person if discussed.</td>
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DECISION NO.21\() (14/04/14)
5. WITHDRAWAL OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

() COMMITTEE’S DECISION

THAT the Committee resolve under delegated authority that all Information Items and Officers Reports to the Community & Cultural Services Committee Meeting held on Monday, 14 April, 2014, be received and considered individually.

DECISION NO.21\() 14/04/14

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES PERTAINING TO THE PREVIOUS COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES MEETING

() COMMITTEE’S DECISION

THAT the Committee resolve that the minutes of the previous Community & Cultural Services Committee Meeting held on Monday, 17 March, 2014, tabled by the Chairman, be received and confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

DECISION NO.21\() 14/04/14

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES PERTAINING TO THE PREVIOUS COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

7.1 Business Arising
8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

8.1 Overview of the Evaluation Framework for the Darwin Safer City Project
Common No. 2407653 (14/04/14)

THAT the presentation from Mr Paul Schott from Paul Schott Enterprises regarding the Overview of the Evaluation Framework for the Darwin Safer City Project, be received and noted.
JINGILI WATER GARDENS SKATE PARK – UPDATE REPORT

REPORT No.: 14C0034 MG:kl COMMON No.: 2200207 DATE: 14/04/2014

Presenter: Manager Liveability, Matt Grassmayr

Approved: General Manager Community & Cultural Services, John Banks

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to table the draft concept design from Convic for the redevelopment of the Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies of the City of Darwin 2012 – 2016 as outlined in the ‘Evolving Darwin Towards 2020 Strategic Plan’:-

Goal 1. Collaborative, Inclusive and Connected Community
Outcome 1.2 Desirable places and open spaces for people
Key Strategies 1.2.1 Enhance places and open spaces

KEY ISSUES

- The initial draft concept design was provided to Council Officers for an internal review.
- Council Officers identified a number of design issues and provided feedback and comment regarding the project.
- All items from the internal review were then discussed with Convic for the draft concept design to be amended to incorporate the recommendations from the review.
- Convic has now submitted the amended Community Draft Concept Report which includes the revised draft concept design for endorsement by Council for public consultation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Committee resolve under delegated authority:-

THAT Report Number 14C0034 MG:kl entitled Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park – Update Report, be received and noted.
BACKGROUND

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Decision No. 21\1681 (10/12/13)

A. THAT Report Number 13C0113 MG:kl entitled Jingili Water Gardens - Skate Park Funding Update, be received and noted.

B. THAT Council engage Convic to develop a concept plan for the redevelopment of the Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park.

Decision No. 21\1408 (10/9/13)

A. THAT Report number 13C0081 MG:kl entitled Jingili Water Gardens – Skate Park Update, be received and noted.

B. THAT a report on the funding status and subsequent redevelopment options be presented to Council on receipt of advice from the Federal Government regarding the outcome of the Regional Development Australia Fund grant application.

C. THAT the Council refer the shortfall of $171,099 for the redevelopment of the Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park, as identified in Report Number 13C0081 MG:kl to the 2013/2014, 1st Quarter Budget Review.

Decision No. 21\1072 (14/5/13)

A. THAT Report number 13C0043 ED:kl be entitled Jingili Water Gardens – Skate Park Update, be received and noted.

B. THAT Council demolish the current skate facility at Jingili Water Gardens and that the additional $53K is allocated from the Chan Ward Capital carry forwards and playground refurbishment funds.

C. THAT the design of the facility be brought back to the 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting in June for endorsement by Council.
DISCUSSION

Convic was engaged by Council to develop the concept design for the redevelopment of the Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park. Convic conducted a site inspection on 22 February 2014 to assess the site, current condition, setting, landscape amenity, access and other associated features and issues.

A pre-design workshop was held 23 February 2014 to engage and consult with stakeholders and the community for the development of the concept design. Geotechnical and feature surveys were commissioned by Council to provide Convic with necessary technical information. Convic prepared an initial draft concept design, developed with reference to the opportunities and constraints of the site, outcomes from the pre-design workshop, the project brief and budget.

Council’s Infrastructure, Parks and Recreation Officers reviewed the initial draft concept design. While overall it was well received, there was a number of issues to be addressed. The review identified safety concerns over the two design elements (open jump and cantilevered half-pipe) and the landscaping features. Recommendations were provided to modify the design to improve access for maintenance, and associated amenities. Consideration was also given to promoting further consultation with the community to determine some additional design features such as the concrete colour palette, grinding rail cut-out pattern and to develop an action plan for graffiti.

Convic was provided with all review comments and feedback for incorporation into a revised draft concept design. The outcome from this process and the subsequent draft concept design are detailed in the Convic Community Draft Concept Report (Attachment A). The draft concept design now requires endorsement by Council to commence the wider community consultation for the project. Following community consultation, a final concept design will be prepared taking into account any comments or feedback from this process.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Council held a Pre-Design Community Consultation workshop on 23 February 2014 to engage with stakeholders and the community for the development of the concept design. The workshop examined current local use, infrastructure requirements, desired features, expectations and future community needs. The workshop was facilitated by Convic with precedent images and recently completed works presented to promote ideas and stimulate discussion.

Convic also held discussions with Council Officers regarding maintenance, planning and management issues.

The following City of Darwin Officers conducted the internal review of the draft concept design:

- Drosso Lelekis – Manager Design, Planning & Projects
In preparing this report, the following External Parties were consulted:

- Nick Loschiavo, Design Manager Convic
- Simon Bogalo, Landscape Architect/Skate Park Designer, Convic

In line with Council’s Community Consultation Policy (No. 25), a three week Level 2 consultation process is required following endorsement of the Draft Concept Design.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The budget for the redevelopment of the Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park is $300,000 ex GST.

Draft concept design expenditure to date totals $21,570, comprising:

- Convic Design – consultation fees $15,000
- Cardno Ullman & Nolan – geotechnical survey $ 6,020
- AAM Group – feature survey $ 4,150

The project budget therefore has a current balance of $274,830.

Convic has provided an estimate of probable cost, $315,000 (Attachment B) for the construction of the skate park based on the draft concept design. This includes $15,000 for synthetic grass requested from the internal review to alleviate maintenance issues. Demolition costs estimated at $23,944 are excluded in the estimate.

City of Darwin has made an application under the Northern Territory Government’s Special Purpose Grants Program for $150,000 for additional funding for the Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park.

**RISK/LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the Author and Approving Officers declare that we do not have a Conflict of Interest in relation to this matter.

MATT GRASSMAYR
MANAGER LIVEABILITY

JOHN BANKS
GENERAL MANAGER
COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES

For enquiries, please contact John Banks on 8930 0633 or email: j.banks@darwin.nt.gov.au.

Attachment A: Convic Community Draft Concept Report
Attachment B: Convic Estimate of Probable Cost
JINGILI WATER GARDENS SKATE PARK

PROJECT NO. 13814
COMMUNITY DRAFT CONCEPT REPORT
APRIL 2014

PREPARED BY CONVIC FOR THE CITY OF DARWIN
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INTRODUCTION

The Jingili, Water Gardens Skate Park upgrade is being designed as a unique, iconic and site responsive multi-purpose, multi-generational facility that aims to complement the existing uses and facilities of the Jingili Water Gardens precinct. This facility will be the central hub for the youth and the broader community of Jingili. It will feature as an active node in a parkland setting, green with the flush of Darwin’s climate.

In January of 2014 CONVIC was engaged by City of Darwin to undertake a community workshop and site analysis of the current skate park within the greater Water Gardens park setting. The workshop included a diversity of community, council members and park users, resulting in a broad spectrum of ideas for the upgrade. As part of the site visit, Convic was invited to interview on 105.7 ABC Radio with Julia Christensen to promote the Jingili Skate Park redevelopment. This proved to be a great platform to promote skate in Darwin and the profile of the Water Gardens site.

The following report outlines the site and spatial analysis of the existing site of the Jingili Skate Park as well as detailing the processes and key outcomes derived from the pre-design community workshop.
SKATE CONTEXT

The City of Darwin and broader urban area have a rich indigenous culture and unique landscape character. The existing skate parks within the local context have been a pivotal part of the youth community for a number of years and evidently have become an essential part of the broader community. The current skate park is in a popular and well loved park setting. The park was initially built in 2001 and is now 13 years old. Its base is asphalt with concrete skate features. It rated low on skateboard.com.au (one out of 5 stars) with poor flow and obsolete features that lack function and do not comply with current trends. It does not keep users interested and fails to inspire ongoing usage.

While in Darwin, CONVIC visited the other local skate parks. There are three existing skate parks/facilities within an hour’s drive of the existing site. These facilities have a mix of street and transition elements. The Leanyer Recreation Park is a significantly larger facility catering to a larger user demographic with additional amenities such as shade structures, seating terraces and other active game components. The skate park caters for beginner users right through to highly advanced. It is interesting and has its own unique character with flow and diversity of features. Palmerston and Village Green skate facilities were fairly outdated designs with limited diversity and lack of progressive street and transition features.

Local skate facilities include:

- Leanyer Recreation Facility - 6.6km (9 mins)
- Palmerston Skate Park - 21.2km (20 mins)
- Village Green Skate Park. Humpty Doo - 37.1km (32 mins)
INTRODUCTION

The location of the facility is crucial in ensuring the future success of this important community asset. In particular the site should have the capability to:

- Create a centralised hub for young people and facilitate users.
- Allow users of different ages to interact with each other.
- Allow users of different abilities to learn from each other.
- Create strong links with other existing community facilities.
- Create a precinct for broader community learning and interaction.

The existing facility is situated at the north-western corner of the greater Water Gardens park that abuts Trower Road. Access to the site is via Freshwater Road. The Water Gardens space includes other community based facilities and activities with significant landscape features such as the ponds, well established trees, lawns and gardens. It contains a regional playground and a suburban level play ground, adequate parking and good circulation and access paths. Its other major significant feature is the nearby Rapid Creek and native river vegetation.

The Water Gardens development site presents an opportunity for Jingili to build on the dynamic and activated community hub, offering recreational and social experiences for all members of the community, from day to day usage to community centred activities and events.
CONTEXT PLAN

LEGEND

1. Existing Skate Park
2. Bus Stop
3. Jingili Residential Community
4. Play Space and Shelter
5. Water Garden + Ponds
6. Car Parking

- Design Boundary
- Regional Destinations
- Pedestrian / Bicycle Site Access
- Rapid Creek
- Key Vehicular Movement
- Existing Fence Line
The location of the skate facility is integral as one of the key recreational facilities for the Jingili residential precinct. Due to its proximity to play areas, existing youth spaces, informal recreation and adequate parking area, the site will continue to have a high level of activity. There are several key entry nodes to the site. These are derived from the intersections of main pedestrian movements. These key circulation pathways through and around the site are considered when designing the space form and functionality.

**HYDROLOGY**

The site has an existing high point from which overland flow falls away and runs into Rapid Creek. The concept design will consider the overland flow of the site during storm events and flooding and drainage of the facility to mitigate localised water pooling.
**VEGETATION**

There is a large number of established trees located within and around the perimeter of the site, with dense native river vegetation along the western perimeter. This vegetation and feature trees help to frame the proposed site of the Water Garden Skate Park while providing a number of informal shade and passive recreation opportunities and iconic landscape aesthetic. These trees will maintain high importance during the development of the concept design.

**EXTERNAL + INTERNAL VIEWS**

The site is visually prominent with excellent passive and active surveillance from the main roads and the car park to the east. External views and vistas allow for users to observe the views towards neighbouring properties and main entry nodes.

It is essential for the design of any youth facility to allow for and encourage clear views into, across and through the site. This creates passive and natural surveillance and discourages anti-social behaviour. There is a number of vantage points into the site that allow these effects to take place. These views are to be maintained and enhanced through the concept development phase.
THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation process is an integral component of the development of a youth precinct and skate space. In order to ensure the success and longevity of these key community assets it is essential to engage with the future users of the space. Through a combination of user group workshops, community meetings, surveys and forums the consultation process aims to empower youth and their communities to take stewardship and pride in their public spaces.

There are two key stages in the consultation process to ensure the client, community, users and stakeholders are all engaged. This will ensure the evolution of a highly resolved strategy or design outcome that is unique to the community for whom it is being developed. The two stages are:

STAGE 1
Information gathering of ideas, issues, requirements etc. To provide direction for the face to face community workshops and understand the demographic and demand in the community via the analysis of data.

