Minutes

HOPE VALE

NGURRAAR WAANDAAR

ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday 18th February 2026

Boardroom – Hopevale Shire Office

1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 Declaration of Opening of Meeting

Mayor Gibson declared the meeting open at 9.06 am.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Mayor Gibson acknowledged the traditional owners of the lands on which the meeting was held and elders, past, present and emerging.

1.3 Observing a Minute's Silence

The meeting then observed a minute silence to acknowledge those residents of the Hope Vale region who have recently passed away as well as other residents of the region who have recently suffered illness or injury.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1 Members Present: Cr Bruce Gibson – Mayor

Cr Barry Bowen – Deputy Mayor

Cr Sha-lane Gibson

Cr Rowan Hart

Cr Eva Bounghi

2.2 Officer Present: Chief Executive Officer – Lew Rojahn

2.3 Apologies: Nil

Mayor welcomed all Councillors

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,

Declaration of Declarable Conflict of Interest on any item of business

Pursuant to Sections 150EN-150ET of the Local Government Act 2009, no declarable conflicts of interest were declared on any item of business relating to this meeting.

3.2 Register of Interests and Related Party Disclosures

In accordance with Part 5A section 201B(2) of the Local Government Act 2009 and Part 5 section 291(2)(b) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 a councillor must, in the approved form, inform the Chief Executive Officer of the particulars required to be included in their register of interests under a regulation for a new interest or the change to the particulars within 30 days after the interest is acquired or the change happens.

Councillors were reminded of their obligation to keep their Register of Interests and Related Party Disclosures updated. Councillors were also reminded to complete the Register of Interests Annual Confirmation and the Related Persons Register of Interest Annual Confirmation

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 21st January 2026

Moved by Cr Bounghi   Seconded by Cr Gibson

Resolution

4.2 That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 21st January 2026 be accepted and confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED 5 /0

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.1 Business arising from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 21st January 2026

CEO to follow up Item 6.2.3 – Payment of Donation.

Cr. Bowen left the room 9.19am Returned 9.22am

6 REPORTS

6.1 Mayors Report

The Mayor provided a verbal briefing on his Mayoral activities since the last meeting.

Moved by **Cr Gibson** **Seconded by** **Cr. Bounghi**

Resolution

That Council receive and note the Mayor's verbal report.

CARRIED 5/0

6.2 .1 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Chief Executive Officer's report for January 2026 was considered by Council.

Moved by Cr Mayor Gibson **Seconded by Cr Gibson**

Resolution

That Council

(a) receive the Chief Executive Officer's Report dated January 2026, and

(b) note the meetings attended by the Chief Executive Officer.

CARRIED 5/0

Council adjourned for Morning Tea. 10.00 am – Returned 10.12 am

6.2.2 Donation and Sponsorship Policy

Moved by Cr. Gibson **Seconded by Cr. Hart**

Resolution

That Council adopt the Donation and Sponsorship Policy subject to a clause being inserted to allow for a separate consideration of Team expenses .

CARRIED 5/0

Cr Bowen left the room 10.24 am Returned 10.26am

6.2.3 Neville Bowen Donation

Moved by Cr. Bounghi	**Seconded by Cr. Gibson**
Resolution	
That Council provide 50% of the expenses claimed in accordance with Clause 9 of the Donations and Sponsorship policy and that they be requested to place the Council logo on the jersey.	
	CARRIED 4/0

Cr Hart advised that he may have a conflict of interest as he plays for the Team – He left the room 10.32 am and did not vote. Returned 10. 35am

Cr Hart left the room 10.45am Returned 10.47am.

6.2.4 Strategic and Operational Risk Management Committee meeting.

Moved by Cr. Mayor Gibson	**Seconded by Cr. Bowen**
Resolution	
That Council adopt the minutes of the Strategic and Operational Risk Management Committee meeting and approve the Operational Plan review for Quarter2 of the 2025/26 Financial Year.	
	CARRIED 5/0

6.2.5 Increase in Penalty Unit Value.

Moved by **Cr. Mayor Gibson** **Seconded by Cr. Bowen**

Resolution

That Council Note the correspondence and remains exempt from the proposed increase of the penalty Unit under the Penalties and Sentences regulation 2015 and retain the $75 as it is at present.

CARRIED 5/0

Cr Bowen left the room 10.50am – Returned 10.53am

6.2.6 Waiver of Hall Fees

Moved by **Cr. Bounghi** **Seconded by Cr. Hart**

Resolution

1. **That Council confirm the actions of the CEO in waiving the meeting hall hire fees for Diatreme and until the Fees and Charges are reviewed as part of the upcoming budget for 26/27 all meeting hall fees and Amphitheatre fees be waived for the next three months until the Budget is adopted in June.**
2. **And that this information be placed on Social media**

CARRIED 5/0

6.2.7 Rodeo and Riding School – Danny Borghero

Moved by Cr. Boughi **Seconded by** Cr. Gibson

Resolution

That Council advise Mssrs Borghero that it fully supports the proposal and that they be requested to meet with Council to finalise the date, site, and other details.

CARRIED 5/0

6.2.8 Port Douglas Senior Rugby League - Mossman Sharks

Moved by Cr. Gibson **Seconded by** Cr. Boughi

Resolution

That Council verify if the bus was transferred in ownership to the Club and that a further report be submitted to Council Ordinary Meeting in March 2026

CARRIED 5/0

Council adjourned 11.14am Recommenced 11.20am

6.3 Finance Report

Presented by: Mr. Micah Nkiwane

Mr Ben Schierhuber – BDO

Cr Gibson left the room 11.57 am. Returned 12.05pm

6.3.1 Finance Report

Moved by Cr. Bounghi	**Seconded by Cr. Mayor Gibson**
Resolution	
That Council receive and note the report	
	CARRIED 4/0

6.3.2 Westpac Banking Signatories

Moved by Cr. Bowen	**Seconded by Cr. Gibson**
Resolution	
That Council resolves to:- **1. Remove Ms. Emily Green as a signatory to Westpac Banking Corporation account 279352 and;** **2. Appoint Mr. Micah Nkiwane, Kerry-Lee Bird and Onisimo Mukodi as signatories to Westpac Banking Corporation account 279352**	
	CARRIED 5/0

Council adjourned for Lunch 12.13pm Recommenced 12.30pm

6.4 Social Services Department Report

6.4.1 The Social Services Department Report was considered by Council.

Moved by Cr. Mayor Gibson **Seconded by Cr. Bowen**

Resolution

That Council receive and note the Social Services Department Report for month of January 2026

And note the meetings attended.

CARRIED 5/0

Cr Hart left the room 1.18pm Returned 1.22pm

6.4.2 HopeVale Aged Care Services

Moved by Cr. Gibson **Seconded by Cr. Boughi**

Resolution

That Council note, review and endorse the following documents relating to the Hopevale Aged Services:-

1. **Hopevale Integrated Aged Care Services Policies and Procedures**
2. **Hopevale Aged Care Annual Client and Council Meeting Minutes – 22 January 2026**

CARRIED 4/0

Cr Bowen left the room 1.21pm returned 1.24pm

Cr Boughi left the room 1.22pm returned 1.24pm

6.5 Operations Director's Report

6.5.1 The Operations Director's Report for November was considered by Council.

Moved By Cr. Bounghi	**Seconded by Cr. Bowen**
Resolution:	
That Council Receive and note the Operation's Directors' report for January 2026	
	Carried 5/0

Cr Gibson excused herself and left the meeting. 2.01pm.

6.5.2 Closing the Gap Fund Grant Application, Nomination of Essential Services Operation Monitoring and Control of Upgrades Project

Moved By Cr Bounghi **Seconded by Cr Mayor Gibson**

Resolution:

That Council:

1. **Endorsees the selection of Essential Services Operation Monitoring & Control Upgrades Project as a high priority project in Council's application for grant funding under Closing the Gap Funding programme.**
2. **Acknowledge that the project will deliver Capital infrastructure outcomes which contribute to meeting Queensland Government's Closing the Gap Priorities Fund targets for Hopevale.**
3. **Resolves to assume the responsibility for cost overruns if incurred during delivery should Council be successful in securing grant funding.**

Carried 4/0

6.5.3 Wholesale Disposal of Council Assets

Moved By Cr Hart	**Seconded by Cr Bowen**

Resolution:

That Council:

1. **Approve the wholesale disposal of redundant, disused, non-serviceable and excess plant, equipment, vehicles and materials at the Hopevale Depot, mechanical workshop, the warehouse and in the vicinity of those sites**
2. **The items with residual economic value, be disposed of by open public sale.**
3. **The items which cannot be sold for any economic price or with no residual value be disposed of as scrap for recycling or to waste.**
4. **Authorise the CEO to manage the exercise and report back to Council**
5. **The proceeds from the sale be put into Council's consolidated revenue.**

Carried 4/0

Council adjourned the meeting 2.19pm Resumed 2.26pm

6.6 Capital Works(Building) Managers report

6.6.1 Capital Works (Buildings) Managers Monthly Update Report - February 2026

Moved By Cr Mayor Gibson	**Seconded by Cr Bowen**

Resolution:

That Council receive and note the Capital Works Manager's update report for February 2026

Carried 4/0

6.6.2 2 x Self Contained Units Site Selection Update

Moved by **Cr. Mayor Gibson** **Seconded by Cr. Bowen**

Resolution

That Council endorse the Supply Scheme 1 sites as:-

1. **121 Link Road and;**
2. **25 Flierl Street**

CARRIED 4/0

CEO left the room2.52pm **Returned 2.54pm**

6.6.3 Award of Tender - Built Form Design Principles

Moved by **Cr. Mayor Gibson** **Seconded by Cr. Bowen**

Resolution

That Council award the tender to Indij Architecture and Design, in accordance with the tender review Panel's recommendation.

CARRIED 4/0

6.7 Corporate Services Report

6.7.1 Corporate Services Managers report.

Moved by Cr. Bounghi **Seconded by Cr. Bowen**

Resolution

That Council note and receive the report.

CARRIED 4/0

7 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION – NO ITEMS WERE PRESENTED

Moved by Cr. **Seconded by Cr.**

Resolution

THAT COUNCIL (AS TRUSTEE):

(a) resolves, pursuant to section 84(1) of the *Local Government Act 2009,* to close the meeting to the public, on the basis that this part of the meeting is to discuss business for which public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the trustee council;

(b) the matter to be discussed at the closed session of the meeting is including legal advice obtained by the trustee council and legal proceedings that may be taken by the trustee council.

CARRIED

Re-Opening

Moved by Cr. Mayor Gibson **Seconded by Cr. Bounghi**

Resolution

That the meeting be re-opened to the public.

CARRIED

7.01

Moved by Cr.	**Seconded by Cr.**
Resolution	
That Council Resolves to:	
	CARRIED 5/0

8 VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 CORRESPONDENCE

9.01 –

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

10.01 Sale of Council Land - Miller's Estate

Moved by Cr. Mayor Gibson **Seconded by Cr. Bowen**

Resolution

That Council Resolves:-

1. to apply to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal for an exemption under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (**the Exemption Application**), to facilitate the disposal of land within Miller's Estate (also known as Hope Valley Estate) to indigenous residents of Hope Vale (**the Proposed Disposal**);

2. to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power to take all steps necessary to make and progress the Exemption Application;

3. subject to the outcome of the Exemption Application, to consider this matter at a future meeting so that Council can make decisions about other issues associated with the Proposed Disposal, including but not limited to the application of an exception under section 236 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED 4/0

10.02 Renewal of Chief Executive Officer's contract

The CEO left the room – 3.28pm

The CEO returned - 3.40pm

Moved by Cr. Mayor Gibson	**Seconded by Cr. Bowen**
Resolution	
That Council agree to offer the current Chief Executive Officer a new contract for a period of 3 years and that the Mayor be authorised to negotiate the contract terms.	
	CARRIED 4/0

1. That the Mayor and CEO meet with the Minister for Police.
2. That the CEO be requested to contact the Woorabinda Shire Council CEO to discuss the opportunity to rejuvenate the known 170 graves of former Hopevale Residents
3. That proof of identity and residency for Jamila Borres be provided
4. That a Community BBQ and fun day be held to discuss what Council has achieved.

11 NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held in Hopevale office on Wednesday 18th March 2026

12 MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.46 pm.

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Cr Bruce Gibson

Mayor

……………………………………………

Lew Rojahn

Chief Executive Officer