

Conveners Annual Report for 2021

PLan works for balanced planning and for better living environments for the people of the Northern Territory.

1. Introduction

This report covers our 2021 year but as the AGM is late it will include information from both 2021 and 2022. As ever there is so much going on and it is the community that is stepping up to keep our fair city and surrounds in good shape. Without you the Territory would be a very different place! What follows is in no particular order:

2. Current Issues

2.1 Reform Agenda

September 2022 – there is a round of changes on changes to the Planning Scheme relevant to the CBD

2.2 Flagstaff Park

Mid 2021 Margaret has succeeded in getting a permanent sign placed at Flagstaff Park.

2.3 Bagot Park Millner

Late 2021 – Friends of Bagot Park advise that City of Darwin have commenced a process to develop a master plan for Bagot Park.

Mid 2022 – the velodrome has been upgraded. Many trees are down. There is a master plan?

2.5 Dead Sites –Darwin Water Front

Late 2021 has seen some rehabilitation of the location.

2.6 Old Hospital Site

The playground is place.

2.7 State Square and surrounds

2021 a large lawn has replaced the Chan Building and plans are afoot for the Supreme Court carpark.

2.9 Kulaluk, the stockpile and piles of fresh rock

2021 – No changes here.

2.10 Lee Point and Casuarina Coastal Reserve

Friends of Lee point have raised community awareness to a high level on this divisive issue.

In 2021 FLP establish the involvement of the City of Darwin in the battle to preserve this unique location. Also the bulldozers begin.

2022 – The revival of Gouldian Finch numbers throws a spotlight and ECNT take the story to Minister Plibisek.

2.11 Shorebirds

2021 PPlan and BirdLife Top End join together for a CEDP grant which culminates in the placement of two statues and interpretive signs at Casuarina Coastal Reserve. Multiple community events were held and community-based resources have been generated.

2022 – they are flying back!

2.12 Darwin City Council and CBD

Esplanade Care Park - late 2021 and no move has been made to begin rehabilitating the site.

2022 – It seems that Council is not intending to green the car park in the near future (or at all?)

2.14 Little Mindil

Late 2021 and the proposed development for Little Mindil is placed. Community awareness begins to grow.

2022 – An incomprehensible development application has gone on hold to return in November 2022.

2.16 Blake Street

2021 August, over 100 units are approved for this location.

2022 Continuing issues here.

2.17 Wood Street

2022 – 70 plus one-bedroom units with 9 car parks. Rooming units.

2.18 Middle Arm Sustainable Precinct

To quote:

This survey will help us understand how people value and use Darwin Harbour and nearby areas. It is part of research for a Social Impact Assessment for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct that will inform regulatory approvals.

Petro chemical industry after processing maybe described as sustainable but placing that industry adjacent to a harbour may be less than optimal planning. The consultation closes late October.

Perhaps a simplified method of assessing future industrial use is not the one we want?

The MASDP referral is the first 'strategic assessment' in the Northern Territory.

2.19 Nakara Oval

This is one of the ovals that desperately needs an upgrade to facilities, but does that include signing away public ownership of this asset?

2 Where to from here?

PLan - the Planning Action Network Inc is a volunteer community group working for better urban and rural planning in the Northern Territory.

PLan collaborates with resident and community groups on matters including the built environment, heritage, cultural and environmental values of concern in the Northern Territory and Australia. PPlan's aim is to achieve, for the community, sustainability in terms of social, cultural, environmental and balanced long term economic impacts.

3.1 Public Facing

2022 - Audit House – planning bazaar

3.2 Web Site/Facebook/Newsletter

A lot of effort goes into getting a permanent record of planning decisions into the public domain. We run a web site, Facebook page, newsletter and regular emails, as well as maintaining our archives.

3.3 Committee

Our committee aims to meet on regular basis, and we welcome new blood. At our Raffle Plaza office are multiple projects that just require an owner to get them up and running. So, if you have some free time, please feel free to put your hand up.

3.4 Grants

2021 Due in November a Volunteer Grants funding opportunity was approved at 50%. Computer purchased.

2021 November PPlan applies for a Legal Society Grant – fail

2022 Volunteer Grants come up again

2022 Microsoft Advertising Grant is approved but not yet delivered by Microsoft

Regards

Nick Kirlew

Convener 11/09/2022

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