



AGENDA

Special Council Meeting Wednesday, 8 April 2020

As per Resolution ORD146/20, I hereby give notice that a Special Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 8 April 2020

Time: 5.30pm

Dial in: WebEx

Public address:

<https://darwin.webex.com/darwin/onstage/g.php?MTID=e31c14db1b99a1ea979e325e4d7173fb9>

Password - 8Apr2020

**Scott Waters
Chief Executive Officer**

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

Alderman Andrew Arthur

Alderman Paul Arnold

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

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. To ensure images of the public are not webcast in any way, please turn off your cameras on smart devices and computers. Recording and/or publishing of photos or videos of streamed meetings is not permitted.

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1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies

Nil

2.2 Leave of Absence Granted

Nil

2.3 Leave of Absence Requested

Nil

3 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

3.1 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 the Special Meeting of Council by means of an audio or audiovisual conferencing system.

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

5 MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE / LORD MAYORAL MINUTE**5.1 LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - CORONAVIRUS (COVID - 19) - COUNCIL RESPONSE #2**

Author: Lord Mayor

Pursuant to By-law 152 of the Council's By-laws, I submit the following minute for consideration by the Council:

INTRODUCTION

The Darwin Community is currently facing an Economic, Social and Health Crisis, the likes of which have not occurred for more than 100 years.

Over the past week, I have received phone calls and correspondence from some of the City's largest businesses and our most vulnerable ratepayers. They are all scared, they are anxious and they are appealing to myself as Lord Mayor and our Council to act quickly and decisively in providing Financial and Social Support. At our last ordinary meeting as a Council we approved the freezing of interest charged on outstanding rates, effectively deferring rate payments, however to help our community through the current crisis, I would like to see Council formalise a position and go further.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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 ratepayers affected by COVID-19, 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 levy's – 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 Initiative” focusing upon greening and beautification initiatives across the municipality.

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LORD MAYOR

6 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

Nil

7 OFFICERS REPORTS

7.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS 2020/21 CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESPONSE

Author: Community Development Officer
Authoriser: General Manager Community and Regulatory Services
Attachments: 1. COVID-19 Response Grants Program Guidelines

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of a COVID-19 Response Grants Program, with a total of \$150,000 allocated in two rounds, to support community groups or organisations to deliver innovative solutions to meet the changing needs of the community due to COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Community Grants 2020/21 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response be received and noted.
2. Council endorse the reallocation of current operational funding to open a new grant round of \$50,000, for community projects that respond to COVID-19 with innovative solutions to be delivered between from April to 30 June 2020.
3. Council endorse the repurposing of the 2020/21 Community Grants Program budget, to a second round of \$100,000, for community projects that respond to COVID-19 with innovative solutions delivered between 1 July and 31 December 2020.
4. Council endorse the COVID-19 Response Grants Program Guidelines, which will apply to both the 19/20 and 20/21 rounds.

KEY ISSUES

- Round 1 of the 2020/21 Community Grants Program is currently open until 31 March 2020, with \$50,000 of funding available from the 2020/21 financial year. Applicants can apply for funding of up to \$10,000. There is a separate pool of \$50,000 for community-based environment grants.
- The majority of applications submitted are unlikely to meet the changing needs of the community due to the impacts of COVID-19, and therefore the officer recommendation is that the grants program be realigned to focus on projects that ease the burden on the community in the context of a pandemic.
- Each year Council allocates \$100,000 to the Community Grants Program in two rounds. It is recommended that Council open a new grant round of \$50,000 for community projects that respond to COVID-19 with innovative solutions, with requests up to \$10,000, for projects delivered by 30 June 2020. Funding will be sourced from current operational funding that cannot be used due to the COVID-19 response.
- It is recommended that the 2020/21 Community Grants Program budget be repurposed for a second round of \$100,000, for community projects that respond to COVID-19 with innovative solutions delivered between 1 July and 31 December 2020.
- A COVID-19 Grants Program Guidelines which outlines eligibility and assessment criteria is at **Attachment 1**.

BACKGROUND

\$100,000 for the Community Grants Program is budgeted for each year and typically distributed across two rounds of \$50,000 per round.

DISCUSSION

Community Grants Program Overview

City of Darwin Community Grants Program provides funding of up to \$10,000 to community groups and organisations to deliver meaningful activities, programs or events for the Darwin municipality, enhancing Darwin as a safe, liveable and healthy city.

Current Community Grants Program Round

The current round of the Community Grants Program was open for applications from 1 to 31 March 2020, with \$50,000 of funding available. There is a separate pool of \$50,000 for community-based environment grants. Applicants can apply for funding of up to \$10,000. The majority of applications received for the Community Grants Program are event-based, and/or have high levels of face-to-face engagement. This indicates that a high proportion of the applications submitted in the current round will unlikely meet the changing needs of the community due to the impacts of COVID-19, and therefore the officer recommendation is that the grants program be realigned to focus on projects that can immediately ease the burden on the community in the context of a pandemic.

