

ENCL: YES

**DARWIN CITY COUNCIL**

DATE: 20/08/09

REPORT

TO: ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING / OPEN

APPROVED: FC

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE  
SERVICES

APPROVED: LC

REPORT NO: 09A0157

COMMON NO: 1416599

SUBJECT: WALKWAY POLICY REVIEW

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**ITEM NO:**  
**SYNOPSIS:**

This report provides a detailed review of walkways in Karama, Malak, Wulagi, Wagaman, Anula and Moil and proposes a list of walkways which should remain open and those which should be closed, based on methodology recommended by the consultants, CPG (previously Coomes Consulting) to Council in June 2009.

The report recommends closing a total of 45 (43 %) of those walkways reviewed.

The methodology recommends to rationalise the current number of walkways in the municipality by closing walkways surplus to the main desire lines (*the natural and shortest path taken by pedestrians*) and applying the existing level of resources to improve the standard of those walkways which remain open.

The new proposed Walkway Policy 2009 (**Attached**) is a shift away from walkway closures towards a more concentrated and proactive approach of walkway management and infrastructure maintenance, adopting best practice CPTED principles.

One hundred and six walkways in nine suburbs have been assessed which includes the 8 outstanding walkway petitions and the 14 walkways currently being closed at night time. In summary the following recommendations are made;

	Reviewed	Open	Close	% Close
Karama	25	10	15	60.0%
Malak	23	11	12	52.2%
Wulagi	16	8	8	50.0%
Wagaman	9	6	3	33.3%
Anula	19	13	6	31.6%
Moil	11	11	0	0.0%
Casuarina	1	1		0.0%
Nakara	1	1		0.0%
Leanyer	1		1	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>42.5%</b>

The 45 walkways recommended to be closed permanently are detailed as follows;

Outstanding Petitions (6 out of 8)	6
Current Night Closures (5 out of 14)	5
Assessment Review Aug 2009	31
Already permanently closed	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>

### ***Outstanding Petitions***

Six of eight walkways included in the outstanding petitions are recommended to be closed permanently, please refer to page 45 of the attached Walkway Assessment report. These are;

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>No.</b>
1	Wulagi	Rosella Crs	Vanderlin Drv	102
2	Malak	Prowse Crt	Malak Park	175
3	Karama	Dulverton Crt	Koolama Crt	192
4	Karama	Dulverton Crt	McMillans Rd	193
5	Karama	Kybra Crt	Beroona Crt	196
6	Karama	Kybra Crt	Dulverton Crt	197

The two walkways included in the petitions and recommended not to be closed are recommended for temporary closure for up to four months pending an upgrade assessment of the infrastructure. These are:

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>No.</b>
1	Wagaman	Carstens Cr	Parer Dr	79
2	Wagaman	Malay Rd	Van Diemen St	85

### ***Night Closures***

In accordance with previous decisions of Council and it's current policy a review of walkways closed at night time was conducted.

The report recommends to permanently close five of the fourteen walkways being closed at night time and reopen permanently the remaining nine. Please refer to page 49 of the attached Walkway Assessment Report.

However before permanently reopening the nine walkways it is recommended that the night time closure of these walkways continue for the next four months pending an upgrade assessment.

Current night closures to be closed permanently are as follows;

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>No.</b>
1	Leayner	Darter Ct	Grasslands	54
2	Wagaman	Trower Rd	Amsterdam Circ	80
3	Wagaman	Vanderlin Drv	Amsterdam Circ	83
4	Karama	Karama Crs	Kwinana Crt	198
5	Karama	Sedge Crt	Mulla Mulla	200

Current night closures to be opened permanently are as follows;

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>No.</b>
1	Nakara	Copeland Cr	Ellengowan Dr	19
2	Casuarina	Bradshaw Tce	Kilfoyle Cr	24
3	Wagaman	Amsterdam Cr	Trower	81
4	Wagaman	Tasman Ct	Parer Dr	87
5	Anula	Howley Cr	Union Tc	154
6	Malak	Fawcett Ct	Chambers Cr	183
7	Karama	Karama Cr	Koolinda Cr	195
8	Karama	Mullamulla Ct	Sedge Ct	200
9	Karama	Donaldson Ct	Kalymnos Dr	201

### ***Walkways Assessed for Closure***

The walkway assessment review recommends the following 31 walkways be permanently closed;

