Questionnaire - Alice Springs Town Council Elections 2025

Please simply answer 'yes' or 'no' to each question. We will follow up annually on the Council and councillors positions and related actions.

Issue	Action request	Position (Yes/No)
Inspirational leadership and commitment to a new community building based upon principles of inclusion, listening and agreed values We need councillors who are committed to an inclusive healthy community based upon agreed values. This will take work and time. Council has a role to foster healthy community dialogue. Councillors need to be champions of this and to be available for community meetings outside of formal council meeting settings.	Commit to a process of understanding/mapping Mparntwe's community networks and then fostering a new way(s) for our community to come together, build and agree to shared values, come up with ideas and talk directly with councillors. *(By answer 'yes' you agree to promote this idea, support the community network mapping exercise, supporting council to foster a new way for diverse communities to engage in an ongoing dialogue and being available to meet community members in an accessible place outside of council's formal meeting structures.)*	
Parks and open areas ASTC's recent *Parks Implementation Plan* sought to divest parks, especially those with open space and natural vegetation, without sufficient regard for sacred sites. Our open areas (e.g. lands vested with ASTC but not used for organised recreation, not irrigated, without built infrastructure including purpose built children's playgrounds etc) are unique and important to our town's character and way of life. They are an essential part of our climate change response and provide ecological refuges. They often contain sacred sites and support Arrernte cultural values. Currently open areas are in a poor state. Those being regenerated by dedicated volunteers (e.g. Maynard Park and Davidson Park) are an important showcase of intact natural landscapes and offer respite and recreation for people of all ages. These parks need council's support. Council maintenance of verges is insufficient and untenable given the rapid, frequent and unpredictable buffel grass growth cycles.	Commit to a new parks and open areas implementation plan which recognises, prioritises and plans for Mparmtwe's open areas, including sacred sites.	
	Involve Central Arrernte Owners and Custodians in a new parks and open area plan via an advisory group.	
	Within 2 years double the budget for open areas maintenance and improvement.	
	Support community regeneration activities in open areas and verges through signage, works activities and better training & systems for depot crews.	
	Use our rates for public spaces. Pass on the costs to ratepayers who do not maintain their verges and reward those who do. This will beautify Mparntwe and bring back plants and animals.	

Letters for the Environment Central Australia

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Strong on Weeds, especially Buffel Grass Buffel grass is an immense cost for ASTC. It diminishes amenity, harms ecosystems including loss of culturally important plants and animals, creates fire risks and other health risks (e.g. hayfever) and access problems for residents. It's been declared a weed and a weed management plan is being developed by the NT. We need councillors who will represent Alice Springs residents who are bearing the brunt of buffel seeds, fires and air pollution coming from the surrounding invaded country.	Prepare a buffel and fire weed management plan for Alice Springs, with community input.	
	Strongly represent Alice Springs residents' concerns by strongly advocating for good governance in the NT (via the weed management plan) and federally on buffel grass.	
	Support residents to eliminate buffel on their properties and verges.	
	Support and amplify community groups' efforts to clear buffel in public areas.	
Strong on water Alice Springs water supply is mined from the Mereenie aquifer. Water is vital for life and culture. Living in arid lands we need to be water efficient.	Ensure all ASTC parks, gardens and buildings and approvals incorporate water efficient landscaping and design principles.	
	Show leadership via a new initiative to promote and encourage water efficiency and desert friendly building and garden design.	
	Work with Arrernte Owners and Custodians to prioritise and care for water places within the municipality.	
Global heating and climate change adaption	Commit to low carbon/climate change adaption targets for activities in Liveability and Sustainability Plan 2030.	
Make Mparntwe a leader in renewables and equitable access to renewable energy. Mparntwe once prided itself on the Solar City Initiative but we are now languishing. For many people living in rental and low income situations, access to electricity is uncertain. In our climate of extreme heat and cold this is dangerous and unfair.	Commit to reviewing and agreeing upon an ambitious renewable energy target and lobby for NT and Federal government support to make this happen.	
	Make Alice Springs an Australian leader in energy equity by lobbying, introducing and supporting initiatives for those on low income or in rental situations to install and access renewable energy infrastructure.	

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Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River) and Charles Creek The rivers are a natural focus of Mparntwe. They are of profound environmental and cultural significance. Yet they are in a poor state - the sacred rivergums are on life support due to buffel invasion and repeated fires. The critical understory has almost disappeared. These areas' health is further challenged by inappropriate human activities like offroad bikes and vehicle use, rubbish dumping and uncontrolled fires. Council's efforts under the *Lhere Mparntwe Management Strategy* are inadequate and focus on slashing and repeated herbicide use rather than bringing the river areas back to health. Community rehabilitation efforts receive minimal support. Work to restore the rivers needs to be specifically budgeted.	Commit ASTC to investing enough to bring the rivers fully back to life as healthy, functioning cultural ecosystems, including buffel removal, tree protection, bringing back local plants and animals and supporting appropriate community use.	
Ilparpa Commonage Ilparpa Valley, including the claypans, is of great ecological and cultural significance but is not properly managed. Pressures include vehicle use, domestic animal activity, trees destroyed for firewood, camping, rubbish dumping and weeds. https://www.lettersfortheenvironment.com/topics/water/	Show leadership by bringing stakeholders to the table to plan for effective management and protection of ilparpa claypans.	
Humane treatment of animals There are many opportunities to better care for animals, including in how we celebrate. Rodeos are an example of unnecessary animal cruelty. They cause stress, fear, pain and injury to animals. The RSPCA specifically identifies rodeos as inhumane https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-are-the-animal-welfare-issues-with-rodeos/ (Also fireworks displays - refer to separate item below)	Include an eligibility criteria in all ASTC grants that ensures inhumane events and activities (as defined by the RSPCA) do not receive ASTC grants and are never approved.	
	Oppose and do not issue any approvals for rodeos within the municipality.	

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Residential Fireworks Every year on “Territory Day” the public is allowed to set off fireworks without a permit. It causes massive upheaval and damage to wildlife and domestic animals, increased house, grass/scrub and bushfires, pollution of the air, sea, soil and public areas. https://www.lettersfortheenvironment.com/residential-fireworks/ This is divisive and destructive. Many must stay home looking after pets and despair at the destruction, continuing well past Territory Day.	Update and enforce by-laws to establish and promote designated areas where fireworks can be set off on Territory Day, to reduce, contain and disturbances created, damages, pollution and risk.	
	Introduce by-laws minimising harm from sale and use of residential fireworks (e.g. sale of silent (low decibel) fireworks only, sale at designated ignition points only).	
	Investigate and implement at least two environmentally friendly alternatives for inclusive Territory Day celebration.	
South of the Gap	Show solidarity with and respect for Central Arrernte people by only supporting a National Aboriginal cultural centre located south of the Gap.	
Bike friendly Mparntwe	Develop and implement a strategy to encourage and make Mparntwe safe for bike and e-bike use.	
	Where suitable, require low embedded energy materials for bike path construction (i.e. not concrete).	
Your other ideas In 50 words or less list what other positive environmental actions you will initiate?		