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The last few months has presented us with a lot of opportunities for council to engage with community and advocate for our region.

Our Corporate Plan and Operational Plan are both available on the website and will guide our vision. Thanks you to the key stakeholders who contributed to its development.

We appreciate the great collaboration and energy community brought to the Community Meetings in August. The questions and comments have been noted and follow up is occurring. We also thank the staff who worked hard to arrange for this and to the NPAFACs who ran playgroup activities.

Some of the many highlights are that we have a new refuse truck, aka The Bandit, and have built our first, of hopefully many houses. We have began divesting enterprises and offering support to our community to develop these business opportunities. The events team has organized many great community celebrations including Mabo Day, Cultural Festival, NAIDOC Day and NPA Rodeo.

We have met with both the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of Queensland, to advocate for our region and to ensure our voice is heard in the national dialogue. We were proud to be part of the Masig Celebrations and the signing of the statement. This is a step towards self governance for our people and further details and development is coming. Councillors, CEO and myself visited Mapoon as part of the TCICA Meeting to view the achievements of the community and continue joint advocacy on key issues such as unemployment, census data, financial sustainability and sly grog.

At this month's council meeting held in the Bamaga, a variety of resolutions were passed that are listed below. The meeting booklet and unconfirmed minutes can be accessed at https://www.nparc.qld.gov.au/council-information/council-meetings

Resolution	Benefit for community
Support for new public housing development at Lot 19 Lui St and NPA State College Junior Campus	Council is working to support public housing for government employees such as teachers. This accommodation will support teachers, who are often leaving their families and friends to work in the NPA to teach our local children.
Closure of Hunters Gym pending an EOI for local interest in the ongoing operations to provide local business opportunity for the community	Council has identified that the operation of Hunter's Gym would be a great business opportunity for a local service provider. Expression Of Interest documents are being prepared and will be available for interested parties shortly. Council has made the decision to close the gym until further notice to ensure safety standards are met. Equipment located in Hunters Gym was found to be inappropriate and posed a risk to patrons using it.
Additional trustee meetings scheduled 19th July 2022 20th September 2022 15th November 2022	The additional trustee meetings will allow council to action issues around land leases in the NPA. Our communities stand upon traditionally owned land under a Deed of Grant In Trust (DOGIT) where NPARC provides certain services for operation on the land. NPA Elected Representatives; Mayor and Councillors, act as Trustees of the Land, signing off on behalf of their communities on Council activities, including leases, roads and housing development.
Special budget meeting scheduled for 29 July	One of Council's goals in the operational plan is to be aware of our funding and resource limitations. This meeting will allow for projects to be prioritised to best help community. By developing a deep understanding of the cost drivers, council can be transparent about the true, fully inclusive costs of providing services.
Public meetings will be held in August in each of the five communities	Public meetings give community an opportunity to come together, to hear about the priorities and the work of council, to have a voice on what is happening and to give feedback and ideas. Community groups will present the work they are doing around health, services, police, education and communication and economic development.

Council	Meeting #27 Wednesday 20th July 2022
Resolution	Benefit for community
Membership of Audit Committee	Council is seeking two additional, independent members to sit on the audit committee. This is part of NPARCs commitment to transparent and sustainable practices. We will be calling for nominations shortly.
2023 Special Holidays	Along with Mabo Day, Show Holiday and the NPA Sporting Carnival, special holidays have been included for each community that are aligned to significant events. Injinoo Day: 20th March for Division 1, for the anniversary of when Cowal Creek elected the Cowal Creek Aboriginal Council. Umagico Day: 30th March for Division 2, for the anniversary of when Umagico elected the Umagico Aboriginal Council. Bamaga Day: 1st June for Division 3, for the anniversary of the first families landing from Saibai. Mabo Day: 2nd June and 3rd June NPA Show: 11th August New Mapoon Day: 23rd September for Division 4, the same date as Mapoon Day. Seisia Day: 14th October for Division 5, for the anniversary of Anglican Church of St. Francis of Assisi being officially dedicated at Red Island Point. NPA Sporting Carnival: 20th October
2022-2026 Corporate Plan	Council has adopted the 2022-2026 Corporate Plan. It can be viewed at our offices or on our website Link here
Proposed "Public Housing" Development for Government Employee Accommodation at Bamaga Hospital	Council is committed to supporting services to the region by offering their assistance in the development of accommodation.
August 2022 Community Meetings	Community meeting will be held in all five communities on the 8th and 9th of August. We encourage everyone to come along. Specific notices provided closer to the days.
Pajinka Proposal	Council supports Gudang Yadhaykenu for their proposal for the redevelopment at Pajinka.
NPARC Report into Operations of the Council Pool	NPARC is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitably qualified local Indigenous parties who are looking for a business opportunity to manage the Bamaga Swimming Pool operations. Forms and more information is available at Bamaga Office on our website https://www.nparc.qld.gov.au//tenders-expressions Expressions of Interest are to be submitted by email to tenders@nparc.qld.gov.au or in person to the Bamaga Office by Friday 2nd of September 2022 utilsing the attached form.
One1st Charter	This is a program where NPARC, TSIRC and Torres Shire are entering into a MOU to develop opportunities to improve regional advocacy.