COVID-19 Response Grants Program

As the country grapples with extended periods of physical distancing and isolation as well as significant job losses, Council and the wider community need to rethink how we operate our day-to-day lives and respond to the changing needs of the community in innovative ways. The purpose of the COVID-19 Response Grants Program is to address this need, and will provide funding to grant applicants that can demonstrate an ability to deliver projects that:

1. Develop resources or services to address the changing needs of the community in a COVID-19 environment;
2. Increase community connection and social inclusion in an environment where physical distancing and isolation measures are in place;
3. Enrich the diversity of cultural, environmental, recreational or social opportunity to Darwin residents in the new and developing COVID-19 environment;
4. Build and strengthen partnerships between community groups and organisations; and
5. Enhance Darwin as a safe, liveable and healthy city in the context of a pandemic.

Examples of potential projects for the COVID-19 Grants Program could include, for example, Foodbank setting up a food delivery service to vulnerable persons in self-isolation; or the development of a live streaming service or online platform to connect artists and audiences.

A COVID-19 Grants Program Guidelines which outlines eligibility and assessment criteria is at **Attachment 1**.

A total of \$150,000 will be available for the COVID-19 Response Grants Program allocated in two rounds:

- Round 1 of \$50,000 for requests up to \$10,000, for projects delivered from April to 30 June 2020.
- Round 2 of \$100,000 for requests up to \$10,000 for projects delivered between 1 July and 31 December 2020.

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

2.1 By 2030, Darwin will be a safer place to live and visit

LEGISLATIVE/POLICY

The Community Grants Program is guided by City of Darwin Policy No. 008 Community Inclusion.

CONSULTATION

Internal

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

- Community and Cultural Development Coordinator
- General Manager Community and Regulatory Services

External

Nil

BUDGET/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

\$100,000 for the Community Grants Program is budgeted for each year, allocated in two rounds, this will fund the 20/21 single round of COVID-19 Community Grants.

The 19/20 \$50,000 round will be funded from pooling a number of budgets that will be unspent as a result of projects being unable to be delivered in a coronavirus context – such as key community events. \$7,000 remains in the 2019/20 Community Grants Program budget. It is proposed that Round 1 of the COVID-19 Response Grants Program of \$50,000 be funded with this \$7,000 in addition to other current operational funding that cannot be used due to the COVID-19 response. The three budget sources that funding will be redirected from, submitted as part of the 3rd Quarter Budget Review, are:

- (a) Safer City budget: \$30,000
- (b) Indigenous Activities budget: \$7,000
- (c) Arts Activity budget: \$6,000

It is proposed that Round 2 of the COVID-19 Response Grants Program of \$100,000 be funded from the 2020/21 Community Grants Program budget.

RISK

No major risk

LEGAL

In accordance with COVID-19 Council response.

ARTS, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

The Community Grants Program supports community groups and organisations to deliver meaningful activities, programs or events for the Darwin municipality, to enrich the diversity of cultural, environmental, recreational or social opportunity to Darwin residents and enhance Darwin as a safe, liveable and healthy city.



COVID-19

OVERVIEW

City of Darwin's COVID-19

Response Grants Program provides funding of up to \$10,000 to community groups or organisations to create and deliver innovative solutions to meet the changing needs of the community due to the impacts of COVID-19.

The first grant round of \$50,000 will be for projects delivered by 30 June 2020. The second round of \$100,000 will be for projects delivered between 1 July and 31 December 2020.

The program provides funding to:

- Develop resources or services to address the changing needs of the community in a COVID-19 environment;
- Increase community connection and social inclusion in an environment where physical distancing and isolation measures are in place;
- Enrich the diversity of cultural, environmental, recreational or social opportunity to Darwin residents in the new and developing COVID-19 environment;
- Build and strengthen partnerships between community groups and organisations; and
- Enhance Darwin as a safe, livable and healthy city in the context of a pandemic.

ELIGIBILITY

- Organisations must be incorporated or be auspiced* by an incorporated organisation for the purposes of this application;
- Proposed activities must occur within the timeframe specified for each funding round; and
- Activities must occur within the Darwin municipality.

*Auspice – if you are unincorporated or an individual you will need the support of an incorporated organisation to act as a sponsor, to be an intermediary for financial purposes. If required, please contact us for support in connecting you with a suitable organisation.

INELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS

The following proposals will not be considered:

- Applications for individual pursuits;
- Requests for the ongoing core functions of an organisation, such as insurance and utilities costs;
- Requests for commercial or competitive activities;
- Funding for capital funds or improvements on private property;
- School based projects that do not involve the wider community;
- Event or conference sponsorship, prizes or award ceremonies;
- Projects that have already started;
- Applications where an applicant has not fully acquitted a previous City of Darwin grant.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

- Feasibility of the project and its potential to meet the objectives of the COVID-19 Response Grants Program;
- Project considers accessibility and the inclusion of the whole community;
- How well the applicant has developed the project's purpose and methods of reaching and working with the target community;
- How comprehensive and realistic the budget is.