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>No.</b>
1	Wulagi	Curlew Circ	Plover St	89
2	Wulagi	Jabiru St	Curlew Circ	90
3	Wulagi	Pelican Crs	Wulagi Park	91
4	Wulagi	Perigrine	Kestrel Circ	93
5	Wulagi	Kestrel Circ	Perigrine St	94
6	Wulagi	Rosella Crs	Wulagi Park	99
7	Wulagi	Rosella Crs	Vanderlin Drv	103
8	Anula	Kohinoor Crs	Yanyula Park	148
9	Anula	Tennison Crs	Yanyula Park	150
10	Anula	Caledonian St	Yanyula Park	152
11	Anula	Copperfield Crs	Yanyula Park	155
12	Anula	Enterprise St	Britannia Crs	156
13	Anula	Shackle St	Lee Point Rd	158
14	Malak	Maddock Crt	Malak Park	166
15	Malak	Harcus Crt	Malak Park	171
16	Malak	Palmer Crt	Malak Park	172
17	Malak	Wescombe Crt	Malak Park	173
18	Malak	Abrahams Crt	Malak Park	176
19	Malak	Hearne Crt	Abrahams Crt	177
20	Malak	Abbott Crs	Osborn Rd	179
21	Malak	Chambers Crs	Binet Crt	180
22	Malak	Tabletop Plc	Bayfield Rd	185
23	Malak	Gibbon Pl	Chambers Crs	186
24	Karama	Mistletoe Circ	Vanderlin Drv	188
25	Karama	Koojarra Crt	McMillans Rd	189
26	Karama	Milkwood Circ	Vanderlin Drv	202
27	Karama	Applegum Drv	Hayball Park	203
28	Karama	Wearing Crs	Vanderlin Drv	205
29	Karama	Brazil Crs	Vanderlin Drv	206
30	Karama	Creber Crt	McMillans Rd	207
31	Karama	Fourcroy St	Perron Park	211

### ***Currently Closed***

The following walkways are already closed;

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>No.</b>
1	Wagaman	Carpentier Cr	Lee Point Rd	86
2	Malak	Fawcett Ct	Chambers Cr	184
3	Karama	Fig Ct	Mc Millians Rd	208

### **BACKGROUND GENERAL:**

In April 2009 a review of Councils walkway policy was undertaken by Coomes Consulting. The review team comprised a Consulting Social Planner, a Transport Planner and Urban Design & Landscape Architect. The review involved considerable public consultation over a 10 week period with key stakeholders including DCC Aldermen and staff, residents of Karama, Malak and Casuarina, NT Police and NT Government Departments Including the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

The consultants recommended a revised walkway policy which is attached. Staff are currently working on the cost implications of adopting such a policy and a further report will be brought back to Council.

Council resolved at its meeting on the 30 June 2009.

#### **12 Walkway Policy Review**

Report No. 09A0112 FC:lc (13/06/09 Common No.1416599

(Lambert/Sangster)

- A. THAT Report Number 09A0112 entitled, Walkway Policy 2009, be received and noted.
- B. THAT Council note the attached Walkway Policy 2009, and the Review report (April 2009) prepared by Coomes Consulting.
- C. THAT Council conduct a review of its pedestrian networks in Karama, Malak, Wulagi and Wagaman with the intention to rationalise the number of existing walkways and that \$15,000 be referred to 4<sup>th</sup> quarter budget review to conduct this review.
- D. THAT the results of the pedestrian network review and the initial Coomes Consulting Review be released for public comment.
- E. THAT Council create a position to manage and address complaints in relation to anti social behaviour in and around walkways and that a budget allocation of \$120,000 to be funded \$53,000 from Community Services and \$67,000 from a carry forward budget allocation from the Waters Ward.

- F. THAT an appropriate communication strategy be developed around the proposed changes to the walkway policy.
- G. THAT a further Report be brought back to Council second ordinary meeting in July 2009 detailing the proposed walkways to be rationalised and closed and those to remain permanently open.
- H. THAT a Report be prepared by staff on the possibility of implementing immediate and short term closure of laneways.

DECISION NO.20\1720

(30/06/09)

Carried

ACTION: GM CORP  
 ACTION: MGR BUSINESS SERVICES  
 NOTE: MGR COMM & MARKETING

### CRITICAL MILESTONES

Under the new Local Government Act 2008 Council has within its power to temporarily close a walkway at its discretion, Regulation 20 (3). However to permanently close and dispose of a walkway Council must comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act which prescribes an objection period and Ministerial consent.

The following is the minimum period required for the permanent closure of walkways however a longer administrative time frame is anticipated.

