



# AGENDA

## Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday, 26 May 2020

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

**Date:** Tuesday, 26 May 2020

**Time:** 5:30 pm

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

**WebEx** <https://darwin.webex.com/darwin/onstage/g.php?MTID=eef2efc007cf612e93dd8595b9463fd8e>

**Log in:** Password: 26May20

**Scott Waters**  
Chief Executive Officer

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

Alderman Paul Arnold

Alderman Andrew Arthur

Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

Alderman Justine Glover

Alderman Gary Haslett

Alderman Robin Knox

Alderman George Lambrinidis

Alderman Simon Niblock

Alderman Mick Palmer

Alderman Peter Pangquee

Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

Alderman Emma Young

**OFFICERS**

Chief Executive Officer, Scott Waters

General Manager Innovation Growth & Development Services, Joshua Sattler

General Manager Community & Regulatory Services, Polly Banks

General Manager Government Relations & External Affairs, Melissa Reiter

General Manager Engineering & City Services, Ron Grinsell

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**WEBCASTING DISCLAIMER**

In accordance with Policy 043, Meetings, Meeting Procedures and Committees, City of Darwin is live streaming the entire Open Section of this Ordinary Meeting. Members of the public are able to observe the meeting as an 'Attendee' via WebEx, however they will not be able to be viewed by members of Council or other members of the public. Recording and/or publishing of photos or videos of streamed meetings is not permitted.

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**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

**2 THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**

**4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**4.1 Apologies**

Nil

**4.2 Leave of Absence Granted**

Nil

**4.3 Leave of Absence Requested**

**5 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE**

**5.1 Electronic Meeting Attendance Granted**

*In accordance with Policy 043 and section 61(4) of the Local Government Act 2008, Elected Members are granted permission to attend by means of an audio or audio-visual conferencing system.*

**6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**

**7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Ordinary Council Meeting - 12 May 2020

**8 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Nil

**9 MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / LORD MAYORAL MINUTE**

Nil

**10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Nil

**11 PETITIONS**

Nil

**12 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS**

Nil

**13 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

## 14 OFFICERS REPORTS

### 14.1 ACCESSIBLE PARKING IN THE CBD

**Author:** Executive Manager Technical Services  
**Authoriser:** General Manager Engineering and City Services  
**Attachments:** 1. CBD On-street Accessible Parking Proposed Upgrade List

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about a review of accessible car parking within the Darwin CBD the consequentially identified upgrade works required, seeking that Council endorse the allocation of funding for upgrades as part of the 2020/21 budget.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Accessible Parking in the CBD be received and noted.
2. THAT Council allocate the \$50,000 budget for the 2020/21 Disability Access Programme and \$427,000 from the CBD Carparking Shortfall - Rate Levy Reserve in the 2020/21 financial year to fund the upgrade of accessible on-street car parking bays within the Darwin CBD, as outlined in this report.

#### KEY ISSUES

- A previous review of Darwin CBD car parking contributed to a total of 27 accessible on-street car parking bays being provided throughout the CBD.
- Of the 27 accessible on-street car parking bays within the CBD, nine comply with relevant Australian Standards and a further three can be upgraded to Australian Standard compliance relatively easily, with minor civil works.
- The remaining 18 are non-compliant bays and will require significant works to bring those bays up to Australian Standard compliance.
- A list of the proposed upgrades (for the 18 non-compliant bays), identifying the works required, associated cost and assessed priority in each case, has been developed from this information. The estimated cost to upgrade all accessible on-street car parking bays within the Darwin CBD is \$477,000.
- The Disability Access Programme budget totals approximately \$50,000 per year. City of Darwin's Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee makes recommendations on how this budget is used. It is recommended that this funding for 2020/21 and that additional funding from the CBD Carparking Shortfall - Rate Levy Reserve be utilised to upgrade the accessible on-street car parking bays within the Darwin CBD.
- As the CBD Carparking Shortfall - Rate Levy Reserve is legally restricted to expense relating to on-street and off-street parking within the CBD, this source of funding has been identified as the predominant funding source to undertake the predominantly upgrades of the on-street accessible parking bays.
- Benchmarking was undertaken to determine City of Darwin's versus other Councils' best practice regarding provision of accessible parking within CBDs.

**BACKGROUND**

In November 2019, through the City of Darwin's Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, 11 problematic accessible parking bays within the Darwin CBD were identified and a request was made to the Technical Services section to undertake a review of these bays to check their compliance with relevant Australian Standards. Through discussions with Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee members, the review was extended to include all on-street accessible parking bays within the CBD.

At the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting of 3 March 2020, it was recommended to Council that an amount of \$100,000 per year be allocated, over a period of three consecutive years, to upgrade identified high-priority accessible parking bays in the Darwin CBD (including the 11 bays identified previously) to meet the relevant Australian Standards.

At the 1st Ordinary Council Meeting held 14 April 2020, Council resolved as follows:

**14.3 MINUTES ACCESS AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 3 MARCH 2020****RESOLUTION ORD178/20**

*Moved: Alderman Andrew Arthur*

*Seconded: Alderman Justine Glover*

- 1. THAT the report entitled Minutes Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting 3 March 2020 be received and noted.*
- 2. THAT Council note the recommendations of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and note that these need further investigation before being referred back to Council for consideration in a separate report at the 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Meeting in May 2020*

**Carried 12/0**

This report provides information on the assessment of the 27 Darwin CBD accessible on-street parking bays and identifies the upgrade works required. It also makes recommendations regarding the budgeting and undertaking of these works in a single year (2020/21).

**DISCUSSION**

Out of the 1673 on-street parking bays in the CBD (Zone A, Zone B, Zone C, Short Term and Accessible Parking Bays) there are currently 27 (approximately 1.6%) designated as accessible car parking bays. This number of accessible parking bays is in accordance with the most relevant National Construction Code of Australia ratio for accessible parking bays per general car parking spaces (1 space for every 50 car parking spaces up to 1000 then 1 space for every 100 car parking spaces in excess of 1000).

A benchmarking exercise was undertaken to determine City of Darwin's versus other Councils' best practice in regard to providing accessible parking with their CBDs. A number of jurisdictions have adopted an approach whereby they aim not only for compliance with the Australian Standards, but to go above and beyond the minimum requirements to ensure sufficient access under the Disability Discrimination Act, which makes it unlawful to discriminate against people with disability in all areas of public life, including access to and the use of buildings and places. For example, Bayside Council provides 5% of parking spaces as accessible in retail areas. Woolahra Municipal Council has a policy to provide additional accessible parking bays if the average occupancy rate for the existing parking space exceeds 80% occupancy; if occupancy rates are lower than 80% than it is deemed good access. Townsville has provided 28 on-street accessible

bays out of 1278 regular bays (2.2%) within their CBD. This compares with the City of Darwin's rate of 1.6%.

Of the 27 accessible on-street car parking bays, 18 do not comply with Australian Standards. The non-compliance of these bays is due to a range of issues predominately related to the lack of kerb ramps and insufficient width and length of the bays. While these bays may be considered adequate for people with minor impairments, or when the person with an impairment is the passenger of the vehicle, they are not considered safe for those in wheelchairs, whether they be the driver or passenger of the vehicle.

Of the 18 non-compliant bays, three can be upgraded to Australian Standard compliance relatively easily with minor civil works (by modifying pavement markings). The upgrade of the remaining 15 non-compliant bays in their current location will require a significant level of civil works and also the loss of other on-street parking bays to bring up to Australian Standard compliance, in some cases.

Due to the significant level of civil works to upgrade all bays in their current location, it is considered more feasible that all accessible on-street parking bays within the CBD are brought up to Australian Standard compliance through a combination of not only upgrading at existing locations, but also relocating bays to more suitable locations, while still maintaining 27 accessible on-street parking bays in total.

The upgrade and relocation of the non-compliant accessible parking bays is estimated to cost between \$2,750 and \$70,000 per site. The fluctuating estimated cost to upgrade the bays is due to the level of work involved in upgrading parallel bays which are considered to be in the most appropriate location. The upgrade of these parallel bays will most likely require engineering survey, service potholing and new stormwater infrastructure. The upgrade of all the on-street accessible parking bays will include the installation of appropriate signage and pavement markings.

In March 2020, a four-day car parking occupancy survey was undertaken to gauge the usage of the on-street accessible parking bays. Using the occupancy rate and level of compliance of each bay, a prioritised list of sites requiring upgrading was developed. The prioritised list of sites as well as the occupancy rate for each bay, proposed actions and estimated upgrade costs are provided at **Attachment 1**.

It should be noted that under the Australian Road Rules, people with accessible permits may park in any parking area (including a designated accessible parking bay) for twice the posted time limit. Furthermore, accessible parking permits within the Darwin Municipality allow free on-street parking (where parking meters are installed) in any time restricted area for twice the period indicated (e.g. three hours extended to six). Vehicles displaying disability parking permits may park in an accessible parking bay in all off-street car parks all day free of charge except for West Lane car park and Chinatown car park. Persons displaying a valid permit who park in an accessible parking bay in either West Lane car park or Chinatown car park may park for twice the time paid for.

The investigation informing the recommendations of this report only included a review of on-street accessible parking spaces within the CBD. A review of off-street accessible parking spaces within the CBD will be undertaken as a separate exercise regarding both the number and design are in compliance with relevant standards. The further investigation would determine the scope of any upgrading works required and cost estimates would be developed.

It is recommended that Council allocate the \$50,000 from the 2020/21 Disability Access Programme budget and \$427,000 from the CBD Carparking Shortfall - Rate Levy Reserve to fund the upgrade of accessible on-street car parking bays within the Darwin CBD in the 2020/21 financial year.

As the CBD Carparking Shortfall - Rate Levy Reserve is legally restricted and can only be used for expense relating to on-street and off-street parking within the CBD, this source of funding has been identified as the predominant funding source to undertake the predominantly upgrades of the on-street accessible parking bays.

## STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

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

### Goal

1 A capital city with best practice and sustainable infrastructure

### Outcome

1.1 By 2030, a number of strategic infrastructure projects will be developed and delivered

## LEGISLATIVE/POLICY

The development of this report was informed and guided by the City of Darwin Policy No. 008 - Community Inclusion, and the Access and Inclusion Plan 2019 - 2022.

## CONSULTATION

This report was considered by the Strategic Direction Group on **5 May 2020** and now referred to **Council** for consideration.

### Internal

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

- General Manager Community and Regulatory Services
- Coordinator Community & Cultural Development
- Community Development Officer
- General Manager Innovation Growth and Development Services
- Manager Economic Development & Tourism

### External

- Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

The programme for the upgrade works required will be developed through consultation with the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee in regard to the design, relocation and priority of the upgrades.

## BUDGET/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

As outlined in **Attachment 1**, the estimated costs of the upgrade works discussed in this report totals \$477,000.

The Disability Access Programme budget for the 2020/21 financial year totals \$50,000. The additional \$427,000 required to undertake this work could be funded from City of Darwin's CBD Carparking Shortfall - Rate Levy Reserve.

For clarification, the total scope of works required to address all of the 18 non-compliant bays was not known at the time that a previous total figure of \$300,000 (over three years) was recommended by the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee. Consequently, the \$300,000 was the best estimate of the value of the works that could be determined at the time, from limited information. The intent of the Committee recommendation was to address the priority sites.

## RISK

Council are likely carrying a risk as there are currently non-conforming accessible parking bays marked throughout the CBD, which are unsafe for use by people with mobility impairments, particularly those in wheelchairs.

The upgrade works outlined in this report would support Council in meeting its obligations under the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA).

**LEGAL**

There are likely to be legal implications if a person/persons with mobility impairments utilising non-conforming bays are injured or worse.

The CBD Carparking Shortfall - Rate Levy Reserve is legally restricted and can only be used for expense relating to on-street and off-street parking within the CBD.

**ARTS, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

City of Darwin's Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee operates to advocate, inform, and guide Council on improved access and inclusion for all people of all abilities, to create a collaborative, inclusive and connected community.

Location of Bay	Landmark Reference	March 2020 Occupancy (%)	Australian Standard Compliance	Suggested Action	Net bays lost	Estimated Cost	Priority
Outside 40 Cavenagh Street	Manunda Terrace	Currently a construction site	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Remove adjacent bay</li> </ul>	1 Zone A	\$14,500	1
Outside 44 Cavenagh Street	Litchfield Street Intersection	100	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate adjacent 40 Cavenagh Street</li> </ul>	Nil	\$2,750	1
Opposite 66 Esplanade	Old Admiralty Towers	100	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate to opposite 68 Esplanade</li> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Remove adjacent bay</li> </ul>	1 Zone B	\$14,500	1
Knuckey Street	Raintree Park	80	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modify pavement markings</li> </ul>	Nil	\$2,750	1
Outside 24 Mitchell Street	Deck Bar	60	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove parking bay and provide an additional bay elsewhere in the CBD in liaison with the Access and Inclusion Committee</li> </ul>	Nil	\$70,000	1
Outside 55 Mitchell Street	Mitchell Centre	60	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modify pavement markings</li> </ul>	Nil	\$2,750	1
Outside 55 Smith Street	Surf Shop	60	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indent kerb line</li> <li>• Widen parking bay</li> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Install stormwater pit</li> </ul>	Nil	\$70,000	2
Outside 55 Smith Street	Surf Shop	40	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indent kerb line</li> <li>• Widen parking bay</li> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Install stormwater pit</li> </ul>	Nil	Nil (included in above)	2
Outside 52 Mitchell Street	Melaluca	40	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indent kerb line</li> <li>• Widen parking bay</li> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Install stormwater pit</li> </ul>	Nil	\$70,000	5
Opposite 84 Esplanade	Mantra	25	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rearrange adjacent parking bays</li> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Remove adjacent bay</li> </ul>	1 Zone C	\$14,500	2
Opposite 90 Esplanade	Peel St	25	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate to opposite 102 Esplanade</li> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Remove adjacent bay</li> </ul>	1 Zone C	\$14,500	2
Opposite 122 Esplanade	DoubleTree	25	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rearrange adjacent parking bays</li> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Remove adjacent bay</li> </ul>	1 Zone C	\$14,500	4
Outside 69 Mitchell Street	Transit Centre	20	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indent kerb line</li> <li>• Widen parking bay</li> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Install stormwater pit</li> </ul>	Nil	\$70,000	3
Outside 69 Smith Street	Opposite Woolworths	20	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indent kerb line</li> <li>• Widen parking bay</li> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Install stormwater pit</li> </ul>	Nil	\$70,000	4
Opposite 122-112 Esplanade	Entertainment Centre	0	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate to opposite 112-112 Esplanade</li> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Remove adjacent bay</li> </ul>	1 Zone B	\$14,500	3
Opposite 90 Esplanade	Peel Street Intersection	0	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rearrange adjacent parking bays</li> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Remove adjacent bay</li> </ul>	1 Zone C	\$14,500	3
Opposite 130 Esplanade	Daly Street Intersection	0	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modify pavement markings</li> <li>• Remove adjacent accessible bay (refer below)</li> </ul>	Nil	\$2,750	5
Opposite 130 Esplanade	Daly Street Intersection	0	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate to opposite 74 Esplanade</li> <li>• Install kerb ramp</li> <li>• Remove adjacent bay</li> </ul>	1 Zone C	\$14,500	5

**14.2 RATIONALISATION OF PARKING METERS**

**Common Number: 376351**

**Author: Manager Economic Development & Tourism**

**Authoriser: General Manager Innovation Growth and Development Services**

**Attachments:**

- 1. Meters Already Removed**
- 2. Meters Earnings**
- 3. Proposed Meter Removals**

**SUMMARY**

This report provides further information and an update to Council on the continued removal of parking machines within the CBD.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report entitled Rationalisation of Parking Machines be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the attached plans for car parking machine rationalisation.

**KEY ISSUES**

- As part of Council Smart City Initiatives Council has gradually been removing on street parking machines within the CBD moving toward a cashless/contactless solution through pay by phone technology.
- To date just over 23% (71 parking machines) have been removed and it is proposed to remove a further 41 parking machines from Zone C prior to 30 June 2020 before payment for parking commences again following the COVID – 19 pandemic free parking period.
- The only on street parking machines which will remain from 1 July 2020 will be those within Zone A (82 parking machines) and some parts of Zone B yet to be consolidated.
- The rationale to continue with parking machines within Zone A is on the basis that Zone A continues to collect over 55% in cash and on average \$7,000 per parking machine per annum.
- The rationale to continue removing parking machines from Zone B & C is based on the lower level of cash collected, between 18% and 49% and less than \$3,000 collected from each parking machine per year.
- The current parking meters will reach their end of life estimations in 2 years and this rationalisation will see not only a change in behaviour for the user but also a cost efficiency for council.

**BACKGROUND**

From July 2019 Council commenced reducing the number of on street parking machines seeking efficiencies in maintenance and cash collection costs and encouraging the uptake of technology through the payment by phone. To date the following machines have been removed please see attached map **Attachment 3**.

	<b>June 2019</b>	<b>May 2020</b>	<b>Reduction</b>
Off Street	42	39	3
Zone A	110	82	28
Zone B	94	76	18
Zone C	63	41	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>71</b>

**DISCUSSION**

The collection of revenue from on street car parking which is \$2.0 million annually is broken up as follows.

<i>On Street</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Cash</i>	<i>PayStay</i>	<i>No of Parking Machines</i>
<b>Zone A</b>	\$1.0 million	55%	45%	82
<b>Zone B</b>	\$0.47 million	49%	51%	76
<b>Zone C</b>	\$0.42 million	18%	82%	41

Based on the current levels of cash being collected and the locations of the various machines it is recommended to remove all Zone C & part there of Zone B parking machines with Zone A parking machines (82 parking machines) to remain. Zone B & C parking machines are principally located along the Esplanade, Wood Street and towards the Daly Street end of the city and not utilised by purposeful association with the retail and businesses in the precinct.

With the potential loss of 391 parking bays from Cavenagh Street Carpark as a result of its sale a review of underused parking bays in Zone B will be completed and thus converting them to all day parking and into Zone C.

This will result in the consolidation of three zones into two, having only zone C and Zone A.

A key challenge in progressing a cashless parking solution will be Council’s ability to communicate it effectively, on this basis only accepting cash in Zone A (and its off-street facilities) is considered a simple approach creating less confusion for the motorists. Please refer to the attached map detailing the location of parking machines within the CBD, **Attachment 1 and 2**.

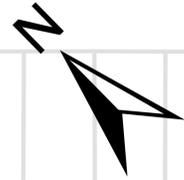
**IMPLICATIONS**

A continuance of the communication plan will be required to implement this strategy effectively.

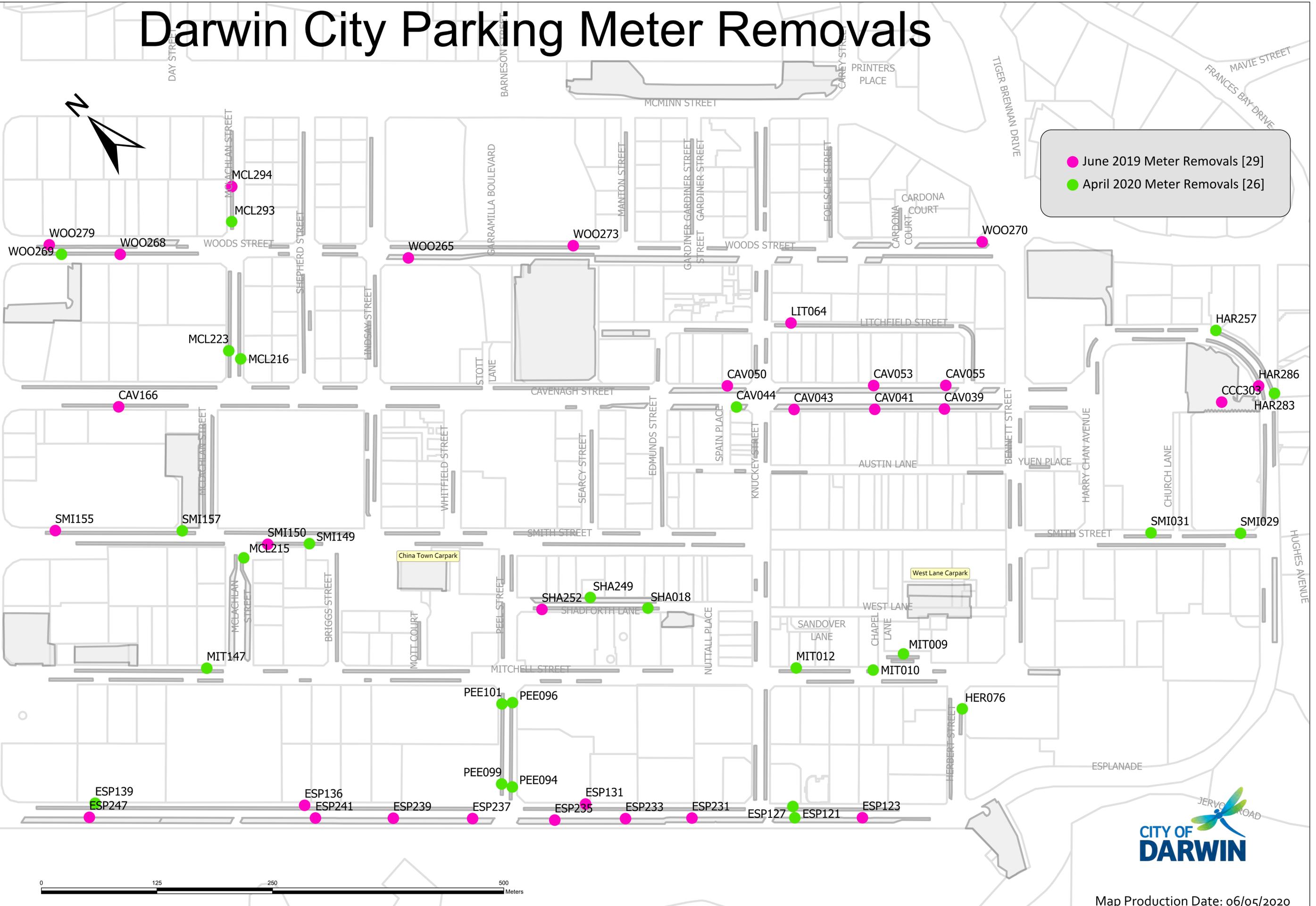
The cost saving in maintenance and cash collection for each parking machine is approximately \$2,200 per annum. Total annual savings exceed \$300K.

Council has forgone \$1.0 million in parking revenue as a consequence of the COVID -19 measures, the rationalisation of parking machines will assist in addressing this loss and supporting the contactless approach to cash handling for our city more broadly.

# Darwin City Parking Meter Removals

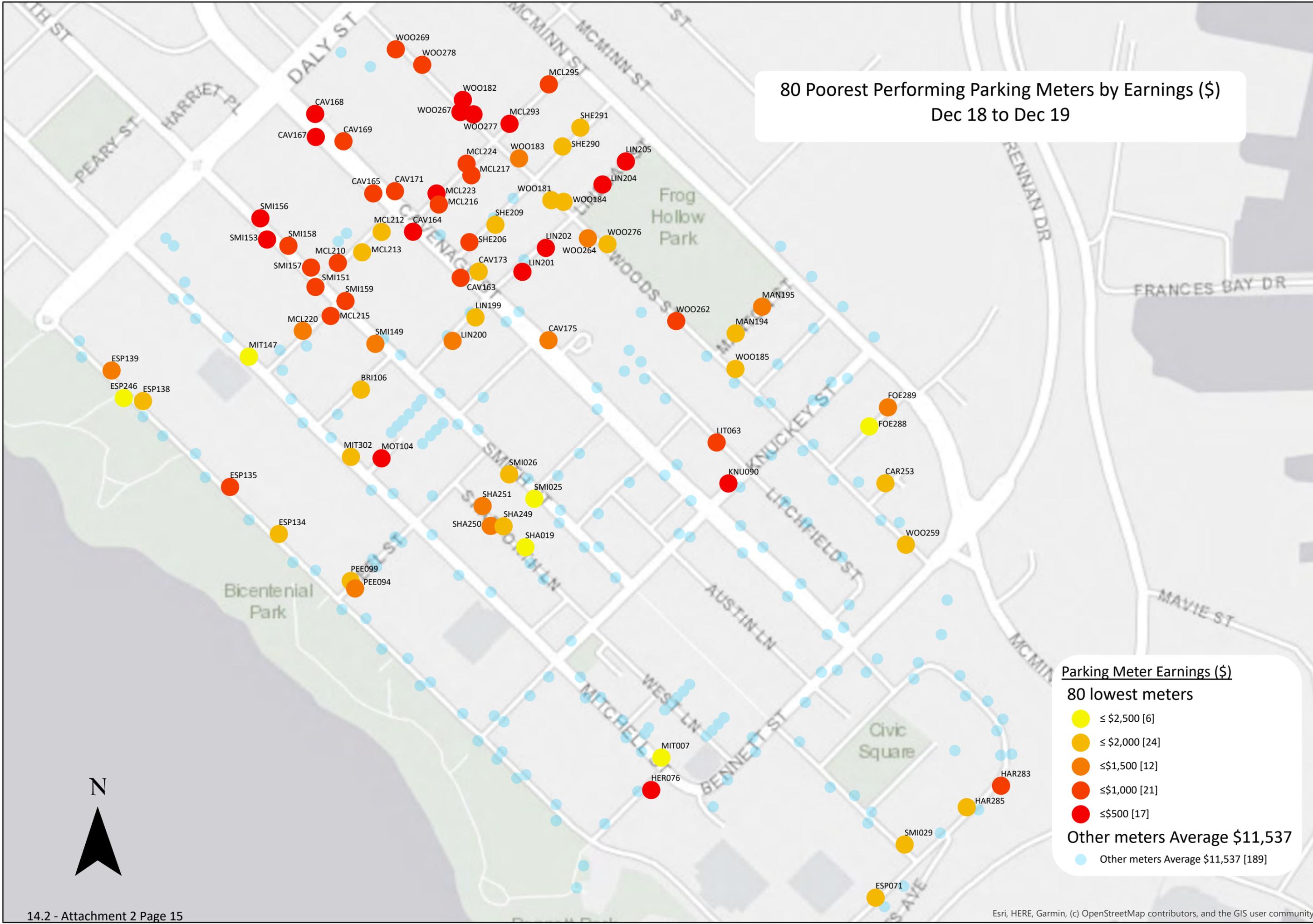


● June 2019 Meter Removals [29]  
● April 2020 Meter Removals [26]



