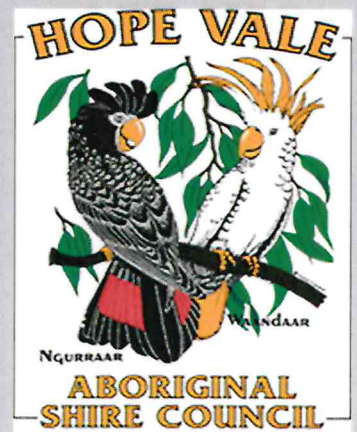


# Minutes



## Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday 18 September  
2024 in the Hope Vale  
Council Offices

## 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

Mayor Gibson declared the meeting open at 9:07 am on Wednesday 18 September 2024.

Mayor Gibson acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was being held and elders past and present.

The meeting held a minute of silence to acknowledge those members of the Hope Vale region who have recently passed away or suffered illness or injury.

## 2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Members Present:**

- Cr Bruce Gibson – Mayor
- Cr Barry Bowen – Deputy Mayor
- Cr Sha-lane Gibson
- Cr Rowan Hart
- Cr Eva Bounghi

**Officer Present:** Chief Executive Officer – Lawrence Booth

## 3. OBLIGATIONS OF COUNCILLORS

### 3.1 Declaration of Prescribed Conflict of Interest on Any Item of Business

Pursuant to Sections 150EG-150EM of the Local Government Act 2009, no Prescribed Conflicts of Interest were made relating to this meeting.

### 3.2 Declaration of Declarable Conflict of Interest on Any Item of Business

Pursuant to Sections 150EN-150ET of the Local Government Act 2009, Cr Eva Bounghi declared a Conflict of Interest in relation to Agenda Item 9.5, being a visit to Council by representatives of the Torres & Cape Hospital and Health Service. Following the disclosure, it was agreed by the Mayor and Councillors that Cr Bounghi could be present in Chambers for the visit, as there were no decisions to be made.

### 3.3 Registers of Interest

Councillors were reminded of their obligation to keep their Registers of Interest and Related Parties Disclosures updated.

## 4. Confirmation of Minutes

### 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 14 August 2024

Moved by Cr Sha-lane Gibson

Seconded by Cr Barry Bowen

#### Resolution

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held on Wednesday 14 August be accepted as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

### 4.2 Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting held on Friday 30 August 2024

Moved by Cr Eva Bounghi

Seconded by Mayor Bruce Gibson

#### Resolution

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Friday 30 August be accepted as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

### 5.1 Business arising from Minutes of General Meeting held on Wednesday 17 July 2024

Nil.

### 5.2 Business arising from Minutes of General Meeting held on Wednesday 29 July 2024

Nil.



## 6. REPORTS

### 6.1 Mayor's Report

The Mayor provided a report on his Mayoral activities since the last Meeting.

It was agreed that the Mayor's Report be received and noted.

### 6.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

#### 6.2.1 Meetings Attended

The Chief Executive Officer's Report dated 18 September 2024, was considered by Council.

Moved by Cr Eva Bounghi

Seconded by Cr Barry Bowen

#### Resolution

That Council:

- (a) Receive the Chief Executive Officer's Report dated 18 September 2024.
- (b) Note the meetings attended by the Chief Executive Officer.

**CARRIED**

#### 6.2.2 December 2024 Council Meeting

The December 2024 Council Meeting is presently proposed for Wednesday 18 December 2024. However, due to prior commitments of the Mayor and Councillors, it is proposed that the December 2024 Council Meeting be moved forward to 16 December 2024.

Moved by Cr Barry Bowen

Seconded by Cr Sha-lane Gibson

#### Resolution

That Council approve the rescheduling of the December 2024 Council Meeting to Monday 16 December 2024.

**CARRIED**

#### 6.2.3 Tourism Development in Hope Vale

In order to develop Hope Vale's economy and assist with job creation, one strategy is to capitalise on the region's natural assets. Hope Vale has a wealth of natural beauty, which lends itself to tourism development as a way to grow the local economy.





**Moved by Cr Eva Bounghi****Seconded by Cr Sha-lane Gibson****Resolution**

**That Council note the information provided about the regional tourism development opportunities and authorise the CEO to engage in discussions with TTNQ to further develop a partnership arrangement, with a report to be provided at future meeting for endorsement by Council.**

**CARRIED****6.2.4 Telstra's Universal Service Obligation**

Telstra has a Universal Service Obligation (USO) under an Agreement with the Federal Government to ensure standard telephone services (STS) and payphones are reasonably accessible to all people in Australia on an equitable basis, wherever they work or live.

