[redacted]
PO Box 9124
Alice Springs
NT 0870
Email: jacqueline.arnold77@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Regenerating the Alice Town Centre* plan. I was born, raised and reside in Mparntwe. I have seen many changes to the Town Centre. Most notably a shift from East-West to North-South orientation, a decrease in interesting shops, reduced tourist activity and failure to manage weeds, especially buffel grass and couch grass.

I am very glad this Council has recognised the degradation of the environment in the town centre and seems to appreciates the impact this has on the towns health and wellbeing. Thank you for actively engaging in regeneration.

Please find my comments on the plan below.

LT1 & LT2 Leichart Tce Open Space and Car Park

Given commitment from all levels of government and the dire consequences we face in relation to climate change, we must minimise the carbon footprint of this regeneration as much as possible – the massive concrete nooks / seating walls are not necessary - unless you want to pretend CCUS is going to save the day concrete must be avoided where possible (no matter who in power has links to those that supply the sand) https://www.csiro.au/en/news/all/articles/2023/november/ccus-roadmap.

Regenerating the river properly will result in regrowth of local, resilient, appropriate native vegetation, planting is only necessary when regeneration is rushed. Planting is more expensive and more likely to fail then proper regeneration.

A complementary whole of river / river catchment management plan is required to ensure this regeneration isn't just throwing money at a fragmented and therefore never going to work solution to weeds and regeneration.

Couch grass is a highly allergenic (https://www.allergynet.com.au/allergies-in-alice-springs-central-australia/) and invasive weed in, especially in riparian areas, the lawn should not be couch grass.

Has the impact of the planed lighting on the native animals and plants that inhabit the river been assessed? Is there monitoring and evaluation for these impacts planned?

TM1- Todd Mall Streetscape Renewal – Paving Concept Detail

The existing paving is fine, this is a waste of money and energy / resources / GHG emissions, also the paving pattern looks like an annoying tie dyed shirt.

TM2 – Todd Mall Art Walk

A lot of signs in Mparntwe are destroyed in a matter of years by sun – is there a guarantee the artistic overhead shading structure will last, if it is not sustainable it shouldn't be invested in.

The National Aboriginal Art Gallery is opposed by Traditional Owners and Custodians who are trusted to speak for Mparntwe. Do not shame yourself by engaging with it, it will fail (let's learn from the consistently empty building ne

TM3 - Todd Mall Shared Street

I've been in Mparntwe since 1977, seen the Mall open, closed, open, closed. Half open to traffic to Parson's Street, half clo
sed from there has settled it for the longest time – just leave it. A waste of money and also, no one wants to sit and eat breakfast with a car idling past or walk down the street worried a bike might come up behind you, I ride a bike, just ride along the river or another street, if you're going down the mall dismount.

Are rate / taxpayers funding the extension of outdoor seating for Sporties?

What local plants will be grown on the shade shelters?

TH2 Community Space Lot 73

Can you provide the business case for *another* café in the mall and another attempt at an ice-creamery?

Toolkit

Planting selection – must be all local, why bother with the risks (weeds, cultural and health impacts), expense (given amount of watering / life expectancy during hot dry periods) and boredom of local vs introduced plants! Imagine the butterflies and insects if we get this right – we won't just have them in the town centre in art, but in reality!

Regards,

[redacted]