<b><i>Critical Milestone</i></b>	<b><i>Time Required</i></b>	<b><i>Completion Date</i></b>
1. Public notice advising of proposed walkway closure – 28 day objection period <b><i>Sect 19 (3) Local Government (Administration) Regulations</i></b>	Advertise Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> August - 28 day objection period	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2009
2. Report to Council to consider any objections and approve walkways to be closures <b><i>Sect 19 (4) Local Government (Administration) Regulations</i></b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Ordinary meeting October 2009 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2009	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2009
3. Write to Minister seeking approval for walkway closure providing copies of Council's decision, reports and details of any objections.	No prescribed timeline – allow 28 days	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2009
4. <i>Permanent closure of walkways</i>		December 2009

### ***Closure of Walkways***

It is proposed that the selected walkways identified within the attached report are permanently closed as soon as practical by installing gates at either end of the walkway.

Adjacent residents will be given the option to acquire the walkway and will be offered an equal share of the walkway, with any share not taken up offered to the other adjacent residents.

Costs associated with the permanent closure and disposal of walkways includes, installation of gates, survey plans, public notices and land administration matters i.e. legal fees, stamp duty etc.

The average area of a walkway is approximately 200m<sup>2</sup> and generally includes easements.

### ***Future Anti Social Behaviour***

In June 2009 Council resolved to create a position to manage and address complaints in relation to anti social behaviour in and around walkways and that a budget allocation of \$120,000 to be funded \$53,000 from Community Services and \$67,000 from a carry forward budget allocation from the Waters Ward.

This commences a program of community engagement to respond to, assess and broker solutions relating to antisocial behaviour occurring in walkways.

Council has developed a Community Safety Officer (CSO) position which will undertake to:

- review and broker solutions in relation to walkway issues already identified in Karama, Malak, Wagaman and Casuarina
- assess further applications for the closure of walkways
- engage with residents in relation to walkway issues and broker solutions in conjunction with residents themselves, community groups (such as Neighbourhood Watch), non-government agencies (such as Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation), the NT government (including NT Housing and the Police, etc) and all other relevant agencies and groups.

In the short term this approach is designed to address the most challenging of current walkway issues and, in the longer term, increase the capacity for residents, community organisations, Council and the NT Government to develop effective strategies to assess, understand, resolve and review concerns as they emerge.

The principles informing this approach are:

- enhanced responsiveness to residents' concerns and acknowledgement of their role in identifying solutions
- acknowledgement of cross-government (including non-government) roles and responsibilities in responding to issues emerging from the use of walkways
- an understanding of the highly specific nature of walkway issues informed by factors such as locale, nature of usage and demographics, etc
- an attendant commitment to the highly specific brokering of solutions via skilled community engagement in a cross-sectorial, multi-agenda and complex environment.

The CSO is situated in the Community and Cultural Services (CCS) Department (oversighted by the General Manager) and works across-departmental Project Team in conjunction with the Infrastructure and Corporate Services departments.

Council will examine the specific anti-social issues reported to be occurring in each walkway and engage with residents, services (schools, etc), businesses, and resident community groups (such as Neighbourhood Watch and refugee and migrant groups) in the area as well as relevant government and non-government agencies such as the police, NT Housing and Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, etc, to develop solutions to address adverse impacts for residents.

The engagement of community, business and government to negotiate and influence effective problem solving may result in outcomes such as enhanced police presence in the locale, improved maintenance, amenity and infrastructure in a walkway in accordance with CPTED principles, increased surveillance of the walkway and vicinity by Neighbourhood Watch, increased Regulatory Services patrolling of walkways in the late evening if feasible, linking of people using walkways inappropriately with local community groups (youth, etc) for diversionary and re-engagement purposes and the linking of others using walkways inappropriately with agencies providing homelessness and welfare services.

Council will also table adverse issues in specific walkways to cross-agency mechanisms in which it currently participates, including the Community Safety Working Group and the Interagency Tasking Coordination Group, to develop whole-of-government strategic responses.

### ***Immediate and Short Term Closures***

Council at its meeting in June 2009 requested a report be prepared by staff on the possibility of implementing immediate and short term closure of laneways.

Under the 2008 Local Government Act and Local Government (Administration) Regulations, Council has the power to close a walkway temporarily without notice under Sect 20 (3) as follows.

