

Municipal Plan 2024/2025 Written Submissions				
Date	DOC ID	Regarding	Comments	RESPONSE
5/06/2024	193751	Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - budget initiatives and highlighted projects	I am incredibly frustrated with the lack of investment in basic public infrastructure in particular playgrounds in suburbs. All other Territory towns have beautiful children's playgrounds and green spaces. Also incredibly frustrated at the town council fees charged for community orgs to put on community arts and cultural events when in other places councils fund and support similar events to occur.	Thank you for your feedback. Current proposed deliverables include installing nature playgrounds, a greening committee will develop a shade and cooling works program, and council provide free and accessible events that cater for a diverse community. Council is committed to supporting and encouraging community and cultural events, and advocates for grants to aid these projects.
		Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - Service Delivery Plan	Uninspired. Why not spend money on creating beautiful outdoor spaces that families, individuals can enjoy, it would go such a long way towards creating community harmony, cohesion etc. A sports precinct is not accessible to all people in community.	Thank you for your feedback. Council improvements and ongoing management are within budget restraints each year. The proposed deliverables for 2024-25 include installing parkettes and nature playgrounds, a greening committee will develop a shade and cooling works program, provision for the 26 parks and reserves. The sports and recreational precinct is accessible to all individuals and families and includes a skatepark, adventure playground, ovals, public tennis courts, and open spaces to enjoy the outdoors in Katherine.
		Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - Annual budget or long-term financial plan	Uninspired	Your feedback is noted.
		Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - Rates, Waste, Fees and Charges	Would like to see the money to be used more responsibly	Thank you for your feedback. Council's strategic priority 4.2.4 is to be prudent with our financial management for stronger returns for ratepayers and sustainable long-term financial plan (LTFP), with risk management practices. This will be done through reviewing financial information, reporting systems and grant management. We will measure this by increased internal controls and integrity checks in a year, improved Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Asset Management (AM) System; and financial ratio analysis. Additionally, Council undergoes an external financial audit annually.
19/06/2024	193710	Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - budget initiatives and highlighted projects	I like the street art project, the public bus, and the pool upgrade.	Thank you for your feedback. Council are excited to deliver on these projects, and understand the importance of increased accessibility and community connection in our vibrant town.
		Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - other	I will be interested to see if we get kerbside recycling.	Thank you for your feedback. Current proposed deliverables include expanding recycling opportunities. Council understand the importance of equal opportunity for our town, and will continue to advocate for sustainable recycling management priorities.
22/06/2024	193711	Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - budget initiatives and highlighted projects	Well done all involved. Very helpful info for me as new as leader of a community services organisation and faith expression operating here. Thank you	Thank you, your feedback is noted.
		Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - Service Delivery Plan	It looks good. Manageable! . I'm very new to the area so can't compare to services in recent past. The trick is to not let partisan politics or contracts fir known local mates get in the way of essential service delivery. I include the pool as an essential service in my limited time here- but could be wrong and did not read that document fully.	Thank you, your feedback is noted.

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		Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - Annual budget or long-term financial plan	A 3m deficit is never good news but if Commonwealth and NT Gov grants can be delivered on and more procured we will find we can turn it around as a whole community. Rates increases look very fair and compare very well with what we have known in ACT and Snowy Monaro Regional Council in NSW. NT residents have so many benefits - esp from Aust Govt. I'm happy with the cost structure as can't see any cuts to needed services also. Now to have it delivered!	Thank you for your feedback. The deficit referred to is within Budgeted Operating costs, this incorporates depreciation. Under the Local Government Act 2019, Guideline 5, the Net Budget Operating Position does not include depreciation, and must not be a negative. Council has budgeted for a Net Budget Operating Position of \$530,298. Under review and internal feedback provided, the recommended change is to allocate \$500,000 to Capital Plant and Machinery Expenditure, that was an oversight in the budget process. Resulting in a Net Budget Operating Position surplus of \$30,298. This change has impacted total depreciation, projected trade creditors with associated flow ons to cash outflows in the Cash Flow Statement.
		Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - Rates, Waste, Fees and Charges	As above- most reasonable compared to other municipalities and council areas I've lived in recently.	Your feedback is noted.
		Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - other	Well done to all involved.	Thank you, your feedback is noted.
