

# Palm Island Voice



FREE!

## Issue 441

2 February 2026



PLEASE note there may be images of deceased persons within this publication.



## Wet weather warnings still in play

Palm Island has experienced a significant period of wet weather in recent weeks, with heavy rainfall impacting road conditions, travel, freight movements and day-to-day community activities across the Island – and there's more to come.

While the weather has brought challenges, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has commended the community for its patience, resilience and support as conditions changed quickly and access issues emerged.

Mayor Alf Lacey said Council's preparation and early response helped ensure the community stayed informed and safe.

"This wet weather has affected how people move around the Island and how services operate, including freight deliveries and travel," he said.

"But I want to thank our community for looking out for

one another, and our staff for stepping up to respond quickly and professionally."

Mayor Lacey said strong communication was critical during the event.

"One of the most important things during severe weather is clear and early communication," he said.

"Council worked hard to keep the community updated, and our disaster management arrangements were activated and ready when needed."

Updates will be provided, as required, and residents are encouraged to follow official channels for the latest information.

## Gym Open Day: Monday 16 February!

10am–3pm



Come & have  
a look at the  
new gym!

Community welcome – tell us what you think!

# Council Meeting Update: progress, planning and pride for Palm Island



*The newly elected Councillors in April, 2024. Pic by Andrew Rankin.*

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has held its January Ordinary Council Meeting and continues work to strengthen services, improve infrastructure and plan for Palm Island's long-term future.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the meeting reflected their focus on delivering practical outcomes for families, supporting local jobs and ensuring the Island was safe, liveable and something to be proud of.

"Council is committed to making decisions that support our community today, while also planning carefully for the years ahead," Mayor Lacey said.

"We want Palm Island to continue moving forward with confidence and pride."

Main points of discussion and ongoing planning:

- Community infrastructure – strengthening project delivery: clear planning, strong governance and responsible budgeting;

- Priorities through funding submissions to support critical investments in priority projects, including the development of an Industrial Estate, upgrades to marine and road infrastructure, and planning for water and waste upgrades to strengthen reliability and protect community health;
- Sport Precinct and gym opening;
- The meeting also acknowledged the success of the 2025 Spring Festival and discussed how future events can continue to grow while strengthening planning and delivery; and,
- Governance and accountability were an important part of the agenda, with Council

endorsing improvements that strengthened decision-making and transparency, including updates to policies and risk management processes.

Mayor Lacey thanked residents for their continued support and encouraged community members to stay engaged with Council as plans progress.

"Palm Island is moving forward because our community is strong," he said.

"We'll keep listening, working hard and delivering for our people."

**The next Ordinary Council Meeting was scheduled for 25 February 2026.**

# \$1000 prize in logo competition

Council is launching a Logo Design Competition to create the very first logo for the Palm Island Aboriginal Corporation Community Economic Development Foundation (the Foundation).

Open to all Palm Island community members, the competition invites residents to submit original logo designs that reflect Palm Island's identity, culture and aspirations for the future.

The winning design will receive a \$1,000 prize and the logo will be proudly used across the Foundation's official materials, including building signage, staff uniforms and Council paperwork and documents.

Foundation Director Mayor Alf Lacey said the competition was an exciting opportunity for the community to help shape the Foundation from the very beginning.

"The Foundation is being established to give Palm Island people greater control of our own economic future," Mayor Lacey said.

"It is community-owned and community-led and this logo competition is a way for our community to create the identity

that will represent that vision.

"The logo will become an important symbol of pride and leadership for Palm Island, and we want a design that reflects who we are as a people, our culture, our strength and our future."

Community members can enter by emailing their design to [reception@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](mailto:reception@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au) or dropping their submissions into Council reception during business hours.

## Entries close Sunday, 1 March 2026.

### BWGAMAN ABORIGINAL LAND TRUST YOUTH DAY

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### Youth Engagement Initiative

- \*DATE AND TIME\*:**  
**TUESDAYS | FROM 9AM**

- \*\*LOCATION\*\***

**SAPPER PARK  
BEACH ROAD  
PALM ISLAND**

**#PI YOUTH  
#NETWORKING  
#TALK ABOUT ISSUES**



# TOMORROW!



### FREE EVENTS...

Find support services and plan for your future!

Join NRL great Gorden Tallis and the selectability team for an afternoon of fun, engaging activities while learning about services and support available for young people!

**WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY**



**1pm - 3pm WELCOME BBQ**  
Meet Gorden and enjoy a BBQ lunch



**4pm - 5.30pm ACTIVITIES**  
Join in a range of fun group activities including craft, sport and fishing!

See you at the PCYC!

**selectability**  
mental wellbeing and suicide prevention

For information contact  
Daniel on 0437 834 620

# Come and work for Council – help shape Palm Island's future!

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is growing and investing in local talent with several new job opportunities open as Council continues to strengthen service delivery and build a skilled and local workforce.

Council has focused on creating pathways for Palm Island people to gain meaningful employment and develop long-term careers, while also welcoming experienced professionals who wanted their work to have a real impact in community.

CEO Emma Bradbury said the current recruitment drive reflected Council's commitment to delivering the draft Corporate Plan 2026–2031 and making sure they could meet community priorities.

"Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is building a strong, values-driven workforce that reflects our community and delivers

real outcomes," she said.

"We are investing in local talent and creating opportunities for Palm Island people to grow their skills, step into leadership and be part of lasting change."

The following roles have been advertised:

- **Sports Coordinator**
- **HR Advisor (Recruitment)**
- **Governance Officer**
- **Facilities Coordinator**

Ms Bradbury encouraged community members to consider applying, and said Council roles

offered more than 'just a job', they offered a chance to contribute to the future of Palm Island.

"These roles are about supporting our people, strengthening Council services, and helping deliver the priorities set by the Palm Island community," she said.

"If you want a job where you can make a difference every day, we encourage you to apply."

Anyone interested should act quickly and not miss the opportunity to join a team working to improve services, strengthen local decision-making, and support a prosperous and liveable Palm Island.

To learn more about the available positions and how to apply, see: [www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](http://www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au)

## THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE\*

**(Issue 442\*) will be Thursday 12 Feb  
for publication on Monday 16 February**



The *Palm Island Voice* is published FORTNIGHTLY (\*unless we have paid advertising) by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor.

For advertising rates and/or more information contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or at [howeschowes@gmail.com](mailto:howeschowes@gmail.com) You can also follow us on Facebook, we have more than 3,400 followers! The *Palm Island Voice* is also available 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 7,300 'followers' on Facebook!!!**

