

KOWANYAMA ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

CORPORATE PLAN

2011 to 2016

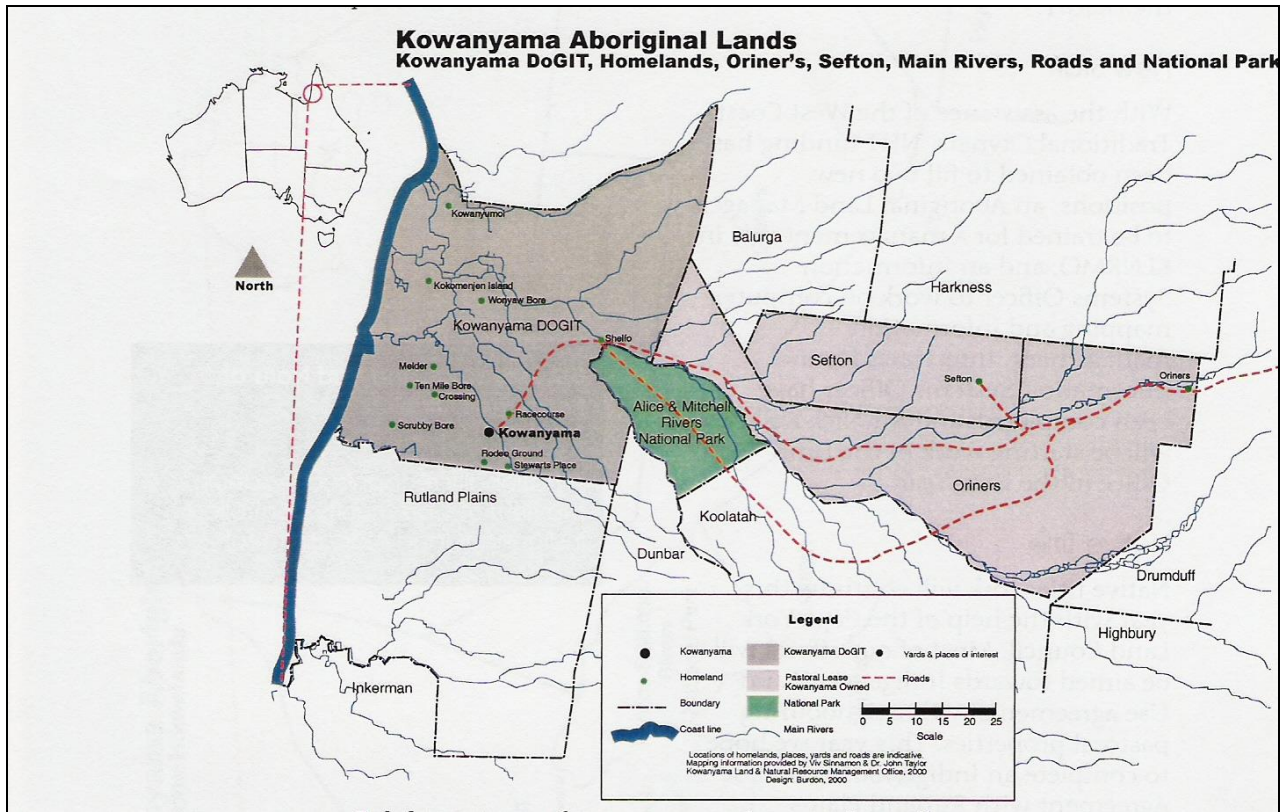
Reviewed and adopted by Council [Resolution: 3.15072015]



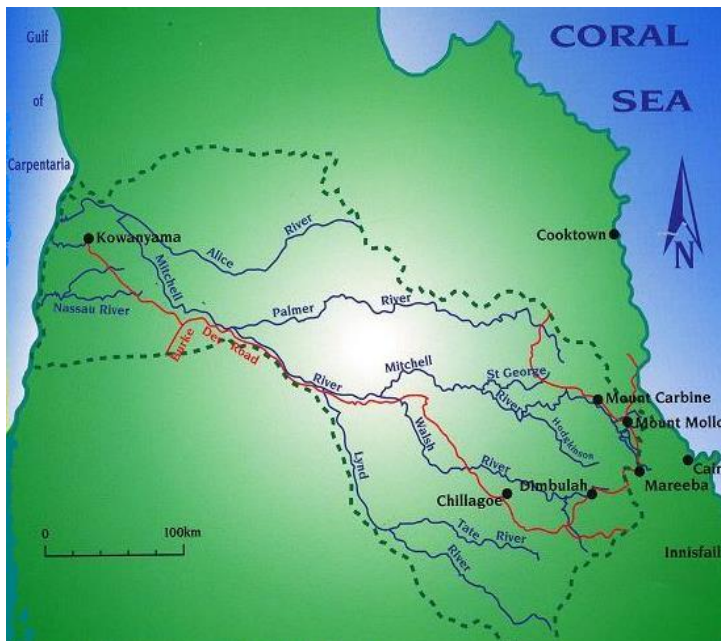
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KOWANYAMA AT A GLANCE



Maps of Queensland



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Name: Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council.

