



# AGENDA

## Special Council Meeting Agenda Monday, 5 September 2022

Special Meeting: 5.30pm

Council Chambers,

Civic Center, Stuart Highway, Katherine

The CEO of Katherine Town Council hereby provides notice of the  
Special Council Meeting, in accordance with  
Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2019*

**ELECTED MEMBERS**

- Mayor Elisabeth Clark (Chair)
- Deputy Mayor Kym Henderson
- Councillor Maddy Bower
- Councillor Denis Coburn
- Councillor Ben Herdon
- Councillor Amanda Kingdon
- Councillor Jeremy Trembath

**OFFICERS**

- Ms Ingrid Stonhill – Chief Executive Officer
- Ms Casey Anderson – A/Director Community Services
- Mr Brendan Pearce – Director Infrastructure and Environment
- Mr Avtar Singh – Director of Corporate Services
- Ms Donna Warland – Governance and Executive Officer

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## 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge that **this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the first nations** people of the Katherine township and surrounding council communities. We recognise the first nations culture as one of the longest surviving cultures in the world and we pay our respects to Elders both past, present and future.

## 2 OPENING PRAYER

Grant O God to this Council wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose in the Governance of this Municipality. Amen

## 3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

## 4 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

<b>4.2 APOLOGIES</b>
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Nil

<b>4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE</b>
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Nil

## 5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Members Disclosure Conflict of Interest

Council declares any conflicts of interest in line with Conflict-of-Interest Policy. A copy of this policy can be downloaded from [www.katherine.nt.gov.au](http://www.katherine.nt.gov.au) or obtained by emailing [records@ktc.nt.gov.au](mailto:records@ktc.nt.gov.au)



## 6 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

### 6.1 STRATEGIC PLAN

**FOLDER ID** : \USER WORKSPACE\COUNCIL SERVICES\GOVERNANCE SERVICES\GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT\INFOCOUNCIL TEST DOCUMENTS/168245

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**AUTHORISER** : INGRID STONHILL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**ATTACHMENT/S** : 1. STRATEGIC PLAN 2022\_FINAL\_V1\_SML.PDF

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

1. That it be recommended to Council to:
  - (a) Formally receive and note Katherine's five (5) year Strategic Plan
    - (i) Adopt Katherine's five (5) year Strategic Plan

#### **BACKGROUND**

Council undertook an Expression of Interest (EOI) in June 2021, seeking the service of an interest and skilled consultant to develop a five (5) year Strategic Plan for Katherine.

It was essential that the plan included key stakeholders and facilitated community engagement.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council, 26 October 2021, Elected Members unanimously supported and appointed Deloitte.

Deloitte's are a multinational professional service, who are highly experienced in working with diverse communities and Local Government planning.

#### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

In May 2022, numerous community consultations were held.

The consultants were able to facilitate a better understanding of the issues that they had researched in Katherine, such as housing, entertainment facilities and public infrastructure.

Simultaneously, extensive staff consultations were undertaken.

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

Katherine now has its first strategic plan. In preparation of the plan, extensive community and staff consultation was undertaken.

The plan is presented in an inclusive style and can be reviewed every two years based on funding opportunities, service delivery, budget considerations and community trends.

The strategic direction and priorities are strongly targeting leadership, community and families, events, sustainability, culture and Big Rivers Inter-Government collaboration.

The strategic plan will conclude 2027.





**Katherine 2027**  
**FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**  
*"An oasis in the outback"*



**KATHERINE**  
TOWN COUNCIL





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*Photo: Outside Knotts Crossing Resort  
Cover: Coffee at the The Finch Cafe.*

*Thanks to: Deloitte Australia consultants for carrying out the research for this plan  
and Communications Officer Emily Kemp for compilation and design.*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*We acknowledge the First Australians as the traditional custodians of the Australian continent, whose cultures are among the oldest living in the history of humans.*

*We pay respect to the elders of these communities and extend our recognition to their descendants past, present and emerging.*

*Photo: Sunset at Nitmiluk National Park*

## What is this plan about?

This strategic plan is the outcome of community consultations in early 2022. These consisted of one-on-one interviews with community leaders, nine focus groups with local organisations (including business, industry, and government), two community forums and an online survey.

Throughout this consultation, residents were asked to clarify what their hopes were over the next five years and into the future in Katherine.

Katherine Town Council annually produces a municipal plan (which includes a financial plan) and an annual report. Katherine 2027 sets out our strategic vision for the next five years, which the municipal plan will implement gradually on a yearly basis. The annual report showcases that year's results, highlighting our progress and achievements.

**KATHERINE  
2027:  
Five Year  
Strategic Plan**

**MUNICIPAL PLAN  
(including annual  
budget)**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

*"We protect our natural environment"*

## Message from the Mayor and CEO

At Katherine Town Council we recognise the importance of strategic planning. Consulting with our community and key stakeholders allows us to set goals and priorities that best serve our community, key stakeholders and rate payers.

Having our team lead our strategic planning ensures we have ownership of the outcome and that our resources are used effectively and efficiently, because our team understands what steps we need to take to reach our targets and keep our business on track.

