

# DARWIN

CITY DEAL

## ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2020



Australian Government



NORTHERN  
TERRITORY  
GOVERNMENT



CITY OF  
DARWIN

## **TWO YEARS IN, THE DARWIN CITY DEAL CONTINUES TO BUILD ON THE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ALREADY DELIVERED. DESPITE THE DISRUPTION WROUGHT BY COVID-19, THE CITY DEAL HAS SEEN THE CREATION OF 448 JOBS IN DARWIN, A NUMBER THAT'S SET TO GROW WITH THE COMMENCEMENT OF MAJOR CITY DEAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE COMING YEAR.**

The Darwin City Deal's centrepiece, the construction of the Education and Community Precinct hit a major milestone with excavation work commencing in October 2020. This was made possible by the Australian Government fast-tracking \$74.8 million of its total contribution to see construction happen sooner, and the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility approving a loan of \$151.5 million for Charles Darwin University.

The Precinct is expected to create 730 jobs and be completed by 2024. The Precinct will better engage the local community and improve Darwin's international competitiveness in the education sector. It will boost the demand for cafés, restaurants and bars as well as other retail opportunities in the city's centre. The City Deal partners remain committed to see this important project become a reality.

The revitalisation of Civic and State Square is also transforming Darwin's CBD. Landscaping on top of the State Square underground carpark has been completed, enabling the nearby heat attracting surface level carparks to be converted into a cool, green and attractive public space in 2021. The old Chan Building demolition will be completed in early 2021 and is also making way for more open and green space in the heart of the CBD. In addition, design work is well underway following the appointment of a design consultant for the new art gallery in July, with construction expected to commence in 2021.

Projects to cool and green the city are making a real difference to Darwin's liveability. The City of Darwin's streetscape beautification has created a cooler, greener, more colourful and user friendly streetscape for Darwin. All nine streetscape beautification projects were completed over the first half of 2020 and involved the planting of over 175 trees, 57,000 plants and over 4,250m<sup>2</sup> of irrigated turf.

The City Deal is also transforming Darwin through the revitalisation of public spaces, improving the vibrancy, connectivity and walkability of the city. This includes the Austin Lane development project which has created a vibrant space for cafés and street culture to thrive with many local artists making their mark as part of the project.

City Deal Partners continue to be committed to working together to deliver on projects that will provide lasting benefits for the city of Darwin and provide a springboard for exciting prospects ahead.

**The Hon Paul Fletcher MP**  
Minister for Communications,  
Urban Infrastructure,  
Cities and the Arts

**The Hon Michael Gunner MLA**  
Chief Minister of the  
Northern Territory

**The Hon Kon Vatskalis JP**  
The Right Worshipful  
The Lord Mayor of Darwin

### **Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the greater Darwin region, the Larrakia people, and recognise their culture, history and connection to this land and water.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



## Key achievements

- Construction commenced on the Education and Community Precinct, with the start of on-site excavation. The concept and schematic designs were also completed and the land has been transferred from the City of Darwin to Charles Darwin University.
- The Streetscape Beautification Program has continued its roll-out across Darwin, making the city greener, more shaded, and more liveable.
- Stage 1 of the Civic and State Square Masterplan continued, with the demolition of the old Chan Building commenced and the concept design for the Liberty Square project completed.
- The functional design brief for the State Square art gallery has been completed, and the contract for the design of the art gallery awarded and well underway.
- The Darwin Living Lab released reports mapping the city's surface temperatures and hotspots, and detailing the latest global science on heat mitigation. Both reports helped to inform the heat mitigation plans developed by the NT Government and the City of Darwin.
- The Activate Darwin program promoted a wide range of activation events and promotional activities, such as the second annual International Laksa Festival as well as two Street Art Festivals.
- The Larrakia Hosts delivered a range of tourism and visitor services, and participated in 400 engagements with business and organisations and over 5000 face to face community engagements.



## Over the next 12 months

### Key activities over the next 12 months include:

- Main construction work on the Education and Community Precinct will commence.
- Redevelopment of Civic and State Square will continue, with landscaping work on the site of the demolished Chan Building. All stage 1 projects are expected to be complete by late 2021.
- Completion of the design for the new State Square art gallery, which will be submitted for development consent in early 2021, while award of the tender for the construction of the art gallery, appointment of curators and commencement of content development for exhibitions will also be completed in 2021. The gallery will open in 2023.
- The Heat Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy will be finalised and released in early 2021. An action plan to deliver heat mitigation initiatives in accordance with the Strategy will be developed in partnership with the Darwin Living Lab.
- The NT Government will work with the Larrakia Development Corporation to finalise the land transfer for identified parcels of land at Stokes Hill for the Larrakia Cultural Centre development in early 2021.
- The Larrakia Development Corporation will announce the successful tenderer for the design of the Larrakia Cultural Centre.
- Early works for the Ship Lift will commence during 2021.
- The Darwin Living Lab will undertake an ongoing virtual symposium/webinar series, one for each quarter during 2021, to engage and share knowledge across the city with practitioners and interested communities.
- The NT Government in partnership with the private sector is upgrading the Northern Territory's fibre-optic cable network, connecting Darwin and Port Headland to existing internet links to Singapore via Indonesia.

# Develop an Education and Community Precinct

A new Education and Community Precinct (the Precinct) will be delivered to attract students and businesses to the city centre, helping to transform and revitalise Darwin's CBD.

