

Place & Liveability Plan – Consultation Report

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City of Darwin
2024-001

Place & Liveability Plan
11 September 2024



Place & Liveability Plan – Consultation Report

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Assumptions and limitations

This report has been prepared, relying on advice and direction from the City of Darwin and capturing input from all engagement sessions delivered as part of the project.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

CoD	City of Darwin
DIPL	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

1. Executive Summary

As part of developing a Place and Liveability Plan, Jacobs undertook community and stakeholder engagement to seek input from residents across City of Darwin on what makes Darwin liveable and what could be improved to achieve a liveable Darwin.

The engagement program was planned to capture the diversity of the Darwin community and provide opportunity for all residents to have their say.

Engagement included:

- An ideation workshop with City of Darwin's Executive Leadership Team, 13 June 2024
- An online survey through the City of Darwin's 'Engage Darwin' platform open from 28 June to 25 August
- Presence at the Darwin Seniors' Expo, Saturday 29 June 2024
- A family pop-up event at Holzerland Park, Malak on Sunday 7 July 2024
- A workshop with City of Darwin Elected Members, 9 July 2024
- A meeting with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, 11 July 2024
- Promotion of the online survey at the opening of Casuarina Pool, 13 July 2024
- A focus group with Year 11 SEDA College students, 24 July 2024
- Community drop in sessions at Casuarina and City Libraries, 23 July 2024
- Presence at the Royal Darwin Show, 25 – 27 July 2024
- A second workshop with City of Darwin's leadership team on 31 July 2024 to consider survey feedback to date
- A workshop with City of Darwin's Reconciliation Action Plan Committee, 19 August 2024
- A focus group with First Nations representatives, 21 August 2024
- An unsolicited written submission from the Heart Foundation.

Early on in the project, the Jacobs team met with City of Darwin to discuss liveability principles, understand expectations and share our approach.

At the workshop, we collectively agreed that the key liveability principles to underpin the project were:

• Physical Connectivity: Refers to walkability, cycling infrastructure, and ease of movement within the community.
• Access to Services: Refers to access to essential services such as healthcare, education, childcare, and social services.
• Access to Shops: Refers to supermarkets, food and beverage retailers, post offices, and other essential shops.
• Public Transport: Refers to efficient, well-connected and accessible public transportation options.
• Open Space & Recreational Spaces: Refers to parks, playgrounds, and recreational areas that promote physical activity, leisure, and community interaction.
• Equity and Access: Refers to fair and inclusive access to housing, amenities, services, economic opportunities, and community resources to ensure everyone benefits.
• Employment and Economic Activity: Refers to a thriving local economy and job opportunities within or near the neighbourhood.
• Sustainable Environment and Resilience: Refers to green spaces, bodies of water, biodiversity, air quality, environmental preservation, climate resilience, and sustainability.

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Well-Being and Connection: Refers to social connections, cultural connections, mental health, community engagement, overall community satisfaction, and a sense of belonging. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts and Culture: Refers to cultural activities, arts, and creative expression. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and Security: Refers to the safety of residents and visitors and includes factors such as low crime rates, effective emergency services, well-lit streets, preparedness for natural disasters. |

Overall, when considering these principles in consultation sessions and as part of the survey, community members voted that the top three principles important to them were:

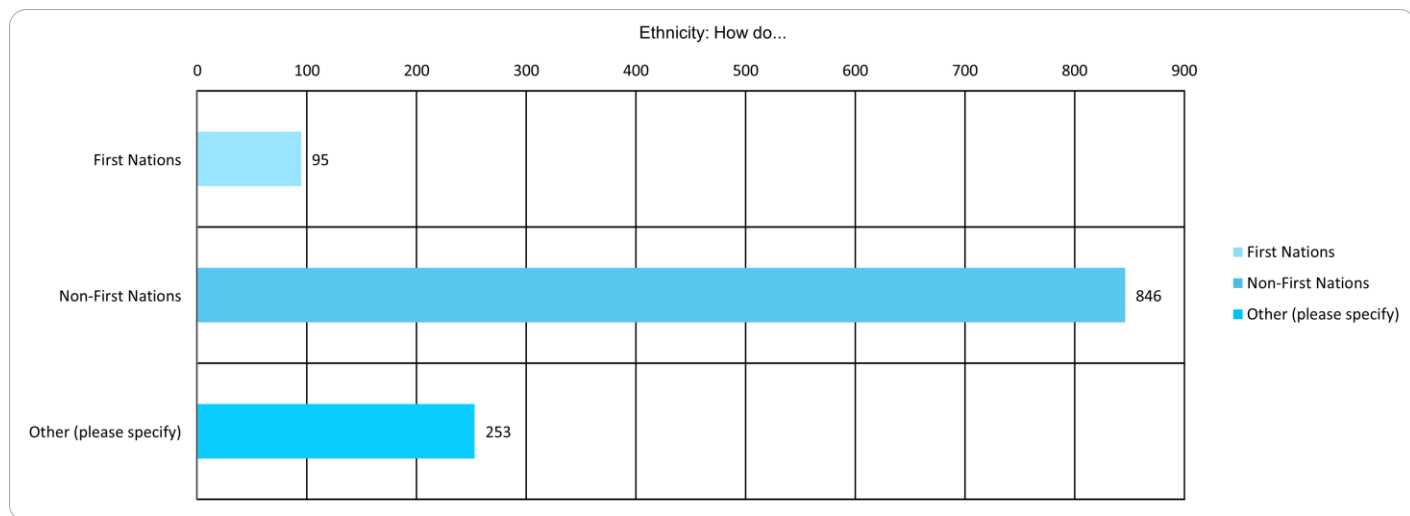
- **Safety and security**
- **Open space & recreational spaces**
- **Physical connectivity.**

The targeted First Nations consultation session provided slightly different results, with the following top three:

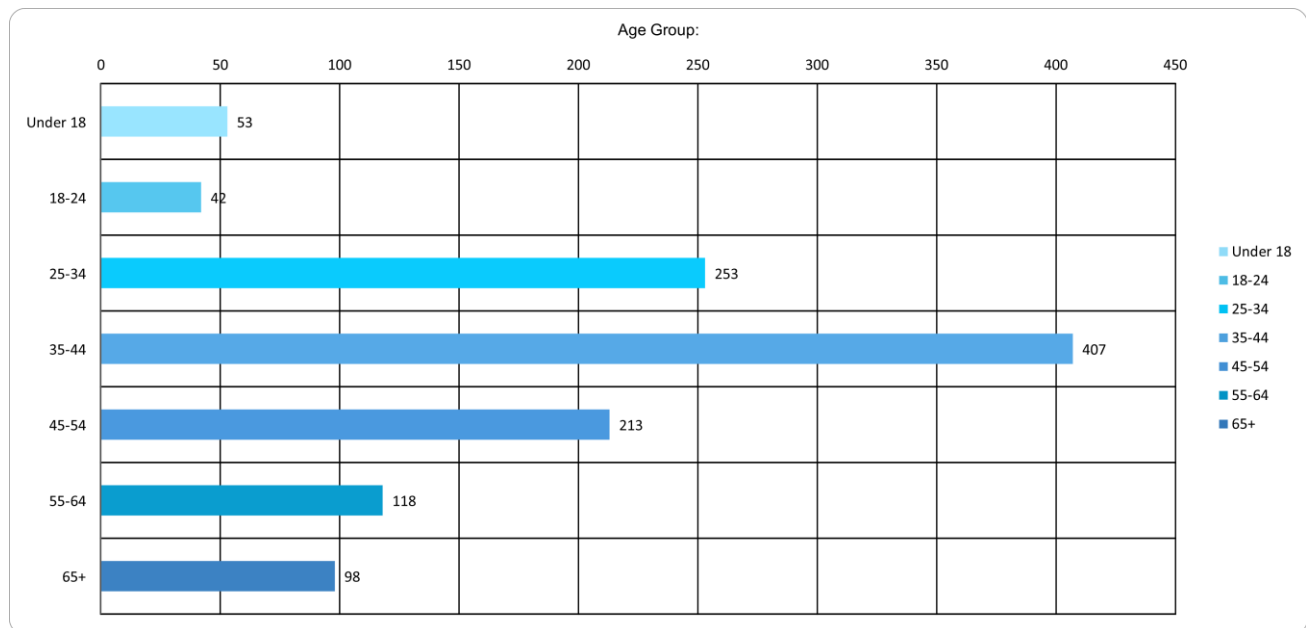
- **Arts and culture**
- **Employment and economic activity**
- **Safety and security.**

The diagrams below reflect the breakdown of demographic data captured in the survey.

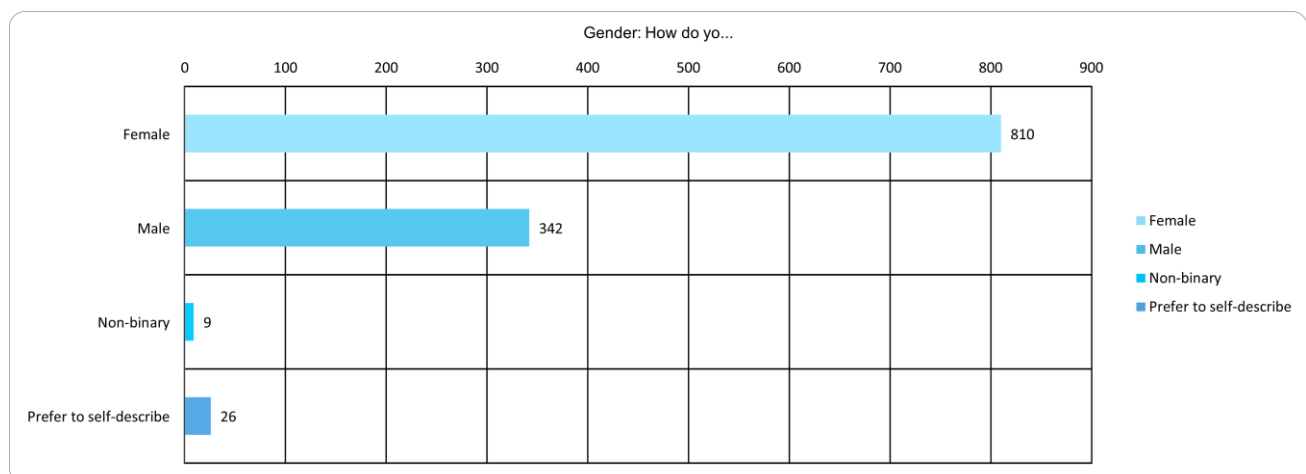
Ethnicity: How do you identify?



