



"Strong Puuya, Strong Culture, Strong Future"

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council 2023-2024 Annual Report

For the period 01 July 2023 to 30 June 2024



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PREFACE

Welcome to Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Annual Report 2023/24

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council wishes to acknowledge Elders past and present, elected members, employees, contractors, community members and our local, State and Federal Government stakeholders for their contributions to Council operations in 2023/24.

We’re fortunate enough to live in one of the most beautiful parts of Australia and we are working hard to keep it that way, to keep our people safe, healthy and happy. We share with you our Annual Report and thank you for taking your time to read the report.

About this Annual Report

The 2023/24 annual report covers the associated compliance elements and provides a strategic overview of council operations during the financial year. Under legislation, Council is required to prepare an annual report each financial year for the shire with reference to the progress of the Council’s, community, corporate and operational plans. The report’s aim is to offer council’s constituents a transparent insight into the activities and achievements of Council during the 2023/24 financial year.

The formulation of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Annual Report 2023/24 is prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 (sections 104 & 201) and Local Government Regulations 2012 (sections 181 – 190, 199, 273).

Timing

Section 182 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 require the Council to prepare and adopt its annual report within one month after its financial statements are signed by the Auditor-General. The audited financial statements for the 2023/24 financial year were signed by the Auditor General on 29 November 2029. The 2023/24 Annual Report will be available for reading by 29 December 2024. Hard copies will be available from Council’s admin offices in Lockhart River and Cairns. This annual report will also be uploaded to the Council website by 29 December 2024.

The primary objective of this document is to articulate Council’s vision and goals, its achievements and performance results for the past year, and its challenges, opportunities and plans for the future.

All care has been taken to ensure all content is complete and accurate. However, Council does not guarantee it is without error.

Acknowledgement

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council would like to thank and acknowledge all the people whose photos and art works have been used in this report.

Feedback

Council welcomes your feedback. Please forward your comments in writing by posting or emailing.

Contacts Details

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Council’s website contains more information about the organisation’s activities, policies and plans for the future. Visit www.lockhart.qld.gov.au

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A Message from Mayor Wayne Butcher

Dear Community Members,

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 financial year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the resilience and spirit of our Lockhart River community.

This year, despite the challenges we faced, we have made significant strides in enhancing the lives of our people and the beauty of our land. Our Council has been steadfast in its commitment to serve you, and I am pleased to share some of our key achievements.

Community Development

We have successfully launched several community development projects aimed at improving the quality of life for our residents. These initiatives, ranging from infrastructure upgrades to new Community Development Director driving inspirational and engaging events that have brought about positive changes in our community.

Cultural Events

Our Paytham Malkari Festival Ngaachi annual cultural event was a resounding success, bringing together community members of all ages to celebrate our rich heritage and traditions. These events have not only strengthened our community bonds but also showcased the vibrant culture of Lockhart River to visitors.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the next financial year, we remain committed to our mission of serving you.

We will continue to work on initiatives that promote economic growth, enhance our community services, and preserve our cultural heritage.

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the support and involvement from council employees and community over the past year. It is your participation and feedback that guide our decisions and help us improve Lockhart River community.

Together, we will continue to make our community a great place to live, work, and visit.

Wayne Butcher

Mayor



Chief Executive Officer Report

The story of the 2024 year was one of further growth for our Council with a record \$38 million dollar budget laid down featuring significant capital works and social programs. Most importantly, the opportunities our Council is creating are being taken up by our people with record numbers involved in the delivery of civil and construction works both as direct employees and through sub-contracting small business. We are proud of our people being brave enough to take the chance with small business and Council’s support is both resolute and enduring.

Our Cultural Precinct is now complete and hosted the second *Paytham Malkari Dance Festival* in September. This is fast becoming our showcase cultural event and, over time, will provide a doorway for our entry into community-based tourism, our next great challenge. Our Footie field and Social Club are operational; our airport cabins expansion has been delivered to expand our tourism offer; the airport new runway lighting project has commenced, and we have been successful securing funds for construction of new housing on the new sub-division. Council’s policy of “*Investing in our people*” continues to pay off with more apprentices signed up, traffic control, plant tickets, administration, First Aid, security licences, safe food handling, and responsible service of alcohol all delivered. Our Community Development team continue to provide high quality services to our people right across the age brackets and we welcome the new investment from the Health Commission in our social and emotional well-being team. The re-building of our Ranger Service will commence in 2025 and is keenly anticipated.

Although it has been a challenging year, Council remains in a sound financial position. The year featured controlled and strategic capital investments that provide downstream employment and business opportunities for our township. Our concreting team performs strongly, our new Grader will minimise our need for outside contractors and open the door to future small business opportunities.

We look forward to seeing more of our people come forward with business ideas, so come tell us your ideas and we will do what we can to help make them happen.

We have many challenges before us coming into 2025, but we have sound and focused Council leadership; a strong delivery and compliance executive team and the will to continue to deliver strongly for the people of Lockhart River.

David Clarke

Chief Executive Officer



About Lockhart River

The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire is situated on over 3,500 square kilometres of land on the eastern coastline of the Cape York Peninsula in remote far-north Queensland. Management of the Shire is administered by the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council under the Lockhart River Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) and Mangkuma Land Trust traditional owner management arrangement. Management of the Shire is administered by the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council under the Lockhart River Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) and Mangkuma Land Trust traditional owner management arrangement.



Lockhart River

Lockhart River (IARE303006) 4200.8 sq Kms

People and population

Number

Estimated resident population:

673

Male 354

Female 319

Working age population (aged 15-64)

62

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) population

567

Speakers of ATSI and who identify as ATSI

80%

Persons born overseas

16

Children enrolled in preschool / preschool program

13

Total number of business

22

Number of jobs

336

Median weekly household rental payment (\$)

\$125/wk

Births

13

Deaths (no)

3

Religion

Christian 66%

Others/No religion 21%

Not stated 12%

Other religions 1%

All private dwellings

Median rent (\$/weekly)

\$125

Median income (\$/weekly)

\$933

Median income per year

\$17,264

Average number of people per household

3.7

Proportion of dwellings that need 1 or

28.9

Employment Status

79%

Worked full-time

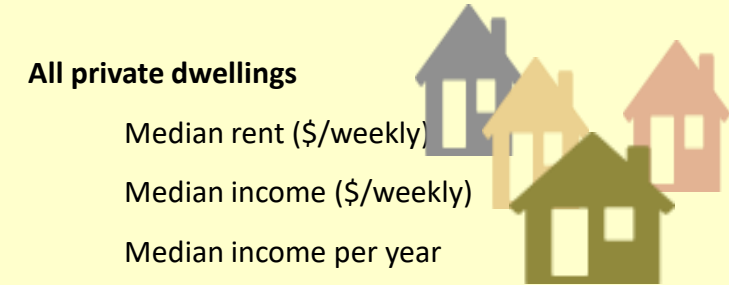
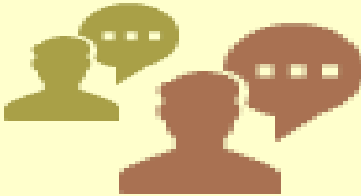
102

Worked part-time

41

Unemployed

84



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Key Statistics



LOCKHART RIVER HISTORY

Lockhart River was established in 1924 when people from of the KuukuYa'u, Wuthathi, Umpila, Kaanju and Uuthalganu clans were coerced into a new Anglican mission at Orchid Point. The mission was moved in 1925 to Bare Hill (putchiwu'chi) which had better water supply and potential to grow limited crops.

Our people were sandbeach people (Pama Malnkana = people of the beach). Under the rules of the new mission, we were not allowed to speak our language or to practise our cultural traditions and were moved inland a little bit away from our sea country. Marked by the good intentions but often misguided policies of successive governments and missionaries, against all odds we managed to keep our unique culture alive and strong.

EARLY EUROPEAN CONTACT

The first European contact with Lockhart River was by William Bligh in 1789. Most people know of the infamous 'Mutiny on the Bounty', but many do not realise that after being cast adrift on the ship's launch after the ship was seized by Fletcher Christian and mutinous crew, Captain Bligh spent time recuperating on Restoration Island, in Kuuku Ya'u country at the northern end of Chillie Beach.

Explorer Edmund Kennedy passed through the traditional lands in 1848, swinging westward across the hills to the upper Pascoe River, in the first European attempt to survey



the interior and peninsula of this part of Australia. He left a base party of eight on the Pascoe River, six of whom starved to death after refusing fish and other food from the Kuuku Ya'u people.

No further land exploration took place until William Hann came across from the Holroyd River in 1872, passing just south of the present town of Coen. The Lockhart River was named during an exploratory expedition by government geologist Robert Logan Jack in 1880 after a friend of his, Hugh Lockhart, of Edinburgh. The Claudie River was named by Jack's travelling companion, prospector Billy Lakeland.

EARLY INDUSTRIES

From the 1880s, sailors enlisted and often kidnapped individuals and family groups to dive for beche-de-mer and pearl shell. Some of the lugger captains paid the divers in tobacco or as little as \$1.50 a month and Aboriginal labour on luggers was later prohibited due to the on-going abuse of our people.

Early last century, Orchid Point on Lloyd Bay was a centre for the trade of sandalwood. A base camp for gathering sandalwood was set up by Hugh Gibley in 1907. Gibley recruited Aboriginal workers to gather sandalwood, protected them from unscrupulous lugger captains and rewarded them with food, clothing and cased liquor at the end of season Christmas party. Gibley died in late 1923. According to oral accounts, his death was caused by an infection from a woomera blow, which broke his jaw during one of his famous Christmas parties. Our people rowed him down to Port Stewart to get medical help but he died on the way and is buried there. Gibley is remembered fondly as someone who worked with our people and respected culture. Such was his trust that he went and fought in WW1 leaving his plant of pack horses, luggers and a 25 ton ketch under the command of our people while he fought. The business thrived in his absence.

ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT

In 1906, Chief Protector of Aboriginals, RB Howard, recommended an Aboriginal settlement be established at Lloyd Bay. He wrote glowingly of the ‘fine stamp of people – strong, healthy, active fellows who seemed delighted at the idea of a settlement being formed in their own country’.

In 1910, Howard noted sandalwood prices were falling and the Aborigines of the region would ‘keenly feel hardship’ when employment ceased. He also pointed to problems relating to the supply of intoxicating liquor to the Lockhart Aborigines and referred to the ‘urgent necessity of at once placing an officer of this Department at the Pascoe or Claudie River to see that the provisions of the Aboriginals Protection Act are not evaded’. Our people worked with Giblet to frustrate the attempts of state and church to start a mission which didn’t commence until after his death. Until the mission started, we were still free to live our traditional way.