## Progress

While significant progress was made during the year, the highlight was the official commencement of excavation work. The turning of the first sod took place at the Precinct in October. Site excavation is being undertaken by local Darwin company, DTA Contractors, and is due for completion in the first half of 2021 depending on weather conditions.

2020 also saw other key steps progress, such as:

- the completion of the scheme design, with sign off and verification completed late 2020.
- the awarding of three significant contracts, including the Early Contractor Involvement (ICI) for the first phase of construction and Quantity Surveyor (QS) roles, as well as a Principal Design Consultant (PDC), to progress the Precinct design and construction documentation phases for the project.

- the execution of both the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) loan facility agreement and the capital funding agreement for the Precinct.

## Key Milestones Achieved

**Q2 2020:** Concept design completed.

**Q3 2020:** Transfer of land ownership from the City of Darwin to Charles Darwin University completed.

**Q3 2020:** Schematic Design completed for the Precinct.

**Q4 2020:** Approval of Precinct Development Application.

**Q4 2020:** Precinct earthworks underway.

**Q4 2020:** Appointment of the ECI, QS and PDC.

## Key Next Steps

2021: Design for the Precinct completed.

Q2 2021: Excavation works completed for the Precinct.

Q3 2021: Proposed commencement of main construction works.



# Promote Darwin as a great place to live, study and visit

## Civic and State Square Masterplan

The redevelopment of Civic and State Square as the city's pre-eminent outdoor event space will be a catalyst for broader city centre revitalisation, encourage connectivity through city streets and promote use of the city's outdoor spaces. Many of the Civic and State Square Masterplan projects are undertaken in partnership with the City of Darwin who are jointly landowners.

### Progress

The State Square Underground Carpark opened to the public in January 2020 with stage one landscaping above the carpark completed in late 2020. The concept design for Liberty Square, to provide revised Supreme Court vehicle and pedestrian access, was completed in late 2020. The Activate Darwin Advisory Board progressed a number of proposals which focused on improved safety and contributed to the vibrancy of Darwin.

The demolition of the old Chan Building along with landscaping work will be completed in early 2021. The project achieved an Indigenous employment level of 12.49%.

The Civic and State Square Masterplan concepts have been finalised.

Around 300 existing heat-generating surface car park spaces will be decommissioned to allow for the next stage of the Civic and State Square Masterplan, which will unlock further cool and green spaces for the community.

### Key Milestones Achieved

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**Q1 2020:** Underground carpark opened to the public.

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**Q4 2020:** Liberty Square concept design completed.

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**Q4 2020:** Underground carpark rooftop landscaping completed.

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**Q4 2020:** Chan Building demolition near completion.

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**Q4 2020:** Design for the redeveloped parliamentary carpark completed.

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### Key Next Steps

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**Q1 2021:** Demolition of the Chan Building site complete.

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**Q1 2021:** Release of the tender for the detailed design of Liberty Square, with design to be completed in late 2021.

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**Q2 2021:** The State Square art gallery design to be lodged with the Development Consent Authority. It is expected the Art gallery will open in 2023.

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**Q3 2021:** Landscaping for the redevelopment of parliamentary carpark to commence and expected to be completed late 2021.

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**Q4 2021:** Work will continue on the detailed design development of the Civic and State Square Masterplan and the delivery of the remaining Stage 1 projects. With the exception of the State Square art gallery, all remaining projects are expected to be completed by Q4 2021.

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## Underground Carpark

The construction of the State Square Underground Carpark allows for the decommissioning of heat-conducting asphalt car spaces in 2021 which will be replaced with green and cooler landscaping and surfaces. The multi-level carpark also serves as a cyclone shelter.

### Progress

The multi-level carpark opened to the public on 31 January 2020. The carpark offers 450 parking spaces including six electric vehicle charging stations. Construction saw an average of 7.78% Indigenous employment.

The surface level of the carpark has been landscaped as part of Stage 1 of the Civic and State Square Masterplan. The landscaping was completed in late 2020, and is providing the community with a cooler and greener experience.

### Key Milestones Achieved

**Q1 2020:** Carpark was opened to the public and is currently operated by the City of Darwin.

**Q4 2020:** Above carpark landscaping was completed in line with the Civic and State Square Masterplan.

### Key Next Steps

**Q1 2021:** The remaining infrastructure components of the carpark rooftop landscaping, such as feature light poles, to be installed.

## State Square art gallery

A new art gallery in Darwin's city centre will improve the cultural amenity of the city for tourists and residents alike and provide a space for the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory to showcase art from the Northern Territory's extensive collection, as well as touring art exhibitions.

### Progress

The functional design brief for the art gallery was completed in Q2 2020 and a contract was awarded in July 2020 for the gallery's design.



The tender for the construction of the art gallery is expected to be released in early 2021.

The Museum and art gallery of the Northern Territory has been closely involved in the design process and continues to provide operational advice to inform the design development of the art gallery.

### Key Milestones Achieved

**Q2 2020:** Functional design brief and concept design options for the art gallery completed.

**Q3 2020:** Awarded the design contract for the art gallery.

## Key Next Steps

**Q1 2021:** Release of tender for construction of the art gallery.

**Q1 2021:** Appointment of curators and commencement of content development for the art gallery's exhibitions.

**Q2 2021:** Awarding of tender for the construction of the gallery.

**Q4 2021:** Commencement of construction early works on site.

**Q4 2021:** Completion of the art gallery design.

## City activation and promotion

The City Activation and Promotion entity, 'Activate Darwin' has been established by the Northern Territory Government, in partnership with the private sector, to deliver a strategic management approach to city revitalisation. This includes events, festivals, place-making and activities in Darwin for residents, businesses and visitors to the city. Activate Darwin has an independent advisory board, which is progressing a number of proposals for red tape and regulation reform, and for transforming public spaces with a focus on safety and security, public realm improvement and vibrancy.

