

Katherine

Town Council

Annual Report

2004 - 2005



Katherine Town Council Annual Report 2004 – 2005



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KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL

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KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE

Vision

For Katherine to be recognised as the heart of opportunity in the Territory by bringing Council, residents and business communities to work together in a co-operative and collaborative manner to achieve our vision.

Aims

CORPORATE

To be an effective, efficient, pro-active, client centered organisation through quality improvement in CORPORATE activities.

PHYSICAL

To protect, maintain and develop the PHYSICAL environment through efficient and cost effective use of human and other resources.

SOCIAL

To ensure the provision of SOCIAL and cultural services, which are responsive to community aspirations, through the encouragement, support and enhancement of community initiatives.

ECONOMIC

To achieve regional ECONOMIC growth through planning, supporting and participating in activities that provide increased employment and business opportunities.

Values

QUALITY

We will provide quality services that are continuously improving, focused on customer service and accountable to the community.

RESPONSIVENESS

We will listen to and respond to the needs of our community in a timely and consistent manner.

LEADERSHIP

We will strive to be leaders in Local Government by providing innovative services that are efficient and competitive.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We will consult with and encourage the community to be involved with the activities of Council.

EQUITY

We recognise the value of all people and will treat everyone fairly and with equity.

SUPPORTIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT

We will provide a safe, friendly working environment that supports staff development.

HEALTHY COUNCIL AREA

We value a safe, clean, healthy environment for all and will facilitate a sustainable future for the town with a balance between social, cultural, heritage, environmental and economic factors.



Katherine Library



Council Chambers

Our Mission

To provide a quality environment for the people of the Katherine Region.



Message from the Mayor

It is with great pleasure that I present the Katherine Town Council Annual Report for 2004/05.

On presenting this report I acknowledge the input and support from my colleagues Alderman Jodie Locke, Alderman Bill Daw, Alderman Mark Gage, Alderman Henry Higgins, Alderman Des Buckerfield and Deputy Mayor Trevor Ford and look forward to us continuing to work as a productive team.

Our joint objective as elected members is the betterment of Katherine and in a healthy democracy such as ours this involves vigorous debate and respect for differing views. In many cases Council's decisions have not been easy to make and often there is no right or wrong answer.

Over the last year Council has worked hard to develop a Plan of Management that guides our activities and ensures we are operating in a financially responsible way. I am pleased that by critically examining our operations we were able to reduce costs by 4.4% in real terms whilst at the same time maintaining levels of service. Last year we commenced the essential task of rebuilding our reserves and I am pleased that funds held in reserve have increased by \$600,000 in 2005/05. Adequate reserves are essential to ensure that we are able to manage community facilities in a sustainable way.

Many hard decisions have had to be made over the last twelve months such as approving the location of the Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct, the implementation of Council's long standing Third Party Signs Code and ensuring that rates and charges are applied equitably. A major change has been the implementation of a user pays approach.

I am pleased that over the last year all Council's decisions have been made at open meetings as Council no longer has confidential Finance and Planning meetings.

Much has been achieved in the last twelve months and much is planned for the coming years. We now have a worker dedicated to the CBD and are improving Railway Terrace with the help of Kalano. We have recently constructed a new Skatepark, installed new shade shelters at the Aquatic Centre, installed lighting on Oval No 1, refurbished the Ryan Park toilets and upgraded the Katherine Hot Springs. In conjunction with these new projects we are striving to sustainably manage our existing assets and to this end have allocated an additional \$105,000 for the maintenance of rural and urban

roads and nature strips. In financial terms we are starting to address the difficult issues of sustainability, depreciation and how to provide for the future maintenance and capital requirements.

The Katherine River is one of great beauty and significance and its preservation is uppermost in my mind. I am very conscious of the need for Council to improve the way we manage the river reserve and am pleased that additional funds for weed control and litter abatement have been allocated in the Plan of Management. It is imperative that we protect our pristine environment. As Mayor I will strongly resist Katherine becoming a Nuclear Waste Dump or being the recipient of environmentally destructive mining ventures such as Mt Todd.

Over the last twelve months Council has been pleased to support the Katherine Regional Harmony Group. The Harmony Group has achieved much and the implementation of the Katherine Crime Prevention Plan is testimony to the Group's good work. Council is pleased to have established an ongoing program of community consultation, as a result of which well attended meetings have been held to discuss Katherine East, Rural, Katherine South and CBD issues.

