



Minutes of the Meeting
of
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
at
Lockhart River Council Cairns Office
7 Anderson St Manunda

Date: Thursday 16th and 17th of December 2025

MINUTES

Present: Cr Wayne Butcher – Mayor
Cr Alister Bowie – Deputy Mayor
Cr Krystal Dean
Cr Steven Bally
Cr Dorothy Hobson

Apologies nil

Visitors:

Opening and Venue: Mayor Cr Wayne Butcher opened the meeting at 1:00pm.

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

Issue: **Art Centre update**

Cr Dorothy Hobson provided an update on Art Centre activity and future plans. The CEO noted funding for the Co-Ordinator's position would help provide day-to-day stability and direction recommending Council seek the assistance of Arts Queensland to secure funding going forward.

Issue: Clair Hill – language funding support

Clair Hill is a long-term collaborator with Lockhart River on the preservation and maintenance of our languages. Clair has secured funds to continue this work but needs a letter of support from Community to roll out the program. Council instructed the CEO to draft and send a letter of support to Clair to continue her work.

Issue: Audit Reports - Council and Aerodrome Company

Audit Reports for both the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council and the Lockhart River Aerodrome Company were tabled and discussed. Council had two matters to rectify, being (a) the formula used for the depreciation of some asset classes needed to be better recorded and (b) the write-off policy needed refinement. Council noted these matters and the rectification work being done to address them. Both the Audit Committee and the Auditors are pleased with Council's response.

The Aerodrome Company, an ASIC registered company owned by Council, Reported no significant Audit issues.

Both Audits were accepted by the Auditor General without modification. This is the 15th financial year in a row Council and its administration has achieved this milestone. This publicly lets the people of Lockhart River know the Council is operating well and is looking after its money and assets well on behalf of the community. The Council thanked the CEO and the Corporate Services team for their dedication to high quality administrative and delivery benchmarks over a long period of time.

Resolution 1: That Council accepts the Audit Report issued for the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council for the 2024 – 2025 Financial Year.

Moved: Cr. K. Dean Seconded: Cr. D. Hobson

All in favour Motion passed

Resolution 2: That Council accepts the Audit Report issued for the Lockhart River Aerodrome Company for the 2024 – 2025 Financial Year.

Moved: Cr S. Bally **Seconded:** Cr A. Bowie

All in favour Motion passed

All in favour Motion passed

Issue: Finance Report for November 2025

The Finance Report for November 2025 was tabled and discussed with interpretive narrative provided by Corporate Services Director, Stanley Mugwiria.

Resolution 3: That the Finance Report for November 2025 be accepted as tabled.

Moved: Cr K. Dean

Seconded: Cr S. Bally

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: Annual Report for the 2024 – 2025 Financial Year

As per legislative requirements, Council tabled its Annual Report for the 2024 – 2025 Financial Year for discussion and ratification. The Report spoke to measured growth of Council's asset base delivered largely by our people both directly and through our increasingly vibrant business community. Council looks forward to the 2025 – 2026 year with optimism and resolve to continue to deliver for our people.

Resolution 4: That the Annual Report of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr A. Bowie

Seconded: Cr S. Bally

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: Town Plan Review

From time to time, the Local Government Act calls on Council to review its Town Plan. Given it has been 12 years since the last review, the time for review has come around. Consideration will be given to potential areas for new sub-divisions, precinct areas for recreation, industry, green spaces, and cultural activities. The intention is to engage suitably qualified Town Planners to guide the development of the new Town Plan noting Council has successfully sought funding to complete the task. RPS will lead the task with heavy consultation with Council, Traditional Owners, and the wider community.

Resolution 5: That Council endorses the review of the Town Plan.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher

Seconded:

Cr D. Hobson

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: Council support/sponsorship of the Lockhart Scorpions Rugby League

The Lockhart River Scorpions remain the flagship sporting team of Lockhart River. This year they regained their crown as winners of the Cape York Southern Cluster series. A source of great pride to our community. Council has been approached to contribute to the team via sponsorship and co-contribution of some costs.

Resolution 6: That Council sponsor 50% of the costs of the Scorpion shirts at a cost of \$3825.00 and the cost of trophies for the year.

Moved: Cr S. Bally

Seconded: Cr A. Bowie

All in favour

Motion Passed

Issue: Request for a lease over the farm area

Both Nyiimuchin Kanthanumpu and Kaarpay Kuyan (the Native Title holders) have approached Council as the current Trustee of the DOGIT in relation to obtaining a lease or gaining access to the Farm area to either live on or conduct their corporation activities. Council hold the view that the matter needs further discussion between the two organisations to sort out. CYLC and the solicitor engaged by Kaarpay Kuyan may need to be involved in any formal arrangements entered into. Council will wait for agreement between the two organisations before any lease is produced.

Issue: Education Queensland School Reserve Master Plan.

The proposed masterplan was tabled and discussed. Council endorsed the planning process.

Issue: Church Christmas feast – Council sponsorship

Council have been approached by the Church to sponsor the food for the Christmas feast as usual and getting the roof and toilet fixed. Fr Mattias also seeks reimbursement for freight paid on the church car Lockhart to Cairns of \$2500.00.

Resolution 7: That Council supports the church for the repairs, feasting, and car freight for Fr Mathias.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher

Seconded: Cr A. Bowie

All in favour

motion passed

There being no further matters to discuss Mayor closed the meeting at 3:00pm 17th December.