



# Strategic Plan 2022-2025

LITCHFIELD  
COUNCIL







# WELCOME TO OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

I am proud to present the Litchfield Council Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

The Litchfield Municipality is the heart of the Top End and boasts a diverse, inclusive community with prosperous economic industries.

The vast size of our municipality presents Council with some challenges, but it is our uniqueness that makes Litchfield the best place to live in the Top End.

The Litchfield Council Strategic Plan 2022-2025 provides the community with our intentions over the next four years and how we will achieve our vision. It defines Council's vision, mission, strategic priorities and how the community can be involved along the way.

The Plan identifies opportunities to ensure Council remains responsive to the community's needs and can adapt to change including population growth and technologies.

Council will continue to develop Litchfield as 'the best place to live, work, and play in the Top End'.

**Doug Barden**  
Mayor

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Litchfield Council, acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future.



## YOUR COUNCIL

### Mayor - Doug Barden

As Mayor, I feel it is very important for the Councillors, community, and staff to work as a team. To achieve this, I feel strongly about listening and providing direction, while keeping in mind good governance, respect, integrity, and accountability. It is important for Council to keep within budget and continue to successfully apply for grants to improve our services and facilities.

### Deputy Mayor and North Ward - Mathew Salter

I believe in maintaining our rural lifestyle, which means living within our means, getting good value for money, but importantly, listening to our community. I am passionate about retaining our unique lifestyle and want to keep rural, rural.

### Central Ward - Andrew Mackay

My primary focus for Council is ensuring good decisions are made by Council to keep Litchfield and the rural areas a great place to live with a focus on the community. I also have a strong interest in roaming dog management, empowering community groups, keeping spending in line with revenue and am committed to being approachable, transparent, and honest.

### Central Ward - Kevin Harlan

I would like our Elected Members to be more open, transparent, and accountable. I want to find efficiencies to reduce costs and minimise rate increases where possible. Our rural community can continue to be an active, supportive, and vibrant place to live, if we are all willing to contribute to and participate in maintaining it. Keep rural, rural.

### North Ward - Rachael Wright

I am keen to see all demographics of our communities' best interests represented. My commitment to the rural area is genuine and passionate. I am willing to be a strong voice for us all. I look forward to being a great asset to Council and our community.

