



Alice Springs Town Council

MUNICIPAL PLAN

2019/2020 – 2022/2023

Inclusive of Council's

- 2019/2020 Budget
- Four Year Financial Plan
- Other Information as required under the *Local Government Act*

Through innovative leadership and good governance, Alice Springs Town Council will provide services to meet the present and changing needs of our community.

2019/2020

TABLE OF CONTENT

Municipal Plan Adoption	1
What are our Objectives?	2
How will we achieve our Objectives and Measure Success	3-7
Rating Policy <i>(Incorporating the Rates Schedule and information on rebates and Concessions on Rates and Charges)</i>	8-17
Revenue and Expenditure Estimates <i>(Incorporating the Budgeted Statement of Financial Performance, Budget by Strategic Focus Area and Statement of Waste Management Charges 2019/2020)</i>	18-26
New/Ongoing Initiatives 2019/2020	27
Role of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Elected Member's Allowances	28-30
Fees and Charges	31-43
Additional Information	44-47

Municipal Plan Adoption

The Municipal Plan for the period 2019/2020 to 2022/2023 was adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24th June 2019.

What are our Objectives?

Following the election of the thirteenth Council in 2017, a review was undertaken of Council's Objectives and Strategies. This has led to the development of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and has allowed Council to refine its focus to meet the needs of our changing community. The Strategic Plan 2018-2021 considers Council's current position and aspirations from collective, social, cultural, economic and environmental perspectives.

The 2019-2023 Municipal Plan has been developed in the context of Council's strategic planning framework and in particular the four strategic focus areas or objectives outlined below. Implementation of the Municipal Plan aims to deliver to the community a well-managed, sustainable, vibrant and progressive environment for present and future generations. Included are a range of activities and initiatives that encompass all of Council's activities, operations and responsibilities and contribute to achieving the longer term objectives set out in the strategic plan.

Strategic Objective 1 – Dynamic community

To create a dynamic, prosperous community where everyone is included, underpinned by safe, reliable infrastructure and social investment.

Strategic Objective 2 – Great place to live

To provide a great place to live that attracts and retains residents because of the unmatched leisure and healthy living opportunities and embrace of our unique landscape and culture.

Strategic Objective 3 – Leader in sustainability

To be a leader in sustainability and best practice, living well in our desert context and minimising our impact.

Strategic Objective 4 – Dynamic Council

A well governed Council that leads by example, advocates for our community, innovates and delivers excellent services, and works with others collaboratively to help create the community we want to live in.

How will we achieve our Objectives & measure success?

Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for each of the strategies can be found in the Alice Springs Town Council Strategic Plan 2018-2021 document available from the Civic Centre or Council's website at

http://www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/Alice%20Springs%20Town%20Council%202018-21%20Strategic%20Plan_0.pdf

Strategic Objective 1 – A dynamic community

Outcomes

1.1 Inclusiveness and support

- 1.1.1 Develop and enhance programmes, as well as services
- 1.1.2 Promote community engagement, cohesion and safety
- 1.1.3 Proactively embrace diversity, ensuring equitable participation opportunities

1.2 Economic growth and prosperity

- 1.2.1 Initiate cooperation between the Commonwealth Government, Northern Territory Government and Council, to identify and develop strategic opportunities
- 1.2.2 Foster investment attraction
- 1.2.3 Support ongoing tourism development and prosperity

1.3 Safe and reliable public infrastructure

- 1.3.1. Maintain and improve local road network
- 1.3.2. Maintain and improve local footpaths and cycle networks
- 1.3.3. Maintain and improve Council buildings
- 1.3.4. Lead the Northern Territory Government to establish a suitable Alice Springs Master Plan
- 1.3.5. Advocate Northern Territory Government and Commonwealth Government partnerships with Council, to establish suitable, contemporary community facilities

Key indicators in achieving these outcomes include:

- Establishing key indicators and yearly improvement targets for inclusion and diversity for Council programs by 2019
- Increasing sealed gazetted public roads to 93% by year end FY2019, 94% by year end FY2020 and 95% by year end FY2021

- Funding on tourism initiatives to achieve at least a 1:4 return on investment
- Increasing Alice Springs Town Council website sessions from a baseline of 250,000 by 10% per annum
- Growing the proportion of lifetime animal registrations compared to annual registrations from 4:1 to 5:1
- Consistently achieving 100% response to Neat Streets notifications

