

TO: TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2019

SUBJECT: LHERE MPARNTWE (TODD RIVER) WORKING GROUP

AUTHOR: DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES – SCOTT ALLEN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Council an update on the proposed Lhere Mparntwe (Todd and Charles Rivers) Management Strategy 2019

RECOMMENDATION

That it be a recommendation to Council:

That Council Officers seek clarification from the Lhere Mparntwe (Todd and Charles Rivers) Working Group regarding the Council identified concerns in the Lhere Mparntwe (Todd and Charles Rivers) Management Strategy 2019

REPORT

1. BACKGROUND

Lhere Mparntwe (the Todd and Charles Rivers) form the backbone along which the town of Alice Springs is both built and defined. The rivers are an integral part of the town's image and of how residents view their community. The rivers intersect the town's other key iconic natural feature - the MacDonnell Range – at its gateway in Ntaripe (Heavitree Gap).

However, while the MacDonnell Range is a timeless and enduring geological feature, the rivers form a living ecosystem that requires care and management to sustain its ecological health and value to the town's community and visitors.

The rivers are normally dry and quiet allowing people to use and enjoy the peaceful beauty of the fringing river gums and open bed. Occasionally the rivers burst forth in a flow that quickly turns community attention to an excited and more active engagement.

Recreational use by local residents and visitors has expanded appreciably in recent years following installation of shared pedestrian and cycle pathways. This network continues to expand providing attractive and convenient access for recreation, exercise, and as a route for getting to and from school or work.

The open sandy river beds are already widely used for recreation and events such as the Henley on Todd (the first Camel Cup also took place in the river bed). If properly managed to mitigate the destructive fires and other degrading environmental influences, the Todd and Charles River systems provide untapped opportunity for improving the amenity of the town, particularly in the CBD area, and in promoting their place as a defining part of the town's image.

Despite the place of the Todd and Charles in the town's imagery there is a tendency for businesses to avoid engagement with or to "turn their backs" to the rivers. Similarly, and despite their widespread use, the local community often lacks respect for the health and integrity of the rivers. But this is steadily changing.

In March 2018 the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources established the Lhere Mparntwe (Todd and Charles Rivers) Management Working Group tasked with preparing a strategy to address management requirements. This formally established Committee comprised

representation from traditional Aboriginal owners, representatives from both the NT Government and the Alice Springs Town Council, and community members of Alice Springs. Establishment of the Committee followed a summer period of major loss of large river red gums due to fire, and substantial community concern for this loss.

The Director Technical Services has been a Lhere Mparntwe (Todd and Charles Rivers) Working Group Member since the working groups inception.

2. DISCUSSION

Council has been the trustee of the Todd and Charles Rivers since June 2000 and as such has assumed the care, control and management accordingly. Council's obligations as Trustees are the same responsibilities as it has for the rest of the Town under Council's control. This includes:

- Approval of any infrastructure works taking place within the confines of the Rivers, e.g. Eastside Levee Bank
- Landscaping and mowing and irrigation of parks on the banks of the Todd River management and maintenance of causeway crossings
- Town outflow drain maintenance
- Weed control
- Litter control
- Management of the natural environment including damage or injury to trees and other vegetation
- Entry of vehicles
- Animal control

Council has been undertaking the above duties since June 2000.

After reviewing the proposed Lhere Mparntwe (Todd and Charles Rivers) Management Strategy 2019, Council Officers have identified the following items that need to be resolved before Council can endorse the document:

Action	Lead Responsibility
Prepare Fire Management Plans for each management zone, to be reviewed annually by the proposed Ministerial Advisory Committee	ASTC/DIPL/PWC

COUNCIL'S RESPONSE – Council is responsible for the care, control and management of the Todd and Charles Rivers and has no capacity to prepare or implement a fire management plan for each management zone. This is out of Council's level of expertise.

Expand buffel and couch grass control for fire management into areas important for revegetation with native species.	ASTC/DIPL/PWC
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COUNCIL'S RESPONSE – Council is responsible for the care, control and management of the Todd and Charles Rivers and does not have the capacity to expand buffel and couch grass control measures for revegetation with native species. Council's requirement is to undertake litter control, weed management around the trees and islands.

Develop revegetation plans for targeted zones on the basis of expected intensity of use.	ASTC/DIPL/PWC
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COUNCIL'S RESPONSE – Council is responsible for the care, control and management of the Todd and Charles Rivers and does not have the capacity to develop revegetation plans for targeted zones on the basis of expected intensity of use.

Identify the location of discarded infrastructure and arrange for its removal.	DIPL/ASTC
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COUNCIL'S RESPONSE – Council does not have the financial capacity to undertake this component of the project

Based on an assessment of current erosion risks, formalise and stabilise pedestrian and vehicle access tracks to mitigate erosion, including through the installation of additional bollards and/or other barriers where required.	ASTC/DIPL/DENR
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COUNCIL'S RESPONSE – Council is responsible for the care, control and management of the Todd and Charles Rivers and does not have the financial capacity to conduct assessment on erosion.

3. **POLICY IMPACTS**

All projects relate to and reflect the appropriate policies and components of the *Alice Springs Town Council Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021*:

Objective 2: A great place to live

2.2: Sense of place and public amenity

2.2.1: Maintain and improve built and social infrastructure in open spaces, by adopting placemaking strategies

2.2.2: Ensure vibrant, multi-functional options in dedicated public open spaces

4. **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

This increase in expectation of this document will have an impact on the budgetary considerations for Council. It must be noted that Council employed two additional staff in the 2018 / 2019 budget with concentrated work priorities on the Todd and Charles Rivers.

The Northern Territory Government has stated that it will cover the costs of writing the Todd and Charles Rivers Fire Management Plan. It must be noted that the recommendations from the Todd and Charles Rivers Fire Management Plan will need to be completed by Council which could have significant financial implications for the community of Alice Springs.

5. SOCIAL IMPACTS

Lhere Mparntwe (the Todd and Charles Rivers) forms an integral part of Alice Spring's identity. The rivers have both cultural and heritage significance.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The protection of the Todd and Charles Rivers dominants considerations for the community and the Lhere Mparntwe (Todd and Charles Rivers) Working Group.

7. PUBLIC RELATION

Lhere Mparntwe (the Todd and Charles Rivers) form the backbone along which the town of Alice Springs is both built and defined. The rivers are an integral part of the town's image and of how residents view their community.

8. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Council Report – 15 November 2012 (ASTC's Trusteeship of the Todd and Charles Rivers)

Attachment B: Lhere Mparntwe (Todd and Charles Rivers) Management Strategy 2019



Scott Allen
DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

COPY

ATTACHMENT A



TO: Rex Mooney – Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 15 November 2012

FROM: Chris Turner – Council Solicitor

EDM REF:

RE: ASTC'S TRUSTESHIP OF THE TODD AND CHARLES RIVERS

Proclamation as reserve

By notice published in *The Northern Territory Government Gazette No G50, 16 December 1983*, the Administrator Eric Johnston proclaimed under the *Crown Lands Act* certain Crown land constituted by the Todd and Charles Rivers within the Alice Springs municipality (north of Heavitree Gap to the boundary of the Telegraph Station) to be Reserve 1708 for municipal purposes (Attachment A).

Appointment as trustee

By notice published in *The Northern Territory Government Gazette No G3, 24 January 1984*, the Minister for Community Development Daryl Manzie, acting under section 339A(1) of the (then) *Local Government Act*, appointed ASTC to be trustee of the reserved land (also Attachment A).

Local Government Act 2009

ASTC's appointment as trustee was made under a provision of a repealed *Local Government Act*. Interestingly, there is no provision in the present Act preserving trustee appointments made under previous Acts. An argument is therefore available that an appointment made under a previous Act does not survive under the present Act. However, this is largely academic considering the ease in which a trusteeship may be relinquished under the present Act (see below).

Section 183

If one sets aside the argument that ASTC's trusteeship has not survived under the present Act, the legislative provision now governing its functioning as trustee is presumably section 183 of the *Local Government Act*:

183 Reserves

- (1) If a council agrees, the Minister may, by *Gazette* notice, place a reserve in the council's area under the care, control and management of the council.
- (2) The council has, in relation to the reserve, the powers and functions of trustees appointed under section 79 of the *Crown Lands Act*.

ASTC's duties as trustee

The extent of ASTC's duties as trustee may therefore be taken from subsection (1): to be responsible for the care, control and management of the reserve.

However, it does not follow that this terminology requires the same level of service provision as where that same terminology is used in other sections of the Act that impose exclusive responsibilities on councils in the normal course; for subsection 3(d)

of section 79 of the *Crown Lands Act* (imported into section 183(2) of the *Local Government Act*) permits a trustee to resign at any time by notice in writing to the Minister and it would be strange if the Northern Territory Government expected an enhanced level of service provision over Crown land from a trustee occupying that position on a voluntary basis only.

Nor is a consideration of the powers and functions conferred on a trustee by section 79 (Attachment B) in any way helpful in providing a clue as to the extent of ASTC's responsibilities as trustee in relation to the Todd and Charles Rivers. This is perhaps indicative that a trusteeship is an awkward or inappropriate legal mechanism to support the management of riverine Crown land.

Todd and Charles River Alice in 10 Committee

Also pointing to the collaborative and co-extensive reality of issues surrounding management of the Todd and Charles Rivers is that in the early part of the last decade a project committee was established to develop projects to dovetail into the Northern Territory Government's then Alice in 10 strategies.

At its June 2000 Ordinary meeting, this Council considered a report from Director Economic and Community Development Susan Lollback to form a Trustee Committee to work with the Alice in 10 Todd and Charles River Committee (Attachment C). Whilst I am not immediately aware of the outcome of this recommendation, the report is interesting in that (at pages 1 and 2) it details the responsibilities that Council considered it held at the time in relation to the management of the two rivers.

Legal professional privilege

Legal professional privilege is asserted in relation to this advice.