A MISSION IS FORMED

Bishop Newton asked the Government to plan the set up a mission on the Pascoe River reserve. However, as the proposed mission was on a mineral belt, Bishop Davies (who replaced Bishop Newton) requested a change of site and the government agreed to transfer the reserve to the Lockhart River region where there were no leases.

Harry Rowan was appointed Lay Missionary and Superintendent and arrived in July 1924 at Waterhole (Orchid Point) in Lloyd Bay, on the site of Giblet’s old camp. The mission was moved in 1925 to Bare Hill which had better long term prospects.

This was a difficult time when people were denied freedom of movement to access their country and were forced to live permanently with comparative strangers and, in some cases, enemies.

By January 1925, Rowan reported more than 80 Aborigines at the mission. High infant mortality in the previous decade meant the number of children was small, but a school was started by the end of 1925. In 1928, a church was under construction and cutting sandalwood was still the main income for the mission.

During the early 1930s, Rowan tried cotton, bananas, pawpaws, cassava, sweet potatoes and taro. A new launch was obtained so fish, dugong and turtle as well as garden produce sustained the mission. An Act passed in 1934 that gave the Queensland Government the right to move Aborigines at will. People of the Flinders Islands area of Princess Charlotte Bay were brought to Lockhart. By 1936 only a few Aborigines in the north-eastern area remained in traditional lands. That same year, 80 older Aborigines were removed from the Coen, Port Stewart, and Batavia districts to the mission. In 1937, the mission had a population of 388 but 35 lives were claimed by whooping cough in 1938.

WORLD WAR TWO

Locals tell how during the Second World War, all outsiders left to travel south, and Aboriginal people were advised to ‘go bush’ to escape air raids.

Although times were still difficult, people re-established connection with their ngaachi (place/land/estates) and spread out like before.

The mission was re-established in 1947, with H Johnson as Superintendent. To try to establish community spirit, Johnson changed the structure from a series of sub-villages (representing tribal grouping) to a single settlement.



He saw it as a necessary step in the ‘breaking down of old tribal enmity and establishment of community spirit’.

Small scale trochus fishing and other commercial activities were established. Johnson encouraged traditional skills such as language, bushcraft and hunting. Hunting was important because the funding to run the mission was well below subsistence. His successor, Briggs, noted the ‘complete absence of vindictiveness or arrogance’ in the Lockhart Aborigines, whose spiritual qualities were ‘outstanding’. Briggs resigned in 1950 and was succeeded by John Warby, whose name is commemorated in an era of Lockhart history as ‘Warby time’.

'WARBY TIME'

Lockhart by now was in a desperate situation. Author Kylie Tennant described it as an 'insanitary and poverty-stricken little pesthole' and 'the worst mission of them all'. Warby re-organised the housing to bring people closer to the sea. Not only could our people live alongside the sea but in homes they had built together out of local materials.

In 1953, Warby reported all people living in Lockhart had embraced Christianity.

Coluding with the reverend Alf Clint and with the belated endorsement of the Anglican Board of Missions, Warby established the Lockhart River Christian Cooperative. Among other things, it aimed to teach people to run their own cooperative business, provide employment, establish a voluntary night school, improve living conditions and foster church activities. For the first time, mission residents were allowed to participate in decision making and play a role in routine administration. Each family was a shareholder.

Through the Co-op, trochus fishing expanded to be the major economic enterprise with three boats up to 25 ton. By 1956, the Cooperative was on such a sound basis it donated 2000 pounds to the Diosis. Warby reported it was building up initiative, self-respect and self-reliance backed by a dramatically improved health situation. But with changes to plastics technology, the trochus market collapsed. This had a profound impact on the Mission not just its finances. Staff shortages were critical. Warby left in 1959 and his successor JT Currie found it necessary to close the Lockhart River Christian Cooperative in 1961. The reality was the Mission could not function on the financial stipend of 750 pounds per year and struggled in spite of the best efforts of all.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL

Financial difficulties and the failure to find permanent church workers led to the church relinquishing its control of the mission. In the early 1960s, the Anglican Bishop of Carpentaria secretly negotiated with the Director of Native Affairs, Pat Killoran, to transfer Lockhart River to the state.



In 1964, the Anglican Church handed over the mission to the Queensland Government, who tried to relocate the people to Bamaga. Unlike the people of Mapoon and Port Stewart who were tricked, our leaders stood up to the government and refused to go but, in 1970, agreed to move to a place closer to the airport and the supply port of Portland Roads at Iron Range. This move had its problems. It took the settlement from one reasonably neutral location to one owned by a major group in the community and from living right on the coast to further inland. Friction resulted and continued.

With the advent of the Qld Community Services Act 1984, on 30 March 1985, the Lockhart River community elected five councillors to constitute an autonomous Lockhart River Aboriginal Council. In a then ground-breaking recognition of Aboriginal land rights, the council area, previously an Aboriginal reserve held by the Queensland Government, was transferred on October 29, 1987 to the trusteeship of the council under a Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT). Locally elected councillors now held a legal right to lead our community as a local government and hold the land for our people under the DOGIT arrangements.

In September 2001, the majority of the land held by Council under the Deed of Grant in Trust, was handed over to Traditional Owners under the Queensland Aboriginal Land Act. The Mangkuma [mung-Kooma] Land Trust was formed and holds the land on behalf of the Traditional Owners.

On January 1, 2005, pursuant to the Qld Local Government (Community Government Areas) Act 2004, Lockhart River Aboriginal Council became the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council making it the same as all other local governments in Queensland. A successful Native Title determination for an area north of Lockhart River was ruled in favour of the KuukuYa'u [Koo-kooYao] people by the Federal Court of Australia in 2009. The Mangkuma Land Trust area is part of the current CY "one claim" for Native Title being administered by the Cape York Land Council.

CULTURE STILL STRONG

Our culture has survived in spite of the attempts to spoil it by various missionaries and government organisations. We had to keep a lot of things hidden to avoid trouble back then. Support and respect for our cultural life took place in the 1970s with a number of dance festivals and traditional activities. Few people realise Lockhart River was the birthplace of the dance festival which later moved to Laura where it became the longest continuous cultural festival in Australia. Today, Lockhart River dancers still perform regularly at festivals including the Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival.

The community would dearly love to see a return of the dance festival to the place where it began some 40 years ago.

The community's strong cultural identity – as expressed through its dancers and also internationally-renowned Lockhart River Art Gang – makes Lockhart River a natural place to come together to celebrate the proud cultural heritage of Cape York.

Our continued access to our country and the development of our outstations helps keep our culture strong and our relationship with our Ngaarchi straight.



Vision, Mission, Values

OUR VISION

(Puuya means Life Force in the Kuuku Ya'u language)

Strong Puuya
Strong Culture
Strong Future



OUR MISSION

To lead, strengthen and serve the community by providing high quality level of services as well as providing opportunities for you and me.



OUR VALUES

The commitment to the elected representatives and officers of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council to its residents in underpinned by the following:

Respect, Honesty, Integrity, Working and Learning together.

Fairness, being positive, Respect of culture and Accountability

OUR COUNCIL



Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council has five elected representatives who are responsible for formulating Council policies, Corporate Plan, Operational Plan, Council budget and providing strategic direction to the Community. The Shire is undivided for electoral purposes. Each Councillor therefore represents the overall public interest of the whole area. The Council has adopted a portfolio system, and each Councillor is assigned a specific portfolio(s) to look after. This allows for the principle of accountability and collective responsibility to operate. Councillors are elected every four years in accordance with the Local Government Act.

The local government quadrennial elections were held on Saturday, 16 March 2024. In accordance with section 100 of the Local Government Electoral Act 2011, this notice advises that the following persons have been duly elected for the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council:

Acceptance of the duties and responsibilities of the Mayor and Councillors are signified by their declaration of office. This declaration requires the elected members to fulfill the duties of office by acting faithfully and impartially to the best of their judgment and ability and to uphold the Council Code of Conduct. In addition, Councillors are required to complete register of interests, as a further check to dealing with the issues of conflict of interest and material personal interest. To represent the community effectively, Councillors are required to attend ordinary meetings at the Council and any special meetings that may be called. Councillors are required to vote on all matters that require a decision or to abstain from taking part in the discussions and voting issues where they have conflict of interests and material personal interests. The role of the Mayor and Councillors is well spelt out in the Local Government Act 2009. Training has been provided to Councillors to help them understand their roles and responsibilities. Council authority is exercised as a whole, with decisions being made by the Council in the best interest of the community. In this regard, the Local Government Act 2009 together with Council Policies provides guidance to the Mayor and Councillors on what their roles and responsibilities are, and the Code of Conduct expected of them. The Code of Conduct provides for penalties ranging from reprimand to disqualification from office. All these measures are intended to safeguard against the misuse, abuse and miscarriage of power and authority by the elected members. Ordinary meetings of the Council take place on the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings are generally held in the Lockhart River Council Chambers in Lockhart but there are occasions when the meetings are held in the Cairns Office. The Council meeting is open to the public.

