

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 321.1

Monday 15 March 2021



PLEASE note there may be some images of deceased persons within this publication.

Extensive road repairs underway

Extensive and repeated damage has occurred to our sealed and unsealed road networks since the first major rains from Cyclone Imogen in early January 2021 the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council CEO says.



“Road damage can only properly be repaired when the road surface is dry and as we have had ongoing rain for 6–8 weeks, we have not been able to repair the roads as frequently or to the standard we would like,” the CEO said.

“The worst areas of damage have been repeatedly made safe through placement of gravel – such as at Esplanade and Dormitory Dr.

“This has worked for short periods of time as the gravel has remained wet and not settled with any strength however constant vehicle movements over these areas has broken up the gravel,

creating damage on damage.

“I appreciate we are all frustrated with the time it is taking to repair the worst of the damage.

“Where possible, we have fixed single potholes, such as on Main St, Clump Point Rd and Farm Rd, with an asphalt material that can be used while the surrounding area is wet.

QRA on board

“We have worked with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) over the last several weeks to assess the damage and ensure we can carry out repair works in accordance with their requirements.

“That means we are not able to undertake significant repair work until it is approved by QRA.

“There are nine major sites on our sealed road network that have had extensive damage – I’m sure we all know exactly where they are.

“These nine sites will be prioritised for repair and it is pleasing to see all of the work happening over the last week along Farm Rd, Clump Point Rd, Mango Ave, Dormitory Dve, Luma Luma etc.

“There is more to come as we work through all of the damaged sites.”

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE!



More from the CEO's Desk...



ROADS

What are we doing about permanent fixes for the annual wash out of our roads?

We are aiming to progressively concrete as many of our roads as possible.

For example, we have recently applied for funds that will allow us to continue to concrete the Esplanade and Beach Rd from where the concrete is now to the intersection with Prior St.

As funds become available, we will concrete as much of our road network as possible – this is the only way we can prevent the annual severe damage to our road network from the heavy monsoon rains.

STORMWATER

The damage to our road network is mainly caused by storm water flows.

Unfortunately, a lot of storm water flows along our



roads, washing away the road surface and creating large potholes and full washouts.

During the recent rains we undertook some analysis of storm water flows associated with the worst damage to our roads, such as on Stanley St, Tarpaulin Dr, Mango Ave, Dormitory Dr, Luma Luma Dr etc.

This analysis showed that we need significant new storm water management infrastructure, especially at the top of Tarpaulin Dr and Sailor St.

We will soon be submitting funding applications to build new, and repair/upgrade existing storm water infrastructure.

We have also undertaken significant recent maintenance on our storm water networks, especially along Farm Rd and at Rodeo Grounds.

This will help to keep more water off our road network.

In addition, we have built three new culverts along Butler Bay Rd to keep the storm water off the roads to prevent damage.

It was particularly pleasing

to see so many locals get employed on the culverts work with nearly 80% of the workforce for the several weeks it took to construct the culverts being local people.

WATER & SEWER

The recent rains have also badly impacted the operation of our water and sewer network.

For example, our limited storm water system saw much more material than normal enter our sewer system, stretching it to capacity and in some cases creating temporary blockages.

To ensure our sewer system continues to deliver the importance service it does, we recently engaged contractors from the mainland with specialist equipment to come and clean out the sewer pits and pipes – over five days they cleaned all sewer pits ensuring they can cope with the further heavy rains predicted over summer.

The silver lining to all this rain is that our water reservoirs are full and completely free of any blue-green algae.

NOTICE OF NATIVE TITLE GROUP MEETING

Cape York United # 1 Native Title Claim (QUD673/2014)

PALM ISLAND

This notice is to advise that Cape York Land Council will be in Palm Island to meet with Cape York Traditional Owners in relation to the Cape York United #1 Claim (shown in grey on the map below).

Monday 22 March 2021 @ 5:30pm

Community Dinner - **Fred Clay Park, Palm Island**

Dinner and refreshments will be served.

Tuesday 23 March 2021 – all day

Consultation – **PCYC, Palm Island**

CYLC staff are available to discuss the claim with Traditional Owners from Cape York.

