

# AGENDA

## 1st Ordinary Council Meeting

### Tuesday 4 June 2024

The Ordinary Meeting of the City of Palmerston will be held in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT 0830 commencing at 5:30 PM.

Council business papers can be viewed on the City of Palmerston website [www.palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au) or at the Council Office located: Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston NT 0830.



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**NADINE NILON**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



A Place for People

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*A Place for People*

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*A Place for People*

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  - 5.1 Elected Members
  - 5.2 Staff
- 6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
  - 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 May 2024 pages 11339 to 11347 be confirmed.
  - 6.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting
- 7 MAYORAL REPORT
- 8 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
- 9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)
- 10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS
  - 10.1 Moving Confidential Items into Open
  - 10.2 Moving Open Items into Confidential
  - 10.3 Confidential Items

THAT pursuant to Section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and section 51(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following confidential items:

Item	Confidential Category	Confidential Clause
25.1.1	Council Property Agreements and Contracts	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(e) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.
25.2.1	Council Performance, Service Delivery and Budget Review	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(i) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

11 PETITIONS

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

13 OFFICER REPORTS

## COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.1.1
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Community Benefit Scheme - Environmental Initiative Grant Only One Earth
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 4 June 2024
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Community Development Officer, Kate Townsend
<b>APPROVER:</b>	General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl

### COMMUNITY PLAN

Environmental Sustainability: Palmerston is an environmentally friendly, liveable city that promotes renewable practices and sustainability.

### PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council consideration of a Community Benefit Scheme Environmental Initiative Grant Application from local business Only One Earth to deliver a reusable sanitary item subsidy.

### KEY MESSAGES

- City of Palmerston Environmental Initiative Grants were introduced in 2019/2020 with Commercial businesses eligible to apply for up to 50% of project costs.
- Only One Earth has applied to the Environmental Initiative Grants to deliver a reusable sanitary item bundle subsidy of 50% off the Regular Retail Price to customers.
- Through this subsidy, Only One Earth is seeking to increase the number of people utilising reusable sanitary items, reducing waste going to landfill and reduce demand for disposable sanitary items.
- The grant is requesting \$9020 toward the reduced cost of reusable sanitary bundles.
- While the initiative and business model provide positive sustainability outcomes for the Palmerston community, the application does not meet the criteria of the City of Palmerston Environmental Initiative.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Community Benefit Scheme - Environmental Initiative Grant Only One Earth be received and noted.
2. THAT Council does not support grant application from Only One Earth for \$9,020.00 as per **Attachment 13.1.1.1** to report entitled Community Benefit Scheme - Environmental Initiative Grant Only One Earth.

### BACKGROUND

In the 2019/2020 Municipal Plan Council committed to providing \$20,000 per annum in Community Environment grants for local projects. Since that time various projects have been funded including a Green Fire Break Trial, Edible Garden, Educational Recycling Bin Stickers and Wildcare Showbags.

Only One Earth is the Northern Territory's first Zero Waste Store, based in Oasis Shopping Centre in Palmerston. Every single product in the store can be reused, recycled, or composted. They prioritise sourcing local businesses and products to support the economy and reduce carbon emissions.

This report presents Council with the Environmental Initiative Grant submission from Only One Earth for their proposed Reusable Sanitary Item Subsidy.

## **DISCUSSION**

On 12 February 2024, City of Palmerston received an Environmental Initiative Grant application from Only One Earth to deliver a Reusable Sanitary Item Subsidy to Palmerston residents to the value of \$9020.00 (Attachment 13.1.1.1: Only One Earth Application)

The application proposes that Only One Earth will deliver a subsidy for Palmerston residents on sustainable reusable sanitary item bundles at 50% off the recommended retail price. This initiative aims to reduce the financial barrier of introducing reusable sanitary items for mothers, babies, and women, to help create cultural change and reduce the volume of waste entering landfill. Only One Earth have proposed to use extensive communication channels to promote the subsidy throughout their networks, ensuring that the opportunity is widely promoted to Palmerston residents.

The application proposes three (3) bundles each targeting a different demographic will be made available which includes:

- Mum's Bundle
- Part-Time Cloth Nappy Bundle
- Monthly Bundle.

The application highlights the impact of disposable nappies and sanitary items to landfill each year, and the unsustainable products used in manufacturing which can take 150 – 300 years to break down.

This proposal aligns with the City of Palmerston Community Plan Objective 5.1: Reduce our footprint on the environment – people are engaged and encouraged to adopt best practice sustainable and environmental practice. Furthermore, it aligns with the City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy Theme 2: Empowering and connecting our community.

City of Palmerston would be acknowledged in the following ways:

- Logo on all advertising material
- Paid social media advertising
- A flyer with acknowledgement of City of Palmerston's contribution will be included in all bundles.
- A blog post produced by Only One Earth promoting the subsidy which acknowledges City of Palmerston's Contribution.

Whilst this is a positive initiative for sustainability, the current Grants, Donations and Sponsorship Policy requires that the business provides 50% contribution to the project costs. The applicant has only been able to demonstrate less than 30% contribution to project costs and the projected profit after sales based on the budget provided is \$3,285.25. The applicant has indicated that this project is dependent on the full amount requested to proceed. To ensure consistency and integrity of the Community Benefit Scheme program, the application is not recommended as it does not meet the required criteria of the Grants, Donations and Sponsorship Policy.

Therefore, the recommendation is to not support this grant application.

## **CONSULTATION AND MARKETING**

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- Environment Officer

Only One Earth are aware that the application had not met the criteria and aware of the Report recommendation to Council.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The Community Benefit Scheme is delivered based on the Council Policy Grants, Donations and Sponsorships, this application does not meet the required criteria for an Environmental Initiative.

## **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The 2023/24 Environmental Initiatives budget is \$20,000 with \$6,000 committed and \$14,000 remaining.

## **RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

There is a risk that supporting this grant would set a precedent for Council providing support to businesses that do not meet grant criteria.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

6. Governance  
Failure to effectively govern.

## **STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS**

This application aligns with the following actions in the City of Palmerston Sustainability Strategy:

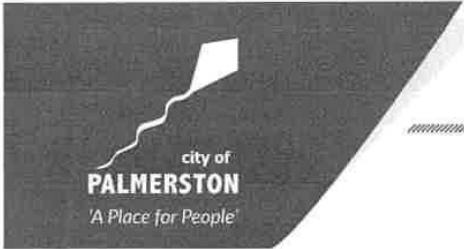
- Empowering and Connecting our Community:
  - 2.1 Engaged with sustainability - Community wide sustainability through education, awareness, and engagement.
- Lead with purpose:
  - 4.2 Lead Initiatives - Demonstrating sustainable initiatives to the Community and for the Community;
  - 4.3 Support industry and innovations - Incentivise and support local businesses.

## **COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Only One Earth Application [13.1.1.1 - 17 pages]



# APPLICATION FORM

## GRANTS AND DONATIONS

### REQUESTS IN EXCESS OF \$2000

Organisation Name: ONLY ONE EARTH AND CO.

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Position of Contact: CEO

Telephone: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: info@onlyoneearthaus.com.au

Address: SHOP 22, 15 TEMPLE TERRACE

Postal Address: AS ABOVE

Account Name: ONLY ONE EARTH

Account Number: [REDACTED] BSB: [REDACTED]

Amount Requested: \$9020 ABN: [REDACTED]

Activity Name: REUSABLE SUBSTITUTES Date: 8/03/2024

Location of Activity: SHOP 22, 15 TEMPLE TERRACE  
PALMERSTON

Environmental Initiative (Please tick if this request relates to an Environmental Initiative)

#### ATTACHED WRITTEN APPLICATION WHICH INCLUDES:

#### PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION TO YOUR WRITTEN APPLICATION:

- Details of project, Detailed project budget, Evidence of alternate sources of funding to a minimum of 30% of project costs.
- Most recent audited financial statement (If application exceeds \$10,000)
- Proof of registration as Community, NFP or Incorporated body
- Contact details of Elected Office Holders
- Proof of appropriate insurance, certificate of currency
- Minuted details of your organisation's resolution to request funding

Please see overleaf for further information about Environmental Initiatives

Funding of this proposed activity/event/item will benefit the Palmerston Community, by:

HELP MAKE CULTURAL CHANGE AND  
MAKE SANITARY ITEMS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO

and relates to the following goals and strategies in the City of Palmerston Community Plan: PALMERSTON RESIDENTS

REDUCE LANDFILL  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 8/3/24

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM WITH ATTACHED APPLICATION TO THE CITY OF PALMERSTON

In Person: Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston

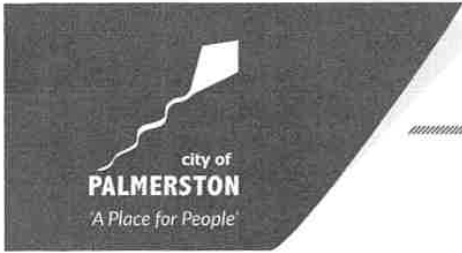
PO Box 1 Palmerston NT 0831

8935 9922

8935 9900

palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au

The City of Palmerston complies with the information Privacy Principles contained in the Information Act (NT). These principles protect the privacy of personal information collected and held by Council. Council's privacy statement is available from the City of Palmerston, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, or via our website on [www.palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au).



# APPLICATION FORM

## GRANTS AND DONATIONS

### REQUESTS IN EXCESS OF \$2000

#### ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Council will support environmental initiatives up to a cumulative total of \$20,000 per annum, where there is a demonstrated improvement that can be achieved in the environment as a result of the project/initiative. These initiatives may include, but are not limited to:

- Waste reduction strategies (reducing non-recyclables or single use containers)
- Water or energy efficiency opportunities
- Rehabilitation of the environment (native planting/litter collection)

When completing this form about how your activity relates to the City of Palmerston Community Plan, the above examples may be a useful reference.

Grant funding will be available to commercial entities. Funding is allocated on a per Environmental Project/Initiative, per year, subject to 50% of the cost of the project being matched by the applicant.

#### DECLARATION COMMERCIAL ENTITIES ONLY

I confirm that our organisation will contribute 50% of the total cost of the project specified in accordance with Council Policy *FIN18 - Grants, Donations, Scholarships and Sponsorships, Clause 4.6 - Environmental Initiatives*.

Signed:

Date:

8/3/24

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM WITH ATTACHED APPLICATION TO THE CITY OF PALMERSTON

👤 In Person: Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston

✉ PO Box 1 Palmerston NT 0831

☎ 8935 9922

☎ 8935 9900

✉ [palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

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CITY OF PALMERSTON - GRANTS REQUESTS EXCESS \$2000 APPLICATION / 2



# *Environmental Initiative Grant Proposal*

## Who we are



Only One Earth & Co is The Northern Territory's first Zero Waste Store based in Oasis Shopping Centre in Palmerston. Every single product in the store can be reused, recycled or composted. We prioritize sourcing local businesses and products over interstate and international to help our economy as well as help with carbon emissions by having less travel for products.

## *What we are offering.*

In Partnership with City of Palmerston through the Environmental Initiative Grants, Only One Earth will provide affordable and sustainable reusable sanitary item packs to Palmerston residents through our store in Oasis Shopping Centre. The packs will be 50% off the recommended retail price, subsidised by the City of Palmerston Grant to the value of \$10,000 which will cover cost price of the products. Only One Earth will administer the subsidy free of charge, utilising our highly regarded local suppliers and promoting through our extensive social and business networks.

Over 150 affordable bundles will be made available through the subsidy offering sustainable solutions for nursing mothers, babies, and women in Palmerston. The full value of the grant of \$10,000 will be acquitted and verified to maintain integrity of the subsidy and ensure benefit to only Palmerston residents. With such a significant critical mass of disposable items replaced with sustainable options it is anticipated this initiative will have immediate positive impacts on the volume of waste sent to landfill from Palmerston households.

# Why

## Nappies

A staggering 3.75 million disposable nappies are used each day in Australia and New Zealand, and it takes about one cup of crude oil to make each nappy. This is a lot of landfill, with conventional disposable nappies estimated to take up to 150 years to break down.

<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au>

**One baby will go through approximately 2000 nappies within its first year. That is \$715.91 if you can get your nappies on special everytime you buy them.**  
**\*www.sustainability.vic.gov.au\***

## Nappies

## Wipes

More than 25,000 tonnes of plastic landfill each year are produced just from wet wipes in Australia, exceeding drinking straws.

\*planetark.org\*

## Breast Pads

Women who birth a child will go through approximately 5 pairs of breast pads, regardless if they breast feed or not. Breast feeding Mothers may need breast pads well after 6 months of breastfeeding. In 2022 there were 3577 births in The Northern Territory alone.  
**\*abs.gov.au\***

## Sanitary Pads

**FACT: There are 6 million menstruators in Australia**  
**16-22 sanitary items are used per period**  
**13 periods a year**  
**30-40 years of menstruating**  
**Over the course of one woman's lifetime they will use between 5000 - 15,000 pads and tampons, which will all go to landfill, which will take 300-500 years to decompose, if ever.**  
**\*Cleanup.org.au\***



# Benefits

Only  
One  
Earth  
& Co.

**Financial burden of reusable sanitary items will be reduced making the environmentally friendly option more accessible while reducing the ongoing financial burden of sanitary items for women and families**

**The cost of landfill will reduce**

**Strengthen the cultural shift towards more sustainable environmentally friendly options reducing the burden on the planet**

**Normalise reusable options leading to faster uptake and greater innovation of sustainable options**

# Bundles

Only  
One  
Earth  
& Co.

## Mum's Bundle

7 x Reusable Breast Pads  
1 x Washing Bag

**RRP \$57.60**

**Subsidised price \$24.95**

**50 packs available**

## Part-Time Bundle

10 x Modern Cloth Nappy  
1 x 6 pack Reusable Wipes  
1 x Two Zip Wetbag

**RRP \$275**

**Subsidised Price \$137.50**

**25 packs available**

## Monthly Bundle

2 Cloth Menstrual Pads (Liners)  
3 Cloth Menstrual Pads  
(Regulars)  
2 Cloth Menstrual Pads (Heavy)  
2 Sanitary Bags

**RRP \$125.55**

**Subsidised price \$60**

**50 packs available**

# How will we promote our bundles

## Member Base

**Our membership database has over 8,500 customers.  
Just under 30% are regular customers.  
With 84% being females.**

## Social Media

**Our social media stats:  
Facebook: 2,400 followers  
Instagram: 1,817 followers**

## Social Reach of local partners

### **Archer & I**

Facebook: 4,600 Instagram: 6,946

### **Little Miss Ellie**

Facebook: 2,900 Instagram: 4,918

### **Myles of Smiles**

Facebook: 352 Instagram: 266

### **Only One Earth**

Facebook: 2,300 Instagram: 2,234

# Recognition



**City of Palmerston logo displayed on all advertising**

**Flyer with acknowledgement of City of Palmerston's contribution included with all bundles**

**Only One Earth Blog to promote Environmental Initiative subsidy on reusable sanitary item packs acknowledging City of Palmerston's generous contribution**

**Paid social media advertising introducing the Environmental Initiative Subsidy from City of Palmerston on reusable sanitary item bundles**

**Direct Business Contribution**

Linerrs, wash bags \$869.75

**Subsidy Administration**

Staff cost to pack, sort and stock product.

Admin to record customer details for acquittal \$2,880

**Advertising and Promotion**

Facebook \$500

Print brochures \$150 \$650

**Indirect costs**

Insurance

Shop Front Costs

---

**\$4,399.75**

**Grant Costs**

Myles of Smiles \$3,675

Little Ms Elli \$1,836.00

Archer and I \$3,509

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**\$9,020**

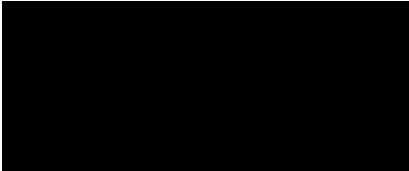
# COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.1.1

(+61 438 221 601

10 Toonibal Ave, Eleebana, NSW 228  
info@archer-i.com.au  
archer-i.com.au

*archer & I*  
BABY BOUTIQUE

## QUOTATION TO:



Date : 13-Feb-2024

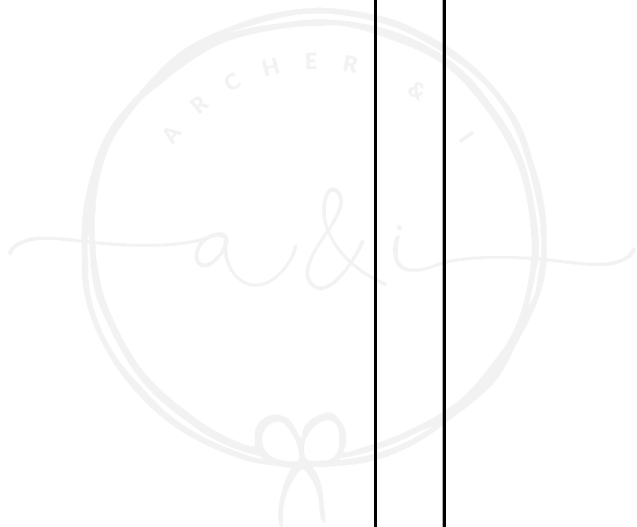
Invoice No. : QN0104

Payment Terms : PREPAID

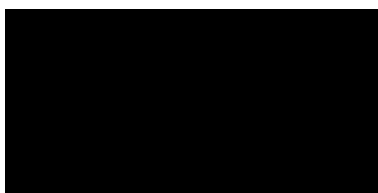
Due Date : 20-Feb-2024

Pages: 1 of 1

NO.	DESCRIPTIONS	QTY	TOTAL
	Modern Cloth Nappies - Bamboo Charcoal Inserts	250	AUD 5,237.50
	Discount		-AUD 1,728.37



## PAYMENT DETAILS



Sub Total : AUD 3,509.13

Delivery cost :

GST :

**Total : AUD 3,509.13**

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

INVOICE

# COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.1.1



Payment : PREPAID  
Currency : AUD, \$, Australian Dollars

# COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.1.1



## QUOTE

Only one earth

**Date**  
1 Feb 2024

Little Miss Ellie  
Shop 6 9 Mckinnon Rd  
PINELANDS NT 0829  
AUSTRALIA

**Expiry**  
2 Mar 2024

**Quote Number**  
QU-0003

**Reference**  
QU-0003

**ABN**  
[REDACTED]

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Discount	GST	Amount AUD
Reusable wipes 6 pack	25.00	20.86	40.00%	10%	312.95
Breast Pads (Pair)	250.00	6.32	40.00%	10%	947.73
Large Wet Bag	25.00	27.23	40.00%	10%	408.41
Subtotal (includes a discount of 1,112.90)					1,669.09
TOTAL GST 10%					166.91
<b>TOTAL AUD</b>					<b>1,836.00</b>

### Terms

Please make payment via bank transfer. [REDACTED]



Cloth Menstrual Pad\* [REDACTED]

**Your estimate was updated (#000002)**

1 message

[REDACTED]

1 February 2024 at 21:30

Website (20%) \$1,075.00

Customer \$1,600.00

Total **Myles of Smiles** \$2,675.00

GST included in Estimate Updated \$133.75

**\$3,675.00**

Estimate expires on 2 March 2024

[View Estimate](#)

Please contact Myles of Smiles should its privacy practices

**Estimate #000002 updated**

1 February 2024

**Customer**

[REDACTED]

**Message**

We look forward to working with you.

<b>Cloth Menstrual Pad*</b>	<b>\$1,300.00</b>
(\$13.00 ea.) x 100	
Liner	

<b>Cloth Menstrual Pad*</b> (\$15.00 ea.) x 150	<b>\$2,250.00</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Cloth Menstrual Pad*</b> (\$17.00 ea.) x 100 Heavy	<b>\$1,700.00</b>
<hr/>	
Wholesale (30%)	-\$1,575.00
<hr/>	
Subtotal	\$3,675.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,675.00</b>
GST included in total	\$334.09
<hr/>	
(*) Taxable item	

**Myles of Smiles**



Please contact Myles of Smiles about its privacy practices.





Dear Members of the Palmerston Council,

I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse the commendable proposal submitted by Only One Earth & Co, aiming to address the pressing issue of waste and foster sustainability within our beloved Palmerston community. Over the last 4 years, I have observed the unwavering commitment and remarkable efficacy of Only One Earth & Co. in their quest to forge a cleaner, more sustainable future for our city.

The proposal in question seeks to create and disseminate waste reduction packs to our residents. This initiative perfectly aligns with our mutual aspirations for environmental stewardship and the welfare of our community. I can attest to Only One Earth & Co's dedication to making sustainable living both accessible and affordable for every member of our community by making these packs available at a substantially subsidised cost and by equipping our residents with practical tools and knowledge for minimising waste.

I am particularly taken by the project's emphasis on measurable outcomes, such as diminishing landfill waste and encouraging responsible consumption patterns. These endeavours extend beyond mere environmental benefits; they are instrumental in enhancing the overall health and prosperity of Palmerston's populace. This investment represents a great opportunity to effect enduring positive change and to lay the groundwork for a more sustainable legacy for future generations.

I trust you will give this recommendation your earnest consideration. I am confident that, with your support, Only One Earth & Co. will continue to spearhead the battle against waste, effectuating a significant positive transformation in the lives of Palmerston residents.

Regards,

Mark Turner MLA  
Member for Blain  
15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Blain Electorate Office  
Oasis Shopping Centre  
Palmerston NT 0830  
P – PO Box 29, Palmerston NT 0831

F – [facebook.com/turner4blain](https://www.facebook.com/turner4blain)  
T – 8999 5572  
M – 0459 685 469  
E – [electorate.blain@nt.gov.au](mailto:electorate.blain@nt.gov.au)

## COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.1.2
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Invitation to Join Regional Capitals Australia
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 4 June 2024
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli
<b>APPROVER:</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli

### COMMUNITY PLAN

Governance: Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

### PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council consideration of an invitation for the City of Palmerston to become a member of Regional Capitals Australia (RCA).