TIMELINE

ROUND 1:



ROUND 2:



APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are to be submitted online via the SmartyGrants portal from 6 April, with a closing time of 5.00pm on Monday 27 April.

An assessment panel will assess all applications against assessment criteria and provide recommendations to Council; funding allocation decisions will be made at an Ordinary Council meeting.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants will be required to sign a service agreement with City of Darwin that details the commitments between the applicant and Council. Successful applicants will require written Council approval to change the agreement, such as changes to major items purchased or the timelines of the project.

Successful applicants will be required to acknowledge the support provided. This can be through the use of City of Darwin's logo on materials produced; a digital copy of the logo will be supplied.

Successful applicants will be required to submit an acquittal online through SmartyGrants within three months of the project's completion.

CONTACT

If you require any further information, please contact the Community Development Officer on 08 8930 0645, email darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au or visit the City of Darwin website.

7.2 MY DARWIN - ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROPOSAL – CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Author: Executive Manager Innovation and Information Services
Authoriser: General Manager Government Relations & External Affairs
Attachments: 1. My Darwin Concept Proposal
2. Statewide Comparison

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the development of the web application, “my.Darwin” to assist with stimulating the local economy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report MY DARWIN - Economic Stimulus Proposal – Coronavirus (COVID-19) be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse the allocation of car parking revenue from the month February 2020 to support the initiative.
3. THAT Council, pursuant to Section 32 (2) of the Local Government Act 2008 hereby delegates to the Chief Executive Officer to investigate internally restricted parking reserves for the re-appropriation into this financial year’s operating budget.

KEY ISSUES

- The Darwin economy has been weakening in recent years and may become dire due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Economic stimulus will be required from all tiers of government to support the rebuilding of the Australian economy
- A digital approach to directly support local business and the Darwin community.

BACKGROUND

The Darwin economy has been weakening in recent years as the city now transitions from a rapid growth during major construction projects. The Gross State Product has declined, leading to many challenges for the local businesses - **Attachment 1** (slide 2).

In this economic climate, it’s important for the City of Darwin to drive and stimulate the local economy through re-investment, removal of fees, innovative economic activities that create good long-term economic health and reasonable growth.

Based on the recently conducted Place Score study, the community is keen in public events, cultural diversity and local community businesses. Darwinians will support each other and answer the call if incentivised - **Attachment 1** (slide 4).

DISCUSSION

City of Darwin is to develop a mechanism to stimulate economic growth in unprecedented times, to support local business and the community. The mechanism will be to develop a digital web application that re-invests Council parking revenue to increase spend within the local small business sector, stimulating growth and increase spend across the Darwin municipality.

The re-investment will be transferred directly to financial incentives for the community, where local businesses receive rebates for discounted trade supported by Council. It will increase footfall, participation and activation into the CBD with consumption multipliers (slide 5). It will create synergized marketing and communication efforts across merchant, partners and Council networks and create an ethos for local buy and support, as a legacy outcome to continue for years to come.

Car parking fees from one month of revenue of approximately \$350K could be injected into the Darwin economy encouraging the community to spend with local businesses. The development of the application to be completed in approximately 4-5 weeks and could be implemented at a time when social distancing restrictions are eased. Many Darwin small businesses will be struggling and this will be an opportune time to have a program available, where the re-investment will be transferred to financial incentives for the community (slide 5).

This application will create a legacy and re-usable platform for the community and enable a dashboard to highlight how much money is remaining. The end user community member will be able to redeem the discount instantly through the vendor, where the vendor will be reimbursed directly from Council (slide 6).

This project will increase our partnerships with Darwin businesses and other partners and present a united front on the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This application can continue to grow and become a more efficient and user friendly platform for some of Council's services. These could be investigated in later phases of the project to include the payment of rates, a booking system (centres, parks, banners), dog registrations, events and have push notifications to inform the end user (slide 14).

Other councils in Australia are initiating economic stimulus programs also, including the City of Melbourne (\$10M) and the Gold Coast Council (\$3M). **Attachment 2.**

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

4 A Smart and Prosperous City

Outcome

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

LEGISLATIVE/POLICY

Nil

CONSULTATION

This report was considered by the Strategic Direction Group on 24th March 2020 and now referred to Council for consideration.

Internal

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

- Members of the Strategic Leadership Group
- Innovation growth and development services teams

External

- Application development vendors
- Tourism NT, NTG Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture

BUDGET/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The budget impact of this decision is estimated at \$370,000, which includes cost of development (\$20,000) and the allowance for the re-investment injection into the local economy (\$350,000). The development cost to occur in the 2019/20 financial year and depending on when Council prefer the product be released, the remaining funds would be utilised in either the 2019/20 or 2020/21 financial year. At this stage estimated release of this initiative will be May 2020.

RISK

The only risk identified with the decision is The Council's reputation due to disputes in payment to the vendors. Based on the risk matrix this is low. Adequate systems are being built to ensure validation is done both at the vendor and The Council's side. This reduces risk of fraud.