Age Group:



Gender: How do you identify?



Further detail on survey results is available in Section 4.1.1.

2. Background

The City of Darwin seeks to capture the unique needs, values and character of Darwin's people and neighbourhoods through a Place and Liveability Plan. This is an opportunity for the people of Darwin to help shape Darwin's future city and infrastructure.

Strategically, City of Darwin has already undertaken a considerable amount of work towards liveability – plans that capture what is important to the people and that map out opportunities and direction for the city's future development.

The Place and Liveability Plan will be a legacy piece, capturing the insights, needs, aspirations and diverse perspectives of Darwin residents but will also provide practical guidance to City of Darwin staff so that future development, funding and activities take a consistent approach that aligns with what the community has shared as their priorities.

City of Darwin also intend to use the plan to influence broader development decisions made by the Northern Territory Government, who manage planning and development and administer the Development Consent Authority.

Longer term, the plan will provide a tool for community to use to support their funding submissions or project planning and link them to a digital platform which will enable two way interaction between City of Darwin and the community.

3. Communication and key messages

The Place and Liveability Engagement activities were communicated through various mechanisms, including:

- The Engage Darwin page of City of Darwin's website - [Place & Liveability in Darwin | Engage Darwin \(nt.gov.au\)](https://www.nt.gov.au/place-and-liveability-in-darwin/engage-darwin)
- Social Media Posts by City of Darwin (shared by Jacobs, NT Chamber of Commerce, Engineers Australia and others) on Facebook and LinkedIn
- Bookmarks at the libraries featuring a QR code link to the survey
- A1 Corflute posters at events
- Targeted emails to key stakeholder groups inviting them to community drop-in sessions and sharing the online survey link
- Email to library staff encouraging them to complete the survey
- A DL flyer provided to Councillors for distribution and used at the Casuarina Pool opening event.

3.1 Key messages

The key messages communicated throughout the engagement activities were:

- City of Darwin has engaged local consultants, Jacobs, to deliver a Place and Liveability Plan which captures input from the Darwin community and helps to shape Darwin's future
- When we talk about liveability, we mean consideration of the quality and characteristics of a place – how we live, work and play in it. This may consider factors such as accessibility, amenities/facilities, environment, safety, walkability. The most important factors for Darwin will be identified as we talk with community.
- City of Darwin would like as much input as possible from community members and there are varied ways for you to have your say. This includes an online survey and visiting us at the Darwin Show
- We want to understand what makes Darwin liveable for you – what do you love about it, what are the challenges related to liveability in your neighbourhood, what are the gaps in services or facilities, how do you move around Darwin, what activities do you participate in?
- When we talk about neighbourhood, we mean the suburb you live in.
- We would like feedback on some key principles we think could guide the development of the plan. These include:
 - Arts and culture
 - Access to services
 - Connectivity (walkability, active transport)
 - Public transport
 - Equity and access
 - Employment and economic activity
 - Safety and security
 - Open space and recreational space
 - Sustainable environment.
- The Place and Liveability Plan will build on the work that City of Darwin has already done towards creating a safe, liveable, healthy, cool, green, clean, smart, prosperous, vibrant and creative city.

- A range of engagement activities will be delivered from June to August, with the plan anticipated to be complete in early 2025.
- If you're unable to participate in an engagement activity but would like to provide input you can contact Jacobs via email: cassandra.buckley@jacobs.com

3.2 Collateral

The images below reflect the communication tactics used to promote the project and online survey:

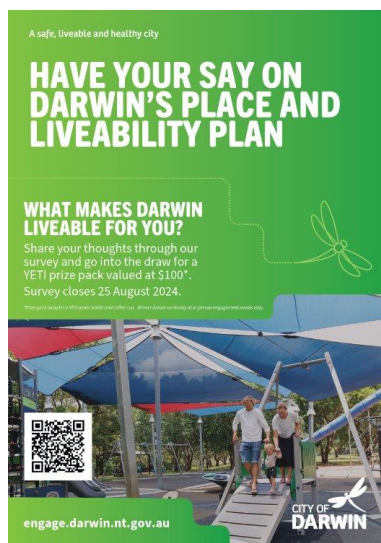
Bookmark



DL Flyer



A1 Corflute Poster



3.3 Social Media



Have your say on what makes Darwin liveable!

City of Darwin is seeking your input to the development of a Place and Liveability Plan. The plan will build on the work City of Darwin has already undertaken towards creating a safe, liveable, healthy, cool, green, clean, smart, prosperous, vibrant and creative city.

The survey will close on 25th August 2024 and the Engagement Report will be made available online following the engagement phase.

Take survey here: <https://lnkd.in/gAnHB2c4>

#liveability #HaveYourSay #cityofdarwin



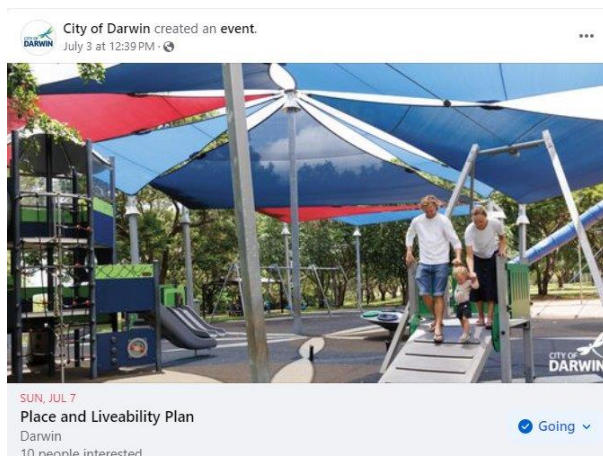
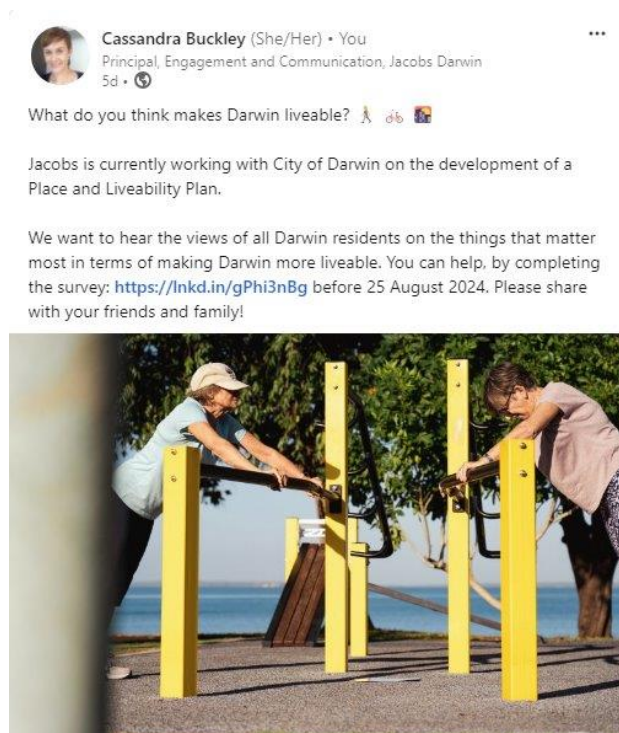
Alice Percy • 1st

Place and Liveability | City of Darwin | Thankful to work and live on Larrakia land
3w •

We are at Holtzerland Park, Malak today seeking community feedback on place and liveability. Join us for a free coffee for the first 40 people who complete a survey and go into a draw for a Yeti coffee cup and water bottle (Yeti red). Face painting and colouring in is also available City of Darwin Cassandra Buckley



Place & Liveability Plan – Consultation Report



4. Engagement Activities and Feedback

4.1 Approach

Consultation was undertaken between 13 June and 25 August 2024, through a range of mechanisms and with a diverse group of stakeholders. As outlined in the project Engagement Plan, the intent was to:

- Promote the work that City of Darwin is doing to produce a Place and Liveability Plan
- Provide varied avenues to give Darwin community members opportunity to contribute to the plan
- Gather diverse perspectives of liveability from Darwin community members.

For the most part, consultation was at the ‘consult and involve’ level, meaning the input influenced the project decisions and City of Darwin was committed to communicating the project outcomes and how the input had informed decision-making.

Engagement with City of Darwin’s leadership team was at the ‘collaborate’ level – they directly informed the approach, recommendations and outcomes by sharing their individual knowledge with the Jacobs team.

Jacobs engaged local Indigenous business, Going North, to support engagement with First Nations community members and they co-facilitated a focus group where First Nations community representatives were invited to share their perspectives, with a particular focus on culture. They also supported our session with City of Darwin’s Reconciliation Action Plan Committee.

Local Indigenous business, Moogie Down Productions, were engaged to support the project through delivery of graphic design services.

4.1.1 Online survey – Engage Darwin

An online survey through City of Darwin’s ‘Engage Darwin’ platform, was launched on 29 June and closed on 25 August 2024. A total of 1,200 people participated in the survey. Questions focused on what liveability means to individuals and asked them to prioritise key liveability principles, to share their ideas for what could make Darwin more liveable, and to nominate which suburbs they viewed as the most and least liveable.

Halfway check in – survey results

As part of the workshop with City of Darwin’s leadership team on 31 July, the team shared survey insights at that point in time and highlighted some profiles of respondents. At that time, 723 people had responded, with the largest groups being female, non-First Nations and aged between 35-44.

In summary:

- Respondents indicated a range of reasons for what makes Darwin liveable to them:



They also shared what they see as indicators of liveability:



In terms of which suburbs are the least and most liveable, at that point in time (30 July 2024), respondents indicated:

Most liveable suburbs:

- Nightcliff
- Fannie Bay
- Parap
- Rapid Creek
- Muirhead

Least liveable suburbs:

- Karama
- Malak
- Darwin City/Darwin CBD
- Casuarina

In terms of their reasoning behind their choices of least liveable suburbs, respondents spoke about crime and anti-social behaviour, inadequate transport, lack of green space or poor maintenance of existing parks, dumping of rubbish, poor lighting, inadequate bicycle infrastructure and lack of shops and services.

For most liveable suburbs, the reasons related to having a good mix of residential and business, access to parks and cycling/walking paths connecting to green space, street appeal and neighbourhood pride, useable space, family focused, proximity to the beach, low in crime and feel safe, close to schools and other services.

