



Darwin City Council About Council

How to have your say

Talk to us

Community input and feedback is essential in helping local government stay on track and in tune with community needs. There are a number of ways in which individuals or community groups can make their views known to Council. Questionnaires are conducted from time to time, public comment on specific issues is often called and special community advisory groups are formed on particular issues where appropriate.

The names and addresses of the twelve Aldermen are listed on a separate information sheet - "Your City Council". Do not hesitate to call any of your three Ward Alderman to seek advice, express opinions or concerns or to draw attention to problems that you feel need addressing. Appointments can be made with the Lord Mayor by calling the Lord Mayor's Secretary PH: 8930 0517.

General Council Meetings and Public Question Time

Residents are welcome to attend Ordinary Council meetings. The main Ordinary Council meeting is held on the last Tuesday of every month at 5.00pm in Council Chambers, the Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin. Introduced in July 2001, a second Ordinary Council meeting is held in the first half of each month. This meeting is designed to deal with public safety, corporate governance and public delegations.

The agenda and business papers are made available the Monday beforehand at each of Council's four public libraries and at the Civic Centre. Copies are also available in the public gallery during the meeting.

The Public Question Time is held during the early part of proceedings. Members of the public are welcome to put any question/s to main Ordinary Council meetings but the question/s must be in writing and must be received by the Chief Executive Officer by 12 Noon the working day before the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, a written reply will be forwarded to your address the following day. Visitors to Ordinary Council meetings are unable to enter discussion or debate, but Open Forum sessions are held prior to each meeting for this purpose.

Open Forum Sessions

The monthly Open Forum sessions are held at 4.30pm in Chambers (before the main Ordinary Council meeting at 5.00pm). Open Forum sessions provide a relaxed and informal atmosphere where issues or concerns can be readily raised and discussed without notice. They are an ideal forum for public groups to discuss their concerns with the Lord Mayor, who chairs each session. Available Aldermen, the Chief Executive Officer and heads of departments are also present. Individuals, groups, delegations, representatives from organisations and authorities etc are all most welcome to attend and participate in the discussions. Many good suggestions have come from this general forum.

Standing Committees

Council's standing committees are Town Planning, Technical Services, Corporate Services and Community Services. These committees meet monthly and forward their recommendations to each full Ordinary Council meeting. Individuals or representatives from organisations may be invited

by the chairpersons of these committees to attend, and to provide extra detail and information and/or present their concerns. If you or your group would like to address a committee on a matter before it, please contact the relevant chairman of the committee.

Community Action Groups

There are times when community action groups form themselves and times when Council suggests that a community advisory committee be formed and initiates its establishment. Either way, these groups can play a major role in helping to solve community problems and come up with workable solutions. Issues or concerns raised by Council-appointed community advisory groups generally form the basis of formal reports to Council.

Forming a Community Action Group

Most community action groups are formed in response to issues under current discussion. People disagreeing with Council views and/or having alternative suggestions to make may form a community action group to follow the issue and present its views.

Tell People ...

Let people know that you are starting an action group. Place a public notice in the paper, contact radio and television stations and give the details for community notices and possible interviews. Media releases can be prepared and faxed through, but make sure you have someone available to answer the queries and provide interviews who truly represents the group and its intention. It is best for a group to have an elected spokesperson.

Community notice boards in your local shopping centres, halls, function areas and anywhere else readily accessible by the groups you are targeting are ideal for providing up-to-date information. Prepare an information sheet for distribution and make sure you have written up the facts in clear and user-friendly English. Make sure you have a spokesperson for the group who can follow through with media interviews and answer media enquiries if required, and include telephone contact numbers for those seeking further information.

It is probably best to make public meetings after hours so that those working have a better chance of attending. Around 5.30pm seems to be a good time. Preparing a flyer, photocopying it and home delivering it in letter boxes is useful for notifying residents if the issue is a reasonably local one. Inform your ward alderman and do what you can to obtain their input and support. Door knock if necessary.

Inform Council

It is a good idea to let Council know that you are working at forming a group. The relevant Council department can provide assistance where appropriate and supply information. Make sure that your ward aldermen are provided with information.

Once your community action group is up and running it is a good idea to start communicating with the chairperson of the relevant Council standing committee. It might be appropriate for you and representatives of your

group to attend a committee meeting to present your views in person and in writing. When presenting your views, it is a good idea to have some alternative suggestions and positive solutions for discussion.

It is very handy if you can obtain the support of an alderman to 'run with you' and guide you through the appropriate channels where your voices will best be heard.

Your group should seriously consider attending the Open Forum sessions of Council and take the opportunity through this very informal environment to keep the Lord Mayor and those attending informed of your progress and across the issues from your perspective.

You and your group representatives may wish to attend the relevant full Council meeting where the final decisions will be made on the matter, but unlike the Open Forum sessions you will not be able to participate in the debate in any way.

Council Meeting Business Papers

Bear in mind that the business papers and agenda for each Ordinary Council meeting (held twice a month) are made publicly available the Monday morning before the meeting. Copies are provided at each of our four public libraries and at the Civic Centre in Harry Chan Avenue.

Council's Contact Details

Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer

Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin NT 0800
GPO Box 84 Darwin, NT 0801
Ph: 8930 0517 (BH) Mobile: 0411 881 378

Chan Ward

Coconut Grove, Jingili, Millner, Moil, Nightcliff, Rapid Creek.

Alderman Bob Elix

238 Casuarina Drive, Nightcliff NT 0810
Ph: 8985 5795 (AH) Mobile: 0417 800 332

Alderman Greg Jarvis

4 Verbena Street, Nightcliff NT 0810
Ph: 8948 0003 (BH)

Alderman Kerry Moir

3 Bamboo Street, Nightcliff NT 0810
Ph: 8985 1830 (AH)

Lyons Ward

Bayview, Darwin City, Fannie Bay, The Gardens, Larrakeyah, Ludmilla, The Narrows, Parap, RAAF Base/Airport, Stuart Park, Winnellie, Woolner.

Alderman Rodger Dee

1 Chin Quan Ave, Larrakeyah NT 0820
Ph: 8981 6365 (AH) Mobile: 0439 751 954

Alderman Helen Galton

20 Charlotte Street, Fannie Bay NT 0820
Ph: 8981 3404 (AH) Mobile: 0400 659 661

Alderman Heather Sjoberg

3/9 Brewery Place, Woolner NT 0820
Ph: 8981 0714 (AH) Mobile: 0408 825 134

Richardson Ward

Alawa, Brinkin, Leanyer, Leanyer Swamp, Lee Point, Nakara, Tiwi, Wagaman, Wanguri.

Alderman John Bailey

332 Casuarina Drive, Rapid Creek NT 0810
Ph: 8948 3359 (AH) Mobile: 0412 892 237

Alderman Gary Lambert

445 Trower Road, Brinkin NT 0810
Mobile: 0401 119 118

Alderman Joanne Sangster

8 Stasinowsky Street, Alawa NT 0810
Mobile: 0408 746 487

Waters Ward

Anula, Berrimah, Coonawarra, Defence Establishment Berrimah, Karama, Malak, Marrara, Northlakes, Wulagi.

Alderman Robyn Lesley

GPO Box 692, Darwin NT 0801
Mobile: 0438 411 911

Alderman Fred Marrone

3 Oriole Street, Wulagi NT 0812
Mobile: 0408 508 819

Alderman Allan Mitchell

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