Strategic Objective 2 – A great place to live

Outcomes

2.1 Community life, promoting a healthy, vibrant culture

- 2.1.1. Provide sport, recreation and leisure opportunities, which maximise social capital
- 2.1.2. Promote active lifestyles for people of all ages
- 2.1.3. Advocate for the continuation and enhancement of transport options to ensure Alice Springs is an ongoing part of the national transport network

2.2 Sense of place and public amenity

- 2.2.1. Maintain and improve built and social infrastructure in open spaces, by adopting placemaking strategies
- 2.2.2. Ensure vibrant, multi-functional options in dedicated public open spaces

2.3 Enhance life-long learning, library and technology services

- 2.3.1. Protect and promote local history and heritage
- 2.3.2. Diversify information resources and mediums
- 2.3.3. Offer STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) training, education and support to establish a local digital culture

Key indicators in achieving these outcomes include:

- Completing short-term and medium-term Arts and Cultural Plan strategic actions by 2020 including;
 - Developing and implementing a Public Art Master Plan
 - Developing and implementing a Public Art Interpretation Plan
 - Strengthening existing strategic relationships across arts and culture, education, health, tourism, community and local enterprise

- Placemaking strategies utilised in 20% of Council controlled open-spaces by the end of FY2019, 30% by end of FY2020 and 40% by end of FY2021
- Working with partners to increase organised sporting participation by 5% per annum from 2019 onwards
- Increasing Alice Springs Public Library memberships by 25% per annum
- Increasing STEAM and digital engagement event participants by 25% per annum
- Increasing participation in healthy communities activities by 10% per annum
- Increasing the present proportion of primary school aged Level 3 swimmers by 5% per annum
- Undertaking 3 park refurbishments per year

Strategic Objective 3 – Leadership in sustainability

Outcomes

3.1 Reduce Council's carbon footprint

- 3.1.1. Reduce Council's greenhouse emissions
- 3.1.2. Maximise energy productivity
- 3.1.3. Reduce Council's waste production
- 3.1.4. Maximise efficient use of water

3.2 Reduce Alice Springs' carbon footprint

- 3.2.1. Educate and enable the community to reduce greenhouse emissions
- 3.2.2. Educate and enable the community with regard to waste reduction, waste management, water consumption and recycling
- 3.2.3. Encourage the Northern Territory Government and industry to adopt affordable, environmentally smart, sustainable initiatives, suited to Central Australia

3.3 Conserve and protect the Alice Springs environment

- 3.3.1. Support a healthy, natural living environment
- 3.3.2. Maintain and ensure efficient use of the Regional Waste Management Facility

Key indicators in achieving these outcomes include:

- Increasing the proportion of solar generated electricity at Council facilities or reducing consumption to achieve energy savings from the grid from 20% to 30% by YE2019, 40% by YE2020 and 50% by YE2021
- Developing and implementing an Alice Springs Town Council Climate Action Plan which establishes a sustainable investment framework and progressive yearly actions and targets on;
 - Energy productivity
 - Energy replacement through sustainable technologies
 - Waste reduction
 - Fuel usage
 - Recycling
 - Water productivity
- Using 25% of the crushed glass collected from 48 tonne of wine and spirit bottles under the Cash for Containers scheme annually
- Reducing fleet vehicle fuel usage by 2.5% by December 2020
- Increasing reuse/recycling rates of waste presented at the Regional Waste Facility by 5% per annum

Strategic Objective 4 – A dynamic Council

Outcomes

4.1 Leadership and advocacy excellence

- 4.1.1. Equip Elected Members
- 4.1.2. Equip Executive team
- 4.1.3. Equip leadership team

4.2 People and workplace excellence

- 4.2.1. Attract a capable, skilled workforce
- 4.2.2. Retain a suitably qualified and motivated workforce
- 4.2.3. Be an employer of choice
- 4.2.4. Ensure a safe work environment

4.3 Service excellence

- 4.3.1. Establish, maintain, review and improve efficient, effective systems
- 4.3.2. Adopt and encourage innovative digital technology