Based on survey results as at 30 July 2024, the priority principles for respondents were:

- Safety and security
- Open space and recreational spaces
- Physical connectivity.

This largely aligns with the feedback from the SEDA College session with Year 11 students (see Section 4.1.1).

Final survey results

When the survey closed on 25 August, 1,200 people had responded. The highest response period aligned with the Royal Darwin Show, where City of Darwin personnel actively encouraged visitors to their stall to complete the survey and offered a prize incentive. Data also suggests that Facebook drove many participants to the survey page.

The factors making Darwin liveable remained consistent with the check-in point in July and the key themes were safety and security, green space and environment, community and inclusivity, accessibility and infrastructure and public transport and connectivity. Comments against these key themes included:

Theme	Example Comments
Safety and security	<p>"A liveable Darwin is a safe Darwin where people of all cultures collaborate to live peacefully alongside each other."</p> <p>"A liveable Darwin means being able to walk/ride to a variety of amenities that service my daily/weekly needs."</p>
Green space and environment	<p>"A liveable Darwin must have vibrant green spaces and appropriate planning in place to maintain existing growth."</p> <p>"A city where there is real honesty and appropriate spending allocated to addressing our climate context – more trees, more covered pathways, more shade, more access to drinking water."</p>
Community and inclusivity	<p>"Having public events, enrichment programs, safe streets, homeless and low income support, market culture."</p> <p>"It is about the people within the place first and foremost and those people should be supported to thrive, regardless of their backgrounds or experiences."</p>
Public transport and connectivity	<p>"A place everyone can move through and that is aesthetically pleasing and easy for all to navigate."</p> <p>"I'd like to feel safer on public transport to be able to utilise it more."</p>
Accessibility and infrastructure	<p>"Locally informed design and planning – not just for the infrastructure but for services and programs also."</p> <p>"A city whereby core functionality is number 1 – roads, waste, greening, parks, libraries, bicycle networks."</p>

Participants also shared many ideas about enhancements that could make Darwin more liveable over the next 10 years. These included:

- Community parks with small bike skills tracks
- More water features in parks
- Water tanks and solar panels and other sustainability solutions added to existing buildings
- Clean streets and verges
- More opportunities to re-sell/recycle unwanted belongings
- More transport available in all suburbs
- More recreational facilities
- More shade.

When asked to suggest small changes that could improve liveability, participants' responses revealed a strong focus on improving safety, enhancing green spaces and increasing community engagement. Participants also emphasised the need for better infrastructure such as footpaths and lighting and the importance of addressing anti-social behaviour. The key themes against this question were: safety and security, green space and environment, community engagement and inclusivity and addressing anti-social behaviour.

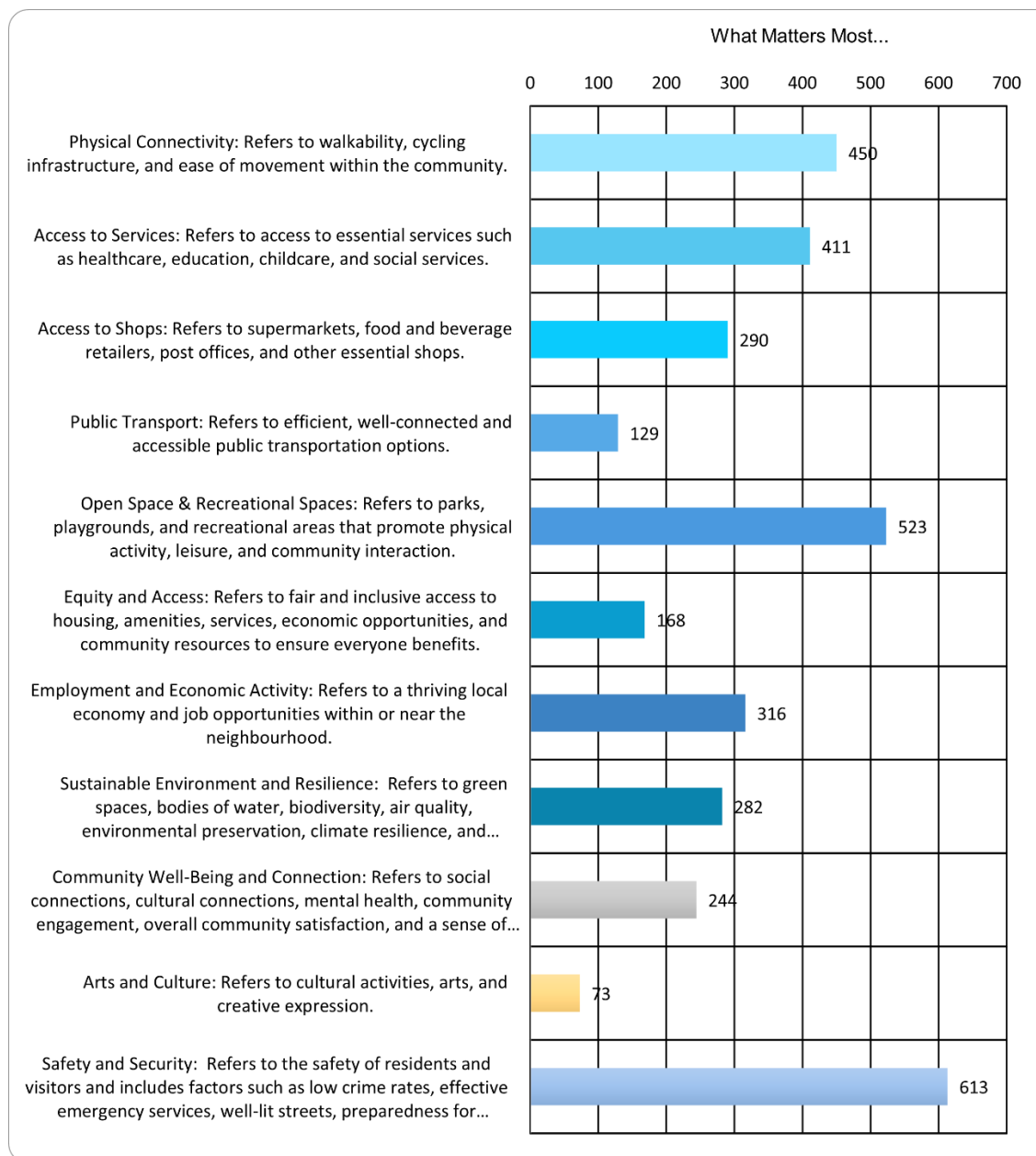
Comments included:

Theme	Example suggested small changes
Safety and security	<p>"Security cameras"</p> <p>"More frequent Police patrolling"</p> <p>"More safety measures"</p>
Green space and environment	<p>"Plant bush food plants in the green belts around Anula."</p> <p>"Water the parks"</p> <p>"Planting and watering in community use spaces"</p>
Community engagement and inclusivity	<p>"More community events"</p> <p>"Put a BBQ in our local street park so neighbours can all use it."</p> <p>"Small community meets and greets to get to know some of the neighbourhood, do some activities, walking, exercising, games etc so you get to know people."</p>
Infrastructure and accessibility	<p>"I would make pathways more accessible, plant more trees and create more shortcuts and walkways between buildings. Many existing thoroughfares and walkways between houses are closed or not properly maintained"</p> <p>"Fix the footpaths."</p> <p>"More lighting in the parks."</p>

Addressing anti-social behaviour	<p>"Move rough sleepers back to their communities."</p> <p>"Clean up Karama shops with the amount of humbug."</p> <p>"Stop selling alcohol from corner stores."</p>
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The below graph captures the responses to the following question:

"What Matters Most? What are the top three principles that matter most to you? Please only select three."



In summary, the connection between the survey at two points in time is the emphasis on safety and green spaces as foundational elements of a liveable city. Responses, also consistently underscore the importance of

community engagement and the need for accessible and well-maintained infrastructure. These responses provide a comprehensive insight into what residents value in a liveable Darwin and the actions they believe could enhance liveability.

4.1.2 Seniors' Expo

City of Darwin staff attended the Council of the Ageing Seniors' Expo on Saturday 28 June 2024 and promoted the Place and Liveability Plan as part of the stall. Approximately 24 hard copy surveys were completed. These were combined with the online surveys and the feedback is included within the summary above in Section 3.1.1.

4.1.3 Family Pop-Up

A family pop-up event was held from 9am – 11am at Holzerland Park in Malak on Sunday 7 July 2024. The event was targeting young families and included facepainting and bubbles for the kids and free coffee. Attendees gave anecdotal feedback and completed the survey while they were there, allowing them to go into the draw to win a YETI pack. The prize was drawn on the day. Photo below: Prize winner, Kayla Gates and family with Councillor Sylvia Klonaris, Member for Water Ward.



4.1.4 Elected Members' Workshop

Jacobs attended the City of Darwin Council meeting on 9 July 2024 where elected members participated in a short workshop based on liveability principles and their ideas on what pilot installations could look like. Elected members also provided feedback on the planned engagement activities.

When asked what they love about Darwin and what makes it liveable, Councillors listed:

The weather	Lifestyle
Markets	Friendly nature
Culture – including Indigenous and multicultural	Everything is nearby

Cool place and spaces	Public pools and amenities
Green city – trees and good sized yards	Lovely people
Everyone works together	Caters for aged population
Lots of potential and opportunity	Connection to land

Councillors were also asked what they thought could be done to improve liveability and their answers included:

Stop anti-social behaviour	A surf wave pool
Promote more of Darwin's history	Make the Mall great again
Beautification – more green nature strips	Keep our wide roads
More and wider shared footpaths – to improve walkability and accessibility	Cleaner streetscape
Better library	Bicycle network and more water access
Greater spread of public housing	Safety roads around schools – more speed bumps
Appropriate design for the climate	Oval lights
More shade	Sustainable development incentives
Better lighting in parks	Dog parks
Childcare	Close walkways and lanes
Recycling strategy	More outdoor exercise equipment
More rubbish bins in green spaces	Less shops selling alcohol

4.1.5 Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics meeting

Jacobs and City of Darwin personnel met with the Planning area of the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) to seek their input to the Place and Liveability Plan.

DIPL representatives indicated that when they think about liveability they think about accessibility to public and open spaces and dog parks and don't feel that Darwin has the same level of accessibility as other towns.