Chris Turner
COUNCIL SOLICITOR

ATTACHMENT A

Northern Territory Government
Gazette G50
16 December 1983

Northern Territory Govt
Gazette No G3
24 January 1984

Crown Lands Act
PROCLAMATION

Northern Territory of Australia
ERIC EUGENE JOHNSTON
Administrator

By His Honour the
Administrator of
the Northern Territory
of Australia

I, ERIC EUGENE JOHNSTON, the Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council, in pursuance of Section 103(1)(c) of the *Crown Lands Act*, reserve the land described in the Schedule for municipal purposes, to be known as Reserve No. 1708.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT parcel of land in the Town of Alice Springs Northern Territory of Australia containing an area of 139.1 hectares more or less being Lots 5140, 5141, 5142, 5804, 5805, 5806, 5807, 5808, 5809 and 5810 being more

particularly delineated on Survey Plans S76/13A, S76/13B, S76/13C, S82/29A, S82/29B, S82/29C, S82/29D, S82/29E, S82/29F and S82/29G respectively lodged with the Surveyor-General Darwin.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the Northern Territory of Australia on the eighth day of December, 1983.

(L.S.) E. E. JOHNSTON
Administrator

By His Honour's Command
P. A. E. EVERINGHAM
Minister for Lands,
Industrial Development
and Tourism

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Local Government Act

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL TO ACT AS TRUSTEE
OF CERTAIN RESERVED LAND

WHEREAS the land contained in Reserve No. 1708 —

- (a) is land within the boundaries of the municipality of Alice Springs; and
- (b) has been reserved under section 103 of the *Crown Lands Act* by a proclamation dated 8th December 1983 appearing at pages 4 and 5 of *Gazette No. G50* dated 16 December 1983.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DARYL WILLIAM MANZIE, the Minister for Community Development, in pursuance of section 339A(1) of the *Local Government Act*, appoint The Alice Springs Town Council to act as the trustee of that land.

Dated this sixteenth day of January, 1984.

DARYL MANZIE
Minister for
Community Development

ATTACHMENT B

Agenda Item 9.6

**REPORT
ACTION**

Report No. 121/00ecd

TO:
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 13 JUNE 2000

COPY

File No: GE1846

SUBJECT: TODD AND CHARLES RIVER TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of elected members a discussion on issues relating to the Todd and Charles Rivers. The Council is the Trustee of the Rivers and thus is responsible for its management. At the same time the NT Government has identified the Rivers as being a key strategy of Alice in 10. A project committee has been established consisting of many stakeholders and they have been developing projects which relate to Council's management of the Rivers. To date a Council elected member and the Director Economic and Community Development, and at times a number of other officers have been working in collaboration with the committee.

However, as the Council is the Trustee and therefore has to approve works carried out, the Council may wish to form a Trustee Committee to assess the implications as arising from the Todd and Charles River Alice in 10 Committee. This may assist the process of Council's approval process being well informed and be seen to assist in collaboration and cooperation between the NT Government's initiative and the Council's legal responsibilities.

BACKGROUND

Several reports have been prepared concerning the Todd and Charles River. Not least of these reports are the *Urban Todd and Charles Rivers, Masterplan and Management Guidelines* (1994) and the *Alice Springs Flood Plain Management Plan*.

Both of these documents contain significant strategies for the management of the rivers. A number of other reports also relate to the rivers.

Council's Management Obligations

Alice Springs Town Council is the Trustee of the Todd and Charles Rivers under the Crown Lands Act 1992. See Attachment A. In short, this means that the Council is responsible for the management of the Rivers North of Heavitree Gap to the Telegraph Station boundary.

The Council's obligations as Trustees are the same responsibilities as it has for the rest of the Town under Council's control. This includes:

- Approval of any infrastructure works taking place within the confines of the Rivers, eg the Eastside Levee Bank.
- Landscaping and mowing and irrigation of parks on the banks of the Todd River

- Management and maintenance of causeway crossings.
- Town outflow drain maintenance.
- Weed control.
- Litter control.
- Management of the natural environment including damage or injury to trees and other vegetation. Note: this does not preclude other organisations such as Greening Australia carrying out work in the Rivers with the Council's permission.
- Entry of vehicles.
- Animal control.

Regulatory Control

The Council's obligations extend to its by-laws relating to illegal camping between the hours of 9pm and 6am and animal control.

The NT Police are responsible for any alcohol related issues under the 2km law and behaviour of an illegal nature.

Tangentyere Council manage the Night Patrol and the Wardens which assist people to return to their place of living.

Tangentyere Council through its Wardens scheme and Council's by-laws officers conduct patrols together in relation to illegal camping.

Note: Officers of the Council, NT Police and Tangentyere Council have for many years worked in close cooperation with each other.

Native Title

The following notes are based upon an address from Mr Greg Borchert from the Central Land Council.

The Federal Court on 9 September brought down its judgement which found that Native Title exists on 113 lots of 1666 parcels in the application.

The judgement has given legal expression to the Arrernte people's underlying interest in the land prior to development in Alice Springs. As such the title holders may support projects such as weed eradication but not river camping since Arrernte did not traditionally camp in the river.

Whilst Native Title rights and titles exist they do not allow exclusive rights and must coincide with other rights.

It is proposed that Native Title be held by the Native Title Owners and administered by a non incorporated association. This is a requirement of the Act. However, it may be some time before this association comes into being due to appeals processes.

It was stressed that both Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and CLC must be consulted for clearances before works may proceed.

Sacred Sites

All works undertaken in the area of the Todd and Charles Rivers must be approved by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. This is to ensure that sacred sites are protected.

Alice in 10 Project

Develop the Todd and Charles Rivers as Community areas was identified in the NT Government's The Face of Alice in 10 Years Project as a key strategy for Alice Springs.

The Alice in 10 Todd and Charles Committee is being coordinated by the NT Government. Dr Ken Johnson from Parks and Wildlife has been the Chairperson up until recent times when Peter McDonald of Lands Planning and Environment took over. Wayne Hoban of Lands Planning and Environment is the Project Officer. The Director Economic and Community Development has attended meetings of the committee to date with the Director Planning and Infrastructure attending in recent times to discuss infrastructure and works related projects. Elected member representation to the Committee has included David Koch and Geoff Miers.

The Committee consists of membership of the following organisations:

Department Lands Planning and Environment
Department of Transport and Works
Department of Parks and Wildlife
Alice Springs Town Council (Elected member and Council Officer)
Greening Australia
Tangentyere Council
Arrernte Council
Central Land Council
Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
Office of Aboriginal Development
NT Police
CATIA
Northern Territory Tourism Commission
Department Industry and Business
ATSIC
Arid Lands Environment Committee (ALEC)

Key Areas

The committee has identified three key areas to address as part of its responsibility. These are:

- **Natural Environment**
 - Fire management
 - Weeds management
 - Regeneration
 - Community education

- **Built Infrastructure**
 - Pathworks
 - Lighting
 - Amenities
 - Signage and interpretation, etc

- **Cultural Issues**
 - Sacred Sites
 - Native Title
 - Interpretation

Social Issues

It is important to note that social issues are not being addressed as part of this committee. Social issues are being considered as part of the Alice in 10 Quality of Life Committee and the Alcohol Representative Committee. The Director of Economic and Community Development is a member of all of these committees and therefore provides a link and coordination role between committees on behalf of the Council.

OPTIONS

- A. To form a Trustee Committee to assess issues arising from Todd and Charles River Alice in 10 Committee and other organisations as they arise. This committee could make recommendations to the Council.
- B. Not form a Trustee Committee and determine an alternate way to address issues arising from the Todd and Charles River Alice in 10 Committee.

PROPOSAL

The proposal is that the elected members discuss an appropriate way for considering, in depth, actions being proposed by the Alice in 10 Committee. The proposal suggested by officers is that a Trustee Committee be formed to consider issues arising from the Todd and Charles River Alice in 10 Committee (See Recommendation). The benefits of such a committee would be that three elected members are kept fully informed directly of Alice in 10 activities and are able to relay information to Council.

Cooperation and Collaboration

It is important to mention that members of the Alice in 10 Committee have adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to finding solutions and developing policies for the long term sustainable management of the Rivers. Council officers have been working closely with the committee at many levels from fire management plans to river cleanups, to strategy development.

It is not intended that this should change. However, the proposal for the formation of a reference committee is in recognition of the fact that the Council is the Trustee and thus manager of the Rivers and as such must approve works and activities to be undertaken in the Rivers. Thus it is considered important that elected members consider the recommendation for a Trustee Committee.

FINANCIAL/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

It is difficult to estimate accurately the full amount spent by the Council on the rivers as programs such as mowing, drainage works etc link with other areas of Council's works. It is estimated that the Council's expenditure is in the vicinity of \$200,000.

It should also be noted that currently Correctional Services are undertaking litter collection which is at a considerable saving to the Council.

The NT Government in its 2000/2001 budget has committed \$355,000 towards works along the Todd River. This work includes a footpath along Barrett Drive and contributions towards restoration works of the natural environment. These works will be presented to the Council in due course for approval.

SOCIAL IMPACTS

Social issues such as anti-social behaviour are not being considered under the Alice in 10 Todd and Charles River Committee. Alcohol-related issues, for example are being considered through the Alcohol Issues Forum and the Alice Alcohol Community Survey. The results of this survey will be released in July and will contain a raft of possible projects for the Council and other agencies to consider.

The Alice in 10 Committee is working closely with the Central Land Council and Tangentyere Council to look at cultural awareness. For example the Arrernte people have expressed an interest in interpretation of the Rivers.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The works and long term management plans such as for weed control and fire management being discussed and worked upon by the committee will contribute significantly to the long term management of the Rivers. It is recognised that the River is a significant environmental feature of the Town and as such needs a concerted effort from all stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policies relating to the Todd and Charles Rivers relate closely to the Open Space Management Plan.

CONSULTATION

Chief Executive Officer
Director Economic and Community Development
Director Planning and Infrastructure

CONCLUSION

This report proposes a way for elected members to be informed in depth of issues relating to the management of the Todd and Charles Rivers.