### Progress

Activate Darwin continued to provide support and assistance to city based businesses throughout the period of restricted trade and undertook a supporting role in the 'buy local' media campaign.

There has been a wide range of activation, events and promotional activities over 2020, including two Darwin Street Art Festivals and multiple monthly Laneway Series events. Activate Darwin also developed and delivered a new annual festival in November 2019, the Darwin International Laksa Festival. This was a month-long event that attracted over 5,000 people to the grand finale event.

Some other highlights include:

- Digital marketing campaigns to highlight the different retail and hospitality areas across the city.

- Development of the Activate Darwin website enabling businesses to list and promote their enterprises.
- Partnerships with Hospitality NT and the Darwin City and Waterfront Retailers' Association to deliver a range of events and activations that drove increased footfall to city businesses.
- Delivery of the innovative 'Transforming Public Spaces' challenge, with more than 90 ideas submitted by the public to improve public spaces across the city. Following a public vote which attracted over 11,000 votes, the top 10 projects received grant funding to deliver their ideas. Projects funded ranged from light projections to green walls, from swim up movies to laneway transformation.

## Key Milestones Achieved

**Q4 2019:** Delivery of trial private security service in the city to manage anti-social behaviour issues, in conjunction with the City of Darwin.

**Q3 2020:** The Advisory Board commissioned a Precinct Management Review.

**Q4 2020:** The 2nd Darwin International Laksa Festival was held.

**2020:** A number of events held including Darwin Street Art Festivals, regular laneway events along with a series of school holiday and lunchtime activity programs.

**Q4 2020:** Delivered the Inaugural Christmas in the City Guide and marketing campaign.

## Key Next Steps

**Q1 2021:** Opening applications for grant funding for community groups and other organisations to deliver events and activations in the city.

## Laneways and small streets

The NT Government, in partnership with the City of Darwin, is upgrading and activating laneways to bring vibrancy and improved connectivity between streets, starting with an initial project in Austin Lane that will help inform a Laneways and Small Streets Activation Strategy to encourage connectivity and promote the use of the city's outdoor spaces.

## Progress

First stage works in Austin Lane, between Bennett and Knuckey streets, were completed in Q1 2020. This work included upgrades to essential services and installation of sheltered walkways across the two key arcade connections between Smith Street Mall and Cavenagh Street.

Austin Lane Stage 2 works commenced and will be completed in early 2021.

## Key Milestones Achieved

**Q1 2020:** Austin Lane stage 1 work completed.

**Q2 2020:** Austin Lane Stage 2 works commenced and will support activities and events including street parties and festivals.

## Key Next Steps

**Q1 2021:** Stage 2 work in Austin Lane and Spain Place completed.

**Q3 2021:** Handover of completed work to the City of Darwin.

# Improve Darwin's liveability by cooling the city

## Darwin Living Lab

The CSIRO-led Darwin Living Lab has brought together researchers, government, industry and the community to co-create solutions to local urban challenges and maximise the opportunities for innovation and learning, growing tropical city





knowledge and expertise. The Lab aims to improve liveability, sustainability and resilience in the face of Darwin's hot climate.

## Progress

The Lab has delivered on two key foundation pieces of research to inform the development of heat mitigation work in Darwin. These included:

- Heat mapping of the city which identified key 'hotspots' around Darwin, and
- Heat Mitigation Review that identified key strategies from around the world to reduce the impact of a hot climate, and considered how they might be applied in Darwin.

The 'Your Tropical City' website beta version was completed in 2020, with the final version scheduled for going live in Q1 2021. The website will provide a resource hub for government, business and community to showcase tropical design knowledge and resources to inform Darwin Liveability.

Due to COVID-19, a virtual webinar series has been developed called 'Science Snapshots from the Darwin Living Lab'. The webinars seek to engage and share knowledge across the city with practitioners and interested community members. The first of the webinars, 'How can smart sensor data lead to a more liveable Darwin', was presented online in late November 2020. The webinar series will continue throughout 2021 with a webinar planned for each quarter.

## Key Milestones Achieved

**Q1 2020:** Report on the Science Symposium was released.

**Q3 2020:** A local public call for expressions of interests for collaboration projects was completed. 13 EOIs were received, identifying five new potential collaborators to work on the Darwin Living Labs forward program of projects.

**Q4 2020:** The public release of research outputs including:

- Heat Mapping Research Report – identifying some of Darwin's hot spots and cool spots, and areas of greatest vulnerability

- Heat Mitigation Global Review Research Report – identifying key strategies from around the world which are most likely to be suitable for the Darwin tropical climate.

**Q4 2020:** First webinar series entitled 'How can smart sensor data lead to a more liveable Darwin?' was released.

**Q4 2020:** The completion of 'Tracking Darwin': the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy.

**Q4 2020:** All 2020/21 Darwin Living Lab program of projects commenced.

## Key Next Steps

**Q1 2021:** 'Your Tropical City' beta version website will be launched as an interactive platform for sharing innovative approaches for community, government and business for cooling, greening and tropical living.

**Q1 2021:** Virtual symposium/webinar series – a minimum of four events during 2021 to engage and share knowledge across the city with practitioners and interested community members.