Without providing financial assistance, The Council runs the risk of many businesses failing to survive the pandemic period and the unprecedented economic downturn.

LEGAL

There are no direct legal implications as a result of this decision. Any formal complaints from customers or merchants can be addressed to the relevant communication mediums and will be addressed by The Council.

ARTS, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

There are no direct relation to arts, culture and the environment as a result of this decision.



Introduction

The Darwin economy has been weakening in recent years as the city now transitions from a rapid growth during major construction projects. The GSP has declined leading to many challenges for the local businesses.

- NT Gross State Product - declined by 1.5%
- Decline in international tourist arrivals – declined by 16% (compared 2018)
- Reducing population numbers in Darwin – declined by 1.6% (compared 2018)
- Local job growth – declined by 1.3% (2018-19 source: NEIR)
- Rise of closures in CBD based businesses – Only 870 new NT businesses registered in 2019

**COVID-19 will reduce Australian GDP by 0.9%
and would amount to \$17 Billion Dollars
- KPMG**



#SMARTDARWIN

Overview of the proposal

In this economic climate, it's important for the City of Darwin to drive and stimulate the local economy through re-investment, removal of fees, innovative economic activities that create good long term economic health and reasonable growth.

City of Darwin stimulus activity:

- Governance and advocacy
- Planning, development and regulation
- Provision of infrastructure, property and community

Creating the circular economy



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The voice of the community



Based on the recently conducted **Place Score** study, the community is keen in public events, cultural diversity and local community businesses.

- Evidence of public events happening here (markets, street entertainers etc.)
- Things to do in the evening (shopping, dining, entertainment etc.)
- Culturally diverse businesses (range of ethnicities and interests)
- Businesses that reflect the local community and values

This is evidently clear that there is an existing demand for local business encouragement, promotional activities or innovative approaches.

Darwinians will support each other and answer the call if incentivized.



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Identifying opportunities

The City of Darwin identifies that re-investment of revenue back into the economy through a legacy initiative that will drive demand, activation and potential growth for local businesses. A project to reinvest Parking Revenue back into the community:

- Parking revenue – avg \$368,000 pm – a potential uplift of \$4M
- Parking occupancy – avg 80% (92,000 sessions pm)

- The re-investment will be transferred to financial incentives for the community, **directly**.
 - Local businesses will receive rebates for discounted trade supported by **council \$**.
 - Increase footfall, participation and activation into the CBD, **consumption multipliers**
 - Synergized marketing and communication efforts across merchant and **CoD network**
 - Create an ethos for local buy and support as a **legacy** outcome to continue as BAU.
- We are already in the process of activating parklets with planters, providing rent relief on leased properties until June 30 and waiving mobile food vendor fees for 2020-2021.***

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The solution

A legacy platform for the community

A new mobile app or PWA (Progressive web application) will be developed and will be made available on all leading app stores or a designated URL – My.Darwin. Live dashboards reflecting the “kitty” will be available to the users and influence discounts available.

Loaded Credits to the end user

The app will include either Cash credits or Discount vouchers as per popular categories – Food, beverages, restaurants, cafes, retail...

Reinvestment of Council revenue to the community

The City of Darwin will re-invest its revenue from parking back in to the community in forms of community discounts that will be redeemable at Darwin based local businesses for a defined period – proposed to be 1 month only.

