



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



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Mayors Message

Welcome to Litchfield Council's first newsletter, Connecting our Community. We aim to provide another way to keep you up to date with Council programs, events, services, facilities and works. For timely updates and information don't forget to follow our Facebook page.



2020 certainly has been an interesting year so far. I would like to commend our community for being so accommodating, adhering to the Federal and NT Government restrictions that have been in place due to COVID-19 and keeping each other safe. The NT has been best placed throughout this crisis and we thank you for your patience whilst services varied, and facilities were forced to closed.

There are so many initiatives that have been put in place to get us all through the isolation and try to keep things somewhat normal.

Taminmin Community Library is now reopened to the public. During the library closure, a 'click and collect' program was implemented, allowing library members to borrow books online and then collect them from the library with no contact. This was well received in the community and is now ongoing. Storytime did move to online during the closure but is now back face to face.

The Waste Transfer Stations are now card only transactions. To reduce contact between customer and staff even further, Council has waived the green waste drop off fee and mulch sales cost. Until 30 June 2020, you can take your green waste to the Transfer Stations

free of charge and if available, you can take mulch home with you free. Conditions around vehicle types still apply, for more details visit Council's website.

Council and Thorak Regional Cemetery offices were closed for a short period of time to the public, but have both reopened and our helpful staff are available to assist you with your enquiry.

We hope you enjoy our first newsletter and subscribe to *Your Say Litchfield* to continue to receive them in the future.



**COMING
SOON!**

New Website

In 2019, Council identified that the current website needs to be redeveloped. A new initiative was proposed in the 2019-2020 Municipal Plan and Budget to provide a modern, transaction-friendly corporate website that promotes the services and vision of the Council and provides a 'one stop shop' for those wanting to find information relating to Council's services and facilities. The new website is currently under development and will go live in the next month.

Annual Community Survey

Keep an eye out in August 2020 for the Council's Annual Community Survey. The Community Survey is conducted each year to hear from people living in the Litchfield Municipality.

Responses to this survey provide Council with information to better understand the community's satisfaction in how Council manages services and facilities.

This survey is one method Council uses in future planning for the municipality, so we would like to hear from you all.

The Annual Community Survey will be out for the month of August 2020 and can be found on the Your Say Litchfield webpage.



Cricket Changerooms

This \$500,000 project will provide the Southern Districts Cricket Club with new changeroom facilities and a viewing platform.

Construction of the building and completion of all electrical and plumbing work has been finalised. The Southern Districts Cricket Club are now enjoying their new facility.

Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve Upgrades

In late 2018, Litchfield Council received \$2 million from the Northern Territory Government's (NTG) Department of Tourism Sport and Culture to provide upgrades to Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve (FPSRR) based on the FPSRR Master Plan.

The projects identified by the NTG commenced in 2019 and are expected to be complete by the end of 2020 include:

- Building certifications
- Road network upgrades including car parks for the soccer, rugby union and AFL areas
- Equine facility upgrades
- Cricket Club change rooms
- A maintenance shed

Building certifications

This \$115,000 project will work to ensure compliance of high-risk buildings and structures requiring occupancy permits. The project will also identify any works required to achieve compliance.

Two of the four buildings, Lakeview Hall and Noonamah Horse and Pony Club have received certification with the third building, John Maley Pavillion receiving stage 1 certification.

Road network upgrades including car parks for the soccer, rugby union and AFL areas

The \$760,000 project focuses on a sealed road connection to AFL, soccer and rugby union, with improvements to some car parks.

Construction has commenced and is anticipated to be completed by mid-June.

Equine facility upgrades

The \$380,000 project has been prioritised with formalising the existing car, float and truck parking area and including the removal of the Darwin Show Jumping Club shed and construction of a new shed in a new location.

Quotes, plans and tender documents are being developed with works to be commenced in the coming months.



Maintenance Shed

The \$135,000 completed project has provided the Reserve with an enclosed shed to store machinery.

Governance Arrangement Review Project

Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve



Central Ward

Christine Simpson - Deputy Mayor

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christine.simpson@litchfield.nt.gov.au

In August 2019, Council endorsed a review of governance arrangements between Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve Board and Council. This review aims to examine the planning, operational, and governance arrangements of Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve so that Council has greater input into the long-term planning and operations of the Reserve.

A Reference Group was established through an expressions of interest process and will act as an advisory group to Council for the review.

The Reference Group is currently meeting and discussing the governance arrangements in managing the Reserve with the aim of recommending how the Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve Management Board and Council can collaborate to provide a successful and inclusive service to the community.

