



KOWANYAMA ABORIGINAL SHIRE
COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes

21 September 2021 1:22pm – 4:39pm

Kowanyama Chambers Room and
Cairns Board Room

Present:

Councillors

Mayor Robbie Sands (Chair) – Kowanyama Boardroom

Deputy Mayor Cameron Josiah (Councillor) – Kowanyama Boardroom

Cr Teddy Bernard (Councillor) – Kowanyama Boardroom

Cr Jacob Elroy Josiah (Councillor) – Kowanyama Boardroom

Executive

Gary Uhlmann, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Kowanyama Boardroom

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

Jacqui Cresswell, Executive Manager Roads, Infrastructure & Essential Services, (EMRIES) – Kowanyama Boardroom

Nicola Strutt, Acting Executive Manager Finance (A/EMF) – Cairns Boardroom

Caroline Smith, Acting Executive Manager Human Resources (A/EMHR)

Apologies:

Cr. Richard Stafford (Councillor)

Kevin Bell, Executive Manager Community Services (EMCS)

Meeting Commenced: 1:22pm

1) Welcome

The Mayor welcomed Councillors and Executive Team to meeting.

The Mayor also acknowledged A/EMHR Caroline Smith and welcomed her to her first Council Meeting.

Apologies

RESOLUTION – Cr Stafford Apologies That Council accept the apologies for Cr Stafford	None in favour MOTION NOT CARRIED:
--	---

EMGO asked if any Conflicts of Interest were to be declared.

Councillors advised that there were no Conflicts of Interest to be declared.

2) Minutes from Previous Meeting

Katherine Wiggins, EMGO presented previous minutes and resolutions for the August Ordinary Council Meeting.

<p>RESOLUTION – Minutes Minutes from Ordinary Council Meeting 17 August 2021 be adopted as true and accurate</p>	<p>Moved: Cr Sands Seconded: Cr Bernard</p> <p>All in favour MOTION CARRIED:</p>
---	--

3) Action Items

Katherine Wiggins, EMGO presented action items from previous council meeting.

- EMGO contacted the office of Robert Katter regarding the Working with Children Amendment.
- 346 Chellikee St has been tenanted – it is no longer on the list of transitional housing.
- Condition of fences still in progress as Animal Management Officer (AMO) has been away.

Deputy Mayor asked if his fence could be checked as it has some damage.

Action Item: EMRIES to advise AMO to check fencing at 445 Man Narkrh St

- Canteen refurbishment progress has been checked

Action items are progressing and all Executive's to update register as required.

Mayor asked about increasing Parks & Gardens employee's in the wet season and possible Football field care taker.

4) Reports

a) CEO Information report

Gary Uhlmann, CEO presented a verbal information report:

- Cattle Company meeting with the Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC). Proposal letter has been sent and Council is awaiting response.
- Section 143 letter has been sent to PBC regarding entering lands to take fill.
- PBC have sent letter to Carpenteria Shire to stop Kowanyama working on the National Park Road due to poison land / cultural heritage. Council need to find a long-term solution that Council and PBC agree to.
- An Expression of Interest has been advertised for both the Blue Café and the Bakery.
- Carriage limit changes are working their way through the government official channels.
- Contract / lease for the Kowanyama Sports & Recreation Association (KSRA) – refurbishment to be completed before KSRA will sign lease. Painters have been an issue as there is only one (1) painter available in community.
- Management turnover – five (5) key staff to be replaced due to vacancies. Currently have employees “acting” in their roles while Council are in transition period.
- Australian Union (ASU) issued dispute against council. There is a hearing on Thursday this week.
- Rodeo weekend went really well.
- Census – concerned with the number of houses that have not been done. Was at 130 not completed. That number is now down to 70 houses to be completed.
- Cattle Muster is going well. The feedback from contractor has been good and the employed locals have been doing really well.

- Vaccinations – health teleconference yesterday. It is not a matter of “if” but “when” it will get to communities.
- At 70% vaccination it still means that half of the Australian population is still unvaccinated.
- QLD health have advised that they can return to community once a month.
- Pfizer vaccine can not be held at the medical centre due to the storing temperature required. Vaccination team are required to bring in and administer.
- More messaging to be on council social media pages.

Councillors and executive’s discussed issues surrounding vaccinations.

EMGO asked if it would be beneficial to get legal advice on vaccine passports.

CEO advised that direction would have to come from the Federal Government.

- Vehicles – car bodies are being removed from the town streets. All cars to be removed have been marked with a cross.