Community Address: C/- P.O. 30, Kowanyama. QLD. 4892.
Street Address: 30 Chapman Road, Kowanyama. QLD. 4892.

Cairns Address: P.O. Box 401, Westcourt, Cairns. QLD. 4870
Street Address: Unit 1, 148 Lyons Street, Bungalow, QLD. 4870.

ABN: 86255216480
GST Registered: Yes (01/07/2000)

Contact Numbers:

Community Telephone: (07) 4083 7100
Community Fax: (07) 4060 5124
Cairns Telephone: (07) 4040 4500
Cairns Fax: (07) 4040 4556
E-mail address: admin@kowanyama.qld.gov.au

The Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council community lies 25 km (as the crow flies) from the West coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria in the South-Western region of the Cape York Peninsular, and 600 kilometres North-West of Cairns. The community is on the bank of the Magnificent Creek, which joins the South Mitchell River and in turn forms part of the Mitchell River Delta system. Road access is only available 5 to 6 months of the year during the dry season with the roads closed during the wet season. Weekday flights to and from Cairns service the community throughout the year and during the wet season this is the only way that food supplies can be delivered. Kowanyama means “place of many waters” in the Yir Yoront language. The community includes the Kokoberra, Yir Yoront (or Kokomnjen) and Kunjen people and their clans, who each have language and other cultural differences.

Under the “Protection Acts”, which operated from 1897 to 1965, the Queensland Government established reserves (through Religious Institutions, Missions) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and could control the movement, employment, wages and personal lives of the residents of these reserves. Once placed on a reserve, residents were not allowed to leave the reserve without the permission of the Government, and quite often, this was only given when people were either placed under work agreements or transferred to another reserve. In establishing these reserves, many Aboriginal people were moved away, or dispossessed from, their traditional lands and relocated on reserves. This forced re-settlement meant that successive generations of dispossessed traditional owners, although maintaining an awareness of their traditional connections, developed a new ‘historical’ connection to the land upon which they now lived. However, under Queensland legislation (Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Land Holding) Act 1985) some historical owners have been able to claim a title to the old reserve lands (now deemed Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) land for Aboriginal purposes) and hold this title as Aboriginal Land.

The majority of Kowanyama people are the direct descendents of Aboriginal groups who inhabited the Lower Mitchell and Alice Rivers and neighbouring areas. In 1903 the

Queensland Government declared the Mitchell River an Aboriginal Reserve for the benefit of the Aboriginal peoples of the State. In 1905 an Anglican Mission was established at Trubanumen.

In 1916 the headquarters of the Anglican Mission was moved to Kowanyama. The Queensland Government took over the administration of the Mitchell River Mission and Reserve in 1967. In 1987 the State transferred control to the Kowanyama people via a Deed of Grant in Trust with the Kowanyama Aboriginal Council becoming a fully community elected council at that time. The total area of the Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) plus both the pastoral leases of Oriners and Sefton stations now equals approximately 4,120 square kilometres. The acquisition of the two pastoral leases in 1992 almost doubled the original size of the DOGIT. The country consists mainly of wetlands and delta mangroves in the north, extending to “forest country” of the central peninsular.

The Community has a population of 1,021 people (545 female/476 male from 2006 Census).

INCORPORATION DETAILS

Kowanyama Aboriginal Council was incorporated under Queensland Government Legislation and since 1987 has always considered itself an Aboriginal Local Government authority. Council By-Laws were printed in The Queensland Government Gazette in August, 1987.

In more recent times however, The Local Government Act 2009, and the Local Government Regulation 2012, dictate Council’s operations. The ***local government principles*** which apply under this Act (refer section 4 and sub-section 2) are:

- (a) transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest;
- (b) sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services;
- (c) democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement;
- (d) good governance of, and by, local government;
- (e) ethical and legal behaviour of councillors and local government employees.

