

Media Release

29 August 2024

August Council Meeting wrap up

Alice Springs Councillors met on Tuesday 27 August 2024 for their monthly Ordinary Council Meeting. The following is a summary of some of the matters discussed. To see full Council reports and minutes, visit the ASTC website. A full video of the meeting is available on Council's [Vimeo channel](#).

Coffey elected as new Deputy Mayor

Mark Coffey has been appointed as Deputy Mayor of Alice Springs Town Council following a vote by Elected Members in Chamber on Tuesday morning. Council's Deputy Mayor role is voted upon by Elected Members each year with Cr Coffey set to serve in the role until August 2025.

A long-term Alice Springs local, Cr Coffey brings unique expertise to the position having spent 22 years as part of the Northern Territory Police Force and a further 12 years as a Senior Executive in the Australian Government. He has also dedicated his time to a range of community organisations in Alice Springs through volunteer roles, including as a board member of CASA Services, Parole Board, St John Ambulance NT and Health and Community Services Complaints Review Committee.

Cr Coffey takes over the role from Alison Bitar, who has served in the position for 12 months. Council thanks Alison Bitar for her dedication and commitment to the role throughout her term.

Prioritising community safety

After careful consideration and in response to concerns raised by many in the Alice Springs community, ASTC's Elected Members have decided that Council sporting venues will not be available to AFL Northern Territory for community football matches on successive weeks during the 2025 and 2026 seasons. Additionally, these facilities will not be available for hosting finals in 2025 and 2026.

This decision has been made due to a noticeable increase in anti-social behaviour that has recently coincided with community football events. The safety and well-being of Alice Springs residents is Council's primary priority, and Councillors believe this measure is necessary to address the concerns expressed by the community.

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Ensuring our animals are cared for

ASTC Rangers have been hard at work taking care of our furry friends at the Alice Springs Animal Shelter (ASAS) across the past few months, and that work is set to continue. Council has resolved to take on the functions of ASAS until the end of the financial year to make sure the animals receive the care and attention they need.

Council will now begin the process of putting a team together to operate the Shelter and will begin advertising positions soon. If you are interested in taking care of animals and want to be involved, keep your eyes peeled to Council's website and social media channels for more information in coming weeks!

Council projects

Council's Technical Services team remain hard at work delivering new infrastructure for the community and refreshing infrastructure that needs a little bit of love. Some of the key ongoing projects are:

- Upgrades to Finlayson, Grant, Oleander and Campbell parks are nearing completion and will likely be finished in coming weeks. Upgrades to Mercorella, Spearwood, Bowman, Spicer, Batterbee, Kunothe and Tucker parks are planned with the team currently scoping each project.
- A tender for the construction of the Alice Springs Skate and Play Precinct at Newland Park is currently open, closing on 12 September. We aim to commence the construction phase by December 2024.
- Resurfacing of the Alice Springs Tennis Courts has commenced and is expected to be completed by early September.
- Council is planning a comprehensive upgrade or replacement of all footpaths in our CBD. Phase one will commence in November 2024 and will see upgrades to the footpaths on Railway Tce, between Parsons St and Wills Tce.
- A tender for the detailed design of the Regenerating the Alice Town Centre project closes today, 29 August.

Casual Vacancy

With the resignation of Councillor Steve Brown from the 14th Town Council earlier in 2024, Council has the responsibility to fill this casual vacancy. ASTC will now go through an appointment process to select a ninth Councillor with nominations open to the community.

The process will kick start soon with nominations formally set to open on Monday 16 September. Elected Members will consider all nominations for the position. More information about the nomination process will be distributed shortly, including details on an Information Session to be held in the Council Chamber.

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Other updates

Councillors discussed a range of other topics including:

- Telling stories about our town's history is vitally important, and Council aim to do that through the creation of artworks and monuments. With that in mind, Council will write to the Strehlow Research Centre to provide guidance and advice on the commissioning of a King Charlie statue and invite Lhere Artepe to a joint meeting.
- Alice Springs Town Council will write to the Federal Minister for National Indigenous Australians Agency and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory expressing concern about the state of town camps in Alice Springs, and the lack of consultation and communication with Alice Springs Town Council.
- Keeping our town clean and tidy is important. Council will write to K-Mart to ensure they address the visual amenity of their carpark.

Ends:

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