- 4.3.3. Maintain professional, timely and accurate service protocols at all customer service points

4.4 Governance excellence

- 4.4.1. Responsible fiscal and asset management
- 4.4.2. Ethical conduct
- 4.4.3. Facilitate a regular risk management and compliance audit committee, with an independent chair

Key indicators in achieving these outcomes include:

- Participation of Elected Members in all Ordinary Council and Standing Committee meetings and 80% of Advisory and other committee meetings as appointed and reported on in the Council's Annual Report
- Undertaking benchmarking by the CEO of the organizational culture, values and behaviour in 2018/2019 which will establish strategies and targets as required
- Rolling out the Council endorsed Reconciliation Publication during 2019/2020 with clear progressive measurable targets, strategies and actions achieving increased level of employment of Indigenous Australians in Council positions.
- Establishing staff and resident satisfaction benchmarks in 2018/2019 and improving by 5% per annum
- Conducting yearly surveys of Advisory Committee members that show an increase in satisfaction and motivation rates, reflected in increasing attendance rates
- Meeting all financial reporting requirements to the specified compliance level
- Having the outstanding rates ratio equal or better than 0.3 (being the total rates outstanding divided by total rates revenue)
- Ensuring the current ratio at better than 1:1 (being a measure of how quickly Council can convert current assets into cash to satisfy Council financial commitments)
- Ensuring Council maintains a strong capacity to service its loans (if any) by having a debt equity ratio of less than 0.1 (being the outstanding debt divided by operating income)

Rating Policy

Rating Policy

1 Purpose

The Rating Policy is an explanatory document outlining and explaining the rating measures adopted in the Municipal Plan. It will be of interest to community groups, ratepayers, Commonwealth, State/Territory Departments and other interested parties seeking to understand the rating policies and practices of the Council.

The purpose of this Policy is to promote consistent administration of rating in the community, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, to ensure equity with respect to demand for municipal services, and regard to the needs of those ratepayers affected by financial hardship.

2 Period Covered by the Rating Policy

This Rating Policy is part of the Municipal Plan adopted at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 24th June 2019 and applies to the financial year beginning 1st July 2019 and ending 30th June 2020.

2.1 Levying of Rates and Charges

Background

The authority to levy rates on property in the municipality is vested in the Council by the *Local Government Act*. The basis and conditions of rates and charges levied are laid out by Council each financial year in the Declaration of Rates and Charges, pursuant to section 155 of the *Local Government Act*.

Matters relating to rates include: -

- (a) Assessed value as a basis of valuation
- (b) General rate declaration
- (c) Local rate declaration
- (d) Charges
- (e) Payment of rates and use of instalments
- (f) Method of paying rates
- (g) Incentive for early payment of rates (Early Bird Draw)
- (h) Penalty for late payment of rates
- (i) Recovery of outstanding rates and charges

These matters are formally reviewed by Council annually when considering the Declaration of Rates and Charges and do not form part of this policy.

There is a common misconception that if a property's valuation rises, then Council receives a "windfall gain" with additional income. This is not the case, rather the revaluation process results in a redistribution of the rate burden across all properties in the municipality. Any increase to total valuations of the municipality is offset by a reduction to the rate in the dollar (ad valorem rate) used to calculate the rate for each property. Total income is fixed each year as part of the budget process. Council, like other organisations, only seeks to increase the total amount of revenue required in order to account for indexation, wage and other service cost increases imposed on it and any new initiatives as determined by Council.

Public finance theory and practice implies that taxation revenue whether it is at the Federal, State/Territory or Local level is generally used to finance various

forms of “public goods, services and community obligations” not necessarily in direct relation to user benefit, but ultimately of benefit to the community as a whole. In this respect, rates are a general purpose levy not linked to user pays principles.

The amount of rates collected by Council depends on conscious and considered choices as to the quantity and quality of services that it decides to provide and how much of the cost is to be recovered from other revenue sources. The amount collected in rates represents the difference between the total expense required by Council to fund programs, maintain assets and to service and redeem debt, and the total amount of revenue from all other sources. Other sources of income include grants, prescribed and discretionary fees, fines and charges, sales of assets and interest earned.

Therefore, rates are the balancing item between total expenses and all other revenue sources.