They commented that for many people there is no ability to cycle to work as walkability and active transport are not adequate.

They noted that currently there isn't alignment between the various organisations and everyone needs to come together to make changes. DIPL commented that they see the Place & Liveability Plan as an excellent resource for council to plan policy and a good basis to enable City of Darwin to provide feedback to DIPL and influence decision making.

They are keen to be kept informed and understand how the plan will work.

4.1.6 Casuarina Pool Opening

Flyers promoting the online survey and including a QR code were included in 500 giveaway bags handed out at the Casuarina Pool Opening on 13 July 2024 and City of Darwin staff roamed around the event with IPADS inviting attendees to complete the survey.

4.1.7 Focus Group – SEDA College

Twelve Year 11 students and two support staff participated in a focus group at SEDA College. The group was made up of 11 youth aged under 18, 1 student aged over 18 and 2 teaching staff/assistants. Out of the student cohort, half of them live in Darwin and half live elsewhere but attend school and recreational activities within City of Darwin's boundaries.

The group provided input on what makes Darwin more liveable, their priority principles of liveability and ideas for improvement. They also completed the online survey. Feedback included:

What makes Darwin liveable?

- Free public transport for under 18s
- Waterfalls and national parks
- Lack of traffic
- Multicultural community
- Festivals and local events
- Markets
- Everything is close – within a 10 to 20 minute drive
- Fishing/hunting
- Beaches
- It's not too crowded
- Ability to use electric bikes and scooters
- Friendly people
- Fuel is cheaper than interstate
- You can get your Provisional Licence six months after your Learner's licence
- Access to restaurants, clubs, pubs
- Lots of small businesses to offer products/services

Ideas for improvement

Students identified the suburb they live in and their ideas on ways to improve/enhance liveability.

- Muirhead – a corner store
- Nakara – more streetlights
- Darwin – better safety and security
- Anula – more school buses to Marrara, more events on the weekend
- Nightcliff – ways to address homelessness for people who have come in from community to the area and more security
- Anula – better surveillance of public housing areas

Responses from students who live in Palmerston, rather than City of Darwin boundaries:

- Durack – new parks
- Moulden – more Police patrols
- Rosebery – more dog parks
- Durack – swimmable lakes
- Rosebery – better shops

Liveability Priorities

Students voted on the key liveability principles and chose their top three. Results were as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| ▪ Open space & recreational space | 7 votes |
| ▪ Safety and security | 7 votes |
| ▪ Equity and Access | 5 votes |
| ▪ Connectivity | 5 votes |
| ▪ Access to services | 4 votes |
| ▪ Public transport | 4 votes |
| ▪ Sustainable environment | 4 votes |
| ▪ Arts and culture | 3 votes |
| ▪ Employment and Economic Activity | 0 votes |

4.1.8 Community Drop-In Sessions

Two community drop-in sessions were held at Casuarina Library (morning of 23 July 2024) and Darwin City Library (afternoon of 23 July 2024). These were promoted on City of Darwin's website, but also through targeted emails to community groups including Council of the Ageing, Office of Seniors, Office of Multicultural Affairs, NT Government Disability and Advocacy Group, Melaleuca Community Services, Office of Youth Affairs.

Visitors to the library were invited to complete the survey and/or choose the three liveability principles most important to them. Their input is included in the summary in Section 4. The following were voted the highest rated liveability principles:

- Open space and recreational space
- Access to services, safety and security and connectivity equally ranked.

Feedback on what makes Darwin liveable included the climate, the size of the town and the mix of 'country' and 'city' services and amenities and the activation of public spaces and range of free events and activities offered to the community.

4.1.9 Royal Darwin Show

The Place and Liveability Plan was promoted as part of City of Darwin's display at the Royal Darwin Show, held from 25 to 27 July 2024. Visitors to the stall were offered an entry in a prize draw for a Yeti pack if they completed the online survey while they were there. Over 700 surveys were completed using IPADs during the show period and those inputs have been considered as part of the survey analysis. The prize draw was held on 8 August 2024 and the winner notified by phone.

4.1.10 Focus Group – First Nations Representatives

A targeted focus group was held with First Nations representatives on Wednesday 21 August 2024. Local Indigenous consultants, Going North, were contracted to support this activity and recruit participants. Going North also co-facilitated the session with Jacobs. Nine people attended the session.

As part of the introduction, participants were asked to share what they love about Darwin. They mentioned:

Food	Weather
Family and connections	Art, talent, culture
Small town feel	People from different backgrounds
Parking easy and affordable	Outdoors and fishing
Opportunities for the future and to accelerate career	City of culture
Access to Asia	Green space and parks
Land size of housing lots	Native vegetation
Sports focus	Safe
Good place to raise kids	Multiculturalism
Laid back lifestyle	Landscape

Participants were asked to provide feedback from a First Nations cultural perspective on what makes Darwin liveable to them. Their responses are captured below:

- Feeling safe and celebrated
- Being respected
- Country – including connections to country, fishing, watching sunset (and no pollution)
- Revitalising the CBD with an Aboriginal-led focus – that's what tourists come here for, reflect the vibrant colours of Indigenous culture including visually
- Family in close proximity – access to housing and walkability
- Sense of community
- Footpaths – equity in suburbs
- Local activities and events in their suburb
- Promotion of cultural heritage sites and history, capturing local knowledge.

The group was asked to choose their top three liveability principles and voted for:

- Arts and culture
- Employment and economic activity
- Safety and security.

The group was asked to think about the suburbs of Karama, Malak and Casuarina voted as least liveable and think about how these suburbs could be made more liveable and reflect First Nations culture. Their responses are reflected below:

- Variety of shops and access in their own suburbs to reasonable priced food (noting that in some suburbs the local stores are closing or are highly over-priced compared to supermarkets which First Nations people can't always get to easily)
- More activities/places for families (non-sport-related)
- Noted that there are more pubs than parks in suburbs
- Coffee culture.

Adding to this conversation, participants were asked to reflect on the principles they said were most important to them and suggest ideas for making Karama, Malak and Casuarina more liveable from a First Nations perspective. Their ideas included:

- Better parks – noting they're not well maintained in Karama and Malak
- Different distribution of housing so social housing is not consolidated in one area, but dispersed amongst other housing types
- Fireplace/pit to gather around – how could this be incorporated in a public space so that people can gather and yarn
- Space for other cultural practices like cleaning fish, plucking goose etc in a public area as they don't have that space in their housing
- Connectivity and design of parks could be improved – including cultural elements
- Offering public WIFI in community spaces – parks, community centres etc
- Lighting – in walkways and parks to make them feel safer and incorporate design element to add interest e.g. like mini Partjima where cultural icons/representation is reflected in lights and colour
- Accessible paths that allow disabled people to move around equitably and allow people to walk next to each other (suggestion to reduce the size of garden beds in CBD area to allow for this)
- Upgrade community centres so people use them and offer transport to get people there. (Example of recently upgraded Gray Community Centre in Palmerston used for variety of community activities)
- Screens or visual elements in open space areas reflecting the community to attract people to open space (Examples shared of big screen in Goyder Square, Palmerston and in Perth columns that feature videos of local imagery and local people talking about what they love about Perth)
- More events in the suburbs e.g. for Halloween, incorporate storytelling
- When something new is to be trialled, do it in these suburbs not CBD (example of interstate using drones to deliver food, water play in the suburbs).
- More Ninja parks like the one recently installed at Malak to attract families to area (feedback from on participant that they now walk there every night as kids love that park)
- QR code trails to reflect Indigenous history and stories and opportunity to incorporate voiceovers (from long term Indigenous community members who are born and bred here before their stories are lost).

4.1.11 City of Darwin Reconciliation Action Plan Committee workshop

Jacobs attended the City of Darwin's Reconciliation Action Plan Committee meeting on 19 August 2024 to seek input from the committee members.

Three members of the committee participated – two in person and one remotely. When asked why they like living in Darwin, they responded:

Sunsets	Diversity
Old Darwin connections	Special Indigenous history
Wet season and the weather	Have deep roots here

When asked what could make Darwin more liveable, participants said:

- Creating a feeling of belonging for all Indigenous people (not just Larrakia)
- Links to Darwin history and family connections e.g. the Mindil Beach poles that represent Tiwi and Larrakia

When asked to vote on their top three liveability principles, this group selected:

- Open space and recreation
- Safety and security
- Equity and access.

The group was asked to think about what could make Darwin liveable and their responses were:

- Creating opportunities for connection between different groups – Larrakia led cultural exchange, opportunity to learn from each other. (They noted that the Larrakia Cultural Centre and the new Aboriginal Art Gallery in CBD will help with this)
- Activation – as it can influence behaviour in a positive way
- Economic factors – they believe City of Darwin can help influence this
- Recreation – key to positive behaviour
- Growing more fruit trees to generate food for people locally
- Bush tucker gardens
- Recognising and elevating First Nations culture e.g. Place name changes and incorporating storytelling for example at Nightcliff Foreshore
- Inclusion of cultural elements in playgrounds e.g. The Esplanade playground shade could feature arrows that point to Tiwi and different First Nations (geographic locations)
- Stolen Generation memorial
- Indigenous signage in public spaces
- Celebrate the suburban names and their Indigenous meaning e.g. Alawa, Malak, Parap, Bundilla Beach – share the history.

The group was asked to think about the suburbs of Karama, Malak and Casuarina which were voted least liveable in the survey and to share thoughts on how liveability could be improved in these areas. Their responses below:

- More dispersal of social housing instead of all together in one area
- Put more basketball courts in and include a water fountain and shade so they can also be used during the day
- Inflatable movie screens in open space
- Focus not only on sports
- Concerts in the suburbs

- Community events locally – these lift the community and improves safety up e.g. Malak Markets, after school activities
- Promotion to break the negative narrative (noting that Karama and Malak feature lots of young families, yet the narrative focuses on the negative aspects).

4.1.12 Submission from Heart Foundation

The Heart Foundation provided an unsolicited written submission as part of the consultation process, expressing their support for a Place and Liveability Plan that reflects the long-term aspirations of the community in terms of making Darwin more liveable.

The submission urged City of Darwin to consider all liveability principles as part of the work, but highlighted that physical connectivity, open space and recreation and safety and security are the principles they recommend focusing on.

The submission also highlighted that 30% of shade cover from trees and vegetation in urban spaces should be the goal, to reduce heat and promote physical activity.

