



Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
of
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
at
Lockhart River Council Cairns Office

Date: Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th of July 2026

MINUTES

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

Apologies nil

Visitors: nil

Opening and Venue: Mayor Butcher opened the meeting at 1:30pm

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

Issue: Puuya fundraising Gala Brisbane 27th August

Council discussed the 10th edition of the Art Gala fundraising auction to be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre on the 27th of August. Council has always supported the event and will send a delegation of artists, Councilors and staff.

Resolution 1: That Council reserve a table of 10 for the event. Council to support with travel and accommodation.

Moved: Cr K. Dean

Seconded: Cr S. Bally

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: Invoice – Australian Airport Lighting Company payment No.4

Council needs to consider the endorsement of Claim 4 against the Airport runway lighting refurbishment project being \$882619.46. This amount is above the financial delegation of the CEO and must be considered by Council in line with existing delegation policy.

Resolution 2: That Council approves the payment of claim 4 valued at \$882619.46 against the airport lighting refurbishment project.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher Seconded: Cr K. Dean
All in favour Motion passed

Issue: **Minutes of the meeting of the 20th of May 2026 were tabled and discussed.**

Resolution 3: That the minutes of the meeting of the 20th of May 2026 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

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

Issue: **Art Centre update**

Cr Dorothy Hobson briefed Council on developments. With Council playing a compliance and financial management function for the Art Centre returning to functionality. Future direction will need to be ratified by the artists steering committee and broader community. The artists are excited to be contributing to the Art Gala coming up on the 27th August.

Issue: **Financial Report for June 2026**

The Finance Report for June 2026 was tabled and discussed with guidance from Stanley Mugwiria, Corporate Services Director.

Resolution 4: That the Financial Report for June 2026 be accepted as tabled.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher **Seconded:** Cr A. Bowie
All in favour Motion passed.

Issue: **Cape York Employment RJED worker placement**

CYE have approached Council requesting approval to place two of their RJED workers with Council workforce.

Resolution 5: That Council endorses the placement of the two CYE workers but would like them to focus on the Paytham Malkari Dance Festival.

Moved: Cr K. Dean **Seconded:** Cr D. Hobson
All in favour Motion passed.

Issue: Sport and Recreation promotion and support

Council discussed the Sport and Recreation program along with facilities and Cape wide activity. The civil program for this year includes the development of a Soft Ball field to support female and mixed sports. Council noted they continue to invest in the green keeping skills of John Pritchard for Isaac “Chalpy” Hobson field with the community hosting a round of the Sothern Cape Cluster. The Lockhart Scorpions are also seeking support for equipment, accommodation and transportation to games in Hopevale, Coen, Cooktown and Pormpuraaw.

Resolution 6: That Council provide support to the Lockhart River Scorpions to attend southern Cape Cluster carnivals at Hopevale, Coen, Cooktown, and Pormpuraaw.

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

All in favour

Issue: NAIDOC week activities

Council were asked for a contribution towards the school NAIDOC noting the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC will be the central theme of this year’s Dance Festival. Event shirts to reflect this.

Issue: Corporate Card Limit - Mayor

Council discussed the issue of the Mayor’s Corporate card which has been fixed at \$5 000 for the last fifteen years. Cost increases for basics such as accommodation and fuel require this limit to be reviewed.

Resolution 7: That the limit on the Corporate Card managed by Mayor Butcher be raised from \$5000.00 to \$7500.00

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

All in favour Motion passed

Issue: Women’s issues

Cr Krystal Dean gave feedback on the proposed NAIDOC events. Cr Dean and others will advise Council on support required to make this year’s events a success.

Issue: Annual insurance for Council

The annual insurance invoices were tabled and discussed noting the excesses for each asset class. It was noted the increase in insurance premiums does not compare favorably

with Council's historical claim record. Council noted it had no choice with a conservative market but to pay the new rates for coverage.

Resolution 8: That Council approve payment of \$682801.90 being insurance coverage for the 2026 – 2027 financial year.

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

Issue: **Public meeting**

Public meeting planned for 21st of July to keep community up to date on Council projects and receive feedback through an open mic format. Council to provide handouts on projects on the day.

Issue: **Council's 2026 – 2027 Operational Plan**

The draft operational plan was tabled to be considered by Council for adoption. Council considered the plan and requested separate forums to be held with the broader public to discuss Natural Resource Management, Economic Development, Health, Education, and Community Safety.

Resolution 9: That the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Operational Plan for the 2026 – 2027 Financial Year be adopted subject to the inclusion of the public forums stipulated above.

Moved:	Cr D. Hobson	Seconded:	Cr K. Dean
	All in favour		Motion passed

Issue: **Paytham Malkari Festival 2026**

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. Invitations to perform to be extended to Injinoo, Pormpuraaw, Yarrabah, and maybe Aurukun. Council to provide a \$10 000 subsidy to these teams to help with their costs. Note Aurukun festival is on the 18th September and Wuthathi the following Tuesday and Lockhart has been invited to send a Dance Team to both.

Issue: **Council uniforms**

Council discussed the need to refresh the corporate image of the different work areas. Council will approach the Art Centre with a view to commissioning designs.

Issue: Financial Delegation review

A Financial Delegation Table was offered for review noting approval for payments over \$500 000.00 remains with Council.

Resolution 10: That the Financial Delegation Table be endorsed as presented.

Moved: Cr S. Bally

Seconded: Cr D. Hobson

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: Risk Register

Council received an updated Risk Register for their review and discussion.

Resolution 11: That the Risk Register as tabled be adopted.

Moved: Cr A. Bowie

Seconded: Cr S. Bally

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: 2026-2027 Budget of the Lockhart River Aerodrome Company

A draft budget for the Lockhart River Aerodrome Company 2026 – 2027 Financial Year was tabled for discussion by the Aerodrome Company Directors, Cr Steven Bally and Cr Alister Bowie with input from other Councilors. The budget predicted an operating deficit with depreciation being considered but a modest profit without.

Resolution 12: That the budget for the Lockhart River Aerodrome Company be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr/Director S. Bally

Seconded: Cr/Director A. Bowie

Motion passed

Issue: Budget of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council 2026 – 2027 Financial Year

A draft budget for the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council 2026 – 2027 Financial Year was tabled for discussion by the Council. Council went through the budget line by line and had robust discussion on the final document.

Resolution 13: That the budget for the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council is adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr K. Dean

Seconded: Cr S. Bally

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: Register of Policies

A register of policies was tabled along with reviewed recommendations for minor changes in some, and newly drafted policies.

Resolution 14: That the Register of Policies be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher

Seconded: Cr A. Bowie

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: Schedule of fees and charges

A revised Schedule of Fees and Charges was tabled for discussion.

Resolution 15: That the Schedule of Fees and Charges be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher

Seconded: Cr S. Bally

All in favour

Motion passed unanimously

There being no further matters to discuss, Mayor Butcher closed the meeting at 3:45pm.