### KEY MESSAGES

- City of Palmerston Mayor and CEO have received an invitation from the Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) Board, inviting City of Palmerston to become a member of RCA for the 2024-25 financial year.
- RCA is a pre-eminent regional federal advocacy organisation with a 13-year history of putting the needs of regional cities on the national policy and funding agenda.
- RCA states that in the halls of Federal Parliament, the term 'regional capital' has become synonymous with regional cities that are not only highly liveable and productive but are also experiencing a new wave of growth.
- Being a regional capital means being recognised as playing a key part in the Nation's population shift to regionalism.
- RCA membership currently consists of 18 Councils from around Australia.
- By joining RCA, City of Palmerston will gain a board seat and be able to advocate for Council's priorities with a collective group at an Australian Government level, amongst many other benefits gained through shared experiences and advocacy with other regional capitals cities.
- The annual membership fee for RCA is \$11,000 (with GST).
- If City of Palmerston joins RCA Council's representative would be the Mayor and the CEO.
- It is being recommended that City of Palmerston seek to become a Board Member nominating the Mayor as its representative on the Board.
- It is being recommended that Council join RCA to further promote and advocate for the City of Palmerston, and shared issues with other members.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Invitation to Join Regional Capitals Australia be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses City of Palmerston joining Regional Capitals Australia for 2024-2025 with the Mayor as Council's representative.
3. THAT Council seek to become a Board Member of Regional Capitals Australia.

4. THAT the Mayor be authorised to travel within Australia for Regional Capitals Australia business while City of Palmerston is a member of Regional Capitals Australia.
5. THAT a report on the 2024-2025 Regional Capitals Australia activities and City of Palmerston membership for 2024-2025 be provided to Council at the First Ordinary Meeting in July 2025.

## **BACKGROUND**

City of Palmerston (CoP) has and continues to proactively advocate for our community directly and through various groups with the Australian and Northern Territory Government.

CoP has been successful in many areas it has advocated for including delivery of projects and programs.

City of Palmerston Mayor and CEO have received an invitation from the Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) Board, inviting City of Palmerston to become a member of RCA for the 2024-25 financial year.

This provides another opportunity for CoP to advocate on national and local issues for our community.

This report seeks Council consideration of the invitation to join RCA.

## **DISCUSSION**

RCA has written to CoP inviting it to become a member for the 2024-2025 financial year outlining its activities and the benefits, **Attachment 13.1.2.1**.

RCA is a pre-eminent regional federal advocacy organisation with a 13-year history of putting the needs of regional cities on the national policy and funding agenda.

RCA states that in the halls of Federal Parliament, the term 'regional capital' has become synonymous with regional cities that are not only highly liveable and productive but are also experiencing a new wave of growth.

RCA membership currently consists of 18 Councils from around Australia consisting of:

- Albury City Council
- Armidale Regional Council
- Ballarat City Council
- Broken Hill City Council
- City of Bunbury
- City Of Busselton
- City Of Greater Geraldton
- City Of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- City of Karratha
- City of Wagga Wagga
- Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Greater Geelong City Council
- Griffith City Council
- Latrobe City Council
- Shire of Broome
- Tamworth Regional Council
- Town of Port Hedland
- Dubbo Regional Council

RCA mission states: To provide a national alliance that champions maximum growth and prosperity for Australia's regional capital cities.

RCA vision states: To see Australia's regional capital cities attain the investment needed to reach their full social and economic potential.

More information on RCA and the various policy, advocacy and report work they have done can be found at <https://www.regionalcapitalsaustralia.org/>

The correspondence from RCA states the following:

*By joining RCA you will have the opportunity to contribute to this agenda through:*

- *A seat at the board table to decide our priorities;*
- *Joining us on Federal delegations to meet with Ministers and Members of Parliament to advocate for investment;*
- *Contributing to policy development through surveys, workshops and case studies; and*
- *Featuring your issues in local, state and national media stories.*

RCA have advised a position exists on the RCA Board for a NT representative namely CoP. Becoming a board member means that CoP can play a more active role in direction, issues and priorities ensuring adequate representation of issues for our region. It is being recommended that CoP seek a Board position to maximise our membership.

When it comes to advocating, a collective voice of like-minded people has a stronger impact than a single council doing it alone. Often federal governments find it more effective consulting peak bodies to understand common issues amongst a group. RCA states that they have a reputation as the go-to regional capitals body enables us access to the policy makers that we need to be speaking to.

This is an opportunity and another avenue for CoP to voice our views and advocate via a collective alliance for the well-being of our community.

It is being recommended that City of Palmerston become a 2024-2025 member of Regional Capitals Australia with the Mayor (Council) and CEO (administration) as its representative. Furthermore, that City of Palmerston seek to become a board member and that a report on the activities and outcomes of the membership be presented to Council in July 2025 for review.

## **CONSULTATION AND MARKETING**

There was no consultation or marketing required during the preparation of this Report.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications for this Report.

## **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The annual membership fee for RCA is \$11,000 (with GST). This can and will be accommodated within the operational budget.

If CoP becomes a Board Member this will involve three face to face meeting in Canberra including advocacy work with Government and up to six virtual meetings. It is acknowledged that CoP may not be able to attend all meetings depending on timing and other factors.

RCA have advised that attendance to meetings is normally by the Mayor and the CEO where available.

There will be some travel involved for the Mayor accompanied by the CEO or Deputy CEO, this will be accommodated from within the operational budget programs. This will be accommodated within approved budget.

In addition to RCA meeting and advocacy, CoP will seek opportunities with any travel to Canberra for the Mayor to advocate for Palmerston with Government and Opposition members on a direct and individual basis for Palmerston community.

## **RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Failure to participate in such collectives may result in CoP missing opportunities for our community and development of Palmerston.

Membership of RCA provides CoP with the opportunity to advocate for Palmerston including for Australian Government partnerships to deliver on the outcomes from the Community Plan. Failure to advocate may result in missed opportunities to deliver for our community whilst ensuring sustainability through financial partnerships.

As we head into a federal election being part of RCA and a collective approach may provide CoP with greater advocacy power and opportunities for potential Australian Government commitments. In addition, being on the Board or RCA provides opportunity to directly influence RCA priorities and directions.

CoP has an opportunity to network and engage with other like local government entities and provided collective support and outcomes. Work being undertaken by RCA could also inform future CoP plans and strategies.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

6. **Governance**  
Failure to effectively govern.

## **STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS**

CoP strategies, plans, and frameworks (e.g. environmental sustainability frameworks, playground, creative industries, etc) will inform CoP engagement with RCA and advocacy work.

## **COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

I the author and approving officer declare that I do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. City of Palmerston RCA Invitation [13.1.2.1 - 57 pages]

1 May 2024

Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell and Luccio Cercarelli PSM  
City of Palmerston  
PO Box 1  
Palmerston NT 0831

Via: Mayor@palmerston.nt.gov.au, palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Dear Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell and Luccio Cercarelli PSM,

**Re: Regional Capitals Australia – Membership Invitation**

On behalf of the Regional Capitals Australia Board, I am writing to invite you to become a member of Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) for the 2024-25 financial year.

RCA is a pre-eminent regional federal advocacy organisation with a 13-year history of putting the needs of regional cities on the national policy and funding agenda.

In the halls of Federal Parliament, the term 'regional capital' has become synonymous with regional cities that are not only highly *liveable* and *productive* but are also experiencing a new wave of growth. Being a regional capital means being recognised as playing a key part in the Nation's population shift to regionalism.

Regional capitals are also seen as integral to *regional development*, our members are seen as the backbone of strong regions by providing *access to services and infrastructure* not only to residents but also to smaller towns and rural areas surrounding the city. Strong regional capitals mean strong regions.

RCA has worked hard to build this knowledge about and reputation for our members. We have also been working to be a trusted advisor to the Australian Parliament, Federal Departments and influential peak bodies.

We know the formula to our success has been to focus our advocacy on three key areas:

- Gaining a **seat at the Federal advisory table**;
- Gaining a **place for regional capitals in policy**; and
- Securing **funding streams to support the growth ambitions** of our member cities.

RCA has been successful in all three of these areas over the course of our 13-year history and have stepped out the successes over the past 12 months and ambitions for the coming 12 months for your information below.

By joining RCA you will have the opportunity to contribute to this agenda through:

- A **seat at the board table** to decide our priorities;

**Regional Capitals Australia**

PO Box 320, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

M: 0422 067 858 – E: [secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](mailto:secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org)

- Joining us on **Federal delegations to meet with Ministers** and Members of Parliament to advocate for investment;
- **Contributing to policy** development through surveys, workshops and case studies; and
- Featuring your issues in **local, state and national media stories**.

As an RCA member your community's voice will rise above the competing noise on regional issues in an often distracted and metropolitan focused Canberra.

Your Council's priorities will also gain a seat at the table as we continue to influence policy and funding opportunities for our member cities through our engagement with Federal leaders.

The 2023-24 Successes:

Area	Action
<b>Seat at the table</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departmental National Urban Policy Consultative Forum;</li> <li>• Departmental Regional and Remote Housing Roundtable;</li> <li>• Ministerial Regional Roundtable; and</li> <li>• Federal Peak Body Alliance for Regionalisation.</li> </ul>
<b>A place in policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Housing Strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding streams</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing Regions Fund;</li> <li>• Regional Precincts and Partnerships Fund;</li> <li>• Housing Support Program;</li> <li>• Telecommunications Funding; and</li> <li>• Regional Arts and Culture Fund.</li> </ul>

In 2024-2025 RCA will be focusing our attention on securing the following:

Area	Action
<b>Seat at the table</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing our role in above forums.</li> </ul>
<b>A place in policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Urban Policy;</li> <li>• Aviation White Paper; and</li> <li>• Review of Regional Migration.</li> </ul> <p><i>In addition to the policy areas above.</i></p>
<b>Funding streams</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Airports Fund; and</li> <li>• Designation Area Migration Agreements.</li> </ul> <p><i>In addition to the funding programs above.</i></p>

The annual membership fee for RCA is \$11,000 (with GST).

**Regional Capitals Australia**

PO Box 320, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

M: 0422 067 858 – E: [secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](mailto:secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org)

If you would like to discuss this opportunity with one of our Board, our Secretariat have attached their details to this letter below.

RCA Board contact details are:

Position	Name	Email	Contact Number	Office Contact Number
RCA Chair	Cr Kylie King – Mayor, Albury City Council	<a href="mailto:kking@alburycity.nsw.gov.au">kking@alburycity.nsw.gov.au</a>	0459 939 109	(02) 6023 8111
RCA Deputy Chair	Mayor Peter Carter – Mayor, Town of Port Hedland Council	<a href="mailto:mayorcarter@porthedland.wa.gov.au">mayorcarter@porthedland.wa.gov.au</a>	0458 093 440	(08) 9111 5000
RCA Treasurer	Mr Frank Zaknich – CEO, Albury City Council	<a href="mailto:fzaknich@alburycity.nsw.gov.au">fzaknich@alburycity.nsw.gov.au</a>	0408 099 551	(02) 6023 8111
RCA Secretary	Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council	<a href="mailto:mayor@dubbo.nsw.gov.au">mayor@dubbo.nsw.gov.au</a>	0418 639 053	(02) 6801 4000
WA Representative	Mayor Jerry Clune – Mayor, City of Greater Geraldton	<a href="mailto:mayor@cgg.wa.gov.au">mayor@cgg.wa.gov.au</a>	0428 930 435	1300 089 956
QLD Representative	Cr George Seymour – Mayor, Fraser Coast Regional Council	<a href="mailto:mayor@frasercoast.qld.gov.au">mayor@frasercoast.qld.gov.au</a>	(07) 4197 4389	1300 794 929
VIC Representative	Cr Trent Sullivan – Mayor, Greater Geelong City Council	<a href="mailto:tsullivan@geelongcity.vic.gov.au">tsullivan@geelongcity.vic.gov.au</a>	0466 565 004	(03) 5272 5272
NSW Representative	Cr Doug Curran – Mayor, Griffith City Council	<a href="mailto:dcurran@griffith.com.au">dcurran@griffith.com.au</a>	0477 669 804	1300 176 077

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## COUNCIL AGENDA Attachment 13.1.2.1

Our policy positions on the above issues are available through our website [www.regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](http://www.regionalcapitalsaustralia.org) or [this link](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us through our Secretariat, Rachael Sweeney via [secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](mailto:secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org) or on 0422 067 858.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kylie King".

Cr Kylie King  
**Chair, Regional Capitals Australia**  
**Mayor, Albury City Council**

Enclosed:

- RCA 2024-25 Pre Budget Submission; and
- RCA 2023 Annual Statement.

**Regional Capitals Australia**

PO Box 320, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

M: 0422 067 858 – E: [secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](mailto:secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org)

15 December 2023

The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP  
Treasurer  
Member for Rankin  
Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2601

Via: [PreBudgetSubmissions@treasury.gov.au](mailto:PreBudgetSubmissions@treasury.gov.au)

Dear Treasurer,

**RE: Regional Capitals Australia - 2024-25 Pre Budget Submission**

Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) is pleased to present this submission for consideration when preparing the 2024-2025 Federal Budget.

RCA is an alliance of 18 local government associations across the nation, representing Australia's regional capital cities. Regional capital cities perform a 'capital city' role within their regions, providing a central point to access essential infrastructure, services, business, employment and education. These services and infrastructure are accessed by local residents as well as those in surrounding towns and rural areas.

The importance of regional capital cities to the nation cannot be overstated. Regional capital cities are home to almost four million people and service the needs of another four million Australians who live in surrounding areas. Jointly the cities generate \$225 billion per annum, or more than 16 percent of national economic activity.

This submission highlights our position on the future of regional capital cities and their importance to regional Australia. We have also included our priorities for investment opportunities across three key areas required to build connected, liveable and productive regional capital cities. RCA believes a consolidated policy approach and comprehensive investment plan will deliver a more equitable and efficient outcome for all Australians.

On behalf of our 18 members, we look forward to contributing to the development of a regional policy strategy and building our partnership in 2024.

If you have any questions in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact our Secretariat Rachael Sweeney on 0422 067 858 or email [secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](mailto:secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org) (Federal lobby register no: 18169904232).

Yours faithfully,



Cr Kylie King  
Chair, Regional Capitals Australia  
Mayor, Albury City Council



PRE BUDGET SUBMISSION // 2024-25





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## Overview

### About Regional Capitals Australia

Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) was formed in 2012 to represent the interests of Australia's regional capital cities. Our objective is to ensure these needs are reflected in national policy and funding priorities.

Regional capital cities perform a 'capital city' role within their regions, providing a central point of access to essential services, commerce, employment and education. These services are accessed by local residents as well as those in surrounding towns and rural areas.

Regional capital cities also provide a liveable alternative for people and businesses wishing to escape Australia's congested metropolitan cities. Every year regional capital cities generate \$225 billion, or more than 16 per cent of national economic activity.

All RCA members have a growth agenda and stand ready to ensure a growing Australia means a stronger and more equitable regional Australia.

### Our Agenda

Vibrant and productive regional capital cities are key to Australia's sustainability and prosperity. Regional capital cities are also growing – all RCA members are striving to continue this trend and as such have a growth agenda for their communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the population shift from capital cities to Australia's regions and transformed the anticipated pace and nature of demographic and economic change in regional cities.

There was an estimated 200% increase in net migration from capital cities to regional areas during COVID according to Infrastructure Australia research. In 2020/21 regional areas grew at a faster rate than capital cities for the first time since 1993/94.

Regional growth however has a historical as well as a modern context. The growth of Australia's regional cities is a 100-year trend, which began when residents of smaller rural towns sought improved services, infrastructure and non-agricultural employment and began moving to the larger population centres located in their region.

### Overview

Due to this growth regional cities have taken on a 'capital city' role, acting as service hubs for their region. The city's services and infrastructure are accessed by residents as well as those in surrounding towns and rural areas. Every day, more than eight million Australians rely on regional capital cities for their everyday needs.

In addition to the service hub role, growth in regional capital cities is an avenue to allow Australia to return to a strong immigration rate (pre-COVID). Our member cities offer productive centres that are the liveable and affordable alternative to the metropolitan capitals.

Now is the time to plan for a network of growing regional capital cities. Australia's borders are opening, and a flood of new arrivals will soon land to address the much-needed skills deficit across a range of sectors.

If no action is taken to ensure a more balanced approach to population growth, the painful and costly impacts of congestion will once again be felt. Meeting the costs of pre-COVID metropolitan city growth was unsustainable. Infrastructure Australia put the cost of addressing the national infrastructure deficit anywhere between \$450 - \$700 billion. As a nation we cannot afford to let history repeat itself by having metro-centric settlement patterns.

RCA's members across regional capital cities see themselves as ready to grow. The initiatives in this document have been identified to enable this growth to be realised. Now is the time to get investment in regional capitals right for the benefit of all Australians.





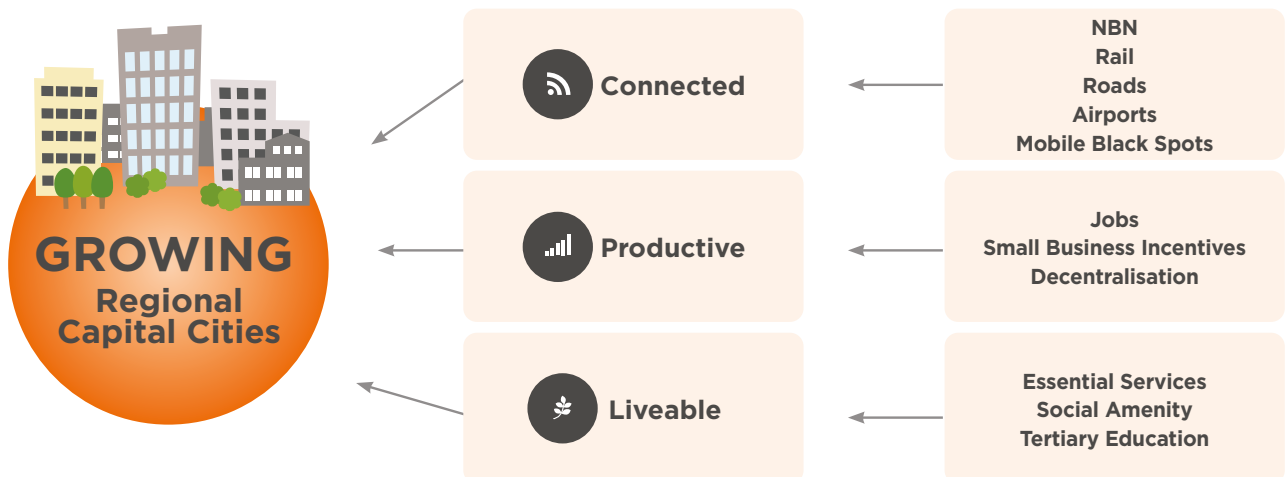
**Policy Platform**

The following outlines Regional Capitals Australia’s framework to grow regional capital cities that are:

1. **Strong service centres:** that continue to be a central point to access essential infrastructure, services, business, employment and education;
2. **Easing the metropolitan congestion:** encouraging regional migration and decentralisation options for new and existing residents and businesses can take the pressure of major metropolitan capitals; and
3. **An affordable alternative:** providing affordable housing and industry industrial land options for families and business seeking to avoid the inflated housing markets of the major metropolitan capitals.

To achieve this vision we must continue to build regional capital cities that are:

1. **Connected:** with roads, rail, airports (and services), broadband and mobile telecommunications;
2. **Productive:** with diverse economies that can be built with government and private sector decentralisation and skilled labour shaped through strong tertiary and continuing education opportunities; and
3. **Liveable:** with high levels of essential services, social amenities and a continued supply of affordable housing options.





## Population Policy

Regional Capitals Australia members are seeking a greater share of Australia's population, accelerated through immigration policy.

Regional capitals are not only critical regional hubs, providing services and infrastructure to local residents and those in surrounding towns and rural areas; they are increasingly an affordable alternative for people and businesses seeking to escape capital city costs and congestion.

RCA supports the development of a national population policy aimed at ensuring there is a greater share of population growth that will attract a larger workforce and increased business investment in our member cities.

RCA believes regional population growth must be underpinned by both skilled and non-skilled migration, along with continued investment in enabling infrastructure and services to maintain the local character and amenity that makes regional cities a destination.

### Fast Facts

1. In 2020/21 regional areas grew at a faster rate than capital cities for the first time since 1993/94 (*2022 Population Statement*).
2. In 2022/23 less than 17% of net overseas migration will flow to regional Australia (*2022 Population Statement*), despite the fact that there were 94,000 job vacancies in regional Australia in November 2022 (*Regional Australia Institute*).
3. Between 1996 to 2016 migrants contributed 26 percent of the population growth in regional Australia.
4. Skilled migrants account for nearly 70 percent of Australia's permanent migration program, up from 30-40 percent twenty years ago.
5. Skilled migrants and their families offset Australia's ageing population, improve labour force participation and productivity, and help businesses source skills that are difficult to develop at short notice.

### Accelerating Regionalisation

The 2021 Australian Infrastructure Plan highlighted that there has been a 200 percent increase in net growth to regional centres and regional areas during the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of this growth was driven by the shift to a 'work from anywhere' capability.

The report further highlighted that Australia's Smaller Cities and Regional Centres have unrealised growth potential and that the increase in net population growth in regional Australia presents an opportunity to lock in accelerating regionalisation.

With improved access to employment, education, services, housing and community facilities, many regional capital cities could accommodate further sustainable population and economic growth. This would support a future population settlement pattern that is more widely distributed across the country, benefiting all Australians.

### The Need

In a post-pandemic world international immigration should be a key factor in Australia's overall population growth and as such, should be a significant factor in ongoing regional growth.

Skilled migrants comprise 70 per cent of Australia's migrant intake. These new arrivals and their families offset Australia's ageing population, improve labour force participation and productivity, and help businesses source skills that are difficult to develop at short notice.