The Heart Foundation provided key statistics around heart disease prevention, detection and support and highlighted Northern Territory data which shows that the Territory has the highest national admissions rate for acute coronary syndrome in the country.

The Heart Foundation has an Active by Design toolkit for active living which incorporates eight key design features:

- Public open space
- Community facilities
- Buildings
- Destinations (density)
- Movement networks
- Housing diversity
- Sense of place
- Healthy food.

These features highly align with the principles identified as priorities for the City of Darwin Place and Liveability Plan.

The full submission from the Heart Foundation is provided at Appendix E.

Appendix A. Engagement Calendar

June 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Site visit <u>Dwn</u> neighbourhoods Ashley & Cassandra	13 8.30 – 1.00pm Vision Workshop with <u>CoD</u>	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Cassandra on leave	22	23
24 Cassandra on leave	25 Cassandra working from Adelaide	26 Cassandra WF Adelaide	27	28	29 Seniors Workshop 10am – 2pm, Marrara Netball Centre	30

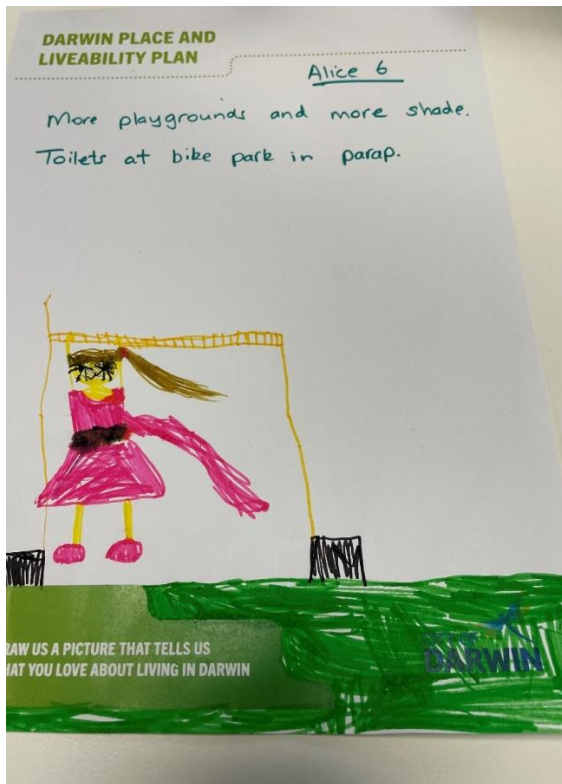
July 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5 DIPL meeting	6	7 Family Pop- Up 9am – 11am <u>Holzerland</u> Park, Malak
8	9 PM – Elected Members session	10 Cassandra on leave – 19 July	11	12	13 Casuarina Pool Opening (QR code/flyer in bags)	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Community Drop In Focus Groups – Casuarina Library and Darwin City Library	24 SEDA College workshop <u>Yr 11s</u> 11-12pm, Tennis NT Larrakia Focus Group – time TBC	25 Royal Darwin Show	26 PUBLIC HOLIDAY DARWIN Royal Darwin Show	27 Royal Darwin Show	28
29	30	31 <u>CoD</u> Ideation Workshop 9am – 1pm				

August 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5 PUBLIC HOLIDAY DARWIN	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 CoD Reconciliation Committee meeting	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Appendix B. Family Pop-Up Photos and Drawings



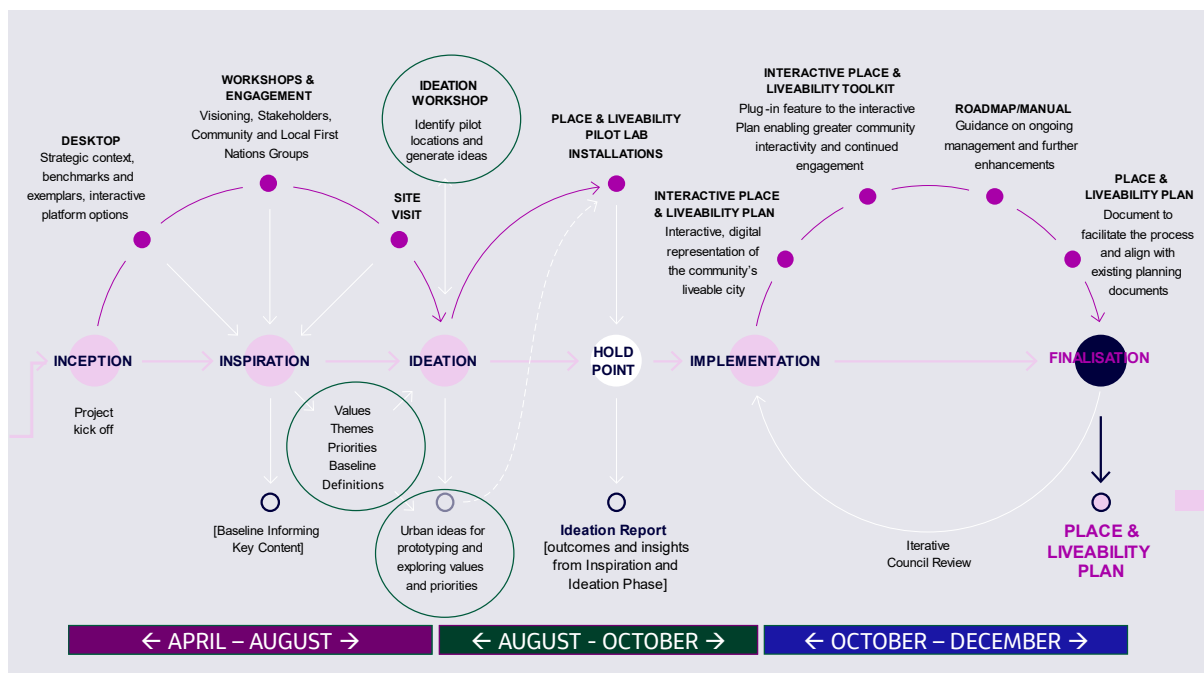
Appendix C. Ideation Workshop Summary

Insights report – Ideation Workshop 31 July 2024

PART 1: PROJECT & ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Context and project update:

To set context for the day, the following slide was presented, highlighting where in the overall project we are:



Engagement activities:

Cassandra presented a summary of upcoming and completed engagement activities.

Activity	Audience	Timing/complete
Family Pop Up, Holzerland Park, Malak	Families with young children	7 July - completed
Elected Members Workshop	Elected Members	9 July - completed
Casuarina Pool Opening - City of Darwin attendance/flyer with QR code	All	13 July – completed
Community Drop-In Sessions - Casuarina and Darwin City libraries	All	23 July - completed

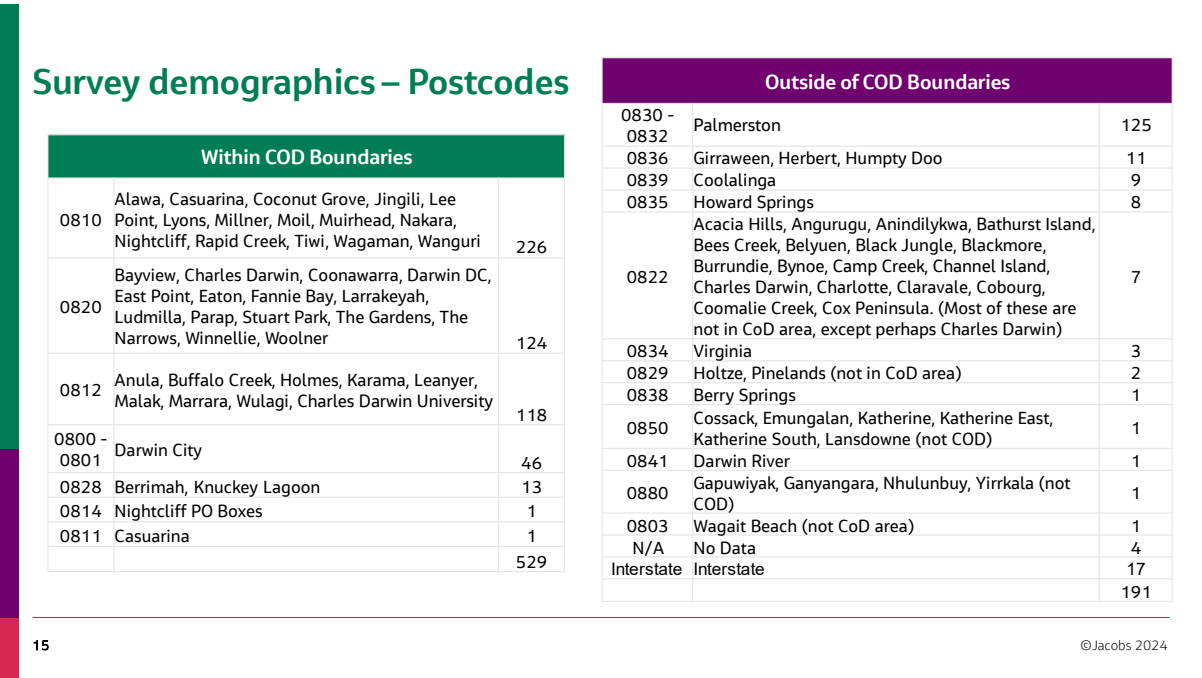
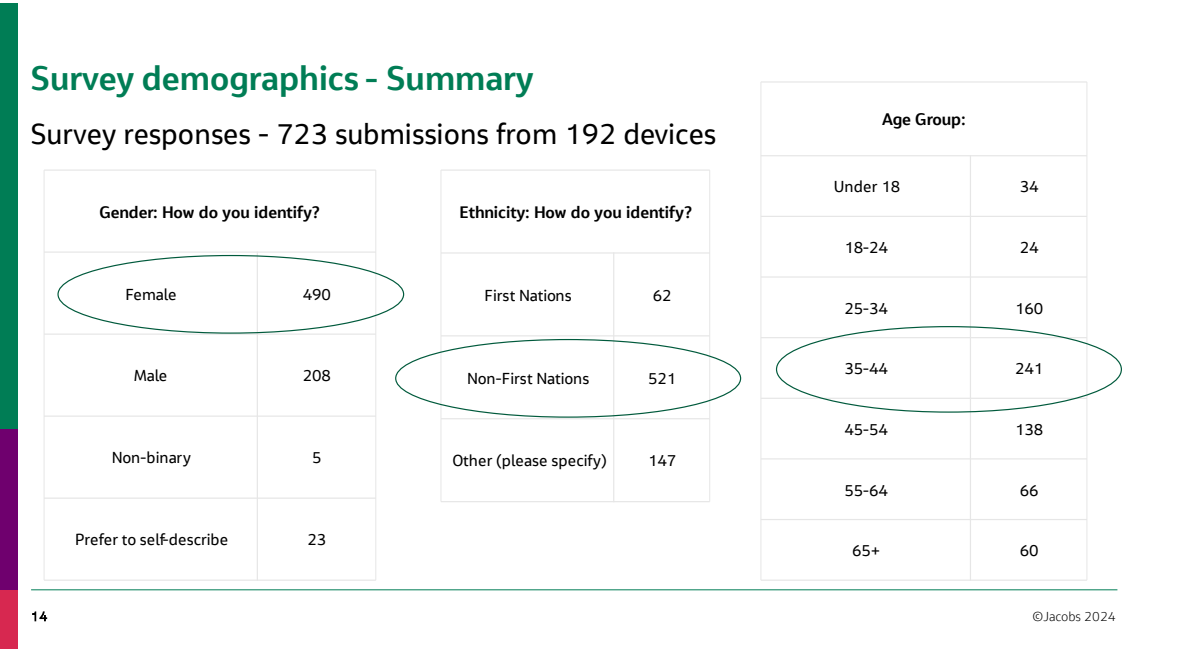
SEDA College Focus Group	Youth	24 July - completed
Royal Darwin Show - City of Darwin attendance with survey	All	25-27 July - completed
CoD RAP Committee	Indigenous	19 August - scheduled
Larrakia representatives	Indigenous	21 August - scheduled