### South Ward - Emma Sharp

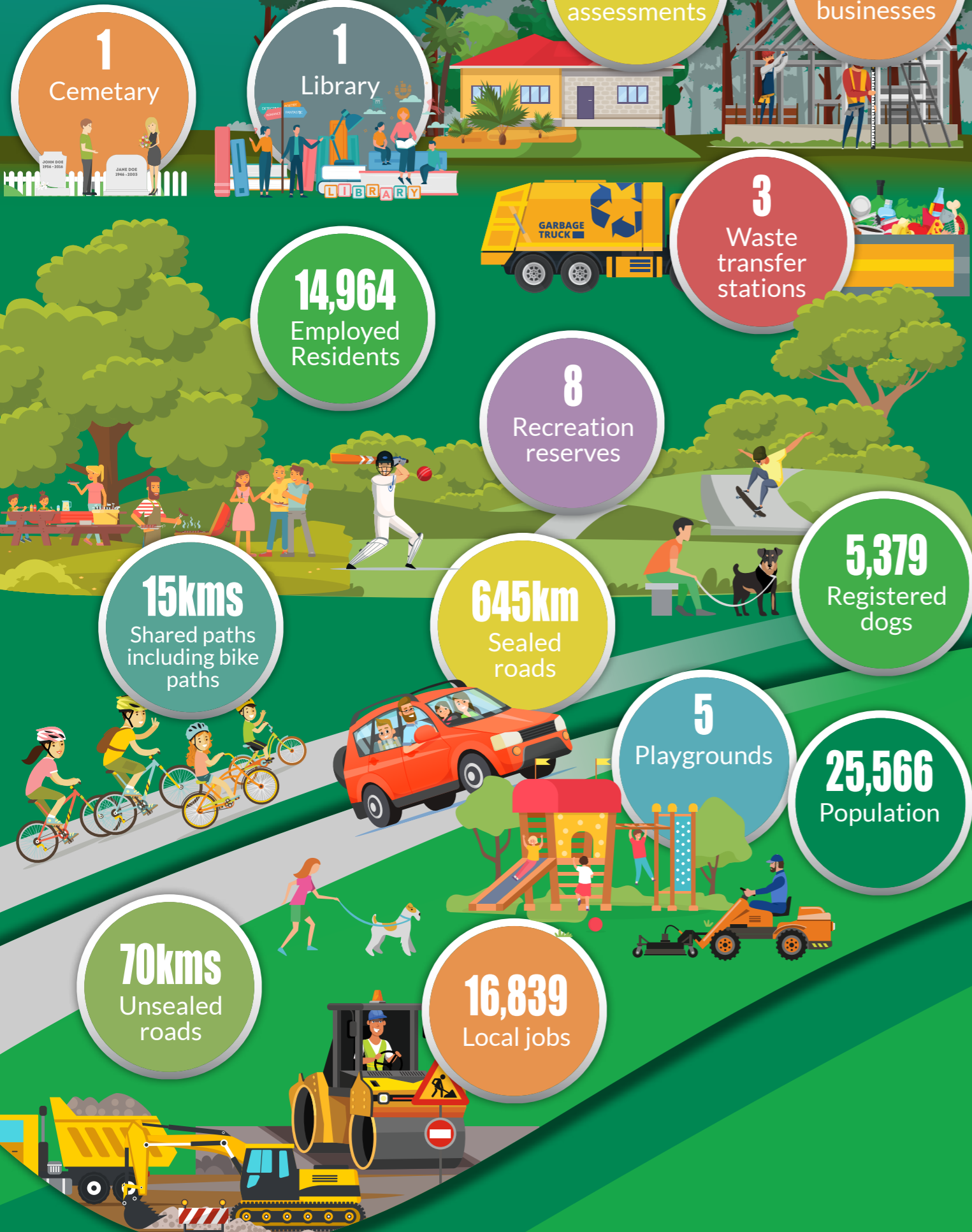
I believe a Councillor should act as a strong advocate, which is a passion I have developed over the past five years in my personal projects. My main focus for my tenure on Council is to be the conduit between local government and the rural people to help promote, sustain, and enjoy the rural lifestyle.

