

**LITCHFIELD  
COUNCIL**



*Community effort is essential*

## **Our MOTTO**

"Community Effort is Essential"

## **Our VISION**

"To promote and support our rural lifestyle options"

## **Our MISSION**

"Provide municipal services which meet the needs of our rural community."

## **Our VALUES**

### **We believe in:**

accountable local government.

A safe environment.

Quality rural amenities and services.

Rural sports and recreation reserves.

Communication.

Promotion.

### **We will strive to:**

Provide a system of local government for ratepayers that is open, accountable and accessible and has a positive public image.

Create a safe environment that meets community needs.

Ensure a level of service based on a sustainable level of rates that protects rural amenities and essential services. Actively engage with the NT Government to plan for future expansion and provision of services.

Maintain, support and promote our sports and recreational reserves whilst identifying new areas to be established. Engage with the NT and Federal Governments to assist with infrastructure upgrades within all Municipal Sports Centres & Reserves

Communicate effectively with residents concerning the services we provide as Local Government and actively seek feedback. Engage with the NT Government and other stakeholders to maintain close open and effective lines of communication.

Actively promote the role and activities of the Litchfield Council.



## Our Goals, Outcomes and Strategies

<b>Goal</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Effective leadership and governance</b>
<i>Outcome</i>	1.1	<p>Lead within the mission of Provision of services of an acceptable standard and level of Bureaucracy from rates.</p> <p>1.1.1 Review our Municipal Plan in line with our Strategic Plan.</p> <p>1.1.2 Actively promote and communicate our mission to our community and the NT Government.</p>
	1.2	<p>Engage with the community on a regular basis to identify their concerns and seek feedback</p> <p>1.2.1 Conduct an annual perception survey.</p> <p>1.2.2 Maintain an online web-based system for community information and feedback.</p> <p>1.2.3 Review communication strategy with the community.</p> <p>1.2.4 Monitor complaints register and responses given.</p>
	1.3	<p>Promote the Role of the Litchfield Council through its Elected Members</p> <p>1.3.1 Provide administrative and financial support for Elected Members to engage with their constituents on a regular basis.</p> <p>1.3.2 Make reports by Elected Members a regular item on Council agendas.</p>
	1.4	<p>Greater influence in Planning decisions</p> <p>1.4.1 Lobby NT Government including local politicians for greater influence in any Planning affecting the Municipality.</p> <p>1.4.2 Enhance communication with residents on the role of Litchfield Council in planning issues.</p>
	1.5	<p>Partnerships with government agencies, other councils, and the private sector</p> <p>1.5.1 Continue to liaise and cooperate with external organisations to develop and implement mutually beneficial strategies, service delivery models, advocacy, lobbying and resource sharing.</p>

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| <b>Goal</b>    | <b>2</b> | <b>Vibrant local economy</b>  |
| <i>Outcome</i> | 2.1      | Upgrading and maintaining roads throughout the Municipality   |
|                | 2.1.1    | Develop a plan to upgrade and seal all roads over an appropriate time frame.  |
|                | 2.1.2    | Lobby the NT and Federal Governments to assist with joint funding of major road structures.                           |
|                | 2.1.3    | Continue Ratepayer contributions to road sealing and funding of major structures.                                     |
|                | 2.1.4    | Review the level of contributions payable by ratepayers.  |
|                | 2.2      | Advocacy and support that maximises the benefit to local people, businesses and employment.                           |
|                | 2.2.1    | Support community-based economic and employment opportunities within the Municipality.                                |
| <b>Goal</b>    | <b>3</b> | <b>Efficient Service Delivery</b>   |
| <i>Outcome</i> | 3.1      | Provision of core services and works program  |
|                | 3.1.1    | Maintain an Assets Management Program that ensures our assets are well maintained and appropriate to our mission.     |
|                | 3.1.2    | Plan for a consistent approach to service delivery across all wards.  |
|                | 3.1.3    | Ensure effective and appropriate weed and fire control on the Council estate to protect our assets and the community. |
|                | 3.1.4    | Develop by-laws for the protection of Council infrastructure.   |

