



Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council

November Council Meeting

Minutes

25 November 2025, 10:01AM – 12:04PM

Indigenous Knowledge Centre and Cairns Boardroom

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Present

Indigenous Knowledge Centre Cr. Territa Dick (Mayor)
Cr. Teddy Bernard (Deputy Mayor)
Cr. Charmaine Lawrence
Cr. Coralie Lawrence
Kevin Bell – Chief Executive Officer
Mark Crawley – Interim Chief Executive Officer
Dan Dixon – Executive Manager Roads, Infrastructure and Essential Services

Cairns Boardroom Joe Cristaldi – Executive Manager Corporate and Financial Services
Paula Auld – Acting Executive Manager Community Services
Chris McLaughlin – Acting Manager Governance
Danae Maltby – Governance Officer

Apology Cr Richard Stafford

1. Opening/Welcome

Meeting commenced at 10:01AM.

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

Cr Coralie Lawrence opened with a prayer.

Mayor welcomed Mark Crawley who has commenced position as Interim Chief Executive Officer as of 24 November 2025.

Mayor delivered a farewell speech acknowledging the contributions and leadership of the outgoing Chief Executive Officer Mr Kevin Bell, expressing appreciation for his service and commitment to the organisation and the community during his time with Council.

2. Conflicts of Interest

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

Apologies

RESOLUTION: That Council accepts the apology of Cr. Richard Stafford for personal commitments.

Moved: Cr. Territa Dick
Seconded: Cr. Coralie Lawrence

CARRIED
3 x in Favour
1 x Against

3. Previous Minutes / Action Items

a. Previous Minutes

RESOLUTION: Minutes (October 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting)

Minutes from the Ordinary Council Meeting 28 October 2025 to be adopted as true and accurate.

Moved: Cr. Territa Dick
Seconded: Cr. Teddy Bernard

CARRIED

b. Action Items

Action Items register was noted and tabled.

4. Reports

4.1. Mayor, Deputy, and Councillor Updates

Mayor provided summary on activities undertaken in October noting:

- Mayor and CEO attended the LGAQ Annual Conference in Gold Coast and provided an Indigenous Knowledge Centre showcase presentation.
- Mayor has been elected as Chairperson for Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA)
- Cr. Coralie Lawrence attended the World Indigenous People's Conference on Education in New Zealand and was accepted to speak on various Kowanyama projects within the Health and Wellbeing category.

Action: Cr. Dick to complete Form 3 – ROI Updates to reflect Chairperson position with TCICA.

4.2. Chief Executive Officer

4.2.1. Information Report

Kevin Bell (Chief Executive Officer) presented the CEO report to Council. Information report was noted by Council.

4.2.2. Agenda Reports

a. Council Meeting Dates 2026

RESOLUTION: That Council approve dates for the 2026 Council Meetings.

Moved: Cr. Teddy Bernard
Seconded: Cr Coralie Lawrence

CARRIED

Action: GO to ensure notation is made on the published meeting date post advising that location may vary due to ongoing renovations at the Council Office.

b. Kowanyama Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025–2035

RESOLUTION: That Council resolves to endorse the Kowanyama Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025–2035 as presented.

Moved: Cr. Teddy Bernard

Seconded: Cr Charmaine Lawrence

CARRIED

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

Danae Maltby (Governance Officer) and Chris McLaughlin (A/Manager Governance) presented the Governance report to Council. Information report was noted by Council.

Governance report requested consideration of proxy nominations for Council's Audit and Risk Committee by Councillors.

- Cr. Coralie Lawrence and Cr. Charmaine Lawrence accepted as proxies. Report to be submitted to February 2026 Audit and Risk Committee meeting for endorsement.

Chris McLaughlin provided additional updates on projects not mentioned in tabled report:

- Recommendation for CEO arrange meeting with AEA board to continue to progress on the projects and commitments negotiated in the executed MOU.
- Subdivision legal matters have now been settled (subject to sign off by way of Deed) with possession of site anticipated by year end. Next stage will be to proceed with the design of the 19 houses.
- Demobilisation of the Cattle operations (Marshall) has been finalised for 2025 season. Annual Cattle Report will be submitted to January 2026 Ordinary Meeting. We expect that budget has been met.
- Neighbourhood centre ILUA is being funded and now progressing with AEA. Site has been identified for the centre.

b. Finance Information Report

Joe Cristaldi (Executive Manager Corporate and Financial Services) presented the 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.

