



Annual Report



2016-2017



About this report

This is another prosperous year for Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council. During the year more services were delivered and that improved livelihood to Lockhart community. The Annual Report will provide an overview of Council's performance and statement of wealth for the period 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017.

In this report, Council's achievements for the financial year will be highlighted including the challenges encountered during the same period. Generally, the Council experienced expansion in its operations and construction of new infrastructure assets. The capacity of the Council to undertake this was tested and proven. Several methodologies were used to accomplish such works in collaboration with subcontracting partners. We are proud of the outcome and we will keep doing it.

The role of the Council of being accountable to the community residents did not waiver and the intent of this report is to show how each role was fulfilled. The Council's obligations to other parties like staff, Councillors, Government Departments and other interested groups was no less during the year.

For the Council to achieve its objectives, the use of 5-Year Corporate Plan, Operational Plan, and Budgeting Tool was inevitable to avoid getting out of the course.

Copies of these documents are available in our website including Annual Report and the Council's Financial Statements. The can be accessed at any time free of charge electronically on Council website www.lockhart.qld.gov.au.

Our Chief Executive Officer encourages feedback and comments on our services and as such they should be directed to him on 07 4060 7144 or email ceo@lockhart.qld.gov.au.

Please spare a moment of your time to read and enjoy this annual report presented herein.



Table of Contents

Mayor's Report	5
Our Council	6
Overview of Lockhart River	7
Our Vision, Our Mission, Our Guiding Principles and Values	8
Map of Lockhart River	9
Map of Lockhart River township	10
History	11
Facilities and Services	15
Elected Members	19
Senior Management	20
Organizational Structure	21
Disclosures	
- Councillors meeting attendance and remuneration	22
- Senior Management Team	23
- Invitation to tenderers to change their tender details	23
- Beneficial Enterprises	23
- Significant Business	23
- Invitation to provide expression of Interest	23
- Internal Audit	24
- External Audit	24
Assessment of Corporate Plan and Operational Plan	24
Annual Report	24
Grants to Community Organizations	24
List of Registers available to the Public	25
Overseas travel	25
Other relevant issues to making an informed decision	25



Table of Contents

Conduct and performance of Councillors	25
Complaints Management Process – Administrative Action	26
Training and Development	26
Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)	26
Employee Statistics	26
Work Place Health and Safety	27
Code of Conduct	27
Rates and Charges	27
Controlled Roads	27
Council Performance	
- Governance	28
- Engineering Services	29
- Building Services	30
- Environmental Management Services	31
- Community Development and Services	32
- Corporate Services	33
- Aerodrome Company	34
Community Financial Report	
- Snapshot of financial year 2016/17 (consolidated entity)	35
- End of Year Financial Statement	35
- An overview of this year’s Financial Result and Financial Position	37
- Financial Sustainability Measures	41
APPENDIX	
- Annual Financial Statements.	44



Mayor's Report

The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council has had another successful and productive Financial Year 2016/2017, an "Unmodified" External Audit result has Capitalised on our Capacity to Govern. The Importance of Good Governance and Accountability has strengthened as the Council progressed through our Development over the past few years. Our Vision of Good Governance and a Transparent Just Local Government had practically delivered the Council Strategies towards gaining proper Employment and Economic Development Opportunities for our Shire.

Every year the Council has increased our budget by attracting Capital Investment (both Government State and Federal) in particular on Roads and Housing Infrastructures. The Council has redesigned our service delivery methodology strategy, by one restructuring the organisation into a business delivery model and secondly successfully supporting local Indigenous Businesses in our Shire.

The changes has gained greater autonomy for our Community, through Empowerment, Employment and Economic Development (small businesses).

I sincerely thank my colleagues Councillors, Senior Management, Administration and Field Staff for their great enthusiasm and commitment towards the Council long-term focus. Towards building a stronger Vibrant and Safer Community, with vast opportunities for our people.

Our team work has been the backbone to our success

Cr Wayne Butcher
Mayor
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council



Our Council

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council has five elected representatives who are responsible for formulating Council policies, Corporate Plan, Operational Plan, and 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 last election was held on 19 March 2016.

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 notes and responsibilities.

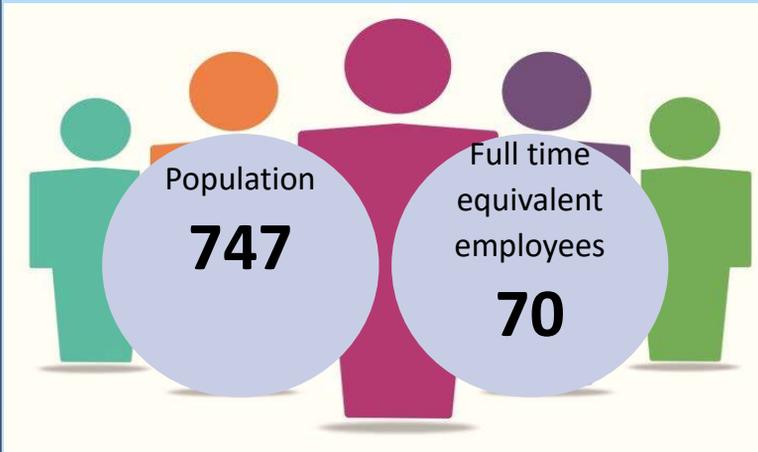
Council authority is exercised as a whole, with decisions being made by the Council in the best interest of the community. In this regard, the Local Government Act 2009 together with Council Policies provides guidance to the Mayor and Councillors on what their roles and responsibilities are, and the Code of Conduct expected of the elected representatives to observe.

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.

