

NEW RESIDENTS

Living in
Litchfield

LITCHFIELD
COUNCIL



2022

CONTENTS

Key Contacts	2
Acknowledgement to Country	3
Welcome to Litchfield	3
Your Council	4
Recreation Reserves	7
Your Dog, Your Responsibility	8
Taminmin Community Library	10
Waste Management	11
Infrastructure Management	13
Vegetation Management	14
Thorak Regional Cemetery	17
Living in Litchfield	18
Useful Resources	20

KEY CONTACTS

Emergency Numbers

Police, Fire or Ambulance Emergency	000
NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services	131 444
Humpty Doo Police Station	8988 0200
Palmerston Regional Hospital (Linco Road, Holtz)	7979 9200

Council Numbers

General Enquiries	8983 0600
Rates	8983 0600
Thorak Regional Cemetery	8947 0903
Mayor's Office	8983 0612



Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with Council projects and events.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Litchfield Council acknowledges the land of the traditional owners and pays its respect to the Elders past and present for their continuing custodianship of the land and the children of this land across generations.

WELCOME TO LITCHFIELD

To the owner and/or resident, on behalf of Councillors and Staff, welcome to the Litchfield Municipality. This Residents Guide is to assist you in settling in to our wonderful area and to understand what facilities and services are available.

Situated on the outskirts of Darwin amid tropical rural bushland, the Litchfield Municipality covers an area of 3100 square kilometres and includes coastal and riverine areas, rainforests and lagoons.

Boasting a rural lifestyle with a wide range of well managed services and facilities, Litchfield has been the fastest growing municipality in the Northern Territory, with 26% growth in population in a five year period between 2012 and 2017.

Our Municipality neighbours the City of Darwin, City of Palmerston and Coomalie Community Government Council.

Litchfield Council is a local government authority established by the Northern Territory Parliament on 24 May 1985.

Council committed to engaging with the community and the development of long term plans and policies continues to position Litchfield as *the best place to live in the Top End.*

Our Region statistics as of January 2022.

8,342 
RATEABLE ASSESSMENTS

645kms 
SEALED ROADS

70kms 
UNSEALED ROADS

 **SIGNS**
6,132

RECREATION **8** 
RESERVES

3  WASTE
TRANSFER
STATIONS

 **5,379**
REGISTERED DOGS

15kms 
SHARED PATHWAYS

5  PLAYGROUNDS

 **CEMETERY** **1**

YOUR COUNCIL

Litchfield Council is the local government Council responsible for planning and delivering of a range of services, including:



Animal Management



Recreation Reserves



Thorak Regional Cemetery



Vegetation Management



Waste and Recycling



Taminmin Community Library

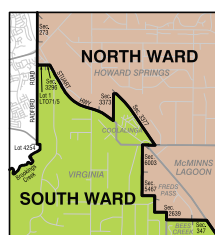


Infrastructure Management

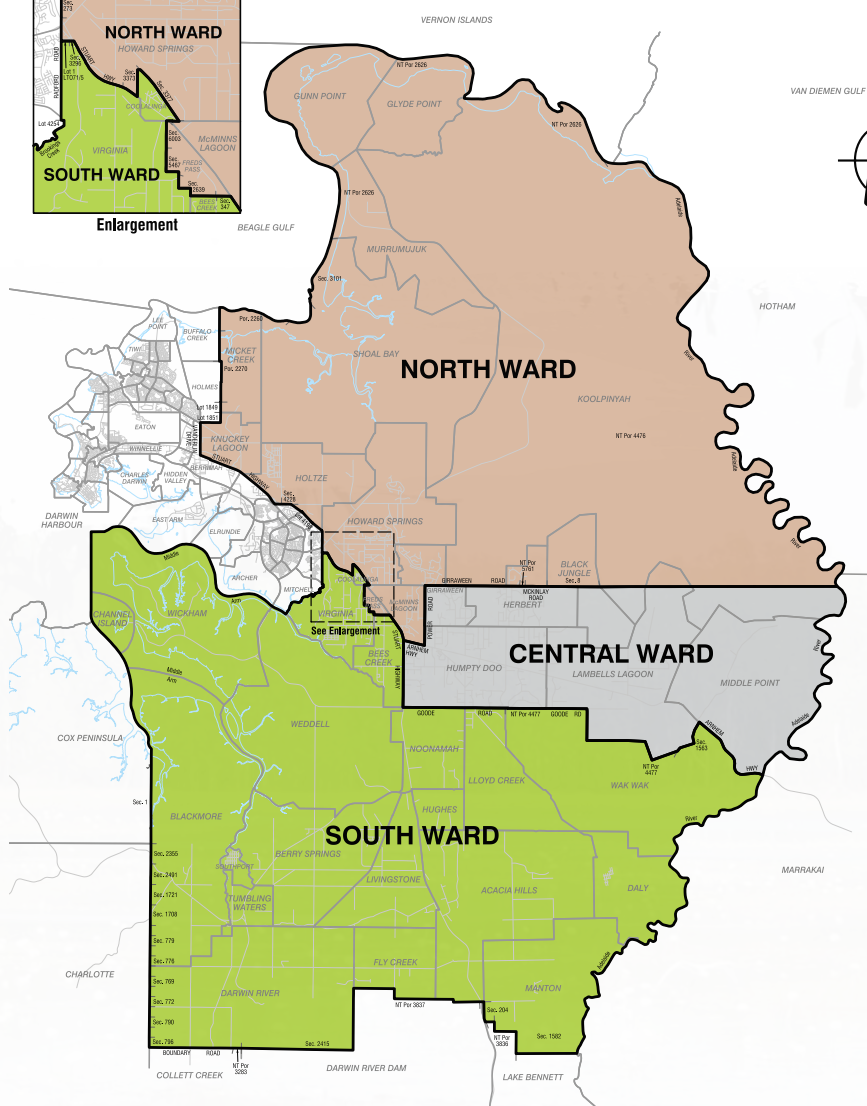
Local Government elections are held every four years with the next election to be held in August 2025.

Voting in the Northern Territory is compulsory. Contact the Electoral Commission on 13 23 26 to enrol or change address details via the website www.aec.gov.au

Litchfield Council is divided into three Wards: North, Central and South.



Enlargement



Elected Members

Mayor

Mayor Doug Barden

Phone: 0429 875 390

Email: doug.barden@litchfield.nt.gov.au

Central Ward Councillors

Andrew Mackay

Phone: 0447 058 877

Email: andrew.mackay@litchfield.nt.gov.au

Kev Harlan

Phone: 0429 552 467

Email: kev.harlan@litchfield.nt.gov.au

North Ward Councillors

Rachael Wright

Phone: 0455 660 002

Email: rachael.wright@litchfield.nt.gov.au

Mathew Salter

Phone: 0408 093 838

Email: mathew.salter@litchfield.nt.gov.au

South Ward Councillors

Emma Sharp

Phone: 0429 270 227

Email: emma.sharp@litchfield.nt.gov.au

Mark Sidey

Phone: 0407 007 558

Email: mark.sidey@litchfield.nt.gov.au

Council Office

7 Bees Creek Road

Freds Pass NT 0822

PO Box 446, Humpty Doo NT 0836

Email: council@litchfield.nt.gov.au

Monday – Friday 8.15am – 4.30pm

Closed weekends and public holidays



Council Meetings

Council meetings lead and guide the good governance of Council.

Council conducts its formal decision making process through Ordinary Council Meetings and Special Council Meetings, when required.

Council Meetings are open to the public.

The Meeting Agenda is available three days prior to the meeting at the Council Office and Council's website. Copies can also be available to the public at the meeting.

Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month* (unless otherwise advised), commencing 6.00pm at the Litchfield Council Chambers, 7 Bees Creek Road, Freds Pass.

*with the exception of December which will be the second Tuesday.

Rates

Council issues rate notices in August each year. Residents can opt to receive notices by mail or electronically through EzyBill. Litchfield Council's rating year commences 1 July and concludes 30 June.

Rates and charges are set annually by Council and can be found on Council's website under Council Rates and Fees.

Payments can be made either:

- End of September – Full Payment or 1st instalment
- End of November – 2nd instalment
- End of February – 3rd and final instalment

Council charges interest on rates and charges not paid by the due date.



