

Alice Springs Town Council

Quarterly Community Report

Quarter 1 2026/27 – July to September 2026

The Quarterly Community Report provides Council's progress delivering the 26/27 Municipal Plan, as well as key achievements, and updates on capital works programs and ASTC's plans.

ALICE SPRINGS
TOWN COUNCIL

Introduction

The Quarterly Community Report provides an open and accessible update on how Alice Springs Town Council is progressing against the goals and priorities set by Council Members on behalf of the community. It's a snapshot of the work happening right across ASTC, the achievements, challenges, and ongoing efforts that keep our town running and moving forward.

ASTC's Municipal Plan sets the direction for what we want to achieve together, and this report shows how those commitments are being brought to life. Each section connects directly to the objectives endorsed by Council, demonstrating how decisions made by Council are creating real outcomes for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Throughout this reporting period, ASTC teams have focused on delivering essential services our community relies on, while also advancing major projects that will strengthen Alice Springs for years to come. From infrastructure upgrades and community facilities to environmental initiatives and programs that build liveability, the results reflect a shared commitment to pride, connection, and opportunity.

This report isn't just about statistics, it's about transparency, accountability, and storytelling. It highlights how ASTC's resources are being used wisely, how performance is measured, and how we continue to adapt to meet community needs. Most importantly, it celebrates the collective effort of our team, partners, and community members who work together to make Alice Springs a great place to live, work and visit.

ASTC in numbers

47

The number of cars ASTC's Ranger Team investigated and towed through Q1.

30,313

Visitors through the doors at the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre through Q1.

5,000

Attendance at Newlandia, celebrating NAIDOC week and the Newland Skate and Play Precinct.

66

New trees that were planted as part of a National Tree Day planting event in July.

$17k

Total value of in-kind support ASTC delivered in Q1, supporting community events, groups and organisations.

53

Number of animals rehomed through the Animal Shelter in Q1.

ASTC Highlights



Support for Todd Mall Traders

The launch of the updated myToddMall Voucher scheme was a key focus of ASTC's support for Todd Mall businesses during Q1, with approximately $40,000 in vouchers expended during the quarter. Delivered as part of ASTC's Business Continuity Plan for the CBD revitalisation works, the initiative encourages the community to visit Todd Mall, support participating traders and continue spending locally. ASTC also maintained regular communication with traders and continued promotional activities throughout the quarter, helping to keep businesses visible and the community informed as works progressed. Together, these initiatives formed part of ASTC's ongoing efforts to minimise the impact of construction, support local businesses and maintain activity within the Todd Mall precinct.



Newlandia Music & Skate Festival

The Newlandia Music & Skate Festival was a major community event during Q1, attracting approximately 5,000 people to celebrate NAIDOC Week and the Newland Skate and Play Precinct. Headlined by Havana Brown, the festival brought the community together for a large-scale celebration centred around music, recreation and the new precinct. The strong attendance reflected significant community interest in the event and provided an opportunity to showcase Newland Skate and Play Precinct as a space for people of all ages to come together and enjoy.



Winter School Holidays

ASTC's Winter School Holiday Program kept young people and families busy, recording 7,617 attendances across 32 participation opportunities and eight activities. The program offered a diverse range of ways to get active, connect and enjoy the school break, with 8–12-year-olds particularly well represented.

Approximately 56% of overall attendance was estimated to be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander participants, reflecting strong engagement across the community.



Regional Waste Open Day

ASTC's Regional Waste Management Facility Open Day gave the community a rare look behind the scenes at one of Alice Springs' essential facilities. Visitors jumped aboard guided bus tours to explore the site and learn more about what happens to their waste after collection. The day provided a fun and accessible way to better understand local waste management, while giving residents the chance to see firsthand the work that goes into managing our community's waste.



Grow It Local comes to Alice Springs

Alice Springs welcomed the launch of Grow It Local at the Harvest Cafe, bringing the community together around a shared love of fresh, locally grown food. The program aims to support and inspire residents to grow, share and eat more local produce, while building connections between local growers and the wider community.

The launch marked an exciting start to the program and a fresh opportunity to get more people growing in Alice Springs.

Key Capital Works Updates



Regenerating the Alice Town Centre

$20,000,000

Designed to revitalise Todd Mall and surrounding streets into a safer, greener, and more welcoming destination for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Works on the Todd Mall upgrade are around 50% complete. Underground services and civil works are largely finished, and paving, tactile indicators and garden beds are now being installed. Fabrication of the major public art piece, Resilience, is continuing, and its footings on site are ready for the concrete pour. A soft launch of Stages 1–3 is being planned for November/December 2026, with the remaining works and landscaping due for completion in February 2027. Implementation of the Business Continuity Plan is ongoing, including the myToddMall voucher scheme launched in August 2026.

ASTC Integrated Energy Upgrade

$1,750,000

Leading by example and advocating for sustainable infrastructure across Alice Springs.

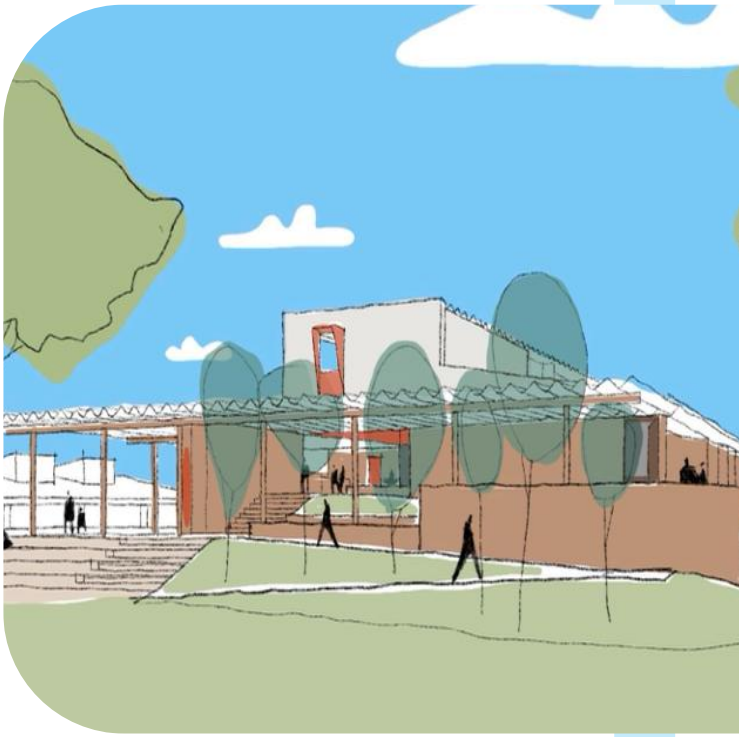
Electrical and mechanical design has been completed, and an application has been submitted to Power and Water Corporation. Procurement for construction will progress following receipt of the required approval.