Over the next three years Council will actively seek to form alliances and other cooperative arrangements with adjoining Community Government Authorities. Council will take a regional approach and play an active role in current proposals by the NT Government to restructure Local Government, in particular the inclusion of unincorporated land within Council areas.

I am very excited about the opportunities we have before us. By working together and collectively finding ways by which our objectives can be achieved we will ensure ongoing growth and prosperity in our community. We will also make Katherine a wonderful and sought after place in which to live.

Anne Shepherd - Mayor of Katherine



**'Fire over Arnhem Land'
Winner of the 2004 Katherine Art Prize
By Faith Nelson**



(B) Alderman Mark Gage, Henry Higgins, Bill Daw, (F) Alderman Jodie Locke, Des Buckerfield, Mayor Anne Shepherd, Deputy Mayor Trevor Ford

Ordinary Council Meetings

Ordinary meetings of Council are open to the public. Community attendance and participation is welcome. The only exception is when Council is dealing with confidential matters, which is called 'Confidential Session' and may involve matters of a legal, personal or commercial nature. There is a notation on the Agenda relating to such matters.

Ordinary Council Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month commencing at 7.30 pm. Changes to this usually occur over the Christmas/New Year period when the Ordinary Meeting may be brought forward and such changes are publicly advertised.

An Open Forum commencing at 7 pm precedes Council meetings held on the 4th Tuesday only. This Forum provides an opportunity for members of the public to talk with the Elected Members prior to the Ordinary Council Meeting.

The date, time and place of Ordinary Council meetings are advertised in the local newspaper and on the Council website to remind residents they are welcome to attend. Citizenships are also conducted at the last Ordinary Council Meeting of the month.

Election of Mayor and Alderman

Seven elected members govern Katherine Town Council. The Mayor and six Alderman are elected for a term of four (4) years. The position of Deputy Mayor is appointed annually in June. The next general Local Government election will be held on the last Saturday in March 2008.

Elected Members

Mayor Anne Shepherd, Deputy Mayor Trevor Ford, Alderman Des Buckerfield, Alderman Mark Gage, Alderman Bill Daw, Alderman Jodie Locke and Alderman Henry Higgins.

Advisory Committee Meetings

Council has a number of Advisory Committees, the roles of which are to consider specialised matters and to report back to Council. Advisory Committees involve a diverse range of people representing various interests in the community. Recommendations from the Advisory Committees are passed to Council for its consideration. Council also has a program of community consultation meetings.

Council Staff

Katherine Town Council has three operating groups under the supervision of the Chief Executive Officer. These groups are: Works and Technical Services, Corporate Services and Administrative Services. Council's Senior Officers Group comprises the Chief Executive Officer, Finance Manager, Works Manager, and Administration Manager.

The Officers attend Council and Committee meetings along with other staff whose presence may be required due to the nature of the matters being discussed.

The Council Agenda

The agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of Council provides the order in which reports are discussed. Copies of the agenda may be obtained from the front counter at the Civic Centre on the Friday before the Ordinary Meeting or are available on the website and the evening of the meeting.

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting are made available on the Friday following the meeting and are available on the website and at the front counter of the Civic Centre.



Katherine Skate Park

**Log on to www.ktc.nt.gov.au
for all Council information**



Geoff Brooks
Chief Executive Officer



Kim Corrie
Finance Manager



Pancho Jack
Works Manager



Samantha Clark
Administration Manager

CORPORATE SERVICES

Facilitates the provision of corporate services that support the operational needs of the organisation and its customers.

- Financial Reporting**
- Financial Accounting**
- Budgets**
- Taxation Reporting**
- Payroll**
- Internal Audits**
- Information & Technology Management**
- Rating & Revenue**
- Library**
- Grants Administration**
- Leases**
- Investments**
- Visitor Information Service**

WORKS & TECHNICAL SERVICES

Designs, constructs, develops and maintains Council's infrastructure and manages services and enterprises that promote and facilitate economic benefits to Council and the community.