### ***20. Substantial temporary road closure***

*(1) If a council proposes to close a road temporarily but for a substantial period (at least 1 month), the council must, before proceeding with its proposal, consult with the Minister (or the Minister's nominee) and the MLA for the electoral division in which the road is situated.*

*(3) However, this regulation does not apply if:*

*(a) the road to be temporarily closed is a laneway; or*

*(b) the road closure is urgently necessary in the interests of safety.*

Council's current procedure in relation to the closure of a walkway is as follows:

- The resident requesting closure must demonstrate local support for the closure, usually in the form of petition.

- Council considers the petition and if supported will undertake a public consultation process, usually in the form of survey of local residents by way of a letter box drop, a public notice in the newspaper and a sign on the walkway.
- Residents are given 28 days to provide feedback on the process.
- Based on the outcome of the public consultation Officers will then make recommendation to Council.

The above process takes at least 3 months and is frustrating for local residents who may be seeking a speedy response to their issue.

One of the key issues of implementing immediate and short term closure of laneways is the danger of inadequate consultation / investigation, catering to the needs of specific individuals at the expense of the broader community.

It is proposed to develop a policy which will allow for the immediate and short term closure of walkways where it is demonstrated there is a public safety issue. It is proposed with supporting evidence of public safety a walkway may be closed at the next available Council meeting ie within two weeks.

It is recommended that in order to initiate an immediate closure of a walkway the proponent must provide supporting evidence which includes:

- Statutory declaration by the proponent detailing the public safety issues.
- Written corroboration of the public safety issue by adjacent residents to the walkway.
- A copy of police reports and promissory number detailing the public safety issue.
- Any other evidence such as photographic evidence.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

In total Council has allocated \$810,000 to addressing walkways matters as follows;

- \$215,000 - for the normal routine maintenance and cleaning of the 230 walkways each year.
- \$110,000 - addressing night closures and administration of walkway closures.
- \$100,000 - in the 2009/10 capital works program addressing walkway infrastructure upgrades within the Waters Ward.
- \$50,000 – committed from the NT Government in July this year (not yet received)
- \$120,000 – for the creation of a new position of Community Safety Officer to manage and address complaints in relation to anti social behaviour.
- \$215,000 – carry forward grants from the NT Government addressing lighting of walkways.

Installing gates in 39 walkways will potentially cost \$140,000 with the average cost of installing gates at a walkway being \$3,600. It is proposed these costs will be met up front by Council and may be recovered from local residents on disposal of the walkways.

The administration cost associated with the closure of the walkways has not yet been fully quantified and will need to include:

- Public notices, letter box drops
- Costs associated with the permanent closure and disposal of walkways which include survey plans, public notices and land administration ie legal fees, stamp duty etc.
- Public relations campaign

The potential cost saving to Council by terminating night time closures is \$46,200 per annum. Council currently closes 14 walkways each night at an annual average cost of \$3,300 per walkway.

Those walkways not acquired by adjacent residents will require periodic maintenance which should not cost any more than the current cost of maintenance.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS:**

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies of the Darwin City Council 2008 – 2012 as outlined in the 'Evolving Darwin Strategic Directions: Towards 2020 and Beyond':-

#### Goal

2 Enhance Darwin's Active, Positive and Flexible Lifestyle

#### Outcome

2.2 Increase recreational, cultural and heritage experiences

#### Key Strategies

2.2.3 Provide facilities to encourage safe cycling and walking

#### Goal

2 Enhance Darwin's Active, Positive and Flexible Lifestyle

#### Outcome

2.1 Improve urban enhancement around Darwin

#### Key Strategies

2.1.5 Participate and partner in activities that contribute to a safer Darwin

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Contracts of sale will be entered into with local residents for the acquisition of the walkways requiring a \$1,000 deposit to proceed with the agreement.

The procedure for the permanent closure of a walkway is prescribed within the Local Government Act 2008 (No12 Sect 187).

A council may temporarily or permanently close a road, or part of a road, under its care, control and management.

- (2) However, a road or part of a road is not to be permanently closed under subsection (1) unless:
  - (a) any relevant procedural requirements prescribed by regulation have been satisfied; and
  - (b) the following Ministers consent:
    - (i) the Minister responsible for the administration of the *Control of Roads Act* ;
    - (ii) the Minister responsible for the administration of this Act.
- (3) Subject to any contrary agreement between a council and the Minister, if a road under the care, control and management of a council is vested in the Territory, and the road is permanently closed, the land comprising the road vests in the council in fee simple.

The Local Government (Administration) Regulations – Sect 19 details the process required.