Map Production Date: 06/05/2020

80 Poorest Performing Parking Meters by Earnings (\$)  
Dec 18 to Dec 19



**Parking Meter Earnings (\$)**  
80 lowest meters

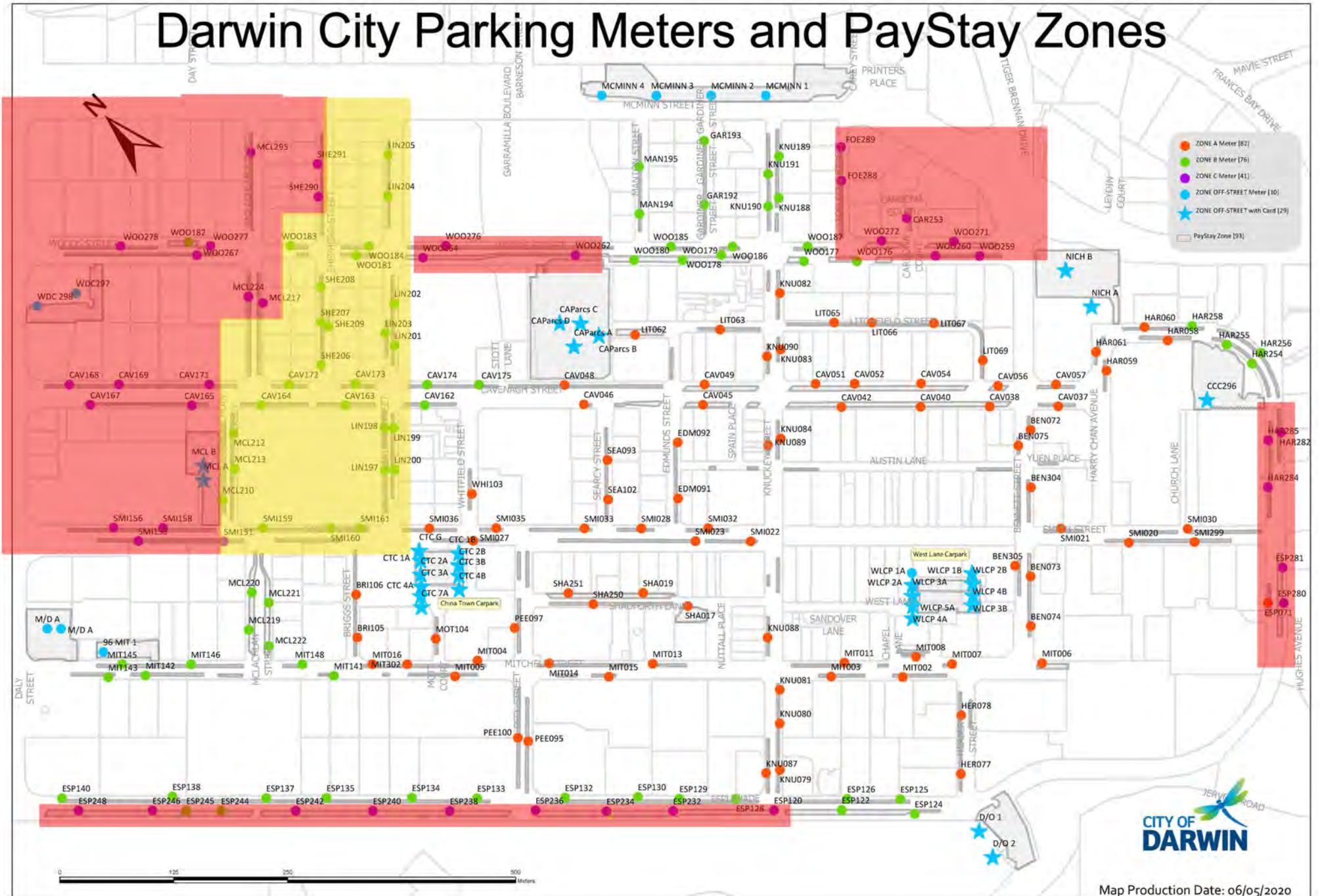
- ≤ \$2,500 [6]
- ≤ \$2,000 [24]
- ≤ \$1,500 [12]
- ≤ \$1,000 [21]
- ≤ \$500 [17]

**Other meters Average \$11,537**

- Other meters Average \$11,537 [189]



# Darwin City Parking Meters and PayStay Zones



**14.3 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM (2020/21)**

**Author:** Senior Climate Change & Environment Officer  
**Authoriser:** General Manager Engineering and City Services  
**Attachments:** 1. Climate Change And Environment Community Grants 2020

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Councils approval for funding recommendations for the Climate Change and Environment Community Grants Program 2020/21.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report entitled Climate Change and Environment Community Grant Program (2020/21) be received and noted.
  2. THAT the following five applications for the Climate Change and Environment Community Grant Program (2020/21) be approved:
    - (i) Darwin Harbour Clean-up (Larrakia Nation) \$5,000.00
    - (ii) Resilient Resources for Community (GULP) \$7,760.00
    - (iii) Sustainable House Day 2020 (COOLmob) \$7,750.00
    - (iv) The Sacred Life Of Trees (Arafura Music Collective) \$9,000.00
    - (v) Sustainable Event guides (Nightcliff Arts, Music & Culture Inc.) \$9,000.00
- Total Funding \$38,510.00**

**KEY ISSUES**

- Each year Council allocates \$50,000 towards community climate change and environment initiatives.
- The projects recommended for full or partial funding meet the Community and Environment Grants Program guidelines and are deemed to have community and environmental benefit.
- 22 applications were received, of which eight were considered environmental community-based projects and considered for the allocated funding available. These were assessed by a panel of Council officers.
- Five projects have been recommended for funding for a total of \$38,510.
- One project has been deferred to the Community Grants Program for funding.

**BACKGROUND**

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held 14 May 2019, Council resolved as follows:

**RESOLUTION ORD001/19**

Moved: Alderman Simon Niblock  
Seconded: Alderman Andrew Arthur

1. THAT this report entitled Community and Environment Grant Programs (2019/2020) be

received and noted.

2. THAT the following applications for round one of the Community Grant Program 2019/2020 be approved:

i. Growing and Using Local Produce (GULP NT)	\$3,600.00
ii. Darwin Men’s Shed (Men’s Shed – A Safe Place to Attend and Work)	\$7,775.00
iii. Mitchell Street Child Care Centre (Community Open Day)	\$3,500.00
iv. Darwin Visual Arts Association (Darwin CBD Walking Art Tour)	\$9,335.00
v. Free Space Studio (The Open House)	\$5,000.00
vi. Darwin Seventh Day Adventist Church (Youth Centre)	\$1,160.00
vii. Nature’s Flow (Disabilities Yoga)	\$2,340.00
viii. St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. (Darwin City AED Project)	\$5,000.00
ix. Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation (2019 From Country to Couture Mentoring Project)	\$5,000.00
x. Clubhouse Territory Inc.	\$1,400.00
xi. Open Gardens NT (The Art of Growing Communities)	\$4,500.00
	<b>Total \$48,610.00</b>

3. THAT the following applications for the Environment Grant Program 2019/2020 be approved:

i. COOLmob, a project of the Environment Centre NT (COOLmob Sustainable Apartments Project)	\$7,895.00
ii. Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (Darwin Harbour Clean-Up 2019)	\$5,000.00
iii. Royal Australian Artillery Association (NT) Inc. (Landscaping of Gun Embankment)	\$4,200.00
iv. Lakeside Drive Community Garden (Open Garden Day)	\$4,099.00
v. Carolyn Macdonald, Auspiced by Brown’s Mart (High Tides at Casuarina Square)	\$6,000.00
vi. Greening Australia (Whose Rat is That?)	\$3,840.00
vii. Parap Primary School (Boomerang Bags)	\$645.00
viii. Girl Guides NT Inc (Tress, Vegetable and Herb Gardens)	\$1,900.00
ix. Parap Village Traders Associations (Bring your own, wash and reuse/ recycle)	\$2,664.10
x. Climate Action Darwin, Auspiced by Environment Centre NT (Darwin, A Climate Awakening)	\$2,700.00
xi. Australian Association for Environmental Education NT (Sustaining Urban & Peri-urban Endangered Reptiles – SUPER)	\$5,000.00
i.	<b>Total \$43,943.10</b>

**CARRIED 11/0**

## **DISCUSSION**

Annually, Council allocates \$50,000 for community-based climate change and environment projects through its Climate Change and Environment Grants Program. Funding for community-based environmental projects is dispensed at the start of the financial year for projects undertaken during the financial year.

To make applying simpler for community groups, three funding streams are open for applications at the same time for the Community Grants Program, the Climate Change and Environment Grants Program and Sponsorships. Applications were open for the month of March, allowing for joint marketing and better streamlining of processes.

Submitted applications for all streams were lower than previous years (for example 45 applications received in 2019, only 22 in 2020). This is believed to have occurred due to the timing of the grants coinciding with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, as similar advertising and promotion to previous years was undertaken. The communications strategy included newspaper advertising, direct mailing to networks and website updates. Grant writing workshops were also held in the lead up to the closing date to develop the capacity of community groups in writing grants and sponsorship applications.

Applicants were advised of the COVID-19 social distancing requirements and to consider that when writing their application. Many of the applicants submitted applications for online content or alternate program development options if the COVID-19 situation were to persist.

Outline of the grant applications and assessment panel comments for the Climate Change and Environment Grants are provided at **Attachment 1**. Projects are recommended for full funding, partial funding or no funding; and are included against each project.

## **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT**

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

### **Goal**

5 A Vibrant and Creative City

### **Outcome**

5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity

## **LEGISLATIVE/POLICY**

This report is in line with all Council policy, procedures and strategic directions.

## **CONSULTATION**

### **Internal**

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

- Community Development Officer
- Climate Change and Environment Support Officer
- Climate Emergency Project Officer
- Executive Manager Project Management
- Team Leader Waste Services

### **External**

- A wide range of external community groups were engaged and encouraged to apply for one of the grant streams and attend the grant writing workshops.

**BUDGET/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Council allocates \$50,000 for climate change and environment grants. This money is allowed for in the operational budget. Allocation of the funds was through an open and transparent process based on merit.

**RISK**

Given that this funding is budgeted for in the financial year, to not spend this money creates a possible reputational risk of not delivering on its commitment to provide community support.

Community organisations entering agreements with Council for grants are accountable through a formal acquittal process monitored by staff. Community organisations that have not acquitted previous grants are not eligible until acquittals are completed. None of the successful grant applicants have an outstanding grant acquittal.

**LEGAL**

Nil

**ARTS, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

City of Darwin's Community and Environment Grant Programs contribute positively towards both community and environmental outcomes for the Darwin municipality.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Climate Change and Environment Community Grants 2020/2021</b>						
2	<b>App no.</b>	<b>Organisation name</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Brief project description</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>	<b>Assessor Comments</b>
3	12	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	<b>Darwin Harbour Clean-up</b>	The Darwin Harbour Clean-Up involves an extensive range of participants collecting rubbish from the waterways and coastlines surrounding the Darwin Harbour. This event highlights the impacts of rubbish on the marine environment adding to a database on the types and amounts of rubbish at different sites. This funding will be used to support the Larrakia Rangers in leading the organisation of this event now and into the future.	\$5,000	<b>\$5,000</b>	Great community engagement event that contributes to councils waste messaging and builds on previous relationship building. Have identified alternate opportunities to run program if covid situation continues.
4	5	COOLmob	<b>Sustainable House Day 2020</b>	COOLmob seeks to participate in the national Sustainable House Day (SHD) event by sourcing and opening houses and apartments in Darwin. SHD provides a great opportunity for people to visit some of Australia's leading green homes – ones that are not only environmentally friendly, but cheaper to run and more comfortable to live in.	\$10,000	<b>\$7,750</b> Admin fees not eligible for funding	Previously run similar programs therefore has the skills. putting the information online fulfills Covid restrictions if required
5	19	SolarBuddy.orgLtd	<b>LearningBuddy</b>	The LearningBuddy program is a community education program aimed towards indigenous communities living in rural and remote areas of Darwin. The program has been developed to connect family groups with other communities around the world. Each child will receive 2 lights to assemble and will have the option to keep a light for themselves to continue their studies after dark, and donate one to a child living in energy poverty overseas.	\$10,000	<b>\$0</b> School based project not eligible for funding	The project for solar lights is innovative but project plan is lacking local knowledge and is very school focused, therefore not priority for funding.
6	22	Growing and Using Local Produce NT- auspiced by Environment Centre NT	<b>GULP - Resilient Resources for Community</b>	A program to create online education resources and a video series exploring how to grow and eat more local tropical food with a focus on supporting food security, community connection and resilience. This project will produce 4 online workshop videos and support locals.	\$9,129	<b>\$7,760</b> Project management fees considered same as production management	Previously run similar programs therefore has the skills to deliver. Transitioning the information to online gives the program longevity and fulfills Covid restrictions.
7	28	Arafura Music Collective - Auspiced by Music NT	<b>The Sacred Life Of Trees</b>	The Sacred Live of Trees project aims to celebrate and raise awareness of five Heritage Trees site to share this cultural and environmental heritage. Each performance will be unique, developed around the distinctive cultural, historical and environmental stories of each tree. The music will include apt works by NT and Australian composers, new works composed for the specific site, and improvisations in response to the specific site and tree. Included as part of the performance design will be the silence and sounds of the natural environment, wind, bird calls, and the sounds of the City.	\$10,000	<b>\$9000</b> Admin Fees not eligible for funding	Unique way of engagement. we have not funded anything similar previously. Supports local artists whilst promoting environmental aspects of Darwin.
8	33	Darwin Community Arts	<b>Together While Apart - skill share series</b>	We usually offer face-to-face workshops that bring the community together; connecting, making and sharing art that has an ecological focus. We believe that now more than ever community art activities are essential for lifting people's spirit and connecting with the natural world. This project will include a series of 21 fortnightly skill shares and discussion groups. we will start by delivering these sessions online using Zoom video meetings, Facebook Page events and a website gallery. Once it is considered safe for people to physically gather again, we will host them at local accessible locations.	\$9,955	<b>\$0</b> Deferred to Community Grants Program for funding	Collaboration with Gulp project. Great value for 21 online workshops. Support Community grant funding if required
9	24	Nightcliff	<b>Sustainable Event Guide</b>	Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival (NSF) sustainability initiatives have raised the general overall Festival standard in Darwin and contributed to changing the behaviour of Stall Holders, Staff, Crew, Volunteers, Artists and Audience alike. Seabreeze has shown and inspired the beginnings of what is possible. This project is to research and create a Sustainable event guide that provides a step by step planning for event organizers (big or small) to move towards a more sustainable event that can be used as a print and online resource.	\$10,000	<b>\$9000</b> Budget calculations wrong in submission-adjusted to correct figure	Good initiative that will have long-term benefits. Aligns to Council priorities and fulfills a community need.
10	14	HPA	<b>"Precinct for Purpose" Community project at HPA Trash &amp; Treasure – Shoal Bay Transfer Station.</b>	HPA is seeking to vastly expand the use of the Shoal Bay Trash n Treasure site to achieve wider outcomes for both the community and the environment. The vision for this project is to create a safe, inviting, well set up area for HPA and a range of community groups to use the area for activities including community workshops, community fundraisers and a suitable meeting venue. This will include shaded landscaped outdoor areas, a commercial standard bar-b-que facility and workshop/office area to conduct community workshops. The purchase of a 40ft purpose built container as a workshop/administration is the focus of this grant request.	\$10,000	<b>\$0</b> Purchase of infrastructure not eligible through this funding.	Project is community minded however infrastructure is not eligible for funding. The proposal will be highlighted to Waste team and Shoal Bay managers for decision on this upgrade to Shoal Bay.
11	<b>Total Funding requested</b>				<b>\$74,084</b>	<b>\$38,510</b>	

**14.4 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP SUPPORT POLICY**

**Author:** Executive Manager Corporate & Customer Services

**Authoriser:** General Manager Government Relations & External Affairs

**Attachments:**

1. Council Policy No. 021 Revenue
2. Draft Revenue Policy 021
3. Draft Council Policy No. 091 Financial Hardship Support Policy

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to adopt the Financial Hardship Policy and consequential amendments to the Revenue Policy.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report entitled Financial Hardship Support Policy be received and noted.
2. THAT Council Policy No. 021 Revenue at **Attachment 1** be rescinded.
3. THAT revised Draft Council Policy No. 021 Revenue at **Attachment 2** be adopted.
4. THAT Draft Council Policy No. 091 Financial Hardship Support at **Attachment 3** be adopted.

**KEY ISSUES**

- Council has been a leader in local government in terms of its response to the COVID-19 emergency.
- Council has relaxed parking fees, deferred rates and waived fees and charges to support the community during COVID-19.
- A draft policy to support ratepayers has been developed which contains the following:
  - Support for owner occupied and rental residential property owners.
  - Support for all commercial property owners to align with the Northern Territory Government Hardship Register.
  - Partial rates relief in the form of a grant to those who have already paid rates in 2019/20.
  - Council will waive interest and cease recovery action when a ratepayer enters into and maintains a payment arrangement.
  - Concessions to rate properties used for community purposes at no more than the minimum rate will be continued.
  - A general waiver on interest charges during an emergency event.
  - No recovery action during an emergency event.

**BACKGROUND**

Council has been a leader in local government in terms of its response to the COVID-19 emergency. Council has been working to respond to this emergency since 29 January 2020.

On 17 March 2020, in addition to parking fee relaxations, Council resolved to suspend the charging of interest rates on outstanding rates balances until 30 June 2020, meaning that ratepayers had an additional three months to settle their 2019/2020 rates accounts without penalty. This is captured in the resolution outlined below:

**18.1 DARWIN ECONOMY****RESOLUTION ORD133/20**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

THAT due to the unprecedented situation occurring with the COVID-19 Pandemic, Council undertake the following fiscal steps to support the Darwin Economy;

1. Car Parking fees and charges for CBD on-street car parking are waived from 18 March 2020 for an initial period of 60 days
2. The charging of interest on outstanding rates balances is suspended from 18 March 2020 until 30 June 2020
3. As part of the 2020/21 FY budget deliberations that the current interest rate for outstanding rates balances is reviewed within these deliberations
4. Innovation Growth and Development Services, investigate and present to Council options for encouraging residents to shop and dine in the CBD/ Municipality wide

**CARRIED 11/1**

Following that meeting, Council held a Special Council Meeting on 8 April 2020 to further consider its community support in response to COVID19 and adopted the following motion:

**5.1 LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - CORONAVIRUS (COVID - 19) - COUNCIL RESPONSE #2****RESOLUTION SPE167/20**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

To deliver a clear position of support to our Community as Lord Mayor I will move the following support measures valued up to a \$55M for discussion and debate as an initial response:

1. THAT the current due date for rates and associated levies be deferred from 31 March 2020 to 30 June 2020, with a review to occur prior to 30 June 2020
2. THAT the current rate hardship policy be revised and amended to include criteria specifically relating to commercial, residential and industrial ratepayers affected by COVID-19, taking into consideration any assistance provided by the Australian and Northern Territory Government;  
Furthermore that a report be provided to Council at the next ordinary meeting to discuss and debate the amended policy
3. THAT all permit charges, fees and levies' – inclusive of the CBD Parking Levy, with the exception of waste associated charges be waived until 30 June 2020, with a review to occur prior to 30 June 2020
4. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, review and provide a report to Council in relation to loan borrowing options and a working capital facility in providing Council with options leading into the 2020/21 Financial Year Budget preparation for extraordinary measures to support the business community and provide employment during the recovery for the Darwin community
5. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, discuss with the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development, dispensation for the use of restricted reserves in the recovery effort and report the outcome to Council
6. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, review and report to Council the pooling of all current debt accrued by Council into a single debt facility taking advantage of historically low interest rates
7. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, finalise Council's Strategic Projects and Economic Development Plan for final briefing and adoption by Council prior to 30 April 2020
8. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, provide a list of large scale infrastructure projects for Council's consideration to jointly fund with the Northern Territory and Australian Government

- on the basis of creating construction jobs in the recovery
9. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, continue to enhance and provide as many services as possible to the community on an online basis, including the broadcast community and social based programs via social media
  10. THAT Council move a vote of thanks to Council Staff that are serving our community during this difficult time

#### AMENDMENT

11. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, commence planning and programming to provide additional employment to the Darwin Community as soon as possible, up to and including the 30th of June 2020. Furthermore, that the program be known as the "Green Army" focusing upon greening and beautification initiatives across the municipality.

**CARRIED 13/0**

The Special Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April provided further support including a formal moving of the due date for settlement of 2019/2020 rates from 31 March to 30 June 2020. The effect of this decision was that no ratepayer will be default for rates incurred since the COVID-19 emergency. Therefore, this meant that ratepayers were protected for 2019/2020 and Council had the opportunity to provide a measured longer term response.

#### DISCUSSION

Following previous engagement with Elected Members and the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Council has refined the proposed Financial Hardship Support Policy which is at **Attachment 3**.

Included in this policy are the following features:

- Support for residential owner-occupied properties:
  - Lost income up to 30%: negotiated payment terms and waiver of interest charges
  - Lost income 30-100%: negotiated payment terms, waiver of interest charges and a 3-month waiver of rates
- Support for residential rental properties
  - Deferral of rent and/or rent reduction up to 30%: negotiated payment terms and waiver of interest charges
  - Reduction in rent of at least 30% for at least 6 months: negotiated payment terms, waiver of interest charges and a 3-month waiver of rates.
- Commercial ratepayers can receive negotiated payment terms and waiver of interest charges if they demonstrate lost income, deferral of rent and/or rent reduction irrespective of whether the property is owner-occupied, leased or otherwise.
- In addition to the relief above, if the commercial ratepayer meets the requirements of the Northern Territory Government's Hardship Register, they can access a 3 months rates waiver.
- The Hardship Register threshold is a business with a turnover of up to \$50 million that can demonstrate a reduction in turnover of 30%, based on the GST turnover test applied by the Federal Government.
- Rates relief in the form of a grant may be offered to those who have already paid rates in 2019/20.
- Council will waive interest and cease recovery action when a ratepayer enters into and maintains a payment arrangement. Currently interest is charged when a payment arrangement is entered into.

- Concessions to rate properties used for community purposes at no more than the minimum rate will be continued.
- A general waiver on interest charges during an emergency event.
- No recovery action during an emergency event.
- The interest rate charged on overdue rates will be reviewed as part of the development of the Declaration of Rates and Charges for 2020/2021.

It is not proposed that Council would waive waste charges, as this is a fee for service. As significant public funds are being provided to households and businesses, it is considered reasonable that any Council concessions would take into account the net income position of ratepayers. This would mean that any loss of income would be offset by the Jobseeker Payment and Coronavirus Supplement, impacts of the Jobkeeper payment and/or other direct business support.

## STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

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

### Goal

6 Governance Framework

### Outcome

6.3 Decision Making and Management

## LEGISLATIVE/POLICY

Council's current financial hardship provisions are contained within Council Policy No. 021 *Revenue* at **Attachment 1**. It is proposed that they are removed from the policy and form part of a new Council Policy No. 091 *Financial Hardship Support* at **Attachment 3**. The existing Revenue policy has been amended and is presented for adoption at **Attachment 2**. Consequential amendments have been to reflect the removal of this content. The policy will be reviewed at a later date.

## CONSULTATION

### Internal

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

- Executive Manager Finance

### External

- Staff from the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development

## BUDGET/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The most recent unemployment estimates are that 11,400 jobs have been lost in the Northern Territory as a result of COVID19. This is below initial estimates and more favourable than national trends. However, this data is current until 18 April 2020, so further impacts may not have been realised. This data does not take into account positive financial impacts of the easing of restrictions which commenced on 1 May 2020.

Current modelling undertaken by Council staff has been very conservative, however Council would be looking at a reduction in rates revenue of up to \$8,039,062 based on this model. The Department has indicated that Commercial waivers would be offset conditional on consistency with their policy position on commercial properties, which would leave a net impact of up to \$5,554,835 against revenue originally estimated to be \$74.3 million. This draft policy is consistent with the Department's policy position.

Interest on outstanding rates is estimated at \$480,000 per year and would be forfeited for at least six months under this policy.

**RISK**

If Council chooses to endorse a policy for commercial ratepayers different to the proposed policy, then there is a risk that Department will not provide financial assistance to meet the costs of commercial rates waivers, costing Council up to \$2.5 million

**LEGAL**

Nil.

**ARTS, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

Nil.

# Policy



**Title:** Revenue Policy  
**Policy No:** 021  
**Adopted By:** Council  
**Next Review Date:** 30/05/2021  
**Responsibility:** General Manager City Performance  
**Document ID:** 3248153

Version	Decision Number	Adoption Date	History
1	20\2501	23/02/2010	Adopted
2	21\225	26/06/2012	Revision Adopted
3	21\2657	30/09/2014	Revision Adopted
4	21\4764	30/08/2016	Included Recoveries
5	21\5437	30/05/2017	Adopted by Council, including rate refunds

## 1 Policy Summary

Council policy with regard to rates and charges, the granting of concessions and recovery of debts.

## 2 Policy Objectives

To administer:

- Council's system of levying rates and charges in accordance with the *Local Government Act*.
- Other miscellaneous debtors.

## 3 Background

A policy on rates, charges and granting of concessions provides guidance for annual rates setting, enables the Council to consider and decide annual applications for concessions and provides a framework for debt recovery.

## 4 Policy Statement

To administer Council's system of levying rates and charges in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and service the needs of ratepayers and stakeholders in an efficient and effective manner.

To address the granting of concessions from the payment of rates as levied, by implementing a simple administrative system.

To provide future certainty for rate relief granted:

- That rates waived will not be recovered at a future time pursuant to Chapter 11 of the *Local Government Act*.

## Policy

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- That rates deferred will be recovered at a future time pursuant to Chapter 11 of the *Local Government Act*, usually when the property is sold, and outstanding rates are recovered as a charge against the land.
- To provide a framework for debt recovery.

### General Rate

A differential General Rate shall be levied on all rateable properties based on the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) of the land falling within the Planning Zones under the NT Planning Scheme.

### Parking Local Rate

The Local Rate (Parking Local Rate) per shortfall bay is assessed and levied in accordance with the Local Government Darwin Parking Local Rates Regulations (The Regulations).

### Waste Management Charges

Garbage collection and recycling charges are based on the type of residential dwelling being serviced and the relative applicable type of service provided.

### Rebates and Concessions on Rates and Charges

Council recognises that individuals can experience difficulty in meeting their responsibilities for the payment of rates and that it may be appropriate where financial hardship has been demonstrated to grant a concession to the payment of rates. The concession granted can be either a waiving of rates levied (ie. abandonment), or a deferment (for recovery at a later time).

### Financial Hardship

Relief from payment of rates on the grounds of financial hardship shall only apply to a natural person(s) who use the rated property as their principal place of residence.

For the avoidance of doubt relief from payment of rates on the grounds of financial hardship shall not apply to entities other than natural person(s) nor to charges for services provided by Council such as garbage collection.

The following are examples of entities that are not natural persons:

- Companies, business partnerships, trusts and other separate entities.
- Clubs or organisations that hold a licence to sell liquor and/or operate gaming machines.

Decisions will be made based on the particular merits in each case.

### Deferment of Rates

Every ratepayer will, as a matter of right, be entitled to a deferment of rates pursuant to Chapter 11 of the *Local Government Act* for a period of seven days after the due date without the imposition of late payment penalties, providing the rates are settled within the 7 day period of grace.

## Policy

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### Waiver of Rates

Council will as a matter of course, pursuant to Chapter 11 of the *Local Government Act*, waive that portion of any rates or charges in excess of the minimum rate for properties occupied by organisations operating substantially for the benefit of the youth of the community.

