PREPARING AN AREA PLAN FOR
KATHERINE EAST

Stage Two Consultation Report
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1. INTRODUCTION

On 17 May 2019, the Northern Territory Planning Commission launched Stage Two community consultation on the Katherine East Area Plan project, by releasing the draft Katherine East Area Plan along with a draft Land Capability and Needs Assessment.

Stage Two consultation concluded on 21 June 2019. Stage Two was an opportunity for the community to provide comment on the draft Area Plan, including planning principles, which were informed by background investigations and community feedback received during the first stage of consultation.

The draft Area Plan includes planning principles structured around six general themes that provide policy to guide future land use changes for Katherine East.

The draft Area Plan also included three Focus Areas, which provided specific planning principles to address localised opportunities. The Planning Commission is continuing the work of the Katherine Land Use Plan (KLUP) 2014 by developing a detailed planning framework for Katherine East.

Population predictions have informed the Katherine East Area Plan to accommodate future growth and be able to provide both residential and commercial land in Katherine East, while considering the commercial viability of the Katherine Town Centre.

1.1 The Study Area

Katherine, the fourth largest settlement in the Northern Territory, is located 312 km south of Darwin on the Katherine River. In 2016, the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated the residential population of the Katherine Local Government Area to be 9717.

Katherine is central to the regions’ tourism, agribusiness and defence sectors and sits at the junction of the Stuart and Victoria Highway linking north to south and to Western Australia. The study area is noted in Figure 1.

The Katherine East study area comprises approximately 833 hectares of land within the Municipality of Katherine. It is located about 2½ kilometres east of the Katherine town centre. Existing land uses in Katherine East are predominantly residential, community purpose and commercial north of the Stuart Highway and industrial south of the Highway.

Figure 1: Katherine East Study Area
1.2 The Draft Area Plan

The Draft Katherine East Area Plan will be a long-term plan that will shape the future development of the area. The Area Plan will provide continued support and strategic direction to land uses in Katherine East and guide development to support population growth on land that is not flood affected.

The objective of the Area Plan is to provide for residential land across two neighbourhood centres and accommodate future growth of the commercial and retail sectors in balance with the ongoing economic role of Katherine Terrace and the central business area. The Plan will assist with the continued development of Katherine East by providing guidance for decision making on future land use and development changes.

The Area Plan presents and summarises the findings that result from a broad range of investigations, including:

- the Katherine Land Use Plan 2014, technical studies and information compiled during stage one of the Katherine East Area Plan process;
- a Social Infrastructure Assessment Report;
- essential infrastructure including Trunk Services and headworks required to service the future growth;
- community facilities and services including health and, where necessary, identifying site options for additional facilities;
- current supply and likely future demand for residential land (urban) to accommodate anticipated population growth;
- existing transport routes, local traffic issues and options to address current issues and accommodate future growth.

1.3 The Consultation Process

The Northern Territory Planning Commission has adopted a three-stage engagement approach to the consultation process.

Stage One of the consultation process was an opportunity for information gathering and analysis, including community engagement. The community consultation for Stage One was undertaken for a 5 week period commencing on 9 November 2018.

Stage Two comprised the preparation and publication of a draft Area Plan, for initial community feedback.

Stage Three is the final stage of the project. The Planning Commission will finalise and recommend the draft Area Plan to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics for public exhibition as a proposed Planning Scheme Amendment.

This report summarises the second stage of the consultation process and the key themes that were identified by the community, government agencies, and other relevant stakeholder groups.

Figure 2: Engagement process for Katherine East Area Plan
2. CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The second stage of consultation on the draft Katherine East Area Plan was launched by the Planning Commission on Friday 17 May 2019 for a five week period.

The Planning Commission undertook nine consultation events during the second stage of consultation on the draft Area Plan. This stage was focused on seeking community feedback on the Area Plan, the planning principles and the focus areas. Stakeholders who were included are:

- residents/landowners;
- Katherine Town Council;
- Community Advisory Group;
- local member for Katherine;
- Project Advisory Group; and
- government agencies and departments.

The activities shown in Figure 3 were undertaken to engage with the community and stakeholders that were identified in the endorsed Community Engagement Strategy. Objectives of the Consultation included:

- provide clear, balanced and consistent consultation by delivering engagement opportunities and a variety of feedback mechanisms to encourage involvement from all stakeholders;
- build upon the work of the KLUP to acquire an understanding of issues and sensitivities, by seeking community and key stakeholder input, including collaborating with the Katherine Town Council; and
- promoting improved knowledge and encourage involvement in discussing the community aspirations for the Focus areas.