- 3.2 Maintain an effective animal management policy.
  - 3.2.1 Continue a program of broad community education on dog management.
  - 3.2.2 Implement a program for feral dog management
  - 3.2.3 Reviewing and amend the dog bylaw to meet community concerns
- 3.3 Develop and implement a cost effective, safe and integrated approach to waste management.
  - 3.3.1 Identify a potential recycling site in conjunction with the NT Government and Environmental Protection Authority for joint local government.
  - 3.3.2 Implement a recycling education program for schools and the community.
  - 3.3.3 Identify new initiatives in relation to commercial waste disposal and resource recovery.
  - 3.3.4 Identify new sites for waste transfer stations within the Municipality to meet increased demand.
- 3.4 Operate the Thorak Regional Cemetery in accordance with an approved management plan.
  - 3.4.1 Ensure a viable and appropriate business plan.
  - 3.4.2 Review management policies.
  - 3.4.3 Annually review fees and charges.
  - 3.4.4 Seek external funding to upgrade facilities.
  - 3.4.5 Engage with the community to ensure that Thorak Regional Cemetery meets community expectations

**Goal 4 Strong community**

- Outcome*
- 4.1 Support and promote our lifestyle
    - 4.1.1 Engage with the community to investigate their expectation of living in the Municipality and what role they want Council to fill in sustaining it.
    - 4.1.2 Seek strategic partnerships with agencies to support current and future community programs.
    - 4.1.3 Review the level of appropriate services needed to enable elderly and disabled people to maintain their lifestyle.
    - 4.1.4 Review the level of recreation facilities and reserves.
  - 4.2 Invest in Education
    - 4.2.1 Financially support community education and student awards.



<b>Goal</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Effective Council Management</b>
<i>Outcome</i>	5.1	Sustainable financial management within our mission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5.1.1 Budget to maintain adequate reserves to replace assets and base growth costs.</li><li>5.1.2 Ensure qualified audited reporting.</li><li>5.1.3 Research, develop &amp; implement a rating system to reflect the differing infrastructure demands placed on the Municipality.</li><li>5.1.4 Maintain an effective debt recovery program and continue with the sale of properties to recover outstanding debts.</li></ul>
	5.2	Upgrade Council technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5.2.1 Review Council Information/Communication Technology in line with data management needs.</li><li>5.2.2 Manage the upgrade of the Information/Communication Technology and Geographic Information System.</li></ul>
	5.3	Review the Development Levy <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5.3.1 Review the levy in relation to the future works program.</li><li>5.3.2 Consult broadly with appropriate bodies and stakeholders on the future works program and levy rate.</li></ul>
	5.4	Maintain a high quality and interactive website <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5.4.1 Maintain and improve a user-friendly website.</li><li>5.4.2 Use the website to promote the Council and to interact with our community including online surveys and feedback as required.</li></ul>
	5.5	Staff Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5.5.1 Ensure staff are appropriately trained in data management systems and use of technology</li></ul>

## Review Date

Litchfield Council recognises that a strategic plan is essential in charting future directions and in planning for improvement. It is recognised that, as a vibrant community which is growing rapidly and changing, the Council needs to be prepared for the unexpected.

It is therefore essential that this Strategic Plan be reviewed annually in November by Council.

## Who we are

Litchfield is named after Frederick Henry Litchfield, a member of an early survey and settlement party. Litchfield is located in the top end of the Northern Territory. Litchfield consists of four Wards and is bounded by Van Diemen Gulf to the north, the Adelaide River to the east, the Coomalie Government Council to the south and generally by the City of Darwin and City of Palmerston in the west.

Litchfield Municipality is a rural residential area with a small defence community. There are 18,994 residents Census 2011 (20,424 Regional Population Growth 2011 – 2012 cat. No. 3218.0). The Council area encompasses some 3,100 square kilometres, including coastal and riverine areas, rainforests and lagoons.

## Future Directions

Resulting from the increased development taking place over recent years, the Municipality's population has increased considerably. More infrastructure construction currently is under way and more is planned, this making a significant change as to how the Municipality needs to operate. Council recognises it's responsibility to the Municipality and it's residents and, whilst maximising the area's growth, is committed to maintaining the rural qualities and way of life that Litchfield residents experience and enjoy.

## This Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan was developed through the joint input of elected Council members and the Council Staff. Consultation is now required with residents and ratepayers. Your input can be provided by email ([council@lsc.nt.gov.au](mailto:council@lsc.nt.gov.au)) or mail to PO Box 446, Humpty Doo NT 0836