**Q2 2021:** Completion of a report on community value and use of green spaces in Darwin.

**Q2 2021:** A Digital Twin-compatible web-based tool will be created to generate automated reports on interactions between land surface temperatures, tree canopy and socio-economic vulnerability.

**Q3 2021:** A Larrakia co-led identification of Darwin biodiversity knowledge and values related to heat mitigation and liveability, delivered in a format co-designed with Larrakia knowledge holders.

**Q4 2021:** Development of reliable environmental data streams from Darwin's Internet of Things sensor network for use in smart applications, planning and policy.



## Heat mitigation trials

City Deal partners are trialling a series of heat mitigation initiatives that will help reduce surface and localised temperatures and rejuvenate Darwin's CBD.

### Progress

Heat mitigation trials, including the Cavenagh Street shade structure, street plantings and reflective pavement surfaces, continued as part of the broader NT Government initiative to revitalise the Darwin CBD through cooling and greening projects.

Monitoring and evaluation by the University of NSW will inform future cooling and greening initiatives. The CSIRO's Darwin Living Lab will also monitor and evaluate outcomes for the 10 year duration of the City Deal.

The NT Government collaborated with CSIRO and the City of Darwin on developing a draft Heat Mitigation Strategy which has evolved based on comments from key partners and now covers adaptation to heat as well as mitigation. While full public consultation was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions, partners including CSIRO and the City of Darwin continue to collaborate to advance the development of the final strategy.

## Key Milestones Achieved

**Q1-2 2020:** Draft Heat Mitigation Strategy shared with key partners and comments received.

**Q1-2 2020:** Draft supporting reports received from the Darwin Living Lab.

**Q3 2020:** Draft Heat Mitigation Strategy revised based on new input.

**Q4 2020:** Revised draft Heat Mitigation and Adaption Strategy, re-circulated to key partners.

## Key Next Steps

**Q1-2 2021:** Release the Heat Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy.

**Q2-3 2021:** Identify and develop action plans to best deliver priority actions.

**Q3-4 2021:** Work with the City Deal partners, business and community to implement the Strategy.

# Advance Darwin's digital capability

## Digital Economy

The NT Government is working with telecommunication providers to pursue high speed and secure connections to Asia and beyond, developing Darwin as a regional digital hub.

### Progress

Building on its \$7.9 million commitment to Terabit Territory (upgrading the existing high speed terrestrial backbone across the Territory extending to Australia's major cities), the NT Government has a number of digital projects in the pipeline, which will result in Greater Darwin taking a larger role in the global technology environment. Together, these projects will deliver significant economic and social benefits to the Top End.

The planned fibre links will support the Northern Territory's proposed commercial Data Centre Park in Darwin.

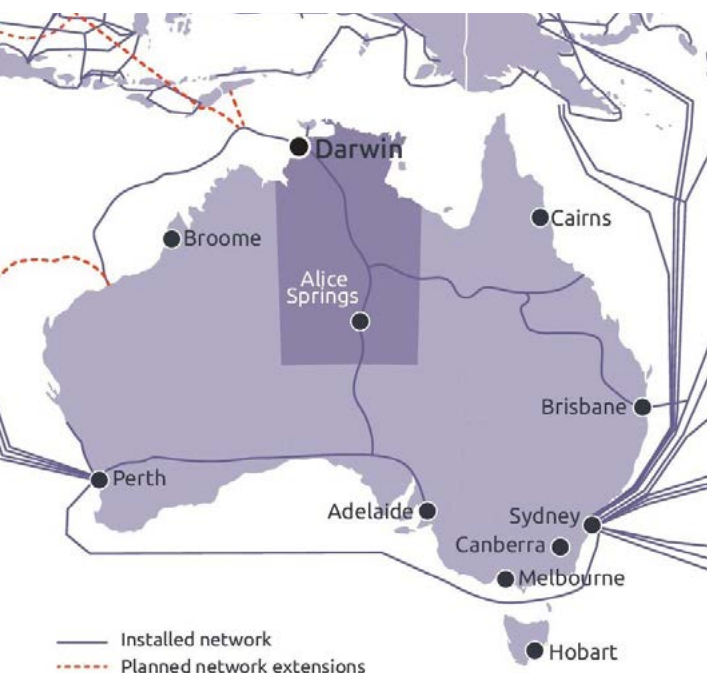
### Key Milestones Achieved

**2020:** Multiple planned fibre optic links are at various stages of development, and will connect Darwin to Singapore providing contemporary high speed, low latency links through South East Asia. An additional fibre-optic link is being planned that will span the Indo-Pacific regions, providing the first sub-sea route to directly connect Darwin, Singapore and the United States. This link will provide capability to service several markets in South East Asia, the Pacific and the United States.

### Key Next Steps

**Q3 2021:** Construction of one of the international cables to begin with a 12 month build-completion in Q2 2023.

**Q3 2021:** Completion of Terabit Territory by July 2021 which will provide high speed capacity data transmission to southern cities at a cheaper rate for local businesses.



## Switching on Darwin

The 'Switching on Darwin' project, which was completed in 2019, implemented city-wide smart infrastructure to collect data, with smart services integrated through an open Internet of Things Platform. These include smart LED lights, HD CCTVs and microclimate monitoring systems.



# Planning, development and harbour foreshore connectivity

## Re-development of Stokes Hill

In line with the Australian Government's commitment to meet the economic, social and development objectives of the Darwin City Deal, the Department of Defence (Defence) has continued to work with the NT Government to unlock the potential of the former Naval Fuel Installation at Stokes Hill, while preserving its significance for the Larrakia people.

