



MONTHLY REPORT ON OPERATIONS

JANUARY 2025

Table of Contents

<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>GOVERNANCE KEY FOCUS AREAS.....</u>	<u>4</u>
PROGRESS AS OF JANUARY 2025	4
<u>INFRASTRUCTURE KEY FOCUS AREAS.....</u>	<u>6</u>
PROGRESS AS OF JANUARY 2025	6
<u>INDUSTRY KEY FOCUS AREAS.....</u>	<u>8</u>
PROGRESS AS OF JANUARY 2025	8
<u>ENVIRONMENT KEY FOCUS AREAS.....</u>	<u>9</u>
PROGRESS AS OF JANUARY 2025	9
<u>COMMUNITY KEY FOCUS AREAS.....</u>	<u>11</u>
PROGRESS AS OF JANUARY 2025	11

Introduction

The purpose of the Monthly Report on Operations is to provide a summary of the activities that occurred over the preceding month related to the operations of Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council aligned to the Corporate and Operational Plan 2023/24.

Our Vision	Our Mission
<i>It is our community vision that our future leaders will be engaged, empowered and strong.</i>	<i>It is our Mission to be transparent, honest and fair leaders for our community. To advocate and collaborate with and for our community.</i>
<i>Our community will be sustainable, informed, active and safe.</i>	<i>We will measure our success and review our methods and actions.</i>
<i>We will be known for our culture and its connection to our actions.</i>	<i>We will base decisions and direction on research, knowledge, local context and community engagement.</i>
<i>We will understand our community and define our own path and place in society.</i>	<i>We will create a framework to build and restore culture.</i>
<i>We will advocate, lead and collaborate.</i>	<i>We will form pathways into existing legal and government organisations for action and advocacy.</i>
	<i>We will show initiative and leadership to support families to achieve greater education and employment.</i>

Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council goals are:

1. **Governance** – Open, inclusive and accountable representation
2. **Infrastructure** – Effective town planning infrastructure designed to support the communities visionary planning to suit changing needs into the future.
3. **Industry** – Develop sustainable economic to contribute to a prosperous local economy and improve opportunities and living standards for all.
4. **Environment** – To enhance, protect and sustain the local environment.
5. **Community** – A vibrant community that is safe, healthy, educated and proud of their culture and traditions and embraces diversity.

Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council acknowledges the traditional owners, Gaangalu Nation People, Wadja People and the Barad Kabalbara Yetimarla People. Elders past and present, also the many descendants of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that reside in Woorabinda and surrounds.

GOVERNANCE



Open, inclusive, and accountable representation

Governance Key Focus Areas

- A Technical Working Group that determines standard for service delivery that enhances community solutions across government
- Councillors Development Forum that provide information to effective decision-making
- Contract Management compliance and service delivery improvements.
- Budget effectively monitored and reviewed
- Adopt a bottom-up approach that place decision-making in the hands of the community.
- Organisational Structure that builds the capacity and capability of the workforce.
- Infrastructure Management Plans that meet regulatory requirements

Progress as of January 2025

1. Community Safety Plan

- **Community Engagement:** Surveys and in-person sessions were held with community members and stakeholders on November 5-6, 2024. Topics included alcohol and drug impacts, crime and policing (CCTV), infrastructure (roads, lighting, fencing), youth safety, and support for vulnerable groups.
- **Participation Milestone:** Achieved feedback from roughly 8% of the community, exceeding the initial expectation.
- **Data Collection and Validation:** Feedback was categorized into themes, with a focus on understanding the community's perspective on safety and Alcohol management.
- **Survey Platforms:** Surveys were conducted both online and in-person to ensure accessibility and inclusivity.
- **Completed engagements by Councillors:** Mayor and Councillors were in the community completing engagements with community members.

2. Council Development

- Qld Police Service:- Provided an update on the issues in Woorabinda and expanded on the possible responses to deter the crime rate in Woorabinda.
- Local Disaster Management Group Workshop/Meeting to increase knowledge and understanding of the Disaster Management Framework

3. Contract Management & Service Delivery Improvement

There are a number of Grants with surplus funds that are currently being analysed to determine underspend and/or incorrect coding of expenses.

Regulatory

- QAO 21/22 Financial Year Audit – Representatives of QAO visited Woorabinda in January to finalise the audit and obtain the last required documentation.
- WASC Annual Financial Report has not been released for two (2) years.
- Water Regulation:- In December 2024 Council has been penalized by not abiding to the Drinking Water Quality Management and will be required to report to the Water Regulator monthly the next 12 months.
- Undoonoo Day Care Centre:- is non-compliant, and we are now in breach of Funding Obligation due to not uploading children attendance and Session reporting since March 2024.