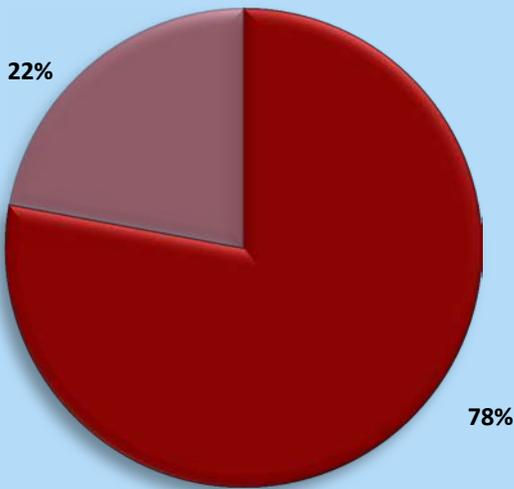


Overview of Lockhart River

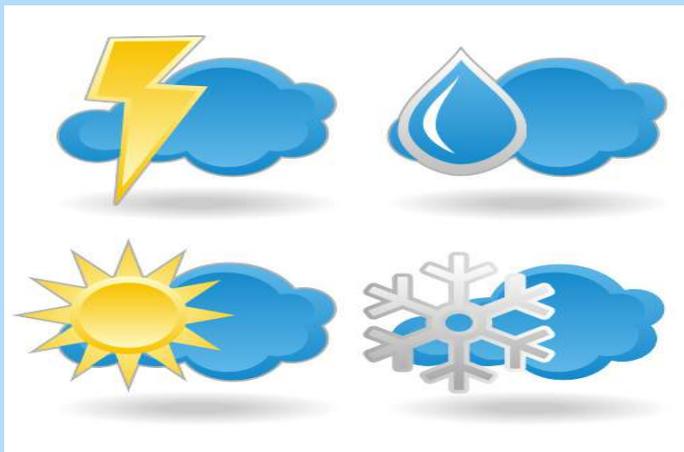
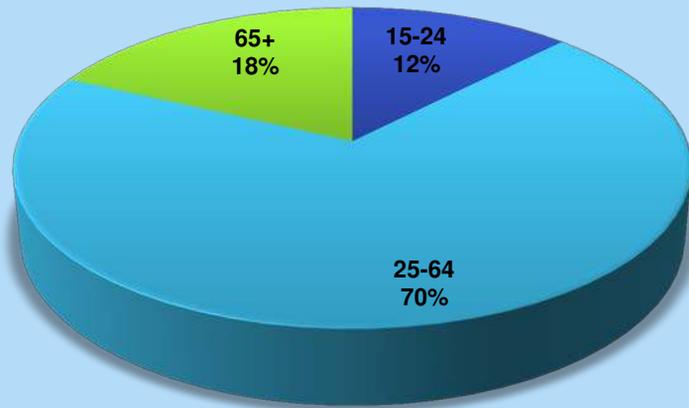


Employee Demographics

■ Local ■ Non-Local



Employees by Age



Our Vision

**Strong Puuya,
Strong Culture,
Strong Future**

Our Mission Statement

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

Our Guiding Principles and Values

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

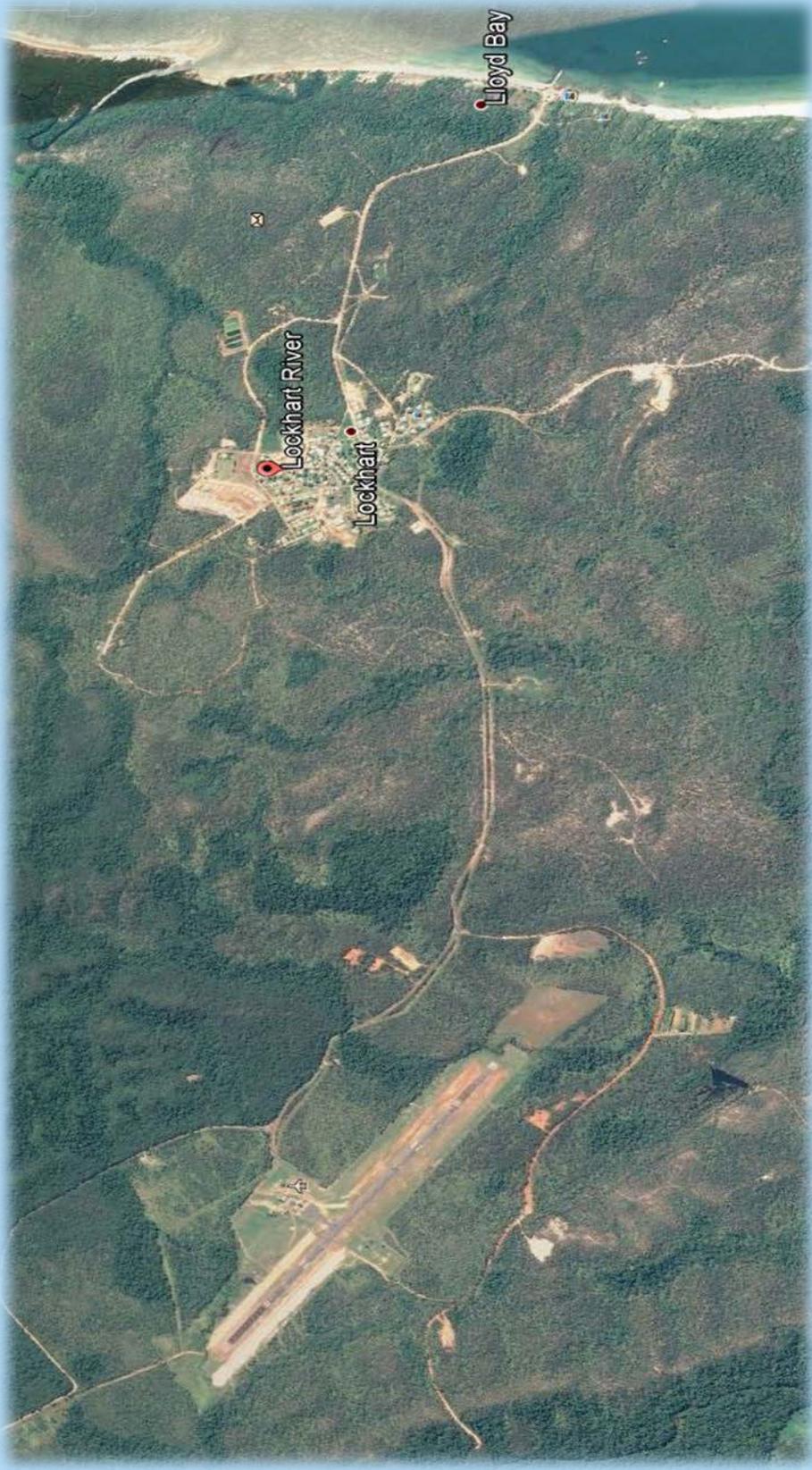
- *Respect**
- *Honesty**
- *Integrity**
- *Working and Learning together**
- *Fairness**
- *Being positive**
- *Respect of Culture**
- *Accountability**



Map of Lockhart River



Map of Lockhart River Township



History of Lockhart River

Lockhart River was established in 1924 when people from five traditional territories in the area were coerced into a new Anglican mission (now known as the 'Old Site'). They spoke a number of different languages and were not used to living together.

Aboriginal people were not allowed to speak their language or to practise their cultural traditions and they were moved inland away from their sea country.

Marked by the good intentions but often misguided policies of successive governments and missionaries, our history is steeped in the traditional culture of our peoples.

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 after being cast adrift, Captain Bligh spent one night ashore close to where the Lockhart River mission would one day be built.

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. 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.

Early industries

From the 1880s, sailors enlisted Aboriginal family groups to dive for beche-de-mer and pearl shell. Some of the lugger captains paid as little as \$1.50 a month and Aboriginal labour on luggers was later prohibited. This period is known as 'lugger time'.

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 Giblet. Giblet recruited Aboriginal workers to gather sandalwood, protected them from unscrupulous lugger captains and rewarded them with food, clothing and cased liquor for a Christmas party.

Giblet died about 1923. According to oral accounts, his death was caused by an infection (which he refused to have treated) from a woomera blow which broke his jaw during a drinking session.



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'.

A mission is formed

It was not until 1921 that Bishop Newton asked the Government to help set up a mission on the Pascoe River reserve. It had a superintendent and priest to supervise the settling of people in villages with a school, store, medical facility, sailing vessel, fencing and a few dairy cattle. Because 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 at the Waterhole (Orchid Point) in Lloyd Bay, next to Gibley's old camp in July 1924.