Council Meeting #28 Wednesday 17th August 2022		
Resolution	Benefit for community	
Operation of the Injinoo Service Station	Council considered possible options to support the future delivery of services to the Injinoo community.	
NPA Rural Master Plan	NPARC, with the support of the Remote Indigenous Land and Infrastructure Program Office of the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP), has developed the Northern Peninsula Rural Master Plan. This plan is a policy document intended to be used by NPARC and key stakeholders to inform planning decisions in relation to future development within the region. The plan can be viewed on our website and will soon be available in all our Council offices.	
Management Arrangement for Alau Campgrounds	Council endorsed the extension of the contract for the Operations of Alau Beach Budget Lodge and Campgrounds by Robert Carmody.	
Development Application – Injinoo Health and Wellbeing Centre	Council has supported the establishment of the Injinoo Health and Wellbeing Centre and accommodation by approving the Material Change of Use and Reconfiguring of the lot on Lease A SP319528.	
NPARC Camping Policy	Council is drafting a policy so we can better regulate camping and its impact on the environment. It is complicated by the irregular border with Torres Shire	

Advocating for the NPA

The last few months have presented may opportunities to advocate for the NPA, including meeting with the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of Queensland to highlight some of the success and barriers of our unique region. The Brisbane Courier Mail highlighted issues around housing.



Housing

Since the end of the NPRIH Agreement, there has been limited housing funding provided to the NPA. In 2018, the State Government allocated \$40mil through the interim Remote Housing Program, which was split equally across councils. In 2019, Federal Government allocated \$105mil for remote housing in Queensland. The funding was based on population, overcrowding and homeless data. Both methodologies have significantly disadvantaged the NPA. The NPARC is comprised of 5 discrete communities which were amalgamated, with each individual community having a larger population than some of the communities within the Cape York and Torres Strait. Within the NPA, there is also complexity with land security and negotiation including the veto power of Councillors for individual divisions and DOGIT land. NPA has a large transient population of up to 60000 tourists per year which places considerable demand on local services such as water and sewage requiring constant upgrade above normal population travel.

COVID-19 highlighted the poor standard of remote housing and an inability to meet isolation criteria for the illness. We face poor environmental health and health issues directly linked to overcrowding and poor housing within the region. TSRA has been undertaking research into the impact of climate change and rising waters on the Torres Strait. The report indicated that people may relocate from low lying islands to the NPA due to historical and cultural links. This will place further demands on housing. Houses built by the state under the previous NPRIH agreement are of a poor standard. The houses were not built of appropriate materials and have deteriorated quickly.

NPARC is requesting urgent intervention from the federal government to allocate funding for housing through a new NPRIH agreement, with funding directly allocated to Council.

Telecommunications

Mobile network and broadband is poor within the region, with some communities having no indoor mobile coverage. Telstra is the only provider to the Northern Peninsula Area and we are working collaboratively to build a new tower to service Seisia and New Mapoon communities.

We have also been working with NBN Co about implementing a fixed wireless solution for the region to provide a solution when the ADSL is turned off in two years. The solution has the potential to provide stable broadband connection for all business and homes within the Northern Peninsula Area.

NBN has install free community wifi at the Seisia Community hall and New Mapoon Council building. Next month, they will install satellites in Little Lui St, Alau supermarket and Injinoo Community Hall.



Northern Peninsula Area Airport

The airport provides critical connectivity to regional facilities in Cairns and the many islands in our region and plays a key role in enabling local and regional economic development opportunities.

