



## HOPE VALE ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

### MEETING REPORT

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ITEM NO: 6.2.3 GENERAL MEETING:  
SUBJECT: 3 RIVERS RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION  
CLASSIFICATION: ACTION

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council provide Mr Neville Bowen with a letter of support to QRL to promote the 3 Rivers Rugby League competition.**

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#### **BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS**

No indication of the support required for financial assistance has been given. At this stage only a letter of support is requested.

#### **BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

Council has received a request from Mr Neville Bowen for a letter of support to the QRL to support the recreation of the 3 Rivers Rugby League Competition. This competition involves the Shires of Wujal Wujal, Cooktown and Hopevale.

There is an opposing competition called the Southern Cape Cluster competition which includes Hopevale, Cooktown, Coen, Pormpuraaw and Lockhart River. Council at its last meeting passed a resolution advising that it only supports a club structure that is focused on the benefit of Hopevale residents and Council believes the proposed Southern Cape Cluster structure is too broad to meet that qualification for future Council support and that Council will only support one united Hopevale team that represents all of Hopevale for the Southern Cape Cluster Competition.

Mr Neville is not a supporter of this Southern Cape Cluster competition.

#### **LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN**

Item 2.2 – Youth and Families -increase support for Youth leadership, recreation, mentoring and cultural engagement. Develop a youth strategy.

#### **CONSULTATION (Internal/External)**

No Consultation has been undertaken.

#### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are legal considerations to be made. Council is able to provide support where it is considered appropriate.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policies governing letters of support.

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

Low

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Email from Mr Neville Bowen.

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| <b>Report Prepared by:</b><br><br><b>Lew Rojahn</b><br><b>CEO</b><br><br>Date: 22/04/2026 | <b>Report Authorised by:</b><br><br><b>Lew Rojahn</b><br><b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b> |
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## Lew Rojahn

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**From:** Neville Bowen <nevillebowen74@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 April 2026 10:54 AM  
**To:** Lew Rojahn  
**Cc:** mayor@cook.qldgov.au; crmorris@cook.qld.gov.au; ceo@wujal.qld.gov.au  
**Subject:** support 3 Rivers rugby league competition

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi.

Morning I have been involved with Rugby league within our regions for decades as a player and as a coach since the very late 80s when Hopevale joined the CDRL Cairns District Rugby League Competition with huge support from Wujal and Cooktown players.

There is a rugby league competition that's been running in its 2nd year called the southern cape teams from Hopevale, Cooktown, Coen, Pormpuraaw, and Lockhart river teams travel to these areas and participate with long hrs drive. I personally did not support this competition.

We were approached by Pat Bailey who was the CDRL president at that time and QRL officers early 2000 in the dressing room at full time when we lost the grand final to Innisfail they will support the 3 Rivers competition between Hopevale, Cooktown, Wujal wujal area. And Cooktown with the infrastructure and resources of other teams to enter (outside teams are very interested to enter 2027) .

Commitment was a factor back then when the the 3 Rivers was operative let's move on as we have very talented players through juniors and seniors the social well being and functions that it can affect the next generation of these areas and players both young and old.

I will take the lead on this issue all we are seeking a letter of support from these shires to QRL bring back the 3 Rivers competition in 2027 Season the lady is Rachael Morgan QRL officer for this region her email [r.morgan@qrl.com.au](mailto:r.morgan@qrl.com.au)

There is very huge support from people from these 3 community Your support and reply will be much appreciated that will benefit the 3 communities

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***Neville I Bowen***

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