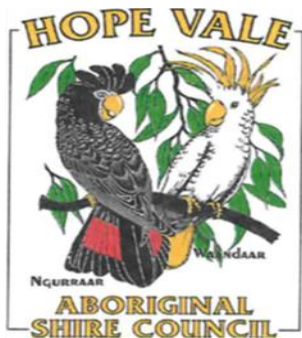




# HOPE VALE ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

## MEETING REPORT

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ITEM NO:                      GENERAL MEETING:  
SUBJECT:                      DIRECTOR OPERATIONS REPORT  
CLASSIFICATION:          INFORMATION

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### Executive Summary – Operations Report | October 2025

This report provides an overview of the key operational activities, infrastructure updates, and service delivery matters across Council for the month of September 2025. It informs Council on status of Essential Services, Environmental Management, Open Spaces, Cleaning Services, Work Health and Safety, and General Matters. The updates on Building and Construction and Civil Construction are included in the Finance Report.

#### Key Highlights:

- **Water Operations:** Routine water testing was undertaken in accordance with Council's Drinking Water Quality Management Plan. The test results were compliant with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 Qld*. Water usage trends remain stable. Few, mostly minor leaks were attended to, the frequency of leaks remains steady.
- **Sewage Operations:** The sewage treatment plant met operational requirements in the Permit issued under the *Environmental Protection Act 1914 Qld*. There have been no operational issues with the sewage reticulation system.
- **Environmental Health:** The 2024–2029 Environmental Health Plan is being reviewed to reduce implementation costs. The revised Plan will be referred to Council for approval.
- **Wandering Horses:** The plan is to lure horse into the holding area then transfer them to the provider's property for transportation to Mareeba for sale under the formal agreement with Council.
- **Building, Construction and Civil Works:** Update is included in the Financial Report.
- **Open Spaces & Waste:** Weekly bin collection continues with minimal complaints. The Drafting of the Annual Open Spaces & Waste Plan has commenced. The plan will confirm the internal capacity and tasks to be outsourced to external providers.

- **Cleaning Services:** The internal team is performing well. Recruitment is underway to fill vacancies. Tenders for the contracting out the cleaning for the MPC building, the Meeting Room and the Pioneer Hall will be issued to the market.
- **Mechanical Workshop:** Recommendation for leasing the mechanical workshop has been referred to Council.

## Detailed Report | October 2025

### Item 1: Essential Services

#### ***Item 1.1 – Water Treatment Plant***

Daily testing for pH, free chlorine and turbidity at all test points are compliant with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

#### **August Test Results (Averages):**

| Parameter           | April Average | Acceptable Range |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| pH (Post Reservoir) | 7.1           | 6.5 to 8.5       |
| Turbidity (NTU)     | 1.5 NTU       | 0 to 5 NTU       |
| Free Chlorine       | 1.94 mg/L     | 0.2 to 5.0 mg/L  |

Microbiological test results for Coliforms and E. coli were within acceptable thresholds.

#### **Water Connections:**

Total of 356 (1 tap per main connection for new plug in properties). The total number remains unchanged.

