

14 December 22

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE - DECEMBER

Time flies when you're having fun, or so the saying goes. Regardless of the saying another year is as good as dusted once again. Looking back, it has been a productive year even though a trying one. Labor shortages have been and remain the number one hurdle that everyone has had to try and overcome. Whether Council or Contractor, employers have been pushing it uphill trying to fill positions, and that has been reflected in productivity. Hats off to our outdoor crews for being flexible enough to adapt to chop and change as required. Hats off also to Mick and his team of foremen for providing direction under these difficult times.

Let's not forget our indoor staff who have spent most of the year making do with vacant positions as best as they can. Thankfully things are improving in that regard with some very well qualified staff joining the team recently. Hopefully the stars will line up for the Day Care Centre in the New Year and things will start to get back to normal. Karumba keeps on keeping on and the Barra Centre will undoubtedly be ready for the tourist season next year. No yearly sum up would be complete without giving our Town Foreman a pat on the back even if he is a bit rowdy. Amongst all the shouting and swearing he and his crew always get the job done whether it be setting up for a Council event or helping out with other community wants and needs. So Thanks Josh and look forward to listening to you again next year.

I don't normally get involved in staffing changes etc but I think its warranted this one time. Early in the New Year we say goodbye to our water and waste manager, Ben Hill and his wife Candice, (and their girls of course). They have both been part of our community for a long time and will be missed both socially and professionally in both towns. However, the world keeps on spinning and on behalf of

everyone at Council I wish them all the best in their future adventures.

Next year is going to have some extra events to our normal line up with the Karumba 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and the Outback Golf Masters million dollar hole in one, both happening around midyear. When all is added up it becomes clear that there is a need for communication if all the events are to be a success and not compete with each other. Council will be putting a calendar together early next year so make sure to list your event as early as possible.

The Karumba public meeting went off well and it was good to have constructive input from everyone. No question is a dumb one and no suggestion is a dumb one so feel free to speak up at these meetings. A lot of information passed on the other night was new information that will be used for better outcomes in all departments. If I could have one wish from that meeting it would be to have Telstra in the room to feel people's frustration and anger at the inequity in our remote areas. This is a topic that we flog to death while talking to the different government agencies but the wins are very small.

Normanton will have their consultation early in the New year so watch this space.

Last thing I will mention is the unusual event of the Tenders being out so soon. First time ever before Christmas (since 2016 anyway). Don't panic as you will have 6 weeks (Closing date is 31/01/2023), so enjoy the festive season and deal with it after the break. It has been something that Council has been trying to achieve for a long, long time due to popular demand.

On that note I'll sign off and, on behalf of Councillors and Staff wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Bring on 2023.

Stay Safe  
Jack Bawden



## **ADVOCACY**

Deputy Mayor Bradley Hawkins and CEO Mark Crawley attended the last Face to Face meeting of the North West Regional Organisation of Councils in Julia Creek on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December. We have an opportunity to work Regionally on similar issues and our attendance at these events ensures our position and views are included in the formation of any policy position to take to the other levels of Government.

At the meeting the work undertaken by Carpentaria Shire on the Local Housing Action Plan was highlighted and the NWQROC adopted the North West Regional Biosecurity Plan which was developed by all member Councils and Croydon Shire.



## **DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The agenda and minutes of the Council Meetings can be found on the Council website under the Council Section under Council Meetings,

Agendas

<https://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/council/council-meetings/council-agendas>

and Minutes

<https://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/council/council-meetings/council-minutes>

Some of the highlights from the December Agenda are below

### **Adoption of Regional Biosecurity Plan**

Council will consider formally adopting the Regional Biosecurity Plan which has been developed with the other member councils of the North West Regional Organisation of Councils.

When adopted the Regional Biosecurity Plan will be made available on the Council Website.

### **Order of Engagement Policy**

An Order of Engagement Policy will be considered by Council for inclusion with the call for tenders for the 2023 Construction Season. The proposed Policy will provide an outline of the process used by Council when allocating works for the construction season following the call for tenders and those who are then successful in making the Preferred Supplier listing

### **Standing Orders Policy**

The Standing Orders Policy is due for review and will be presented to Council for review and formal adoption. No changes have been proposed to the Standing Orders Policy, however as it has made it through to the review date it is required to be presented again to Council for review and formal adoption.

