



# Water support package offers six priority infrastructure projects

The State Government has offered the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council a package of support and assistance to address the community's water infrastructure concerns and issues, Local Government Minister Stirling Hinchliffe says.

"Assistance will be provided by the Department to Council with respect to its infrastructure needs," he said.

"The Department of Local Government has been working with the Palm Island Council for months to assist with

concerns raised, especially regarding infrastructure.

"Over the last few months the Department has also been working with engineering consultants to compile asset condition reports for the islands water treatment plant (WTP), wastewater

treatment plant (WWTP) and raw water network."

The reports, which make recommendations about infrastructure works, maintenance, processes and resourcing matters, will be provided to Council in full. →

*Happy NAIDOC Day 2019 Palm Island!*



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The Department of Local Government has identified six priority infrastructure projects to be delivered over the coming months:

- Installation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to the WTP
- Internal clean, roof replacement and vermin proof the 4.5ML main drinking water storage reservoir
- Decommission two undersized water treatment plant reservoirs and replace with a large 3ML treated water tank to increase capacity of treated water storage
- Install additional backwash and sludge tanks and pump
- New raw water line from Solomon Dam to WTP
- New raw water line from WTP to main reservoir

# Water issues top priority

The Department of Local Government will work with Council and others to confirm project priorities and how existing funding arrangements available to Council can be used to deliver these projects.

The engineering reports also identified maintenance and operational procedures for the WTP and WWTP need addressing – the infrastructure adviser will assist in addressing these recommendations.

Mr Hinchliffe said the measures would go a long way to ensure an ongoing safe drinking water supply on the island.

“This assistance package is being provided at the request of Council with the best interests of the Palm Island community at its core,” he said.

“The Member for Townsville Scott Stewart and Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey united in support of the package, which is all about serving the best interests of the Palm Island community.”

Member for Townsville Scott Stewart said the support package was an important step forward for the Palm Island community.

“The Palaszczuk Government is committed to supporting Council so that it can continue to serve the needs of the local community,” he said. “The extra

support we’re providing has been welcomed by Council and marks a significant increase in State Government assistance.

“I’ll continue to advocate on behalf of Palm Island residents to ensure they get the services they deserve.”

Mayor Lacey said: “We’ve appreciated the help from the Department so far and look forward to this partnership deepening to address the needs of our community.

“The whole council welcomes this assistance.”

## PICC to run new support service

A new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Violence Support Service, to be run by the Palm Island Community Company (PICC), has been funded for the next three years by the State Government, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Di Farmer (*pictured*) says.



“There is already some really good work being done in this space on Palm Island, and this service will increase the support available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing domestic and family violence on Palm Island and

surrounding communities,” Ms Farmer said.

Member for Townsville Scott Stewart said while domestic violence affected every gender and every community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women were overrepresented in the statistics.

“We know domestic and family violence is experienced by Indigenous Australians at a disproportionate rate, and it has devastating impacts on communities,” he said.

“At the core of all domestic and family violence services, including this new one on Palm Island, must be victim safety.”

PICC CEO Rachel Atkinson said the service had only been up and running about two months but was already making a difference.

“We are very proud to have the opportunity to deliver vital domestic violence services to local people,” she said.

## Palm Island Artists enjoy success at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair



A group of several Palm Island artists travelled north last weekend to join in this years Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF).

They said they sold more than half the paintings they took with them.

Cultural & Arts Centre Supervisor Ian Palmer said it was a great opportunity.

“To see our artists putting some of their displays here amongst a lot of different communities’ artists was a privilege,” he said.

“And seeing other art works from other communities was great and it was great opportunity for our artists to express their artwork up here

in Cairns as well.”

Artist Agnes Wotton said she was hopeful all her work would sell.

“I want to thank Palm Island Council for giving us this opportunity, for getting us up here and seeing what its all about,” she said.

“Other galleries are very interested in what we’re doing and I spoke to a lot of people up here.

“Hopefully the Council will support us, this is our dream and we need their support.”

# Mission Songs come home to Palm



*Pics thanks to Mere-Rose Paul*

## Finance controller appointed

Part of a package of support and assistance from the State Government includes appointing a series of advisors to assist the Palm Island Council, Local Government Minister Stirling Hinchliffe says.

“Recognising the critical financial situation and a request for further assistance from the Mayor and Council, the Department has begun the process of appointing advisors to assist the Council,” he said.

“This will consist of a financial controller, and a governance advisor.”

Former Aurukun CEO,

now with the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Gary Kleidon has since been named as Finance Controller, who will work with accountant Neil Michel.

Mr Hinchliffe said the measures would go a long way to ensure stability within council and the broader community.

## WATER NOTICE

We still ask residents to

**REDUCE THEIR WATER USE**

until further notice.

**PLEASE DON'T WASTE WATER!**



YOU MUST CONTINUE to

**BOIL ALL WATER**

even if you have filters on taps.

**NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 281) THURSDAY 25 JULY  
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The **Palm Island Voice** is published fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor. You can follow us on Facebook! We have 2,454 'likes'! We accept paid advertising. For rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)



**Operating Hours for Palm Island Council are Monday–Friday 8am – 5pm**

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