Council acknowledges that property taxes do not recognise the situation where ratepayers are “asset rich” and “income poor”. In some cases, ratepayers may have considerable wealth reflected in property they own but have a low level of income. Examples include pensioners, self-funded retirees, businesses subject to cyclical downturn, households with large families and property owners with little equity but high level of mortgage debt. Moreover, the Australian taxation system which allows for annuities, allocated pensions income and other assets to be treated differently in an assessment for government concessions and benefits, may further distort the true disposable income status of one household compared to another.

While personal income tax is more reflective of the capacity to pay, it is not possible to expect a property tax system to deal practically with all aspects of capacity to pay based on individual households and businesses. It is also not practical or acceptable to shift, modify or manipulate the existing system to the benefit of one group of ratepayers at the expense of another unless such a shift is widely accepted and for a proper purpose. In fact, local government has no mandate or ability to universally apply a “capacity to pay” test. In recognition of this fact, Council has developed its rates assistance and payment options to ensure that officers can provide ratepayers with assistance upon request.

In the local government context, the rating system determines how Council will raise money from properties within the municipality while the annual budget determines how that money will be spent. The rating system comprises the valuation base and the rating instruments that are used to calculate property owner’s liability for rates.

The *Local Government Act* determines a council’s ability to develop a rating system and provides considerable flexibility to councils to suit their requirements within the context of public finance methodology, which includes principles of equity, benefit, efficiency and community resource allocation.

Under the Act, Council has the power to levy:

- Uniform rates,
 - Differential rates,
 - Special rates,
 - Charges,
 - Interest on unpaid rates
- and to
- Provide rate concessions including deferrals and waivers based on hardship

Rate Structure

A differential General Rate is levied on all rateable properties based on the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) of the land falling within the town planning zones under the NT Planning Scheme as referred to in the *Planning Act*.

Council has 14 rating groups with the application of differential rates to each of these groups in accordance with Section 148 of the *Local Government Act*.

The purpose of the various rating groups is to ensure that each group makes a fair and equitable contribution to rates.

2019/2020 Rates Schedule:

2019/2020 Rates Schedule			
Multiplier	Zone	Minimum Amount	Estimated Revenue
0.00251321	R (Rural), RL (Rural Living), RR (Rural Residential) SA2 (Specific Use, NT Portion Lots 4097 to 4101) SA9 (Specific Use, NT Portion Lot 6811)	\$1,345.50	\$620,934
0.03565489	CB (Central Business)	\$1,405.74	\$3,455,680
0.02617447	C (Commercial)		\$243,617
0.00918966	SC (Service Commercial)		\$89,540
0.01686309	TC (Tourist Commercial)		\$1,618,630
0.00958969	LI (Light Industry)		\$1,334,638
0.00958969	GI (General Industry)		\$810,818
0.00803350	SD (Single Dwelling Residential), MD (Multiple Dwelling Residential), CL (Community Living), PS (Public Open Space), OR (Organised Recreation), CP (Community Purposes), CN (Conservation), FD (Future Development), U (Utilities), RW (Railways), SA5 (Specific Use, Town of Alice Springs Lot 8132) SA8 (Specific Use, Town of Alice Springs Part of Lot 7593)	\$1,332.77	\$12,742,316
0.00683110	MR (Medium Density Residential)	\$1,217.47	\$1,586,037
0.00813563	HR (High Density Residential)	\$1,332.77	\$23,083
0.01141635	The allotments included in SU (Specific Use) and referred to as SA1, SA3, SA4 and SA6 in Schedule 1 of the Northern Territory Planning Scheme	\$1,405.74	\$312,865
0.01773222	All units in Unit Plan No. 94/87 situated on Lot 7449	\$325.82	\$8,500
0.05300794	Conditionally rateable land	\$890.96	\$3,817
0.00676384	All other rateable land within the Municipality not otherwise described above.	\$1,332.77	\$3,111

An amount of \$70,456 is expected to be collected via rates on the tenancies within the Alice Springs Airport and surrounds.

For the 2019/2020 financial year, Council proposes to increase the revenue from the general rate and related minimum charges by 3.5% across all categories of ratepayers.