Figure 3: Consultation Methodology
2.1 Landowners / Residents

A flyer to inform the landowners and residents of Katherine East and surrounding areas that the draft Area Plan and associated information was available for comment was delivered at the commencement of the consultation. The flyer presented a summary of the draft planning principles, land use concepts and an overview of the focus areas for consideration in Katherine East.

The flyer was distributed via an Australia Post unaddressed mail-out reaching approximately 4120 mail boxes and street delivery clients. The flyer also directed people to the website so they could seek detailed information on the schedule of events.

Raising awareness and sharing information with the community was encouraged through the following activities:

- a media release followed up with a newspaper article in the Katherine Times;
- a dedicated page on the NT Planning Commission website, including times and dates of events;
- print advertising in the Katherine Times;
- social media sharing Facebook post (Katherine Town Council, Equalitea Café, Katherine What’s On); and
- information displays/stalls at Katherine Community Markets, Equalitea Café, Black Russian Caravan Cafe and Katherine Central Shopping Centre.

2.2 Community Advisory Group

At the beginning of the project, Katherine Town Council sought interest from community members to form a Community Advisory Group (CAG) that would participate in the Katherine East project.

Department staff met with the CAG prior to commencement of stage two to review the consultation documentation that was proposed for public comment. CAG members provided input and further comments on the draft Area Plan and draft Land Capability and Needs Assessment documents.

The CAG agreed to include the three Focus Areas in the draft Area Plan so the community could have the opportunity to comment.

Department Staff met the CAG on 18 June 2019 to review comments received during Stage Two and to seek their opinion on the planning principles that informed the development of the final draft of the Katherine East Area Plan.

The Planning Commission would like to acknowledge the great assistance and contribution made by the CAG throughout this project.
2.3 Katherine Town Council

On Tuesday 23 April 2019, Planning Commission staff gave a presentation to the Katherine Town Council about the upcoming release of Stage Two. The staff gave an overview of the Stage Two consultation process and how the Area Plan, planning principles and objectives were determined.

Staff also informed Council of the land constraints that exist in Katherine East and how this impacts on the total capable land available for development.

2.4 Project Advisory Group

The Project Advisory Group (PAG) is an advisory body with the purpose of providing strategic direction and specialist advice. The PAG members represent Government agencies and key stakeholders.

On 28 March 2019, the PAG met and were updated on the outcomes of stage one consultation and how this has informed the development of the draft Area Plan to be presented to the public for comment during Stage Two. An update was also given on the proposed launch date for Stage Two and that the Area Plan will be available for public comment for a 5 week period.

On 9 July 2019, the PAG reviewed the outcomes and findings of Stage Two consultation. There was discussion on the draft Area Plan. Clarification was sought on the location of the hospital; specifically, questions were raised about whether land is to be set aside in the first neighbourhood centre or if the hospital is to remain in the second neighbourhood. The location of the hospital in the first centre will have an impact on how much residential land is available in the first neighbourhood.

2.5 Other

Identified target stakeholders were provided with the consultation material and invited to receive a briefing on the project, meet with the project team in a one on one format or contribute to the Katherine East project by writing a submission.

The Planning Commission contacted the Katherine electorate office extending an invitation to the member for Katherine, Sandra Nelson to be given an update on the Katherine East project. Copies of the consultation material were provided to the electoral office.

2.6 Pop-up and Community Events

The community of Katherine had several opportunities to be updated on the project and provide verbal and written feedback to the Planning Commission at the various pop-up stalls and information displays held around Katherine.

Over 230 people visited with the Commission staff during the consultation period. Events were held at the Equalitea Café, Katherine Community Markets and Black Russian Caravan Cafe on Friday and Saturdays throughout May and June. Mid-week pop-up stalls were held at the Katherine Central Shopping Centre in June.
3. SUBMISSIONS AND FEEDBACK

3.1 Residents and Landowners

Comments and submission gathered during Stage Two from residents are presented in summary in this section. The feedback received has been grouped into the planning principles and focus areas that are drafted in the Area Plan.