Wednesday 24 March 2021 @9:30am to 2.30pm

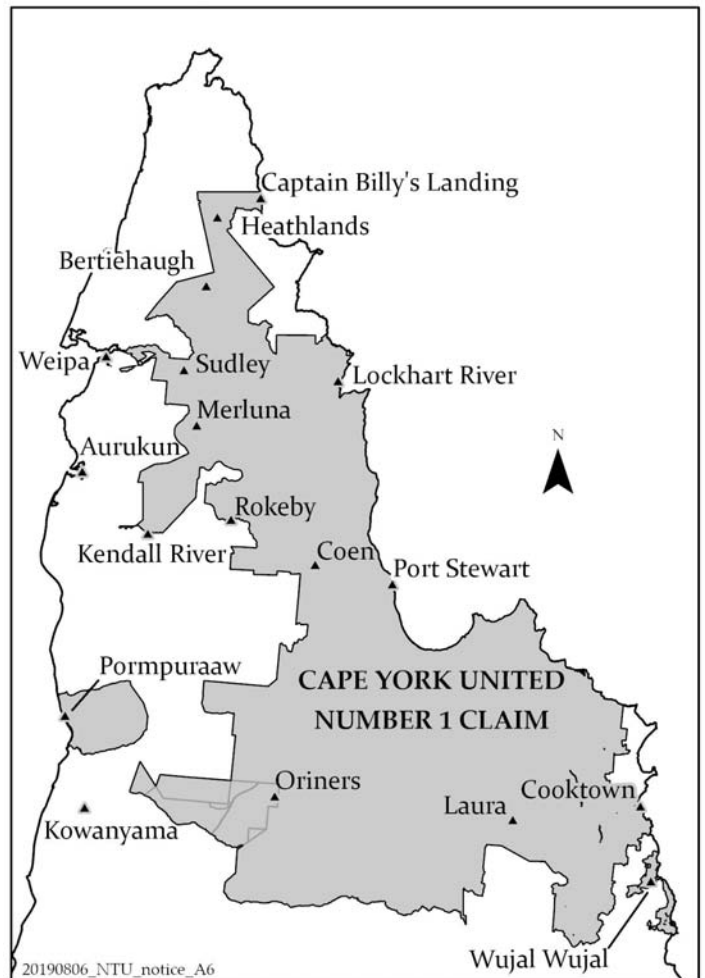
Community Meeting – **PCYC, Palm Island**

Lunch and refreshments will be served.

Thursday 25 March 2021 – all day

Consultation – **PCYC, Palm Island**

CYLC staff are available to discuss the claim with Traditional Owners from Cape York.



Purpose of these meetings:

These meetings are for Cape York Land Council to meet with Traditional Owners from Cape York to provide updates on the Cape York United #1 claim. We will hold an open community meeting on Wednesday 24 March 2021. CYLC staff will also be available outside of those meeting times to discuss the claim with any Traditional Owners from Cape York.

If you would like to attend the community meeting or otherwise make a time to meet with us, please contact **Michelle Friday-Mooka** at CYLC on free call number **1800 623 548** or by email mfriday@cylc.org.au.

We also welcome all to attend a community dinner on Monday 22 March 2021 in Palm Island. Please contact **Michelle Friday-Mooka** to RSVP.

Please note that there is limited funding available for travel assistance.

Townsville Hospital and Health Service Update



COVID-19 vaccinations are being rolled out across Australia.

Townsville nurses received their first dose on Friday 5 March and Joyce Palmer Health Service staff started getting their jabs last Tuesday.

Priority groups such as health workers and quarantine and border workers will be the first to receive the vaccine.

The Astro Zeneca vaccine is the one that can be transported to Palm Island and stored in our vaccine fridges - it will arrive in Townsville in late March.

The vaccination timetable will be distributed to community when firm dates are agreed. All people over the age of 18 years are able to get the jab unless you have reacted badly to previous vaccines.

You are encouraged to get the jab for the safety of your family, friends and yourself. It means the community can resume large events and not worry about the risk of getting the virus – all community members should be vaccinated.

Local Thriving Communities (LTC) Community Information Forum

All Community Members and Stakeholders are invited to attend an information session to hear about Local Thriving Communities.

What does Local Thriving Communities mean for me?

Local Thriving Communities:

- strengthens community voice
- creates economic opportunities
- enhances local decision making

Local decision making:

- informed by community
- community at centre of decision making
- builds on strengths
- responds to community needs and priorities



Representatives from the
Department of Seniors, Disability
Services and Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Partnerships

Dr Chris Sarra - Director General

Mr Tim Fell - Executive Director
Local Thriving Communities

Where: PCYC Arena, Palm Island

When: Thursday 18th March 2021

Time: 10am to 12pm - Community Forum
Followed by a BBQ Lunch

Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships



We're (mostly!) back to fortnightly!
OUR NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 322) will be
Thursday 18 March
for publication on MONDAY 22 March!

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 2,695 'likes'! The **Palm Island Voice** accepts paid advertising. For rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at chowes@westnet.com.au

The **Palm Island Voice** is free and online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

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

If you have any questions please contact Reception on 4770 1177 or 4770 0200

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 4,495 'likes' on Facebook!!!