The total amount to be raised from rates is:

2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
\$22.854M	\$23.653M	\$24.481M	\$25.338M

Conditionally Rateable Land

Pursuant to section 142(2) of the *Local Government Act*, the Minister has provided Council with the approval to rate conditionally rateable land at the greater of the minimum charge or the multiplier by the assessed value.

2.1.1 Social and Economic Effects of Council's Rating Policy

Council makes conscious and considered choices to minimise the social and economic effects of its Rating Policy by keeping any increases in rates to a minimum. At the same time Council needs to ensure sufficient income is generated to maintain, replace and upgrade infrastructure in order to provide the quantity and quality of services that guarantees the achievement of Council's goals.

Information on the services funded by Council rates is included within this Municipal Plan, a summary of which is provided to all ratepayers by means of a brochure provided with their rates notice.

Council seeks to lower the social and economic impact of its Rating Policy through:

- The provision of a subsidy to eligible pensioners in addition to the rebate provided to them by the Territory Health Services.
- Consideration of the issues experienced by individuals suffering from financial hardship, further discussed below in part 2.1.2.
- Allowing for payment of rates by four instalments.

2.1.2 Rebates and Concessions on Rates and Charges

Policy Statement Number 510

Council deals with ratepayers and stakeholders on a daily basis.

The provision of efficient administration of the Council's rating system requires that officers have the guidance and authority to act in certain matters on Council's behalf.

Council recognises that individuals can experience difficulty in meeting their responsibilities for the payment of rates and that it is appropriate where financial hardship has been demonstrated to consider granting a concession for the payment of rates. The concession granted can be either a waiving of rates levied or a deferment.

A review of all policies and their contemporary relevance is presently being undertaken.

Financial Hardship of Ratepayer Related to a Residential Property

A rate concession on the grounds of financial hardship shall only apply to:

- (i) A ratepayer (as a natural person) demonstrating financial hardship can apply for a concession to defer the payment of part/all of the rates levied providing that the application is for the ratepayer's principal place of residence.

Rates deferred, pursuant to section 164 of the *Local Government Act*, will be recovered at a future time either when the ratepayer's circumstances change or when the property is sold. Until paid deferred rates remain a charge against the land.

- (ii) A concession granted shall not include relief from charges levied against the property for services, including those provided by Council, garbage collection charges, waste management charges etc.
- (iii) An application for a concession applies for one financial year only, and a new application is required for subsequent years.
- (iv) An occupier of a residential property may make an application under this section providing the owner's consent has been obtained.
- (v) An application under this section should be made in writing and include a completed Hardship Rate Relief Application form detailing the ratepayer's income and expenditure.

Public Benefit Concessions

- (i) Where land would be exempt from rates but for the fact that it is partially used for commercial or other non-exempt purposes, a concession may be allowed under Council's Rates Policy on the following basis.

Other applications under this section will only be considered individually by Council.

- (ii) A ratepayer(s) can apply pursuant to section 167 of the Act for a concession to waive payment of part/all of the rates levied.
- (iii) Council will consider such applications where satisfactory evidence is provided that the activities undertaken on the property are not-for-profit and that the relief will advance one or more of the following benefits for the general public:
 - a) Securing the proper development of the Council's area.
 - b) Preserving buildings or places of historical interest.
 - c) Protecting the environment.
 - d) Encouraging cultural activities.
 - e) Promoting community health and welfare.

- f) Encouraging agriculture.
 - g) Providing recreation or amusement for the public.
- (iv) A concession granted shall not include relief from charges levied against the property for services provided by the Council, e.g. garbage collection charges.
 - (v) An application for a concession applies for one financial year only, and a new application is required for subsequent years.
 - (vi) An application under this section should be made in writing, providing details of the activities undertaken on the property, a statement of income and expenditure, detail of the grounds on which the rate concession is applied for and where relevant a copy of the organisation's constitution.
 - (vii) To avoid doubt, an applicant need not have Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) status.

Assessing Financial Hardship

Financial hardship is assessed by using a four-step process that is applied to an income test.

Income Test	Financial Hardship
1. Including rates, net income test balance is in credit.	No financial hardship exists.
2. Including rates, net income test balance is in deficit (debit).	Some financial hardship exists. Move to next step.
3. Reduce levied rates to the minimum rate for the zone, and the net income test balance is then in credit.	Consider a concession based on payment of the minimum rate for the zone. The amount of the concession is the difference between the levied amount and the minimum rate
4. Reduce levied rates to the minimum rate for the zone, and the net income test balance is then in deficit.	Extreme financial hardship exists. Consider a concession based on payment of nil rates.

