



Kowanyama News

December 2025



Unanimous vote returns Territa to TCICA chair

Proud Kunjen Traditional Owner and Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Territa Dick, was unanimously re-elected as chair of the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) at their AGM in November.

Under her leadership over the past two years, TCICA has helped to unite councils across Far North Queensland in their advocacy for housing, health, education and infrastructure, to ensure a strong and resilient future.

Community says 'farewell' to beloved CEO

Last month, Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council bid a heartfelt farewell to CEO Kevin Bell and his family – Mikayla, Eli, and Ryleigh (pictured below left) – all of whom will be greatly missed by the community.

Kevin began with KASC in June 2018 as Sport and Recreation Manager, where he championed programs that brought people together.

In 2019, he stepped into the role of Executive Manager of Community Services, continuing his commitment to improving local services.

After acting as CEO for six months, Kevin was officially appointed to the position in October 2022, leading the Council through significant projects and community initiatives.

"His leadership has left a lasting impact and we thank Kevin for his dedication and service over the past eight years," Mayor Territa Dick said.

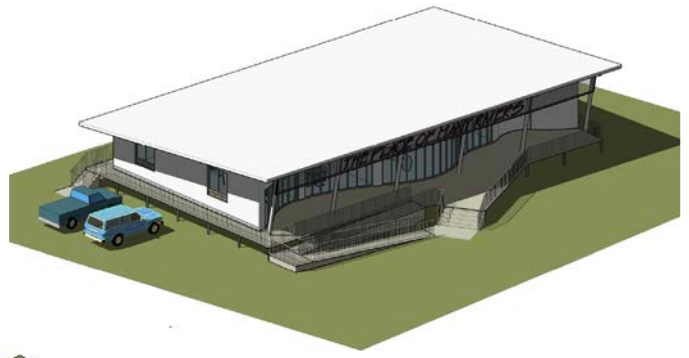
"We wish him and his beautiful family all the best in their next chapter."

Mark Crawley (right) will be acting CEO until a permanent candidate is selected by the Mayor and Councillors.

Mark is a senior executive with 24 years of experience as a Chief Executive Officer across a range of diverse local governments in Queensland.



Kowanyama to build multipurpose disaster centre



Kowanyama is about to receive \$8.2 million in funding to build a state-of-the-art Local Disaster Coordination Centre.

The Kowanyama Local Disaster Coordination Centre will be a 'hub' for the community, delivered through a partnership between Commonwealth, State and Local governments.

It will strengthen disaster management and emergency service operations, ensuring our community is better prepared and protected.