RECOMMENDATION

That it be a recommendation to the Council that:

- A. **A Trustee Committee be established to assess the implications of activities arising in the Alice in 10 Todd and Charles River Committee as the Council is the Trustee of the Rivers and as such is responsible for approving works and activities taking place in the Rivers.**
- B. **The Trustee Committee be charged with assessing works and activities as they arise and make recommendations to the Council.**
- C. **The Trustee Committee membership consist of the following representatives:**
 - Alderman ...
 - Alderman ...
 - Alderman ...
 - Director Planning and Infrastructure
 - Director Economic and Community Development

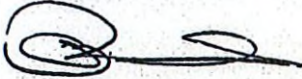
**Chairperson Alice In 10 Committee
Central Land Council**

Prepared by:



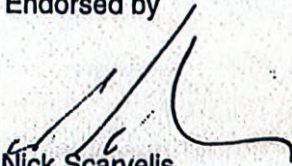
**Suzanne Lollback
DIRECTOR ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Endorsed by:



**Roger Bottrall
DIRECTOR PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Endorsed by



**Nick Scarvells
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

SL/to

Schedule of Attachments

Attachment A - Gazetted articles and Crown Lands Act 1992

79 Appointment, &c., and powers of trustees

(1) Where land has, before or after the commencement of this Act, been reserved for the recreation or amusement of the public or for any other public purpose, the Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, appoint to be trustees of the land so reserved not less than 3 nor more than 7 persons, as the Minister thinks fit, and may appoint one of the trustees to be Chairman of the trustees.

(2) The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, terminate the appointment of a trustee.

(3) The office of a trustee shall become vacant if the trustee:

(a) becomes bankrupt or insolvent, applies to take the benefit of a law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his or her creditors or makes an assignment of his or her salary or other remuneration for their benefit;

(b) becomes permanently incapable of performing the duties of office;

(c) is convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a period exceeding 6 months;
or

(d) resigns office by writing under his or her hand addressed to the Minister.

(4) Where the office of a trustee becomes vacant or a trustee dies, or an appointment of a trustee is terminated, the Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, appoint a person to the vacant office.

(5) The persons for the time being holding office as trustees shall be a body corporate.

(6) All bodies corporate constituted in pursuance of this section shall, under their respective corporate names, as determined by the Minister, have perpetual succession and a common seal and shall be capable of suing and being sued.

(7) The trustees of land reserved as referred to in subsection (1) shall, at such times as the Minister directs, forward to the Minister, a report on the administration of the trust and on such matters in connection therewith as the Minister from time to time specifies, and shall furnish to the Minister a statement of revenue received and expenditure made during such period as the Minister specifies.

(8) Notwithstanding this Act or any law in force in the Territory, the trustees of land so reserved as referred to in subsection (1) may use or authorise other persons to use the land for sporting or other functions, and may charge or authorise other persons to charge for the admission of persons and vehicles to the land or a part of the land when the land is so used.

(9) The trustees of any land reserved as referred to in subsection (1) or for any other public purposes certified by the Minister to be a like purpose, may make by-laws, not inconsistent with this Act for the control and management of the reserve and, in particular, providing for or in relation to:

(a) the times at which the reserve or portions of the reserve shall be open and closed;

(b) the conduct of persons when on the reserve;

(c) the days on which, and the limits within which, sports and games, or training for sports and games, may be permitted on the reserve and otherwise regulating or prohibiting sports and games, or training for sports and games, on the reserve;

(d) the prevention or the regulation of the admission of vehicles or animals to the reserve, and for the destruction of such animals if trespassing on the reserve;

(e) the speed of vehicles and the parking of vehicles within the reserve;

(f) the prohibition or the regulation of the sale or display for sale of goods, wares or merchandise on the reserve;

(g) the prevention of damage or injury to, or destruction of, trees and other vegetation on the reserve;

(h) the prevention of damage or injury to, or destruction or defacement of, buildings, structures or erections or natural features on the reserve;

(j) the prevention of nuisances on the reserve;

(k) the charging of fees by the trustees, or by other persons, for admission to the reserve or a part of the reserve;

(m) the authorisation of persons to demand the names and information as to the place of abode of persons who are believed on reasonable grounds to have contravened or failed to comply with a by-law and requiring persons to comply with such a demand made by a person so authorised;

(n) the removal from the reserve of persons who are believed, on reasonable grounds, to have contravened or failed to comply with a by-law; and

(p) the imposition of penalties, not exceeding \$500, for the contravention of, or failure to comply with, a by-law.

(10) A by-law made under subsection (9) shall be signed by the Chairman of the trustees and section 57 of the *Interpretation Act* does not apply to or in relation to it.

(11) Where:

(a) a by-law has been made in relation to a reserve under this section and is in force; and

(b) there is an inconsistency between a by-law and the *Crown Lands (Recreation Reserve) Regulations* in force at the date of commencement

Greg Buxton

From: Stephen Baloban
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2012 2:28 PM
To: Greg Buxton
Subject: FW: OPBG Sites works in 2012/13
Attachments: img-822084732-0001.pdf; OPBG - Sacred Sites Program EOI.docx

From: Rex Mooney
Sent: Monday, 24 September 2012 12:47 PM
To: Stephen Baloban
Subject: FW: OPBG Sites works in 2012/13

Steve, Your comments please.

Regards,
Rex Mooney
Chief Executive Officer
Alice Springs Town Council
(08) 89 500 525
0427 161 956
www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au

From: Benjamin Convery [mailto:curator@opbg.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 24 September 2012 12:24 PM
To: Rex Mooney; Damien Ryan
Subject: OPBG Sites works in 2012/13

Good morning Damien and Rex,

I am writing with regards to a program that the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens is running in the area known as the Coolabah Swamp off Stott terrace. This is the beginning of the Sites Management program that I spoke with Scott Allan about some months ago.

We have now received our AAPA authority certificate and are commencing works at this site. I have attached a copy of this for your information as well as a copy of our expression of interest for this program.

Over the next 8 weeks we will be conducting rehabilitation works in this area. Our aim is to remove the rubbish, conduct fire prevention measures and begin rehabilitation works on the site, whilst delivering accredited training through civiltrain SA. Participants are enrolled in a certificate II in Horticulture which they will be completing whilst undertaking these works.

I would hope that these current and any future works could be conducted in collaboration with ASTC.

- X • I would like to request access to ASTC waste management services for this program for dumping of waste collected from these sites.
- X • Would it be possible for the ASTC to place and collect lockable skip bins from these sites as we progress?
- ? • Would ASTC consider employment pathways for outstanding participants into parks and gardens or future ASTC ranger programs?
- ✓ • Would ASTC consider strategic joint management ventures where works could be aligned to create

16/10/2012

- greater impact and outcomes?
- Would ASTC consider having a representative on a management committee for this program? X
 - Would ASTC consider having a representative on the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens Board of Trustees? X

I look forward to hearing back from you sincerely,

Sincerely,

Ben.


Benjamin Convery

Curator
Olive Pink Botanic Garden
Tuncks Rd
Alice Springs NT Australia

(p) +61 8 8952 2154

(m) +61 0422 920 125

(e) curator@opbg.com.au www.opbg.com.au

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AGREEMENT

This agreement is made on 6 June 2012, between
Mparntwe Estate Aboriginal Custodian Group for Alice Springs Township Area
 And
Olive Pink Botanic Gardens (Crown Land Management Trust)

The area of works covered by this Agreement/Certificate is the Municipality of Alice Springs.

The Authority Certificate will cover works on any Sacred Site in Alice Springs where the works have been requested by custodians and are undertaken strictly in the presence of a supervising Aboriginal Custodian of the Mparntwe Estate Custodian Group at all times.

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority at 20 Bath Street Alice Springs is the point of contact for the Mparntwe Estate Aboriginal Custodian Group.

The following Sacred Sites are specifically identified as areas for regular proposed works:

GENERAL SITES		
Site No	Site Name	Description
5650-378	AYEPE-ARENYE TREES (TODD RIVER)	Includes all River Red Gums (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>) in and around the Todd River (including those mature trees on the high water mark along the western side of South Terrace between Heavitree Gap (Ntaripe) and the junction of the Todd River with Charles Creek (Tywerreyte)
5650-37	ANKERRE-ANKERRE	Belt of Coolibah trees in Boxwood/Coolibah Swamp stretching from Undoolya Road south to Annie Meyer Hill.
5650-5	THARARLE TNEME (ANNIE MEYER HILL)	Annie Meyer Hill and ranges to the east of the Todd River, north of the Alice Springs Golf Course. A steep sided rocky hill on the east bank of the Todd River; the hill is a point in the Sadadeen Range.
5650-43	UNTYEYE-ARTWILYE	ANZAC Hill - Large hill on Lot 8199, north of Wills Terrace
5650-13	NTYARLKARLE TYANEME - LOT 1492 6 GAP ROAD	A small hill on Lot 1492
5650-472	CORKWOOD TREE - SMITH STREET	Corkwood tree located at approx. railway chainage 2.922ASR, 25m east of the railway centre line, on lot 9176, Alice Springs
5650-9	BILLYGOAT HILL	Billygoat Hill including bloodwood trees, at south east corner Stuart Highway/Stott Terrace intersection.
5650-236	NTYARLKARLE TYANEME 3	A rocky ridge extending from the east bank of the Todd River, across Barrett Drive and through the golf course (lot 5782)
5650-237	TYURETYE	Spencer Hill and associated features including a River Red Gum tree north of Gosse Street, near the bank of the Todd River.