Our Elected Representatives & Portfolios



Mayor Cr Wayne Butcher
Portfolios: Health,
Governance and Leadership,
Housing

Deputy
Mayor
Cr Alister
Bowie
Portfolio:
Business



Cr Dorothy
Hobson
Portfolio:
Culture,
Language and
the Arts, Land
Management



Incoming
Cr Steven
Bally
Portfolio:
Law, Order
and Justice,
Sports and
Recreation



Incoming
Cr Krystal Dean
Portfolio:
Education



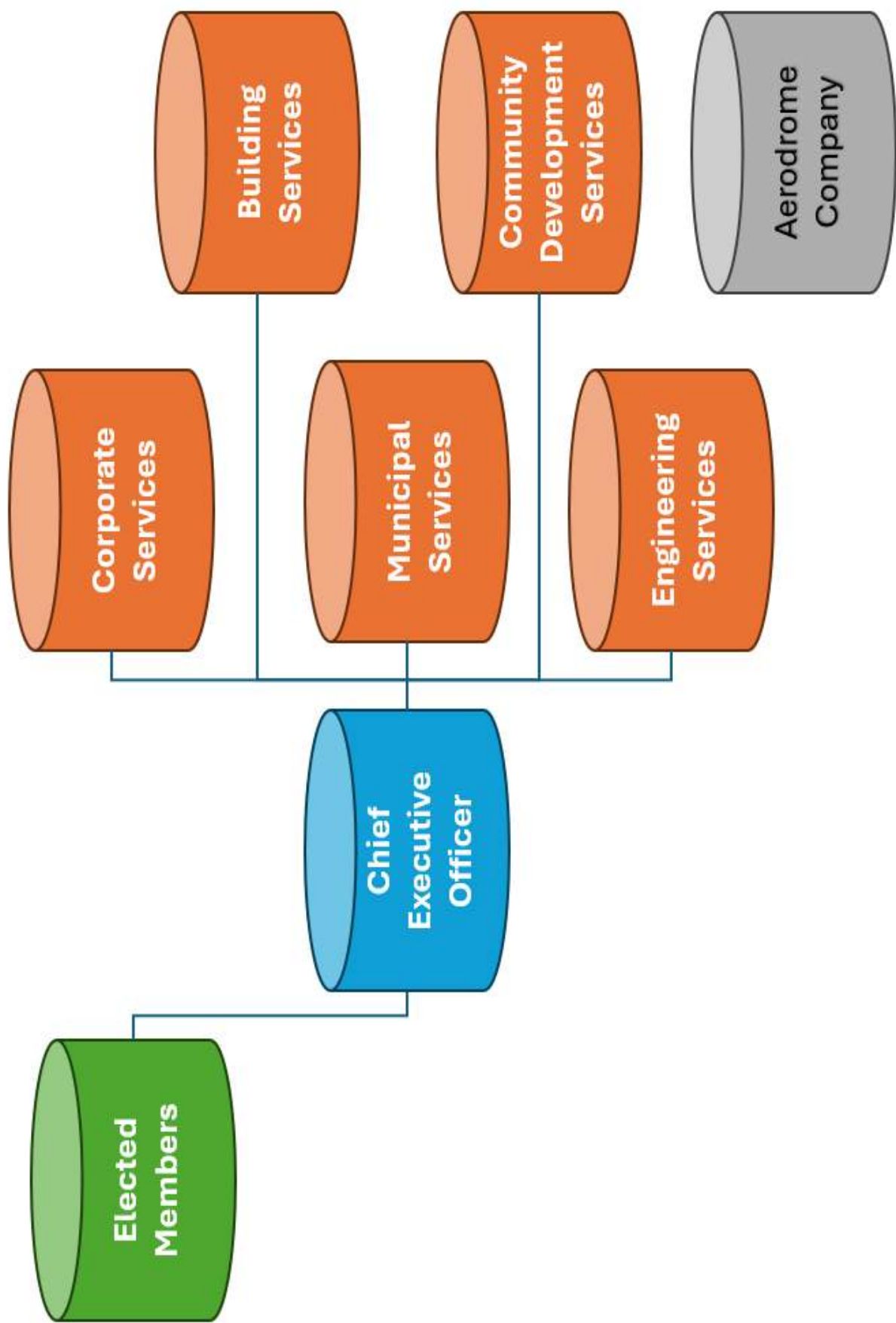
Outgoing
Cr Karen
Koko



Outgoing
Cr Norman
Bally



Organisational Structure



Our Employees

Work Place Health and Safety

The Council is responsible for ensuring safe working environment for all its employees. Also, the Council is obliged to comply with requirements under Work Health & Safety Act and Regulation 2011. Staff safety awareness has increased through training and robust incidence reporting system to ensure appropriate actions are carried out to reduce risk of incidents occurrence. Council encourages employees to acquire safety knowledge around workplace and outside working environment for their own safety benefits.

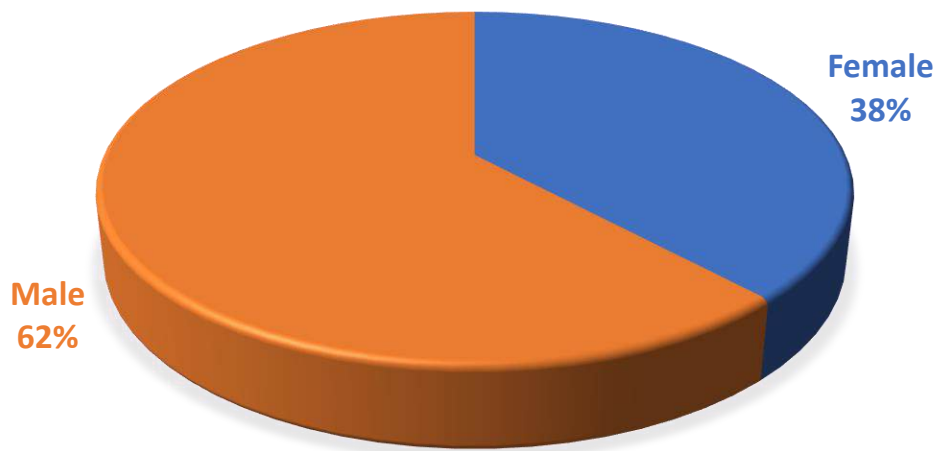
Code of conduct

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council has implemented a Code of Conduct in line with the Public Sector Ethics Act 1994 ethics, principles and values. The Council developed and implemented Code of Conduct for employees that provide guidelines to employee professional behaviour and practices. This policy document is updated annually due to changing employee behaviour. The policy is part of the human resources set of policies.

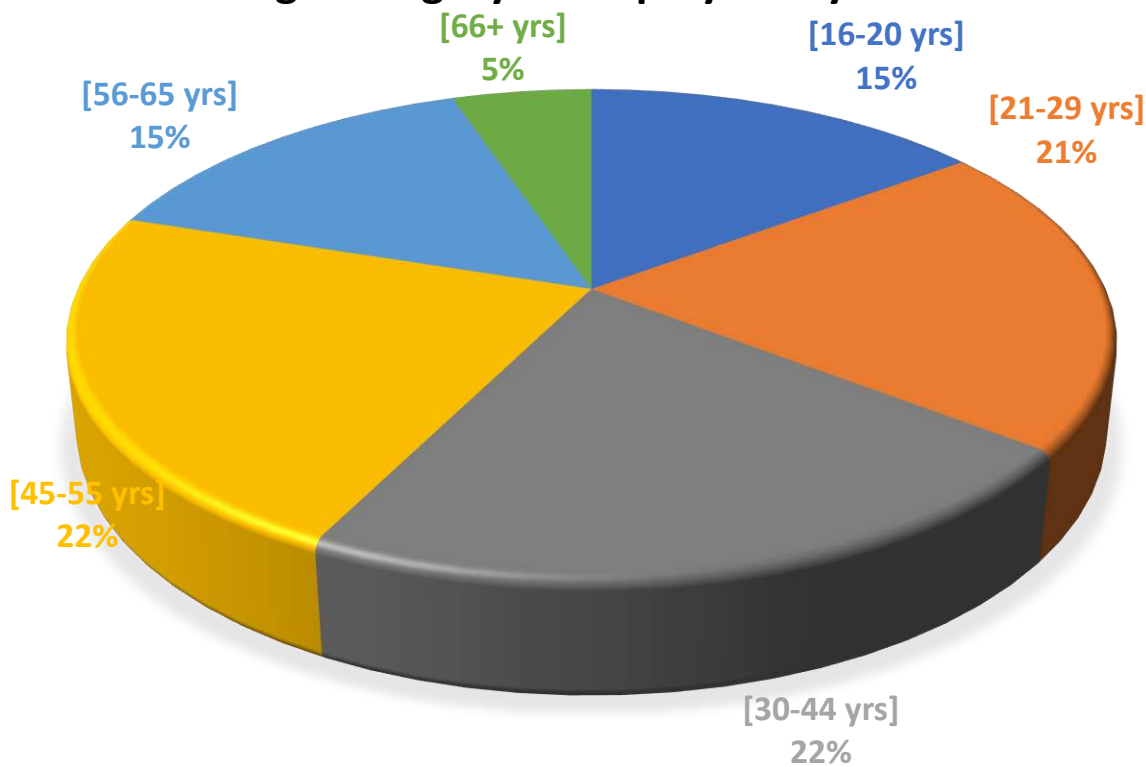
Employee Statistics

There were a total of 85 full time equivalent employees in the year. The Council has made strides towards gender balance, with men comprising 64% and women 36% of the workforce. This marks a significant improvement, reflecting a steady rise in female representation. Leadership and Governance roles maintain a 60:40 male-to-female ratio. Most employees are aged between 30 and 55 years.

% of Male & Female Workforce



% of Age Category of employees by Council



Corporate Governance & Legislative Requirements

Council Members’ Attendance and Compensation

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal reviews and sets the council members’ compensation annually. Below is the schedule for meeting attendance and compensation from July 2023 to June 2024.

Councillor	Council meetings attended	Total Meetings	Remuneration	Superannuation	Expense Claimed
RE-ELECTED Cr Wayne Butcher Mayor ***	7	12	\$114,764.54	\$13,771.73	\$43,437.37
RE-ELECTED Cr Dorothy Hobson Councillor **	7	12	\$63,733.99	7,648.02	\$11,264.87
RE-ELECTED Cr Alister Bowie D/Mayor **	6	12	\$59,419.71	\$7,130.30	\$10,931.70
INCOMING Cr Stephen Bally Councillor **	3	4	\$16,094.06	\$2,064.59	\$8,048.17
INCOMING Cr Krystal Dean Councillor **	3	4	\$16,094.06	\$2,217.03	\$8,855.27
OUTGOING Cr Norman Bally	4	8	\$41,287.69	\$4,954.48	\$1,898.00
OUTGOING Cr Karen Koko	4	8	\$41,287.69	\$4,541.72	\$4,501.96

Councillors are provided with specific facilities and support as per the following:

*** Vehicle, Smart Phone, iPad (or Tablet) and Laptop

** Smart Phone and iPad (or Tablet)

Senior Management Team

The following were the Council and Aerodrome Company’s senior officers (senior management team)

Executive	Name
Chief Executive Officer	Mr. David Clarke
Corporate Services	Mr. Stanley Mugwiria
Building Services	Mr. Regis Edmond
Community Development and Services	Mr. Jamie Love
Engineering Services	Vacant
Essential Services	Mr. Micheal Lesley
Aerodrome Company	Mr. William Rodgers / Mr. Anthony Ryan

Senior Management Remuneration

All the senior officers reported directly to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the 2023-24 Organization Structure.