Our airport is a community asset, owned and operated by NPARC despite being within the Torres Shire Local Government Area. As a Certified aerodrome, NPARC maintains compliance of the Airport with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Manual of Standards Part 139. We have recently undertaken master planning, which identified some key weaknesses:

- Poor condition of runway pavement and reduced pavement strength
- Lack of straight in approach minima (associated issue regarding runway strip width)
- Unable to lease land as airport is not within NPARC LGA boundary
- Limited apron parking capacity
- State of passenger terminal
- Passenger terminal unable to accommodate passenger screening if required

The most recent aerodrome technical inspection conducted on 22 October 2020 describes the condition of the runway as follows:

- While the seal is in good condition, the pavement is in poor condition and is the reason for the ongoing failures and rutting.
- The base cause is the low laying location of the runway being in a valley which descends to almost sea level. The topography is much higher on three sides, particularly to the SW and NW.
- Cross sections towards the SE end (chainages 1500 to 1833), show the centreline as being lower than the
 runway edges. That is there is no lateral drainage. Water takes longer to drain in this area. This could
 provide a safety concern for aviation but also mean that ponded water could more easily penetrates the
 seal into the pavement, leading to failures.
- Through master planning processes, a cost estimate was developed to build a new airport that would address the current weaknesses and issues which was costed at \$78mil.

NPARC is seeking to rebuild the current runway. At the same time, it is proposed to also undertake terminal upgrade to address comfort, size and screening issues.

High Cost of Living

Currently, our communities are faced by high costs of living impacting our lives, businesses and economy. Over half of our families (283 / 562) earn less than \$499 per week. This will have a huge impact

The majority of freight in the Northern Peninsula Area is shipped via sea through SeaSwift who has announced a 14.5% increase in shipping fees. This will increase all costs within our communities, including but not limited to the ability of our families to buy food and fuel, the cost of running business, the cost of fixing our houses as well as building new ones.

Urgent intervention by the state government is required to address this or we will struggle.



Seisia Boat Ramp & Wharf

Previously NPARC undertook master planning to complete the NPA Marine Hub Master Plan. This relied on the existing Seisia Wharf continuing to be used for commercial reasons for the next 10-20 years. However, when the recent maintenance was done to the wharf, it identified that the damage being done by freight vessel means the wharf may only last for another 5-10 years. NPARC needs support to review the master plan to look at the best strategy moving forward through reviewing the master plan and will need a new wharf in the next 5-10 years.

NPARC continues to receive numerous complaints regarding damage to Seisia Wharf and Seisia Boat Ramp. Both of these are TMR Assets, not in the control of NPARC. We continue to advocate to TMR to look into these issues.



Local Government Boundary and Amalgamation

The 5 community councils of the NPA were amalgamated to form NPARC. Since then, the region has experienced challenges including loss of self-determination and community pride, increased unemployment and decreased resources. We are continuing to advocate for a review to be completed of the amalgamation process, the impact it has created on the financial sustainability of the council and the unintended impacts on loss of self-determination for the communities

As the previous community councils under the Community Services Act, it meant that certain parcels of land could not be under the control of the council and needed to be managed by a mainstream council. This has led to significant irregularities in the boundary with neighbouring Torres Shire and Cook Shire Councils. Areas not within NPARC Control include: NPA Airport, Jacky Jacky Ramp, Pajinka, Punsand Bay, Jardine River National Park, Foreshore and surrounding waters. NPARC is doing considerable work to make a submission to the Boundaries Commission and has the support of the land owners.



Police and Corrective Services, Fire and Emergency Services



NPARC has asked for an update on the demolition of the old police station and jail in conjunction with QBuild. Works have been tendered and should be completed soon.

Currently the administration officer is only funded 0.5FTE. This is placing our people at disadvantage as they need to travel to Thursday Island at \$120 cost to complete simple tasks such as registration and licencing. If they are unable to do this, they are penalised and fined by the local police. There is high demand for this position to be full time

The NPA comprises of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and is unique in Queensland. There is great need of an additional Police Liaison Officer to ensure both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are respected and to ensure adequate support for local officers to understand the cultural dynamics within the communities

Education

As there is a high school in the NPA, students are not able to access support through ABSTUDY for boarding school unless these are issues with domestic violence, child protection or overcrowding. However, despite facing these concerns, families are advised that they cannot access ABSTUDY once the annual cap of students have been reached. This is severely disadvantaging the children of the NPA as education outcomes are poor through the high school. We would like to see that the NPA has equitable access to the federally funded boarding school scholarships and an appropriate cap considering the social issues we face.







The 23rd of August, 2022 is the Anniversary of the First Councillors Meeting, which took place on Masig (Yorke Is.), in 1937. Representatives from 14 Torres Strait Communities attended, and after lengthy discussions, unpopular bylaws, including the evening curfews, were canceled and a new code of local representation was agreed upon.

