



From Mayor
Joshua Weazel



**Welcome to our first
weekly newsletter.**

We're keen to keep you all as informed as possible and as you may know, things are changing very quickly as we work our way through the current Coronavirus pandemic.

Our Council has had a number of community meetings since we have been under the Biosecurity Determination.

We have made it a priority to keep the community informed on what decisions have been made on restrictions for our community.

There have been many changes that have occurred.

We will continue to have meetings when appropriate, our hope is that our newsletter will keep our community informed.

One of the most difficult things we have had to manage during this time of Coronavirus is the restrictions we have had to observe when attending funerals.

We have all been affected by the passing of community members and loved ones since our lockdown.

Council has made every effort to support our families who need to attend funeral with several applications to enter community approved by our Human Biosecurity Officer (HBO).

We are also keen to support people who have been out of the community and want to come back.

We have an ongoing process which has recently changed.

If you want to come back you must be prepared to undergo 14 days of isolation and you will be required to

**Local 'road map' will guide
us back to normal - Mayor**

After two weeks of cancellations, temporary travel for shopping and purchase of essential items may be reinstated this coming weekend if no further cases of Covid-19 are confirmed in Rockhampton this week, Mayor Joshua Weazel says.

"Unfortunately we had to cancel again last weekend, as per advice from QHealth," he said. "Testing in Rockhampton for more cases of Covid-19 is ongoing and we understand if there are no further cases this week the State Government Human Biosecurity Officer may confirm we can travel this coming weekend, on Saturday 30 May."

He said more information would be provided as it came to hand. **MEANWHILE** Aboriginal Shire Councils have been asked to develop 'road maps', similar to those published by other levels of government, for easing the current restrictions into the future, he said.

"Each Shire Council road map might be different to other communities," he said.

A spokesperson for the National Indigenous Australian Agency (NIAA) said the Australian Government had worked with State Governments on

restricting non-essential movement into Aboriginal communities.

"The Australian Government, working with State Governments and Indigenous leaders, restricted non-essential movement into remote Indigenous communities," he said.

"The arrangements were formalised by the Minister for Health making a determination under the Federal *Biosecurity Act 2015*, with each State Government designating where travel restrictions apply.

"State and Territory governments remain responsible for implementing the restrictions and may request changes to the areas designated under the Act."

Cr Weazel said the Council was working closely with the State to find a safe pathway back to 'normal' as quickly as possible without endangering Woorabinda residents.

Covid-19 testing available now!

Woorabinda Health Service can now offer testing for Covid-19 to:

- Everyone returning to the community (as part of their re-entry requirements);
- Anyone with symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath; and,
- Anyone who wants to be tested.

Those who are tested without symptoms can return home and isolate - stay home - until the results are known.

Those who have symptoms will be required to remain in the hospital, or designated accommodation, until the results are known.

have a Covid-19 test at the hospital.

In the first instance you should contact Council, answer some questions, and get your name on our list.

You will then be advised within 24 hours if you are eligible for supported accommodation, which is only available to those who were caught outside before the lockdown and live here permanently.

Non-supported accommodation such as staying with family, is subject to approval from our HBO.

If you have any questions regarding funerals please speak with Lenore Blair.

If you have questions re returning to our community please speak with Dawn Bounghi.

Please remember we are all doing our best.

Winter gear is finally here!

A truckload of warm winter gear finally arrived in Woorie last Friday, thanks to strong advocacy from several community members and organisations, Council and the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), Woorabinda Mayor Joshua Weazel says.

"It's been difficult to get the right kind of gear out here, and of course we haven't been able to get out and get it ourselves," he said. "But on Friday the Council truck picked up a load of donated clothing, appliances and blankets from Rocky.

"Our social services sector, Red Cross, CQID, PCYC, Yoonthala, and Cathy Freeman foundation have all been critical to this undertaking.

"Woorabinda Council and our community would like to sincerely thank everybody involved for their efforts to support our community at this difficult time."

JM Community Consultancy owner James Mundy (pictured left



above), who helped to coordinate the delivery, said he was proud and happy to help.

"I can't thank the local community members and local businesses for their support, efforts and generosity with

assisting the Woorabinda community," he said on Facebook.

"Even with all that is happening around us, this week is a kind reminder of what can be achieved when a community comes together for a common cause."



TRANSFER STATION

POLICE CHECKPOINT
Wednesday 7am–4pm
Saturday 9am–1pm

The transfer station allows residents to access food products from outside of the community and have them delivered for collection.

Woorabinda Council would like to thank the community for being respectful of our times and also those services assisting and managing our transfer days, particularly the PCYC, Cathy Freeman Foundation, Red Cross, CQID – Mimosa Healing, Yoonthala and others.

Please remember deliveries outside of the above times will not be accepted.

Thank you Woorie!



The Queensland Police Service would like to thank the Woorabinda Community for their patience, tolerance and compliance with the restrictions implemented to protect the community, especially vulnerable persons, Inspector Mick Dowie (pictured) says.

"The past few months have been very trying for us all, however, we are now able to effectively provide service delivery to the community with minimal risk due to the leadership and policies of the Local Disaster Management Group," he said.

"As a remote community you are perfectly placed to stop this virus entering, please continue to work with us and support our commitment to keeping your community safe."