STAGE 2:
Community workshops that utilise the key outcomes of the information gathering stage and collaboratively work with the community to further explore themes and develop spatially located design responses.

Utilising these two methods of consultation ensures the evolution of a highly resolved and informed design outcome that is unique to the Jingili community and Water Gardens site. The consultation process also encourages the local community to take an active role in the future design development of the facility, and upon completion become guardians of the space and activate the Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park.
CONSULTATION PROCESS

AIMS

The consultation process is an essential and integral component of the development of youth spaces and skate park facilities. In order to ensure the success and longevity of these key community assets it is crucial to engage with the future users of the space.

The Design Workshop Consultation aimed to:

- Engage with key stakeholders before the design and construction of the new skate space.
- Inform participants about the project’s progress so far.
- View previous exemplar designs from skate park designer, Convic to inform and inspire the participants.
- Gather user information and build user profiles.
- Discuss user requirements to aid the future design.
- Highlight other facilities in the area to indicate the vision for the new facility.
- Have community and users take ownership of the consultation process outcomes.

PROMOTIONAL SCOPE

The consultation aimed to increase the community awareness of the proposed skate space in Jingili and to do so in a public, open and transparent way. Promotional tools to encourage involvement and comments included a flyer and promotion on the City of Darwin website and Facebook page.

DATA HANDLING AND ANALYSIS

The data handling and analysis was carried out by Convic. The workshops were designed to increase inclusiveness and generate data for analysis into themes.

All participants were initially informed of workshop objectives and how the information provided will then be used. All responses are treated in confidence, to ensure the anonymity of respondents. No identifying information is included with any responses for this report.

REPRESENTATION

The views collected in this report are not statistically founded, however they represent the views of some high user groups and nearby residents. Themes presented in this report are derived from workshop contributions and the reliability and validity of these interpretations can be assessed.
**METHODOLOGY**

Workshop sessions can build a sense of community amongst users, stakeholders and residents, and are a useful tool to seek the opinions of a small group, allowing varying contributions and ideas to come together. Unlike a survey, they enable the discussion of complex issues and any possible underlying concerns the community of Jingili may have with regards to design, location and function of the youth facility.

The workshop was structured to allow the process to unfold freely and invite users to make comments, suggestions and commitments towards a common and collective design vision. The workshop was structured as illustrated in the graphic adjacent.
The following pages outline the key results from the Questionnaire Survey undertaken as part of the pre-design workshop.

The results below illustrate the overview of the community profile of participation. Understanding the demographic patterns and trends within the community via the analysis of this data helps to inform the vision for and opportunities of the proposed skate space.

**WHO WAS INVOLVED?**

- **23 PARTICIPANTS**
  - **5 GIRLS**
  - **18 GUYS**
  - **0 AGED 5-10**
  - **6 AGED 11-15**
  - **7 AGED 16-20**
  - **10 AGED 21+**

**SUMMARY:**
The event had a good turn out, with the majority of participants being males over the age of 21.

**ARE YOU A...**

- **15 SKATEBOARDER**
- **3 BMX**
- **2 SCOOTER RIDER**
- **0 INLINE SKATER**
- **2 SPECTATOR**
- **0 PARENT/GUARDIAN**
- **1 LOCAL RESIDENT**
- **1 OTHER (ROLLER SKATER)**

**SUMMARY:**
Different parks can favour different style users, for example, jumps boxes more often appeal to scooter and BMX riders, whereas ledges and rails often appeal more to skateboarders. With this understanding, the questionnaire identified a high level of skateboarders, indicating the park should take on a style that appeals to and meets these user needs.
DEVELOP USER PROFILES

SUMMARY:
The results show that participants utilise skate parks throughout the entire day. This illustrates the skate space design will need to consider amenity provision that supports functionality throughout the day.

The most popular use time was identified as 5-10pm. In order to extend activation into these later hours, especially during the dry season, consideration should be made with respect to lighting for the skate space.

SUMMARY:
The majority of the participants are of an intermediate level, with several advanced and four beginner users making up the group. This is a consideration for the design of the skate space and manifest as responses in obstacles that appeal to the identified user groups. For example medium height transitions etc. would be more appropriate for the new park, to cater to the existing user group while enjoying skill progression.

It is necessary to provide for skill progression within the space. This is to allow the identified beginner level users to progress to intermediate level, by providing specific features and obstacles that cater for all users. Similarly, to be able to attract new beginners, lower obstacles should be included in the design.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY YOUR SKILL LEVEL IS?

BEGINNER: 4
INTERMEDIATE: 12
ADVANCED: 7

WHAT TIME DO YOU USUALLY GO FOR A ROLL AT THE SKATE PARK?

0-7AM: 3
7-12PM: 5
12-5PM: 9
5-10PM: 15
10PM-12AM: 6
12AM-12PM: 9
12-5PM: 12
5-10PM: 15
10PM-12AM: 6
SUMMARY:
The majority of participants live in and around the Jingili area and live within a close enough distance to the proposed site for it to become a space that will be utilised on a regular basis. 15 of the participants live within a 10min drive of the space and for at least 7 of the participants the new park will become their closest local park.

SUMMARY:
The majority of participants have been identified as direct active users, with several riding on a daily basis. This illustrates a high number of participants that will directly utilise the proposed skate facility.

The active user participants will have a direct understanding of user requirements, an understanding of existing facilities and any gaps within the current facility provision across the region.
SUMMARY:
When asked ‘which skate facility is your local park,’ the majority of participants identified the existing Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park and Leanyer Recreation Facility. While Jingili has been identified as in need of re-development to improve its function and safety, Leanyer is a combination style, consisting of street elements and bowl style transitions. With this in mind, it is key to provide something different in style in order to create new challenges and cater for a different style and broader spectrum of use regionally.

Of note was that Darwin High School and the nearby tennis courts were identified as local spots. This indicates that some users are leaning to a more street/plaza style facility.

WHERE IS YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE TO RIDE AND WHY?

KATHERINE
SMOOTH WITH GREAT FLOW

DARWIN HIGH SCHOOL
BECAUSE THERE IS SHADE

PALMERSTON
BECAUSE IT HAS GOOD QUARTER PIPES

PORT AUGUSTA
STREET PLAZA

LEANYER
IT HAS A BIT OF EVERYTHING

JINGILI
CLOSE AND SUITABLE FOR BMX

FRANKSTON
IT HAS EVERYTHING

RAMPS

SUMMARY:
This “word cloud” gives greater prominence to the words that appeared most frequently within the participants’ answers. Most answers included:
• Leanyer which is a local park of a transition/street style.
• Palmerston which consists of both street and transition. Most comments related to the transition elements within this park.
• Street spots within the city and surrounding area, which identifies a lack of interesting and challenging street/plaza style parks within the area, thus users are searching and seeking for skateable spots within the area.
• Many of the comments leaned towards a park with a combination of everything rather than being just transition or street.

WHAT IS YOUR LOCAL SPOT?

12
JINGILI

10
LEANYER

4
PALMERSTON

1
VILLAGE GREEN

1
TENNIS COURTS

2
DARWIN HIGH SCHOOL
DESIGN WORKSHOP

The design workshop is an integral component of the community consultation and engagement process. At this point, participants are immersed in the consultation process and directly involved in creating ideas and presenting them. This builds a community based response to the process and develops a sense of value in their ideas, opinions and feedback that engenders ownership of the process.

Participants were organised into groups of five or six and asked to work corroboratively to create their new skate park. The design workshops centred around the question, ‘What do you want the Jingili Skate Park to be?’ The aim was for participants to take the selected items and obstacles from the presentation and develop creative design ideas and solutions by creating a space and linking obstacles together to form a collective thoughtful response. Each group consisted of a mix of participants from young people to more mature; riders, parents, stakeholders and other community. The mix in each group ensured a diversity of discussion, ideas and building of a general consensus.

The results saw an extensive range of creative and innovative responses, whether written, drawn or using reference images. Each group then presented their site plan/ideas to the room. After the completion of all presentations everyone had the opportunity to discuss their favourite idea(s).
IDEAS FOR YOUR PARK?

From the design workshop and the community consultation handouts, overall themes start to develop from participants. These show recurring patterns and ideas within their designs. The following tables illustrate the results of the participants’ favourite listed and drawn features. Please consider that participants voted for more than one response.

**TOTAL VOTES:** 37

**COMMENTS:**
A significant number of votes were made in this area, especially with regards to mini-ramps and bowl transition elements. This indicates a high demand for a transition style skate park. There was also many votes for hip components within the facility.

**NEW “TRADE IN” IDEAS:**

**TOTAL VOTES:** 54

**COMMENTS:**
Street obstacles have received a higher vote count in total than transition skate obstacles. This indicates a specifically higher demand for a street/plaza style skate facility.

**NEW “TRADE IN” IDEAS:**
There was a relatively low mention of amenities, with the majority of participants being heavily skate-focused, looking for a smooth concrete surface finish. Given that, seating was identified along with shade trees and BBQ amenity areas. The key material selection identified concrete for the obvious reasons of quality, robustness and malleability with regard to forms, transitions and features.

**NEW “TRADE IN” IDEAS:**

- ART WALL
From the design workshop and the handout sheets, overall themes start to develop from participants. These show recurring patterns and ideas within their designs.

The results are as shown in the adjacent infographic. The recurring elements are highlighted in green. The majority of these elements lend themselves to a combination of street plaza and transition style integrated skate space.

THE MAIN IDEAS ARE...
KEY CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Following the collation of the participant feedback, the key outcomes are outlined thematically below. These themes will be used to develop the design objectives that will provide the foundation for the development of the design for the new Jingili Water Gardens skate space.

UNIQUE, INTERESTING SKATE ELEMENTS
Acknowledging the current user style, the aesthetic, technical and materiality of obstacles should appeal to a plaza street style, and with consideration given to sculptural and unique rideable pieces, particular street elements should include: kicker to kicker gaps, ledges, manual pads and rails.

Transition should also be included within the design in order to provide flow throughout the skate park. Key elements should include: a mini ramp, quarter pipes and hips.

The facility should be designed to cater for a range of abilities, allowing users to progress in the facility by developing their skills from a beginner to an intermediate level in a safe and creative manner.

A COMBINATION OF STREET AND TRANSITIONS
The majority of participants at the workshop forum wished to have a park that combined a street style park with transitions. A skate park in this form would increase flow and a number of the above-mentioned elements would be combined to create a series of skateable lines that would allow a variety of different users at different skill levels to utilise the park at one time.
SUPPORTING AMENITIES
To ensure a central community space with comfort for users, the facility should offer a number of social opportunities. The provision of areas of shade and refuge through the day should be considered. This can be supported by utilising the existing mature trees.

The inclusion of timed lights should be considered for the facility. This will assist in activating the facility particularly during the build-up and wet season, in order to avoid the heat of the day and to maximise potential activation in dry season.

ALL INCLUSIVE FACILITY
An all inclusive facility will ensure the skate space is safe and accessible for all, to allow for activation by a variety of events and a range of user opportunities. This includes, but is not limited to, art programs for the youth of Jingili to be involved in changing the look of their space and areas to gather, meet and learn.

INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE
The facility design will be integrated into the existing landscape context of the Jingili Water Gardens precinct, considering the physical and aesthetic links made between the skate park and the landscape design in order to create a holistically integrated facility for the use by the broader community.

Using the surrounding mature trees within the design is essential, due to their existing shade and landscape qualities. Participants discussed how seating elements, BBQs and drinking fountains could be utilised in the design to create a more desirable and user friendly destination.
DESIGN VISION

Using the key outcomes from the consultation workshops, as well as the findings of the site analysis, a design vision has been created to drive the future direction of the Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park.

The Jingili Skate Park is to be of a local level facility, offering a number of recreational and social opportunities for the Darwin community.

Acknowledging the diversity of current user styles, the design of the facility will look to incorporate a number of technical street skate elements, together with the inclusion of flow style elements. The facility will also seek to cater to a range of abilities, allowing users to progress through the facility in developing their skills from a beginner to intermediate level in a safe and creative manner.