It is important that your postal details are kept up to date. Please advise Council in writing if your details have changed by emailing council@litchfield.nt.gov.au

RECREATION RESERVES

There are seven recreation reserves in the Litchfield Municipality, each offering a special range of activities and healthy fun.

Come along and visit a reserve, play some sport, ride a horse, have a picnic or have some fun at the playgrounds and skateparks. Visit Council's website for booking details for each Reserve.

LEGEND

-  Recreation Reserves
-  Waste Transfer Stations
-  Land Area: 3,100 km²
-  Road



Knuckey Lagoon Recreation Reserve

Brandt Road, Knuckey Lagoon
Offers unspoilt bushland native walks, play and fitness equipment, picnic and BBQ facilities and a World War II heritage site.



Howard Park Recreation Reserve

Whitewood Road, Howards Springs
Offers large grassy picnic areas, children's playground and a large skate park.



Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve

Bees Creek Road, Freds Pass
Offers picturesque lake and BBQ facilities, home to over 20 sporting groups and Rural Markets every Saturday morning.



McMinns Lagoon Recreation Reserve

Dreamtime Drive, McMinns Lagoon
Offers unspoilt wetland with several walking tracks and a scenic lookout lawn area with picnic facilities.



Humpty Doo Village Green

Challoner Circuit, Humpty Doo
Offers a large playground with open grassy areas, picnic and BBQ facilities and a shaded skate park.



Berry Springs Recreation Reserve

Cox Peninsula Road, Berry Springs
Offers an oval, cricket pitch, tennis courts, children's play area and BBQ facilities



Livingstone Recreation Reserve

Livingstone Road, Livingstone
Offers a large oval, beach volleyball court, playground and picnic area and the 34 Mile Bar and Bistro



Mira Square

Barrow Street Southport
Community facilities currently under construction.



YOUR DOG, YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Dogs are a wonderful addition to any family and it is important that you understand your legal responsibilities as a dog owner within the Litchfield municipality.

Please ensure that you are familiar with the Litchfield Council Dog Management By-laws. These are available on our website under the Animal Management section.



Registration and Microchipping

All dogs kept within the Litchfield municipality are required to be microchipped and registered. This assists in quickly reuniting dogs that may become lost from their owners.

Council provides free microchipping at our office which is located at 7 Bees Creek Road, Fred's Pass. Bookings are essential and can be made by calling 8983 0600 or emailing council@litchfield.nt.gov.au

Council offers Annual or Lifetime* dog registration. Annual registration expires on 31 August each year.

Registration fees are set annually and are on Council's website under the Animal Management section.

Dog registration enables Council to support residents in managing dogs and protecting the amenity of Litchfield.

* Lifetime only available for desexed dogs.



Lost Dogs

All dogs kept within the Litchfield municipality must be securely contained to their property and kept on a suitable leash when in public.

Dogs found wandering at large may be impounded by Council and fees may be payable prior to the dog being released.

In cases where dogs are repeatedly found wandering at large, an inspection of the property may be required. If the problem continues, Council may consider cancelling the dog's registration resulting in removal of the dog from the property.

Dogs impounded will be held in the pound for a minimum of 72 hours with unclaimed dogs transferred to an animal rescue organisation where possible.

Dog Attacks

Council investigates all reported dog attacks. Owners whose dogs have been proven to be involved in dog attacks, may be issued infringements. Depending on the severity of the attack, the dog may be declared dangerous and/or seized by Council.



Nuisance Dogs

As a dog owner, you have a responsibility to ensure that your dog does not cause a nuisance to others within the community.

Behaviour such as excessive and persistent barking, fence rushing and chasing vehicles are all examples of nuisance dog behaviour that are offences under Council By-laws.

Nuisance behaviour of dogs can often cause disputes between neighbours. The Community Justice Centre provides a free and confidential mediation service and are often called upon to assist in resolving these types of issues. The Community Justice Centre can be contacted on 1800 000 473.

TAMINMIN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Library runs many programs for a range of ages.



Nursery time: Babies to 1 year: Wednesday at 10.30am

Storytime: 1 to 5 years: Thursdays at 10.30am

Storytime on the Move: Various locations in Litchfield. Check the Taminmin Library Facebook page for events.

Seniors' morning tea: Second Friday of the month

Litchfield Lego League: Wednesdays 3.30pm - 4.30pm. All ages welcome.

