

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 453

20 July 2026



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

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

Buying our own homes - at last!

A new Rent-to-Buy Home Ownership Scheme is history in the making for the community, and something he never thought he'd see in his lifetime, Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey says.

"The new Home Ownership Scheme is an opportunity for us to own our own homes," he said.

"At the same time, it's an opportunity for wealth creation for the next generation of our people."

He said Council had worked closely with the Crisafulli Government to

achieve the milestone.

"This government has proven that it can walk side by side with us to create meaningful opportunities for our people," he said. "I didn't think I'd see this in my lifetime."

Queensland Housing Minister Sam O'Connor said the Government was

working well with local leaders.

"Right now, just 1.4 per cent of residents on Palm Island own their own home, far below the State's overall home ownership rate of 64 per cent, which is why a new, practical way of doing things was desperately needed," he said.

Continues p 3...

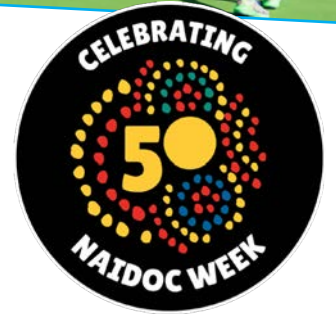


NAIDOC 2026 - flying our flags with pride

More pics page 2!

**NAIDOC
WEEK**
**50 YEARS
DEADLY**
5-12 JULY 2026





NAIDOC WEEK
50 YEARS DEADLY
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...From page 1

“We’ve worked closely with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and the community to understand their needs and deliver a model designed to help locals achieve their home ownership aspirations,” Minister O’Connor said.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Fiona Simpson said the Palm Island community had put in the hard work to achieve great outcomes.

“Home ownership has been disproportionately difficult to do in our Indigenous communities, but this announcement clearly demonstrates the work we are doing to address this, because all Queenslanders have a right to a pathway to home ownership,” Minister Simpson said.

Residents can register their interest by contacting Council or visiting the Rent-to-Buy Office located in the TAFE building.



Townsville MP Adam Bailie, Mayor Alf Lacey & Qld Housing Minister Sam O’Connor at the launch of the Rent-to-Buy Scheme

Palm Island Rent-to-Buy Home Ownership Scheme



If you would like to learn more about the scheme, discuss their circumstances or obtain assistance with an application are encouraged to speak directly with the First Nations Home Ownership team.

They will be available at the Palm Island Rent-to-Buy Home Ownership Scheme Office (TAFE Building) on the following dates:

- Tuesday 21 July and Wednesday 22 July
- Tuesday 28 July and Wednesday 29 July
- Tuesday 4 August and Wednesday 5 August
- Tuesday 11 August and Wednesday 12 August

Residents can:

- Visit the Housing team during the dates above; or,
- Collect an enquiry and information pack from Council Reception at any time; or,
- Contact John Coyle or Reception for more information.

Take the first step! Come and have a chat about what home ownership on Palm Island could mean for you and your family.

Chook City housing milestone

The official opening of 10 new housing units at Chook City during NAIDOC Week has been celebrated as a significant milestone for the Palm community.

The modules were built in Cairns, shipped to the island, installed and fitted out by Council and Q-Build using local tradies and businesses.

Housing Minister Sam O'Connor said the additional homes were "transformational" for people who were dealing with "unacceptable overcrowding".

"Any new housing supply is going to make a huge difference and there is a lot more to come," he said. "We can't wait to work with the Council in a genuine partnership to deliver more homes here on Palm Island."

Minister O'Connor said the new homes had been purpose-built for accessibility, particularly to the elderly.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said every Queensland community



deserved to be a "liveable" community.

"First Nations communities should not be left behind," he said.

"And whether it's housing infrastructure or general infrastructure in the community, better parks and better community assets throughout, this is a testament to the good work that has been done with the department

and with the minister's office to get results the community really appreciate."

He said a lot of households – including his own – had two or more generations living in the one house.

"We have a population that we estimate at 4500 people, the current housing stock in the community is about 700 or 600, so if you do your maths, it's very clear."



Palm to stay in Townsville Electoral District

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council welcomes confirmation that Palm Island will stay in the Townsville electoral district after the release of Queensland's final electoral redistribution report.

