

Living Darwin 2030 Community Report

Preamble

This document was prepared by a group of Darwin residents who were randomly selected during May 2018 and met as the Living Darwin 2030 Summit. The group included representatives from all Darwin demographics. In a spirit of collective decision making, we committed to a respectful dialogue that included listening to all viewpoints, even when, as individuals, we may hold other opinions.

During the Summit, we saw a range of presentations to help us understand the importance of place, town planning and demographics in shaping the Darwin of the future. We also met with guest speakers who were key stakeholders; representative of business, social order, youth, town planners and Indigenous people.

We were then asked to develop a vision for Darwin in 2030 that would build upon the things we currently love about Darwin, address current gaps and challenges, and provide community direction for the council's strategic plan. We worked collaboratively and constructively to ensure this document captures our consensus views of strategies that we feel will build a vibrant and prosperous Darwin in 2030.

We have approached this exercise to highlight important priorities of Darwin residents. We acknowledge the interconnectedness of these points, as well as the need for complex responses to address some social challenges in our community. We understand that this requires a holistic approach that includes community, council and the Government. We ask that council advocates on our behalf where solutions require collaborative approaches with Government. We feel that productive collaborations between council and Government are essential to ensuring that our vision for Darwin in 2030 is realised.

We thank the council for the opportunity to contribute to this strategic plan.

Vision Statement

The Summit developed the following vision statement options for the Council, as follows;

- 1) Transforming Darwin: Creating a Vibrant Community Together (most popular)
- 2) Darwin 2030 - Alive and Vibrant

Values

The things that the Darwin community value the most are...

Diversity and Acceptance; Embrace our identity through building on our multicultural heritage, creating a sense of belonging

Choice of Lifestyle; maintain our unique laid-back lifestyle, through a connected, active and safe community

Environment; Integrated, sustainable long-term planning, including sustainable and renewable energy resources and recyclable economic initiatives

Sense of community; recognise, enhance and celebrate our identity through active participation within the community

Equality; Leadership that adopts and maintains collaborative and transparent decision making, involving listening and responding to the community as a whole

Strategic Goals

Darwin will be a safe, family friendly city

We want our community to be able to access all spaces regardless of area and feel safe and inclusive. Our council will have the community engaged and aware of all initiatives and programs to ensure their effectiveness

The benefits will see our community connected and have a sense of pride and belonging for the young, the old, families and individuals. Parents/Guardians will have the confidence to allow our youth to explore the outdoor landscapes, safely interact and build/enhance their social skills and reduce future unacceptable behaviour. This will allow our population to stay and further grow.

This will see a community that has confidence with their children to feel safe and inclusive, that can play freely with variety and a sense of togetherness and respect for others. We will have community spaces that are well maintained, clean and accessible for all and used with confidence.

Our community will be responsible pet owners and we can walk around freely without taking precautionary measures.

A community that feels secure with better lighting and council engagement of police and confident that they are protected personally as well as their property.

A community that collaborates with Council to raise maintenance issues, safety issues and beautification of our spaces.

A positive & safe experience for our visitors.

Darwin will be a healthy active community

We will see more facilities that promote health and wellbeing being utilised by all. Our council will engage different groups of age (including youth) & abilities (mental / physical) to understand their changing needs and provide opportunities that are appropriate and relevant

This will then see our community resilient with strong emotional and social wellbeing. Our NGOs / Private Enterprise will be engaged to increase the range of active options/facilities.

Our parks will cater for everyone to allow active involvement such as parents interacting while children are playing safely and all age groups having choice that they can enjoy.

We will see diversity in the use our community facilities with variety of activities that are attractive, contemporary and relevant.

Our community is active on a daily basis that cater for disabled (wheelchair bound).

Darwin is recognised and renowned as a world leader for celebrating our unique, diverse and shared multicultural heritage.

A strong sense of community ownership and pride is built upon a strong identity. This identity is strengthened by celebrating our rich cultural diversity and Darwin's unique place in the world.

This is important as a strong cultural identity is needed to build a greater sense of community ownership, connectedness and belonging. A community that is connected and composed of individuals who feel a sense of family and belonging within their community is of benefit to all. Food, arts and culture offer an opportunity for people of diverse cultural backgrounds to come together with a sense of common identity.

