



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



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Mayor's Message

After a great wet it is lovely to slip into the glorious days of the dry season and enjoy the cooler nights and beautiful clear blue day time sky. Fishing and camping are on the agenda. COVID permitting, of course.



It is also a time to review some recent highlights of the past year. I am very pleased to say that Council is on track to complete the largest capital works program ever for the Litchfield Municipality. Our productive mango roads project, which has had a focus on improving connectivity, road safety and freight efficiency is near to completion. Only Kentish Road works remains to be done, and this is all set to be complete by the years end.

The lease for Mira Square, at Southport has been signed and this will provide the residents of Southport with a reserve space for community gatherings and recreation. It was wonderful for the Southport Progress Association to be able to hold its 150 +1 years History of Southport celebration at Mira square in June. It was a great morning spent learning about our local history and the characters who have featured in the development of this part of our Municipality.

Speaking of local history, the Friends of Taminmin Library (FOTL) has recently established a new group to celebrate and promote an awareness of the history and heritage within the Litchfield Municipality area. The Litchfield History Group is a sub-committee of FOTL and will hold regular meetings and events that engage and promote an awareness of our history. Few of us know the origins or stories behind our community and there is a wealth of details and stories out there that help reveal how changes over time have impacted the lives we

lead today. Locations and objects in your community, sometimes things as mundane as street names, reflect the heritage of past generations in our space. I am certainly looking forward to following the activities of this new community group.

Our Municipal Plan and Budget for 2021-22 has been passed by the Elected Members at the June Special Meeting of Council. The upcoming budget is one that sees a strong focus on maintenance of our \$510 million asset base at an acceptable standard and providing services, information, and resources to our community. We will spend \$6.6m on capital works which include pathway and asset renewals and road safety upgrades. Our community recreation reserves, of which we have 8, will receive over \$1m. Approximately \$40,000 (revenue from recycling) will be provided in Community Grants. We will implement some new initiatives over the next 12 months. You can read about the exciting Territory first 'Going Green' rebate to be implemented to support our families in this Newsletter.

Planning for the future is strong and you can have absolute confidence that Council is positioning itself well to meet the challenges of today and those that will be present in the future.

As I mention frequently in communications, advocacy is a critical part of improving and maintaining our spaces across the Municipality. Top of this list right now is engagement in the process and planning for the areas of Holtze, Kowandi and Virginia to ensure that the area stays in Litchfield and is developed with the appropriate amenity. Thanks to the many residents who have expressed their opinions on this development both to myself and to NT Government. Council has taken seriously the need for planning to coordinate efficient development to meet the needs of both existing and future residents and is unanimous in the embrace of its role in servicing this community.

Local Government elections will be upon us in the next few months. Most people who are eligible to vote are also eligible to run for council. There are seven elected member Councillor positions needed for Litchfield - 2 for each of the 3 wards and Mayor. So, if you are passionate about your community, someone who likes to get things done, are willing to learn and participate, being on Council is a rewarding challenge.

Stay safe. Stay well. Enjoy our beautiful weather and the fantastic space in which we live.

Mayor Maree Bredhauer



Municipal Plan and Budget 2021-22

Over the past few months, long term planning, works delivery, grant funding, community feedback and survey outcomes have resulted in the development of the final Municipal Plan 2021-22. This Plan reports our budget commitments for the 2021-22 financial year, includes the Long Term Financial Plan 2021-22 to 2030-31 and details Council's focus for the next 12 months. To view the Municipal Plan 2021-22 visit Council's website www.litchfield.nt.gov.au





MANGO ROAD UPDATE

Kentish Road is the fourth and final road to be completed in the Productive Roads jointly funded project between the Federal Government, Northern Territory Government and Council. 3.2km on Kentish Road will be upgraded from a gravel road to a sealed road. Works includes a new major culvert crossing providing commuters with an all-weather connection. Council has been in contact with residents of Kentish Road and the project is expected to be complete at the end of this year's dry season. This joint venture has had a very successful outcome with the success being evident this mango season when productivity is set to increase due to the four sealed roads.

FREDS PASS ROAD UPGRADES

The Freds Pass Road shared path project is now complete with road safety upgrades undertaken on Freds Pass Road adjacent to the Humpty Doo Shopping Centre.

The upgrades included the installation of a new, safer crossing point, line marking and the continuation of the shared path.

This is another stage in the delivery of the Shared Path Plan, developed to improve the connectivity in the Litchfield Municipality.



FREDS PASS RURAL SHOW UPDATE

On Thursday 6 May 2021, the Freds Pass Rural Show Committee met and made the decision not to proceed with the one-day community event that was to be held in lieu of the Freds Pass Rural Show.