Council also recognises that incorporated community associations on having been granted tenancy of a property by way of a Crown Lease for a specific purpose, may experience difficulty in meeting their responsibilities for the payment of rates whilst in the process of substantially achieving the purpose of that Crown Lease.

It is appropriate that where the specific purpose of the Crown Lease satisfies the requirements of Part 11.8 of the *Local Government Act*, Council will waive (abandon) all rates and charges until such time as the associations concerned have substantially achieved the purpose of the relevant Crown Lease and are therefore deemed to be in occupation of the parcels of land in question (Council Decision No. 17\1228 25/02/97).

Waivers will not apply to organisations that hold a licence to sell liquor and/or operate gaming machines.

### Refunds Policy

Upon request the Council will refund a credit balance on a rates account to the ratepayer as it considers this is the correct course of action in terms of legal, ethical and customer service considerations.

### Payment Arrangements

Council will allow property owners who are unable to pay their rates by the due date to enter into an arrangement to pay by instalments according to an agreed schedule, with no recovery action being taken while the arrangement is being maintained. However interest will be charged on any arrears of rates in accordance with Council's budget resolution.

### Interest on Rates and Charges in Arrears

Council encourages ratepayers to meet their rate and charges debt payment responsibilities. To this end Council will impose interest, calculated daily after the instalment due date on instalments of rates and charges that remain unpaid. The rate of interest will be determined annually by resolution.

Decisions relating to requests to the write off interest as a result of error, oversight or on compassionate grounds will be determined on merit.

### Sale of Property Database Information

City of Darwin will not engage in the sale of property database information to external parties other than to the extent required by the *Local Government Act* and regulations thereto.

## Policy

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### Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates

If rates have been in arrears for at least three years Council may, pursuant to part 11.9 of the *Local Government Act* initiate proceedings to sell the land.

### Reclassification of Rateable Land to Non-Rateable

All requests from property owners/ratepayers for a parcel of land to be reclassified as non-rateable on a legislative basis must be provided to Council in writing. These will be determined in accordance with the facts and legal requirements.

## **5 Revenue/Debt Recovery**

Debt recovery is based on the following principles:

- Debt recovery must take a non-discriminatory and impartial approach.
- Privacy and confidentiality.
- Persons owing the Council money must be treated with sensitivity and respect.
- Recovery will include any costs reasonably incurred by the Council.
- Sale of land for unpaid rates may be undertaken as a last resort.
- Interest will be charged in accordance with Council's annual fees and charges.

Structured procedures are to be applied to ensure that debts owed to Council are received by due date or followed up within specified timeframes. As a minimum procedures and actual practices in respect of business ethics will be within the guidelines for debt recovery issued from time to time by the ACCC.

## **6 Legislation, terminology and references**

This policy is subject to the Northern Territory *Local Government Act* and the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations.

## **7 Implementation and delegation**

Implementation and actions at the time of writing this policy rest with the Chief Executive and are subject to the Council's delegations and sub-delegations registers pursuant to the *Local Government Act*.

### Writing Off Interest or Fees Charged to Rates Accounts

If the write off of interest or fees is required as a result of error, oversight or on compassionate grounds, the matter is to be referred to the Team Leader Revenue who will organise the appropriate consideration and actions subject to the delegations and sub delegations register/s.

### Adjustment of Rates Levies

If a previously-levied rate is to be adjusted as a result of error, oversight or revaluation, the matter is to be referred to the Team Leader Revenue for action subject to the delegations and sub delegations registers.

## Policy

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### Approval for Reclassification of Rateable Land to Non-Rateable Land

All requests from property owners/ratepayers for a parcel of land to be reclassified as non-rateable on a legislative basis must be provided to Council in writing addressed to the Chief Executive Officer.

Requests will be assessed for compliance with Section 144 of the *Local Government Act*. Those requests that comply with the specific provisions of Section 144 of the *Local Government Act* require no further referral and may be approved by the Chief Executive or other delegated officer. Where there is uncertainty over compliance with Section 144 of the *Local Government Act*, formal legal advice should be sought.

### **8 Evaluation and review**

The Policy is reviewed every 4 years or more often as required.



**REVENUE POLICY**  
**Policy No. 021**

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**1 Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on Council's revenue setting.

**2 Scope**

The intended objective of this policy is to assist in administering Council's system of levying rates and charges in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and service the needs of ratepayers and stakeholders in an efficient and effective manner.

**3 Policy Statement**

**3.1 General Rate**

A differential General Rate shall be levied on all rateable properties based on the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) of the land falling within the Planning Zones under the *NT Planning Scheme*.

**3.2 Parking Local Rate**

The Local Rate (Parking Local Rate) per shortfall bay is assessed and levied in accordance with the *Local Government (Darwin Parking Local Rates) Regulations*.

**3.3 Waste Management Charges**

Garbage collection and recycling charges are based on the type of residential dwelling being serviced and the relative applicable type of service provided.

**4 Definitions**

Nil.

**5 Legislative References**

This policy is subject to the Northern Territory *Local Government Act* and Associated Regulations.

**6 Procedures / Related Documents**

Council Policy No. 091 *Financial Hardship Support Policy*

Council Policy No. 021 - REVENUE				
Version	Decision Number	Adoption Date	Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Finance	Next Review Date



## REVENUE POLICY Policy No. 021

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### 7 Responsibility / Application

Implementation of this policy rests with the Chief Executive Officer and officers delegated in accordance with Council’s delegations and sub-delegations registers pursuant to the *Local Government Act*.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the development of the budget.

### 8 Document Control

Council Policy			Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Finance	
Version	Decision Number	Adoption Date	History	Next Review Date
1				
2				
3				

DRAFT

Council Policy No. 021 - REVENUE				
Version	Decision Number	Adoption Date	Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Finance	Next Review Date



# FINANCIAL HARDSHIP SUPPORT POLICY

## Policy No. 091

### 1 Purpose

Rates income is the primary and reliable source of revenue that Council uses to deliver services to the community. It is supplemented by Council's other forms of revenue.

In times of crisis it is important to remember that Council still requires cashflow to deliver critical services to the community such as waste management, city cleansing, animal management, community support and outreach, and maintenance of essential infrastructure. It is also important to remember that when rates are deferred or waived, the burden falls onto other ratepayers to continue to fund essential services.

To ensure that assistance is provided where it is needed most, under this policy, Council will apply a targeted means tested model on net income change for residential and commercial properties.

### 2 Scope

The intended objectives of this policy are:

- To address the granting of concessions from the payment of rates as levied, by implementing a simple administrative system.
- To provide future certainty for rate relief granted:
  - That rates waived will not be recovered at a future time pursuant to Chapter 11 of the *Local Government Act*
  - That rates deferred will be recovered at a future time pursuant to Chapter 11 of the *Local Government Act*.
- To provide guidance on debt recovery.

### 3 Policy Statement

#### 3.1 Residential Ratepayers

Council recognises that individuals can experience difficulty in meeting their responsibilities for the payment of rates and that it may be appropriate where financial hardship has been demonstrated to grant a concession to the payment of rates.

#### Residential Owner-Occupied Properties

- Lost income up to 30%: negotiated payment terms and waiver of interest charges
- Lost income 30-100%: negotiated payment terms, waiver of interest charges and a 3-month waiver of rates.

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## FINANCIAL HARDSHIP SUPPORT POLICY

### Policy No. 091

#### Residential Rental Properties

- Deferral of rent and/or rent reduction up to 30%: negotiated payment terms and waiver of interest charges
- Reduction in rent of at least 30% for at least 6 months: negotiated payment terms, waiver of interest charges and a 3-month waiver of rates.

#### 3.2 Commercial Properties

Commercial ratepayers can receive negotiated payment terms and waiver of interest charges if they demonstrate lost turnover, deferral of rent and/or rent reduction irrespective of whether the property is owner-occupied, leased or otherwise.

A commercial ratepayer is eligible for rate concessions on an allotment if the ratepayer has a rates liability on the allotment for 2019-20 and/or 2020-21 and is:

- an eligible business that has business premises on the allotment; or
- a landlord that has provided appropriate rent relief to a tenant that is an eligible business that has business premises on the allotment.

An eligible business includes commercial landlords who operate as a business.

On application by an eligible commercial ratepayer, Council will grant the following for each qualifying allotment:

- for ratepayers who have paid their 2019-20 rates in full - a refund in part of rates paid for 2019-20 (issued as a grant from Council to the ratepayer); or
- a waiver in part of rates owing for 2019-20 (with any excess rate waiver amount provided as a waiver in part of rates for 2020-21); or
- a waiver in part of rates for 2020-21.

In addition, for all qualifying allotments, Council will grant a deferment of the obligation to pay rates declared for 2020-21 until 1 January 2021.

The total amount available for waiver is to be equal to a three-month waiver on annual rates for the allotment in accordance with Council's Declaration of Rates for 2019-20.

For new allotments, the rate waiver amount for 2020-21 is to be calculated proportionately based on what the allotment would have been rated if it were included in Council's Declaration of Rates for 2019-20.

#### 3.3 Eligibility

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## FINANCIAL HARDSHIP SUPPORT POLICY

### Policy No. 091

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Eligible ratepayers seeking a concession under this policy must submit an application on a form approved for this purpose.

Applicants may need to demonstrate hardship, including proof of lost revenue/income, disclosure of income support from the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments, proof that they have secured all available Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government assistance, and any proceeds from insurance, including tenant default insurance.

In relation to commercial ratepayers under section 3.2, hardship will be demonstrated through placement of the business on the Northern Territory Government's Hardship Register.

Owners of commercial buildings, and residential rental property owners, will need to provide proof that rates concessions have been passed onto tenants in the form of rates and/or rent concessions where relevant.

In addition to this policy, ratepayers will receive rate concessions if they satisfy eligibility requirements for concessions as defined under sections 166-167 of the *Local Government Act*.

#### 3.4 Negotiated Payment Terms

The total deferral of all financial responsibilities can cause a secondary instance of financial stress when bills are eventually owed. Council's aim is to provide assistance to ratepayers without creating additional financial stress when circumstances have improved.

Therefore, in most circumstances, Council will encourage property owners who are unable to pay their rates by the due date to enter into an arrangement tailored specifically to the ratepayer's needs, to pay by instalments according to an agreed schedule. No recovery action will be taken while the arrangement is being maintained and where consistent with hardship provisions in section 3.2, no interest will be charged while payments are maintained.

#### 3.5 Waiver of Rates for Community Purposes

Council will as a matter of course, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, waive that portion of any rates or charges in excess of the minimum rate for properties occupied by organisations operating substantially for the benefit of the youth of the community.

Council also recognises that incorporated community associations on having been granted tenancy of a property by way of a Crown Lease for a specific purpose, may experience

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difficulty in meeting their responsibilities for the payment of rates whilst in the process of substantially achieving the purpose of that Crown Lease.

It is appropriate that where the specific purpose of the Crown Lease satisfies the requirements of the *Local Government Act*, Council will waive (abandon) all rates and charges until such time as the associations concerned have substantially achieved the purpose of the relevant Crown Lease and are therefore deemed to be in occupation of the parcels of land in question.

Waivers will not apply to organisations that hold a licence to sell liquor and/or operate gaming machines.

### 3.6 Interest on Rates and Charges in Arrears

Council encourages ratepayers to meet their rate and charges debt payment responsibilities. Unless otherwise stated in this policy, Council will impose interest, calculated daily after the instalment due date on instalments of rates and charges that remain unpaid. The rate of interest will be determined annually by resolution.

Council will not apply interest on any rates during an emergency event.

Decisions relating to requests to the write off interest as a result of error, and oversight, will be determined on merit.

### 3.7 Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates

If rates have been in arrears for at least three years Council may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act* initiate proceedings to sell the land.

During an emergency period, Council will not be undertaking any proceedings to sell land for unpaid rates for a minimum period of 12 months.

### 3.8 Debt Recovery

Debt recovery is based on the following principles:

- Debt recovery must take a non-discriminatory and impartial approach.
- Council will comply with privacy and confidentiality obligations pursuant to the *Information Act* and Council's *Privacy Policy*.
- Persons owing the Council money must be treated with sensitivity and respect.
- Recovery will include any costs reasonably incurred by the Council.

As a minimum procedures and actual practices in respect of business ethics will be within the guidelines for debt recovery issued from time to time by the ACCC.

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# FINANCIAL HARDSHIP SUPPORT POLICY

## Policy No. 091

### 4 Definitions

**Appropriate rent relief** – the landlord has negotiated in good faith with their tenant for rent relief in line with the Code of Conduct, agreed to by National Cabinet.

**Commercial ratepayer** – a ratepayer for an allotment that is not classed as residential under Council’s assessment record that was being used for commercial activities prior to COVID19. This does not include vacant land.

**Eligible business** – a business that is eligible under the Business Hardship Package.

**Emergency Event** – an event declared under the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements or an event declared by the Australian Government due to its significant national economic, social or environmental impact. This period may be extended for the purposes of supporting ratepayers during periods of hardship at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

**Hardship Register** – the register of eligible businesses that are assessed as meeting the requirements of the Northern Territory Government’s Jobs Rescue and Recovery Plan’s Business Hardship Package.

### 5 Legislative References

This policy is subject to the Northern Territory *Local Government Act* and Associated Regulations.

### 6 Procedures / Related Documents

Nil.

### 7 Responsibility / Application

Implementation of this policy rests with the Chief Executive Officer and officers delegated in accordance with Council’s delegations and sub-delegations registers pursuant to the *Local Government Act*.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the development of the budget.

### 8 Document Control

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<b>14.5</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW (ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW - S23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT)</b>
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**Author:** Executive Manager Governance, Strategy & Performance

**Authoriser:** General Manager Government Relations & External Affairs

**Attachments:**

- 1. Review of Constitutional Arrangements - Submissions Report**
- 2. Review of Constitutional Arrangements - Report to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development**

### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is:

1. To provide Council with the outcomes of community consultation on the Constitutional Arrangements Review; and
2. For Council to recommend to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Council's preferred Constitutional Arrangements to apply at the next Local Government General Election in August 2021.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report entitled 2019/20 Constitutional Arrangements Review (Electoral Representation Review – S23 Local Government Act) and attachments, be received and noted.
2. THAT pursuant to Section 23 of the Local Government Act 2008 and Section 63 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008, Council resolves to retain the structure and composition of its Constitutional Arrangements as follows:
  - (a) Retain the existing name of the Council, City of Darwin
  - (b) Retain the existing external boundary of the municipality
  - (c) Retain the title of the elected members as Alderman
  - (d) Retrain the number of elected members as twelve in addition to the Lord Mayor (total of 13 elected members)
  - (e) Retain a ward structure comprising of four wards and ward names being Chan, Lyons, Richardson and Waters
  - (f) Retain the current level of elected member representation per ward, three elected members (Aldermen) per ward
  - (g) That the Ward structure be as follows:

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

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

**Richardson Ward** (Ward 3)  
All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs of Alawa, Brinkin, Buffalo Creek, Casuarina, Holmes, Leanyer, Lee Point, Lyons, Muirhead, Nakara, Tiwi and Wanguri.

**Waters Ward** (ward 4)  
All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs of Anula, Berrimah, Charles Darwin, Coonawarra, Eaton, Hidden Valley, Karama, Malak, Marrara, Moil, Wagaman, Winnellie and Wulagi
3. THAT Council endorses the Review of Constitutional Arrangements Report, **Attachment 2**, for submission to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development.

**KEY ISSUES**

- The purpose of a Constitutional Review is to assess whether a council's constitutional arrangements provide the most effective representation for residents.
- The review must be completed 12 months prior to the next Local Government General Election in August 2021.
- On 9 July 2019, Council endorsed the review process to include one public consultation stage. Public feedback will be sought on the Consultation Paper which outlines Council's proposed constitution for the municipality.
- Community consultation occurred from 31 January 2020 to 21 February 2020. Two submissions were received.

- The submissions report and recommended constitutional arrangements are now presented for Council's endorsement for submission to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development.

## BACKGROUND

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

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

C L Rowe & Associates presented an Information Paper to the confidential briefing sessions held in September and November 2019. Outcomes from these sessions have been included as Council's proposed constitutional arrangements in a Consultation Paper. Consultation occurred from 31 January 2020 to 21 February 2020.

Two submissions were received, and the final report is now presented for Council's consideration.

### Previous Decision

## 10 December 2019

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

## SUMMARY

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

### RESOLUTION ORD001/19

Moved: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

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

**CARRIED 12/0**

## 12 March 2019

### C26.1.2 Review of Constitutional Arrangements 2019/20 (Electoral Review)

Report No. 19CE0058 MR:ph (12/03/19) Common No. 2678105

(Arthur/Haslett)

- A. THAT Report Number 19CE0058 MR:ph entitled Review of Constitutional Arrangements 2019/20 (Electoral Review), be received and noted.
- B. THAT Council endorse the Expression of Interest at **Attachment A** to Report Number 19CE0058 MR:ph entitled Review of Constitutional Arrangements 2019/20 (Electoral Review).

DECISION NO.22\1378

(12/03/19)

Carried unanimously

**DISCUSSION**

The Review of Constitutional Arrangements Report outlines the process Council has undertaken to date. Community consultation occurred on the preferred option (at that time) between 31 January 2020 and 21 February 2020.

The preferred option endorsed for consultation in December 2019 outlined the following key changes:

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

Two (2) submissions were received during the consultation period and both submissions recommended retaining Fannie Bay in Lyons Ward. Attachment 1 provides a report on submissions.

Following consultation, Council's consultant sought updated elector data from the NT Electoral Commission with the purpose of ensuring whole suburbs are included in a single ward. As a result, the proposed ward structure from December 2019 to the structure being recommended to Council today has changed.

The final proposed structure results in whole suburbs being included in a single ward and is outlined below.

**Chan Ward (Ward 1)**

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

**Lyons Ward (Ward 2)**

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

**Richardson Ward (Ward 3)**

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

**Waters Ward (ward 4)**

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

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

Table 1: Elector distribution - Proposed ward structure

Council has now reached the stage of the review process where the elected members are required to make final decisions regarding the future composition and structure of Council, considering the information previously provided and the submissions received.

Council previously agreed (“in principle) to retain:

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

It is now recommended that Council resolve to adopt the aforementioned changes as proposed by the Consultant.

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

A final report to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development (pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2008) be prepared regarding the review of the constitutional arrangements undertaken by Council.

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT**

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

**Goal**

6 Governance Framework

**Outcome**

6.2 Roles and Relationships

**Key Strategies**

**LEGISLATIVE/POLICY**

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

**CONSULTATION****Internal**

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

- Nil

**External**

- This report presents the Submissions Report and Final Report on Constitutional Arrangements compiled by C L Rowe and Associates.

**BUDGET/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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

**RISK**

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

**LEGAL**

Refer to Legislative/Policy implications.

**ARTS, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

Not assessed.

**REVIEW OF CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**  
(Elector Representation)

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS**

A report prepared for the  
**City of Darwin**

May 2020

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

## 2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **3. FUTURE COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE**

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

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

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

#### **3.1 TITLE OF ELECTED MEMBERS**

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

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

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

#### **3.2 ELECTOR REPRESENTATION**

Council has previously expressed the belief that:

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

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

#### **3.3 WARDS/NO WARDS**

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

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

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

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

### **3.4 WARD REPRESENTATION**

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

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

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

### **3.5 WARD NAMES/IDENTIFICATION**

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

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

### **3.6 WARD STRUCTURE**

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

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

#### **3.6.1 Current ward structure**

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

Table 1: Elector distribution - current ward structure

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

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019)

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

### 3.6.2 Proposed ward structure

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

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

Table 2: Elector distribution - Proposed ward structure

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

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019)

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

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

### 3.6.3 Amended ward structure (Suburb of Wagaman)

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

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

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

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

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

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019)

### 3.6.4 Amended ward structure (Suburb of Fannie Bay)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019)

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

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

### 3.6.5 Suburb of Berrimah

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

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

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

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

## **4. COUNCIL NAME AND BOUNDARIES**

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

### **4.1 COUNCIL NAME**

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

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

### **4.2 COUNCIL BOUNDARIES**

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

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

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

## 5. SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

## **ATTACHMENT A**

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

Home » Electoral Representation Review

## Electoral Representation Review



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

The proposed representational structure for City of Darwin remains;

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

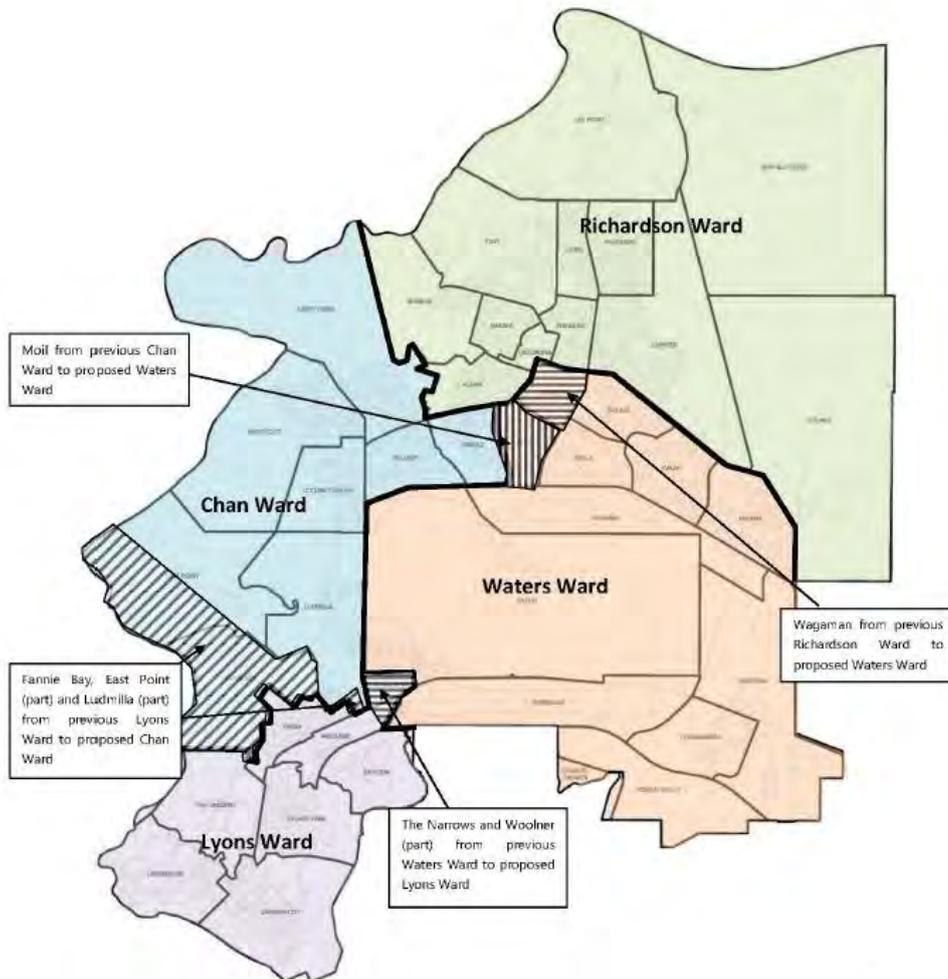
The Consultation Paper provides the full details of the review and Council's decision making;

[Electoral Representation Review Consultation Paper](#)

### Changes to Ward Boundaries

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





The Ward boundary changes include;

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

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

SUBMISSIONS



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

**You need to be signed in to take this survey**

[Sign In](#)

[Register](#)

#### Key Dates

Feedback closes  
**21 February 2020**

#### Document Library

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

#### Who's listening

##### Vanessa Green

Executive Manager Governance, Strategy and Performance

Phone 8930 0531

Email [engage@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:engage@darwin.nt.gov.au)

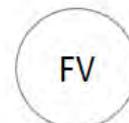


##### Fiona Van der Weide

Governance and Legislation Advisor

Phone 8930 0670

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



5/5

## **Community Consultation for Electoral Representation Review Changes Commences**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# COPY

## City of Darwin Electoral Representation Review

### Q&A's

#### 1. What is an Electoral Representation Review?

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

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

#### 2. When did the review take place?

Council completed the review in January 2020.

#### 3. What IS proposed to change?

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

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

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

#### 4. What is NOT proposed to change?

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

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

## **5. How will the proposed changes affect residents?**

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

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

## **6. Can the community access the full report?**

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

## **7. How can the community provide feedback?**

Head to the Engage Darwin website to share feedback:

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

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

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

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

## **9. What date does the consultation close?**

The consultation closes on 21 February 2020.