#### **Water Consumption:**

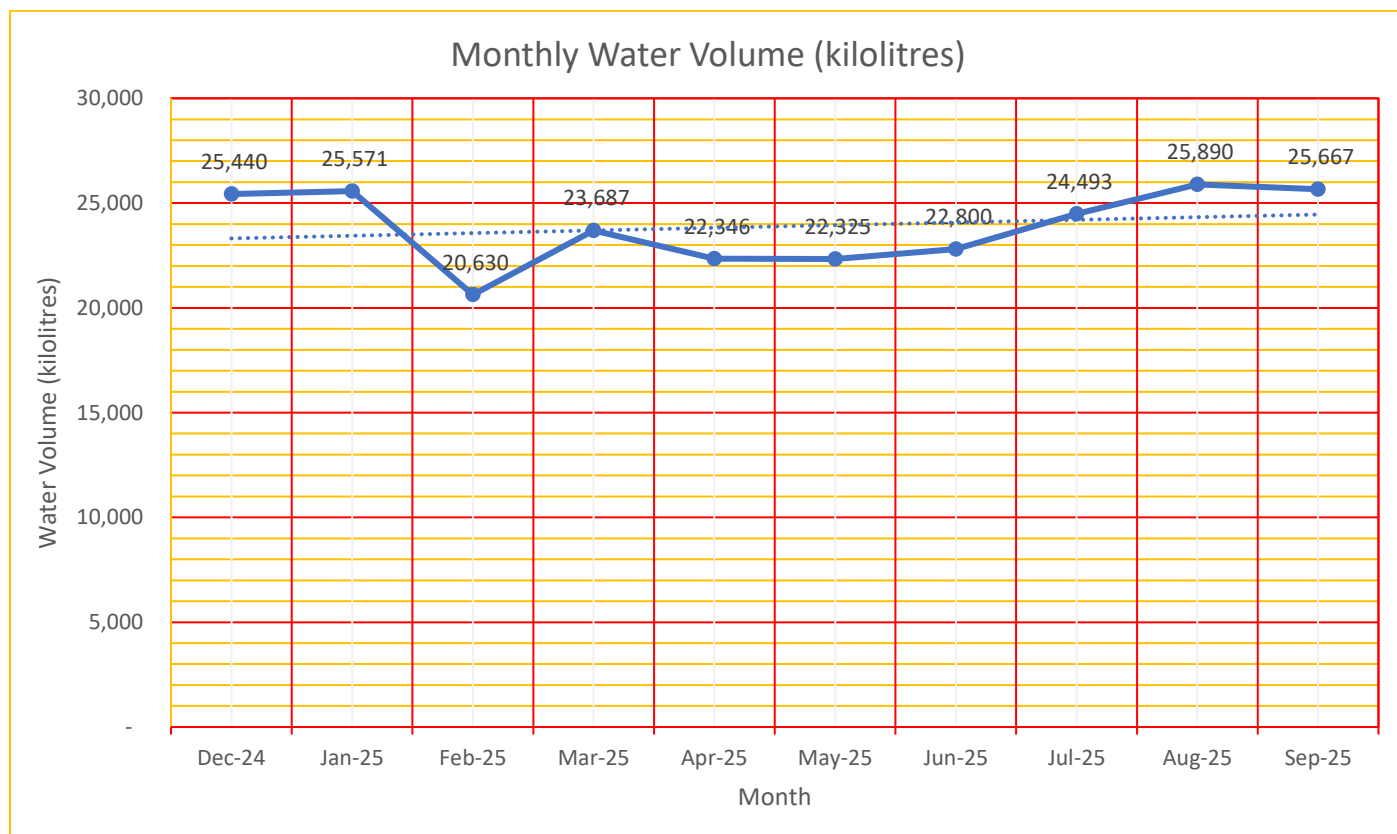
Water consumption is based on the inflow meter at the reservoirs. Total monthly volumes are reported below:

- Water Volume September 2025: 25,667 kilolitres
- Water Volume August 2025: 25,890 kilolitres
- Water Volume July 2025: 24,493 kilolitres
- Water Volume June 2025: 22,800 kilolitres
- Water Volume May 2025: 22,325 kilolitres
- Water Volume April 2025: 22,346 kilolitres
- Water Volume March 2025: 23,687 kilolitres
- Water Volume February 2025: 20,630 kilolitres
- Water Volume January 2025: 25,571 kilolitres
- Water Volume December 2024: 25,440 Kilolitres

Daily water usage figures are reported below:

- Daily Water Usage September 2025: 856 kilolitres

- Daily Water Usage August 2025: 835 kilolitres
- Daily Water Usage July 2025: 771 kilolitres
- Daily Water Usage June 2025: 760 kilolitres
- Daily Water Usage May 2025: 720 kilolitres
- Daily Water Usage April 2025: 744 kilolitres
- Daily Water Usage March 2025: 764 kilolitres
- Daily Water Usage February 2025: 736 kilolitres
- Daily Water Usage January 2024: 824 kilolitres
- Daily Water Usage December 2024: 820 kilolitres



**Comment:**

Water usage during September 2025 reduced marginally to 25,667 kilolitres, up from 25,890 kilolitres in August. The average daily consumption for July 2025 was 856 kilolitres, up from 835 kilolitres in September 2025. This is due to the month being 30 days long. Council continues to monitor seasonal fluctuations in consumption, overall, the trend remains consistent.

**Item 1.2 – Sewage Treatment Plant**

The curtain in the primary pond requires either repairs or replacement. Further investigation is required to determine the works required.

Fencing around the sewage treatment and sludge ponds require renewal. The inflow and outflow meters for the sewage ponds need to be repaired or replaced.

The quality of effluent is being monitored, and the results are compliant with reporting requirements under the operation license. A report is currently being prepared for the CEO.

### ***Item 1.3 – Rainfall***

The total rainfall for July was 54mm (recorded at the Water Treatment plant).

### ***Item 1.4 – Incident Reporting/Water Leaks/Sewer Blocks***

- Water main leaks: 1
- Minor water leaks (main to meter): 3, long term trend of 4-5 leaks per month.
- Leaks to Council services: nil
- Sewer Blockages: nil
- Complaints relating to water quality: nil

Council has been advised that turbidity levels at the WTP entry point need to be reduced below 1.0 NTU. This requirement is being investigated. In consultation with local operators, possible remedial action options include dragging the lines and running a pig through the system to remove any sediment or organic buildup. CCTV camera inspections of the pipelines is an option which would also inform future asset condition reporting.

## **Item 2 – Environmental Management**

### **Hope Vale Environmental Health Management Plan 2024–2029**

After the adoption of the Hope Vale Environmental Health Management Plan 2024–2029, Council has engaged a trainee Environmental Health Worker who is receiving Queensland Health-supported training. Technical support is being sought from the Department of Health to transition the appointee into the role. A revised Hope Vale Environmental Health Management Plan seeking to reduce Environmental Health operational costs under the Plan will be referred to Council. Council has discussed the proposed changes with a representative of the Department of Health.

### **Wandering Horse Management**

Progress to Date:

- A formal service agreement is now in place with a third-party provider for the containment, relocation, and regulated sale of unclaimed horses.
- Under the agreement, horses are being relocated to Mareeba saleyards for lawful sale. This aligns with animal welfare and biosecurity obligations.
- The program currently targets up to 100 horses, based on observed roaming patterns and assessed public risk.
- A request has been put to Council for funding for wandering horses management.

## **Item 3: Open Spaces**

The Open Spaces team continues to deliver critical township maintenance and presentation services. Once-a-week bin collection cycle, Wednesdays: Millars Estate and farms; Thursday: the rest of the community.

#### **Item 4: Cleaning Services**

The internal team is performing well. Recruitment is underway to fill vacancies. Tenders for the Contracting out the MPC building, the Meeting Room and the Pioneer Hall will be issued to the market.

#### **Item 5: Workplace Health & Safety (WH&S)**

The search for a new WH&S Advisor who will provide oversight of workplace safety, risk management, and compliance monitoring is still ongoing.

#### **Item 6: Building & Construction**

Refer to the Finance Report

#### **Item 7: Civil Construction**

Refer to the Finance Report

|                                                                                                             |                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Report Prepared by:<br><br><b>Onesimo Mukodi</b><br><b>DIRECTOR OPERATIONS</b><br><br>Date: 10 October 2025 | Report Authorised by:<br><br><b>Lew Rojahn</b><br><b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b> |
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