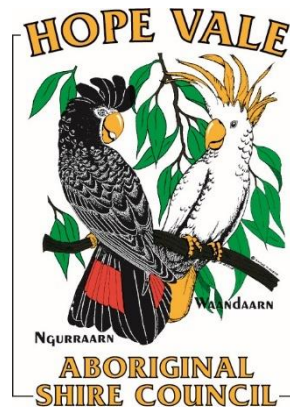


CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting 18 September 2024



Item 1: Meetings Attended

- CEO met with Shaun Nancarrow, Project and Advocacy Manager – Foundation Farm.
- CEO met with Lyn Russell, Regional Manager, Northern Region, Department of Local Government and Arun Pratap, Project Director, Cape York Indigenous Centre of Excellence.
- CEO and Director Finance and Corporate Services met with Peter Savage, Council's Risk Management Advisor and participated in the subsequent Hope Vale Risk Management Meeting.
- CEO participated in a 3-day briefing about Council's finance and corporate services department.
- CEO met with Dr Michael Limerick via Teams regarding law, lore and community justice in Hope Vale.
- CEO met via Teams with Damien Blunden, A/Engagement Director for the North Queensland Region of the National Indigenous Australians Agency and Kerry-Lee Bird Regional Manager – Cape, Far North Queensland Region, DTATSIPCA about opportunities to collaborate on the development of the Hope Vale community as detailed in Council's 5-Year Corporate Plan.
- CEO met with Rona Horsfall, Associate Director from Peak Services.
- CEO met with Barbara Schmidt and Associates via Teams for a progress report on the Aged Care Review.
- CEO participated in Emergency Management Training conducted by Justin Smith, Emergency Management Coordinator Far North Region and a Local Disaster Management Group Meeting.
- CEO met with staff from Gungarde Aboriginal Corporation and provided a commitment to collaborate on Council agreed priorities in Hope Vale.
- CEO met with Kelly Reaston, Director, UP North; Peter Mathews, Director Workplace Edge and Dr Chris McLaughlin, Practice Director, CultureV8 to request proposals to develop Council's 5-Year Corporate Plan. The 3 consulting firms were recommended by CEOs of TCICA councils and are pre-qualified suppliers on Local Buy.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (a) receive the Chief Executive Officer's Report, and
- (b) note the meetings attended by the Chief Executive Officer

Item 2: Investment Data – National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) is a Federal Government Agency that works in genuine partnership to enable the self-determination and aspirations of First Nations communities.

NIAA implements the Australian Government's priorities and support the Minister for Indigenous Australians. Key focus areas include:

- Closing the Gap;
- Culture and Empowering Communities;
- Early Childhood Development and Education;
- Employment and Economic Development;
- Environment and Land;
- Health and Wellbeing; and
- Housing and Community Safety.

I met online recently with Damien Blunden, A/Engagement Director for the North Queensland Region to learn more about NIAA and to explore the possibility of working collaboratively with the Agency and Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Partnerships to advance the development of the Hope Vale community in alignment with Council's priorities.

I took the opportunity to ask about whether the Agency tracked investments made in Hope Vale, as Council is keen to understand where the investments are being made and the effectiveness of those investment.

Damien has provided an Indigenous Advancement Strategy – Project Summary for the Hope Vale Community and Region, (refer Attachment 1). This is the first time that such a Report has been provided at a community level by NIAA.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the content of the Report.

Item 3: Hope Vale Draft Local Housing Plan

Council has been working with the First Nations Housing and Homelessness team in the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works. Together, a Local Housing Plan (LHP) has been developed, (refer Attachment 2).

The Queensland Government is committed to supporting healthy and empowered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through shared leadership, transparency and accountability.

The Homes for Queenslanders housing plan was announced on in February 2024 and sets an ambitious target for a fair and sustainable housing system that ensures better housing outcomes for both now and future generations, ensuring every Queenslanders has a safe, secure and affordable place to call home.

Homes for Queenslanders demonstrates the Queensland Government's long-term commitment to 2046 to work with communities, industry and the housing and homelessness sector to deliver more social and affordable homes and better services for vulnerable Queenslanders. It sets the long-term priorities and vision for Queensland's housing system.

The plan will be delivered in partnership with local communities, to accelerate change and deliver housing solutions.