The design will be integrated into the existing landscape context and allow for connections within the Jingili Water Gardens and surrounding community, considering the physical and aesthetic links made between the skate space and the existing site nodes in order to create a holistically integrated facility for use by the greater community.

The skate space will also offer a number of social opportunities, with natural shaded refuge areas incorporating some of the surrounding established trees, with the potential to be activated by community events, competitions and workshops. The inclusion of timed lights would also assist in activating the space, particularly during the build-up and wet season in order to avoid the heat of the day.
Three main ‘Skate Zones’ have been developed to best activate the space in a way that responds to the landscape character and the community consultation feedback: ‘Transition’, ‘Street Creative’, and ‘Secondary Street’.

The main flow is directed to-and-fro allowing access to multiple skate elements with minimal pushing. Secondary flow permeates through the three main skate zones and opens up a more self determinant creative path.

The facility is designed to cater for a range of abilities, allowing users to progress in the space by developing their skills, from a beginner to an intermediate level, in a safe and creative manner across a variety of features and elements.

The Skate Park is integrated into a landscape framework, set within the broader existing established trees to the North to maximise shade and form an iconic visual aesthetic. The skate park has been left open along the Eastern and Southern extents to allow views into the area to promote natural surveillance.

The facility layout has three main skate hubs that are located evenly throughout the space to provide rest/viewing areas. A passive recreation zone flanks the skate park to the south; this responds to the central skate hub and allows interaction both north and south with links into the greater Water Gardens park.
CONCEPT DESIGN EVOLUTION

The draft concept design for the redevelopment of the Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park was reviewed by City of Darwin’s Chief Officers’ Group and was generally well received. The following outcomes of this review have been addressed within the amended design.

1. Concerns with the cantilevered half-pipe: issue with turf growing and maintenance; low CPTED as it provides an opportunity to hide.
   This has been addressed by introducing a 1:6 graded earth batter. This eliminates the cantilever and mitigates CPTED issues.

2. Safety concerns over the surrounding boulders and the open jumps feature in the draft concept design.
   The boulders within the landscape have been removed from the scope of works. The kicker to kicker is one of the key features of the skate park and it is agreed between City of Darwin and Convic that it will remain.

3. Lack of shade, lighting and power outlets in the draft concept design.
   A draft additional amenities plan has been provided to indicate where the items listed may be located if additional funding is secured by City of Darwin. Refer to the ‘Draft Additional Amenities Layout Plan’.

4. Grinding rail with jagged steel cut-outs could be laser cut to a theme/style determined through a community art project.
   Convic agrees that the down rail (item 8 on the draft concept design) may form part of a community art strategy overlay.

5. Consideration for maintenance issues for mowing.
   Earth batter grades of 1:6 and the inclusion of an artificial turf strip around the top of the proposed banks and transitions addresses issues of maintenance.

6. No BBQs - will attract the wrong type of park user.
   No BBQs have been included in the draft concept design. They may form part of the broader park development.

7. New bubbler and water refill station.
   The existing drinking fountain will be replaced with a new water bubbler and water bottle refill station. The associated cost of this will be included within the existing budget.

8. Graffiti - allow graffiti to happen and only intercede if it is offensive.
   Artwork on the skate park may form part of the community art strategy overlay. A maintenance plan can be provided as part of construction documentation so that painting the skatepark does not affect function or condition of the facility surfaces.

9. Drainage - adequate drainage needs to be included in the design to alleviate the problems experienced by the existing skate park.
   The draft concept design of the Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park will integrate into the existing levels and have sufficient positive cross falls/drainage to mitigate surface ponding and address overland flow.

10. Coloured concrete - suggestion to open this up to community consultation.
    Engaging the community to be a part of the colour palette selection may form a part of the community art strategy. Convic will assist by providing a colour palette to select from to ensure the resulting selection does not have a significant cost impact.

11. Emergency vehicle access will be required.
    This can be developed through the design process. A hardstand emergency vehicle access point from Trower Road will have a cost implication.

12. A shaded area for parents to sit nearby, in the same design theme as the skate park.
    A draft additional amenities plan has been provided to indicate where these items can be located if additional funding is secured by City of Darwin. Refer to the ‘Draft Additional Amenities Layout Plan’. This may also be part of a broader landscape and tree planting strategy.
COMMUNITY DESIGN INPUT

As part of City of Darwin’s review it was suggested that the community be involved in the design process by having the opportunity to select concrete colours, design the pattern for the steel inlay under the down rail and have a number of different workshops to include a series of artworks on the surface of the Jingili Skate Park. The following imagery gives examples that can be presented to the community in future consultation workshops.

CONCRETE COLOUR

GRIND RAIL LASER CUT ARTWORK

PUBLIC ART
CONCLUSION

The draft concept design looks to form a unique skate park and community space that ties into the existing Jingili Water Gardens and greater community recreational framework. The draft design responds directly to the community workshop outcomes and comments.

The design acknowledges the diversity of current user styles, by incorporating a number of technical street skate elements, together with the inclusion of flow style elements. The facility caters for a range of abilities, allowing users to progress through the facility, developing their skills from a beginner to an intermediate level in a safe and creative manner.

The draft concept design responds to the strong local and natural character of the area to create a unique space for the community of Jingili. It overlays passive refuge areas and an integrated landscape response for what will become an iconic, integrated and activated community hub.

The concept creates a unique, iconic, creative and contextually responsive, multi-generational, all ability and skill levels facility. It offers a number of social opportunities, with shaded refuge areas incorporating the surrounding established trees, with the potential to be activated by community events, competitions and workshops.

NEXT PHASE

The draft concept will be issued to the CDG working group for review and comment. Upon Council approval of the draft concept design of the Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park, community consultation will be arranged in collaboration with City of Darwin to vet the design and seek additional feedback. This is the next phase of community engagement prior to final concept design.

Convic will summarize the draft concept feedback from the community consultation and develop the draft concept to Final Concept Design for final community presentation and Council approval.
**PROPOSED YOUTH FACILITY WORKS**

### PRELIMINARIES (EXCLUDING DEMOLITION)
Including insurances, mobilisation, site establishment, earthworks, project management, travel and demobilization.

$72,270.00

### SKATE PARK WORKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Platforms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transitions/Banks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cantilevered Transitions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hubbas/Blocks/Metal Skate/Grind</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom Concrete Seating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connection Pathways</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### SOFT WORKS LANDSCAPING
Topsoil and preparation
Instant Turf

$11,250.00

### PROVISIONAL ITEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1x Proprietary bin enclosure and base</td>
<td>$14,030.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1x Entry Sign</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1x Drinking Fountain and Refill Station</td>
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### DESIGN
Design Development and Construction Documentation

$18,000.00

### ORIGINAL DRAFT CONCEPT SUBTOTAL (EX. GST)

$300,000.00

### ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REQUESTED ITEMS 26.03.14

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>130m2 Artificial Turf</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NEW TOTAL WITH REQUESTED ITEMS (EX. GST)

$315,000.00

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**Note:** Convic have based the Skate Facility costs on recently tendered projects. This is an estimate of probable costs only, all components of which are subject to escalation in construction, labour and material costs. Prices submitted at tender may vary according to market demand at the time of tender by +/-10%.

This estimate of probable cost is based on currently available industry prices. Skate park construction is a specialised trade and costs are prone to fluctuation.
MINUTES YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP MEETING 5 FEBRUARY 2014 & 5 MARCH 2014

REPORT No.: 14C0026 BG:rv COMMON No.: 2752006 DATE: 14/04/2014

Presenter: Community Events and Resources Officer, Britt Guy

Approved: General Manager Community & Cultural Services, John Banks

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the February 2014 (Attachment A) and March 2014 (Attachment B) meetings of the Youth Advisory Group for Council’s consideration.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies of the City of Darwin 2012 – 2016 as outlined in the ‘Evolving Darwin Towards 2020 Strategic Plan’:-

Goal
1 Collaborative, Inclusive and Connected Community

Outcome
1.2 Community inclusion supported

Key Strategies
1.1.2 Develop equitable and accessible community participation opportunities

KEY ISSUES

- Minutes of the Youth Advisory Group meetings of 5 February and 5 March 2014

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Committee resolve under delegated authority:-

THAT Report Number 14C0026 BG:rv entitled Minutes Youth Advisory Group Meeting 5 February 2014 and 5 March 2014, be received and noted.
BACKGROUND

The Youth Advisory Group meet monthly to provide Council with advice on projects and programs for young people within the municipality.

DISCUSSION

The main subjects for discussion at the 5 February 2014 meeting of the Youth Advisory Group were the Youth Services Update and the YAG Review Session.

The main subjects for discussion at the 5 March 2014 meeting of the Youth Advisory Group were the Community Wellbeing Plan, the YAG Review Session and National Youth Week 2014.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

In preparing this report, the following parties were consulted:

- Youth Advisory Group

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK/LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil
COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the Author and Approving Officers declare that we do not have a Conflict of Interest in relation to this matter.

BRITT GUY
COMMUNITY EVENTS & RESOURCES OFFICER

JOHN BANKS
GENERAL MANAGER
COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES

For enquiries, please contact John Banks on 8930 0633 or email: j.banks@darwin.nt.gov.au.

Attachment A: Minutes Youth Advisory Group 5 February 2014
Attachment B: Minutes Youth Advisory Group 5 March 2014
1. Meeting opened
Meeting opened at 5pm.

2. Welcome
Abbey Bradhurst (Chair, Minutes) CoD Youth Services Trainee
Maruop Bol YAG Member
Alexa Morris-Lovell YAG Member
Angus Robson YAG Member
Matt Schobben YAG Member
Lang Williamson YAG Member
Alderman George Lambrinidis Alderman
Britt Guy Community Events & Resource Officer
Diara Croker Community Development Trainee

3. Apologies
Gabby White YAG Member
Madeleine Tait YAG Member
Danielle Broster YAG Member
Krshna Capaque YAG Member
Felix Baker YAG Member
Manuel Lemos YAG Member

4. Business Arising

4.1 Youth Services Update – Britt Guy
The Loud and Clear Youth Strategy 2009 - 2014 will finish this year. Consultation will start this year to commence development of Council’s youth strategy for 2015 - 2020. The new LAUNCH Youth Events Coordinators have started their training and will be running the first pop-up gig for the year on 21 March. The LAUNCH music skill-development program continues to run at Bagot Community, with Skinnyfish Music helping to deliver the program as partner. The gig gear is currently being switched over to the new equipment.

4.2 Introductions – Whole Team
The group took part in an exercise where they answered the following five questions and presented to the group:
1. Why did you join YAG in the first place?
2. What are three skills that you bring to the table?
3. Name a current issue you are interested in, and why.
4. What is something you want YAG to achieve in 2014?
5. What would your ideal Youth Advisory Group look like?

This exercise got the YAG members thinking about YAG’s possibilities for 2014. The team voiced that they would like for YAG to have greater recognition in the community, to be a well-known point of contact for all issues relating to youth in Darwin and to be better connected with the greater community. This led into the YAG Review Session.
4.3 YAG Review Session – Abbey Bradhurst and Britt Guy

The team decided that as young people we often experience older people telling us what to do. YAG should be about empowering other young people and getting involved with youth issues. Four areas were focused on for this YAG review.

Advocacy
YAG resolved that they wanted to be more active in seeking out opportunities to advocate for young people. It was noted that the NT Government often invites comment through mediums such as the Gazette. It was raised that the youth organisations and advisory groups in Darwin should be better connected. The idea of a youth conference was raised, perhaps beginning as a Darwin conference and then expanding to a national scale.

Consultation
YAG members are interested in seeking out people who they think would be good guest speakers to present at YAG. They should provide YAG with some information in the form of a briefing, received well enough in advance to allow enough time for the members to make an informed decision.

Structure
It was decided that YAG would like the chairperson of each meeting to be given more responsibility. Prospective chairpersons should be provided with some skill-building so they feel comfortable running the meeting. The chairperson would also be responsible for writing the agenda and managing the meeting time effectively.

Recruitment
This meeting was the last for 5 members. YAG would like to approach other youth organisations (a few mentioned included Headspace and Agents of YE AH!) in order to help find new prospective members. Advertising through sports/school newsletters and social media would also be effective methods. It was also suggested that a ‘YAG Alumni’ page be created on the GRIND website, to encourage prospective members. The other areas for the review will be brought to the next YAG meeting. These include Logo, Branding and Goals.