To comply with the requirements of section 201 (1)(a) and s201(1)(b) Local Government Act 2009, the Council is reporting the following remuneration packages for all the senior officers

Range of total remuneration package	Number of Senior Officers
\$50,000—\$150,000	4
\$150,001—\$250,000	1
\$250,001—\$350,000	2

Invitation to tenderers to change their tender details

No actions were taken to amend tender specifications after the tenders were invited

Beneficial Enterprises Section 41 LGA 2009

Puuya Foundation through its operations at Kuunchi Kakana Early Childhood Learning Centre is a beneficial enterprises to the Lockhart River community. This has benefitted the community by creating local employment and providing early childhood education services to the community. The Council recognizes and supports this learning interaction of the parents, kids and teachers at the Centre.

Significant business Section 45 (b)(d) LGA 2009

The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council did not conduct any significant business activities during the year.

Invitations to provide expressions of interest

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council did not advertise for any expression of interests or tender.

Internal Audit (LGR 2012 section 190(1)(h))

The internal audit function of the Council was overseen by the Audit Committee. The membership of this Audit Committee is made up of 2 elected Councillors and one independent member who is the Chair. Audit Committee changed after 2024 Local Government election results whereby 2 Councillors resigned and 2 new Councillors were appointed to replace them. The independent member was re-appointed for another period of 3 years. These changes will provide stability to the Audit Committee to enable them provide good governance and leadership to the Council.

Also the period of service for Pacifica Chartered Accountants in the role of internal auditors was extended by 2 years. The internal auditors carried out audit reviews and provided recommendations to the management for implementation in Council plant hire rates and job costing and progress review on previous years' audit findings. Internal audit reports were prepared and made available.

These internal audit reports were presented to the Audit Committee during the year in compliance with section 207 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

Audit Committee developed and approved 2024/25 annual internal audit plan to guide their governance activities for the year. The internal auditors have scheduled reviews to be accomplished and reported to the Audit Committee this year in accordance to the annual internal audit report.

External Audit

The external audit was completed by Crowe Australia and independent auditor's report signed by Queensland Auditor-General on 6 December 2024 due to Council completing the financial statements for the audit past due date. Council had to request for extension of time from the minister due to unavoidable staffing issues.

The audit involved performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and express an independent audit opinion. The auditors have expressed an **unmodified audit opinion** implying that they are satisfied with Council's financial operations and records kept.

Overseas travel (LGR 2012 section 188)

None of the elected members or Council employees made any official overseas travel.

Other relevant issues to making an informed assessment

During the financial year, there are no known issues relevant to making informed assessment of the Council's operation and performance.

Councillor conduct and performance

To comply with section 186 (1)(d) - (f) and section 353 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 the Council performance against set standards were as follows:

Compliance Requirements	Reference/ Section	No
Orders made under	s150I(2) of the LGA LGR s186(d)	Nil
Decisions, orders and recommendations made under section	s150AR(1) of the LGA	Nil
Name of each councillor for whom a decision, order or recommendation was made under	s150(I)(2), 150AH(1) or 150AR(1) of the LGA LGR s 186 (e) (i)	Nil
A description of the unsuitable meeting conduct, inappropriate conduct or misconduct engaged in by each councillor that was made under section	s150(I)(2), 150AH(1) or 150AR(1) of the LGA	Nil
Decisions, orders or recommendations made for each councillor that was made under	s150(I)(2), 150AH(1) or 150AR(1) of the LGA LGR s186(d)(i)(ii)(iii)	Nil
A summary of the decision, order or recommendation made for each councillor	LGR s186 (e)	Nil
Complaints referred to the assessor of the Act by local government entities for the local government	s150P(2)(a)	Nil
Matters, mentioned, notified to the Crime and Corruption Commission	s150P(3) of the LGA	Nil
Notices given under	s150R(2) of the LGA and s186(1)(f)(iii) of the LGA	Nil
Notice given under	S150(2)(a) LGA and LGR s186(1)9f)(v)	Nil
Decisions made under	s150W(1)(a),(b) and (e) of the LGA and LGR 186 (1)(f)(viii)	Nil
Referral notices accompanied by a recommendation mentioned in	s150AC(3)(a)of the LGA and LGR s186 (1)(f)(vi)	Nil
Occasions information was given under	s150AF(4)(a) of the LGA	Nil
Occasions the local government asked another entity to investigate, under chapter 5A, part 3, division 5 of the Act for the local government, the suspected inappropriate conduct of a councillor	LRG s 186 (1)(f)(ix)	Nil
Applications heard by the conduct tribunal under chapter 5A, part 3, division 6 of the Act about whether a Councillor engaged in misconduct or inappropriate conduct	LGR s186 (1)(f)(ix)	Nil

Administration Action Complaints

Complaints Management Process –

Where there are administrative complaints, under section 187 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the Council has established and maintained effective policy and process for resolving them. This policy and complaints handling framework is fairly consistent in resolving complaints. The policy framework is communicated to all staff at the commencement of their employment and reinforced at staff meetings. Further information of Council’s Complaints Policy and Process can be obtained at www.lockhart.qld.gov.au.

A complaint register has been established providing details with regard to the outcomes of complaints.

The annual report for a financial year must contain particulars of:

Administrative action complaints recorded during the reporting year are as detailed below.

Description	Reference/ Section	No
A statement about the local government’s commitment to dealing fairly with administrative action complaints	LGR s187(1)(a)	Nil
A statement about how the local government has implemented its complaints management process, including an assessment of the local government’s performance in resolving complaints under the process	LGR s187(1)(b)	Nil
The number of administrative action complaints made to the local government	LGR s187 (2)(a)(i)	Nil
The number of administrative action complaints resolved by the local government under the complaints management process	LGR s187(2)(a)(ii)	Nil
The number of administrative action complaints not resolved by the local government under the complaints management process.	LGR s187(2)(a)(iii)	Nil
The number of administrative action complaints that were made in previous financial year and still unresolved	LGR s187(2)(b)	Nil

Grants to Community organisations

The Council did not grant any funds to community organizations in compliance with the requirement of section 189 (a) (b) of Local Government Regulation 2012.

However, in 2023-24 financial year the Council spent \$157,982 on contributions towards support for funeral expenses to the bereaved families, cultural and sporting activities within Lockhart River community only. The Council's Donations Policy and Budget provided guidelines for these contributions.

List of Registers available to public

Section of the Local Government Regulation 190 (1)(f))

The following registers are maintained and held by Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council:

Section of the Local Government Regulation 190 (1) (f)

- Register of Interests of Councillors
- Register of Election Gifts and Benefits
- Register of Interest of Chief Executive Officer & Senior Contract Employees
- Register of Delegation (including financial delegations)
- Asset Register
- Road Register
- Housing Register
- Prequalified Suppliers Register
- Council Local Laws register
- Fraud Register
- Administrative Complaints Register
- Contracts Register



Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO): The Council enforces an Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (EEOP) and Management Plan to ensure a discrimination-free environment. We promote open job advertisements, merit-based hiring, and discourage harassment. Our diverse workforce includes individuals of various ages, cultures, religions, values, educational backgrounds, languages, abilities, and genders. We value each employee's unique skills and perspectives, fostering a cohesive and efficient work environment.

Training and Development: The Council supports staff training and development through comprehensive policies, providing study time and covering travel expenses. During the year, training programs that were held:

- White Card (Construction) Training
- Traffic Control Training
- Various Plant Tickets
- Signed on Mechanical Apprentices

Workplace Health and Safety: Committed to a safe working environment, the Council complies with the Work Health & Safety Act and Regulation 2011. Increased safety awareness among staff is achieved through training and a robust incident reporting system, minimizing risks.

Engineering

The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council's Engineering Services Department ensures that all of the roads within its area of responsibility, essentially those within the Lockhart River community, are sealed and well maintained.

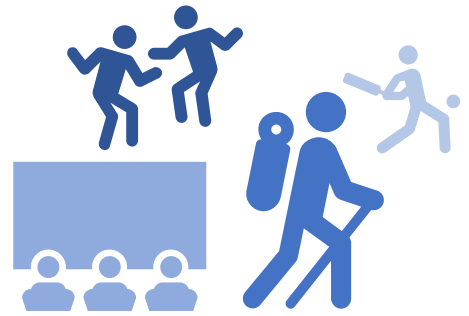
Rates and Charges: As per section 190(1)(g) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the annual report includes a summary of rate concessions. The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council did not grant any concessions during the financial year.

Achievements and Key Activities



Paytham Maklari Festival was an outstanding success. It brought the community together well and actively encouraged cultural pride and expression.

Council congratulated the volunteers on their tireless work preparing and delivering good food across all three nights. The commitment to hold an annual festival on the second weekend of each September school holidays going forward is supported.



- Kids Club Movie Night
- Youth Movie Night
- Youth Disco Social Club
- Men's Walking Group - Walking as one against Mental Health
Pama Hgampulana Watangkanana Malngkan. You Me Maate's eh.../ Puuya Kuntha Pama Kuntha
- Cemetary Clean Up
- Pig Hunting Competition
- Cane Toad Bounty
- Fishing competition
- Sport Day
- Women's International Day



GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

To deliver strong responsible leadership by supporting the needs of the Community setting clear direction through transparent, fair and accountable practices as well as working as one, while complying with the relevant legislations and Council policies.

