



Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council

February Council Meeting

Minutes

18 February 2026, 10:12AM – 11:42AM

Indigenous Knowledge Centre and Cairns Boardroom

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Present

Kowanyama Chambers

Cr. Territa Dick (Mayor)
Cr. Teddy Bernard (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Charmaine Lawrence
Cr. Richard Stafford
Mark Crawley – Interim Chief Executive Officer
Dan Dixon – Executive Manager Roads, Infrastructure and Essential Services
Bella Jacob – Executive Assistant

Cairns Boardroom

Joe Cristaldi – Executive Manager Corporate and Financial Services
Chris McLaughlin – Acting Manager Governance
Danae Maltby – Governance Officer

1. Opening/Welcome

Meeting commenced at 10:12AM.

Mayor welcomed the Councillors and Executive Team to the February Council Meeting, paid respects to Traditional Owners and Elders (past and present).

2. Conflicts of Interest

Councillors advise that there is no Conflict of Interest to be declared.

Apologies

RESOLUTION: That Council accepts the apologies of Cr. Coralie Lawrence.

Moved: Cr. Teddy Bernard

Seconded: Cr. Richard Stafford

CARRIED

3. Previous Minutes / Action Items

a. Previous Minutes

RESOLUTION: Minutes (January 2026 Ordinary Meeting)

Minutes from the Ordinary Council Meeting 27 January 2026 to be adopted as true and accurate.

Moved: Cr. Charmaine Lawrence
Seconded: Cr. Teddy Bernard

CARRIED

RESOLUTION: Minutes (February 2026 Special Meeting)

Minutes from the Special Council Meeting 9 February 2026 to be adopted as true and accurate.

Moved: Cr. Teddy Bernard
Seconded: Cr. Charmaine Lawrence

CARRIED

b. Action Items

Action Items register was noted and tabled.

Action: CEO to have a further discussion with RISE in relation to employment for local community members.

4. Reports

4.1. Mayor, Deputy, and Councillor Updates

- Cr. Territa Dick advised of the much better than estimated turnout at the combined Men's and Women's Group at the Community Hall on 11 February 2026.
- Mayor Territa Dick thanked Interim CEO Mark Crawley for his service to Council and the community, Alan Neilan starts on 2nd March and a hand-over is arranged until Mark leaves on 6th March. The other councillors in attendance thanked Mark also.
- Deputy Mayor and Interim CEO met with local community members in relation to a proposal for Our Learning Our Way program and a new proposal will be developed and presented to Council for consideration.

4.2. Chief Executive Officer

4.2.1. Information Report

Mark Crawley (Interim Chief Executive Officer) presented the CEO report to Council. Information report was noted by Council.

a. Sponsorship Request

RESOLUTION: That Council provides A Silver Sponsorship to assist with the travel support for Carl Douglas Jr in accordance with the attached 2025/2026 Sponsorship Package.

RESOLUTION NOT MOVED

AMENDMENT: That Council declines the Sponsorship proposal from Carl Douglas Junior and encourage sponsorship from local contractors.

Moved: Cr. Teddy Bernard
Seconded: Cr. Charmaine Lawrence

CARRIED

b. Proposed Change of Date for March Ordinary Meeting

RESOLUTION: Council amends the meeting date for the March Ordinary Meeting from 24 March to 23 March 2026 and advertise the change as required under the Local Government Regulation.

Cr. Territa Dick left the meeting at 10:46am. Deputy Mayor assumed the Chair

Moved: Cr. Richard Stafford
Seconded: Cr. Charmaine Lawrence

CARRIED

c. Councillor Travel Request

RESOLUTION: Council agrees to authorise the attendance of Cr. Teddy Bernard at the Tasmanian Carbon Project Showcase in Hobart from March 18th to March 20th, 2026.

Moved: Cr. Richard Stafford
Seconded: Cr. Charmaine Lawrence

CARRIED

Cr. Territa Dick returned to the meeting at 10:51am. Mayor resumed the Chair

4.3. Executive Manager Corporate and Financial Services**4.3.1. Information Report****a. Governance Update**

Dr Chris McLaughlin (Acting Manager Governance) presented the Governance report to Council. Information report was noted by Council.

Action: Acting Manager Governance to attempt to arrange strategic meeting between AEA RNTBC Board and Councillors for 9 March 2026.

b. Finance Information Report

Joe Cristaldi (Executive Manager Corporate and Financial Services) presented the January 2026 Finance report to Council. Information report was noted by Council.

c. Human Resources Information Report

Joe Cristaldi (Executive Manager Corporate and Financial Services) presented the HR report to Council. Information report was noted by Council.

d. Councillor Expense Report

Joe Cristaldi (Executive Manager Corporate and Financial Services) presented the Councillor Expenses report to Council. Information report was noted by Council.

4.3.2. Agenda Reports

a. Policy and Procedure Report

Local Law-Making Policy: New Policy

RESOLUTION: Council adopts the Local Law Policy as presented.

Moved: Cr. Teddy Bernard

Seconded: Cr. Charmaine Lawrence

CARRIED

Travel and Accommodation Policy: Amended Policy

RESOLUTION: Council adopts the Travel and Accommodation Policy as presented.

Moved: Cr. Terri Dick

Seconded: Cr. Teddy Bernard

CARRIED

For noting and amendment: Travel and Accommodation Policy. A couple of typographical/ clerical errors to be resolved prior to publication, including Definition of "Approver" to also reflect Mayoral (approved by CEO) and Deputy Mayor and Councillor (approved by Mayor) travel protocol; and Clause 5 – "principal" replaced with "principle".

Cr Teddy Bernard left the meeting at 11:30am. Cr Teddy Bernard returned to the meeting at 11:31am.

4.4. Executive Manager Roads, Infrastructure and Essential Services

4.4.1. Information Report

Dan Dixon, (EMRIES) presented EMRIES Information report to Council. Information report was noted by Council.

Action: EMRIES to investigate measures to prevent the use of council vehicles for transporting employees' family members or friends, particularly in situations where seatbelts are not utilised.

Action: EMRIES to investigate feasibility of constructing a barrier that can be unlocked/locked by Council for maintenance along Magnificent Creek, behind the Council building through to 45C Chapman Rd.

Action: EMRIES to inform community when the Vets are visiting Kowanyama.

4.5. Executive Manager Community Services and Cultural Heritage

4.5.1. Information Report

Mark Crawley, (Interim Chief Executive Officer) presented EMCSCH Information report to Council on behalf of Paula Auld (Interim Executive Community Services Manager and Cultural Heritage). Information report was noted by Council.

5. Other Business

- Nil

Action: CEO to ascertain if Licensing and Identification Cards can be done by Queensland Transport in Kowanyama

6. Closed Business

- Nil

Ordinary Meeting closed: 11:42am