Action: Letters to be sent to 5 members finishing with YAG to thank them for their contribution.

5. Other Business
Maruop shared information about a concert by musician Patrick Johnson that would be happening on 8 February in Casuarina. Alexa also shared that she and Angus would be taking part in the World’s Greatest Shave, and are welcoming donations towards their efforts which will go towards cancer research.

6. Meeting Closed
Meeting closed at 7pm.
Youth Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes
5 March 2014

1. Meeting opened
Meeting opened at 5.13pm.

2. Welcome
Joyce Akena YAG Member
Natasha Brennfleck YAG Member
Alexa Morris-Lovell YAG Member
Matt Schobben YAG Member
Madeleine Tait YAG Member
Chody Lemos YAG Member
Abbey Bradhurst (Chair, Minutes) Youth Services Trainee
Britt Guy Community Events Resource Officer
Diara Croker Community Development Trainee
Sharon Kamber Observer
Komal Ahmad Observer
Frances McCarthy Observer
Casandrah Dzungayira Observer
Domino Bidwee Observer
Kierra-Jay Power Observer

3. Apologies
Maruop Bol YAG Member
Krshna Capaque YAG Member
Gabby White YAG Member
Alderman George Lambrinidis Alderman

4. Business Arising

4.1 Consultation – Community Wellbeing Plan
Amber Herrmann, the Healthy Communities Coordinator, spoke to the Youth Advisory Group about the new Community Wellbeing Plan. Amber asked YAG about what health issues concern the group, and what personally makes each member feel healthy. Topics raised included:

- Understanding nutrition and daily intake
- Sexual health
- Body image and eating disorders
- Information about health to be more accessible to young people

4.2 General Business – YAG Review
The YAG review from the last meeting was continued. It was decided that a process for consultation is to be put in place, where organisations submit information about their proposed consultation to YAG a week in advance. The Chairpersons for the rest of the year were also decided: Madeleine Tait for April – June, Natasha Brennfleck for July – September and Chody Lemos for October – December. Regarding recruitment for YAG, more flyers and posters to be placed around the community, including notice boards at the University.

Regarding goals, YAG decided on the following issues to focus on over the year:
• Cultural and social change surrounding binge drinking
• Sexual health and reducing stigma
• Education and the recent Government changes
• Training regarding public speaking, time management, and resume writing
• Fundraising and volunteering, working with Dili
• Support for students in year 12 including public study groups and online tutoring
• Disability awareness and education

Logo and branding was also discussed. YAG decided they would like a new logo, which will be discussed further at the next meeting.

4.3 Key Project – Youth Week
Britt gave YAG an overview of what the LAUNCH @ Youth Week event is. YAG decided that they would like to contribute by providing activities in an informal setting at the event, including games, to encourage conversations about YAG. YAG also decided they would like to submit a team into the Youth Homelessness Matters Day Couch Surfing Race.

5. Other Business
This meeting was the last for YAG member Alexa Morris-Lovell. Alexa also shared that applications are now open for the Australian Youth Parliament (AYP), and would pass on information to the group via email.

Action: A letter to be sent to Alexa thanking her for her contribution to YAG.

6. Meeting Closed
Meeting closed at 7pm.
MINUTES DILI SISTER CITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 25 FEBRUARY 2014

REPORT No.: 14C0030 HB:rv COMMON No.: 2754607 DATE: 14/04/2014

Presenter: Senior Community Development Officer - Liveability, Hayley Barich

Approved: General Manager Community & Cultural Services, John Banks

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Dili Sister City Community Committee Meeting (Attachment A) 25 February 2014 for Council’s information.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies of the City of Darwin 2012 – 2016 as outlined in the ‘Evolving Darwin Towards 2020 Strategic Plan’:-

Goal 4 Historic and Culturally Rich City

Outcome 4.2 Community life rich in creativity

Key Strategies 4.2.2 Embrace national and international relationships

KEY ISSUES

- Minutes of the Dili Sister City Community Committee.
- Report from volunteers on exchange to Dili.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Committee resolve under delegated authority:-

THAT Report Number 14C0030 HB:rv entitled Minutes Dili Sister City Community Committee 25 February 2014, be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

The Dili Sister City Community Committee meet regularly to provide advice to Council in ways in which it can strengthen its relationships with Dili, Greece.
DISCUSSION

The Dili Sister City Community Committee met 25 February 2014. At this meeting the Committee received feedback from the two volunteers and project supervisors who had recently returned from the Darwin to Dili section of the youth exchange. The two volunteers provided the Committee with ideas and suggestions for future exchanges. The Committee discussed the Committee Focus, Trilateral Agreement and the upcoming Harmony Day celebrations.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

In preparing this report, the following External Parties were consulted:

- Dili Sister City Community Committee

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

RISK/LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the Author and Approving Officers declare that we do not have a Conflict of Interest in relation to this matter.

HAYLEY BARICH
SENIOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - LIVEABILITY

JOHN BANKS
GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES

For enquiries, please contact John Banks on 89300633 or email: j.banks@darwin.nt.gov.au.

Attachment A: Minutes Dili Sister City Community Committee Meeting 25 February 2014
1. Meeting Open 12.45pm

2. Present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Bailey</td>
<td>Community representative, Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alderman Bob Elix</td>
<td>Elected Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alderman Jeannette Anictomatis</td>
<td>Elected Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigid O'Bryan</td>
<td>Youth volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Haubirck</td>
<td>Youth volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Gosling</td>
<td>Community representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine Sushames</td>
<td>Community representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayley Barich</td>
<td>Acting Manager Community Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Apologies

Mick Hutton

4. Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting held Tuesday 19 November 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record.


5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1. Darwin and Dili Youth Exchange – Report: Mr Matthew Haubirck and Ms Brigid O'Bryan

Brigid and Matt provided an overview of their projects in Dili and the key learning’s resulting from the exchange. Both mentioned language barriers as something that restricted their progress. It was noted that the length of the exchange meant it was a cultural exchange rather than an exchange of skills. Both recommended extending the exchange to four weeks and starting the relationship building via email, and phone prior to commencing the exchange. Both agreed that the exchange was a fantastic learning experience and that it was inspiring to work with Action for Change Foundation in Dili. There was a suggestion that a local supervisor, who spoke the language and knew the culture, would be a good option to overcome the language barriers.

5.2. 10 Year Anniversary Celebrations – Minutes from Workshop

The Committee reviewed the key outputs of the workshops which were:
- City of Darwin and the Dili District Administration will continue to maintain the current Sister City Agreement (ongoing).
- An interim arrangement between City of Darwin and the Central Government during the process of decentralization will be developed (to be presented to Council 25 February).
- City of Darwin will seek to participate in the upcoming Waste Management Conference in Dili (completed 15/11/14 – General Manager Infrastructure attended and spoke at conference and undertook site visits of Dili’s waste operations).
- Darwin will be invited to participate in the 150 year anniversary of the city of Dili to be held in 2014 (deferred).

5.3. Interim Engagement Agreement

Proposed Decision: THAT … Council endorse the Interim Engagement Agreement between City of Darwin, Dili District Administration and the Central Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

This proposed recommendation will be presented to Council at their next meeting 25 February 2014.

5.4. Focus for the 2012 – 2014 Term – Recommendations from recent trip

Decision No.21\1012 THAT … Council focus on reinvigorating the municipal level relationships with the Dili District Administration for the 2013/2014 term.

Hayley reported that she undertook a number of meetings with stakeholders in Dili to discuss the potential waste management mentoring program. All meetings were positive, however still a number of logistics to work through. The Committee agreed to continue investigating the waste management mentoring project and present a project proposal to the Committee once it is ready.

5.5. Sister City Joint Events – Harmony Day March 2014

Council’s Sister Cities program will host an Art Exhibition and cultural showcase 21 March at the Community Art Space and Civic Centre Function Room. Council is seeking volunteers to assist with meet and greet, food and beverage service, etc on the night.

Action: Hayley to organise for a roster to be sent out to volunteers advising of duties for the night.

5.6. Trilateral Agreement – John Banks/ Lord Mayor

Decision No.21\1532 THAT … Council engage with the Northern Territory Government and support discussions of a trilateral agreement between Northern Australia, Eastern Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

Item to remain on the table.

6. General Business

6.1. Sister Cities Australia Delegate Report
Lorraine spoke to her report. Received and noted by the Committee.

6.2. **Update from Timorese Consulate**

Awaiting appointment of the candidate. Item will remain a standing agenda item.

6.3. **Financial Update**

The Committee has $2500 available to commit to projects. Funds must be committed by 30 June 2014.

6.4. **Any Other Business**

Lorraine will be travelling to Timor-Leste over the next coming months. ACF have advised that they are in need of more computers, particularly lap tops. John raised the idea of a mobile phone project with ACF.

**Action:** John to provide a mobile phone project proposal for the next meeting.

7. **Meeting Closed 1.32pm**

8. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Date: Tuesday 15 May  
Time: 12:30pm  
Venue: Meeting Room 1, Level 1, City of Darwin Civic Centre
MINUTES KALYMNOS SISTER CITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 27 FEBRUARY 2014

REPORT No.: 14C0031 HB:rv COMMON No.: 2754658 DATE: 14/04/2014

Presenter: Senior Community Development Officer - Liveability, Hayley Barich

Approved: General Manager Community & Cultural Services, John Banks

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Kalymnos Sister City Community Committee Meeting (Attachment A) 27 February 2014 for Council’s information.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies of the City of Darwin 2012 – 2016 as outlined in the ‘Evolving Darwin Towards 2020 Strategic Plan’:-

Goal
4 Historic and Culturally Rich City

Outcome
4.2 Community life rich in creativity

Key Strategies
4.2.2 Embrace national and international relationships

KEY ISSUES

- Minutes of the Kalymnos Sister City Community Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Committee resolve under delegated authority:-

THAT Report Number 14C0031 HB:rv entitled Minutes Kalymnos Sister City Community Committee 27 February 2014, be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

The Kalymnos Sister City Community Committee meet regularly to provide advice to Council in ways in which it can strengthen its relationships with Kalymnos, Greece.
DISCUSSION

The Kalymnos Sister City Community Committee met 27 February 2014. At this meeting the Committee discussed the English language scholarship project, book exchange, Glenti and the upcoming Harmony Day celebration. The Committee discussed possible new projects and the membership of the Committee.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

In preparing this report, the following External Parties were consulted:

- Kalymnos Sister City Community Committee

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

RISK/LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the Author and Approving Officers declare that we do not have a Conflict of Interest in relation to this matter.

HAYLEY BARICH
SENIOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - LIVEABILITY

JOHN BANKS
GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES

For enquiries, please contact John Banks on 89300633 or email: j.banks@darwin.nt.gov.au.

Attachment A: Minutes Kalymnos Sister City Community Committee Meeting – 27 February 2014
1. **Meeting Open 5.35pm**

2. **Present**

   Alderman George Lambrinidis  Elected Member
   Costa Miaoudis  Community Representative
   Tony Miaoudis  Community Representative
   Alexia Koumpa  Community Representative
   Hayley Barich  Acting Manager Community Development

3. **Apologies**

   Fay Karamanakis

4. **Minutes**

   Minutes of the last meeting held Thursday 7 November 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

   (C. Miaoudis/ Ald. Lambrinidis)  Carried.

5. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

   **5.1. English Language Scholarship to Students in Kalymnos**

   Tony, George and Hayley participated in a skype link up with Kalymnos to watch the scholarship presentation to students. The Committee were very happy with the process undertaken at the Kalymnos side.

   **Action:** Hayley to send a copy of event photos to the Greek Consulate in Darwin.

   **Action:** Alexia to assist with translation of documents for the information packs that will be sent to each scholarship recipient.

   **Action:** George to source business cards, etc to go in the information pack.

   **5.2. Book Project between Darwin High and Kalymnos**

   The Municipality of Kalymnos has confirmed the name of the school which will be involved in the book project.

   **Action:** Hayley to arrange formal invitation to the school in Kalymnos.

   **Action:** George to meet with the class in Darwin that will participate in the project.

   **5.3. Support for Seniors**

   This item will lay on the table.
5.4. **Greek Orthodox Committee Museum Proposal**

No further progress to report.