Funded Programs

- Local Thriving Communities Grant – Council has decided not to continue with the Grant and awaiting response from the Department to the next steps.
- Negotiating variation for the Interim and Forward Capital Housing Program. There has been no confirmation of acceptance of the variation.
- Undoonoo Daycare Centre standards has been audited by the Child Care Service Regulator with a number of non-compliance yet to be rectified. Though efforts have been focused on the Childcare Centre, there is still a requirement to meet other aspects of the standards.
- Ranger Program funding suspended for 24/25 due to not providing acquittals for the 21/22, 22/23 & 23/24 Financial Years.

New Program

All Council Funding Agreements are yet to be formally acquitted by providing the end of Financial Year Audit Report that have been delayed. Where possible annual Profit and Loss have been provided to acquit grants.

INFRASTRUCTURE



Effective town planning and infrastructure designed to support the communities visionary planning to suit changing needs into the future.

Infrastructure Key Focus Areas

- Waste Management Plan that identifies opportunities for circular economy
- Industry Specific skill development opportunities for the workforce
- Facilities and Public Places consistently maintained
- Identify opportunities for cost recovery from Capital Infrastructure projects
- Obtain community feedback on initiatives that impact on individuals and groups
- Grow technical expertise internally
- Capital infrastructure projects completed on time and within budget

Progress as of January 2025

1. Planning and Development

Community Hub & Disaster Recovery Centre:- This project is continuing with the Architects working on completing a full set of working drawings which will be used as the Tender documents in our Tender to identify a Builder/Contractor to delivery the Community Hub Disaster Recovery Centre.

Forward Capital Program – Green Street Development:- Awaiting Agreement for the Capital plan – 2 x 2 Bedroom Duplex's + upgrade to Water Main Valves + Operational works plan for Subdivision.

Work4Queensland:- Funding application has been successful to undertake Water Treatment Plant Upgrade, Council Housing Upgrades and Animal Care Facility. WASC has received its 2024-27 funding of \$1.8M

Woorabinda Water Park: - WASC has been successful in it application for funding for \$1.3m.

Women's Facility & Netball Courts Upgrade: - WASC has received \$1.9M to deliver this project, starting with a Design stage. This Project will be incorporated into Plans to develop the Football oval and surrounds.

Water Security Plan:- Two (2) Engineer Reports have been completed relating to the damages to the Bores and the ongoing failures to the Water Treatment Plant. These reports will be the basis to source funding to ensure further Water Security for Woorabinda.

2. Housing Upgrades, Repairs & Maintenance

Water Isolation Valves:- 89 Isolation Valves have been completed so far with another 3 packages to be delivered by 30 June 2025.

Monthly Work Orders for December 2024 and January 2025 include:

Carpentry – 53 Job Cards

Electrician – 43 Job Cards

Plumbing – 42 Job Cards

Glazier – 3 Job Cards

Other – 1 Vacate Job Cards

Total= 142 Work Orders

3. Water Quality

Boil Water and Water Restrictions were issued in December due challenges with meeting the water turbidity levels down as a result of increase rainfall over December and January.

4. Capital Infrastructure Program

The Town Signs - Project Manager to Identify Contractor to quote the installation of Footings for Signs to be installed.

Woorabinda Airstrip Upgrade Program project plan is in the process of being implemented and the sealing of the surface will commence in February 2025.

Cemetery Precinct Development Project is being managed by Qld State Government. A Consulting firm has been appointed and awaiting commencement date.

Mechanic's Yard Resurfacing and Drainage Project - WASC has secured stage one of the project and is required to complete Stage 2 by May 2025.

Woorabinda Council Offices capital program initiatives included the installation of a new front entrance. It is intended that further works will include painting of the Council office building.

INDUSTRY



Develop sustainable economic activity to contribute to a prosperous local economy and improve opportunities and living standards for all.

Industry Key Focus Areas

- Review Procurement Policy to provide increase local economic opportunity
- Pilot workforce initiatives for specific industry sector
- Provide specific training relating to Building Services
- Standardise commercial arrangements for Council assets for local business growth
- Focus on Council Enterprise Entities viability
- Establish a Community Transport Services that is structured and targeted
- Determine industry pathways to decrease unemployment rates
- Provide commercial spaces that meet current building codes.

Progress as of January 2025

1. Workforce Initiative

The 'Give-it-Ago' strategy has benefited the organisation by increasing the workforce.

As of December 2024 Council workforce consisted of a total of 98 staff.

2. Staff Recruitment

WASC currently employs approximately 98 staff.

Recruiting:

- Senior Administration
- Centrelink Officer
- Compliance Officer x 1
- Environmental & Animal Management Workers
- Finance Officers
- Roads Maintenance Crew
- IT Trainee

3. Woorabinda Pastoral Company

Council continues to provide Governance support to the Board of Woorabinda Pastoral Company. The CEO position has been advertised and recruitment to be finalised in February 2025.

ENVIRONMENT



To enhance, protect and sustain the local environment.

