



# Mayor's Message

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

This week your Councillors have been attending the Local Government Association of Queensland's (LGAQ) 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Mackay. This is a very important annual conference for all Council's across Queensland. Councillors not only have the opportunity to network with other local government elected representatives, but the Conference also provides the opportunity for major policy to be set for the future of our regions.

There is also opportunity for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected representatives to attend the Indigenous Leaders Forum (ILF), the first held in 2011. Cr Wayne Butcher and I hosted this year's Forum. The ILF's have been a valuable way for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils to come together to discuss specific challenges and to put forward issues they would like the LGAQ to assist them in addressing. These forums also provide an important opportunity for our Indigenous leaders to discuss key issues affecting our communities. This year's session was a critical, in that it provided the opportunity to discuss financial sustainability of Indigenous councils and also COVID-19 impacts to the communities.

During the Conference I had the opportunity to propose a motion to the Annual General Meeting of the LGAQ, on behalf of the Indigenous Leaders Forum. The motion was around the provision of statistical and financial data on Closing the Gap initiatives from both State and Federal agencies. The basis of the motion was to have the data provided to all LGA's to enable all local governments to understand what is happening in their specific area. This is an important matter. With statistical data we can support the evidence on the ground to lobby for funding of local service, policy changes and target resources into areas of need. The motion was supported unanimously by all voting delegates.

It's a privilege for your Councillors to represent Hope Vale at the LGAQ conference. Hope Vale is known and respected as a thriving, liveable and proactive township by many across Queensland. Any Councillors will be happy to have a yarn about the Conference proceedings.

## Mayor Cr Jason Woibo

