



# Mayor's Message

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

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As we welcome in 2022, it seems to have been a busy year already. We farewelled interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ross Higgins and welcomed back Steve Linnane into the CEO role. On behalf of Council I would like to thank Ross Higgins for his work with Hope Vale. Council is looking forward to working alongside Steve as CEO, Council staff and residents to achieve its vision of a progressive, united, vibrant region and township.

We thought it appropriate to start the first Council meeting for the year by holding a minute's silence to reflect on the hardships suffered by some residents in 2021, and to acknowledge those members of the Hope Vale region who passed away over the previous 12 months, and also those members of the region who suffered illness or injury. We pray that 2022 is a better year for us all.

Hope Vale was lucky to not be affected too much by Cyclone Tiffany which crossed the coast in early January. It always provides a good opportunity to remember to clean up around homes and start preparing for the wet season which will be on our doorstep soon.

Of course the other matter that has impacted our township is Covid 19. We know that some members of Hope Vale were suggesting that Council should place our township in lockdown to assist with stopping the spread of COVID. I brought this matter up with Minister Mick DeBrenni (Hope Vale's Qld Government Ministerial Champion) during his visit here in early January. Minister De Brenni confirmed that Council does not have the authority to lock the town down, as these decisions are made by the Queensland Government through a direction of the Chief Health Officer (CHO).

There have also been suggestions that the names of people who have Covid should be shared. Council itself does not have this information, it is a Health department and personal matter and sharing of names is against privacy legislation. The best way we can tackle Covid is through vaccination and I'm very proud that the residents of Hope Vale have rolled up their sleeves to reach a 96% first dose vaccination rate. I urge everyone to have their booster when they're eligible.

Council is working very closely with the District Disaster Management Group, Torres Cape Hospital and Health Service, Queensland Health and other agencies to keep as updated as possible on the regular changes that are occurring with the spread of COVID throughout the Cape and we will continue to pass on information as received. There are also good resources on this [Qld Health Covid 19 link](#).

As mentioned above, Hope Vale's Qld Government Champion Minister Mick De Brenni visited Hope Vale in early January. It's always good to host these visits to show government Minister's first hand around our township and to be able to discuss and advocate on behalf of Hope Vale. Minister De Brenni has always listened carefully and responded well to requests from your Council and we will continue to keep him closely linked to our ideas and the communities aspirations as we move into a new planning stage for our township in 2022.

As I prepare this column, much of my morning has unfortunately been taken up by the issue of increased crime in the township. It is very disappointing to see this occurring and even more disappointing that it is mainly caused by a small number of young townspeople. I'd like to remind everyone that Hope Vale is a community of people who all want the best for everyone who lives here. A few young people are causing mischief and hurt to others by their actions, as well as damage to private and community assets that then needs time and money to be fixed. Council has been working in conjunction with the local Police service, which has the authority in these matters, to find



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ways to tackle issues that have arisen. Council wants to see a safe community and a reduction in crime. We don't want our town to lose essential services like our store due to continued break-ins. Over the coming months we'll be asking residents their ideas on what can be done and how they can be part of the solution.

Until next month, stay safe.

**Mayor Cr Jason Woibo**



Having my Covid 19 Booster shot - keeping myself, my family, my colleagues and my community safe.