For up-to-date program times, school holidays programs and upcoming events, visit [Taminmin Library Facebook page](#).



Library Opening hours:

School terms: Monday - Friday: 8:30am-5:00pm | Saturday: 10:00am-1:00pm

School holidays: Monday - Friday: 10am-5:00pm | Saturday: 10:00am-1:00pm

Services



The library has a range of services open to all members of the public including:

- Public access computer
- Free wifi
- Printing
- Scanning
- Photocopying

Resources:



There is also a wide range of resources for members to use and borrow including:

- Books for all ages
- Large print books
- DVDs
- Graphic novels
- Spoken word
- Picture books
- Magazines

You don't have to be in the library to use some of the resources.

To use our **eResources**, all you need is a library card and a password.

CONTACT US AT THE LIBRARY:

By phone: (08) 8988 1200

In person: 70 Challenor Cct, Humpty Doo

By mail: PO Box 71, Humpty Doo, 0836

By email: library@litchfield.nt.gov.au

By Facebook: @TaminminCommunitylibrary

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Litchfield Council provides waste management and recycling services to residents through its three Waste Transfer Stations.

All transfer stations are free* for Litchfield residents and proof of residence will be required. Non-Litchfield residents are welcome to use Council's facilities, fees do apply.

Humpty Doo Waste Transfer Station is situated on the corner of Spencely and Strangways Roads. Open Monday to Sunday from 7.00am to 6.00pm. Phone 8983 0652. Commercial waste accepted.

Berry Springs Waste Transfer Station is situated on Cox Peninsula Road. Open Monday to Sunday 7.00am to 7.00pm. No commercial waste accepted.

Howard Springs Waste Transfer Station is situated on Howard Springs Road. Open Monday to Sunday 7.00am to 6.00pm. Phone 8983 0651. No commercial waste accepted.

All three Waste Transfer Stations are closed on Good Friday, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Litchfield Council has a five-year Waste Strategy. The vision states: Together, Council and the community will work to Reduce the amount of waste we generate, Reuse what we can and Recycle waste resources to reinvest back into the Community, enhancing our municipality as 'the best place to live in the Top End'.

Green waste and concrete is processed and sold at Humpty Doo and Howard Springs Waste Transfer Stations.

Items that CANNOT be brought to any of the Waste Transfer Stations include:

- Asbestos products
- Gas cylinders
- Paints or chemicals

Waste accepted only at Humpty Doo Waste Transfer Station (fees apply)

- Bricks, sand and building rubble
- Tyres
- Cement or concrete

*fees apply for green waste



How to recycle Our Resources



A GUIDE TO SORTING YOUR RECYCLABLES



Co-Mingled Bin

- ✓ Soft drink and juice bottles
- ✓ Glass bottles and jars
- ✓ Aluminium cans
- ✓ Plastic codes 1-7
- ✓ Plastic bags
- ✓ Aerosol cans

Steel Pile

- ✓ White goods
- ✓ Steel, aluminium and copper

Cardboard/Paper Bin

- ✓ Cardboard boxes and packaging
- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Pizza boxes

Ask Gatekeeper for location

- ✓ Car batteries
- ✓ Waste oil
- ✓ Green waste, wood waste & concrete products



- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------|
| ✗ Paint | ✗ Food waste | ✗ Sanitary items |
| ✗ Fire extinguishers | ✗ Foil | ✗ Nappies |
| ✗ Gas bottles | ✗ Cellophane | ✗ Chemicals |

NOTE: To find out more about these items visit our website

Council's waste management service includes three waste transfer stations (WTS) located at **Humpty Doo**, **Howard Springs** and **Berry Springs**.

www.litchfield.nt.gov.au

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

A large percentage of Council's expenditure is spent on its infrastructure, which includes over 700kms of roads with associated infrastructure and drainage.

Council maintains 645kms of sealed roads, 70kms of unsealed roads and 7kms of shared paths. Council's roads include all roads within the municipality with the exception of NTG-managed highways and arterial roads.

Council maintains local and collector roads frequently used by residents to get to activity centres and to the highways. There are also a number of private roads within the municipality that are roads constructed on privately owned land, typically in the 1970s. Council doesn't own private roads and is continuing to work through this legacy issue. If you aren't sure about whether a road is managed by Council, just contact us and we will discuss it with you.

