

Ordinary Meeting of Council Late Agenda Items

Tuesday 23 October 2018

Open Forum 5.30pm

Ordinary Meeting 6.00pm

Council Chambers, Civic Centre,
Stuart Highway, Katherine

15.1	Katherine Laneway Closure Trial _____	1
15.2	Springvale Homestead Petition _____	2



REPORT

FOLDER: Roads Civil and Traffic Works / Planning / Laneway Closure
MEETING: ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 23 OCTOBER 2018
REPORT TITLE: KATHERINE LANEWAY CLOSURE TRIAL

Purpose of Report

To identify the level of success closing Finniss Laneways has had on the reduction in incidences of antisocial behaviour in the lanes and surrounding areas.

Background

On the 19 July 2018 residents along Finniss Lane, were provided with keys to lock the laneway gates from 6pm to 6am. This closed access to Maluka Park and Grevillia Park from the two cul-de-sac ends of Finniss Place. The closure action was taken in response to a formal request from the residents of Finniss Place for Council to consider methods of curbing the antisocial behaviour occurring in the laneway and surrounds.

Closing of the gates by residents has been irregular, however, their feedback indicates that there has been a decrease in antisocial behaviour in the laneway, streets and park.

Though Police feedback has provided no specific data to show the success of this trial, they would recommend and support the use of this closure system as a tool to assist with a number of issues, such as antisocial behaviour and property crime. This statement of support would tend to suggest they feel the practice has been relatively successful.

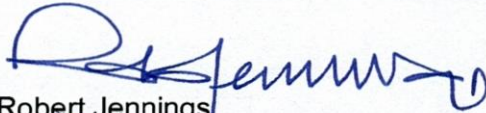
Council expect further statistical feedback from Katherine Police with regard to this particular area which may support their anecdotal evidence that a closure system does contribute to reduction of unwanted antisocial behaviours and crime.

It should be noted that these particular laneways had gate infrastructure already in place, whereas other laneways throughout Katherine would need various modifications to achieve the same setup. This gating model also relies on a group of residents being willing to take on the responsibility of ensuring the gates are closed and opened again each day.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That it be recommended to Council:

1. That the closure of the Finniss Laneways remain in place and antisocial activities continue to be monitored by residents and Katherine Police.
2. That due to the costs involved in providing gate infrastructure and lack of formal complaints or feedback made to Council regarding behaviour at other specific laneway locations, no further closures to be made at this point in time. Should there be additional feedback, this position could be considered further.


Robert Jennings
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Delegation: Mr Andrew Wilson, Manager Compliance, Environment and Regulatory Services
Attachments: Nil



REPORT

FOLDER: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Petitions
MEETING: ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 23 OCTOBER 2018
REPORT TITLE: SPRINGVALE HOMESTEAD PETITION

Purpose of Report

This report responds to the petition submitted to Katherine Town Council by Kylie Chambers supporting the reopening of Springvale Homestead. The report provides a recommendation for Council's consideration on what Council's future role could be in this initiative.

Background

A petition was presented to Council during the August 2018 Ordinary Meeting of Council supporting the reopening of Springvale Homestead - the rationale for this online petition is included in the attachment to the report. The intended addressee of this petition is the Northern Territory Government. A total of 453 electronic signatures for the petition had been received at the time of writing this report.

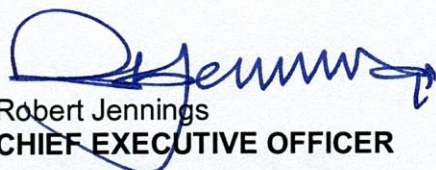
Prior to the receipt of the petition, both Mayor Fay Miller and the CEO had already been advocating for the reopening of Springvale Homestead in consultation with Werner Sarny and his team as well as with NT Government. Since the report, the Mayor has continued to advocate for the reopening and we understand that Sandra Nelson MLA has also been actively involved in supporting the process.

Springvale Homestead is viewed by Officers as a culturally significant place for the Katherine/ Big Rivers Region as well as a tourism icon that supplements the other existing destinations already in Katherine. Its revitalisation and reopening are considered worth pursuing for the benefit of the larger community.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That it be recommended to Council that:

Council continue to advocate for the reopening of Springvale Homestead through the ongoing efforts of the Mayor and CEO. This advocacy should be delivered by working with appropriate stakeholders, including Werner Sarny, his team and with NT Government.


Robert Jennings
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Delegation: Mr Robert Jennings, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