New Alice Springs Public Library

$19,960,000

Providing a new library for the Alice Springs community.

A public tender for the detailed design was released in September 2026 and is scheduled to close in October 2026.



ASTC Plan Updates

Reconciliation Action Plan

- Following completion of ASTC's Reflect RAP, the Reconciliation Working Group engaged SpeakWrite Consulting to facilitate local community consultation and development of ASTC's two-year Innovate RAP.
- ASTC's Reconciliation Working Group and SpeakWrite facilitated a consultation workshop with First Nations community leaders in February 2026. The workshop identified priorities of the First Nations community to support shared ambitions for ASTC's reconciliation journey over the next two years.
- Insights from the consultation workshop were incorporated into the first draft of the Innovate RAP actions.
- ASTC's Reconciliation Working Group completed the first draft in May 2026, which was submitted to Reconciliation Australia for review and feedback.
- Officers and the Working Group commissioned Keioni Lander of Mulla Mulla Art through a limited competition procurement process to create a digital artwork that reflects the values and visual identity of ASTC's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. The artwork will be incorporated into the final plan and broader ASTC projects related to its reconciliation journey.
- Reconciliation Australia provided feedback on the first draft of ASTC's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan in August 2026.
- The Reconciliation Working Group reviewed and incorporated the feedback to develop a second draft which will be finalised into a print-ready publication prior to submission to Reconciliation Australia for final endorsement.
- The final draft is scheduled for presentation to Council Members at the October 2026 Forum prior to submission to Reconciliation Australia.
- Following presentation to the Forum, ASTC's final draft Innovate RAP will be submitted to Reconciliation Australia for endorsement.

Annual Objectives Dashboard

7

COMPLETE

Objectives marked as *Complete* have been fully delivered and signed off in accordance with the project plan.

49

IN PROGRESS

Objectives marked as *In Progress* have commenced, with some activities or milestones completed but others still underway.

18

NOT STARTED

Objectives marked as *Not Started* have yet to commence any works or activities.

44

ONGOING

Objectives marked as *Ongoing* are key strategic measures for ASTC that do not have an end date but remain key deliverables in 26/27 for the community's awareness.

Tracking Progress

Pillar One: A great place to live, every day

Name	Status	Responsible Directorate	Status Update
Maintain a clean, well-presented town that strengthens community pride, improves perceptions of Alice Springs, and encourages people to use and care for shared spaces.			
Proactively seek advice from Weeds Branch on managing Buffel on Council land		Infrastructure Services	Collaboration with the Weeds Branch continues to ensure appropriate advice is provided on the management of buffel and toward development of ASTC's Weed Management Plan.
Establish a pilot buffel-free zone along Lhere Mparntwe in collaboration with Landcare		Infrastructure Services	Collaboration continues with Landcare to establish buffel-free zones at two different locations along Lhere Mparntwe on the eastern bank between Totem Theatre and Schwarz Crescent, and between Tuncks Road and Stott Tce.
Continue to work with the Northern Territory Government and other key stakeholders to address the issue of illegal dumping within the municipality		Infrastructure Services	ASTC continues to participate in the Don't Be a Dumper illegal dumping working group, in collaboration with Lhere Artepe and relevant Northern Territory Government agencies.
Support community clean-up events by providing equipment and promotional support		Infrastructure Services	Support options for community groups to organise clean-up events will be promoted through ASTC's social network. Scoping of broader events is being developed.

Improve visual amenity by maintaining litter enforcement (fines) and removing abandoned vehicles and trolleys		Community Development	Rangers continued litter enforcement activities and the removal of abandoned vehicles and shopping trolleys throughout the municipality. During the quarter, 47 abandoned vehicles were investigated and towed, contributing to improved town presentation and public amenity. Rangers also continued to work with local retailers to address shopping trolley issues and support the timely retrieval of trolleys from public areas.
Improve access to the CBD by maintaining parking enforcements (fines)		Community Development	Rangers continued parking enforcement activities within the CBD to support access and turnover of available parking spaces. During the quarter, 345 parking infringement notices were issued, contributing to the effective management of parking and accessibility within the town centre.
Develop a town presentation score card to track, measure and report on town presentation		Corporate Services	Investigations scheduled for Q2.
Improve accessibility of roads, footpaths and cycleways			
Build community awareness of the Snap, Send Solve App		Infrastructure Services	Promotion of the Snap Send Solve app remains ongoing through our customer service response and communication channels.
Ensure accessibility of key infrastructures including paths are considered as part of the cemetery master plan		Infrastructure Services	Accessibility requirements, including accessible pathways, will be considered through development of the cemetery master plan due to commence later in the financial year.

Enhance the look and feel of Alice Springs through improved streetscapes and greening that reflects local character and climate			
Maintain and grow the Council's nursery at Albrecht Oval		Infrastructure Services	Operations at the Albrecht Oval nursery continued during Q1, supporting the propagation and maintenance of plants for ASTC's greening and operational activities.
Conduct a National Tree Day planting event		Infrastructure Services	A National Tree Day planting event was held on Sunday 26 July 2026 at Frances Smith Memorial Park. Approximately 100 residents participated and 66 new trees were planted.
Support the development of a relevant, diverse and exciting collection of public art to enhance community wellbeing, strengthen sense of place and contribute to the development of public art in Alice Springs			
Deliver the Public Art Masterplan within the agreed timeframes		Community Development	Masterplan delivery remains on track, with several projects currently underway. Officers have advocated for up to 2% ($100,000) of ASTC's $5 million contribution to the new Alice Springs Public Library project to be allocated to integrated public art, with the Public Art Advisory Panel set to assist with early consultation. The online ASTC Public Art Map continues to be enhanced through improved accessibility, clearer formatting, additional imagery, and exploration of audio-visual content. Officers are also investigating funding opportunities for professional development initiatives for local and emerging artists in partnership with relevant organisations. In parallel, work is underway with the Marketing and Communications team to deliver a coordinated digital strategy that strengthens the promotion of local artists, public art, and related storytelling across ASTC's digital channels.
Manage public art installations as part of the Regenerating the Alice Town Centre project		Community Development	In collaboration with Infrastructure Services, Officers are supporting the installation of the major public artwork, 'Resilience', and associated design elements, which will see 80% installed for the 28 November soft launch of Stage 1 - 3 of the broader project. Officers are collaborating with local artists and businesses for this event, celebrating both the new artworks and existing public art within the Todd Mall. Together, these works reflect the community's evolving values, stories and aspirations, while recognising the artists whose contributions now form a permanent part of the renovated precinct.
Upskill and support local artists and provide professional pathways son that they can contribute to the development of public art in Alice Springs			