5.5. **Glenti**

The Committee agreed that Council should write a letter to the Glenti organising Committee expressing interest in being involved in the 2014 Glenti.

**Action:** Hayley to organise a formal expression of interest and follow up on any subsequent meeting opportunities.

5.6. **Meeting schedule and Committee engagement**

The Committee agreed that the new time was better.

**Action:** Alexia to contact Poppy and discuss her involvement with the Committee.

6. **General Business**

6.1. **Harmony Day – March 2014**

Council’s Sister Cities program will host an Art Exhibition and cultural showcase 21 March at the Community Art Space and Civic Centre Function Room. Council is seeking volunteers to assist with meet and greet food and beverage service, etc on the night.

**Action:** Hayley to organise for a roster to be sent out to volunteers advising of duties for the night.

6.2. **Sister Cities Australia Delegate Report**

Report received and noted. John Halikos was able to take the award to the Mayor of Kalymnos early January.

6.3. **Update from Kalymnian Brotherhood**

**Action:** Tony to contact Theo and discuss representation from the Kalymnian Brotherhood.

6.4. **Financial Update**

The Committee have $4000 available to commit to projects by 30 June 2014.

6.5. **Any Other Business**

Tony suggested a ‘welcome to Darwin’ project, an event for all the new families from Greece in Darwin to connect with immigration/centrelink/interpreters/Greek consul/Kalymnian Brotherhood, etc.

**Action:** Tony, Hayley and Alexia to meet with centrelink to discuss the project.

George advised of the upcoming Greek Halloween which will be celebrated at the Kalymnian Hall.
7. Meeting Closed 6.22pm

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Date: Thursday 27 March
Time: 5.30pm
Venue: Community Meeting Room, Casuarina Library, Bradshaw Tce.
MINUTES HAIKOU SISTER CITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 3 MARCH 2014

REPORT No. 14C0028 HB:rv COMMON No.: 2754526 DATE: 14/04/2014

Presenter: Senior Community Development Officer - Liveability, Hayley Barich

Approved: General Manager Community & Cultural Services, John Banks

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Haikou Sister City Community Committee Meeting (Attachment A) 3 March 2014 for Council’s information and details recommendations arising for Council’s consideration.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies of the City of Darwin 2012 – 2016 as outlined in the ‘Evolving Darwin Towards 2020 Strategic Plan’:-

Goal
4 Historic and Culturally Rich City

Outcome
4.2 Community life rich in creativity

Key Strategies
4.2.2 Embrace national and international relationships

KEY ISSUES

- Minutes of the Haikou Sister City Community Committee.
- Focus for the Haikou and Darwin relationship.
- Applying for Australia China Council funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Committee resolve under delegated authority:-

A. THAT Report Number 14C0028 HB:rv entitled Minutes Haikou Sister City Community Committee 3 March 2014, be received and noted.

B. THAT the Haikou Sister City Community Committee recommends that the focus areas of the Haikou Sister City relationship are intergovernmental relationships, education, arts, sport and music.
C. THAT the Haikou Sister City Community Committee recommends that City of Darwin completes an Expression of Interest Submission for grant funding from the Australia China Council for the ‘Life as a Teenager’ performance project.

BACKGROUND

The Haikou Sister City Community Committee meet regularly to provide advice to Council in ways in which it can strengthen its relationships with Haikou, P.R. China

DISCUSSION

The Haikou Sister City Community Committee met 3 March 2014. At this meeting the Committee discussed the Committee focus, bilingual book project, expression of interest for Australia China Council grants and the upcoming Harmony Day celebrations.

Planning Workshop
In early November the Haikou Sister City Community Committee undertook a planning workshop to determine the focus and direction of the Haikou and Darwin Sister City relationship. The Committee worked with an external facilitator to undertake a SWOT analysis and develop a shared vision and key project areas as outlined in Attachment B: Planning Workshop Outputs. At the March 3rd meeting the Committee reviewed the vision statement and key focus areas and agreed to formally endorse them and to include in the Terms of Reference.

Proposed recommendation: THAT the Haikou Sister City Community Committee recommends that the focus areas of the Haikou Sister City relationship are intergovernmental relationships, education, arts, sport and music.

Australia China Council Grant Funding
The Committee agreed that City of Darwin should partner with Corrugated Iron Youth Arts to complete an Expression of Interest for grant funding from the Australia China Council for the ‘Life as a Teenager’ performance project. If successful in the Expression of Interest round, City of Darwin will be invited to submit a detailed proposal in May. Expressions of interest closed 14 March 2014.

Proposed recommendation: THAT City of Darwin completes an Expression of Interest Submission for grant funding from the Australia China Council for the ‘Life as a Teenager’ performance project.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

In preparing this report, the following External Parties were consulted:

- Haikou Sister City Community Committee
POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

RISK/LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the Author and Approving Officers declare that we do not have a Conflict of Interest in relation to this matter.

HAYLEY BARICH     JOHN BANKS
 SENIOR COMMUNITY     GENERAL MANAGER
 DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - COMMUNITY & CULTURAL
 LIVEABILITY     SERVICES

For enquiries, please contact John Banks on 89300633 or email: j.banks@darwin.nt.gov.au.

Attachment A: Minutes Haikou Sister City Community Committee Meeting – 25 February 2014
Attachment B: Planning Workshop Outputs – 4 November 2013
1. Meeting Open 12:43pm

2. Present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alderman Simon Niblock</td>
<td>Elected Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip Rudd</td>
<td>Community Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shu Qui Li</td>
<td>Community Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Kirkman</td>
<td>Community Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ping Lu</td>
<td>Community Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayley Barich</td>
<td>Acting Manager Community Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Apologies

4. Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting held Monday 2 September 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

(Kirkman/ Ald. Niblock) Carried.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1. Planning Workshop

The Committee reviewed the key areas identified in the planning workshop and agreed that they should be the focus and vision for the Committee in their future work.

**Recommendation:** THAT the focus areas of the Haikou Sister City relationship are intergovernmental relationships, education, arts, sport and music.

(Kirkman/ Li) Carried.

**Action:** Update Terms of Reference and present to Committee.

5.2. Sister City Cup English Language Scholarship

Shu Qui Li has offered to host the Sister City Cup English Language Scholarship recipient during their time in Darwin. City of Darwin will arrange the program for the student during their time in Darwin.

5.3. Bilingual Book Project

The bilingual book project is still in progress. Launch is planned for April. The Australia – China Council is seeking expressions of interest for projects linking China and Australia. The Committee agree that the proposed project...
of developing the “Life as a Teenager” book into a performance piece is a good project to put forward for funding and is in line with the Committee focus.

Recommendation: THAT City of Darwin completes an Expression of Interest Submission for grant funding from the Australia China Council for the ‘Life as a Teenager’ performance project.

(Kirkman/ Lu) Carried.

5.4. Sister Cities Joint Event – Harmony Day March 2014

Council’s Sister Cities program will host an Art Exhibition and cultural showcase 21 March at the Community Art Space and Civic Centre Function Room. Council is seeking volunteers to assist with meet and greet food and beverage service, etc on the night.

Action: Hayley to organise for a roster to be sent out to volunteers advising of duties for the night.

5.5. Delegation to Haikou

Decision No.21\1011 THAT … a report be prepared investigating a possible delegation to Haikou.

A draft report will be emailed to the Committee out of session to seek their feedback. The Committee are to provide comments via email.

5.6. Advisory Committee Workshops

These workshops will be programmed with the new Committees in July 2014.

5.7. Lao Ou Memorial Enhancement

Decision No.21\1011 THAT … options for a replica Gull Force Lao Ou Memorial plaque located in Dongfang City be investigated.

Action: Hayley to organise a meeting with Ken, Dr Tom Lewis and Council staff to discuss the progress of the project.

5.8. Australia – China Friendship Society Conference 2014

The Conference will be held 6 – 8 June at the Darwin Novatel. Friday 6 June, memorial lecture at 6:30pm followed by a casual dinner. Saturday 7 a conference dinner will be held. Saturday 8 the Multicultural Dancing Night will be held at the Darwin Entertainment Centre. 9 – 10 June most delegates will do some sightseeing in the NT.

6. General Business

6.1. Sister Cities Australia Delegate Report

Report received and noted by the Committee. Shu reported that her friend was able to deliver the trophy to the Mayor of Haikou and that a return gift was given for the Council.
6.2. Update from Australia – China Friendship Society

ACFS will be looking for volunteers for the conference for a number of roles. Please contact Shu if you are able to assist.

6.3. Financial Update

The Committee has $4000 that it can allocate to projects. Funds need to be allocated by 30 June 2014.

**Action:** All project proposals should be sent to Hayley prior to the next meeting.

6.4. Any Other Business

Two of the Committee members are unable to attend the Monday lunchtime meeting this year.

**Action:** Hayley to find out if there is another day of the week which the Committee can meet.

7. Meeting Closed 1.29pm

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Date: Monday 12 May  
Time: 12:30pm  
Venue: Interview Room 2, Ground Floor, City of Darwin Civic Centre
**Present:**
Philip Rudd Community representative,
Chair
Alderman Gary Haslett Elected Member
Marnie Foster Community representative
Gabriel Haines Community representative
Shu Li Qin Community representative
Hayley Barich Senior Community Development Officer - Liveability

**Facilitator:**
Adam Drake Corrugated Iron Youth Arts

**SWOT Analysis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Similarities – Beijing is to Haikou what Canberra is to Darwin, tropical, large harbour, airport in the middle of the city.</td>
<td>• Limited youth involvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Photographic competition.</td>
<td>• Not enough schools in Darwin teaching mandarin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Connecting with the Chinese community in Darwin.</td>
<td>• Mayor of Haikou has a lot more responsibility than the Lord Mayor of Darwin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Middle class in China is booming.</td>
<td>• Lack of continuity of relationship between Darwin and Haikou.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Young people in Haikou are very eager to learn and to access English speakers.</td>
<td>• Haikou community value the Sister City relationship more than the Darwin community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Haikou is the Hawaii of South East Asia.</td>
<td>• Lack of awareness of the Sister City program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop an exchange experience for primary school students.</td>
<td>• Different systems and levels of government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Confucius centre in Darwin.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Gull Force military history.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Greater involvement from the NTG.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Youth focused event to explore the Chinese culture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Collaborate with ACFS Mandarin broadcasting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• ACFS conference in Darwin 2014.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vision
To promote and encourage language and culture and develop relationships between Darwin and Haikou to connect communities and people.

Key Areas of Interest
- Intergovernmental relationships
  - Encourage NTG to commit resources to Asian engagement and become a magnifier of the Sister City relationship.
  - Council to be represented on delegations.

- Education
  - Access to native English speakers.
  - Student exchange to Haikou.
  - Sharing songs/ lessons/ stories.
  - Confucius Centre in Darwin.

- Sport/ Arts/ Music
  - Workshops on Chinese activities, ie. Papercutting
  - Celebrate significant events, ie. Chinese New Year
  - A cultural experience, eg. Moving exhibition, expo
MINUTES ANCHORAGE SISTER CITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 5 MARCH 2014

REPORT No.: 14C0032 HB:rv COMMON No.: 2754700 DATE: 14/04/2014

Presenter: Senior Community Development Officer - Liveability, Hayley Barich

Approved: General Manager Community & Cultural Services, John Banks

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Anchorage Sister City Community Committee Meeting (Attachment A) 5 March 2014 for Council’s information.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies of the City of Darwin 2012 – 2016 as outlined in the ‘Evolving Darwin Towards 2020 Strategic Plan’:-

Goal
4 Historic and Culturally Rich City

Outcome
4.2 Community life rich in creativity

Key Strategies
4.2.2 Embrace national and international relationships

KEY ISSUES

- Minutes of the Anchorage Sister City Community Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Committee resolve under delegated authority:-

THAT Report Number 14C0032 HB:rv entitled Minutes Anchorage Sister City Community Committee 5 March 2014, be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

The Anchorage Sister City Community Committee meet regularly to provide advice to Council in ways in which it can strengthen its relationships with Anchorage, United States of America.
DISCUSSION

The Anchorage Sister City Community Committee met 5 March 2014. At this meeting the Committee discussed the Emerging Artist Exhibition, Halloween, and the upcoming Harmony Day celebrations. The Committee considered a number of new projects including digital storytelling and a sponsorship request. The Committee agreed to provide support in terms of introductions and facilitation of networks to a few projects rather than financial contribution.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

In preparing this report, the following External Parties were consulted:

- Anchorage Sister City Community Committee

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

RISK/LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None pertaining to this report.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the Author and Approving Officers declare that we do not have a Conflict of Interest in relation to this matter.

