



*Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council*

# Community Capacity Statement

Civil, Construction & Community Services





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*Information contained in this booklet is based on available information at the time of writing.*

*Council or it's offices accept no responsibility for any loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting in reliance upon any material contained in this booklet.*





## About Us

*This statement is designed to provide information on locally available services and workforce solutions for civil and construction companies wishing to tender and engage in works in the shire of Kowanyama.*

### *Our* Council

Kowanyama means “place of many waters” in the Yir Yoront language. The community includes the Kokoberra, Yir Yoront [or Kokomenjen] and Kunjen clans, who each have language and other cultural differences. Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire consists of beautiful and unique wetlands and delta mangroves in the north, extending to forest country of the central peninsula.

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire is administered by the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009. Council has an elected Mayor and Councillors who work closely with an Executive Team to deliver services to the community.

### *Kowanyama* Community

Kowanyama lies 25 km (as the crow flies) from the east coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria in the south-western region of the Cape York Peninsula, and 600 km northwest of Cairns. The total area equals approximately 4,120 square kilometres. The community has a population of approximately 1200 people.

The community is based on the banks of Magnificent Creek, which joins the South Mitchell River, which in turn forms part of the Mitchell River Delta. Road access is only available four to five months of the year in the dry season.



**Cr. Robbie Sands**

Mayor, Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council



**Kevin Bell**

Chief Executive Officer,  
Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council



# Our Vision & Mission

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Our Vision Statement outlines what Council wants to achieve in the future, and our Mission statement outlines what Council will achieve day-to-day.



## Vision

To deliver best practice Council services, with stakeholders to ensure our Community Members receive first rate services, with a focus on business development, culture, education and wellbeing.



## Mission

To build a healthy and safe Community, with strong economic opportunities and wellbeing services, through innovation and collaboration.

## Our Values

- **Accountability**

Our decision-making is transparent, fair and in the best interest of the whole Community.
- **Maintaining Culture**

We embrace our culture and preserve and strengthen it for future generations.
- **Respect**

We listen to all views and communicate with our Community Members, stakeholders and employees with respect and professionalism.
- **Communication**

We understand the importance of clear, regular communication and we will communicate Council decisions, projects and activities with our employees, Community Members and stakeholders.
- **Diversity & Equality**

We embrace diversity and treat all people with respect, and fairness, no matter their gender, age, sexual orientation, race or disability.
- **Partnership**

We will work together with our fellow local councils, state and federal government and community groups and services.
- **Innovation**

We embrace future technologies and tools and look for new solutions for the benefit of our Community.
- **Excellence**

We strive to provide the best in everything we do.



# About Kowanyama

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### Our Nature & Environment

Kowanyama has a rich abundance of nature and wildlife. Kowanyama consists mainly of wetlands and delta mangroves in the north, extending to forest country of the central peninsula. These unique natural environments are home to a vast array of bird and animal species.

### Climate

Kowanyama experiences extreme heat during the annual wet season with very high temperatures and rainfall. The wet season runs from December to April and is characterized by frequent torrential downpours and high humidity. During the dry season, almost no rainfalls and days are warm to hot, but humidity is low and the nights can become quite mild.

### Population

With a population just over 1000 people, Kowanyama is one of the largest communities on the Cape York peninsula. Most residents are

Traditional Owners. The community includes the Kokoberra, Yir Yoront (or Kokomenjen) and Kunjen clans, who each have language and other cultural differences. Language groups associated with the Kowanyama region include Yir Yoront, Yirrk Thangalki, Koko Bera, Uw Oygangand, and Olkola. English is also widely spoken.