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

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

## **11. What happens after the consultation closes?**

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

**City of Darwin**  
4 February

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

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

**Electoral Representation Revi**  
Every four years Council review

**3,391** People reached      **348** Engagements

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

Like    Comment    Share

**Performance for your post**

**3,391** People Reached

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<b>1</b> Shares	<b>1</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares

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## **ATTACHMENT B**

### **Public submissions**



**Respondent No:** 1

**Login:** darwin62

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Responded At:** Jan 31, 2020 08:09:15 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 30, 2020 22:37:13 pm

**IP Address:** 42.241.166.114

**Q1. Please provide your submission below**

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

---



**Respondent No:** 2

**Login:** Jensco

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Responded At:** Feb 05, 2020 08:56:39 am

**Last Seen:** Feb 04, 2020 23:22:53 pm

**IP Address:** 101.174.146.9

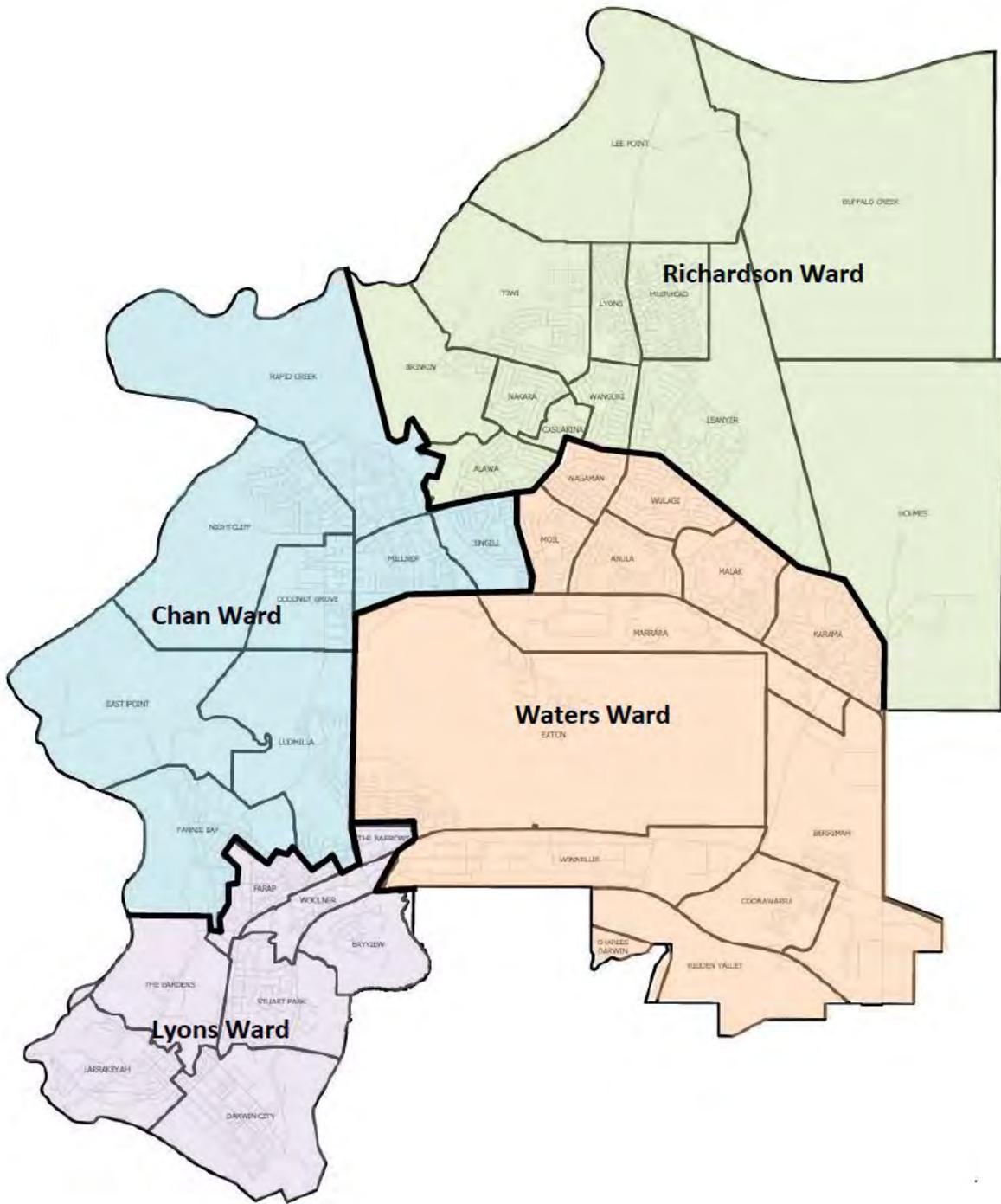
**Q1. Please provide your submission below**

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

---

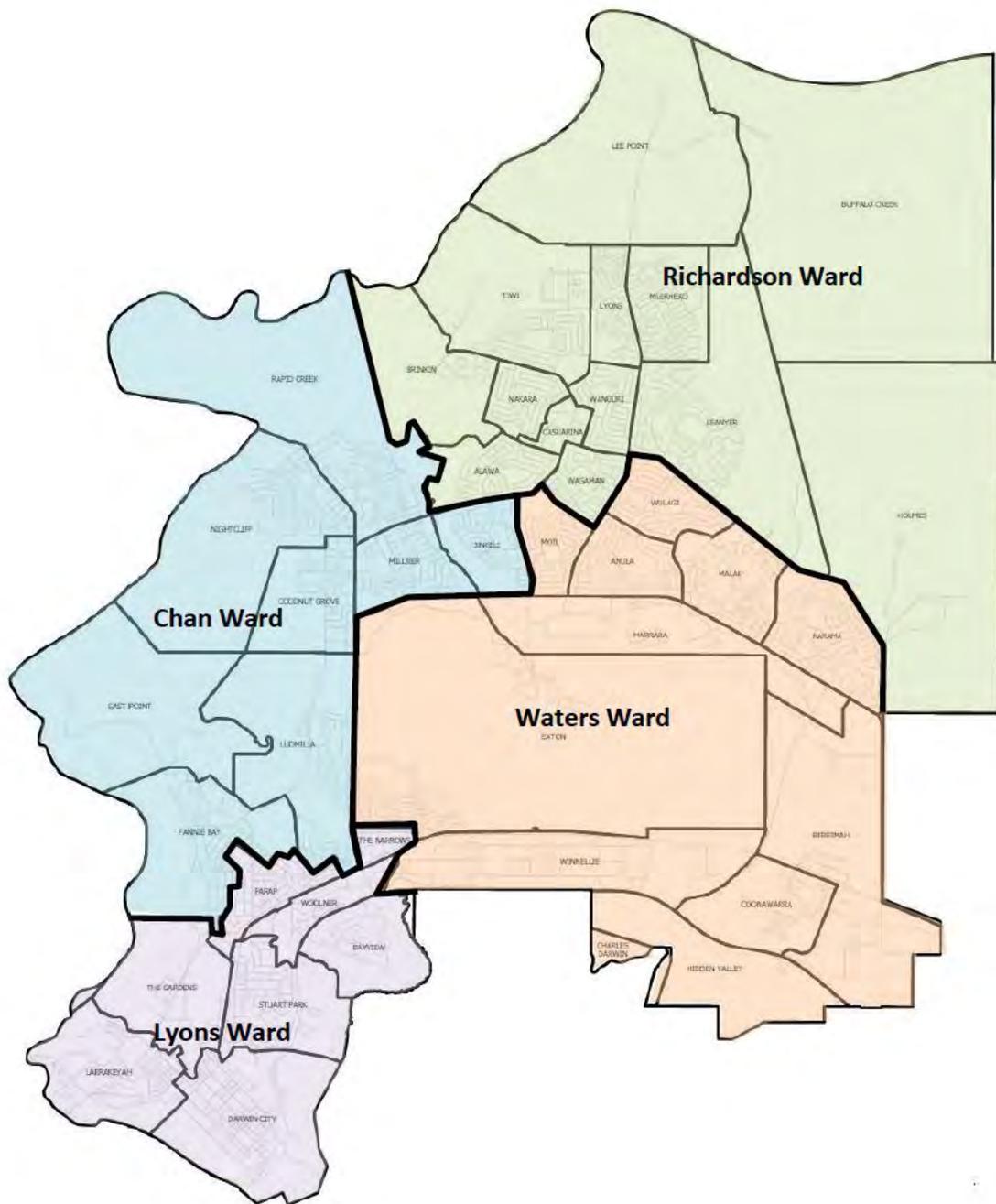
## **ATTACHMENT C**

### **Proposed ward structure**



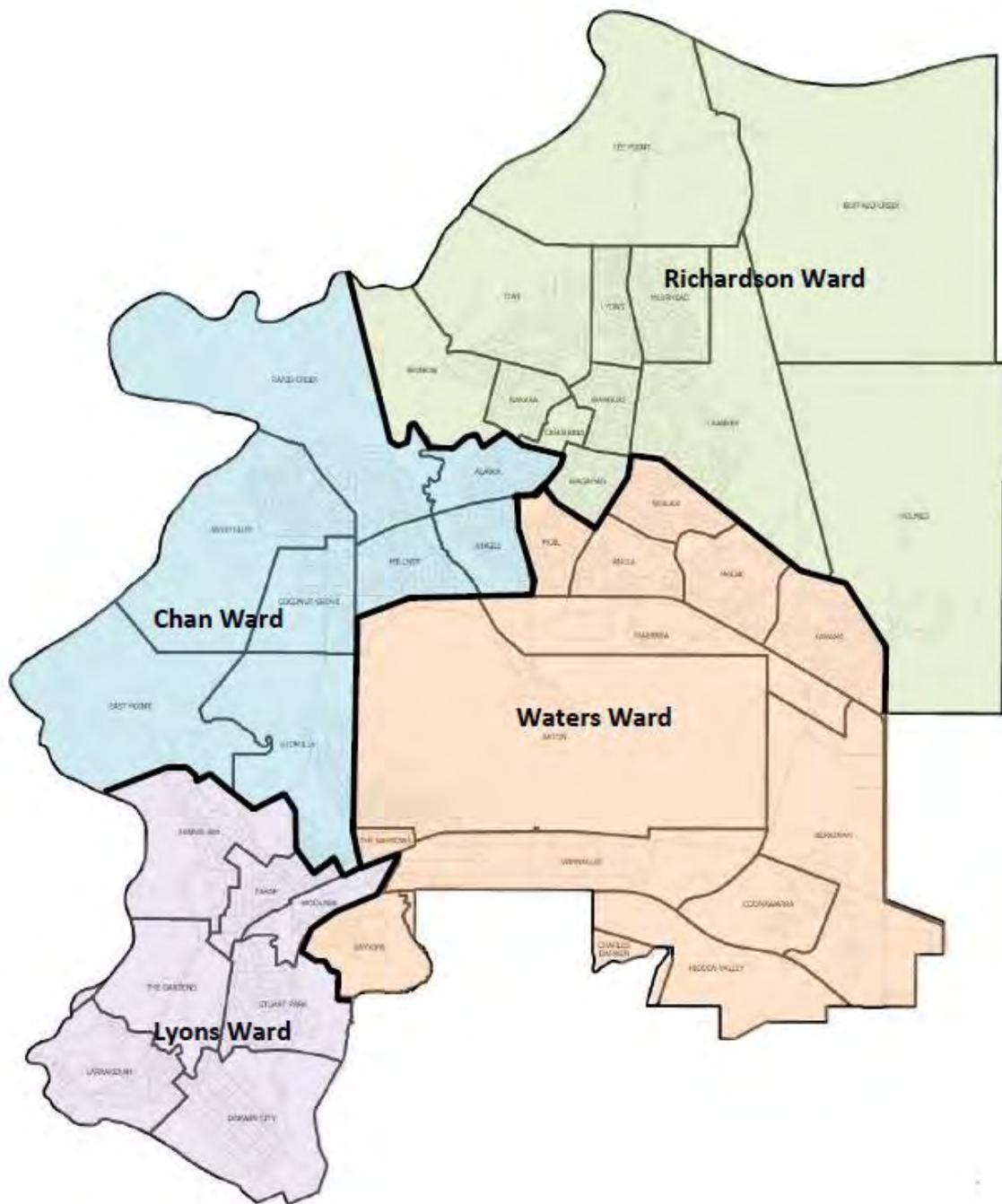
## **ATTACHMENT D**

### **Amended ward structure (Suburb of Wagaman)**



## **ATTACHMENT E**

### **Amended ward structure (Suburb of Fannie Bay)**





## **Review of Constitutional Arrangements**

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

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

**May 2020**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

## 2. BACKGROUND

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

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

Table 1 – Elector Numbers - Existing Ward Structure

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

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020)

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

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

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

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

### 3. PROPOSAL

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

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

#### **Chan Ward** (ward 1)

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

#### **Lyons Ward** (ward 2)

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

#### **Richardson Ward** (ward 3)

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

#### **Waters Ward** (ward 4)

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

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

Table 2: Elector distribution - Proposed ward structure

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

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019)

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

## 4. REVIEW PROCESS

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

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

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

## 5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **6. PROPOSAL RATIONALE**

### **6.1 PRIMARY ISSUES**

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

#### **6.1.1 Principal Member**

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

#### **6.1.2 Aldermen**

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

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

#### **6.1.3 Wards/No Wards**

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

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

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

- wards guarantee some form and level of direct representation to all parts of the council area and existing communities of interest;

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

#### **6.1.4 Ward Structure**

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

#### **6.1.5 Ward Identification**

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

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

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

#### **6.1.6 Elected Members**

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

This exercise proved to be inconclusive, as did comparisons with the other local government authorities within the Northern Territory, simply because no two councils are considered to be identical in terms of their area, elector numbers, topography, demographics and/or character. Details pertaining to other cited Councils were provided in both the "Information Paper" (refer **Attachment A**) and the "Consultation Paper" (**Attachment B**).

The City of Darwin, despite being relatively small in area (i.e. approximately 112km<sup>2</sup>), already has the highest number of electors and the highest elector ratio of all of the councils within the Northern Territory. Whilst Council is aware that a reduction in the number of elected members will provide some financial savings in regards to administrative and operating costs (including member's allowances), it is mindful that any changes to the number of elected members has to:

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

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

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

### **6.1.7 Level of Ward Representation**

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

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

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

- allowed for the sharing of duties and responsibilities amongst the elected members;

- can achieve a greater diversity in the characteristics, skill-set and opinions of the elected members;
- enables the ward members to reach a majority decision on issues of debate;
- lessens the likelihood of ward parochialism;
- affords continuous ward representation should a member be absent;
- is generally a relatively simple structure given the likely size of the wards;
- may be perceived as providing more direct lines of communication between the elected ward members and their ward constituents; and
- has greater ability to maintain whole identified communities of interest within the one ward.

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

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

#### **6.1.8 Council Name**

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

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

#### **6.1.9 Council Boundaries**

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

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

During the course of the review Council indicated that it was not contemplating any changes to its external boundaries at this time. The lack of any submissions regarding this matter seemingly

supported Council's stated position. Notwithstanding this, it should be noted that the City of Darwin remains open and willing to enter into dialogue in relation to expanding the council boundary to enable better local governance in the Northern Territory.

## **6.2 REGULATION 63, LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ELECTORAL) REGULATIONS 2008**

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

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

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

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

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

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

The City of Darwin is a long established capital city which covers only approximately 112km<sup>2</sup>; includes a central business district and surrounding established urban suburbs; exhibits a comprehensive road network; and is serviced by a functional public transport system. As such, the residents within the City of Darwin do not suffer the detrimental effects of remoteness or distance (unlike some communities within regional councils).

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

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

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

#### 6.2.3.1 Elector Numbers

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

#### 6.2.3.2 Residential Development

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

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

#### 6.2.3.3 Population

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

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

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

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

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

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

The City of Darwin covers approximately 112km<sup>2</sup>. Whilst the City is built on a low bluff overlooking the harbour, the remainder of the council area is generally flat and low-lying.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 7. CONCLUSION

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

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

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

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

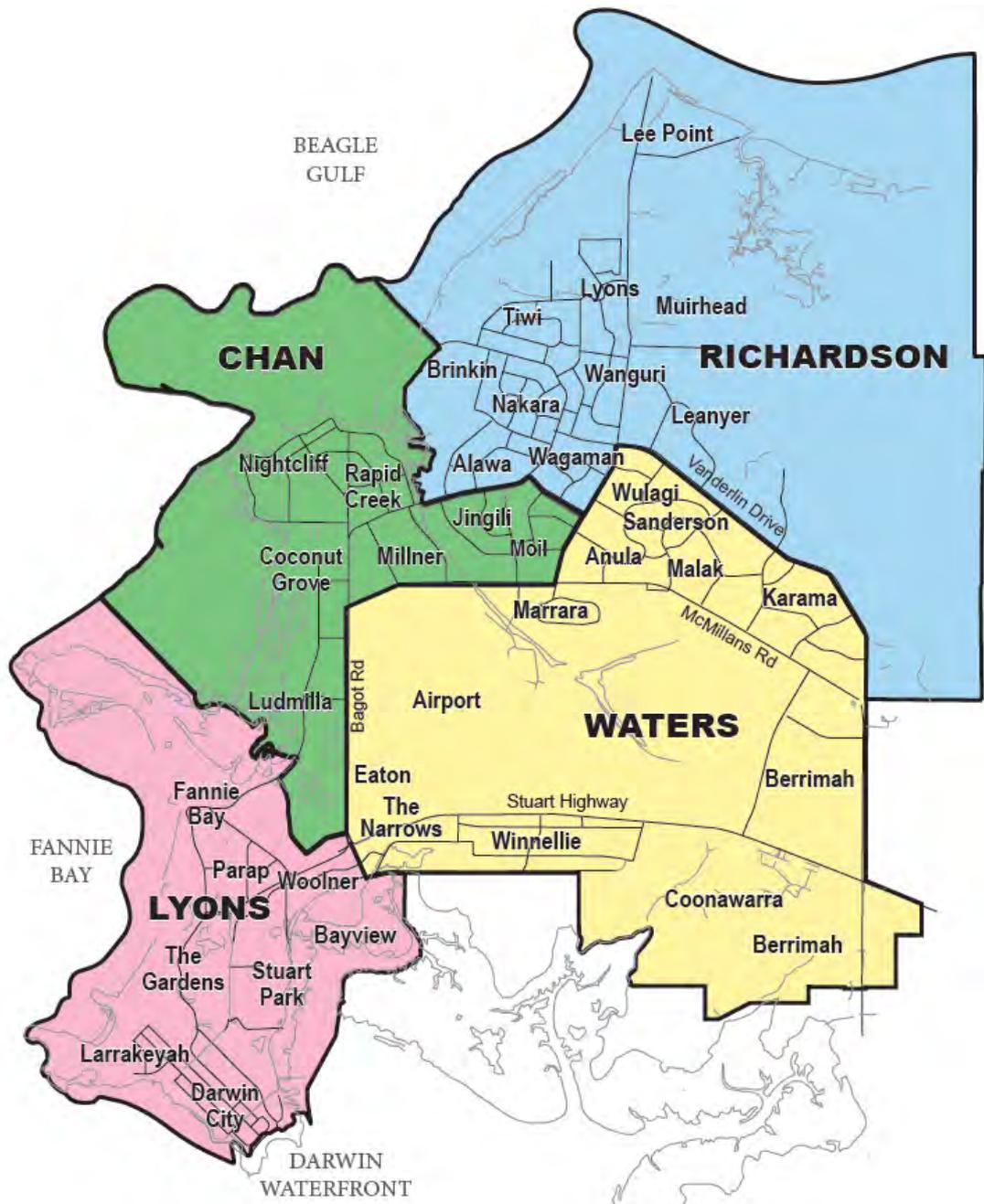
This report is referred to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development (pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of the local Government Act 2008) to demonstrate the comprehensive nature and process of the review undertaken by Council; and to present the proposed new wards structure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

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

Scott Waters MAICD MLGMA  
Chief Executive Officer

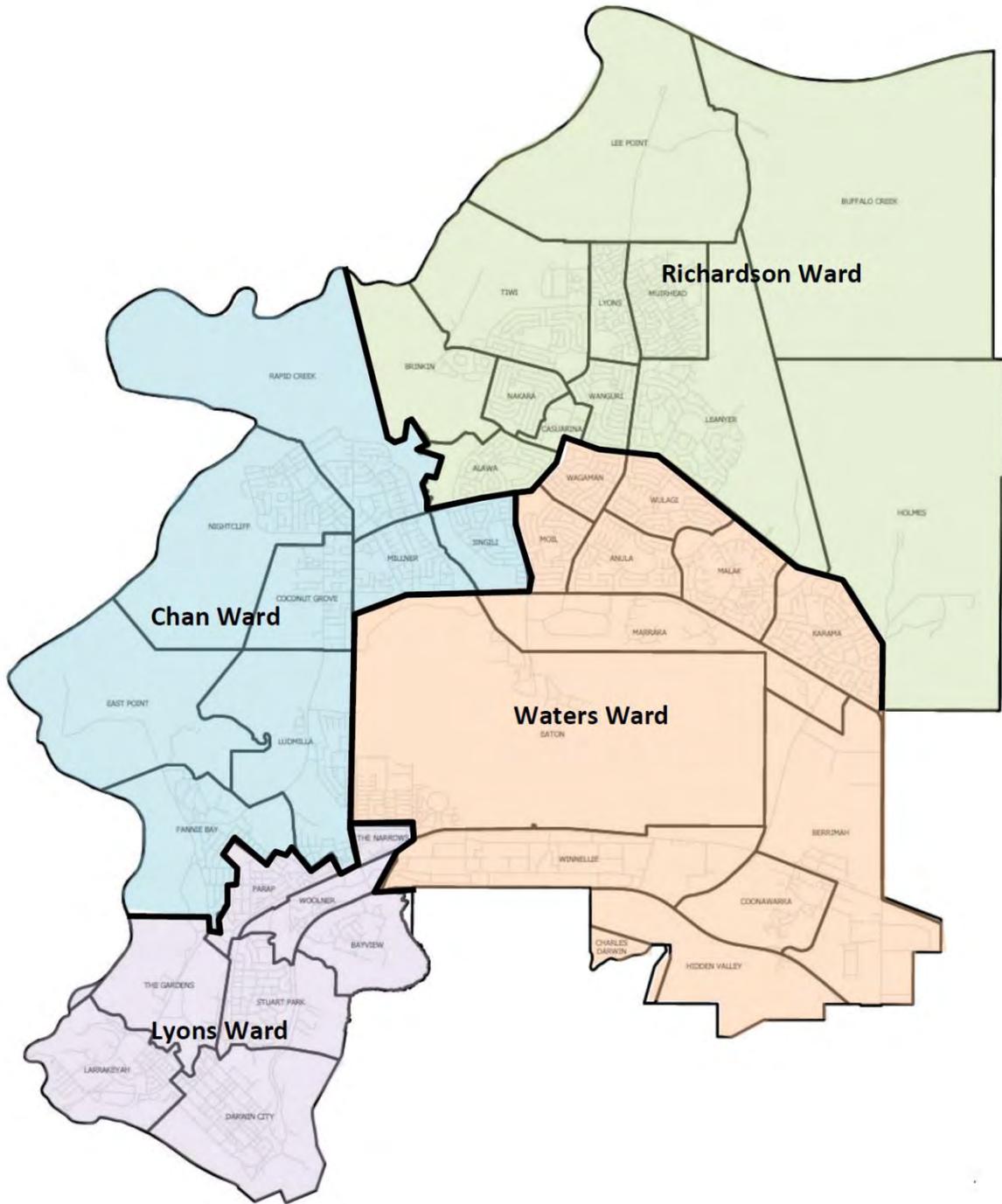
## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Current ward structure**



## **ATTACHMENT B**

### **Proposed ward structure**



**ATTACHMENT C**  
**"Information Paper"**



## **INFORMATION PAPER**

# **REVIEW OF CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (Electoral Review)**

June 2019



## 1.0 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

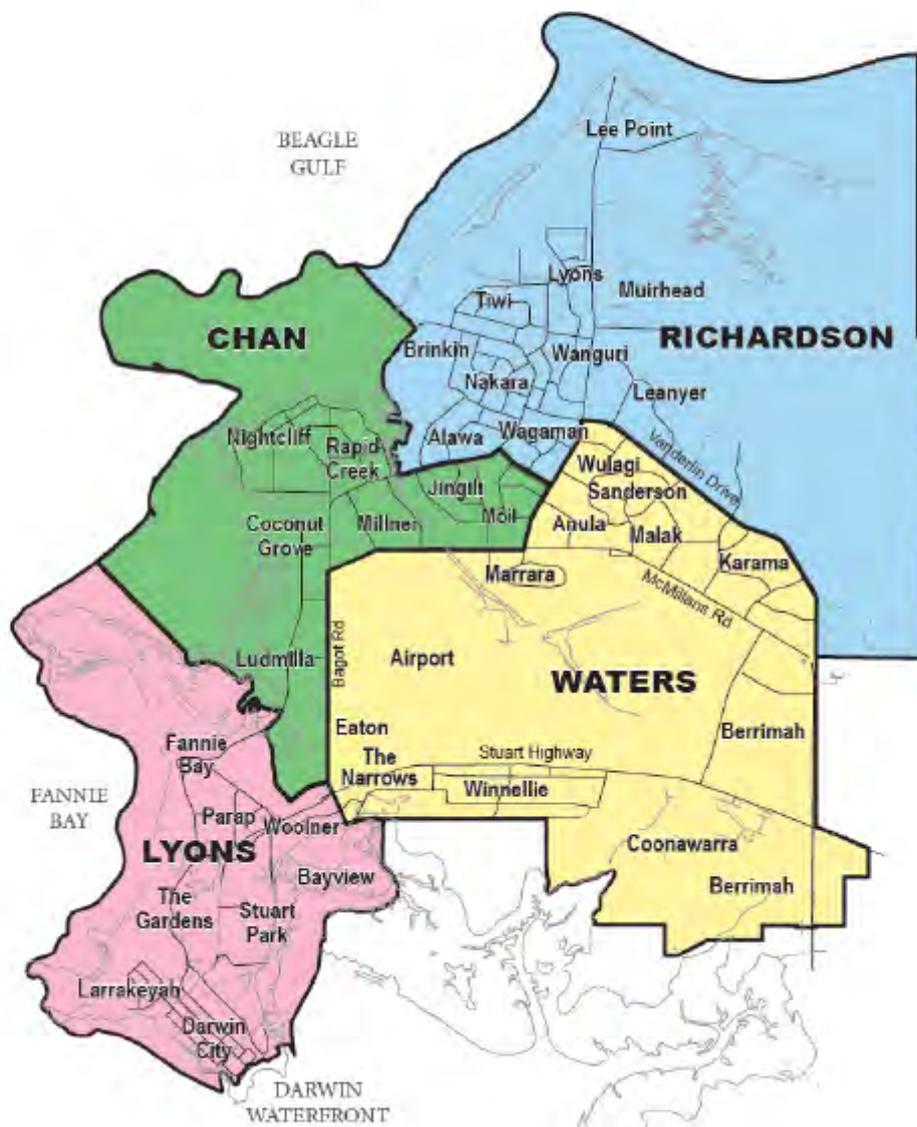
- 1.4 Council should complete its electoral review at least twelve months before the next general election (i.e. by August 2020).
- 1.5 The proposed Local Government Act 2019 will have all future electoral reviews (and final determinations in respect thereto) made by the Local Government Representation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

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

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

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

Figure 1: Current ward structure



### **3.0 REVIEW ISSUES**

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

### **4.0 REVIEW PROCESS**

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

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

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

## 5.0 COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

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

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

## 6.0 ELECTOR REPRESENTATION

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

Table 1: Elector distribution - current ward structure

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

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019)

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 7.0 NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS

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

Table 3: Elector details - existing Northern Territory municipalities

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

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (June 2019)

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

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

Table 4: Elector representation, various capital cities

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

\* Denotes currently suspended

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

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

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

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

## **8.0 WARDS/NO WARDS**

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

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

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

## **9.0 WARD REPRESENTATION**

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

## **10.0 WARD IDENTIFICATION**

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

## 11.0 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (REGULATION 63)

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

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

## 12.0 COUNCIL NAME AND BOUNDARIES

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

**ATTACHMENT D**  
**“Consultation Paper”**



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

January 2020

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

Key issues relevant to the review include:

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

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

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

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

## **2. REVIEW PROCESS**

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

### **2.1 Internal Workshops**

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

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

### **2.2 Public Consultation**

This is the current stage of the review process.

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

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

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

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

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

### **2.3 Final Decision**

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

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

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

### 3. BACKGROUND AND CURRENT STRUCTURE

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

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

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

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

Table 1: Elector distribution - current ward structure

Ward	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio	% Variation
Chan	3	11,594	1:3,865	- 7.47
Lyons	3	14,457	1:4,819	+15.38
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<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50,118</b>	<b>1:4,176.5</b>	

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019)

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

Figure 1: Current ward structure



#### 4. PROPOSED FUTURE COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

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

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

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

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

Ward 3: All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs/localities of Alawa, Buffalo Creek, Brinkin, Casuarina, Holmes, Leanyer, Lee Point, Lyons, Muirhead, Nakara, Tiwi and Wanguri.

Ward 4: All of the land/properties contained within the suburbs/localities of Anula, Berrimah, Charles Darwin, Coonawarra, Eaton, Hidden Valley, Karama, Malak, Marrara, Moil, The Narrows, Wagaman, Winnellie and Wulagi.

- Each of the proposed wards is to be represented by three (3) Aldermen.
- The proposed wards are to continue to be named/identified as Chan (Ward 1); Lyons (Ward 2); Richardson (Ward 3); and Waters (Ward 4).