Our Shire is a local government and is constituted by the councillors who are elected or appointed to the local government under this Act.



Pandanus

Camping at Kowanyama

The Mitchell River Delta country, like many of our remote Gulf of Carpentaria river systems, is a very special place for us all. We welcome visitors to Kowanyama to share our homelands and our country. As a visitor, it is a privilege to enjoy this beautiful area, and we ask that while here you are aware of the rules that must be adhered to, the restrictions on access to many of the areas, as well as restrictions on times they can be accessed. Whilst traditionally most visitors to Kowanyama come to enjoy the experience of fishing in such a remote and unique area, there are many visitors who are simply passing through the country as they move North or South exploring the Cape York Peninsula.

Camping season starts 1st June each year, (depending on weather and road conditions) and finishes at the end of the Barramundi season, which is traditionally around the end of September/beginning of October. Whatever your reason for coming to visit please remember that bookings are essential. You must make your booking with the Kowanyama Aboriginal Land and Natural Resources Management Office (KALNRMO), (07) 4060 5187, before arrival as you may be asked to move on if no sites are available.

Camping is restricted to four different locations; Topsy Creek, Wonya Creek, Bull Crossing and Shelfo. With a maximum of four camps at each location, each camp is further restricted to only allowing three vehicles per site. These controls on numbers ensure that not only will your visit be “remote and undisturbed” but also that the pressure on the environment and in particular the fish stocks is minimised, hopefully meaning that everybody will get their fair share. Minimal or no facilities are provided at each campsite due to annual flooding and in order to maintain the wilderness attraction of the area.

A fee is payable for all campsites, regardless of the number of people per vehicle. Campsite bookings require a non-refundable deposit, with the balance being payable at the Land Office on arrival. The fee contributes to land management and improving Traditional Owner’s homelands.

Fisheries Management

KALNRMO has operated since 1990 and its Charter is to promote and facilitate Aboriginal management of the natural and cultural resources of Kowanyama land and sea country by the people of Kowanyama.

Kowanyama is regarded as a leader in Indigenous land management since 1987 and has fostered local control over fishing in the Mitchell River Delta and surrounding waterways. Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council working through its KALNRMO in partnership with both State and Federal agencies has implemented processes to ensure that Aboriginal people can fish and hunt as they have done for many thousands of years.

Alcohol Restrictions

The Queensland Government commenced introducing alcohol supply and demand restrictions in the form of an Alcohol Management Plan (AMP) for people living in the 19 discrete Aboriginal and mainland Torres Strait Islander communities from 2002/03. As such Kowanyama DOGIT is subject to restrictions under its AMP introduced December 5, 2003. A Government review has been completed and the current restrictions of ZERO carriage of alcohol and NO home brewing means that the entire community (DOGIT) is “dry”. All visitors are advised to contact the Kowanyama Community Justice Group Inc. (07) 4060 5011 or Queensland Police Service (Kowanyama OIC (07) 40605120) to clarify the current position of the AMP before travelling as significant fines are applied.



Evening on the South Mitchell with a KALNRMO Ranger boat in

CURRENT COUNCIL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Normal local government services such as road construction and maintenance; water infrastructure – supply & quality control; sewerage infrastructure and maintenance; sanitation and hygiene; environmental health; parks and gardens.
- Administration including purchasing, wages, finance management, project management of grants; Housing, etc.
- Enterprises: Post Office & Bank Agency; Bakery; Motor Vehicle Workshop; Leased premises (Blue café + Canteen); Concrete Batching Plant; Airport; Residential & commercial rentals.
- Centrelink Agency operation.
- House maintenance; new house construction; mechanical workshop servicing light and heavy plant & equipment.
- Operation and management of our own Stores Facility (spare parts + numerous supply items – crucial during a long wet season when road are cut).
- Management of leasehold properties (Oriners + Sefton).
- Operation and management of our own Aged Persons Hostel.
- Operation and management of our own Child Playgroup.
- Operation and management of a Women’s Shelter.
- Operation and management of our own Mothers and Babies Centre.
- Operation and management of our own Lands Office.
- Operation and management of our own Training Centre, with attached leased accommodation dongas.
- Community Police (local law enforcement and monitoring).
- Local Rangers.
- Public internet facilities (NTN) through our Lands Office.
- Management of a RIBS service (Regional Indigenous Broadcasting Service).
- Youth, Sport & Recreation.
- Management and operation of the Multi Purpose Sports and Recreation Centre.
- Swimming Pool Centre (25m x 6 lane + infants wading pool).
- Airline agency and airport management and operation.