Provide opportunities for local artists in public art professional development workshops or training opportunities		Community Development	Officers are currently exploring funding opportunities to deliver professional development initiatives for emerging and local artists, including a proposed workshop series for TAFE-based visual arts students that would provide hands-on experience across the full public art commissioning process. Additional opportunities are being explored in partnership with relevant organisations to support artists with disability and local artists through collaborative workshops focused on accessibility, inclusion and creating more accessible pathways to arts participation and practice.
Ensure Council-owned assets and infrastructure are well-planned, well-maintained and aligned with current and future community needs			
Develop a Strategic Asset Management Plan		Infrastructure Services	Scoping and planning of the plan is being developed.
Complete Todd Mall upgrades as part of the Regenerating the Alice Town Centre Project		Infrastructure Services	The upgrade of the Todd Mall continues to progress with an expected completion date of February 2027.
Finalise detailed design and commence procurement for construction of a new Alice Springs Public Library		Infrastructure Services	A public tender for the detailed design was released in September 2026 and is scheduled to close October 2026.
Integrate one accessibility upgrade to a Council facility		Infrastructure Services	A suitable ASTC facility and priority accessibility upgrade are yet to be confirmed.
Develop a master plan and phased landscaping schedule for Alice Springs cemeteries' long-term development		Infrastructure Services	Scope for the masterplan is currently being developed.
Provide welcoming, accessible recreational spaces and facilities that support healthy, active lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities			
Develop and implement a parks and playground management and improvements strategy		Infrastructure Services	The scope and approach for the strategy are yet to be developed.

Complete a Master Plan and 4-Year Strategic Plan to review and determine the long-term future of the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre		Community Development	Masterplan development in progress. Stage 1 focus areas to be presented to Council forum in November 2026. Development of four-year strategic plan to follow this.
Refurbish essential operational infrastructure at the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre		Infrastructure Services	Refurbishment of the indoor 25m pool lining is underway.
Progress construction of the Paul Fitzsimons Oval through to completion		Infrastructure Services	The redevelopment of the Paul Fitzsimons Oval is 85% complete, with practical completion expected in early December 2026.
Complete light installation at Jim McConville Oval in partnership with the Northern Territory Government		Infrastructure Services	The project has progressed significantly throughout Q1, with completion of the major lighting infrastructure, electrical connection works and system programming. Testing and commissioning activities were undertaken during the quarter, with the project progressing toward practical completion and formal handover scheduled for early Q2.
Complete upgrade of lighting at Flynn Drive Oval in partnership with NTG		Infrastructure Services	Six new lights at Flynn Drive Oval have been installed, with final commissioning and formal handover remaining and expected in Q2.
Deliver upgrades to Teague Park		Infrastructure Services	Teague Park re-opened to the public on 15 June 2026 after upgrades were completed. For the first time, the park now has several pieces of play equipment, along with a new cantilever shelter, seating and a bin. These improvements give children a place to play, provide shade and seating for families, and keep the park clean. Local residents have given positive feedback on the upgrades.
Reduce the impacts of extreme heat and climate change to make Alice Springs safer, cooler and more comfortable all year-round			
Complete the third year of the Alice Springs Greening Strategy		Infrastructure Services	The third year of the Strategy and Action plan focuses on Cool Schools Project and Pocket Parks Infills. A 500m radius pathway around Braitling Primary School has been identified for plantings and planting has started. Additionally, Adopt Program plantings continue.

Strengthen social ties by creating inclusive opportunities for people to come together participate and feel a sense of connection			
Deliver and support a range of events and activities that include and celebrate Alice Springs' diverse community		Community Development	ASTC successfully delivered the inaugural Youth Arts Prize, exhibiting 41 works from young artists aged 7-25 across drawing, painting and sculpture categories. The exhibition attracted strong community engagement, including more than 600 People's Choice votes, and showcased diverse themes including cultural identity, connection to Country, sustainability and mental health. ASTC also delivered the annual Mayoral Morning Tea for Northern Territory Senior's Month, with approximately 80 attendees participating in a Rock 'n' Roll themed celebration. Planning is underway for several upcoming diverse celebrations, including Mayoral Awards, 16 Days of Activism, Australia Day Events, Reconciliation Week, and Big Day Out in Harmony.
Strengthen community inclusion and belonging through Council communications		Corporate Services	ASTC continues to deliver communications that reflect the diversity of the Alice Springs community by highlighting diverse community stories, events, initiatives and opportunities for participation.
Provide in-kind support to organisations and community groups to assist in the delivery of community events		Community Development	ASTC delivered a total value of $17,077.50 in-kind support this quarter, supporting and contributing to a range of community events, groups and organisations. This support included equipment and infrastructure loans such as Marquees, Bins and the BBQ Trailer as well as Fee-Waivers for Sporting Ovals & Public Places Permits. This support has seen the successful delivery of varied diverse events and projects delivered by Triptic, Toursim & Events NT, Central Australian Show Society, NAIDOC Mparntwe Committee, Larapinta Child & Family Centre, Bikes Mwerre, Alice Springs Running & Walking Club, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Henley On Todd, Saltbush Social Enterprises, Menzies School of Health Research, Westside Community Garden, Red Dirt Poetry Festival, Red Tails Pink Tails, Red Centre NATS, Children's Ground, Nepali Community People of Alice Springs, Uniting Church of Australia, Tangentyere Council, Mental Health Association of Central Australia and Lutheran Care.
Deliver five night markets		Community Development	ASTC's first Night Market of the 2026/27 financial year was Winter Night Markets held on 14 August 2026. The event attracted approximately 2,800 attendees across the four hour event live between 5pm and 9pm. The event featured a free hot drinks stall, complimentary kids crafts and activities and live musical entertainment including string. A total of 43 stallholders participated in the event, with vendors reporting strong sales and high levels of engagement with surrounding local businesses benefiting from increased foot traffic within the CBD after hours.
Deliver four pop up events		Community Development	Newlandia Music & Skate Festival was the first Pop-Up Park of the 2026/27 financial year, as a hallmark Pop-Up Park delivered on Friday 10 July 2026 in collaboration with Tangentyere Council with support from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA at Jim McConville Oval and Newland Skate & Play Precinct. The program featured seven First Nations supporting line-ups with headliner Havana Brown, a