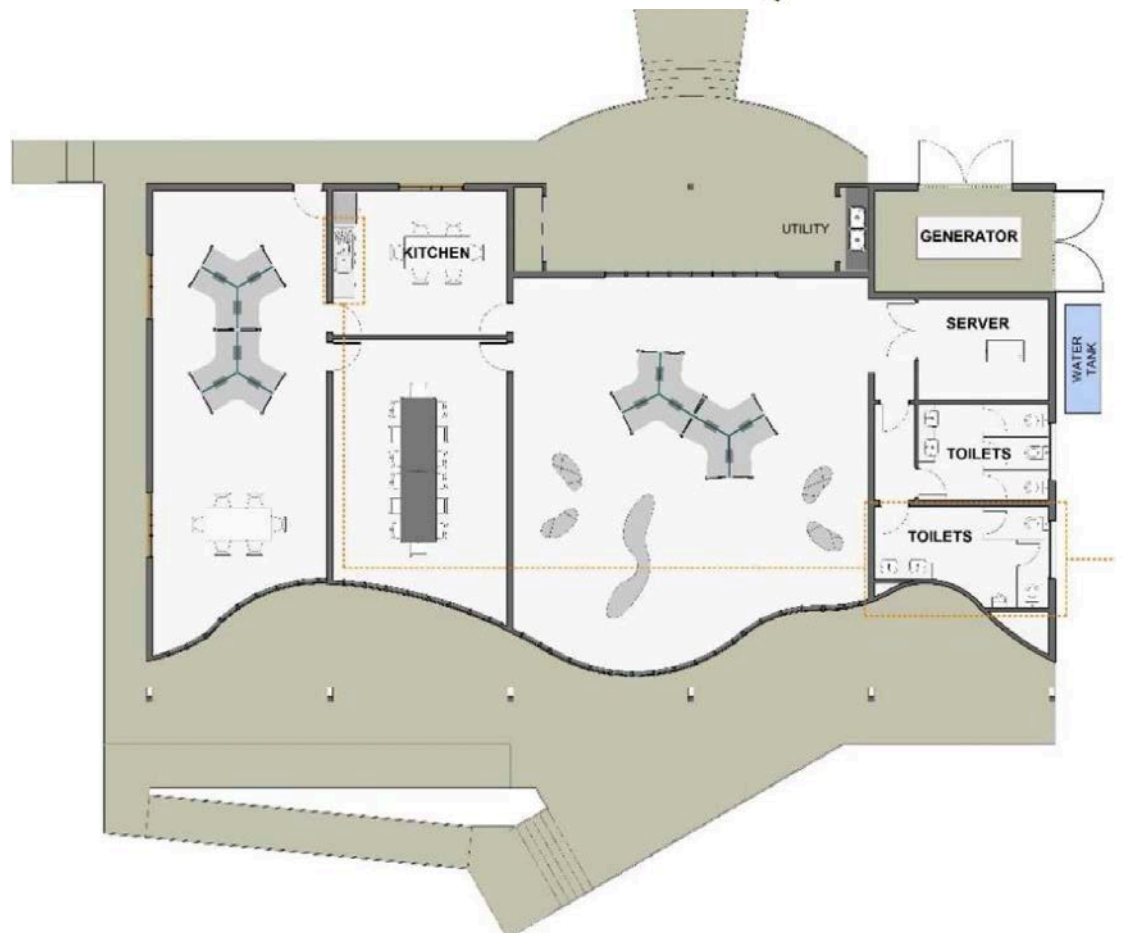
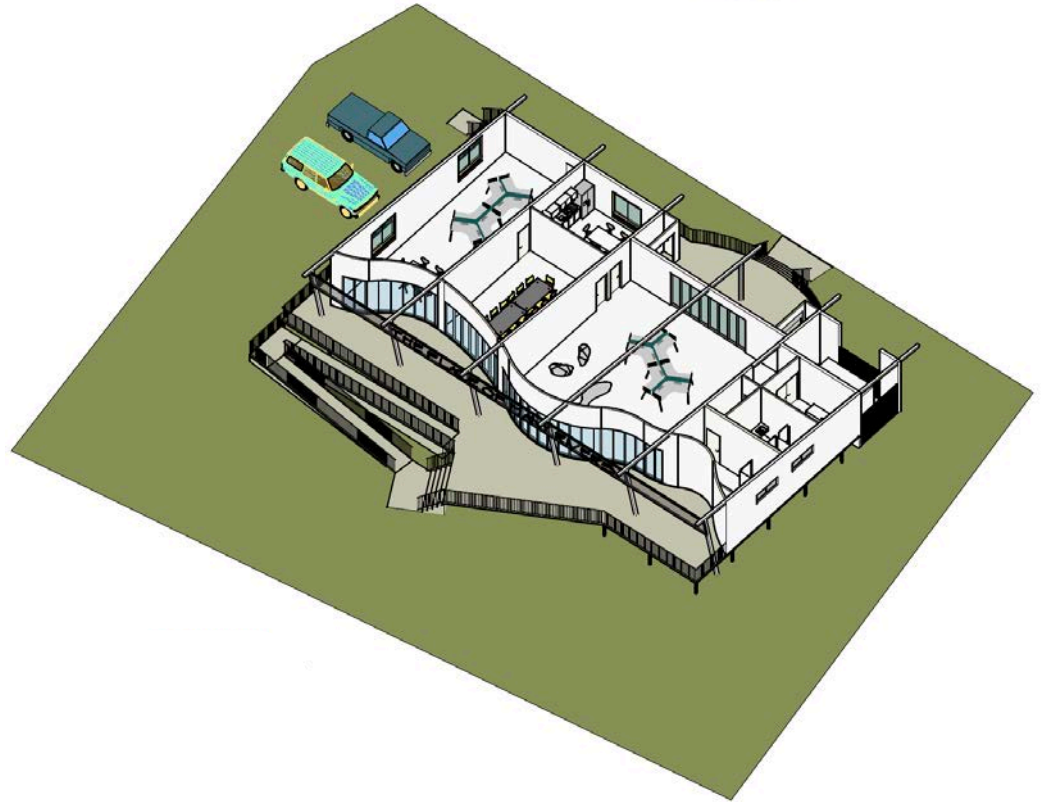
"But this investment goes beyond resilience," Mayor Territa Dick said.

"It's about community.

