



Minutes of the Budget Meeting
of
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
at
Lockhart River Council Chambers

Date: Thursday 24th July 2025

MINUTES

Present: Cr Alister Bowie
Cr Krystal Dean
Cr Steven Bally

Apologies Mayor Cr Wayne Butcher (In Cairns Base Hospital)
Cr Dorothy Omeenyo in Cairns for Puuya Board meeting

Visitors: nil

Opening and Venue: Deputy Mayor Cr Alister Bowie opened the meeting at 9:30am.

Conflict of Interest: Deputy Mayor Bowie advised Councilors to review their circumstances and make amendments to their disclosures, as necessary.

Issue: Apologies Cr Wayne Butcher, Mayor and Cr Dorothy Omeenyo on Charitable Trust duty

Mayor Butcher remains in Cairns Base Hospital with a medical condition and Dorothy Hobson has a Puuya Foundation Board meeting in Cairns which she must chair.

Resolution 1: That Mayor Butchers apology and Cr Dorothy Hobson's apology be accepted

Moved: Cr A. Bowie

Seconded: Cr S. Bally

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: Acting Mayor ratification

Council discussed the current circumstances and temporary leadership options

Resolution 2: That Cr Alister Bowie act as Mayor until matters become clearer with the health of Mayor Butcher.

Moved: Cr S. Bally	Seconded: Cr K. Dean
All in favour	Motion passed

Issue: A Draft Budget, Draft Operational Plan, and Draft Business Continuity Plan for the 2025 – 2026 Financial Year were distributed for Council consideration. Deliberations were detailed as the linkages between the three documents were explained in detail. Councilors were provided with all plans and budget papers with an open invitation to return with any additional clarifications required. Corporate Services Director, Stanley Mugwiria provided additional commentary.

Resolution 1: That the budget tabled for the 2025 -2026 Financial Year of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council be adopted.

Moved: Cr K. Dean	Seconded: Cr S. Bally
All in favour	Motion passed

Resolution 2: That the Operational Plan of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council for the 2025 – 2026 Financial Year be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr A. Bowie	Seconded: Cr S. Bally
All in favour	Motion passed

Resolution 3: That the Business Continuity Plan of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council for the 2025 – 2026 Financial Year be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr S. Bally	Seconded: Cr A. Bowie
All in favour	Motion passed

Issue: As part of the budget review Council considered the current debts and asked for guidance on those that would be impossible to redeem. There are elderly debtors with no obvious capacity to pay debts on house repairs that were deemed safety issues at the time. There is one deceased sundry debtor with no capacity to redeem from next of kin. There are two debts that are contested, old, with little likelihood of successful litigation.

Resolution 4: That the below sundry debts are written-off as irretrievable.

Cyril Claudie	\$13688.76
Evelyn Omeenyo	\$5606.20
Agnes Hobson	\$8746.07
Lorraine Clarmont	\$914.21
Erin Matthews	\$15000.00
Eunoia Lane	\$9139.48

Issue: Paytham Malkari Festival 2025

Council discussed the coming festival. Steering Committee to be convened as soon as possible to monitor progress against tasks and responsibilities. Council will need to make sure all costs are considered in the budget. NIAA was approached to contribute to base line costs but all their festival funds have been directed to the GARMA festival.

There being no further matters to discuss, Cr Bowie, the Acting Mayor, closed the meeting at 2:00pm.