

25 August 2025

Doug Fotheringham
Manager Planning and Place
City of Darwin
17 Harry Chan Ave
Darwin City NT 0800

Via email: Doug.Fotheringham@darwin.nt.gov.au

Dear Doug

Re: Place and Liveability Plan 2050 consultation

The Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the City of Darwin's Place and Liveability Plan 2050 (the Plan). We commend the City for its proactive and visionary approach to shaping a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban future.

GBCA supports the strategy of developing a long term, evolving roadmap that will deliver and resilient and sustainable community. The Plan's principles and strategic goals closely align with GBCA's mission to accelerate the transformation of the built environment towards sustainability, liveability, and equity.

GBCA's purpose is to lead the sustainable transformation of the built environment. We do this primarily through our core functions:

- We advocate policies and programs that support our vision and purpose.
- We educate industry, government practitioners and decision-makers, and promote green building programs, technologies, design practices and operations.
- We collaborate with our members and other stakeholders to achieve our mission and strategic objectives.
- We rate the sustainability of buildings, fitouts and communities through Australia's largest national, voluntary, holistic rating system – Green Star.

Green Star is Australia's most widely used sustainability rating system for the design, construction and performance of buildings – including social infrastructure – fitouts and communities. Green Star aims to transform the built environment by:

- reducing the impact of climate change
- enhancing our health and quality of life
- restoring and protecting our planet's biodiversity and ecosystems
- driving resilient outcomes for buildings, fitouts, and communities
- contributing to market transformation and a sustainable economy.

Green Star Communities is a comprehensive rating tool designed to guide the planning, design and delivery of master planned precincts and communities. It responds to the evolving needs of the built environment by promoting healthy, resilient and thriving places for people to live, work, learn and connect. While applying the Green Star Communities rating tool is not possible at a city level, there are a number of credits and benchmarks within the rating tool which may offer useful guidance on best practice as the City

considers how to set metrics and track progress against the strategic goals within the Plan. Some information about Green Star Communities is available on the [GBCA website](#) including case studies.

We provide the following comments regarding the Plan's five strategic goals:

Strengthen community participation and belonging

We support the emphasis on fostering inclusive and participatory communities. Meaningful engagement is essential to ensure that urban development reflects the needs and aspirations of all residents. We encourage the City to embed co-design principles and prioritise engagement with First Nations peoples, culturally diverse communities, and people of all ages to build a sense of ownership and belonging.

Improve community safety for all

Creating safe environments is fundamental to liveability. We recommend a holistic approach that integrates design-led safety strategies with social infrastructure and services that address the root causes of vulnerability. Safety should be inclusive, considering the needs of women, children, older adults, and people with disabilities.

Enhance character and sense of place

Darwin's unique cultural and environmental identity is a valuable asset. We support efforts to protect and celebrate local heritage, Indigenous culture, and natural landscapes. GBCA encourages the use of placemaking strategies that reflect community values and promote sustainability, including public art, green spaces, and climate-responsive design.

Revitalise public spaces

Public spaces are vital for social connection, health, and wellbeing. We commend the City's commitment to revitalisation and encourage the integration of green infrastructure, shade, water-sensitive urban design, and biodiversity into public realm upgrades. Activation strategies should support diverse uses across different times of day and seasons, contributing to a vibrant and inclusive city.

Reinforce infrastructure networks

Resilient infrastructure is key to supporting growth and climate adaptation. We support the Plan's focus on reinforcing networks and recommend prioritising integrated transport systems, renewable energy, circular economy principles, and digital connectivity. Infrastructure planning should align with net zero targets and support equitable access to essential services.

For more information about Green Star Communities, or to arrange further discussion please contact Shay Singh, Head of Policy, via email at shay.singh@gbca.org.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Rooney'.

Davina Rooney
Chief Executive
Green Building Council of Australia