Engagement insights:

- **Family Pop-Up**
 - Low attendance but those who attended, highly engaged
 - Playgrounds and footpaths key focus
 - Positive feedback on free events/activities for families
 - All attendees completed survey
- **Youth session**
 - Generally very happy with facilities/services in their neighbourhood
 - Rated these three principles the highest in importance: Open space/recreational space, Safety and security, Equity & Access
 - Most of their ideas for improvement related to safety and security (mostly beyond CoD's remit). One suggestion for better street lighting in Nakara
 - All attendees completed survey (all but one were under 18)
- **Community Drop-In sessions**
 - Low engagement – people at libraries for a purpose, in/out quickly
 - Highest rated principles: Open space/recreational space, several others equal - connectivity, access to services, safety & security
 - Positive feedback on free events/activities provided by City of Darwin

Survey Demographics:

As of 12pm on the 30th of July 2024 there were 723 submissions from 192 devices. Ashley presented a high-level summary of survey demographics.



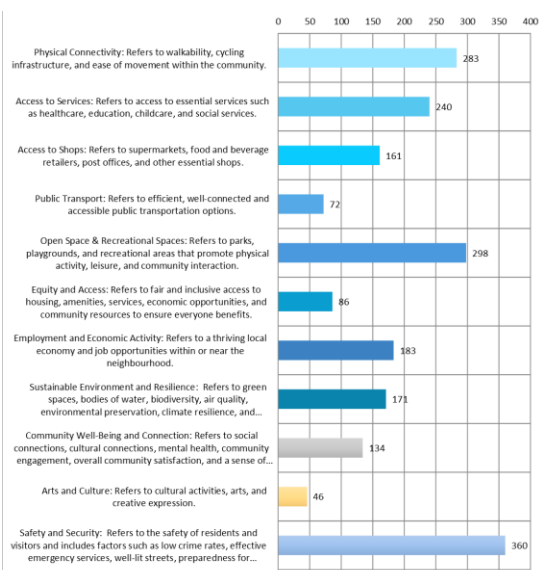
What does a "Liveable Darwin" mean to you?

[illegible]

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What matters most?

Safety and Security:	360
Open Space & Recreational Spaces:	298
Physical Connectivity:	283
Access to Services:	240
Employment and Economic Activity:	183
Sustainable Environment and Resilience:	171
Access to Shops:	161
Community Well-Being and Connection:	134
Equity and Access:	86
Public Transport:	72
Arts and Culture:	46



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Survey respondents were asked to identify the 'most' and 'least' liveable suburbs from their perspectives. The table below provides a summary of inputs.

Most liveable suburbs identified:	Why these suburbs were deemed to be the 'most' liveable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nightcliff ➤ Fannie Bay ➤ Parap ➤ Rapid Creek ➤ Muirhead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Good mix of residential and business ➤ Great access to parks, riding/walking paths/good links to green space ➤ Services and outdoor areas to enjoy ➤ Strong sense of identity ➤ Lots of amenities ➤ Street appeal/neighbourhood pride ➤ Useable space ➤ Clean and identifiable bus stops ➤ Family focused ➤ Close to schools ➤ Community garden ➤ Proximity to beach ➤ Lots of playgrounds and parks ➤ Markets activate space ➤ Well maintained ➤ Low in crime/feel safe
Least liveable suburbs identified:	Why these suburbs were deemed to be the 'least' liveable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Karama ➤ Malak ➤ Darwin CBD / City ➤ Casuarina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High crime rates/anti-social behaviour especially break-ins and assaults, make residents feel unsafe in certain areas. ➤ Concentration of public housing in certain suburbs ➤ Lack of green spaces and poor maintenance of existing parks ➤ Inadequate public transport connections in outer suburbs ➤ Overcrowding and small lot sizes in new developments affect liveability and community feel. ➤ Hot, dry environments in some suburbs due to lack of irrigation and established trees ➤ Poor Street lighting contributes to safety concerns, especially at night. ➤ Littering and dumping of rubbish in public areas degrades the local environment. ➤ Distance from the beach and coastal areas makes some suburbs less appealing. ➤ Inadequate bicycle infrastructure discourages active transportation. ➤ Lack of local shops and services in newer developments forces residents to travel for basic necessities.

Discussion 1: The group discussed their take on the survey insights. Key points included:

- Survey responses may be based on a perception of assumption of how liveable a suburb is. Participants discussed the fact that the ranking system may be skewed to bias opinions influenced by the media.
- Discussion on the intent of the liveability plan was had. ***Is the intention to encourage people to live in these suburbs or visit these suburbs?*** This is a critical question for the design team to explore further with City of Darwin before moving forward with any strategic planning or prototyping.
- It was noted that there were common themes of safety and security across survey data and engagement insights, which was not surprising due to the rise of anti-social behaviour. Participants discussed the influence that COD can have over safety and security. It was acknowledged that larger social issues underpin the increase in people's perception of unsafe neighbourhoods, however the team discussed the role of infrastructure, lighting, colour, sound and community belonging, connection and

Appendix D. Heart Foundation Submission



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23 August 2024

Ms Simone Saunders
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Place & Liveability in Darwin

The Heart Foundation welcomes the City of Darwin's development of a Place & Liveability Plan that reflects the long-term aspirations of its community to make Darwin more liveable for its residents.

We further commend the City's undertaking of community engagement to ensure it delivers on what the community wants towards creating a safe, liveable, healthy, cool, green, clean, smart, prosperous, vibrant and creative city.

We hope that you will accept this submission as part of your consultation activities in lieu of completing an online survey. The survey did not seem the appropriate avenue for the Heart Foundation to submit feedback. However, our comments below largely correspond with your survey fields.

Please find our detailed submission at **Attachment A**.

If you have any questions relating to our submission, please contact Anna Gurnhill, Senior Active Living Officer, by email to Anna.Gurnhill@heartfoundation.org.au

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Wrigley".

Kevin Wrigley
General Manager, Northern Territory
National Heart Foundation of Australia

ATTACHMENT A

Summary of recommendations:

1. The City of Darwin's Place & Liveability Plan should consider all the liveability principles proposed within the community engagement survey. In particular, we recommend that focus be placed on principles of physical connectivity, open space and recreational spaces, and safety and security.
2. A diversified approach to assuring the real and perceived safety of Darwin residents should be included. In particular we recommend that enhanced safety and security strategies be focused on addressing improved lighting, traffic calming measures, separation of car traffic from people walking and cycling, and passive surveillance.
3. Enhanced access to green spaces and adequate tree canopies should be prioritised. A minimum of 30% shade cover from trees and vegetation in urban areas should be achieved to reduce urban heat islands and promote physical activity of all residents.
4. Planning for liveability in Darwin should employ a systems approach to best capture the impacts of diverse variables on the day-to-day lives of its residents.

Designing for Heart Health

The Heart Foundation is Australia's trusted for-purpose organisation working to improve heart disease prevention, detection, and support for all people living in Australia.

Cardiovascular disease is the cause of 1 in 4 of all deaths in Australia, with more than half of the population having 3 or more key risk factors for cardiovascular disease.¹

The built and natural environments, together with transport mode choice, play a significant role in helping people engage in regular physical activity, reducing their risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Research shows that people who live in walkable communities are 1.5 times more likely to get enough physical activity.² The walkability of a neighbourhood has been found to be closely linked to cardiovascular health, with research showing that the proportion of people with healthy cardiovascular disease risk profiles is 22% higher in neighbourhoods with high walkability when compared to neighbourhoods with low walkability- areas where walking is unsafe, inconvenient or difficult.³

The Northern Territory Context

The Northern Territory has the highest national age-standardised rate for acute coronary syndrome (ACS) admissions. While the national age-standardised rate for ACS admissions in Australia is 21.1 per 10,000, the Northern Territory sees a rate of 47.2 per 10,000 - the highest among all states and territories.⁴ Most cardiovascular disease risk factors are preventable through a healthy lifestyle, including a healthy diet, regular exercise and maintaining a healthy weight. Currently, 4 in 5 adults in Australia do not get enough physical exercise, placing them at increased risk of a range of chronic diseases.⁵ In the Northern

Territory, 66.4% of people do not get enough physical activity.⁴ Physical inactivity remains a major health issue and is calculated to cost Australia \$2.4 billion each year in additional health costs alone.⁶

The National Heart Foundation's 'What Australia Wants – Living Locally in Walkable Neighbourhoods' has shown that 29% of people living in the Northern Territory believe their current neighbourhood helps activity levels a lot, 39% believe it helps a little, and 31% believe the current environment doesn't really help or doesn't help at all.⁷ Among people living in the Northern Territory, 68% are in favour of government directing more of its roads funding into walking and cycling infrastructure, and 69% are supportive of speed limit reductions in neighbourhood streets.⁷

The Heart Foundation has a vested interest to ensure that urban areas and local neighbourhoods across Australia are designed to be both walkable and liveable, for transport and recreation purposes. Our flagship program, [Healthy Active by Design](#), provides resources that put health at the heart of design principles, to support councils and practitioners with an evidence-based toolkit to implement healthy and walkable built environments.