This was a difficult time when people were denied access to their country and forced to live 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 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, pawpaw, 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 which 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 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 go down 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'.

Trochus fishing and other commercial activities were established. Johnson encouraged traditional skills such as language, bushcraft and hunting. 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 under closer medical and hygiene supervision.

In a couple of years the number of deaths was, for the first time for some years, less than the number of births.

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

With the encouragement 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

Trochus fishing continued to be the major economic enterprise. By 1956, the Cooperative was on a sound basis. Warby reported it was building up initiative, self-respect and self-reliance backed by a dramatically improved health situation. But the trochus market collapsed and evening classes closed due to lack of attendance.

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.

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 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. The people refused to go but, in 1970, were forced to move away from the traditional area of the coast to Iron Range. This move was not a good one culturally or geographically. It took the settlement from one reasonably neutral location to one owned by a major group in the community; and from a traditional place on the coast to further inland. Friction resulted and continued.

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 provided administration for the Lockhart River DOGIT.

Part of the Lockhart River DOGIT area was transferred to Traditional Owners in September 2001 and placed into the Mangkuma [mung-Kooma] Land Trust.

In December 2003, the Lockhart River community signed a shared responsibility agreement with the Australian and Queensland Governments to help develop a community plan around economic development and improved community involvement in education. On January 1, 2005, pursuant to the Local Government (Community Government Areas) Act 2004, Lockhart River Aboriginal Council became the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council.

A successful Native Title determination for an area north of Lockhart River was ruled in favour of the KuukuYa'u [Koo-kooYaoo] people by the Federal Court of Australia in 2009.

Cultural revival

A revival of 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 30 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.

A move by some Lockhart people to reoccupy the 'Old Site' has also been considered.



Facilities & Services



Hospital

Lockhart River Primary Health Care

The Shire has got a health care Centre. The Centre provides primary clinical care and primary healthcare services through strong partnerships between nursing staff and Aboriginal and local staff. Routine services are offered weekly with 24 hour emergency services. Services provided include a suite of regular visiting medical, community and allied health services covering diabetes educators, podiatry, pediatricians etc. Contact: 07 4060 7155



Education

Our school is comprised of 140 students from pre-prep to year 12 however most secondary students leave the community to attend boarding schools and other alternative school programs. The school aims to connect with the community and culture, ensuring local culture and traditions are passed on to ensure students have been exposed to their history, culture and languages. Contact: 07 4083 3888.

Puuya Foundation is operating the Early Years Learning and Parenting Program (EYLP) in the community.

Lockhart River State School



School Captains with Mayor



Radio Operations

Library and Radio

The Indigenous Knowledge Centre has 5 computers set up for use by the community for online banking and communicating with family through online networking. The Radio provides a 24 hour local station broadcasting at 107.7FM. Both offices can be contacted on 07 4060 7050.

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.



Art and Cultural Centre

Lockhart River has an established Art Centre. With respected artists who have been recognized nationally and internationally. The Art Centre has painters, weavers and crafters who have taken their art work to a higher level. For further information, contact Enoch Tel: 07 4060 7341

Facilities & Services



Airport Runway



Airport Terminal



Accommodation at Cabins



Retail Store run by Community Enterprise Queensland

Air Transport

Lockhart River boasts a 1500m sealed and secure, all weather run-way. Due to the installation of pilot activated lights, the aerodrome can now be accessed 24 hours a day. During the wet season when road access can be cut off for months, the aerodrome plays a key role in getting vital supplies and services into the community. There is a regular air service between Cairns and Lockhart River. Skytrans also provides flights from Lockhart River to Aurukun and Weipa on selected days.

Airport Telephone Number: 07 4060 7121

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.

Sea Transport

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.

Accommodation

Accommodation is available at the following places.

Iron Range Cabins Airport Tel: 074060 7147 (Preferred)

Puucheewoo at Piiramo Street Tel: 074060 7134

Greenhouse cabins at Lockhart River Road Tel: 07 4060 7067

It is strongly recommended that visitors who intend to stay in Lockhart River make reservation at least one month to the date of arrival as there is competition for accommodation.

Shopping

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.

Jamie Store

Jamies Store is a small privately owned convenience store in the community located across the street from the main retail store. Contact Marshall Symonds (owner) Tel: 07 4060 7368.

Facilities & Services



Bank Operations

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.



Alcohol Notice

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/alchol-limits/alchol-reforms/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.



Ivy Park

Parks and beaches

There is Ivy Park with safe playing equipment located near the Retail Store.

BMX track is accessible and located near the Council Chambers.

Football oval is located next to the Community Hall and suitable for all field sports.

Esplanade is located at the Quintell Beach area with a BBQ shelter.



Ergon Energy

Power

Electricity in the Community is generated by Ergon Energy.



St James Anglican Church

St James

The Saint James Anglican church has a big hall which is used for most community functions. The church was built by Lockhart River people in 1971-73.



Facilities & Services



Community Hall

Other Facilities

There is a spacious Community Hall for public meetings and other community events and functions. Other facilities include the kids club, Women's centre, My Pathways Training Centre (Land and sea Centre), Justice Group office, HACC health & aged care services and the Men's Healing Centre.

There is one cemetery facility located within the community operated by the Council.

Private Enterprises

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

- Lockhart River Car Hire that provide vehicle hire services to visitors to the area.
- W&P Machine Hire to hire heavy plant and equipment for construction works
- JP Hobson Contracting for loader plant services
- PC Ropeyarn Contracting for water truck services
- Rodney Accoom Contracting for fencing services

Lockhart River Hire Car Services

JP Hobson Contracting

Other local private enterprises

- Newton Spencer Contracting Services for general construction works
- Tonlay Pty Ltd for building construction works
- Jamie's Stores for convenience store services and transport services



Jamies Stores



Elected Members

Mayor

Cr Wayne Butcher



D/Mayor

Cr Norman Bally



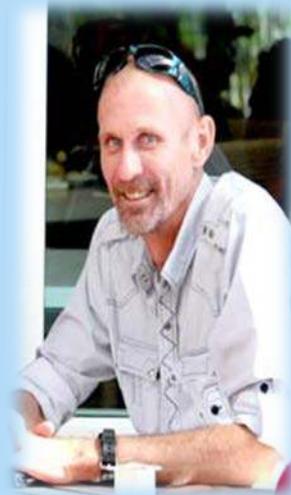
Councillor

Cr Paul Piva



Councillor

Cr Dorothy Hobson



Councillor

Cr Marshall Symonds

Portfolios:

(1) Governance, Employment, Training and Leadership, Land, Sea, Homeland (Land trust)

