

Media Release

25 January 2024

January Council Meeting wrap up

Alice Springs Councillors met on Tuesday 23 January 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](#).

The next step in reimagining our CBD

In 2023 we heard your ideas for what our CBD could and should look like. Now you'll get to see what some of those ideas look like as concept designs!

Council have endorsed a range of concept design proposals for the Regenerating the Alice Town Centre project, giving the designs the green light to head to further public consultation. These concepts were based off community feedback and reimagine what Leichardt Terrace, the Todd Mall and the Hartley Street carpark could look like into the future.

Final details for the consultation period are still being finalised but you will be able to see the designs and give your thoughts beginning in February. More updates on consultation opportunities will come out soon, so stay tuned to the Alice Springs Town Council Facebook page and regeneratingalicetc.com.au for all the details.

Aquatic Centre is the place to be!

The Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre has been the place to be these school holidays with Centralians flocking to the pool in massive numbers! Overall there have been more than 25,000 visits to the facility during the school holiday period as Council have partnered with the Northern Territory Government to give the community free access for the summer months.

As school holidays wrap up and the free access period ends, Council will undertake a full evaluation of the six-week program. While we wait for that evaluation, we want to ensure the community can still access the Aquatic Centre regardless of their financial situation similar to our friends in the Top End. That's why Council will write to the Northern Territory Government to ask for this partnership to be extended ongoing.

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Events galore in 2024

Last year was a big year for events in Alice Springs and 2024 is shaping up to be even bigger! Council have a range of diverse and exciting events planned for 2024 with a particular focus of activating the CBD.

All of our favourite events will return this year with the Night Markets series, School Holiday Programs, Big Day Out in Harmony and the Christmas Carnival just some that are back on the calendar. We also have a few new and exciting things planned, including a Lunar New Year pop up party in the Todd Mall in February, and a range of new Pop Up Parks!

Stay tuned to Council Connects for more information on individual events as they come up.

Caring for our cultural icons

The Todd and Charles Rivers are iconic symbols of Central Australia, home to rich culture and sacred stories. They play a pivotal role in the story of our town and its vital that they are cared for properly. This was the goal when the Lhere Mparntwe Management Strategy was published in 2019, to set out a plan to ensure the river was managed in a responsible way.

A key outcome of that Strategy was the establishment of an Indigenous Ranger Program to assist with consistent oversight and care. With little movement on this in five years, Council will write to all relevant Elected Members at both Territory and Federal level to express support for this program and ask that this goal be given priority moving forward.

On the verge of consultation

Alice Springs Town Council is one of the last remaining Councils across Australia that maintains verges on Council-controlled roads. That extra workload, in particular after heavy rain events, pulls resources from other areas of Council and reduces our capacity at times to manage effective service delivery.

Residents have long expressed a desire to take over management of their verges. This would require a change to Council bylaws and policies, but it's an idea that we believe should be investigated further. With that in mind, Council will start a consultation process with the wider community to see if there is an appetite for residents to take control of their own verge management. This consultation process will begin in coming months and will aim to get the views of as many residents as possible.

Ends:

For further information contact:

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