VSA

General Sites cont.		
Site Number	Site Name	Description
5650-426	NTYARKLE TREES	Four River Red Gums on the southern side of the Alice Springs power station – Tunks Road access road, just south-west of the junction with the track leading to the tank on Annie Meyer Hill.
5650-483	THARE-TNEMELEAREME	A small rocky hill/ridge on Lot 5783 which separates hole 2 and hole 9 of the Alice Springs Golf Course, and six associated mature River Red Gum trees within the golf course, all of which are to the north of Cromwell Drive.
5650-484	ARTEPEATUNGA	A rocky ridge/hill which runs east-west north of Cromwell Drive, within the Alice Springs Golf Course.
5650-231	NTYARKARLE TYANEME (1)	Rocky ridge extending across the golf course area south of Cromwell Drive, on lot 7859
5650-236	NTYARKARLEY TYANEME 3	Rocky ridge extending from the east bank of the Todd River, across Barrett Drive and through the golf course (lot 5782)
5650-34	MPWETYERRE	A hill and surrounding rocks approximately 200m south of Cromwell Drive and 600m east of Barrett Drive, within Lot 5782 and 7393.
5650-82	KWETENARRE	A hill located directly east of Spicer Crescent and south of Elder Street
5650-2	AYEPE-ARENYE APWERTE	A small hill and cave located on lot 5242 Plumbago Crescent, in the Sadadeen subdivision.
5650-9	AKEYULERRE	Billygoat Hill and bloodwood trees, located on the south east corner of the Stuart Highway and Stott Terrace intersection.
5650-33	AKNGWELYE AHARLE	A small rocky rise between the Stuart Highway and Schwartz Crescent opposite Smith Street.
5650-20	APWERTE AHINTETYE	Hill located south-west of the Stuart Highway between Smith Street and Hele Crescent.
5650-26	AKNGWELYE LHENPE	A large hill located on the west side of the Stuart Highway, north of Smith Street and south of Woods Terrace
5650-428	ALYWEKE (1) (SITE COMPLEX)	A series of low hills and narrow valleys mostly extending eastwards from the northern end of Burke Street and north of Kurrajong Drive. Rocky ridges, soaks, creeks, ceremony grounds, caves, ironwoods, corkwoods and specific ghost gums and river red gums, and a bloodwood are all significant features of this site.

General Sites cont.		
Site No.	Site Name	Description
5650-487	ALYWEKE TREES	Sacred trees within the vicinity of lot 8027 Kurrajong Drive (part of the Alyweke sacred site).
5650-8	NTARIPE	A gap in the McDonnell Ranges known as Heavitree Gap, at the southern end of Alice Springs township.

Women's Sites		
Site No.	Site Name	Description
5650-92	BIG SISTER HILL	A hill located at the southern end of Lot 8033 and extending east into Lot 8035
5650-210	LITTLE SISTER HILL	Small hill located on Lot 5711
5650-109	MPWALTYE	Irrpalpe swamp west of the Stuart Highway around Ilparpa Road. Also known as Ilparpa Swamp.
5650-157	YWERARE	Swamp area south of Karnte town camp.
5650-100	KARANTE/ANTHEPE	Two hills and trees located about 3km south of Heavitree Gap to west of Stuart Hwy, directly south of Blatherskite Range.

PROPOSED WORKS

- A. The following limited works are permitted only where expressed permission has been granted by Aboriginal custodians. A record of permission for specific works on specific Sacred Sites must be kept in writing. A copy of this signed and dated record may be requested for review by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority at any time. Failure to keep such records will be considered a breach of the Authority Certificate issued as a result of this agreement.
- B. Removal of fallen tree branches, solid logs, small fallen dead tress (less than 80cm in trunk circumference) and other debris and rubbish as approved by custodians.
- C. Grass and weed control by chemical spray (including hand held and quad bike mounted spray packs) and hand tools (including but not limited to, mechanical hand tools, mowers, whipper-snippers, and brush-cutters).
- D. Maintenance of existing infrastructure (fencing, bollards, signage, etc) where necessary chainsaws to aid the removal of large branches, fallen trees or logs disrupting the normal function and maintenance of such infrastructure.
- E. Revegetation, tree planting, tree trimming as approved by custodians.
- F. Other works deemed by custodians to be in aid of the health of a Sacred Site (e.g. removing stagnant water, removing weeds and non-native species of tree)

AGREEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A. All works are to be supervised by a custodian representative of the Mparntwe Estate (as nominated by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority in writing).
- B. Gender restrictions as outlined by custodians with regard to entry and works on specific Sacred Sites are to be observed.
- C. Only hand held tools may be used on a Sacred Site. This includes: brush cutters, whippersnippers, chainsaws, shovels, rakes and other hand held tools.
- D. No machinery or vehicles are to be driven onto any Sacred Site.
- E. Custodians will be paid at least \$135 per day for their presence to identify Sacred Sites (AAPA 2012 rate of custodian attendance for site identification).
- F. Custodians will be paid the current award rate for their work as supervisors or workers on site or other rate as negotiated.
- G. Non-native trees or shrubs which custodians identify as not belonging to a Sacred Site may be able to be cut down and carefully removed in a manner that does not cause disturbance to any other part of the Sacred Site where custodians recommend it. A suitably qualified arborist or other professional may be contracted to do this work.
- H. Public statements and media releases will acknowledge the support of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.
- I. This agreement is subject to review by all parties within 24 months from commencement date (6 June 2012). The Authority Certificate issued as a result of this agreement will remain valid until such time as it is withdrawn or superseded by another certificate issued by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.
- J. Additional signatories to this agreement may be collected after 6 June 2012. The date that the party became a signatory to the agreement is to be noted next to the signature.

NOTES

1. This agreement does not provide any form of indemnity or advice about non-native species which may be protected under other legislation such as NT Heritage Conservation Act.
2. This agreement does not provide general community consent and you should consider wider consultation processes.
3. This agreement does not consider Native Title Rights and Interests – you should contact Lhere Artepe and the Central Land Council regarding these interests.

TIME FRAME

The items agreed to on this day will stand as an agreement between Mparntwe Estate Aboriginal Custodian Group and Olive Pink Botanic Gardens (Crown Land Management Trust) into the future. This agreement stands as the basis for an Authority Certificate that will be issued by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority for the abovementioned works. All conditions in the Authority Certificate are the legally binding conditions for the conduct of works.

Either party may call for a review of the agreement at any time.

This agreement may be cancelled by either party at any time by notice in writing – such an act would render the Authority Certificate void.

This Agreement was made on the 6th day of June in the year 2012.

Signed on behalf of the Mparntwe Estate Aboriginal Custodian Group

Doris Stuart 6/7 Anema Place Alice Springs

Cheer Philip Naluk 21 WARBURTON STREET

Alison Ferber Curt Creek 6/6/12 ALICE SPRINGS

E Peckham Alice Springs 24/7/2012

BENEDICT STEVENS - ~~5/1/12~~ 31/07/2012

Kathleen Miller Amisanguana 9/8/2012

Audrey Miller Amisanguana 9/8/2012

Maiba McMillan 17 Hidden Valley 9/8/2012


Edward Rice - Priscilla Ferber 15/8/2012

Matthew Furber 15/8/2012 Dicine Ferber 15/8/12

Signed


Benjamin Convey on behalf of Olive Pink Botanic Gardens (Crown Land Management Trust)

Witnessed


6/6/12

Dr Sophie Creighton, Manager Research Alice Springs, Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

Greg Buxton

From: Jade Kudrenko [jade.kudrenko@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, 21 October 2012 8:46 PM
To: Greg Buxton
Cc: Damien Ryan; Rex Mooney; Steve Brown
Subject: Re: EAC - Agenda item and guest presenter request

Hi Greg,

I have a few queries regarding Mark's response to the agenda item request for the November EAC meeting.

Firstly Mark indicates that management of the Todd River and Charles Creek are not primarily ASTC concern and that as crown land should be directed to DLPE, AAPA and Lhere Artepe. My understanding was that as trustee's of the Todd and Charles the ASTC have direct responsibilities for their management. Can you please clarify exactly what agreements we have in place with the NTG and specifically what and where are ASTC responsibilities for the Todd and Charles?

I am very interested in ensuring collaborative and longterm approaches to the protection and management of Todd and Charles, so I welcome Jimmy's request for a report. I would be interested in a report addressing ASTC current management practices and outcomes, particularly focusing on issues such as:

- protecting trees from fire,
- weed control,
- storm water drainage and
- cultural heritage and sacred site protection.

I was disappointed by the way in which these agenda requests were dismissed by Mark. I haven't received any introduction or terms of reference when commencing as a new member of the EAC, but I had been assuming that the EAC exists to ensure community awareness of environmental issues, provide a forum for community concerns to be raised and to foster new environmental initiatives. If that's the case I would have thought both these request where very relevant and should have been welcomed. Is it not the Chairs and/or Director's responsibility to address new agenda requests?

Thanks Greg, I look forward to your advice.

Regards,
Jade Kudrenko

On 15/10/2012, at 11:56 AM, ALEC Coordinator <info@alec.org.au> wrote:

Thanks Mark for your reply.

I understand the context of broader land management issues being directed to DLPE, AAPA and/or Lhere Artepe but as the local government entity responsible for the management of the Todd and Charles Creek between Schwartz Cres and the Blakeman bridge, (which from my understanding extends beyond 'sand management' (?? whatever that is) and 'fire management' plans), I think it is important that activities carried out and the 'management plans' that dictate what these should be are discussed at the next EAC in November.

Given that we are entering the fire danger period and 74% of the municipality is Crown

Land - would it not make sense that reporting on management issues/concerns/activities on Crown Land in the municipality be discussed or at least reported on. I don't know if this is something that Peter Somerville can give some insight into - but the lack of management of Crown Land in and around Alice Springs reflects more on the Town Council in the public eyes than the DLPE. I have said this before and I'll say it again, the Alice Springs Town Council needs to play a stronger role in bringing the aforementioned parties together to develop a Working Group or similar to review previous management plans and develop new ones together to ensure that an integrated and holistic approach is taken in managing the natural and cultural assets of Alice Springs. Failing this and continuing piecemeal approaches will only cause longterm damage to the natural features that define this town.

I have some serious concerns about the lack of an Environmental Officer at the Alice Springs Town Council until at least 2013-14 and the lack of motions being put up by the Environment Advisory Committee to the elected members, I hope that we have some time to discuss this at the next meeting.

The EAC could really benefit by opening up to presentations similar to Glenn Marshall's on rural lighting that kicked off a standing agenda item for a couple of years and through commitment by the EAC, staff and Councillors - outcomes were achieved. The same could be possible for the Todd River and areas of Crown Land within the municipality. So much can be achieved if the will is there...the community garden, Alice Solar City, Alice Water Smart the list goes on. I am hoping that this Council will take a longview on the management of the natural environment and start the conversation with the other players and not simply write-off key stakeholders and custodians because of a different worldview or legislative jurisdiction.

I look forward to catching up with you all on November 5.