## **19. Permanent closure of road**

- (1) Before a council submits for the Minister's consent a proposal to close a road in its area on a permanent basis, it must give public notice of the proposal.
- (2) The proposal (which must include a plan delineating the road to be closed with reasonable accuracy and detail) must be accessible on the council's website.
- (3) The notice must include an invitation to any person who may object to the proposal to lodge a written objection to the proposal within a reasonable period (at least 28 days) stated in the notice.
- (4) The council must consider any objections lodged in accordance with the invitation.
- (5) If, after publishing a notice under this regulation, the council substantially modifies its proposal (either as a result of objections or for some other reason), the council must publish a fresh notice under this regulation of the modified proposal.
- (6) When the council submits a proposal for permanent road closure to the Minister for consent, the proposal must be accompanied by:
  - (a) a report setting out the steps taken by the council to comply with this regulation; and
  - (b) copies of written objections (if any) received by the council to its proposal.

The Local Government (Administration) Regulations – Sect 20 provides that a road may be temporarily closed as follows:

**20. Substantial temporary road closure**

- (1) If a council proposes to close a road temporarily but for a substantial period (at least 1 month), the council must, before proceeding with its proposal, consult with the Minister (or the Minister's nominee) and the MLA for the electoral division in which the road is situated.
- (2) The council:
  - (a) must carefully consider written submissions made by the Minister (or the Minister's nominee) and the MLA in the course of the consultation; and
  - (b) must not proceed with the closure unless satisfied that the reasons for the closure justify the disruption to traffic resulting from the closure.
- (3) However, this regulation does not apply if:
  - (a) the road to be temporarily closed is a laneway; or
  - (b) the road closure is urgently necessary in the interests of safety.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Methodology is based on best practice Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS:**

Council's Communications and Marketing Section will develop a detailed strategy to ensure the community is fully aware of Council's action related to this issue.

The strategy will engage a range of concepts within the media linking to Council's website, where more comprehensive information about the issue can be found.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS:**

Significant

**DELEGATION:**

General Manager Corporate Services to deal with disposal of walkways

**CONSULTATION:**

Chief Officers Group  
Executive Officer Community & Cultural Services – Annie Farrell  
Manager Communication and Marketing  
CPG Consulting

## **PROPOSED PUBLIC INFORMATION PROCESS:**

Prior to closure of any walkway a public information process will be undertaken

## **APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE:**

Signage may be required at those walkways which are closed

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

THAT it be a recommendation to Council:-

- A. THAT Report Number 09A0157 entitled Walkway Policy Review be received and noted.
- B. THAT Council proceed to immediately to address the 8 outstanding walkway petitions by permanently closing six of the walkways and temporarily closing two walkways at night time for a maximum period of up to four months pending an upgrade assessment.

Outstanding petitions recommended for permanent closure are as follows:

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>No.</b>
1	Wulagi	Rosella Crs	Vanderlin Drv	102
2	Malak	Prowse Crt	Malak Park	175
3	Karama	Dulverton Crt	Koolama Crt	192
4	Karama	Dulverton Crt	McMillans Rd	193
5	Karama	Kybra Crt	Beroona Crt	196
6	Karama	Kybra Crt	Dulverton Crt	197

Outstanding petitions recommended for temporary closure pending upgrade assessment:

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>No.</b>
1	Wagaman	Carstens Cr	Parer Dr	79
2	Wagaman	Malay Rd	Van Diemen St	85

- C. THAT Council permanently close five of the fourteen walkways currently being closed at night time as follows:

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>No.</b>
1	Leayner	Darter Ct	Grasslands	54
2	Wagaman	Trower Rd	Amsterdam Circ	80
3	Wagaman	Vanderlin Drv	Amsterdam Circ	83
4	Karama	Karama Crs	Kwinana Crt	198
5	Karama	Sedge Crt	Mulla Mulla	200

- D. THAT Council continue to close at night time the following nine walkways for up to four months pending an upgrade assessment of lighting CPTED principles and then reopen the walkways permanently.