A challenge for all local governments now and into the future is long-term sustainability. Planning for the future of our town with five- and ten-year goals gives us the ability to evolve our strategy, with clear and decisive new commitments, quickly adapting to change within the organisation, and ensuring we capitalise on new opportunities as they arise.

Whilst our municipal plan outlines our annual work schedule, budget and measures, this strategic plan outlines our overarching ambitions, values, vision and mission to take our town, Katherine, into the future.

"Katherine 2027 provides a roadmap for council to shape Katherine in a way that meets the future needs of this community."



– Elisabeth Clark, Mayor,  
Katherine Town Council

"This is a plan that we are proud of. We're excited about the future of Katherine and the opportunity and responsibility to shape it."



– Ingrid Stonhill, CEO,  
Katherine Town Council

"This is the community's plan, led by you through the community consultation. This long-term vision will help guide Council in delivering its services now and into the future."



– Kym Henderson, Deputy  
Mayor and Chairperson of  
Strategic Planning Group,  
Katherine Town Council



## Council Operations

Katherine Town Council is a local government, one of the three tiers of government in Australia under territory/state and federal.

Council provides essential community services, including:

- public facilities: library, visitor information centre, aquatic centre, sporting venues (including the pavilion, showgrounds, ovals), cemetery, cenotaph, town square, public amenities
- waste collection, litter control, a waste facility
- playgrounds
- domestic animal management (pound)
- maintenance of roads, bike paths, footpaths, signage
- maintenance of our redeveloped hot springs
- street lighting
- community grants.

Council operations are informed by federal and Territory legislation, our long-term financial plan, long-term asset management plans and Council strategies and policies.

The *Local Government Act 2019* sets out the function of local government bodies and what we are required to do.

The role of Council is, among others, to:

- develop a strong and cohesive social life for its residents and allocate resources in a fair, socially inclusive and sustainable way
- encourage and develop initiatives for improving quality of life.

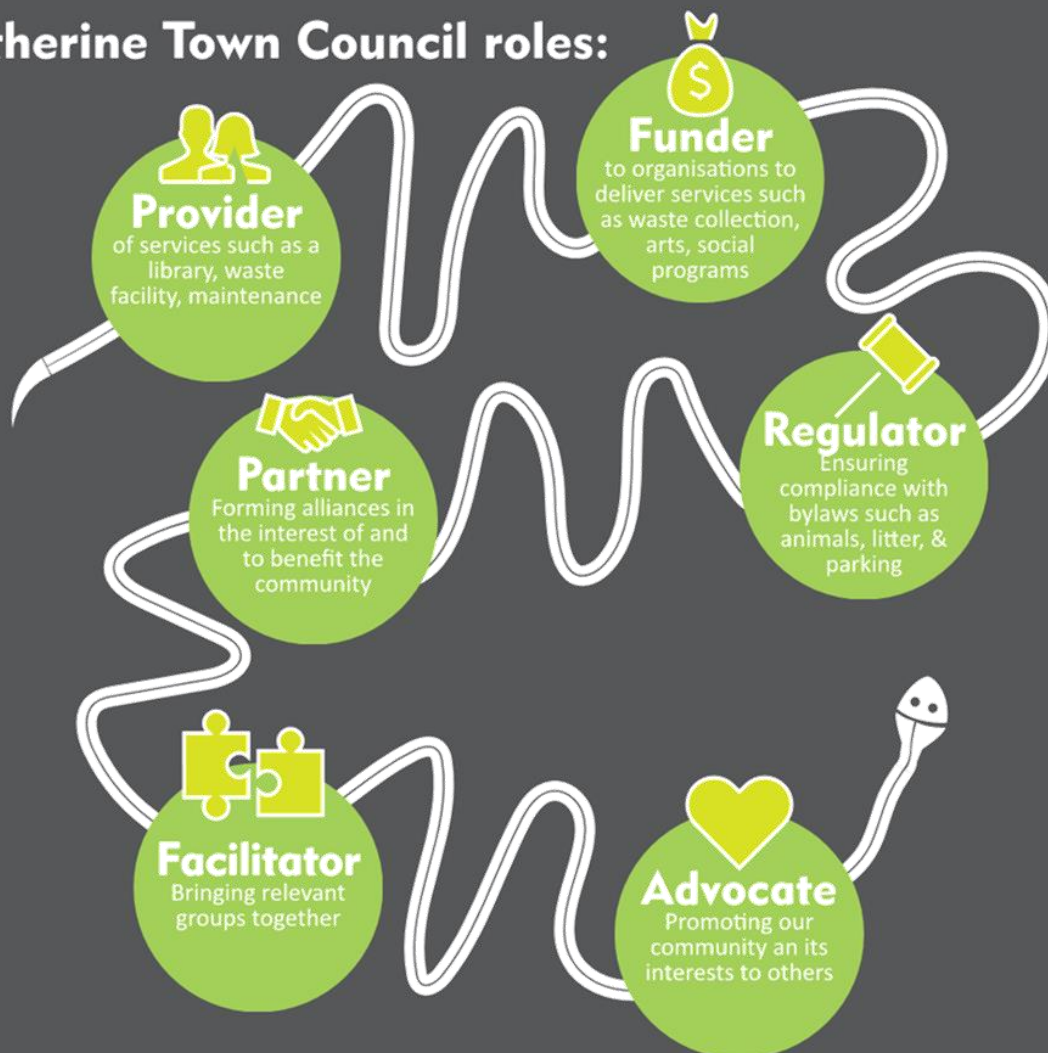
The functions of Council include, among others:

- plan for future requirements of our services
- provide services and facilities for the benefit of the area, its residents and visitors
- provide for the interests and well-being of individuals and groups within its area
- protect the area from natural and other type of hazards and mitigate the effects of these hazards.