Welcome to the newly elected Councillors

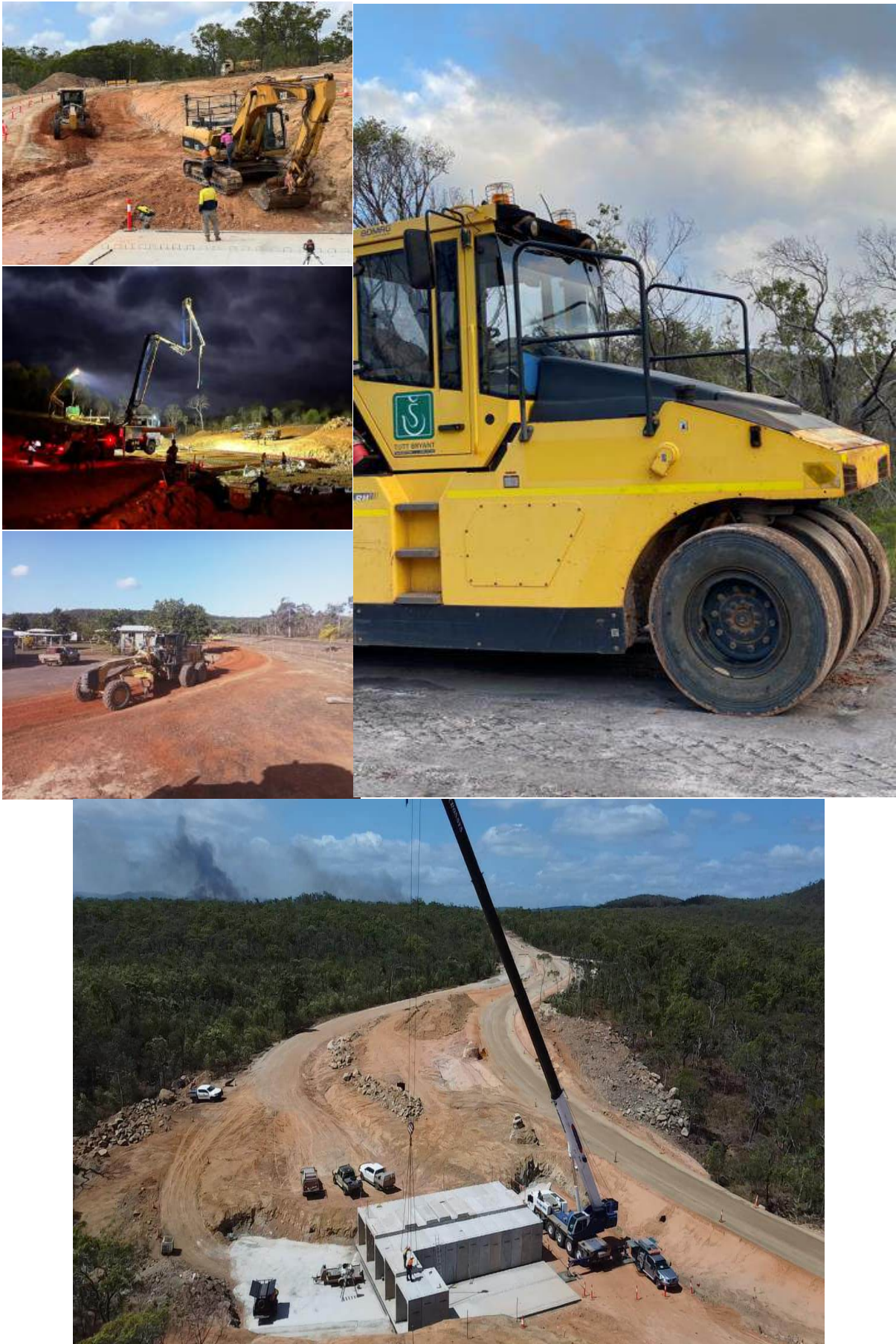
- Mayor – Cr Wayne Butcher,
- D/Mayor – Cr Alistair Bowie
- Councillors
 - Cr Krystal Dean
 - Cr Steven Bally
 - Cr Dorothy Hobson



ENGINEERING SERVICES

The goal is to manage, maintain and develop Council infrastructure and Plant & Equipment to meet the current and future Community needs. This includes the transport infrastructure program that ensures the community is serviced by high quality and effective road network through well planned and quality development. The function provides and maintains transport infrastructure, including the maintenance and provision of the bridge and drainage network, regional planning and management of development approval.

This report provides an overview of the status of engineering services undertaken during the financial year against this goal.



CORPORATE SERVICES

Council’s Corporate Services department incorporates both finance and administration functions and provides a wide range of services to internal and external clients of the Council. The services include accounting, financial management, customer care, record management, information technology, bank and post office, Centrelink services and human resources. The goal was to provide professional financial management and administration support to enable Council meet its statutory obligations.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

You-me working together, not-standing alone. You-me it is up to us. We have got to help one another. You-me I know we can do it. The main goal was to encourage and participate in the continuing development of Community Services and Cultural Activities and to strengthen individual and Community Puuya.

The following regularly funded programs continued to benefit the community members throughout the financial year:

- Mens’ Support Services
- HACC
- Women Shelter
- Family Together
- Justice Group
- Youth At Risk Initiative
- Primary Health Care – Indigenous Australian’s Health Program
- Outside School Hours Care

Community Development has been busy refining its many programs over the past 12 months, with for most part all vacancies now filled. It could be said that we have now laid the foundations to start to expand our projects and focus further on Shire social priorities including a greater focus on field activities for youth and adults, connection to country and culture initiatives, and community wellbeing and mental health.

Community Development continues to strengthen our relationships with government departments and funding agencies, and form partnerships with other providers to enable more holistic service delivery.

A community marketing strategy is now taking shape, with 12 key themes running over 12 months to ensure a continued emphasis on important issues pertaining to family, relationships, culture, education, youth and grog prevention.

Our **Men's Group** under the guidance of Greg Omeenyo have initiated led projects, with most recently a clean-up of the local Cemetery cleanup. Such initiatives are important in having men take an active interest in important community locations and involvement in such activities is “chicken soup for the soul” so to speak. With the men's shed now fully operational again, it has become an important meeting place to come together and discuss issues and connect with other service providers and partners such as RFDS, albeit matters around relationships, dealing with crisis and lateral violence. Notably as well a Men's walking group has been operating for several months now, this great initiative has been lead by a community member, Patrick Butcher, and supported through Community Development, is a testament to his commitment to men's health and wellbeing.



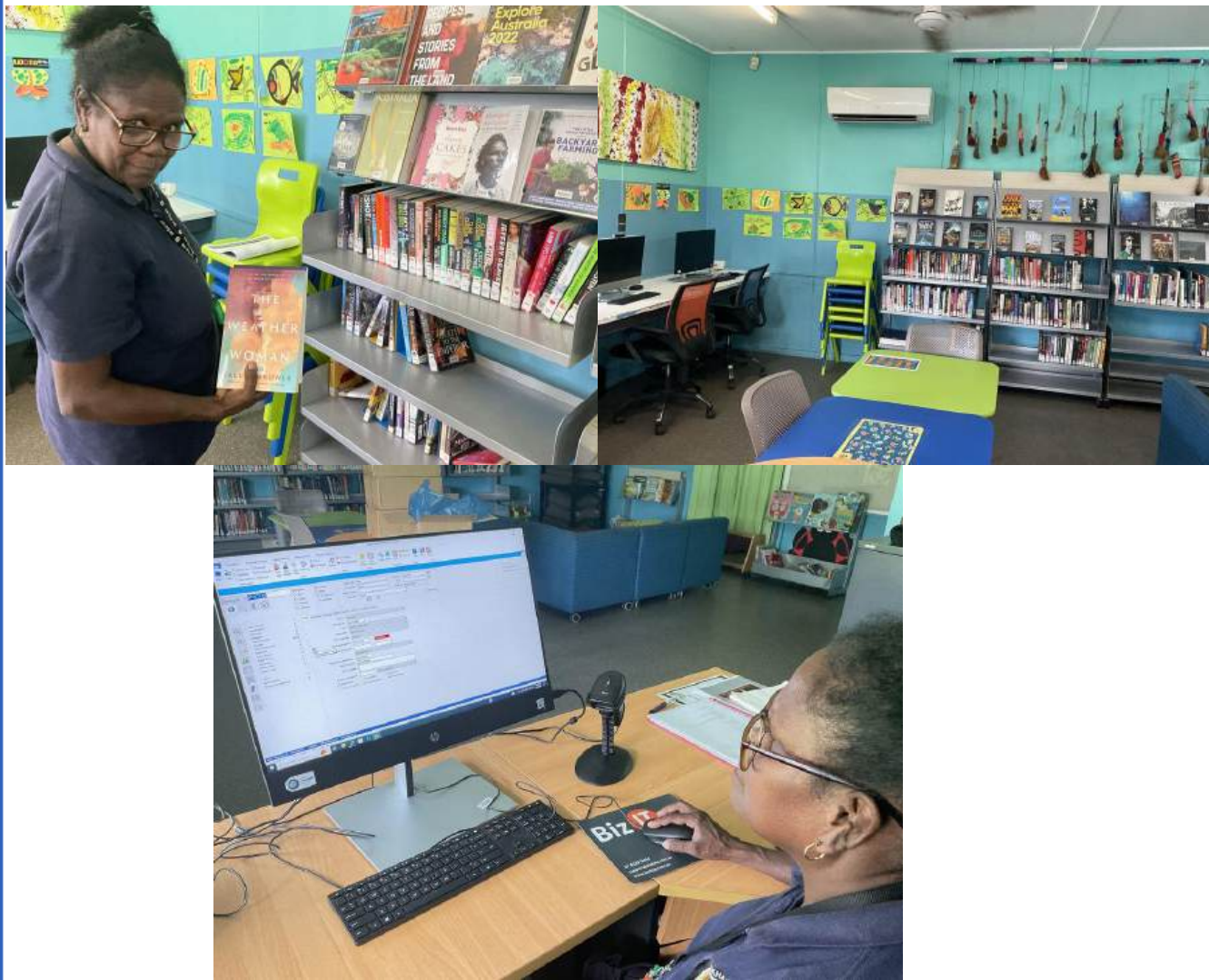
The Men’s Group has been building momentum under the guidance of new Community Services Director, Jamie Love. They are planning a range of events over the Christmas period and into 2024.



COMMUNITY SERVICES



Lorraine Warradoo continues to provide library services to the community, always reliable, she has fit into the role comfortably. The library is an important central point for people to come, have a coffee, read a book and socialise with others in town. Doug Williams, Justice Coordinator, and Father Matthias, male justice worker, continue to work diligently with the Community Justice Group and I expect they will start rolling out some significant programs later this year.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Elaine Williams has settled into the role of **Youth Centre** coordinator and has been proactive in looking for new opportunities to engaged youth in the community. Elaine continually looks for new opportunities to engage youth and in doing so has made many positive changes to the youth centre facilities.

The Kids Club with Daphney and Irene Clarmont and Emily Pascoe, continue to provide activities for those under 10 years of age, in the afternoons from **the library**, as well as support more general initiatives such as the recent skateboarding workshop held town. School holidays has been day excursions for the kids to the local beach, river and water park.



LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL
Advised: Wed 07/02/24



EVERY FRIDAYS
When: **FRIDAYS**
Where: **OVAL**
Time: **6PM**

**Mixed Youth
(Boys & Girls)**

Douglas [DOUG] Williams
0409 360 271



The radio station has gone from strength to strength with now 4 radio announcers operating in the community, a big thanks to Patrick Butcher, Simon Butcher, Arthur Warradoo and Greg Pascoe for their dedication. Having community voices on the station, providing news and updates of what is happening in the community has been invaluable in disseminating information. The radio station is now planning to commence on air and recorded interviews with elders and visitors, with an emphasis on language, culture and history.