- Construction - Maintenance**
- Parks & Gardens**
- Infrastructure Management**
- Airport Operations**
- Waste Management**
- Emergency & Disasters Support**
- Plant & Equipment**
- Regulatory Services**
- Animal Control & Drainage**
- Emergency and Disaster Planning**
- Swimming CTR**
- Contract Management**
- Environmental Health**
- Waste Collection**
- Tenders & Contracts**
- Development Assessment**

ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

Promotes and facilitates community services that support the social and recreational needs of the general public. Promotes and facilitates the planned growth and development of the Town in a sustainable way which provides for the economic, social and cultural well being of the community.

- Administration**
- Community Liaison**
- Festivals and Events**
- Customer Service**
- Elected Member Support**
- Human Resources**
- Risk Management**
- Corporate Promotion**
- Civic Receptions**
- Events**
- Grants**
- Insurances**

Corporate/Administration Services

The Corporate Services Group provides sound management of Council resources, meets statutory requirements and provides services to the organisation in a cost effective and timely manner.

Services provided by Council in this area are management and financial accounting, human resources, information technology, administration, rates, general revenue, insurance, library and community liaison services and Civic Centre operations.

Council's financial management procedures resulted in rates and charges increasing by 3.9%.

The Rates Early Bird Competition was run for the fourth year proving yet again to be a great incentive for rate payers to pay their rates in full and in turn assisting with Council's cash flow. Council's debt recovery procedures are continuing to keep rates in arrears at an acceptable level.

A skill audit was undertaken of all staff in conjunction with the Charles Darwin University. Accredited training specific to each employee and their position was recommended and all staff have now commenced study towards varying certificate levels with the Uni.

Council undertook a restructure in early 2005 which resulted in a savings of 2.5 full time equivalent positions within the Administration of Council. The new structure has streamlined administrative operations and provides a more effective service.

Tracey Jeitz returned from Japan after ten months in a work placement program with the Local Government Official Training Program. She is enjoying being back home and has already moved back into the 'swing' of things.

During the year Council purchased a new server to house the "Authority" database. "Authority" is the IT software used for all financial transactions, records management, complaints, cemetery register and dog registrations. The new server replaced a tired unit which was about ten years old. The piece of equipment was welcomed by its users.

Council's stringent budget process has resulted in the annual financial statements reflecting a sound financial position which has enabled Council to commence building up reserves to assist in the management of assets. The change in net assets resulting from operations of (\$635,070) gives Council Equity of \$28,450,259.

Visitor Information Centre

Following negotiations with the Northern Territory Tourist Commission, Council commenced management of the Visitor Information Centre from 1 April 2005 on a cost recovery basis. The transition has been successful

and feedback is positive which shows Council is providing an efficient and effective service for the Katherine Region.

Library Services

As at 30 June 2005 the Katherine Public Library's RAAF Base Tindal Branch ceased operations. This will have significant savings to Council in the coming year without decreasing the library service level. The Tindal Community still have access to the library service through the Katherine Public Library.

In the year ending 30 June 2005 the Katherine Library service had a patron count of 53,342 indicating a 1.4% increase on the previous year.

There have been two major changes in Library procedures this year, one being the introduction of fees for internet usage. The introduction of fees for internet usage has had no negative impact on the service provided, but a positive impact on Council's budget.

The second major change has been the introduction of overdue fees, which was recommended as a cost recovery strategy. This procedure will be implemented on 1 July 2005.

Community Liaison

As part of the staff restructure the Community Liaison position was refocused to include investigating grant opportunities, coordinating the use of Council's sport and recreation facilities to increase usage and organisation of community events.

The 2004 Flying Fox Festival was successful with an extensive program developed for the community. The events were well attended and ranged from art exhibitions, Dragon Boat Races, Lambu Lambu Aboriginal Dance and Song, fire dancing and mosaic workshops. The Main Event, which was aimed at the community coming together as one celebrating the end of the festival, was well attended with over 700 people experiencing the musical talents of local and Territory bands and the amazing fire spectacular.

Other events that were supported by Council included the Tindal Welcome Expo, Farm and Garden Day, Business Expo and Katherine Youth Week.

The Corporate Services Group has tackled the year's challenges and are well prepared for the coming year.

Kim Corrie

FINANCE MANAGER

Samantha Clark

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Works Department Report

The 2004 – 2005 year had a patchy and below average rainfall over the Wet Season. This created higher water usage throughout the Municipality for the maintenance of Parks and Recreation Reserves.