MASIG Statement

The MASIG Statement is very important to the Northern Peninsula Area. It is not just a statement for Torres Strait Islanders, but for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that live in the NPA

We support the intent of the Uluru statement, but we feel further action is required to support the ambitions of our region. NPA is often referred to as the poor cousin of the Torres Strait and Cape York. We face additional disadvantage to our neighbouring regions

Our region needs the opportunity for self-government, as we best understand the issues and challenges facing our people, and the solutions necessary for addressing them.



Photo Credit: Kate Gallaway



More than 362,000 hectares of land on Queensland's Cape York Peninsula has been handed back to traditional owners in a historic ceremony at the Injinoo lookout on Thursday the 7th of September 2022. The deal will see national park and Aboriginal freehold land returned to three local Indigenous groups after decades of campaigning. The land includes the Jardine River National Park, Denham Group National Park, part of Heathlands Reserve and Jardine River Reserve, and two offshore islands. As

part of the deal, Jardine River National Park will be renamed Apudthama National Park, which means "together".

The area will be jointly managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Gudang Yadhaykenu, Atambaya and Angkamuthi (Seven Rivers) peoples.



Photo Credit: Daisy Fredricksson



The new refuse truck has arrived and staff spent Thursday the 15th of September training in it's use. A big esso to staff who have worked hard to find, deliver and ready this new asset. A big esso to community for your patience.



The Building Team is working on a project for the Interim Capital Grant. The main priorities and expected outcomes are to reduce overcrowding, create and maintain employment and provide training and upskilling. The houses are nearly complete and we are hoping to handover 3 houses by mid-October.

Expressions of Interest

NPARC is currently seeking expression of interest for leases on these properties. For further details, please contact Peri Sunai, Commercial Leasing Manager on 4048 6803 or email peri.sunai@nparc.qld.gov.au. Expressions of Interest are to be submitted by email to peri.sunai@nparc.qld.gov.au or in person to Council at the Injinoo Office by 12 pm, Friday 30th September 2022.

Old Brac's Building-Charlie Street, Umagico



Lot Details: Lot 126 on SP 273362 Address: 126 Charlie, Umagico QLD 4876

Newman's Crescent - Lui Street, Bamaga



Lot Details:

Lot 323 on SP 273361 Lot 328 on SP 273361 Lot 329 on SP 273361 Lot 30 on SP 273361

Address: Newman's Crescent, Lui Street, Bamaga QLD 4876

Council Old Shed New Mapoon



Lot Details: Lot 3 on SP 273363

Address: Lot 3 on SP 273363, New Mapoon QLD 4876

Old Umagico Service Station



Lot Details: Lot 130 on SP2733652 Address: Corner of Peter & Mara Street, Umagico QLD 4876

Corner of Pajinka and Punsand Bay Roads



Lot Details: Lot 30 on SP 243594 Address: Croc Tent Corner of Pajinka and Punsand Bay Roads, New Mapoon QLD 4876

New Mapoon Nursery



Lot Details: Lot 114 on SP273365

Address: 67 Brown Street, New Mapoon QLD 4876



This year marked 30 years since the High Court of Australia passed a judgment in favor of the Meriam people — a judgment that came to be known as the 'Mabo Decision'.

On Thursday 2nd June 2022 we screened the movie Mabo and had a community feast at the town courts in Bamaga. While we were waiting for people to arrive we played some Just Dance clips for the kids and they really enjoyed dancing. At 7pm we blessed the food and played the movie. There was a good turn out, people inside the courts and cars parked outside with families watching the movie from in their cars. Everyone looked really relaxed watching the big screen.

On Friday 3rd June 2022 we had the big celebration at Umagico. The day began with a march from Alau supermarket to the Community Hall with some speakers and dancing. We opened all the activities, stalls and food stalls. Everyone came together and participated in some dancing. The atmosphere was really good with people coming up to ask if they could perform.

A big thanks to the events team and parks and gardens for their hard work.



Photo Credit: Quashanda Lifu



The 2022 NPA Cultural Festival was held from the 20th June to 25th 2022. The Festival is held biannually and aims to bring about social and cultural cohesion amongst our five communities of the NPA. The Festival is an opportunity to showcase our local artists, dance troupes and more importantly our culture.