Radio

Lockhart River has a 24 hour local radio station broadcasting at 107.7FM. The Radio Station can be contacted on 07 4060 7050.

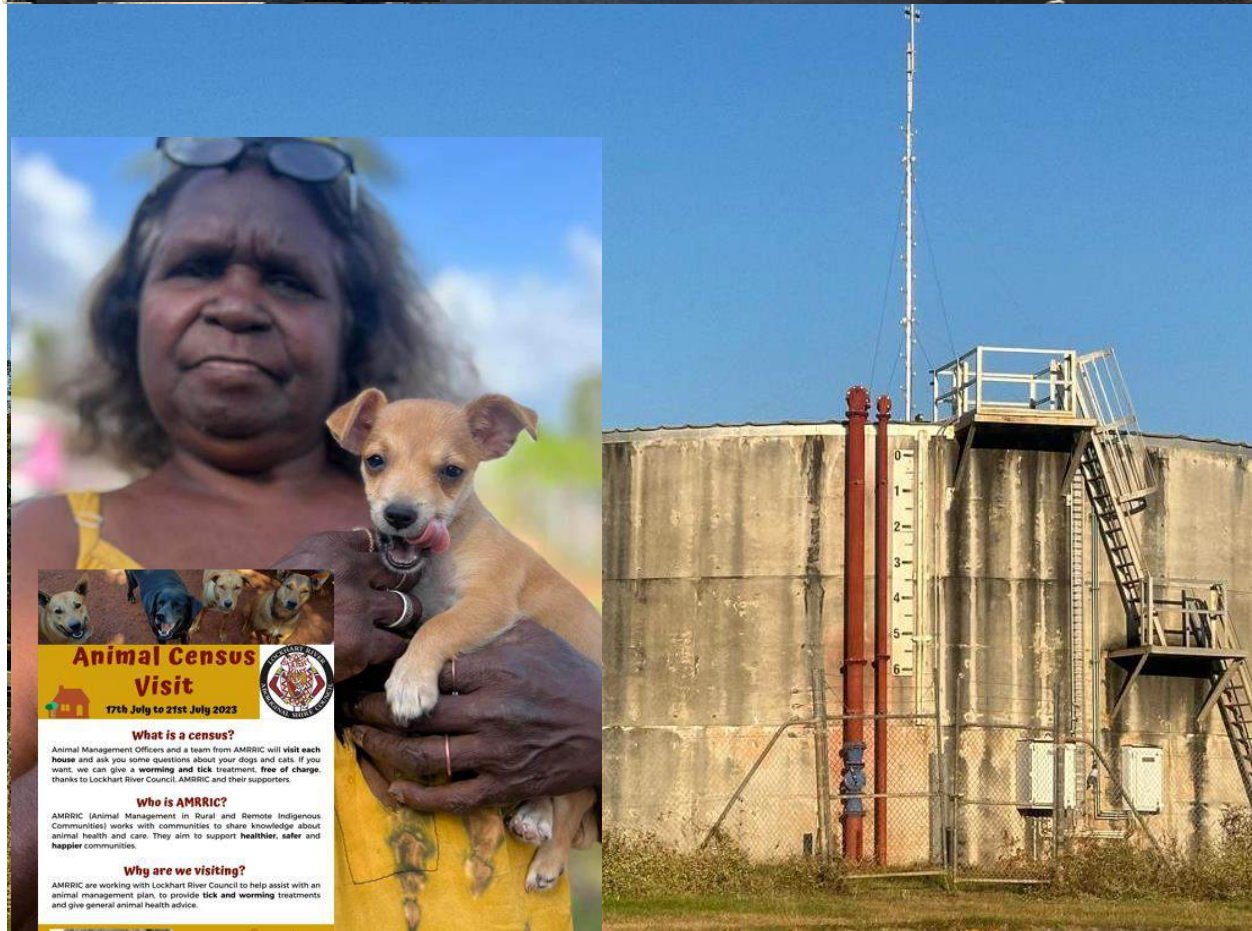


Ethel Singleton and the staff at the **Women's Shelter** have done a great job in continuing to ensure there is a place for women to go, this important work is an essential part of the Shire's fight against DV and unacceptable behaviour toward women and families. The Shire's aged care services ensure elders, and their families are supported. Overall Community Development is doing well, and the future looks bright”.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The key goal was to enhance and protect the wellbeing of the residents of Lockhart River by providing an effective environmental management program and systems. The Community was provided with reliable, timely and appropriate municipal services by the Council through the following service lines:

- Management of flood, waters and supply
- Sewerage infrastructure
- Parks and gardens
- Refuse collection and waste management
- Feral animal and weed control management
- Fire management



BUILDING SERVICES

The goal of the Building Services was to provide adequate and quality housing that satisfy the needs of the community today and in the future as well as encourage community members towards home ownership. Also to become principal contractor for all building and maintenance works at Lockhart River.

Building services section have completed quite a number of works in 2023/2024 financial year and there will be plenty more work for this financial, mainly QBuild works if that renovations and Maintenance work, we have also work on a variety of government funding projects, some of them are still work in progress such like the staff housing on Blady Grass, we have started with a four-bedroom block house and a set of 2 bedrooms duplex, also some other work such like fencing for the Puuya house, This is good training for the young ones in the community, we have signed up 2 apprentices and they about to start their training.

New Staff Houses



New Sub-division Piiramo St



Controlled Roads

At Lockhart River, the Council controls the entire road and bridge network. This infrastructure requires dedicated Council’s road gang resources to maintain in order to achieve the service level expected by the community members and visitors. At the date of this report the following was the make-up of the network:

Controlled Roads	No
Bridges	1
Storm-water culverts and floodway's	135
Rural Roads	199 km
Urban Roads	23 km
TOTAL LENGTH OF ROAD AND BRIDGE NETWORK	222 km

Private Enterprises

The following are prosperous and potentially expanding local businesses by the local people and for the local people:

- Piva Family Trust
- AW Bowie Carpentry
- Stephen Gibley
- Wayne Butcher Enterprises T/As Wayne Butcher Business Management
- Gray Ochre T/as Norman Francis Bally
- D & C Contractor T/as Darren Macumboy
- A V Pascoe Contracting
- Rodney Daniel Accoom T/A Puu’lu
- Donovan Anthony Moses
- Chloe Cynara Pecivina Manai T/as AC Plant Hire
- Karyl Frances Struber
- NS Contracting FNQ Pty Ltd (NSC)
- ESW Constructions Pty Ltd
- Paul Jensen
- Community Enterprise Queensland
- R Edmond Builders Pty Ltd
- PJ Electrical & Airconditioning Services
- Lockhart River Car Hire that provide vehicle hire services to visitors to the area.

Our Community Facilities and Services

The Lockhart River Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) offers a variety of services to the community, including access to books and digital resources. Coordinators are trained by IKC facilitators from the State Library Cairns, in collaboration with regional IKCs, equipping them with necessary skills.

The IKC serves the community by:

- Digitizing traditional knowledge
- Storing and displaying historical artifacts
- Providing educational materials
- Offering internet banking and shopping facilities
- Facilitating video conferencing
- Providing email, fax, and printing services
- Conducting computer literacy classes
- Offering a monthly internet-download-service for music, videos, games, and educational utilities



The library enforces guidelines prohibiting idle sitting, food, drinks, chatting, noise, and any activities that may discomfort regular users. For exclusive group activities, bookings can be made at 07 4060 7166 or 07 4060 7050. Operating hours are Monday – Thursday (08:00 am – 12:00 pm) and Fridays (08:00 am – 4:30 pm).

Lockhart River State School

Lockhart River has got a childcare, prep and primary school up to grade 7. Secondary school students leave the community and attend boarding schools and other alternative school programs. Culture and the maintenance of traditional language is an important part of the school curriculum.



Pre-School and Primary School can be contacted on 07 4083 3888.



Working in collaboration with the school

Puuya Foundation

It is an independent, non-profit secular foundation, established to strengthen people’s puuya (life force in Kuuku Ya’u language) at Lockhart River.



Sea Swift

The community is serviced by a regular barge service by Seaswift who operates weekly service to Lockhart River. All the barge services are based at the Wharf along Quintell Beach. Seaswift can be contacted on : 4035 1234

Power Electricity in the Community is generated by Ergon Energy

Alcohol Management Plan

Lockhart River is what is considered under the Queensland Government liquor licensing as a restricted area with zero carriage limit. This means that the community including the airport is totally dry and no alcohol is allowed. No local brew is allowed as well. For more information please see <http://www.atsip.qld.gov.au/communities/alcohol-limits/alcoholreforms/fag.html> There are serious penalties for breaching the alcohol limits. Police have the power to stop and search all vehicles, boats, aircrafts etc. coming into a restricted area.

CEQ Store (supermarket)

There is a retail store run by the Department of Communities that sells groceries, limited household goods and a few clothes. Good fresh food and vegetables are always available; the store also runs a fuel station. Lockhart River Retail Store Tel: 07 4060 7192.





St. James Anglican Church

The Saint James Anglican church was built by Lockhart River people in 1971-73.

Banking and Post Office Services

There is a Commonwealth Bank outlet in Lockhart River; however, it is not a full bank. Everyday transactions are available. The Bank opens between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon each day. There are two ATMs in the Community. One located at the Council Administration office and the other in the Retail Store Complex. Post office is open each afternoon from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. These services are operated by the Council.

Puuya Centre

The Puuya Centre is the focal point of community development, culture and capacity building activities training, counseling meetings, therapy, group work and story sharing. Puuya means Life Force in Kuku Ya'u language. It is a convenient facility for group meetings away from town centre.

Health Clinic

The shire has got a health care centre which provides health care services, with emphasis on prevention, early detection and improved management of health issues in the community. Services accessible at the centre include those of professional visiting teams such as dentists, mental health specialist, Royal Flying Doctor Services, paediatrician, physiotherapists, ophthalmologists and ATODS. More serious cases are referred to Cairns. The centre provides 24-hour service and can be contacted on 07 4060 7155

- **QLD Police**
- **Lockhart River Social Club**
- **Lockhart River Car Hire**
- **Centrelink**
- **Cape York Employment**
- **SES – Volunteer State Emergency Service**
- **Royal Flying Doctor Services**
- **Women's' Shelter**
- **Men's Shed**
- **Justice Group**

Art and Cultural Centre

Lockhart River boasts of having one of the finest artists and painters in Australia. Some of the paintings from the Community have found their way to big capital cities in the World. If you visit the community, do not miss to buy a painting from here.
Telephone Contact: 07 4060 7341.