Cheers

Jimmy

On 15 October 2012 09:04, Mark Pierson <MPierson@astc.nt.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Jimmy

Broader land management issues regarding Crown Land, including the Todd and Charles Rivers, should probably be directed to DLP, AAPA and/or Lhere Artepe in the first instance.

The EAC might want to consider management of the Todd and Charles Rivers in the context of Council's involvement in the sand management program and/or the fire management plan.

There are no plans to invite Ben to talk about the Sacred Sites Management Training Program.

Thanks and regards.

Mark

Mark Pierson

Manager Developments

Alice Springs Town Council

PO Box 1071 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Ph: (08) 8950 0538 Mob: 0438 892 237

www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au

From: ALEC Coordinator [mailto:info@alec.org.au]

Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2012 2:47 PM

To: Sade Cook; Alan.Whyte@powerwater.com.au; Damien Ryan; David; ian.fox@nt.gov.au; Jade Kudrenko; alec; jude.pringle@nt.gov.au; keade@chambernt.com.au;

peter@araluenplumbing.com.au; Peter Somerville; Rex Mooney; Rod Cramer; Rod Gobbey (rod.gobbey@nt.gov.au); Sam Latz; Steve Brown; Neil Phillips; Reinier Laan; Mark Pierson

Subject: EAC - Agenda item and guest presenter request

Hi all,

I am writing to you all to request that the management of the Todd and Charles Creek be reported to the EAC from the coming November meeting onwards. Given that the minutes of the previous meeting reflected the committee's desire to combine soil conservation and fire management into 'Land Management' - could I request that management activities associated with the management of the Todd and Charles be included in this agenda item.

Further to this, I think it would be beneficial for the committee to hear from Ben Convery, the Curator at Olive Pink Botanic Gardens to update the committee on the training programs operating in partnership with CivilTrain and the new Sacred Sites Management Training program that is currently being undertaken in the Ankerre Ankerre (Coolibah Swamp on the corner of Stott Tce and Undoolya rd). Ben's email is curator@opbg.com.au. I must declare an interest in this, in that I am on the Board of Trustees for the Botanic Gardens and have an intimate understanding of the developments that are occurring on the other side of the river.

I would ask that the EAC formally invite Ben to attend the next EAC meeting on November 5 to present on the work they're doing and how it could synergise with land management activities of ASTC.

Thank you.

I am more than happy to discuss this request with any EAC members either online or by phone, 8952 2497 or 0423511931.

Cheers

Jimmy

Jimmy Cocking

22/10/2012

"Healthy futures for arid lands and people"

Coordinator
Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC)
PO Box 2796 ASP 0871
Office: Cnr Warburton St and Lindsay Ave, Alice Springs NT 0870
Phone: 08 8952 2497
Fax: 08 8953 2988
Email: info@alec.org.au
Website: <http://www.alec.org.au>

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Jimmy Cocking

"Healthy futures for arid lands and people"

Coordinator
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PO Box 2796 ASP 0871
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Greg Buxton

From: Stephen Baloban
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2012 1:01 PM
To: Greg Buxton
Subject: FW: Olive Pink Botanical Gardens

Hi Greg
I will come talk with you

Regards
Steve

From: Greg Mair [mailto:greg.mair@opbg.com.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2012 9:12 AM
To: Stephen Baloban
Subject: Olive Pink Botanical Gardens

Hello Steve,

Thanks for your offer of help with our mulch problems over at Olive Pink Botanical Gardens (OPBG), given that we only get limited funding for the running of the gardens from the Government we always seeking any help with roar materials and items we could improve the structure of the soils and reduce water wastage in our systems.

We would like a one off large load of say 50m², followed by a regular once a month load at the end of each month of 8m³ to continue our works in the garden.

We have some 50 acres of land to cover and given our conmitance to training with local groups to implement best practice this would greatly help in water reduction and the overall general appeal of the garden to the community at no cost.

We currently have no means of mulching or turning over the roar material and the need for this material to be clean and free is high given that we are after all a "Botanical Garden"

I can be contacted on my mobile most times (0458814109) or our Curator " Ben" in the office on 8952 2154. We are also seeking a donation of a bath tub or some item of similar size so we could in store in the grounds as a water point for our local mood of kangaroo's.

Yours faithfully
Greg Mair
Grounds Manger
Olive Pink Botanical Gardens

-----Safe Stamp-----

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OPBG
EOI

August 12

2012

Olivia Pink
Botanic Garden
Alice Springs

An expression of interest in a
Sacred Sites management
Program for Alice Springs

Vision

Our vision is to establish a sacred sites management program for Alice Springs run by the Olive Pink Botanic Garden working with Traditional Owners, Civiltrain and Jobfind. We will initially be working with groups of aboriginal trainees to actively manage sacred sites within the central Arrernte boundaries (Alice Springs municipality) with the object of creating ongoing employment opportunities after 24 months. After extensive consultation with Custodians we have been given an Authority certificate by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) for works to be conducted on several hundred sites around Alice springs.

This initiative will embrace the opportunity for the establishment of:

- An engaging and informative training program that leads to real employment outcomes for participants
- A detailed management strategy for neglected areas of urban real estate demonstrating how natural and cultural values can be successfully managed in cooperation with traditional Aboriginal owners.
- Ongoing employment opportunities for working on country
- Opportunities for participants to complete a certificate II in horticulture, White Card and other accredited units

The first stage, to commence in 2012, will include a certificate two in horticulture and focus on Annie Meyers Hill, Areas of the Todd River and the Coolabah Swamp. We would like to explore the possibility of running 6 - 8 of these three month programs back to back.

The second stage in 2014/15 will create ongoing employment opportunities with the objective of establishing between 8 and 12 fulltime positions to create a Town based Sacred Sites ranger group. This will be funded through a combination of sources which may include; The Aboriginal benefits account, Caring for country, Carbon farming initiatives, Tourism income through guided ranger programs, license fees for GPS interpretive applications , physical guidebooks etc. We will also explore opportunities for local organisations to sponsor positions within this program.

The Proposal

History of Olive Pink Botanic Garden

After intense lobbying by the Garden's founder, and first honorary curator, Miss Olive Muriel Pink, the 16 ha area that is now Olive Pink Botanic Garden was gazetted in 1956 as the Australian Arid Regions Flora Reserve.

The Garden became part of a substantial area of contiguous Crown Land that extends east from the Todd River on the south-eastern edge of the Alice Springs Central Business District. Prior to 1956 the land was unoccupied and grazed by goats, rabbits, and cattle, such that the vegetation on the floodplain area was heavily modified and devoid of tree and shrub cover when Miss Pink took up occupancy.

Miss Pink (an anthropologist, artist and campaigner for Aboriginal rights) and her Warlpiri assistant gardeners spent the next two decades battling drought conditions and almost non-existent operational funding to develop Miss Pink's vision for the Reserve. After her death in 1975, the NT Government assumed control of the Reserve and set about fulfilling her vision of a public area for the appreciation of native flora. During the next decade networks of walking tracks were established, the Visitor Centre built and an interpretive display installed, extensive plantings completed, a waterhole and sand dune habitat created.

The Garden opened to the public in 1985 as the Olive Pink Flora Reserve, renamed Olive Pink Botanic Garden in 1996. The Garden is managed by a voluntary Board of Trustees whose responsibilities include providing expert governance for the garden and employing a Curator to manage the Reserve. Olive Pink Botanic Garden was listed on the Register of the National Estate in 1995, and included in the Northern Territory Heritage Register in 2007.

The Garden holds significance for local residents as a place of enjoyment, and also attracts numerous national and international visitors. People interact and respond in differing ways to the differing layers of visitor experience in the Garden. The Garden contributes to the conservation of the flora of central Australia, provides opportunities for people to learn about arid zone plants, horticulture, landscapes and conservation, and encourages respect for the heritage of Miss Olive Pink. Furthermore, Tharrarletneme, the northern ridge of the garden, known as Annie Meyers Hill, is of great significance to the Arrernte people.

The Garden is a place of special ambience and safety, a quiet reflective place for recreation and relaxation. There is great integrity in the Garden and in its works.

Partners

Civil Train – Certificate II Horticulture training

Desert People Knowledge Centre – Social/Business enterprise advise and support/commercial engagement/develop online interpretation aspects

IAD Press – develop materials for interpretation, story telling and translators

CDU – ongoing maintenance partnership

Greening Australia /Tungenyere Nursery – ongoing plant and seedling support

Land Care – ongoing maintenance partnership

Tourism NT – income stream from tourism, employer

AAPA – managers of Sacred Sites & NT Govt commitment for Enterprise

Central Land Council – Employer and supporter

Alice Springs Desert Park – Employer and supporter

NT Cattle Association Employers and supporters

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority – Support for land usage agreements, support to re-vegetate the sacred sites.

Tourism NT – Provide employment, supply tourist

Goals

The option of establishing a sacred sites management program presents a truly outstanding opportunity to provide a new and exciting level of service to the Central Australian community and beyond. The goals of this project are:

- To provide a vehicle for the engagement of traditional owners in caring for significant sites, and their interpretation.
- To provide training and employment opportunities in partnership with registered training organisations.
- To increase the area land actively managed by of Olive Pink Botanic Garden and build on its role in the conservation and land management
- To enhance Alice Springs reputation as a 'must-see' tourism destination for visitors to central Australia;
- To develop a greater sense of pride for culture in Alice Springs creating a higher level of respect from local and visiting Aboriginal Peoples
- To establish an engaging and readily accessible network of recreational walks with complementary interpretation of the natural and cultural environment for use by the local community and visitors.
- To develop partnerships with local business to support ongoing employment opportunities for Aboriginal People

Analysis and Risk Assessment

Resourcing

(a) Present situation

Patronage of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden has been growing rapidly with over 50,000 visitors through the garden recorded in 2011. More than any other factor, this progress is testament to the dedication, quality and hard work of its staff and management group over the past 25 years. Significantly, the support of community members has been paramount. However, it is important to note the fundamental role that the Northern Territory Government's annual NRETAS grant has in keeping the Garden alive.