Given the extraordinary development of telecommunications technology over the past 20 years, Telstra believes its USO is outdated and currently encumbers Telstra by mandating it maintains outdated technology.

**Moved by Cr Barry Bowen****Seconded by Cr Rowan Hart****Resolution****That:**

- (i) Council resolves to support of the updating of Telstra's Universal Service Obligation to employ newer and more reliable technology such as wireless or satellite telecommunications in regional and remote Australia for a better, more reliable and cost effective customer experience; and**
- (ii) Council authorises the CEO to write on behalf of Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council to the Hon Michelle Rowland, MP, Minister for Communications and the Hon Catherine King, MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to inform the Ministers of Council's support.**

**CARRIED****6.2.5 Queensland's Path to Treaty**

Path to Treaty is a landmark reform that will change Queensland's future. Treaty is about the Queensland Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples coming together, as equals, to write their future together.

The Queensland Government will enter the Caretaker Period on Tuesday 1 October 2024, ahead of the State Elections on Saturday 26 October 2024. As with any election, a change in government is possible and the incoming government may have different priorities to the previous government. The Path to Treaty is a landmark initiative for the State of Queensland, which will have lasting and deeply positive impacts on the lives of all Indigenous people in our State. Whatever the outcome of the State Election, it is vitally important that bipartisan support of the Path to Treaty, the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry (Inquiry), and the First Nations Treaty Institute (Institute) continues.



**Moved by Cr Eva Bounghi****Seconded by Mayor Bruce Gibson****Resolution****That:**

- (i) Council supports the continuation by the Queensland State Government of the Path to Treaty, the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry), and the First Nations Treaty Institute (Institute), post 26 October 2024; and
- (ii) Council authorises the CEO to write to the Hon Stephen Miles, MP, Premier of Queensland and Hon Leeanne Enoch, Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts to advise of Council's position on the matter.

**CARRIED****6.2.6 Country Universities Centre (CUC) – Cape York**

Successful regional development is led by local communities and aligned with regional strengths. The Country Universities Centre (CUC) model is designed and developed by regional people for regional people and their communities to provide equitable access to higher education. It is both a grassroots and agile model.

Each Centre is owned, governed, and driven by its local community through an independent Board of Directors. This framework provides for place-based learning solutions. The CUC can respond quickly to the unique higher education challenges and needs of local communities.

CUC Cape York is keen to show Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Councillors more about the facility, the services provided and support available. To this end, CUC Cape York has invited Council to hold a forthcoming meeting at the study hub in Cooktown.

**Moved by Cr Barry Bowen****Seconded by Cr Rowan Hart****Resolution**

That Council provides approval to hold its November Meeting at the Country Universities Centre – Cape York study hub in Cooktown on Wednesday 20 November.

**CARRIED****6.2.7 NBN Community Wi-Fi Program – Employment of a Digital Champion in Community**

Further to briefing provided at the last Council Meeting, NBNCo has contacted Council again to seek our assistance in recruiting a Digital Champion/s in Hope Vale.

This is a great opportunity for community members to support the ongoing success of the community wide Wi-Fi service. The role plays a critical part in the planning, build and ongoing operations of the service. NBNCo wants to ensure that the Digital Champion is onboarded and trained before the service is live. It is a casual role and I have spoken with NBNCo about employing 2 people in the role, so that there is a back-up if one of the staff is away at any time. NBNCo has agreed to the request.





**Moved by Cr Eva Bounghi****Seconded by Cr Sha-lane Gibson****Resolution****That:**

- (i) Council notes the information provided about the NBNCo Digital Champion initiative; and**
- (ii) Authorises the CEO to advise NBNCo that Council's preference is for the recruitment process to be conducted independently, using a merit-based approach.**

**Carried****6.2.8 Hope Vale Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan**

In May 2021, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council secured funding through the Local Thriving Communities Fund to develop a targeted approach to domestic and family violence (DFV). These funds were used to create a future Cool Down facility for men who use violence and to develop a DFV Action Plan. In October 2023, following a procurement process, Council engaged the services of WorkHaven to develop the Plan.

Workhaven has spent the past 12-months engaging with local stakeholders to understand the causes of domestic and family violence, map the current services available and identify any gaps.