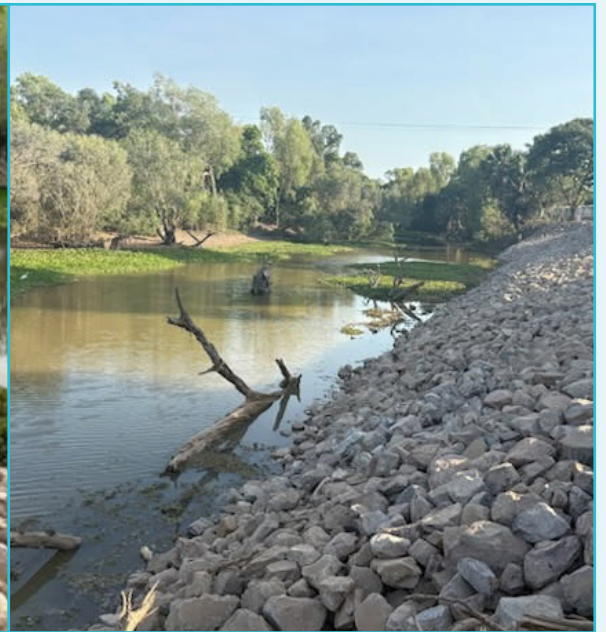
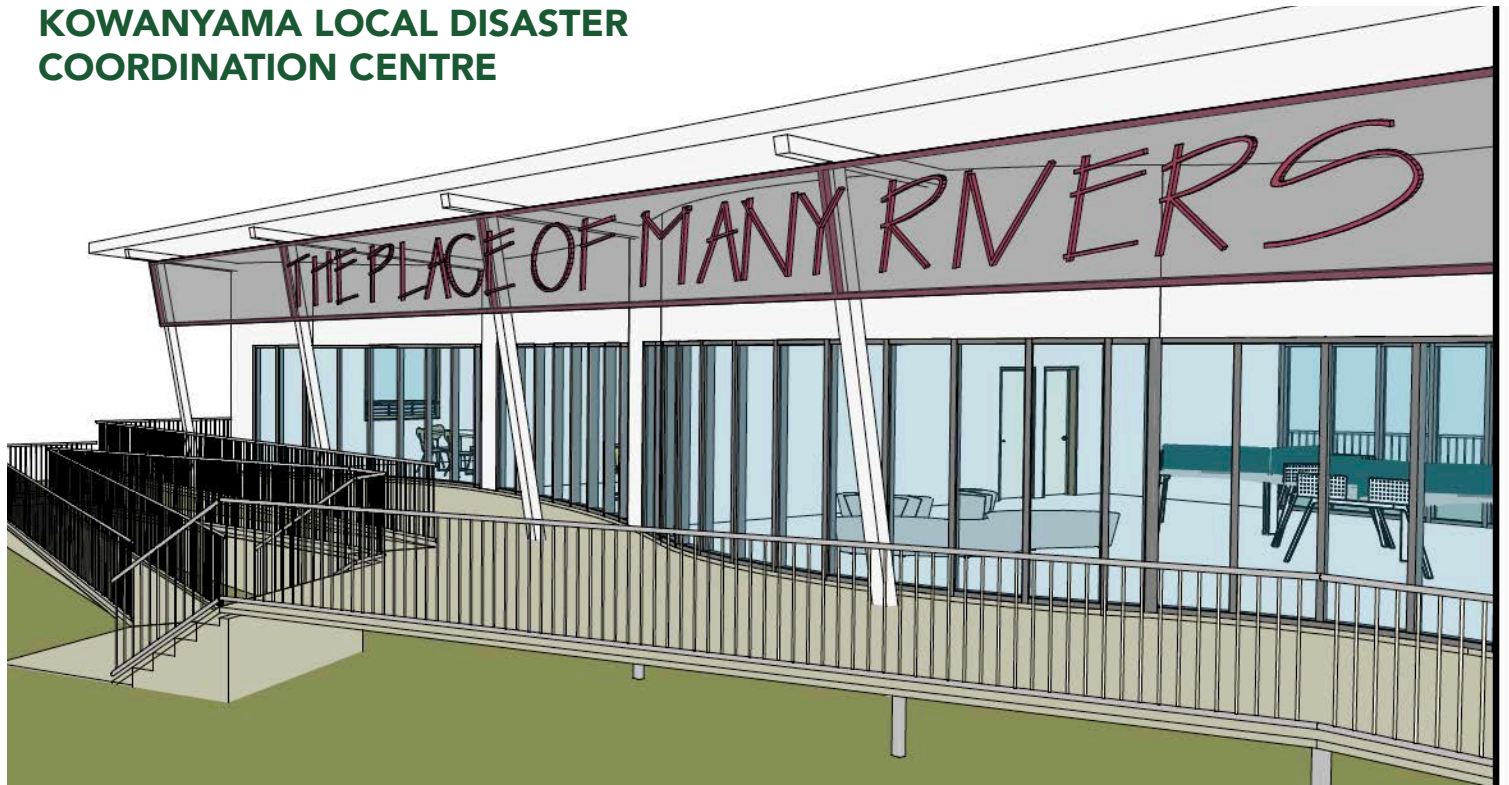
"When not in use for disaster response, the Hub will become a cultural space, hosting ranger programs, cultural activities and language reclamation initiatives."