Infrastructure also includes drainage infrastructure, footpaths, shared paths, buildings on Council land, and driveways. Council has policies on the maintenance of driveways and private roads, and standards for development.

Council is preparing asset management plans for all of its infrastructure assets to ensure long term planning and sustainable asset management.

Capital works underway or planned on Council's assets are available on Council's website.

Issues can be reported through our website, by calling the offices or via the Snap, Send, Solve app.



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Council employs a work force of skilled operators to maintain Council roadside verges and land, including slashing and weed management.

Our staff undertake vegetation maintenance on Council roads and land through the municipality. Work is programmed based on the wet and dry seasons, with November to June being the busiest period where we undertake 2 rounds of spraying weeds and slashing roadside verges. This team also undertakes signage maintenance and litter collection.

The team cover over 3000 kilometres over the wet season period, with the goal to be complete prior to fire ban days commencing at the start of the dry season. Council doesn't maintain NTG roads or managed land, such as the Stuart Highway and Arnhem Highway.

Long grass on intersections and roadsides are slashed on rural bitumen and gravel roads wherever possible. This is undertaken to ensure table drains are not overgrown, weeds can be managed, and for safety of the roadside environment.

You will notice after heavy periods of rain or total fire ban days there may be some delays before long grass in your area is slashed.

If you believe an area requires urgent slashing, please contact Council.

Council's land, road reserves and easements are sprayed for weeds when required and weather conditions permit.

We are grateful for those landowners whom spray their fence line; this assists stopping the spread of weeds to neighbouring properties.

Fire Breaks

The mobile work force also maintains Council's fire breaks in accordance with its Fire Management Plan.



MANAGING FIRE AND VEGETATION ON YOUR PROPERTY

Whether you have purchased your property or you are renting, living in the Litchfield Municipality has legal requirements and responsibilities under the *Bushfires Management Act*, The *Fire & Emergency Act* and the *Fire & Emergency Regulations*. You may be fined or prosecuted if you do not comply with relevant legislation.

- Bushfires are a part of the Northern Territory Landscape
- Fire may threaten people and property with little notice
- You must be prepared to manage fire on your property
- It is in your best interest and that of your community to maintain your property in a fire ready state
- Don't let grassy weeds build up and take over
- You should work to manage the fuel loads on your property as a whole
- Fire ban days may be declared during the dry season, see SecureNT for further information

Whether your property falls within the ERA managed by Northern Territory Fire & Rescue or the Northern Fire Protection Zone managed by Bushfires NT you must have firebreaks installed around the perimeter of your property, your house, any other permanent structure, stationary engine or accumulation of other flammable materials.



What is a firebreak?

- A firebreak is an area no less than 4 meters wide clear of bush and other flammable material
- Clear of low hanging branches over firebreak
- Firebreaks can be bare earth (graded) or slashed/mowed to a maximum height of 50mm with the slashed material removed
- Firebreaks must be maintained all year round where accessible
- Firebreaks can help slow or even stop the spread of low intensity bushfires
- Firebreaks provide for safe access and egress for firefighters to contain or protect your property should a fire start

NORTHERN TERRITORY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

One of NTFRS responsibilities is to manage bushfire around towns and urban areas declared Emergency Response Areas (ERA), shaded red on the map.

Firebreaks must be installed annually by 1 June, it is **your responsibility** to contact the Hazard Abatement Officer to avoid a penalty.

Landholders within the ERA may apply for a permit to burn green waste piles only. This is generally between December and April. No burning can be undertaken outside this period within the ERA. Fines will apply.

Hazard Abatement Officer
Office 8946 4167 | Mobile 0438 008 153
hazard.abatement@pfes.nt.gov.au
www.pfes.nt.gov.au

BUSHFIRES NT

Bushfires NT provides support to landholders and volunteer bushfire brigades and coordinates responses to significant and dangerous bushfires.

If your land is located outside the red shaded area, **you are responsible** for managing fire on your property. You can seek advice and assistance from Bushfires NT or your local Volunteer Bushfire Brigade on how to manage fire on your land.

Landholders outside the ERA may apply for a permit to burn all year round. The issuing of permits will depend on seasonal conditions, capacity to contain and resources available.