### Accessibility & Remoteness

Kowanyama has stunning ecological diversity, with a wide variety of fauna, that includes but is not limited to:

- Kangaroos and Wallabies
- Possums and Gliders
- Bats and Flying Foxes
- Dingoes and other introduced Cape York Wildlife
- Parrots and Cockatoos
- Kookaburra and other Kingfishers
- Jabirus and Broglas
- Birds of Prey
- Honeyeaters
- Saltwater Crocodiles
- Turtles
- Lizards, Skinks and Geckos
- Monitors and Goannas
- Snakes
- Frogs

### Accessibility & Remoteness

The Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia rates Kowanyama as Remote (4), meaning there is very restricted access to goods and services. Subject to road conditions and your vehicle's capability, Kowanyama can be accessed by road from Cairns via Mareeba and Chillagoe. However, during the wet season (November to April), some or all these roads may be closed. Motorists should be aware that there is no fuel available in the 400km between Chillagoe and Kowanyama.

Check the road conditions by visiting the Department of Transport and Main Roads website: [qldtraffic.qld.gov.au](http://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au)

You can also fly to Kowanyama Airport from Cairns (CNS). Hinterland Aviation and Skytrans operate scheduled flights on selected weekdays.

Kowanyama



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## Additional Information

### Alcohol Restrictions

Kowanyama has an Alcohol Management Plan (AMP) in place. The Kowanyama restricted area is the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire including all public and private places. This includes the Errk Oykanang National Park (formerly known as the Mitchell-Alice Rivers National Park) and the Mitchell River and the Northern sides of Topsy Creek, Northern and Southern sides of Coleman River, the rest of the Topsy Creek waterway and the other parts of the Coleman River are not part of the restricted area. Please review information regarding AMP guidelines, restrictions and penalties at; Kowanyama Alcohol Management Plan Guidelines

### Queensland Indigenous Procurement Policy

The Queensland Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Procurement Policy (QIPP) provides a whole of Government framework to increase procurement with Indigenous businesses to reach three per cent of the value of Government procurement contracts by 2022. Under the QIPP an Indigenous business is at least fifty per cent owned by Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples. For more information, please visit DSDSATSIP Queensland Indigenous Procurement Policy website.

### Queensland Government Building & Construction Policy

The Training Policy applies to eligible Queensland Government and GOC building and/or civil construction projects throughout Queensland. As well as providing apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities and developing the skills of workers in the building and construction industry, the Training Policy also as a strong focus on increasing the economic independence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

All contractors and Queensland Government agencies can access further information at the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) website - DESBT Training Policy Guidelines For Indigenous projects, please refer to information located on the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP) website.

### Travel Restrictions

Visitors to Kowanyama are encouraged to visit the Kowanyama Council website to ensure that prior to travel, you are familiar with any requirements in relation to cultural protocols and COVID-19. Please check the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council website for any updated information prior to intended travel to Kowanyama.

# 05

## Elected Council

### *Cr. Robbie Sands - Mayor*

Mayor Robbie Sands brings several years of experience working within the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, under the Elders who guided it through its infancy. He continues to represent the community through a number of committees and clubs, including the Sports and Recreation Association and the Kowanyama Rodeo committee.



### *Cr. Cameron Josiah - Deputy Mayor*

Deputy Mayor Cameron Josiah brings a wealth of experience, guidance, and drive to his current role in Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council. He is incredibly passionate about education opportunities for the young people of Kowanyama, placing a strong emphasis on the completion of school studies or providing traineeships or apprenticeships for students.



### *Cr. Teddy Bernard*

Councillor Teddy Bernard is a Kunjen/Kokoberra/Kokomenjen man from Kowanyama and the proud father of two. A graduate of the Cape York Leaders program between 2009 and 2011, Councillor Bernard has been a highly active advocate for Native Title programs for the past 18 years and is a member of the Board of Directors at the Kowanyama PBC.



### *Cr. Jacob Elroy Josiah*

Councillor Josiah was born in Kowanyama and started out his career in Council in infrastructure and main roads, contributing to much of the transportation and road network throughout the local region his goals firmly rooted in helping young people achieve their aspirations through employment initiatives, social activities and job opportunities.



### *Cr. David Jack*

Councillor David Jack has resided in Kowanyama for almost 25 years. and brings a wealth of community knowledge and experience to the Council and is responsible for the Housing & Health portfolio with a particular focus on Aged Care, Sports & Recreation, Social Housing and healthy living.