### Progress

During 2020, Defence worked collaboratively with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and the Traditional Custodians to conduct due diligence on the site. This has involved fieldwork which included environmental investigations and testing of soil at the site. It is expected that this process will be completed by late 2021.

Subject to finalising the due diligence on the site, the NT Government will develop a masterplan for the site, in consultation with Defence, City Deal partners and the Larrakia people. The masterplan will take into account the cultural significance of the site to the Larrakia people, historic heritage values, environmental management and opportunities to further activate the foreshore.

This will coincide with Defence's development of a divestment strategy in accordance with the Commonwealth Property Disposal Policy and will also be aligned with the objectives of the City Deal and the site's masterplan.

### Key Milestones Achieved

**Q3 2020:** Obtained Traditional Custodian consent to proceed with due diligence activities on the site.

**Q3 2020:** Completed on site fieldwork and commencement of environmental investigations, sampling works and testing at the site.

**Q4 2020:** Completed environmental investigation Dry Season sampling works.

### Key Next Steps

**Q2 2021:** Detailed Site Investigation Report finalised.

**Q3 2021:** Completion of environmental, Indigenous and historic heritage due diligence investigations.

**Q4 2021:** Development of a divestment strategy in accordance with the Commonwealth Property Disposal Policy.

**Q4 2021:** NT Government to review due diligence reports and outcomes of detailed site investigation.

## Future use of Frances Bay

Over time, this commitment will help to ensure that the harbour foreshore is connected from the city centre to Stokes Hill and around to Frances Bay, supported by strategic planning.

### Progress

In November 2019, the NT Planning Scheme was amended to incorporate the Central Darwin Area Plan within its policy framework.

The NT Government is committed to building the largest ship lift in Northern Australia at East Arm, which will free up industrial land at Frances Bay. The Darwin Ship Lift Facility will enable the relocation of the ship building, marine repairs and maintenance industries.

The Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) has announced a loan of \$300 million towards the project to supplement the \$100 million from the NT Government.

## Key Milestones Achieved

**Q4 2019:** In November 2019, the NT Planning Scheme was amended to incorporate the Central Darwin Area Plan within its policy framework.

**Q4 2019:** The Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund (NAIF) announced a loan of \$300 million for the Ship Lift Facility at East Arm.

**Q4 2019:** Engagement of NTG Owner's Engineers to assist with conceptual design development.

**Q2 2020:** Engagement of NTG Environmental Consultant to assist with environmental and development approvals.

**Q3 2020:** Procurement process commenced for the design and construction of the Ship Lift Facility.

## Key Next Steps

**Q3 2021:** Environmental approvals expected for the Ship Lift Project.

**Q4 2021:** Early work construction of the Ship Lift commences.

**Q3 2021:** Continued recognition of Frances Bay's significant location and identify opportunities for redevelopment to create a mixed use precinct.

**2024:** Ship lift facility completed and operational.

## Integrated city-wide planning

City Deal partners will undertake coordinated planning to support the development of precincts and spaces under the City Deal, and to ensure pedestrian and transport connectivity between these areas.

### Progress

The completed Central Darwin Area Plan encompasses the area from Cullen Bay to the Darwin Waterfront, and as far north as the largely undeveloped, former tank farm area located between the old rail corridor and Stuart Park.

The Area Plan recognises the importance of historic and culturally significant places

and suggests approaches to preserve and revitalise these places so that they continue to be enjoyed by the Darwin community.

The Northern Territory Planning Commission developed the Area Plan in consultation with the Darwin community. The City of Darwin has commenced the review of the Darwin City Masterplan to align it with the Area Plan.

## Key Milestones Achieved

**Q4 2019:** Central Darwin Area Plan inclusion within the NT Planning scheme.

## Key Next Steps

**Q2 2021:** National Airport Advisory group to complete a review of the implementation of the National Airports Safeguarding Framework.

**Q3 2021:** Completion of the review and update of the existing Darwin City Centre Masterplan to also consider the recently adopted Central Darwin Area Plan.

**2021:** The NT Government will be undertaking the Darwin Regional Transport Model. At the same time, the City of Darwin will undertake a movement study for the city.

## Council-led projects

The City of Darwin remains committed to deliver a range of projects and initiatives that will contribute to the revitalisation of Darwin.

The City of Darwin completed its planned streetscape beautification projects in 2020 which involved the planting of over 175 trees, 57,000 plants and over 4,250m<sup>2</sup> of irrigated turf.

### Progress

The next round of projects has been selected and is the scoping stage. Stage two of the Smith Street project continued throughout late 2020. The streetscape beautification projects have created a cooler, greener, more colourful and user friendly streetscape for Darwin.

### Key Milestones Achieved

#### **2020:** Streetscape Beautification Program:

- All selected and approved Streetscape Beautification projects for 2019/20 were completed.
- Stage two of the greening of Smith Street project commenced.

### Key Next Steps

**Q2 2021:** All 2020/21 Streetscape Beautification projects completed by June 2021

**Q2 2021:** Process finalised to identify 2021/22 projects

**Q3 2021:** Completion of designs for approved 2021/22 Streetscape Beautification projects

**Q4 2021:** Commencement of delivery of approved 2021/22 Streetscape Beautification projects.

## Connecting to Larrakia Culture

### Larrakia Hosts Program

The NT Government continues to work with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation to support the Larrakia Hosts Program that employs Larrakia and other Aboriginal people to boost tourism and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people while preserving and promoting Larrakia culture.