Darwin 8922 0844 | Batchelor 8976 0098
BushfiresNT.Compliance@nt.gov.au
www.nt.gov.au/bushfires

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY DIAL 000

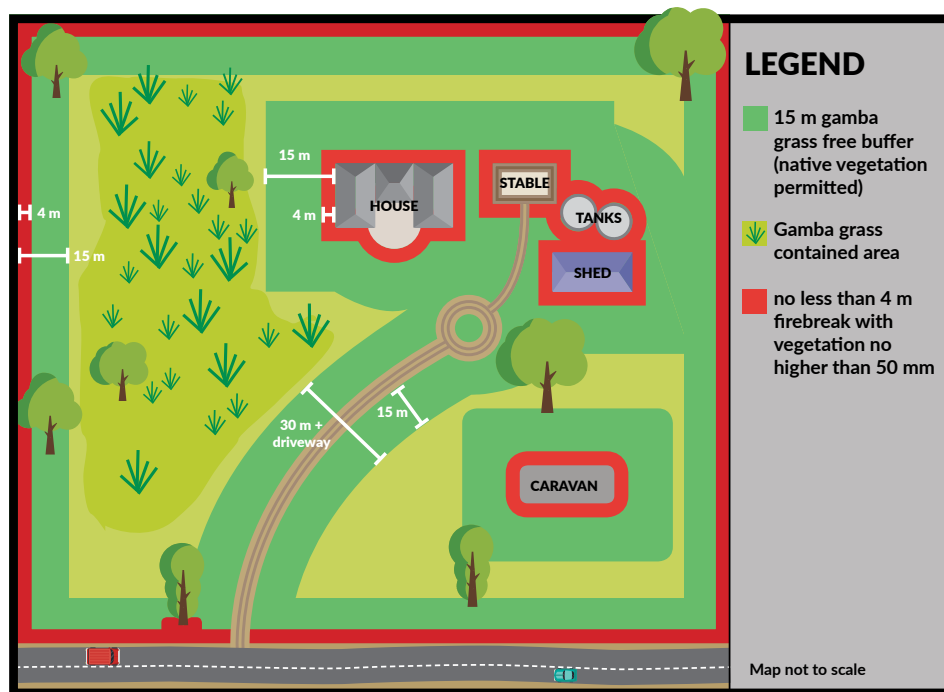


GAMBA GRASS

Gamba grass is a highly invasive grass native to Africa.

Key identifying features include:

- Tussocks up to 4m tall
- Leaves that stay green after natives brown off
- Fine soft hairs on leaves and stems
- A distinctive white midrib on the leaves



Example of a property management plan for managing gamba.

The problem

Gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*) was introduced into the Northern Territory as a pasture grass in the 1930s.

Since this time gamba grass has proved to be highly invasive, establishing itself in savanna woodlands, riparian areas and vulnerable vegetation communities. A combination of impacts on fire regimes, soil nutrient and soil water cycles are dramatically changing these native plant communities.

Wildlife communities and our environment are also at risk from habitat loss.

Fire

Gamba grass is a highly invasive weed that creates high fuel loads which can lead to uncontrollable, hot, intense fires that place lives and property at a greater risk compared to native grass fires.

Spraying your gamba grass

Mix 1L of glyphosate per 100L of clean water (1%) and apply to actively growing (green and not stressed) gamba grass plants.

Coat the entire plant; missed stems may keep growing.

Heavy rain will wash off herbicide; glyphosate needs at least one hour to be absorbed through the leaves.

Glyphosate is a 'non-selective' herbicide; prevent contact or drift onto desirable plants to avoid off-target effects.

A wetting agent can be added to improve glyphosate effectiveness; dirty water will neutralise glyphosate.

Information

For specific information about controlling gamba on your property, or about your legal obligations, refer to the Gamba Grass Management Guide, and the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass, both available on our website www.nt.gov.au/gamba.

The Gamba Action Program is available from December to April to provide free education and assistance to all land holders to manage their gamba.

Weed Management Branch

Phone: 08 8999 4567

Email: weedinfo@nt.gov.au

THORAK REGIONAL CEMETERY

Just a short drive off the Stuart Highway or McMillians Road you can find Thorak Regional Cemetery, situated at 95 Deloraine Road, Knuckey Lagoon.