## Capacity Statement

“The Kowanyama Capacity Statement is designed to provide information on locally available goods and services and workforce resources available for building and construction companies wishing to tender and engage in works in the township of Kowanyama.

It is a priority for all agencies and contractors delivering construction projects in Kowanyama, to engage the local Indigenous workforce and business supply services.

Utilising the local services and labour in Kowanyama will greatly reduce accommodation and transport costs associated with undertaking works in remoter locations. It will also contribute and support economic sustainability of the community by engaging local knowledge, experience and services.

The other distinct advantage for contractors, is that, by utilising local services and labour pool from the Kowanyama community will contribute to the contractual requirements under the Queensland Government Building and Construction Training Policy which came into effect on July 1, 2014.

We encourage you to liaise with the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council and local service providers about the utilisation of these services and labour, as it may assist with the delivery of projects in community, whilst building a strong and sustainable relationship with the community and its partners.



## Indigenous Local Businesses

Business	Name	Contact Details
Blue Cafe Takeaway Food	Monday – Friday (varies)	thomas@juli.com.au
Hudson Hire Car Hire Services		0447 743 633 thomas@juli.com.au
Sports & Rec Association Canteen/Takeaway Alcohol	Wednesday – Saturday 5:30 PM – 10:00 PM	0447 743 633 thomas@juli.com.au
Kowanyama Car Rentals Car Rental Service		0459 982 170 kowcarrentals@gmail.com





## Local/Preferred Suppliers

Business	Name	Contact Details
A-Z Project Management	Alex Barker	0427 693 257
Barto's Construction	Ryan Bartlett Kellie Bartlett	0438 627 208 0407 854 649 admin@batroconstruction.com
Cameron Herbert Construction	Cameron Herbert	0437 161 720 cameron@chcptyltd.com.au accounts@chcptyltd.com.au
H.C. Building & Construction	Administration	07 4045 5722 admin@hcbuilding.com.au
Kieza Construction	Jared Kieza	0410 529 487 jaredkbuild@yahoo.com.au
Koppens	Claire Mitchell (Tender Admin) Leisha Devlin (Project Admin) Brad Whiteside (Estimator) Accounts	cmitchell@koppens.com.au ldevlin@koppens.com.au lbwhiteside@koppens.com.au accounts@koppens.com.au 07 4052 2600
James Construction Pty. Ltd.	Office	07 4083 2220 office@jcqld.com.au
Outback Electrics	Robert Fry	0427 963 147 outbackelec@gmail.com

## Local Services/Businesses

Business	Hours	Contact Details
ABIS Supermarket Supermarket	Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM Saturday: 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM	07 4060 5166 Chapman Road, Kowanyama QLD 4870
Anglican Church Store Convenience Store		07 4060 5266 kowanyamastore@anglicannq.org
Australia Post Postal & Banking Services	Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	07 4083 7166 postoffice@kowanyama.qld.gov.au
Hayden Shorey Mechanic & Repairs		0448 758 931 hayden@hscontracting.com.au
Primary Health Care Clinic Community Health Services	Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	07 4083 7600
Rural Fire Service		0477 007 678



# Council Services

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The following machinery is available to hire from Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council:

- Loader
- Bobcat
- Mini Excavator
- Water Jetter
- Backhoe/Front End Loader
- Job Truck
- Tractor & Slasher
- Grader Cat
- Front End Loaders
- Roller
- Track Loader
- Side Tipper
- Concrete Truck
- Multi Tyre Roller
- Crane

- Mobile Light Towers
- Knuckle Boom
- Forklift
- Dozer

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council Plant/Machinery available for wet hire only. All equipment is fully serviced, and operators are experienced and provide excellent quality of work.

The hire of each item is subject to fees and charges. Contractors wanting to make a booking or inquire about the machinery available for hire, please contact the Executive Manager of Roads, Infrastructure and Essential Services.