She said the project was a key step in building back better after natural disasters and creating a facility that serves both safety and cultural pride.

"It's an exciting milestone for Kowanyama and a testament to what collaboration can achieve," she said.



**An artist's impression of the new
KOWANYAMA LOCAL DISASTER
COORDINATION CENTRE**



Building Resilience: Creek stabilisation work on the Magnificent river system

Important works are happening along the banks of Magnificent Creek near town to protect our environment and community.

The project is focused on stabilising the creek banks and reducing erosion, ensuring greater resilience against flooding and natural disasters.

Funded through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority's Resilience Program, the works include placing armour rock, installing geofabric and implementing erosion control measures.

The improvements will safeguard homes, infrastructure, and the natural beauty of the creek for years to come.

Council office renos on the way



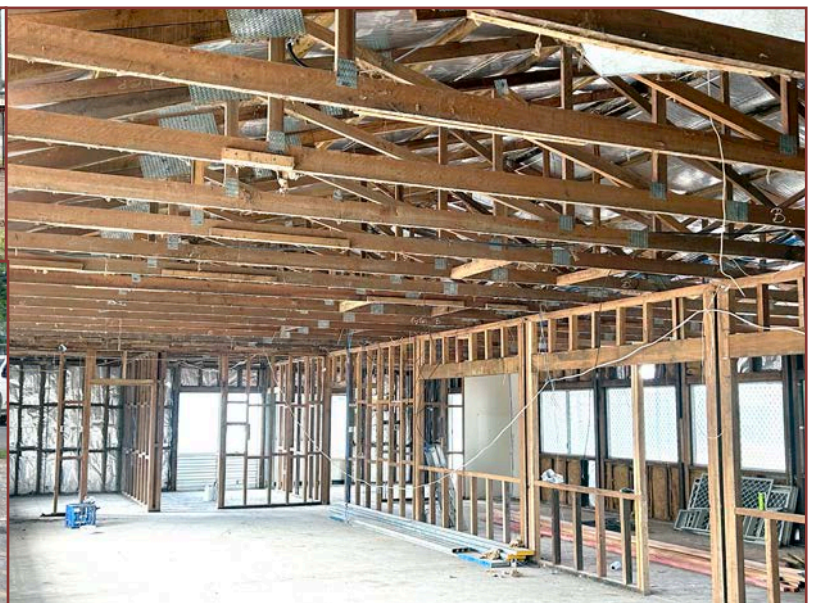
Work is rapidly progressing on the new Kowanyama Shire Council building, with Bartos leading the charge.

Renovations were expected to be finished by March, delivering a modern, functional space for the delivery of services to our community.

The project was made possible by the Queensland Government's Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program, an \$8 million package shared

among Far North Queensland councils for critical infrastructure projects.

Mayor Territa Dick said she was excited to see this investment come to life and said she looked forward to welcoming everyone into the improved facility next year.



Suicide prevention: working together for stronger communities



Kowanyama community hosted an important visit that brought hope, new ideas and encouragement for local efforts to prevent suicide and support wellbeing last month.

After a request from the Kowanyama Community Care Group, Apunipima Cape York Health Council, the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council and Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service organised a visit from the Yarrabah Community Crisis Support Network.

The highlight of the visit was a talk about Yarrabah's successful Suicide Prevention model, which sparked lively discussions and ideas for developing a local Suicide Prevention and Response Model in Kowanyama.

More than 35 people came to hear the talk and show their strong interest and commitment to improving mental health.

During their stay, the Yarrabah team also met with Mayor Territa Dick and senior members of the Kowanyama Land and Sea Rangers, to ensure leadership, culture and country were part of the conversations.

