



# Mayor's Message

*Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council's Mayor  
Cr Jason Woibo's monthly message*

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*Wantharra nyundu?*

Over the past weeks you would have noticed a big push on keeping Hope Vale safe from COVID-19. I'd like to remind everyone that if you're isolating, please make sure you do the right thing to stop the spread of the virus in our township. The best way to do this is to stay home as directed by the health professionals and don't go outside until you're cleared for COVID-19 by Qld health or a test. There are many people working hard to keep Hope Vale safe and it's up to everyone to do their bit for the community.

I'd like to say a big "Thank You" to Qld Health Staff for their dedication to their roles, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The team have done great work with vaccination and testing and generally being at the front line of protecting our community.

Last month, I talked about my concerns about the increase in break-ins and bad behaviour in the township. This month, I'd like to thank everyone involved, including the kids and families, for working together with Council on these matters. There has been a decrease in damage in the township and a general decrease in bad behaviour over the past few weeks. It shows that if we pull together as a community and work on issues together, we can make a difference.

Residents would have noticed infrastructure work commencing around town. The Cemetery shelter will soon be ready for public use and will give much needed protection from shade and rain. The Culture Park works have also commenced. This will feature an amphitheatre for outdoor events like concerts and meetings.

It's always a huge relief when a near-tragedy ends up with a good outcome. Recently, the Parks and Gardens crew saved a local child from possible drowning at the Causeway. It was a case of being in the right place at the right time and the team worked together against the strong current to pull the child up out of where they were holding on, with a foot stuck. It's always a shock coming across situations like this, and having to take action. I commend and thank everyone involved for thinking quickly and achieving the very best outcome.

After what seems like months of Teams meetings, and I myself not leaving Hope Vale to ensure community safety during the peak COVID-19 transmission time, I'll be attending or hosting some in-person meetings over the next few weeks.

Member for Cook Cynthia Lui MP will be coming up to Hope Vale next week. This will be an opportunity to discuss matters relating to Hope Vale with her including funding for various projects.

The Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) meetings will also be starting next week. There's always a full agenda at these meetings with all the Mayors from across Torres and Cape bringing their ideas and issues to the table. TCICA meetings provide an important opportunity for a collective voice to be organised and heard from elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives.

Mayors also attend weekly District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) meetings via Teams. We receive updates on COVID-19, weather events and other disaster and emergency matters as necessary. A bit of forward warning is that there could be a cyclone around early next week, so don't forget to do some cleaning up around your yard and get some essential supplies to last 3 days. Remember that Cyclone Ita came April, Nathan at end of March and we almost had a cyclone in May last year. Be Prepared and Stay Safe.

**Mayor Cr Jason Woibo**