### South Ward - Mark Sidey

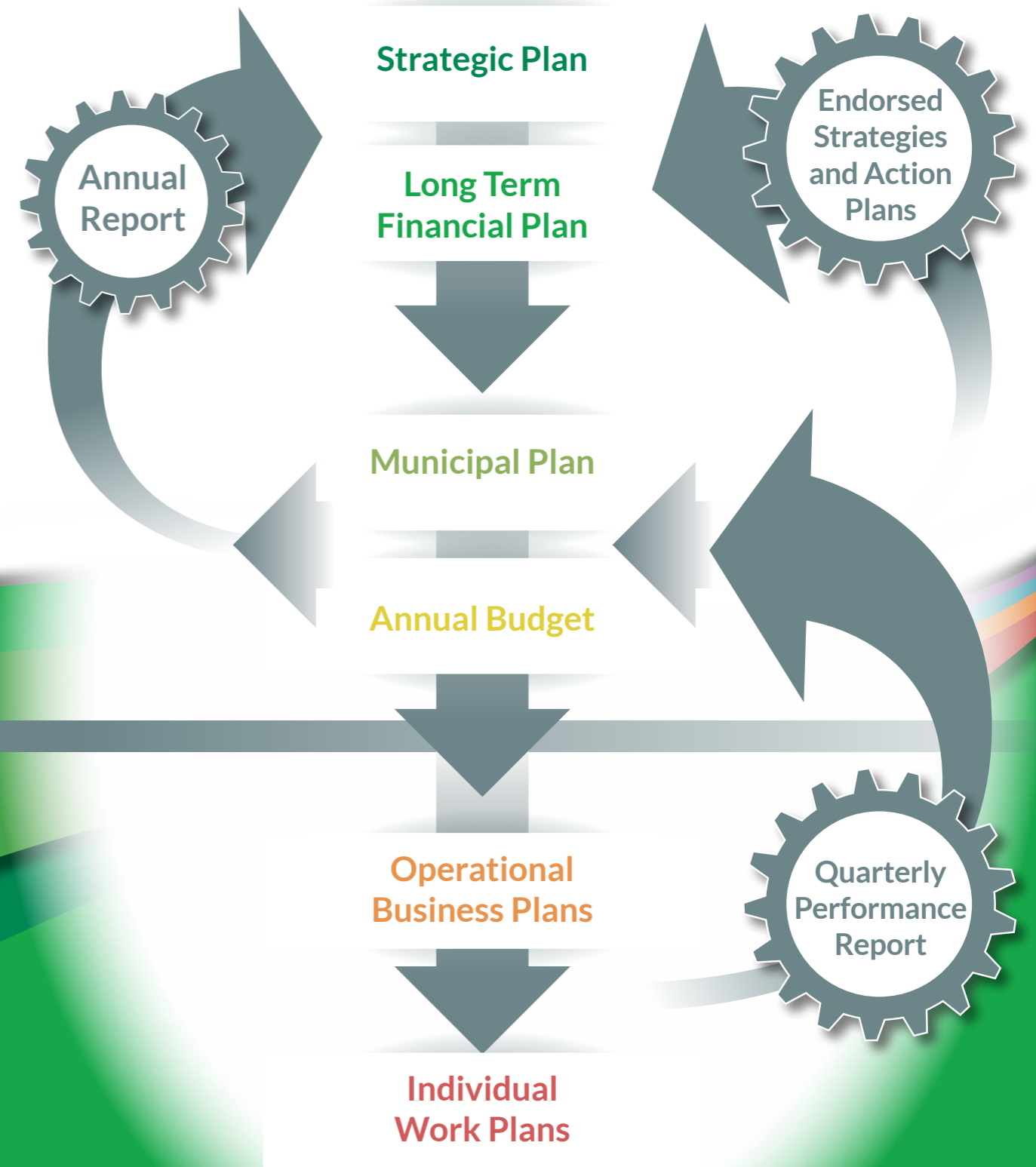
I was elected on a platform of greater transparency, more consultation with constituents and re-focusing Council's direction back to providing core services at the lowest possible cost. I am passionate about the community and am a great believer in keeping rural, rural.



# LITCHFIELD OVERVIEW



# LITCHFIELD COUNCIL INTEGRATED STRATEGIC PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK





## OUR VISION:

To be the best place to live in the Top End.

## OUR MISSION:

To remain focused on delivering the priorities in Council's Strategic Plan to help us deliver on our vision for Litchfield –

*To be the best place to live in the Top End.*

## OUR PRIORITIES:

People  
Progress  
Prosperity  
Places  
Performance

## COMMUNITY AND LIFESTYLE



### WHAT OUR COMMUNITY CAN DO

- Participate in and support local groups, events and initiatives
- Use Council's website and social media to remain informed about issues and opportunities facing our municipality
- Become involved in community engagement initiatives and activities
- Reuse, recycle, repurpose
- Maintain property to increase the appeal of Litchfield and minimise the impact of weeds
- Be a responsible pet owner



Our community is at the heart of all we do.