Mayor – Cr Wayne Butcher Ph: 0428 180 325 E: mayor@lockhart.qld.gov.au

(2) Housing, Infrastructure, Roads, Parks and Gardens

D/Mayor – Cr Norman Bally Ph: 0409 692 172 E: d/mayor@lockhart.qld.gov.au

(3) Education, Economic Development and Enterprise

Councillor – Cr Paul Piva Mob: 0427 607 035 E: paul.piva@lockhart.qld.gov.au

(4) Youth Sports and Recreation

Councillor – Cr Dorothy Hobson Mob: 07 4060 7144 E: dorothy.hobson2@lockhart.qld.gov.au

(5) Health, Law Justice and Order

Councillor – Cr Marshall Symonds Mob: 0427 350 978 E: marshall.symonds@lockhart.qld.gov.au



Senior Management

DAVID CLARKE
Chief Executive
Officer



RUSSELL COX
Manager Engineering
Services



REGIS EDMOND
Manager Building
Services



PAUL JENSEN
Manager
Environmental
Management Services



ANITA EGGINTON
Manager Community
Development and
Services



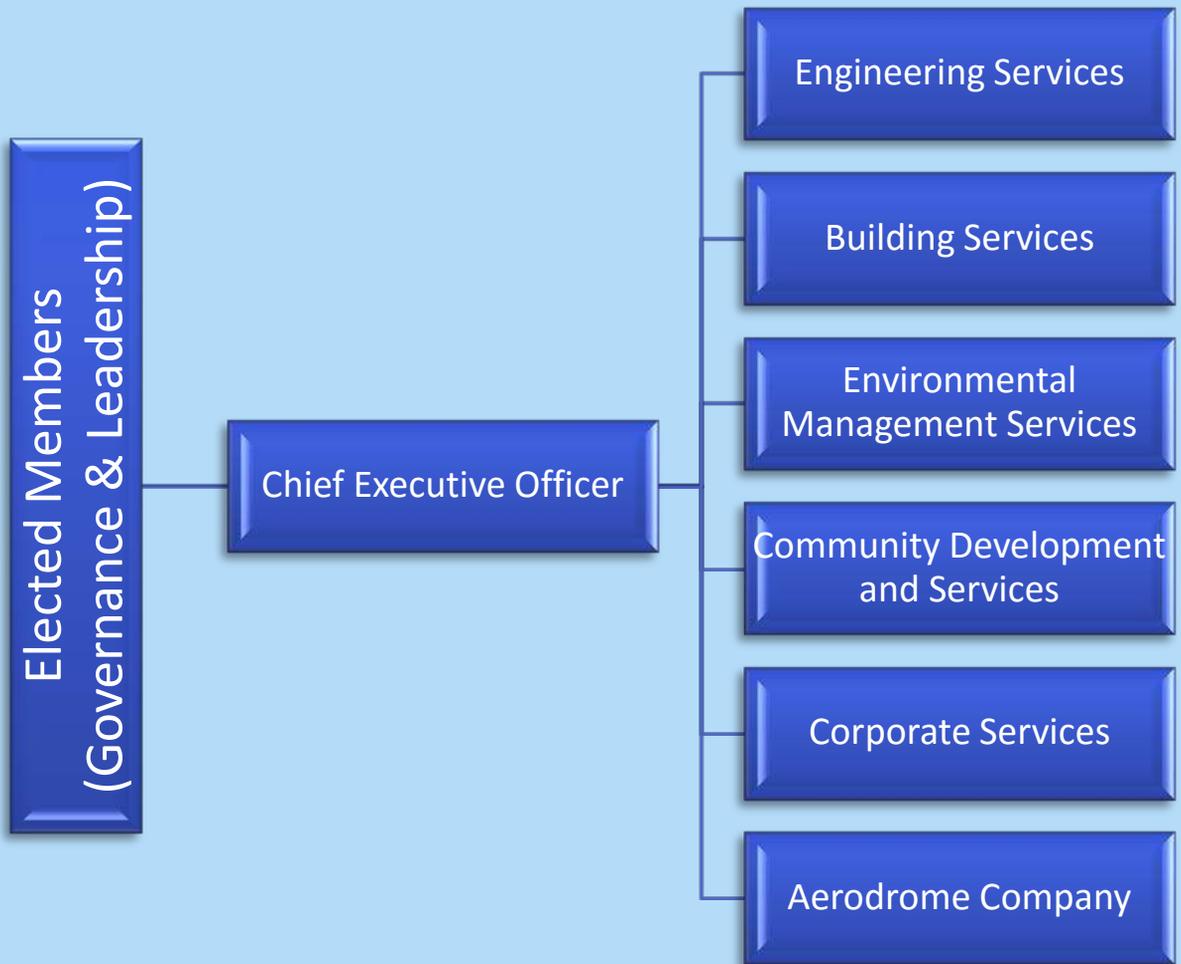
STANLEY MUGWIRIA
Manager Corporate
Services



ROBERT BROWN
Manager Aerodrome
Company

Organizational Structure

The structure consists of five departments and Lockhart River Aerodrome Company Pty Ltd*. The heads of these departments and Aerodrome Company Manager report to the Chief Executive Officer and they form senior management team. They are responsible for the implementation of the Council policies, resolutions and operational plans and provide advice to the Council in their key operational areas. The organizational structure was as below:



*The Council is the parent of controlled entity, Lockhart River Aerodrome Company P/L.



Disclosures

Councillors meetings attendance and remuneration

The Councillors' remuneration is reviewed and determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal annually. The following is the schedule of meetings attendance and remunerations for the period July 2016 – June 2017.

Councillor	Council meetings attended	Total meetings	Remuneration	Superannuation	Expense Claimed	Facilities Provided
Cr Wayne Butcher Mayor	10	12	\$99,563	\$11,950	\$37,153	Vehicle, Laptop, iPhone & iPad
Cr Norman Bally D/Mayor	10	12	\$57,440	\$6,894	\$23,390	Vehicle, iPhone & iPad
Cr Paul Piva Councillor	7	12	\$49,782	\$5,975	\$4,053	iPad
Cr Dorothy Hobson Councillor	9	12	\$49,782	\$5,975	\$7,985	iPad
Cr Marshall Symonds Councillor	6	12	\$49,782	\$4,730	\$5,737	iPad



Disclosures

Senior Management Team

During the 2016/17 financial year, the following were the members of Senior Management team:

- Chief Executive Officer Mr. David Clarke
- Corporate Services Mr. Stanley Mugwiria
- Building Services Mr. Edmond Regis
- Community Development & Services Ms. Anita Egginton
- Engineering Services Mr. Russell Cox
- Environmental Management Mr. Paul Jensen
- Aerodrome Company Mr. Robert Brown

Executive Remuneration

A senior officer is a Chief Executive Officer or any contracted position who reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer.

Section 201 of the Local Government Act 2009 requires that the remuneration packages of senior contract employees employed by the Council be reported as follows:

Range of total remuneration package	Number of Senior Officers
Less than \$100,000	2
\$100,000 or more	5

Invitation to tenderers to change their tender details

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

Beneficial Enterprises

The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council recognizes the operations of Puuya Foundation that has continued to support parents and teachers by establishing the Early Childhood Learning Centre. The Centre has continued providing very professional early childhood learning to Lockhart River kids. The Centre is mainly employed local people.