HAYLEY BARICH
SENIOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - LIVEABILITY

JOHN BANKS
GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES

For enquiries, please contact John Banks on 89300633 or email: j.banks@darwin.nt.gov.au.

Attachment A: Minutes Anchorage Sister City Community Committee Meeting – 5 March 2014
1. **Meeting Open 5.25pm**

2. **Present**

   - Marie-Louise Pearson Community Representative
   - Alderman Kate Worden Elected Member
   - Cassandra Deon Community Representative
   - Sue Wainwright Community Representative
   - Hayley Barich Acting Manager Community Development

3. **Apologies**

   Peter Harris has resigned from the Committee.

4. **Minutes**

   Minutes of the last meeting held Wednesday 11 September 2013 and informal meeting held 27 November 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

   (Pearson/ Deon) Carried.

5. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**


   The Committee reviewed the action plan actions.

   **5.2. Halloween**

   An initial planning meeting and brainstorm session was had. The planning committee will meet again in May to discuss the venue options.

   **5.3. Professional Skills Sub-Committee**

   **Action:** Sue to put a paper to the May meeting.
   **Action:** Hayley to send Sue previous info relating to this decision.

   **5.4. Emerging Artists Exhibition – The Notebook Show**

   Alderman Worden met with the Chair of the Anchorage Sister Cities Commission in Anchorage. The Commission said that they would support the project, however there is no funding available from their side. There is a possibility of the Commission providing some in-kind resources.

   **Action:** Hayley to send revised proposal to Alderman Worden to send to Anchorage.

   **5.5. Sister City Joint Events – Harmony Day March 2014**
Council’s Sister Cities program will host an Art Exhibition and cultural showcase 21 March at the Community Art Space and Civic Centre Function Room. Council is seeking volunteers to assist with meet and greet food and beverage service, etc on the night.

**Action:** Hayley to organise for a roster to be sent out to volunteers advising of duties for the night.

### 6. General Business

**6.1. Digital Story Telling Cultural Exchange**

The Committee endorsed the project in principle and agreed to assist with facilitating the project.

**Action:** Hayley to organise a mail out to middle schools seeking interest.

**6.2. Rogers Park Elementary Partnership Proposal**

The Committee agreed that Council should facilitate a letter of introduction between Rogers Park Elementary and schools in Darwin.

**Action:** Hayley to organise letters of introduction to be sent.

**6.3. NTFRS – Rescue Me Proposal**

The Committee agreed that the sponsorship proposal did not meet the mission of the Sister Cities program and that it would decline the request for sponsorship.

**Action:** Hayley to organise a letter declining sponsorship request.

**6.4. Sister Cities Australia Delegate Report**

Report received and noted. The Chair encouraged Anchorage SCCC members to nominate to go to this year’s conference.

**6.5. Update from Australian American Association**

Representative unable to attend.

**6.6. Financial Update**

The Committee has $4000 available to commit to projects by 30 June 2014. The Committee agree that a proportion of this will go towards the Emerging Artist Exhibition.

**6.7. Any Other Business**

The Committee will hold a social get together as an opportunity to recruit new members. Sue will be invited to provide a report and photos of her trip. Dr Rod Kennett will be invited to report on his Fulbright Scholarship in Anchorage. The social function will be held after Easter.

**Action:** Hayley to organise an appropriate date and venue and email all with the details.
7. Meeting Closed 6.10pm

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Date:       Wednesday 7 May  
Time:       5pm            
Venue:      Interview Room 2, Ground Floor, City of Darwin Civic Centre
COUNCIL’S ROLE IN COMMUNITY CHILDCARE CENTRES 2014

REPORT No.: 14C0033 TS:rv COMMON No.: 2148661 DATE: 14/04/2014

Presenter: Family and Children’s Services Coordinator, Tania Sellers
Approved: General Manager, Community & Cultural Services, John Banks

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide and have approved a recommendation that will allow the signing and sealing of new leases for a period of three (3) years over:

Casuarina Child Care Centre Inc.
Karama Community and Children’s Centre Inc.
Malak Family Centre Inc.
Mitchell Street Child Care Centre Inc.
Nightcliff Family Centre Inc.
Parap Family Centre Inc.
Stuart Park Neighbourhood and Child Care Centre Inc.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies of the City of Darwin 2012 – 2016 as outlined in the ‘Evolving Darwin Towards 2020 Strategic Plan’:-

Goal
1. Collaborative, Inclusive and Connected Community

Outcome
1.1 Community inclusion supported

Key Strategies
1.1.1 Develop and support programs, services and facilities, and provide information that promotes community spirit, engagement, cohesion and safety

KEY ISSUES

- For over three (3) decades, Council has operated in a landlord role for seven (7) community based childcare centre buildings.
- All facilities operate on a peppercorn lease agreement as part of Council’s role in community support.
- Lease agreements for all centres expire 30 September 2014.
- The Federal Government implemented extensive sector reforms under the charter of the National Quality Framework, which requires full compliance effective January 2014.
• Childcare centre infrastructure is aged, unresponsive to changing community needs and no longer marries with best practice design and function principles.
• A number of centres seek substantive Council investment in major capital works to reinvigorate/expand facilities to remain viable, meet Licensing requirements and neighbourhood need.
• Council’s role of building owner is branded as *City of Darwin sponsored Centre* which frequently leads to a misconception of Council as a childcare provider, as is the case in most other states and territories.
• Community based childcare centres are deeply embedded in the fabric of local community neighbourhoods.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT it be a recommendation to Council:-

A. THAT Report Number 14C0033 TS:rv entitled Council’s Role in Community Childcare Centres 2014, be received and noted.

B. THAT Council under lease extend the operation of the seven (7) Council Child Care Centre premises for a period of three (3) years from 1 October 2014 expiring at midnight on 30 September 2017.

C. THAT pursuant to Section 26(2) of the Local Government Act 2013, Council authorise the affixing of the common seal to all associated documentation for the leases associated with the following listed Child Care Centres and that all documentation be attested by the signatures of the Chief Executive Officer and the Lord Mayor.

Casuarina Child Care Centre Inc.
Karama Community and Children’s Centre Inc.
Malak Family Centre Inc.
Mitchell Street Child Care Centre Inc.
Nightcliff Family Centre Inc.
Parap Family Centre Inc.
Stuart Park Neighbourhood and Child Care Centre Inc.

**BACKGROUND**

Council held a workshop on the 3rd September 2013 in respect to Council’s role in community childcare centres.

**PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

Decision No. 21\1817 (25/02/14)

A. THAT Report Number 14C0016 SJ:kl entitled Childcare and Early Childhood Learning - Response for Productivity Commission Review, be received and noted.

Decision No. 20\3874 (27/04/11)

A. THAT Report Number 11C0027 TS:kl entitled, Council's Child Care Centres - Renewal of Leases, be received and noted.

B. THAT the following be included in the new leases of Council’s Child Care Centre premises for a period of three (3) years from on June 2011 expiring at midnight on 30 June 2014:

   ii) Management Committee requirements of:

      i. All members to undergo a Criminal and Working with Children Check.
      ii. All members to complete a Governance Training and receive information on the Management Committee’s role and responsibilities.
      iii. Within 14 days of the Management Committee’s Annual General meeting details of the members appointed will be provided to Council along with, their names, contact details and position.

C. THAT Darwin City Council, pursuant to Section 26 (2) of the Local Government Act 2008, hereby authorises all relevant documentation relating to the Seven (7) Council Child Care Centre Leases to be executed under the Council’s Common Seal and signed by the Lord Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.

Decision No. 20\3335 (19/10/10)

A. THAT Report Number 10C0129 KH:kl entitled, discussion paper – Council Childcare Centres, be received and noted.

Decision No. 20\1587 (26/5/09)

A. That Report Number 09C0075 entitled, advice on Format and Content of Pending Childcare Environment, Policy and Research Report, be received and noted.

B. That Council endorses the format and methodology contained within Report Number 09C0075 for the proposed Childcare Centre Report.
Decision No. 19/4064 (27/02/07)

A. THAT Report number 07C0003 DM:ems Grant Funded Works Arrangements for Council’s Seven Sponsored Child Care Centres 2007 Review, be received and noted.

B. THAT Council’s seven sponsored childcare Management Committees be advised that they will assume responsibility for all aspects of non-building related grant funded works. Further, that approval in writing for any works carried out as a Council property will require Council approval and must be completed by a qualified tradesperson meeting the required Occupational Health & Safety standards; have sufficient insurance cover, and comply with all relevant legislation to meet building board, licensing and any other statutory bodies requirements.

DISCUSSION

Overview
Council sponsors seven childcare centres across the municipality by providing and maintaining the buildings. As part of this provision, Council supports each centre with grant administration, building maintenance, project management of major capital works, and a peer support and capacity building meeting is facilitated for Centre Directors on a quarterly basis. Volunteer management committees’ oversight the planning, management and decision-making of each centre. A peppercorn lease supports each centre, due for renewal in September 2014.

A snapshot of Council’s centres indicate aged buildings that no longer align with best practice design principles, expectations of Centre management groups continue to grow and licensing obligations increase. Centres frequently contact Council to seek repairs and small building works and almost all centres seek support from Council in undertaking major enhancements to their facility. The Parap and Nightcliff centres are prime examples.

National context
According to Early Childhood Australia (2011), there is an increasing trend towards formal early childhood education and care that has emerged since the early 90’s. In 2011, nearly 870,000 children were enrolled in some form of approved early childhood education and care, spending on average 17 hours each week. There are nearly 14,000 approved service providers offering formal early childhood education and care around Australia – a number that is predicted to grow. The Age (2013), recently reported that the number of children in childcare has increased by one third over the past eight years with over a million children said to be using childcare services nationally.

1 Our future on the line - Keeping the early childhood education and care reforms on track, 2011, (Early Childhood Australia).

A commonly held view of childcare is that it provides an important early learning and education experience for the child, as well as a mechanism that supports parent/carer participation in the labour force. In recognition of this view, the term childcare has been replaced with early childhood education and care by sector peaks and governments alike. In the past few years, both the Federal and NT Governments have implemented policy, regulation and legislative reforms to establish quality frameworks underpinning early childhood education and care. This suite of reforms places 0-5 years as critical to positive life span development, requiring enhanced policy, program and resource investment.

Implications for Council Management
Council’s childcare infrastructure is over 30 years old and has largely outgrown its original intended purpose of small neighbourhood childcare facilities. Capital upgrades for what are now aged buildings are currently funded via Federal and Northern Territory Government grants based on priority of need and licensing compliance. This funding system does not enable forward planning for projected localised community need nor does it account for major refurbishment projects. This has resulted in a fragmented approach to facility development with small works being undertaken on a priority basis e.g., disability access to a bathroom, shower drainage, shelving etc.

Council’s role is a limited one in the childcare arena and currently does not extend beyond operating as a Landlord. It should be noted however that community views often perceive the centres to be operated by Council on account of the signage (sponsored by City of Darwin) and because childcare centres are frequently operated by local government authorities in other states and territories.

Council’s Role and Function
In summary, the following points are pertinent to Council’s understanding of its role in community based childcare:

- Council owns and maintains seven (7) centres across the municipality.
- Each centre is oversighted by a volunteer committee of management (membership of which typically change annually).
- The seven (7) centres are ageing and no longer ideally suited for purpose, having outgrown their original requirements.
- Federal and State/Territory reforms have required the early childhood education and care sector to embed a strong education focus to all aspects of their operations including improved staff to child ratios, employment of trained and certified staff, the inclusion of qualified educators on staff and a national quality rating system.
- Limited resources are available for centres to undertake major capital works and the existing funding systems primarily provide for a piecemeal approach.

3 Our future on the line - Keeping the early childhood education and care reforms on track, 2011, Early Childhood Australia
to facility enhancement. Fundraising activities often supplement centre activities/equipment and works.