#### Progress

The Program proved integral to facilitating support for people to return back to their communities at the height of COVID-19 between March to May 2020 and developing COVID-19 communication tools for people visiting Darwin between June to September 2020.

An important component of the Hosts Program is the ability to have Larrakia members out in the public to engage on a personal level. The Larrakia Host Patrollers are out in the public on most days. They attend markets, public events, schools, shopping centres and open public areas

throughout Darwin, Palmerston and the rural suburbs. They deter anti-social behaviour, gather information on visitors' interests when visiting Darwin, and provide referrals for individuals to seek health checks, return to their home community and connect with service providers.

The Larrakia Hosts have established an office in the city centre, allowing the public to experience Larrakia culture. This also allows business and industry representatives who wish to engage Larrakia artists and enterprises to have discussions, and Larrakia artists to showcase their culture, art and people.

The City of Darwin has adopted the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporations' Cultural Protocols to showcase and celebrate the Larrakia culture and support improved economic outcomes for Larrakia people. The Larrakia Nation Cultural Protocols for stakeholders were published in September 2020.



## Key Milestones Achieved

### 2020:

- Conducted over 5000 face-to-face community engagements with visitors to Darwin.
- Conducted over 400 engagements with local businesses and organisations.
- Visited 14 schools and over 2500 students.
- Attended 11 major Aboriginal, tourism and sporting events.

**Q3 2020:** AFL Indigenous Doug Nichols Round successfully staged in Darwin and hosted by Larrakia Host Program.

**Q4 2020:** Conducted surveys of visitors to Darwin to better understand service delivery needs and to promote the Larrakia Cultural Protocols.

**2020:** The city of Darwin relaunched the Larrakia Visitor protocols, based around a set of seven cultural protocols, to encourage members of the public to understand and comply with the cultural expectations of the Larrakia people while on Larrakia land.

## Key Next Steps

**Q1 2021:** Launch of refreshed Larrakia Cultural Protocols.

**Q3 2021:** Participate in the development of 'Larrakia content' for projects that will incorporate innovative communication mediums.

**Q3 2021:** Develop a plan based on the new normal (COVID-19) for host activities including 2021/22 Tourism opportunities.

**Q3 2021:** Evaluation of the Larrakia Hosts Program to commence.

**Q4 2021:** Larrakia Hosts to conduct remote community visits to promote the services and Larrakia Cultural Protocols.

**Q4 2021:** The City of Darwin will incorporate the Larrakia Nation Cultural protocols in signage at entry points to the city and at key points where people gather in the city.



# Support Indigenous Economic Development

The City Deal partners continue to work with Larrakia entities to support their economic development aspirations.

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) has continued to work with the Larrakia Development Corporation (LDC) and it was agreed that the \$2 million funding from the Indigenous Advancement Strategy would be used by the LDC to progress the development of the Larrakia Cultural Centre.

## Larrakia Cultural Centre

City Deal partners continue to provide support to LD to facilitate a Larrakia Cultural Centre where Larrakia people can meet, share knowledge and promote their rich culture to residents and visitors.

The Larrakia Cultural Centre is a long-held economic and cultural aspiration of the Larrakia people. The Larrakia Cultural Centre will showcase the heritage and history of Larrakia and their connection to other Aboriginal groups, preserve and celebrate significant cultural and spiritual links to the adjacent *Chinute Chinute* (Stokes Hill) sacred site, and act as a unique tourism drawcard as well as create other tourism and employment opportunities.

### Progress

The LDC and the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) signed a funding agreement in June 2020 for the design and planning of the Larrakia Cultural Centre.

In October 2020, the LDC announced that five architectural and engineering teams had progressed to the Request for Tender stage after an Expression of Interest (EOI) process.

A Project Manager was appointed by the LDC to oversee the Larrakia Cultural Centre's construction.

The administrative process for the transfer of parcels of harbour frontage land at Stokes Hill to the LDC to construct the Larrakia Cultural Centre is being facilitated by the NT Government. Any transfer of land that takes place requires approval under the Crown Lands Act 1992 (NT).

### Key Milestones Achieved

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**Q3 2020:** Signing of the funding agreement between the LDC and the NIAA for the design and planning of the Larrakia Cultural Centre.

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**Q4 2020:** Announcement of successful applicants to progress to the Request for Tender stage for detailed design of the Larrakia Cultural Centre.

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### Key Next Steps

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**Q1 2021:** The NT Government and LDC to finalise agreement for identified parcels of land at Stokes Hill for the Larrakia Cultural Centre development.

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**Q1 2021:** LDC to announce the successful tender for the design of the Larrakia Cultural Centre.

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# Supporting local workforce

## Indigenous Employment and Supplier Use Targets

The City Deal Partners will increase the share of jobs held by Indigenous Australians on projects funded under the Darwin City Deal.

### Progress

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Supply Nation and the Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network (NTIBN) in 2019 remains in place.

Performance on meeting the Indigenous employment target of 8.8% (aligned to the Indigenous working-age population of Greater Darwin) and a 3% supplier-use target will be reported publicly on a project-by-project basis.

### Key Milestones Achieved

**2020:** Many of the City Deal projects completed have reached the agreed targets, and in some cases have surpassed them.

### Key Next Steps

**2021:** The NIAA and other partner agencies continue to work together to ensure employment and supplier use targets that benefit Indigenous Territorians.