The government has the policy levers to encourage skilled migrants to settle outside of Australia's capital cities and RCA believes visas for skilled migration and business investment should be expanded or amended to ensure this occurs.

RCA recognises the Australian Government's stated commitment to increase Australia's permanent migration program to 195,000, and seeks assurances that regional Australia will benefit from this increase.

### Recommendations

- Develop a population policy to encourage businesses and families to move to the regions, and that RCA be consulted during the development of this policy;
- Continue support for current 491 and 187 regional visa streams cater for skilled, non-skilled and education migration to regional capital cities; and
- Expansion of business visas to establish a new range of regional visas that are based on the 188, 888 and 132 and 858 but require investment or business activity in regional economies.





## Arts and Culture

Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) is seeking a greater share of Australia's public funding for arts and culture for regional Australia to support our growing communities.

Funding for arts and culture in Australia needs to move beyond a capital city-centric approach and better align with contemporary population distribution.

Federal Government funding arrangements reflects population distributions of two decades ago and over-represent arts and cultural institutions in Sydney and Melbourne.

Funding needs to not only fairly recognise the almost eight million residents of regional Australia, but also take account of the COVID-19 driven growth that is seeing people moving away from the metro capitals to regional capital cities.

RCA acknowledges the commitment of the Australian Government to the development of a new National Cultural Policy and looks forward to engagement with the Minister for the Arts on the important role of arts and cultural activities and arts infrastructure to benefit communities across regional Australia.

### The Need

There is growing recognition of the role that social infrastructure, such as arts and culture, plays in enhancing the liveability of our communities.

In regional Australia, arts and culture helps shape the character of our communities and enable our people to express themselves and represent regional life on their own terms. However, in regional areas local government has the greatest share of responsibility for funding arts and culture programs and infrastructure.

As population policy encourages businesses and families to move to the regions, there must be recognition that the 'liveability' value of arts and culture not only drives population growth but also assists in retaining people in regional capitals.

RCA endorsed the recommendation by the 2021 Australian Infrastructure Plan to capture, measure and assess the quadruple-bottom-line benefits of social infrastructure including arts and culture, and use the framework to collaboratively plan, develop and invest in arts, cultural and other infrastructure which enhances unique regional identities and brands.

Addressing the arts and culture imbalance between the capital cities and the regions is however more than an adjustment of funding and supporting population growth - it is also about recognising, valuing, and enabling the creative capacity of regional Australians and regional institutions on equal terms with those of capital cities.

### Policy Settings

Policy and funding need to reflect that regional and remote Australia should not simply be a passive recipient of arts and culture flowing from capital cities. Rather, the real and potential contribution of regional and remote Australia to the nation's broader cultural life should be fully supported.

The policy and funding environment must not only build the cultural and artistic capacity of regional Australia, but also facilitate the exchange of cultural and artistic output between the regions and capital cities.

Additionally, RCA contends that a disproportionate burden of regional arts and culture financial support falls on regional local governments, compared with those in capital cities.

At the same time, the funding capacity of regional local governments are limited by their smaller rate base, rate caps, broader service provision to their residents and their disproportionately smaller contributions from State and Federal Governments.

## Recommendations



- Continue to recognise and enhance the role of arts, culture and creative activity in strengthening local identity, contributing to liveability and fortifying population growth in regional Australia;
- Ensure an equitable distribution of arts and cultural funding for regional Australia to better reflect existing population distribution and anticipated ongoing population growth.

## Regional Infrastructure Policy

Regional Capitals Australia recognises the infrastructure and regional funding policies and programs released by the Australian Government that will continue to assist rural and regional Australia.

These programs include the:

- Growing Regions Program and the Precincts and Partnerships Programs (investing a further \$1 billion).

The core of liveable and productive regional capital cities are assets and services that support the development and growth of communities so they are places where people and communities can thrive.



## Recommendations



1. **Commit to continued funding of the recently established Growing Regions Program to enable infrastructure projects that target regional economic and population growth: \$1 billion over 4 years.**
2. **Funds be exclusively allocated to regional communities:** excluding suburban and metropolitan project.
3. **Review the stated intention to allow State Government to access Federal funding:** that has been traditionally reviewed for Local Government.
4. **Reliable and consistency of funding that includes:**
  - A commitment to annual rounds of funding;
  - Applications are sought at a specific time every year;
  - **Consistent program guidelines** so projects can be planned for that will meet these guidelines and co-contributions can be secured;
  - **A two-step process** (Expression of Interest, then Full Application) to ensure resources are not wasted on projects that will not fit the focus of the fund; and
  - The success or otherwise of a funding application should be **known prior to Local Government budgets being finalised** (May).
5. **To ensure the diverse needs of regional capital cities:** guidelines should support the development of a broad range of projects, including (but not limited to):
  - Enabling infrastructure for housing development;
  - Supporting population growth;
  - Facilitating education, employment and skills opportunities;
  - Tourism infrastructure;
  - Arts and culture infrastructure; and
  - Enabling infrastructure to support adaptation to climate change and emergency management.
6. **Funding caps should set the federal contribution at:** between \$10-50 million and reflect accurate population planning statistics for regional capitals.
7. **Council resources:** should be able to be used to carry out infrastructure delivery as an in-kind contribution.
8. **Support for business case development:** should be considered with the growing pressure on councils to produce productive, social and liveable infrastructure (many in a rate capped/pegged environment).



## Local Roads Policy

RCA has welcomed the Australian government's recognition of local governments' need for increased funding for roads and transport infrastructure to manage rising costs and increased pressure on transport infrastructure due to climate change and extreme weather events.

### Fast Facts

- [Eighty-five percent of Australia's roads are managed by local governments](#)
- The up-front cost of building a road represents only about **one-fifth** of its lifetime cost (*Grattan Institute: Potholes and Pitfalls, 2023, page. 46*)
- The cost per person to maintain sealed roads in regional and remote communities is **five times higher** compared to metropolitan areas (*ALGA*)
- Heavy vehicles account for **94 percent** of deep road wear (*National Transport Commission, 2022, p. 49*)
- **\$3.8 billion:** The cost of repairs to roads in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland caused by major flood events in 2022 - more than the total annual spending on local road maintenance in those states [*ALGA estimate*]
- **Additional \$1 billion** - estimated extra funds required next year to keep council roads in their current state (*Grattan Institute: Potholes and Pitfalls, 2023, page. 4*)

### The State of Regional Roads

An efficient, safe and well-maintained road network is critical for regional Australia.

Regional roads enable economic activity and population growth by facilitating the movement of people and freight, access to employment, education and essential services and ensuring regional Australians stay connected.

[Eighty-five percent of Australia's roads are managed by councils](#). However the reality is that regional councils do not have the financial capacity to construct new roads to meet population pressures and to maintain existing roads to an acceptable and safe standard.



The Grattan Institute has found that regional councils underspend what is needed to maintain their roads by 42 percent. In comparison, councils located in major cities underspend by less than 14 per cent. [*Potholes and Pitfalls, 2023, page 7,8*]

The situation is currently exacerbated not only by rising costs, a shortage of skilled workers and greater demands on the regional road network with increased traffic flows and heavier trucks, but also by the growing pressures of climate change on the road network.

As the climate changes, heavy rainfall and extreme heat are on the rise, and increasing numbers of extreme weather events are contributing to the poor state of regional roads. Climate change related road impacts include damage to pavement levels, potholes and cracking, and entire washing away of roads in extreme cases.

Regional roads will not be able to cope with future severe weather events if they are not maintained with a changing climate perspective.

## Funding Challenges

While demand on regional roads and the cost of maintenance has increased over the last decade, funding has not kept pace.

Transport expenditure has fallen from almost 50 percent of total local government expenditure in the 1960s to 21 percent today [*Commonwealth Grants Commission (2001) and ABS (2023a).*]

Local government's in regional areas remain impacted by the Australian Government's 2014-2017 FAG indexation freeze and the use of CPI indexation (as opposed to Councils' real costs), along with constraints on regional councils' ability to raise revenue (smaller rate bases, rate pegging, rate capping).

In terms of Australian Government funding, RCA notes the findings of the Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program (IIP), that:

- sub-programs provide critical funding to councils to build and maintain local infrastructure;
- councils require additional funding to manage rising costs and increased pressure on transport infrastructure due to climate change and extreme weather events; and
- current sub-programs are delivering positive outcomes for councils and value for money.

We welcome the Australian Government's response to the IIP Review, including the increase of Roads to Recovery funding to \$1 billion per year, Black Spot funding increased to \$150 million per year and the creation of the new Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program with funding increased to \$200 million per year.

We also note the Government's commitment to delivering funding in a way that reduces the burden on local councils, allowing more money to be spent on projects and less on administration.



## Recommendations



- The majority of the Roads to Recovery funding increase be directed to non-urban councils;
- Councils receive rolling notice of the Roads to Recovery funding allocation;
- The scope for Black Spot Program projects be widened in cost, time and nature;
- The simplification of competitive grant application processes;
- Provision of greater flexibility for project timeframes to allow councils to manage staff and supply constraints and cost variations;
- Reconsideration of the disaster recovery funding requirement of "like for like" replacement to allow councils to build back better in the face of climate change pressure; and
- The government adopt a flexible approach to road infrastructure funding as outlined previously.



## Regional Airports Policy

RCA acknowledges the recent Australian Government commitment to prepare an Aviation White Paper which will work with industry and communities to deliver an understanding of the role of aviation in terms of economic development, skills and workforce into the future with regional aviation a key focus.

Regional airports are key to the social and economic life of regional Australia, connecting regional centres and their residents to Australia's capital cities. However, while regional airports play a critical role in their communities, the simple fact is most regional airports are under significant financial strain.

Many are faced with ageing infrastructure, ever increasing security cost pressures, high staffing costs, community service costs and a disproportionately high regulatory cost burden.

### Fast Facts

1. It is estimated that more than 200 regional airports and aerodromes are owned and operated by local governments across Australia;
2. Forty per cent of Australia's 61 million annual domestic aviation passengers travel through regional airports;
3. Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)'s regulatory imposts are higher for regional and remote airports, comprising 12 per cent of total expenditure, compared to about 4 per cent for major airports and major regional airports;
4. Sixty per cent of regional airports operate at a loss. They depend upon cross-subsidisation by their local government owners who are already burdened by competing demands on their limited financial resources; and
5. Almost 40 per cent of regional airports expect persistent budget deficits over the next 10 years.



## The Contribution

Regional airports are largely owned and operated by local government. During COVID-19 lockdowns these facilities allowed regional communities to keep essential workers and freight moving.

Regional airports continue to generate significant direct employment and economic activity, as well as indirectly through associated business, service and industry activity.

They support the attraction of staff to, and their retention in, regional and remote communities, make FIFO (Fly-in, Fly-out) employment possible, make businesses more efficient and facilitate freight services and same-day business travel to capital cities from regional centres.

Regional airports support tourism and trade, assist regional Australians' access to specialist health, education and legal services that are otherwise not available locally, and play an essential role in saving lives by facilitating medical evacuations, collection and delivery of organ donations and search and rescue.

They also play a vital role in the protection of Australia's physical assets, enabling aerial fire fighting and supporting law enforcement bodies, such as the Western Australia Police Air Support and border protection agencies which operate out of Australia's regional airports, particularly in Northern and Western Australia.

## The Challenges

The majority of Australia's regional airports are experiencing ongoing financial strain. During COVID-19 local governments continued to operate their facilities despite suffering major financial losses. Today two-thirds currently operate at a loss and almost forty per cent anticipate continuing deficits over the next decade.

Many regional airports are in need of urgent upgrades - including the burden of costly ongoing security upgrades and increasing and disproportionate regulatory costs.

Existing resources will be further strained as expenditures rise by almost 40 per cent over the next ten years. RCA acknowledge the Government's existing support for regional airports, including the Regional Airports Program and the Regional Airport Security Screening Fund. However, we are concerned by the lack of certainty about ongoing funding given existing financial challenges.

As many regional cities look towards a more connected world in a post-COVID recovery - support for landside investment will be sought to secure the future of agriculture and manufacturing sectors in regional communities.

## Vulnerability of Regional Aviation Routes

An additional challenge faced by regional airport operators is the propensity of airlines to suspend, cancel or reduce services on routes, often with limited notice. Within the last 12 months service reductions or suspensions by Qantas, Rex, Virgin, FlyPelican and new low-cost carrier Bonza have affected regional airports in every Australian state and territory. At least seven of the cancelled services had been in place for less than 8 months. These abrupt decisions can leave local governments without sufficient revenue to recover the cost of facility upgrades required by airlines and regulators, as well as the cost of ongoing airport operation. Regional ratepayers ultimately bear these costs.

The vulnerability of regional aviation routes creates a risky investment environment not only for airport operators but also for local businesses. It's clear that for many regional airports a market-driven approach to service provision, which is the basis of major city airports, is not viable. Ongoing federal government investment is required to support provision of reliable air services to these communities.

### Snapshot of service changes:

- Since April 2023 Rex has reduced services on 16 routes and suspended 4 routes.
- Less than 6 months after launching in January 2023 Bonza cancelled services on 5 regional routes, and reduced services on a range of other regional routes.
- In November 2023 Qantas cancelled services from Exmouth, Burnie, Davenport and Alice Springs. Other regional airport operators have noted a change in service operations on ad-hoc arrangement.

## Recommendations



- Implement a policy recognising the importance of regional airports in increasing the connectivity of regional Australia and to consider future planning and funding of regional airports;
- Provide recurrent funding for the Regional Airport Fund to ensure that regional airports can be upgraded and maintained, and the cost of security can be covered in regional airports - \$500m over 4 years;
- Upgrade the guidelines for the Regional Airport Fund to allow for landside developments to be considered; and
- Review the efficacy of Western Australia's Strategic Airport Asset and Financial Management Framework (as recommended by the Productivity Commission) to assess the efficacy of the Framework and determine its suitability for application across all jurisdictions. Subject to the results of the review, support the roll-out of the Framework across other Australian jurisdictions.





## Regional Housing Policy

RCA acknowledges the Australian Government's commitment to help address the housing crisis through its \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund and announced measures, particularly the \$500 million Housing Support Program for enabling infrastructure and connection of essential services.

Like all areas of Australia, regional capitals have an increasing shortage of available and affordable housing. In regional capitals this shortage is driven by surging workforce numbers for major regional projects and construction, along with growing internal migration and an undersupply of diverse housing stock.

Regional capitals welcome increased economic activity and population growth. However, the shortage of housing is undermining our ability to support this growth and function as essential service centres for regional populations while also providing an affordable alternative for families and businesses.

## State of Play

According to the Regional Movers Index, capital to regional migration is currently tracking at 11.7 percent above the pre-Covid average and shows no sign of retreating to pre-Covid levels.<sup>1</sup>

People are attracted to regional areas by good jobs, the lifestyle and, historically, the availability of affordable housing. However, current growth is driving up rents and house prices, creating a housing shortage that is making regional cities less affordable and less attractive.

## Impacts on Rental Market

The rental vacancy rate has more than halved in the last five years, with Domain Research Vacancy Rates October 2023 reporting a regional vacancy rate of 0.8 percent.<sup>2</sup> Some regional cities report rental vacancies as low to zero.

Correspondingly, over the 24 months to September 2023, rents across regional areas have increased by as much as 20 percent.<sup>3</sup>

## Impacts on Federal Government Policy Agenda

This shortage of housing is not only impacting on local employment, service delivery and local amenity, but the broader ability of regional areas to deliver on key federal initiatives such as the renewables transition, export capability and achieving a more equitable level of services for regional areas.



In a survey of RCA members, 100 percent reported that local health services are affected by the housing shortage, followed by major local industries (93 percent), infrastructure construction, and tourism/cultural services (87%) and education, major development and business attraction (80 percent).

## Impacts on Local Businesses

One council noted that local businesses are unable to recruit staff because they are unable to secure housing, which in turn limits capacity to deliver services, projects, or events. Another said businesses are reluctant to invest in their region without certainty that they can secure the construction and operational staff required for their projects.

## Impacts on Working Families

Another reported that local childcare services are limited by a lack of staff, again due to cost of living, mainly related to affordable housing. This inability to secure childcare limits opportunities for parents wanting to re-enter the workforce and in some cases forces them to leave the area.

## Land Activation

The release of land for new housing is essential. Eighty-seven percent of RCA members agree it would assist provision of housing for key workers, help the supply of affordable and social housing (80 percent), and increase rental market stock (73 percent).

However, even where land is available, regional housing faces many roadblocks including labour shortages, planning delays and rising construction costs.

<sup>1</sup> <https://regionalaustralia.org.au/common/Uploaded%20files/Files/Regional%20Movers%20Index/Regional-Movers-Index-September-2023-Report.pdf.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.domain.com.au/research/vacancy-rates-october-2023-1245973/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.proptrack.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/PropTrack-Rental-Snapshot-Oct-22.pdf>

## Skill Shortages

Overwhelmingly, Councils identify a shortage of builders and tradespeople (87 percent) as the most significant barrier to new housing, followed by the costs of enabling infrastructure (80 percent), and state planning processes (60 percent).

Not only is there a shortage of skilled tradespeople for housing construction, 73 percent of RCA members report their own shortages of strategic and statutory planners and other positions necessary to plan and approve residential housing.

It is clear that a different approach is needed; 93 percent of regional capitals do not think current state and federal policy settings can meet their future housing demands.

RCA recommends an approach recognising the diverse nature and challenges of regional cities and providing flexibility for local governments to implement the most effective housing measures for their regions.

In particular, ongoing, dedicated funding is needed for regional councils' enabling infrastructure costs; support is needed for innovative housing solutions including remediation of derelict housing; state planning systems need to be more responsive; and, there is an urgent need for increased training and recruitment of skilled workers.

## Fast Facts

- Capital city to regional migration is currently tracking at 11.7% above the pre-Covid average.<sup>4</sup>
- At October 2023, the regional vacancy rate was 0.8%.<sup>5</sup>
- Over the 24 months to September 2023, regional rents increased by 20%.<sup>6</sup>
- 75% of regional capitals identify Construction and Major Project workers as a major driver of housing demand, followed by Internal Migration (56%).
- Within 5 years, it is expected lone person households will be the fastest growing household type across the country.<sup>7</sup>
- 87% of regional capitals identify the shortage of builders and/or tradespeople as a roadblock for land activation, followed by enabling infrastructure costs to council (80%) and state planning processes (60%).
- 75% of regional capitals have derelict housing stock which could be updated to help address housing shortages.
- 93% of regional capitals do not believe existing State and Federal policy settings can meet their region's future housing demand.

## Role of Local Government

Local Government understands that its primary role in meeting Australia's housing challenge is through planning and zoning processes and the provision of local infrastructure.

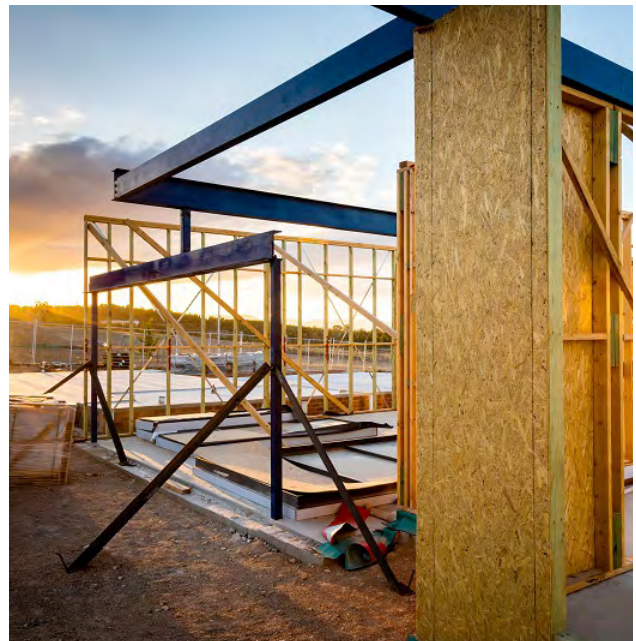
Surging regional migration and traditionally smaller populations and rate bases make this increasingly challenging for regional councils, many of which are operating under rate-capped or rate-pegged systems.

In addition, there is growing demand from local government to partner with the State and Federal Governments to deliver social and affordable housing options, but these partnerships cannot be delivered without financial and policy support.

## Infrastructure costs

Activation of land for new housing development requires provision of essential services and enabling infrastructure to be provided by local government. However, 80 percent of RCA members say the increasing costs of providing these services and infrastructure are a roadblock to new housing.

RCA members therefore strongly welcome the Australian Government's \$500 million Housing Support Program. RCA members have noted this fund should assist in the provision of essential services such as water, sewerage, energy and NBN, and community infrastructure including site works, streetscape works, conservation reserves, transport hubs and public transport facilities.



<sup>4</sup> <https://regionalaustralia.org.au/common/Uploaded%20files/Files/Regional%20Movers%20Index/Regional-Movers-Index-September-2023-Report.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.domain.com.au/research/vacancy-rates-october-2023-1245973/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.proptrack.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/PropTrack-Rental-Snapshot-Oct-22.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.housingaustralia.gov.au/research-data-analytics/state-nations-housing-report-2022-23#:~:text=More%20than%201.8%20million%20new,properties%20\(e.g.%20holiday%20homes\).](https://www.housingaustralia.gov.au/research-data-analytics/state-nations-housing-report-2022-23#:~:text=More%20than%201.8%20million%20new,properties%20(e.g.%20holiday%20homes).)



RCA members also believe it is important the Housing Support Program provide:

- Recognition of higher service and construction costs for regional cities, with dedicated funding for the regions;
- Flexibility to accommodate a diverse range of regional projects, including infill opportunities;
- Timely announcements of funding so successful projects can be included in councils' budget deliberations; and
- Multiple funding rounds to allow for appropriate planning.

## Recommendations

RCA recommends there is a regional stream of the \$500 million Housing Support Program to support the provision of essential services, planning support and funding for council infrastructure.