The Plan has now been developed and includes an outline of the drivers of violence in Hope Vale and a range of initiatives and activities to address this issue.

**Moved by Cr Sha-lane Gibson****Seconded by Cr Eva Bounghi****Resolution**

**That Council adopts the Hope Vale Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan and Terms of Reference for the Integrated Service Group, and DFV Coordination Group.**

**CARRIED****6.2.9**

The Chief Executive Officer provided the Meeting with a briefing on the following issues:

- Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council Planning Scheme Update.
- Council's commitment to improving community safety using a combination of laws and traditional lore.
- Council-supported community projects:
  - Men's Cooling Off House
  - Memorandum of Understanding – Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council and Health & Wellbeing Queensland
  - Local Thriving Communities program implementation.
- Local Disaster Management Plan and Sub-Plans update ahead of the coming bush fire and cyclone seasons.
- Hope Vale Local Resilience Action Plan – update.
- Department of Housing – My Home Awards 2024.
- Renewal of partnership with the Australian Electoral Commission.



### 6.3 Finance Director's Report

It was agreed that:

- (i) The Finance Director's Report be received and noted;
- (ii) A separate meeting be convened on Thursday 19 September to discuss the report in more detail; and
- (iii) That going forward, a separate meeting be convened each month to enable Council to be briefed in more detail about the matters contained in the Report.

### 6.4 Social Services Director's Report

It was agreed that consideration of the Social Service Director's Report be deferred.

### 6.5 Operations Manager's Report

It was agreed that consideration of the Operations Manager's Report be deferred.

## 7 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

- 7.1 CEO's Report – Nil
- 7.2 Finance Director's Report – Nil
- 7.3 Operations Manager's Report – Nil
- 7.4 Social Services Director's Report – Aged Care

It was agreed that consideration of the Social Services Director's Report – Aged Care be deferred.

## 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

## 9 VISITS, VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

### 9.1 Visit to George Bowen Memorial Kindergarten

A visit was made to the Kindergarten to meet with staff and to walk through the facility to gain an understanding of the operations of the Kindy.





## **9.2 C&K Childcare and Kindergarten – Action Plan**

A staff member from the C&K Childcare and Kindergarten Regional Office in Cairns briefed the Mayor and Councillors on the Action Plan developed jointly with the Kindergarten staff to ensure that the Kindy is compliant with mandatory requirements.

## **9.3 Workhaven – DFV Action Plan**

Workhaven's Founder, Ms Jo Mason presented the outcomes of her research into the drivers of DFV in Hope Vale, together with the feedback from the community and stakeholder consultation. Ms Mason also presented the DFV Action Plan and outlined the next steps to be taken by Council.

## **9.4 Hon Warren Entsch, MP, Federal Member for Leichhardt**

The Federal Member for Leichhardt, Hon Warren Entsch, MP, lead an engagement session with the Mayor and Councillors.

## **9.5 Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service**

Dr Tash Coventry, Director of Medical Services, Torres & Cape Hospital & Health Service, Cooktown, delivered a presentation on the health benefits of fluoridation of water supplies.

**It was agreed that the CEO prepare a Cost Benefit Analysis of fluoridation of Hope Vale's water supplies.**

The Chair and CEO of the Torres & Cape Hospital & Health Service engaged with the Mayor and Councillors on community health priorities in Hope Vale.

# **10 CORRESPONDENCE**

## **10.1 Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works**

From the Deputy Director-General, Local Government Division about updated Model Meeting Procedures for Queensland local governments.

## **10.2 Queensland Ombudsman**

From the Queensland Ombudsman and Inspector of Detention Services about changes to the Ombudsman Act 2001.

## **10.3 Office of Hon Shannon Fentiman MP**

From Hon Shannon Fentiman MP about the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service Investigation (Part A) and Queensland Health's response to the findings from the Investigation.

It was agreed that the correspondence from the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works, Queensland Ombudsman, and the Office of Hon Shannon Fentiman be received and noted.

At the conclusion of the visitations, the meeting was adjourned to enable the commencement of a Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council (As Trustee) Meeting.

The meeting was reopened by Mayor Gibson at 5:05pm.

## **11 NEXT MEETING**

The next Council Meeting will be held in Hope Vale on Wednesday 16 October 2024.

## **12 MEETING CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.10 pm on Wednesday 18 September 2024.



Mayor Bruce Gibson



Lawrence Booth  
Chief Executive Officer