

LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 55 631 460 952



Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council at the Council Chambers, Maathuuy St Lockhart River.

Date: Thursday 21st July 2022

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Cr Wayne Butcher
Cr Dorothy Hobson (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Alistair Bowie
Cr Norman Bally

Visitors: nil

Opening and Venue: Mayor Cr Wayne Butcher opened the meeting at 10:10 am at Lockhart Council Chambers

Issue: **Apologies. Council noted** Cr Karen Koko in Cairns Office

Conflict of Interest:

Mayor called for any conflicts of interest to be declared.

The Mayor reminded the elected members the need to update their registers of interests and related party disclosures every financial year.

Issue: **Minutes of the meeting of the 25th of May 2022**

Minutes for the meeting of the meeting of the 25th of May 2022 were tabled and discussed in detail.

Resolution 1: That the minutes for the meetings of the 25th of May 2022 be adopted as tabled.

Moved: **Cr. D. Hobson** **Seconded:** **Cr. K. Koko**
All in favor motion passed

Issue: **Cultural Precinct construction progress**

Progress was discussed noting that, finally, the drainage has been rectified and the site is ready to construct the ablutions blocks, stage area, market stalls, and associated construction works. Council is trying to source the correct grade of course river sand locally rather than import material all the way from Cooktown. The Mayor spoke about the possibility of holding a small trial event before Christmas if everything was ready.

Issue: 2022 Dry Season Civil Program

A progress report briefing was provided to Council noting the recent tragic workplace accident on the PDR has now drawn the attention of workplace health and safety officers to all remote civil construction sites. Council has reviewed its processes and each crew have been spoken to at length at morning toolbox meetings to ensure all necessary safety provisions are being applied to Council's job sites. Traffic management plans have been reviewed and confirmed along with communications and first aid kit access. The late burst of the wet season has delayed the start of the Old Site Road element of this year's program. Initial focus will be on the main access road and CYRP culverts.

Issue: Township Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA)

Council remain concerned about the lack of progress from CYLC to finalise the agreement that has been under negotiation since 2014. Council is unsure of the quantum of compensation owing to Traditional Owners, as there has been no guidance material produced. At this point Council has no capacity for accuracy when budgeting levels of compensation it should be carrying on its projects and contingent liabilities. Council will write to CYLC seeking an update on progress.

Issue: Youth Justice update –Cr Karen Koko

Cr Koko provided advice to Council on the recent restorative justice process she had participated in recently.

- The restorative Justice Process feedback was strong being personalized between the offenders and the victims. It allowed the offenders to hear about the harm they were doing to others, sometimes when they did not realize it.
- The mediation process between the girls fighting was going well;
- Hot grog remains a major issue for all.

Issue: Superannuation

Councilor Bally spoke about the lack of knowledge our people had in relation to the superannuation industry and the way it operates. Some people have many accounts, which means they pay many administration fees, which reduces their retirement amounts in the end. He asked if a superannuation workshop could be held in Lockhart to give people the chance to discuss their accounts and how best to manage them. This also has a strong cross reference to the insurance industry and Council asked if providers can be contacted with a view to make the community aware of what the market had to offer by way of funeral insurance.

Issue: Social Club Progress Report

The progress towards the opening of the Social Club was discussed in detail noting the frustrating slow progress. There seems to be a lack of urgency from the Manager on the matter, which is resulting in Council taking on more risk than originally planned. It was decided to approach the Board with an ultimatum that the doors open or the funding from Council stops. A proposal will be put to the Board to have a soft opening on 27 July with a formal opening to be held at a date yet to be decided. This opening may join up with the opening of the Sports Field.

Issue: Church Shop proposal

Council was presented with a basic proposal by the Anglican Diocese to install a relocatable retail shop in Lockhart River. The Diocese will use profits from this shop to fund a full time priest in Lockhart. The proposal was short on detail, without a business case, or cost benefit analysis for our town. Council are not yet in a position to draft an adequate response to this matter.

Resolution 2: That Council request the Diocese to table a full business case and Community cost benefit analysis for Council to consider. Once this is to hand Council will work with the Church Committee on a response.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher
All in favour

Seconded: Cr A. Bowie
Motion passed

Issue: Business Support function

Council discussed the good progress made by Jermaine Thomas, Business Support and Development Officer. The Training room at the Shopping Centre needs to be fitted out and branded as the Centre for business activity in Lockhart. This and the on-going recurrent costs of maintaining the service require investment partners from State and Federal agencies. It is a model that seems to be working for us but the cost of getting the service up and running and viable in the mid-term presents some problems financially so we need co-investors.

Issue: Local Government Association of Queensland AGM Cairns 17-19th October 2022.

Mayor discussed the possibility of all Councilors attending the LGAQ AGM this year in Cairns in October. Councilors were requested to check their diaries for availability.