Hope Vale's LHP is an advocacy tool demonstrating need and community aspirations, while also outlining a plan for addressing identified priorities. The information within the LHP informs Council's long-term Capital Investment Strategy (CIS), which is currently being finalised in collaboration with DTATSIPCA and RILIPO.

In terms of next steps, the Department will be conducting a detailed briefing on the LHP for Council in November, before undertaking community consultation on the Plan in collaboration with Council.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the Hope Vale Draft Local Housing Plan.

Item 4: LGAQ AGM, Election of the LGAQ President and Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council Voting Entitlements

The LGAQ has written to Council (refer Attachment 3) to advise that the Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Cnr Merivale and Glenelg Streets, South Bank, Brisbane, on Wednesday, 23 October 2024 commencing at 8:35 am.

The business of the Annual General Meeting is as follows:

Motion 1

That the Acting President's Annual Address for 2023-2024 be received and adopted.

Motion 2

That the Annual Report by the Policy Executive for 2023-2024 be received and adopted.

Motion 3

That the Annual Directors' Report, Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 and Auditor's Report be received and adopted.

Other Motions

Any such other business as may be lawfully brought before the meeting for consideration.

Voting Entitlements

The LGAQ has advised that Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council is entitled to 2 votes at the AGM (refer Attachment 4). These votes may be exercised for the Motions detailed above and for the ballot for the LGAQ President (see below).

The Mayor and I have been nominated as delegates to cast the votes on the Motions listed above as decided by the consensus of the members of the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council in attendance at the meeting.

LGAQ President Ballot

Alison Smith, CEO, LGAQ has announced that as at the close of the nomination period, the LGAQ has received two nominations for the role of President of the LGAQ (refer Attachment 5).

The nominated candidates, in order of the ballot draw that was conducted, are:

- Mayor Andrew Martin.
- Mayor Matt Burnett.

The ballot to elect the President will be held as part of the LGAQ Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 23 October 2024 in Brisbane.

The ballot will be conducted in accordance with Clause 6.3 of the LGAQ Constitution and supervised by Mr Darren Leckenby, LGAQ Company Secretary, and Mr Tim Fynes-Clinton of King & Company Solicitors.

The Election Process

- On Wednesday 23 October 2024, at the conclusion of the morning session for debate (prior to the designated lunch break) each candidate for the position of President will have the opportunity to address conference delegates.
- Delegates will be asked to collect ballot papers at the commencement of the lunch break on 23 October 2024 and will have until recommencement of debate at the conclusion of the designated lunch break to complete their ballot paper and place in the ballot box provided.
- The count will take place immediately following the close of voting at the conclusion of the lunch break.
- The result of the ballot will be announced to the conference delegates when vote counting has been completed.

Recommendation:

That Council receives and notes the information about the LGAQ AGM and presidential ballot.

Item 5: Law, Lore and Community Justice in Hope Vale

Following a recent workshop with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and QPS in Hope Vale, I was connected by LGAQ with Dr Michael Limerick, Principal of a Brisbane-based consultancy practice, Limerick and Associates, specialising in governance development, research, evaluation, policy analysis and community development.

Dr Limerick worked for the Queensland Government from 1994 to 2007, holding a range of legal, policy and management positions including Director of the Policy Research Branch in the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy. Since 2008, he has worked as a consultant, focusing on policy research, program evaluation and community governance and development in Indigenous and regional communities.

Dr Limerick has degrees in law and political science. His PhD research focused on the performance of Aboriginal community governments in Far North Queensland. He is also a practising barrister with a specialisation in local government law. He has drafted local laws for a number of Queensland local governments. Dr Limerick is Adjunct Associate Professor at the Institute for Social Science Research at University of Queensland.

Dr Limerick has a detailed knowledge of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984, local laws and their potential interaction with community lore, as well as community justice groups.

I highly recommend that Council contracts Dr Limerick to facilitate a planning workshop with the Mayor, Councillors and selected staff around law, lore and community justice in Hope Vale and to develop an Action Plan, which would include community consultation as a key element.

Recommendation:

That Council provides approval to the CEO to organise an initial planning workshop, facilitated by Dr Michael Limerick, around the interaction of law and community justice in Hope Vale, with a view to developing an Action Plan, which would include comprehensive community consultation.