It should be noted that:

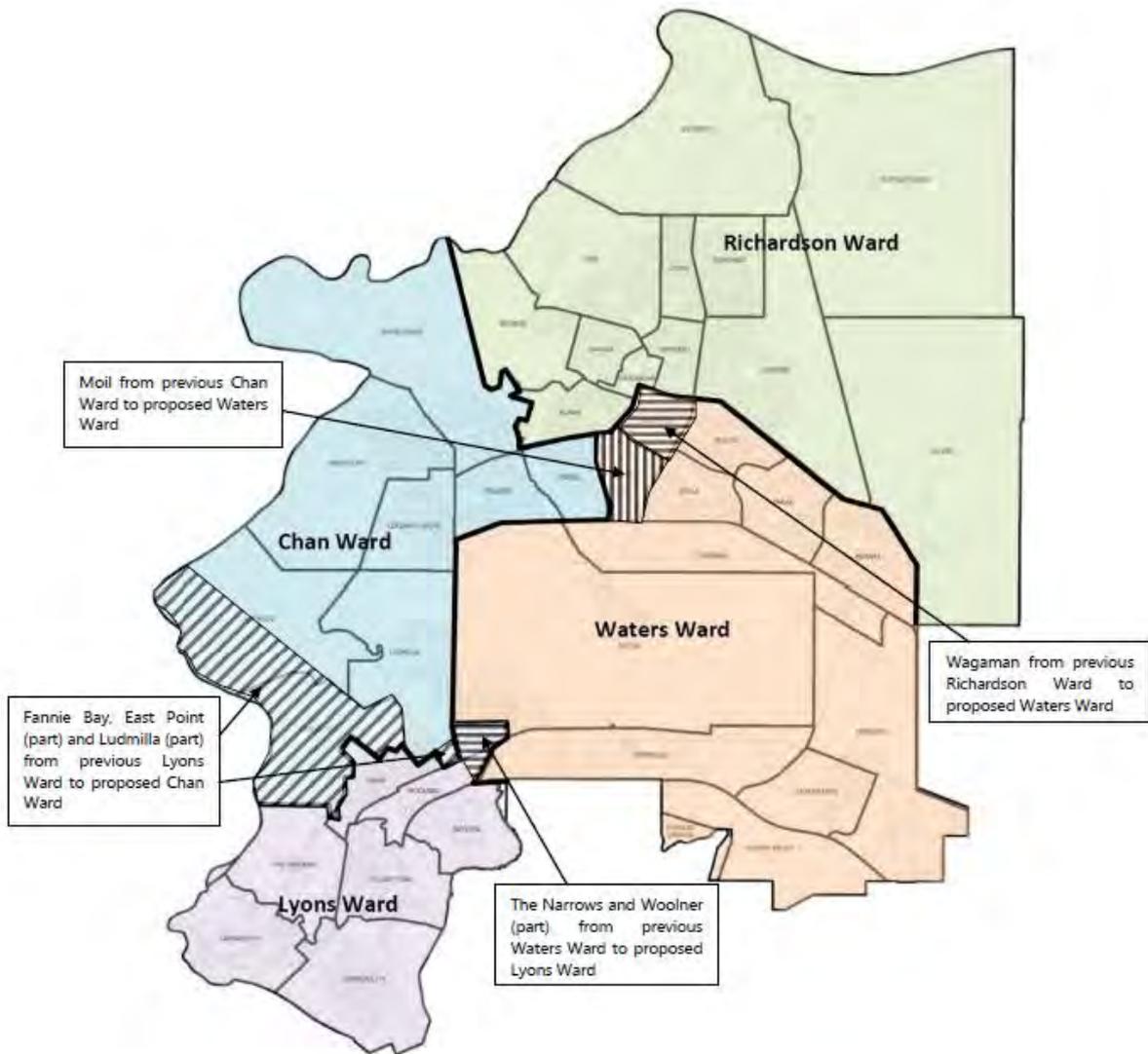
- the proposed future composition and structure of Council will come into effect at the next periodic Local Government election in August 2021;
- Council's proposal may be reviewed following consideration of any submissions which may be received as a consequence of the current public consultation process;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

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

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



Figure 3: Variations between the proposed and current ward structures



## 5. COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

### 5.1 Principal Member

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

### 5.2 Alderman or Councillor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 6. ELECTOR REPRESENTATION

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

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

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

Table 2: Elector details - Northern Territory municipalities

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

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (June 2019)

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

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

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

Table 3: Elector representation, various capital cities

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

\* City of Adelaide has 7 ward councillors plus 4 "area" councillors"  
 Source: Various Electoral Commission election reports (2016 - 2018)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regardless, there needs to be sufficient elected members to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 7. WARD STRUCTURE

### 7.1 Wards/No Wards

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

#### 7.1.1 Wards

The advantages of a ward structure include:

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

The disadvantages of a ward structure include:

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

### 7.1.2 No Wards

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

The advantages of a "no wards" structure include:

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

The disadvantages of a "no wards" structure include:

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

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

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

## 7.2 Ward Representation

### 7.2.1 Single Member Wards

Single member wards:

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

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

### 7.2.2 Multi-Member Wards

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

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

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

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

## 7.3 Ward Identification

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 7.4 Proposed Ward Structure

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

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

Table 5: Elector distribution - Proposed ward structure

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

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019)

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

## 8. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

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

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

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

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

### 8.1 Communities of Interest

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

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

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

### 8.2 Communication and Travel

The City of Darwin is a long established capital city which covers only approximately 112km<sup>2</sup>; includes a central business district and surrounding established urban suburbs; exhibits a comprehensive road network; and is serviced by a functional public transport system.

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

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

### 8.3 Demographic and Population Trends

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **8.4 Physical Features**

The council area covers approximately 112 km<sup>2</sup> and whilst the city precinct is built on a low bluff overlooking the harbour, the remainder of the council area is generally flat and low-lying.

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

## **9. COUNCIL NAME AND BOUNDARIES**

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

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

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

## 10. PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

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

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

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

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

## **ATTACHMENT E**

### **Agenda Item and Minutes (10 December 2019)**

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

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**KEY ISSUES**

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

**BACKGROUND**

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

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

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

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

**DISCUSSION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT**

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

**Goal**

6 Governance Framework

**Outcome**

6.3 Decision Making and Management

**Key Strategies****LEGISLATIVE/POLICY**

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

**CONSULTATION****Internal**

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

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

**External**

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

**BUDGET/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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

**RISK**

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

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

**LEGAL**

Refer to Legislative/Policy implications.

**ARTS, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

Not assessed.

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

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

**RESOLUTION ORD613/19**

Moved: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

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

**CARRIED 12/0**

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

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

**RESOLUTION ORD614/19**

Moved: Alderman Emma Young

Seconded: Alderman George Lambrinidis

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

**CARRIED 12/0**

## **ATTACHMENT F**

### **Media Release**

## Community Consultation for Electoral Representation Review Changes Commences

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **ATTACHMENT G**

**Website page**

Home » Electoral Representation Review

## Electoral Representation Review



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

The proposed representational structure for City of Darwin remains;

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

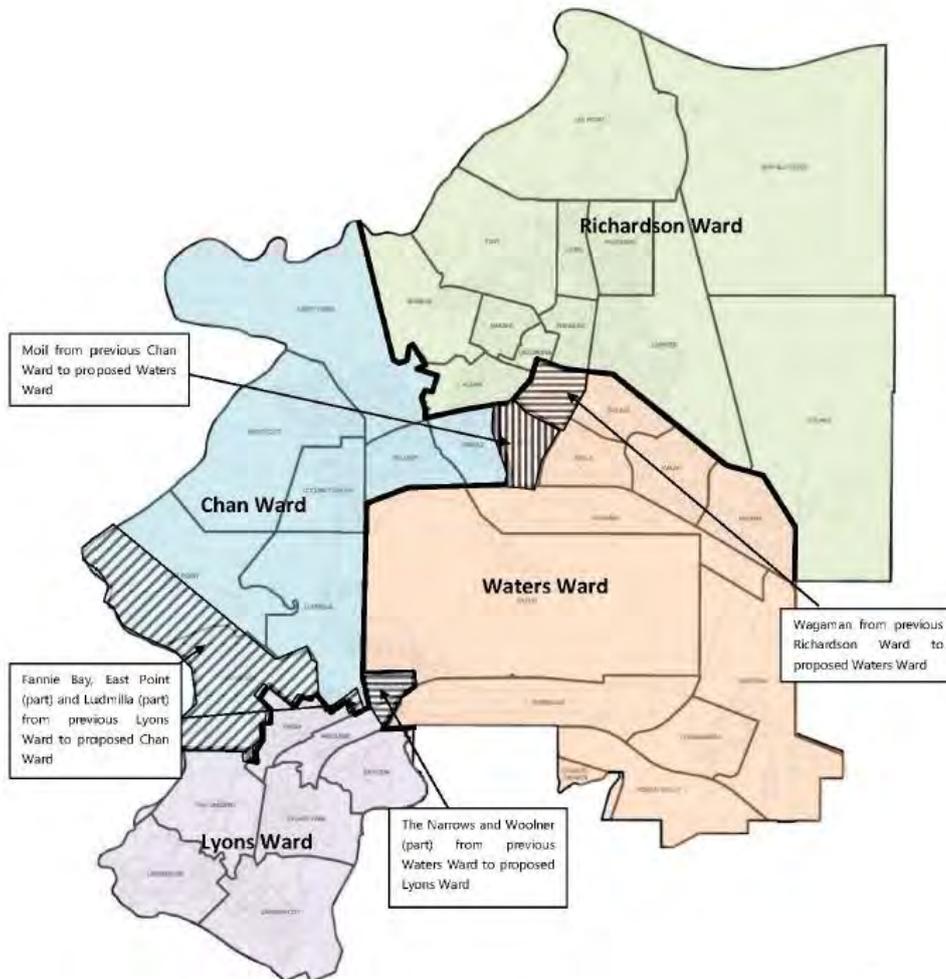
The Consultation Paper provides the full details of the review and Council's decision making;

[Electoral Representation Review Consultation Paper](#)

### Changes to Ward Boundaries

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





The Ward boundary changes include;

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

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

SUBMISSIONS



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

**You need to be signed in to take this survey**

[Sign In](#)

[Register](#)

**Key Dates**

Feedback closes  
**21 February 2020**

**Document Library**

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

**Who's Listening**

**Vanessa Green**

Executive Manager Governance, Strategy and Performance

Phone 8930 0531

Email [engage@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:engage@darwin.nt.gov.au)

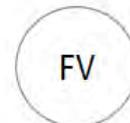


**Fiona Van der Weide**

Governance and Legislation Advisor

Phone 8930 0670

Email [engage@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:engage@darwin.nt.gov.au)



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



5/5

## **ATTACHMENT H**

### **Question & Answer document**

## City of Darwin Electoral Representation Review

### Q&A's

#### 1. What is an Electoral Representation Review?

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

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

#### 2. When did the review take place?

Council completed the review in January 2020.

#### 3. What IS proposed to change?

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

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

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

#### 4. What is NOT proposed to change?

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

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

## 5. How will the proposed changes affect residents?

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

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

## 6. Can the community access the full report?

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

## 7. How can the community provide feedback?

Head to the Engage Darwin website to share feedback:  
<https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/representation-review>

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

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

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

## 9. What date does the consultation close?

The consultation closes on 21 February 2020.

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

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

## 11. What happens after the consultation closes?

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

## **ATTACHMENT I**

### **Facebook post**

**City of Darwin** 4 February

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

**Richardson Ward**  
 Most from previous Chain Ward to proposed Waters Ward

**Chain Ward**  
 Lyons, Bly, Star, Water South and Lakeland parts from previous Chain Ward to proposed Chain Ward

**Waters Ward**  
 Indigenous from previous Richardson Ward to proposed Waters Ward

**Lyons Ward**  
 The houses and houses with a shed - previous Lyons Ward to proposed Lyons Ward

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

**Electoral Representation Revi**  
 Every four years Council review

**3,391** People reached      **348** Engagements

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

Like Comment Share

**Performance for your post**

**3,391** People Reached

**20** Likes, Comments & Shares

**8** Likes      **8** On Post      **0** On Shares

**11** Comments      **8** On Post      **3** On Shares

**1** Shares      **1** On Post      **0** On Shares

**328** Post Clicks

**0** Photo views      **255** Link clicks      **73** Other Clicks

**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

**0** Hide post      **1** Hide all posts

**0** Report as spam      **0** Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

## **ATTACHMENT J**

### **Public submissions**



**Respondent No:** 1

**Login:** darwin62

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Responded At:** Jan 31, 2020 08:09:15 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 30, 2020 22:37:13 pm

**IP Address:** 42.241.166.114

**Q1. Please provide your submission below**

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

---



**Respondent No:** 2

**Login:** Jensco

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Responded At:** Feb 05, 2020 08:56:39 am

**Last Seen:** Feb 04, 2020 23:22:53 pm

**IP Address:** 101.174.146.9

**Q1. Please provide your submission below**

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

---

**ATTACHMENT K**  
**"Submissions Report"**

## **ATTACHMENT L**

### **Agenda item and Minutes (31 March 2020)**

**14.6 ACCESS AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE UNCONFIRMED MEETING MINUTES 5 MAY 2020**

**Author:** General Manager Community and Regulatory Services  
**Authoriser:** General Manager Government Relations & External Affairs  
**Attachments:** 1. Unconfirmed Minutes Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting held on 5 May 2020.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report entitled Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 5 May 2020 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council note the request for a report addressing access works in the Boulter and Crerar Roads area.
3. THAT Council note the request that the cost of the CBD On-Street Accessible Parking Upgrades come from the parking reserves budget.

**KEY ISSUES**

- THAT the report entitled Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 5 May 2020 be received and noted.
- THAT Council note the request for a report addressing access works in the Boulter and Crerar Roads area.
- THAT Council note the request that the cost of the CBD On-Street Accessible Parking Upgrades come from the parking reserves budget.

**BACKGROUND****RESOLUTION ORD177/20****AMMENDMENT**

2. *THAT Council note the recommendations of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and note that these need further investigation before being referred back to Council for consideration in a separate report at the 1st Ordinary Meeting in May 2020.*

**RESOLUTION ORD178/20**

1. *THAT the report entitled Minutes Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting 3 March 2020 be received and noted.*

2. *THAT Council note the recommendations of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and note that these need further investigation before being referred back to Council for consideration in a separate report at the 1st Ordinary Meeting in May 2020.*

**DISCUSSION****KEY ISSUES**

- The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (AIAC) requested a report for further information in response to its original request at the March AIAC meeting for pathway upgrades in the Boulter and Crerar Roads area.
- A request was put forward by AIAC for the entire cost of the CBD On-Street Accessible Parking Upgrades to be covered by the parking reserves budget, leaving the Disability Access Program budget for other access and inclusion initiatives supported by the Committee.
- The Committee reviewed this year's budget expenditure, with a view to allocating the remaining unspent budget prior to the end of financial year. Options were put forward with a decision deferred until a special AIAC meeting early June.
- The membership term for Specialist Representatives ends 30 June 2020. Representatives will be invited to renew their membership term for the 1 July 2020- 30 June 2022.
- The Committee's Terms of Reference will be reviewed prior to the new financial year to allow for additional sectors to be included as Specialist Representatives to increase representation and diversity of membership.

**BACKGROUND****RESOLUTION ORD177/20****AMMENDMENT**

2. *THAT Council note the recommendations of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and note that these need further investigation before being referred back to Council for consideration in a separate report at the 1st Ordinary Meeting in May 2020.*

**RESOLUTION ORD178/20**

1. *THAT the report entitled Minutes Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting 3 March 2020 be received and noted.*

2. *THAT Council note the recommendations of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and note that these need further investigation before being referred back to Council for consideration in a separate report at the 1st Ordinary Meeting in May 2020.*

**DISCUSSION****Accessibility of Boulter and Crerar Roads**

At the previous AIAC meeting on 3 March, the Committee put forward a request for Council to consider pedestrian / cycleway facilities in the Boulter and Crerar Roads area as a priority for the 2020/21 footpath program. Advice received by City of Darwin from Northern Territory Government (NTG) is that NTG plans to upgrade this area in the next five to 10 years at NTG's cost.

The Committee was of the view that pedestrian works should still be prioritised despite planned future works, to ensure sufficient access for all road users and pedestrians, in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act. Therefore, a request was made that Council officers to provide a report outlining what works are required to ensure good pedestrian access in the Boulter and Crerar Roads area, estimated costs and budget sources, and a proposed timeline.

Additional information was presented to the Committee after the meeting, outlining advice received from NTG that Boulter Road will be upgraded from a rural cross section to an urban cross section under future works. City of Darwin can investigate putting in paths, however the asset would require demolition when the upgrade occurs.

### **Budget Source for CBD On-Street Accessible Parking Upgrades**

The Committee recommended a report be developed to review the compliance of on-street accessible car parking in the CBD. The draft report was discussed with the Committee and outlined that 18 of the CBD accessible car parks are not currently compliant. The estimated cost for upgrading these car parks is \$477,000 and it was proposed that the 2020/21 Disability Access Program budget be used as a contribution to these costs.

The Committee was not supportive of the Disability Access Program budget being used for this project and put forward a recommendation that funding for this project, and other accessible parking upgrades, is drawn from the internally restricted parking reserves fund.

### **Budget Expenditure**

The Committee reviewed this year's budget expenditure, noting that \$18,200 allocated towards a contribution to the cost of purchasing Mobi Mat matting to enhance the accessibility of Mindil Beach will not be completed this financial year. Council officers are investigating implementation and maintenance requirements of the matting and need to further investigate concerns around grading.

It is likely that excavation or other work will be required to meet accessible grades. Council officers recommended contracting the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) to assess the site for securing the required clearance certificate. This is likely to cost approximately \$10,000. Officers also recommended that an access consultant be contracted to conduct a thorough access audit at the site, taking into consideration the accessibility of nearby amenities. This is likely to cost between \$5,000 to \$10,000. The Committee agreed that potential barriers and issues need to be addressed before Council can purchase the accessible matting.

The Committee considered allocating the unspent budget on three to four low-cost CBD accessible parking works identified in the upgrades list, as well as accessible playground features, such as accessible swings for installation in playgrounds across the Municipality. A decision wasn't reached on how to use the remaining unspent budget; however, the Committee requested Council investigate the identified options further for the Committee to make an informed decision in a follow-up meeting during the first week of June.

### **Specialist Representatives and Terms of Reference Review**

There are four Specialist Representatives on the Committee, whose terms end 30 June 2020. They will be invited to renew their membership term for 2 July 2020 to 30 June 2022.

At the previous AIAC meeting on 3 March, the Committee proposed directly appointing additional Specialist Representatives to the Committee. To action this recommendation, the Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR) will need to be updated, with the new ToR approved by Council following the July AIAC meeting.

## **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT**

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

### **Goal**

2 A Safe, Liveable and Healthy City

### **Outcome**

2.2 By 2030, Darwin will be increasingly recognised as a liveable city

## **LEGISLATIVE/POLICY**

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee reviews the implementation of actions outlined in City of Darwin's Access and Inclusion Strategy.

## **CONSULTATION**

### **Internal**

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

- General Manager Community and Regulatory Services
- Executive Manager Technical Services

### **External**

- Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

## **BUDGET/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

## **RISK**

Nil

## **LEGAL**

Nil

## **ARTS, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

Nil



**MINUTES ACCESS & INCLUSION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday 5 May 2020  
1.30pm – 3.00pm  
Via WebEx**

**1. WELCOME**

**MEMBERS**

Alderman Andrew Arthur	City of Darwin
Alderman Robin Knox	City of Darwin
Brett Peebles	Community Representative
Martin Blakemore	Community Representative
Lynne Strathie	Community Representative
Liz Reid	Community Representative
Greg Turner	Specialist Representative, Passenger Transport
Ahmed Fathy	Specialist Representative, Passenger Transport
Cecilia Chiolero	Specialist Representative, Council on the Ageing Northern Territory (COTA NT)
Sheree Scott	Specialist Representative, Building Advisory Services
Susan Burns	Specialist Representative, National Disability Services Northern Territory (NDS)

**City of Darwin Officers**

Lynn Allan	Community Development Officer
Mathew Vitucci	Senior Capital Works Coordinator

**APOLOGIES**

Catherine Fairlie	Community Representative
Sara Braines-Mead	Community Representative

**ABSENT**

Kyle Adams	Community Representative
Emily Ford	Youth Advisory Committee Representative
Man Vo	Youth Advisory Committee (awaiting appointment)

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE WITH A DISABILITY**

**3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN ANY AGENDA ITEMS**

Nil

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES- 21 January, 2020**

Moved: Liz Reid  
Seconded: Alderman Robin Knox

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Refer to the Summary of Actions list

- Boulter Road

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Minutes Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee 5 May 2020

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In the 3 March meeting, a motion was put forward for Council to consider pedestrian/ cycleway facilities in the Boulter and Crerar Roads area as a priority for the 2020/21 footpath program. Advice received by City of Darwin from Northern Territory Government (NTG) is that NTG plans to upgrade this area in the next five to 10 years at NTG's cost.

The Committee believes that pedestrian works should still be prioritised in the short term, to ensure sufficient access for all road users and pedestrians, as outlined in the Disability Discrimination Act.

**Motion:** Council to prepare a report outlining what works are required to ensure good pedestrian access in the Boulter and Crerar Roads area, estimated costs and budget sources, and a proposed timeline.

Moved by Liz Reid

Seconded by Greg Turner.

**Note:** Additional information presented to the Committee after the meeting is advice received by Council from NTG that Boulter Road will be upgraded from a rural cross section to an urban cross section in the next five to ten years. City of Darwin can investigate putting in paths, however the asset would require demolition when the upgrade occurs.

- Carbon neutrality of Education and Civic Precinct within the Darwin City Deal Community

In the 3 March meeting the Committee recommended a letter be written from the Committee to Charles Darwin University, advocating for carbon neutrality to be considered in construction. It was advised that this not the remit of this Committee; therefore this recommendation will not be actioned.

## 6. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 6.1 Council's COVID-19 response

Community Development Officer provided an overview on Council's COVID-19 response including the Economic Stimulus Package, Green Army initiative, COVID-19 Grants Program, and Libraries services for over 70s and those at greater risk of illness from COVID-19.

The second round of COVID-19 Response Grants opens 11 May for projects taking place between 1 July and 31 December 2021:

<https://www.darwin.nt.gov.au/community/programs/grants-sponsorship/community-grants>

### 6.2 CBD Accessible Parking

Community Development Officer summarised the CBD On-Street Accessible Parking Proposed Upgrades List report to be presented at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 12 May. The report recommends that Council allocate \$422,000 from its parking reserves in the 2020/21 financial year to fund the upgrade of accessible on-street car parking bays within the CBD. The report outlines the upgrades required for the 18 non-complaint bays, at an estimated cost of \$477,000. It was proposed that the 2020/21 Disability Access Program budget of \$55,000 be used as a contribution to these costs.

Page 2 of 6

Minutes Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee 5 May 2020

It was recommended that the funding for this project and other accessible parking upgrades come entirely from the parking reserves budget, and not the Disability Access budget. The Committee would prefer to use the Disability Access budget for other access and inclusion initiatives, where there is no alternative budget available.

**Motion:** That the entire cost of the CBD On-Street Accessible Parking Upgrades come from the parking reserves budget.

Moved by Alderman Knox  
 Seconded by Susan Burns.

6.3 Budget discussion - EoFY budget summary

Access and Inclusion Budget Summary 2019/2020				
Capital Budget 05/231052/180/104 - Original Budget \$55,660				
Revised budget \$51,660				
Date	Spent/Committed	Total (does not include GST)	Item description	Access and Inclusion Plan
Jul-19	Spent	4,000.00	Consultant fees for Beach Access workshop as part of the Mindil Beach Accessibility project <i>Note: this transaction and budget will transfer to 2020/2021</i>	Action 1.13
Sep-19	Allocated to budget	9,545.00	Pavonia Place accessible parking bay	Action 1.7
Sep-19	Allocated to budget	4,500.00	Enhanced accessible parking bay for the new accessible play space at Jingili Water Gardens for bigger mobility vehicles	Action 1.7
Sep-19	Spent	4,880.00	Accessible parking and pathway at East Point Reserve for access to new inclusive outdoor fitness equipment	Action 1.7 and 1.12
Sep-19	Allocated to budget	18,200.00	Contribution towards Mindil Beach Accessibility project	Action 1.7 and 1.13
<b>Total</b>		<b>34,125.00</b>		
<b>Remaining</b>		<b>17,535.00</b>		

The Committee reviewed this year's budget expenditure, noting that the Pavonia Place and Jingili Watergardens accessible parking upgrades aren't yet complete, but have been scheduled for completion before the end of financial year.

It was also noted that Council is continuing to investigate the Mindil Beach accessible matting project, and that this project is unlikely to be completed by the end of this financial year. Council's maintenance section has reviewed the proposed site and assessed resourcing requirements and associated ongoing maintenance costs. This analysis identified that the site doesn't meet accessible grading requirements. It is likely that excavation or other work will be required to meet accessible grades. Council officers recommend contracting the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) to assess the site for securing the required clearance certificate. This is likely to cost approximately \$10,000. Officers also recommend that an access consultant be contracted to conduct a thorough access audit at the site, taking into consideration the accessibility of nearby amenities. This is likely to cost between \$5,000 - \$10,000.

Committee agrees that we need to address potential barriers and issues before Council can purchase the accessible matting.

The Committee considered allocating the unspent budget on three to four low-cost CBD accessible parking works identified in the upgrades list.

Minutes Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee 5 May 2020

Allocating the budget towards accessible playground features, such as accessible swings, was also raised as a consideration.

A decision wasn't reached on how to use the remaining unspent budget; however the Committee requested Community Development Officer to investigate the options further for the Committee to make an informed decision in a follow-up meeting during the first week of June.

<b>ACTION</b>	CDO to consult with Recreation and Leisure Coordinator about the Playground and Parks strategy and previous playground equipment audits undertaken with reference to accessible equipment.
<b>ACTION</b>	CDO to follow-up on costs of playground equipment and installation.
<b>ACTION</b>	CDO to investigate costs for contracting AAPA and an access consultant to progress the Mindil Beach accessibility project.
<b>ACTION</b>	CDO to schedule a budget discussion meeting for the first week of June.

**6.4 Terms of Reference and Specialist Representatives membership terms**

Community Development Officer advised that the term for Specialist Representatives is ending 30 June 2020. They will be sent an email shortly to determine if the four current agencies represented will renew their membership term, from 1 July 2020- 30 June 2022.

At the 3 March meeting the Committee proposed that the Community Development Officer to approach Headspace Prism and Vanessa Harris from Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition about joining the Committee as direct appointments to diversify representation. To action this recommendation, the Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR) will need to be updated, with the new ToR approved by Council.

<b>ACTION</b>	CDO to email current specialist representatives regarding a renewal of their membership terms.
<b>ACTION</b>	CDO to amend current ToR with suggested addition, and forward onto the Committee for further review and feedback, before the July meeting.

**6.5 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)**

YAC representatives were invited to attend; however were unable to make it; an invitation will be extended for the next meeting in July. AIAC members are also welcome to attend a YAC meeting.

<b>ACTION</b>	CDO to invite YAC to attend July meeting.
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**7. MEMBERS UPDATE**

- Greg Turner - Specialist Representative, Passenger Transport

Minutes Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee 5 May 2020

Try before You Ride public transport event has been postponed; further updates will be provided once confirmed.