### Advocacy

Council acts to serve and provide for the community, but we recognise advocacy is a key aspect of our role. We advocate for the development of Katherine to attract attention to our growing region and ensure there is similar investment in our region to cater for our community now and into the future.

## Katherine Town Council roles:



*"We support our people and businesses to thrive and prosper"*



## Elected Members



**Mayor**  
Elisabeth Clark



**Deputy Mayor**  
Kym Henderson



**Councillor**  
Ben Herdon



**Councillor**  
Amanda Kingdon



**Councillor**  
Jeremy Trembath



**Councillor**  
Maddy Bower



**Councillor**  
Denis Coburn

### *Our Vision*

Katherine is a place of opportunities. We celebrate diversity as we live, work, learn and grow together.

### *Our Mission*

Together, we will work effectively today to shape our exceptional future tomorrows.

### *Our Values*

- Accepting of diversity
- Sense of community
- Respect for people, environment and culture.

Photo: Katherine Defence and Mayoral Ball 2022







## Our Town, Katherine

At the heart of the 340,000km<sup>2</sup> Big Rivers Region is our town, Katherine. The Big Rivers Region consists of many rivers, with our town on the banks of the Katherine River.

We are the fourth largest town in the Northern Territory and a thriving regional centre for service delivery. The local government area of Katherine has a population of around 10,000 with 25.5% of residents identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Council services four communities: Rockhole, Miali Brumby (Kalano), Binjari, and Geyulkgan (Walpiri camp).

We are also a hub for the surrounding region, so our strategic priorities have been developed on the basis that the town and our Council provides services to over 25,000 people.

Katherine is often called the crossroads of the north as we're found on the junction of the Stuart and Victoria Highways, connecting Australia from north to south and east to west, making us a vital through point for travellers, industry and local communities.

The region is abundant in natural resources, its vast land mass and unique landscape driving agriculture, energy, resources and tourism.

Our location is critical to Australia's northern Defence capacity and a significant part of Australia's Defence strategy. Katherine already has a large Defence population and this is expected to grow with the expansion of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) airbase at Tindal, which is inside Katherine's local government area.

Finally, we are a must-see tourist destination for our natural wonders. We boast major attractions including thermal hot springs right in town and we're a short 20-minute drive from the renowned Nitmiluk National Park with its ancient Katherine Gorge. Plus, we offer a variety of food, culture, arts and sport within our town.

With growing investment in the region, there is plenty to get excited about here in Katherine.











Photo: Cattle run on a station.

*"We strive for Katherine to be inclusive and accessible"*

## Future Growth

A number of key developments in Katherine and the Big Rivers Region are outside of Council's responsibility but inform future demand on our services.

### Industry opportunity and developments

Katherine is a key location for industry opportunity. The Northern Territory Infrastructure Plan, driven by the Northern Territory Government, outlines projects and opportunities in the pipeline.

Developments in the region over the next 15 years include:

- Growth of the Royal Australian Air Force base at Tindal
- Tourism expansion as outlined in the Big Rivers Destination Management Plan
- Potential expansion of Katherine Civil Airport
- \$30 billion Sun Cable solar farm in Northern Territory, to transmit power to Singapore via undersea cables
- Vista Gold Australia's reopening of the Mount Todd Gold Mine, 55km north-west of Katherine.

Council needs to have an in-depth understanding of investments and developments in the region to be equipped to deliver services at the local level. Industry growth will require infrastructure and workforce support, ultimately flowing from Council's strong leadership and sufficient service provision.

Infrastructure to activate this growth includes the development of:

- Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub
- Katherine Civil Airport developments
- Material Recovery Facility (MRF)
- Flood mitigation infrastructure
- Heavy vehicle alternate route in Katherine
- Residential land releases
- Stuart Highway duplication in Katherine
- Katherine Transit Hub
- Katherine Regional Integrated Service Centre
- Katherine Crisis Centre upgrades.

Enabling infrastructure projects in Katherine and the Big Rivers Region will provide more employment, boost productivity, increase tourism and strengthen Katherine's liveability offerings to families and the community.

## Housing

In consultation for this plan, housing was a key concern for the community. As Katherine's growth continues, Council understands that there is a significant shortage in housing and Council should, where possible, advocate for the needs of the community.

### Working with all tiers of government

Achieving our strategic priorities will rely on Council acting as the conduit between the local community as well as regional, Territory and federal governments.

Council will work with the federal and Territory governments on developments that affect the Katherine and Big Rivers Region, such as the potential for gas developments in the Beetaloo Sub-basin (100km south of Katherine).