- Council's role largely supports the centres by way of peppercorn leasing arrangements and Council's own capital contributions programmed each year on a priority needs basis (Refer Attachment A).
- A common community perception is that Council operates the centres, because of signage/branding and building ownership. This issue presents some level of reputational risk for Council when it has no or limited influence over how facilities are operated beyond the physical building and its compliance with licensing.
- Going forward, it is likely that major capital investment will be required for centres to keep pace with changing needs and because capital investment to date has been on the basis of need and priority with no scope for proactive future planning.
- Similarly, a number of centres are seeking Council's support and investment for major redevelopment however clarity of a position from Council is required prior to any commitment being made.
- Council's resources staffing allocation to support centre liaison and facilitation of building maintenance and capital works across seven (7) centres (and three (3) community centres) will continue to be applied as the facilities age and centre demands increase – particularly in view of requests for major redevelopments, and/or land acquisition to expand and remain viable.
- There is a historical connection and sense of ownership between suburban neighbourhoods and their local childcare centre(s).

There is little doubt, current childcare centre buildings will struggle to meet future needs, particularly in view of centre viability which runs at an approximate 65 child capacity rate (Refer Attachment A). Staffing reforms also challenge centres to operate with the required levels. Potential fee increases may also emerge as centres meet obligatory license related staffing requirements. Further, the availability of quality and affordable childcare is critical to the labour market.

**CONSULTATION PROCESS**

This report is provided for information to provide a basis for Council's consideration of the complexities surroundings its role in childcare.

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

- Corporate Services (Contract)
- Infrastructure Department (Building Maintenance)
- Community & Cultural Services
POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council’s policy guides the current service level applied to community childcare centres which indicates that as part of City of Darwin’s sponsorship of Government funded social programs that Council will maintain its buildings operated as childcare centres to a standard which meets licensing regulations and maintains Council's assets.

Every childcare centre is responsible for its own minor maintenance. Council should note however that compliance with regulatory obligations is a requirement likely to increase, as reforms are implemented and as the community demands high quality and accessible childcare.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The centres are leased to each of the management committees whereby the annual rental for the term of these agreements is one dollar per annum payable on June 30 if demanded by the lessor. Costs for the preparation and registration of the leases are approximately $1,500.00 each.

As owners of the facilities, Council is responsible for maintaining the buildings. Five are in excess of thirty years old and two are twenty five and twenty eight years old. The Mitchell Street Childcare Centre roof was replaced in 2005 at a cost of $39 500. A roof replacement/maintenance program for the Centres has been established on the Authority AIMS Module to provide a long term overview of this liability.

RISK/LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Council has, and is likely to again, be required to manage public relations implications when a childcare centre leasing a Council building does not meet licensing requirements or an operational matter presents that is of public interest such as fee increases or staffing/supervision and security issues. Although Council occupies a role of building owner, there is a perception that the centres are ‘run by Council’.

The seven centres have signage depicting the name of the organisation, a logo, contact details and acknowledgment of Council’s sponsorship including Council’s logo. Signage is erected within the site boundary at the front of each property

Council must ensure all centres are maintained to an acceptable standard. Childcare licensing obligations are increasingly complex and additional resource allocations for both capital and building related matters are apparent.

Section 26 (2) of the Local Government Act 2008 requires that the affixing of the common seal to a document must be authorised or ratified by resolution of the council; and must be attested by the signatures of the CEO and at least one member of the council.
The leases will be legally binding agreements and will be drafted by Council’s lawyers to ensure Council’s interests are provided for.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications pertaining to this report.

CONCLUSION

Attachment A provides a detailed account of all operational and capital matters pertaining to Council’s role in childcare facility provision along with the operating environment.

The facilities are aging and require a higher degree of maintenance and coordinated property management. What was once a satisfactory service level historically has increased over time in response to sector reforms and demand for high quality accessible childcare services.

Extending the operation of the seven (7) Council’s Child Care Centre premises for a period of three (3) years, would allow the Centres to continue to provide child care for 424 children in the community.

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the Author and Approving Officers declare that we do not have a Conflict of Interest in relation to this matter.

TANIA SELLERS
FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES COORDINATOR

JOHN BANKS
GENERAL MANAGER
COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES

For enquiries, please contact John Banks on 8930 0633 or email: j.banks@darwin.nt.gov.au

Attachment A: Council’s role in Community Childcare Centres 2014
City of Darwin

Council’s role in Community Childcare Centre’s 2014
Council sponsors seven childcare centres via the provision and maintenance of the buildings. The list and table below provides a summary of the history, infrastructure, and lease arrangements for each centre.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of CCC &amp; Lot No</th>
<th>Age of Building</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Expiry</th>
<th>Lease fee</th>
<th>Building Funded By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casuarina Family Centre 7720 Nightcliff</td>
<td>1981 (33 years)</td>
<td>Sub Lease</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>30/09/14</td>
<td>Peppercorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Funded by the NTG COD in charge of construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karama Community and Childcare Centre 6990 Sanderson</td>
<td>1989 (25 years)</td>
<td>Lease</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>30/09/14</td>
<td>Peppercorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Constructed and funded by NTG and Federal Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malak Family Centre 2284 Nightcliff</td>
<td>1986 (28 years)</td>
<td>Lease</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>30/09/14</td>
<td>Peppercorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$80,000 Federal Government + $80,000 Council + $95,000 NTG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Street Childcare Centre 5584 Darwin</td>
<td>1979 (35 years)</td>
<td>Lease</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>30/09/14</td>
<td>Peppercorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Funded by the Federal Government NTG in charge of construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nightcliff Family Centre 403 Nightcliff</td>
<td>1981 (33 years)</td>
<td>Lease</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>30/09/14</td>
<td>Peppercorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Funded by the NTG COD in charge of construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parap Family Centre 5224 Darwin</td>
<td>1979 (35 years)</td>
<td>Lease</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>30/09/14</td>
<td>Peppercorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Funded by the Federal Government NTG in charge of construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart Park Neighbourhood and Childcare Centre 1888 &amp; 1889 Darwin</td>
<td>1978 (36 years)</td>
<td>Lease</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>30/09/14</td>
<td>Peppercorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Funded by the Federal Government NTG in charge of construction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Centre’s commenced a three (3) year lease the 1 October 2011 which is set to expire on 30 September 2014. The lease is peppercorn with a nominal annual rental of one dollar ($1.00) per annum.
Centre Management

Community-based management committees administer the Centres whilst drawing substantially on the contribution of volunteer parents/carers. The membership of each committee changes almost annually.

The Council sponsored centres provide care and education for children from babies to school age. Each centre varies in service scope, operating hours, fee structure and placements numbers. To illustrate, Casuarina Childcare Centre has ten (10) childcare places for parents attending the Adult Migrant English Program at Charles Darwin University which provides for migrants and refugees.

Karama Community and Childcare Centre is a small childcare centre and its design was considered to be best practice when the facility was originally constructed although current industry trends are toward large modern buildings with a greater number of places, necessary for financial viability. The majority of new centres operate from 60 to 75 places while Karama has a licence for 32.

Based on figures published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Darwin’s early childhood population has changed slightly over the last three census collections with numbers of children eligible to attend childcare (ages 0-5) slightly increasing over the 10 year period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census date</th>
<th>Population aged 0-5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>5633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>5485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5770</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Australian Bureau of Statistics also states that in the Northern Territory, of couple families, 32.7% had both partners employed full-time, 3.4% had both employed part-time and 15.5% had one employed full-time and the other part-time.

This table details the current capacities of the Council sponsored childcare centres and how many children attend the facilities, including total capacity and total number of children wait listed at each centre.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Children attending (part time and full time)</th>
<th>Waiting list</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karama</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>26 full time, 10 part time</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nightcliff</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>10 full time, 65 part time</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Street</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>42 full time, 24 part time</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart Park</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>33 full time, 26 part time</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malak</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>28 full time, 26 part time</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parap</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>11 full time, 59 part time</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casuarina</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>24 full time, 40 part time</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>345</strong></td>
<td><strong>424</strong></td>
<td><strong>457</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011
Viable Centre Modelling

The Department of Business; NT Government’s view from recent research nominate a minimum of 60 place childcare centre as ideal for financial viability (see diagram above). Smaller size centres can be viable, however they require good governance, an engaged capable committee, skilled and professional staff in a tightening labour and skills market, a well maintained building, adherence to compliance/regulations/licences requirements and tight financial management.

1.2 Community Perceptions

Frequently, the community perceives that local government provides childcare. This misconception may raise issues for Council given its limited role as landlord and building sponsor as distinct from service provider. For many families, particularly those new to Darwin, local government is frequently perceived to be the provider of childcare services as this is the case in other regions. For example the City of Melbourne manages five childcare centres as well as provides facilities for a further four, and City of Sydney operates four childcare centres. Given that each City of Darwin childcare centre is clearly branded and signposted as a Council sponsored centre, confusion exists. This often manifests by way of public enquires to Council in relation to the childcare centres and childcare in general. These enquiries include wait lists, vacancy rates, locations, complaint processes and curriculum and fee-related information.

By sponsoring childcare centres Council supports a substantial number of children and families in Darwin and, as a result, a firmly entrenched
expectation exists that Council is in the business of providing childcare centres.

2. National Quality Framework Overview

2.1 Overview

The early years are critically important for children, and learning is most effective when it begins at a young age and continues into adulthood. Helping families realise their children's potential is ultimately an investment in the future and needs to start early. It has been identified that the first five years of a child's life are when they do their most important learning, children develop most of their intellect, personality and skills by the age of five. Providing access to high-quality, affordable, early education programs is one of the most powerful ways to influence positive outcomes for children, particularly those who are disadvantaged.

On 1 January 2012, the National Quality Framework was implemented and applies to long daycare, family daycare, preschool (or kindergarten) and outside school hours care (OSHC) services. The framework was introduced to regulate and improve services.

A national legislative framework which is established through an applied laws system and consists of the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* and *The Education and Care Services National Regulations* support the legislation and provide detail on a range of operational requirements for an education and care service. A regulatory authority in each state is primarily responsible for administering the National Quality Framework. Quality Education and Care NT located within the Department of Education and Training is responsible for administering the reforms in the Territory. The Framework is being phased in over time.

Requirements such as qualifications, educator to child ratios, and other key arrangements will be phased in between 2012-2020.

The Australian Government has asked the Productivity Commission to undertake a public inquiry into future options for childcare and early childhood learning, with a focus on developing a system that supports workforce participation and addresses children's learning and development needs. The Productivity Commission released an Issues Paper and invited submissions. In February 2014, Council submitted a response outlining the City of Darwin's involvement with childcare and detailed key areas of concern. The draft report will be released in July and open for comment, with the final report due to be released in October 2014.

2.2 A National Quality Standard

A National Quality Standard sets a new national benchmark for the quality of education and care services. The National Quality Standard is divided into seven quality areas:
Educational program and practice,
Children’s health and safety,
Physical environment,
Staffing arrangements,
Relationships with children,
Collaborative partnerships with families and communities, and
Leadership and service management

The National Quality Standard aims to promote the safety, health and wellbeing of children and focus on achieving outcomes for children through high quality educational programs, and families understanding what distinguishes a quality service.

The first assessments under the new framework began in June 2012. Authorised Officers from each state’s regulatory authority are responsible for assessing and rating against the National Quality Standard. Council’s seven Childcare Centres have been assessed and as of March 2013 one Centre has been rated as “Exceeding National Quality Standard” and one Centre is “Meeting Quality Standards” and five Centres’ are rated “Working towards National Quality Standard”. The Centre’s rated “Working towards National Quality Standard” have been reassessed between January and March 2014 and are waiting on the results. This information is widely available to parents and community members on the website www.mychild.gov.au which gives a wealth of childcare service information, vacancy rates, assessments and ratings, and other literature pertinent to early childhood.

The most significant impact of the legislative changes and framework implementation, is the increased requirement for qualified staff. That is, the new standards require all staff to have achieved a minimum Certificate III qualification, for 50% of all staff to be qualified to a Diploma or above level, and as of 1 January 2014, Centres at which 25-59 children attend on any one day, a requirement for the employment of a full time university qualified early childhood teacher will be mandatory. This particular reform is expected to have a major financial impact on services as the salary costs of the early childhood teacher will be equivalent or higher than the director’s salary. Centres have increased fees to cover the cost of employing a qualified early childhood teacher and some centres have submitted a waiver, as they have been unable to employ a teacher due to the shortage of qualified staff. This is an area the Department of Business; NT Government is planning to investigate, along with how it may assist centres. Additionally, the Department of Business currently supports community childcare centres with financial, viability and sustainability training and support.