Cr. Territa Dick left the meeting at 10:58am. Cr. Territa Dick returned to the meeting at 11:05am.

4.3.2. Agenda Reports

a. Carbon Project – Oriners–Sefton

RESOLUTION: That Council resolve to approve transition to new methodology under the Land Restoration Fund (2025 methodology) and give delegation (both procurement and financial) to the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to implement commitments (both financial and otherwise) under the Project Investment Agreement, registration of the new Project (2025 method) and deregistration of the current project (2015 method).

Moved: Cr. Teddy Bernard

Seconded: Cr Charmaine Lawrence

CARRIED

A/Governance Manager Chris McLaughlin left the meeting at 11:18am for the Approved Contractor Report due to COI for submission of application for consultancy services Culturev8. Chris McLaughlin returned to the meeting at 11:22am.

b. Approved Contractor List

RESOLUTION: That Council, in accordance with section 231(2) Local Government Regulation 2012, endorse the Approved Contractor List for a period of two (2) years, as presented, subject to all specified conditional requirements being satisfied by the listed contractors.

Moved: Cr. Charmaine Lawrence

Seconded: Cr. Coralie Lawrence

CARRIED

Cr. Charmaine Lawrence left the meeting at 11:15am. Cr. Charmaine Lawrence returned to the meeting at 11:22am.

Note: Tewlyn Gibbo has been granted "Approved – with Conditions" status.

c. CEQ Lease

RESOLUTION: That Council resolves to:

1. Acknowledge the long-standing partnership with Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ) and commends CEQ for over 120 years of dedicated service to remote Indigenous communities;
2. Recognise that the Council does not currently hold tenure over the land on which the community store is located;
3. Support in principle the continuation of CEQ's retail operations on Kowanyama Aboriginal Community as an essential community service provider, and Council's intent to work collaboratively with the State and Traditional Owners to resolve tenure;
4. Endorse in principle the establishment of a 20-year lease agreement with CEQ once tenure is resolved on acceptable terms.
5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to liaise with the State, CEQ, and stakeholders to progress tenure discussions and negotiate the future lease framework;
6. Note its intention to seek transfer of the underlying land tenure from the State to Council (as Trustee) and for Council to then act as landlord under the proposed Lease; and
7. Confirm that Council views this partnership as a strategic investment in Kowanyama economic and social future, ensuring stability, employment, and improved local services.

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

CARRIED

Cr. Coralie Lawrence left the meeting at 11:28am. Cr. Coralie Lawrence returned to the meeting at 11:30am

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.

Cr. Territa Dick left the meeting at 11:44am. Cr. Territa Dick returned to the meeting at 11:46am.

4.4.2. Agenda Reports

a. Lackon Pty Ltd Service Agreement

RESOLUTION: Council resolves to delegate power to the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to section 257(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2009, to negotiate and finalise all matters and to execute a contract for the engagement of Lackon Pty Ltd as a contractor of Council for the provision of engineering and environmental consultancy services.

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

CARRIED

4.5. Executive Manager Community Services

4.5.1. Information Report

Kevin Bell, (Chief Executive Officer) presented EMCS verbal update to Council. Verbal update was noted by Council.

- Acting Executive Manager Community Services began in November while Council recruits for a permanent position.
- Recruitment for key management positions continues to progress
- Women's Shelter was audited on the Human Services Quality Framework (HSQF) standards in September, and the team are currently working with department to finalise both major and non-conformances noted.
- Council Officers from Women's Services attending the World Indigenous People's Conference on Education in New Zealand with Cr. Coralie Lawrence.
- Christmas donations have been received from local businesses for the Community Christmas event.

5. Closed Business

- Nil

Ordinary Meeting closed: 12:14pm