# Building & Civil Construction Services

## Council Building Services

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council's Building and Civil Construction Services department employs a skilled workforce of local people in varied trades to undertake their own work programs. External contractors are encouraged to discuss with Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, any opportunities to provide additional employment and upskilling for local Council and community residents on all infrastructure projects being in and regional to Kowanyama.

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council has established building specific business units which currently undertake the upgrade and responsive maintenance programs for the social housing stock in community, civil based projects within and around the township of Kowanyama, and other agencies building projects.

Our carpentry workforce comprises of Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council tradesmen, sub-contractors, apprentices and semi-skilled general labourers with formal qualifications and practical carpentry experiences. Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council can undertake all carpentry repairs, maintenance and most new constructions or builds.

The Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council has established its own workforce of Plumbers, as well as contractors in the community. These contractors employ local community members, and provide a high quality of plumbing services for all upgrades and responsive maintenance requirements to the community. Electrician that provides services to the Council and community during peak periods. The Council has established a set costing to fully fit out new homes with all the required electrical services. A well established concrete batching plant. The batching plant has the capacity to produce approximately 80 cubes of concrete per day.

Executive Manager Roads, Infrastructure & Essential Services	07 4083 7135
Building Services Manager	07 4083 7126 buildingservices@kowanyama.qld.gov.au
Essential Services Manager	07 4083 7126 essential.services@kowanyama.qld.gov.au
Carpentry Supervisor	07 4045 5722 admin@hcbuilding.com.au
Electrical Services	07 4083 4120
Batching & Concrete	07 4083 7135



# Council Services



The Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council is responsible for local government services such as road construction and maintenance, water infrastructure, sewerage infrastructure and maintenance, environmental health, and parks & gardens.

In addition to these primary functions Council also provides the following services and facilities:

- Housing
- Local radio station
- Operation and management of the Purchasing Store
- Management of a cattle operation
- Management of leasehold cattle properties (Oriners and Sefton), including Carbon Farming
- Operation and management of the Aged Care Centre
- Operation and management of the Child Care Centre and Play Group
- Operation and management of the Land & Natural Resources Office
- Aboriginal Community Police Officers, in collaboration with Queensland Police Service
- Sport & Recreation programs and services, including those for young people
- Swimming Pool
- Women’s Shelter
- Men’s Shed
- Women’s and Men’s Groups

## Council Enterprises

In addition to these primary functions Council also has the following business enterprises:

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 01 Vehicle Workshop                 | 05 Training Centre Offices |
| 02 Post Office & Bank               | 06 Airport                 |
| 03 Batching Plant                   | 07 Centrelink Agency       |
| 04 Residential & Commercial Rentals | 08 Blue Cafe               |



- |                              |                    |                              |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Council                      | F Canteen          | K Aged Care Centre           |
| A River House Accommodation  | G Blue Café        | L Primary Health Care Centre |
| B Anglican Convenience Store | H Post Office      | M Swimming Pool              |
| C Football Field             | I Lands Office     | N Community Hall             |
| D Kowanyama State School     | J ABIS Supermarket | O Accommodation Centre       |
| E Multi Purpose Centre       |                    |                              |



# 11 Accommodation



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Where to stay while you're in Kowanyama...



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## 01 Training Centre

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council's Accommodation Centre is located at the Training Centre and offers a variety of different room options to meet your accommodation needs.

Please note that:

- Pets are not permitted at the accommodation.
- For arrivals after 5.00pm Monday - Thursday, after 12.00pm Friday, or during weekends and Public Holidays room keys will be left in the after-hours check-in box, located on Chapman Road between the Training Centre and Purchase Store. The pin number will be emailed to guests. See accommodation staff on the next business day to sign paperwork for your stay.



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## 02 River House

Kowanyama River House is a 17 room guest house overlooking Magnificent Creek in the Kowanyama township.

Conveniently located just 100 metres from the Cultural Centre and 200 metres from the KASC Offices and Supermarket.

