



KOWANYAMA ABORIGINAL SHIRE
COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes

29 January 2020 10:12am –
13:21pm

Kowanyama Chambers Room and
Cairns Board Room

Present:

Councillors

- Mayor Michael Yam (Chair) – Kowanyama Boardroom
- Cr Territa Dick (Deputy Mayor) – Kowanyama Boardroom
- Cr Aaron Teddy (Councillor) – Kowanyama Boardroom
- Cr John Fry (Councillor) – Kowanyama Boardroom
- Cr Wendy Wust (Councillor) – Cairns Boardroom

Executive

- Gary Uhlmann, Chief Executive Officer
- Andrew Hay, Executive Manager Finance (EMF) – Cairns Boardroom
- Kevin Bell, Executive Manager Community Services, (EMCS) – Kowanyama Chambers
- Jacqui Cresswell, A/Executive Manager Infrastructure Works Projects, (A/EMIWP) – Cairns Boardroom
- Chris Delaney, Executive Manager Human Resources (EMHR) – Kowanyama Chambers

Apologies

Katherine Wiggins, Executive Manager Governance and Operations (EMGO) – Cairns Boardroom

Other

1) Welcome & Apologies

The Mayor welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

3) Minutes from Previous Council Meetings

<p>RESOLUTION – Minutes Minutes from Council Meeting 19^h December, 2019</p> <p>Minutes That the above minutes be adopted as true and accurate.</p>	<p>Moved Cr Fry Seconded Cr Yam</p> <p>All In Favour MOTION CARRIED:</p>
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4) Action Items from Council Meeting

- a) Mr Uhlmann presented the actions from the December Council meeting.
- b) Mr Uhlmann presented the “All Current Action Items”.

Councillors went through action items from previous meetings. No questions or comments were made on the outstanding items on the Register. Executive Team will continue working on the outstanding items to make sure that they are actioned in a timely manner.

Mr Hay reminded councillors about training for the upcoming elections and reminded that community notices should be reiterated to community members so they are able to complete the training if they wish to run for Mayor or Council.

Cr Dick entered meeting 10:34

5) Departmental Updates

CEO Update

- Hinterland has withdrawn its services from Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw
- A number of concerns have been raised about the current services being provided by Skytrans
- CEO and A/EMIPW meeting with other airlines next week to discuss possible supplementary service options
- Our infrastructure delivery programs particularly Roads, BAS and ICCIP are progressing very well
- Our Council is the first Council on the Cape to successfully deliver its TIDS roads program and one of the first in all communities in QLD.
- There is currently a focus on reviewing and improving the operations of our business enterprises
- Arrangements have been established to better coordinate the resources of the Parks & Gardens area, the Rangers and the Roads crew for the benefit of the community
- Arrangements are planned for better coordination and cross training between the Rangers, SES, and the Volunteer Fire Brigade
- This year the Council will be strongly focussing on the outcomes required by community in the various areas such as health, law & order, and education
- A stronger coordination process between all service providers will be established to maximise the benefit of all federal and state monies for community
- Increasing number of people from Aurukun with 45 Aurukun residents registered at the clinic currently.

Action Item

EMCS to update Council at the next meeting regarding Aurukun residents in Kowanyama.

Cr Dick left 11:01

Cr Dick entered meeting 11:05

Cr Fry left 11:02

Cr Fry entered 11:03

Finance

Mr Hay provided a monthly update for Finance.

Key points from the December 2019 YTD report are as follows:

- net result is a \$464k deficit
- actual net income is \$10,753
- actual expenditure is \$14,087
- Untied Cash Funds balance is \$5,364k

Governance and Operations

Mr Uhlmann provided the monthly update for Governance and Operations.

The Local Government Election is due to be held on 28 March 2020. Legislation places limits during the caretaker period before quadrennial local government elections on publishing election material and making major policy decisions. This ensures that there are no significant policy decisions made near the end of a council term that bind future elected councils. It is likely that the caretaker period will commence on 22 February.

Training

The Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs have confirmed that they will provide “So you want to be a councillor” training on Thursday 13 February.

410 Arwin Amay Street

Following discussions at the December 2019 council meeting, we have entered into a temporary lease with the tenants at 410 Arwin Amay Street and have written to the Department of Public Works and Housing to request that the property be moved to the social housing register.

Audit and Risk Committee

The next audit and risk committee is scheduled for 3 February 2020.

Records Management Officer

Our records management officer position is currently vacant and the position has been advertised.

Community Services

Mr Bell provided a monthly update for Community Services.

A number of services continued to run throughout the council closure period.

Aged Care – ran services everyday throughout the Christmas period. The Kup Murri to celebrate Christmas was a great success, a big thank you to the Rangers and Rise for supporting us.

Womens Meeting Place – hosted 2 group meetings in Dec, which didn't have the desired numbers attend. EMCS is working with them to finalise the specification for the purchase of a 4 wheel drive bus.

Family Engagement Officer – has played a key role in connecting our community with the Airforce Christmas Drop and Councils Christmas event which saw over 200 young people receive gifts from Santa. Our Family Engagement Officer oversaw school holiday workshop and programs, Dee's department and Grooming was a success with the ladies and young girls whom participated.

Cr Dick left 11:38

Cr Dick entered meeting 11:47

Centrelink – our agents continue to provide support to the community.

Sport Recreation and Youth Engagement/Playgroup – lots of engagement with youth and families throughout December. The big one being the Council Christmas Event, which saw big numbers of community coming down to enjoy the BBQ, presents for the kids and photos with Santa.