Significant business

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

Invitations to provide expressions of interest

In February 2017 the Council advertised to seek expression of interest in providing internal audit services after Altius Chartered Accountants service period expired.

Internal Audit

Jessups Chartered Accountants were appointed as new internal auditors for a fixed three year term. The internal auditors report directly to the Council after the Audit Committee was disbanded during the financial year.

During the year, the internal auditors focused on the following

- Legislative compliance
- Risk management systems

Two internal audit reports were presented and discussed by the Council during the year as required by the Local Government Act 2009.

External Audit

Council financial reports and operations were audited by the Auditor General of Queensland through Grant Thornton Chartered Accountants (contracted auditors). The audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. In making those risks assessments, the auditor consider internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report. An audit also evaluates the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and reasonableness of estimates made by the management.

For the financial year 2016-17, the Council received an **unmodified audit opinion** and that means Council's operations have received a good report.

Assessment of Corporate Plan and Operational Plan

The 5-Year Corporate Plan, Operational Plan and Budget documents were discussed and adopted on 19 July 2017 for implementation. Quarterly operational plan reviews and monthly budget performance assessment were agreed.

Annual Report

Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2009 require the Council to prepare and adopt its annual report within the required legislative timeframe. The audited 2016/17 financial statements were signed by the Auditor-General on 19 October 2017 but the 2016-17 Annual Report was approved by the Council on 24 January 2018.

Community donations and support

According to the requirement of section 189 of Local Government Regulation 2012, the Council did not provide grants to any community organisation during the year except for contributions to assist local people with funeral expenses and support of cultural and sporting activities. During the year, the Council spent \$114,190 on these contributions.



List of Registers available to the public

The following registers are held by the Council:

- 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)
- Asset Register
- Road Register
- Prequalified Suppliers Register
- Register of Regular and Performance Agreements
- Council Local Laws register
- Register of kids who receive Christmas gifts from Council
- Fraud Register

Overseas travel

Neither the Councillors nor the employees made any overseas travel on official arrangement during the financial year.

Other relevant issues to making an informed decision

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

Conduct and performance of Councillors

Compliance with S186 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 under S186 (e) - (g) the Council performance against set standards were as follows:

Compliance Requirements	
Orders and recommendations made under S180 (2) or 4 of the Act	Nil
Orders made under S181 of the Act	Nil
Name of each Councillor for whom an order of recommendation was made	Nil
A description of the misconduct or inappropriate conduct engaged in by each Councillor	Nil
Complaints about the conduct or performance of Councillors for which no further action was taken under S176 (2)	Nil
Complaints referred to the Department Chief Executive Officer	Nil
Complaints referred to the Mayor under S176 (3) (a) (ii)	Nil
Complaints referred to the department Chief Executive Officer under S176 C (4) (a)	Nil
Complaints assessed by the Chief Executive Officer as being about official misconduct	Nil
Complaints heard by a regional conduct review panel	Nil
Complaints heard by the tribunal	Nil



Complaints Management Process – Administration Action Complaints

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.

No administrative action complaints were recorded during the reporting year.

Training and Development

Council has a developed comprehensive policy on staff training and development to support and foster competent and safe workforce. Council provides study time and travel expenses to employees in order to attend all work related training. Council's staff training and development policy is available at the HR office.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

Council has developed and implemented on Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (EEOP) and Management Plan. The EEOP and Management plan has been adopted in all areas of Council operations and to ensure that the workforce is free of discrimination, that all vacant positions are advertised openly; that appointments are made on merit and that all forms of harassment are discouraged.

Our workforce comprises people of different ages, cultures, religions, values, beliefs, educations, languages, abilities and gender.

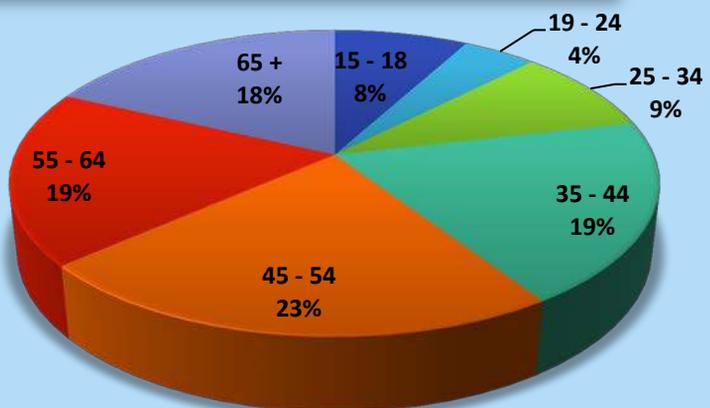
By creating a workplace in which every employee is valued for their diverse skills, knowledge and perspectives, Council is encouraging a more cohesive work environment and better team performance.

Employees statistics

Council workforce is dominated by men representing 62 per cent while women are 38 per cent and this is an improvement from previous years as women representation has been increasing. The balance of male and female in the Leadership and Governance area declined to 80:20 with only one lady elected to the Council.

Employees by age:

Detailed Aged Bracket of Workforce



Work Place Health & 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.

In May 2017, the Council engaged Total Safety Management to carry out workplace compliance inspection and safety audit. The outcome of this inspection was good and this further confirms that employees safety is a top priority in the Council's human resources management.

Code of conduct

The Council developed and implemented Code of Conduct for employees that provide guidelines to employee professional behavior and practices. This policy document is updated annually due to changing employee behavior. The policy is part of the human resources set of policies.

Rates and Charges

In accordance with requirement under section 190(1)(g) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the annual report must prepare a summary of all concessions for rates and charges granted by the local government. Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council did not grant any concessions during the financial year.

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:

Bridges	1
Storm-water culverts and floodways	105
Rural roads – unsealed	144 km
Rural roads – sealed	21 km
Urban roads – sealed	11 km
TOTAL LENGTH OF ROAD AND BRIDGE NETWORK	176 km



Council Performance

“The Year in Review”

Governance & 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.

- Twelve (12) ordinary meetings held during the year
- Three Waanta Newsletter editions were produced and circulated during the year Elected members had 2 public meetings
- Expenditure by Council on donations and support was about \$114k including Laura festival and sporting events
- Two internal audit reports were delivered
- Risk management registers were reviewed
- Fishing competition was held in May 2017
- Support for local businesses with 5 local subcontractors considered for Council works.



Working in collaboration with the school



Council Performance

“The Year in Review”

Engineering Services



Quintell Beach Esplanade upgrade



Runway pavement rehabilitation



Parks & Garden team cleaning the streets

The goal was to manage, maintain and develop Council infrastructure and Plant & Equipment to meet the current and future Community needs. This report provides an overview of the status of engineering services undertaken during the financial year against this goal.