As Council services over 25,000 people, we will work with higher tiers of government to meet our service delivery demands at the local level. This includes preparing shovel-ready projects that will further enable investment in the Katherine community.

## Big Rivers Region

Katherine Town Council will collaborate with both Victoria Daly and Roper Golf Regional Councils in the Big Rivers Regional Economic Growth Committee to deliver our priorities and have a cohesive voice on issues in the region, including delivering effective waste management.

The Northern Territory Government's Big Rivers Liveability Survey Project 2022 looked at improving liveability in the region and this report will inform a regional liveability coordination plan to improve the perception of living in the Big Rivers Region.

## Community is the key to our success

The overarching element to achieving Katherine 2027's strategic priorities is regular and thorough community engagement. This will ensure that future opportunities for Katherine are informed and inclusive of the community's views.

# Katherine 2027 Strategic Priorities

This plan is driven by community input. Over the next five years, Council will strengthen its foundations and operations whilst having a more strategic focus and set priorities. The roadmap to achieve our long-term goals is underpinned by seven strategic priority areas.



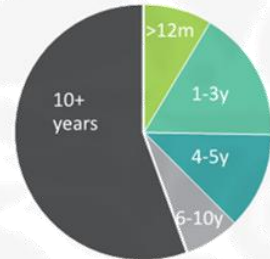
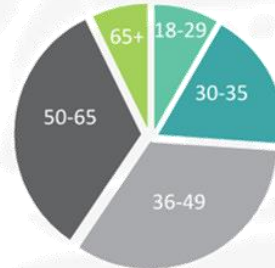




## You Talked, We Listened

These are some results from the online survey we ran in early 2022. Of the respondents, the majority were aged over 36 and lived here for over 10 years.

**Age of respondents:**      **Time in Katherine:**



### What is your favourite part of living here?

Most used word was **"community"**

*"The small country community feel. It's more laid back and slower paced than the city. More family orientated and great for the closeness to natural areas to explore."*

Feedback centred on the close-knit community, the nearby tourist attractions such as the hot springs and Nitmiluk National Park, the ease of access to getting outdoors, the multicultural aspect of Katherine, and the growing arts scene.

### What is Katherine missing that would make it a better place for you?

Feedback centred on making Katherine more wet-season friendly with more shade, an indoor playground, and quite a few comments on having a water park.

Comments also focused on lowering crime, having public transport, river access, more housing, bike paths, CBD revitalisation, more fresh produce options, more community engagement, another supermarket, and a bigger shopping complex.

## Our Waste Management Plan:

**5 YEARS** =  Kerbside recycling

**10 YEARS** =  Attract industry to embrace circular economy

**15 YEARS** =  Local industry established around waste management and reuse



**What should Council's priorities be for the next five years?**

- 1  Providing better foundational services
  - 2  Youth programs
  - 3  Promoting Katherine as a place to live, visit and play
  - 4  Improving cycleways and pathways
  - 5  Greening and cooling infrastructure
- AND
- 6  More entertainment options

**What issues are important for Katherine to progress over the next five years?**

- 1  Community safety
- 2  Shopping centre and retail options
- 3  Progressing housing options & East Katherine land release
- 4  Attracting skilled workers
- 5  Senior housing options

**From the Big Rivers Liveability Project Final Report (2022)**

**WHERE ARE OUR STRENGTHS?**

- 1  The great outdoors
- 2  Employment opportunities
- 3  Community connection

**WHAT DO WE VALUE?**

- 1  High quality, accessible health services
- 2  Quality schools and education opportunities
- 3  Availability of suitable housing

**WHERE ARE OUR WEAKNESSES?**

- 1  Cost of living
- 2  Digital connectivity
- 3  Natural environment

**PRIORITIES TO IMPROVE**

- 1  Education
- 2  Natural environment
- 3  Healthcare





## Works you said you wanted:

- Heavy vehicle alternate route
- A laneway management policy
- More public toilets/showers
- More shade and cooling infrastructure
- Increased street lighting
- Upgraded wayfinding signage
- Promotion for an active community and activated spaces
- More festivals, live music and sports events

*Photo: Children enjoy the shaded kid's playground in Katherine.*





# Strategic Priorities

-  **Strong Leadership**
-  **Community and Families**
-  **Growth and Sustainability**
-  **Arts, Culture and Heritage**
-  **Sports and Civic Events**
-  **Big Rivers Inter-Government Collaboration**
-  **Environmental Sustainability**



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY ONE **Strong Leadership**

Katherine has endless potential for liveability and opportunity. In order to realise this, Katherine needs strong leadership and collaboration between its community and Council.



*Photo: Chief Minister Natasha Fyles  
shakes hands with Katherine Town  
Council Mayor Elisabeth Clark.*

## 1. STRONG LEADERSHIP

**Our goal is to:** Lead a strong local democracy with a community that is actively engaged in Katherine’s strategic direction.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Strengthen our councillor profiles to increase community awareness of who they are
- Ensure strong internal governance with updated policies and procedures in place
- Improve transparency around issues affecting the community
- Learn what the community wants to know through community engagement strategies.