Mayor asked if he could get the total of how many cattle had been sold and average price per head.

Action Item: EMGO to advise Mayor on total of cattle sold and average price

b) Executive manager Governance and Operations

i) EMGO Information Report

Katherine Wiggins presented EMGO information report:

Google Maps

As flagged at the July council meeting, currently Kowanyama residential addresses do not appear on google maps which causes difficulties when purchasing items online.

Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP) have been contacted to resolve this on council’s behalf.

DSDSATSIP have provided draft addresses for council to consider.

To ensure the addresses are correct it is requested that council reviews the addresses and provide comment on their suitability. If required, input could be provided as a scheduled workshop with councillors and any other key stakeholders and community members.

Canteen Lease

The drafted lease is currently with Kowanyama Sports and Recreation Association for signoff.

Cattle Company

The cattle muster is currently underway. Council is in negotiations with Abm Elgoring Ambung Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC regarding land use.

Air Services Lease

Air Services Australia are responsible for maintaining the Non-Directional Beacons (NDBs) utilised for aircraft, which in Kowanyama, is located on Lot 81 on SP 278075, on Chapman Road in Kowanyama. This lot has been earmarked for the next round of social housing builds.

Satellite technology has replaced the need for NDBs and they are becoming a redundant technology. Therefore, Air Services Australia considered that they could decommission the NDB and hand the land back to council. However, Skytrans have recently objected to this. We are currently working with Air Services Australia to resolve whilst not impacting on air services in Kowanyama.

Oriners and Airport WIFI

Governance and Operations is currently implementing a project to provide WIFI access at Oriners (for council employees and contractors) and at the Airport (for airport users). We are aiming to have this installed by the beginning of the wet season.

Identification Cards for Employees

Following successful training in the Local Government Workers course and the Authorised Officers course, employees involved in the roads program and rangers have now been allocated identification cards.

Action Item: EMGO to draft letter to Skytrans (Johnathon Thurston) from Mayor re: schedule and pricing

- EMGO attended forum for Public Disclosure training. If a public official makes a complaint i.e. corruption, environmental etc. they are protected from reprisals. EMGO will update on social media etc. This is for staff members from any government department.

c) Executive Manager Finance (Acting)

i) Information Report

Nicola Strutt presented the EMF information report:

Key points from the August 2021 YTD report are as follows:

- net operating result is a \$149K surplus, this is **\$102K** worse than budget
- actual net operating income is \$2,575K this is **\$776K** worse than budget
- actual operating expenditure is \$2,426K this is **\$674K** better than budget
- Net Profit is \$149K surplus, this is **\$1,269K** better than budget
- Untied Cash Funds balance is \$3,581K

Please note these comparisons are to the Budget 2021-22 as adopted at the June 2021 Special Meeting.

Mayor asked if the half yearly budget planning review could be started.

ii) Agenda Reports

Annual Budget 2021-2022 – Updated Fees & Charges

Nicola Strutt presented Agenda Report to council:

As per the Local Government Regulation, each year a local government must endorse an Operational Plan and Budget for the financial year. Should any changes be required to the Operational Budget and associated reports it must be presented to Council for its adoption.

Changes in the updated 2021-22 Fees and Charges are reflected in the updated Fees & Charges schedule.

RESOLUTION – Fees and Charges

Pursuant to section 98 of the Local Government Act 2009, the Register of Fees and Charges for the 2021-2022 financial year is adopted by Council.

**Moved: Cr Cameron Josiah
Seconded: Cr Jacob Josiah**

**All in favour
MOTION CARRIED:**

d) Executive Manager Roads, Infrastructure and Essential Services
i) Information Report

Jacqui Cresswell presented the EMRIES information report:

Roads

Koppens set to complete the town street bitumen works next week, with Council carpark completed last weekend.

- A grader is already working on an emergent grade through the National Park and will continue up to the Coleman River and de-grass the road ready for the full road crew to arrive there in 2 weeks' time.
- Town Streets have been cleaned and Koppens are undertaking repairs. Water on the road has been problematic with works having to be redone due to failure.
- All drains around the community have been cleared and all fire breaks completed.
- Kowanyama – Dunbar gravel section completed.
- Road trains will now start carting gravel to the Shelfo Rd stockpile on the western side of the Mitchell River.
- All gravel has been delivered ready to layout on Topsy Rd with all R2R, LRCI and TIDS ATSI projects expected to be completed in the next 2 weeks.
- QRRRF project (Magnificent bank stabilisation) has been designed and project awarded to Koppens to complete this week, after town streets completed.
- All local contractors – Hudson Hire, Vandy Beasley, Monty Gilbert and R&K are currently working at various locations.

