



Thursday 25 June 2020

## Submission to City of Darwin Draft 2020/21 Municipal Plan

Emailed to: [darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au)

The Environment Centre NT (ECNT) is the peak community sector environment organisation in the Northern Territory, Australia raising awareness amongst community, government, business and industry about environmental issues.

COOLmob began in 2002 as part of the national Cool Communities project, which was a partnership between community groups, environmental organisations and the Australian Government. COOLmob is the sustainable living initiative of the Environment Centre NT (ECNT) with a mission “to help and inspire our community to live sustainable and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.”

ECNT and COOLmob would like to make the following comments after reading City of Darwin’s Draft 2020/21 Municipal Plan:

- Council seems to have completely dropped the implementation of the bicycle strategy. If this is not the case, under what area outlined in the strategy would implementing this sit? Ensuring there are safe and accessible bike paths in greater Darwin is essential to greater uptake and enjoyment of residents being able to substitute car and bus travel for bicycle riding as a mode of transport. If Council does seek to make the city more liveable, smarter and transition to lower carbon emissions, supporting bike riding through infrastructure and education as well as promotion is paramount.
- The upgrade of Casuarina Pool is welcome, although there seems to be no mention of what energy efficiency specifications will be implemented. COOLmob and ECNT strongly recommend Council install a solar panel array large enough to cover the running costs of the pool throughout the day. Due to NT Government’s latest feed in tariff changes and battery scheme, we also recommend Council invest in a battery on site to lower emissions and running costs of the pool.
- There is no mention in the strategy of waste education or waste minimisation, including school education, community education, continuation of the single use plastics program, food waste, business and commercial waste minimisation and construction and demolition waste minimisation and the potential of a FOGO system. This is extremely disappointing, especially after Council did a large consultation on the waste management strategy, which also appears to have limited education seen yet on the ground. COOLmob and ECNT strongly recommend Council devote adequate funding to waste education and minimisation and implement this as a priority. Darwin has a dismal recycling rate of 12%, which when compared to other places in Australia, even those in similarly remote areas, is incredibly low. COOLmob delivered a very successful schools waste education program for

City of Darwin in 2019/2020 and we recommend this receives ongoing funding. COOLmob would also be very interested in developing other waste education programs for households and businesses, focusing on avoidance and minimisation. We also recommend Council work with interested businesses and markets to develop a FOGO system for food and garden waste as this is the most GHG intensive when landfilled.

- There is no reference of local food and food security education, which is vital if we are to become a sustainable and livable city. We recommend Council either incorporate this into existing programs or provide ongoing funding to groups such as GULP NT to implement this education in the community. Growing, eating, producing local food is vital to climate change mitigation and means a healthier and more robust community and environment.
- There is no reference to energy efficiency programs, or how Council is tracking or seeking to track in relation to the generation of renewable energy and energy performance of new and existing Council buildings. COOLmob and ECNT recommend that businesses, all Council assets and households are provided with energy efficiency education programs tied to City-wide aspirational goals to decrease carbon and increase resilience.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Regards,

Shar Molloy

Director, Environment Centre NT