Arts and culture are integral to all aspects of Darwin's success into the future. This extends from community identity and events, through employment opportunities, population growth, economic sustainability, global image and attractiveness.

Darwin is home or a home away from home for people from many different global populations, including local Indigenous populations. By embracing, celebrating and valuing the richness brought by different groups Darwin is a more attractive place to visit and to stay. Positive experiences and learning about culture will encourage temporary residents to plant their roots.

In 2030, Darwin will have a rich blend of new activities that allow exploration and understanding of our heritage and contemporary identity. Celebration of culture will bring the heart, energy and vibrancy of Darwin's identity to visitors and locals alike. These activities will be designed and targeted for relevance to the three main populations of Darwin - tourists, temporary residents and locals. The objective of these activities is to ensure that locals and visitors will have a greater knowledge of the history of Indigenous and other cultural groups in Darwin and how these groups contribute to our modern identity.

Cultural experiences will be enriched by a combination of traditional and innovative solutions. Visually accessible positive celebrations of Darwin's unique heritage and culture within the CBD and throughout the Darwin City Council areas. Other activities will include world class mobile technologies that allow users to discover Darwin in a curiosity driven fashion. One example, is an app that links to location so that users "encounter" stories linked with specific locations around town.

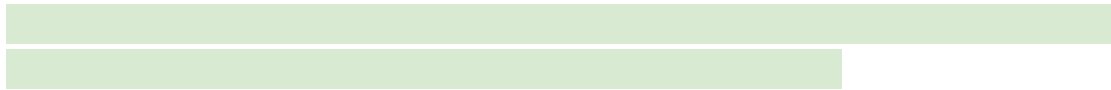
Activities will also include events that celebrate local languages and share this knowledge with the wider community. Walking tours supported by mobile technologies will be

designed to coincide with positive incidental experiences that will linger in the mind of visitors.

Cultural events will be activated across a range of times in recognition of the opportunities for expanding day and night time economies. Council supported events for school aged children will be used to support a deeper sense of community ownership amongst Darwin youth.

Overall, in 2030, Darwin will be a leading global multicultural destination.

NOTE - We acknowledge that the term Indigenous has specific meaning and note that consideration of the appropriateness of this term will be needed.



Darwin Council will collaborate with all levels of government and public / private interests to bring the planning goals to reality

Darwin is to celebrate its unique monsoonal environment that also encompasses its resilient architectural design. We will embrace our location, environment and heritage as we shape our community's future.

To achieve this goal planning should be functional and livable. The council must have greater influence on decisions which relate to building and development in relation to our tropical environment.

By becoming a great tropical city, our residents and tourists will better utilize Darwin's facilities and embrace our tropical lifestyle. A great tropical city will attract and retain people to live, work and invest. Considered decision making based on collaborative transparent and accountable leadership: encourage and activate community engagement in local planning and decision making, promoting shared responsibility for achieving goals.

The achievement of these goals **can be measured with the following metrics:**

- Cooler temperatures in the city
- Greater proportion of CBD and suburbs covered by tree canopy
- All new buildings built strictly following tropical design principles
- More tourist and residents spending more time outdoors
- New private / public developments required to contribute a percentage of the development costs will towards a public infrastructure development fund.
- All new properties, both public and residential, to reflect cooling and sustainable standards
- More public vehicle charging stations with solar street lighting
- Well maintained and continuously connected bike paths (and associated facilities)
- Keep undeveloped land corridors available for future transport options, e.g. don't build on the old railway line
- Environmental and climate change risks are understood, managed and implemented

Attract and retain people and tourists, that leaves a positive lasting impression, and invigorates Darwin's economic growth.

This goal seeks to achieve a better quality of life for the people of Darwin, creating a thriving economy that provides more opportunity and choice for people that live and visit Darwin. A thriving economy will encourage both small businesses and more businesses to establish in Darwin.

Achieving this goal will increase the number of people in Darwin to make the City more socially active and create more opportunities to activate spaces.

A thriving Darwin will encourage tourists to visit and contribute to the Darwin economy.

The residents of Darwin will benefit through a growing population and more employment opportunities creating a place people want to stay.

Creating innovative solutions and supporting emerging business ideas that capitalise on our unique environment and location particularly our proximity to Asia.

Valuing the contribution of NGOs on the economic vitality and enhance the social fabric of Darwin.