### **Western Queensland Housing Initiative**

Carpentaria Shire was one of the first six of the 22 member Councils of the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils to be chosen to compile the information necessary to inform the Local Housing Action Plans which have been developed with funding from the State Government.

### **Review of Fees and Charges**

Council will consider the implementation of a new fee for the reservation of plots within the cemeteries in Normanton and Karumba.

### **Tender – New Grader**

A report has been prepared for the consideration of the purchase of a new Grader for inclusion into the plant fleet. Tenders have been called and assessed and Council will formally consider the report and decide on the purchase and successful tendered for the supply in the New Year.

## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Council held its first public meeting in Karumba on Monday 12 December 2022. The community submitted a range of items to seek feedback from Council and other items that will require further consideration in future budgets. Normanton public meeting will be held in early 2023.

## **Sarus Crane Award**

Nominations will be called in the New Year for those members of the community who have made significant contributions toward land, water management, conservation or cultural preservation.

More details will appear on the website and Council's Facebook Page in early 2023

## **Disaster Preparations – Get Ready**

In the lead up to the wet season it is a good time to be reminded of being well prepared.

Information is available on the Council website

<https://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/community/disaster-emergency>

As well as the Get-Ready Website <https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/> and the Get Ready North West Queensland Site <https://www.getreadynwq.com.au/>

Don't forget to check the Carpentaria Shire Disaster Dashboard for warnings etc.

<http://disaster.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/>

and the most important message for motorists –



## **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

The Mayor, Councillors and staff of the Carpentaria Shire Council wish one and all the very best wishes for a safe and Merry Christmas and safe and festive New Year.

Safe travels if you are travelling and we hope that you can catch up with friends and family over the festive season. This is the most important time to reconnect with loved ones.



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



## Sarus Crane Awards 2023

Southern Gulf NRM is proud to work in partnership with Carpentaria Shire Council to present the Sarus Crane Awards for 2023.

The awards are eligible to those who have displayed an outstanding commitment to the environment during 2022.

If you believe this is you, or someone you know, please [contact your local council](#) to ensure a nomination is received.

For more information head to website:  
[Southern Gulf NRM -Sarus Crane Awards](#)



## MEETING DATES FOR JANUARY 2023

The January Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 commencing at 9:00am in the Council's Boardroom, Haig Street, Normanton.

All members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Items to be considered at a Council Meeting must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer no later than the Tuesday of the week prior to the meeting to be considered at the meeting.

Information in relation to the participation at Council Meetings can be found in the Council Standing Orders, available on the website at: -

<https://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/council/governance/policies>

## COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCES & MEETINGS

DATE	FUNCTION
18 & 19 January	Ordinary Meeting

### CARPENTARIA SHIRE COUNCIL

Address: 29-33 Haig Street, Normanton QLD 4890  
Postal: PO Box 31, Normanton QLD 4890  
Email: [council@carpentaria.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@carpentaria.qld.gov.au)  
Website: [www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au](http://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au)

#### Normanton Office

Telephone: (07) 4745 2200  
Fax: (07) 4745 1340

#### Karumba Library/Service Centre

Telephone: (07) 4747 7522  
Fax: (07) 4747 7566

#### Visitor Information Centre

Normanton (07) 4747 8444  
Karumba (07) 4745 2211

#### After Hours Emergencies

Telephone: (07) 4745 2200

Cr Jack Bawden - Mayor	0427 459 424
Cr Brad Hawkins – Deputy Mayor	0418 451 688
Cr Craig Young	0417 918 760
Cr Andrew Murphy	0428 451 085
Cr Amanda Scott	0417 630 333
Cr Doug Thomas	0417 747 685
Cr Ashley Gallagher	0427 453 412

Mark Crawley Chief Executive Officer  
0417 996 567

Michael Wanrooy Director Engineering Services  
0428 131 289

Julianne Meier Director Corporate Services  
0417 337 547