## 2. PARTNER IN PROGRESS

**Our goal is to:** Provide strategic leadership on economic development issues to promote Katherine’s reputation and improve business confidence.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Foster strong relationships with Territory and federal governments to ensure coordination and support for economic development initiatives affecting Katherine at the local level and in the Big Rivers Region
- Act as a connector on key issues affecting the community as a member in key reference groups
- Act as a connector for businesses to foster collaboration and partnership opportunities.

## 3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Our goal is to:** Improve Council communications and engagement with the community.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Develop a communication engagement strategy and action plan to guide Council communications
- Improve consistency of our communications and engagement in alignment with our strategy
- Identify a number of tools to ensure our engagement is broad, inclusive and accessible to our diverse community.

## 3. ENHANCE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCES

**Our goal is to:** Deliver positive customer experiences for visitors and residents.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Continually improve services and our tourism offerings
- Develop an Activate Katherine strategy with NTG and local stakeholders
- Enhance customer experiences at our Visitor Information Centre.





## 5. FINANCIAL

**Our goal is to:** Have long-term financial sustainability in Council to allow for continued growth and development.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Collaborate with all three levels of government
- Have a grants officer to seek and coordinate grant funding
- Pursue grants for new and upgraded infrastructure and programs
- Develop and implement a circular economy framework in collaboration with the Northern Territory Government and Big Rivers Region
- Set a prosperous tone to encourage private sector investment.

### Measures of success

-  Improved satisfaction with Council’s level of participation in key reference groups around important issues
-  Improved satisfaction with Council’s commitment to engagement
-  Upholding social and corporate responsibilities
-  Increased offering of networking opportunities to foster partnership and collaboration in the community





## STRATEGIC PRIORITY TWO Community and Families

Katherine's best asset are the people of Katherine. Katherine is and continues to be a great place to live, work and raise a family.



*Photo: Latisha helps daughter Bonnie with a game at the Katherine Public Library's Stories of Yesteryear event.*

## 1. SAFE COMMUNITY

**Our goal is to:** Foster a safer community.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Enhance road safety around schools
- Provide safe and accessible public amenities throughout Katherine
- Improve street lighting for safety
- Develop a laneway management policy.

## 2. PRIORITISE RECREATION

**Our goal is to:** Collaborate and innovate with the private and public sectors for positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Foster growth for a recreational precinct that connects sports, culture and recreation
- Support business and community leaders in promoting Katherine's competitive attributes
- Promote an active community with family events, festivals, live music and sports
- Support Buy Local initiatives where possible.

## 3. CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

**Our goal is to:** Celebrate diversity in our community and recognise their needs and interests.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Support diversity by ensuring our communication and engagement is inclusive and accessible to all members of the community
- Improve disability access in town
- Welcome and connect the Defence community with the Katherine community.

## 4. SUPPORT OUR YOUTH

**Our goal is to:** Support youth engagement.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Empower youths through youth-focused events and school-holiday activities
- Provide a platform for youths to have a voice
- Collaborate with NTG on its Katherine Youth Action Plan
- Participate in the Katherine Youth Advisory Group

### Measures of success

-  Increased participation and community connectedness at Council-led activities
-  Increased collaboration with local businesses
-  Increased awareness and variety of events that promote diversity and accessibility
-  Continue Community Grants program





## STRATEGIC PRIORITY THREE Sports and Civic Events

Prioritising sports infrastructure, community events, and branding of Katherine as a vibrant community is important to improving the liveability and positive attributes of Katherine.



Photo: Sport is a big part of life in Katherine.

## 1. SPORTS AND CIVIC EVENTS

**Our goal is to:** Provide sporting infrastructure and appropriate events to encourage community connectedness.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Hold events throughout the year that acknowledge themes that are important to our town and its residents, such as memorial days
- Improve participation in user advisory groups and improve coordination of these groups on Council land
- Develop key sporting infrastructure such as an all-weather/ multipurpose sports arena
- Develop future infrastructure such as a regional sporting precinct, updated aquatic centre and potential water recreation facility.

## 2. BRAND IDENTITY

**Our goal is to:** Develop and implement a brand identity that is uniquely Katherine's.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Craft Katherine's personality and identity by playing to our strengths
- Capture Katherine's profile as a desirable travel destination for long and short stays
- Establish Katherine's presence through wayfinding signage;
- Collaborate with Tourism NT on its tourism strategy for the NT.

## 3. ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

**Our goal is to:** Improve the accessibility of facilities and transport infrastructure and provide alternative transport solutions.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Investigate an accessible public bus on a continual loop to improve community mobility and access to key tourism points
- Provide and maintain footpaths and bike paths for ease of movement around town, with a shared pathway strategy
- Partner with NTG to conduct a trial for new urban transport options
- Make public toilets more accessible
- Develop a parking strategy.

## 4. ACTIVATION AND REVITALISATION

**Our goal is to:** Maximise developmental potential of Council's land assets and create an attractive town through revitalisation.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Provide and maintain wayfinding signage
- Support creating a vibrant CBD with updates to streets such as Railway Terrace and First Street
- Enhance public spaces with placemaking and activation
- Review shade and cooling potential of all facilities
- Provide more drinking water access
- Explore expanding our public library to be a community hub that delivers community events and activities.