A collaborative spirit and the level of sharing during the visit showed how powerful it could

be when communities came together, listened to one another, shared ideas and supported each other.

It was a good step forward for Kowanyama as the community continued to build support networks and create strong, community-led solutions to prevent suicide.

Kowanyama model

With support from the Apunipima Culture Care Connect team, the creation of a Suicide Prevention and Aftercare Response Model, specifically for Kowanyama, will start in early 2026.

To understand what the community needs from the Apunipima program, we would like to work together and develop a shared understanding of the issues, challenges and solutions with interested community members.

We will listen carefully to people who have lived through suicide or have struggled with suicidal thoughts so we can learn from

their experiences.

We'll also be yarning with other interested local community members, groups, and key people to include their ideas and priorities for designing a community-centred model.

The goal is to explore topics such as raising awareness about suicide and preventing it, early help, crisis support and responding to distress – all in a way that respects local culture and fits with what the community needs and wants.

By working closely together, we'll make sure the Kowanyama community have a model to implement that reflects local voices and helps keep the community safe and supported.

The community will have a model that can be driven and implemented by community champions and volunteers who want to see no suicides and a stronger Kowanyama community.

We look forward to working with ALL interested and passionate community members.

Suicide is Everyone's Business: If interested in being part of the design, please contact: Jo Borg (mob: 0404 491 016 email: joanne.borg@apunipima.org.au) or Nerelle Nicol (mob: 0467 056 369 email: nerellenicol@gmail.com)



Kowanyama is proud of the incredible young people graduating from Kowanyama State School this year.

To our students: you've worked hard and shown resilience.

You've balanced school with family, sport, culture, community responsibilities, and the unique challenges of life in a remote community.

And still, here you are—strong, proud, and deadly.

This achievement reflects not only your dedication but also the unwavering support of teachers, parents, carers, and families.

Thank you for shaping and guiding these bright young leaders of tomorrow.

Your commitment ensures that Kowanyama's future remains strong and full of promise.

Congratulations to all our graduates—you inspire us every day!

Congratulations Year 10 Students!



Celebrating excellence: Kowanyama's Year 12 shine at Tec-NQ



Two graduating Year 12 students received multiple awards at the Tec-NQ Graduation and Awards ceremony held in Townsville last month.

Engineering Student of the Year and recipient of the Principal's Award – the highest honour awarded at Tec-NQ – was Sam Hudson.

Plumbing Student of the Year, Tec-NQ Indigenous Year 12 Student of the Year and recipient of the QATSIF (Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation) Scholarship Award was Lleyton Raymond.

The QATSIF award, funded by money held back from the labour of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders (stolen wages), was a recognition for his commitment to completing his senior schooling and his role as a positive Indigenous leader within the school community.

"Their achievements reflect not only their excellence within their trade areas, but also the

maturity, perseverance and leadership they demonstrated throughout their time here," Mayor Territa Dick said.

Tec-NQ Head of Boarding Luke Papworth said they could not be prouder of the two young men.

"Throughout Year 12, they consistently displayed resilience, respect and a strong work ethic, approaching every challenge with determination and humility," he said.

"Both Sam and Lleyton were strong leaders within the boarding house and at Tec-NQ, acting as positive role models for their peers and proudly representing their community.



"They have developed into exceptional young men who are motivated, grounded and community-minded.

"It has been a privilege to support them through their journey at Tec-NQ, and we have no doubt they will go on to achieve great things in life."

Vet visit for our four-legged friends

Kowanyama welcomed Burton Veterinary Contracting for their very first visit to care for our furry community members this month.

Vets Hannah and Lauren discovered cases of E Canis, a tick-borne bacterial disease that can make dogs very sick.

But the good news is they're working with Council to provide free tick prevention, including Bravecto chews that protect for three months.

Animal Management worker Reynold Jupiter will help owners learn how to spot symptoms and keep pets healthy until the vets return after the wet season.



Let's work together to keep our dogs strong, happy and safe!



Connecting in Kowanyama with 'FNQ Connect'



At the beginning of November, FNQ Connect held a community barbecue in Kowanyama to collaborate with locals to develop a shared agenda for action together.

FNQ Connect works to assist people to access better services through an inclusive and supportive network of providers.

It was hoped that a shared agenda would bring about better and more connected care and support for the Kowanyama community.

LEFT: Chris and Tahlani from the FNQ Connect team, preparing food for the community BBQ



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Aboriginal
Shire Council**



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