**2021:** NT Indigenous Business Network to host the World Indigenous Business Forum in 2021 (COVID-19 restrictions permitting).

## Trial Skills Recognition Hub

The NT Government has established a trial Skills Recognition Hub (in partnership with Charles Darwin University), which offers assistance with career and training plans, recognition of prior learning referrals, guidance and assistance with skills assessment applications, overseas qualifications assessments and referral of international students to relevant contacts and support services.



### Progress

The Skills Recognition Hub, which opened in June 2019 and is located in the Smith Street Mall, was established for an initial two year trial period, which has been extended to 31 December 2021.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the career guidance and training support services have been expanded. During this period, the StudyNT planned events at the Student Space (part of the Skills Recognition Hub) were delivered online from February to June 2020.



Since July 2020, small events with attendance limited to 15 people have proceeded including:

- International Student Wellbeing Grants information session.
- 2 x workshops – Get the BEST resume.

### Key Milestones Achieved

To date, services provided by the Skills Recognition Centre since opening in June 2019:

Service	Number
Recognition of Prior Learning	59
Overseas Qualification Assessment Enquiries	626
Overseas Qualification Assessments Completed	220
Course Referrals	149
VETASSESS Enquiries	95
Other Support Services	183

### Key Next Steps

**Q1 2021:** The Student Space will be re-established post COVID-19 as an information point and meeting area for international students. Planned activities include:

- Commencing students will be invited to visit the Student Space prior to the NT Government's official welcome at Parliament House on 24 February 2021.
- Legal information weekly drop-in sessions.
- Providing a space to meet and greet honorary consuls and students from international students' home countries.

**Q1 2022:** Completion of the final report on the Skills Recognition Centre, including a review of the Centre's activities, overall outcomes and viability to continue beyond the extended trial period.

## Designated Area Migration Agreement

The Australian and Northern Territory governments have entered into a second Designated Area Migration Agreement (NT DAMA II) for the Northern Territory.

### Progress

On 13 December 2018, the second Designated Migration Area Agreement for the Northern Territory (NT DAMA II) commenced.

In the first year of the NT DAMA II there was a significant increase in the usage of the program. MigrationNT received requests for endorsement from 117 NT employers seeking to nominate 518 positions. Of these, 77 businesses were endorsed by the NT Government for 323 positions. The level of interest in the program has increased by approximately 182% from the previous agreement.

The impact of COVID-19 has brought about the need for further negotiation settings by current labour market needs.

### Key Milestones Achieved

**Q2 2018-19:** NT DAMA II commenced.

**Q2 2019-20:** NT DAMA II first annual review and request for a Deed of Variation submitted.

### Key Next Steps

**Q3 2020-21:** NT DAMA II Deed of Variation executed.

## Relocate the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

The Australian Government has completed the relocation of 10 Australian Public Service positions in the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations from Canberra to Darwin.



## Career and Education Pathways

The NT Government has developed a public international education and training strategy, in consultation with relevant Australian Government agencies, to attract more international students to Darwin. The Strategy aims to grow the number of international students studying in the NT to 10,000 by 2025 by:

- Delivering a wider range of high quality, Australian qualifications.
- Bringing together students and employers for work experience opportunities.
- Maximising outcomes for students, NT communities, families and businesses.

The Strategy focuses on actions to showcase the NT as a study destination, enrich the NT international student experience, and strengthen and grow the NT international education and training industry.

### Progress

As at October 2020, 4,518 international students from over 70 countries were enrolled with international education and training providers based in the NT.

Based on 2019 figures it is expected that a 31 percent growth year on year for international students could be sustained from 2021.

### Key Milestones Achieved

**2020:** There was a 31 percent growth in international students enrolled with international education and training providers based in the NT.

### Key Next Steps

#### 2021:

- Mitigating any impacts from COVID 19
- Creating up-to-date marketing materials on the NT as a study destination.
- Increasing employment opportunities for international students – casual employment while studying and internships as part of a qualification and the right visa.
- Attracting virtual fairs and webinar presentations to promote the NT.
- Collaboration with the Australian Government in returning offshore international students to the NT.

The development of career and education pathways is identified as a critical element in the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission's Final Report. The NT Government is currently considering the Commission's report and how best to deliver on its recommendations.