24/06/2024	193752	Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - budget initiatives and highlighted projects	Good, though Activate Katherine seems to have not been a successful program, so suggest rethinking this strategy. I've heard local businesses did not had increased business from this. Food services were imported from Darwin, so the money didn't stay in town.	Thank you for your feedback. Council's strategic priority 3.4.3 is to enhance public places with placemaking and activation. Council delivers on this priority through participation in the Activate Katherine partnership, a NTG initiative, through agreed actions identified in the Activate Katherine Strategy.
		Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - Service Delivery Plan	Suggest greening strategies for carpark areas like the structure in Darwin they are growing vines over	Thank you for your feedback. Council strategic priority 7.2.5 is dedicated to leveraging opportunities to increase shade and cooling options in town by implementing a Greening Committee works program. This committee will have a strong focus on reviewing the cooling potential of all council facilities, as indicated in strategic priority 3.4.4.
		Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - Annual budget or long-term financial plan	looks feasible	Your feedback is noted.

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		Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - Rates, Waste, Fees and Charges	On rural properties we don't have access to town water, and rubbish collection so our rates should be less	<p>Thank you for your feedback regarding the rates for rural properties. We understand your concerns about not having access to town water and rubbish collection services. Unfortunately, water allocation is not managed by the Council; however, rubbish collection and operating the waste management facility are Council services.</p> <p>Council has considered these factors in the current rates and waste structure. As a result, rural properties that do not receive a kerbside rubbish collection are charged the minimum waste charge, which is significantly lower than the full waste charge for properties that do receive a kerbside service. Additionally, the minimum waste charge allows occupiers of rural properties unlimited access to the Council Waste Management Facility for the deposit of waste generated from the land, such as green waste (excluding items declared as pay-per-disposal in Council's fees and charges).</p> <p>Allotments zoned as Rural have the same minimum rate amount of \$1,451.00 as a residential allotment in town. However, your rates levy is driven by the unimproved capital value (UCV) of your land: the higher the value, the higher the rates. Typically, the UCV of rural allotments is significantly higher than that of residential allotments in town. The rate in the dollar for rural properties is significantly lower than residential in town and rural living, again if you see an increase in your rates, it primarily relates to your land UCV.</p> <p>We continually review our rates and services to ensure fairness and equity for all residents.</p>
		Municipal Plan 2024/25 Survey - other	Don't rip up any more grasses and park areas and replace with concrete. Instead, increase the amount of green areas and shady trees to reduce surface radiant heat. Prioritise the completion of the pool upgrade.	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Council is invested in sustainably greening our town. Current proposed deliverables include installing nature playgrounds, implementing a Greening Works program, upgrading irrigation at our parks, and increasing tree canopy cover.</p> <p>We appreciate and understand the public swimming pool's role in our community, and we look forward to getting the job done as soon as possible and delivering a fantastic new facility for our community.</p>
24/06/2024	193762	Municipal Plan 2024/25	<p>1. How can you prove Elected Members conducted consultation with the community during this period? We had no council led community engagement event?</p> <p>2. Last years plan was much simpler and much easier to read.</p> <p>3. CEO summary, can we have on one page as organisational structure is way too big.</p>	<p>After Council approved the MP for public release, staff used the following stakeholder engagement tools to gain public feedback during the legislated 21-day period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two direct emails to Mailchimp database (approx. 2700 ratepayers) • Electronic draft document, and survey distributed via Council's new engagement platform Your Say Katherine (four surveys completed) • Advertisement and media coverage in the Katherine Times • Physical copies available through the Civic Centre • All consultation processes promoted via Facebook <p>Elected members could choose in their capacity to consult on the MP with their constituents during these 21 days.</p> <p>Comment noted.</p> <p>When the document is printed into book style will be easy to read across the two pages.</p>