The Committee advised Council there were many obstacles that they had been negotiating over the months leading up to the decision to arrive at a date that suited all stakeholders, with no luck.

When referring to the work that had already been undertaken to deliver a one-day community event, the Committee stated, 'It was a great concept and we appreciate the Council's collaborative approach and willingness to work with us to achieve a community event.'

The Freds Pass Rural Show Committee has since launched its online version of the Freds Pass Rural Show.

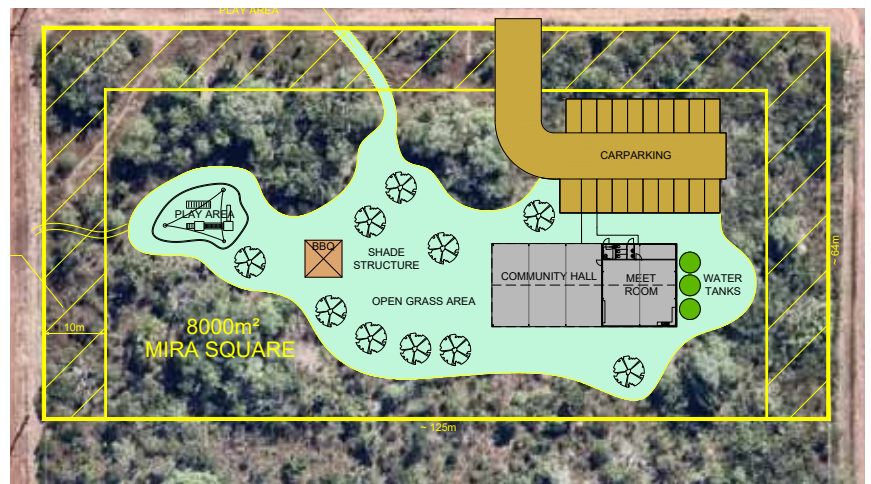
Council looks forward to seeing the results from the online show and wishes the new Committee all the best in making 2022 a big year for the much-loved Rural Show.

MIRA SQUARE RECREATION RESERVE

The Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program has provided Council with funding of \$300,000 to build a new community hall and gathering space at Southport. Mira Square will become Council's eighth recreation reserve.

The facility in Southport will not only receive a new community hall, but they will have a formalised car park, playground, BBQ area, shaded picnic tables and chairs and open green spaces.

This recreation reserve will be a great addition to the 151-year-old historic Southport and provide the small community and its visitors with a great meeting place.



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Central Ward

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EAST Ward

Kirsty Sayers-Hunt

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Works Update

Community Building

A new community building will be constructed on the current Council office site at 7 Bees Creek Road. This building is set to provide the community with a space to hold public meetings and other community activities.

The construction of the building is fully funded by the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program.

Pathway Renewal

The final segments of the Whitewood Road Pathway Renewal Program is scheduled to be complete by October 2021.

The pathways along Whitewood Road between Stow Road and Good Shepherd Lutheran School and the final segment from opposite the Howards Springs Tavern through to Wadham Lagoon will be upgraded.

Road Safety Upgrades

Council's commitment to road safety is included in this year's Municipal Plan with \$50k allocated to conduct Road Safety Audits at five schools in the municipality.

These reports will be used to inform the immediate safety upgrade requirements and longer-term upgrades that can be considered in the development of future budgets.

More information will be made available when the audits have been undertaken.



Palmerston Environs Subregional Land Use Plan

Recently the public consultation period ended for Stage one of the Palmerston Environs Subregional Land Use Plan.

Litchfield Council understands that there is some anxiousness in the community about the proposals from the Northern Territory Government (NTG) and the possibility of land in the Litchfield Municipality being handed to Palmerston.

Since early May there has been ongoing communication regarding these matters between Litchfield Council, City of Darwin, City of Palmerston, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet and other stakeholders.

Litchfield Council categorically object to the potential boundary changes including in the Holtze/Kowandi and Virginia areas. While the Holtze and Kowandi areas remain with Litchfield Council, we will be in a much stronger position to influence the manner in which these areas develop rather than from a purely city perspective only.

Council has provided a submission to the public consultation process and looks forward to further correspondence with the NTG.

Going Green Rebate

A Litchfield Council resident presented a new initiative to Council to reduce waste to landfill through a 'Going Green' rebate program. Council has taken on board this project that provides a reusable cloth nappy and sanitary items rebate in a bid to reduce landfill.

3.75 million disposable nappies are used each day in Australia and New Zealand.

Disposable nappies take up to 150 years to break down in landfill.

Cloth nappies and reusable sanitary products are environmentally friendly alternatives; washed in full loads and dried on the line can help minimize water and energy costs.