Spinal Life Australia is working on an accessible Australia app to enable users to locate and navigate to facilities, venues and experiences that are accessible to them.

- Susan Burns - Specialist Representative, NDS

NDS have been sending our regular COVID-19 updates, relevant to the disability sector, to their members and networks. Email Susan Burns if you want to be added to the contacts list.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

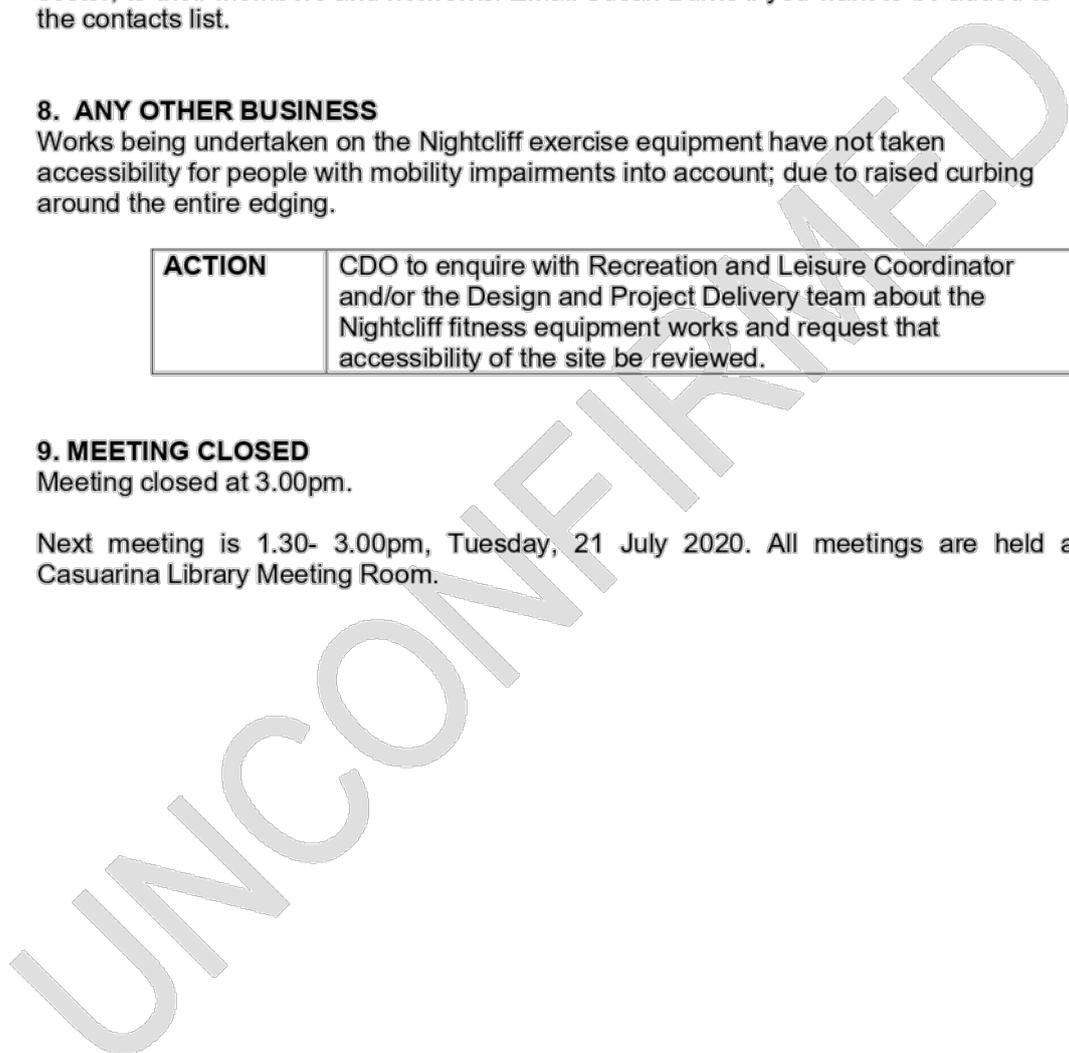
Works being undertaken on the Nightcliff exercise equipment have not taken accessibility for people with mobility impairments into account; due to raised curbing around the entire edging.

<b>ACTION</b>	CDO to enquire with Recreation and Leisure Coordinator and/or the Design and Project Delivery team about the Nightcliff fitness equipment works and request that accessibility of the site be reviewed.
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**9. MEETING CLOSED**

Meeting closed at 3.00pm.

Next meeting is 1.30- 3.00pm, Tuesday, 21 July 2020. All meetings are held at Casuarina Library Meeting Room.



### Summary of Actions

#### Summary of Actions

Meeting Date	Item	Notes	Status
02/06/2019	Event Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members to send outline of event accessibility concerns to CoD to be raised with event organisers.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
02/06/2019	Sector Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members to support events and activities as much as possible.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
25/09/2019	MLAK Key System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDO to review documentation on PDA's campaign and MLAK system and seek further guidance on any possible action.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
03/03/2020	Project Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee investigate and advise Council of any grants that could be applied for to assist in funding recommended projects.</li> </ul>	Update by next meeting
03/03/2020	Accessible Parking Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDO to investigate ambulant and wheelchair accessible parking request from committee.</li> </ul>	Update by next meeting
03/03/2020	YAC Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDO to invite a YAC representative to the next AIAC committee meeting.</li> </ul>	July meeting
05/05/2020	Accessible Playground Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDO to consult with Recreation and Leisure Coordinator about the Playground and Parks strategy and previous playground equipment audits undertaken with reference to accessible equipment.</li> <li>CDO to follow-up on costs of playground equipment and installation.</li> </ul>	For June meeting
05/05/2020	Mindil Beach Matting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDO to investigate costs for contracting AAPA and an access consultant to progress the Mindil Beach accessibility project.</li> </ul>	For June meeting
05/05/2020	Budget Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDO to schedule a budget discussion meeting for the first week of June.</li> </ul>	For June meeting
05/05/2020	Specialist Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDO to email current specialist representatives regarding a renewal of their membership terms.</li> </ul>	By end of May
05/05/2020	Terms of Reference Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDO to amend current ToR with suggested addition, and forward onto the Committee for further review and feedback, before the July meeting.</li> </ul>	For July meeting
05/05/2020	YAC Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDO to invite YAC to attend July meeting.</li> </ul>	For July meeting
05/05/2020	Nightcliff Fitness Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDO to enquire with Recreation and Leisure Coordinator and/or the Design and Project Delivery team about the Nightcliff fitness equipment works and request that accessibility of the site be reviewed.</li> </ul>	ASAP

## 15 RECEIVE & NOTE REPORTS

### 15.1 UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE BOMBING OF DARWIN & MILITARY AND CIVILIAN HISTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 6 MAY 2020

**Author:** Executive Assistant Community & Regulatory Services

**Authoriser:** General Manager Community and Regulatory Services

**Attachments:** 1. Unconfirmed Minutes Bombing of Darwin & Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the Minutes of the Bombing of Darwin & Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee held on 6 May 2020.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Unconfirmed Minutes of the Bombing of Darwin & Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee held on 6 May 2020, at **Attachment 1**, be received and noted.

#### KEY ISSUES

- The unconfirmed minutes of the Bombing of Darwin & Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee of 6 May 2020 are at **Attachment 1**.
- The Committee received a presentation by Peter and Sheila Forrest and Hully Liveris on the development of new interpretive signage panels to be installed in the newly established Bombing of Darwin memorial garden behind the Cenotaph, retelling the story of the Bombing of Darwin. Three draft panels were presented, however eventually there will be a total of seven.
- A separate report on the interpretive signage panels will be presented to Council in June 2020.

#### BACKGROUND

The Bombing of Darwin and Military History Advisory Committee met on 6 May 2019 and the unconfirmed minutes are provided for the information of Council.

#### DISCUSSION

The unconfirmed minutes are at **Attachment 1**.

#### IMPLICATIONS

Nil



**MINUTES  
BOMBING OF DARWIN & MILITARY  
AND CIVILIAN HISTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
11.00am - 12.00 pm, Wednesday 6 May 2020  
via WebEx video conference, City of Darwin**

**1. PRESENT**

The Hon Kon Vatskalis	The Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor
Alderman Mick Palmer	Elected Member
Mr Stephen Gloster	RSL
Mr Norm Cramp	Darwin Military Museum Manager
Ms Michelle Carter	Tourism Top End
Mr Michael Wells	Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture Director Heritage Branch
Ms Meg Cotter	Tourism NT Trade and Industry Marketing Executive
Ms Meghan Bailey	Department of Veterans' Affairs Deputy Commissioner NT
Ms Linda Fazldeen	Defence NT, Director Community Engagement, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation
Ms Sheree Jeeves	Manager Engagement and Events
Ms Polly Banks	Chair / General Manager Community & Regulatory Services
Ms Shelley Cook	Customer Service Officer

**2. APOLOGIES**

Karen Long	Executive Assistant
Kylie Salisbury	Community Events Producer
Mr Tony Simons	Aviation Historical Society of the NT, President

*The meeting opened at 11.01 am and Polly Banks chaired the meeting*

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA - Nil**

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES 5 FEBRUARY 2020**

The minutes of the meeting of the 5 February 2020 were received as a true and accurate record.

Gloster/Cramp, carried

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES 5 FEBRUARY 2020 - Nil**

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 6.1 Presentation by Peter and Sheila Forrest and Hully Liveris – Cenotaph new interpretive signage panels

Peter Forrest spoke to the initial proposal to Council to upgrade the Cenotaph and that the final element of this 'Stage One' redevelopment also included the production of interpretive signage panels retelling the story of the Bombing of Darwin.

Eventually there will be a total of seven interpretive signage panels, however Peter advised that currently three have been drafted and developed for review by the Committee. The interpretive panels are to be installed in the newly established Bombing of Darwin memorial garden behind the Cenotaph.

The seven interpretive signage panels are required to be completed by the 30 June 2020 as they are federally funded. Peter also presented the installation of two title panels at each end, however there is no funding for these as yet. Lord Mayor requested that these also be forwarded.

Peter advised that the Committee's feedback and endorsement is sought of the three attached interpretive signage panels presented today and that the remaining four will be circulated via email for review and feedback.

Hully explained that the new interpretive signage panels would be installed along City of Darwin's new fencing in an easel style as per the plans. This will keep with the current aesthetics of the park.

#### Comments from the Committee

Lord Mayor thanked the design team for their presentation and efforts, however there are some spelling and grammatical errors that need correcting and the language should be more contemporary – particularly to ensure the language is culturally appropriate. The Larrakia people must be consulted to ensure the facts around Indigenous involvement in the bombing of Darwin are correct and to ensure the photos featured on the panels are able to be displayed publically.

Linda Fazldeen queried if the panels will be lit up after installation. Hully advised City of Darwin already have P1 rated lighting installed in the area that will more than sufficiently light the panels once installed.

Michael Wells commented on a few historical and grammatical errors and asked how feedback relating is best communicated. Peter advised via email.

Meghan Bailey queried the small panels that mention those service people who lost their lives and asked that the civilian experience be highlighted. Peter talked about the dedicated area of the park to recognise both civilian and service people.

Lord Mayor acknowledged the special civilian recognition display (which would be Stage Two of the Cenotaph Development) and that it will be considered in the next financial year's budget meeting.

Hully requested the process for Council approval and Lord Mayor advised the panels would need to be submitted between 15 and 18 May 2020 in order to go to the Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary meeting on 26 May 2020.

#### **Actions**

- Hulley Liveris to provide confirmation of review and approval of the seven signs by Larrakia.
- Circulate via email the remaining four signs to the Committee for review

- and feedback
- Submit all seven signs for review by Council's Communications and Marketing team

The signs will then be presented to Council.

### **Recommendation**

That the presentation by Peter and Sheila Forrest and Hully Liveris on the new interpretive signage panels be received and noted.

That following Larrakia Nation review and approval of the new interpretive signage panels (including content) that the seven signs be presented to Council for endorsement, noting that a further four panels will be circulated out of session and that all seven signs are submitted to City of Darwin's Communications and Marketing team for review.

Lord Mayor/Gloster, carried

It was noted that the panels would also need to go through a review by Larrakia Nation prior to being submitted to being installed.

## 6.2 Terms of Reference Review

Polly Banks highlighted the changes to the Bombing of Darwin Committee Terms of Reference which were reviewed by the committee at the previous meeting and endorsed by Council in March. Key Changes:

- Expand the aim to greater recognise the civilian experience during the Bombing of Darwin;
- Small changes to representatives;
- Target Group has changed to better reflect civilians;
- There is now a two year term of appointment to align with our other committees, at the end of the term retiring members are welcome to re-apply; and
- Quorum still stands.

### Comments from the Committee:

Meghan Bailey asked Polly Banks does the term commence now? Polly advised that the term commenced when the ToR were adopted.

## 6.3 Members' Updates

Sheree Jeeves - Beat the Retreat parade and civic reception on the Saturday, 8 August 2020 is on schedule. Working with 5RAR to support them with the setup of the event. Bombing of Darwin Day 2020 was a great success with around 2500 people turn out including veterans' Merv Lloyd, Basil Stahl and Sam Logan son of USS Peary survivor.

Linda Fazldeen - thanked the City of Darwin for approving a filming permit on behalf of the Australian War Memorial to nationally broadcast ANZAC Day Ceremonies across Australia including Darwin. Currently the NT Government has a grant application in with the Department of Veterans'

Affairs for several projects leading up to Victory in the Pacific.

Stephen Gloster - thanked City of Darwin for arranging the flags at the ANZAC Day Service and advised that works have commenced at the Cenotaph and are due for completion end of June 2020.

Norman Cramp - Darwin Military Museum is to remain closed until further notice despite the government's ease on COVID-19 restrictions. Additionally the Military Muster event at East Point Reserve for the 15 August 2020 is in the planning stages.

Lord Mayor - thanked the RSL for the small ANZAC Day ceremony held at the Cenotaph.

Meg Cotter - Tourism NT have done a site refresh on the Military website under history and heritage pages on [northernterritory.com](http://northernterritory.com), the map is now downloadable and placed a video on the Matt McLaughlin visit in February.

Meghan Bailey - department staff are working with the Defence Minister on options depending on COVID-19 restrictions regarding the commemoration events relating to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WWII. The Wellbeing Centre has been appointed a lead organisation, Mates for Mates who will be working closely with local stakeholders.

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Nil**

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date: 12 August 2020  
Time: 11.00am  
Venue: Meeting Room 1, Civic Centre

**MEETING CLOSED – 11.35 am**



**15.2 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - APRIL 2020**

**Common No.:** 2476534  
**Author:** Financial Accountant  
**Authoriser:** Executive Manager Finance  
**Attachments:** 1. April YTD Monthly Report attachments

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the financial position of Council for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020. As per the requirements of the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations 2008, there is a comparison of income & expenditure against respective budgets. There are also details of Investments, Debtors and a Treasury section.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the report entitled Monthly Financial Report – April 2020 is received and noted.

**KEY ISSUES**

- After ten months; Income is above budget, Expenses are below budget, combining to produce a higher operating result than Year to Date budget of \$4.2M, down from \$4.6M last month.
- COVID support measures in the form of lower Fees and Charges are impacting these accounts.
- The key liquidity ratio is 2.5 (showing current assets cover total liabilities 2.5 times).
- Capital expenditure is low in comparison to the full year's budget, with actual expenditure for ten months being \$16.1M compared to the \$41.1M amended annual budget.

**BACKGROUND**

The monthly financial report Income Statement compares the actual income and expenditure to budget at two levels, firstly the full year's budget and secondly the budget for the ten months year to date (YTD).

Comparatives to full year are relevant if the income or expenditure is linear, otherwise the YTD budget comparison provides a clearer position.

Ideally the budget is accurately phased so that the amount allocated each month will match the pattern of income earned and expenditure incurred.

**DISCUSSION**

There is a positive YTD variance of actual to budget of \$4.2M at the Net Operating Result level. Income is ahead of YTD budget by \$0.7M. Negligible Rates growth and lower Fees & Charges have had an impact this month.

Expenditure is trending below budget by \$5.4M. In the case of Materials and Services, which has a number of expenses combined together, the overall position can mask issues within some line items being over and others under.

An analysis of income and expenditure categories as presented in the attachments to this report includes;

Income Items:

- Rates and Charges 99.6%
- User Charges, Fees & Other 82.0%
- Interest & Investments Revenue 92.8%
- Grants & Contributions – Operating 118.8%

There is a small growth factor built into the Rates budget, which, given the current economic circumstances, will not be achieved this year.

Grants are higher because of the unbudgeted \$1.4M funds received from Northern Territory Government (NTG) relating to Cyclone Marcus.

Expenditure Items:

- Employee costs have a \$35.5M annual budget and are trending below the YTD budget. This positive variance is due to vacancies, but substantially offset by temporary labour services (categorised in Materials and Services).
- Borrowing costs are significantly under budget. This is primarily due to the loan for Shoal Bay waste project not being drawn down as planned and therefore the costs of servicing the loan not being incurred as originally budgeted.
- The Materials and Services category has a \$51.3M annual budget covering a large number of items. Overall this is running below YTD budget but there are many variations at the component level, of which the following are highlighted:
  1. Utilities /Rates is a \$6M annual budget and is running ahead of budget primarily as a result of electricity charges associated with street lighting, along with higher than anticipated water charges over a long period without rain. Budgeted savings in electricity are not yet being fully realised as the switching to LED programme is not being achieved as planned, with the replacement program still ongoing.
  2. Advertising & photocopying are showing savings to budget that are a mix of more efficient work practises and tighter contract pricing.
  3. Temporary Staff is much higher than the full year's budget but is balanced by underspends in salaries and wages, which is the reason for the overspend.
  4. Legal expenses are \$863k and have exceeded the full year's budget of \$647k and will need to be balanced against underspends in other areas.
- Depreciation has a \$33.3M annual budget. The depreciation charge is based on the level of Council assets including capital items constructed in the current year.
- Capital Expenditure is expected to increase with the onset of the dry season as projects advance. Currently \$16.1M has been spent and \$15.6M committed to projects, leaving \$9.4M not yet at the point of procurement.

The \$4.5M Urban Oval Lights Project contract has been awarded for the delivery of three public amenities for City of Darwin. The streetscape beautification program commenced with three projects currently:

- Daly Street – work in progress
- Wagaman Shopping Centre – completed
- Nightcliff Road - completed

Of the eight identified projects five will be delivered in house. The remaining three projects are being undertaken by local contractors with construction scheduled to commence in May.

### **Treasury Comment**

As at 30 April Council had a total of \$108.4M funds in investments and available cash. The majority of these funds are held within internally and externally restricted Reserves.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a global shock essentially blowing economies off course and into uncharted territory. Accurate reporting remains difficult with the lag of data from the quickly developing current events.

The following points indicate the factors that all sectors of society are concerned of within the markets:

- The Reserve Bank of Australia, (RBA), is looking to keep the Cash Rate at 0.25% - it's effective "lower bound"
- Overseas the outlook in both the US and Europe is for severe contraction
- The unusual phenomenon of oil futures going negative as producers and traders could not reduce production fast enough due to 'lockdowns'
- Figures from the ABS suggesting domestic unemployment will rise to 10% by June and higher in the US
- Banking sector share prices are significantly down but the RBA has provided more liquidity to try and restore confidence in the banking sector

The outlook will become clearer in the coming months as data regarding the effects of the initial COVID related lockdowns become known.

### **Accounts Receivable**

This section details Rates receipt collection, outstanding General Debtors, and performance on Rates recovery compared to the previous year. The report also includes information on infringement debtors, Rates arrears, Rates struck and Rates outstanding. Whilst there has been success in reducing the level of historical outstanding Rates, the level of current Rates in arrears is increasing. At this point it remains difficult to quantify the amount of Rates debt as at year-end, particularly given the high level of receipts currently being received, and the deferment on payment until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

The financial report is as at 30 April 2020. The preparation of this report requires a detailed process of reconciliations and journals to ensure the accounts conform to accrual accounting standards and enable an accurate comparative to budget.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **RISK/LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Part 8 of the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations 2008 require that a monthly financial report is presented to Council.

Regulation 18 states:

1. The CEO must, in each month, lay before a meeting of the council a report, in a form approved by the Council, setting out:
  - a) The actual income and expenditure of the council for the period from the commencement of the financial year to the end of the previous month; and
  - b) The forecast income and expenditure for the whole of the financial year
2. The report must include:
  - a) Details of all cash and investments held by the Council (including money held in trust); and
  - b) A statement on the debts owed to the Council including the aggregate amount owed under each category with a general indication of the age of the debts; and
  - c) Other information required by the Council.
1. If a Council does not hold a meeting in a particular month, the report is to be laid before the Council committee performing the council's financial functions for the particular month.

This report is considered to a higher level of statutory compliance as outlined above.

	Full Original Budget \$'000	Full Amended Budget \$'000	2019/20		2018/19		LY Actual \$'000
			YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD v FAB %	YTD v FAB %	
<b>Income Statement</b>							
<b>For the Period Ended 30/04/2020</b>							
<b>% of year elapsed</b>					83%		
<b>Income from Continuing Operations</b>							
Rates & Annual Charges	74,568	74,568	74,568	74,260	100%	100%	72,016
User Charges, Fees & Other	25,096	25,076	21,165	20,555	82%	81%	19,729
Interest & Investment Revenue	2,226	2,226	1,870	2,065	93%	126%	2,410
Grants & Contributions - Operating	5,543	3,713	3,037	4,411	119%	84%	3,077
<b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>107,433</b>	<b>105,583</b>	<b>100,639</b>	<b>101,291</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>97,231</b>
<b>Less Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>							
Employee Costs	35,527	35,531	29,745	28,276	80%	82%	26,620
Borrowing Costs	1,534	947	267	306	32%	62%	228
Materials and Services	50,443	51,318	43,237	40,443	79%	76%	41,475
Depreciation and Amortisation	33,357	33,357	27,798	26,537	80%	86%	26,098
<b>Total Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>120,861</b>	<b>121,154</b>	<b>101,047</b>	<b>95,563</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>94,421</b>
<b>Operating Result - Continuing Operations</b>	<b>(13,428)</b>	<b>(15,571)</b>	<b>(408)</b>	<b>5,728</b>			<b>2,810</b>
<b>Grants &amp; Contributions - Capital</b>	<b>6,748</b>	<b>11,745</b>	<b>10,623</b>	<b>8,710</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>1,202</b>
<b>Net Operating Result For the Year</b>	<b>(6,680)</b>	<b>(3,826)</b>	<b>10,215</b>	<b>14,438</b>			<b>4,012</b>





**Statement of Cash Flows**  
For the Period Ended 30/04/2020

	Full Original Budget \$'000	Full Amended Budget \$'000	2019/20 YTD Actual \$'000	YTD v FAB %
<b>% of year elapsed</b>				<b>83%</b>
<b>Funds From Operating Activities</b>				
Net Operating Result From Above	(6,680)	(3,826)	14,438	
Add back depreciation (not cash)	33,357	33,357	26,537	80%
Add back Other Non Cash Items	581	581	-	0%
<b>Net Funds Provided (or used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>27,258</b>	<b>30,112</b>	<b>40,975</b>	
<b>Funds From Investing activities</b>				
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	731	731	12	2%
Sale of Land	-	-	118	0%
Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipmer	(53,074)	(41,134)	(16,128)	39%
<b>Net Funds Provided (or used in) Investing Activities</b>	<b>(52,343)</b>	<b>(40,403)</b>	<b>(15,998)</b>	
<b>Funds From Financing Activities</b>				
Proceeds from borrowings & advances	19,500	1,300	1,300	0%
Repayment of borrowings & advances	(1,331)	(698)	(471)	68%
<b>Net Funds Provided (or used in) Financing Activities</b>	<b>18,169</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>829</b>	
<b>Net Increase (-Decrease) in Funds Before Transfers</b>	<b>(6,916)</b>	<b>(9,689)</b>	<b>25,806</b>	
Transfers from (-to) Reserves	6,916	9,689	1,584	
<b>Net Increase (-Decrease) in Funds After Transfers</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,391</b>	

**Municipal Plan Summary**

**Outlines** This statement outlines Councils entire budget in accordance with the published municipal plan. It shows the effect on General Funds (original budget - break even/nil). It groups items into operating, investing and financing and has a very close relationship to cash flows, which is why it is presented in the same international format. It eliminates the depreciation calculation and discloses totals for asset sales and purchases as well as loan raising and repayments. Finally it discloses the transfers to & from cash backed reserves which are detailed in the quarterly budget review reports.

**Full Amended Budget:** Includes carry forwards from 2018/19.

**Net funds provided by operating activities:** These will reduce throughout the year to equate more closely to budget as the rates struck are expended.

**Sale of Plant & Equipment:** Nothing appears yet. This should increase once fleet purchases are achieved.

**Purchase of Infrastructure, property etc.** This is 39% spent compared to 83% of year elapsed.

**Transfers from (-to) reserves:** This discloses the transfers to & from cash backed reserves.

**Manager Finance:** There are no overall concerns in relation to the budgets.

<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>				
<b>For the Period Ended 30/04/2020</b>				
<u>2018-19</u>		<u>2019/20</u>		
<b>Audited</b>		<b>Full Original</b>	<b>Full Amended</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Actual</b>		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>\$'000</b>		<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
32,659	Cash at Bank & Investments	14,403	15,564	27,404
51,210	Cash at Bank & Investments - externally restricted	39,863	51,364	56,713
27,369	Cash at Bank & Investments - internally restricted	10,581	17,525	20,283
12,535	Receivables	9,210	12,535	9,587
185	Inventories	100	185	263
-	Other	-	-	-
<u>123,958</u>		<u>74,157</u>	<u>97,173</u>	<u>114,250</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
984,012	Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	1,024,635	991,058	973,472
-	Financial Assets (FRN)	-	-	4,000
<u>984,012</u>		<u>1,024,635</u>	<u>991,058</u>	<u>977,472</u>
<b>1,107,970</b>	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,098,792</b>	<b>1,088,231</b>	<b>1,091,721</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
36,663	Payables	15,064	15,064	5,154
699	Borrowings	1,908	841	228
6,584	Provisions & Other Liabilities	7,472	7,472	6,577
<u>43,946</u>		<u>24,444</u>	<u>23,377</u>	<u>11,958</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>				
6,924	Borrowings	23,885	7,385	8,225
25,296	Provisions	29,491	29,491	25,296
<u>32,220</u>		<u>53,376</u>	<u>36,876</u>	<u>33,521</u>
<b>76,166</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>77,820</b>	<b>60,253</b>	<b>45,479</b>
<b>1,031,804</b>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,020,972</b>	<b>1,027,978</b>	<b>1,046,242</b>
<b>Equity</b>				
600,552	Asset Revaluation Reserve	600,552	600,552	600,552
431,252	Retained Surplus	420,420	427,426	445,690
<u>1,031,804</u>	<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<u>1,020,972</u>	<u>1,027,978</u>	<u>1,046,242</u>

**Statement of Financial Position Comments:**

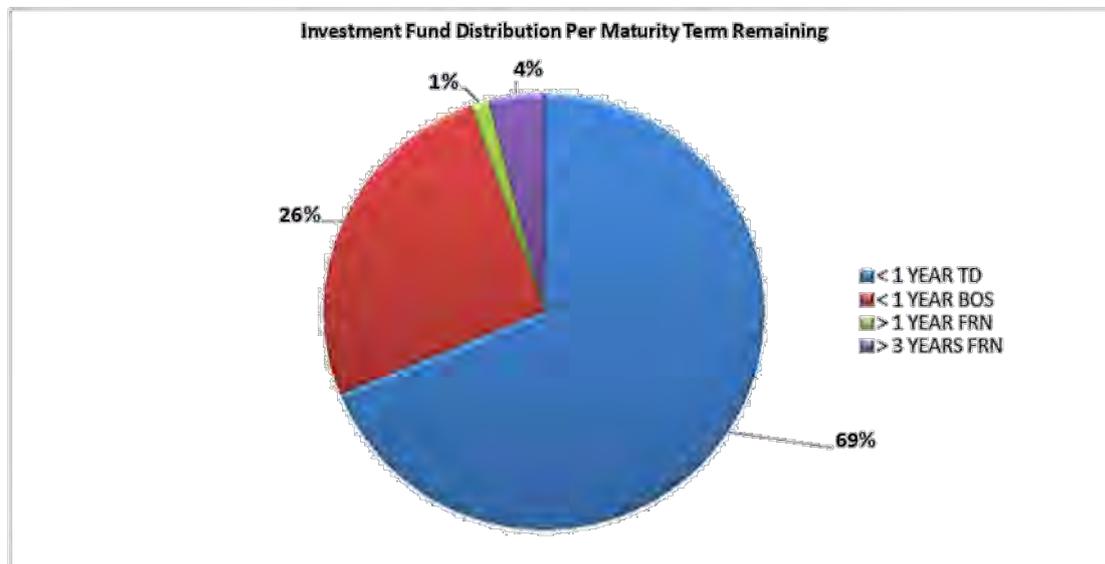
The Statement of Financial Position outlines what Council owns (assets) and what it owes (liabilities) at a point in time. Council's net worth is determined by deducting total liabilities from total assets - the larger the net equity, the stronger the financial position.