- The construction works for the Quintell Beach Esplanade upgrade was completed jointly funded by R2R, ATSI/TIDS and CRF.
- Runway pavement rehabilitation was completed during the year. The specialized pavement construction works was contracted to Robinson Construction Group.
- Pascoe River Crossing was upgraded funded by NDRRA for \$1.6m.
- NDRRA works (LRASC REPA 10.15) on Portland Road pavement restoration works were undertaken by local contracting.
- NDRRA works (LRASC REPA 12.15 and LRASC REPA 13.15) on Old Mission Road and affiliated rural roads were completed during the year by combined local contracting and Council’s Road Gang.
- The CRF 2016 funded construction of 11 new culverts and 2.5km of new seal on Portland Road. These construction works were completed on time.
- Road Gang team acquired a fully equipped Traffic Control Ute. This improved road safety during the construction works. Work For Queensland (W4Q) projects for a funding of \$1.2m was approved.



Council Performance

“The Year in Review”

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 principle contractor for all building and maintenance works at Lockhart River.

- The Council’s building team completed construction of 5 new community houses on time and on budget.
- The locals are well represented in the building team and currently we have 5 apprenticeships in building services and 2 apprenticeships in plumbing services.
- New driveways and fences were completed during the year
- Water Park construction
- Building crew working on the men’s shed.
- Council building team completed 11 major housing renovations and upgrades during the year
- Revenue generated from building services was about \$5.0m
- Completed construction of the Landfill site office shed
- Commenced construction works for the Men’s shed and Water Park Power House.



Water Park construction



Building crew working on Mens shed



Crew working on community house on Keeni St



**James Macumboy
Carrying out
Internal paint works**



Council Performance

“The Year in Review”

Environmental Health Services



Garbage collection team

The goal is to provide efficient, effective and sustainable water, sewerage and waste management services to the Community and by providing an effective animal management.

The Community was provided with reliable, timely and appropriate municipal services by the Council through the following service lines:

- Water quality sampling and testing demonstrated compliance with NHMRC Drinking Water Standards. All water tests samples attained pass
- Completed sewer and water connection to 5 new houses
- Parks and gardens maintained mowing service levels
- Weekly refuse collection was achieved
- Landfill site office has been constructed
- EHO attended water supply regulation training in October 2016
- EHO attended training in public health program for mosquitoes surveillance and control in May 2017
- EHO attended ‘drinking water issues and solutions’ workshop in June 2017
- The community had three VET visits during the year.



Water testing



Council Performance

“The Year in Review”

Community Development & Services



Womens Shelter team
prepare meals for clients



Christmas celebrations



Mens Group meeting



HACC team

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 goal is to encourage and participate in the continuing development of Community Services and cultural activities and to strengthen individual and Community Puuya.

Special thanks to the State and Federal Governments for the following regularly funded programs that continued to benefit the community members throughout the financial year

- Men’s Support Services has commenced construction of new sheds for carrying out more activities HACC passed the compliance audit and ROCS support was very rewarding
- Women Shelter organized match against domestic violence and has continued to excel in their clients service
- Family Support Services – new services introduced Community Radio and Library Services incorporated children’s reading activities
- Justice Group program is under new Coordinator and the team had two visits to Lotus Glenn during the year
- Youth At Risk Initiative (YARI) filled the position of Youth Assistant and the team has continued to provide more youth activities and services based on case management model.
- Indigenous Primary Health Care Program organized two successful ‘healthy dogs happy people’ campaigns
- Outside School Hours Care continued their children’s activities
- Puuya Foundation provided early learning services at the Kuunchi Kakana Early Learning Centre.



Council Performance

“The Year in Review”

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. The following achievements were noted during the year;

- Unmodified audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2017.
- The Operational Plan and Budget were completed and approved on time
- New related party disclosure policy developed and implemented
- New grants approvals - \$0.5m for Airport Terminal building, and \$0.48m for Fiber Optic Infrastructure
- WHS audit was carried out and report provided in May 2017
- Continued LGAQ computer literacy program
- Bank Agency position filled by local person and bank open to business.



Matthew Redman – Council Stores Supervisor



Administration office cleaning

Council Performance

“The Year in Review”

Aerodrome Company



Aerodrome Manager – Robert (Bob) Brown



Cabins Manager – LisaMarie Perazim



Airport Officer – Garrett Hobson

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.

During the year under review:

- Under new management and new direction
- Pavement rehabilitation works were completed and runway functionality is as good as new
- New fencing for the sewer plant was completed
- Major renovation works were undertaken on the cabins.



COMMUNITY FINANCIAL REPORT

The Community Financial Report is a plain English summary of Council's Financial Statements prepared in accordance with Section 179 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

1. Snapshot of financial year 2016/17 (consolidated entity)

Key highlights of the financial year include:

a) Some of the major capital expenditure during the year includes:

Plant & Equipment	\$94,524
Buildings and Housing	\$151,558
Roads and Bridge Network infrastructure	\$11,322,498
Other Infrastructure assets	\$465,084
Runway Upgrade	\$3,655,176

b) Net result for the year **\$12,565,094**

2. 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 2017.

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.

About the Financial Statements

The Financial Statements incorporate 4 "primary" financial statements and accompanying notes.

1.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income

A summary of Council's financial performance for the year, listing both (a) operating income & expenses and (b) other comprehensive income which records items such as changes in the fair values of Council's assets.



1.2 Balance Sheet

End of year Council's Financial Position that includes Assets, Liabilities and Community Equity.

1.3 Statement of Changes in Equity

The overall change for the year (in dollars) of Council's "net wealth"/Community Equity.

1.4 Statement of Cash Flows

Indicates where Council's cash came from and where it was spent.

1.5 Notes to the Financial Statements

Provide more details to the line numbers of the 4 "primary" financial statements.

About the Auditor's Report

Council's Financial Statements are required to be audited by the Queensland Audit Office. The Auditor provides an audit report which gives an opinion on whether the Financial Statements present a true and fair view of the Council's financial performance and position. Our Council received unmodified audit opinion (good audit report) from Queensland Audit Office.

Where to find a complete version of 2016/17 Financial Statements (Consolidated)

A complete version of Council's Financial Statements for the 12 months to 30 June 2017 can be found at our website: www.lockhart.qld.gov.au or at the Council's administrative officers at:

14 Maathuy Street
Lockhart River, QLD 4892
Or
Unit/7 Anderson Street
Manunda Street, QLD 4870



3. An Overview of this year's Financial Result & Financial Position

3.1 Council's Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for 2016/17

Council's headline consolidated operating result for the year was a net surplus of **\$12,565,094**. This surplus is mainly due to increase in capital grant funding and other grants that remained unspent. The revenue from recoverable works decreased whereas operating expenses moderately increased.