Environment Key Focus Areas

- Woorabinda Healthy Country Plan implementation
- Recycle in a feasible way
- Bio-Security Planning the includes community participation
- Evidence-based approach that influence environmental approaches
- Waste reduction, reuse and recycle
- Circular Economy opportunities
- Feasibility and funding opportunities for Mimosa Creek Waling Path

Progress as of January 2025

1. Illegal Dumping

- The Compliance Officer/s have commenced identifying and investigating potential sites of illegal dumping.
- Further training will be provided to Compliance Officer/s on regulatory requirements.
- Additional resources such as surveillance camera will be established to reduce illegal dumping.

2. Public Health

Animal Management:- Community information notices published highlighting stronger dog laws and responsible pet ownership after a number of dog attacks and dogs not under effective control. Current impounded animals include:

- 5 dogs
- 9 puppies
- 1 cat
- 2 kittens
- 1 pig

Environmental Health:- The following issues have been identified to influence activities for 2025.

- Food Safety
- Mosquito monitoring for disease
- Animal Management and disease monitoring
- Pest Management

3. Abandoned Vehicles

- 13 vehicles identified and photographed for actioning with owners. An Abandoned Vehicles Register has been established.

- It is proposed the community education campaigns are delivered in collaboration with Department of Community.
- Complain Officer/s continue to identify Car Removalist companies to offer better deals to residents.

5. Biosecurity Planning

- The Qld Feral Pest Initiative (QFPI) tied to the Future Drought Fund Community Impact project is progressing positively and will conclude with the production of the Woorabinda Biosecurity Management Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009.
- An extension to the schedule project completion is needed to ensure the positive work on getting the *Community on Country* initiative instituted after the successful Changemaker event involving Elders, Traditional Owners, leaders and youth at Blackboy 14-15 October 2024

COMMUNITY



A vibrant community that is safe, healthy, educated, and proud of their culture and traditions and embraces diversity.

Community Key Focus Areas

- Co-design service delivery to overcome socioeconomic development
- Indigenous knowledge Centre programming
- Sport, Recreation and Fitness Training
- Woorabinda Leadership Group for Local Decision-making
- Gym facility operationalized
- Small Grants that support community initiatives and events
- Community Safety Planning
- Sport, Recreation & Fitness Industry career pathways
- Sporting Facilities utilization that meets community needs
- Facility structural improvements to include the pool and IKC

Progress as of January 2025

1. Indigenous Knowledge Centre

- The IKC Archival Project is an important step in assessing and collating all materials we have at the IKC into a dedication storage and viewing space for people to access. This will be achieved through the National Library of Australia Grant we received for a Significant Assessment with Elders & Historians.
- We will start our Deadly Digital Inclusion workshops James Collins SLQ – i) Who's Your Mob – First Nation Family History Research; ii) Podcasting: Sharing Oral Histories & iii) Pocket Cinema – learning to capture stories on film, videoing & creating documentaries.
- Expansion of IKC services – i) outreaching; ii) security fencing and iii) extra staff.
- We are continuing our discussion with WASC on i) the 100th Year Commemoration of Woorabinda, ii) Woorabinda War Memorial & iii) Taroom Trek.
- Continuance of our normal library programs.

2 Woorabinda Gym & Pool

Pool will be opened with extended hours to help combat the water restriction
Highlight

- **Gym** – The gym been a big success in the Community with 119 Members and 6 workers.
- **Pool** - The pool will start with programs from Wajda High, Yoonthalla and Woorabinda State School utilizing our facility during work hours, to conduct water aerobics, swimming lesson.

3 Centrelink Agency

- Centrelink Agency - One candidate applied for the vacant position. Prior to employment a National Police Check Approval is required.

4 Undoonoo Day Care Centre

- New employees have commenced at the Daycare Centre to build capabilities and training as certified educators.
- Senior Regulatory Officers visited Wednesday, 28th August to undertake an Audit.
- Ongoing compliance issues are still ongoing and corrective actions are being undertaken to rectify all issues.

5. Community Justice Group

- Co Ordinator positions vacant
- Male DV support worker – 2 interests will follow up with both applicants.
- We will be implementing a new Justice structure and invite community members to apply for members' position.

6. Community Engagement - Night Patrol

- Night patrol has been very effectively. Staff has been instrumently with their present at the WASC building. New staff members as a few have no shown up but have a lot of interest from community members for the position.

7. Community Bus Service

- Is operating during the following days Monday to Saturday 8am – 5pm Monday to Thursday Friday 8am – 5pm Saturday 8am – 12pm. We currently have 2 bus drivers. We will be running a service on Saturday 20/12/24 to Biloela for shopping as the local shop will be closed. We will continue to operate as to community needs.

8. Community Events 2025

It is intended that working groups to be established for the following.

- NAIDOC
- Taroom Walk
- Woorabinda Day
- Woorabinda Rodeo
- Community Christmas