Employees

Whilst the number of employees changes quite often, as of March 2015, our breakdown of employee numbers is as follows:

Numbers	Status
47 M + 12 F = 59	Fulltime
11 M + 22 F = 33	Part time
20 M + 18 F = 38	Casual

OUR VISION

“To deliver good and effective governance through strong leadership that will positively contribute to the improvement of the quality of life and wellbeing for the community”.

OUR MISSION

“To enhance the quality of life and wellbeing through improved delivery of service, enterprise and business development, recognising and respecting culture, maintaining and expanding on networks and promoting capacity to build a successful and healthy community”

OUR VALUES

- 1. Health, wellbeing and lifestyle.**
- 2. Safety of children**
- 3. Promotion of family unity**
- 4. Education**
- 5. Strong leadership**
- 6. Commitment and determination**
- 7. Accountability and transparency**
- 8. Business development**
- 9. Employment opportunities**
- 10. Training and capacity building**
- 11. Maintaining culture**

REVISED COUNCIL ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

At a Special Council Meeting held on 9th September 2014 a proposed re-alignment of Council's Organisational Structure was tabled and approved. The new structure copies a typical organisational structure found in other Aboriginal Councils and reflects three distinct functional areas, namely Corporate Services, Infrastructure Services and Community Services, that report directly to the CEO.

Corporate Services include Enterprises, Financial Services and Administration Services. Infrastructure Services include Building Services, Roads and Essential Services. Community Services include Lands Office and Social Services.

The revised Council Organisation Structure, by function, is detailed below:

COUNCIL							
CHIEF EXECUTIVE							
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES			DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES			DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES	
Enterprises	Financial Services	Administration Services	Building Services	Roads and Works	Essential Services	Lands Office	Social Services
Bakery	Financial Management	Executive Assistant	Housing Services	Roads	Water	NRM Coordination	Community Policing
Vehicle Workshop	Management Accounting	HR/Workforce Development	Q-Build	Parks and Gardens	Sewerage	Ranger Services	HACC
Post Office	Projects Accounting	Administration Management	Housing Construction	NDRRA	Waste Management	Animal Management	Child Care
Blue Café	Purchasing and Stores	Reception	Electrical		Environmental Health	Cultural Heritage	Womens' Shelter
Batching Plant	Grants	Cleaning	Plumbing				Mens' Shelter
Residential & Comm Rentals	Payroll	Workplace Health & Safety	Carpentry				MPC Sports & Rec and Pool
Training Centre Offices/Dongas	Debtors	Records & Archives	Development and Planning				RIBS
Canteen	Creditors	IT					CentreLink
Airport	Reception						RJCP/Jobfind

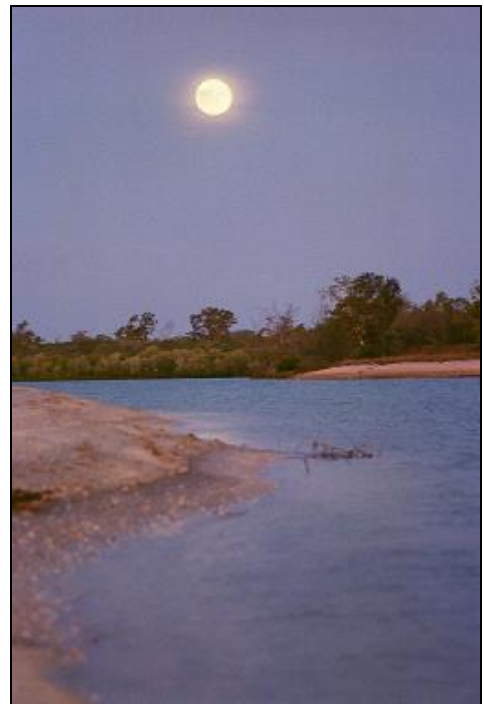
MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Council's Corporate Plan for 2011 to 2016 provides to stakeholders and interested parties the direction of strategic priorities and related strategies that Council will follow. The success of achieving the outcomes within the constraints of resources available to Council will benefit present and future generations of our community.

It outlines a vision shared for the Shire and lists the corporate and community values that Councillors and staff will embrace.

Council will continue to make every effort towards strengthening its economic development potential which in turn will generate many benefits and opportunities for improved services that will enhance and maintain community lifestyles.

In partnership with the Councillors, staff and the community, the vision and strategies outlined in the Corporate Plan will be delivered.