(b) The Proposal

The proposal will require adequate additional project funding if it is to succeed. Under current staffing levels, employees are stretched to capacity and if this program was to occur without sufficient additional funding, the project will not be viable. Hence, it is fundamental for further development of the proposal that options for additional resourcing from Government, business and philanthropic trusts are explored.

Tourism Market

(a) Present situation

Alice Springs is currently undergoing a slump in tourism due to the ongoing global financial instability as well as a National and International perception of Alice Springs as an unsafe environment .

(b)The Proposal

Establishing a sacred sites management program for Alice Springs will assist in reinventing Alice Springs image for National and International visitors. The majority of the Sacred Sites around Alice Springs are on vacant Crown Land and are currently neglected. These unmanaged areas become centres of antisocial behaviour and create tension between local and visiting aboriginal groups. Actively managing these sites and providing detailed interpretation through GPS Smart phone applications and in-situ signage has the potential to become a major drawcard for tourism in central Australia.

Community Access

(a) Present situation

Many of these sites are significant places for residents of Alice Springs. In the past decade, strong links have been created between the Garden and the Traditional Owners of these sites.

(b) The Proposal

Active management of these Sacred Sites will substantially enhance the opportunities for the local community and Traditional Aboriginal Owners to engage in a meaningful manner. The subsequent reduction in antisocial behaviour in these spaces will provide greater social inclusion through an increased level of safety and sense of ownership. Developing comprehensive interpretive material will provide the opportunities for a greater sense of understanding and therefore respect for traditional cultural practices and the science behind the Cultural Stories.

Partnerships

(a) Present situation

The Garden is developing strongly as a locus of significant partnerships including but limited to; NRETAS, Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, Alice Springs Desert Park, Civiltrain, Jobfind, Alice Spring Town Council, The Arid Lands Environment Centre, Land for wildlife, Central Land Council, The Australian Plant Society; horticultural groups; and educational and training institutions.

(b) The proposal

The development of the Sacred Sites Management Program would allow these existing partnerships to flourish as well as new partnerships to develop.

Key Performance Indicators

The table below begins to scope out more detailed objectives under the proposition to expand the Olive Pink Botanic Garden.

Goals	KPI	Annual Targets			
		Current	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a vehicle for the engagement of traditional owners in caring for significant sites, and their interpretation. 	T/O's employed	0	1	3	6
	Sites interpreted	3	12	36	72
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide training and employment opportunities in partnership with registered training organisations. 	Number trainees completing program cert II or above	0	30	45	60
	Number of Aboriginal people employed internally in a full time position	0	4	8	12
	Number of Aboriginal people employed externally as a direct result of training at OPBG	0	20	30	45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the area of land actively managed by Olive Pink Botanic Garden and build on its role in the conservation and land management 	Number of sites managed	3	15	40	72
	Conservation works undertaken by OPBG	5 hectares	20 hectares	60 hectares	250hectares
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance Alice Springs reputation as a 'must-see' tourism destination for visitors to central Australia; 	Tourism surveys conducted	0	500	1000	2000
	Visitor numbers to sites	10000	20000	20000	40000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish an engaging and readily accessible network of recreational walks with complementary interpretation of the 					

natural and cultural environment for use by the local community and visitors.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop partnerships with local business to support ongoing employment opportunities for Aboriginal People 	Business partners	2	8	12	15

	Goals→	To provide a vehicle for the engagement of traditional owners in caring for significant sites, and their interpretation.	To provide training and employment opportunities in partnership with registered training organisations.	To increase the area of land actively managed by Olive Pink Botanic Garden and build on its role in the conservation and land management	To enhance Alice Springs reputation as a 'must-see' tourism destination for visitors to central Australia;	To establish an engaging and readily accessible network of recreational walks with complementary interpretation of the natural and cultural environment for use by the local community and visitors.	To develop partnerships with local business to support ongoing employment opportunities for Aboriginal People
	Strategies↓						
Build Partnerships with Government	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Build Partnerships with Non – government sector	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	
Promote the Sacred Sites Program	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Develop philanthropic relationships	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Develop Training Program	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	

Northern Territory Government
Gazette G50
December 1983

Northern Territory Govt
Gazette No G3
24 January 1984

**Crown Lands Act
PROCLAMATION**

Northern Territory of Australia
ERIC EUGENE JOHNSTON
Administrator

By His Honour the Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia

I, ERIC EUGENE JOHNSTON, the Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council, in pursuance of Section 103(1)(c) of the *Crown Lands Act*, reserve the land described in the Schedule for municipal purposes, to be known as Reserve No. 1708.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT parcel of land in the Town of Alice Springs Northern Territory of Australia containing an area of 139.1 hectares more or less being Lots 5140, 5141, 5142, 5804, 5805, 5806, 5807, 5808, 5809 and 5810 being more

particularly delineated on Survey Plans S76/13A, S76/13B, S76/13C, S82/29A, S82/29B, S82/29C, S82/29D, S82/29E, S82/29F and S82/29G respectively lodged with the Surveyor-General Darwin.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the Northern Territory of Australia on the eighth day of December, 1983.

(L.S.) E. E. JOHNSTON
Administrator

By His Honour's Command
P. A. E. EVERINGHAM
Minister for Lands,
Industrial Development
and Tourism

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Local Government Act

**APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL TO ACT AS TRUSTEE
OF CERTAIN RESERVED LAND**

WHEREAS the land contained in Reserve No. 1708 —

(a) is land within the boundaries of the municipality of Alice Springs; and

(b) has been reserved under section 103 of the *Crown Lands Act* by a proclamation dated 8th December 1983 appearing at pages 4 and 5 of Gazette No. G30 dated 16 December 1983;

NOW THEREFORE I, DARYL WILLIAM MANZIE, the Minister for Community Development, in pursuance of section 339A(1) of the *Local Government Act*, appoint the Alice Springs Town Council to act as the trustee of that land.

Dated this sixteenth day of January, 1984.

DARYL MANZIE
Minister for
Community Development

→ Rex Mooney

159

Agenda Item 9.6

**REPORT
ACTION**

Report No. 121/00ecd

TO:
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 13 JUNE 2000

COPY

File No: GE1846

SUBJECT: TODD AND CHARLES RIVER TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of elected members a discussion on issues relating to the Todd and Charles Rivers. The Council is the Trustee of the Rivers and thus is responsible for its management. At the same time the NT Government has identified the Rivers as being a key strategy of Alice in 10. A project committee has been established consisting of many stakeholders and they have been developing projects which relate to Council's management of the Rivers. To date a Council elected member and the Director Economic and Community Development, and at times a number of other officers have been working in collaboration with the committee.

However, as the Council is the Trustee and therefore has to approve works carried out, the Council may wish to form a Trustee Committee to assess the implications as arising from the Todd and Charles River Alice in 10 Committee. This may assist the process of Council's approval process being well informed and be seen to assist in collaboration and cooperation between the NT Government's initiative and the Council's legal responsibilities.

BACKGROUND

Several reports have been prepared concerning the Todd and Charles River. Not least of these reports are the *Urban Todd and Charles Rivers, Masterplan and Management Guidelines* (1994) and the *Alice Springs Flood Plain Management Plan*.

Both of these documents contain significant strategies for the management of the rivers. A number of other reports also relate to the rivers.

Council's Management Obligations

Alice Springs Town Council is the Trustee of the Todd and Charles Rivers under the Crown Lands Act 1992. See Attachment A. In short, this means that the Council is responsible for the management of the Rivers North of Heavitree Gap to the Telegraph Station boundary.

The Council's obligations as Trustees are the same responsibilities as it has for the rest of the Town under Council's control. This includes:

- Approval of any infrastructure works taking place within the confines of the Rivers, eg the Eastside Levee Bank.
- Landscaping and mowing and irrigation of parks on the banks of the Todd River

- Management and maintenance of causeway crossings.
- Town outflow drain maintenance.
- Weed control.
- Litter control.
- Management of the natural environment including damage or injury to trees and other vegetation. Note: this does not preclude other organisations such as Greening Australia carrying out work in the Rivers with the Council's permission.
- Entry of vehicles.
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Regulatory Control

The Council's obligations extend to its by-laws relating to illegal camping between the hours of 9pm and 6am and animal control.

The NT Police are responsible for any alcohol related issues under the 2km law and behaviour of an illegal nature.

Tangentyere Council manage the Night Patrol and the Wardens which assist people to return to their place of living.

Tangentyere Council through its Wardens scheme and Council's by-laws officers conduct patrols together in relation to illegal camping.

Note: Officers of the Council, NT Police and Tangentyere Council have for many years worked in close cooperation with each other.

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The following notes are based upon an address from Mr Greg Borchert from the Central Land Council.

The Federal Court on 9 September brought down its judgement which found that Native Title exists on 113 lots of 1666 parcels in the application.

The judgement has given legal expression to the Arrernte people's underlying interest in the land prior to development in Alice Springs. As such the title holders may support projects such as weed eradication but not river camping since Arrernte did not traditionally camp in the river.

Whilst Native Title rights and titles exist they do not allow exclusive rights and must coincide with other rights.

It is proposed that Native Title be held by the Native Title Owners and administered by a non incorporated association. This is a requirement of the Act. However, it may be some time before this association comes into being due to appeals processes.

It was stressed that both Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and CLC must be consulted for clearances before works may proceed.

Sacred Sites

All works undertaken in the area of the Todd and Charles Rivers must be approved by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. This is to ensure that sacred sites are protected.

Alice in 10 Project

Develop the Todd and Charles Rivers as Community areas was identified in the NT Government's The Face of Alice in 10 Years Project as a key strategy for Alice Springs.

The Alice in 10 Todd and Charles Committee is being coordinated by the NT Government. Dr Ken Johnson from Parks and Wildlife has been the Chairperson up until recent times when Peter McDonald of Lands Planning and Environment took over. Wayne Hoban of Lands Planning and Environment is the Project Officer. The Director Economic and Community Development has attended meetings of the committee to date with the Director Planning and Infrastructure attending in recent times to discuss infrastructure and works related projects. Elected member representation to the Committee has included David Koch and Geoff Miers.