### Measures of success

-  Wayfinding signage throughout Katherine
-  Visitors staying longer to explore our tourist attractions
-  Increased attendance and frequency of Activate Katherine events
-  Increased shade and cooling spaces
-  Increased participation and coordination of user advisory groups
-  A regional recreational precinct that connects sports and culture
-  Improved disability access to Council facilities





## STRATEGIC PRIORITY FOUR

# Growth and Sustainability

Katherine must grow in a way that allows for sustained success. Infrastructure must be sustainable and support both expansion and liveability.



*Photo: Construction industry businesses make up 18.9% of businesses in Katherine.*

22 KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL



## 1. BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE

**Our goal is to:** Identify infrastructure in need of upgrading, potential for new infrastructure, and develop long-term plans to anticipate opportunities for better infrastructure.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Develop a shared pathways strategy and potential projects
- Develop a project planning framework with hierarchy for shovel-ready projects
- Review Council's available land to consider potential utilisation opportunities
- Investigate an all-weather multipurpose facility.

## 2. LEAD WITH BEST PRACTICE

**Our goal is to:** Lead by example and set a high benchmark.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Regularly update our workplace policies and procedures, and Council bylaws
- Keep up to date with workplace health and safety training and be safety conscious when carrying out tasks
- Review Council's fees and charges system to ensure the sustainability of council's facilities and services
- Be prudent with our financial management for stronger returns for ratepayers and sustainable long-term finances with current risk management practices current at all times.



## 2. ATTRACT SKILLED WORKERS

**Our goal is to:** Attract and retain skilled workers.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Offer Council staff training and development opportunities
- Celebrate our successes
- Provide the right conditions and right opportunities
- Enhance Katherine's liveability so that people want to live here
- Support tertiary organisations in their workforce development offerings.

## Measures of success

-  Updated bylaws, policies and procedures, and compliance with local government legislation.
-  Developed plans for shovel ready projects
-  Accessing grants across all levels of government for Council to invest in the community
-  Improved shared pathways
-  Participation in school-trainee program at Council



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY FIVE Arts, Culture and Heritage

We are proud to call Katherine home. We will promote and communicate our pride in Katherine with residents and visitors to attract people to our community and share Katherine's vibrancy.



Photo: Street art murals line Railway Terrace in Katherine.

## 1. VIBRANT ART

**Our goal is to:** Encourage the arts sector.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Support the street art series and art organisations
- Support development of an arts trail
- Encourage knowledge of our art history, such as the Katherine Prize being the longest-running arts prize in the NT.

## 2. SUPPORT CULTURE

**Our goal is to:** Acknowledge and promote multiculturalism

**Our strategy is to:**

- Include multicultural activities in our event planning
- Support culturally-appropriate facilities
- Support cultural training and Indigenous employment
- Support NAIDOC Week events
- Celebrate culturally important days
- Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

## 3. OUR RICH HERITAGE

**Our goal is to:** Reinvigorate Katherine by preserving, embracing and showcasing our rich arts and heritage.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Support the restoration and promotion of Katherine's historical sites
- Create opportunities and partnerships to develop the arts, culture, and heritage sector
- Increase participation at cultural facilities and help facilitate events
- Capture opportunities for collaborative marketing plans with other sectors.

### Measures of success

-  More awareness and improved promotion of heritage and arts in Katherine
-  Council develops a Reconciliation Action Plan
-  Increased arts and culture events
-  Continue coordination of celebrations and civic events
-  Council acknowledges traditional owners and develops a Reconciliation Action Plan





## STRATEGIC PRIORITY SIX Big Rivers Inter-Government Collaboration

Council will lead regional collaboration. Collaboration will better assist the region to both address challenges and strengthen connection between people and resources available to the region.