The Reference Group is made up of a member of the Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve Management Board, a Reserve

User Group member, a community member, and NT Government and Litchfield Council representatives.

The recommendations of the Group will be developed into a position paper later in 2020 for stakeholder consultation.

Mango Roads

In 2019, Council successfully advocated for funding from the Federal and Northern Territory Governments for the upgrade of four roads within the municipality.

The upgrade of the roads will support the local mango industry, reducing damage to fruit in transport, and reducing dust mites in the trees and improving road safety.

A preliminary project control group consisting of NT Government officers and Litchfield Council staff has been established to plan the delivery of the project.

Currently, the project is expected to be delivered over two dry seasons, however this may be reduced to one year or increased to three years depending on various approvals, funding and contracts.

The roads are;

CHIBNALL ROAD

between Old Bynoe and Leonino Road 5.4km;

MOCATTO ROAD

between Whitstone and Acacia Gap Road 3.2km;

HORSNELL ROAD

between Elizabeth Valley Road and Alverly Road 3.4km; and

KENTISH ROAD

between Hopewell Road and the end of seal 3.2km.



South Ward

Doug Barden

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Shared Path Plan

**NORTH Ward****Mathew Salter**

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At Council's April meeting, the Shared Path Plan was adopted. The Plan was developed to identify Council's existing pedestrian and cycle path network, gaps in the current network, and provide future direction for upgrading to connect people and places.

The Shared Path Plan considers key community attraction points, as well as bus services. With these factors in mind and the existing network, a proposed network that addresses the gaps in the current network was produced with prioritisation based on safety, connectivity and community purpose.

Council's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan documented the need to improve safety and connections with pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, where possible and affordable. A \$25,000 New Initiative reviewed the existing pathway network into and throughout the Municipality to identify future connections to improve pedestrian and cyclist transport links.

The Plan also identifies key Northern Territory Government (NTG) shared pathways and potential locations for expansion of these pathways to connect Litchfield Council's network with the surrounding areas.



Council is due to begin programmed repairs and maintenance works, as well as planning for future network upgrades in accordance with the Strategic Plan.

Streetlight Replacement Program

**EAST Ward****Kirsty Sayers-Hunt**

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kirsty.sayers-hunt@litchfield.nt.gov.au

Late 2019, Council was successful in attaining an NT Government Energy Efficiency Grant to the value of \$260,000 to replace all 274 streetlights with LED luminaires and smart controls.

This project will see a

**40% reduction in electricity costs
to Council, valued at approximately \$25,000 per year and a
50% reduction in maintenance costs,
valued at approximately \$30,000 per year.**

The life expectancy of the LED lights is around 15 years which is three times longer than existing luminaires.

Lights are currently being manufactured with delivery expected mid to late June 2020. Installation will commence when the lights arrive, and project completion is expected by October 2020.

Community Grants Scheme **Changes**

In March 2020, Council adopted a new Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Policy which included some changes to Council's Community Grant Scheme.

Changes to the Policy include an **additional funding opportunity** and more clarity around guidelines for applying.

There are now three funding opportunities for the community:



- 1 Annual Community Grants – applications up to \$5000 for not for profit organisation and community groups for projects or events
- 2 Community Initiative Grants – quick response grants up to \$500 for not for profit and community groups for small projects or events
- 3 Youth Development Grants – quick response grants up to \$500 to support the significant costs associated with travelling for sport and recreation competitions as well as other development opportunities for young people

To view the guidelines and for details information the Community Grants Scheme, visit Council's website www.litchfield.nt.gov.au

2020 Community Grant Recipients

Council has recently awarded \$26,868 worth of community grants to community organisations for projects and events around the municipality.

Congratulations to the successful recipients of the Annual Community Grants:

\$5,000	Top End Rehoming	de-sexing initiative
\$4,360	Palmerston and Regional Basketball Association	The Big Game Day
\$5,000	Rural Churches Carols by Candlelight	Their 2020 event
\$2,700	Rotary Litchfield Palmerston	Books for Babies
\$2,500	Darwin Community Arts	Litchfield Love Boxes
\$3,058	Craft and Quilting Down the Track	Purchase of a new table
\$2,500	NT Field and Game	Equipment purchases
\$1,750	Litchfield Bears	30th Anniversary video

Road Works Update

Girraween and Hillier Road Black Spot Intersection Upgrade

The intersection of Girraween and Hillier Road is a known accident Black Spot. Council was successful with its application for approximately \$300,000 of funding from the Federal Government Black Spot program. Works will include road widening, construction of a right-hand turning lane from Girraween into Hillier Road, power pole realignment and protection and changes to the streetlighting. Works are expected to commence by the end of June.

