



Kowanyama News

June 2026



Rangers working together to heal our Country

In the pics: KASC Rangers Anzac Frank & Desanna Dick, PBC Ranger Timothy Malachi and Gulf Savannah NRM Ashley King. Pics thanks to Gulf Savannah NRM.

The Kowanyama Rangers have joined by PBC Rangers, Traditional Owners and Gulf Savannah NRM Project Officer Ashley King for weed management activities across our Traditional Country over two visits this year.

Each four-day program was an invaluable training and hands-on experience in identifying and treating weed infestations as partnerships were strengthened and knowledge shared.

In this month's visit, special recognition was given to KASC Senior Ranger Anzac Frank and PBC Senior Rangers Timothy Malachi and Desanna Dick for

their leadership, cultural knowledge and guidance on Country. With support from Manager Patrick Peever and partner organisations, the experience enhanced the rangers' skills in land management, leadership and collaboration, and contributed to the ongoing care, protection and healing of our Country for future generations.

Small business taking up opportunities

Kowanyama's small business sector was keen to take up the Council's invitation to meet with Kowanyama Community Champion and Queensland Shadow Minister for Small Business, Customer Service and Open Data Joan Pease along with MP Mark Ryan in June.



"[This] was an important opportunity to listen directly to local leaders, residents and small business owners about the issues that matter most to them," Shadow Minister Pease said. "From service delivery and housing to economic development, employment opportunities and support for local businesses, the conversations provided valuable insights into both the challenges and opportunities facing remote Queensland."

Mayor Dick said discussions focused on local priorities, opportunities and challenges and was an important platform to share ideas, build relationships and strengthen connections between community members and government representatives. "The visit highlighted the importance of ensuring Kowanyama's voices were heard and its aspirations recognised," she said.

"It was a great opportunity to showcase the strengths of our community and advocate for initiatives that support local growth, economic development and positive outcomes for residents now and into the future."



Leaders have their say at national level

Kowanyama's best interests and priorities were well-represented at the largest local government gathering in the country, the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly, in Canberra earlier this month.

Mayor Territa Dick, Deputy Mayor Teddy Bernard and Councillors Coralie and Charmaine Lawrence (pictured page 3) took the opportunity to engage with government representatives, local government leaders and industry experts at the national level.

Through presentations, workshops and

networking sessions, they were able to gain insights into funding opportunities, infrastructure development, housing, community services and economic growth initiatives.

"Attendance at the Assembly strengthened advocacy for Kowanyama's priorities while building partnerships that will benefit future projects," Mayor Dick said.

"The knowledge and connections we've gained will support informed decision-making and help Council continue delivering positive outcomes for the community and future generations."

It's always good to catch up, Federal MP Matt Smith writes...

I've been working hard, advocating for the far north this past month, across the region and in Parliament.

It was really great to meet with Mayor Dick and the CEO in Canberra to discuss Kowanyama's priorities and the Federal Budget.

Mayor Dick raised concerns regarding the lack of availability of land and access to cattle leases.

The biggest news from the Budget was a national Local

Infrastructure fund of \$2 billion announced to subsidise roads, sewerage, connectivity and everything necessary to prepare sites on which to build new houses.

Beyond that, there were other commitments that should bring great benefits across the Cape, including:

- \$37.2 million to support an additional 75 remote stores across the region with the Resilience and Efficiency Package,

strengthening First Nations community stores against supply chain interruptions and natural disasters.

- \$27.4 million as part of the Low-Cost Essentials Subsidy Scheme that reduces the cost of 30 staple grocery items in remote First Nations communities by 30 to 50 per cent. This funding will go to 225 local stores across four years.

I always value hearing your voices, and if you want to get in touch with my team at any time, you can call us on 4051 2220 or email matt.smith.mp@aph.gov.au

BELOW: Kowanyama Mayor Territa Dick, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council Mayor Robert PoiPoi and their CEO Dalassa Yorkston, Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) SEO Lucy Deemal, Federal MP Matt Smith, Torres Shire Council Mayor Elsie Seriat and their CEO Mary Bani, Pormpuraaw Mayor Ralph Kendall and Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council CEO Alan Neilan in Canberra.



BELOW: At the ALGA National General Assembly in Canberra was Deputy Mayor Teddy Bernard with Councillors Coralie and Charmaine Lawrence. RIGHT: Pormpuraaw Mayor Ralph Kendall, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council CEO Dalassa Yorkston, Northern Territory MP and Joint Standing Committee on Northern Australia chair Marion Scrymgour, Torres Shire Council Mayor Elsie Seriat, Kowanyama Mayor Territa Dick and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council Mayor Robert PoiPoi in Canberra.





Happy pets = happy community

The Animal Management team has had a productive few months, working alongside Steph and our visiting veterinary team to improve animal health and responsible pet ownership across the community.

In June, 15 dogs and cats were desexed and the team went on several house calls to assess and treat sick and injured animals.

Animal Management is continuing to work through house-to-house visits across the community, ensuring pets unable to attend the clinic still receive the care they need.

These visits provide an opportunity to have yarn about your animals, register and microchip pets, distribute tick, flea and worm treatments, and identify animals requiring veterinary attention for the team's next visit.

Their combined efforts have resulted in 80 microchips implanted and more than 100 tick, flea and worm treatments distributed.

If your pet is not yet registered or microchipped, please speak with the Animal Management team.

Magnificent!

Trees are in the ground and the final rock protection works are in place in an important milestone for the Magnificent Creek bank stabilisation project.

The project was designed to reduce erosion and help protect creek banks after damage was caused by heavy rainfall, flooding and other weather events over time.

Strategically placed rocks will help strengthen vulnerable sections of the creek, while newly planted trees will provide long-term stability through their developing root systems.

These measures will improve bank resilience, reduce soil loss, and support



the health of the surrounding environment.

The completed works highlight a commitment to protecting local waterways and ensuring Magnificent Creek remains a strong and sustainable natural asset for

the community.

As the vegetation matures, the project will continue delivering environmental benefits for future generations. The project was managed by Lackon and implemented by JVB Civil.

The next Ordinary Council Meetings will be held at 10am in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 28 July. 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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