The outcome provided certainty for the Palm Island community and ensured the Council and residents would continue to be represented as they were.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the decision was an important one for Palm Island.

"Palm Island has strong

historical, social and economic connections with Townsville and we welcome confirmation that these established links will continue to be recognised through the electoral redistribution process," he said.

"Maintaining our place within the Townsville electorate provides

continuity for our community and ensures Palm Island residents continue to have a clear and consistent voice in State Parliament."

Council also acknowledged the work undertaken throughout the reporting process and appreciated consideration given to communities.

For more information on the final redistribution, community members can access the report on the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council website at <https://bit.ly/4pxlZ1R>

Barracudas play for Shield at Thurudwap



A courageous Palm Island Barracudas made a spirited comeback in the grand final of the shield division before losing 26-16 to Daudai United.

Daudai United scored two early tries which were not converted to take an early lead.

Lincoln Cahill crossed at the second minute, followed by another by Steven Dau.

When Charlie Miskin scored for Daudai United in the 15th minute and the conversion from the sideline was true, which gave the team a 14-nil lead.

Nine minutes before halftime, halfback George Fisher scored for the Barracudas and the conversion reduced the Daudai lead to 14-6.

Just before the break, classy 17-year-old Arremi Pearson (*pictured right*) scored under the post for Barracudas and Daudai led 14-12 at halftime.

Forward Tylin Kerr was dynamic for the Barracudas, making plenty of metres up the centre of the ruck.

Soon after halftime, Messiah Crampton scored to give the Barracudas a 16-14 lead.

Gedean Larry crossed for Daudai with 12 minutes to go and the conversion took the score to 20-16.

Then Gedean crossed for a second try with six minutes to go and the conversion saw Daudai lead 26-16.

Two of the best for Daudai were Dau Saab and Andrew Wosomo.

The three sides placed ninth to 11th competed in the plate division.

Daudai captain Gandy Buie thanked the Barracudas for a "very tough game".

"It wasn't easy," he said.

MORE PICS NEXT PAGE...



Pics by Christine Howes

On the sidelines...



Pics by Christine Howes



...& in action!



Pics by Christine Howes



Key information for enrolling and voting

The AEC can enrol or update your address on the electoral roll based on information from other government agencies.

All Australian citizens 18 years and older must enrol to vote in elections and referendums.

You need to let us know every time you change your address or your name.

Federal, state and local government elections occur at different times.

Access to enrolment information

To maintain the electoral roll, we can collect and verify your personal information. This is in line

with the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (CEA).

If you believe having your address shown on the electoral roll will put you or your family at risk, please call 13 23 26 to discuss the options available.

Special enrolment options

There are options for people with special needs or with specific circumstances that may affect their enrolment.

Visit www.aec.gov.au or www.ecq.qld.gov.au for more information and enrolment forms.

POSITIONS VACANT

• Chief Financial Officer

Applications close 31 July 2026

• Manager - Project Management Office

Applications close 5 August 2026

• Project Manager - Housing

Applications close 7 August 2026.

• Project Manager – Cyclone Shelter (NEMA/QRA)

Applications close 7 August 2026

• Community Night Patrol Coordinator

Applications close 10 August 2026

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is entering an exciting period of growth as it delivers the bold vision of our Corporate Plan 2026–2031.

The current recruitment drive reflects progress and momentum—an opportunity for experienced and emerging local government professionals to join a high-performing, values-driven team committed to lasting change for current and future generations.

These will be hands-on roles where you can learn, grow and build your skills with support along the way.

A core focus of this transformation is building local capacity and creating opportunities for local people to step into leadership and grow their careers.

These roles may be based on Palm Island or in Townsville, with travel to Palm Island as required, and preference will be given to Palm Island community members in line with merit-based recruitment practices.

Submit your resume and cover letter addressing the key responsibilities via Seek.

Apply now (and watch this space!) at:

<https://www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au/My-Council/Jobs-vacancies>

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*
(Issue 454*) will be Thursday 30 July
for publication by Tuesday 3 August



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. You can also follow us on Facebook, we have more than 3500 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 more than 8000 'followers' on Facebook!!!