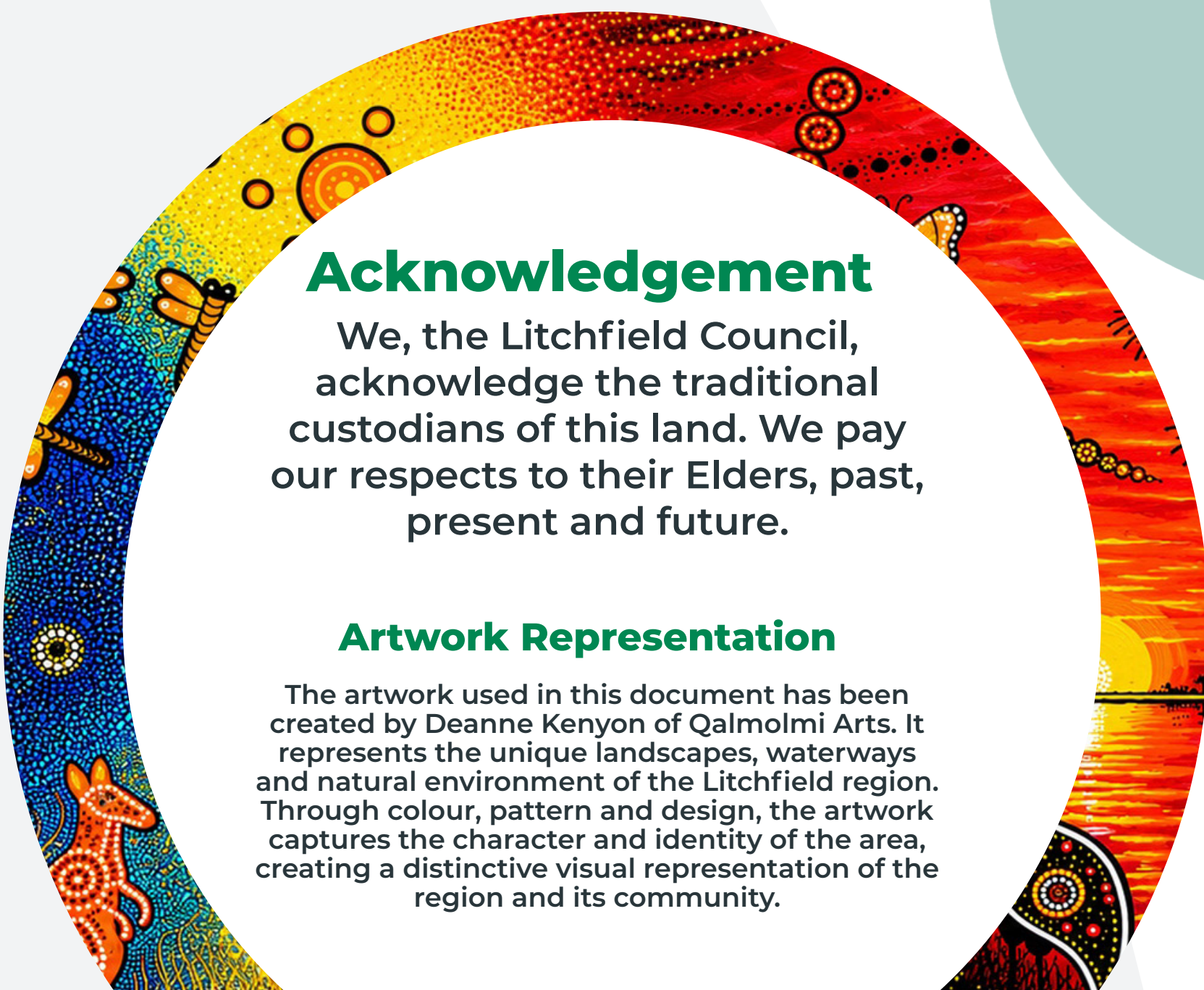




Strategic Plan 2026–2029





Acknowledgement

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

Artwork Representation

The artwork used in this document has been created by Deanne Kenyon of Qalmolmi Arts. It represents the unique landscapes, waterways and natural environment of the Litchfield region. Through colour, pattern and design, the artwork captures the character and identity of the area, creating a distinctive visual representation of the region and its community.