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			<p>4. Linemarking needs to be all around Katherine especially the roads that have no street lighting and faded linemarking in highly used areas for road safety eg Giles street past hospital. As pointed out today.</p> <p>5. Water wise campaign is great bit what about a rubbish wise respect your place campaign? Much of our Council staff precious time is taken up collecting litter, which constituents have mentioned to me they are concerned about.</p> <p>6. Interested to have more input into the redevelopment of multi purpose sport and recreation Precinct - especially a new Y building upgrade, as roof is in a bad state.</p> <p>7. Has there been a NTG Asset assessment report done on buildings recently? Is that how the shelter at Showgrounds is to be demolished?</p> <p>8. Would like to rearrange Strategic priorities. Priorities need to be more on Growth & sustainability - aging infrastructure and lack of skilled workers and affordable homes. Assessing grants to redevelopment vacant or old facilities eg old food ladder sight</p> <p>9. Service Delivery Plan just too much spread over 2 pages, much better flow of reading on one page. I think the font is not as good, or bold as last years, not easy to read when extended over 2 pages. Maybe be better in glossy print?</p> <p>10. Like the photos! Well done great work!</p>	<p>Council's budget initiatives form part of a long-term strategy.</p> <p>Council's Water Wise Campaign is a new initiative. Council administers and engages with the community regarding waste campaigns during community events.</p> <p>Should council be successful receiving funding for the project it will be included on the Your Say Katherine platform.</p> <p>Question unrelated to MP and is not a council responsibility.</p> <p>The strategic priorities come directly from the Katherine Town Council - Katherine 2027 Five Year Strategic Plan.</p> <p>When printed into book style will be easy to read.</p> <p>Feedback noted.</p> <p>Feedback noted.</p>
25/06/2024	193763	KTC - Feedback on Council's draft 2024-25 Annual Plan	<p>1. Section 201(2)(c) requires Council to list the fees for services. It was noted on page 4 under "Introduction" that the link to the 2024/25 Fees and Charges document on Council's website was broken. It is recommended this link be updated to direct the reader to the relevant document on Council's website for easier access.</p> <p>2. On page 30 under "Annual Budget Income and Expenditure 2024-25" there is a minor formatting error with the annual budget figure for "Gain/Loss from the remeasurement of Landfill Provision". Please amend the amount so that it remains consistent with the rest of the annual budgets.</p>	<p>Feedback noted. The link will be updated once document approved and uploaded on the website.</p> <p>Feedback noted. The format will be amended to match the formatting of the table.</p>
24/06/2024	193766	Municipal Plan 2024/25	I've noticed that the priorities have been copied and pasted and not updated such as 7.1.5 install tip shop when it's already been installed and operating for ten months now.. can we please check others that have been delivered.	While we have successfully delivered on the Tip Shop, the deliverable now specifies that we need to investigate the possibility of increasing the Tip Shop's trading hours and the use of volunteers instead of staff. Additionally, the Council will seek funding to make improvements, including fully enclosing the Tip Shop.

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			<p>Page 4 should be highlighted About Katherine recognising that Katherine is a busy hub in the dry season with visitors from all over the world. Katherine is providing groceries, vital goods and services from a variety of small businesses. Many non government organisations based in Katherine or come from Darwin to fill the gaps to assist with supporting remote communities and our locals with social services. We have million dollar projects happening at our Tindal Defence base which is within our municipality, which is creating a need for worker accommodation.</p>	<p>Recommended changes include: correct 10,900 to 'over 21,000' to reflect the figure of the Big Rivers Region; and inclusion of statement 'Katherine also includes the Tindal Defence base that is undergoing multimillion dollar upgrades.'</p>
			<p>Page 8 CEO summary You talk very little about Elected Members important strategic role and keeping Council accountable. There is no real talk about MERF and recycling initiatives or projects. Seems since the kerbside recycling disappointment has put a holt on things in that direction?</p>	<p>CEO role relates to council operations and strategic priorities not elected members role. Proposed deliverables include expanding recycling opportunities. Council understand the importance of equal opportunity for our town, and will continue to advocate for sustainable recycling management priorities.</p>
			<p>We need to keep focused on community recycling education, like we started at Show last year.</p>	<p>Current proposed deliverables include improve waste stream separation through recycling and messaging and encouraging residents to repurpose, recycle and reuse waste types.</p>
			<p>Can we make it relatable to Katherine as many small businesses are hurting by the rising costs of purchasing goods and employing people. I'm unclear on how we are finding better ways to deliver outstanding services and projects when we have no Engineers or Town Planner on the team and spending more money on consultants and studies?</p>	<p>Current proposed deliverables include improving waste stream separation through as and messaging and encouraging residents make repurpose, recycle and reuse waste types.</p>