Litchfield Council is pioneering the Going Green Rebate for cloth nappies and sanitary items in the Northern Territory.

Residents living in Litchfield can apply for either or both of the rebates available up to \$150. Terms and conditions apply.

Reducing waste to landfill is high on Council's agenda with a number of programs in place to incentivize the community to recycle. One program is the successful cash for container scheme where all funds are distributed through a grant program benefiting the community.

The Going Green Rebate is an incentive that is beneficial to individual residents as well as providing great benefits environmentally.

For more details or to apply for this rebate from 23 July 2021, visit Council's website www.litchfield.nt.gov.au



Dog De-Sexing Vouchers

Council is offering de-sexing vouchers to provide residents with financial assistance to de-sex their dogs.

If you are a resident of the Litchfield Municipality and your dog is currently microchipped and registered, you can apply now for a \$100 voucher off the cost of your dogs de-sexing.

De-sexing your dog is important and can provide many benefits such as:

- De-sexed dogs may be much less likely to escape from your property, become lost or fight with other dogs,
- Various forms of antisocial and nuisance dog behaviour may be eliminated,
- De-sexing stops the 'heat' cycles in females,
- Your dog may become more content and settled, and less likely to display anxious or aggressive behaviour,
- By de-sexing your dog you may reduce the risk of cancer or other diseases of its reproductive organs, and
- The community is not burdened with the cost of dealing with dumped litters of puppies and unwanted dogs.

Application

De-sexing Initiative

Application for Litchfield Council \$100 De-Sexing Voucher

Dog owner's details
 Name: Phone:
 Address where dog is kept:
 Postal address:
 Email:

Dog's details
 Name: Breed:
 Sex: Age: Colour:
 Microchip No.: Animal No.:

Declaration:
 • I am a resident of the Litchfield Municipality
 • My dog is microchipped and registered with Litchfield Council
 • The information contained in this application form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

Signed: Date:

Please submit the completed application form by

Email	council@litchfield.nt.gov.au
In person	Council office, 7 Bees Creek Road, Freds Pass
By mail	PO Box 446 Humpty Doo NT 0836

OFFICE USE ONLY
 Voucher # Issued By:
 Animal # Date Issued:
 Voucher valid for 3 months. Exp Date:

LITCHFIELD COUNCIL
 Litchfield Council is committed to encouraging responsible dog ownership within the community. For more information please contact Council's Animal Management team on 8983 0641

Your dog. Your responsibility.

Did you know, 80% of dogs that are lost or wandering which are picked up by Council Rangers are NOT de-sexed? If they are lost and wandering and not de-sexed they could be unknowingly contributing to unwanted litters of puppies.

For more details, eligibility or to fill out an application form, visit Council's website www.litchfield.nt.gov.au

Community Survey

The 2021 Annual Community Survey is open until 16 July for public comment. We need as many people as possible to contribute to the survey to make Litchfield the best place to live in the Top End. The survey is all automated and is easy to fill out. Please give five minutes to contribute.

Responses to the survey provide Council with information to better understand the community's satisfaction in how Council manages services and facilities. The community survey is just one method Council uses in future planning for the municipality. To have your say, head to www.yoursay.litchfield.nt.gov.au





Send your
articles and
photos to
newsletter@litchfield.nt.gov.au

We want
to hear
from you!

Have you got
something
to share
with the
community?

Have you got your personal items?

Take that little bit of extra time to...

STOP... take a moment,

LOOK... where are your personal items - have you left anything behind that could be a target for thieves?

LOCK... don't leave your bag, wallet or mobile phone unattended. Keep them with you at all times.



For more information visit
nhwnt.org.au [f nhwnt](https://www.facebook.com/nhwnt) [i nhw_nt](https://www.instagram.com/nhw_nt)

Let's tell the
community what you
have been doing.

email:
newsletter@litchfield.nt.gov.au

to have your news and
photos in the newsletter



Mayor Maree Bredhauer and Litchfield Citizen of the Year 2021 Therese Balanzategui met Young Australian of the Year Isobel Marshall and her business partner Eloise Hall.

Register on Your Say Litchfield to be kept up to date on projects, have your say on important matters in the community and have this newsletter emailed directly to you.

We want to hear from you!
yoursay.litchfield.nt.gov.au



There are numerous ways you are able to contact Council or keep up to date with Council projects, events and activities that are taking place.



Visit the Council website: www.litchfield.nt.gov.au



Follow our Facebook page www.facebook.com/litchfield.council



Email us: council@litchfield.nt.gov.au



Call us: **8983 0600**



Visit us: **7 Bees Creek Road, Freds Pass**