

22 March 23

MAYOR'S MESSAGE - MARCH

Well, here we are 10 weeks in from being isolated (All roads closed 5th January) and only in the last day or so have we been able to spread our wings again on the Cairns Road at least. Resupply generally went smoothly with the odd hiccup as per usual. For the people who have not experienced a proper wet in the Gulf it was probably a bit disconcerting to be water locked for so long but for the old hands it was good to see things getting back to normal as far as "The Wet" goes. Plenty of fresh water flushing out the swamps and deeper holes in the river system means great fishing and hopefully a bumper prawn season for our trawlers. The graziers should have a good season as well with plenty of grass and surface water for their cattle. Unfortunately, we won't know numbers of stock losses for a couple of seasons so let's hope that it's not too bad. While pulling a sign back into place on the wetlands, I was reading the info sign and noted that the annual rainfall was around the 910mm. We were well and truly above average this year.

Our hearts go out to our western neighbours in Burketown and surrounding properties for their losses and at the same time we are very relieved that we were spared that heartbreak and loss caused by an out of the ordinary low-pressure system that dumped record levels of rain. For those who are at their wits end after 10 weeks of being couped up spare a thought for the residents of Doomadgee who had their 3-month anniversary last Friday and are still not likely to drive anywhere soon either.

As we approach the end of the season, we keep our fingers crossed that there are no more weather surprises yet to befall us, but we all know that the band doesn't stop playing until the end of April. Personally, I have never experienced such mild conditions before, during a wet up here and must admit I am a little bit spoilt to find these last few days

of heat quite uncomfortable. Time to harden up again, I guess.

Recognition and thanks go to all involved with the resupply including volunteers and our own outside crew. As usual they put in an effort far and beyond their normal duties to make things happen while transferring goods down the river by boat. Special thanks to Brett Hawkins for his efforts in the whole of operations. His compassion and politeness while being on the front line here in the towns doing all the face to face was something for himself and the whole community to be proud of.

There has finally been some movement on relief funding for those flood bound victims that haven't been able to work since before Christmas. Small business should be able to get a bit of a leg up as well as those who do seasonal work. Contact details etc. are now on Facebook and in our Disaster Dashboard on the Council web page. Bottom line is, if you're not comfortable with the internet to go online to myGov, then get advice from Services Australia (Centrelink) or call the toll-free number in the Media Release. I believe it will be like Job Seeker from Covid days. Only Burketown, Camooweal and Urandangi qualify for the \$1,000.00 handout. This is purely because they are the only ones that have been inundated. It may seem unfair but given the choice between being flooded and getting a thousand bucks or not being flooded and missing out, I'm happy to miss out and not be flooded.

Because of the weather it's been hard to be out and about when you must factor in the costs of flights here in the Gulf. As a WQAC delegation though, we managed to get to Brisbane and Canberra on the same trip. Some good conversations were had around Road funding, Housing, Water sustainability and Disaster management. I remained quiet on the water one but did remind them that the fishing and prawning industries need to have a balance with the



Ag industry. Everyone agreed that it was a fine balance that had to be monitored closely.

There are serious discussions happening regarding road funding at the State level. Western Shires will get an increase if it all goes to plan. The pot is no bigger, but it will be divided differently. The reason given was because we have our priorities aligned and can deliver. I guess it proves that if you have the solutions before putting your hand up you are looked on more favourably by the departments.

I am running into problems with my pages and spacings so I will quit while I'm still ahead and sign off now. Remember to contact your council representatives or staff if you need anything while we are still in the recovery stages (any time really).

Until next time, Keep Safe.

Jack Bawden

ADVOCACY

During the month of March, the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer attended the North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC) meeting in Richmond.

Mayor Jack also attended meetings/deputations in Brisbane and Canberra on behalf of the NWQROC and Western Alliance of Councils.

Topics included roads, quarries, road funding, housing, water allocations, health, banking, and first home buyers grants.

MARCH 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 March Agenda are below

ALGA – National General Assembly

Council resolved to authorize the attendance of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and CEO to attend the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) – National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra from 13-16 June 2023.

The NGA will be followed by the Australian Council of Local Government meeting on Friday 16th June, this will be the first time that this meeting has been held in more than 10 years. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and CEO will remain in Canberra to also attend this important meeting between the Federal Government and Local Government.

Terms of Reference – Local Housing Action Plan Advisory Committee, K 150 Advisory Committee, RADF Advisory Committee, Normanton Heritage Advisory Committee

Council endorsed and adopted the draft Terms of Reference for a new Advisory Committee to progress the Actions in the Local Housing Action Plan. The Council will call Expressions of Interest for two members of the public to become members of the Advisory Committee, keep an eye out for this in the coming weeks.

Council also endorsed and adopted the Terms of Reference for the K150 Advisory Committee, the RADF Advisory Committee and the Normanton Heritage Advisory Committee.



Use of the Esplanade – Karumba Point

Council resolved to grant a five-year permit for the Sunset Tavern and Anchorage Bar and Café to utilise the Esplanade in front of their businesses, with conditions.

Program of events for the Outback by the Sea Festival

Council endorsed the draft program of events for the Outback by the Sea Festival which will be held in Normanton and Karumba between the 25th and 29th September 2023.

DRFA – Project Management Services

Council considered the tender received for the provision of Project Management Services for the DRFA works and awarded the tender to Erscon.

Internal Audit Plan, Internal Audit Policy, and Charter

Council endorsed the 2023-2025 Strategic Internal Audit Plan and adopted the Internal Audit Charter and Internal Audit Policy as presented.

2023-2024 Revenue Policy

In preparation for the 2023-2024 budget the Council adopted the 2023-2024 Revenue Policy as required by legislation.

Community Donations

Council considered several requests for fee waivers and approved a total of \$22,230 of fee waivers for nine community groups.

Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)

Council considered and adopted the recommendations from the RADF Advisory Committee to approve \$29,500.00 towards events.

Tenders – Wet Plant Hire

Council considered the submissions received from interested suppliers of equipment for the 2023 Construction Season and approved the Register of Prequalified Suppliers. Some additional information is required from several contractors.

THANK YOU

Several thanks were relayed at the Council meeting to acknowledge the efforts of the Transport Companies, particularly thanking Brett Hawkins for his efforts to keep most informed of road and transport movements via Facebook posts, thanks to the SES, the many volunteers and the Council staff who assisted with the resupply efforts.

Road use

Council wishes to encourage motorists to be careful when driving on the roads as there is a considerable amount of damage. Please drive to the conditions and stay safe.

Our road crews will be starting to get to some areas and conducting repairs and will also continue to carry our road inspections.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council discussed the next Community Consultation which is due for discussion in Normanton and a tentative date will be within the fourth week of April.

Further information in relation to the community consultation for the Normanton Community will be available soon. Dates and times to be advised.

Normanton *Karumba*

DAWN SERVICE	MORNING SERVICE	DAWN SERVICE
Traditional Rum & Milk Albion Hotel 5am	Assemble for March Normanton State School 9:45am	Sunderland Park 6am
March to Cenotaph 6am	March to Cenotaph 10am	Breakfast Karumba Rec Club immediately after Service
Breakfast Albion Hotel immediately after Service	Morning Tea Normanton Shire Hall immediately after Service	

For more information please contact the Community Services Department at Council on 4745 2200

MEETING DATES FOR April 2023

The January Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday, 19th April 2023 commencing at 9:00am in the Meeting Room – Les Wilson Barramundi Discovery Centre, Yapper Street, Karumba.

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
19 & 20 April	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

Website: 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