			series of BMX, skate, basketball and dance workshops, competitions and demos, 3x3 activities alongside food and market stalls. The Pop-Up event celebrated the official opening of Council's newest community asset, the Newland Skate & Play Precinct, while also recognising and celebrating NAIDOC Week 2026 and the Winter School Holidays. Held between 12pm and 8pm the event attracted approximately 5,000 attendees.
Support the physical, mental and social wellbeing of the community by enabling active lifestyles, access to recreation and learning, and programs that help people of all ages to live healthy, fulfilling lives			
Continue to encourage community use of the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre, including investigating and delivering innovative aquatic and land-based wellness and engagement programs for all ages and demographics		Community Development	Throughout the July-September quarter ASALC had 30,313 visitors attend the centre. ASALC currently delivers 10 aqua aerobics classes and eight land-based exercise classes weekly at the centre as part of the ASTC Health and Wellbeing Program. Over the quarter over 1350 attendances were recorded for aqua exercise classes and in excess of 1500 attendances for land-based exercise which includes seniors exercise, dance parties for new parents, yoga and qi-gong.
Increase Alice Springs Public Library outreach activities, while maintaining current programs for all ages		Community Development	During Q1, Alice Springs Public Library delivered a broad range of outreach, literacy, cultural, recreational and community engagement activities while maintaining a regular schedule of programs for all age groups. Library staff participated in six radio interviews on ABC Alice Springs and 8CCC between July and September to promote library programs, collections and services, increasing community awareness and engagement. Key activities included the Circus Workshop with Scott Griffin (2 July), which attracted 116 participants, a special Arrernte Storytime for NAIDOC Week (11 July), the YTAA Writing Workshop (23 July), and an Author Talk with bestselling author Fleur McDonald (30 July). In August, the Library participated in the Indigenous Children's Day event (14 August), hosted the annual Seniors Month High Tea Bingo (15 August), welcomed The Australian Ballet Outreach Team (19 August), and delivered several Book Week activities, including a community costume parade through the Civic Centre precinct on 27 August. Further outreach was achieved through the LA Rams Storytime (5 September) and hosting community partners such as Barama Parent Pathways (25 September) within the Library. These activities strengthened community connections, promoted literacy and lifelong learning, and enhanced the visibility of Library services across Alice Springs.

Increase awareness and access to digital library content for the Alice Springs community, including the introduction of global access to the Alice Springs Digital Collection		Community Development	Digitisation of the historical Alice Springs periodical "The Trader" commenced in early September, with the intent of uploading the digitised copies to the Special Collections' computer for archival access once it is complete. While there are some print copies of the Trader in the physical Alice Springs Collection, the digital newspaper archive attracts more attention and this will hopefully boost patron interest in it. The Central Australian Historical Images collection (which is globally accessible via Wikimedia Commons following ASPL's 2024 partnership) received social media promotion in September in a post marking the 70th anniversary of the premiere of A Town Like Alice in August 1956. The post attracted attention online and was shared in a number of Centralian Facebook groups.
Continue to support animal adoptions through the Animal Shelter		Community Development	The Animal Shelter continued to support responsible pet ownership and positive animal welfare outcomes through its adoption program. During the quarter, 53 animals were successfully rehomed, providing opportunities for animals to find permanent homes within the community.
Support the development of the Alice Springs Sports, Learning and Leadership Centre		Community Development	Multiple meetings attended with external stakeholders in relation to the proposed development.
Foster a welcoming and inclusive community where people of all backgrounds, abilities, identities and ages feel a sense of belonging and are supported to participate fully in civic and community life			
Develop and implement a Community Inclusion Plan		Community Development	Community Inclusion Plan (CIP) consultation, led by the engaged contractors at Centred Solutions, has been underway since August, with community engagement informing the development of the draft plan. Feedback to date has highlighted the need for improved housing options for seniors, greater accessibility and connectivity across town, better access to information and community services, stronger support for social inclusion, and continued improvement in ASTC responsiveness. The survey remains open until 13 November 2026 and will inform the final Plan.
Improve employment outcomes by increasing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander recruitment and retention		Corporate Services	People and Culture Recruitment and workforce data is being progressively improved to better understand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation, recruitment and retention. Employment pathways, local recruitment reach and workforce development initiatives continue to support broader participation in our employment opportunities.
Establish an Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan to further Council's		Community Development	Reconciliation Australia provided feedback on the first draft of ASTC's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. The Reconciliation Working Group reviewed and incorporated the feedback to develop a second draft which will be finalised into a print-ready publication prior to submission to Reconciliation Australia for final endorsement. The publication will feature digital artwork by local artist Keioni Lander, which reflects ASTC's