Works - Building & Essential Services

- Plumbers and carpenters are continuing with BAS maintenance works, although timeframes are still problematic.
- A carpenter supervisor vacancy has been advertised to assist with the workload and supervision of the carpenters
- Current water testing results show water condition is excellent.
- Water mains to the dump and dog pound are underway.

Capital Projects - Duplexes Construction

- Tender for 344 Uwelkoril Street was advertised last weekend.
- 278 Pindi Street – detailed architectural and engineered drawings completed and will go to tender by end September.

Major Projects

- *Family bistro/canteen renovation* – Majority of major works completed with the canteen able to trade. All painting works underway with slab and fencing works completed and turf laid.
Ergon have been delayed and power upgrades will not happen until end September.
- *Contractors camp/storage area* – Screening and security works commenced last week, temporary Ergon connection complete – delayed until end September.
- *Staff house* – Kit houses complete to lock up stage, works now on hold until canteen completion.
- *ICCIP* – Redesign works have commenced at the dump which is looking good, oil pit to be constructed this week. Car crusher to arrive in community this week. Tender documents for lining of sewage ponds to be advertised by end September.
- Request for a design and construct of a new water testing lab at the water tower will be issued shortly so we can do more comprehensive water testing.

Electrical

- Electrical/air conditioning works at the road camp completed.

- Quotes being sought for works at Oriners, working with essential services regarding water bore and pumps, expected to return to undertake works 4 October.

Airport

- Facemasks are still compulsory due to Covid19 restrictions.
- Aerodrome manual and MOS 139 compliance ongoing, as is undertaking quotes for fuel farm solution.
- HR have been successful in receiving funding for ARO training as more people need training, dates currently being compiled.
- Mandatory training for fuel handling and re-fuelling is required urgently to ensure airport compliancy, this will be undertaken with all qualified ARO staff after completion of their training.
- Skytrans are constantly changing the flight schedules which has become problematic for staff rostering, with early and late flights impacting on staffing.
- Hinterland Operations Manager, Andrew Sinclair, has been in contact regarding reintroducing flights to Kowanyama in January. Discussions ongoing regarding turn around fees and proposed flight schedule.

Workshop

- Contractor currently undertaking works in workshop with 2 local labourer's, there have been a number of vehicles repaired and back in commission in the last month.
- No charges have been recorded as yet in Synergy due to incorrect pricing on fees and charges register. On approval, of new rates, all work orders will be input, and results will show in September financials.

Rangers & Animal Management

- All rangers undertook training in Cairns last week including:
 Biosecurity training and tour of laboratories,
 Work experience with Bills Marine
 Weapons training
 Boat licence course.
- Animal registrations have commenced, however due to the AMO being away community promotion has been limited. The fence audit has also been delayed, a temporary AMO will be sought to assist with the implementation.

Parks & Gardens

- Funding being sought to replace irrigation pipes at the market garden after recent vandalism and fire destroyed them all.
- Rubbish removal of town streets continuing with public awareness of throwing rubbish on the ground needing to, again, be advertised.

Mayor said there was no flexibility with Skytrans flights and schedule.

Also, there is Security Training in community in October. Are we able to get local community members on this course?

Action Item: EMHR to follow up on security training

ii) Agenda Report

Jacqui Cresswell presented Agenda Report to Council;

As per Council's Procurement Policy, the Chief Executive Officer's financial delegation is \$200,000 and transactions that total in excess of \$200,000 for a particular company, over a year, require Council's endorsement.

Council has requested Xtra Co to supply quotes for the supply of Road Materials under the Local Buy Contract LB 288

An exemption exists to Council’s Procurement policy as the tender process has been undertaken by Local Buy therefore is exempt under Local Government Regulations. Council has received notification of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) funding has been confirmed for these projects.

