



HOPE VALE ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

MEETING REPORT

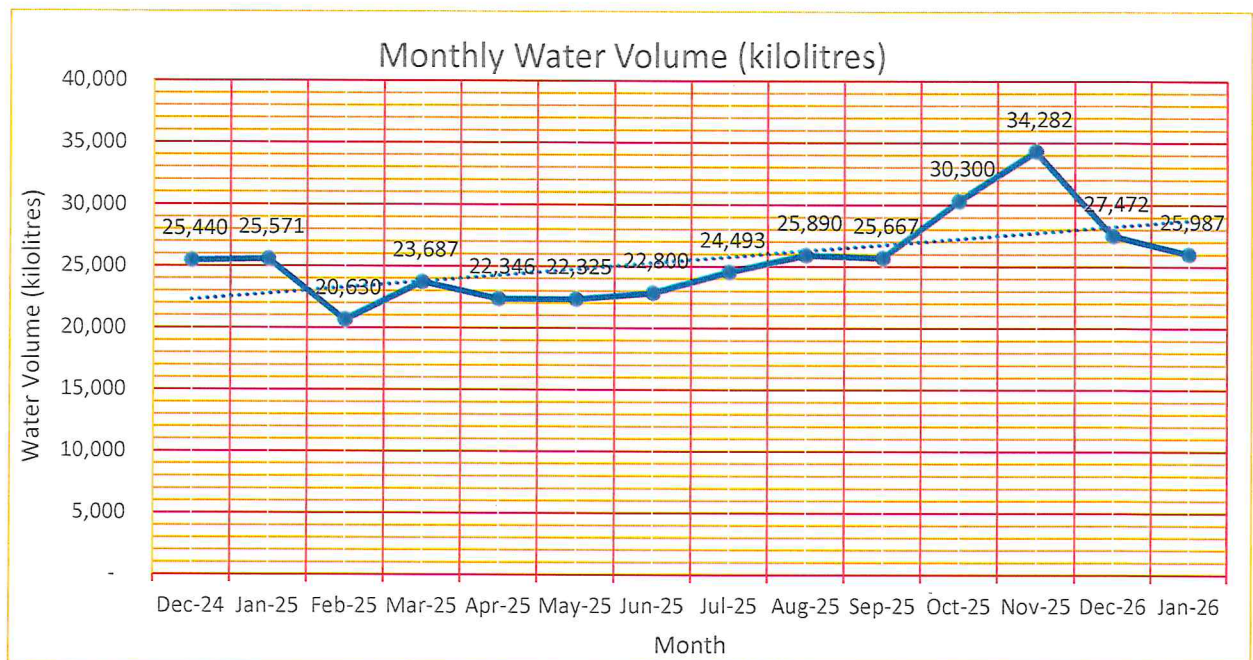
ITEM NO: 6.5.1 **GENERAL MEETING:**
SUBJECT: **DIRECTOR OPERATIONS REPORT**
CLASSIFICATION: **INFORMATION**

Executive Summary – Operations Report | January 2026

This report provides a snapshot of the key operational activities, infrastructure updates, and service delivery matters across Council for the month of January 2025. It informs Council on status of Essential Services, Environmental Management, Open Spaces, Cleaning Services, Work Health and Safety, Building and Construction, Civil Construction and other matters.

Key Highlights:

- **Work Health and Safety:** Council has appointed a Work Health and Safety (WHS) consultant. The consultant is helping Council address current WHS issues. Subsequently the consultant will commence working on HVASC Work Health and Safety Action Plan. Key tasks in the plan include: compilation of the hazard and risk register; overall assessment of Council's WH&S practices and culture; drawing up a 12-month program of activity outlining the milestones and objectives anticipated to be achieved, these will be scheduled and reported quarterly; recommendation for the adoption of core systems to record and maintain the necessary data records, resources, document management, tasks and reminders; and an outline of any urgent work to be undertaken.
- **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 consumption is stable, demand peaked in November 2027, the trend shows reduced demand during the rainy season. 875mm of rainfall was recorded at the water treatment plant (WTP) in January 2026. Council has submitted an application to Ergon for the direct connection of New Bore 1 (at WTP) to the grid. It is currently powered by a generator.



- **Sewage Operations:** The sewage treatment plant met operational requirements in the Permit issued under the *Environmental Protection Act 1914 Qld*. There were no significant operational issues other than routine maintenance of the reticulation system.
- **Environmental Health:** Implementation of the 2025–2026 Environmental Health Plan is in progress. Council is receiving support from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Program Staff. Council is appointing Tropical Vets for delivery of veterinary services under the Environmental Health Plan. Dog census is planned for April/May 2026 and to coincide with the vet visit. During the visit, the vet will administer vaccinations, desex dogs, treatments for ticks, fleas, mites, antibiotics, eye medicine, ear medicine, antiseptic sprays worms and euthanise dogs (if required).

Management of horses has been referred to the CEO.

- **Building, Construction and Civil Works:** A review has been undertaken for building and construction, civil construction projects. Civil construction projects have been paused and will resume after the wet season in 2026. During that time the civil construction delivery will be reviewed for implementation during the next construction season. An expression of interest is being issued to broaden and encourage local participation across all operational areas. A report will be prepared for the next Council meeting.

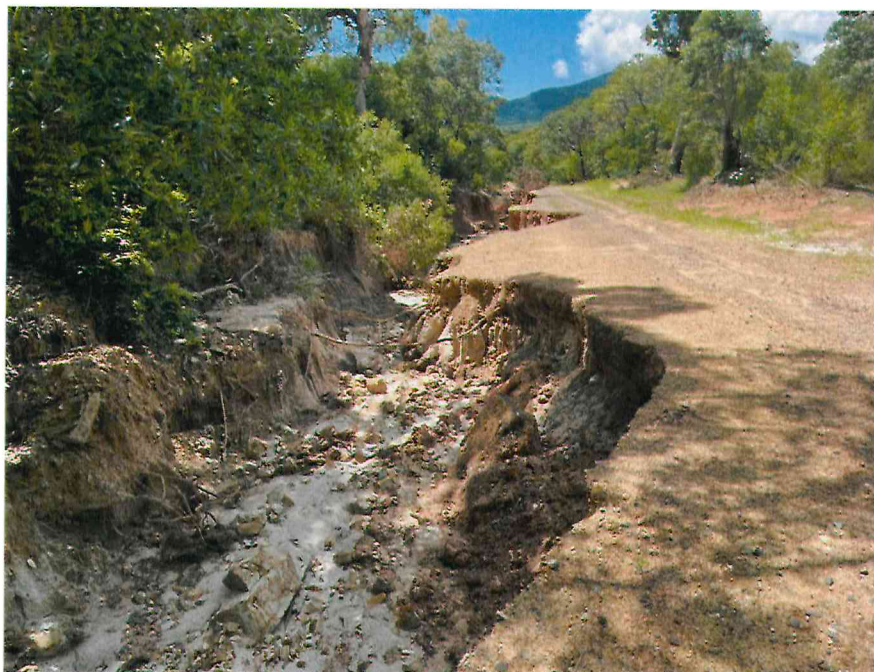
Signage and speed humps in the community are under review.

The construction of the detour road to bypass the Elim Beach Road Embankment Failure is scheduled to commence during the week ending 20 February 2026. In principle approval has been granted by QRA for Emergency Works detour construction work to proceed.



Elim Road Embankment Failure

Spring Hill Road was closed due extensive damage from recent storm events. Scoping is underway for a submission with QRA for the works to be delivered as Immediate Reconstruction Works.



Storm Damage- Spring Hill Rd

A status update on External Disaster and Resilience is attached to this report. It provides the program overview, update on submissions under development, and the procurement status for delivery of key projects. Notably, Hope Vale Aerodrome Upgrade, Township to Miller Estate Footpath, Alligator Creek Betterment projects are ready to proceed to market. Everlina Bridge Upgrade project is design development with the intention of beating seasonal delivery constraints.

- **Open Spaces & Waste:** Bins are currently being collected weekly, Wednesdays Millars Estate and farms, the rest of the community on Thursdays. The option for switch back to twice weekly is under

review. The main constraint is the operational condition of the refuse truck. Council’s small refuse truck is having persistent issues with the bin lifting mechanism and the compactor. The Open Spaces Supervisor is working closely with Councils mechanic to keep the truck going. When the truck breaks down, Council hires a refuse truck from an external provider in Cooktown. Such hire is not sustainable. In the long-term Council will inevitably have to replace the refuse truck. Council was unsuccessful in its previous application for grant funding for a new truck. Recent grant opportunities have tended to exclude refuse trucks.

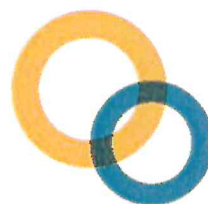
- **Cleaning Services:** The contract for the cleaning for the MPC building, the Meeting Room and the Pioneer Hall will be issued to the market early this year. Team vacancies are being filled in from the expression of interest issued by Council which closed in December 2025.
- **Mechanical Workshop:** The CEO is negotiating the lease for the Mechanical Workshop.

Report Prepared by: Onisimo Mukodi DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS Date: February 2025	Report Authorised by: Lew Rojahn CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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External Disaster and Resilience Funding Report

Forward Outlook

11th of February 2026 – 11th of March 2026



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Program Overview

QRA Submission #	Contract #	Event Year	Project Package	QRA Status	Project Phase	Health
HVASC.0015	26-5	2023	HVASC - 23B-2 Alligator Creek Road	Approved	4. Procurement	●
HVASC.0016	n.a	2023	HVASC - 23B-3 Unsealed	Approved	6. Close Out (roll over)	●
HVASC.0017	26-5	2023	HVASC - 23B-4 Sealed	Approved	5. Delivery	●
HVASC.0019	25-01	2023	HVASC - 23B -5 Elim Road Landslip	Approved	6. Close Out	●
HVASC.0021	25-02	2023	HVASC - 23B-7 Bulls Creek Crossing	Approved	6. Close Out	●
HVASC.0022	n.a	2023	HVASC - 23B-1 Mclvor & Rehab Road	Approved	6. Close Out (roll over)	●
HVASC.0023	n.a	2023	HVASC - 23B-6 Spring Hill	Approved	5. Delivery	●
HVASC.0027		2023	Alligator Creek Betterment	Approved	4. Procurement	●
HVASC.0025		2024	HVASC CAL Round 1	Approved	4. Procurement	●
HVASC.0026		2024	HVASC CAL Round 1	Approved	4. Procurement	●
HVASC.0020		2023	LRRG - TC Jasper	Approved	5. Delivery	●

Notable Comments and Risks

Project Phase	Project Package	Notable Comments / Risk	Action
Close Out	All Submissions delivered internally.	<p>OPC is supporting Council to finalise project acquittal documentation. However, impacts from the 2026 flooding event have resulted in re-damage to several assets that were scheduled for completion prior to 30 June 2026. These assets will require re-scoping and require additional QRA funding support.</p>	<p>OPC to work with Council Finance team to finalise project close-out reporting and acquittals. In parallel, OPC to support Council in re-scoping damaged assets and preparing funding submissions to QRA where required.</p>

Submission	Submission Number	Progression	Recommended Value	Estimated Final Cost
Recovery and Resilience Grants				
LRRG - TC Jasper	HVASC.0020.2324PRRG	Delivery	\$1,098,912.2	\$1,678,216
Queensland Mitigation Fund - Infrastructure				
HVASC CAL Round 1	HVASC.0025.2425S.QMF	Delivery	\$5,429,661.54	\$5,427,670.00
HVASC CAL Round 1	HVASC.0026.2425S.QMF	Delivery	\$5,136,200.63	\$5,135,795.62
Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA)				
HVASC - 23B-2 Alligator Creek Road	HVASC.0015.2324PREC	Delivery	\$68,448.56	\$68,447.00
HVASC - 23B-3 Unsealed	HVASC.0016.2324PREC	Close Out	\$1,064,652.79	\$1,397,705.59
HVASC - 23B-4 Sealed	HVASC.0017.2324PREC	Delivery	\$322,897.91	\$340,820.13
HVASC - 23B -5 Elim Road Landslip	HVASC.0019.2324PREC	Close Out	\$936,126.57	\$923,831.08
HVASC - 23B-7 Bulls Creek Crossing	HVASC.0021.2324PREC	Close Out	\$685,483.26	\$670,447.22
HVASC - 23B-1 McIvor & Rehab Road	HVASC.0022.2324PREC	Close Out	\$1,349,939.37	\$1,349,925.00
HVASC - 23B-6 Spring Hill Road	HVASC.0023.2324PREC	Close Out	\$613,208.02	\$606,972.01
Alligator Creek Betterment	HVASC.0027.2324PREC	Delivery	\$1,413,371.66	\$1,413,371.00
DRFA Program Total			\$218,698,206	\$18,433,896.85

Note: HVASC.0020.2324PRRG Miller Estate to Township Footpath includes a co-funding contribution from the Works for Queensland program, resulting in a variance between the approved funding amount and the current final cost estimate.

Submission Development

QRA Sub #	Project Package	Project Phase	QRA Status	Progress Update
2026 Submission 1: TBA	Elim Road Embankment Failure	2. Procurement	In Principle Approval provided.	Site inspections and desktop technical review have been completed by OPC in collaboration with ARO geotechnical engineers. In-principle approval has been obtained to establish a temporary detour and undertake interim stabilisation works to maintain safe access while detailed design is finalised. FNQ Civil is being engaged via Local Buy to deliver temporary make-safe emergency works.
2026 Submission 2: TBA	Spring Hill Road Large Washout	2. Damage Pickup	None	The site was inaccessible due to flooding during the planned network impact assessment. Council has provided photographic evidence to support desktop damage assessment and progression of an In-Principle Approval request for Immediate Reconstruction Works (IRW). Due to the severity of the failure, emergency works alone are unlikely to safely restore traffic access.
2026 Submission 3: TBA	McIvor Road Washouts	3. Damage Pickup	In Development	OPC has commenced detailed damage scoping along the McIvor-Cooktown Road corridor. Initial emergency response works are being undertaken by Council's day labour workforce to stabilise priority locations while detailed scope definition progresses.
2026 Submission 4: TBA	All Unsealed Roads	3. Submission Development	In Development	Network-wide damage scoping is underway to support submission for Restoration of Essential Public Assets funding. Preliminary damage estimates indicate approximately \$4M in network impacts. At time of inspection, Branican Road and Spring Hill Road were impassable. Additional field inspections are required to complete the network impact assessment and refine cost estimates.

Notable Comments and Risks

Project Phase	Project Package	Notable Comments / Risk	Action
Submission Development	Emergency Works and IRW packages	Risk of ineligible expenditure if Emergency Works (EW) and Immediate Reconstruction Works (IRW) are undertaken outside DRFA eligibility parameters, particularly for high-value items and scope creep beyond make-safe or like-for-like restoration requirements.	Seek QRA in-principle approval for all significant expenditure items prior to commitment. Ensure works are strictly aligned to DRFA eligibility requirements, including like-for-like restoration for REPA works and limiting Emergency Works to make-safe activities only. OPC to provide construction supervision and funding compliance oversight.
Submission Development	Alligator Creek Road REPA	Additional damage attributable to the 2026 event has been identified that is outside the scope of the approved TC Jasper restoration and betterment package. Risk of scope and funding commingling if not clearly separated.	Develop and submit the 2026 event works as a separable portion to the existing approved package to maintain funding clarity and audit defensibility. OPC to coordinate scope separation and submission documentation.

Procurement Update

QRA Sub #	Contract #	Yr	Package	Council / External	Tender Status	Milestones						
						RFT Preparation	Tender Briefing	RFT Release	Tender Assess.	LoA Issue	PoS due	Planned PoS date
HVASC.0026.2425S.QMF	25 - 01	2025	Hope Vale Aerodrome Upgrade	External	Ready for Release	✓						
HVASC.0025.2425S.QMF	25 - 02	2025	Everlina Bridge Upgrade	External	In Development	✓						
HVASC.0020.2324PRRG	25 - 03	2023	Township to Miller Estate Footpath	External	Ready for Release	✓						
HVASC.0027.2324PREC	25 - 04	2023	Alligator Creek Betterment	External	Ready for Release	✓						

Notable Comments and Risks

QRA Sub #	Project Package	Notable Comments / Risk	Action
HVASC.0026.2425S.QMF	Hope Vale Aerodrome Upgrade	Procurement is ready to proceed to market. Primary risk relates to contractor market capacity and long-lead material procurement, which may impact mobilisation timeframes and dry season delivery windows.	Proceed with RFT release. Continue early supplier engagement and validate contractor capability and delivery methodology during tender assessment.
HVASC.0025.2425S.QMF	Everlina Bridge Upgrade	Procurement remains dependent on finalisation of design development activities. Any delay to design completion may compress procurement and construction timeframes relative to seasonal delivery constraints.	Closely monitor design program and align procurement release with design maturity. Confirm construction window assumptions during tender planning.
HVASC.0020.2324PRRG	Township to Miller Estate Footpath	Project is ready for market release. Risk remains around delivery timeframes relative to funding milestone dates and contractor availability in a constrained regional market.	Proceed with RFT release and structure procurement timelines to support timely award and mobilisation. Monitor program closely to ensure alignment with funding deadlines.

Project Delivery

QRA Sub #	Contract #	Project Package	Contractor	Progress Update	Upcoming Milestones
HVASC.0026.2425S.QMF	25 – 01	Hope Vale Aerodrome Upgrade	TBA	Construction is forecast to commence May 2025, with an estimated construction duration of approximately 80 days. Procurement and pre-construction activities are progressing in line with program.	Independent Technical Review currently being undertaken by AMS to validate tender drawings and scope alignment with CASA regulatory requirements prior to market release / award.
HVASC.0025.2425S.QMF	25 – 02	Everlina Bridge Upgrade	TBA	Project is progressing through the 15% design phase. Key activities completed include detailed site survey (Dec 2025) and environmental and cultural field investigations, with no vulnerable species or constraints identified. Flood modelling is currently underway and remains the critical path input to advance structural design.	Completion of flood modelling (expected within two weeks), followed by finalisation of 15% design package. Presentation to Council to seek endorsement of preferred bridge option and progression to next design phase.
HVASC.0020.2324P.RRG	25 – 03	Township to Miller Estate Footpath	TBA	Procurement strategy has been refined to support accelerated delivery timeframes, with the project transitioned to open market tender to support completion prior to 30 June 2026 funding deadlines.	Open market tender release via VendorPanel scheduled for end of February, with evaluation and award to follow in accordance with procurement deadlines. Award of Contract end of March.
HVASC.0027.2324P.PEC	25 – 04	Alligator Creek Betterment	TBA	Procurement strategy has been refined to support accelerated delivery timeframes, with the project transitioned to open market tender to support completion prior to 30 June 2026 funding deadlines.	Open market tender release via VendorPanel scheduled for end of February, with evaluation and award to follow in accordance with procurement deadlines. Award of Contract end of March.

Notable Comments and Risks

Contract #	Project Package	Notable Comments / Risk	Action
HVASC – 25 – 01	Hope Vale Aerodrome Upgrade	Early market engagement for key construction materials has commenced to de-risk procurement and minimise mobilisation delays between contract award and construction commencement. Material supply availability and specification compliance remain critical to maintaining program.	OPC to continue active engagement with suppliers to confirm production capacity, specification compliance, and delivery timeframes aligned to the construction program.
HVASC – 25 – 02	Everlina Bridge Upgrade	Design program is under schedule pressure due to later-than-planned design engagement (approximately three months delay associated with internal Council transition). This has compressed design delivery against the upcoming dry season construction window.	Ongoing program monitoring. Recovery opportunities to be assessed as design progresses and once flood modelling outputs are confirmed.