

**Response to Litchfield Council's Strategic Focus
From Pauline Cass - Independent for Goyder**

Dear Litchfield Council Mayor, Maree Bredhauer,

As an Independent MLA for Goyder my focus will be on attaining the best possible outcomes for everyone in Goyder. Therefore, I will commit to engaging with Council's advocacy program and welcome the opportunity to work with Council to ensure our community's needs are met.

The Litchfield Council Strategic Focus 2020-21 identified 'Fred's Pass Sports and Recreation Reserve Funding', and 'Economic drive through improved library services' as two priority projects, plus, six additional projects which are important to Council. The following is my comments on each of these projects.

Fred's Pass Sports and Recreation Reserve Funding

Fred's Pass Reserve is a community hub which is utilised by many Litchfield groups, clubs and individuals, being home to many of our sporting clubs as well as the market and Fred's Pass Show, so it must continue to be maintained and developed.

My support for this project is highly likely but will depend on the specifics of facility upgrades and new facilities proposed (these are not included in the Strategic Focus or Plan). The specifics I'd require are: precise budgets; what new facilities and upgrades are proposed; are the proposed upgrades wanted and supported by Fred's Pass Reserve users and the broader community; why not use the funding for a swimming pool?

Specific details and community consultation are required before I can respond to this project with certainty, but I support it in principal and would be willing to discuss it with Council in more detail.

Economic drive through improved library services

I first joined Taminmin Community Library in 1990 and have been a member of the Friends of Taminmin Community Library Committee for several years now.

I agree that having library users accessing the current library is problematic for Taminmin College's security, though I am unaware of any incidences resulting from public access to the library on school grounds. I also agree that Taminmin Community Library has outgrown its current location and requires a larger premises. However, we need a long-term plan for the future of the library, not a "short-term relocation".

While I have no objections to relocating the library to the Coolalinga commercial area, I doubt this project will meet its intended outcome of driving the economy by "Increasing foot traffic for local traders, creating safe community space for youth in a high traffic risk area" for the following reasons:

- It will take people away from Humpty Doo businesses and transfer the "foot traffic" to Coolalinga, so rather than stimulating business for Litchfield traders, it merely relocates local spending from Humpty Doo to elsewhere.

- A library will not stop youth from crossing the road in “a high traffic risk area”, as most are going from the bus interchange to McDonalds and Dominos before walking to Freds Pass Reserve for sports. Safe access to these areas is required, a library won’t solve this issue.

Safe access from the bus interchange to the library will also be required and must be factored in, as no footpaths or safe areas to cross currently exist between the buses and Coolalinga Central, (nor between Coolalinga Central and the Woolworths side of the Highway), especially if people are pushing a pram, etc.

I will support any new long-term library location that is conveniently accessed by library users, is large enough to continue and extend the library’s programs and services, plus has the capacity to house the Litchfield Collection in its current entirety. A new library could also serve as a community centre as described in the project below.

Community and Business Hub

A lot has happened throughout Litchfield since the Litchfield Subregional Land Use Plan 2015 was published, with new commercial and industrial areas having been developed. I support the development of more services and public spaces to facilitate local community groups, small businesses and service providers.

Regional Waste Management

When it comes to waste management, I fully support any efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle our waste.

Water Security Plan

Water security has been of great concern to me for many years. All industry, businesses, institutions, facilities and residences require reliable access to potable water. I will support plans which will provide water security into the future.

Mira Square Community Facilities

While Southport is technically in the NT electorate of Daly, I know from conversations with residents of Southport, that they would love to see Mira Square developed into a community recreation reserve. If SPA has the capacity to develop Mira Square into a safe, fun and functional community space, then I would support them acquiring and developing it.

INPEX Sporting Facilities

Whilst the INPEX Workers Village is in the electorate of Nelson, I have had many conversations with Litchfield residents about its future. The response has been unanimous, they want it to become a retirement village. I have not yet researched what that would require to implement.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Litchfield Council's Strategic Focus 2020-21. I look forward to working with Council as Goyder's MLA, to ensure that our rural area develops in a manner that both supports and is supported by our rural residents.

Kind regards,

Pauline Cass

Independent candidate for Goyder

13/08/2020