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>No.</b>
1	Nakara	Copeland Cr	Ellengowan Dr	19
2	Casuarina	Bradshaw Tce	Kilfoyle Cr	24
3	Wagaman	Amsterdam Cr	Trower	81
4	Wagaman	Tasman Ct	Parer Dr	87
5	Anula	Howley Cr	Union Tc	154
6	Malak	Fawcett Ct	Chambers Cr	183
7	Karama	Karama Cr	Koolinda Cr	195
8	Karama	Mullamulla Ct	Sedge Ct	200
9	Karama	Donaldson Ct	Kalymnos Dr	201

E. THAT Council proceed to permanently close and dispose of the remaining 31 walkways based on values assessed by the Australian Valuation Office and that delegation be granted to the General Manager Corporate Services to deal with the disposal of the walkways and that the Chief Executive Officer and Lord Mayor be given authority to sign and seal the necessary documentation.

	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>No.</b>
1	Wulagi	Curlew Circ	Plover St	89
2	Wulagi	Jabiru St	Curlew Circ	90
3	Wulagi	Pelican Cres	Wulagi Park	91
4	Wulagi	Perigrine	Kestrel Circ	93
5	Wulagi	Kestrel Circ	Perigrine St	94
6	Wulagi	Rosella Crs	Wulagi Park	99
7	Wulagi	Rosella Crs	Vanderlin Drv	103
8	Anula	Kohinoor Crs	Yanyula Park	148
9	Anula	Tennison Crs	Yanyula Park	150
10	Anula	Caledonian St	Yanyula Park	152
11	Anula	Copperfield Crs	Yanyula Park	155
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29	Karama	Brazil Crs	Vanderlin Drv	206
30	Karama	Creber Crt	McMillans Rd	207
31	Karama	Fourcroy St	Perron Park	211

- F. THAT the community be advised of Council's decision in relation to items B, C, D and E above by way of public notice in the newspaper, letterbox drop to residents within 500 metres of the walkway, advertising on Council's website, placing of signs on the walkways and writing to the local MLA and principal proponent of the petition.
- G. THAT Council undertake a similar walkway assessment review for the remainder of the Municipality not covered in this report over the next 12 months and that a further report be brought back to Council.
- H. THAT in relation to the matter of urgent closure of walkways, that Council undertake to close a walkway within a two week period based on a policy developed based around the following criteria.

Proponents requesting an immediate closure of a walkway must demonstrate the following:

- Statutory declaration by the proponent detailing the public safety issues.
- Written corroboration of the public safety issue by adjacent residents to the walkway.
- A copy of police reports and promis numbers detailing the public safety issue.
- Any other evidence such as photographic evidence.
- As assessment of by Council Officers.

**FRANK CRAWLEY**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**  
**CORPORATE SERVICES**

**LIAM CARROLL**  
**MANAGER BUSINESS SERVICES**

Any queries on this report may be directed to Liam Carroll on 8930 0559.

# Darwin Walkway Policy (Draft 2009)

## 1. *Preamble*

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Walkway Policy is to provide guidance to Council officers in managing Darwin's Walkways.

### **Definitions**

For the purpose of this policy, a Walkway is a narrow pedestrian thoroughfare under the care and control of Council. They are generally designated "Road Reserve".

The Walkway Policy applies to existing walkways between adjacent blocks of residential or commercial land.

This Policy does not apply to cycle paths, footpaths or paths through parks and other public land. Council's Footpath Policy provides guidelines and procedures for the construction and reconstruction of footpaths adjacent to roads on road reserves.

Council's Subdivisional Guidelines covers the planning and design of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in new subdivisions and developments.

### **Policy Ownership**

Implementation and periodic review of this Walkway Policy is the responsibility of the Technical Services Department within Darwin City Council.

## 2. *Policy*

Council shall provide and maintain essential walkways within the municipality as part of a wider network that facilitates the movement of pedestrians and cyclists.

### **Lighting**

In order to promote a safe environment for walkways at all times, Council will provide and maintain lighting of walkways.

As a minimum, street lighting at each end of a walkway will be provided according to Australian Standards (AS1158.3 Category P4). If additional lighting is deemed to be required, for example to longer walkways, it shall be designed to minimise light spillage into adjacent properties in accordance with Australian Standards.

### **Fencing**

Whilst fencing of walkways is the responsibility of adjacent land owners, Council shall seek to ensure that fencing styles reflect Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Principles. CPTED Principles encourage passive surveillance opportunities from adjoining properties through the use of transparent fencing and other such measures.

### **Maintenance**

In order to facilitate safe access for pedestrians and cyclists, walkways shall be routinely maintained including prompt and regular:

- removal of overhanging vegetation within walkways;
- removal of rubbish;
- repair of adjacent street lighting;
- removal of vegetation obscuring street lighting;
- repair of walkway lighting, where present;
- removal of graffiti; and
- repair to walkway pavements.