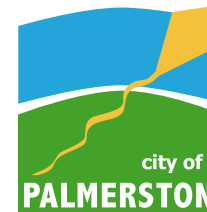


# Welcome to Palmerston...



## Message from Mayor Abbott



Mr Ian Abbott JP, City of Palmerston Mayor

In Palmerston, we proudly boast we're the 'place for people' – and when you get to know our bustling, thriving community it's not difficult to understand why.

Nestled beside neighbouring capital city, Darwin, Palmerston has spent the last 30 years defining our own identity and forging a reputation as a regional capital. With a current population of 32,000, we're on track to welcome at least 1,000 new residents a year to our municipality over the next ten years – making us one of the fastest growing cities in Australia.

While we're only a young Council, we are very proud of what our community has achieved in a relatively short amount of time. Our first resident, Lewis Potterton recalls buffaloes roaming the main street of our CBD just over thirty years ago – from that time we have built major infrastructure plus welcomed a bustling retail and residential community with two major shopping centres, a G.P Super Clinic and 10 established suburbs, with another four well on the way. It's safe to say the wildlife is now largely contained to our award winning parks and green spaces.

As Mayor of this great city, I am committed to keeping Palmerston moving forward - continuing to build world-class infrastructure, encouraging investment in our region, and welcoming new residents from all walks of life to our thriving city.

The Elected Members of the City of Palmerston are working hard to achieve the best possible outcomes for our region. We are proud of our city, proud of the hard work and dedication shown by so many to make Palmerston truly a place for people.

## Palmerston Profile

**Located 20 kilometres south of Darwin, the City of Palmerston is a fast growing region set amongst a stunning backdrop of rural elegance.**

A relatively new region in the Northern Territory, the development of Palmerston began in 1982 and it continues to be recognised as one of Australia's fastest growing cities.

The young population has an average age of 28, with around 30 per cent of the 30,000 residents aged under 15 years of age. With Robertson Army Barracks located close by, Palmerston is proudly home to a large defence force community and provides a safe, green haven for its many young families.

The City has ten fully developed suburbs, with two new suburbs - Bellamack and Johnston, currently under construction. To help accommodate the City's 12,000 new residents anticipated to move to the region over the next ten years, two additional suburbs – Zuccoli and Mitchell are also in the planning stages, totaling 3,000 new residential allotments due to come online in the next five years.

Palmerston is a tropical savannah and experiences the very best of the Territory weather combined with some of Mother Natures' greatest challenges. During the dry season (May – September), the region celebrates glorious cloudless days with an average temperature of 27°C and experiences little to no rain during this

period. Throughout the wet season (October – April), the temperature heats up, with the region prepared for breathtaking storms with natural light shows and the occasional cyclone.

Awarded the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable City award for the Northern Territory in 2012, the City of Palmerston is focused on maintaining a clean, green environment as it continues to expand at a rapid rate. Palmerston has over 100 parks, many with playgrounds, shelters and barbeques, while Marlow Lagoon is the City's largest recreational area offering a natural venue for many community events.

The City of Palmerston is proud to be a local leader in the areas of health and community services, as it aims to provide residents with a diverse range of services greater than roads, rates and rubbish. Council proudly supports the COPAL program keeping kids healthy and active, while the Healthy Palmerston program is a federal government funded initiative, helping to deliver much needed healthy living options to concession card holders.

Palmerston is a proud, vibrant community of families – from young to old.



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## Welcoming the Dalai Lama to Palmerston

**On Saturday 22nd June 2013, His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama made the City of Palmerston the first stop on his first ever visit to the Northern Territory, as part of his nine day national tour.**

His Holiness addressed a 1200 strong audience, made up by a range of local school kids, teachers, young families and residents, on 'Living a Good Life'.

The City of Palmerston gave away over 500 free tickets to local school students and teachers, and charged only \$15 for the general public wishing to purchase tickets to the historic event.

Prior to taking the stage at the Palmerston Recreation Centre, His Holiness addressed local and national media, where he was presented with a fully grown pygmy freshwater crocodile from Crocosaurus Cove, naming the reptile 'Tashi' - meaning 'auspicious'.

His Holiness spoke to the assembled media on a variety of issues, ranging from his opinion of the Top End to Indigenous issues and uniting humanity.

City of Palmerston Mayor, Ian Abbott was given a rare opportunity to join the Dalai Lama during his media conference, being personally invited to sit beside His Holiness, who warmly held his hand throughout the proceedings.

Local residents were also treated to an 'up close' experience with the Dalai Lama, as he embraced and shook hands with many of the audience, before taking the stage in front of the sold out crowd.