commitment to meaningful reconciliation			values, reconciliation journey and connection to community and Country. The Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan includes 16 actions with 73 deliverables aimed at strengthening ASTC's commitment to reconciliation. The plan was presented at the October Forum for Council Member review, comment and feedback.
Develop a business case for specialist providers to deliver Aboriginal cultural awareness training for Council employees		Corporate Services	Engagement has been undertaken with (local) specialist Indigenous employment, training and mentoring providers to assess cultural awareness training and broader workforce development opportunities. These discussions have strengthened ASTC's Indigenous employment pathway planning and supports ongoing partnerships.
Celebrate NAIDOC Week through participation in external events and delivery of internal activities		Community Development	ASTC delivered the Newlandia Music & Skate Festival on 10 July 2026 in partnership with Tangentyere Council and with support from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) as a key NAIDOC Week initiative. The event celebrated the 2026 NAIDOC Week theme, "50 Years of Deadly", while also marking the opening of the Newland Skate & Play Precinct. The festival attracted an estimated 5,000 attendees and featured a range of First Nations-led activities, including the unveiling of a youth-led public art mural by First Nations artist Keioni Lander, a First Nations music supporting line-up, and First Nations skate and BMX workshops. The event demonstrated strong collaboration with Tangentyere Council, NIAA and community partners and provided opportunities for cultural celebration, youth participation and community connection. ASTC also provided varied in-kind support to external organisations including the local NAIDOC committee to deliver varied community events and activations.
Build on key elements of Council's Multicultural Action Plan 2023-2026 within Council's new Community Inclusion Plan		Community Development	ASTC continues to meet actions from the Multicultural Action Plan (MAP) 2023-2026 which was 78% complete, with all outstanding actions considered ongoing throughout the life of the plan and beyond.
Support multicultural events and celebrations		Community Development	Officers met with Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia Inc (MCSCA) to initiate planning and partnership planning for 2027 Big Day Out In Harmony. Officers have also supported varied multicultural community requests for planning support for Diwali 2026 and the Nepalese Community Vigil.
Support community-led events and initiatives that improve visibility, inclusion and safety for vulnerable groups		Community Development	ASTC delivered the annual ASTC Conversation Hub at the Alice Springs Show, providing a platform for community engagement and direct interaction with Council Members and Officers for its July Council Connects session. ASTC also participated in seven community expos and pop-up events including 2026 Senior's Expo, Clontarf Employment Expo, Disability Expo, Joint Defence Force Pine Gap's Family Day, Central Australia All Youth Conference NT and Heads Up Youth Wellbeing Carnevale.

Increase community awareness of Council and community facilities, programs, events and services		Corporate Services	ASTC continues to promote awareness of its facilities, programs, events and services through a range of digital and traditional communication channels. Communications activity throughout the quarter highlighted community events, library and aquatic centre programs, council services, projects and opportunities for community participation.
Consider options to integrate feedback from community groups, such as young people, local business, sporting groups, multicultural community, LGBTQIA+ communities, people with a disability, senior groups, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities to support Council decision making processes		Community Development	ASTC have continued to use Council Connects activations to vary discussion topics and the locations and means of engaging and consulting with diverse community groups, which in this quarter included the ASTC Conversation Hub at the Alice Springs Show and the Regional Waste Management Facility Open Day. Officers have recently delivered the new Have a Yarn & Spin to Win youth engagement initiative, with 113 responses received to date. Feedback of this initiative provided providing valuable insights into the experiences, interests and priorities of local young people, helping inform youth programming. Further, Community Inclusion Plan consultation remains open to the public seeking survey responses to inform the final plan and further considerations for feedback integration.
Continue to develop and deliver term and school holiday programs for children and young people in partnership with local service providers		Community Development	ASTC's Winter 2026 School Holiday Program delivered 32 participation opportunities across eight activities, engaging 7,617 young people and family members The attendance of young people that may identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander was estimated at 4,301 via service provider and staffing observations, representing approximately 56% of total attendance across all activities. The most present and engaged age group throughout this program was recorded as 8–12-year-olds. The big-ticket inclusion this period included the delivery of Newlandia Music & Skate Festival. Officers also delivered an interagency combined school holiday calendar in partnership with the Northern Territory Government, with physical deliveries made to schools and local town camps. After school programming continued in Term 3 2026 with weekly 3x3 Basketball and Community Cook Up programs with 307 participants. ASTC's Spring 2026 School Holiday Program saw 1,823 attendees across 16 activity sessions, including free movie screenings, bowling, Slide, Putt & Snag, wrestling and no-gi jiu-jitsu, DJ and sports activities.

Pillar Two: A safe, supported & strong community

Improve everyday safety and fulfil positive duty obligations by reducing risks, supporting vulnerable community members, and promoting safer behaviours across public and private spaces			
Support implementation of the *A Better, Safer Future for Central Australia* Plan		Office of the CEO	ASTC continues to undertake and report on all assigned actions under the Better, Safer Future for Central Australia plan as required.
Acceptable behaviour and conditions of entry standards established and implemented for Council sites		Corporate Services	ASTC has commenced development of a consistent approach to acceptable behaviour standards across ASTC sites after implementing revised Conditions of Entry at the Library in June 2026. Early results indicate improved management of anti-social behaviour and enhanced support for staff and facility users.
Improve road and footpath safety			
Continue to advocate for the Heavitree Gap Planning Projects to bring about the upgrade and duplication of the Stuart Highway through Heavitree Gap to improve future traffic flow, safety and flood mitigation		Office of the CEO	Multiple discussions held with relevant Ministers.
Develop a three-year road reseal program (FY 2026-2028) and commence year 1 works		Infrastructure Services	Scoping for the three-year road reseal program is underway.
Complete a CBD footpath survey and develop a CBD Footpath Upgrade Strategy with a focus on accessibility for all users		Infrastructure Services	The scope for the CBD footpath survey and upgrade strategy is under development, with accessibility to remain a key consideration.

Reduce preventable harm by improving safety around water			
Deliver targeted water safety programs for identified cohorts, including children, parents, people with lived disability, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities and culturally diverse groups		Community Development	Through Q1, ASALC delivered school swimming lessons for 14 schools from Alice Springs and remote communities. This is in addition to regular learn to swim lessons delivered after-school and on weekends which incorporates lessons for children aged 6 months to 12 years, as well as teens and adult programs. Currently ASALC has 280 children enrolled in the Learn to Swim Program for Term 4. In addition, ASALC swim teachers have delivered an all-abilities swim program in conjunction with NT Sports Academy throughout the quarter which has been highly successful.
Promote the safety and wellbeing of animals and the community by supporting responsible pet ownership, effective animal management and safe shared use of public spaces			
Support responsible pet ownership, including providing education through the Animal Shelter		Community Development	The Animal Shelter continued to support responsible pet ownership through the provision of education and advice to pet owners and members of the community. This remains an ongoing focus, with staff promoting responsible animal management, registration, desexing and animal welfare outcomes through daily interactions and shelter services.
Create a plan to replace the current pound area at the Animal Shelter to improve outcomes for impounded animals		Community Development	Development of a plan to replace the current pound area at the Animal Shelter has not progressed during the quarter due to the absence of allocated funding. Opportunities to secure funding for the project will continue to be explored and reviewed throughout the budget period to support future improvements to outcomes for impounded animals.
Support community safety by efficiently responding to calls for service from the community regarding animal management		Community Development	Rangers continued to respond to animal management requests from the community, supporting public safety and animal welfare outcomes across the municipality. This remains an ongoing service, with officers responding to reports of wandering animals, nuisance complaints, animal attacks, livestock incidents and other animal management matters as they arise.
Deliver education and compliance activities that improve animal welfare and public safety		Community Development	Rangers and Animal Shelter staff continued to deliver education and compliance activities that promote responsible pet ownership, improve animal welfare outcomes and support public safety. This remains an ongoing focus, with education, advice and enforcement provided through routine community interactions and animal management activities.