Airport

Katherine Civil Airport RPT and GA Apron including Air North, Pearl Aviation Hangar and Officer Building have a new high security perimeter fence with motion activated cameras every 500m. The main town access gates are security control activated and the main pedestrian gate from the Airport Terminal is coded. All movement on the air side of the Airport is controlled by a new identification ASIC card system. Any person not displayed on the identification card will not be permitted access to the airside of the airport.

Showgrounds

Council constructed and repositioned the new poultry pavilion, which was utilised during the 2005 Katherine District Show. It houses a variety of poultry including over 350 chicken silhouettes, which were decorated by school children. The old poultry pavilion was sold and removed by tender to provide a horse warm up arena.

Four grandstands were upgraded with side hand railings. These works will reduce the possibility of injury to users. A new enclosure and gates have also been fitted to the scoring box access.

New street lights installed along the front entrance road, including two new lighting towers between the ticket box and front gate Motion sensor lights have been installed over the entrance to the Rotary toilet block.

Council constructed a bitumen car park for approximately 50 cars, with five marked disabled parking bays opposite the entrance to the ticket box.

Sportsgrounds

Council installed two new 30 metre lighting towers on Oval No 1 including a coin operated metering power usage system.

A new Skatepark was constructed at the front of the Sportsgrounds which included the installation of

automatic pop up sprinklers and the construction and erection of two 12m x 6m colour-bond shade shelters.



Hot Springs upgrade.

Railway Terrace

A new 12m x 6m colour-bond shade shelter was constructed and erected on the corner of Railway Terrace and the Victoria Highway. This has included a new foot-path and flooring construction utilising exposed aggregate coloured concrete and lighting has been installed.

Street Lighting

The Power and Water Authority on behalf of Council installed two new lighting towers on Railway Terrace. Damaged lights have been replaced on Maluka Road and three new heads on Callistemon Drive.

Ryan Park Toilet Block

Council renovated the Ryan Park toilet block with a complete new interior. Both sides were gutted and two new disabled toilet facilities added. Floors and walls have been tiled and all new stainless steel doors and disabled partitions installed. New gates were fitted and fencing to outside include new coloured exposed aggregate concrete apron surrounds and a new disabled access to the facility.

Katherine Aquatic Centre

Council constructed three new colour-bond shade shelters at the Katherine Aquatic Centre, one being 18m x 6m, one 12m x 6m over the BBQ area and the other 12m x 6m including a paved area underneath, closest to the kiosk. The YMCA has provided tables and chairs for the comfort of patrons.

Katherine Hot Springs

Council carried out major beautification works to the top car-park at the Hot Springs, which included installing two shaded table and chair combinations, a new stainless steel electric BBQ, a shade shelter and automatic pop up water reticulation all contained within a new post and chain fence. Thirty shade trees were planted by local school children for National Tree Day. The car parking area has been re-gravelled with new blue metal aggregate. The bottom main springs area has a new coloured concrete footpath and 36m x 8m coloured concrete pavement including curved tiered seating and drainage channel to keep concrete free of mud and water.

Roads - Urban and rural resealing / upgrading road infrastructure

Council reconstructed four kilometres of road shoulder along small sections of Emungalan Road and Zimin Drive and the majority of Florina Road. Council resealed 33159.3m² of Urban Streets and 26119.4m² of Rural Roads.

Pancho Jack
Works Manager

Works Department Report cont:

RECONSTRUCTED URBAN ROAD	LENGTH OF RESEAL
Clark Crescent, Robin Street, Jukes Crescent, Auster Street	7889.5m ²
Shepherd Street, Quinn Street, Power Crescent	4145.5m ²
Pearce Street, Kurrajong Street	6183.9m ²
Glencoe Court, Gibson Court	3399.4m ²
Showground Car Park	2360m ²
Katherine East Industrial Estate – Intersection Chardon and Crawford Street	2297m ²
Sportsground	6884m ²
TOTAL	33159.3m²
RECONSTRUCTED URBAN ROAD	LENGTH OF RESEAL
Lansdowne Road	15976m ²
Section of McAdam Road	3536m ²
Section of Gorge Road	6607.4m ²
TOTAL	26119.4m²