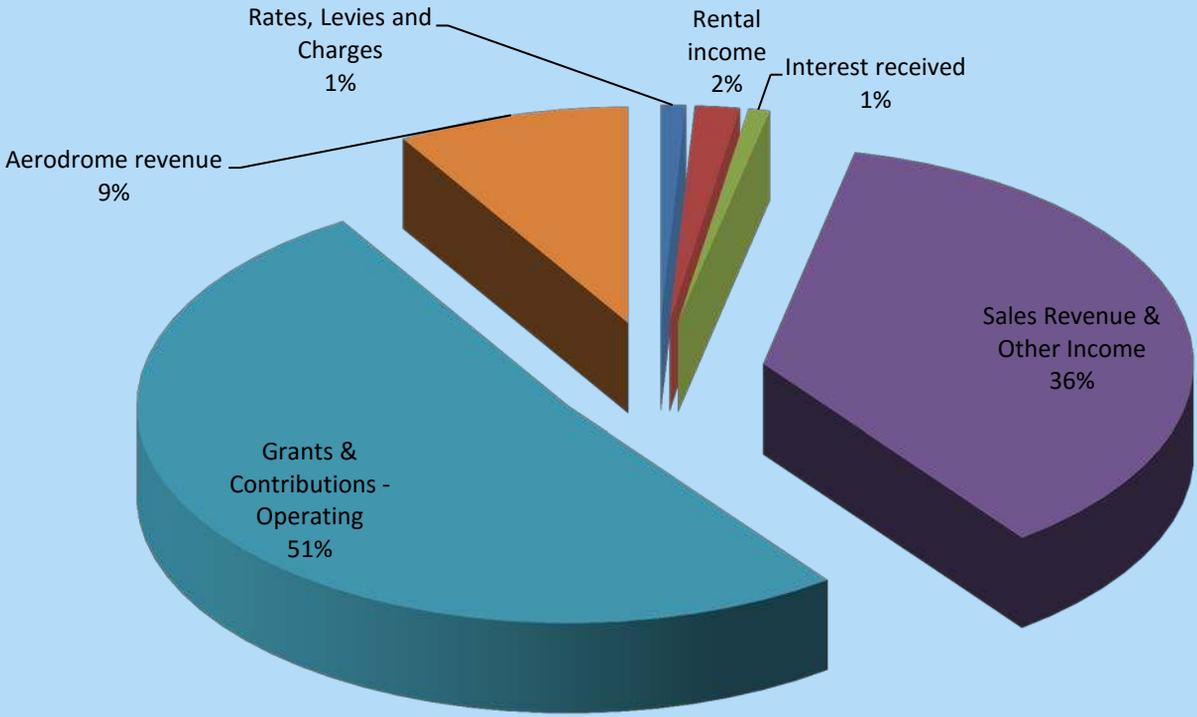
The following are the key financial performance highlights (Consolidated):

	Actual \$ 2017	Budget \$ 2017	Actual \$ 2016
Revenues (excl. income for capital purposes)	14,163,351	13,588,141	18,346,306
Expenditure	(17,139,591)	(28,861,574)	(15,770,374)
Net Result before Capital Grants & Contributions	(2,976,240)	(15,273,433)	2,575,932
Capital Grants & Contributions	15,569,270	21,638,662	9,856,397
Capital expenses	(27,935)	-	(8,973,365)
Net Result	12,565,094	6,365,229	3,458,964

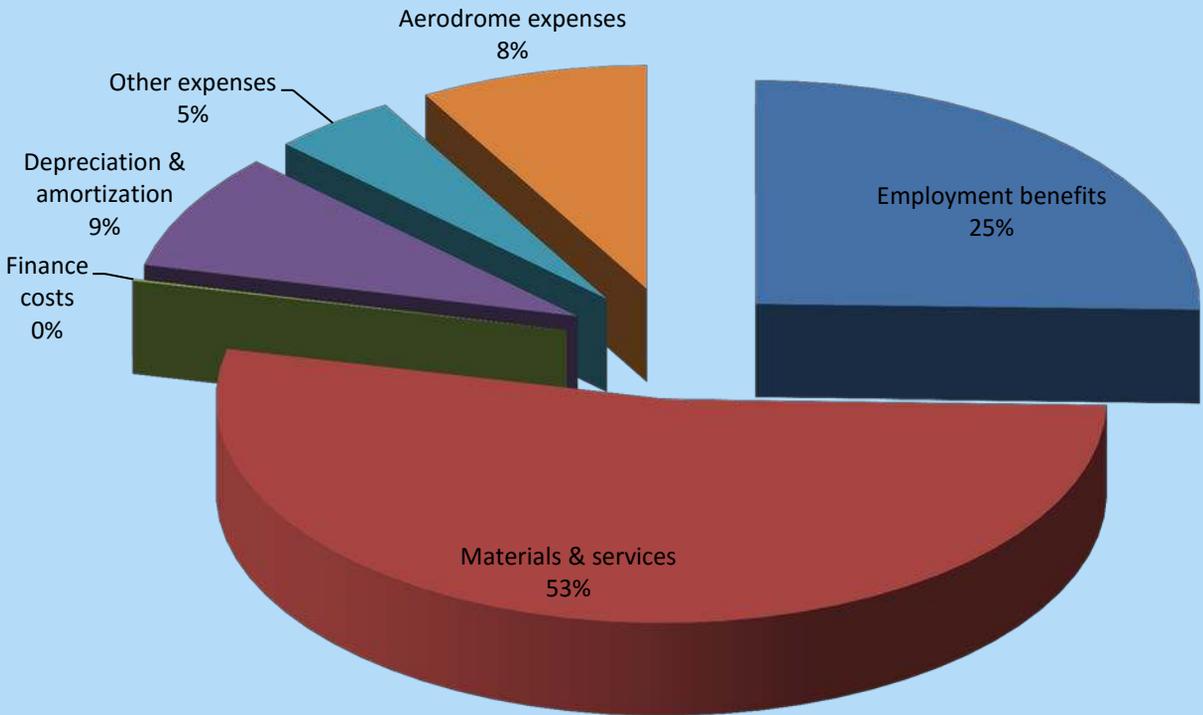
In the overall, the Council and senior management believe the financial results for the year to be satisfactory but will endeavor for a better outcome in the current financial year.



Council's recurrent revenue for the year 2016-17



Council's recurrent expenditure for the year 2016-17



3.2 Councils Consolidated Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) – Net Wealth

The Balance Sheet "bottom line" discloses the Net Community Equity of Council and Aerodrome Company, which represents its wealth as measured by a dollar value of its assets less liabilities.

	Actual \$ 2017	Actual \$ 2016
The major items that make up Council's wealth include the following assets:		
Available Cash & Investments ****	12,156,711	8,842,350
Debtors	1,402,140	2,625,805
Inventories	285,348	282,814
Other financial assets - Current	283,545	272,720
Other financial assets - Non Current	9,461,520	10,534,735
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment		
- Capital Work in Progress	1,217,708	1,654,486
- Land	1,100,000	1,100,000
- Buildings	10,323,118	10,026,808
- Housing	8,055,797	7,917,623
- Plant and Equipment	1,007,679	1,157,514
- Furniture and office equipment	104,753	137,335
- Road, Drainage and Bridge Network	36,095,506	21,867,223
- Water	3,390,850	3,337,661
- Sewerage	3,622,356	3,521,395
- Other Infrastructure Assets	2,346,704	1,785,876
	<u>90,853,735</u>	<u>75,064,345</u>
Council has funded some of its operations and assets by the following liabilities:		
Trade and other payables	4,653,944	2,298,107
Current provisions	73,980	68,074
Non-current provisions	1,372,479	1,434,998
	<u>6,100,403</u>	<u>3,801,179</u>
Net Community Equity	<u>84,753,337</u>	<u>71,263,166</u>