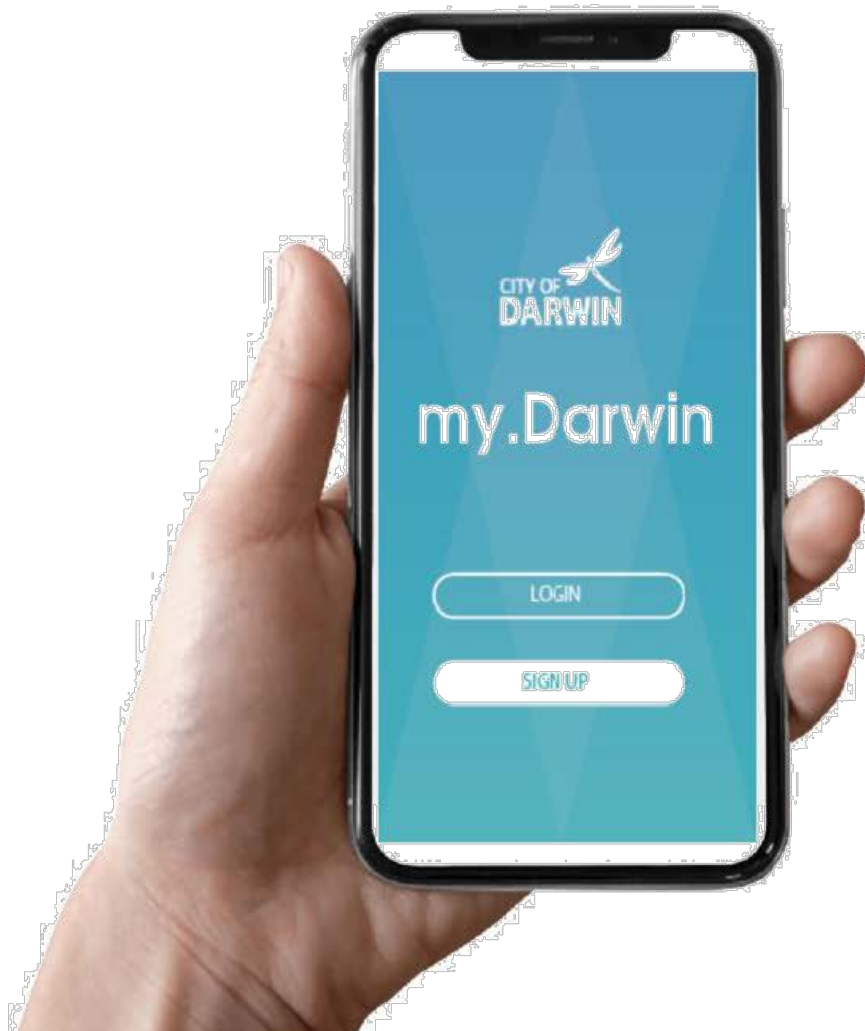
In Store discount

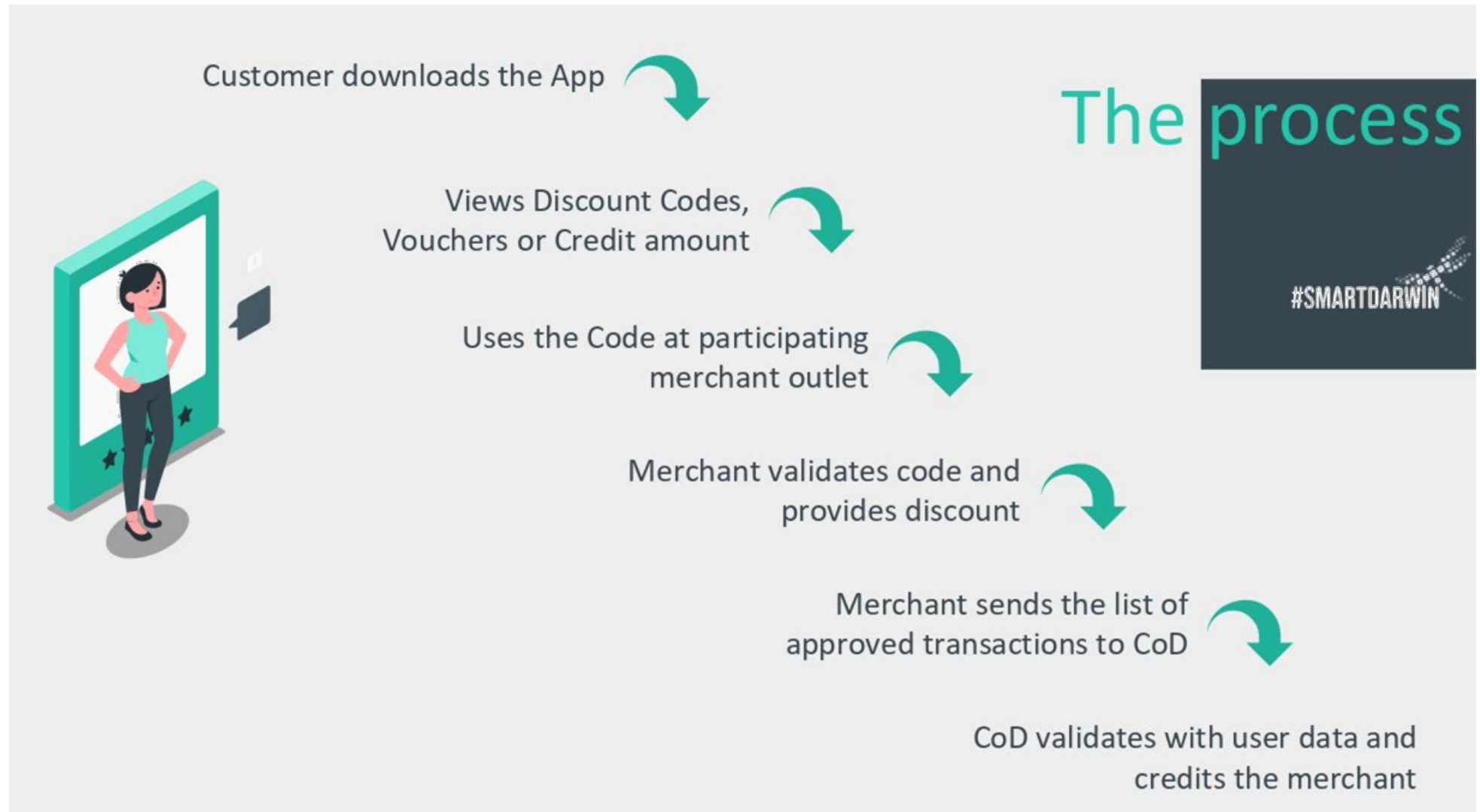
The user will be able to redeem the discount through the vendor in store. All through the click of a button. Discounts to be scaled depending upon uptake through the month, starting at 10% and changing weekly.