Item 6: Outcomes from the Developing Northern Australia Conference

Following the conclusion of the 2024 Developing Northern Australia Conference, Professor Allan Dale has released a Conference Summary (refer Attachment 6), which provides a set of key messages of policy, investment and budgetary importance, aimed at progressing better development outcomes for Northern Australians.

Key Messages include:

- Release of the [Northern Australia Action Plan 2024–2029](https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/northern-australia-action-plan-2024-2029.pdf)¹ by the Federal Government’s Office of Northern Australia outlines priorities for the North over the next 5-years.
- Jurisdictional Ministers (Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland) are looking for joined up action.
- It will be important to ensure Northern Australia stays on the policy agenda for the next election.

Post Conference Themes for Northern Australia:

- More targeted focus on supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island self-determination/nation building.
- Big focus on future mining innovation leading to better social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes.
- Real desire to contribute to decarbonisation, but needs to deliver regional and First Nations benefit and support.
- Opportunity emerging to work towards a strong Northern Australian Workforce Strategy and process.
- We need deeper relational links in the Indo-Pacific.
- Time to start planning a major enabling Infrastructure agenda to better connect us across the North.
- Must be greater support and institutional design for place-based approaches to solving complex problems.
- Northern development as an inter-generational agenda.

¹ <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/northern-australia-action-plan-2024-2029.pdf>

Recommendation:

That Council receives and notes the information about the outcomes from the Developing Northern Australia Conference.

Item 7: Request to Operate a Food Trailer in Hope Vale

Council has received a request from an operator based in Cooktown (refer Attachment 7), to operate a food van in Hope Vale.

The operator is requesting approval to operate the van 1 or 2 days a week in Hope Vale. The operator advises that they have their own generator to supply power to the trailer. The operator is currently licenced, registered and insured to work in Cook Shire.

I have been advised that there is currently no official process, nor any assessment fees and charges for such requests from suppliers seeking to provide services in Hope Vale. In terms of good practice, any such requests as a minimum should be provided to Council for endorsement. Council is also requested to provide advice as to an appropriate location from which the van could operate.

If Council endorses the operation of the food van, the operator will be asked to provide copies of their food business license, business registration and insurance certificate for operating in Hope Vale.

Recommendation:

That Council provide approval to the operator of the food van to operate in Hope Vale on the days, times and location as directed by Council.

Item 8: E-Scooter Safety Campaign

Three North Queensland-based companies, On Common Country, Civil Safety and the Advanced Driver Training Centre, have launched a campaign promoting the safe use of e-Scooters in North Queensland (refer Attachment 8).

The campaign features former North Queensland Cowboys legend Matthew Bowen and aims to educate e-scooter riders on safe riding practices. The initiative's key messages are clear: "Be alert today, and alive tomorrow" and "Ensure you don't become a statistic." Riders and the broader community are encouraged to be mindful of the potential risks associated with e-scooter use.

With 13 lives lost and over 3,000 serious injuries recorded between 2019 and 2023, it is vital to understand that operating an e-scooter in an unsafe manner could change your life forever.

Key Rules for e-scooters:

- Always wear a helmet while riding.
- No Drugs or Alcohol: Riding under the influence is illegal and dangerous.
- Do not use your phone while riding; keep both hands on the handlebars.
- Riders aged 12-15 must be accompanied by an adult; riders 16 and older are responsible for following all rules.
- No Doubling: Only one person per e-scooter.
- Riders cannot carry anything on the scooter.
- E-scooters must have a bell and front and rear lights if riding at night.

- Adhere to Road Rules: All standard road rules apply to e-scooter riders.

Where You Can Ride:

- Footpaths and Shared Paths: Maximum speed of 12 km/h.
- Roads Signed 50 km/h or Less: Maximum speed of 25 km/h, allowed on bike lanes, local streets, and roads with specific conditions.
- Crossing Roads: Only cross at the shortest, safest path, and not within 20 meters of a designated crossing.

The campaign has developed a social media tile to enable messaging to be relayed to the community. I recommend we cross-promote the messages.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the information provided about the e-scooter safety campaign in North Queensland.

Item 9: CEO Verbal Briefing

- 9.1 Outcomes from the Office of the Information Commissioner's Quarterly Briefing.
- 9.2 LGAQ Conference and visit to Cherbourg.
- 9.3 Potential fluoridation of Council's water supply.
- 9.4 Local Decision-Making Body.



Lawrence Booth
Chief Executive Officer
16 October 2024