RCA also recommends that the guidelines for the Housing Support Program allow for a flexible approach to project delivery to accommodate the diversity of regional areas.

## Local Government Skills Shortages

According to the Planning Institute of Australia, 232 local government areas in Australia (43 percent) have no planners working within them.<sup>8</sup>

Almost three-quarters of RCA members (73 percent) report shortages of both statutory and strategic planners, two-thirds (67 percent) report shortages of building surveyors and almost half (47 percent) report shortages of building inspectors and engineers.

Councils also note shortages of urban designers and environmental health professionals.

RCA members say there is a critical need for more regionally-based tertiary education options in planning, building surveying and environmental health roles.

They also propose education scholarships and subsidies for students in areas of skills shortages, along with state and federal government sponsorship of local governments to employ cadets and trainees in skills needs areas.

*"Building surveyors are a 'dying breed'... many LGAs are struggling to fill building surveyor roles. ... a survey a few years ago suggested over 50% of building surveyors were intending to leave the industry due to retirement."*

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.planning.org.au/news-archive/2021-2023-media-releases/new-data-shows-growing-shortage-of-urban-planners---bad-news-for-housing-regional-communities-transition-to-net-zero>



## Challenges

Australia's 51 regional capitals play a vital role in the growth and diversification of Australia's economy. These cities are centres for decentralisation, hubs supporting regional industries and mining, and key to Australia's zero carbon economy.

However, the ability of regional cities to fulfil this role is increasingly challenged by the rate of population growth and shortage of housing needed to accommodate the growing regional workforce. Availability and affordability of housing for those relocating to work in regional cities and on major projects are fundamental to future prosperity.

While the need for increased regional housing is clear, boosting supply faces a range of impediments including rising costs, skill shortages, planning delays and supply chain issues.

### Supplying Housing for Major Project Workers

The impact of major project and construction workers on housing demand in regional Australia must be understood.

In some cases, major projects will bring hundreds and even thousands of new workers into regional areas, with a need for short to medium term housing:

- Dubbo is the major urban centre in the Central West and Orana Renewable Energy Zone where development of transmission infrastructure and renewables projects is projected to require 6,000 workers;
- The Pilbara Region has a \$177 billion pipeline of minerals investment of which more than \$46.1 billion is already committed; and
- Projects around Griffith include the new \$250 million Base Hospital, Murrumbidgee Irrigation water infrastructure projects and expansion by large private sector businesses.

Without specific measures for worker housing this otherwise welcome economic activity will continue to exacerbate the regional housing shortage (please refer to our Housing Innovation Fund).

### Skills Shortages

Construction of new housing in regional cities is held back by the growing shortage of builders and tradespeople, according to 87 percent of RCA members.

While an RCA member survey found dwelling approvals have increased 58 percent on average over the last five years, members report that completions are slowing due to the lack of builders.

This is confirmed by Master Builders Australia, who found during 2022-23, the average build time for detached houses increased from 10.3 months to 11.7 months.<sup>9</sup>

RCA members report shortages in regional trade skills across the board, including: electricians and plumbers (87 percent); carpenters and joiners, construction project manager and civil engineers (80 percent); painters and bricklayers (73 percent); plasterers and cabinet makers (67 percent); and surveyors, quantity surveyors, glaziers, tilers, architects and structural engineers (60 percent).

Regional building industries are also unable to compete with major infrastructure projects for skilled staff.

Master Builders estimate that to meet growth projections and replace workers leaving the industry, 486,000 workers need to enter the building and construction industry between February 2023 and November 2026 – nearly half will need to be in technician and trade roles.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.mbansw.asn.au/media/industry-news/new-home-building-times-continue-worsen>

<sup>10</sup> *ibid*



### Recommendations

Recommendations identified by RCA members to address regional skills shortages include:

- Increasing skilled migration;
- Scholarships and subsidies for degrees and training in skills shortage areas;
- Greater investment in technical education and apprenticeships; and
- Investment in vocational education in more locations as travel costs are a major barrier to completion.

*“The issues are across the board - at every level in every industry there are issues filling roles, because demand overall has increased massively, and whilst people want to come and take up the roles, many can’t because of the cost and lack of availability of housing.”*

### Social and Affordable Housing

The growing shortfall between the number of social and affordable houses needed in regional capital cities and the number available is well established.

The City of Ballarat estimated that in 2021 the need for social or affordable dwellings was 6,686 dwellings, while there were 1,665 available. Demand is expected to grow by more than 60 percent by 2041 to 10,850.

The shortage of affordable housing is being felt across regional economies from business investment and major projects to service delivery, diversity and liveability.

One hundred percent of regional capitals report local health services are affected, followed by major local industries (93 percent), infrastructure construction, and tourism/cultural services (87 percent) and education, major development and business attraction (80 percent).

Eighty percent of regional capitals nominate provision of social and affordable housing and key worker accommodation as the greatest opportunities if land can be released for new housing.



### Recommendations

Regional cities are actively examining a range of local options to boost affordable housing. However, more support is needed from State and Federal Governments including:

- Release of state land for housing;
- Planning guidelines for social and affordable housing, including mandatory inclusionary zoning or pre-set ratios;
- Flexibility for infill development in established areas;
- Refurbishment or redevelopment of state owned derelict housing;
- Innovative housing solutions such as 3D printing, modular and prefabricated housing;
- Support to facilitate development of project partnerships with local housing providers; and
- Ongoing support for enabling infrastructure costs, such as the Housing Support Program.

*“The Town is committed to building housing for service workers to allow service workers an affordable housing option. However, our studies indicate that our service worker housing project will address 10% of the demand for affordable housing for service workers.”*





## Opportunities

In order to manage regional population growth and help meet nationally agreed housing targets, including affordable housing, RCA members recognise the need for a broader local housing mix.

Within five years, it is expected lone person households will be the fastest growing household type across Australia.<sup>11</sup>

Cities are examining approaches for different dwelling types, including accommodation for smaller households such as major project workers, single person households and aging residents, as well as methods to deliver regional housing more quickly and at a lower cost than traditional family homes.



## Innovation

Innovation is key to achieving greater diversity in the housing market, such as entry level and small format homes, and improving the supply of social and affordable homes.

This includes different approaches to housing planning and construction, density options and size of allotments, reuse of existing housing stock, repurposing of buildings and innovative partnership arrangements. RCA members report a range of innovative measures are under consideration, including:

- 3D printing (currently testing with community infrastructure);
- Prefabricated and modular homes;
- Refurbishment of existing buildings for short-term worker accommodation; and

- Innovative approaches for accommodation for major project workers:
  - o Modular villages (a percentage to be retained as permanent dwellings);
  - o Repurposing of council land such as caravan parks;
  - o Development of housing camps close to towns, so on project completion land can be on-sold with council infrastructure already in place; and
  - o Partnerships with major employers to provide secondary dwellings on private properties for worker accommodation.

Funding remains the greatest barrier to progressing innovative local housing solutions. Not only are new approaches usually ineligible for funding under existing government programs, council housing investments are not GST exempt.

## Recommendations

RCA recommends the Government consider the establishment of a Housing Innovation Program to fast track innovative approaches to housing projects. This fund could improve supply and overcome supply chain and skills challenges currently in regional capitals.



## Density Done Well

Density can help meet regional housing demand by delivering additional housing stock in shorter timeframes. It can also improve affordability of housing through lower costs, including utilisation of existing community infrastructure and essential services.

While density in some cities might include granny flats or apartments, other councils see smaller lot sizes with freestanding dwellings in neighbourhoods within walking distance to amenities as a happy medium.

However, density does not suit every area or neighbourhood and community opposition has been reported by 79 percent of RCA members. It can also place a strain on existing infrastructure.

*“There would not be opposition as long as it was in the right areas.”*

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.housingaustralia.gov.au/research-data-analytics/state-nations-housing-report-2022-23#:~:text=More%20than%201.8%20million%20new,properties%20\(e.g.%20holiday%20homes\).](https://www.housingaustralia.gov.au/research-data-analytics/state-nations-housing-report-2022-23#:~:text=More%20than%201.8%20million%20new,properties%20(e.g.%20holiday%20homes).)



Options for derelict housing include basic remediation to make houses habitable, which could be completed in as little as six months; or demolition and redevelopment of sites at greater density, which would take one to two years.

Advantages of utilising derelict stock include minimal planning requirements, leveraging of existing civil infrastructure reducing local government costs, and potential to deliver housing at a lower cost and shorter timeframe than new builds.

## Recommendations

To deliver density done well, regional cities require:

- **Simpler and improved planning systems, such as the Victorian government's recently announced exemption of small second homes from state or council planning approvals under certain conditions;**
- **Fast tracking planning and zoning changes;**
- **Support from State Governments to incentivise and promote higher density developments in the right locations;**
- **Provision of land from state governments to develop new, higher density housing; and**
- **Investment from state and federal governments (such as the Housing Support Program) in supporting transport infrastructure - particularly bus services, streetscape and amenity upgrades.**

## Derelict Housing

Around three-quarters of regional capitals report they have derelict housing stock which could be updated for social and affordable housing. It is estimated that refurbishment or renewal of stock could provide more than one hundred additional homes in some cities.

The majority of derelict housing is owned by state governments, with most of the remainder in private hands.

## Recommendations

Utilisation of derelict housing stock requires:

- **State Government prioritisation of derelict housing upgrades;**
- **Local audits of derelict housing to determine ownership, condition and potential use; and**
- **Funding for:**
  - **Upfront capital to upgrade state-owned housing;**
  - **The purchase and upgrade of privately owned homes or to incentivise private owners to renovate; and**
  - **Incentivisation of derelict home investment and remediation partnerships with the private and community sectors.**

*"... there is a significant amount of derelict or at least no longer fit for purpose social housing, usually at quite low densities...which could be redeveloped at greater densities, total housing stock increased, and the whole process largely paid for by selling some of the new housing into the private housing market."*



**Table of Recommendations**

RCA Policy Priority Area	Recommendation
<b>Population Policy</b>	Develop a population policy to encourage businesses and families to move to the regions, and that RCA be consulted during the development of this policy.
	Continue support for current 491 and 187 regional visa streams cater for skilled, non-skilled and education migration to regional capital cities.
	Expansion of business visas to establish a new range of regional visas that are based on the 188, 888 and 132 and 858 but require investment or business activity in regional economies.
<b>Arts and Culture</b>	Continue to recognise and enhance the role of arts, culture and creative activity in strengthening local identity, contributing to liveability and contributing to population growth in regional Australia.
	Ensure an equitable distribution of arts and cultural funding for regional Australia to better reflect existing population distribution and anticipated ongoing population growth.
<b>Regional Infrastructure Policy</b>	Commit to continued funding of the recently established Growing Regions Program to enable infrastructure projects that target regional economic and population growth: \$1 billion over 4 years.
	That funds be exclusively allocated to regional communities excluding suburban and metropolitan projects.
	Review the stated intention to allow State Government to access Federal funding for regional infrastructure.
	Reliable and consistency of funding that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A commitment to annual rounds of funding;</li> <li>• Applications are sought at a specific time every year;</li> <li>• Consistent program guidelines so projects can be planned for that will meet these guidelines and co-contributions can be secured;</li> <li>• A two step process (Expression of Interest, then Full Application) to ensure resources are not wasted on projects that will not fit the focus of the fund; and</li> <li>• The success or otherwise of a funding application should be known prior to local government budgets being finalised (May).</li> </ul>
	To ensure the diverse needs of regional capital cities: guidelines should support the development of a broad range of projects, including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling infrastructure for housing development;</li> <li>• Supporting population growth;</li> <li>• Facilitating education, employment and skills opportunities;</li> <li>• Tourism infrastructure;</li> <li>• Arts and culture infrastructure; and</li> <li>• Enabling infrastructure to support adaptation to climate change and emergency management.</li> </ul>
	Funding caps should set the federal contribution at between \$10-50 million and reflect an accurate population planning statistics for regional capitals.



**Table of Recommendations**

RCA Policy Priority Area	Recommendation
<b>Regional Infrastructure Policy</b>	Council resources should be able to be used to carry out infrastructure delivery as an in-kind contribution.
	Support for business case development should be considered with the growing pressure on councils to produce productive, social and liveable infrastructure (many in a rate capped/pegged environment).
<b>Local Roads Policy</b>	The majority of the Roads to Recovery funding increase be directed to non-urban councils.
	Councils receive rolling notice of the Roads to Recovery funding allocation.
	The scope for Black Spot Program projects be widened in cost, time and nature.
	The simplification of competitive grant application processes.
	Provision of greater flexibility for project timeframes to allow councils to manage staff and supply constraints and cost variations.
	Reconsideration of the disaster recovery funding requirement of “like for like” replacement to allow councils to build back better in the face of climate change pressure.
	The government adopt a flexible approach to road infrastructure funding as outlined previously.
<b>Regional Airport Policy</b>	Implement a policy recognising the importance of regional airports in increasing the connectivity of regional Australia and to consider future planning and funding of regional airports.
	Provide recurrent funding for the Regional Airport Fund to ensure that regional airports can be upgraded and maintained, and the cost of security can be covered in regional airports - \$500m over 4 years.
	Upgrade the guidelines for the Regional Airport Fund to allow for landside developments to be considered.
	Review the efficacy of Western Australia’s Strategic Airport Asset and Financial Management Framework (as recommended by the Productivity Commission) to assess the efficacy of the Framework and determine its suitability for application across all jurisdictions. Subject to the results of the review, support the roll-out of the Framework across other Australian jurisdictions.



**Table of Recommendations**

<b>RCA Policy Priority Area</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>Housing Infrastructure costs</b>	Develop a population policy to encourage businesses and families to move to the regions, and that RCA be consulted during the development of this policy.
	RCA recommends there is a regional stream of the \$500 million Housing Support Program to support the provision of essential services, planning support and funding for council infrastructure.
	RCA also recommends that the guidelines for the Housing Support Program allow for a flexible approach to project delivery to accommodate the diversity of regional areas.
<b>Housing Skills</b>	<p>Recommendations identified by RCA members to address regional skills shortages include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing skilled migration;</li> <li>• Scholarships and subsidies for degrees and training in skills shortage areas;</li> <li>• Greater investment in technical education and apprenticeships; and</li> <li>• Investment in vocational education in more locations as travel costs are a major barrier to completion.</li> </ul>
<b>Social and Affordable Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional cities are actively examining a range of local options to boost affordable housing. However, more support is needed from State and Federal Governments including:</li> <li>• Release of state land for housing;</li> <li>• Planning guidelines for social and affordable housing, including mandatory inclusionary zoning or pre-set ratios;</li> <li>• Flexibility for infill development in established areas;</li> <li>• Refurbishment or redevelopment of state owned derelict housing;</li> <li>• Innovative housing solutions such as 3D printing, modular and prefabricated housing;</li> <li>• Support to facilitate development of project partnerships with local housing providers; and</li> <li>• Ongoing support for enabling infrastructure costs, such as the Housing Support Program.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing Innovation</b>	RCA recommends the Government consider the establishment of a Housing Innovation Program to fast track innovative approaches to housing projects. This fund could improve supply and overcome supply chain and skills challenges currently in regional capitals.
<b>Density Done Well</b>	<p>To deliver density done well, regional cities require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simpler and improved planning systems, such as the Victorian government's recently announced exemption of small second homes from state or council planning approvals under certain conditions;</li> <li>• Fast tracking planning and zoning changes;</li> <li>• Support from State Governments to incentivise and promote higher density developments in the right locations;</li> <li>• Provision of land from state governments to develop new, higher density housing; and</li> <li>• Investment from state and federal governments (such as the Housing Support Program) in supporting transport infrastructure - particularly bus services, streetscape and amenity upgrades.</li> </ul>
<b>Derelict Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilisation of derelict housing stock requires:</li> <li>• State Government prioritisation of derelict housing upgrades;</li> <li>• Local audits of derelict housing to determine ownership, condition and potential use; and</li> <li>• Funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Upfront capital to upgrade state-owned housing;</li> <li>o The purchase and upgrade of privately owned homes or to incentivise private owners to renovate; and</li> <li>o Incentivisation of derelict home investment and remediation partnerships with the private and community sectors.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>





# REGIONAL HOUSING CASE STUDIES

## Case study: Albury City Council

### About the city

Albury is a nationally significant regional city on the northern banks of the Murray River in the Riverina region. It is strategically located, and the largest city, on Australia's busiest inland transport route (Hume Highway and Melbourne to Sydney railway).

Albury has a population of over 56,000 people however when combined with the population of Wodonga over the border in Victoria, the two cities form an urban area with a population of 100,000 (Australia's 20th largest city).

### Drivers of housing demand

The top drivers of housing demand in the Albury LGA are:

- Internal migration to the region (1,881 between 2016 and 2021) primarily 'tree-changers' and some retired farmers and elderly people moving from smaller nearby towns; and
- Migration from overseas (1,300 overseas arrivals between 2016 and 2021).

Albury's population has experienced strong recent growth, boosted by 'tree-changers' moving from metropolitan centres during the COVID-19 pandemic. The population is projected to reach over 76,000 by 2041, as the wide range of employment and lifestyle opportunities available in the local government area continues to attract new residents.

### Problem statement

Housing costs have risen significantly, demand for affordable and social housing is not being met and the amount and type of housing being delivered locally is not keeping pace with demand or demographic change.

#### *Changing demographics require housing diversity*

Albury's population is aging, with the proportion of people aged over 65 years approaching 20 per cent in 2021 and projected to grow further. While families with children are still the dominant household type there is a growing trend for smaller household sizes. In 2021 around 31 per cent of Albury households consisted of one person (NSW average 25 per cent), whereas only 3.7 per cent of dwellings were one bedroom. A greater diversity of dwelling sizes is needed.

#### *Rising costs have driven demand for affordable housing*

Over the year to December 2021, the median rental list price increased by 16.7 per cent for a house, 20.8 per cent for a unit. In 2021 there were 1,010 households in Albury (4.3 per cent of total) in need of affordable housing as they were unable to access market-priced rental housing. As at June 2022 there were 504 applicants on the waitlist for social housing in Albury. The expected waiting time for a studio or one-bedroom social housing property is currently 5-10 years.

### Addressing housing needs

In March 2023, Council released the [Albury Local Housing Strategy](#) to guide future planning decisions on locations and types of housing to support population growth. The strategy addresses the themes of supply, diversity, affordability and resilience and outlines clear actions for Council.

Council is looking to boost the proportion of housing stock providing medium and high-density options through projects such as the relocation of the CBD council depot site. This project, a collaboration with Department of Regional NSW, Land and Housing Corporation and Crown Lands would use infill development to provide 300-500 new units, including private, social and affordable housing.

### Housing snapshot

<i>New dwellings</i>	2012	2017	2022
Approvals	248	347	410
Blocks of land available for housing development	456	493	348

#### *Rental properties*

Average monthly rental cost (\$)	-	1,240	1,720
Rental vacancy rate (%)	1.6	2.9	0.7

#### *Derelict housing stock*

New houses derelict stock could provide	Up to 99
% owned by state government	50
% owned privately	50

### Challenges

- Skills shortages within Council impact land release and housing development. A complex state planning system exacerbates this challenge by reducing efficiency.
- Renewal of government-owned derelict housing stock is not possible under the existing NSW Land and Housing Corporation funding model.
- Housing supply shortages are affecting provision of services such as health (Albury Wodonga Health seeks 300 places per night for key workers), education and emergency services as well as the ability of local businesses to attract new workers to the city.
- Housing development is restricted by skills shortages including builders, tradespeople and engineers.

### Opportunities

- Funding to accelerate enabling infrastructure – for example, water and sewer trunk mains, arterial roads, etc.
- The Land and Housing Corporation have identified Albury as a priority area. More sustainable funding is needed for NSW Land and Housing Corporation to increase feasibility of regional projects to address increasing need (waitlists).
- Use regional case studies and advocacy to encourage developers to try high-medium density rather than standard detached house and land.
- Unlock additional sources of land available for new housing, including private land, state owned freehold land, Defence land, vacant council land and Traditional owners' land.
- Roll out training and training incentives to encourage uptake of careers in critical fields like strategic planning, engineering and trades.



### About the city

Ballarat is the commercial capital of Victoria's Central Highlands and a significant tourist destination. As the fourth largest inland city in Australia, Ballarat has a population of over 110,000 people with a growth rate accelerated by housing pressures in nearby Melbourne.

### Drivers of housing demand

Key drivers of housing demand in the Ballarat LGA:

- Young families are attracted by more affordable housing and lifestyle opportunities.
- Construction and major project workers.
- Internal migration to the region, including older people and people from rural areas.

Ballarat's rapidly growing population is projected to reach around 170,000 by 2041 and will require 29,000 more dwellings. Population growth was boosted during the COVID-19 lockdowns in metropolitan areas and has been encouraged by decentralisation of government services. Growth is accompanied by demographic changes – the fastest growing group is those aged over 65, expected to reach 23 per cent of total by 2041 (currently 19 per cent).

### Problem statement

Housing supply and diversity have not kept pace with population growth and demographic change, particularly for those requiring social and affordable housing.

#### Significant shortfall in social and affordable housing

The estimated gap between the number of households requiring housing assistance in the region and the number of available dwellings is 5,021. If current state policy and investment settings for social housing remain unchanged this gap will reach 9,185 dwellings by 2041 – an increase of 4,164.

#### Housing shortage affects services and industry

Limited housing availability and declining rental affordability affect the ability of local businesses to recruit staff, which limits capacity for delivery of services, projects and events. Housing supply shortages are also affecting provision of essential services such as health and education and the ability of the city to attract new businesses.

### Housing snapshot

<b>New dwellings</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2022</b>
Blocks of land available for housing development	-	-	73,600

#### Rental properties

Average monthly rental cost (\$)	1,035	1,130	1,505
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#### House Sales

Average days on the market	65		57
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### Addressing housing needs

The Ballarat City Council has released a draft [Housing Strategy 2023-2041](#), which will be incorporated into the planning system and guide development of new housing to accommodate a growing and diverse population.