Road Transport

Internal roads within the community are bitumen sealed. Other access roads in the shire are unsealed and pose considerable challenge during the wet season. Major transporters provide road services to the area during the dry period.



Weather

The climate of Cape York Peninsula is tropical and at times hot and humid. The tropical wet season runs from November to April and the tropical dry season from May to October.

Temperatures averages 29°c



Ngaachi Nyi'ilama (One Place) Business Hub

The Business Hub at the Multipurpose Centre (near the shop). Where the old meeting/training room is being converted into a fit for purpose business support Centre with fast Starlink internet access for our business community in a culturally safe space.



The Ngaachi Nyi'ilama (One Place) Business Hub is an Indigenous Workforce and Skills Development Grant project that is proudly funded by the Queensland Government.

The Language, Literacy, Numeracy and Digital (LLND) Program Overview

Program Duration

Until October 2025

Open Monday to Friday with Adult Educators available

Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3PM to 6PM

Adult Educators:

Doug Williams and Ben Cossey

This program is designed to equip participants of the IWSDG program with the necessary skills and knowledge for a variety of job roles in the local workforce. The (LLND) training pathways focus on a range of areas including financial health and wellbeing, TAFE readiness, traffic control, workplace health and safety, civil building, basic computer skills, bookkeeping, ranger skills, land trust management, mental health, and empowerment.





The Aerodrome Company and Iron Range Cabins

Lockhart River Airport (also known as Iron Range Airport) is located approximately 800 km north of Cairns on the eastern coast of Cape York Peninsula. Being so remote with the road to Lockhart River being impassable during the tropical wet season, the airport is a vital link for the community.

The Aerodrome Company is wholly owned by the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire and operates as a controlled entity. The company is responsible for the operations of the Lockhart River Airport including sale of aviation and diesel fuels and accommodation services at Iron Range Cabins. The airport provides the only means of travel during the wet season when the roads are flooded.

There is a regular air service between Cairns and Lockhart River. Skytrans provides a return service between Cairns and Lockhart River on someday via Aurukun, 5 days a week Monday to Friday. There are also regular charters.
Telephone Number: 07 4060 7121



Community Financial Report 2023—2024

The Community Financial Report (CFR) is a summary of the information contained in Council's financial statements for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 and provides an overview of Council's financial management and performance in accordance with S179 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

This CFR explains what has happened during the year, and what position Council was in at the year end. The Community Financial Report is a plain English summary of Council's Financial Statements prepared in accordance with s184 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

About the Management Certificate

The Financial Statements must be certified by both the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer as "presenting a true and fair view" and are required to be adopted by Council to ensure responsibility and ownership of the Financial Statements by management and elected representatives.

Key highlights as follows:

- Major Capital Expenditure (above \$100,000) during the year

Capital expenditure		2024
Council		
Council buildings and houses		596,503
Development of New subdivision		6,507,265
Renewal of Council fleet and equipment		175,977
Roads, drainage improvements and culvert crossings		6,106,832
Cultural precinct		517,091
		9,135,850
Aerodrome Company		
New Cabins		102,461
Airport security fencing		206,813
		309,274
		9,445,124

- Net results for the year

The following are the key financial performance highlights (consolidated):

Overall, the Council and senior management believe the financial results for the year to be satisfactory but will endeavor for a better outcome in the current financial year.

Consolidated Council Net Result	Actual \$ 2024	Budget \$ 2024	Actual \$ 2023
Revenues (excl. income for capital purposes)	21,969,101	23,730,108	22,594,007
Expenditure (excl. capital expenses)	(26,555,293)	(23,712,529)	(22,759,334)
Net Result before Capital Grants & Contributions	(4,586,192)	17,579	(165,327)
Capital Grants & Contributions	10,887,014	14,542,084	8,234,901
Other capital income	1,014,483	-	-
Capital expenses	(841,892)	(78,975)	(336,496)
Net Results	6,473,413	14,480,688	7,733,079

End of Year Financial Statements

What you will find in the Financial Statements:

The Audited Financial Statements of Council set out the financial performance, financial position, cash flows and the net wealth of Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

About the Management Certificate:

The Financial Statements must be certified by both the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer as “presenting a true and fair view” and required to be adopted by the Council to ensure responsibility and ownership of the Financial Statements by management and elected representatives.

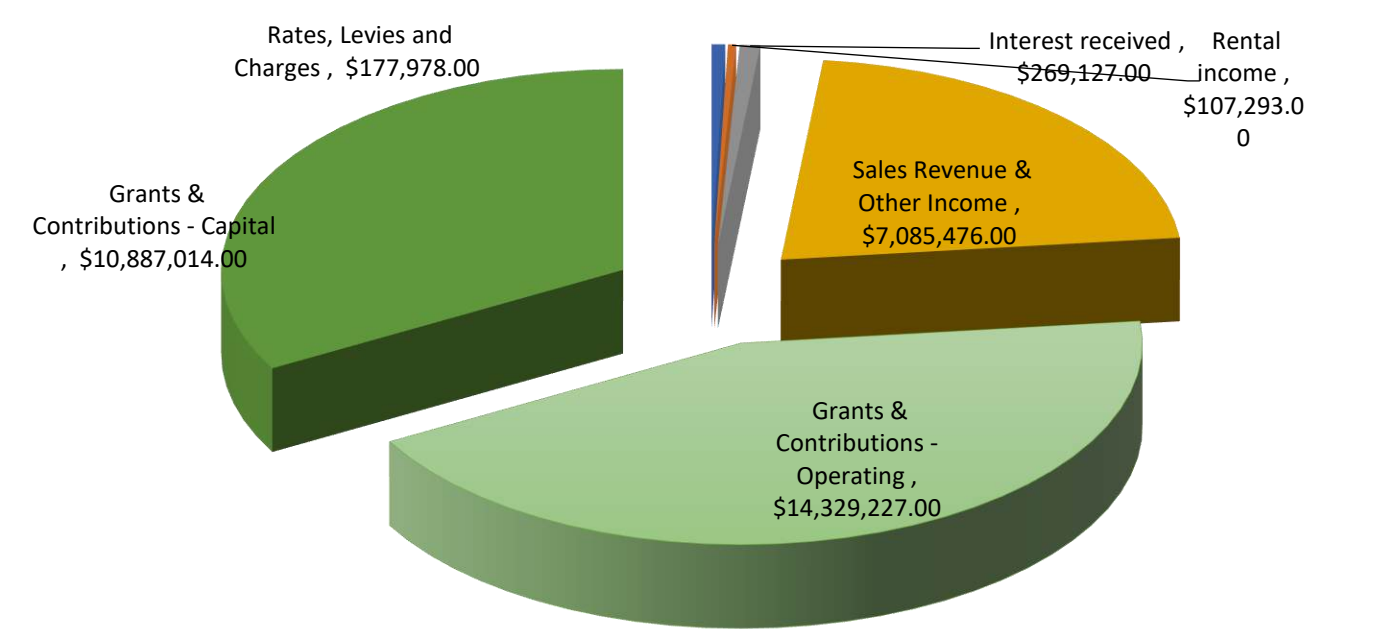
The Financial states incorporate 4 primary financial statements and accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

This is a summary of Council's financial performance for the year, listing both regular income and expenses and other comprehensive income which records items such as changes in the fair values of Council's assets & investments.

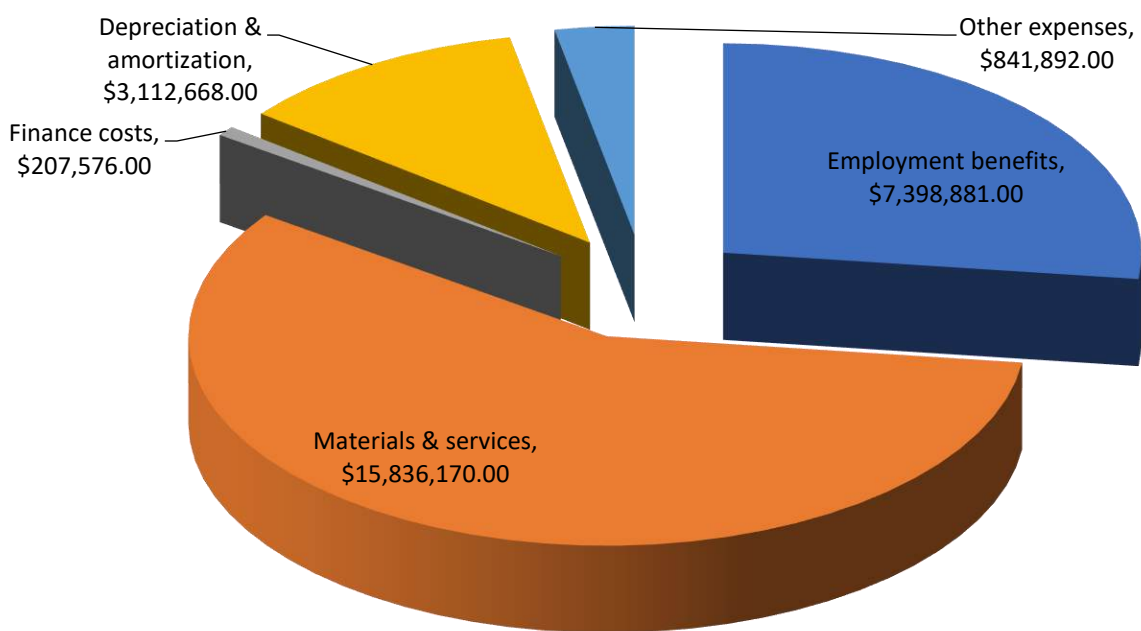
For the year ended 30 June

Income	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Recurrent revenue		
Rates, levies and charges	177,978	185,220
Sales revenue	6,953,851	4,833,167
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	14,329,227	17,182,147
Total recurrent revenue	21,461,056	22,200,534
Capital revenue		
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	10,887,014	8,234,901
Total capital revenue	10,887,014	8,234,901
Rental income	107,293	101,179
Interest received	269,127	180,972
Other income	131,625	111,322
Other capital income	1,014,483	-
Total income	33,870,598	30,828,908



Source: Audited 2023/24 Financial Statements (Appendix A)

Expenses		
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Recurrent expenses		
Employee benefits	(7,398,881)	(6,258,351)
Materials and services	(15,836,170)	(13,648,874)
Finance costs	(207,576)	(17,749)
Depreciation and amortization:-		
Property, plant and equipment	(3,052,908)	(2,777,943)
Right-of-use assets	(59,760)	(56,417)
Other expenses	(841,892)	(336,496)
Total expenses	(27,397,186)	(23,095,830)



Performance Summary		
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Total Income	33,870,598	30,828,908
Total Expenses	(27,397,186)	(23,095,830)
Net Results from operations	6,473,413	7,733,079
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified to net result		
Increase/(decrease) in asset revaluation surplus	6,407,705	7,682,677
Total other comprehensive income for the year	6,407,705	7,682,677
Total comprehensive income for the year	12,881,118	15,415,756

Source: Audited 2023/24 Financial Statements (Appendix A)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET)

Balance Sheet shows the Council’s financial position in terms of assets (the Council owns), liabilities (the Council owes) and the equity (Net worth of the community which is equal to total assets minus total liabilities).