3.1.1 Focus Area A
(First Neighbourhood Centre)

There was widespread support for a new neighbourhood centre to be developed in Katherine East. This was evident from the positive comments received from people visiting the consultation events.

The community believe there is a need for a new shopping centre to service the Katherine region, including retail space that is not flood affected.

A suggestion put forward was for the supermarket/retail centre to be located at the front of the commercial centre, for exposure to the Stuart Highway and ease of traffic access. Trucks will enter the residential area if the supermarket remains in the location depicted in the draft Area Plan. Further, the ‘High Street’ should be retained for smaller commercial niche businesses.

The question from everyone is ‘when will it happen?’ Ideas were provided on what they would like to see in this location. Examples included:

- supermarket;
- clinic/Doctor’s Surgery (bulk billing);
- car parking (accessible for caravans and covered);
- multiple dwelling development options near the centre;
- community open space (encourage family activities);
- a youth centre;
- safe/secure areas; and
- a bowling alley.

There was some differing views on the option presented for the first neighbourhood centre, these were:

- why do we need another service station, there are enough in town already;
- the population is not sufficient to sustain another supermarket; and
- there is already a community hall in Katherine East that is not utilised to its full capacity.

Figure 6: Pop-up Black Russian Cafe
3.1.2 Focus Area B  
(Established Areas Potential for Change)

The Planning Commission received comments from two local community members who don’t support the objectives of Focus Area B. The submitter objections to potentially rezoning or adding a second dwelling to residential land are summarised below:

- increase on street parking and causing further congestion problems; and
- parks are poorly maintained, increasing densities further brings undesirable behavior.

Both submitters lived in the area and believed the above issues would impact on their quality of life.

Comments received from the broader community at the pop-up stalls during consultation were indifferent on the option to include Focus Area B into the draft Area Plan.

They did state that a number of parks in Katherine East were not maintained and therefore anti-social activities took place in those locations, and maybe if there was some form of revitalisation in the area it could curb this behavior.

3.1.3 Focus Area C  
(Second Neighbourhood Centre)

The majority of people who approached the Planning Commission at the pop-up stalls agree that the hospital needs to change its location into the future. People agreed that if the hospital is going to be in the second neighbourhood centre it should also combine with a medical precinct in the same location. It would also be a timely opportunity to facilitate social/transitional housing within close proximately to the proposed hospital.

Other comments included that the roads and traffic should be viewed and considered before any development occurs otherwise the local roads will end up supporting too much traffic.

Figure 7: Areas for potential change.
3.1.4 Social Infrastructure

Social Infrastructure serves both the needs of the immediate local Katherine community as well as those of the region. The draft Area plan seeks to guide the delivery of adequate community facilities including education, health care, cultural and community facilities.

A number of people commented on whether a new primary school would be considered for Katherine East, as there is the expectation with the growth of the mining/gas industry and the expansion at Tindal that the primary schools will be at capacity. Members of the community queried if there was land put aside for a Special Needs School.

A number of residents commented that now is the perfect opportunity for the consideration of a Retirement Village and Aged Care so they can stay within the community and near family.

Recreational and sporting facilities were considered to be important in the minds of people, especially to have access to a multi-use (all weather) venue.

Other ideas put forward were:
- community hall;
- parks (inviting to the community so they are used and maintained);
- dog park (safe from roaming dogs in the Katherine East area);
- basketball or netball court with a roof structure; and
- sports grounds (currently sharing venues with other codes).

3.1.5 Land Use and Residential Development

Comments received on the lot sizes were not all in favour of having small lots but understand that it would be appealing to others, in particular for the elderly to transition from larger properties, and is an opportunity for people to purchase affordable housing. Common opinion suggested that smaller lots should be surrounding the neighbourhood centre close to shops and services.

When the second neighbourhood centre begins to develop there is the benefit of the taking advantage of the limestone outcropping to have a nice visual aspect. This will improve the amenity of future residential land releases.

Multiple dwelling (townhouses) construction will allow for defence personnel (single) to live in Katherine East.

However, other community members expressed an alternative view. Some believe that Katherine does not have the population to support growth in Katherine East. They stated that the current house lots are selling slowly and hence construction of new dwellings are in decline. Katherine overall needs a boost in population generated by industry (agricultural, mining, or the oil and gas) to get people to move to Katherine.