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- Further develop Recreation Facilities and Reserves and support Reserve Committees
- Ongoing support for not-for-profit groups
- Proactively engage NTG on activity centre planning
- Provide an accessible, family friendly library service
- Proactive involvement in animal management
- Develop by-laws in line with community expectations
- Proactively deliver and encourage Waste Management and recycling
- Proactive weeds management, including a focus on Gamba grass
- Improve Councils communication, education and engagement with community and other key stakeholders

### Key supporting plans and strategies

- Sport, recreation and open space strategy
- Animal management plan
- Waste strategy
- Community engagement strategy\*
- Weed management plan
- Social media activation strategy\*

### Key services provided

- Services to babies, toddlers, youth and seniors through the Library and events
- Recreation reserve funding and support
- Animal management services including microchipping
- Recycling opportunities and education



# CONTINUITY OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES



## WHAT OUR COMMUNITY CAN DO

- Provide feedback on Council services



## PROGRESS

The majority of Council's budget each year goes towards providing a very broad range of services and facilities that are valued by our communities.

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- Council will continue to provide services and facilities at best value for our community
- Council will focus on continuous improvement and regularly review service levels
- Where possible, Council will investigate using technology and data to produce more efficient outcomes for our community

### Key supporting plans and strategies

- Municipal Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Customer service charter

### Key services provided

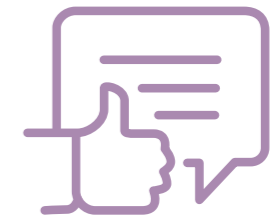
- Continuity of services

## OUR ECONOMY AND GROWTH



## WHAT OUR COMMUNITY CAN DO

- shop locally to support our businesses
- create opportunities for traineeships, work experience and apprenticeships



## PROSPERITY

We will work in partnership with our business community to encourage business success and jobs growth.

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- Investigate potential and funding for a Litchfield signature event
- Full year calendar of events for Litchfield municipality
- Proactively encourage buy local
- Encourage local content in Council tenders
- Support appropriate development aligned to the Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan 2016 and, where possible, incentivise market conditions to increase development
- Encourage small business
- Increased advocacy for improved telecommunications, water security and reticulation
- Proactively investigate and lobby for boundary adjustments that benefit Litchfield
- Support the development of Holtze / Kowandi

### Key supporting plans and strategies

- Tourism and events strategy
- Advocacy strategy
- 320 Arnhem Highway masterplan

### Key services provided

- Planning and development support
- Cross promotion of small business

# ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



## PLACES

Council has a road network of 645km of sealed roads and 70km of unsealed roads and \$510m of infrastructure. Building and maintaining this infrastructure takes up a significant portion of Council's annual budget - estimated to exceed \$10M over the term of this Council.

### COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- Undertake a review of Council's roads delivery program, with an emphasis on advocating for sealing Council's unsealed roads
- Continue to advocate for water security to all our communities and industries
- Maintain community infrastructure where people can connect (community halls and recreation reserves)
- Maintain community infrastructure to meet required standards
- Continue to develop asset management plans that drive efficient infrastructure spend

#### Key supporting plans and strategies

- Asset management plan - Roads, Cemetery, Plant and Fleet
- Shared path plan

#### Key services provided

- Road construction and maintenance
- Infrastructure maintenance

### WHAT OUR COMMUNITY CAN DO

- Report any issues with roads and infrastructure to Council via Snap, Send, Solve

# AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT ORGANISATION



## PERFORMANCE

In partnership with our community and stakeholders, our Council will deliver best value through a focus on sustainable and efficient delivery of corporate and community services.

### COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- High level delivery of the Strategic Plan via the annual Municipal Plan and Budget
- Budget performance and financial sustainability
- Customer centric and value for money service provision
- Focus on job satisfaction for staff
- Ongoing business improvement
- Advocate for increased grant funding

#### Key supporting plans and strategies

- Long term financial plan
- Municipal plan
- Advocacy strategy
- Customer service charter

#### Key services provided

- Corporate services (finance, human resources, IT)
- Customer focused service
- Targeted advocacy

### WHAT OUR COMMUNITY CAN DO

- Participate in our annual community survey



[www.litchfield.nt.gov.au](http://www.litchfield.nt.gov.au)



[litchfield.council](https://www.facebook.com/litchfield.council)



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