



# Mayor's Message

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

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## *Wantharra nyundu?*

As I prepare this month's newsletter, I'm doing so from home due to being in COVID19 isolation. Although I have tested negative, I have been doing the right thing for the community and residents to make sure there's no chance of spreading COVID19 unintentionally. Everyone needs to play their part and with COVID19 still around, the new sub-variant BA.2 making an impact, isolation is the key if someone in your family tests positive. Good news though is that first-dose vaccination rates in our young people is high and the health service's vaccination team were back in Hope Vale this week running another vaccine clinic. It was good to see people turning up for vaccinations and boosters to help stop spread of COVID19 in our community.

At this month's Council meeting your Council supported the commencement of the Local Thriving Communities (LTC) committee as a way to improve State Government funded service delivery to the Hope Vale community. This decision came after meetings with DATSIP's Director General Dr Chris Sarra and senior departmental staff, to clarify some points about how the LTC can work in Hope Vale. Basically it's about giving community representatives an input, increased but more directed funding, and ensuring more accountability for delivery of social and community services in town. The committee, Chaired by the Mayor, will include community members and a coordinator will be appointed as secretariat for the committee. There'll be more information about the LTC over the coming weeks.

Discussions have been had regarding the Alcohol Management Plan (AMP) at both the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) and the Indigenous Leaders Forum (ILF). I joined other Indigenous Mayor's in putting our case forward around the issues we see about how the AMP impacts our communities. More discussions will be had over the coming months on this important matter.

This month I attended a briefing by Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) on the new Qld Health legislation around palliative care and end of life. It's important that in final days, our residents are able to stay in community but there are infrastructure changes that need to be done at the aged care for this to happen. Council will be working towards enabling this to happen and will keep the community updated as things progress.

As the Indigenous Mayoral representatives, Lockhart River's Mayor Wayne Butcher and I attended the LGAQ Policy Executive meeting to put forward issues that impact on Indigenous communities. Representation at this level provides an opportunity to sit at the table at a policy level and ensure an understanding of the issues and challenges impacting Indigenous Councils and communities.

At this month's Council meeting, your Council heard that design work has commenced on the twelve housing projects approved through the one-off Federal Housing Allowance. Work will involve demolitions, extensions, and new housing and will help to deal with overcrowding issues until Council can obtain more land.



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We were updated on the helipad upgrade, and I'm pleased to say that a contractor has been engaged after the design and survey was completed and works will commence in April.

Civil works are also underway leading into the dry season, so you'll see the hard working Civil team out and about on improving our roads across the Council area.

Member for Cook, Cynthia Lui also visited in early March and again, Council took the opportunity to brief Ms Lui and her staff on various projects being delivered and which could be delivered in Hope Vale.

Warren Entsch, Member for Leichardt, visited during March with Council pressing our case for various projects to be supported.

One of the projects Council raised was the need for single person's residences, and the number of people on the waiting list single units. Council is in the process of developing concept plans for two (2) unit blocks of six (6) by one (1) bedroom self-contained independent living residences, and we'll be seeking support to make these plans a reality.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the work of Hope Vale's QPS Sergeant Amit Singh who is leaving Hope Vale this week. On behalf of Council, I wish Sergeant Singh well in his new posting and hope he will come back to visit Hope Vale at some future stage. All the best to Sergeant Singh and his family. I understand that the process has commenced for a replacement Sergeant.

Until next month

**Mayor Cr Jason Woibo**