The Committee consists of membership of the following organisations:

Department Lands Planning and Environment
Department of Transport and Works
Department of Parks and Wildlife
Alice Springs Town Council (Elected member and Council Officer)
Greening Australia
Tangentyere Council
Arrente Council
Central Land Council
Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
Office of Aboriginal Development
NT Police
CATIA
Northern Territory Tourism Commission
Department Industry and Business
ATSIC
Arid Lands Environment Committee (ALEC)

Key Areas

The committee has identified three key areas to address as part of its responsibility. These are:

- **Natural Environment**
 - Fire management
 - Weeds management
 - Regeneration
 - Community education
- **Built Infrastructure**
 - Pathworks
 - Lighting
 - Amenities
 - Signage and interpretation, etc
- **Cultural Issues**
 - Sacred Sites
 - Native Title
 - Interpretation

Social Issues

It is important to note that social issues are not being addressed as part of this committee. Social issues are being considered as part of the Alice in 10 Quality of Life Committee and the Alcohol Representative Committee. The Director of Economic and Community Development is a member of all of these committees and therefore provides a link and coordination role between committees on behalf of the Council.

OPTIONS

- A. To form a Trustee Committee to assess issues arising from Todd and Charles River Alice in 10 Committee and other organisations as they arise. This committee could make recommendations to the Council.
- B. Not form a Trustee Committee and determine an alternate way to address issues arising from the Todd and Charles River Alice in 10 Committee.

PROPOSAL

The proposal is that the elected members discuss an appropriate way for considering, in depth, actions being proposed by the Alice in 10 Committee. The proposal suggested by officers is that a Trustee Committee be formed to consider issues arising from the Todd and Charles River Alice in 10 Committee (See Recommendation). The benefits of such a committee would be that three elected members are kept fully informed directly of Alice in 10 activities and are able to relay information to Council.

Cooperation and Collaboration

It is important to mention that members of the Alice in 10 Committee have adopted a cooperative and collaborative approach to finding solutions and developing policies for the long term sustainable management of the Rivers. Council officers have been working closely with the committee at many levels from fire management plans to river cleanups, to strategy development.

It is not intended that this should change. However, the proposal for the formation of a reference committee is in recognition of the fact that the Council is the Trustee and thus manager of the Rivers and as such must approve works and activities to be undertaken in the Rivers. Thus it is considered important that elected members consider the recommendation for a Trustee Committee.

FINANCIAL/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

It is difficult to estimate accurately the full amount spent by the Council on the rivers as programs such as mowing, drainage works etc link with other areas of Council's works. It is estimated that the Council's expenditure is in the vicinity of \$200,000.

It should also be noted that currently Correctional Services are undertaking litter collection which is at a considerable saving to the Council.

The NT Government in its 2000/2001 budget has committed \$355,000 towards works along the Todd River. This work includes a footpath along Barrett Drive and contributions towards restoration works of the natural environment. These works will be presented to the Council in due course for approval.

SOCIAL IMPACTS

Social issues such as anti-social behaviour are not being considered under the Alice in 10 Todd and Charles River Committee. Alcohol-related issues, for example are being considered through the Alcohol Issues Forum and the Alice Alcohol Community Survey. The results of this survey will be released in July and will contain a raft of possible projects for the Council and other agencies to consider.

The Alice in 10 Committee is working closely with the Central Land Council and Tangentyere Council to look at cultural awareness. For example the Arrernte people have expressed an interest in interpretation of the Rivers.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The works and long term management plans such as for weed control and fire management being discussed and worked upon by the committee will contribute significantly to the long term management of the Rivers. It is recognised that the River is a significant environmental feature of the Town and as such needs a concerted effort from all stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policies relating to the Todd and Charles Rivers relate closely to the Open Space Management Plan.

CONSULTATION

Chief Executive Officer
Director Economic and Community Development
Director Planning and Infrastructure

CONCLUSION

This report proposes a way for elected members to be informed in depth of issues relating to the management of the Todd and Charles Rivers.

RECOMMENDATION

That it be a recommendation to the Council that:

- A. A Trustee Committee be established to assess the implications of activities arising in the Alice in 10 Todd and Charles River Committee as the Council is the Trustee of the Rivers and as such is responsible for approving works and activities taking place in the Rivers.
- B. The Trustee Committee be charged with assessing works and activities as they arise and make recommendations to the Council.
- C. The Trustee Committee membership consist of the following representatives:
 - Alderman ...
 - Alderman ...
 - Alderman ...
 - Director Planning and Infrastructure
 - Director Economic and Community Development

**Chairperson Alice in 10 Committee
Central Land Council**

Prepared by:



**Suzanne Lollback
DIRECTOR ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Endorsed by:



**Roger Bottrall
DIRECTOR PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Endorsed by



**Nick Scarvelis
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

SL/to

Schedule of Attachments

Attachment A - Gazetted articles and Crown Lands Act 1992

Northern Territory Government
Gazette G50
5 December 1983

Northern Territory Govt
Gazette No G3
24 January 1984

**Crown Lands Act
PROCLAMATION**

Northern Territory of Australia
ERIC EUGENE JOHNSTON
Administrator

By His Honour the
Administrator of
the Northern Territory
of Australia

I, ERIC EUGENE JOHNSTON, the Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council, in pursuance of Section 103(1)(c) of the Crown Lands Act, reserve the land described in the Schedule for municipal purposes, to be known as Reserve No. 1708.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT parcel of land in the Town of Alice Springs Northern Territory of Australia containing an area of 139.1 hectares more or less being Lots 5140, 5141, 5142, 5804, 5805, 5806, 5807, 5808, 5809 and 5810 being more

particularly delineated on Survey Plans S76/13A, S76/13B, S76/13C, S82/29A, S82/29B, S82/29C, S82/29D, S82/29E, S82/29F and S82/29G respectively lodged with the Surveyor-General Darwin.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the Northern Territory of Australia on the eighth day of December, 1983.

(L.S.)

E. E. JOHNSTON
Administrator

By His Honour's Command

P. A. E. EVERINGHAM
Minister for Lands,
Industrial Development
and Tourism

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Local Government Act

**APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL TO ACT AS TRUSTEE
OF CERTAIN RESERVED LAND**

WHEREAS the land contained in Reserve No. 1708 —

- (a) is land within the boundaries of the municipality of Alice Springs; and
- (b) has been reserved under section 103 of the Crown Lands Act by a proclamation dated 8th December 1983 appearing at pages 4 and 5 of Gazette No. G30 dated 16 December 1983.

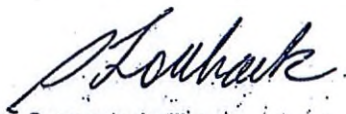
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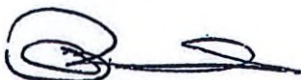
**Chairperson Alice In 10 Committee
Central Land Council**

Prepared by:



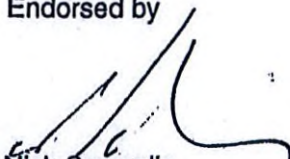
**Suzannie Lollback
DIRECTOR ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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File No: GE1846

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- Landscaping and mowing and irrigation of parks on the banks of the Todd River

Lhere Mparntwe (Todd and Charles Rivers) Management Strategy 2019

BACKGROUND

Lhere Mparntwe (the Todd and Charles Rivers) form the backbone along which the town of Alice Springs is both built and defined. The rivers are an integral part of the town's image and of how residents view their community.

The rivers intersect the town's other key iconic natural feature - the MacDonnell Range – at its gateway in Ntaripe (Heavitree Gap).

However, while the MacDonnell Range is a timeless and enduring geological feature, the rivers form a living ecosystem that requires care and management to sustain its ecological health and value to the town's community and visitors.

The rivers are normally dry and quiet allowing people to use and enjoy the peaceful beauty of the fringing river gums and open bed. Occasionally the rivers burst forth in a flow that quickly turns community attention to an excited and more active engagement.

Recreational use by local residents and visitors has expanded appreciably in recent years following installation of shared pedestrian and cycle pathways. This network continues to expand providing attractive and convenient access for recreation, exercise, and as a route for getting to and from school or work.

The open sandy river beds are already widely used for recreation and events such as the Henley on Todd (the first Camel Cup also took place in the river bed).

If properly managed to mitigate the destructive fires and other degrading environmental influences, the Todd and Charles River systems provide untapped opportunity for improving the amenity of the town, particularly in the CBD area, and in promoting their place as a defining part of the town's image.

Despite the place of the Todd and Charles in the town's imagery there is a tendency for businesses to avoid engagement with or to "turn their backs" to the rivers. Similarly, and despite their widespread use, the local community often lacks respect for the health and integrity of the rivers. But this is steadily changing.

In March 2018 the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources established the Lhere Mparntwe (Todd and Charles Rivers) Management Working Group tasked with preparing a strategy to address management requirements. This formally established Committee comprised representation from traditional Aboriginal owners, representatives from both the NT Government and the Alice Springs Town Council, and community members of Alice Springs. Establishment of the Committee followed a summer period of major loss of large river red gums due to fire, and substantial community concern for this loss.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The **aim** of this strategy is to have well managed, ecologically healthy rivers that are widely recognised as an iconic symbol of Alice Springs and which are enjoyed by locals and visitors as a natural urban space with significant Aboriginal cultural values.

To achieve this aim, the strategy identifies a series of actions grouped by the following **Objectives**:

1. Protect and enhance the natural and cultural values of the rivers.
2. Encourage more locals and visitors to use the rivers in culturally and ecologically appropriate ways for recreation and relaxation.
3. Local and Territory governments, traditional owners, business and the community to work collaboratively to care for the rivers.

A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT

There is a broad and disparate range of parties with formal and informal responsibilities and interests in the rivers. These parties include government agencies, local government, traditional Aboriginal owners, business, non-government organisations, river users and the general public. Coordination of effort among these interest groups is critical if the rivers are to be effectively and efficiently managed.

This strategy provides a way for the activities of these interest groups to be co-ordinated to achieve the shared aim of ecologically healthy rivers.

The Committee identified fire management as a key element affecting river health and it forms a major component of the strategy. Effective management of fuel loads will have a positive effect on the ecological health of the river, maintain its cultural value, protect the large red gums of advanced age, enhance the visual beauty of this iconic asset, improve both the amenity of the town and its value to tourism, actively demonstrate to the community that the rivers are a valuable resource, and will contribute to the management of issues of antisocial behaviour in the rivers.