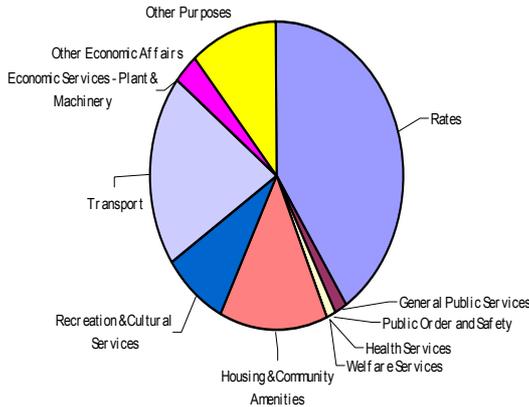


Katherine 2005

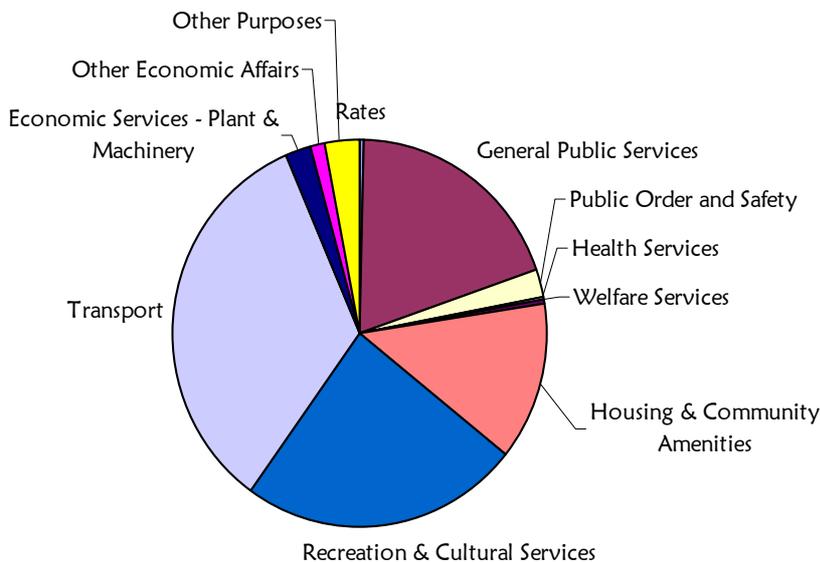


Income & Expenditure Analysis

KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL INCOME



KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL EXPENDITURE



BREAK-DOWN OF PROGRAMS

- Rates
 - ★ Rates
- General Public Services
 - ★ Administration
 - ★ Electronic Data Processing
 - ★ Elected Members
- Public Order and Safety
 - ★ Inspectorial
 - ★ Impounding and Pest Extermination
 - ★ Fire Control
 - ★ Parking Infringements
- Health Services
 - ★ Noxious Weeds
 - ★ Mosquito Control
- Welfare Services
 - ★ Out of School Hours Care
 - ★ Katherine East Creche
- Housing & Community Amenities
 - ★ Cemetery
 - ★ Katherine East Community Centre
 - ★ Housing
 - ★ Stormwater Drainage
 - ★ Public Toilets
 - ★ Sanitary and Waste Services
 - ★ Streetsweeping
 - ★ Community Services
 - ★ Street Lighting
- Recreation & Related Cultural Services
 - ★ Halls and Clubs
 - ★ Sporting Venues
 - ★ Parks, Gardens & Reserves
 - ★ Library Facilities
 - ★ National Estate
 - ★ Other Recreational and Cultural Activities
- Transport
 - ★ Bridges and Culverts
 - ★ Kerbs and Water Tables
 - ★ Footpaths and Cycleways
 - ★ Driveways and Kerb Crossovers
 - ★ Nature Strips
 - ★ Town Square
 - ★ Traffic Control
 - ★ Katherine Airport
- Economic Services – Plant & Machinery
 - ★ Costed Plant & Machinery
 - ★ Non-Costed Minor Plant
- Other Economic Affairs
 - ★ Visitor Information Centre
 - ★ Private Works
- Other Purposes
 - ★ Grants and Donations
 - ★ Consultative Services
 - ★ Mainstreet Design and Planning
 - ★ Public Debt Transactions
 - ★ Municipal Depot