Healthy Active by Design

The Heart Foundation has a vested interest to support people living in Australia to increase their levels of physical activity by providing walkable urban areas and local neighbourhoods across the country, for both transport and recreation purposes. To support industry professionals and decision makers to create more walkable, liveable neighbourhoods for heart health, the Heart Foundation's evidence-based Healthy Active by Design toolkit for active living incorporates eight design features of the built environment that can increase walkability and physical activity for all Australians.⁸ The toolkit also includes a module for Healthy Active Ageing, with an additional module for Walkability in Areas of Disadvantage currently in design. The eight design features are:

1. Public open space
2. Community facilities
3. Buildings
4. Destinations (density)
5. Movement networks
6. Housing diversity
7. Sense of place
8. Healthy food.

Liveability principles

The Heart Foundation strongly supports the liveability principles presented by the City of Darwin's community engagement survey, and we rate each principle as highly important. The liveability principles listed relate strongly to the design features of Healthy Active by

Design and are each major contributors to planning urban spaces that promote safe, active and vibrant built environments.

In focusing on the three most important principles for promoting the liveability of a neighbourhood, the Heart Foundation recommends that the City of Darwin prioritises the following principles:

Physical connectivity: refers to walkability, cycling infrastructure and ease of movement within the community, including connectivity to public transport.

Connectivity is core to promoting active living and is central to all Healthy Active by Design features as it links together the built environment, walkability and heart health. Connectivity and easy access from residences to shops, essential services, social spaces and public transport are essential elements to building liveable spaces that also bring people together. Of particular importance is that planning for connectivity must consider inclusive and equitable access for all.

Good connectivity hinges on the configuration of urban design, transport planning and traffic engineering that permit people to navigate their area with a variety of direct routes to arrive at local destinations safely, easily and conveniently. Evidence shows that high levels of street connectivity can better promote the use of walking for transportation, and that this is mediated by the availability of convenient, practical and utilitarian destinations.⁹

Living close to a mix of destinations, including public transport access points, is associated with higher levels of active transport and physical activity across all age groups.¹⁰⁻¹³ The active and public modes of transport that connectivity promotes also reduces transport emissions and improves air quality – which further contributes to reducing cardiovascular disease and improving heart health.¹⁴ Density and infill development is critical to achieving modal shift to active and public transport. For people to be able to walk, wheel and cycle in urban areas, there needs to be destinations that can be accessed by these modes within a walkable catchment, including public transport stops.¹⁵

Open space and recreational spaces: refers to parks, playgrounds, and recreational areas that promote physical activity, leisure and community interaction.

Public open space encompasses the variety of spaces within the urban environment that are readily and freely accessible to the wider community for recreation and enjoyment. The Heart Foundation recommends that planning for the City of Darwin's Place and Liveability Plan be strengthened through references to 'quality' public open spaces.

Quality public open spaces are particularly critical in neighbourhoods with increased density and urban infill, to ensure places for recreation, play and socialising.¹⁶ Evidence has shown that the quality and maintenance of green spaces is important for physical and mental health.¹⁷

Proximity to green spaces has significant positive effects on heart health and cardiovascular risk factors:

- Living in areas with higher density of green spaces is associated with lower odds of hypertension, high cholesterol, and diabetes, particularly for women.^{18, 19} Greater availability of green spaces around homes can reduce blood pressure in adults, likely through mechanisms such as stress reduction, increased physical activity, and reduced exposure to noise and air pollution.¹⁹
- The health benefits of green spaces are maximised when they are easily accessible and walkable. A study of over 1 million adults found that those living in areas with both high 'nature scores' and high walkability had 9% lower odds of cardiovascular risk factors like hypertension, high cholesterol, obesity and diabetes compared to those in areas with low nature scores.²⁰

Living near accessible, walkable green spaces - particularly those with facilities for physical activity - appears to have meaningful benefits for heart health and reducing cardiovascular risk factors. Urban planning and public health initiatives to increase green space access could help reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease.

Safety and security: refers to the safety of residents and visitors and includes factors such as low crime rates, effective emergency services, well-lit streets and preparedness for natural disasters.

Real and perceived safety are crucial to the liveability and walkability of local neighbourhoods. When a place feels unsafe, local residents may reduce the frequency of their outings in the community, which may limit opportunities to engage in physical activity outside as well as limit the ability to form connections with community.²¹ The impact of increasing the sense of safety of a place particularly affects women, who are 4.5 times more likely to walk for exercise if they perceive average levels of safety when compared to low levels of safety in a neighbourhood.²²

Recommendation 1: Any plan to enhance Place & Liveability in Darwin should consider all liveability principles proposed in the community engagement survey. In particular, we recommend that focus be placed on principles of physical connectivity, open space and recreational space, and safety and security.

Liveability in Darwin

The City of Darwin's Place & Liveability plan will offer an important opportunity to build on the existing strengths of Darwin, as well as the work the City has already undertaken in this space, through community input.

The Heart Foundation encourages the City of Darwin to consider a diversified approach in their Place & Liveability Plan, touching on all liveability principles. In particular, we believe

the following changes and improvements will make Darwin more liveable for the local community and into the future:

1. Safe, more walkable streets

Real and perceived safety are strong contributors to the desire of residents to be out in their community and engage in outdoor physical activity. A number of infrastructure elements in the built environment can have a significant impact on the safety of a neighbourhood. Implementing infrastructure elements that focus on safety and security contributes to enhanced liveability of a place by promoting activation and community connectedness. The following are some examples of urban design elements that enhance real and perceived safety:

- **Adequate lighting:** contributes to functionality by assuring basic orientation, as well as ambience to create an inviting atmosphere and user comfort.²³ Evidence shows that improved lighting in open public spaces after dark can reduce the fear of crime and increase walking activity, particularly for women.²⁴ The sense of safety in the dark evening time is important for promoting physical activity and active transport, as many people follow work schedules that may only permit physical activity in the evenings and/or early mornings.
- **Traffic calming measures:** impacts residents' willingness and ability to use movement networks as a means of active transport and for physical activity. Movement networks including streets and roads, paths and other infrastructure can be made to feel safer with the use of traffic calming strategies, including reduced speed limits, raised crossings, traffic calming devices, narrowing road space, and speed humps.^{25, 26} Car speeds play an important role in risk of injury and death during collisions between people walking and people driving cars. When a collision between a person driving and a person walking occurs at 30 km/h, the chance of survival of the person walking is 90%, but this drops to 60% at collision speeds of 40 km/h, and 10% at 50 km/h.²⁷ Beyond reducing the rate of vehicle collision injuries, evidence suggests that traffic calming measures also promote greater levels of physical activity among local residents because of the improved sense of safety.²⁵
- **Separation from car traffic:** separation of walking and cycling infrastructure from roadways. Evidence has shown that the satisfaction and perceived safety of people walking is influenced by proximity to traffic and whether a separation exists between walking infrastructure and roads.²⁸⁻³⁰ Such separations may include curbed footpaths, garden beds between walking infrastructure and roads, or a paved shoulder offering a separate space to walk from cars.³¹ The effect of separation from car traffic is also apparent for cyclists, who experience greater confidence and comfort where there is separation from vehicle traffic. Separation from car traffic is particularly valued by women and older adults who are more likely to report a preference for this cycling infrastructure feature.³² Importantly, these separated paths should add convenience to people walking and cycling along their desired path rather than create a detour.³¹

- **Passive surveillance:** refers to the sense of security that comes from a public place being regularly populated by people either spending periods of time there, or passing by. This can be achieved through policies that promote activation of an area, such as regulations that allow for local business opportunities and mixed-use development, as well as improved amenities.³³ Improving the real and perceived safety of an area with adequate lighting, traffic calming measures and separation strategies can also encourage people to use the area, therefore promoting activation and passive surveillance.

Recommendation 2: The City of Darwin should consider a diversified approach to assuring the real and perceived safety of its residents. In particular, we recommend that enhanced safety and security strategies be focused on addressing improved lighting, traffic calming measures, separation of car traffic from people walking and cycling, and passive surveillance.

2. Improving tree canopy and shade planting

Trees in urban areas bring a multitude of environmental, economic, social, health and wellbeing benefits.³⁴ Tree canopies, urban forests and gardens help to enhance the attractiveness of a space, and the provision of shade and evapotranspiration provide much-needed cooling relief, particularly in areas experiencing urban heat islands.

The Heart Foundation has a vested interest in the cooling effect of trees, as intense heat and heatwaves are significant causes of harm to the heart.^{35, 36} Heatwaves are the deadliest extreme weather events in Australia, causing more injury hospitalisation and deaths than any other natural hazard.³⁷ In Australia, heatwaves have led to a higher risk of hospitalisations and deaths from heart disease and heart attacks.³⁸ Of greatest concern is that heatwaves are increasing in frequency and duration.^{39, 40} Among those who are most vulnerable to injury and death from extreme heat include people with cardiovascular disease.⁴¹

Shade from trees has a significant impact on both surface and ambient temperatures. The effect is particularly notable in urban settings, where the built environment may create an urban heat island. Tree shade can reduce surface temperatures by 11—25°C, and ambient air temperatures by 1—5°C, improving thermal comfort and air quality for people using these spaces, such as people walking.⁴² Furthermore, the strategic placement of trees and plants around buildings can reduce dependence on air conditioning. This is reflected in findings that show savings of 25—50% in air conditioning energy use from the placement of vegetation around buildings, thanks to the shade provided and the creation of a micro-climate.⁴³ The value of this impact is twofold, as reduced dependency on air conditioning results in lower carbon emissions from their use. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a significant contributor to greenhouse gases that are leading to warming global temperatures as well as more frequent heatwaves in Australia.⁴⁴ Street trees are therefore particularly important in areas with hot

climates, such as Darwin, NT, and will be increasingly vital as climate change leads to warmer temperatures across Australia.⁴⁵

In addition to the environmental impacts of shade planting in helping to cool a space, greenery and tree canopies have been found to significantly impact a neighbourhood's walkability and sense of community. Greenery along the route to school encourages children to walk to school, and promotes walking and cycling in adolescents and adults.⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸ Aside from trees along commuting routes, green urban spaces such as parks have been found to promote physical activity in a variety of age groups. In the Australian 45 and Up Study, it was found that greener neighbourhoods see higher rates of walking and moderate-to-vigorous physical activity in older adults.⁴⁹ Access to greenspace also promotes a multitude of benefits to children and adolescent's mental and physical health through increased physical activity, social interaction, attention restoration and stress regulation.⁵⁰ Such findings are particularly prominent in low-income neighbourhoods, where there is significantly increased park use and physical activity when access to local parks, park equipment, walkability and aesthetics, including greenery, are improved. Trees also contribute to safety of people walking, with evidence from Melbourne showing that injury of people walking decreases as tree density and canopy cover increases. The study authors believe this is likely due to the separation that street trees can create between people walking and people driving motor vehicles, also offering to car drivers a visual wall that provides familiarity and perceived safety.⁵¹ These findings further support the above recommendations to provide separation between walking and vehicle infrastructure, such as garden beds or street trees. To note, increasing the tree canopy will also require adequate maintenance of trees and pathways such as cleanup following extreme weather events and regular branch trimming as needed to prevent injury from debris.