The draft strategy identifies areas where up to 29,000 new homes will be accommodated – within greenfield growth areas and the existing city and townships. Improved and simplified state planning systems would help Council to deliver on the strategy, including projects to increase housing density. Funding to support provision of enabling infrastructure, services and amenities will also be critical to success.

Delivering new social and affordable housing is a priority, and key measures for Council include:

- Exploring new delivery models to achieve best outcomes at identified strategic sites.
- Facilitating local partnerships, including MOUs with housing providers to achieve desired housing outcomes.
- Developing clear guidelines for how Council expects developers to deliver social and affordable housing.
- Establishing funding streams e.g. by capturing value uplift generated by rezoning of land in greenfield locations and capturing revenue in urban areas to be developed for social and affordable housing.

### Challenges

- Land activation for new housing is restricted by enabling infrastructure costs, state planning processes, shortage of builders and tradespeople and land banking by developers.
- Developers are less interested in significant levels of infill and CBD development.

### Opportunities

- Activation of a variety of available land types would provide broad economic benefits.
- Removal of rate-capping would support Council to address critical skill shortages that affect housing development and land release.
- Funding to support Council to test innovative approaches in growth precincts, including:
  - o Installing a microgrid and/or virtual power plants;
  - o Sustainable subdivisions and dwelling/built form designs;
  - o Enhancement of biodiversity corridors; and
  - o Neighbourhood/community waste initiatives.

## Case study: Dubbo Regional Council

### About the city

The Dubbo Regional Council LGA covers over 7,000 square kilometres in the Orana region of NSW. The population of more than 55,000 is concentrated in the city of Dubbo and the town of Wellington, with smaller populations residing in a number of villages and the rural areas. Dubbo is a major economic and service centre for the wider region.

### Drivers of housing demand

Top drivers of housing demand in the Dubbo LGA:

- Construction and major project workers;
- Fly in – fly out (FIFO) and drive in – drive out (DIDO) workers – including health services; and
- Tree-changers moving to the region during and post the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The LGA continues to experience significant housing demand, largely driven by population growth linked to economic development. Dubbo is the major urban centre in the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone - development of transmission infrastructure and renewables projects is projected to require 6,000 workers, who will need to be housed within the region.

The region experiences high demand for short-term accommodation due to large scale infrastructure, energy and mining projects, as well as seasonal agricultural employment. Short-term accommodation in Dubbo and Wellington is frequently booked out during the week.

### Problem statement

The growing demand for accommodation in the region is reflected in significant recent increases in house prices (44.5 per cent over 2018-2022), rental costs (45 per cent increase for 3-bedroom dwellings over 2018-2022) and low rental vacancy rates. The expected influx of workers to develop the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone will add pressure to housing supply and rental prices. The impact of the locum health workforce is also creating challenges. More affordable and short-term accommodation is needed to support existing and projected populations.

#### **Housing stock not suited to changing demographics**

Current housing stock in Dubbo and Wellington is mismatched with household composition. One-person households and couple-only households make up around 55 per cent of total households in the LGA (an increase of 6 per cent since the 2011 census), whereas less than 4 per cent of dwellings are one bedroom. A range of housing types, densities and price points are needed to meet population needs.

### Housing snapshot

#### **New dwellings**

	2012	2022
Applications	293	262
Approvals	354	364

#### **Rental properties**

Average monthly rental cost- house (\$)	-	1,840
Average monthly rental cost- unit (\$)	-	1,240
Rental vacancy rate (%)	2	1

#### **Derelict housing stock**

New houses derelict stock could provide	50-99
% owned by state government	90
% owned privately	10

### Addressing housing needs

Dubbo Regional LGA has considerable zoned land and a significant private sector capacity in property development and construction. Dubbo Regional Council is a developer of residential land having two major land holdings Keswick Estate and the North-West Urban Release Area. There is the potential for the development of some 3,500 allotments on this land. Dubbo also has zoned land in private ownership that could realise the development of a further 5,000 allotments. However, to realise timely development of these lands, further government assistance is required including funding for enabling infrastructure (roads, sewer, water connections) and assistance with strategic and infrastructure planning.

Council is actively seeking to densify planned housing developments and to encourage private developers to provide varied products to meet housing demand at a range of price points and dwelling types.

To address social housing needs Council is examining opportunities to incentivise development of affordable housing through Planning Agreements with renewables proponents to assist Community Housing Providers. Development of an affordable housing strategy for the region is a priority.

### Challenges

- Dubbo has considerable land resources, but enabling infrastructure and strategic planning of both land and infrastructure are an impediment to development.

### Opportunities

- A supply of aged Department of Housing stock could be remediated to provide additional housing.
- 3D printing has the potential to deliver additional housing quickly and at a range of price points. Council has set aside three lots at the Keswick Estate for 3D printed houses, following a successful trial of a 3D printed toilet block.
- Council is actively examining options for staged development of temporary workforce accommodation that aims to meet the need for more immediate housing, whilst ensuring a positive legacy is left for the community.

## Case study: City of Greater Geelong

### About the city

With a population of over 276,000, the City of Greater Geelong is Victoria's second largest city and Australia's fastest growing regional city. Located 75km from Melbourne, the municipality comprises more than 50 suburbs and townships across suburban, coastal and country areas and has a diverse and growing economy driven by jobs in healthcare and social services, retail, construction, education and public administration.

### Drivers of housing demand

Top drivers of housing demand in the Geelong LGA:

- Young families attracted by more affordable housing and lifestyle opportunities.
- Growth in service-based jobs including the social insurance industry.
- Internal migration to the region.

Strong population growth and associated demand for housing is driven by Geelong's affordability relative to nearby Melbourne, high quality transport links to Melbourne and attractive job and lifestyle opportunities. The population of Greater Geelong is forecast to grow to more than 393,000 by 2041.

### Problem statement

Strong demand for rental accommodation has led to record low rates of rental affordability, and the availability of private rental, social and public housing options are unable to meet current or projected demand.

#### *Housing shortages affect essential services and industry*

The housing supply shortage, including very low availability of rental properties for new workers moving to the city, is affecting provision of health services and the operation of major local industries, tourism and cultural services.

#### *Social and affordable housing*

Distribution of social housing in Geelong is extremely uneven, and inadequate to meet soaring demand. In 2021 an estimated 5,000 households were in need of social housing, forecast to grow to 13,500 by 2041. Council sites suitable for new social housing would deliver only 1.4% of the overall requirement, and the private sector won't deliver essential social housing without policy reform.

### Housing snapshot

<i>New dwellings</i>	2012	2017	2022
Approvals	2,101	2,617	4,025
Blocks of land available for housing development	38,000		25,000

#### *Rental properties*

Average monthly rental cost (\$)	1,278	1,408	1,920
Rental vacancy rate (%)	-	-	1

### Addressing housing needs

The City of Greater Geelong is implementing its [Social Housing Plan 2020-2041](#) to facilitate an increase in supply of social housing. Mandatory inclusionary zoning is seen as essential to success, so that social housing is provided as part of new developments, to keep pace with demand (4.5% of new developments) and ensure equitable distribution of housing that meets the needs of a diverse population.

There is significant opportunity for increased density and development in infill areas – such as government owned land surrounding train stations or declining industrial areas. Ageing infrastructure (such as 100+ year old stormwater drains) is a key barrier to infill growth, particularly without a clear mechanism for collecting development contributions.

Greater Geelong has access to a significant supply of land that can be utilised for greenfield housing development. Optimal activation of this land would be supported by reforms to state and federal policy and planning systems, including clarity on the role of greenfield developments in future supply, simplified environmental approval processes and long-term infrastructure planning and investment to support development.

### Challenges

- The Victorian Housing Statement emphasises an enhanced role for infill development without supporting strategies to fund infrastructure, strategies to enhance community acceptance and reduction in greenfield supply.
- A strategic approach to biodiversity planning at a state and federal level would create more certainty for development projects and improved environmental outcomes.
- Evolving stormwater management policies and strategies create uncertainty for greenfield projects.
- A lack of financial analysis of the affordability and long-term asset management implications of greenfield and infill growth.
- Housing development is hampered by a shortage of critical skills within council and within the city more broadly, including builders and tradespeople.

### Opportunities

- Increase high and medium density housing to meet growing demand and changing demographics (e.g. trend towards smaller household sizes), with federal and state co-investment in supporting infrastructure such as public transport, streetscape and amenity upgrades.

## Case study: Town of Port Hedland

### About the city

Located 1,800 km north of Perth in Western Australia's North West, the Town of Port Hedland is an important service centre for the region's significant mining and resource industry and is home to the world's largest bulk export port. The Council area covers nearly 12,000 square kilometres of the Pilbara and the population of around 17,000 people is concentrated in the twin settlements of Port Hedland and South Hedland.

### Drivers of housing demand

Key drivers of housing demand in the Town of Port Hedland LGA:

- Construction and major project workers.
- Fly in - fly outs (FIFO, coming to work in the regional mining and resource industry).
- Internal migration to the region.

The resurgence of the mining and resource sector and a \$177 billion pipeline of related investments in the Pilbara has increased job opportunities and created a surge in demand for housing. The strong investment horizon is also increasing migration to the region as people seek opportunities associated with a strong regional economy.

### Problem statement

A lack of affordable housing in the LGA is a handbrake on economic growth and liveability. Average rent is almost \$1,000 per week (compared to \$544 across regional WA) and supply is extremely limited. Housing supply has grown by only 0.2% p.a. since 2017.

#### **Lack of affordable housing restricts growth and amenity**

Liveability is severely impacted as people employed in service industries such as education, childcare, retail, hospitality and tourism, who often earn low or moderate incomes compared to those in the mining sector, are unable to afford housing.

New businesses are apprehensive to invest without certainty they can secure staff. Larger companies commonly supply housing for their staff as an incentive to move to the area and opt to rent or buy rather than commit to new builds, putting further pressure on limited supply.

#### **Building costs are very high**

Building costs are up to 80% higher than Perth, due to higher costs of supplies and labour (competing with wages in the resource industry), limited availability of residential builders and higher costs associated with risk of severe cyclones. Banks are often unwilling to loan the collective cost of purchasing residential land and building a new dwelling.

### Housing snapshot

<b>New dwellings</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2022</b>
Approvals	439	12	11

#### **Rental properties**

Average monthly rental cost (\$)	7,596	1,996	3,540
Rental vacancy rate (%)	1	5	2

#### **Derelict housing stock**

New houses derelict stock could provide	200-499
% owned by state government	40
% owned privately	60

### Addressing housing needs

The Town has made service worker housing a priority over the next 5 years, to increase liveability and support residential growth. Concept plans have been developed for a 76-house service worker development in South Hedland. Council requires funding to progress this opportunity, which is estimated to contribute \$152.4 million in benefits to the Hedland community over 20 years (but will only address 10% of the demand for affordable housing for service workers).

A range of other priorities to address housing needs have been adopted by the Town, including supporting pathways to home ownership and leveraging funding and multi-party agreements for land and housing development. State owned land is available for multi-density development in South Hedland, and residential development in Port Hedland could be facilitated by undertaking site works.

### Challenges

- High costs of renting, buying and building mean large companies frequently opt to use a FIFO workforce or establish temporary camps to house construction workforces.
- Skills shortages within Council, including building surveyors, slows development. This issue affects many LGAs and requires state action to encourage more entrants to these professions.

### Opportunities

- Large potential for tourism industry development in Port Hedland is restricted by high cost of living and comparatively low wages.
- Investment into service worker and affordable housing to support increased services and amenity, supporting liveability.
- Repurposing vacant underutilised properties for short-term or transitional accommodation.





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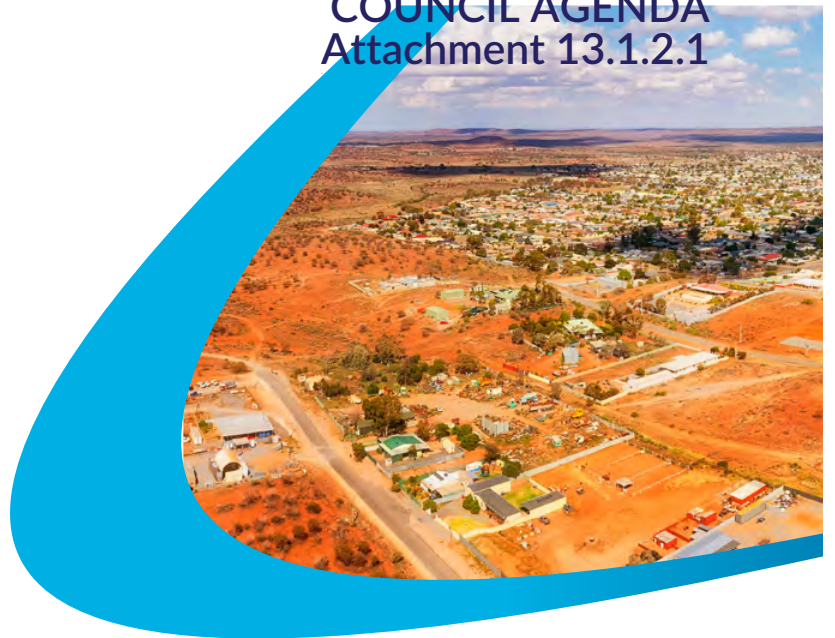




Regional Capitals  
Australia

ANNUAL STATEMENT // 2023





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*Cover images: Clockwise from top left: City of Wagga Wagga; Shire of Broome; City of Busselton & Armidale Regional Council*



City of Karratha

## Message from the Chair

I am pleased to present the Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) 2023 Annual Statement that outlines the work of our alliance to deliver a stronger future for regional capitals across Australia.

Regional Australia continues to thrive in the post-Covid era with city to regional migration rates still up by over 16 per cent on average, compared to 2018/19.<sup>1</sup>

However, shortages of suitable housing, connectivity infrastructure and skilled and non-skilled labour continue to be a roadblock to growing regional economies and RCA is championing the case for appropriate support so the population boom is backed up by the right investment for sustainable growth.

This year, the RCA Board have taken our advocacy efforts to the nation's capital on a number of occasions as the Albanese Government shapes a broad range of policy and programs for future years.

In particular, we have worked hard to ensure that regional grant programs are fit for purpose and I'm pleased to see so many of our recommendations to government reflected in the final program guidelines.

We have also worked hard to highlight the critical role played by regional airports and press the case for funding of these important national assets as well as making sure that regions get their fair share of support to address the housing crisis.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of our member councils for their continued support, advocacy and commitment to the common goals and growth of regional capitals.

It has been a privilege to serve regional Australia during my tenure as Chair, and I look forward to supporting RCA to ensure a viable and secure future for the next generation.

Chair  
Cr Kylie King



“Regional Australia continues to thrive in the post-Covid era with city to regional migration rates still up by over 16 per cent on average, compared to 2018/19.”

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.regionalaustralia.org.au/common/Uploaded%20files/Files/Regional%20Movers%20Index/July%202023/July\\_2023\\_RMI\\_Report.pdf](https://www.regionalaustralia.org.au/common/Uploaded%20files/Files/Regional%20Movers%20Index/July%202023/July_2023_RMI_Report.pdf)



Tamworth Regional Council



Armidale Regional Council

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### Key Activities and Achievements

This year saw a particularly busy advocacy program as the Albanese Government undertook consultation on regional grant program guidelines and aviation.

In addition, shortage of suitable housing, labour and challenges in delivering infrastructure in an inflated market continued to be a challenge and RCA pressed the case for additional investment in these key areas.

The following areas were a key focus of RCA's advocacy:

#### Regional Initiatives

- **Regional Grant Programs:** The Federal Government has opened applications for two new regional funding programs totalling \$1 billion - the Growing Regions Program and the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program;
- **Regional Investment Framework:** New investment framework that establishes a regional development forum for Australian Government agencies to better inform government decisions.
- **Roads:** The extension of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (totalling \$500m for Phase 4);
- **Regional Arts:** The Federal Government's new arts and cultural policy provides \$8.5 million in increased support for regional arts and culture, through a boost to the Regional Arts Fund and continuation of the Festivals Australia Program;
- **Regional Housing:** \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund including a new housing enabling fund for local government to support the development of new housing across Australia. A regional stream will be included in this fund;
- **Migration:** Allocating around 70 per cent of the places in the 2023-24 permanent migration program to skilled migrants and providing an extra two years of post-study work rights to Temporary Graduate visa holders with select degrees.



*Latrobe City Council*

“... shortage of suitable housing, labour and challenges in delivering infrastructure in an inflated market continued to be a challenge and RCA pressed the case for additional investment in these key areas.”

### Regional Funding Programs

RCA has advocated strongly that growing regional capitals need a reliable funding stream for investments in important community infrastructure, with program guidelines that are fit for purpose, efficient and not overly onerous on applicants.

We were pleased to see many of our recommendations accepted by the Government, across both of the new programs: Growing Regions Fund and the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program.

RCA Recommendation	Growing Regions Fund	Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program
Funds to be exclusively allocated to regional communities: excluding suburban and metro projects	Yes - capital cities excluded	Yes - capital cities excluded
Review the stated intention to allow State Governments to access federal regional grant programs	State Governments ineligible for funding	State Governments can apply provided they demonstrate a partnership with local government
That the Government commit to annual rounds of funding	Three rounds committed	Rolling fund - no open or close date
Implement a two-step application process to ensure resources aren't wasted filling in grant applications with little chance of success	Yes - EOI and then full application	No
Guidelines should support the development of a broad range of enabling infrastructure	Yes	Yes, with the exception of housing and emergency management
Funding caps should set Federal contribution at between \$10 and \$50 million and reflect an accurate population planning statistic	Yes - \$500,000 - \$15 million	Yes - \$5 million - \$50 million
Council resources should be used to carry out infrastructure delivery as an in-kind contribution	No	Yes - contributions can be cash or in-kind
Support for business case development	No	Stream 1 provides funding for business case development



Broken Hill City Council

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### Regional Airports

RCA led a delegation to Canberra to advocate for additional support for regional airports in the lead-up to the release of the Government's Aviation Green Paper.

Regional airports are hard-working national assets with a big role to play in the life of regional Australia, and our nation's broader economy and security.

An estimated 200 regional airports are owned and operated by local councils but rising operating, regulation and security costs means that many airports are operating at a loss and a burden on regional ratepayers.

To overcome these financial constraints and to support future growth, RCA is advocating for:

- **Implement a policy recognising the importance of regional airports** in increasing the connectivity of regional Australia and to consider future planning and funding of regional airports;
- **Provide recurrent funding for the Regional Airport Fund** to ensure that regional airports can be upgraded and maintained and that federally mandated security arrangements can be catered for in future years;
- **Upgrade the guidelines for the Regional Airport Fund** to allow for landside developments to be considered; and
- **Review the efficacy of Western Australia's Strategic Airport Asset and Financial Management Framework** (as recommended by the Productivity Commission) to assess the efficacy of the Framework and determine its suitability for application across all jurisdictions.

RCA was pleased to see the challenges facing regional airports acknowledged in the Aviation Green Paper and will be making a further submission for consideration in the forthcoming Aviation White Paper.

**“Regional airports are hard-working national assets with a big role to play in the life of regional Australia, and our nation's broader economy and security.”**

### Renewable Energy

Australia's rapid escalation into renewable energy means that regional communities are now facing unfamiliar territory on the frontline of Australia's renewable energy transition.

RCA developed the Renewables Installation Consultation Paper and has advocated for greater regulatory oversight to ensure communities aren't adversely impacted by renewable energy installations.

RCA has called on the Federal Government to introduce new safeguards to ensure regional communities are appropriately consulted and protected, with a nationally consistent framework that delivers baseline standards for investment and consultation.

RCA is seeking a commitment from the Federal Government to ensure that two key commitments are met as renewable energy projects are rolled out across regional Australia:

- **Ensure that robust community consultation and best practice engagement** is established as a minimum standard and as a regulatory requirement. This should function as a requirement to any proponents seeking to build renewable projects and transmission lines; and
- **Guarantee a seat at the table for regional stakeholders.** It is of paramount importance that affected stakeholders are given a seat at the decision-making table to ensure social licence is obtained, and that benefits and costs are properly considered.

### Housing

RCA has long advocated that a shortage of appropriate, affordable and available housing options has curtailed growth in regional cities. RCA has welcomed the work underway through the Commonwealth Government's National Housing and Homelessness Plan, the Housing Australia \$10 billion Future Fund and the National Accord.

RCA believes that investment is required in the following crucial areas:

- Enabling infrastructure: roads, water and land;
- Managing growth: support for regional planners;
- Maintain and improve existing housing stock; and
- Housing innovation program to recognise and support innovative local projects that can bring housing to market in a timely manner.

RCA was invited to participate in the Regional and Remote Housing Stakeholder Forum, as part of the development of the National Housing and Homelessness Plan.

## Reports and Submissions

RCA continued to inform and shape government policy and decision-making by representing its members' views in important policy areas.

RCA developed the following documents which can be viewed on our website <http://regionalcapitalsaustralia.org>:

- RCA Renewables Installation Consultation Paper;
- Regional Airports Policy and Case Studies;
- Housing Policy Paper; and
- Pre-Budget Submission 2024-25.

## Strategic Relationships

RCA collaborates closely with government, partners and key advocacy bodies to advance the cause of regional capitals and regional Australia more broadly.

- **Regional Australia Institute (RAI):** RCA continues to work closely with the RAI to highlight the potential of regional capitals and address the issues hampering regional growth. RCA was pleased to take a key role in the RAI's Regions Rising National Summit 2023, participating in a panel of keynote speakers discussing progress on the Regionalisation Ambition 2032.
- **National Alliance for Regionalisation:** RCA was one of the founding members of this new national alliance, to progress key targets in the Regionalisation Ambition 2023. The Alliance is the first of its kind for regional Australia, with more than 30 CEO's working together to provide national leadership.