Three management zones are proposed with recommendation for the more intensive management of fuel loads in the Town area where there is highest public use.

Growth of the grassy fuel loads depends on good summer rains, but these are highly variable year to year. Similar year on year variability and flexibility is thus required in the level of resourcing needed in fire management – little in low growth years and appreciably more in years of abundant growth.

Formal responsibility for management in the strategy area is shared across the Parks, Wildlife & Heritage Division of the Northern Territory - Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture, the Alice Springs Town Council and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics. This strategy provides guidance to these authorities and includes actions that address the broader responsibility of the community of Alice Springs to respect and care for the rivers for our shared benefit.

Investment in river maintenance needs to be directed to activities that are sustainable over the long term. As there are portions of the strategy area that have not been actively managed for fuel loads for some time, there will be a requirement for increased initial effort, with reduced resources required for maintenance of effort.

This strategy is a first and overarching step towards effective management of the rivers. The next steps will be for stakeholder development of specific plans designed to address each key management requirement.

Management zones

The strategy area has been split into three zones, with a scaled approach to management.

[insert diagram showing 3 zones, overlaid with management responsibility. Zone 1: Telegraph Station southern boundary to John Blakeman Bridge on the Todd and Herbert Heritage Drive to the confluence with the Todd on the Charles; Zone 2: John Blakeman Bridge to Colonel Rose Drive; Zone 3: Telegraph Station]

Zone 1 – Town Area

This zone receives the highest level of public use and thus the highest level of human impact – including the incidence of destructive fire.

It is the most visible portion of the river, both for residents and tourists, and includes the 'entrance' to Alice Springs (for rail, road and air visitors) at Ntharipe (Heavitree Gap).

Protection of large River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) in this zone is of critical importance and management must focus on reduction of fuel loads across this entire zone. Together with planting operations, fuel management,

over time, will lead to a resurgence of attractive native vegetation along the river banks and on the many river islands.

Zone 2 – Rural Area

The Rural Area south of Heavitree Gap has a low intensity of use but has high visibility from the Stuart Highway that has a high level of public use. This area generated significant public feedback in response to the major loss of large River Red Gums from fire during the summer of 2017-18. Management focus for this zone is on minimising further loss of trees by reducing fuel loads in their near vicinity. Extended grassy areas with few trees are of lower priority and as a first step, should have fire risk mitigation through the use of fire breaks.

Zone 3 – Telegraph Station

The Telegraph Station zone receives high public use and receives fire management by the Parks and Wildlife Operations based at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station. It is important to ensure that the management of fire in this reserve is integrated with management of the river in the two zones to the south.

DRAFT

ACTIONS

Objective 1. Protect and enhance the natural and cultural values of the rivers.

Issue	Action no.	Action	Lead Responsibility	Timeframe
Uncontrolled fires destroy mature red gums that are a visual signature of the town and support a multitude of native plant and animal species and have significant cultural values. Reducing fuel loads will lessen the frequency and destructive impact of fires and will reduce call-outs on fire agencies to extinguish wild fires.		Prepare Vegetation & Fire Management Plans for each management zone, to be reviewed annually by the proposed Advisory Committee	ASTC/DENR/DIPL/DTSC/NTFRS	6 months
		Document appropriate techniques and procedures for managing fuel loads	DENR / NTFRS	3 months
Quick response to fires can be hampered by confusion about what actions are permitted around sacred sites		Document standard procedures and protocols for relevant authorities in meeting requirements of the <i>Sacred Sites Act</i>	AAPA/NTFRS/DENR	3 months
Fires in the river are not always reported quickly to NTFRS for response		Provide guidelines and encouragement for community members to report the occurrence of uncontrolled fire	AAPA/NTFRS/DENR	3 months
Introduced buffel and couch grasses have invaded and dominate large sections of the river banks to the almost complete exclusion of native understory species. These grasses accumulate much larger fuel loads than native species causing more intensive and more frequent fires and substantially greater ecological damage. Management of both		Expand buffel and couch grass control for fire management into areas important for re-emergence of native species.	ASTC/DIPL/DTSC	Ongoing
		Develop management plans for targeted sub-zones on the basis biological and cultural values as well as expected intensity and type of use.	ASTC/DIPL/DTSC/community	Subsequent to Vegetation and Fire Management plans
		Expand support the existing efforts undertaken by Alice Springs Landcare between Gosse St and Stott Tce on the	All	Ongoing

<p>grasses is critical to minimising loss of river red gums and encouraging return of native species.</p>		<p>eastern bank and by the Olive Pink Botanic Garden between Stott Tce and Tuncks Rd.</p>		
<p>Woody weeds (White Cedar, Albizia, etc.) have invaded the town's large open stormwater drains and have potential to impede water flow. Discharging into the rivers these drains are already a source for downstream weed infestation.</p>		<p>Include weed management in the Vegetation and Fire Management Plan for the Town area Work with responsible authorities and interested parties in removal and monitoring of weeds of concern in the storm water drains and in the management area.</p>	<p>DIPL/ASTC/DTSC/DE NR</p>	<p>6 months</p>
<p>Mexican Poppy is a Class B and Class C prickly weed that affects amenity of the river. The weed is only just establishing in the area of high public use north of Heavitree Gap. It is important to exclude this invasive species to maintain public amenity in this part of the river through town.</p>		<p>Work with responsible authorities and interested parties in removal and monitoring of Mexican Poppy in the areas of the river upstream from John Blakeman Bridge and the town drains.</p> <p>Ensure litter crews able to identify and treat infestations.</p>	<p>DIPL/ASTC/DENR</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>The periodically high water table and salinity levels in the Town Basin aquifer have impacted the ecological health of the rivers. This risk is being mitigated by managed extraction for irrigation of parks, reserves, and other areas to encourage recharge by better quality waters.</p>		<p>Ensure the next review of the Alice Springs Water Allocation Plan includes an assessment of how well the existing controls on extraction from the Town Basin are affecting water table height, tree health and salinity levels</p>	<p>DENR</p>	<p>18 months</p>

Objective 2. Encourage more locals and visitors to use the rivers in culturally and ecologically sensitive ways for recreation and relaxation.

Issue	Action no.	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
Some residents and visitors avoid walking in the rivers due to concerns about rubbish and safety		Ongoing proactive management of rubbish within the river and along the banks	ASTC/DIPL	Ongoing
Redundant infrastructure within the river is an eyesore and gives the impression the rivers are not valued		Identify the location of discarded infrastructure and arrange for its removal.	DIPL/ASTC	1 year
While the rivers are used for recreation, relaxation, camping and community events such as the Henley-on-Todd, the river beds are generally ignored. Little information is accessible for locals and visitors to gain an understanding of the importance of the rivers		<p>Develop a series of communication products to assist the community to understand and celebrate the cultural and ecological values of the rivers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved interpretative facilities along the rivers • Education materials for use in schools (including redevelopment of the "Nature's Boarding House" & "Birds of the Todd Checklist" posters) • Materials that improve understanding of the connections between stormwater drains and the rivers behaviour • Promotion of nature based activities in the rivers • Develop Community Recreation Zones. • Contribute to social service solutions to reduce reliance on open space for basic needs. 	Advisory Group with assistance from DENR / DIPL / DTSC / ASTC	Comms Plan in 6-12 months Rollout over 5 years
Commercial developments along the rivers mostly face away as if to avoid an interface with this outstanding natural feature.		Encourage and advocate to businesses located along the river, schools and interested organisations to become involved in care of the river corridor.	All	As part of comms plan
There has been considerable development of public amenity along the river corridor in recent		Careful placement of street furniture lighting and landscaping features combined with selected replanting of targeted areas to improve visitor experiences,	NTG/ASTC	Dependant on review below then

years including well-used bicycle and pedestrian paths. Potential remains to further enhance the rivers for public use.		increase safety and would encourage locals to value the rivers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leichhardt Tce and area adjacent to OPBG should be prioritized 		ongoing
		Review previous proposals and past public consultations to identify priority projects for additional infrastructure along the rivers	DENR/DIPL/ASTC	1 year
Vehicle movements in and along the river banks are largely unrestrained creating an ugly network of wheel tracks. These destroy remnant native vegetation, spread weeds and have potential to channel water and erode the banks, especially after prolonged dry periods.		Based on an assessment of current erosion risks, formalise and stabilise pedestrian and vehicle access tracks to mitigate erosion, including through the installation of additional bollards and/or other barriers where required. Develop a prioritised erosion repair program.	ASTC/DIPL/DENR/NTFRS /DTSC	

Objective 3. Governments, business and the community to work collaboratively to care for the rivers.

Issue	Action no.	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
Over recent decades the level of effort put into caring for the rivers has fluctuated, and focus on the rivers' management has ebbed and flowed based on the efforts of individuals and/or availability of outside funding programs. Consistent effort and strategic oversight is required to ensure that management is sustainable.		Establish and resource an ongoing Advisory Committee to monitor the strategy implementation and to focus public and government attention on the rivers.	Supported by DENR	4 Months
		Encourage and facilitate commitment by individuals, schools and community groups in managing fuel loads in small sections of the rivers Encourage recurrent funding from all levels of government and philanthropists to promote maintenance and eventual expansion of the management area	Advisory Group	Ongoing

		Support the establishment of a Mparntwe Ranger Program	Advisory Group, CLC, AAPA, DPIL, DTSC & ASTC	ongoing.
Based on the results of a flood mitigation geomorphologic study of the Todd River, A flood mitigation plan is currently being prepared by DIPL. It is important for coordination to occur between this plan and the Lhere Mparntwe Strategy.”		Ensure that the Advisory Group is consulted regarding management of sedimentation for flood mitigation purposes (including maintenance targets) to ensure that effects on erosion and vegetation control considered	DIPL	Ongoing
Key management activities should be monitored to determine the level of achievement and whether modifications are indicated.		Establish a monitoring program for assessing progress and achievement in the implementation of this strategy.	Advisory Group/Community with support of DENR	1 year

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