Message from the Mayor and CEO

We are proud to introduce Litchfield Council's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, setting a clear and purposeful direction for our growing municipality.

Litchfield is entering an exciting new chapter, as we embrace growth, strengthen our identity and plan for a vibrant and sustainable future.

As one of the fastest growing municipalities in the Northern Territory, our community continues to evolve. Growth in population, development and infrastructure brings opportunities, challenges and responsibilities. We are committed to ensuring this growth is well planned, sustainable and reflective of what our community values most.

This Strategic Plan reflects strong input from our Elected Members and outlines how we will deliver meaningful outcomes through a clear and focused approach.

At the heart of this plan is our community. We are committed to strengthening connection, belonging and pride across Litchfield, while maintaining the unique rural lifestyle, natural environment and strong sense of identity that defines our region.

The plan is guided by five strategic pillars - **People, Progress, Prosperity, Places and Performance** - that set out how we will:

- Support a connected and active community
- Deliver smarter, customer-focused services
- Grow local economic opportunities
- Create accessible and valued places
- Provide trusted leadership and accountable delivery.

Together, these priorities reflect our focus on balancing growth with lifestyle, improving service delivery, strengthening local identity and planning for a sustainable future.

We look forward to continuing to work alongside our community to shape Litchfield as a place where people choose to live, work and visit.



Rachael Wright
Mayor



Stephen Hoyne
Chief Executive Officer

Our Region



Understanding this Plan

Council's Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework



Informed by:

Endorsed Strategies and Action Plans
Operational Business Plans
Individual Work Plans
Legislation

Our Vision for Litchfield

Where people belong, communities thrive, and future generations flourish

Our Mission

To build trust through action, strengthen our communities, and create a resilient Litchfield where everyone can thrive

Our Priorities



People



Progress



Prosperity



Places



Performance



People

Our Community and Lifestyle

Goal

To strengthen connection, belonging and pride across Litchfield by building a region where people choose to live, work and visit.

Strategic Actions

- Strengthen and promote a strong and clear '**Litchfield identity**' reflecting its rural character, environment and community values
- Increase Council's visibility through **proactive engagement**, communication and participation in community events and local groups
- Deliver **community events** and programs that encourage participation and connection
- Provide accessible community **information** through a centralised hub (e.g. Council website) including events, activities and local group directories
- Maintain and enhance parks, reserves and recreation facilities to support healthy, active lifestyles
- Build and support strong partnerships with community groups, reserve committees, sporting clubs and **volunteers**
- Support not-for-profit organisations and young people through the **Community Grants Scheme**.
- Deliver an accessible, family-friendly **library** service, expanding programs, digital resources and initiatives to meet diverse community needs, support lifelong learning and strengthen social connection
- Deliver animal management services that support responsible **pet ownership** and community safety
- Deliver effective waste and recycling services while promoting **sustainability** community education

How our community can help

- Help shape services and priorities by sharing ideas, feedback and experiences through consultation, engagement and everyday interactions
- Participate in community events, programs and initiatives that build connection, inclusion and wellbeing
- Work with Council to promote respect, understanding and a sense of belonging for all community members
- Be responsible pet owners by caring for animals, following relevant requirements and helping create safe, respectful shared spaces for everyone
- Reduce waste by reusing, recycling and repurposing where possible, and disposing of waste responsibly to protect our environment and community health

Goal

Deliver customer-focused council services, systems and approaches that are efficient, effective and provide improved community outcomes.