Figure 9: A summary of Topics of Interest during consultation
3.1.6 Roads and Movement (pedestrian and cyclists)

It is important to the community that adequate and safe entry points are provided between the first neighbourhood centre and the Stuart Highway. It will be very convenient for passing traffic to access the supermarket as it will be located very close to the highway. Therefore, consideration needs to be given to ensure that traffic from the highway does not conflict with local traffic and pedestrians.

One of the frustrations expressed by the community was that roads and streets go nowhere (dead ends). An example of this is Chambers Drive, it should have been linked onto Gorge Road when first built. The issue was also raised that passing traffic in Katherine East will increase due to a increase in new houses.

Residents who live within the area stated that the roads extensions (Callistemon and Chambers Drive) and the future new connector road be completed before the second neighbourhood centre begins development other wise local roads will become congested.

It was important that cycleways are created to link from Chambers Road through to the Stuart Highway, as well as having shaded pedestrian paths linking the neighbourhood centre with community space.

3.1.7 Outside the Scope of this Project

The Planning Commission received comments from the community that can’t be addressed by the Katherine East Area Plan. These include but not limited to the following concerns within Katherine East and the surrounding areas:

- anti-social behaviour;
- accommodation for itinerant and homeless people;
- PFAS;
- no more takeaway alcohol outlets; and
- property valuations are low.

Figure 10: Future pedestrian/cycle path link (Casuarina Street towards First Neighbourhood Centre)
3.2 Community and Special Interest Groups

The following groups provided comments with respect to the draft Area Plan and draft Needs Assessment:

- Katherine East Community Advisory Group;
- and
- Katherine Christian College

3.2.1 Community Advisory Group

The Community Advisory Group (CAG) gave their advice to help resolve a number of conflicting issues that have arisen throughout the Stage Two consultation.

They agreed that the Area Plan should identify a potential site for the development of a hospital at any time in the future whether that be in the first neighbourhood centre (Focus Area A) or the second neighbourhood (Focus Area C). Helicopter access was raised but not considered a serious issue, given the low frequency of flights and the ability to avoid directly flying over residential areas.

The CAG were in agreement that Focus Area B remain within the draft Area Plan as it may allow future opportunity to develop land which in turn improves the safety and amenity of the location. The CAG suggested that parks or lane ways not fully utilised for their intended purposes or for the benefit of community may become available for purchase by adjoining property owners.

Through discussions it was agreed by the CAG to clarify and to change some of the objectives that were identified in the draft Area Plan. It was suggested to include the following:

- two neighbourhood centres connected by a main road, as well as a local road network that supports a future public transport loop;
- road corridors should have the capacity to adapt to changes in transport and road use;
- parking area for larger tourist vehicles and trailers within the first neighbourhood centre;
- formalise pathways to appropriate standards for walking and cycling;
- limestone features provide for active and passive recreation; and
- maximise the opportunity for passive surveillance in open spaces

The CAG raised some questions with regard to community purpose land that may be set aside for sports and recreation. These questions are:

- Future high school site (private) - is there sufficient open space for a footy oval (AFL or NRL)?
- First Neighbourhood Centre - is there space/land for a bowling alley and associated recreational uses?
3.2.2 Katherine Christian College

The submission received from the Katherine Christian College (KCC) stated that they are endeavoring to establish a Christian School in Katherine East, catering for young children with an early learning childcare centre, through to year 12. They also intend to have a ‘Special Needs’, centre located with the primary and secondary school.

It is proposed that the school will eventually have students boarding from within the Northern Territory and such that families serving at Tindal RAAF base will choose to stay in Katherine long term, rather than seeking redeployment so that their children have access to better education through their teenage years.

The future school intends to support the work of the local churches and community groups to provide a degree of stability in Katherine’s transient population.

The KCC believed that the school can become a central hub for the local community, and it is hoped that the school can build a multi-function community centre onsite. The community centre will be equipped with commercial kitchen, indoor basketball court, seating for 800, and a theatre.

They stated that a grant of land will be crucial in the establishment of the school, the project is over four stages of construction, with the boarding school and community centre to be completed in the later stages.
3.3 Government Agencies

The following NT Government agencies and service authorities provided comments with respect to the Katherine East Area Plan:

- Department of Local Government Housing and Community Development
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics - Transport Planning
- Police, Fire and Emergency Services
- Power and Water Corporation
- Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

3.3.1 Department of Local Government Housing and Community Development

The Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development stated that as an agency they are tasked with providing a range of housing options for people in need across the Northern Territory, and have noticed that properties requiring low maintenance (small yards) are preferred by the senior population.