**Manager Finance:** There are no concerns in relation to the original budgets at this stage. Note that the full original budget is as published in the adopted Municipal Plan 2019/20. The full amended budget column is based on the audited closing balances as at 30/6/2019 plus Council approved amendments, the YTD Actual column is based on audited actual closing balances as at 30/6/2019 and adjustment of actual movements since.

**INVESTMENTS REPORT TO COUNCIL  
AS AT  
30/04/2020**



**Portfolio vs Investment Policy**



**Investment Portfolio Term to Maturity Remaining Policy Limit**

Term to Maturity Category	Term to Maturity (Policy Min.)	Term to Maturity (Policy Max.)	% of Total Portfolio
< 1 YEAR	30%	100%	94.24%
> 1 YEAR	0%	50%	1.44%
> 3 YEARS	0%	30%	4.32%
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>100.00%</b>

**Investment Portfolio Term to Maturity Remaining by Banking Group**

Term to Maturity	Inv Type	ADI	% of Total Portfolio
< 1 YEAR	TD	AMP Bank Ltd	2.81%
		Bank of Queensland Ltd	8.00%
		Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	2.62%
		Members Equity Bank Ltd	6.11%
		National Australia Bank Ltd	16.98%
		Suncorp Metway Limited	1.40%
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	33.31%
		ANZ Banking Group Ltd	7.01%
		Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	17.82%
		<b>&lt; 1 YEAR Total</b>	
> 1 YEAR	FRN	Teachers Mutual Bank Limited	0.93%
<b>&gt; 1 YEAR Total</b>			<b>0.93%</b>
> 3 YEARS	FRN	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	0.93%
		Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	0.93%
		Macquarie Bank	0.93%
<b>&gt; 3 YEARS Total</b>			<b>2.80%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>100.00%</b>

**INVESTMENTS REPORT TO COUNCIL  
AS AT  
30/04/2020**



**Portfolio vs Investment Policy**



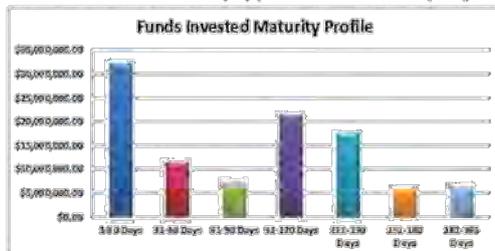
Credit Rating	Policy Limit	% of Total Portfolio	
AAA to AA-		100.00%	76.99%
A+ to A-		45.00%	2.34%
BBB+ to BBB		10.00%	20.68%
BBB-		0.00%	0.00%
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>100.00%</b>

Row Labels	ADI	Individual Counterparty Limits of Total Investments	% of Total Portfolio
AA-	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd		
	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	50.00%	18.75%
	Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd Sum		18.75%
	National Australia Bank Ltd		
	National Australia Bank Ltd	50.00%	16.98%
	National Australia Bank Ltd Sum		16.98%
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd		
	BankSA	50.00%	18.70%
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	50.00%	15.55%
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd Sum		34.24%
A+	ANZ Banking Group Ltd		
	ANZ Banking Group Ltd	50.00%	7.01%
	ANZ Banking Group Ltd Sum		7.01%
A+	Suncorp Metway Limited		
	Suncorp Bank	30.00%	1.40%
	Suncorp Metway Limited Sum		1.40%
BBB+	Macquarie Bank		
	Macquarie Bank	30.00%	0.93%
	Macquarie Bank Sum		0.93%
BBB+	AMP Bank Ltd		
	AMP Bank Ltd	10.00%	2.81%
	AMP Bank Ltd Sum		2.81%
	Bank of Queensland Ltd		
	Bank of Queensland Ltd	10.00%	8.00%
	Bank of Queensland Ltd Sum		8.00%
BBB	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd		
	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	10.00%	2.82%
	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd Sum		2.82%
BBB	Members Equity Bank Ltd		
	Members Equity Bank Ltd	10.00%	6.11%
	Members Equity Bank Ltd Sum		6.11%
	Teachers Mutual Bank Limited		
Teachers Mutual Bank Limited	10.00%	0.93%	
Teachers Mutual Bank Limited Sum		0.93%	
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>100.00%</b>

### INVESTMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL AS AT 30 April 2020

Account	Company	ISIN	Face Value (\$)	Coupon	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Yield	Price ONLY (Market Cap)	Yield
<b>MAJOR BMM</b>								<b>102,027,074</b>	<b>2.00%</b>
TD	AA-	BankSA						<b>220,019,233</b>	<b>21.87%</b>
			11 August 2020	1.55%				\$2,000,000	1.87%
			15 September 2020	1.55%				\$3,019,233	3.33%
			4 August 2020	1.55%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			18 August 2020	1.83%				\$5,000,000	3.33%
			8 September 2020	1.83%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			22 September 2020	1.63%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			22 September 2020	1.20%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			25 August 2020	1.63%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			27 October 2020	1.63%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			27 October 2020	1.22%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			1 December 2020	1.69%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
		<b>National Australia Bank Ltd</b>						<b>\$18,176,062</b>	<b>20.00%</b>
			22 September 2020	1.59%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			25 August 2020	1.55%				\$1,613,371	1.87%
			25 August 2020	1.07%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			27 October 2020	1.06%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			1 September 2020	1.02%				\$3,674,240	3.33%
			23 June 2020	1.55%				\$3,035,070	3.33%
			19 January 2021	1.33%				\$1,519,222	1.87%
			28 July 2020	1.28%				\$1,039,369	3.33%
			28 July 2020	1.18%				\$1,062,481	1.87%
		<b>Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd</b>						<b>\$15,643,269</b>	<b>15.00%</b>
			26 May 2020	1.84%				\$1,826,408	1.87%
			5 May 2020	1.59%				\$2,591,830	3.33%
			19 May 2020	1.61%				\$2,000,000	1.87%
			12 May 2020	1.69%				\$2,000,000	1.87%
			2 June 2020	1.65%				\$2,000,000	1.87%
			9 June 2020	1.64%				\$2,000,000	1.87%
			25 August 2020	1.31%				\$1,534,861	1.87%
			1 December 2020	1.40%				\$2,000,000	1.87%
		<b>ANZ Banking Group Ltd</b>						<b>\$1,585,364</b>	<b>8.15%</b>
			26 May 2020	1.80%				\$1,585,364	1.87%
			11 August 2020	1.62%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			25 August 2020	1.83%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			23 June 2020	0.79%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
			28 July 2020	1.05%				\$1,500,000	1.87%
FRN	AA+	AA-	<b>Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd</b>					<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>1.47%</b>
					13 July 2020	1.31%	13/01/2024	\$1,000,000	1.87%
			<b>Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd</b>					<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>1.87%</b>
					24 July 2020	1.26%	24/04/2024	\$1,000,000	1.97%
BOS	AA+	AA-	<b>Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd</b>					<b>\$15,075,108</b>	<b>1.47%</b>
					5 May 2020	0.70%		\$18,076,108	1.87%
<b>OTHER</b>								<b>\$14,433,000</b>	<b>36.88%</b>
TD	A1	A+	<b>Suncorp Bank</b>					<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>1.47%</b>
					5 May 2020	1.63%		\$1,500,000	1.87%
A2	BBB+		<b>AMP Bank Ltd</b>					<b>\$3,068,973</b>	<b>5.68%</b>
					12 May 2020	1.80%		\$1,000,000	1.87%
					25 August 2020	1.60%		\$1,000,000	1.87%
					25 August 2020	1.85%		\$1,068,973	1.87%
			<b>Bank of Queensland Ltd</b>					<b>\$8,398,119</b>	<b>16.00%</b>
					26 May 2020	1.65%		\$1,011,067	1.87%
					29 September 2020	1.64%		\$1,500,000	1.87%
					16 June 2020	1.60%		\$1,800,000	1.87%
					22 September 2020	1.60%		\$1,035,084	1.87%
					25 August 2020	1.60%		\$2,000,000	1.87%
					1 September 2020	1.80%		\$1,518,468	1.87%
			<b>Bendigo &amp; Adelaide Bank Ltd</b>					<b>\$3,022,511</b>	<b>8.33%</b>
					16 June 2020	1.55%		\$1,408,867	1.87%
					3 November 2020	1.50%		\$1,613,644	1.87%
			<b>Members Equity Bank Ltd</b>					<b>\$2,540,451</b>	<b>6.17%</b>
					14 July 2020	1.60%		\$2,000,000	1.87%
					22 September 2020	1.60%		\$1,807,338	1.87%
					25 August 2020	1.60%		\$2,000,000	1.87%
					1 September 2020	1.80%		\$1,033,115	1.87%
FRN	A1	A+	<b>Mitsubishi Bank</b>					<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>1.47%</b>
					12 May 2020	1.76%	08/02/2025	\$1,000,000	1.87%
A2	BBB		<b>Teachers Mutual Bank Limited</b>					<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>1.87%</b>
					28 July 2020	1.81%	28/10/2022	\$1,000,000	1.87%
<b>Grand Total</b>								<b>\$107,960,537</b>	<b>36.18%</b>

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



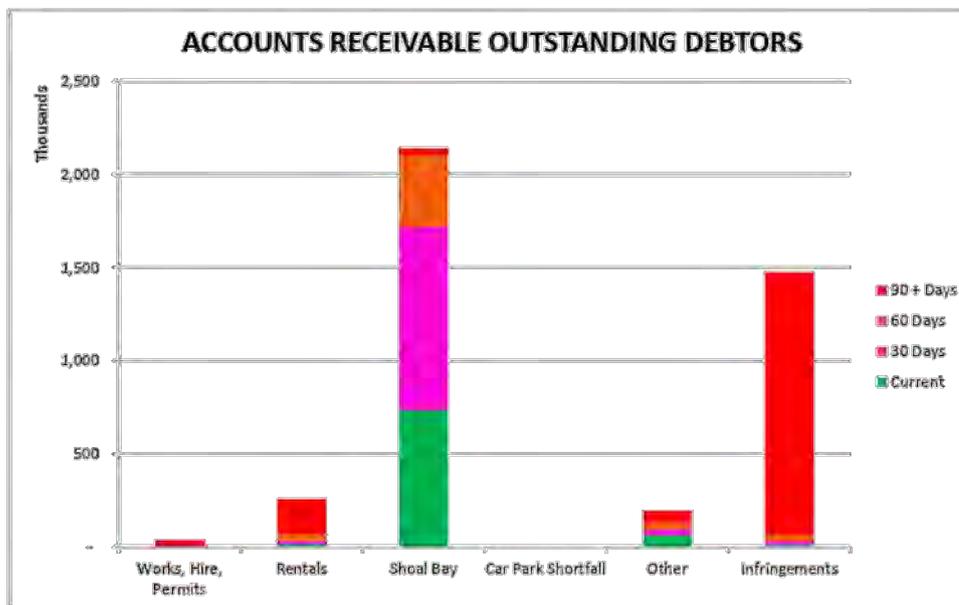
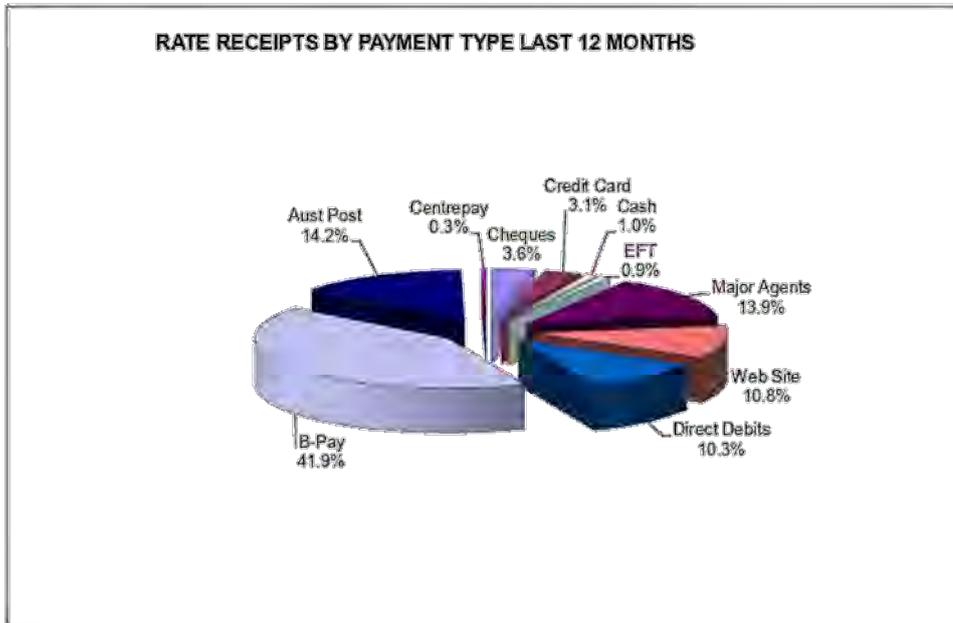
General Bank Funds	\$1,276,614
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$108,337,151</b>
Total Budgeted Investment Earnings	\$1,746,278
Year to Date Investment Earnings	\$1,599,623
Weighted Ave Rate	1.33%
BBSW 90 Day Rate	0.10%
Bloomberg AusBond (Bank Bill Index)	0.50%

Council has an arrangement with its financial institution the Commonwealth Bank of Australia to offset Council's overdraft facility against pooled funds held in Council's Trust Account and General Account

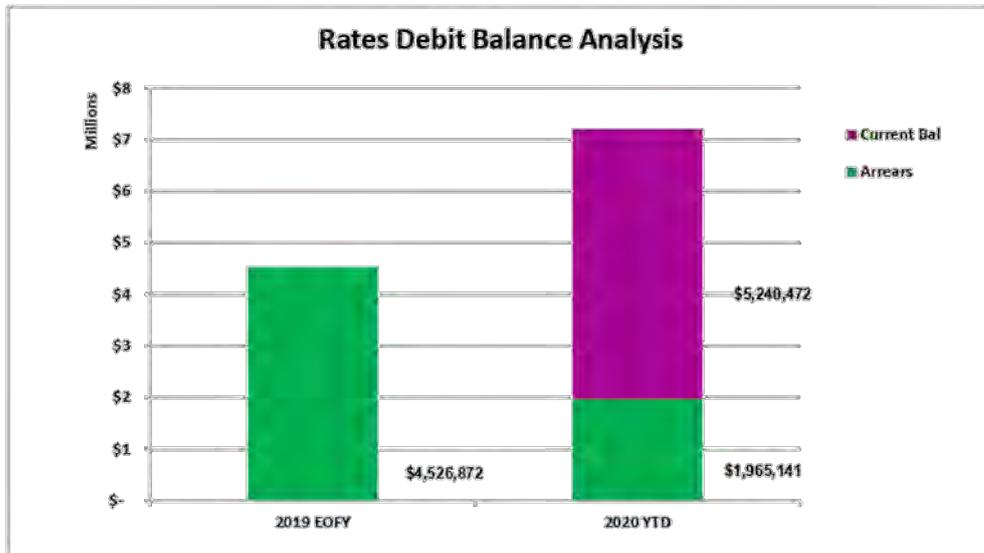
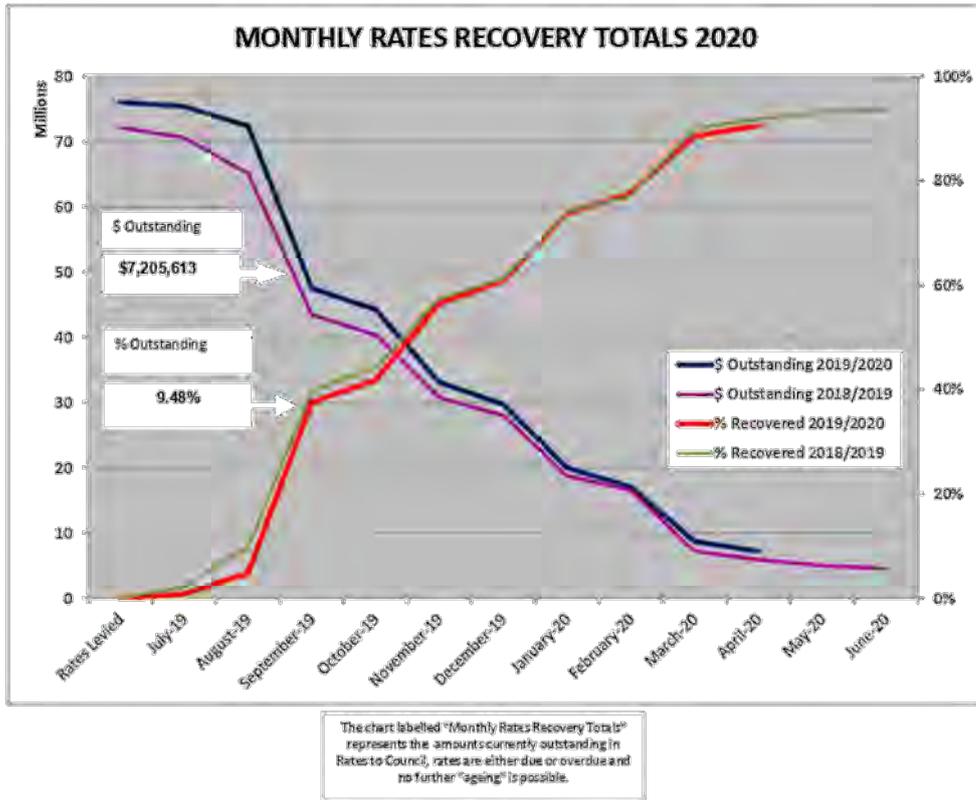
Trust Bank Account	\$461,389
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**FINANCE DEPARTMENT  
SERVICE LEVEL REPORT TO COUNCIL  
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020**



Pursuant to Local Government (Accounting) Regulations Sec 18(2)(b) the chart labelled "Accounts Receivable Outstanding Debtors" represents sundry debts owed to Council on an "aged" basis.



**15.3 GREEN ARMY UPDATE - MAY 2020****Common Number:****Author:** Executive Assistant**Authoriser:** General Manager Engineering and City Services**Attachments:** 1. Green Army Progress Report May 2020**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the progress of the Green Army initiative.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report entitled Green Army Update – May 2020 be received and noted.

**KEY ISSUES**

- Many people in Darwin are facing hardship as they have lost their employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Council has resolved to implement the Green Army initiative to provide additional employment opportunities to those impacted by the pandemic.
- The Green Army initiative will help to green and beautify the Darwin Municipality through numerous projects.

**BACKGROUND**

At the Special Council Meeting held 8 April 2020, Council resolved as follows:

**5.1 LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - CORONAVIRUS (COVID - 19) - COUNCIL RESPONSE #2****RESOLUTION SPE001/20**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

To deliver a clear position of support to our Community as Lord Mayor I will move the following support measures valued up to a \$55M for discussion and debate as an initial response:

1. THAT....  
AMENDMENT

11. THAT the Chief Executive Officer, commence planning and programming to provide additional employment to the Darwin Community as soon as possible, up to and including the 30th of June 2020. Furthermore, that the program be known as the “Green Army” focusing upon greening and beautification initiatives across the municipality.

**CARRIED 13/0****DISCUSSION**

The Green Army has been created to help support the Darwin Community by employing 100 people to help green and beautify the municipality. 100 recruits were on-boarded between 22 April and 1 May 2020. Recruitment was through four local recruitment agencies who received in excess of 1000 applications (across all four agencies) in the first few days of the initiative being launched.

The Green Army has been focused on maintenance and beautification, upgrading and cleaning of our parks and reserves, laneways and footpaths, weed removal, pruning and tree planting. Each Army member is working six hour shifts with staggered starts throughout the day. More information regarding the progress of each project being undertaken by the Green Army has been provided at **Attachment 1**.

**IMPLICATIONS**

None identified.

CITY FOR PEOPLE. CITY OF COLOUR.

# GREEN ARMY

## Project Progress Report



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# Green Army Progress Report

The Green Army is an initiative to support the local economy and to assist those in the Darwin community experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19 by employing 100 people to help beautify the Darwin Municipality.

**18 May 2020**

**Author**

Hannah, Project Administration

**Contributors**

Misimoa, Footpaths and Verges

Justin, Footpaths and Verges

Dario, Daly Street

Jay, Urban Bush Land, Rainforest, East Point

Ronnie, Stage 3 Parks and Street Tree Planting

Mick, Nightcliff Streetscape Beautification

Kyle, 274 Walkways

Anita, 274 Walkways

Ben, Vestey's Beach

Ryan, East Point Reserve



## Resourcing and Recruitment

### Operations Leadership Team and Human Resources

The Green Army project was ten business days in the making from its inception to delivery. This was completed by the Operations Team along with the assistance of our four labour hire agencies and the Employee Relations team. After this initiation phase, the team started to onboard an average of fifteen members per day. The organisational development team delivered initial corporate inductions every morning for a week and a half, supported by an operational induction by our acting Leading Hands and Team Leaders. As part of the initiative, 25 Green Army participants were provided with training to support the gaining of their initial construction induction training (White Card) as many of the Green Army members were from industries such as travel, hospitality and retail.

The leadership team at the operations centre paused all other works and developed a detailed works program, highlighting resourcing, logistics, locations, workload, supervision, equipment and fleet.

Council were required to source outside fleet due to the on-boarding of 100 new staff and the restrictions placed on vehicle use due to social distancing rules. In addition to Council's fleet, staff hired 40 utility vehicles and 10 trucks which also helps to support rental car providers who are also being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. No one provider could supply all the vehicles, and Council sourced various quantities from five providers. As some providers had de-registered their fleet due to lack of use, this allowed them to re-register their fleet and keep them in use. In addition to the fleet requirements Council also hired an ice machine, two mobile CCTV cameras and other support services.

All projects of the Green Army initiative required additional small plant and tools. The Fleet Manager quickly procured 16 whipper snippers, 17 backpack blowers, 13 pole saws, 18 backpack weed sprayers and six chain saws.

The storeman sourced four wheelbarrows, 27 shovels, 51 handsaws, 26 rakes, 44 fuel containers, nine hedgers, ten brooms and 15 rubbish tongs.

During the onboarding process, Human Resources and the operations team, internally recruited three Team Leaders and 13 Leading Hands to train, guide and supervise the 100 Green Army recruits. This required the coordinators to interview 24 internal applicants.

In the first week, the Green Army cleared a substantial quantity of overgrowth, rubbish, debris, weeds and green waste from the old Leanyer depot paving the way for the Green Army to operate.

While the creation of the Green Army stretched the internal resources of the Operations Centre and Human Resources, overall everything outlined above represents a real opportunity for local suppliers, local community members and internal staff for the development of Council-owned assets.



**Footpaths and Verges – Team 1 – Green Army**

**Leading Hand – Misimoa**

Misimoa is currently managing a team of 10 people going around to numerous locations in the Darwin Municipality. This team is responsible for the tidying up of verges and footpaths from over hanging branches to overgrown verges. Completing both sides of the road, the team is focusing on high traffic areas such as schools and parks. The team has already cleaned up the suburbs of:

- Anula and Wagaman.
- Today 13 May 2020 the team are working in Wanguri Shop/Oval cleaning up the footpaths.

So far the team has taken 14T of green waste to Shoal Bay.

Misimoa’s team has received a lot of positive feedback from the public with some residents even offering the team members water and snacks. They have received a lot of praise for tidying the street.

**Risk/Issues**

Some of the risk identified include having inexperienced people working with some of the equipment and working in the sun. It is important to ensure the correct training is provided to staff to minimise the risk of injury/harm and to manage staff to a safe standard ensuring breaks are taken and work is done safely.





The footpath in the photos above was completely blocked by tree branches and grass making it unusable for pedestrians. The team received a lot of positive feedback from residents for this.



**Footpaths and Verges – Team 2 – Green Army**

**Leading Hand – Justin**

Justin is currently managing a team of 10 people performing works around numerous locations in the Darwin Municipality. This team is responsible for the tidying up of verges and footpaths from over hanging branches to overgrown verges. They are currently focusing on the side of the road closest to schools and parks and will then return to complete the opposite side later.

Beginning at high traffic areas such as schools and parks the team has already cleaned up the suburbs of:

- Moil, Jingili, Nightcliff and Rapid Creek.
- In addition to this, Justin's team have spent three days around Karama and Koojarra Court removing line of sight hazards including branches and verge overgrowth in response to residents' complaints. The team removed 3T of green waste just from this area.
- Today (13 May 2020) the team are working in Tiwi.

So far the team has taken between 15-16T of green waste to Shoal Bay.

Justin's team are also receiving a lot of positive feedback from the community and the workers are very happy.

Before



After



Before



After



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**Daly Street – Green Army**

**Leading Hand – Dario**

The employees chosen for the Civil Green Army to perform works on the Daly Street Beautification have extensive experience in the construction industry and are experienced to operate the machinery used. Works being carried out include:

- Irrigation – a qualified plumber and two offsiders are working alongside the City of Darwin irrigation team.
- Six employees assisting in trench digging for irrigation.
- 80% of the work performed by the Green Army at Daly Street is landscaping/irrigation related.
- Two competent staff performing jack hammering works across Daly Street/CBD.

