



**MONTHLY
REPORT ON
OPERATIONS**

SEPTEMBER 2024

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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 September 2024

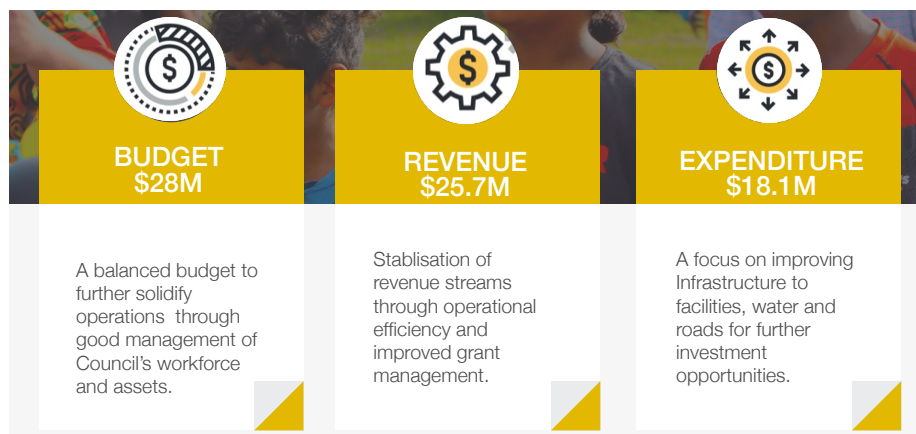
1. Community Safety Plan

A consultant has been appointed to undertake the engagement process to develop the Community Safety Plan. The following approach is proposed:-

- Planning - September/October 2024
- Engagement & Research – November/December 2024
- First Draft – January 2025
- Council Adoption – February 2025

2. Budget Finalisation

Budget 2024/25 was approved by Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council on 31st July 2024.



Capital Program \$9.9M	-	Fees & Charges \$942K	+	Grants \$15.8M	+
Plant & Equipment - \$1.8M Water & Sewerage - \$824K Road Infrastructure - \$180K Buildings (Housing) - \$2.9M Other infrastructure - \$3.7M Information Tech - \$80K		Every year fees and charges are reviewed by Council. There are various functions and responsibility delegated to Council under government legislation requiring a fee.		Council has managed to secure Government funding as tied grants revenue that is subject to contract conditions to meet community needs.	

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 – All documented evidence from Woorabinda Pastoral Company has not been submitted to QAO and we are awaiting the outcome. Latest update is that audit will be completed and tabled for the October Council meeting.
- WASC Annual Report has not been released for two (2) years.
- Water Regulation:- There is outstanding matters over a number of years and was issued an Information Requirement in March 2023.
- Sunwater:- Exceeding water allocated by 58.57M and will require a remedy by 27th September 2024.

Funded Programs

- Local Thriving Communities Grant – Surplus fund of \$457 to be identified. Contract Manager as suggested to expend with the next LTC Agreement.
- Negotiating variation for the Interim and Forward Capital Housing Program. There has been no confirmation of acceptant of the variation.
- Undoonoo Daycare Centre standards has be audited by the Child Care Service Regulator with a number of non-compliance yet to be rectified.

New Program

- Illegal Dumping position .6 has not yet been recruited. DES has agreed to support the processes to develop the procedure guide prior to recruitment.
- No progress to the NIAA funding or the LTC from DATSIP

Incidents

- Dog attacks approximately 3 reporting on other animals
- Critical Water Supply
- Civil works damage to cables
- WHS incidents relating to two (2) staff members

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 September 2024

1. Planning and Development

Community Hub & Disaster Recovery Centre:- There is a delay to the commencement of construction to allow the time to meeting Qld Planning Act requirement and notification to Native Title Groups.

Forward Capital Program – Green Street Development:- A variation is currently under assessment by Department of Housing to progress the works.

Work4Queensland:- Funding application has been completed to undertake Water Treatment Plant Upgrade, Council Housing Upgrades and Animal Care Facility.

Council Office Front Façade: - It is intended that a renovation be undertaken to the front entrance of the Council Office. The works will include a security roller and automatic doors.

Bore 4 Camp:- A plan has been developed to address all outstanding problems. The structural issues will be carried out by the WASC Building Crew.

Water Security Plan:- All four (4) bores have undertaken an assessment and it is identified that there a hydraulic and electrical problems.

- The pumps of the primary Bores 3 & 4 need to be lifted, to gauge full extent to faults and fixes needs. A very large rig with a purpose build spool cradles frame and winching system would be needed due to the age, weight and depths of the pumps (500-550m).
- Bore 1 a secondary supply asset had damage to the bore pump at the 124m level.