In servicing the needs of the community in balance with QRA funding arrangements for reinstatement works on storm damaged sections of Pormp C. Council will need to cart 3,227.07 metric tons of gravel from Nolan’s Quarry, Chillagoe. Works will be undertaken to top up sections of Pormpuraaw Road (Alice to Coleman) that have been approved by the QRA under submission KASC-0026.2021E.REC

<p>RESOLUTION – Xtra Co Contracts exceeding \$200,000 That in line with Council’s financial delegations Council endorse payment of \$416,834.04 to Xtra Co.</p>	<p>Moved: Cr Jacob Josiah Seconded: Cr Teddy Bernard</p> <p>All in favour MOTION CARRIED:</p>
--	---

Short break commencing at 3:52pm and returned to meeting at 4:07pm

e) Executive Manager Community Services
i) Information Report

Gary Uhlmann CEO presented the EMCS information report:

Executive Summary

- Kowanyama Covid Vaccination stage 2 roll out
- Planning supports for KSRA for Rodeo Ball and Rodeo
- Community Safety Plan Development Phase 2 Implementation Phase
- Planning stage for new operational grants (DATSIP)
- Key staff recruitment (Aged Care Manager, Women’s Services Manager, Post Office Manager)

Aged and Disability Services Overview

- Staff continued to deliver quality services for clients
- Aged Care and Disability Services Manager has resigned to take an opportunity in Pormpuraww, recruitment has commenced with position advertised
- HACC staff are undertaking hoist mobility training
- HACC staff and programs have limited vehicles to use at present with 1 currently in the workshop, bus is to be assessed to cost to make road worthy and the other is in Cairns being assessed by insurance

Sports Recreation and Children’s Services overview

- The Kowanyama State School HPE classes Monday – Thursday from 9:00am – 3:00pm and Friday from 9:00am – 1:00pm (sports included hockey and basketball)
- A visit from Star lab was well received by the children with 2 large domes set up in the MPC providing a star gazing/ solar system experience for children
- Regular afterschool multi-sport programs were facilitated with fantastic engagement from the youth
- Kowanyama Pool reopened and has had great engagement each afternoon, A special thanks to the essential services team for the works done to get the pool functional

- Support to the Men's Rugby League team for the finals. Unfortunately, the team went down in the Grand finale to Mornington Raiders

Women's Shelter

- Kowanyama Women's Shelter had a welcome site visit from funder contact officer. Staff discussed program in depth with Department and provided a great insight into service delivery model. Additionally, Kowanyama Women's Shelter Staff supported 9 clients over this reporting period.
- 5 clients received center-based support from the Kowanyama Women's Shelter and were linked to additional services and programs in community. 4 women received temporary supported accommodation for this reporting period.

Community Cultural Support Workers

- Community Cultural Support Workers facilitated 4 women's groups in this period. Staff have continued to partner with internal council stakeholders and external stakeholders and service providers to deliver structured women's group meeting with targeted outcomes. Staff facilitated in partnership with Sports and Rec staff and RATSICC events for Child protection week and "R U OK day." Staff were also councils lead support agent to QLD health for stage 2 covid vacs that rolled out in Kowanyama providing community and support, meals, and prizes to the community.

f) Executive Manager Human Resources (Acting)

i) Information Report

Caroline Smith presented the EMHR information report:

Current vacancies:

- Executive Manager Finance – *currently shortlisting*
- Executive Manager Human Resources – *currently shortlisting*
- Carpentry Supervisor – *(currently internal staff member acting in role)*
- Manager Aged and Disability Services

New Appointments September:

- Scientific Advisor – *John Brisbin*
- Sport and Rec Support Officer (jnr) -*Jaukai Dempsey*
- QBuild Maintenance Team – *Lestridge Possum*
- Business Enterprises Manager – *start date to be confirmed*
- Accounts Receivable Officer – *Joanne Ellis*
- Manager Women's Services – *Maddy Lehmann*
- Cultural Advisors – *Arthur Luke (Jnr), Simon Luke, Rex Flower, Roy Zingle*

Break-ins and attempted break-ins and damage to infrastructure at various Council locations continue. Damage to CCTV and Rise vehicle bus windows. Training Centre seems to be targeted. CCTV footage to be sent to the police.

5) Closed Business

RESOLUTION – Closed Business That Council moved into closed business at 4:32pm	Moved: Cr Sands Seconded: Cr Jacob Josiah All in favour MOTION CARRIED:
--	--

RESOLUTION – Closed Business That Council moved out of closed business at 4:37pm	Moved: Cr Sands Seconded: Cr Jacob Josiah All in favour MOTION CARRIED:
--	--

RESOLUTION – Tenancy Management Cultural Approval That Council endorse the suggested change to social housing allocation as requested by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Unit	Moved: Cr Jacob Josiah Seconded: Cr Cameron Josiah All in favour MOTION CARRIED:
---	---

RESOLUTION – Audit and Risk Committee Minutes That Council note and endorse the August 2021 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes	Moved: Cr Cameron Josiah Seconded: Cr Sands All in favour MOTION CARRIED:
--	--

Meeting Closed: 4:39pm