Works will continue on Daly Street until further notice.

**Risk/ Issues**

Risks have been managed by utilising the skills of experienced Green Army candidates. The only issue currently is filling spots after Green Army candidates are gradually returning to regular employment.



**Urban Bush Land, Rainforest, East Point and 4000 Tree Project – Green Army****Leading Hand – Jay**

Jay is currently managing seven Green Army candidates who are currently working in multiple areas around the Darwin municipality revitalising parks and planting trees. The team are working in Urban bushland, Duke Street Rainforest and East Point. Duties include:

- Weed management
- Grass revegetation/planting
- Walkway restoration
- Irrigation works
- Trees maintenance and planting.

Jay's team have received positive feedback from the community and the team has expressed how much they have enjoyed working for City of Darwin.

**Stage 3 Parks and Street Tree Planting – Green Army****Leading Hand – Ronnie**

Ronnie is currently managing six Green Army candidates. The team is currently working on stage 3 of the Street Tree Planting and the 4000 Trees Project. Currently servicing 10 parks the team have made great progress maintaining:

- Young Park – Alawa
- Easter Park - Anula
- Borella Park – Jingili
- Tomaris Park – Marrara
- Fong Park – Wanguri
- Kailis Park – Wanguri
- Kestrel Park – Wulagi
- Plover Park – Wulagi
- Curlew Park - Wulagi
- Jabiru Park - Wulagi

1200 trees will be planted as part of the Stage 3 Street Tree Planting.

Six of the Green Army workers are currently working within Stage 3 of the Street Tree Planting. Duties include:

- Planting trees
- Grass revegetation
- Irrigation installation and maintenance
- Maintenance to current trees and vegetation

This included the parks and reserves works requested by the Lord Major. They will soon commence work on the medium strips along Trower Road and Rocklands Drive, planting trees and maintaining existing trees.

Both teams have received positive feedback and are happy to be working for City of Darwin.



**Street Scape Beautification - Green Army**

**Team Leader - Mick**

Mick is currently managing six Green Army workers who are currently working on the Streetscape Beautification Project. The team is working at numerous locations around the Darwin municipality. Recent works include:

- Coonawarra Road - spreading mulch and tidying up median strips.
- Bayview Seawall - tidy up, pruning and weeding.

They have recently been in Nightcliff and Casuarina where the team have been carrying out:

- Irrigation works
- Planting
- Digging holes for planting
- Maintaining existing trees

The works at Nightcliff are anticipated to be completed by Friday, 15 May 2020. Once completed at Nightcliff they will move on to Daly Street to prepare tree pits and irrigation for future works.

All Green Army members have expressed how much they enjoy working for City of Darwin and are taking home a lot of knowledge for future work.



**274 Walkways – Green Army**

**Leading Hands – Kyle and Anita**

Kyle and Anita are both managing 10 people from the Green Army. Starting in Karama they are currently cleaning every walkway in the Darwin municipality. The teams are both working on different street within each suburb undertaking the follow works:

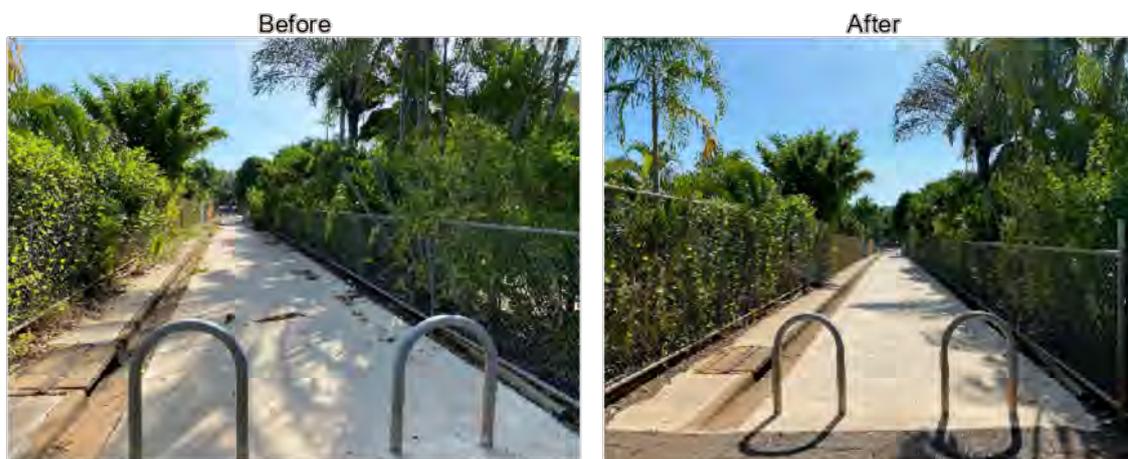
- Pruning back of branches to clear the walkway
- Whipper snipping overgrown grass
- Cleaning fence lines
- Poisoning of weeds
- Cleaning up of rubbish
- Removal of green waste to Shoal Bay

Once they have reached the Darwin CBD that will be the end of the 274 Pathways program.

**Risk/Issues**

The risks/issues that surround working in walkways is the stopping of works whilst pedestrians are entering the walkway, once a pedestrian has entered the walkway all works must come to a stop until the pedestrian has left the walkway. This means the teams have to work together to make sure they are keeping an eye on the activity around the walkway. Ensuring everyone is keeping a safe distance whilst using machinery, the team is also requested to walk through the walkway firstly to identify any trip hazards or anything that might be hazardous whilst maintaining the walkway.

The teams have been praised by pedestrians for the amazing work on the walkways they have serviced so far.



**Vesteys Beach/ Lagoon Beautification - Green Army**

**Leading Hand – Ben**

Ben is currently managing 10 of our Green Army staff. Ben's team are currently cleaning up Vesteys beach/lagoon area by removing rubbish, dead trees/branches and whipper snipping of overgrown grass. The Green Army members have been trained in the correct pruning techniques, focusing around high traffic areas for maximum visual impact. Pruning vegetation for line of sight issues and to prevent criminal activity from happening in the area, the team have received a lot of positive feedback from residents who have walked by and seen the work in progress.

Before



After



Before



After





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**East Point Reserve – Green Army**

**Leading Hand – Ryan**

Ryan is currently managing 10 of our Green Army staff. Ryan’s team are currently working at East Point Reserve maintaining major areas around East Point such as the lake, playgrounds and BBQ areas which includes pruning, blowing and clearing of debris, picking up of rubbish, clearing of overgrowth and ensuring that playgrounds are in a safe state. They have removed coffee bush and mission grass from around the lake and various other locations to ensure there are no line of sight issues and that the shared walkways are safe for both riders and walkers. They have also created a gravel shared path at the Pee Wees BBQ area for easy access.

The team has received a large amount of comments as to how nice the reserve is looking and the staff in the team are all loving the work that they are doing.

Construction of the shared footpath at the Pee Wees BBQ area





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**15.4 NORTHSIDE AMENITY BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT**

**Author:** Arts and Cultural Development Officer  
**Authoriser:** Community and Cultural Development Coordinator  
**Attachments:** Nil

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to brief Council on the Northside Amenity Beautification Project, to be completed by 30 June 2020.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report entitled Northside Amenity Beautification Project be received and noted.

**KEY ISSUES**

- This Project will partner City of Darwin's Arts and Cultural Development Team and Youth Development Team with *Proper Creative Darwin* (professional street art collective) to mentor at risk young people in the scoping, development and execution of painted murals applied to three Council amenities:
  - Malak Community Centre
  - Malak Oval pavilion block
  - Wanguri toilet block

Murals will be applied to:

- The wooden external panelling of three sides of the Malak Community Centre. This panelling is comprised of 6 full floor to roof panels of around 3 - 4 metres in width, and smaller wooden panelling installed under the Centre's window fixtures. The electricity box of the Centre will also be painted.
  - The feature wall of the Malak Oval Pavilion
  - All four walls of the Wanguri Oval toilet block
- This Project will occur between May 2020 and June 2020 with all final design content to be approved operationally, subject to appropriate style and content as decided by the General Manger, Community and Regulatory Services. Proposed materials and sites have been authorised with the Building and Facilities Senior Co-ordinator for City of Darwin.
  - Painting will be done with professional materials supplied by *Proper Creative*, who has been commissioned throughout the Darwin, Palmerston and Katherine region to create durable, appropriate and professional public mural projects.

**BACKGROUND**

Nil

**DISCUSSION**

The Youth Development Team has an unspent Territory Families Grant – the grant was originally dedicated to Karama Games nights, which requires restructuring by the funding acquittal date of June 30 due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Youth Team were looking for alternate small group programming to provide engagement for this cohort.

Malak has been identified as a community wanting public art in the recent Place Score census. The Malak Community Centre is a conspicuously corporate building, whose purpose as a

community centre could be better communicated through the inclusion of a mural aspect led by community artists and young locals. A partnership between City of Darwin and Proper Creative, backed by NTG project funding to those organisations, has created an opportunity to beautify several northside amenities in a community engaged process for a cost-effective price to Council.

The key outcomes of this Project are:

- Promoting the critical role art and youth engagement play in Council's facilitation of the community's staged recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supporting local creative businesses at a time when economic stimulus is urgently required.
- Filling gaps in youth programming due to COVID-19 restrictions creating program cancellations.
- Extending arts and cultural development programming outside the CBD/Nightcliff area to reach other wards within the Darwin municipality.
- Providing exceptional value for money through leveraging community partnerships
- Providing promotional media opportunity for City of Darwin to boost community morale and involvement in their municipality at a time where such activities are essential to the City's speedy recovery from COVID-19.
- Creating a more welcoming and vibrant environment for City of Darwin's amenity users.

#### **IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional budget implications, as the project will be funded with an unspent grant and operational funding for a project that could not be delivered due to COVID-19 social distancing regulations.

**16 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**17 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

**18 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**19 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 16 June 2020, at 5:30pm (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section), Council Chambers, Level 1, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin.

## 20 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

THAT pursuant to Section 65 (2) of the Local Government Act and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Local Government Act:

#### **26.1 Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility - Leachate Treatment System**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 65(2) - 8(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person.

#### **26.2 Sponsorship 2020/21**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 65(2) - 8(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person.

#### **26.3 Austin Lane and Knuckey Street Streetscape Projects - Update May 2020**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 65(2) - 8(e) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential.

## 21 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON



# **MINUTES**

## **Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday, 12 May 2020**

Reports, recommendations and supporting documentation can be accessed via the City of Darwin Council Website at [www.darwin.nt.gov.au](http://www.darwin.nt.gov.au), at Council Public Libraries or contact the Council's Government Relations and External Affairs Department on (08) 8930 0670.

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE, HARRY CHAN AVENUE,  
DARWIN  
ON TUESDAY, 12 MAY 2020 AT 5:30PM**

**PRESENT:** Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis, Alderman Paul Arnold, Alderman Andrew Arthur, Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris, Alderman Justine Glover, Alderman Gary Haslett, Alderman Robin Knox, Alderman George Lambrinidis, Alderman Simon Niblock, Alderman Mick Palmer, Alderman Peter Pangquee, Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe, Alderman Emma Young

**OFFICERS:** Scott Waters (Chief Executive Officer), Joshua Sattler (General Manager Innovation Growth & Development Services), Polly Banks (General Manager Community & Regulatory Services), Melissa Reiter (General Manager Government Relations & External Affairs), Ron Grinsell (General Manager Engineering & City Services)

Russel Holden (Executive Manager Finance), Chris Kelly (Executive Manager Corporate and Customer Services), Fiona van der Weide (Governance and Legislation Advisor)

**APOLOGY:** Nil

**GUESTS:** Nil

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**WEBCASTING DISCLAIMER**

In accordance with Policy 043, Meetings, Meeting Procedures and Committees, City of Darwin is live streaming the entire Open Section of this Ordinary Meeting. Members of the public are able to observe the meeting as an 'Attendee' via WebEx, however they will not be able to be viewed by members of Council or other members of the public. Recording and/or publishing of photos or videos of streamed meetings is not permitted.

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**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

**2 THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**

**3.1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**

**RESOLUTION ORD141/20**

Moved: Alderman Justine Glover  
 Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:35 pm.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**4.1 Apologies**

Nil

**4.2 Leave of Absence Granted**

Nil

**5 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE**

**5.1 Electronic Meeting Attendance Granted**

In accordance with Policy 043 and section 61(4) of the Local Government Act 2008, Elected Members are granted permission to attend by means of an audio or audio-visual conferencing system.

**5.2 Electronic Meeting Attendance Requested**

Nil

**6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**

**6.1 Declaration of Interest by Members**

**6.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS****RESOLUTION ORD142/20**

Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Seconded: Alderman Mick Palmer

- A. THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 73 & 74 of the Local Government Act, Alderman Andrew Arthur, declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 14.1.
- B. THAT Council note that pursuant to Section 73 & 74 of the Local Government Act, Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris, declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 26.2 in the confidential agenda.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**6.2 Declaration of Interest by Staff**

Nil

**7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES****RESOLUTION ORD143/20**

Moved: Alderman Justine Glover

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 April 2020 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**8 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Confidential Decisions from June to December 2016 are moved to Open at Attachment 1.

Minutes of the Special Meeting 23 April 2020 are moved to Open at Attachment 2.

**9 MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / LORD MAYORAL MINUTE**

Nil

**10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Nil

**11 PETITIONS**

Nil

**12 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS**

Nil

**13 NOTICES OF MOTION****13.1 NOTICE OF MOTION: POP-UP BIKE LANE WEEKEND TRIAL IN RESPONSE TO FORESHORE CROWDING**

I, Alderman Simon Niblock, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 12 May 2020, I will move the following motion:

**RESOLUTION ORD144/20**

Moved: Alderman Simon Niblock

Seconded: Alderman Robin Knox

1. THAT Council trial a temporary pop-up bike lane along the north-bound lane of Casuarina Drive between the Nightcliff Jetty car park and the Beachfront Hotel, using witches hats, and other low cost signage as required.
2. THAT this trial commence on 15 May 2020 and run from 4.00pm Friday afternoon until 9.00am Monday each weekend until further notice.
3. THAT the a review of the trial be presented back to Council at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting in August 2020 with a view to making the bike lane permanent every weekend with more permanent arrangements in place to manage the pop-up bike lane.

**LOST 3/10**

**13.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - DISABILITY PARKING BAYS**

I, Alderman Robin Knox, give notice that at the next Ordinary Council Meeting on 12 May 2020, I will move the following motion:-

**RESOLUTION ORD145/20**

Moved: Alderman Robin Knox

Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris

That Council

1. THAT an audit be undertaken across the City of Darwin Municipality during the first quarter of the 2020/21 Financial Year to identify any disability parking bays in council controlled car parks, parking bays or council controlled areas that do not meet current Australian Standards; and that the completed audit report be provided to the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and the Risk Management and Audit Committee for review and recommendations to Council for further consideration.
2. Furthermore, THAT on receipt of the recommendations, Council consider utilising the car parking reserves to implement any recommended upgrades in the 20/21 financial year.

**CARRIED 10/3**

**14 OFFICERS REPORTS**

*Alderman Andrew Arthur departed the meeting at 6:12 pm due to a Conflict of Interest.*

## 14.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING - COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANTS AND COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for funding recommendations for the COVID-19 Response Grants Program and Community Grants Program Round 1 20/21.

#### RESOLUTION ORD146/20

Moved: Alderman Robin Knox

Seconded: Alderman Justine Glover

1. THAT the report entitled Recommendations for Funding – COVID-19 Response Grants and Community Grants Program be received and noted.
2. THAT the following applications for the COVID-19 Response Grants Program be approved:
  - a. Darwin Community Arts Incorporated \$5,000.00  
*CemeNTstars Disability CONNECT Project*
  - b. Danila Dilba Biluru Butji Binnilutlum Health Service Aboriginal Corporation \$10,000.00  
*COVID 19 Community Awareness and Safety*
  - c. Sri Lankan Australian Friendship Association (SLAFA) \$4,000.00  
*SLAFA-City of Darwin-COVID-19 Support*
  - d. Total Recreation NT Inc \$3,922.00  
*Inclusive Online Fitness*
  - e. Parap Family Centre Inc. \$1,600.00  
*Meals for carers at Parap Family Centre*
  - f. SLIDE Youth Dance Theatre \$5,000.00  
*Participation Project and Developmental Work for Post COVID–19 events re engagement 2020*
  - g. HeartKids Ltd \$4,000.00  
*HeartKids Virtual Playgroup Support Program*
  - h. Melaleuca Refugee Centre Torture and Trauma Survivors Service of the NT Inc. \$4,000.00  
*COVID19 Community Support*
  - i. Nepalese Association of Northern Territory Incorporated \$4,000.00  
*Emergency support to members of Nepalese community of Darwin severely affected by COVID-19*
  - j. Wildcare Inc. \$2,900.00  
*Storage for COVID19 supplies*
  - k. Kyle Walmsley, auspiced by Brownsmart \$2,000.00  
*Lower the Bar - a community mobile, site specific, live performance delivery service*
  - l. Nightcliff Music, Arts and Culture inc. \$3,500.00

<i>Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival 2020 @ Home</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49,922.00</b>
3. THAT the following applications for the Community Grants Program Round 1 20/21 be approved:	
a. Amazing Miss Deb, auspiced by KidsCan	\$7,065.25
<i>Learn to unicycle at home with coaching from Amazing Miss Deb</i>	
b. Digital Inclusions Northern Australia	\$10,000.00
<i>Building Darwin's Digital Capacity and Confidence in the online world</i>	
c. NT Writers' Centre Inc.	\$5,760.00
<i>Not Your Average Online Book Club</i>	
d. Darwin Community Arts	\$9,565.00
<i>Together While Apart - skill share series</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,780.25</b>
<b>CARRIED 12/0</b>	

*Alderman Andrew Arthur re-joined the meeting at 6:16 pm.*

**14.2 MUNICIPAL PLAN 2019/20 - QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT - MARCH 2020 (Q3)**

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the Municipal Plan 2019/20 Quarterly Performance Report for the period ending March 2020.

<p><b>RESOLUTION ORD147/20</b></p> <p>Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis                  Seconded: Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris</p> <p>1. THAT the report entitled Municipal Plan 2019/20 - Quarterly Performance Report – March 2020 (Q3) be taken off the table and considered as the next item of business.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED 13/0</b></p>
---

<p><b>RESOLUTION ORD148/20</b></p> <p>Moved: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis                  Seconded: Alderman Justine Glover</p> <p>1. THAT the report entitled Municipal Plan 2019/20 - Quarterly Performance Report – March 2020 (Q3), be received and noted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED 13/0</b></p>
---

### 14.3 ELECTED MEMBER ALLOWANCES 2020/21

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the 2020/21 Elected Member Allowances for inclusion in the 2020/21 budget and Municipal Plan.

#### RESOLUTION ORD149/20

Moved: Alderman Gary Haslett

Seconded: Alderman Paul Arnold

1. THAT the report entitled Elected Member Allowances 2020/21 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the Elected Member allowances as outlined in the Table of Maximum Council Member Allowances for 2020/21, **Attachment 1**.
3. THAT the Extra Meeting Allowance for 2020/21 be set at \$250.00.

**CARRIED 12/1**

Alderman Want de Rowe called for a Division

For: Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis, Alderman Paul Arnold, Alderman Andrew Arthur, Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris, Alderman Justine Glover, Alderman Gary Haslett, Alderman Robin Knox, Alderman George Lambrinidis, Alderman Simon Niblock, Alderman Mick Palmer, Alderman Peter Pangquee, Alderman Emma Young

Against: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

*Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis departed the meeting at 6:35 pm.*

*Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis re-joined the meeting at 6:37 pm.*

*Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris departed the meeting at 6:37 pm.*

### 14.4 YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE 9 APRIL 2020 - ENDORSEMENT OF NEW MEMBER

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the unconfirmed minutes of the Youth Advisory Committee meeting held on 9 April 2020 and to seek Council's approval of nomination to the committee.

#### RESOLUTION ORD150/20

Moved: Alderman George Lambrinidis

Seconded: Alderman Andrew Arthur

1. THAT the report entitled Unconfirmed Minutes Youth Advisory Committee 9 April 2020 – Endorsement of new member be received and noted.
2. THAT pursuant to Section 54 of the Local Government Act that Council appoint Anais Henry-Martin to the Youth Advisory Committee from 12 May 2020 to 30 June 2022.

**CARRIED 12/0**

### 15 RECEIVE & NOTE REPORTS

*Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris re-joined the meeting at 6:38 pm.*

**15.1 UNCONFIRMED MINUTES YOUTH ADVSORY COMMITTEE MEETING 9 APRIL 2020****SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present the unconfirmed minutes of the Youth Advisory Committee meeting held on 9 April 2020.

**RESOLUTION ORD151/20**

Moved: Alderman George Lambrinidis

Seconded: Alderman Gary Haslett

1. THAT the report entitled Unconfirmed Minutes Youth Advisory Committee 9 April 2020 be received and noted.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**15.2 CYCLONE MARCUS 17 MARCH 2018 - FINAL COSTS AND SETTLEMENTS****SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of an update of final costs, funding and settlement of insurance claims for Cyclone Marcus – 17 March 2018.

**RESOLUTION ORD152/20**

Moved: Alderman Gary Haslett

Seconded: Alderman Peter Pangquee

1. THAT the report entitled Cyclone Marcus 17 March 2018 - Final Costs and Settlements be received and noted.
2. THAT Council acknowledges receipt of \$4,070,053 NDRRA Claim 1.
3. THAT Council acknowledges that the NDRRA Claim 1 reimbursement was transferred to the Asset Replacement and Refurbishment Reserve in 2018/19 and has subsequently been allocated as follows:
  - (a) repayment of \$1,271,328 to TIO from the Asset Replacement and Refurbishment Reserve in 2019/20 from NDRRA funds received in Claim 1.
  - (b) Remaining funds remain in the Asset Replacement and Refurbishment Reserve to respond to Council's Asset Management Plans and ongoing improvements in Asset Management.
4. THAT Council acknowledges receipt of \$1,372,615 NDRRA Claim 2.
5. That Council acknowledges that NDRRA Claim 2 is allocated as follows:
  - (a) \$1.0M is transferred to the Disaster Contingency Reserve to provide adequate funds to respond to future events (Reserve increases from \$1.0M to a total of \$2.0M).
  - (b) \$372,615 transferred to the Carry Forward Reserve and allocated in the 2020/21 budget.
6. THAT Council note settlement of the TIO Insurance Claim for Cyclone Marcus – 17 March 2019 which includes:
  - (a) Costs incurred by TIO in accordance with the provisions in Council's insurance policy for the 2017/18 financial year totalled \$7,504,401.

- (b) repayment of \$1,271,328 to TIO from the Asset Replacement and Refurbishment Reserve in 2019/20 from NDRRA funds received in Claim 1.
  - (c) Cash settlement to City of Darwin of \$444,256 inclusive of excess, noting that this amount will be referred to the 2020/21 Annual Budget and Municipal Plan as follows:
    - (i) \$200,000 to Engineering and City Services to implement the Greening Darwin Strategy;
    - (ii) \$150,000 to Government Relations and External Affairs for corporate uniforms to enhance Council's brand;
    - (iii) \$94,256 to Government Relations and External Affairs to coordinate a readiness assessment to address the requirements of the new Disaster Relief and Recovery Funding Program (DRRF) and an audit of Council's Emergency Management Framework;
7. THAT Council acknowledge that total costs attributed to responding and recovering from the Cyclone Marcus event on 17 March 2018 were \$17,373,987.
8. THAT Council acknowledge that the total amount recovered by NDRRA (\$5,442,668) and funded by insurance with TIO (\$7,978,657) was \$13,421,325.

**CARRIED 13/0**

## **16 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Nil

## **17 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

THAT the following Questions by Members be received and noted.

### **17.1 URBAN FORREST STRATEGY AND GREENING STRATEGY**

#### **RESOLUTION ORD153/20**

Moved: Alderman Emma Young

Seconded: Alderman Gary Haslett

#### **Question**

Alderman Robin Knox asked when the Urban Forrest strategy and the Greening Strategy reports would be presented to Council. Alderman Robin Knox also asked if these reports would address tree planting, including replacing lost trees along the Nightcliff foreshore and in Sunset park, and if the tree planting since Cyclone Marcus has been completed.

#### **Response**

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Urban Forrest Strategy and Greening Strategy will be workshopped with Elected Members next month.

The Chief Executive Officer also advised that the tree planting has not yet been completed and is ongoing. The strategy will address where trees need to be planted, identify priority areas and assess tree planting needs on a tiered basis.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**17.2 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN WANGURI AND LANEWAY IN WAGAMAN****RESOLUTION ORD154/20**

Moved: Alderman Emma Young

Seconded: Alderman Gary Haslett

**Question**

Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe asked for an update on the pedestrian crossing at Cabillo and Perez Streets opposite Wanguri Primary School. This crossing currently doesn't meet Australian Safety Standards.

Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe also queried the laneway on Amsterdam Circuit in Wagaman and asked if there has been a decision on closing this laneway.

**Response**

General Manager Engineering & City Services took this question on notice.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**17.3 SPEEDING IN LEANYER****RESOLUTION ORD155/20**

Moved: Alderman Emma Young

Seconded: Alderman Gary Haslett

**Question**

Alderman Jimmy Bouhoris noted that he has been receiving phone calls regarding the speeding at Savannah Dr and Castlereagh St in Leanyer, and noted that this issue has come to Council a number of times. How is this being addressed?

**Response**

The Chief Executive Officer advised that this matter is a priority for the Engineering and City Services Department that he has personally surveyed this area and noted the importance of addressing this issue.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**18 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**19 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 26 May 2020, at 5:30 pm (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section), Council Chambers, Level 1, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin.

**20 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC****RESOLUTION ORD156/20**

Moved: Alderman Andrew Arthur

Seconded: Alderman Justine Glover

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Local Government Act:

**26.1 Aboriginal Naming Projects**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 65(2) - 8(e) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential.

**26.2 Resource, Recovery and Recycling Centre Agreement**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 65(2) - 8(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person.

**26.3 Unconfirmed Confidential Minutes of Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting Held on 27 March 2020**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 65(2) - 8(c)(iv) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of council or some other person.

**26.4 Karama Walkways Access to Vanderlin Drive - Traffic Assessment and Options Report Provided by NTG**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 65(2) - 8(c)(i) and 8(e) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person and information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential.

**26.5 Unsolicited Proposal - Multi Purpose Sunset Lounge**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 65(2) - 8(c)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**21 ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN MEETING****RESOLUTION ORD157/20**

Moved: Alderman Rebecca Want de Rowe

Seconded: Alderman George Lambrinidis

The Open Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**29 RESUME OPEN MEETING**

**RESOLUTION ORD172/20**

Moved: Alderman Simon Niblock  
Seconded: Alderman Peter Pangquee  
THAT the Open Meeting resumed at 8:06pm.

**CARRIED 13/0**

**30 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

**RESOLUTION ORD173/20**

Moved: Alderman Simon Niblock  
Seconded: Alderman Peter Pangquee  
THAT the Meeting closed at 8:06pm.

**CARRIED 13/0**

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 May 2020.

.....  
**CHAIR**