Timing of Application

A concession does not apply retrospectively to payments outstanding from an instalment date that has passed.

- A person liable to pay rates receives a rate notice 28 days before the date of the first instalment. That person is required by the *Local Government Act* to make payment,

either in full or an amount determined as the first instalment amount.

- An application for a concession must be received by the first instalment date, to apply to rates levied for the whole financial year. Applications received after expiry of the first instalment date shall incur interest charges on any unpaid amounts and any concession allowed may be reduced on a proportional basis.

Payment arrangements

Council will allow property owners who are unable to pay their rates by the due date to enter into an arrangement to pay by instalments according to an agreed schedule, with no recovery action being taken while the arrangement is being maintained. However interest will be charged on any arrears of rates in accordance with Council's budget resolution.

Interest on rates and charges in arrears

Council encourages ratepayers to meet their rate and charges debt payment responsibilities. To this end Council will impose interest, calculated daily after the instalment due date on instalments of rates that remain unpaid. The rate of interest is 19%. Rates that have been in arrears for at least 6 months will have an Overriding Statutory Charge placed over the land by Council. Should the debt continue to remain unpaid, Council will seek recovery through its external debt collection agency for recovery of the rates, charges and any legal costs that arise. Pursuant to Part 11.9 of the *Local Government Act*, if rates have been in arrears for at least three years, Council may sell the land to recover unpaid rates and associated costs.

2.1.3 Regional Waste Management Charges

Garbage collection charges are based on the type of residential dwelling being serviced and the relative applicable type of service provided.

Council charges a fixed amount for waste management and collection. Where multiple residential dwellings exist on the allotment of land, the fee is multiplied by the number of residential units on each allotment.

The charge together with commercial waste disposal income is used to meet the reasonable costs associated with the collection and disposal / recycling of waste, and funding for landfill restoration and replacement.



Revenue & Expenditure Estimates (including Council's Four Year Financial Plan)

Estimates of Income and Expenditure

The Municipal Plan and Budget has been prepared in accordance with:

- Part 3.2, Part 10.4 & Part 10.5 of the *Local Government Act*.
- Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations*.

As was mentioned previously, also incorporated in this Municipal Plan as is required under section 126 of the *Local Government Act*, is Council's Long Term Financial Plan relating to the proposed operations of the council for the next four years.

The Budgeted Statement of Financial Performance for the 4 year period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2023 provides an estimate of the financial performance of Council for the next four financial years. Council has adopted a balanced budget (excluding depreciation expense which is a non cash item) for each of these years. It should be noted that under the *Local Government Act* a Council cannot budget for a deficit.

The budget to be adopted by Council is based on its base position i.e. excluding non-recurrent grants income and expenditure.

While there will be carryovers of unexpended non-recurring grants from 2019/2020 to 2022/2023 the amount available will not be fully known until after the annual financial statements have been prepared and audited.

Once these amounts are known they, together with any other available carried forward amounts will be included in the 2019/2020 financial reports.

The Budgeted Statement of Financial Performance, detailed budgets allocated across the four strategic focus areas and details the proposed 2019/2020 waste management charges follows:

NEW/ONGOING INITIATIVES 2019/2020-2022/2023

Included with year's plan is:

- \$3.7M towards Ilparpa Road and Footpath Stage 1 works (with \$2.5M funding from the NTG)
- \$3.179M investment on Alice Springs' parks, gardens & ovals
- \$2.028M investment in Alice Springs' Aquatic & Leisure Centre
- \$1.752M investment on Alice Springs' roads and road maintenance
- \$1.724M towards litter control, graffiti and municipality tidiness
- \$1.340M investment in Alice Springs' public library
- \$1.2M towards lighting upgrade at the Albrecht Oval (with \$600k funding from the NTG)
- \$705,000 towards ongoing tree planting and maintenance
- \$382,000 towards supporting community events
- \$380,000 towards the cemetery and chapel maintenance
- \$315,000 towards footpath & cycle track maintenance
- \$265,000 towards Aquatic & Leisure Centre Splash Pad
- \$250,000 towards Climate Action Plan
- \$189,000 to fund the Healthy Communities program
- \$120,000 towards Youth Projects
- \$111,000 of grants & contributions given to the community
- \$100,000 for public toilet refurbishment
- \$100,000 to support tourism initiatives
- \$87,000 towards maintenance of Council's childcare centre and Gap Youth centre buildings
- \$85,000 to fund the preservation of the art collection
- \$50,000 towards After Hours Basketball
- \$56,000 to support public art
- \$29,000 towards the Outback Way Support
- \$10,000 towards supporting Phoney Film Festival