The opening hours of the Cemetery are 7.00am - 7.00pm each day and the office hours are 8.15am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Contact number for the Thorak Regional Cemetery office is 8947 0903.

Thorak Regional Cemetery is the only active cemetery serving the greater Darwin area.

Comprising a total of 26 hectares, with over 10 hectares currently beautifully landscaped and with the potential for future growth of a further 16 hectares. The Cemetery offers many shaded areas set amongst exotic plants, soaring palms and water features for those seeking contemplation and serenity with their thoughts. The park like grounds offers families and friends the occasion to gather to farewell and reflect on the life of a loved one.

There is a modern Chapel and garden areas available for hire with bookings essential through the office.

Thorak Regional Cemetery has an onsite crematorium for cremations.



LIVING IN LITCHFIELD

There are many services that Litchfield Council offer and information can be found on Council's website. Some of the more commonly used services that don't fall under the jurisdiction of Council are listed below.

Planning and Development

The Northern Territory Government's Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics is the responsible authority on all planning matters in the NT.

The Minister appoints the Development Consent Authority (DCA) as the body responsible for approving developments and subdivisions in the Territory. The Northern Territory Government (NTG) and relevant Minister are responsible for administering the Northern Territory Planning Act and NT Planning Scheme.

Council is the responsible authority for roads and pathways, stormwater drainage, waste, lighting and public open space within the municipality.

For all planning matters please contact the NT Government switchboard on 8999 5511.

Schools

There are ten schools in the Litchfield Municipality.

Bees Creek Primary School	8983 3222
Girraween Primary School	8983 3300
Howards Springs Primary School	8983 0000
Humpty Doo Primary School	8988 1255
Sattler Christian College	7922 1500
St Francis of Assisi Primary School	8988 1212
Middle Point Primary School	8988 1688
Berry Springs Primary School	8988 6006
Taminmin High School	8988 0000
Good Shepherd Lutheran College	8983 0300

School bus routes run throughout the rural area, for details bus routes visit the NT Government school bus timetables and maps website <https://nt.gov.au/driving/public-transport-cycling/school-bus-darwin>

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NTEPA) provides advice on the environmental impacts of development proposals and advice and regulatory services to encourage effective waste management, pollution control and sustainable practices. For more information visit ntepa@nt.gov.au or call 8924 4218.

You, the resident, are the eyes, noses and ears of pollution control and management in the Northern Territory. If you become aware of pollution please call the 24-hour community Pollution Hotline on 1800 064 567.

Neighbourhood noise can be very annoying. You can often stop noise that disturbs you without involving your Council, the police or the NTEPA. If a source of noise is a problem for you there are several things you can do; try talking to people and if the noise continues, you can contact a Community Justice Centre. These are government funded but independent centres that specialise in settling differences between neighbours without entering into complicated legal processes.

For more information on your nearest Community Justice Centre, visit www.cjc.nt.gov.au



USEFUL RESOURCES

Bushfires NT	https://denr.nt.gov.au/about/bushfires-nt
Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics	https://dipl.nt.gov.au/
Northern Territory (NT) Development Consent Authority	https://transport.nt.gov.au/lands-and-planning/boards-committees-and-authorities/development-consent-authority
School Bus Information	https://nt.gov.au/driving/public-transport-cycling/school-bus-darwin
Environment Protection Authority	www.ntepa.nt.gov.au
NT Government Water Resources	https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/water-resources-of-the-nt
NT Government Weed Management	www.nt.gov.au/environment/weeds/free-help-to-control-gamba-grass
Development Consent Authority	https://dipl.nt.gov.au/lands-and-planning/boards-committees-and-authorities/development-consent-authority
NT Government Water Resource	https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/water-resources-of-the-nt
Department of Health	https://health.nt.gov.au/
Childcare	https://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/family-and-community/child-care

Contact Us

Phone: (08) 8983 0600
Email: council@litchfield.nt.gov.au

Address: 7 Bees Creek Road, Freds Pass, NT
Postal Address: PO Box 446, Humpty Doo, NT 0836

Website: www.litchfield.nt.gov.au

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

Checkout the local community notice boards for further updates and events for Council.