Moon-rise over Topsy Creek a favourite fishing destination

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Alice River tourism

The Corporate Plan seeks to provide a partnership on the part of the elected Councillors and staff in striving towards achieving the strategies for the benefit for the Kowanyama community.

The Corporate Plan is a living document that will be used to develop and prepare Council's annual Operational Plans.

From an organisational perspective, we the staff must ensure we play our part in achieving the vision and strategies identified in the plan. This emphasises the importance on the development of people in the organisation, on customer focus and the quality of systems and services to be delivered.

In delivering quality services according to the corporate values and within the constraints of Council we can meet the challenges of the plan.

Councillors



Mayor - Cr. Robert Holness.



Dep. Mayor - Cr. Michael Yam.



Cr. William Thomas.



Cr. Teddy Bernard



Cr. Territa Dick.



Mr. Emil Moul – CEO.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

1. Arts and Cultural Development

Council will continue to support and expand on programmes related to arts and cultural activities that benefit the Kowanyama Community.

Council will continue to work with Kowanyama's Traditional Owners through the Counsel of Elders to ensure that our Cultural heritage is maintained and strengthened.

2. Community Development and Human Services.

Governance

Council is committed to maintain and strengthen all facets of Governance to ensure accountability and transparency achieved at all times.

Council is committed to working within its organisational structure.

Quality of Life

Council's ongoing commitment is to ensure strategies are Developed and expanded so the highest quality of life (inc housing, sport and recreation etc) is provided in Kowanya

Capacity Building

Council is committed to the enhancement of training and mentoring opportunities that will strengthen the development of the Kowanyama Community.

Law and Justice

Council will continue to work in partnership with the Community Justice Group, State and Community Police to maintain law and order within the Kowanyama Community.

Alcohol Management Plan

Council will continue to work with the Community Justice Group, and the Queensland Government towards positive changes to the AMP that will ensure Community empowerment and ownership.



3. Disaster Mitigation

Council will review its current Disaster Mitigation Plan to ensure that the plan reflects the safety needs of the Kowanyama Community in the event of natural disasters.



Storm clouds gather during the wet and with valuable assistance from both State and Federal Government agencies associated difficulties are overcome

4. Economic Development.

Through partnerships and networking Council will ensure the promotion of enterprise and business development that leads to social and economic independence.

5. Environmental Management

Council will continue to work in partnership with Traditional Owners through Council's Land Office in the ongoing development and implementation of a land and natural resource management plan to ensure the current environment is maintained for future generations of Kowanyama people.



6. Housing Policy.

Council will continue to work in partnership with Government agencies to ensure housing construction meets Community needs and demands. Council will review and update its Housing Policy to ensure it meets all legislative requirements and continually reviews the Housing Improvement Plans.

7. Infrastructure Development, Maintenance and Replacement

Council will continue to work with Government agencies and NGOs to develop and maintain infrastructure and essential services that benefit better living conditions within the Community.



The community swimming pool refurbished in partnership with Queensland Government assistance (NDRRA) - March 2015.



Upgrades to airport runway with grant assistance from both the Australian & Qld State Governments – March 2015.

8. Population Change and Development.

Through ongoing research and review the Council will develop strategies, in consultation with Government agencies, to ensure existing housing, infrastructure and essential services meet the increasing demand and changes of our population.

9. Health

Council is committed to the continued development and promotion of health and well-being activities and programs that result in healthy lifestyles within the Kowanyama Community. Continued partnerships and networking with Government providers and non-government organisations (NGOs) will be maintained by Council as a means of promoting strategies and interventions.

The community requires an updated and certified AGED CARE FACILITY as the current Centre is fast filling up and has already outgrown the allocated land area.

10. Education and Training

Council will continue to work with Education Queensland to ensure the learning needs of Kowanyama youth are met.

In particular, the community requires an updated and fully certified CHILD CARE CENTRE.

Council will ensure that quality training opportunities are available to all members of the Kowanyama Community for career advancement and or personal development.

Council will continue to work with all Government agencies and services providers.



Examples of local Indigenous artists' work at Kowanyama Community Education and Training Centre.



Magpie geese arrive during the wet

Kowanyama “*Place of many waters*”



Fire-trails criss-cross the countryside

Common Fish Species

- Barramundi
- Blue Salmon
- Black Jewfish
- King Salmon
- Mud Crab
- Pikey Bream
- Queen Fish
- Spotted Grunter

Size and catch limits apply refer to KALNRMO for details