Rebates to the vendor

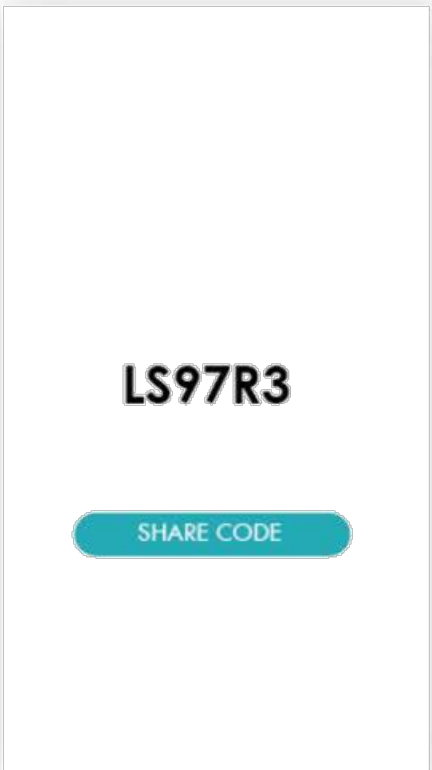
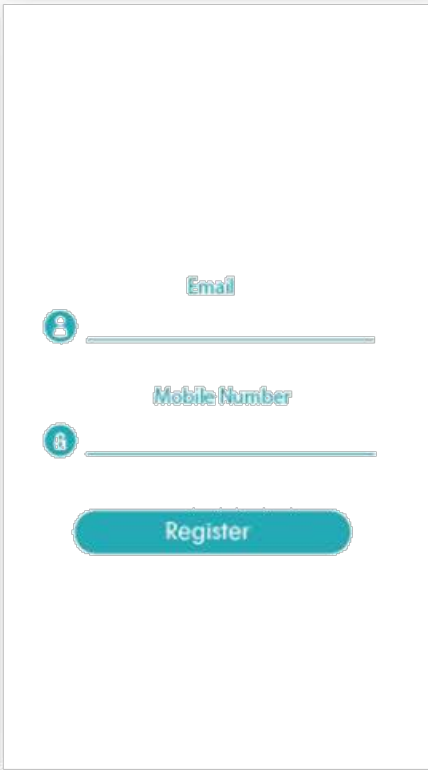
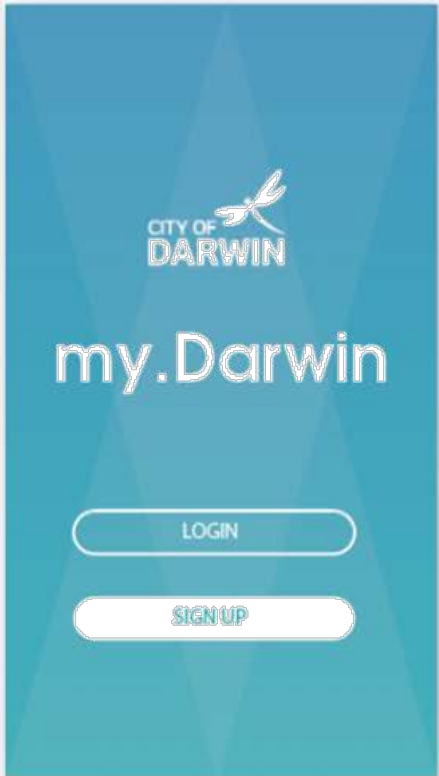
The business owners receive a rebate from the Council for the discounts provided in-store







End User Interface





- The app will indicate your Credit balance and Expiry date.
- This will create the FOMO and drives urgency to purchase.

How do we measure?

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- A community dashboard to display live information.
- Drive momentum and interest among community and encourage merchants

TIMELINE



What's already in play.

Free parking 60 days – 320K
Free parking Xmas x2 – 300K+
Rent relief to June 2020 – 200K
Alfresco fee waiver to June 2021 – 80K
No parking fee increase past 4 years –
250K per year.

All of the above do not offer any direct injection for businesses – indirect actions that have been difficult to evaluate.

This is an opportunity to quantify the stimulus and evaluate effectively for future activation.

This will remain as an initiative to activate and respond – COVID-19 or cyclone Marcus, we will respond. Directly.

Required – act immediately

- A decision from Council to support and re-allocate revenue from car parking to this initiative – to be determined by council but it is proposed to be at least one month of off street revenue approx. **300K**.
- A decision from council to support the future allocation of internally restricted reserves for budget appropriations for the current FY 2019-2020.
- IGDS will commence final build associated with the digital platform in readiness for May 2020 roll out.
- Communications to start immediately to prepare and give the business community belief in continuing/returning to their businesses.
- IGDS to support businesses shoulder to shoulder in launching this initiative.
- This could be a mechanism to support all local governments across the nation in similar circumstance.

Additional Phases

Investigations into top priority items for the community can be developed into this App in future phases.

