

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 438

24 November 2025



PLEASE note there are images of deceased persons within this publication.

Council, staff and community working together



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is seeking community feedback after last month's visioning workshop, where elected members and the CEO worked with strategic partners to set the foundations of a plan to guide the Council's vision from next year through to 2031.

The community's ideas will be written into commitments as part of the final Corporate Plan 2026–2031.

Residents will have an opportunity to review the proposed plan and share their thoughts at a Community Consultation Expo to be held on Wednesday, 3 December.

Staff will also be consulted through a series of facilitated workshops.

"This is a roadmap for our community's future, ensuring we keep working towards priorities that make life better for our people," Mayor Lacey said.

"We're resetting the dial – strengthening governance, building clear processes and accountability, and improving Council's

capacity to deliver for our community."

CEO Emma Bradbury said the visioning and consultation process was key to good governance and community engagement. "This plan will capture the community's aspirations and turn them into achievable goals," she said.

"It's about aligning Council and Community's vision and values so we can deliver the outcomes our community deserves."

Mayor Lacey encouraged everyone to get involved.

"This is your opportunity to have a say – your future, your priorities, your voice will shape this plan."

He said the final draft of the plan would be presented at the January Ordinary Council Meeting.

Community Consultation EXPO

WEDNESDAY
3 DEC

PCYC

3-7PM

This is the community's chance to provide feedback

Enjoy a free sausage sizzle & hear from experts on the topics



MEANWHILE \$14,620,000 in funding for an 800-person cyclone shelter and evacuation centre on Palm Island has been announced, to come from the Federal Government's Disaster Ready Fund (DRF). *Palm Island Voice* will have the full story in our next issue ...

European leaders step into culture



A delegation of 19 European Union Ambassadors was hosted by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NQROC) in Townsville earlier this month, as part of a First Nations and Local Government Familiarisation Engagement Tour.

The overall tour was hosted by Indigenous Energy Australia,

The delegation met with Mayor Alf Lacey, Yarrabah deputy mayor Amy Neal, Indigenous Energy Australia Partnerships & Strategy Director Vonda Malone and NQROC representatives (pictured).

It was an opportunity for the international leaders to hear directly from Mayor Lacey, whose vision for Palm Island was centred on economic prosperity, self-determination and active participation on the world stage.

The delegation was welcomed through a traditional welcome to country and smoking ceremony, which left a strong first impression

on the visiting Ambassadors.

The ceremony provided an important moment of cultural exchange symbolising cleansing, connection, and respect for Country and offered guests a deeper understanding of the cultural foundations that underpin First Nations leadership and community life.

Mayor Lacey said the visit reflected a growing recognition of the role that regional and First Nations communities can play in shaping inclusive and sustainable futures.

“We are proud to welcome our international guests and showcase the spirit, strength, and potential of our people,” Mayor Lacey said.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Lest We Forget



A Remembrance Day service in the community to honour and remember those who have served and sacrificed for Australia was hosted by Council staff on at 11am Tuesday 11 November.

Remembrance Day is observed each year on 11 November as a national memorial day to reflect on the courage, commitment and sacrifices of all Australians who have participated in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations throughout the nation's history.

The library also featured a historical display highlighting the significance of Remembrance Day, the contributions and sacrifices of soldiers and a section dedicated to recognising the service of First Nations servicemen and women.

Mayor Alf Lacey extended his special thanks to Sgt Laurie Bateman, who served as the Master of Ceremonies for the service, and to the children who helped raise the flags, adding a meaningful and heartfelt contribution to the ceremony.

"Their involvement highlighted the importance of community participation and intergenerational connection, ensuring that the significance of Remembrance Day is shared with younger generations while honouring those who have served," he said.

After the service, a light morning tea was held in the library as an opportunity to reflect, connect and share stories.



Thanks to Council staff ...

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has introduced regular BBQ breakfasts to recognise the dedication of its workforce and the vital role staff play in serving the community.

The gatherings bring staff and even some of our valued partners and contractors together in an informal setting, offering a chance to connect and reflect on the achievements that underpin Council's work.

"It's important to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our team," CEO Emma Bradbury said.

"These breakfasts are about more than good food – they're about celebrating our teams and the people who make a real difference every day."