Ensure public spaces are safe, welcoming and well-used through practical design, lighting, activation and collaboration			
Deliver the Road Safety Project for Gap Road		Infrastructure Services	A consultation strategy has been prepared to identify key stakeholders and guide the delivery of the consultation process.
Develop an audit strategy to evaluate the inclusion of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design at Council assets		Infrastructure Services	The scope and methodology for the audit strategy are yet to be developed.
Strengthen Council and community preparedness for emergencies and natural disasters to reduce risk, minimise impacts and support recovery			
Actively participate in emergency management planning, response and recovery activities		Office of the CEO	Multiple meetings attended during the quarter, with a particular focus on bushfire preparedness, flood mitigation and avian influenza.
Support timely and clear communication to the community during service disruptions, emergencies and safety-related incidents.		Office of the CEO	Meetings held with Marketing and Communications in order to review all ASTC Communication channels and protocols in preparation for summer.
Construct an Emergency Coordination Centre for Council to support its preparedness and response to emergencies		Infrastructure Services	A contract was awarded in Q1 to develop the concept and detailed design of the Emergency Coordination Facility/Centre. A target date for completion of the detailed design is November 2026.
Hold regular emergency planning committee meetings to coordinate Council's emergency preparedness planning and resources		Office of the CEO	Multiple meetings conducted. This quarter also saw the finalisation of ASTC's new Emergency Plan, which went to Council for noting at the September Ordinary Council Meeting.

Implement and test Council's emergency and business continuity plans		Corporate Services	Emergency Plan approved by Acting CEO in September, with a desktop-exercise also held in September. Business Continuity Plan development in progress.
Develop a three-year Stormwater cleaning programme FY (2026 2028) and commence year 1 works		Infrastructure Services	The scope and methodology are yet to be developed, pending budget allocation.
Collaborate with Weeds Branch, landowners and stakeholders to manage Buffel grass and mitigate fire risks		Infrastructure Services	Collaboration with the Weeds Branch and stakeholders and landowners involved with the Lhere Mparntwe Management Strategy continues to ensure appropriate advice is provided on the management of buffel and fire mitigation activities.
Advocate for additional investment for improved flood mitigation measures in Alice Springs, while maintaining safe and effective management of Council-controlled causeways and Lhere Mparntwe		Office of the CEO	Ongoing discussions with the local Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment in relation to flood mitigation.
Improve access to food and essential supports for people experiencing vulnerability			
Deliver food security workshops in collaboration with Community Gardens		Infrastructure Services	A beeswax wraps workshop was held at the West Side Community Garden on 11 July 2026, with 25 participants attending. Further events are being developed.
Establish "Grow It Local" within the community to support the community to grow, share and eat more locally grown food		Infrastructure Services	Grow It Local was launched at Harvest Cafe in collaboration with the Alice Springs Community Garden on Saturday 19 September 2026. Grow It Local was also promoted through ASTC's own communications channels and external media channels.
Investigate the establishment of/or support for a community kitchen providing free meals to those in need		Community Development	Multiple meetings held with the local Sikh community in relation to this. Connections formed with several community service organisations who may also be in a position to assist with this, including the provision of commercial kitchen space and/or food storage.

Mitigate food insecurity risks arising from road and other freight corridor closures			
Advocate for freight connectivity to ensure greater food security, through the Outback Highway Development Council and/or other channels.		Office of the CEO	Multiple meetings attended of the Outback Highway Development Council, including ASTC participation in joint-advocacy efforts as part of the Developing the North Conference in August.
Improve safety, inclusion and wellbeing for community members who may experience heightened vulnerability, ensuring they feel respected, supported and safe in public and community spaces			
Foster a culturally diverse workforce that reflects and serves the Alice Springs community.		Corporate Services	ASTC continues to support a culturally diverse workforce through inclusive, merit-based recruitment practices. Recruitment approaches and advertising are regularly reviewed to improve accessibility and reach across the Alice Springs community.
Ensure Council communications and promotional materials reflect the diversity of the Alice Springs community		Corporate Services	The diversity of the Alice Springs community remains a priority when developing ASTC communications and promotional materials. The Marketing and Communications Unit prioritise the use of inclusive language and images that reflect a range of ages, cultures and backgrounds.
Contribute to long-term reductions in harm by addressing the underlying causes of violence and unsafe behaviour			
Improve gender equity and decrease gender-based violence through advocacy and by participating in and supporting relevant events and other key community initiatives		Community Development	Officers are participating in the 2026 16 Days of Activism interagency working group. Participation includes supporting partner-led activities and advocacy initiatives throughout the 2026 campaign. Officers have commenced planning for a Walk Against Gender-Based Violence and BBQ Breakfast, building on the successful 2025 event.

