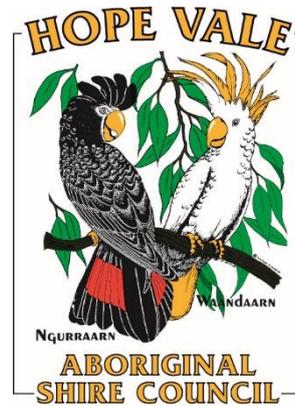


OPERATIONS MANAGER

COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting: 20th September 2022



Item 1: Building & Construction

Item 1.1 2022 – 24 Housing Investment Program

Current addresses underway:

- 7 Flierl St
- 20 Flierl St
- 54 Poland St
- 61 Wenke St

Item 1.2 Government Employment Housing - Hope Valley Estate

Tendering currently underway for the 4 house package. The tender is to be submitted 30th September 2022.

Item 1.3 Responsive Maintenance Aged Job Cards

As at 9th of September 2022, there were 272 responsive maintenance jobs allocated to HVASC. 117 of these are aged over 60 days. This marks over 20 consecutive weeks of a downward trend in outstanding jobs.

The department of housing will be undertaking community audits and inspections in October. This inspection process will result in a significant increase in job cards being raised with HVASC.

Item 2: Essential Services

Item 2.1 Daily Testing

Routine daily water testing, and weekly third-party water testing results indicate there are no current issues with water quality or capacity. Town water is of a safe and drinkable water standard.

No issues with sewerage.

Item 3. Pest / Animal Management

Item 3.1. 2022 Dog and Cat Census Results

Data Overview

- At the time of the census, there were 512 pet dogs, and 29 pet cats in Hope Vale. 488 of the dogs were identifiable to a specific house. Owners could not be determined for 24 roaming dogs.
- Most of the dogs are large mixed breeds.

- The reproductive control in dogs is very low (only 6.8% of dogs were confirmed as desexed by ear tattoo). Reproductive control in cats appears to be non-existent; no cats were observed to have been previously desexed.
- Despite the low reproductive control observed, the demand for desexing for both dogs and cats is relatively high – during the census, the owners of over 50 animals specifically requested their animals be desexed.
- The health and welfare of the dogs at Hope Vale was poor: The age structure of dogs suggests that dogs have a relatively short lifespan and are not reaching old age, and that puppies and young dogs have high mortality rates.
- 377 dogs had a body condition score recorded; of these, 133 dogs (35%) were considered unacceptably thin (body condition scores 1 – 3).
- 353 dogs had a hair score recorded; of these, 130 dogs (37%) had at least some hair loss. This hair loss is typically caused by scabies mites which are capable of infecting people in close contact with infected dogs or their bedding.
- Ticks were common on dogs; 199 dogs (38% of the total dog population) were recorded to have a tick burden. Of these, 31 dogs were classified as a moderate burden while 8 were considered severe.
- Fleas were observed on 143 dogs. Of these, 21 were considered to have a moderate burden while 5 were severe.
- 40 dogs (7.8% of the total dog population) displayed fearful behaviours on approach. Fear responses are generally a learned behaviour in dogs, indicative of previous negative experiences with people.
- The cat population was in relatively good health, however with no cats reported to have been desexed, and most cats allowed to free roam, their reproductive potential is large and requires urgent attention.
- There are over 20 houses with large numbers of dogs (i.e. over 6 dogs per household). Of the 157 dog owning households, the average dogs owned per household is 3.2. There are 76 households with more than 3 dogs, and of these, 23 households have more than 6 dogs.
- Only 10 households own cats, and of those, most have 1-2 cats, with 4 households owning 3 or more cats

Challenges

- Many of the dogs in the community are roaming. They are often wandering around the council buildings and shop. It was difficult to locate these animals to a specific house or identify these as stray dogs without impoundment. These animals were still given treatments and data recorded on the census.
- Staff shortages within the animal management team makes implementation of an effective and functional program challenging.
- Without a team of workers within the animal management team, capturing and handling animals comes with increased health and safety risks.
- The large size of the dog population and the low percentage of animals de-sexed within the community brings challenges. Currently, only a small percentage of the community is accessing the vet service. These are usually the proactive animal owners with vehicles, such as hunters. Due to time constraints and reduced staff, animals from more problematic households (e.g. some of the households with very large dog numbers) were not targeted during the visit.