Whitewood Road Pavement Rehabilitation

Works include the reconstruction of approximately 465 metres of road pavement, resealing and extensions of the batters on either side of the road at the Wadham Lagoon floodway. Budget for the work is in approximately \$290,000 funded through the Roads to Recovery grant received from the Federal Government. Work is expected to commence by the end of June.

Stevens Road Pavement Reconstruction

Works on Stevens Road include the reconstruction of approximately 600m of road pavement. The work is expected to cost \$475,000 and is funded through the Roads to Recovery grant received from the Federal Government. Work is expected to commence by the end of June.

Whitstone Road Upgrade

The Whitstone Road upgrade includes the reformation of the existing gravel road surface, sealing it with bitumen, line marking and reinstating the roadside furniture. The length of the road work is approximately 1.6km. The road works and sealing will cost around \$375,000 and will be funded through the Roads to Recovery grant received from the Federal Government. Work is expected to commence by the end of June.

Pioneer Drive and Norm Lane Intersection Upgrade

This project will cost approximately \$270,000 and will be funded through the Roads to Recovery grant received from the Federal Government. Works include the installation of new culverts, drainage protection and sealing of the intersection.

Brougham Road Pavement repairs

This project funded through the Federal Government Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements at a cost of \$700,000 includes extension to culverts, re-sheeting of the gravel road for a distance of approximately 1.9km, and installation of road furniture.



Litchfield Women in Business Network

The Litchfield Women in Business Network is a network of professional women living or working in the Litchfield Municipality or with a close association to the Litchfield municipality.

Litchfield Council recognises the importance of supporting, making connections, promoting businesses and gaining new skills to business success. It has facilitated the establishment of this Network to support women to be successful in business.

A strong and successful business sector contributes to the liveability of the Litchfield municipality to be the best place to live in the Top End.

If you would like to be on our distribution list for information and details about future events please visit the website and fill out the online form.

The first Tuesday of every month the Litchfield Women in Business Network hosts a coffee catch up network event. You can drop in anytime between 8am and 9am. The July coffee catch up will be held at Café Bellissimo in Coolalinga. No RSVP's or bookings required. We look forward to seeing you there.



Staff Profile

Working for the Community



Daniel Fletcher - Chief Executive Officer



Favourite Food:	<i>Chicken (wings, schnitzel, roast)</i>
Favourite Superhero:	<i>This has always been a difficult choice between Superman and Batman. So, I'll go with Danger Mouse.</i>
Hobbies:	<i>Vacuuming, cleaning the dishes, mopping the floor, dusting (just kidding) Playing with 5 month old daughter Claire, Fitness (physical and mental), AFL and study.</i>
Cats or Dogs:	<i>Dogs</i>
Beach or Bush:	<i>Bush</i>
Coffee or Tea:	<i>Neither</i>
Best or most unique place you have visited:	<i>Sarajevo, Bosnia.</i>
What do you like the most about Litchfield:	<i>The people and our community. It's like no other.</i>



We want
to hear
from you!

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

Have you got
something
to share
with the
community?

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

Municipal Plan and Budget 20/21

The Litchfield Council Draft Municipal Plan and Budget 2020/2021 outlines the budgetary planning for the next financial year and beyond, and lists programs and works that will be undertaken.

Council would like the community to have a read of the draft plan and make comment via the Your Say Litchfield web page. Comments can be made from Thursday 4 June, closing Thursday 25 June 2020.

Over \$1 million will be spent on Council's seven recreation reserves and approximately \$130,000 on community grants and events support.

As part of the new financial plan and in line with our Long Term Financial Plan, Council needs to increase rates to ensure its long-term financial sustainability. In recognition of the impacts of COVID-19 on our community, Council will be providing a concession for ratepayers to the value of the planned increase for 2020-21 rates. That is, ratepayers will not pay more in rates than they did in the 2019-20 year.

To further support households and



businesses affected by COVID-19, Council has reviewed its Rates Concession Policy. All ratepayers can now apply with a simple two-page application form and improved response times. Ratepayers can request write off of penalty interest, deferral of rates, freezing of penalty interest or rates waiver.

The next financial year may present new challenges, but this draft Municipal Plan and Budget places Council in a good position to move forward sustainably and meet the needs of the community.



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