- Phase 2: Ability to pay Rates + push notifications
- Phase 3: Add Booking system (centres, parks, banners) + push notifications
- Phase 4: Add Dog registrations + push notifications
- Phase 5: Events module + push notifications
- Phase 6: Integrate/Replace SeeClickFix



How are other LGA's responding?



City of Perth

- Free up to one hour on-street parking across the CBD for the next three months to support local business
- A freeze in increases in municipal rates and charges, including sanitation and waste charges
- No fees and charges relating to inspection services for small business for the next three months
- Suspension of lease and rental payments for three months to all City of Perth tenants leasing city owned property, including the relinquishment of bank guarantees
- An express planning service for change of land use and development applications for small businesses with no application fee.
- Accelerated capital works projects and major city maintenance programs
- A full refund on all cancelled bookings at City properties or facilities
- Shorter payment terms for creditors, reduced from 30 days to 15 days
- Debtors experiencing hardship will receive a range of options to assist in payment

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How are other LGA's responding?



- grants to develop online and e-services
- one-on-one advice and support through our expanded Business Concierge Service
- halving rent for eligible tenants in Council-owned buildings for three months
- suspending fees for Food Act registrations and street trading permits for three months
- a new Rates Hardship Policy
- a virtual Business Support Summit.

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How are other LGA's responding?



- Footpath dining (fees) - Waived for the period of 1 March to 30 June 2020
- Outdoor dining (malls) - Credit of prepaid invoices for the period of 1 March to 30 June 2020 and Council will not pursue unpaid invoices
- Advertising (application or license) - No fees for advertising, signs, hoardings and structures for the period of 1 March to 30 June 2020
- Filming (application) - Waive or reduce application fees for filming approval at Council owned or controlled land or assets
- Entertainment venues and events (booking) - Refunds granted for those seeking to cancel their events due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions
- Music venues (booking) - Refunds granted for those seeking to cancel their events due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions
- Food Act 2006 (fees) - Waived or refunded for the period of 1 March to 30 June 2020
- Temporary Food Stalls/Premises (fees) - Waived or refunded for the period of 1 March to 30 June 2020



#SMARTDARWIN

How are other LGA's responding?



- Standing vehicles, stalls booths and stands for commercial or promotional activity - Waived for small business for the period of 1 March to 30 June 2020
- City Hall (booking) - Refunds granted for those seeking to cancel their booking due to COVID-19
- Community Hall (booking) - Refunds granted for those seeking to cancel their booking due to COVID-19
- Commercial leases - Rent relief for the March to June 30 quarter for retail and tourism sector