She said the initiative was part of their ongoing commitment to supporting staff and fostering a positive workplace culture.





Proposed Development

Make a submission from
10 November 2025 to
01 December 2025

MCU for Multiple Dwellings (10 one bedroom units) & associated Operational Works Development

Where: 481 Farm Road & Clump Point Road Palm Island

On: Lots 409 & 511 SP273615

Approval sought: Combined Development Permit

Application ref: 95032PAA & DA2024_026

You may obtain a copy of the application and make a submission to:

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

1 Main Street, Palm Island Qld 4816

reception@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au

Ph: 07 4770 0200

<https://www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au/>

Public notification requirements are in accordance with the *Planning Act 2016*



"Get Ready Palm Island"



STEP 1: UNDERSTAND THE WEATHER RISKS

Know what dangerous weather can happen to your home so you can be ready. Learn about your weather risks at getready.qld.gov.au/understand-your-risk

Tick what dangerous weather could happen where you live: By understanding your weather risks, you can have a plan to stay safe at home or leave quickly in an emergency.

DANGEROUS WEATHER EMERGENCY PLAN getready.qld.gov.au

Important information for you and your home BUSHFIRE FLOODING STORMS HEATWAVE CYCLONE Fire season is July - February. Check your council's website for fire areas. Rain or ocean tides cause flooding. Check council's website for flood areas. Storms can happen anywhere, any time. Heatwaves are deadly. Drink water, stay in shade, wear light clothes, a hat and sunscreen. Cyclone season is November - April and can impact community close to the ocean.

STEP 2: MAKE A PLAN

If dangerous weather comes,

COUNCIL MESSAGE IS: STAY HOME, HAVE YOUR CYCLONE KIT READY WITH:

Tinned Foods, Batteries,

Torches, Drinking Water,

Medications, Dry Clothes packed into dry container

Emergency Kits-bandaids, Panadol, etc..

Radio for updates

Follow along on Bureau of Meteorology or Council Facebook for updates. Stay connected.

- Prepare your household: Pack away any items in the yard that could be a dangerous flying objects
- Tape or Board Windows up, Move Outdoor Equipment under covers
- Check on Family Members at Family Camps to ensure they have moved into safe

Council Website: [Homepage - Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council \(palmcouncil.qld.gov.au\)](http://Homepage - Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council (palmcouncil.qld.gov.au))

STEP 4: AFTER THE WEATHER CLEARS:

Wait until Council advises Safe to move around in the community.

Do not drive across Flooded Creeks

Do not approach Fallen Powerlines

Council Message: Stay in your home,

do not leave while the cyclone approaches

**CHECK ON ELDERLY
NEIGHBOURS
& ELDERLY FAMILY
MEMBERS**

**If it's Flooded,
FORGET IT**

STEP 3: PACK A KIT(BOX):

Have supplies to keep you safe if you need to stay at home for three (3) days, even without power. If you need to leave (evacuate), you can take what you need. Where your kit is stored in your home:

Enough Drinking Water

Enough Food & Household Items

**REMEMBER: STAY AT HOME,
DO NOT LEAVE THE HOUSE
WHILE THE CYCLONE
APPROACHES**

Emergencies Numbers:

Palm Council: 47 700 200

Emergency: 000

Fire, police, Fire

Joyce Palmer Health Services: 47 525 100

Housing Palm: 47 701 305 or 1300 738 616

CEQ Store: 0458 820 202

Palm Island Community Company: 47 914 052

Flying our flags with pride

Council proudly raises the Australian, Queensland, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags every morning.

As per the Commonwealth Flags Protocol, they are respectfully taken down at the end of each day.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said the flags were more than just symbols.

"They represent pride, unity, and community spirit," he said. "When they fly high, they remind us all that Council is open, active and here to serve."

"Each flag tells a story of our shared history, our heritage and the sacrifices made by those who came before us."

"Displaying them daily is our way of honouring that legacy – showing we are proud of who we are and where we come from."

"It's also a warm signal to our community and visitors that Council is here to help, to care and to keep Palm Island strong."

"Together, under these flags, we continue to work for a healthier, safer and more connected community."

The flags are sometimes at half-mast as a mark of respect for the passing of a community member or a funeral.

This is part of official flag protocols and reflects the community's deep respect for those they have lost.