# Monitoring and Measuring

MEASURING		PERFORMANCE
Outcome	Indicator	Data for second Annual Report
A revitalised and vibrant city centre that positions Darwin as an attractive place to live, work and study.	Improved population growth in Darwin measured through Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures – in line with the NT population growth rate target of 1.4% as at 16 November 2018.	In 2017-2018, the baseline population recorded for Greater Darwin was 148,564 In 2018-2019 the population for Greater Darwin was 147,255.
	Success of the Education and Community Precinct will be measured by performance against targets of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11,700 students enrolled at CDU's city campus by 2028</li> <li>• 5,000 international students enrolled by 2025</li> <li>• 100 additional jobs in the Darwin economy by 2023</li> <li>• 1000 students living in student accommodation in the city centre by 2028.</li> </ul>	Reporting on these indicators will commence once the Education and Community Precinct construction is complete. Baseline figures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,290 international students enrolled at all CDU campuses in 2018.</li> <li>• In 2018, there was no purpose-built student accommodation in the city.</li> </ul>
	Increased Indigenous employment opportunity during construction projects including Indigenous employment of 8.8% and a 3% supplier-use target.	<b>Underground Carpark:</b> 7.78 % Indigenous Employment <b>Demolition of the Chan Building:</b> 12.48% Indigenous Employment <b>Stage 1 and 2 Austin Lane Enhancement – Walkways:</b> 31.57 % Indigenous Employment achieved. <b>Activity Node:</b> 36% Indigenous Employment achieved.
	Improved community perceptions of amenity measured through the City Activation and Promotion Entity's ongoing community engagement.	Activate Darwin's development of a comprehensive survey for businesses, residents and visitors' perceptions of the city centre was delayed by COVID-19 restrictions. Results of the first survey will be available in 2021 and will be used as baseline data.
A cooler and greener city that is a best-practice example of tropical urban living.	Reduction in heat island effects in target locations as heat mitigation and greening measures are implemented, measured through the Darwin Living Lab's monitoring and evaluation framework.	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan released in Q4 2020. First iteration of Tracking Darwin evaluation and learning survey completed Q4 2020.
	Progress towards cooling and greening initiatives delivered under the Darwin Living Lab reported on through the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan at intervals over the 10-year life of the Lab.	Review of heat mitigation strategies most suited to Darwin's climate completed. Heat Mapping released which identifies the city's hot spots.
	The interest in, use and effectiveness of the Tropical Design Guide.	'Your Tropical City' website public release scheduled for Q1 2021.
	The effectiveness of the Heat Mitigation Strategy and the outcomes of any trials undertaken through/in partnership with the Darwin Living Lab.	Heat Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy expected to be released until Q2 2021.
	Outcomes of future Darwin Living Lab urban trials and innovations for progressing Darwin's vision.	2020/21 program of six nre projects commenced along with the completion of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy 'Tracking Darwin' in Q4 2020.
	Number and value of additional partnerships, projects, investments and/or collaborations launched or delivered through the Darwin Living Lab.	Three additional organisations brought on board to collaborate on data.



MEASURING		PERFORMANCE
Outcome	Indicator	Data for second Annual Report
A cooler and greener city that is a best-practice example of tropical urban living. (Continued)	Evidence of application of knowledge, products and services from the Darwin Living Lab to ASEAN region or other countries/cities/towns.	Unable to progress due to COVID-19. Webinar series developed and first one held to share DLL project learnings and foster interstate and international collaboration with an expanding network.
	Projects, investments and/ or collaborations launched or delivered through the Darwin Living Lab.	Specific initiatives in the Darwin Living Lab: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Tasmania</li> <li>• Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation</li> <li>• Charles Darwin University</li> <li>• Five projects developed for the 2020/21 year.</li> </ul>
A city that showcases and celebrates Larrakia culture and supports improved economic development outcomes for the Larrakia people.	Number of public engagements undertaken by Larrakia hosts	The 2020 figures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted over 5000 face-to-face community engagements with visitors to Darwin</li> <li>• Conducted over 400 engagements with local businesses</li> <li>• Visited 14 schools and over 2500 students</li> <li>• Attended 11 major Aboriginal, tourism and sporting events</li> <li>• AFL Indigenous Doug Nichols round successfully stage in Darwin and hosted by the Larrakia Host program.</li> </ul>
	Progress towards development of a Larrakia Cultural Centre.	The funding agreement between the LDC and the NIAA for the design and planning of Larrakia Cultural Centre was signed in 2020. Request for Tenders for the design of the Centre were also announced.  The NTG and LDC to agree identified parcels of land at Stokes Hill for the Larrakia Cultural Centre development. It is expected that agreement will be made on the transfer of land in early 2021.
Darwin is an attractive place for visitors.	Increase in international and domestic visitor nights, measured through Tourism Research Australia figures. <i>Darwin City Deal partners acknowledge the impact of the bushfires during the Summer of 2019/20 may have on Tourism visitation figures. The partners also acknowledge the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and Territory, State and Commonwealth travel restrictions.</i>	Data for the 12 months ending on 30 June 2020 for Greater Darwin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,261,000 international visitor nights</li> <li>• 3,213,000 domestic visitor nights (Tourism Australia).</li> </ul>
	Increased cultural attendance and participation, measured through ABS data on 'Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events'.	The latest data relates to the 12 months before interview in 2017-18, when the total attending at least one venue or event for Greater Darwin was 79.2% of the total population aged 15 years and over.

MEASURING		PERFORMANCE
Outcome	Indicator	Data for second Annual Report
Darwin as a preferred place to study	Increased international student enrolments in each sector: higher education, VET, schools and English language training	2,063 international students were enrolled at CDU's NT campuses in 2019, an increase of 15% on the previous year.
	Increase in brand awareness and recognition of the Territory as a study destination by onshore and offshore agents	In 2018, 2,600 international students from 66 countries chose to study in the NT. That figure rose to over 4,500 in 2020 from over 70 countries. The NT expects that 10,000 international students will be studying in the NT by 2025.
Darwin as a preferred place to study (Continued)	Increase in international student satisfaction, number of work placements; and connecting students and employers	International students are included in the CDU's annual Student Experience Survey. The result for student satisfaction at CDU's main NT campuses at Casuarina and Darwin Waterfront increased 1% to 73% in 2019.  The International Student Barometer is a bi-annual survey that was due to be undertaken in 2020, but did not go ahead due to COVID-19.
	Increase the number of international education providers located in the Northern Territory	In 2020, four new vocational education and training (VET) international education and training providers were established in the NT. This brings the number of providers to 16.  An existing VET provider has doubled in size to up to 1,500 students.

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