



# Kowanyama News

May 2026



**It has been a very busy and productive few months here at Kowanyama Shire Council, Mayor Territa Dick writes ...**



Photo thanks to LGAAQ.

As Mayor, I am proud of the work being done across Council as we continue striving to deliver services that truly reflect and meet the needs of our community.

We have recently welcomed our new Chief Executive Officer, who has already hit the ground running, and Council has officially moved into our new premises.

These are important milestones that strengthen how we operate

and position us well for the future.

Community safety remains a key priority. I have been working alongside Queensland Police Service and fellow Mayors through the Mayors Working Group on the Community Safety Charter, ensuring our community voice is heard in shaping safer outcomes for our people.

In late April, our Councillors joined our other Indigenous

Mayors, Councillors and CEOs at the Local Government Association of Queensland's Indigenous Leaders' Forum in Cairns (pictured above).

Discussions were focused on strengthening economic development, improving community health outcomes, addressing housing shortages and reforming alcohol management policies.

*Territa*

Since the unofficial opening of the Kowanyama Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) in May, 2025, what is known locally as 'the Studio' has become a valued space for community members to inquire, create and communicate in a quiet, technology-rich, air-conditioned environment. The success of this State Library of Queensland-supported initiative can be seen in participation and momentum as it continues to evolve as a place of opportunity, supporting learning, creativity and the sharing of knowledge across the community. This first year marks an important foundation for what comes next, so watch this space for more!





# Rangers fan the flames at fire and carbon talks in Darwin



**Mayor Territa Dick and Deputy Mayor Teddy Bernard travelled with our Rangers to Darwin to represent Kowanyama at the 2026 Savanna Fire Forum and National Indigenous Carbon Forum in February.**

The Savanna Fire Forum is a well-established event that supports Indigenous leadership in savanna fire management, fosters knowledge sharing and promotes best practice.

The National Indigenous Carbon Forum addresses broader carbon management methods that highlight

Indigenous rights and interests in carbon across Australia, and supports opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to manage their Country.

“The trip was a valuable opportunity to share Kowanyama’s land management knowledge, learn new savanna-

burning techniques and build connections with Traditional Owners, ranger groups and industry leaders from across Australia,” Mayor Dick said.

“Council proudly acknowledges the Kowanyama Rangers for their ongoing dedication and for representing the community with pride on a national stage.”

## Keeping our animals safe

**Council Animal Management mob have been doing deadly work on Country, yarning with families and looking after our dogs and cats across the community.**

The April vet visit went really well, with free desexing, parvo needles, and tick, flea and worming treatments.

Every dog that got desexed also received a free collar and microchip.

The next vet visit is coming up on 15 June, with the same free services available.

The team will also be going house to house helping with treatments, micro-chipping and collars for registered animals.

**If you want your pet on the desexing list, call Lauren on 0417 659 095 or speak to Reynold.**



# Shaping our Future

*Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council extends our sincere thanks to all community members who attended the recent "Have Your Say" BBQ held on the Council lawn. Your valuable input, ideas, and feedback for the 2026/2027 budget play an important role in guiding Council's planning and decision-making. We deeply appreciate the time, thought, and care you contributed toward building a stronger future for our community.*



## Groups working together for Kowanyama

**Additionally, each month, Kowanyama Shire Council and Apunipima proudly host a combined men's and women's group at the Community Hall.**

The sessions have been very well-attended, with more than 50 men and women coming together to share laughs, yarn about the challenges they face and support one another.

The evenings have created a positive and welcoming space, strengthening connections and supporting mental health.

Shared BBQ dinners have been enjoyed by all and serve as a strong re-minder of the power of bringing community together to talk, listen, and heal.





*Strength, leadership and the stories of the women in our community were honoured at this year's International Women's Day gathering, hosted by the Council at the Community Hall. The celebration brought together mothers, aunties, grandmothers, sisters and daughters to recognise the vital role they play in caring for families, passing on culture and keeping community strong. The event was a welcoming space for yarning, connection and appreciation, and an opportunity to acknowledge the deep knowledge and resilience of Kowanyama women.*



## Kowanyama Shire Council has officially moved into the new administration building after three months of construction.

The new premises provide improved facilities for both staff and community members and support more efficient service delivery. The building includes a modern, welcoming reception area where community members can visit to make enquiries and access Council services. It also features a new Council

Chambers, designed to host Council meetings and community discussions that support decision-making and benefit Kowanyama.

Council looks forward to welcoming the community into the new space and continuing to work together for positive outcomes.

Keep an eye out for details about our official opening on Facebook, as we invite the whole community to come and see the new facility.



**The next Ordinary Council Meetings will be held at 10am in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 30 June. Community members are welcome and encouraged to come and sit in on the meeting.**

**Agendas are available three business days before the meeting here:**

**<http://www.kowanyama.qld.gov.au/council/council-meetings-agendas-and-minutes/>**



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