"Get Ready Week"

Department of Community Safety
Department of Local Government Community Recovery and Resilience

Palm Island Community Clean Up Week Disaster Readiness

Mon 17th - Fri 21st Nov 2025

Mon 1st - 3rd December 2025

Mon 8th - Wed 10th December 2025

Daily Pickup Times: 9am - 4pm

All unwanted items in your yard...!

Rubbish Truck Pick-up Times

MONDAY: Reservoir Ridge, Butler Bay

Residents, Airport, Schools, Canteen

TUESDAY: Farm, Chook City Residents,

Schools, Council, Shop Area

WEDNESDAY: Mango Avenue Residents,

THURSDAY:
TOP END Residents

Schools-

FRIDAY:
BOTTOM END

Council Shops Area-Motel-Hospital

White goods, Sharp Iron and Metal objects,

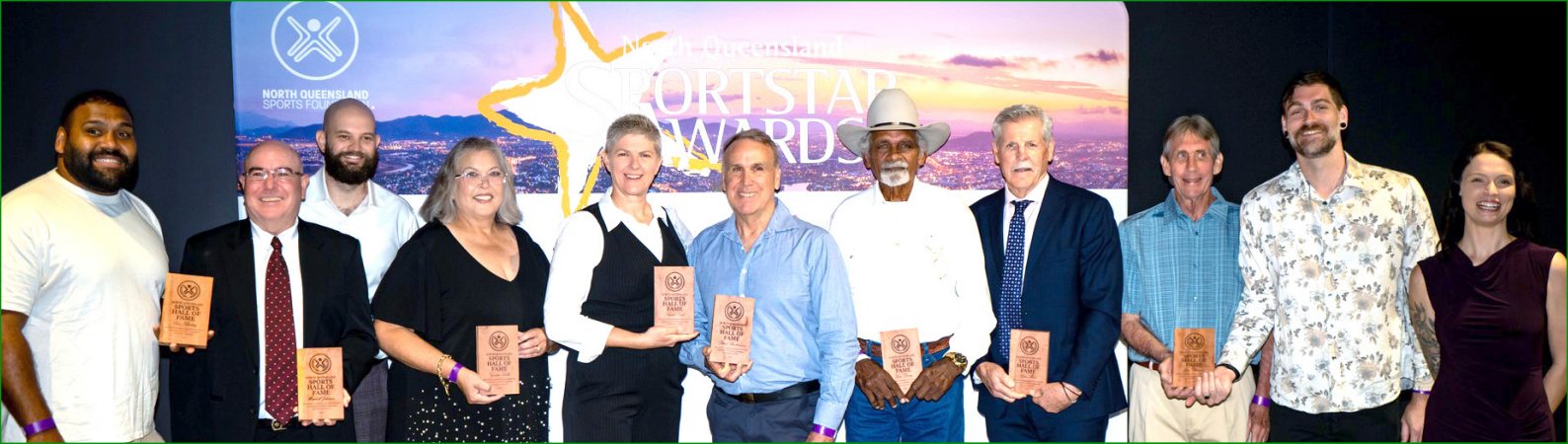
old unwanted furniture etc.

Please leave outside of your yard to be collected.

There will be NO collection

of Household Rubbish: such as food wrappers





Palm Island footy stars Vern Daisy and Sam Thaiday have been inducted to the North Queensland Sports Hall of Fame.

The pair were both present at a special event held last month to celebrate their achievements and contributions to the region's sporting legacy.

Previous inductees included Cathy Freeman.

The Hall of Fame project proudly showcases sporting history, honours our North Queensland legends, and creates a unique tourism asset for our region.

Pics thanks to North Queensland Sports Foundation.



THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*

**(Issue 439*) will be Thursday 4 December
for publication on Monday 8 December**



The ***Palm Island Voice*** is published *weekly if we have paid advertising, or otherwise fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. For advertising rates and/or more information contact the

Editor on 0419 656 277 or at howeschowes@gmail.com
Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and

letters to the Editor, Christine Howes.

You can also follow us on Facebook! We have 2,900 'likes' and more than 3,000 followers!

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

Operating Hours for Palm Island Council are 8am–5pm Monday–Friday
If you have any questions please contact Reception on 4770 1177 or 4770 0200
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 5,400 'followers' on Facebook!!!