Role of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Elected Member Allowances

Role of the Mayor

The Mayor is the principal member of the Alice Springs Town Council whose role is

- to chair the meetings of Council; and
- to speak on behalf of Council as Council's principal representative; and
- to carry out the civic and ceremonial functions required of the position.

The Mayor is elected directly to the office.

The Mayor is at the same time also a member of Council whose role is:

- to represent the interests of all residents and ratepayers of the municipality of Alice Springs; and
- to provide leadership and guidance; and
- to facilitate communication between the members of Council's constituency and Council; and
- to participate in the deliberations of Council and its community activities; and
- to ensure, as far as practicable, that Council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately in carrying out its statutory responsibilities

The Mayor is bound by Council's Code of Conduct for Elected Members in just the same way as are the Councillors.

Role of the Deputy Mayor

The Deputy Mayor is the deputy principal member of Council whose role is to carry out any of the Mayor's functions when the Mayor:

- a) delegates the functions to the Deputy Mayor; or
- b) is absent from official duties because of illness or for some other pressing reason; or
- c) is on leave.

The Deputy Mayor is appointed each year to the office by the Councillors from amongst themselves.

Elected Member Allowances

Pursuant to section 71 of the *Local Government Act* Council's Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors are paid the following allowances:

Allowance Type	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor
Annual Base Allowance	\$87,199.66	\$32,244.05	\$15,683.21
Electoral Allowance	\$22,951.14	\$5,738.99	\$5,738.99
Professional Development allowance	\$3,734.50	\$3,734.50	\$3,734.50
Max Extra Meeting allowance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,455.87
Total	\$113,885.30	\$41,717.54	\$35,612.57

Professional Development allowance will only be paid to the Elected Member should they attend appropriate and relevant conferences or training courses as per Council policy.

The Ministerial Guidelines have set the maximum additional meeting allowance at \$10,455.87 per annum. This allowance will only be paid to Councillors as per Council policy.

The total amount budgeted in 2019/2020 for the above allowances are \$404,890.80.

The office of Mayor also includes a motor vehicle, mobile phone and credit card.

The Mayor and other Elected Members have budgets for travel and accommodation, conference fees and other minor out of pocket expenses and the quantum of funds allocated for these purposes is \$39,300.

The daily travel allowance for the Mayor and Elected Members when away on Council business is \$205 per day.

The Mayor and Elected Members are also provided with cab charge vouchers to cover the cost of taxi fares when unable to provide their own transport, in order to allow them to attend:

1. Council meetings and Council business related to Council meetings.
2. Council functions
3. Meetings arising as a result of the Mayor or an Elected Member being appointed by Council to an external body.

The Mayor and Elected Members may claim reimbursement of child care expenses in relation to expenses paid to:

1. a recognised child care provider, or
2. a person who does not;
 - a. have a familial or like relationship with the Mayor or an Elected Member, or
 - b. reside either permanently or temporarily with the Mayor or an Elected Member, or
 - c. have a relationship with the Mayor or an Elected Member or his/her partner such that it would be inappropriate for Council to reimburse monies paid to the care provider
3. Such child care expenses will be reimbursed when child care is necessary in order to allow the Mayor or an Elected Member to attend:
 - a. Council meetings and Council business related to Council meetings
 - b. Council functions
 - c. Meetings arising as a result of the Mayor or an Elected Member being appointed by the Council to an external body.

A claim for reimbursement in relation to child care expenses shall be made in writing stating the nature and details to substantiate the claim and be presented to and certified by the Chief Executive Officer for payment.