Public housing provides a tenure type that is different from both standard private dwellings and more formalised aged care villages. The Department would like to see the Area Plan allow for these varied living options through a greater propensity towards smaller dwelling areas.

The Department is supportive of the intentions of the draft Area Plan, including the move to allow for the expansion of the large areas of undeveloped land around Katherine East largely for residential purposes, with accompanying commercial land that is largely unaffected by constraints.

3.3.2 Department of Environment and Natural Resources

In the submission from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) they assessed the information presented and provided suggested changes to the wording of the objectives that were set out in the draft Area Plan.

DENR is currently undertaking land resource and vegetation mapping in the Katherine area. This new information should provide an appropriate level of community information to supports further land use planning in the Katherine area.

3.3.3 Department of Tourism Sport and Culture

The Department of Tourism Sport and Culture stated that the Area Plan identifies Katherine East for urban residential growth out of the flood zone. The plan recognises existing tourism use and does not preclude future commercial development including for tourism purposes.

The inclusion of public open spaces and shade requirements is welcomed as is the provision of lighting and passive surveillance improving both community and visitor safety.

It is noted that future opportunities for recreational, cultural and community land use, community facilities for leisure and recreation, public art and cultural consideration of landscaping are included in the stage two plans.
3.3.4 Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Transport Planning unit provided comment on the draft Katherine East Area Plan.

Comments on Draft Area Plan

The public transport routes need to be identified on the Area Plan.

Focus Area A

The Link Road is the preferred option to connect into the first neighbourhood centre, with connection to the east-west High Street and to Casuarina Street. Access to the proposed neighbourhood centre will be assessed appropriately, and access onto the Stuart Highway (National Highway) will be undertaken to ensure safety is not compromised.

It is unclear how to get access to the Future Service Station from the Future Main Road or the Stuart Highway. Safety issues would need to be further considered regarding access to the service station.

The proposed new commercial and community space, may increase pedestrian movement across the Stuart Highway, and will require consideration of safe pedestrian crossing opportunities. The transport networks should be planned to manage potential road safety issues through for example, appropriate traffic calming, lower speeds and shared road and pedestrian spaces.

There seems to be a limited shared path network with no links to the existing shared path network. Short commutes in Katherine to work and school make cycling a potential alternative option to car use. It is recommended that the Area Plan includes pedestrian and cycle network, connecting Chambers Road through to the Stuart Highway a shared path and new residential areas.

Comments on Draft Land Capability and Needs Assessment

The Road Network

An update on the proposed staggered intersection between Uralla Road and the future ‘Link Road’ is still to be provided.

Transport and Civil Services does not support the extension of Uralla Road to connect with the Katherine Agricultural Logistics Hub. The draft Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) does consider the issue of intersection spacing in light of the Stuart Highway’s function as a National Highway and the TIA is to be updated to include the assessment of a proposed link to Uralla Road. The revised TIA to include the analysis to support future decision making around the treatment and management of traffic in the Uralla Road locality.

3.3.5 Office of the Commissioner of Police and CEO of Fire and Emergency Service

The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services provides the following comments to the Katherine East Area Plan draft.

NT Fire and Rescue Service:

Are supportive of the future plan proposal given the construction of the new NT Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services complex (albeit on the opposite side of the highway) in close proximity to the proposed growth area.

NT Emergency Service:

No homes are to be built in the flood extent area, and all roads that are exit routes for evacuation during a flood or for resupply purposes, should be built above maximum flood extent height if in the flood extent area.
3.3.6 Power and Water Corporation

Power and Water Corporation (PWC) has reviewed the draft plan and has noted the inclusion of our previous comments. Further comments as follows:

**Water**

The area plan should also consider demand for other proposed developments within Katherine region (e.g. Katherine Logistics Agribusiness Hub) in the development of the infrastructure master plan.

**Power**

In the absence of staging information for the future development, (estimated dates and the estimated maximum demands for each stage) Power Services are unable to provide advice on capacity of supply.

3.3.7 Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

The Department of Trade, Business and Innovation (DTBI) are familiar with the Katherine East project and provided the following comments on the draft Area Plan.