Summary of Animal Management Recommendations (from AMRICC)

- Investment in **high-volume veterinary services** focused on improving the surgical desexing rate for both dogs and cats.

- In addition to high-volume services, continued investment in **regular veterinary services** focused on surgical desexing for both dogs and cats as well as animal welfare treatments.
- Utilise HVASC animal management staff to **maximise the veterinary service efficiency**.
- Implement a **regular community-wide anti-parasitic treatment program**, administered by HVASC's animal management staff at least quarterly.
- Implement an **ongoing community education program** to improve animal health and management.
- **Facility and equipment improvements** to facilitate enhanced animal management outcomes.
- Given that almost 50% of dog owning households have more than 2 dogs, and that the majority of dogs are large breeds, HVASC should consider their commitment to regulating animal numbers per household by **animal management by-law implementation**.

With the data compiled inside the census, the Operations Manager will seek quotes from local veterinary service providers to assess budget requirements for the next 12 months based on AMRICC recommendations. The Operations Manager will present management options, a council recommendation and budget estimates for proposed management plans at the October Council Meeting.

Item 3.2. Horse Update

The Operations Manager is completing the Community Horse Management Plan. Conversations are still required to be had with other Hope Vale stakeholders (Hope Vale Foundation, MyPathway, Hope Vale Congress) before the plan can be finalised. When completed the Plan will be presented to Council for consideration and endorsement (estimated for October Council Meeting presentation).

The plan will outline the community's approach to stray horses and how they are to be managed. If endorsed the plan will be shared with the community to educate horse owners and residents of Council's planned actions and outcomes in managing stray horses.

Item 4: Civil Construction

Item 4.1 Current Works

The Civil Construction department is now working on betterment bitumen seal projects at Alligator Rd and Mclvor Road. Projects are programmed to be sealed in December 2022, weather pending.

Item 5: Other Current Projects

Item 5.1 Works 4 Queensland 2021/2024

Value: \$1,300,000.00

Mclvor Rd Seal 100% Complete

MPC Field Upgrade Project planning and design underway.

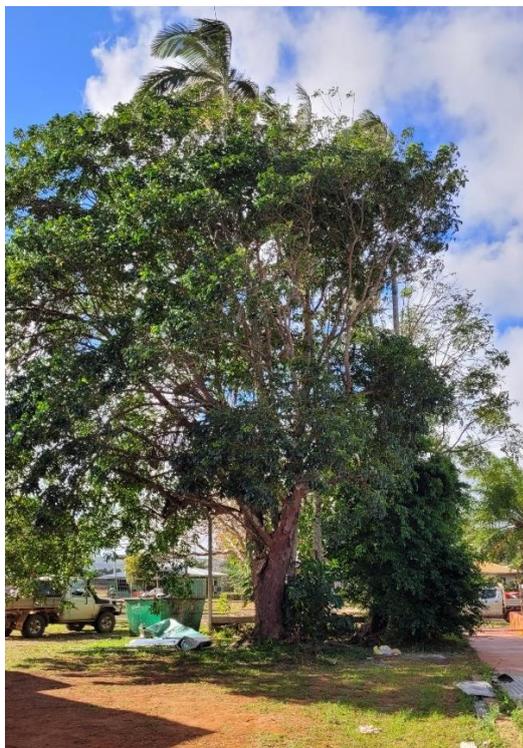
Council Asset Management Program 20% complete Minor works underway.

Item 5.2 Building Our Regions (BOR) Round 5 – Hope Vale Township Community and Cultural Park

Value: \$2,000,000.00 – 50/50 Funded by BOR5 & Council

- The roof construction is underway
 - First stage of the electrical works for the main undercover area is underway
- There are a number of trees that need to be removed to allow for completion of the originally endorsed landscape design. Some of these trees are of a significant age. The Operations

Department would like to seek approval to remove the trees in the photographs below. The pocket of trees consists of; **5 x large palms, 2 x large native trees, 1 x small fig tree.**



Recommendation: That Council endorse the removal of the trees.

Item 5.3 Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF) Heavy Vehicle Connection

100% complete, to be acquitted.

Item 5.4 Council Chambers and Office Extension

Works underway. Subframe erected.

Recommendation: That Council notes and endorses the Operations Manager report



Gene Brookes
Operations Manager

15/09/2022