As at 30 June

Assets		
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	9,966,487	12,538,077
Trade and other receivables	2,252,180	1,988,217
Inventories	434,206	451,149
Contract assets	1,800,918	3,439,226
Lease receivable	398,296	348,822
Total current assets	14,852,087	18,765,491
Non-current assets		
Lease receivables	8,951,871	9,043,642
Property, plant and equipment *	136,114,555	121,391,200
Right-of-use assets	167,821	219,683
Total non-current assets	145,234,246	130,654,525
Total assets	160,086,333	149,420,016

Liabilities		
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,900,122	2,533,854
Contract liabilities	1,465,739	3,270,560
Lease liabilities	61,852	58,590
Provisions	702,270	503,852
Total current liabilities	4,129,983	6,366,856
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	111,215	168,214
Provisions	1,887,497	1,808,426
Total non-current liabilities	1,998,712	1,976,640
Total liabilities	6,128,696	8,343,496
Net community assets	153,957,638	141,076,520

Source: Audited 2023/24 Financial Statements (Appendix A)

Community equity	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Asset revaluation surplus	58,048,093	51,640,388
Retained surplus	95,909,545	89,436,132
Total community equity	153,957,638	141,076,520



Property, plant and equipment	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Capital work in progress	939,858	6,051,895
Land	1,000,000	1,000,000
Building and houses	32,995,891	28,670,336
Plant and Equipment	1,320,520	1,385,818
Furniture and office equipment	216,789	178,835
Runway, road, drainage and bridge network	80,436,793	69,927,685
Water	6,700,130	5,322,409
Sewerage	7,481,492	5,049,994
Other Infrastructure	5,023,079	3,804,228
Total property, plant and equipment	136,114,555	121,391,200

Source: Audited 2023/24 Financial Statements (Appendix A)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

Statement of Cash flows provides an analysis of how Council (and Aerodrome Company) has received and spent funds through the year including movements in remaining cash balances. The cash transactions are categorized into being from operating, investing or financing activities.

For the year ended 30 June

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from customers	8,462,523	4,647,734
Receipts from grantors for non capital grants and contributions	14,329,227	14,044,861
Receipts from tenants	107,293	101,179
Payments to suppliers and employees	(25,615,519)	(19,546,615)
	(2,716,476)	(752,841)
Interest received	269,127	180,972
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	(2,447,349)	(571,869)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(11,368,557)	(9,602,599)
Payments for property, plant and equipment transferred to subsidiary	-	-
Proceeds from sale of property plant and equipment	-	19,500
Capital grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	10,887,014	9,114,470
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities	(481,543)	(468,629)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds of finance leases	418,936	324,720
Repayment made on leases	(61,635)	(56,172)
Net cash inflow from financing activities	357,301	268,549
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(2,571,591)	(771,949)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	12,538,076	13,310,025
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the financial year	9,966,487	12,538,076

Source: Audited 2023/24 Financial Statements (Appendix A)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

The Statement of Changes in Equity illustrates how the net worth of Council has changed as a result of activities undertaken during the period. This statement summarizes the movements in asset revaluation reserves and retained surplus. The retained surplus increased by \$6,473,413 at 30 June 2024 whereas the asset revaluation reserves increased by \$6,407,705

	Asset revaluation surplus \$	Retained surplus \$	Total \$
Balance as at 30 June 2022	43,957,711	81,703,053	125,660,764
Net result	-	7,733,079	7,733,079
Other comprehensive income for the year			
Increase in asset revaluation surplus	7,682,677	-	7,682,677
Total comprehensive income for the year	7,682,677	7,733,079	15,415,756
Balance as at 30 June 2023	51,640,388	89,436,132	141,076,520
Net result	-	6,473,413	6,473,413
Other comprehensive income for the year			
Increase in asset revaluation surplus	6,407,705	-	6,407,705
Total comprehensive income for the year	6,407,705	6,473,413	12,881,118
Balance as at 30 June 2024	58,048,093	95,909,545	153,957,638



Key Financial Figures over the past 5 years (Consolidated)

Financial Performance Figures (\$)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Inflows:					
Fees & Charges	177,978	185,220	168,383	144,016	156,455
Other revenue	131,625	111,322	264,330	99,269	743,745
Rental Income	107,293	101,179	96,161	108,577	110,207
Interest Received	269,127	180,972	33,673	46,860	157,638
Sales Revenue	6,953,851	4,833,167	5,849,079	3,534,650	6,361,259
Grants, Subsidies, Contributions & Donations					
- Operating & Capital	25,216,241	25,417,048	18,481,120	22,118,933	14,818,900
Other capital income	1,014,483				
Total Income from Continuing Operations	33,870,598	30,828,908	24,892,746	26,052,305	22,348,204
Sale Proceeds from PP&E		-	-	-	35,909
Finance lease receipts	418,936	324,720	306,320	301,137	292,701
Outflows:					
Employee Benefits	7,398,881	6,258,351	5,762,971	5,453,401	5,697,603
Materials & Services	15,836,170	13,648,874	9,162,496	15,730,575	12,529,115
Finance Costs	207,576	17,749	11,800	11,702	6,915
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	23,442,627	19,924,974	14,937,267	21,195,678	18,233,633
Total Cash purchases of PP&E	11,368,557	9,602,599	9,225,495	5,455,927	3,491,335
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) (excl. Capital Income & Exp)	(4,586,192)	(165,327)	(1,272,481)	(3,056,428)	(1,141,791)
Financial Position Figures (\$)					
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Current Assets	14,852,087	18,765,491	17,219,148	13,770,512	15,962,580
Current Liabilities	4,129,983	6,366,856	6,476,898	3,777,526	5,646,695
Net Current Assets	10,722,104	12,398,635	10,742,250	9,992,986	10,315,885
Cash & Cash Equivalents	9,966,487	12,538,077	13,310,025	10,371,269	14,065,912
Total Gross Value of PP&E (excl. Land)	184,715,415	162,172,942	141,819,885	129,509,727	123,928,872
Total Accumulated Depreciation	(49,600,861)	(41,781,742)	(35,886,018)	(39,787,248)	(37,340,279)
Total Written Down Value of PP&E (excl. Land)	135,114,555	120,391,200	105,933,866	89,722,482	86,588,593
Indicative Remaining Useful Life (as a % of GBV)	73%	74%	75%	69%	70%

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

For the year end 30 June 2024

Type	Measure	Target (Tier 8)	Actual Current Year	5-Year Average	Council Narrative
			Consolidated		
Audited ratios					
Liquidity	Unrestricted Cash Expense Cover Ratio It is an indicator of the unconstrained liquidity available to Council to meet ongoing and emergent financial demands, which is a key component to solvency. It represents the number of months Council can continue operating based on current monthly expenses.	Greater than 4 months	4.1	N/A	Council has sufficient unconstrained liquidity available for operations within targets of current monthly expenses.
	Operating Surplus Ratio It is an indicator of the extent to which operating revenues generated cover operational expenses. Any operating surplus would be available for capital funding or other purposes.	N/A	-19.7%	-12.9%	Council reported operating deficit for the year primarily due to the effect of changes to timing of Financial Assistance Grant received in July 2024. However, in the long-term Council need to improve to generate enough to cover operating expenses.
Operating Performance	Operating Cash Ratio It is a measure of Council's ability to cover its core operational expenses and generate a cash surplus excluding depreciation, amortisation, and finance costs.	Greater than 0%	-5.8%	0.7%	Council recorded shortage of operating cash in the year but in the long-term (5-year average) there is positive operating cash ratio levels.
	Asset Sustainability Ratio It approximates the extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by Council are being replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives.	Greater than 90%	12.0%	82.7%	During the year the renewal work was minimal though Council has a very ambitious plan to renew the assets as they approach end of useful lives. In the long-term this is expected to improve as more capital grant funding program are made available by the State and Federal Government.
Asset Management	Asset Consumption Ratio It approximates the extent to which Council's infrastructure assets have been consumed compared to what it would cost to build new assets with the same benefit to the community.	Greater than 60%	75.3%	74.5%	This confirms that Council's assets are being utilized within the capacity of their remaining useful lives. This is above target indicating that assets are in better use.

The current year financial sustainability statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024. The amounts used to calculate the 4 reported measures are prepared on an accrual basis and are drawn from the council's audited general purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT – CONTEXTUAL RATIOS

For the year end 30 June 2024

Type	Measure	Target (Tier 8)	Actual Current Year	5-Year Average	Council Narrative
			Consolidated		
Contextual ratios (unaudited)					
Financial Capacity	Council-Controlled Revenue It is an indicator of Council's financial flexibility, ability to influence its operating income, and capacity to respond to unexpected financial shocks.	N/A	0.8%	0.9%	Council's own generated revenue from user fees and charges (\$177,978) is very insignificant and not expected to improve in the long-term as Council does not have any rates base and relies on grant funding.
	Population Growth It is a key driver of a Council's operating income, service needs, and infrastructure requirements into the future.	N/A	0.5%	-2.0%	Our community population growth is very minimal due to lack of infrastructure and employment opportunities. This trend may continue to be seen for a long period of time.
Asset Management	Asset Renewal Funding Ratio It measures the ability of Council to fund its projected infrastructure asset renewal/replacements in the future.	N/A	N/A	N/A	This ratio will be calculated from 2027/28 financial year.

The current year financial sustainability statement - Contextual Ratios is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024. The amounts used to calculate the 2 reported measures are prepared on an accrual basis and are drawn from the council's audited general purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Appendix 2 –

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

LGR s183(a) the general purpose financial statement for the financial year, audited by the auditor general

Access the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 through the Council's website <https://lockhart.qld.gov.au/> or obtain a copy from the Council office.



Feedback

Council welcomes your feedback. Please forward your comments in writing by posting or emailing .

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LOCKHART RIVER
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