***Cash & Investments "restricted" for future funding | 3,826,491 3,164,757



3.3 Council's Key Financial Figures - A Snapshot

A summary of some key financial figures over the past 5 years lets you see some overall trends

Financial Performance Figures (\$)	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Inflows:					
Fees & Charges	133,304	121,790	116,069	111,821	113,851
Other revenue	98,916	1,681,091	166,166	244,557	116,188
Rental Income	251,055	417,708	418,245	681,075	659,102
Interest Received	121,783	176,110	77,487	72,354	132,112
Sales Revenue	6,172,982	7,616,782	7,404,352	3,807,880	1,405,258
Grants, Subsidies, Contributions & Donations - Operating & Capital	22,954,581	18,189,221	10,144,837	6,949,836	8,281,741
Total Income from Continuing Operations	29,732,621	28,202,702	18,327,156	11,867,523	10,708,252
Sale Proceeds from PP&E	-	-	42,182	57,056	4,091
Finance lease receipts	272,719	256,814	343,838	50,860	-
Outflows:					
Employee Benefits	4,750,916	4,547,114	3,967,194	4,203,082	4,710,608
Materials & Services	9,903,290	9,800,996	4,453,118	3,971,537	4,517,382
Finance Costs	(63,152)	37,375	114,719	541	148
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	14,591,054	14,385,485	8,535,031	8,175,160	9,228,138
Total Cash purchases of PP&E	15,688,840	6,445,208	5,028,936	4,620,991	1,023,785
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) (excl. Capital Income & Exps)	12,565,094	3,458,964	7,770,981	(7,507,304)	(1,016,881)
Financial Position Figures (\$)					
Current Assets	14,127,744	12,023,689	7,869,023	4,682,708	5,267,129
Current Liabilities	4,727,924	2,064,126	2,538,265	1,569,097	1,315,471
Net Current Assets	9,399,820	9,959,563	5,330,758	3,113,611	3,951,658
Cash & Cash Equivalents	12,156,711	8,842,350	4,855,783	3,104,374	4,316,375
Total Gross Value of PP&E (excl. Land)	94,766,985	80,965,338	76,166,356	71,513,500	78,632,024
Total Accumulated Depreciation	28,602,514	29,559,416	17,117,771	20,520,813	16,365,555
Total Written Down Value of PP&E (excl. Land)	66,164,471	51,405,922	59,048,585	50,992,687	62,266,469
Indicative Remaining Useful Life (as a % of GBV)	70%	63%	78%	71%	79%

Source: Published audited financial statements of Council (current year & prior year annual financial statements)



4. Financial Sustainability Measures

The Financial Sustainability of Councils is now a requirement by the Local Government Act 2009 and responsibility of individual Councils across Queensland.

Financial Sustainability is defined as when a ***"Local Government is able to maintain its financial capital and infrastructure capital over the long term"*** [source: Local Government Act 2009 section 102(2)].

The Financial Sustainability indicators (in accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*) that Council must publish are as follows:

Operating Surplus Ratio

Net Result divided by Total Operating Revenue

This is an indicator of the extent to which revenues raised cover operational expenses only or are available for capital funding purposes or other purposes.

Asset Sustainability Ratio

Capital Expenditure on the Replacement of Assets (Renewals) divided by Depreciation Expense

This is an approximation of the extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by the local government are being replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives.

Depreciation expense represents an estimate of the extent to which the infrastructure assets have been consumed in one year period.

Capital expenditure on renewals (replacing assets that the local government already has) is an indicator of the extent to which the infrastructure assets are being replaced.

This ratio indicates whether a local government is renewing or replacing existing non-financial assets at the same rate that its overall stock of assets is wearing out.

Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

Total Liabilities less Current Assets divided by Total Operating Revenue

This is an indicator of the extent to which the net financial liabilities of a local government can be serviced by its operating revenues.



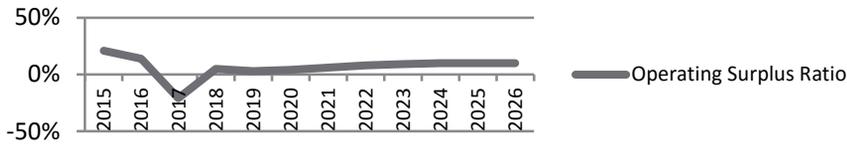
	Target	Long Term Financial Plan Projections									
		Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Yr 1 2019	Yr 2 2020	Yr 3 2021	Yr 4 2022	Yr 5 2023	Yr 6 2024

Ratio

Operating Surplus Ratio	0 - 10%	21%	14%	-21%	5%	3%	4%	6%	8%	9%	10%	10%	10%
Asset Sustainability Ratio	> 90%	346%	158%	355%	165%	49%	52%	48%	72%	47%	27%	83%	27%
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	< 60%	-40%	-45%	-57%	-33%	-37%	-46%	-55%	-64%	67%	77%	-73%	85%

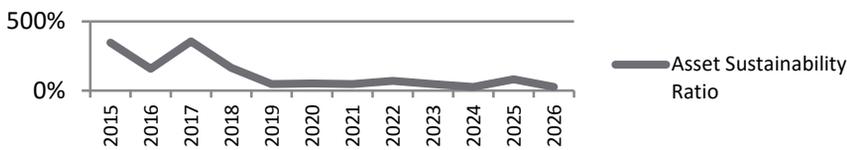


Operating Surplus Ratio



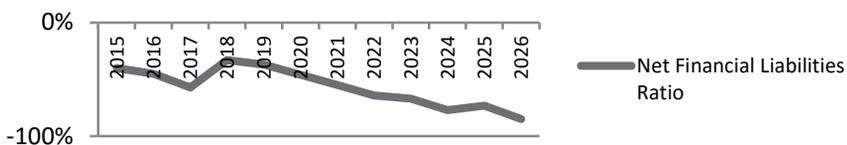
The Consolidated entity reported operating surplus ratio of -21% for 2016/17 financial year that was below the target of between 0% and 10% per annum on average over the long term. The Council and Aerodrome Company did not generate sufficient revenue that could cover operating expenses and offset past or future operating deficits or to fund proposed capital expenditure. The management is hopeful of better results in all future financial years.

Asset Sustainability Ratio



The Consolidated entity achieved Asset Sustainability Ratio of 355% that was above the target of >90% implying that the Council and Aerodrome Company have sufficiently maintained, replaced or renewed existing infrastructure assets as they are consumed. This will increase service levels and useful lives of these assets.

Net Financial Liabilities Ratio



The Consolidated entity recorded Net Financial Liabilities Ratio of -57% against a target of <60% and this indicates that the current assets exceed the total liabilities. The Council and Aerodrome Company appears to have the capacity to increase its funding.



APPENDIX - ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To access the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017, click on the hyperlink below or through the Council's website or obtain a copy from the Council office.

[Audited Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017](#)