The Big Rivers region is experiencing a period of economic growth, driving essential collaborations that are addressing infrastructure gaps and entrepreneurial opportunities. The region has a broad-based economy with agriculture, beef cattle export, mining, tourism, Defence and Defence support industries and government service delivery. Significant projects are underway in the region, including:

- Australian Defence construction projects over the next 10 years;
- development of the Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub;
- investment into boosting visitors numbers (upgrades to Nitmiluk National Park and Godinymayin Yijard Arts & Cultural Centre); and
- large scale projects (Beetaloo Basin, Roper Valley, and Sea farms).

DTBI stated that the land use concepts and planning principles address the residential, commercial and industrial land requirements as identified in the draft Land Capability and Needs Assessment. It appears the future land use plan has considered all of the proposed options and included them in the draft Area Plan.

The new neighbourhood centre will provide a new entry to Katherine from the south to support the local tourism industry and strengthen the town’s role as a hub for the broader Big Rivers region.

Future consideration points:

- connectivity between the current commercial offerings (Katherine CBD) and the proposed Katherine East Area Plan location to support access to both areas (local community and for tourism purposes);
- growth and investment opportunities for industry considerations as to the future transition of the current CBD and what this will mean for existing business;
- public transport to access the development from the key areas (CBD, Katherine South and Katherine East);
- will need to consider noise exposure contours that may impact on the area due to the arrival of the Joint Strike Fighters - on-going monitoring will need to be undertaken;
- any increase in population will probably be accommodated in Katherine East, and therefore services (schools, medical, shopping, social and recreation) to support this should be considered in the initial planning.

The Department of Trade, Business and Innovation considers this project as a key priority for the region.
4. SUMMARY

Stage Two consultation commenced on 17 May 2019, and ran for five weeks until 21 June 2019, offering the community an opportunity to have their say on the development of the Katherine East Area Plan.

The Planning Commission engaged with over 230 people at their pop ups stalls in various locations including, Katherine Community Markets, Equiltea Café, Katherine Shopping Centre and Black Russian Caravan Cafe. The Planning Commission briefed the Katherine Town Council at the start of the consultation process and met with the CAG and PAG prior to the commencement of consultation.

The feedback provided to the Planning Commission was generally supportive of the Area Plan. A summary of the feedback the Planning Commission received can be noted below:

- support for the development of a Neighbourhood Centre in the Focus Area A;
- the requirement to design and plan areas within Katherine East that are a safe environment that allows all of the community to engage;
- support for the relocation of the hospital, however this area needs to accommodate the needs of indigenous people;
- public open space needs to be maintained if it is to service a viable pedestrian network into the future;
- the community support the future road networks proposed;
- greater supply of aged care facilities is required if the Katherine community is to maintain its ageing population; and
- support for smaller residential lots in close proximity to the Neighbourhood Centre, however want to see the character of Katherine maintained and more traditional larger lots still supplied throughout the subdivisions.

The feedback received from the community and service authorities will inform further drafting of the planning principles in the Katherine East Area Plan.

Figure 12: Katherine East - public open space pedestrian links
5. NEXT STEPS

This report covers only community consultation and engagement during Stage Two of the draft Katherine East Area Plan. This report is intended for use by the NT Planning Commission to refine and finalise the Katherine East Area Plan.

Once the Planning Commission finalise the Area Plan, **Stage Three** of the process will commence.

**Stage Three** is anticipated to be undertaken in late 2019 and will require the Planning Commission to recommend that the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics consider exhibition of the Katherine East Area Plan as a proposed amendment to the NT Planning Scheme.

At the stage of formal exhibition, the community will be given one more opportunity to comment on the Plan. Comments received during this stage will be considered by the Minister.

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**Figure 13: Stages of engagement, showing Stage 3 as the next step for this project.**

- **STAGE 1**
  - Information gathering and analysis. Includes community engagement and the assessment of study area character and infrastructure networks to identify options for accommodating growth.

- **STAGE 2**
  - Prepare a draft Area Plan in response to initial community feedback and other assessments in Stage 1.
  - Community engagement on the draft Area Plan.

- **STAGE 3**
  - Finalisation of the Area Plan by the NT Planning Commission.
  - Formal exhibition of the Area Plan by the Minister to amend the NT Planning Scheme to include the Area Plan.