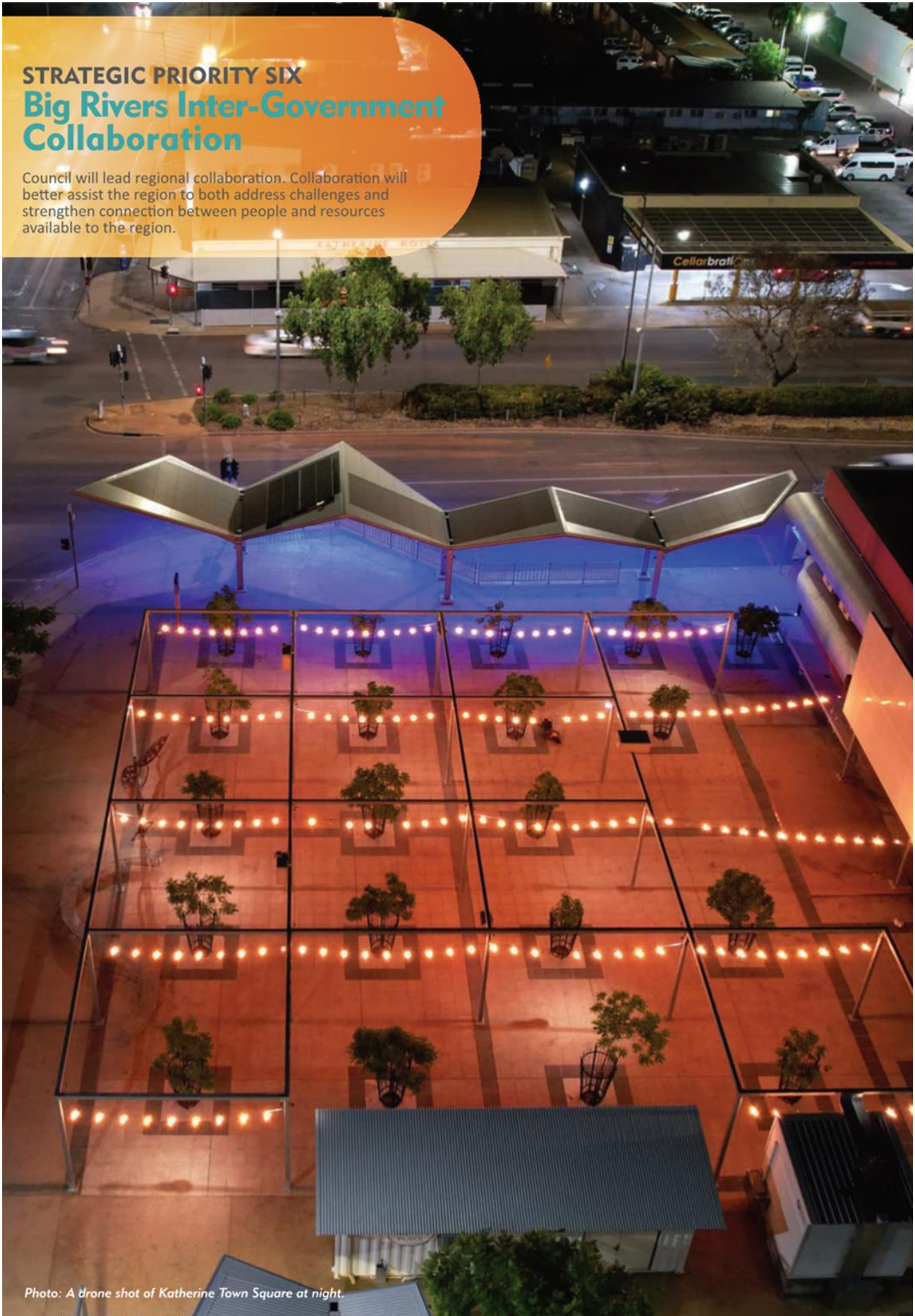


Photo: A drone shot of Katherine Town Square at night.

## 1. KATHERINE IS A SERVICES HUB

**Our goal is to:** Highlight and leverage Katherine as a services hub.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Collaborate with the Big Rivers regional councils
- Highlight Katherine’s role as a central hub in the Territory, providing services to the broader neighbouring regions
- Investigate a regional waste management facility hub.

## 2. COLLABORATE WITH REGIONAL COUNCILS

**Our goal is to:** Work collaboratively with other councils and government to ensure we are achieving the best outcomes for the Big Rivers Region.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Work in partnership with the Big Rivers regional councils on primary issues affecting the region
- Ensure a sound understanding of existing policies or agreements on critical matters impacting Katherine
- Work with NTG on its Big Rivers Regional Economic Growth Plan
- Investigate the maximum capacity of Katherine’s population growth to better manage financial resources and strategise our priorities.

## 3. INTER-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION AND ADVOCACY

**Our goal is to:** Collaborate with Territory and federal governments.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Advocate for the interests of our community
- Continue partnerships in programs that benefit the community such as myKatherine
- Influence Katherine projects in the NT Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline 2022
- Membership on regional committees
- Develop an elected member-led advocacy agenda on key areas of concern including housing, homelessness, liveability, native title.

### Measures of success

-  Representation on the Big Rivers Regional Economic Growth Committee
-  Participation on the Big Rivers Region Waste Management Working Group
-  Develop workable solutions in partnership to sustainably manage waste in the region
-  Participation in other Big Rivers Region committees, working collaboratively on points such as roads, environment and infrastructure





## STRATEGIC PRIORITY SEVEN Environmental Sustainability

Our unique environment will be celebrated, maintained and protected.



Photo: Katherine residents take part in Clean Up Australia Day.

## 1. WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Our goal is to:** Implement waste management actions that benefit our community and environment.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Implement a Council-led recycling initiative that inspires the community
- Develop a waste management advisory committee
- Engage residents with a community education program to encourage sustainable practices that minimise their footprint
- Provide opportunities for the community to repurpose, recycle and reuse all types of resources, reducing our landfill waste
- Install a tip shop at our waste facility, encouraging the reuse of goods
- Raise awareness to keep our town litter-free
- Implement the Katherine Town Council Waste Management Strategy 2021-2026.