The Water Security Plan will be finalised once on-the-ground action with the bores has commenced.

2. Housing Upgrades, Repairs & Maintenance

Water Isolation Valves:- Approximately 46 shutoff water valves are being rollout into the community. Tenders have just closed and the start date is yet to be confirmed.

Monthly Work Orders for July 2024 include:

Carpenters – 73 Job Cards

Electrician – 39 Job Cards

Plumbers – 29 Job Cards

Glazier – 5 Job Cards

Tree Loppers – 3 Job Cards

Total= 149 Work Orders

3. Water Supply

The reservoir has had a major failure on Saturday, 24th August as result of the Program Logic Controller (PLC) that stopped the Water Treatment Plant processing treated water.

Steps were undertaken for an immediate response that included:

- Planning:- Coordination team was established to respond to the issues relating to the PLC failure.
- Containment:- Through increased monitoring and deployment of strategies to ensure water capacity was maintained.
- Repair:- Ensuring that the contractor and staff progressed repairs through effective decision making.
- Solution:- Maintaining regular contact and communication with the Water Regulator and Public Health.

Approximately 150KL was transported into Woorabinda and 500 bottled water distributed to households over a six (6) day period.

The Water Treatment Plan recommenced making treated water on Thursday, 29th August 2024.

4. Capital Infrastructure Program

Public Toilets have been completed and are open for community use.

The Town Signs have been delivered and awaiting TMR update on the placement of the signs on the Fitzroy Development Road

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 September 2024

1. Policy Development

Procurement Policy:- Is currently in draft and will enable Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council to refine a localized preferred supplier list and provide greater opportunities for Indigenous Owned Businesses.

2. Workforce Initiative

All Management positions have now been filled and transition existing staff to team leader position will commence.

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

As of September 2024 there has been over 90 Expression of Interest. Casual employees registered with an Employment Agency receives all PPE, employment support, training and a wage subsidy.

3. Staff Recruitment

WASC currently employs approximately 70 staff.

Recruiting:

- Community Services Manager
- Senior Administration
- Senior Ranger
- Senior Parks and Gardens Officer
- Centrelink Officer
- Work, Health and Safety Officer
- Personnel (HR) Officer
- Compliance Officer x 2
- Environmental & Animal Management Workers
- Finance Officers (Including Payroll)
- Roads Maintenance

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 September 2024

1. Woorabinda Healthy Country Plan

Rangers:- Have developed and has commencing preparing to deliver strategies related to their Fire Plan.

General supporting the parks and Gardens team with clearing community paths around the IKC and working with CQU to complete studies for the Rangers

2. Rangers Program

- Monitoring fires on country continued and back burning when appropriate.
- Collaboration with the State School for under 8s week through an education program of the environment in Woorabinda and native animals.

3. Public Health

Council is in the process of designing and costing the establishment of an Animal Care facility. It has become noticeable to the reduction of dogs in the community due to increased options to community members to surrendering puppies.

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 September 2024

1. Indigenous Knowledge Centre

- New Grant Agreement has been endorsed

2. Woorabinda Gym & Pool

- Pool will be open and operational by 30th September
- Lifesaving training has been completed by 10 members of the community including seven (7) employed people and one (1) high school student.
- Upskilling Gym staff will occur in January 2025 with the delivery of Certificate III in Fitness.

3. Blackboy Outstation

- Request for quote for the installation of new Smoke Alarms and safety switched to the power boxes had been issued.
- Accommodation is being utilised by visiting services, contractors and organisation.
- Bookings for approximately 45 guests during July 2024
- Televisions have been installed in Cabins

4. Centrelink Agency

- Centreline Agency vacancy is currently being reviewed and advertised. The Centrelink Remote Team is scheduled Woorabinda in September 2024.

5. Undoonoo Day Care Centre

- The Centre closed for a period of five (5) weeks to undertake renovations to meet Industry Standards.
- 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.

6. Community Justice Group

- Department of Justice and Attorney General have confirmed funding for a further two (2) years.
- DV Support Workers position remain vacant and will be advertised again.
- Nine (9) clients have been supported CJG in September.

7. Night Patrol

- Night Patrol has commenced and will operate seven (7) days a week for six (6) weeks. Hours of shift will be 1800-2300 and 2300-0400. Council have employed eight (8) staff rostered for two (2) days on and two (2) days off.

8. Community Bus Service

- Is operating during the following days Monday to Saturday 8am-5pm with daily bus service to Baralaba for banking and shopping. Once a week to Biloela for shopping.

9. Woorabinda Day

- Event Planning has commenced for Woorabinda Day scheduled for Friday, 25th October 2025. Agencies in Woorabinda and externally are working together to deliver a number of activities.