The Nobel Peace Laureate spoke on the importance of treating each other as 'same human beings', before taking questions from the audience, including a number of specially invited school children.

Upon leaving the Palmerston Recreation Centre, it was clear His Holiness had left a lasting impression on the growing city of Palmerston - leaving behind strong feelings of harmony and peace.



## Palmerston Festival - Taking Shape!



**Each year, the highlight of the Palmerston event calendar is the City's festival.**

Coordinated and largely funded by Council, the Palmerston Festival is a celebration of the local community, with a focus on providing free activities for residents.

Spanning two days, with events and activities designed to cater for a diverse sector of the community - from market stalls and live concerts to family fun days and art exhibitions, the Palmerston Festival promises something for everyone!

In 2013 the Festival will take place on the 30 - 31 August, with Goyder Square, the heart of Palmerston, providing the central location for the jam packed program.

Friday night the community will come together to celebrate with many local retailers at the Palmerston Markets and enjoy a free live concert with performances from X Factor 2012 finalist Shiane Hawke and local singer-song writer Leah Flanagan.

Festivities continue on Saturday morning, when Goyder Square will transform into Palmerston's very own zoo, complete with very special guests Raa Raa the Noisy Lion and Ooo Ooo the Mischievous Monkey from ABC Kids. Event sponsors COPAL will be handing out FREE breakfast sample boxes to kids, and there will also be food stalls selling delicious healthy breakfast options.

The 2013 Palmerston Festival wraps up on Saturday afternoon in Goyder Square with a global fair, showcasing some of our region's best local acts in a celebration of our diverse multicultural community. The afternoon gives residents the chance to broaden their horizons and experience a range of cultures - providing food stalls and street entertainers to market stalls and performers.



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## Flying the sustainability flag for the Northern Territory

**Palmerston's reputation as an environmental leader has been further recognised with Keep Australia Beautiful judging the region as the most sustainable city in the Top End.**

The largest city in the Northern Territory outside of the Capital, Palmerston also received a commendation at the national awards in November for Innovation in Community Environmental and Sustainability Initiatives.

With such expedient growth of new suburbs and schools, the City of Palmerston is taking into account contemporary approaches in its goal to transition to a low carbon future.

Palmerston has over 100 parks, many with playgrounds, shelters and barbecues. Marlow Lagoon is a large recreation area where community and private events are often held.

According to Peter McLean, National Chief Executive Officer of Keep Australia Beautiful, "The City of Palmerston efforts are outstanding and it is refreshing to see council rise to the challenges of a rapidly growing community.

"It is difficult to engage community but Palmerston has shown they can do this through various environmental activities."

City of Palmerston chief executive officer, Ricki Bruhn said the recognition is a reflection of the City's commitment to providing a green future.

"Council is focused on enhancing our local environment and working hand in hand with our residents to ensure Palmerston continues to be recognised as a clean and green regional centre.

"Our lifestyle centres on the tropical outdoors and Palmerston offers a wide range of first class recreational facilities including Sanctuary Lakes and Marlow Lagoon, in addition to many picturesque, smaller reserves within individual suburbs," said Mr Bruhn.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council Northern Territory CEO Mr Heimo Schober said the national recognition is a reflection on the City's green initiatives.

"I commend the City of Palmerston on their continually improving efforts encouraging community partnerships, beautification and pride, beneficial to the quality of life and their environment."

## E-Waste Drop Zone

In the age of technology where a laptop has an expiry date shorter than a bottle of UHT milk, the City of Palmerston recently partnered with DHL and gave residents the chance to dispose of their e-waste the free and green way.

City of Palmerston Mayor Ian Abbott said the two week initiative was another way the City is thinking of sustainability and reaching their recycling goals.

"Most homes and offices around the country have a cupboard jammed with old keyboards, mice, and monitors – we gave our residents the free option of disposing of their e-waste the responsible way, rather than having it end up in landfill," he said.

The area has seen an increased amount of e-waste due to the switch from analog to digital televisions, and all equipment including TVs collected at the Zone will be disposed of by certified recyclers, removing all plastics, glass, iron, steel and copper, and minimising the amount of material ultimately ending up in landfill.

The joint initiative with DHL is part of the new National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme, aimed at increasing the recycling rate of televisions, computers and computer products from 30 per cent to 80 per cent over the next 10 years.