			<p>I do not want to see the Truck wash included in your summary it is not what Community want to see Council be doing but rather more community focused initiatives like a community centre town hall where people can safely meet and connect through activities, craft and music.</p>	<p>Question unrelated to MP. There is a significant shortage of engineers and town planners. Despite this servicing challenge, KTC's municipal service delivery has been nationally recognised with Snap Send Solve awards for 2022 and 2023.</p>
			<p>What improvements are we making at airport? Where are the minor capital works projects in budget?</p>	<p>Council approved economic development Truck Wash project resolution OCM-007-2023. Funding is being sourced for the Katherine and Big Rivers Multi-Purpose Sport and Recreation Precinct.</p>
				<p>Airport improvements have been identified in the proposed deliverable, subject to Australian Defence approval, 4.1.2 that will identify infrastructure upgrades including parking, RPT aprons, street lighting, and terminal updates, while developing shovel-ready project plans to pursue and secure funding. The legislation budget template requirement only require reporting planned major capital works in a separate table. Council are still yet to adopt the minimum threshold value for major capital works. All project updates can be found on the Know Your Council - Katherine platform.</p>

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			<p>I think we underestimating the plans for an awesome Aquatic centre. The figures of attendance at our pool is very low. We need to do more to attract more. I would like to consider we borrowing extra for what community want.</p> <p>We are proposing to borrow for civic centre upgrade. What will the community think of Council doing this and not provide an awesome pool centre?! We are an NT government agency then why are using ratepayers money for an office upgrade?</p> <p>I would rather see us borrow to have an 8 lane pool and proper shading on all pool and play areas, for our community, particularly as we are in the hottest climate, and it is predicted to get hotter for longer.</p> <p>Darwin city council have put in \$19 mill towards casuarina pool and federal funding of \$7mill.</p> <p>Our Community wants more and they crying out for it. They are concerned about the contractor plans, standards and what they are actually going to see. There is a lot of community anxiety. Our local member has spoken about it in a news article last week. She would only do that as she has constituents that are bringing concerns about pool to her.</p> <p>Page 33 bottom note</p> <p>Have we had the audit and risk committee meeting as planned on 20th June?</p> <p>It's not in confidential agenda?</p>	<p>Council has been funded \$10.3million and the upgrades to the aquatic centre are limited to this budget. If council was to borrow to spend more money on the pool this would impose significant rate increases for residents for ongoing maintenance and borrowing repayments. The consultants have prioritised drawings for construction and permits ahead of 3D renderings so the pool can be reopened as soon as possible. Katherine Town Council is a Local Government, the level of government closest to the community, not a Northern Territory Government agency as stated. Council is ineligible to source funding for administrative facilities and therefore must use own sourced income i.e. rates and fees and charges.</p> <p>Katherine Town Council has received no concerns regarding contractor plans.</p>
			<p>7.1.5 tip shop installed already</p> <p>7.1.6. Raise awareness to keep our town litter free. *Add grafitti free</p> <p>7.2.5 provide cool and shaded spaces. Not only in town square *Add all around town footpaths, picnic areas</p> <p>Is Irrigation upgrades plans in improvements expenditure budget?</p>	<p>Due to timing the minutes from the committee meeting did not meet the agenda deadline. The date will be amended to reflect the next council meeting on the 23 July.</p> <p>These are priorities of the Katherine Town Council - Katherine 2027 Five Year Strategic Plan that cannot be changed until renewed. Council administers and engages with the community regarding waste campaigns during community events. The Events Team organises initiatives such as Clean Up Australia Day and the Great Northern Clean Up. The Clean Up Australia Day was extended into a month-long campaign. Recommend inclusion in the deliverable - litter free and graffiti removal campaigns. Council graffiti kits are available for purchase by the public.</p>
			<p>Disappointed to see no budget for street lighting? Due to criminal activity, we need to be focusing on more street lighting and and security lighting.</p>	<p>Council is exploring suitable solutions and continually seeks funding for solar lighting. Council deliverable is to assess present condition of street lighting and develop and implement a programme of work for improvement (2.1.3).</p>
			<p>I don't see professional development programs for Elected Members or attending Local Government conferences or workshops. Support to Elected members in developing their skills in local government.</p> <p>Can we initiate for a Strategic Council Asset assessment report? There is no mention of that in our budget which should come under Growth and sustainability.</p>	<p>Councillor professional development is actioned in line with the Professional Development Allowance Policy.</p> <p>Under 4.2.4 council will deliver an improved customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Asset Management (AM) System.</p>