### Measures of success

-  Increased tree canopy cover across Katherine
-  Education to reduce recyclable waste going to landfill
-  Improved community cooperation with recycling initiatives and maintain a litter free town
-  Tip shop operating at waste facility
-  Council-led workplace recycling initiative, shared with other government departments
-  Upgrade the irrigation of our parks

## 2. KATHERINE'S NATURAL BEAUTY

**Our goal is to:** Showcase the raw beauty of Katherine's natural attractions and protect our natural assets from pollution and overuse.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Develop an environmental sustainability strategy
- Embark on greening initiatives with the collective help of the community to beautify and increase green spaces
- Undertake activation projects to provide nature play spaces for kids of all ages
- Encourage engagement with natural spaces in neighbourhoods
- Provide cool and shaded spaces for the community.

## 3. PROTECT OUR WATER

**Our goal is to:** Sustainably manage our water resources.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Educate the community on water allocation, sustainable water use and avoiding leaks
- Monitor Council's monthly water-use
- Upgrade irrigation of our parks to minimise wastage of town and bore water.

## 4. REDUCE OUR FOOTPRINT

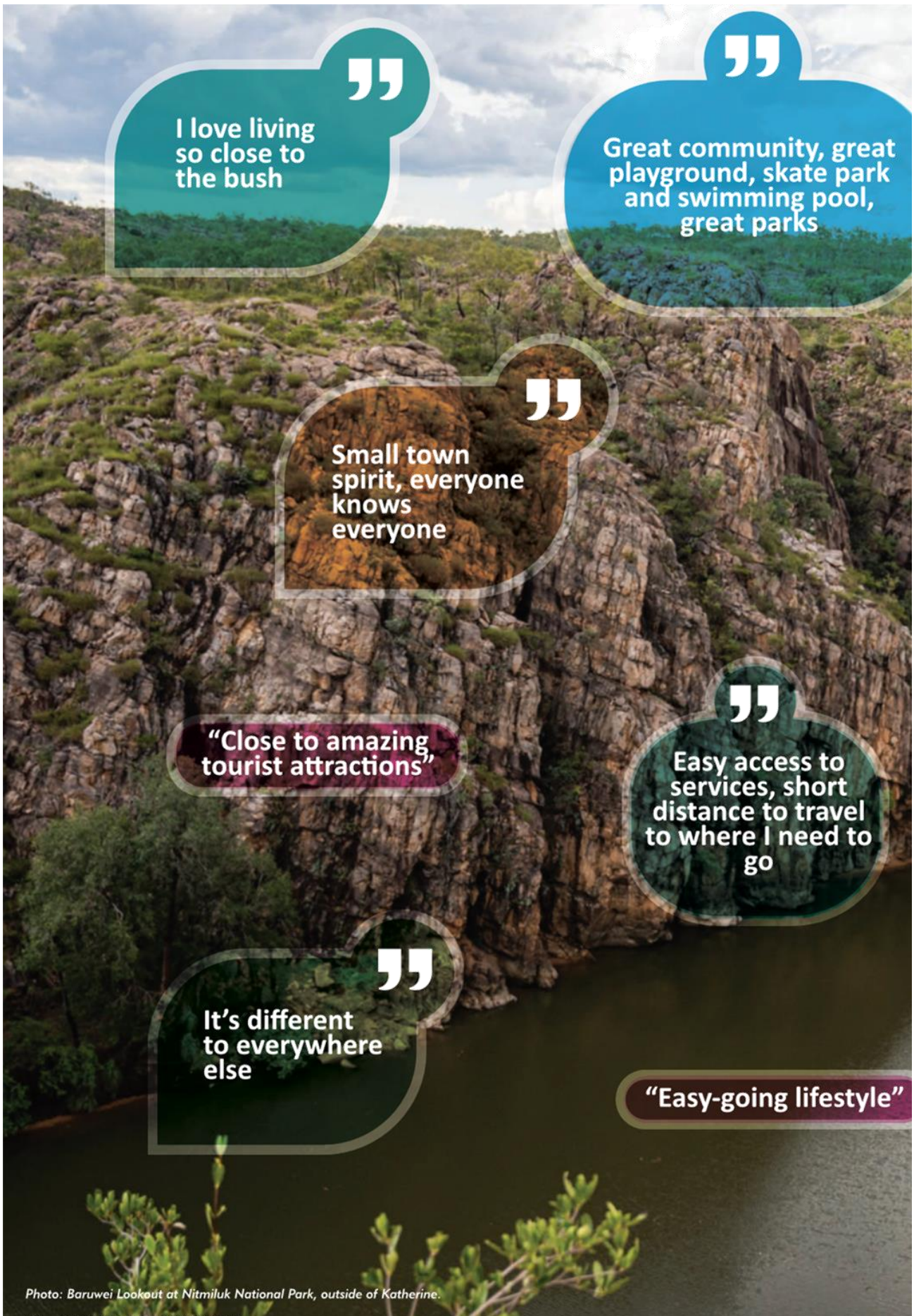
**Our goal is to:** Optimise Council's products, services, and operations to increase efficiencies and reduce our emissions.

**Our strategy is to:**

- Investigate platforms to transfer printable forms to online interactive forms
- Reduce emissions of our vehicle fleet
- Gather data to implement more efficient and less wasteful work practices
- Investigate installing electric car chargers
- Develop a tree-planting strategy.













**KATHERINE**  
TOWN COUNCIL

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**7 CLOSURE OF MEETING**