Given that a shortage of qualified staff already exists, the requirement to meet these qualified staff ratios will significantly increase operating costs. Further, whilst this requirement infers significant benefits for centres in terms of quality and learning outcomes, it will be difficult to meet staffing requirements insofar as it is particularly difficult to recruit qualified staff to what might be considered a challenging and underpaid vocation. Council has responded to this need, albeit in a small way, by orientating the Disadvantaged Job Seeker program to
training two (2) students each year in Certificate III in Children’s Services. Recent funding from the NT Government, under the Indigenous Workforce Participation Initiatives Program (IWPIP), will provide resources for a further two (2) traineeships. The trainees are attached to our Fun Bus service and work predominantly with families and children in a community development context.

The legislative changes and the implementation of the framework may impact Council buildings meeting the National Quality standards. For instance, the children’s indoor space must be well ventilated, have adequate natural light and be maintained at a temperature that ensures that safety and wellbeing of children. Over time, some centres have added on rooms, enclosed veranda’s and converted space for other purposes which impacts cross ventilation. Additionally, some rooms have limited natural light and unable to cool indoor space.

4. Buildings

4.1 Infrastructure maintenance

Below describes Council’s total operational maintenance on the seven childcare centres in terms of materials and labour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operational Maintenance</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total 2009/2010</td>
<td>96,153.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2010/2011</td>
<td>154,300.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2011/2012</td>
<td>258,712.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2012/2013</td>
<td>213,487.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2013 – March 2014</td>
<td>96,915.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures illustrate Council’s current and increasing investment in basic building maintenance of the seven centres. According to statements from the Building Condition & Compliance Audit (details below) building maintenance is anticipated and minor works may be required on all Centres in the near future. As the buildings age, the operational maintenance costs will increase. The 2013 - 2014 Maintenance Budget for the seven (7) Childcare Centres is $163,308. There is no allocation for each centre as the budget is spent as requirements arise.

4.2 Maintenance responsibilities

A summary of maintenance responsibilities for centres is outlined in the childcare centre leases, Maintenance Responsibility Schedule and states that Council’s maintenance responsibilities include:
• License-related work regarding the building only.
• All building maintenance including ceiling fans and air conditioning units.
• Pest control treatment (ants and cockroaches quarterly, termites as required).
• Maintenance of fire equipment.
• Stove replacement (to the value of $900 approximately every 10 years).
• Outdoor health and safety hazards with the exception of playground equipment or any other structure placed by centre management.
• Council will also provide advice regarding trees and landscaping.

Childcare Centres’ maintenance responsibilities include:

• Garden maintenance.
• All play equipment unless installed by Council (non-replacement).
• All indoor electrical equipment, including fridges, washing machines and cold water coolers/bubblers.
• All other equipment required for the operation of a licensed childcare centre.
• All structures erected by centres including shade cloth, awnings and blinds.
• Replacement of locks and keys resulting from lost keys.
• Light globe replacements.

COMMENT

The Maintenance Responsibility Schedule was developed and attached to the childcare leases to clarify responsibility for the maintenance of the centres. Whilst the childcare centre leases suggest that the lessee (the childcare centre management committee) is responsible for the majority of the maintenance, Council has assumed substantial responsibility for building maintenance to ensure that any liability Council may have otherwise incurred as owner of the buildings is managed to mitigate risks. This approach ensures that Council assets will not deteriorate. Another measure currently being developed is a set of “Plain English” lease agreement documents for childcare staff and management committees for a more user friendly tool to interpreting their lease obligations.

4.3 Audit of Council assets

Macutex Pty Ltd was commissioned by City of Darwin in December 2009 to undertake a Condition and Compliance audit of a sample of Councils’ properties being 26 locations. Included in those 26 locations are the seven childcare facilities.

Each Childcare centre was rated using the following scale:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>In Very Good Condition</strong> – Up to 45% of its useful life has been consumed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>In Good Condition</strong> – Between 45% to 90% of its useful life has been consumed - some minor works may be required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>In Moderate Condition</strong> – Between 45% to 90% of its useful life has been consumed – maintenance works expected and minor renewal works may be required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>In Poor Condition</strong> – Between 45% to 90% of its useful life has been consumed – some major maintenance works to be expected and some renewal works programmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>In Very Poor Condition</strong> – between 90% and 100% of its useful life has been consumed - high level of maintenance works required and significant renewal works programmed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Condition rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malak Family Centre</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The site improvements will perform their current functional use with minor improvements and regular maintenance inspections. Based on the audit observations a more comprehensive review of disabled amenity strategy on site is recommended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karama Childcare Centre</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The building and associated assets are in good condition. Ongoing maintenance will ensure that the facility meets its intended life expectancy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart Park Childcare Centre</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The buildings structure and associated fabric and finishes are in good condition. The current level of maintenance is considered to be acceptable with upgrades to be carried out to fabrics over the next 5 to 10 years. The facility caters well for disabled persons. Entry to and from the facility complies with disabled access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nightcliff Family Centre</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The building and associated assets are in good condition. Several building elements have been recently replaced. Access for disabled persons is adequate however no disabled amenities are provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parap Family Centre</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The building and associated assets are in good condition. Several building elements have been recently replaced. The buildings structure and its fabrics/finishes are in good condition. There is a designated car park located near the front entrance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Street</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The building and associated assets are in good condition. Several building elements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Childcare Centre  have been recently replaced and ongoing maintenance will ensure that the facility meets its intended life expectancy. There is no designated disabled car park located in the neighbouring shared car park. There is however a disabled ramp provided.

Casuarina Childcare Centre  3  The facility is functional however somewhat worn and requires basic maintenance. A lack of storage facilities is also an issue. Access into the facility provides issues for people with disability as the child safe latches associated with the main entry gates are somewhat unreachable for a wheelchair bound person. However access to and from the building has a level ground surface and is acceptable.

The centres are ageing and less than contemporary in terms of design having been designed to meet community needs 20 to 30 years ago. The ad hoc alterations and additions to the centres over the years have severely impeded the functional effectiveness of some of the centres and its ability to deliver an effective early childhood teaching program. Whilst adequately maintained, the centres require major refurbishment to ensure contemporary and quality care and financial viability.

5. Grant Funding

Centres can and do apply for Northern Territory Government and Federal Government grant funding to address license-related and capital works which sometimes require an additional financial contribution from the Centre or from Council.

As the building owner, Council approval in writing must be obtained for any building works. Council will also project manage all grant funded works to the building. Council shall appoint and enter into the contractual agreement with contractors for grant funded works to be carried out. In addition, Council approval in writing must be obtained for any fixed works.

All works on Council property must be completed by a qualified tradesperson meeting relevant OH&S standards; have sufficient relevant insurance cover; and comply with all relevant legislation to meet building board, licencing and any other statutory bodies requirements/standards.

The centre may approach Council for written approval as well as seeking funding. Council staff will then make a determination on whether to provide funding and / or approval for the project based on available resources, risk and licensing obligations.
The table below shows the Capital upgrades on the buildings and how they have been funded over the last 4 financial years. Totals for City of Darwin funding and grant funding is shown.

### Childcare Centres Upgrades to the Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2009 - 2010</th>
<th>2010 - 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>COD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 - 2010</td>
<td>Upgrade of Kitchen</td>
<td>82,863.58</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upgrade of Kitchen</td>
<td>10,909.10</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Install Veranda &amp; Drainage</td>
<td>2,310.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upgrade of Children's Bathroom</td>
<td>19,677.28</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disabled Access</td>
<td>272.73</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total 2009 - 2010</strong></td>
<td><strong>131,487.69</strong></td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 - 2011</td>
<td>Upgrade of Children's Bathroom</td>
<td>27,119.16</td>
<td>12,733.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disabled Access</td>
<td>6,959.09</td>
<td>6,959.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upgrade of Children's Bathroom</td>
<td>26,554.55</td>
<td>5,754.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total 2010 - 2011</strong></td>
<td><strong>77,113.78</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,578.83</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 - 2012</td>
<td>Disabled Access</td>
<td>20,946.37</td>
<td>20,946.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>External Paint</td>
<td>7,466.05</td>
<td>7,466.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 x split inverter Airconditioner unit</td>
<td>6,263.64</td>
<td>6,263.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drainage veranda area</td>
<td>21,850.00</td>
<td>21,850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total 2011 - 2012</strong></td>
<td><strong>94,354.84</strong></td>
<td><strong>64,113.29</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 – 2013</td>
<td>Upgrade of Children's Bathroom</td>
<td>43,763.63</td>
<td>859.63</td>
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<td></td>
<td>New Electrical Switchboard</td>
<td>4,800</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Refurbishment</td>
<td>18,328</td>
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Many of the centres have received additional funding from the Northern Territory Government and Federal Government for shade structures and soft fall contributing to the centres’ capacity to meet minimum standard requirements, the costing have not been included to the above table. For instance, Karama Childcare Centre received grant funding for $32,000 and the Centre contributed $8,000 to upgrade their outside play area in 2012. Also some of the centres have upgraded the facilities at their own cost. In 2011, Stuart Park Childcare Centre installed air conditioning at a cost of $20,000 to the centre. It was the last childcare centre in Darwin to be fully air-conditioned. Malak Family Centre installed a shade structure and play equipment to the value of $50,000 in 2012. In 2013, Stuart Park Childcare Centre spent $75,000 upgrading the toddlers outside play area, with a shade structure, sandpit, bike path and landscaping. Casuarina Child Care Centre completed upgrading a playground at a cost $82,000 in March 2014.

Various funding bodies require organisations to meet 50% of the monetary amount of funding applications and therefore applications requiring large sums are not a viable option for non-profit organisation unless City of Darwin is able to contribute to such grant applications. In 2012, City of Darwin contributed to $21,850 to the drainage, while Northern Territory Government contributed $25,204 for the veranda roof at Stuart Park Child Care Centre.

The Northern Territory Government and Federal Government grant funding systems can translate to a piecemeal approach with only small to medium sized works achieved each year. Broader planning for major centre upgrades is not achieved under this framework. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that applications by centres for grant submissions will be successful as all centres compete for the same limited pool of funds.

6. Proposals for re-development and funding requests from Childcare Centres

In 2011 and 2012 City of Darwin received requests from Parap Family Centre for approval for a substantial redevelopment. More recently Nightcliff Family Centre requested approval for redevelopment plus financial support. Council staff have also received additional anecdotal information that two other centres are also considering major redevelopment proposals that will seek Council resourcing.

7. Why should local government sponsor childcare?

‘Quality childcare promotes social, language, emotional and cognitive development in children and these influences can be seen into adulthood’ (Korjenevitch & Dunifon, 2010). ‘High quality early experiences for children with disadvantages or risk factors have been shown to provide protective factors which result in improved life chances for children well into their adult
lives. Knowledge and skills gained in one period of childhood support children’s learning in other periods of their life’ (Moreno, 2008).

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Community Childcare assert that local government is critical to the maintenance of accessible quality childcare, especially the non-profit sector, and therefore must be included as a key partner as childcare grows and develops.

Local Government in Victoria is the major single provider of outside school hours care and family daycare in the state. They also operate 30 per cent of Victoria’s publicly owned centre-based childcare services as part of a range of childcare services within a comprehensive early year’s system. (Local Government Supporting Childcare Across Victoria, 2005.)

Local government in Victoria operates the majority of Family Day Care services in recognition of the important role the early years place in positive social, health and developmental outcomes for young children and their families, including children with special needs and from vulnerable families.

The need for childcare is increasing. Early Childhood Australia 2012 data indicates that there are 3,655 more childcare services in Australia than there were in 2007. More children are attending services than ever before and there has been an increase of 21.9% in the number of children using approved childcare since 2007. (Early Childhood Australia, 2013).

The national trend of increased numbers of service providers, increased children in care, robust numbers on childcare waiting lists and Darwin’s demographics will mean there is and will continue to be demand for Council sponsored childcare centres.
10. GENERAL BUSINESS