### Members include:

Regional Australia Institute;  
Australian Industry Group;  
Australian Local Government Association;  
Regional Arts Australia;  
Master Builders Australia;  
Insurance Council of Australia;  
Business Council of Australia;  
Small Business Organisations of Australia;  
National Farmers Federation;  
Planning Institute of Australia;  
National Rural Health Alliance;  
Royal Flying Doctors Service;  
Regional Universities Network;  
Australian Regional Tourism;  
Australian Rural Leadership Foundation;  
Engineers Australia;  
Minerals Council of Australia;

Australian Medical Association;  
Migration Institute of Australia;  
National Catholic Education Commission;  
Rural Councils Victoria;  
Real Estate Institute of Australia;  
Royal Far West;  
National Rural Women's Coalition;  
Welcoming Australia;  
Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia;  
Independent Schools Australia;  
Regional Aviation Association of Australia;  
Australian Communications Consumer Action Network;  
Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth;  
Country Education Partnership;  
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute; and the  
Rural Doctors Association of Australia.



*Regional Airports Policy and Case Studies*



*Ballarat City Council*



*City of Greater Geraldton*

## Stakeholder Engagement

RCA is pleased to represent our members' interests at a number of important national forums including:

- **Ministerial Regional Roundtable:** To discuss the strategic challenges facing regional Australia, and provide feedback on key government initiatives in the regional development portfolio.
- **Australian Government Urban Policy Consultation Network:** To provide advice and feedback to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts on urban policy issues including the development of a new National Urban Policy which will shape the direction of Australia's cities.
- **Regional and Remote Housing Stakeholder Forum:** The Australian Government invited RCA to participate in this forum as part of the development of the National Housing and Homelessness Plan, a 10 year strategy outlining a shared vision for housing policy in Australia.
- **Regions Rising National Summit 2023:** RCA Chair Kylie King was a keynote speaker in the opening panel session of the Regions Rising National Summit 2023 in Canberra.
- **SEGRA:** Cr Mathew Dickerson represented RCA at the SEGRA (Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia) Summit in Toowoomba, participating in the opening panel session and also presenting a speech on "Investment and Planning for Regional Cities".



RCA Chair Cr Kylie King presenting at the Regions Rising National Summit 2023



RCA Chair Cr Kylie King at the first meeting of the National Alliance for Regionalisation



Cr Kylie King at the launch of the National Alliance for Regionalisation in Canberra



Cr Mathew Dickerson representing RCA at the SEGRA (Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia) Summit in Toowoomba

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

RCA continued to advocate for members' interests, meeting with a long list of Ministers, Senators and government representatives. These include:

### Government

- Hon Catherine King MP Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government;
- Hon Kristy McBain MP Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories;
- Hon Andrew Giles MP Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs;
- Senator the Hon Carol Brown Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport;
- Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy;
- Senator Anthony Chisholm Assistant Minister for Regional Development;
- Office of the Hon Michelle Rowland MP Minister for Communications; and
- Office of the Hon Julie Collins MP Minister for Homes, Homelessness and Small Business.

### Opposition

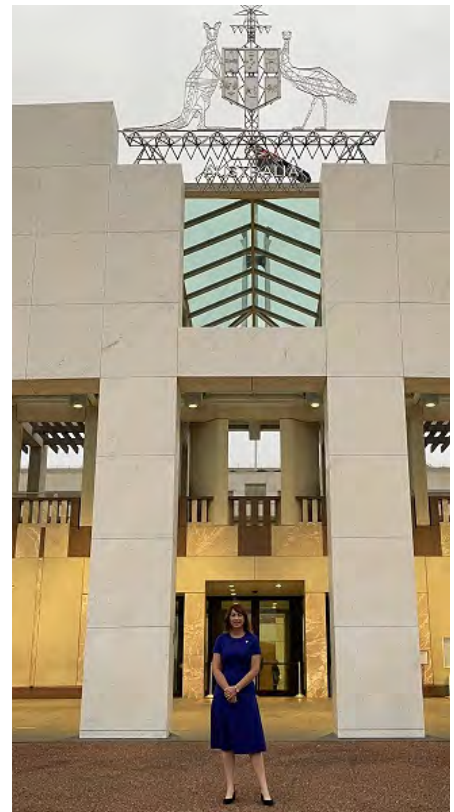
- Hon Darren Chester MP Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories and Regional Education; and
- Hon Michael McCormack MP Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific.

### Department

- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water; and
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.



*Mr Brett Stonestreet General Manager Griffith City Council, Cr Doug Curran Mayor of Griffith City Council, Hon Michael McCormack MP Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Mr Frank Zaknich Chief Executive Officer Albury City Council, Cr Kylie King Mayor Albury City Council, Cr Russell Webb Mayor Tamworth Regional Council*



*Cr Kylie King ahead of a busy day of advocacy in Canberra*



*Cr George Seymour Mayor Fraser Coast Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson Mayor Dubbo Regional Council, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development the Hon Catherine King MP, Cr Kylie King Mayor Albury City Council, Cr Kellie O'Callaghan Mayor Latrobe City Council*



*Tim Ellis, General Manager, Latrobe City Council, Cr Kellie O'Callaghan Mayor Latrobe City Council, Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Cr Kylie King Mayor of Albury City Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson Mayor of Dubbo Regional Council and Cr George Seymour Mayor of Fraser Coast Regional Council*



*Cr Kellie O'Callaghan Mayor Latrobe City Council, Hon Darren Chester MP Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories and Regional Education, Cr Kylie King Mayor Albury City Council and Cr George Seymour Mayor Fraser Coast Regional Council*



*RCA meets with the Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories and Hon Andrew Giles MP Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs.*



*Warrnambool City Council*



*Dubbo Regional Council*

## Media and Communications

RCA uses a wide range of platforms including a website, social media, stakeholder alerts and media releases to communicate our message.



*Regional Capitals Australia website*

This year, RCA has also developed a new newsletter to keep our stakeholders informed about the policy issues impacting regional capitals.

We have continued to engage in the national debate, driving a conversation through the media about regional capital cities and the role they play in the Australian economy.

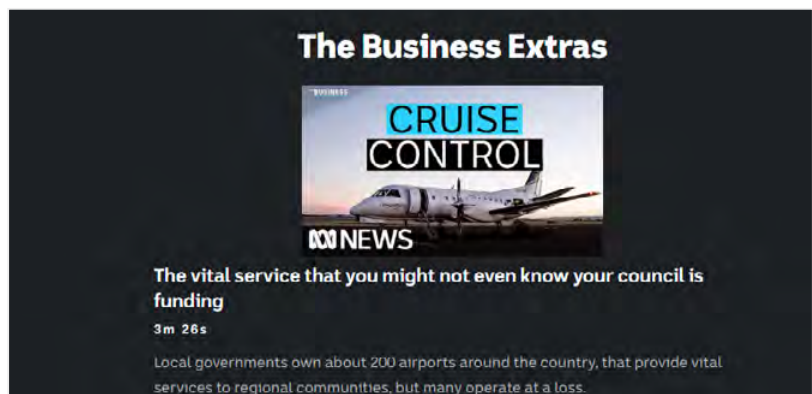
We have engaged in the policy debate at the local and national level, participated in keynote speaking roles at conferences and provided commentary in the lead up to and post the federal budget. RCA continues to be trusted as a voice of reason on regional issues.

RCA has appeared on a range of different media outlets including:

- ABC Radio (various local and national channels)
- ABC TV
- 2SM Radio
- Canberra Times
- Daily Telegraph
- The Courier Mail
- Triple M Victoria
- Warrnambool Standard
- Farm Online
- Border Mail
- Ballarat Courier
- 4CCC Cairns



*Regional Capitals Australia Newsletter*

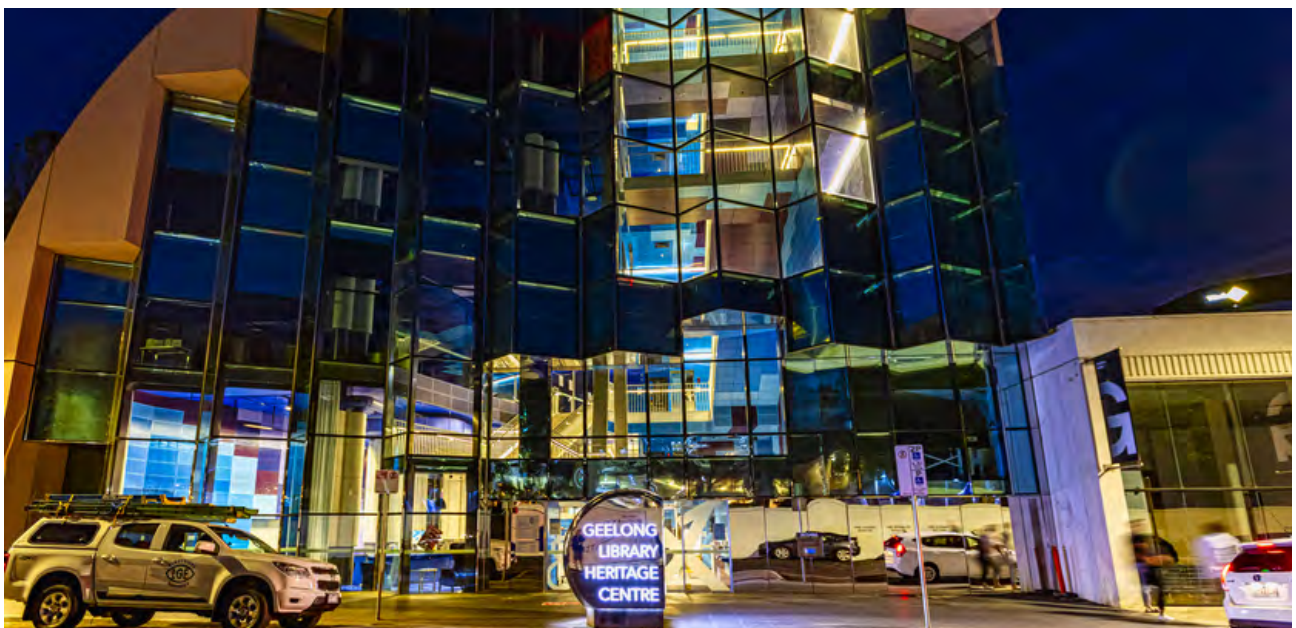


*Terzon, E. Cruise Control. ABC [The Business TV and online](#) . 18 September 2023*

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Quirk, C. Regional Capitals Australia wants new safeguards to protect regional communities. [The Standard](#). 12 July 2023




Greater Geelong City Council




RN DRIVE →

## Regional airports stuck in limbo, lobbying for federal funding

Broadcast: Tue 19 Sep 2023 at 5:27pm



A commercial passenger plane takes off at the Mount Gambier Regional Airport. (ABC South coast SA, Salma Terzon)

Share   


For listeners in regional Australia, their closest airport play a vital role in accessing medical and emergency services and boosting tourism to the regions.

But of the hundreds of regional airports across the country, 200 are owned and

Price, K (Producer). Regional airports stuck in limbo, lobbying for federal funding. [ABC RN Drive](#). 19 September 2023

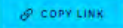

## Local governments push for more regional airport funding as ratepayers subsidise dozens of council-owned facilities

The Business / By business reporter Emily Terzon  
Posted Mon 18 Sep 2023 at 5:18am



A new study estimates around 50 per cent of regional airports owned and operated by councils are subsidised by ratepayers. (Supplied: Ives)

Help keep family & friends informed by sharing this article

abc.net.au/news/regional-airports-lo...  

Terzon, E. Local governments push for more regional airports funding as ratepayers subsidise dozens of council-owned facilities. [ABC The Business TV and online](#). 18 September 2023

ABC RADIO MELBOURNE | THE CONVERSATION HOUR →

FULL EPISODE

## Why regional airports matter

ABC Radio Melbourne  
Broadcast: Wed 20 Sep 2023 at 11:00am



Why regional airports matter

Share   

O'Shea, B (Presenter). Why regional airports matter. [ABC Radio Melbourne](#). 20 September 2023

Friday, Today 15°/22°

**The Daily Telegraph**  
www.dailytelegraph.com.au



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




Bush Summit


**EXCLUSIVE**

## Great Migration: What's driving one in five Australians to plan regional move?

Sick of unaffordable homes and the exhausting rat race of city living, more than three million people living in capital cities are thinking about chasing their dream of moving to a regional or rural area. But there's one thing holding them back.

Angira Bharadwaj  

@angira...      



Click to watch

DAILYTELEGRAPH.COM.AU | 54:19  
More Australians are willing to swap the city for the bush

LATEST NEWS

Bharadwaj, A. Great Migration: What's driving one in five Australians to plan regional move? [The Daily Telegraph](#). 8 August 2023.



*Albury City Council*



*Griffith City Council*



## Who we are

Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) was formed in 2012 to represent the interests of Australia’s regional capital cities.

Our objective is to ensure these needs are reflected in national policy and funding priorities. Regional capital cities perform a ‘capital city’ role within their regions, providing a central point of access to essential services, commerce, employment and education. These services are accessed by local residents as well as those in surrounding towns and rural areas.

Regional capital cities also provide a liveable alternative for people and businesses wishing to escape Australia’s congested metropolitan cities. Every year regional capital cities generate \$225 billion, or more than 16 per cent of national economic activity. All RCA members have a growth agenda and stand ready to ensure a growing Australia means a stronger and more equitable regional Australia.

Through the executive and representatives of each member council, RCA advocates to the Federal Government and agencies on issues that are specific to the regions.

The governance team is made up of a national forum of Mayors and CEOs and is governed by a board of nine councils and led by the Chair and Deputy Chair.

### Executive Board Governance

- **Chair:** Cr Kylie King, Mayor Albury City Council;
- **Deputy Chair:** Mayor Jaysen de San Miguel, Mayor City of Bunbury;
- **Secretary:** Mayor Mathew Dickerson, Mayor Dubbo Regional Council; and
- **Treasurer:** Mayor Shane Van Styn, City of Greater Geraldton.

### RCA Executive Board

State	Representing Local Government
Victoria	Latrobe City Council
Western Australia	City of Busselton
New South Wales	Griffith City Council
Queensland	Fraser Coast Regional Council
Northern Territory	Alice Springs Town Council



*Cr Kylie King,  
Chair*



*Mayor Jaysen de San  
Miguel, Deputy Chair*



*Mayor Mathew  
Dickerson, Secretary*



*Mayor Shane Van Styn,  
Treasurer*

## Membership

RCA member councils are at the forefront of setting our policy agenda and shaping our strategy for advocacy to the Federal Government.

Throughout each financial year, members are invited to contribute to a wide range of advocacy opportunities where councils can have their say on behalf of their city and region.

This includes:

- Input into policy submissions;
- Participation at RCA networking events;
- Participation at delegations to Canberra (non-board members can attend one per year);
- Involvement in surveys and evaluation;
- Participation in case studies; and
- Engagement with research partnerships.

Membership is \$10,000 plus GST per financial year.



*RCA board meeting in Canberra*

### The following cities are members of RCA

- Albury City Council;
- Armidale Regional Council;
- Ballarat City Council;
- Broken Hill City Council;
- City of Busselton;
- City of Greater Geraldton;
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder;
- City of Karratha;
- City of Wagga Wagga;
- Dubbo Regional Council;
- Fraser Coast Regional Council;
- Greater Geelong City Council;
- Griffith City Council;
- Latrobe City Council;
- Shire of Broome;
- Tamworth Regional Council;
- Town of Port Hedland; and
- Warrnambool City Council.

“Regional cities are the most liveable and desirable destinations in Australia...”

## Planning for Regional Growth

Regional cities are the most liveable and desirable destinations in Australia, with people continuing to choose regional living in record numbers.

Looking ahead, RCA's policy priorities for 2024 are:

1. Continue to advocate for a national population plan that recognises and plans for the growth of regional capital cities;
2. Continue to participate in consultation for the design of the National Urban Policy to ensure the urban design of regional cities are planned for;
3. Continue to advocate for regional airports in the whitepaper development and the 2024 budget;
4. Continue to advocate for regional housing in the National Housing and Homelessness Policy development;
5. Continue to participate in consultation and advocate for regional migration in the Migration Review and associated design of any new system.




*City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder*



*Town of Port Hedland*

Audit Report 2022/23



A.B.N.: 16 112 842 994  
PO Box 59, Geraldton WA 6531  
66 Chapman Road, Geraldton WA 6530  
Phone: 08 9564 4700  
reception@midwestfinancial.com.au

Accountants and Business Advisors

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**TO THE MEMBERS OF**  
**REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA INC.**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Regional Capitals Australia Inc. (the association) which comprises the committee's report, statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023 and the statement of profit or loss for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.



*Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The committee of Regional Capitals Australia Inc. is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012 (VIC)* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks or material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.



We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

*Independence*


In conducting our audit, we have complied with applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

*Auditor's Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report of Regional Capitals Australia Inc. presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Regional Capitals Australia Inc. as of 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012 (VIC)*.

*Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Regional Capitals Australia Inc. meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012 (VIC)*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



**JIM DILLON – CPA 699724**  
**GERALDTON**

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 2023

## Balance Sheet

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA INC			
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
AS AT 30 JUNE 2023			
	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>BANK</b>			
Regional Capitals Australia Inc		9,883	32,124
Regional Capitals Saver		35,408	45,106
<b>TOTAL Bank</b>		<u>45,291</u>	<u>77,231</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Accounts Receivable		154	-
Prepayments		-	-
GST		4,130	9,937
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>4,284</u>	<u>9,937</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>49,575</u>	<u>87,168</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable		-	44,598
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>44,598</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>44,598</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>49,575</u>	<u>42,560</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Current Year Earnings		7,005	(20,978)
Opening Bal Equity		3,310	3,310
Retained Earnings		39,260	60,228
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>49,575</u>	<u>42,560</u>

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

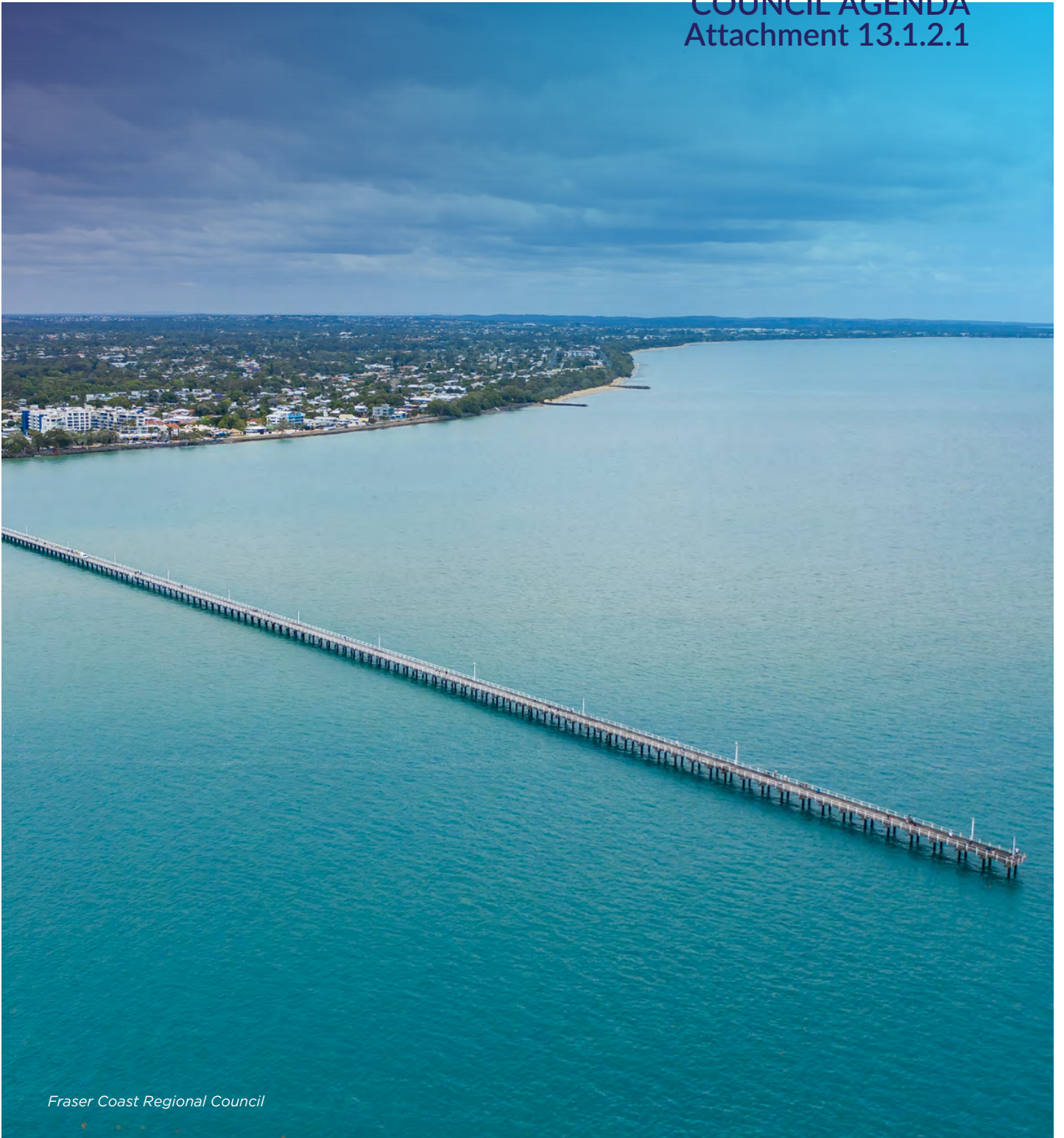
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Profit and Loss

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA INC			
PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023			
	Note	2023	2022
		\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Interest income		302	4
Other Revenue		3,151	-
Memberships		190,000	165,750
		<u>193,453</u>	<u>165,754</u>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>			
Accounting & Bookkeeping Fees		5,900	5,696
Advertising & Social Media		106	-
Audit Fees		1,250	1,250
Bank Fees		195	125
Delegations & Representatives		13,000	29,000
Events		3,594	5,000
Filing Fees		122	-
Freight & Courier		457	-
Meetings		3,771	-
Member communications & media		33,500	46,020
Policy & Research		31,000	30,000
Printing & Stationery		997	-
RCA Meetings Costs		24,888	-
Reports & Publications		-	5,895
Secretarial & Advocacy Services		66,124	56,060
Subscriptions		887	585
Telephone & Internet		-	291
Travel – National		38	-
Website & hosting		619	7,000
		<u>186,448</u>	<u>186,722</u>
<b>NET OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)</b>		<b>7,005</b>	<b>(20,978)</b>

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

3



Fraser Coast Regional Council

**For more information on Regional Capitals Australia, please contact the Secretariat:**

Regional Capitals Australia

PO Box 320, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Rachael Sweeney - Project Manager

Email: [secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](mailto:secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org)

**[www.regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](http://www.regionalcapitalsaustralia.org)**

 regionalcapsaus  RegionalCapitalsAustralia

Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) is compliant with the Copyright Act 1968 (Cwlth) (the Act) as all included works are either owned by RCA and all other original works' authors have been sufficiently acknowledged by providing the title, name of the original author and link to the original work. RCA has provided sufficient acknowledgement of all works included in the Annual Statement. RCA has not reproduced a significant part of any of the included works in the Annual Statement and is compliant with the Copyright Act 1968 (Cwlth).



## COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.1.3
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Community Benefit Scheme Sponsorship Application - Darwin Special Children's Christmas Party
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 4 June 2024
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	City Activation Officer, Tree Gillam
<b>APPROVER:</b>	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Amelia Vellar

### COMMUNITY PLAN

Governance: Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

### PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council approval of a Community Benefit Scheme Sponsorship Application from the Special Children's Christmas Parties to sponsor the annual Darwin Special Children's Christmas Party being held at the Darwin Convention Centre on Saturday 14 December 2024.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Council provides funding through the Community Benefit Scheme (CBS) to eligible community groups and organisations to deliver activities, projects and services that benefit the Palmerston community.
- A bronze sponsorship request has been received from the Special Children's Christmas Parties to the value of \$3,000 to host the annual Darwin Special Children's Christmas Party being held at the Darwin Convention Centre on Saturday 14 December 2024.
- Whilst not being held in Palmerston, this event has significant Palmerston origins, the organiser has shown how Palmerston residents will benefit with 224 invitations provided to Palmerston based organisations.
- The application aligns with the values and objectives of the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Framework, as well as the overarching vision of Palmerston as outlined in the Council's Community Plan.
- While it is noted that Special Children's Christmas Parties operates as a business the *Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Policy* states we do not support businesses unless under exceptional circumstances.
- Council Officers believe that this initiative will directly benefit the Palmerston community, demonstrating our commitment to fostering diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility for all residents.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Community Benefit Scheme Sponsorship Application - Darwin Special Children's Christmas Party be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approve the Special Children's Christmas Parties Sponsorship request of \$3,000, as per **Attachment 13.1.3.1.** to report entitled Community Benefit Scheme Sponsorship Application - Darwin Special Children's Christmas Party, to be funded from the Community Benefit Scheme.

## BACKGROUND

Council provides funding through the Community Benefit Scheme (CBS) to eligible community groups and organisations to deliver activities, projects and services that benefit the Palmerston community.

CBS funding for organisations includes sponsorships, donations, and grants, with Representation Support also available to individuals.

City of Palmerston (CoP) has received a CBS application from Special Children's Christmas Parties (SCCP) to sponsor the annual Darwin Special Children's Christmas Party being held in Darwin Convention Centre on Saturday 14 December 2024 to the value of \$3,000 as per **Attachment 13.1.3.1**.

Council's Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Policy provides governance of the Community Benefit Scheme. Council's policy requires all requests over \$2,000 to be referred by the Chief Executive Officer to council with recommendation. At the time of drafting this Report \$32,930 remains available in CBS funding for future projects and events that benefit Palmerston in this fiscal year. SCCP have submitted all required documentation for the CBS sponsorship and have not received funding from Council in the last fiscal year.

This report seeks Council consideration for a Community Benefit Scheme Sponsorship application from SCCP to sponsor the annual Darwin Special Children's Christmas Party.

## DISCUSSION

The Special Children's Christmas Party originated in Palmerston, delivered at the Palmerston Shopping Centre from 1998 until 2022, by Variety NT. The event has since grown significantly, to the point it outgrew its original location of the Palmerston Shopping Centre, relocating to the Darwin Convention Centre.

Following the recent retirement of a key staff member in the Northern Territory, care of the event was transferred to SCCP, who deliver similar events across Australia. SCCP continues to work closely Variety NT along with local charities, schools, care providers, community groups and government organisations throughout the Top End to select children to attend. The children invited are those who may have one or more of the following: serious illness, a physical and/or intellectual disability, and complex needs.

The aim of the Christmas Party is to provide attendees with the chance to gather and share the magic of the festive season in a safe and inclusive environment, in a community larger than their circle of family and carers, giving them an opportunity to forget about therapies, procedures, and treatments for a few hours allowing them to just have some fun! Attendees are treated to a day of celebrity stage shows, fun rides, interactive games, plenty of delicious food, face painting and many more fun activities.

Whilst the event will not be held within Palmerston and SCCP is a business, Council Officers are supportive of the application as it aligns with the values and objectives of the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Framework, as well as the overarching vision of Palmerston as outlined in the Council's Community Plan. While it is noted that Special Children's Christmas Parties operates as a business the *Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Policy* states we do not support businesses unless under exceptional circumstances as outlined in *Section 4.7 Special Projects. 4.7.4.2 Expression of Interest may be accepted from businesses and individuals if there is clear community benefit.*

The list below shows the various organisations/schools within Palmerston that were invited to attend the 2023 event, with the second column detailing the number of invitations accepted:

Organisation/School Name	Invitations Accepted
Autism NT	1
Bakewell Primary School	43
Darwin Psychology Services	7
Driver Primary School	55
Durack Primary School	10
Gray Primary School	0
Kentish Lifelong Learning & Care Inc	0
Moulden Park Primary SEU	17
Palmerston Christian School	15
St Vincent de Paul Holy Family Conference (Karama / Palmerston)	0
Woodroffe Primary School Special Needs Unit	76
YWCA Family Crisis Accommodation & Support Service Malak	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>

The application aligns to **Council Strategies and Plans** as follows:

**Inclusive, Diverse, Accessible Framework:**

Domain. Community Leisure & Social Participation

2.Collaborative

- Continue to support and promote events and activities run by community organisations and assist organisers to expand accessibility and inclusion options.

The proposal aligns with the CoP Community Plan in the following way:

Outcome 3. Cultural Diversity

Objective 3.2 Recognise and support diversity through our partnerships and leadership.

- Council works with schools and community groups to celebrate and recognise culture and diversity.

**Marketing and Co-Branding Opportunities**

The full extent of the sponsorship is covered in **Attachment 13.1.3.1**.

The SCCP will recognise CoP in the following ways:

- Certificate of appreciation
- Radio advertising for the event on Mix 104.9
- CoP branding displayed on screens at the Darwin Christmas Party
- CoP branding, including hyperlink, displayed on SCCP website
- CoP branding included on post party report

## **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

The following City of Palmerston staff were consulted in preparing this Report:

- Community Facilities Officer

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The application discussed in this report conforms to the Council Policy Grants, Donations and Sponsorships policy.

## **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

SCCP has a plan to acknowledge Council equivalent to the contribution made. There is substantial benefit to Council supporting a bronze sponsorship to the value \$3,000 with increased recognition and logo prominence.

This sponsorship offers increased diversity to the range of activities City of Palmerston supports offering positive brand association and awareness.

The CBS budget for the 2023/2024 fiscal year for grants, donations and sponsorships is \$230,000 \$197,070 has been expended for projects which will benefit the Palmerston community with \$32,930 remaining in the Community Benefit Scheme 2023/24 budget for future projects and events.

## **RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

4. **Inclusion, Diversity and Access**  
Failure to balance meeting needs of Palmerston's cultural mosaic
6. **Governance**  
Failure to effectively govern.

Failure to support SCCP's application that serves Palmerston's inclusive, diverse, and accessible community risks tarnishing the Council's reputation and could be perceived as a disregard for the well-being and inclusion of the vulnerable within our community.

## **COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. 20240404 - Redacted Darwin Christmas Party Application with Attachment [13.1.3.1 - 7 pages]



# APPLICATION FORM

## SPONSORSHIP

### REQUESTS OF ANY VALUE

Organisation Name: The Christmas Party -

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Position of Contact: Project Rep

Telephone: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Postal Address: [REDACTED]

Residential Address: [REDACTED]

Account Name: [REDACTED]

Account Number: [REDACTED] BSB: [REDACTED]

Amount Requested: \$3 ABN: [REDACTED]

Activity Name: Christmas Activity Date: Saturday 14

Location of Activity: Darwin Convention Centre

#### ATTACHED WRITTEN APPLICATION WHICH INCLUDES:

- A copy of the Sponsorship Package which details all levels/categories of sponsorship including costs and benefits to City of Palmerston.

Funding of this proposed activity/event/item will benefit the Palmerston Community, by:

The Christmas Party provides invitations and the schools and service providers located

and relates to the following goals and strategies in the City of Palmerston Community Plan:

The Christmas Party certainly fosters the opportunity for diversity especially the

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 1th

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM WITH ATTACHED APPLICATION TO THE CITY OF PALMERSTON

In Person: Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston

PO Box 1 Palmerston NT 0831

8935 9922

palmerston@palmerston.nt.gov.au

8935 9900

The City of Palmerston complies with the information Privacy Principles contained in the *Information Act* (NT). These principles protect the privacy of personal information collected and held by Council. Council's privacy statement is available from the City of Palmerston, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, or via our website on [www.palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au).

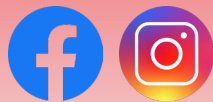
*The*   
**CHRISTMAS PARTY  
DARWIN**

2024 Proposal





The  
Christmas Party  
DARWIN  
PROPOSAL



#sccpau

After a spectacular event in 2023, our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are excited to host the **2024 Darwin Christmas Party** on Saturday 14th December at the **Darwin Convention Centre!**

**The Christmas Party** is a *free*, invitation only, event for up to 1,200 children from Darwin and the surrounding area. We cater for children from birth to the age of twelve, with disabilities, and those living with complex needs. Working closely with Variety - The Children's Charity NT and over 200 other local charities, community groups, mainstream and specialist schools, and service providers, giving them the opportunity to nominate children to attend.

There will be loads of entertainment, activities and interactive displays, rides, a petting zoo, a stage show, plus more! To maintain the energy levels needed to take in the four-hour funfest, there are always lots of yummy treats, including a sausage sizzle, ice cream, chips, fairy floss, lollies, fruit, and drinks just to name a few.

Of course, no Christmas would be complete without a visit from the jolly man in the red suit. A highlight for many is Santa's toy room, filled with thousands of high-quality toys, where each child is gifted 3 carefully selected presents to call their own!

[Click here to view video footage of last year's event.](#)



The aim of the Christmas Party is to provide these children with the chance to gather and share the magic of the Festive Season, in a safe and inclusive environment, with a community larger than their circle of family and carers. Giving them an opportunity to forget about therapies, procedures, and treatments for a few hours, allowing them to just have some fun!

We are proud to submit our proposal for the **2024 Darwin Christmas Party** for consideration. Following are our levels of support. We would be happy to collaborate with you and your budget to tailor a package that satisfies your promotional and public relations objectives. Supporting the **2024 Christmas Party** will enable us to provide these incredibly deserving children with the best day of their lives.



The  
Christmas Party  
DARWIN

PROPOSAL



#sccpau

**Certificate of Appreciation**

For display in your business or social media.



**Radio Spots on Mix 104.9**

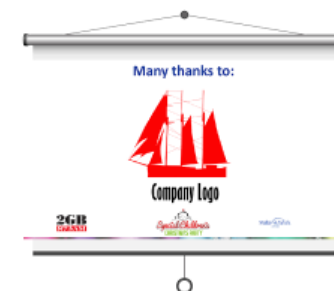
We will acknowledge your support on Mix 104.9 and encourage the community to support your business. From Corporate levels down, your Company will receive Name Mentions acknowledging your involvement with the party. From Bronze level upwards, you are welcome to supply up to 15 words about your business, services, or involvement with the Party.



[Click here to have a listen to a previous ad](#) 

**Logo displayed on Screens at Party**

We will promote your company logo at the event alongside other major sponsors.



**Logo on our website with link**

Your Company's logo will be featured prominently on our website at [sccpau.com.au/darwin](http://sccpau.com.au/darwin) with a link back to your site.



The  
Christmas Party  
DARWIN  
  
PROPOSAL

**Logo on post Party Report**

Your logo included on the post Party Report we send out to all sponsors.

**Logo on back of T-Shirt**

We will have over 100 T-Shirts printed for our volunteers to wear on the day. Your logo will be included on the back of that shirt.

**Logo on TV Ads**

We will schedule at least 100 x 30 second television commercials on Channel 7 that will air from December – January thanking sponsors. Your logo will be included on this TVC. [This is what was aired at the end of last year and the start of this year.](#)

**Corporate Volunteer Opportunity**

Grab the team together and join us on a fun, rewarding day! There is a variety of roles available, but most importantly you will be helping create thousands of smiles and Christmas memories to cherish.






#sccpau



**The  
Christmas Party  
DARWIN**

**Sponsorship Levels**



**#sccpau**



Level	Certificate of Appreciation	Radio Spots Mix 104.9	Logo Displayed on screens at the Party	Logo on website with link	Logo on Post Party Report	Logo on back of T-Shirt	Logo on Channel 7 TV Ads	Contribution (incl GST)
<b>Platinum</b>	Yes	200 x 10 - 15 word	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$30,000
<b>Diamond</b>	Yes	140 x 10 - 15 word	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$21,000
<b>Emerald</b>	Yes	120 x 10 - 15 word	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$18,000
<b>Sapphire</b>	Yes	100 x 10 - 15 word	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$15,000
<b>Ruby</b>	Yes	80 x 10 - 15 word	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$12,000
<b>Gold</b>	Yes	60 x 10 - 15 word	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$9,000
<b>Silver</b>	Yes	40 x 10 - 15 word	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		\$6,000
<b>Bronze</b>	Yes	20 x 10 - 15 word	Yes	Yes	Yes			\$3,000


To support, either [fill in our agreement form](#) or call us on 1300 88 77 36  
Please join us in giving these children a magical Christmas they will never forget!



**The  
Christmas Party  
DARWIN**

**Sponsorship Levels**



**#sccpau**

Level	Certificate of Appreciation	Radio Spots on Mix 104.9	Logo Displayed on screens at the Party	Logo on website with link	Logo on Post Party Report	Logo on back of T-Shirt	Logo on Channel 7 TV Ads	Contribution (incl GST)
<b>Corporate 3</b>	Yes	18 x Name Mentions	Yes					\$2,700
<b>Corporate 2</b>	Yes	16 x Name Mentions	Yes					\$2,400
<b>Corporate 1</b>	Yes	14 x Name Mentions	Yes					\$2,100
<b>Executive 3</b>	Yes	12 x Name Mentions	Yes					\$1,800
<b>Executive 2</b>	Yes	10 x Name Mentions	Yes					\$1,500
<b>Executive 1</b>	Yes	8 x Name Mentions	Yes					\$1,200
<b>Standard 3</b>	Yes	6 x Name Mentions						\$900
<b>Standard 2</b>	Yes	4 x Name Mentions						\$600
<b>Standard 1</b>	Yes	2 x Name Mentions						\$300

To support, either fill in our agreement form or call us on 1300 88 77 36  
**Please join us in giving these children a magical Christmas they will never forget!**

## COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.1.4
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Review of Council Committee Memberships - June 2024
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 4 June 2024
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Executive Assistant to CEO, Kate Roberts
<b>APPROVER:</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli

### COMMUNITY PLAN

Governance: Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

### PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council to appoint its representatives to Council's Advisory Committees required under the *Local Government Act 2019* from 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Section 82 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (The Act) provides Council with the authority to establish and abolish committees.
- The Administrative Review Committee, Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee and Risk Management and Audit Committee are required under The Act and appointment of membership is being sought.
- Council also holds representation on external committees and boards as outlined within this report.
- Advisory Committees and Networks of Council hold no delegation and are appointed to give considered advice and recommendations to the Council.
- Membership held by Elected Members on Committees is reviewed annually.
- All members are welcome to nominate to all advisory and external committees.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Review of Council Committee Memberships - June 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council make the following appointments to the Administrative Review Committee:
  - I. THAT the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to the Administration Review Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  - II. THAT Council note that the Mayor has been previously appointed as Chair of the Administrative Review Committee for the Term of the Tenth Council.
  - III. THAT all other Councillors be appointed as alternate members to the Administrative Review Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.

3. THAT Council make the following appointments to the Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee:
  - I. THAT Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ and Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to the Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  - II. THAT Council note that the Mayor has been previously appointed as Chair of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee for the Term of the Tenth Council.
  - III. THAT all other Councillors be appointed as alternate members to the Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  
4. THAT Council make the following appointments to the Risk Management and Audit Committee:
  - I. THAT the Mayor, Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ and Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to the Risk Management and Audit Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  - II. THAT Council note that the Chair of the Risk Management and Audit Committee is held by an Independent Member, appointed by the Council.
  - III. THAT all other Councillors be appointed as alternate members to the Risk Management and Audit Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  
5. THAT Council make the following appointments to the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee:
  - I. THAT Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as Chair to the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  - II. THAT Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  - III. THAT all other Councillors be appointed as alternate members to the Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  
6. THAT Council make the following appointments to the Community Safety Advisory Committee:
  - I. THAT Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as Chair to the Community Safety Advisory Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  - II. THAT Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ and Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to the Community Safety Advisory Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  - III. THAT all other Councillors be appointed as alternate members to the Community Safety Advisory Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  
7. THAT Council make the following appointments to the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee:
  - I. THAT Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as Chair to the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.

- II. THAT Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  - III. THAT all other Councillors be appointed as alternate members to the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
8. THAT Council make the following appointments to the relevant Palmerston Networks:
- I. THAT Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to the Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee be appointed as Chair to the Palmerston Seniors Network for a period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  - II. THAT all other Councillors be appointed as alternate members to the Palmerston Seniors Network.
  - III. THAT Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to the Community Safety Advisory Committee be appointed as Chair to the Palmerston Safe Communities Network for period 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  - IV. THAT all other Councillors be appointed as alternate members to the Palmerston Safe Communities Network.
  - V. THAT Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to the Community Safety Advisory Committee be appointed as Chair to the Palmerston Animal Management Network for period 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  - VI. THAT all other Councillors be appointed as alternate members to the Palmerston Safe Communities Network.
9. THAT Council appoint or nominate to the following External Organisations and/or Committees:
- I. THAT Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as Council's delegate to the Palmerston Regional Business Association (PRBA), with all other members appointed as alternate members, for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.
  - II. THAT Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as Council's representative to Tourism Top End, with all other members appointed as alternate members, for the period of 1 July 2024 until the Declaration of the Poll following the Local Government Election in 2025.

## **BACKGROUND**

Section 82 of The Act provides for councils to establish Council Committees. A Council Committee consists of the persons appointed by Council resolution to be members of the Committee.

Council has the following Committees established, which are required under The Act:

### Committees

- Administrative Review Committee
- Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee
- Risk Management and Audit Committee

Committees of Council hold no delegated authority. They are a group of suitably experienced people appointed to give considered advice and recommendations to Council for Council's consideration in decision making.

Council has also established Advisory Committees and Networks intended to inform Council on Committee related issues.

### Advisory Committees

- Palmerston Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee
- Palmerston Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee
- Palmerston Community Safety Advisory Committee

### Networks

- Palmerston Seniors Network
- Palmerston Safe Communities Network
- Palmerston Animal Management Network

In addition to Council Committees, Council members are also represented on external Committees and boards. Council currently holds representation on the following external committees and boards:

- Palmerston Regional Business Association (PRBA)
- Tourism Top End
- Top End Regional Organisation of Council (TOPROC)
- Palmerston Division of the Development Consent Authority (DCA)

## **DISCUSSION**

Council's Committees required under legislation are already established. The currently appointed Elected Members including Chairs are available as **Attachment 13.1.4.1**. Those Committee's and their responsibilities are:

### Administrative Review Committee

The Administrative Review Committee is established to review 'reviewable decisions' in accordance with sections 322 and 324 of The Act.

A reviewable decision is a decision or order made by Council or an officer of Council, that is designated as reviewable. The following are designated by The Act as reviewable:

- (a) A decision in relation to the correction of an entry in the assessment record under section 232(1) or 233(7);*
- (b) A regulatory order under section 286;*
- (c) A decision to refuse to suppress a person's details in publicly available material under section 293(5).*

Membership on the Committee consists of the Mayor as Chair and two Elected Members with all other Members appointed as alternative members.

The Committee only meets if a complaint is received. It should be noted that one (1) reviewable decision has been received to Council to date.

During the term of the 10<sup>th</sup> Council, Council may elect to expand designated reviewable decisions if the need arises.

## Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee

The CEO Performance Appraisal Committee is established for the purpose of undertaking periodic reviews in accordance with section 109(2)(c) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* and section 5.1(b) of the *Local Government Guideline 2: Appointing a CEO*.

Membership on the Committee consists of the Mayor as Chair, and two Elected Members, with all other Councillors appointed as alternative members. The meetings are facilitated and conducted by an independent facilitator.

The independent facilitator is determined by mutual agreement between the Mayor and CEO.

The Committee holds an annual performance review and an interim review which occurs once every six months, with recommendations made to the full Council.

## Risk Management and Audit Committee (RMAC)

The Risk Management and Audit Committee plays a key role in assisting Council to fulfil its governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, interview control structure, risk management systems, legislative compliance, ethical accountability, and the internal and external audit functions. Section 86 of The Act requires that all councils establish and maintain an audit committee.