Rates per Room per Night (including GST):

Single	\$250.00
Double (Couple)	\$250.00
Twin Room	\$300.00
Donga Room	\$190.00

*\*Prices indicative of the available information at the time of writing.*



## Training Centre Accommodation

Lot 510 Chapman Road,  
Kowanyama QLD 4892

07 4083 7170  
[bookings@kowanyama.qld.gov.au](mailto:bookings@kowanyama.qld.gov.au)



## River House Accommodation

Lot 9 Chapman Road,  
Kowanyama QLD 4892

0438 880 289  
[res@kowanyamariverhouse.com.au](mailto:res@kowanyamariverhouse.com.au)



## Contractors' Camp



Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council's Contractor's Camp is located on Karrenganang Street. This facility offers a variety of room options, ensuring that contractor's visiting the Kowanyama community for the delivery of building and essential trade services, are provided with a safe and secure accommodation facility.

Please note that:

- Each room is equipped with a private ensuite, with shared cooking and laundry facilities available for use.
- Bookings must be made at least 48 hours in advance.
- Keys for this accommodation facility are collected from the main Council Office, located at 30 Chapman Road, Kowanyama.
- For arrivals after 5.00pm Monday - Thursday, after 12.00pm Friday, or during weekends and Public Holidays, an alternate key collection method can be arranged, although prior notice must be given.

Karrenganang Street, Kowanyama QLD 4870

07 4083 7100

[bookings@kowanyama.qld.gov.au](mailto:bookings@kowanyama.qld.gov.au)

## Getting Here

You can travel to Kowanyama either by air (flight) or via road during the Dry Season:



Kowanyama is accessible via Mareeba and Chillagoe along the Burke Development and Kowanyama Roads to reach our serene location. Majority of the road is dirt, and travel time from Cairns varies from 8-10 hours depending on road conditions. It is also possible to access Kowanyama by road from the south via Kurumba and Normanton.

A four wheel drive vehicle is recommended for getting to Kowanyama, with roads only officially open and accessible during the dry season. It is recommended to check road conditions and closures before your travels via the Transport & Main Roads and Queensland Traffic websites.



The Kowanyama Airport is located 1km out of the township, and is operated by the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council. Scheduled flights to Kowanyama (KWM) depart from Cairns (CNS).

Both Hinterland Aviation and Skytrans operate scheduled flights on selected weekdays. Please check airlines for flight schedules.

Please note there are no public transport services available in Kowanyama.



# Employment Service Providers

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## RISE Ventures

Kowanyama is serviced by the Community Development Program provider RISE Ventures. RISE Ventures is a service provider established in the Kowanyama community, and is committed to ensuring local clients have opportunity to gain sustainable employment.

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**Megan Logan**

07 4081 6840  
megan.logan@riseventures.com.au  
info@riseventures.com.au

## DSDSATIP

Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships partners with Council and local stakeholders to assist agencies and contractors to maximise local economic opportunities for workforce and business supply.

DSDSATIP can aid contractor's and agencies in meeting their contractual requirements for the Queensland Government and Building and Construction Training Policy. Requirements generally apply to local building and civil projects, which maximise local employment and business supply services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers.

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**John Conroy**

0477 317 583  
john.conroy@dldsatsip.qld.gov.au

# Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC)

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## Abm Elgoring Ambung Aboriginal Corporation

Amb Elgoring Ambung Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC acts as an agent for the native title rights and interests of the Kowanyama People in south-west Cape York. The combined area of all three claims is approximately 19,800 square kilometres.

The Amb Elgoring Ambung PBC runs Kowanyama Camping, and rents out four camping grounds on their traditional country to tourists in the area. Please access the weblink to ensure that as a visitor to this country, you are familiar with the requests and requirements whilst spending time at these beautiful locations.

Respecting the Kowanyama culture, ensures that the beautiful resources of this country can be enjoyed by many, and also helps us to maintain the natural sustainability of the region.

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**Tania Major**

07 4060 5224  
sec.aeaac@gmail.com  
nativetitle.org.au





## *Kowanyama* **Office**

(07) 4083 7100

Lot 30 Chapman Road,  
Kowanyama QLD 4892

## *Cairns* **Office**

(07) 4040 4500

50 Scott Street,  
Bungalow QLD 4870