Strategic Actions

- Apply research, data and community insights to improve **service delivery**, ensuring value for money and alignment with community expectations
- Ensure Council services and facilities are delivered at best value, balancing **cost efficiency** with quality outcomes for residents
- Focus on **innovation and growth** when reviewing service levels, ensuring Council adapts to changing community needs and expectations
- Build strong stakeholder relationships to identify opportunities for collaboration, shared solutions and **increase advocacy**
- **Plan and deliver** Council projects and provide feedback on development and municipal growth areas
- Identify and implement innovative approaches to infrastructure delivery, waste management and sustainability initiatives to support long-term resilience

Progress



Our Service Delivery

How our community can help

- Contribute ideas and local knowledge to help guide growth, planning and development
- Embrace innovation, change and new ways of working that support a sustainable future
- Engage in planning processes and provide feedback on infrastructure, projects and services
- Support initiatives that balance growth with environmental, social and cultural considerations
- Work alongside Council to prepare for future challenges and opportunities.



Goal

Showcase our unique rural character, suburban areas and tourist attractions to support vibrant communities, local business growth, visitation and encourage investment.

Strategic Actions

- Increase support for **local businesses** through procurement practices and local supplier opportunities
- Support **workforce development** through internships, traineeships, work experience and staff development opportunities
- Advocate for infrastructure and services that support **economic growth**
- Support appropriate residential, industrial and **commercial growth** while maintaining Litchfield's rural lifestyle values
- Investigate opportunities for a signature Litchfield event that strengthens identity and economic activity
- Expand local **lifestyle and amenity** offerings to support a growing population
- Build advocacy **partnerships** to attract external funding and investment opportunities

How our community can help

- Support local businesses by shopping locally and using local services
- Promote the region by welcoming visitors and sharing positive experiences
- Participate in local events, festivals and activities that strengthen the local economy
- Collaborate with Council, business and community groups to encourage investment and innovation
- Share ideas and opportunities that enhance liveability and economic growth across the region

Goal

To deliver connected, accessible and sustainable places that support growth, community connection and Litchfield's rural identity.



Strategic Actions

- Deliver and maintain essential infrastructure including **roads, drainage, shared paths** and community facilities
- Improve transport **connectivity** and advocate for better public transport options, particularly for older residents, across the municipality
- Redefine the Litchfield 'brand' to include how a sense of place is represented across the municipality
- Strengthen the identity of Litchfield as a place to live, work and visit through improved promotion, branding and community storytelling
- Improve usability and activation of existing **community assets** and underutilised spaces
- Improve **accessibility and inclusion** considerations across Council facilities, public spaces and community places
- Develop and promote a 'Living in Litchfield' resource to support existing and future residents
- Balance **future growth** with protection of Litchfield's rural character, natural environment and community lifestyle

How our community can help

- Report issues and provide feedback on recreation reserves, roads, facilities and open spaces to help inform improvements
- Advocate for better transport by sharing needs and supporting initiatives, especially for older residents
- Contribute to Litchfield's identity by sharing stories and having a sense of local pride
- Assist in the activation of local spaces with events, activities and community use
- Support sustainable growth by welcoming new residents and protecting the local lifestyle



Performance

Our Leadership and Delivery

- Increase **communication** and engagement with the community
- Improve **consultation** approaches to achieve broader reach and more meaningful participation
- Improve how Council communicates financial performance and decision-making to increase **transparency** and community understanding

Goal

To build community trust through transparent leadership, strong governance, effective communication and sustainable service delivery.

Strategic Actions

- Implement an improved Customer Request Management (CRM) approach and process to strengthen responsiveness and **accountability**
- Continue **advocating** for grants and external funding to deliver community priorities and infrastructure
- Continue to **invest** in staff development, leadership and workforce capability

REDUCE

How our community can help

- Provide constructive feedback to help improve services and customer experience
- Work with Council to resolve issues by reporting concerns and sharing information
- Engage with Council initiatives and processes aimed at improving service delivery
- Partner with Council and other levels of government to advocate for positive outcomes
- Support continuous improvement by participating in reviews, surveys and engagement opportunities



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