The Chairperson of an Audit Committee cannot be a member of the Council. An Independent Chair is appointed that holds relevant experience in the Local Government Regulatory Framework, finance, and risk management.

Membership on the Committee consists of an Independent Chair, an Independent Member, the Mayor and two Elected Members with all Councillors appointed as alternative members.

The Committee meets a minimum for four times a year at appropriate times in the reporting and audit cycle. The Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference sets out the role and functions of the Committee.

The [RMAC Terms of Reference](#) are located on the City of Palmerston website.

## Advisory Committees:

Each Advisory Committee has a Term of Reference which states membership term of a Councillor will be for one year, by nomination at an Ordinary Council Meeting. This does not stop a Councillor from renominating for a committee at the conclusion of their term. The Chairperson will be a Councillor holding membership to the committee. The committees meet quarterly. Independent members are appointed for a 2-year period and no decision is being sought on independent memberships. The currently appointed Elected Members including Chairs are available as **Attachment 13.1.4.1**.

## Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee (VEAC)

The Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee provides advice to Council relating to actions and priorities relating to the Palmerston Local Economic Plan and its Action Plan.

Membership is being sought for one Councillor as Chair and one Councillor as Member.

The [VEAC Terms of Reference](#) are located on the City of Palmerston website.

## **Community Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC)**

The Community Safety Advisory Committee provides strategic advice to Council on a range of community, social and animal wellbeing issues that may influence the Palmerston By-Laws, Council services and program development. The Committee assists Council to identify, articulate and respond appropriately to new and emerging issues.

Membership is being sought for one Councillor as Chair and two Councillors as Members.

The [CSAC Terms of Reference](#) are located on the City of Palmerston website.

## **Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee (CWAC)**

The Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee provides strategic advice to Council relating to the actions and priorities of the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework.

Membership is being sought for one Councillor as Chair and one Councillor as Member.

The [CWAC Terms of Reference](#) are located on the City of Palmerston website.

## **Palmerston Networks:**

Advisory Committees and Networks hold no decision-making powers, however, are formed with a group of suitably experienced people, to provide advice and recommendation to Council to inform their decision making. Network forums are not formal committees.

### **Palmerston Seniors Network**

The Palmerston Seniors Network (PSN) provides a forum for the community to express concerns relating to seniors and actively participate in creating a more inclusive community. This network aims to ensure that all members, particularly seniors, enjoy equal access to public domains, services, and programs.

By aligning with the goals outlined in the Community Plan, the PSN works to develop initiatives and advocate for changes that promote inclusivity and equal opportunities for seniors in Palmerston.

Through collaboration and engagement, the PSN seeks to enhance the quality of life for seniors and foster a supportive and accessible community environment.

### **Palmerston Safe Communities Network**

The Palmerston Safe Communities Network (PSCN) provides a vital forum for the community and stakeholders to express concerns regarding injury and safety, facilitating active participation in the development of sustainable, community-based programs aimed at addressing crime and reducing injury.

By bringing together diverse voices and expertise, the PSCN ensures that local safety initiatives are both relevant and effective. Additionally, the network plays a crucial role in ensuring that PSCN partners have access to up-to-date information, specialist advice, and support related to injury prevention and safety issues. Through these efforts, the PSCN fosters a collaborative approach to creating a safer, more resilient community in Palmerston.

### **Palmerston Animal Management Network**

The Palmerston Animal Management Network (PAMN) serves as a forum for the community and stakeholders to voice concerns related to animal management. It encourages active participation in developing sustainable, community-based programs that promote responsible animal management and

ownership. By facilitating open dialogue and collaboration, the PAMN aims to address issues such as stray animals, and animal welfare.

The network works to educate the public on best practices for animal welfare, ensuring that all members of the community are informed and engaged in creating an environment where both people and animals can thrive. PAMN strives to enhance the overall quality of life in Palmerston by fostering responsible pet ownership and effective animal management strategies.

### External Committees and Boards

City of Palmerston hold a number of places on External Committees or Boards. The currently appointed Elected Members including Chairs are available as **Attachment 13.1.4.1**.

#### **Palmerston Regional Business Association (PRBA)**

PRBA's aim is to promote and support local business and the community. They engage with an extensive network of contacts in business, government and the community.

Events are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month outside of business hours. Other business events are held, which all members are welcome to attend and may utilise this cost against professional development allowance.

Membership: One Council representative is being sought.

#### **Tourism Top End**

Tourism Top End is a non-profit Incorporated Association committed to the growth of tourism in the Top End.

Council holds full membership and enables a Council representative to attend the monthly general meetings with voting rights. Meetings are generally held on the last Tuesday of each month from 5.30pm, location of meetings are rotated.

Membership: One Council Representative is being sought.

#### **Top End Regional Organisation of Councils (TOPROC)**

TOPROC aims to progress the needs of the Greater Darwin area while providing an opportunity for individual councils to benefit from the broader advocacy platform offered by the Committee.

Meetings are generally held quarterly during business hours for approximately two to four hours. The location for meetings is rotated between Council's. City of Palmerston is the Chair for 2024.

Membership: The Mayor is Council's representative with the Deputy Mayor appointed as alternate member for the 10th Council Term as per Decision Number 10/029.

#### **Palmerston Division of the Development Consent Authority (DCA)**

The Development Consent Authority is established under the *Planning Act*. Upon invitation from the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Council may nominate four persons to fill a three-person vacancy consisting of two members and one alternate member. The term of appointment is for a period of two years and the roles are currently filled until December 2025.

It should be noted by Council that Membership is currently held by:

- Mayor Pascoe-Bell

- Councillor Henderson
- Councillor Eveleigh (alternate member)

## Summary

Committees of Council hold no delegated authority. No change to Committee delegation is being recommended.

Membership held by Elected Members on Committees is reviewed annually, this ensures Members have the capacity to uphold their positions and provides opportunity for Members to nominate to alternate committee positions. Due to the Local Government Elections and Council's caretaker period occurring in 2025, it is recommended that Councillors committee memberships be extended until the Declaration of Poll following the Local Government Elections.

Voting will be by show of hands unless otherwise determined by Council.

## **CONSULTATION AND MARKETING**

Once Membership has been appointed, a list of Council's Committee representation will be placed onto the Council's website.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The following Council Policies apply:

- [Elected Member Allowances and Expenses](#)
- [Code of Conduct for Elected Members and Committee Members](#)

## **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Elected Members (excluding the Mayor) are entitled to claim Extra Meeting Allowance for attending Council Committee Meetings.

It should be noted that the Risk Management and Audit Committee Independent Chair and Member are paid a sitting fee in accordance with the Northern Territory Government Statutory bodies classified for remuneration purposes under class C1.

Any cost associated with membership or events are accommodated within existing budgets.

## **RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Under the Local Government Act 2019 a council can establish and abolish a Council Committee at any time by Council resolution.

One (1) complaint relating to a reviewable decision has been received to date. Any questions to review a decision will form a list and placed onto Council's website in accordance with Section 227(2) of the Local Government Act 2019.

The role of the Mayor is to lead the Council and undertake regular review of the performance of the CEO as describe in section 59e of the Local Government Act 2019. An independent facilitator is appointed to conduct and facilitate the reviews.

Committee Membership is determined by the Terms of Reference for each Committee as approved by Council. Any changes to the number of Elected Members appointed to each Committee will require further decision by the Council.

The *Local Government Act 2019* states under section 95 (7) “Unless the council decides unanimously to take a vote by secret ballot, voting is to be by show of hands.”

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

- 4 Fails to effectively design and implement contemporary governance practices  
Context: Strong foundations to hold the City and Administration to account.
- 5 Fails to make informed and timely decisions  
Context: Ensuring the City and Administration with decision making delegation have access to the right information, at the right time to make decisions on a timely basis.

### **STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS**

This report relates to the following City of Palmerston strategies, frameworks and plans:

- [Communications Strategy](#)

### **COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. 20230606 List of Council Committee Members 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 [13.1.4.1 - 2 pages]



A Place for People

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

### LIST

#### Tenth Council Term

Administrative Review Committee	
Members	Position
Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell	Chair
Deputy Mayor	Member
Councillor Henderson	Member
All Councillors	Alternate Members

Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee	
Members	Position
Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell	Chair
Councillor Garden	Member
Councillor Henderson	Member
Independent Facilitator	Appointed by Council
All Councillors	Alternate Members

Risk Management and Audit Committee	
Members	Position
Clare Milikins	Independent Chair
Steve Bartlett	Independent Member
Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell	Member
Councillor Garden	Member
Councillor Henderson	Member
All Councillors	Alternate Members

Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee	
Members	Position
Councillor Fraser	Chair
Councillor Giesecke	Member
Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell	Ex-Officio Member
All Councillors	Alternate Members

Community Safety Advisory Committee	
Members	Position
Councillor Hale	Chair
Councillor Morrison	Member
Councillor Garden	Member
Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell	Ex-Officio Member
All Councillors	Alternate Members

Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee	
Members	Position
Councillor Eveleigh	Chair
Councillor Henderson	Member
Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell	Ex-Officio Member
All Councillors	Alternate Members



## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

### LIST

Networks	Member	Position
Palmerston Seniors Network	Councillor Henderson	Chair
Palmerston Safe Communities Network	Councillor Henderson	Chair
Palmerston Animal Management Network	Councillor Garden	Chair

\*All other Councillors are appointed as alternate members to each Network.

#### External Committees

Committee	Member
Palmerston Regional Business Association (PRBA)	Councillor Fraser
Tourism Top End	Councillor Morrison
Top End Regional Organisation of Councils	Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell
Palmerston Division of the Development Consent Authority (DCA)	Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell Councillor Henderson Councillor Eveleigh (as alternative member)  <i>Upon invitation from the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, currently filled until December 2025.</i>

## COUNCIL REPORT

1st Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13.1.5
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Regional Australia Institute National Summit 2024
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	Tuesday 4 June 2024
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli
<b>APPROVER:</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli

### COMMUNITY PLAN

Governance: Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

### PURPOSE

This Report seeks Council approval for the Mayor to attend the Regional Australia Institute, Regions Rising National Summit 2024 – The New Frontier (Canberra).

### KEY MESSAGES

- The Regional Australia Institute is the nation's first and only independent think tank dedicated to building robust regional economies.
- The Regional Australia Institute's Regions Rising National Summit 2024 – The New Frontier convenes local, national, and international thought-leaders, change-makers, and influencers in the big conversations about realising this one-in-a-generation investment boom.
- The Summit will focus on a future that has people and place at its centre, whilst we collectively plan for our new frontier and build a legacy.
- Important economic and social transitions are underway, and regional Australia is at the frontline of this change.
- Regional Australia Institute is promoting 'The New Frontier' as a solutions-focussed, nation building event bringing together thought leaders across all sectors of government, industry, academia, and most importantly regional communities.
- This is an opportunity to engage with a broad range of groups and individuals to identify and address the challenges now and into the future of growing cities like Palmerston.
- The report recommends that Council endorses the attendance of the Mayor on behalf of the City of Palmerston.
- Whilst in Canberra the Mayor will also seek opportunities with Ministers and Shadow Ministers, as appropriate, to advocate on behalf of the Palmerston community and to further develop funding partnerships.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report entitled Regional Australia Institute National Summit 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorses the attendance by the Mayor to the Regional Australia Institute, Regions Rising National Summit 2024 – The New Frontier (Canberra, August 2024).

## **BACKGROUND**

The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) is the nation's first and only independent think tank dedicated to building robust regional economies.

The RAI has announced the Regions Rising National Summit 2024 – The New Frontier to be held in Canberra 13 - 15 August 2024, details can be found [here](#).

This report seeks Council endorsement for the Mayor to attend the Summit.

## **DISCUSSION**

The RAI's Regions Rising National Summit 2024 – The New Frontier convenes local, national, and international thought-leaders, change-makers, and influencers in the big conversations about realising this one-in-a-generation investment boom.

The Summit will focus on a future that has people and place at its centre, whilst we collectively plan for our new frontier and build a legacy.

Important economic and social transitions are underway, and regional Australia is at the frontline of this change.

RAI is promoting 'The New Frontier' as a solutions-focussed, nation building event bringing together thought leaders across all sectors of government, industry, academia, and most importantly regional communities.

The Mayor has expressed an interest in attending the Summit as this is an opportunity to engage with a broad range of groups and individuals to identify and address the challenges now and into the future of growing cities like Palmerston.

Whilst in Canberra the Mayor will also seek opportunities with Ministers and Shadow Ministers, as appropriate, to advocate on behalf of the Palmerston community and to further develop funding partnerships.

It is noted that the Chief Executive Officer will also attend.

## **CONSULTATION AND MARKETING**

There was no consultation or marketing required during the preparation of this Report.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications for this Report.

## **BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Mayor will be accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer and/or Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

To attend the Summit, the cost is estimated to be approximately \$4000 per person, which includes flexible flights, accommodation, event costs (entry) and incidentals.

The cost will be accommodated from within the existing operating budget.

## **RISK, LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Important economic and social transitions are underway, and regional Australia is at the frontline of this change. Failure to participate in such events may result in City of Palmerston missing opportunities for our community. In addition, the Mayor will take the opportunity, if possible, to meet with Australian Government Ministers and Shadow Ministers, as appropriate, to advocate on behalf of the Palmerston community.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

6. Governance  
Failure to effectively govern.

## **STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORK AND PLANS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no strategy, framework or plan implications for this Report.

## **COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

I the author and approving officer declare that I do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE**

14.1 Information

14.2 Correspondence

**15 REPORT OF DELEGATES**

**16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

**17 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**18 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 18 June 2024 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

**19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC**

THAT pursuant to *section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

**20 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON**



## MINUTES

### 2nd Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday 21 May 2024

The Ordinary Meeting of the City of Palmerston held in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT 0830

Council business papers can be viewed on the City of Palmerston website [www.palmerston.nt.gov.au](http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au)

*'A Place for People'*



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COUNCIL MINUTES

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Minutes of Council Meeting  
held in Council Chambers  
Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston  
on Tuesday 21 May 2024 at 5:30pm.

**PRESENT**

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**ELECTED MEMBERS**

Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell (Chair)  
Councillor Amber Garden  
Councillor Danielle Eveleigh  
Councillor Damian Hale  
Councillor Lucy Morrison  
Councillor Mark Fraser  
Councillor Sarah Henderson

**STAFF**

Chief Executive Officer, Luccio Cercarelli  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Amelia Vellar  
Acting General Manager Finance and Governance, Emma Blight  
General Manager Community, Konrad Seidl  
Minute Secretary, Jodi Holden  
Executive Assistant to General Manager Finance and Governance, Navya Desamala

**GALLERY**

Three members of staff

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 21 MAY 2024

11339



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COUNCIL MINUTES

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*City of Palmerston acknowledges the Larrakia people as the Traditional Custodians of the Palmerston region. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future leaders and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

2 OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5.30pm.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

Moved: Councillor Garden  
Seconded: Councillor Eveleigh

THAT the apology received from Deputy Mayor Giesecke for Tuesday, 21 May 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/1341 – 21/05/2024

3.2 Leave of Absence Previously Granted

Nil

3.3 Leave of Absence Request

4 REQUEST FOR AUDIO/AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCING

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

5.1 Elected Members

Moved: Councillor Garden  
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

1. THAT the Declaration of Interest received from Councillor Eveleigh for Item 6.1 be received and noted.
2. THAT the Declaration of Interest received from Councillor Morrison for Item 6.1 be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/1342 – 21/05/2024

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 21 MAY 2024

11340



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COUNCIL MINUTES

5.2 Staff

Moved: Councillor Fraser  
Seconded: Councillor Eveleigh

THAT the declaration of interest received from the Chief Executive Officer in items 13.1.2, 22.1 and 22.2 be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/1343 – 21/05/2024

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

*Councillor Eveleigh and Councillor Morrison left Chambers at 5.36pm.*

Moved: Councillor Henderson  
Seconded: Councillor Fraser

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 May 2024 pages 11319 to 11327 and the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 8 May 2024 pages 11332 to 11335 be confirmed.

CARRIED 10/1344 – 21/05/2024

*Councillor Eveleigh and Councillor Morrison returned to Chambers at 5.38pm.*

6.2 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Nil

7 MAYORAL REPORT

Moved: Mayor Pascoe-Bell  
Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT Report entitled Mayoral Update Report - April 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/1345 – 21/05/2024

8 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)

Nil

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 21 MAY 2024

11341



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COUNCIL MINUTES

10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

10.1 Moving Confidential Items into Open

10.1.1 ANZAC Day 2024

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh  
Seconded: Councillor Hale

1. THAT Report entitled ANZAC Day 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council enters into a partnership agreement with the Returned and Services League of Australia Palmerston Sub Branch Inc. for an amount of up to \$18,000 for the delivery of ANZAC Day for 2024 as outlined in this report.
3. THAT Council continue to liaise with the Returned and Services League of Australia Palmerston Sub Branch Inc. for the submission of a multi-year grant agreement for future ANZAC Day services in Palmerston.
4. THAT this Decision be moved into open following the execution of the partnership agreement with the Returned and Services League of Australia Palmerston Sub Branch Inc.

CARRIED 10/1264 - 19/03/2024

10.1.2 City of Palmerston Enforceable Undertaking Update - May 2024

Moved: Councillor Morrison  
Seconded: Councillor Eveleigh

1. THAT Report entitled City of Palmerston Enforceable Undertaking Update - May 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT the decisions relating to Report entitled City of Palmerston Enforceable Undertaking Update - May 2024 be moved to the Open minutes of the Ordinary Meeting Tuesday 21 May 2024.

CARRIED 10/1361 - 21/05/2024

10.2 Moving Open Items into Confidential

Nil

10.3 Confidential Items

Moved: Councillor Morrison  
Seconded: Councillor Fraser

THAT pursuant to Section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and section 51(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following confidential items:

Item	Confidential Category	Confidential Clause
23.1	External Presentation	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government</i>

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_



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COUNCIL MINUTES

		Act 2019 and section 51(1)(e) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.
25.1.1	Appointment of Committee Member	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(ii) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.
25.1.2	Advocacy	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.
25.2.1	Legal Advice	This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(a) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual. This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(c)(ii) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2021</i> , which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law. This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> and section 51(1)(d) of the <i>Local</i>

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_



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COUNCIL MINUTES

		Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.
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CARRIED 10/1346 – 21/05/2024

11 PETITIONS

Nil

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

13 OFFICER REPORTS

13.1 Action Reports

13.1.1 Immediate Priority Grant Acquittal

Moved: Councillor Morrison  
Seconded: Councillor Hale

1. THAT Report entitled Immediate Priority Grant Acquittal be received and noted.
2. THAT Council approves the acquittal of the Immediate Priority Grant at **Attachment 13.1.1.1** contained in this Report entitled Immediate Priority Grant Acquittal.

CARRIED 10/1347 – 21/05/2024

Chief Executive Officer left Chambers at 5.41pm.

13.1.2 Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee Terms of Reference

Moved: Councillor Morrison  
Seconded: Councillor Garden

1. THAT Report entitled Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee Terms of Reference be received and noted.
2. THAT the tabled document entitled Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee Terms of Reference replace **Attachment 13.1.2.1**.
3. THAT Council endorse the adoption of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee Terms of Reference as **Attachment 13.1.2.1** of report entitled Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee Terms of Reference.

CARRIED 10/1348 – 21/05/2024

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 21 MAY 2024

11344



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## COUNCIL MINUTES

Chief Executive Officer returned to Chambers at 5.46 pm.

### 13.1.3 Business Survey Results

Moved: Councillor Fraser  
Seconded: Councillor Hale

1. THAT Report entitled Business Survey Results be received and noted.
2. THAT the City of Palmerston Business Survey outcomes be referred to the Palmerston Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee for consideration and advice back to Council on potential future actions.

CARRIED 10/1349 - 21/05/2024

### 13.2 Receive and Note Reports

#### 13.2.1 Palmerston Local Economic Plan 2021 - 2031 Update

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh  
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

THAT Report entitled Palmerston Local Economic Plan 2021 - 2031 Update be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/1350 - 21/05/2024

#### 13.2.2 Community Benefit Scheme - April Update

Moved: Councillor Fraser  
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT Report entitled Community Benefit Scheme - April Update be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/1351 - 21/05/2024

#### 13.2.3 Financial Report for the Month of April 2024

Moved: Councillor Garden  
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT Report entitled Financial Report for the Month of April 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/1352 - 21/05/2024

#### 13.2.4 Major Capital Projects Update - May 2024

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh  
Seconded: Councillor Fraser

THAT Report entitled Major Capital Projects Update - May 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/1353 - 21/05/2024

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 21 MAY 2024

11345



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COUNCIL MINUTES

13.2.5 Community Safety Advisory Committee Minutes - 14 May 2024

Moved: Councillor Hale  
Seconded: Councillor Morrison

1. THAT Report entitled Community Safety Advisory Committee Minutes - 14 May 2024 be received and noted.
2. THAT the unconfirmed Community Safety Advisory Committee minutes provided as **Attachment 13.2.5.1** to report entitled Community Safety Advisory Committee Minutes - 14 May 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED 10/1354 - 21/05/2024

14 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Information

Nil

14.2 Correspondence

Nil

15 REPORT OF DELEGATES

Nil

16 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Nil

17 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

18 NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Moved: Councillor Eveleigh  
Seconded: Councillor Henderson

THAT the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 4 June 2024 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Plaza, 1 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.

CARRIED 10/1355 - 21/05/2024

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 21 MAY 2024

11346



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COUNCIL MINUTES

19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

Moved: Councillor Fraser  
Seconded: Councillor Garden

THAT pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and section 51(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

CARRIED 10/1356 – 21/05/2024

20 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AND MEDIA LIAISON

Nil

The open section of the meeting closed at 6.01pm for the discussion of confidential matters.

The closed section of the meeting opened at 6.01pm.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.17pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials: