

# Minutes

## Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 20 May 2025

Boardroom – Cairns Office



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## **1 MEETING OPENING**

### **1.1 Declaration of Opening of Meeting**

Mayor Gibson declared the ordinary council meeting open at 9.00am.

### **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 Mayor acknowledged those residents of the Hope Vale region who have recently passed away, other residents of the region who have recently suffered illness or injury, and the impact on the entire community, followed by a minute's silence.

## **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 – Steve Linnane

Operations Manager – Mark Lawson (Item 6.5)

### **2.3 Apologies:** Nil

## **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, the following prescribed conflict of interests were declared on the following items of business relating to this meeting.

6.2.5 – Mayor Bruce Gibson and Cr Sha-lane Gibson

6.2.6 – Mayor Bruce Gibson

### **3.2 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.

### **3.3 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.

## 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### 4.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 16 April 2025

Moved by Cr Sha-lane Gibson

Seconded by Cr Eva Bounghi

#### Resolution

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 16 April 2025, be accepted and confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

## 5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

### 5.1 Business arising from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 16 April 2025

The Chief Executive Officer provided a briefing on the status of the proposed upgrade to the new kindergarten building and the Centrelink Offices.

Moved by Cr Barry Bowen

Seconded by Mayor Bruce Gibson

#### Resolution

That a meeting be arranged with Councillors, FRC representative, Thurrpiil Community Justice Group representative and OIC Hope Vale Police on Tuesday, 27 May 2025 to clarify the status of the response to the recent various criminal activity by a few youth in Hope Vale.

**CARRIED**

At this stage the meeting dealt with Items 8.1 and 8.2

## 6 REPORTS

### 6.1 Mayors Report

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



Moved by Cr Barry Bowen

Seconded by Cr Eva Bounghi

**Resolution**

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

**CARRIED**

Cr Sha-Lane Gibson left the meeting during part of this item.

## **6.2 Chief Executive Officers Report**

The Chief Executive Officer's report dated 14 May 2025 was considered by Council.

Moved by Cr Sha-lane Gibson

Seconded by Cr Rowan Hart

**Resolution**

**That Council**

**(a) receive the Chief Executive Officer's Report dated 14 May 2025, and**

**(b) note the meetings attended by the Chief Executive Officer, and**

**(c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to explore options for the delivery of Aged Care Services in Hope Vale.**

**CARRIED**

### **6.2.1 Building Local Care Workforce**

Discussions have been held with representatives of the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIS) in doing some coordinated building local care workforce work with NIAA/NDIS/Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (DWATSIPMA)/and the proposed Community Development Program (CDP).

Council was provided with data that showed demand for services growing and current NDIS care packages not being fully utilized. (Attachment 1 of the CEO's Report).

NIAA has sought Council feedback on 'what would building local care workforces/business success look like in the Hope Vale community'.

NIAA's summary was 'Collaboration between the NDIS, NIAA and DWATSIPMA will support people in remote communities to move into meaningful jobs and develop businesses that communities want, while improving the participation, experience, and outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander NDIS participants.'



NIAA now seeks advice from Council if it supports the proposal in principle so that agreement can be formalized on the next step/further planning.

**Moved by Mayor Bruce Gibson**

**Seconded by Cr Sha-lane Gibson**

**Resolution**

**That**

**(a) Council support in principle the proposal for developing a coordinated building local care workforce work with the National Indigenous Australians Agency/ the National Disability Insurance Agency/Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts /and the proposed Community Development Program, and**

**(b) the Mayor be authorised to hold discussions with Cook Shire Council and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council in relation to the Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program.**

**CARRIED**

### **6.2.2 FNQROC GHG Emissions Inventory Project**

FNQROC have submitted the first drafts of Hope Vale's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and the FNQROC Aboriginal Shire Council GHG Emissions Reduction reports.

Through the Great Barrier Reef Foundation grant program, FNQROC is assisting the three member Aboriginal Shire Councils as part of the broader work of the Climate Resilience Technical Committee to develop a Regional GHG Inventory. This project includes:

1. GHG emissions inventories for FY2022/23 and FY2023/24 (Attachment B of the CEO's report)
2. An Emissions Reduction Action Plan for FNQROC Aboriginal Shire Councils (Attachment C of the CEO's report), and,
3. A Community Emissions Reduction Media Kit.

The Hope Vale ASC GHG Emissions Inventory Report provides the following information -

- Total Corporate GHG Emissions
  - o FY2022/23: 1,771 tCO<sub>2</sub>e
  - o FY2023/24: 1,905 tCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Top three GHG Emission Sources (FY2023/24)
  1. Waste Disposal (63%)
  2. Electricity - buildings (33%)
  3. Transport fuels (2%)
- Methodology Overview:

The GHG Emissions Reduction Plan for the member Aboriginal Shire Councils -

- Aligned with Queensland's legislated emissions reduction targets of Net Zero by 2050.
- Outlines the resources and actions needed for Councils to align with these targets.
- Key recommended actions are summarised in Table 1 on page 6 of the Emissions Reduction Action Plan.

FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils' Regional Climate Resilience Coordinator, Maria Helena Anselmo briefed Council on these draft documents (Item 8.2).



It was agreed that the Reports be received and noted

### 6.2.3 Cultural Recommendations – Dept of Housing and Public Works

Discussions have been held over the last month with the Dept of Housing and Public Works in relation to various social housing construction and tenancy issues.

One of Council's aims is for the Department to be out in the community more and to actively manage tenancy issues. Council is also eager to streamline processes thereby reducing delays that impact on tenants and prospective tenants of social housing.

From a Council perspective, one area that Council can improve on, is providing Cultural Recommendations back to the Department on various tenure issues. The Department has requested a 2-week turnaround on Cultural Recommendations.

The Mayor and the CEO now meet regularly with local Housing and Public Works officers so that delays and bottlenecks can be overcome.

Moved by Cr Rowan Hart

Seconded by Cr Sha-lane Gibson

#### Resolution

That all Councillors be invited to attend discussions with the Dept of Housing and Public Works in relation to Cultural Recommendations.

CARRIED

### 6.2.4 ALGA's 31st National General Assembly (NGA)

Moved by Cr Rowan Hart

Seconded by Cr Sha-lane Gibson

#### Resolution

That all Councillors be authorised to attend the ALGA's 31st National General Assembly (NGA) to be held in Canberra from 24-27 June 2025.

CARRIED

#### 6.2.5 Waiving of Pioneer Hall Fees

It was agreed that Council endorse the waiving of the hire cost of the Pioneer Hall for the official book launch of Three Dresses by Wanda Gibson on Wednesday 4 June 2025 and note that the event will generate national attention to Hope Vale.

The waiving of the fee is subject to

- (a) the prepayment of the \$250 security bond to ensure that the Hall was left in a clean and tidy condition, and
- (b) acknowledgement of the community's contribution to the event.

Mayor Bruce Gibson and Cr Sha-lane Gibson advised the meeting that they considered that they had a prescribed conflict of interest in this item as Wanda Gibson is a related person. Both left the meeting for this item and took no part in the discussions or the decision.

Deputy Mayor Barry Bowen assumed the Chair.

#### 6.2.6 Tenancy Issues

The Chief Executive Officer briefed the meeting on various operational leasing and tenancy issues.

It was agreed that the verbal report on the leasing and tenancy issues be noted

Mayor Bruce Gibson and advised the meeting that he considered that he had a prescribed conflict of interest in this item as he is a tenant at a Council property. He left the meeting for this item and took no part in the discussions or the decision.

Deputy Mayor Barry Bowen assumed the Chair.

#### 6.3 Director of Finance and Corporate Services Report

Nil

#### 6.4 Social Services Director's Report

Nil



## 6.5 Operations Manager's Report

The Operations Manager's Report dated 19 May 2025 was considered by Council.

Moved by Cr Barry Bowen

Seconded by Cr Eva Bounghi

Resolution

That Council:

- (a) Receive and note the Operations Managers' report dated 19 May 2025.
- (b) Consider the active recruitment and training of 1–2 local community members (in the 2025-2026 budget) to assist with animal management tasks and helping with vet visits.
- (c) Notes the progress of preliminary investigations into the potential introduction of fluoride into the Hope Vale town water supply, including:
  - Background research and regional comparisons,
  - Initial engagement with Queensland Health's Environmental Health Services, and
  - Preparation of a staged roadmap for further technical review and community consultation.
- (d) Acknowledges that the Fluoride matter remains under active consideration, with no pre-determined outcome at this stage.
- (e) Endorses the continued coordination with Queensland Health and relevant experts to:
  - Finalise technical input and infrastructure feasibility advice, and
  - Ensure access to appropriate support for community engagement activities.
- (f) Supports the development of an appropriate community consultation plan to be presented to Council for review prior to implementation.
- (g) Requests a full options paper, including technical, operational, and community perspectives, be brought to Council for formal consideration following the completion of consultation—expected in the second half of 2025.

Carried

Mayor Bruce Gibson, Cr Rowan Hart, Cr Eva Bounghi and Cr Sha-lane Gibson left the meeting at various times during discussions on this Item. A quorum was always maintained.

In the absence of Mayor Bruce Gibson, Deputy Mayor Barry Bowen assumed the Chair.





## 7 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Moved by Cr Eva Bounghi

Seconded by Cr Rowan Hart

### Resolution

That

- (a) pursuant to section 254J(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (LG Reg), it was resolved to close this part of the meeting to the public;
- (b) pursuant to section 254J(3) and (5)(a) of the LG Reg, the matters to be discussed are
  - a. legal advice obtained by the local government, and negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government, and
  - b. matters the local government is required to keep confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State (ie Aged Care Act 2024).
- (c) pursuant to section 254J(5)(b) of the LG Reg, an overview of what is to be discussed while the meeting is closed is
  - a. legal advice in relation to the operations of the Hope Vale Foundation Limited.
  - b. Monthly compliance reports for the Commonwealth Hope Support Program and the Aged Care Centre

CARRIED

Moved by Mayor Bruce Gibson

Seconded by Cr Barry Bowen

### Resolution

That the meeting be re-opened to the public.

CARRIED

### 7.1 Hope Vale Foundation Ltd

It was agreed that consideration legal advice in relation to the operations of the Hope Vale Foundation Limited be deferred until the next meeting.

CARRIED

## 7.2 Aged Care Services

It was agreed that

- (a) the reports on the Commonwealth Home Support Program and the Hope Vale Aged Care Centre be noted, and
- (b) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate the process for taking Aged Care Centre Clients to the Hope Vale Primary Health Care Centre.

## 8 VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

### 8.1 National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)

At 10am, Damian Blunden, Engagement A/Director - North Queensland Region and Richard Aspinall, Regional Manager, NIAA and other NIAA representatives attended the meeting for discussions on NIAA initiatives and developing a coordinated building local care workforce.

### 8.2 Hope Vale's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and the FNQROC Aboriginal Shire Council GHG Emissions Reduction Reports

At 11am, FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils' Regional Climate Resilience Coordinator, Maria Helena Anselmo attended the meeting to brief Council on the first drafts of Hope Vale's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and the FNQROC Aboriginal Shire Council GHG Emissions Reduction reports.

## 9 CORRESPONDENCE

### 9.1 Audit Committees in Local Government

From the Department of Local Government, Water, and Volunteers dated 24 April 2025 in relation to recommendations from the Auditor General concerning Audit Committees in Local Government.

It was agreed that the letter from the Local Government, Water, and Volunteers , dated 24 April 2025, be received and noted.



## 10 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 10.1 NAIDOC Week

Moved by Mayor Bruce Gibson

Seconded by Cr Rowan Hart

**Resolution**

That Council allocate an amount of \$15,000 for NAIDOC Week celebrations to be held from Sunday 6 July 2025 to Thursday 10 July 2025

**CARRIED**

## 10 NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held in Hope Vale on Wednesday 18 June 2025.

## 12 MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.00pm



Cr Bruce Gibson  
Mayor



Stephen J Linnane  
Chief Executive Officer