Pillar Three: A healthy & resilient natural environment

Protect and strengthen local ecosystems and biodiversity through responsible environmental management and partnerships			
Advocate and work with the Northern Territory Government on key issues and opportunities that support the protection and enhancement of Alice Springs' natural environment and biodiversity, including the Ilparpa Claypans		Office of the CEO	Action has yet to commence.
Review Council's regulatory response to domestic cat containment, with a focus on identifying opportunities for improved community outcomes and responsible pet ownership		Community Development	Preliminary consideration of ASTC's regulatory response to domestic cat containment is progressing through planning for the upcoming by-law review project. The review will provide an opportunity to assess current regulatory approaches and identify potential measures to support responsible pet ownership and improved community outcomes.
Continue to investigate and trial programs to reduce the impact of feral animals within the Alice Springs municipality		Community Development	Investigation of potential programs and initiatives to reduce the impact of feral animals within the municipality remains under review. Progress has been limited during the quarter due to funding constraints; however, opportunities to secure funding and support future trial programs will continue to be explored throughout the budget period.
Provide reliable, efficient and sustainable rubbish and recycling services that meet community expectations and support responsible waste management			
Develop a pilot and feasibility options for expanding recycling in Alice Springs		Infrastructure Services	The scope and potential options for a recycling pilot are yet to be developed.
Complete the Regional Waste Management Facility civil design		Infrastructure Services	Civil design for the Regional Waste Management Facility remains in progress. Further design milestones will be reported as the work advances.

Continue to deliver Council's free Regional Waste Management Facility voucher program		Infrastructure Services	ASTC continued to deliver the free Regional Waste Management Facility voucher program during Q1.
Improve the sustainability of waste, water and resource management systems to reduce environmental impact and support a circular economy			
Investigate options for additional water recycling programs		Infrastructure Services	Potential options and feasibility requirements are yet to be investigated.
Expand the use of recycled water use across Council assets and services to improve sustainability and reduce potable water consumption		Infrastructure Services	Options to expand the use of recycled water are being explored in collaboration with Power Water.
Implement and continue to scope cloud-based systems to reduce Council's reliance on paper		Corporate Services	Work is ongoing on key ASTC systems. All new and existing systems have been evaluated and continue to be evaluated with a plan for appropriate migration as necessary.
Encourage and support recycling uptake and awareness in the Alice Springs community		Infrastructure Services	Future awareness and engagement activities are yet to be developed.
Increase community awareness of the Council's Green Living Subsidies		Infrastructure Services	The Green Living Subsidy Program was updated to require eligible purchases to be made in locally in Alice Springs. ASTC contacted local businesses stocking eligible products, provided promotional material, published participating businesses on ASTC's website, and promoted the changes through social media.
Reduce emissions and support the transition to renewable energy by leading by example and advocating for sustainable infrastructure across Alice Springs			
Follow Australian environmental design standards to support compliance and innovation related to energy efficiency, environmental impacts, and the use of sustainable materials for		Infrastructure Services	The approach for embedding relevant environmental design standards into ASTC projects and assets is yet to be developed.

new Council buildings, projects and assets			
Install a solar battery and heat pumps at the Alice Springs Aquatic & Leisure Centre		Infrastructure Services	Electrical and mechanical design has been completed, and an application has been submitted to Power and Water Corporation. Procurement for construction will progress following receipt of the required approval.
Increase Council's renewable energy rate by upgrading existing solar systems across the network		Infrastructure Services	A new solar battery has been installed and the unit is operational. It is anticipated the installed battery will reduce Depot's power consumption by 13,000kWh/year which is an abatement of over 8tCO2e (ton of carbon dioxide equivalent). This reduction will also save approx. $6,000/year from power bills. The integrated energy upgrade at the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre also remains in progress.

Pillar Four: A thriving & sustainable local economy

Provide clear leadership and coordination to support sustainable economic development and long term economic resilience			
Review the scope of the Northern Territory Government Regional Economic Development strategy		Office of the CEO	Scope of the Northern Territory Government Regional Economic Strategy has been reviewed.
Aim to secure Council representation on the Northern Territory Government Economic Development Committee or equivalent		Office of the CEO	Meetings held with representatives from the Northern Territory Government in order to progress this issue.
Support the growth and sustainability of local businesses and industries that underpin employment and economic activity in Alice Springs			
Support and help drive regional economic growth through participation and advocacy on relevant committees and inquiries		Office of the CEO	Meetings held with representatives from the Northern Territory Government and other external stakeholders in order to progress this issue.
Develop a procurement framework for Council and improve local participation, including by Aboriginal owned businesses, in future tender opportunities		Office of the CEO	New procurement policy endorsed by Council at the September Ordinary Council Meeting.
Strengthen the vitality of the town centre and commercial areas by supporting activation, visitation and a strong local trading environment			
Support new opportunities to develop the CBD		Office of the CEO	Multiple meetings held with various external stakeholders.

Implement initiatives with the Todd Mall Traders and other stakeholders to help regenerate the Alice Springs CBD		Office of the CEO	Todd Mall vouchers launched in August, with approximately $40,000 being expended Q1. The partnership with Renew Australia also progressed, including the successful recruitment of a dedicated Project Manager.
Investigate ways to enliven the Todd Mall through strategic activations		Office of the CEO	Meetings attended with various external stakeholders in order to promote upcoming opportunities through Renew Australia. This included a particularly successful Public Information session, in which Expressions of Interest were received from approximately twenty local creatives.
Improve how Alice Springs is experienced and perceived by residents, visitors and potential new arrivals			
Actively promote a positive and authentic narrative of Alice Springs through Council communications		Corporate Services	ASTC continues to share positive stories about Alice Springs through its social media, media releases and other communications. This quarter, coverage of community events, ASTC projects and the people behind them showed the breadth of activity across the town.
Continue involvement in Outback Highway Development Council (OHDC) and champion and advocate delivery of the 'Outback Way'		Office of the CEO	Multiple meetings attended during the quarter in relation to the Outback Way.
Continue to develop and implementation of the 'Reframing the Alice' campaign to promote a positive narrative of Alice Springs		Corporate Services	Implementation plan currently in development.
Support local employment pathways and workforce participation to strengthen economic inclusion and resilience			
Create and promote Council employment pathway opportunities, including traineeships and early-career roles		Corporate Services	Employment pathways have expanded through traineeships and entry level positions. During this quarter, 15 existing employee commenced structured traineeships supported by five workplace supervisors in mentoring roles.
Partner with local agencies and organisations to identify and build pathways to employment		Corporate Services	ASTC's People and Culture team continues to work with local employment, training and workforce organisations to support pathways to employment and accredited development opportunities. Partnerships have supported the establishment and delivery of traineeships across the workforce.

Ensure Council's financial settings support long-term sustainability while remaining fair and proportionate for the community			
Improve community awareness of long-term financial sustainability challenges of Council		Office of the CEO	Discussions held with ASTC's Community Engagement team in order to explore upcoming opportunities as part of the 2027-28 budget planning process.