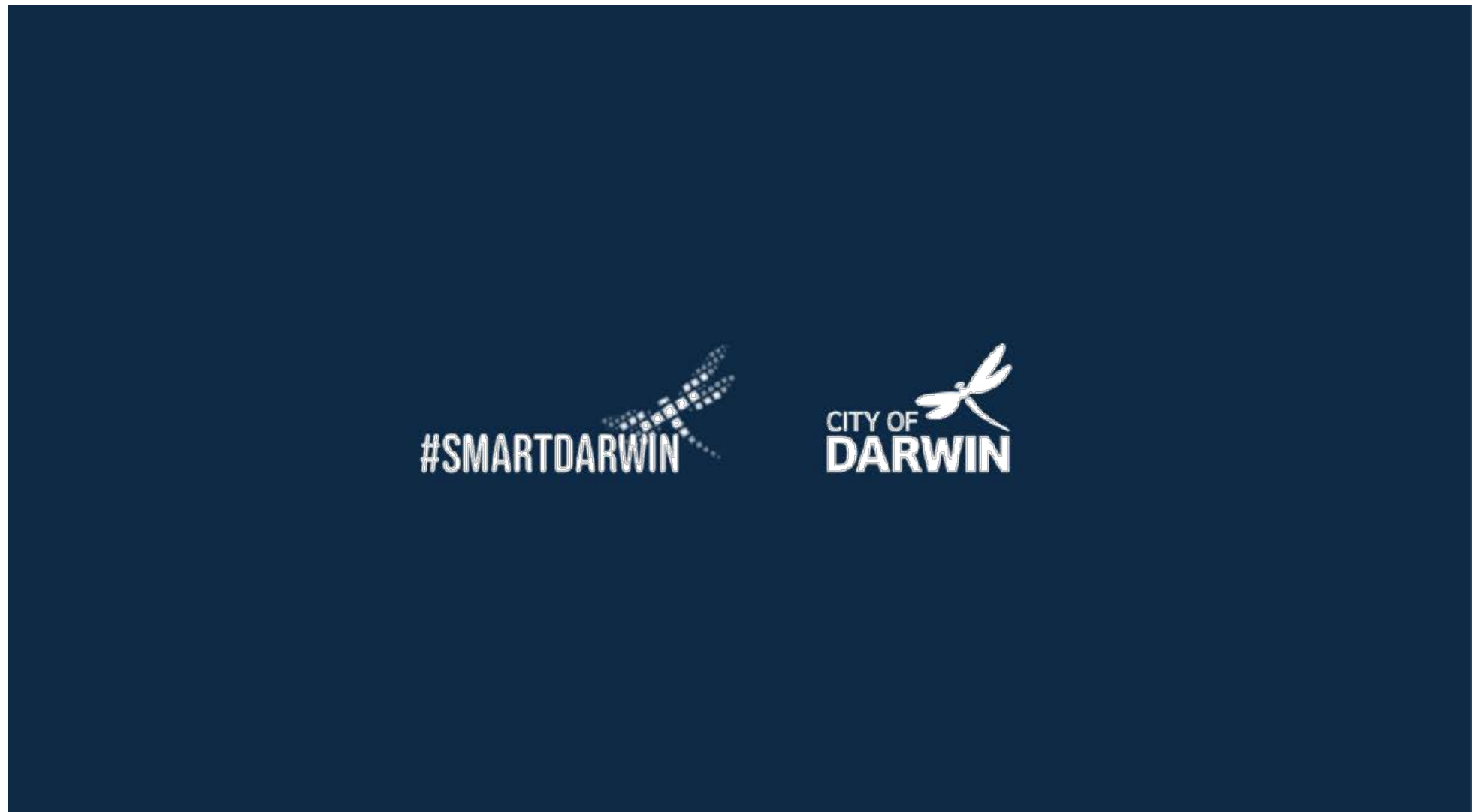
#SMARTDARWIN

How are other LGA's responding?



- 100% rent free for three months for lessees of Council-owned buildings (small business operators)
- 100% rent free for three months for community leases of council-owned buildings
- 100% rent free for three months for Adelaide Central Market Tenants
- Waiving of the separate rate for the purpose of managing and marketing the Rundle Mall precinct (Rundle Mall Marketing Levy) for three months
- Establishing a Small Business Task Force to work in collaboration with Business SA and other agencies tasked with the support for city businesses

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8 RECEIVE & NOTE REPORTS

8.1 CITY OF DARWIN AND NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT SECURITY PATROL PARTNERSHIP – CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authoriser: General Manager Government Relations & External Affairs

Attachments: Nil

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of Security Patrol Arrangements in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled City of Darwin and Northern Territory Government Security Patrol Partnership – Coronavirus (COVID-19) be received and noted.
2. THAT Council receive the advice of an agreed partnership between the City of Darwin and the Northern Territory Government in relation to a security patrol partnership until 30 September 2020

KEY ISSUES

- The Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic has created significant concern within the Darwin CBD businesses community and it is anticipated that reduced resources due to business closures will be unable to ensure full security coverage of the CBD
- It is further anticipated that the reduction in business operations and private security in the Darwin CBD may lead to an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour as well as break and enter offences.
- The Northern Territory Government Department of Chief Minister and the Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services have requested specific security patrol support from the City of Darwin to help address this issue
- Support is provided from the City of Darwin by way of funding and direction
- The partnership has commenced and will run until 30 September 2020
- The primary objective of the partnership is to provide additional resources from 4pm until 6am

BACKGROUND

The Department of Chief Minister through the Departments Chief Executive has requested Council support in relation to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic event. This specific request for support is to provide security patrols throughout the Darwin CBD to protect businesses during an unprecedented time of closure and vulnerability. The request for support has also been endorsed by the Police Commissioner and Chief Executive of Police Fire and Emergency Services.

DISCUSSION

During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Response it is vital that the City of Darwin respond to requests for support from other levels of Government and vice versa. Ensuring that from a partnership perspective we are united in our service delivery to our community and in this instance keeping our City safe.

The unprecedented closure of licensed and other businesses have seen the removal of security guards which were employed by those businesses. As such there is concern that these businesses will become a target at a time when they least need it. It is anticipated that already limited resources will be further stretched over the coming weeks and months. The focus of the patrols will be to deliver social order, active crime deterrence and anti-social behaviour enforcement. In this changing time, with limited commercial activity, a visual and active security presence in the CBD is essential. Cross-cultural appropriate discussions and de-escalation methods will continue to be a core element of the patrol's service delivery.

The area for the patrols will be the entire core CBD, from Daly Street to the Waterfront Boundary.

Council has been requested to fund the program at \$50 000 per month over the next 6 months, total of \$300 000.00. This cost is within current operational delegations and has been accommodated within existing operational budgets. The Northern Territory Government will invoice the City of Darwin on a monthly basis.

The Security Patrols will commence at 4pm and conclude at 6am each morning operating in 3 teams of two and working closely with the Northern Territory Police, to protect vital areas and businesses within the CBD.

IMPLICATIONS

Council is a supporting partner of the Northern Territory Government and Northern Territory Police Service in this and many other elements of the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) response. Operational budgets have been pooled and redistributed to fund the City of Darwin partnership and have no material impact on Council services or operations.

9 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:

10.1 Rent Relief for Council Leased Properties - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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.

10.2 Proposal for an Artist Assistance Fund – Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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.