Successful supported SMEs will increase population and tourism allowing more opportunities for businesses to develop for the Darwin community. This goal is also important to provide a sustainable economy for future generations.

To provide economic sustainability and investment confidence for residents and businesses will promote Darwin as a location of choice, locally and globally.

We will know that the goal has been achieved when Darwin is a bustling, vibrant, attractive and exciting city. The vacant shops will be tenanted, and business will be growing and contributing to the economy. New and different businesses will be opening and operating.

The ability of business and government to support the role of NGOs can be achieved by allowing them to rent untenanted space at lower rates and the opportunity to receive funding grants.

Smarter, greener designs

Darwin has unique and rich environmental assets. Properly managed these assets will help Darwin continue to a great thriving northern capital. Having a smarter greener design will achieve a more sustainable, environmentally healthy place to live. Darwin community will be recognized for its innovative and smart design globally as it will embrace renewable energy and recycling via both council and community engagement.

Darwin is a young city, so it is ideally placed to implement smarter, greener designs which will demonstrate how cities in the tropics can work in synchronicity with the environs (e.g. through the establishment of a centre of tropical excellence). Darwin City Council will take the lead with working with the people for the future industries and technologies. Darwin will be an attractor for new environmental technology as well as be an inspiration for how to implement smarter greener designs.

By adopting smarter, greener designs, Darwin will become a more attractive livable city, where residents are comfortable to live, play and work all year. These designs will have the benefits of cooler temperatures, reducing air pollution, health benefits. By recognise our footprint on earth and utilising renewable energy supplemented by reduced demand, we will give future generations of Darwin a healthy environment & rich ecology.

If Smarter, greener designs were adopted we would see more green space connecting the community would be observed across the Darwin region as well as more solar infrastructure being used on both public and private property. Nature strips would have more edible plants such as fruit trees, herbs, melons, etc. Water tanks would be available cheaply around the Darwin region, and water conservation laws would be implemented. Shaping the community's future.

Darwin would be world leading green industries such as recycling, which would see it self-providing more materials for the construction and other industries.

By 2030 Darwin will have:

- An increase in the number of well-designed green spaces connecting the community to schools, recreation facilities and workplaces
- A healthy biodiversity
- Greenways and wildlife corridors
- Better integration of remnant vegetation, new vegetation and built environs
- More solar infrastructure being used on both public and private property
- Nature strips would have more edible plants such as fruit trees, herbs, melons, etc
- Water tanks cheaply available around the Darwin region, and water conservation laws implemented

- world leading green industries such as recycling, which would see itself providing more materials for the construction and other industries
- strong community involvement in environmental sustainability (e.g. enable people to wash their reusable containers at markets and food courts or offer biodegradable options)
- Established a centre of tropical excellence
- Healthy, shaded contiguous bike path networks

Darwin Council has the confidence of the community and electorate by being sustainable and accountable through effective communication and collaboration.

The community needs a Council that proactively works with residents and key stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes.

The Council will be representative of the community and electorate, ensuring that people's needs, and interests are acknowledged and valued.

By actively working with the community and involving them in decision making, the Council will make decisions that better reflect our priorities and are better accepted by the community.

Ensure Council is responsive to contemporary issues that affect the long-term sustainability of the city.

Effective coordinated processes and two-way communication will enable the Council to resolve community issues.

The community will be confident in the Council when the focus is on the community's priorities, value for money is being delivered, there is accountability and transparency in its operations and solutions are sustainable over the long term.

If the Council communicates well with us we will better understand what is being done and why, we will feel more included and our high priority needs will be met in terms of safety and services.

- A well-constructed, user friendly and comprehensive website
- Broadly accessible channels of two-way communication
- Effective coordinated action is taken to resolve issues raised by residents and lessons learnt are implemented.
- More regular public forums
- Increased transparency through the dissemination of information
- Engagement with all groups in the community
- Evidence-based decision making rather than being based on hearsay/anecdotal evidence
- Community has better understanding of what the council does and why decisions are made
- Have more specific events/forums (special interests groups)

- We could measure how these goals were being met by having a suite of KPIs - for example, no. of days until complaints are resolved, no. of days until faults (streetlights) are fixed.
- Have a council that is more proactive and assertive in the city planning sphere
- Build confidence in the community by being a smart and innovative council and embracing available technologies