## Message from the Chief Executive Officer



*Ricki Bruhn, Chief Executive Officer City of Palmerston*

**The City of Palmerston continues to move from strength to strength, and experience accelerated growth.**

Four new residential suburbs are underway, and commercial developments such as the recently announced Gateway Shopping Centre are expected to provide thousands of jobs to our residents, and boost our local economy.

Council is also working with developers to deliver a new Community Arts and Crafts Centre, as well as moving ahead with the redevelopment of the CBD.

In another significant step forward for the City, this financial year Palmerston is set to undertake an ambitious Capital Works program in excess of \$8 million, spread across key areas including buildings, parks and reserves, traffic control, roads, storm water drainage and waste management.

We have also adopted the Palmerston City Centre 2030 Master Plan, and I look forward with great anticipation to see major infrastructure improvements in the coming years as the plan is implemented. I believe these improvements will spur accelerated growth and development within the CBD, activating the area with more opportunities for foot traffic and attracting retail, residential and commercial activity within our bustling city centre.

Most importantly, I believe the financial year ahead will be an exciting one for the City of Palmerston. After thirty great years, it's fair to say this will be our best one yet!



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## Palmerston CBD Master Plan - Beyond 2020



**Palmerston has long been identified as the 'growth' focal point of the Greater Darwin Region and in 2011 the Council embarked on an important journey to develop a master plan for the city's CBD.**

Adopted by Council in February 2012, the plan is designed to be implemented over the next 15 years, to create a unique and sustainable identity for the City of Palmerston.

The plan sets out a vision for Palmerston as a connected city centre, bringing together a diverse mix of spaces to create residential, commercial, civic, retail and entertainment precincts.

City of Palmerston Mayor, Ian Abbott believes the master plan is a crucial strategy for the region's future growth.

"The Palmerston CBD Master Plan provides a vision and framework to achieve positive planning and urban design outcomes.

"This plan is at the forefront of urban design and facilitates the ongoing development of the central business district, whilst also creating an important modern identity for the City of Palmerston," Mayor Abbott said.

Also included in the master plan are strategies for developing not only the Palmerston City Centre, but also burgeoning surrounding areas.

"Palmerston has a bright future, and the redevelopment of our heartland will ensure we showcase our city in the best possible light, and solidify our reputation as an excellent place to live, work and visit," said Mayor Abbott.

In developing the Master Plan, the City of Palmerston undertook public consultation by providing a forum for local developers and business operators in the City Centre to be briefed on the draft Master Plan – this included the opportunity to provide their own views and written feedback on the Plan. The Master Plan was also presented to the Chief Minister and key Departments within the Northern Territory Government.

The plan aims to "foster a sense of community in a clean, safe, friendly and sustainable environment and to support and nurture the lifestyle of residents and visitors."

A copy of the Palmerston CBD Master Plan can be found on Council's website.

## Palmerston sows the seeds for a Community Garden



**Ground has now broken on the city's first foray into community gardening, with construction underway in Confaloneiri Park in the Palmerston suburb of Gray.**

Fresh produce, educational programs, and rare tropical plants – the City of Palmerston's Community Garden promises to deliver the local community a wealth of benefits.

Council undertook a rigorous community consultation phase to ensure the garden covered the needs of a variety of groups and organization.

Designed as a sustainable space, the community garden will be a place where residents can come together in a social setting to grow food and engage in organised activities while also instilling a sense of community ownership and pride.

The site will also provide an educational resource for people of all ages, particularly in the key areas of contemporary environmental issues and sustainable practices.

Best of all, it is anticipated the community garden will encourage participants to lead a healthy and active lifestyle, in addition to having a positive impact on users emotional well being – alleviating stress and providing a natural setting for respite, relaxation and reflection.

## A weed by any other name...



**With the tropical Top End lifestyle comes a variety of unique environmental challenges which the City of Palmerston has tackled, head on.**

Vigorous vegetation growth, particularly in relation to the City's waterways provides Palmerston with management challenges.

Early intervention to control and manage *Salvinia molesta* and other aquatic weeds is essential to the health of Palmerston's natural and man made waterways.

In cooperation with the Northern Territory Government Weed Branch, Council is continuing to support their weevil program, which along with the weed harvester is an integral part of Palmerston's waterways management program.

There are 12 freshwater man-made lakes in the City with areas of biodiverse bush land, freshwater creeks, mangroves and estuaries. The waterways are primarily used for recreational and leisure activities by the City's residents.

Excessive waterway vegetation is not always a bad thing - last year Red Azolla, a free floating aquatic fern, covered many of the lake systems in Palmerston, and whilst requiring weed management its presence is a strong sign the lake is performing its function and removing the high levels of nutrients.



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