Post Office – EMCS and EMHR looking to recruit and train more assistants through peak times.

NDIS – Currently have 9 participants and 4 for QCSS. Received 29 Access forms, and 5 referrals. Have received 2 compliments and 0 complaints. Zero incidents involving staff or participants. Wifi continues to be an issue. Service mapping has been completed for the Cape, next meeting TBA.

RIBS Radio – working to better utilise the community radio for the benefit of community and to lock in timeslots for live radio and pre-recorded messages around to promote what's happening in Kowanyama.

Community Police – continue to provide support through December with any issues or connecting community to relevant services.

Action Item

EMCS to report back to council on scheduling for pool with opening hours, down time and rules (eg. For under 7's)

Infrastructure Works & Projects

Ms Cresswell provided a monthly update for Infrastructure Works and Projects.

Works – Roads/Rangers/Parks and Gardens - The rangers were proactive in getting bush tucker for the Aged Care Christmas party in December and are currently working alongside the road and parks and garden crews to remove bulky items from yards for pre-cyclone clean up. The rangers are also working on weed eradication throughout the town.

Works - Building Services - December saw the commencement of the painting program for QBuild along with the carport program. Currently the department has 8 upgrade works to be completed during the wet season. 35 R&M work orders were received in December with 31 of those completed during the month.

Airport – The wonderful new airport terminal is now operational and many positive comments have been received from visitors. There are a few minor final defects with the new terminal which are still to be addressed by the builders. Notably this month was the withdrawal of Hinterland services from Kowanyama, this has resulted in a slight increase in charter flights and RFDS Clinic runs.

The airport refueling truck is still experiencing problems and has been made a priority for the new workshop mechanic.

Essential Services - Testing of upgrades to the water treatment plant are continuing resulting in short water outages. New chlorinators are not working as efficiently as expected due to large amounts of sludge at the bottom of the reservoirs, a variation to ICCIP funding has been requested to cover these costs.

Electrical – *Disaster Management initiatives* –The iTerra satellite system and upgraded electrical works to switchboards/generators are complete, in readiness for the upcoming cyclone season.

Workshop – The new workshop manager Rick Mitchell commenced work 13 January, Council are still trying to find a qualified mechanical assistant for Rick for a short period to enable works to be brought up to date.

Action Item

A/EMIPW to arrange for grid near dump to be fixed as it doesn't have markers and is narrower than the road

Human Resources (EMHR)

Ms Delaney presented the report:

Staff numbers are currently 130 with 3 advertised vacancies and nil Workers Compensation Claims.

- Current vacancies:
 - Records Officer – advertised
 - Essential Services Traineeship – advertised
 - NDIS and Disability Support Worker – advertised
 - EMRIES – reviewing
 - Business Enterprises Manager – *reviewing*
 - Groundsperson – Swimming Pool and Recreation Precinct –*reviewing*
 - Parks and Gardens Coordinator – *Gaven Young commenced 02/12/2019*
 - Land, Sea and Environment Manager – *Scott Olds commenced 09/12/2019*
- Training:
 - Food Safety training completed with staff in Bakery and Blue Café (*Mandatory requirement of working in these areas*)
 - Snake Handling Training – Rangers, Parks and Gardens, Roads Crew and Airport Staff (*awaiting confirmation of dates*)

Action Item

EMF to provide funds to renovate old HR house

Action Item

CEO and EMHR prepare and distribute a "Notice to tidy yard" for houses with mess in yards

Cr Fry left 11:57

Cr Fry returned 12:06

Lunch: 12:10
Resumed: 12:53

Apologies from Mayor who stepped out
Mayor returned 12:58

6) Agenda Reports

a) Procurement Policy – New Delegations – EMF

Mr Hay presented the report:

Our current Procurement Policy includes a section to detail the council officers who hold a purchasing delegation. This resolution to add two new delegations being:

Essential Service Manager- \$5000.00

No other changes have occurred to the Policy and all standing procedures are maintained and managed by the Purchasing Manager and Executive Manager Finance.

RESOLUTION – That Council endorse Essential Services Manager delegation of \$5000.00 to bring in line with the other line managers	Moved: Cr Wust Seconded: Cr Dick MOTION CARRIED: All in favour
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b) Climate Emergency (EMGO)

Mr Uhlmann presented the report.

In June 2019, the Australian Local Government Assembly (ALGA), at their annual general meeting, called on the federal government to declare an emergency and create a \$10b fund to help local councils build resilience of their communities.

To date 740 jurisdictions around Australia and internationally have made declarations of a climate emergency to send a strong message to governments that action on climate change must be taken now.

At the Torres and Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) meeting 6-7 November it was stated that the LGAQ is encouraging councils to consider making a declaration of their own.

Whilst Kowanyama may not be under immediate threat, there is a potential for our community to be further impacted by drought, fire and flooding. We are also concerned about our local government friends in coastal communities that may be more directly impacted.

RESOLUTION – That Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recognise the significant importance of the pristine Kowanyama natural	Moved: Cr Dick Seconded: Cr Yam MOTION CARRIED: All in favour
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environment to our past, present and future generations

- Acknowledge the risk of climate change to our natural environment
- Call on the Federal Government to:
 - recognise the impact of climate change and declare a Climate Emergency
 - establish a national fund for councils to build climate change resilience in vulnerable communities.

Council meeting closed at 13:21