Pillar Five: Community-led governance & civic participation

Enable the community to meaningfully shape Council priorities, decisions and outcomes through accessible, inclusive and ongoing engagement			
Conduct community consultation in alignment with the Community Engagement Framework		Community Development	Council Connects pop-ups have continued to provide valuable opportunities for Council Members and officers to engage directly with the community. Recent activations, including the ASTC Conversation Hub at the Alice Springs Show (3 July) and the Regional Waste Management Facility Open Day (8 Aug), have helped residents share local priorities while increasing awareness of ASTC services and initiatives.
Undertake a community survey in 2027 to inform Council planning		Community Development	In queue for early 2027.
Improve how Council communicates so the community understands Council's role, decisions and activities and can engage with confidence			
Improve awareness of Council's Community Grants Program, including application support and training, particularly for culturally and linguistically diverse individuals and groups		Community Development	Round 1 of the FY2026/27 Community Grants & Event Sponsorship Program opened on 1 August and closed on 1 September 2026. Targeted promotion through email, social media and ASTC's website increased awareness of the funding opportunity, supported by a pre-recorded information session and direct applicant assistance. Following eligibility and panel assessments, funding recommendations will be presented to Council at the October Ordinary Council Meeting for endorsement.
Deliver transparent and strategic Council communications through clear communication frameworks		Corporate Services	Brand Guide in place and Writing Style Guide currently in review.
Review how Council communicates its decisions to the community and implement a strategy to improve this		Corporate Services	Preliminary planning has commenced to review how ASTC communicates its decisions to the community to improve community understanding. The review is yet to commence.

Ensure Council engagement is inclusive, culturally appropriate and accessible so all community members can participate			
Ensure Council's consultation processes are accessible and culturally appropriate		Community Development	Officers continue to refine engagement and communication approaches to improve accessibility, inclusion and cultural responsiveness. In-person engagement remains a priority, consistently reaching people who may not participate in online surveys, while measures such as staff-assisted feedback, digital devices at events and accessible communications help reduce barriers to participation. Ongoing professional development and research into best-practice engagement methods, combined with a mix of digital and face-to-face engagement channels, continue to strengthen ASTC's ability to gather meaningful feedback and respond to community needs. Officers also successfully implemented the Have a Yarn & Spin to Win youth engagement initiative, designed to inform data-driven youth project planning, with 113 responses received to date, providing valuable firsthand insights from young people across the community.
Develop and embed cultural awareness and unconscious bias training modules Council's learning and development platform		Corporate Services	Mandatory respectful workplace training has been rolled out through ASTC's online learning platform and delivered face-to-face where appropriate. Cultural awareness training has been reviewed by the Reconciliation Committee and is progressing alongside the broader Reconciliation Action Plan process. Options for unconscious bias training have also been identified, including targeted face-to-face training for hiring managers and online learning.
Promote and support the use of Council's Language Aides, both telephone and face-to-face		Corporate Services	ASTC has introduced a language aid on the public website, allowing users to translate text into more than 60 different languages. The aid also has settings that are dyslexia friendly. ASTC is currently reviewing internal capacity to have translators available.
Make it easy for the community to access Council services and receive consistent, respectful and responsive support			
Develop and implement a Customer Service Improvement Plan		Community Development	Implementation of Phase One of the Customer Service Improvement Plan commenced this quarter, with work progressing on the development of a Customer Service Charter and Customer Service Standards. Work also commenced on establishing consistent customer interaction data collection to support service improvement and evidence-based decision-making. Together, these initiatives will support more consistent and customer-focused service delivery. Further refinement will continue next quarter ahead of implementation.
Review and improve Council systems for handling complaints, ensuring issues are resolved fairly and transparently		Community Development	Work commenced this quarter on the development of a Complaints Management Framework to support a more consistent, accountable and transparent approach to complaints handling across ASTC. Further refinement will continue next quarter ahead of implementation.

Uphold strong internal governance, financial and workforce management frameworks to foster community trust and organisational sustainability			
Improve budget accountability and forecast accuracy across the organisation through regular variance analysis and earlier corrective action		Corporate Services	The 2025/26 draft financial statements for the annual report have been prepared and will be presented to Risk Management and Audit Committee in October 2026. The material variance explanations required by regulation 12 are included in the draft annual report. The variation between the original 2025/26 budget and actuals, will be adopted as the baseline forecast measure against which 2026/27 performance will be tracked.
Improve fiscal performance by better aligning service fees to actual costs, reducing supplier and service delivery costs, and strengthening debt collection processes		Corporate Services	A procurement group established in the first half of the year is improving procurement forms and automating applications. An external vendor to assist with the process is under assessment. Alternative rates payment options are also being assessed to improve collection. Costs from both will be brought into the November budget review. Infrastructure Services has taken utility and fuel services to market to test cost and efficiency improvements. The process is underway.
Automate financial processes thereby enhancing efficiency, accuracy and strategic decision-making		Corporate Services	Finance automation of processes continues with the Purchasing Card module go-live date in October. A transition of our ERP to the cloud continues with pre-requisite tasks completed and training currently in progress. Infrastructure services have been investigating increasing our efficiencies with our utility and fuel services.
Develop and conduct culture surveys and identify areas for improvement		Corporate Services	Workforce feedback mechanisms have been progressively modernised, including moving exit interviews from a paper-based process to an online survey and introducing contemporary questions to better understand employee experiences. A broader wellbeing survey has also informed changes to Employee Assistance Program services, and the development of additional wellbeing and resilience supports. Planning for broader workforce climate surveying is underway, with consideration being given to survey timing and frequency.
Conduct two internal audits in response to identified organisational risks		Community Development	ASTC is in the process of planning two upcoming internal audits - one is scheduled for Oct/Nov 2026, and the next for Feb/Mar 2027. An internal auditor has been secured and has commenced work on the Oct/Nov internal audit.
Implement an effective integrated training framework to build organisational capability and performance		Corporate Services	People & Culture continued to strengthen ASTC's integrated learning and development framework, linking workforce planning, business unit training needs and individual development with our HR Management System. External capability was also formalised for traineeships and accredited training, leadership development, coaching and specialist workforce development. This provides ASTC with more planned and consistent approach to building capability, while accessing funded programs and specialist providers where appropriate and ensuring value for money.

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