The Heart Foundation recommends that the City of Darwin's Place & Liveability Plan include guidance that a minimum 30% shade cover in urban areas is achieved to reduce urban heat islands. Recent research has shown that Australia's annual public health costs related to cardiovascular disease could be \$19.3 million lower per 100,000 individuals 'for whom local tree canopy cover is increased from less than 10% to 30% or higher.'⁵² The Heart Foundation recommends that extensive tree planting be prioritised.

Recommendation 3: A minimum of 30% shade cover from trees and vegetation in urban areas should be achieved to reduce urban heat islands, and promote physical activity of all residents.

3. A systems approach to urban planning

Evident throughout this submission is the multitude of aspects involved in making a city liveable. As described above, interventions like improved lighting help enhance the aesthetics of a space while also contributing to a sense of safety. Mixed-use development provides convenience and vibrancy to a community. Tree canopies positively impact on urban heat islands and promote physical activity. Through these mechanisms, these

strategies impact on cardiovascular health by increasing residents' physical activity levels through active transport and other activities.

It is clear that multiple systems are at play in creating a walkable, liveable city. This highlights the need for any Place & Liveability Plan to employ a systems approach in the planning process. For the purpose of designing a liveable city, the following systems planning actions are recommended:⁵³

- Stakeholder engagement from multiple sectors throughout the scoping, planning, implementation and evaluation phases of urban planning.
- Equitable engagement from residents as members of the community with vested interest in approaches that impact their day-to-day lives.
- Assessing and adjusting city governance models as needed to enable multi-stakeholder engagement, transparency and responsive decision-making.⁵⁴
- Scoping for and employing the systems planning tools that will enable clear and holistic mapping of systems at play, such as mind maps and logical frameworks.

Recommendation 4: The Heart Foundation recommends that any planning for liveability in Darwin employ a systems approach to best capture the impacts of diverse variables on the day-to-day lives of its residents.

The Heart Foundation commends the City of Darwin for undertaking community engagement at the outset of this project. We appreciate the accessibility offered to community members and diverse stakeholders to provide insights and input to the Place & Liveability plan via a convenient online survey as well as multiple in-person drop-in community engagement sessions. We further encourage the City of Darwin to consider targeted engagement initiatives to ensure the equitable inclusion of vulnerable community members for whom the online survey format or drop-in engagement sessions are not suitable.

The Heart Foundation advocates for built environments that promote and support heart health, healthy eating, active living and physical activity. We particularly focus on getting more people walking more often, through policies, programs and partnerships. We invite the City of Darwin to refer to the [Healthy Active by Design](#) tools, evidence and case studies to creating positive change and directly influence the creation of a healthy city.

References

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Appendix E. Suburb Storytelling Ideas

One of the suggestions from the Reconciliation Action Committee was to focus on telling the positive stories of suburbs to help shift the negative narrative attached to them. This was particularly relevant to Karama, Malak and Casuarina voted as the least liveable suburbs.

Some story suggestions are provided below for further consideration:

- Do a series of profiles of families from the least liveable suburbs – highlight how they came to live in that suburb, what they like about it and what their family comprises. There may also be opportunity to highlight the work that they do and their connections to the local community (e.g. if they're active in community groups). These could be videos or static photos with a story.
- Promote the extensive parks and playgrounds in various suburbs across City of Darwin – to highlight the level of services, encourage people to visit different suburbs and link them to City of Darwin's Play Space Strategy.
- Highlight the community groups that work within these suburbs and the support they give to local community.
- Promote the youth programs on offer across City of Darwin's wards.
- Leverage stories that come out from Community Achiever and Young Achiever Awards about winners and link it to the suburbs they live in – highlight the success story.
- Run some pop quiz type interviews with Councillors to ask them what they love about the wards they represent and ask them to focus on things people may not know about those suburbs.
- When the annual budget is released, run some stories focusing on suburb-specific initiatives and the value those projects will add to Darwin's liveability.
- Run some stories on City of Darwin employees who work on the ground and ask them about their role and what they see when they're out and about.
- Video First Nations representatives in particular suburbs talking about the Indigenous history of the area and link to City of Darwin's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Social Engagement report

Place and Liveability Plan

10 September 2024

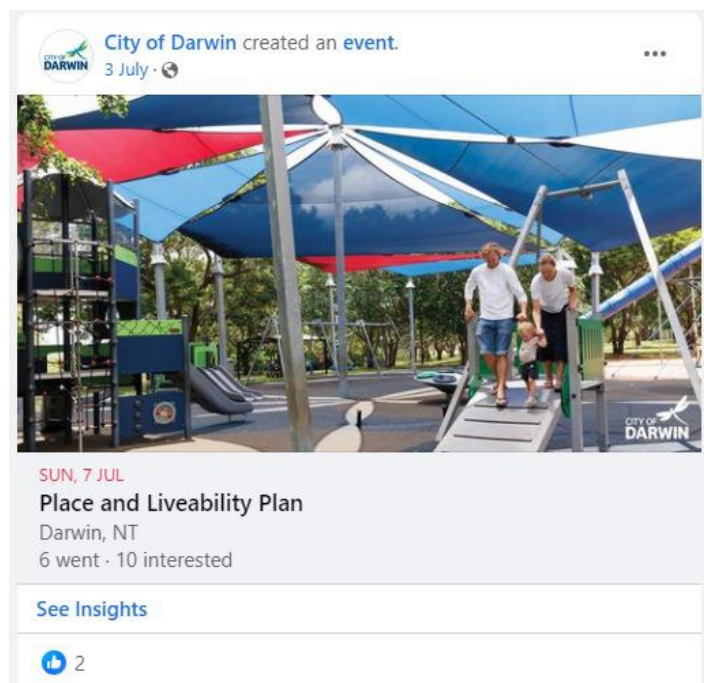


Social media

There were three social media posts and one social media event page promoting the engagement process, a summary is provided below:

Date	Topic	Comments	Likes & reactions	Shares	Reach	Engagement (link clicks)
Facebook						
11 June 2024	Event: Place and Liveability Plan	0	2	0	n/a	n/a
3 July 2024	Post: Darwin residents – we need your input! 🗣️	32	34	13	8,317	27
8 July 2024	Post: Darwin residents – we need your input!	56	59	17	48,249	91
15 August 2024	Post: Darwin residents – it's your last chance to contribute to our Place and Liveability Plan.	13	24	17	11,746	202

Facebook Event



Facebook Posts

City of Darwin
Published by Cod Darwin
· 3 July ·


Darwin residents – we need your input! 🗣️

🌟 We're developing a Place and Liveability Plan and want to hear your views. What makes Darwin liveable to you? Where would you like to see us focus on in your neighbourhood? Bring the kids and join us this Sunday 7 July from 9am to 11am at Holzerland Park, Malak to share your thoughts.

🍷 There'll be facepainting and balloon art from [Fairy Jill's Enchanted Entertainment](#), free coffee for the first 40 people and the chance to go in the draw to win a \$100 YETI pack (drawn on the day if you complete the survey while you're there).

Event: <https://www.facebook.com/share/TXrGhtFV2Kbc2ra/>

🔴 To find out more about the plan or complete the online survey, visit engage.darwin.nt.gov.au



See insights and ads

[Boost post](#)

34 32 comments 12 shares

City of Darwin
Published by Cod Darwin
· 8 July ·

Darwin residents – we need your input! 🗣️





🌟 We're developing a Place and Liveability Plan and want to hear your views. What makes Darwin liveable to you? Where would you like to see us focus on in your neighbourhood?

City of Darwin is holding a number of community events in July and August to give you the chance to share your thoughts.

You can join us at:

- 🏊 The Casuarina Pool official opening on 13 July 2024 (complete our survey while you're there)
- 🏠 Drop In sessions at Casuarina and the City Libraries on 23 July 2024. Complete the survey while you're there and go in the draw to win a \$100 YETI pack, drawn on the day
- 👑 Royal Darwin Show

If you can't make one of the events, jump online before 25 August 2024 and complete the survey at engage.darwin.nt.gov.au

See insights and ads

[Boost post](#)

59 56 comments 17 shares

City of Darwin
Published by Cod Darwin
· 15 August at 10:00 ·

Darwin residents – it's your last chance to contribute to our Place and Liveability Plan. 🗣️


What makes Darwin liveable to you? Where should we focus our efforts in your neighbourhood? How do you like to move around Darwin? 🗣️

🌟 We've been out and about throughout July and August seeking input from our diverse Darwin community and have received so many great responses so far.

🔴 It's not too late to have your say, the online survey is open until 25 August.

Survey closes 25 August 2024

🔴 Jump on to have your say – <https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/place-and-liveability...>



City of Darwin
Town/city

[Learn more](#)

See insights and ads

[Boost post](#)

24 13 comments 16 shares

Engagement

Snapshot

The following is a snapshot of the way in which people engaged and provided feedback:

Social media

- Facebook - 3 posts that reached a total of 68,312 people

Social media engagement

Social media activity on the Place and Liveability Plan engagement included 3 posts shared to Facebook and 1 event shared to Facebook.