2.2 Council Annual Fees and Charges

Council has adopted the following Schedule of Fees and Charges for its activities and services to apply in 2019/2020. The schedule is extensive and covers the broad range of Council services and facilities.

Fees

Council imposes fees for services and facilities supplied by any entitlement, facility, service or supply, approval, consent, licence, permission, registration or information given, admission to any structure or place, receipt of any application, product or commodity supplied or inspection undertaken.

The quantum of each fee endeavours to reflect as far and as accurately as possible, the actual cost of providing these services and facilities, except where Council undertakes private works.



Additional Information

Additional Information

(As required under Section 23 of the *Local Government Act*)

1 Constitutional Arrangements

As per the requirements of the *Local Government Act*, the Alice Springs Town Council conducted a review of electoral representation for residents in the Council area during 2014.

At the 24 November 2014 Ordinary Council Meeting, following a period of public consultation, Council adopted the following recommendations (record of decision 18046):

That Council writes to the Minister for Local Government advising Council's position that there be no changes recommended under S9 of the Act, i.e.

- a. That there not be wards**
- b. That the number of elected members remain at 9, consisting of 8 Councillors and a Mayor**
- c. That the council name remain unchanged**
- d. That the council external boundaries remain unchanged**

It was also determined that as per the previous review of electoral representation (at Council's September 2010 Ordinary Meeting Council, record of decision 15799) the following remained unchanged

The name of the area of the Council shall remain unchanged, i.e. Municipality of Alice Springs.

The title of the principal member of Council shall be Mayor and the title of the Elected Members shall be Councillor.

2 Opportunities and Challenges for Service Delivery

Council considers opportunities and challenges for service delivery each year as part of its budget planning process. The Detailed Estimate of Income and Expenditure in this Municipal Plan provide information on the services delivered by Council and the budget allocation required to carry them out.

As Council's role in providing services and project outcomes is across a diverse range of functions, and across a diverse community, the opportunities and challenges are accordingly diverse and varied.

Opportunities exist to better utilise technology and achieve greater efficiencies, particularly in the administrative areas as well as reinforcing relationships that Council has with government, business and the community to improve the delivery of all Council services.

Many challenges exist to meet increasing community service expectations in the face of rising costs, environmental, economic and community issues and cost shifting from other spheres of government. The constantly increasing maintenance

costs for Council's infrastructure assets and changes in the regulatory framework which increase compliance requirements also impact on service delivery.

There is little opportunity for rates growth, with 74% of land within the Municipality being Crown land and unrateable. With approximately 62% of income coming from rates this fact presents a challenge for Council due to the large impact it has on Council's income.

3 Changes to the Administrative and Regulatory Framework

The Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development is currently seeking submissions on the Draft Local Government Bill. The *Local Government Act* is the Framework within which the Alice Springs Town Council diligently operates.

4 Cooperative Arrangements

Alice Springs Town Council is confident of the positive leadership role it can continue to play in facilitating the progress of the region in collaboration with Council's partners in the community, industry and all levels of government. Council is involved in a range of partnerships at the regional and national levels including regional development partnerships and Freedom of Entry arrangements.

Collaborative partnerships are also in place with the Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation, Tangentyere Council and Correctional Services. Council has a "Common Statement of Faith Communities" to promote, respect and tolerate the integrity of each other's beliefs, cultures, language and traditions.

Council maintains memberships on various other groups including The Outback Highway Development Council, The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT), the Southern Region Co-ordinating Committee through the Department of the Chief Minister and the Interagency Tasking and Co-Ordination Group (ITCG).

Council has developed relationships with the Regional Councils in Central Australia to assist with regional opportunities and challenges in the area. Regular meetings, when the opportunity arises, are held with the Chief Executive Officers of Alice Springs Town Council, Central Desert and MacDonnell Regional Councils. In addition, Centroc has been established comprising all four (4) Councils.

It is important that Council ensures that there is ongoing formal and informal communication and consultation with the community as awareness of and involvement in Council's activities is essential to realising benefits from the services Council provides. The ongoing support and encouragement of the community will help establish productive relationships and achieve better outcomes.

5 Acknowledgement to Federal Government

Alice Springs Town Council wishes to acknowledge the Commonwealth Government and express its gratitude for their ongoing support given in the way of the Financial Assistance Grants.