

# Act now on rates

**MAYORAL MATTERS**  
Palmerston Mayor  
**IAN ABBOTT**



FIRST, thank you to residents who helped keep our parks and roadways clear of fireworks litter on Territory Day last week.

Our community has always done a great job in the past and this happened again this year.

At a special council meeting on Tuesday, June 30, Palmerston council adopted its 2015-2020 Municipal Plan, including the 2015-16 rates.

The previously applied flat residential rate has changed to an unimproved capital value-based rate with a minimum rate for those properties valued below \$277,000.

About 90 per cent of residential properties in Palmerston will pay the minimum rate of \$1177 in 2015-16 - an increase of \$22.

If the UCV of a property exceeds \$277,000, these properties will be levied above the minimum rate.

A 50 per cent concession on the amount above the minimum rate will be available to owner/occupiers with a UCV above \$277,000 for the 2015-16 financial year.

Ratepayers will need to apply for the concession before the first instalment date in September.

Council is asking the community to apply, to help determine whether the applicant lives at the property.

Council does not hold records regarding the names of the occupiers, only the owner of a property.

The application form is available from palmerston.nt.gov.au

Alternatively an application form will be sent out with the first rates notice.

Demolition works for stage 2 of Goyder Square began in mid-June.

Alternate access for pedestrians to all businesses has been maintained.

Visit our website to view the location of temporary fencing and access routes.

Enjoy our next free event on Saturday, July 18, at Sanctuary Lakes with Flickies and family favourite, Annie.

Magpie Football Club and Sacred Heart School will be hosting the night. Gates open at 6.30pm, with the movie starting at 7pm.

Dog registration renewal letters will be in your letterbox soon. If your dogs are micro-chipped and registered our rangers can bring them home safely and quickly.



Bree Hanacek with Doris Mowaey and grandson Samuel. Doris has taken advantage of the Smart Cooling in the Tropics initiative

## Big thrill as the cost of bills takes a dive

A FREE energy assistance program is helping low-income households in the Top End save money – but time is running out for eligible people to apply.

Smart Cooling in the Tropics, run by COOLMob, provides free energy assessments.

Doris Mowaey signed up for the service and is delighted with the results.

"We knew our bills were expensive, but we didn't know how to change this," she said. "Before our free energy assessment we always used air-conditioning because we had

broken fly screens ... So we couldn't safely leave the doors and windows open."

The Mowaey household is one of 320 that has benefited from the program.

"Doris and her household of five were using 50.5kWh each day, which is double the Darwin average," project manager Jessica Steinborner said.

"Based on the recommendations of the assessment the project arranged and paid for all the door and window screens to be repaired and new locks installed.

"Now Doris opens up the

house and keeps the airconditioner off more often."

Doris said she has seen a big change in her bills.

"Our energy usage is now only 44 kWh per day," she said.

"Our last bill was \$160 less than the one before. We want the next one to be even smaller, so we will continue to follow our action plan during the dry season."

Recruiting for the program will take place until September. There are 160 places remaining. People are eligible if they receive an approved Centre-

**"Our last bill was \$160 less than the one before. We want the next one to be even smaller"**

link payment or have a low income healthcare card and are not in public housing. Phone 8981 3642 to find out more.



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