The program commenced with the Arts Exhibition in New Mapoon that displayed various art forms and outdoor community movies in Umagico and New Mapoon. Following these activities was the Torch Relay at Injinoo, where elders gathered to light the 'Fire Stik' or torch. Elder Sandra Sebasio and Mrs Celia Ropeyarn handed over the torch to the Rangers who transported the torch to Bamaga were elders of

Umagico, New Mapoon, Bamaga and Seisia were waiting to receive the torch.

Traditional dancing from Laura, Naygayiw Gigi and surrounding communities entertained the crowd along with an abundance of Arts Displays, Food stalls and the Kennett Collection. Approximately 3,500 people attended the festival providing for a great week of activities.

The Mayor and Councillors acknowledge the support of all our sponsors and we look forward to delivering another successful event in 2024.



Photo Credit: Quashanda Lifu and Daisy Fredricksson

NAIDOC Elder's Lunch



On the 4th of July to the 8th of July 2022 we celebrated NAIDOC week in the communities. NPARC and NPAFACS staff helped to set up activities for our elderly people. The Elders came from each community to do activities and share traditional stories with each other.



Meet out Staff 3

Community Aged Care and Disability Support Services Manager

NPARC has appointed Kutchie Nona as the new Aged Care and Disability Services Manager taking over from Moira Mau. Kutchie is an experienced health professional who has been providing health care to people on Badu Island and in the NPA for over 30 years.

Kutchie will be meeting with all aged care clients over the next few weeks to review care needs and to make sure that clients who need more aged care services are referred for reassessment for a Home Care Package or a higher level of home care package they are now on.

To receive aged care services you need to be over 50 years of age if you are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or over 65 years of age for non-Indigenous people, be registered on My Aged Care and be assessed as needing aged care services by the Regional Assessment Service for people who only need a little bit of help or a more detailed assessment by the Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) for people with higher aged care needs. Unfortunately, the service cannot provide services to people who are not registered and approved for services through My Aged Care.

Kutchie and the team at the NPA Community Aged Care and Disability Support service want to make sure that the current aged care services are meeting the needs of aged care clients. consumer satisfaction survey completed February provided some really great ideas for improving services to our clients. The best news from the survey was that all of our clients said they were happy and healthy and that they were happy with the temperature of the food when delivered and portion sizes. When asked how meals could be improved about a third of clients stated they would like more traditional food served as part of the meal service. Kutchie and the team will talk some more with the clients about what traditional foods to include on the menu and activities they would like to see included in aged care program activities.



25th Anniversary of New Mapoon IKC Opening



New Mapoon Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) opened on the 16th of August 2002. It was the first IKC in the Northern Peninsula Area and the forth in Queensland. The IKC is operated by the NPARC in partnership with the State Library of Queensland. For most IKC's 20-years history, IKC coordinator

Pauline Lifu has been at the forefront of developing the IKC's local history collection. The IKC building is also a piece of local history—having been the New Mapoon Council Office before being developed into the IKC we know and love today.



Tourism Networking Night

The Tourism and Economic Development team hosted the Tourism Networking Night. NPARC understands the importance of Tourism in our region, its branding/messaging and how we can best support our local tourism operators.

The board of Directors including the CEO of Tourism and Events Queensland, Leanne Coddington met with established and emerging tourism operators at the Cape York Lodge. It was a great night of networking where local businesses were able to engage

with the Directors and Board members who speacilise in marketing.

The NPARC Tourism and Economic Development team have partnered with Tourism and Events Queensland, Department of Tourism Innovation and Sport, and Tourism Tropical North Queensland to rebrand the NPA, entitled 'NPA Storybook Project'. Community consultations have commenced with consultant Cameron Costelloe, who brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our States tourism industry.



If you would like to have your say on how you think the NPA Should be promoted, please contact 07 4048 6600 for more information.





The annual NPA Rodeo is always an exciting time for our region. We had a record number of participants. Congratulations to all the winners for 2022 and thanks to all the sponsors for your support.



Photo credit: Daisy Fredriksson



We are seeking suitable applicants for a number of exciting roles. https://www.nparc.qld.gov.au/employment/employment-2 For any questions, contact the HR Manager Dennis McLeod -





EXPRESSION OF INTEREST INTERNAL AUDIT MEMBE



Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council invites Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified individuals to provide services as a member of our Internal Audit Committee to the Council for a period of three years.

Information on the specific requirements are available by contacting Marie Chan, Finance Manager by email marie.chan@nparc.qld.gov.au. Expressions of Interest must be submitted via email to tenders@nparc.qld.gov.au by 5.00pm Friday 14th October, 2022.

Kate Gallaway Acting Chief Executive Officer



Seisia IKC: 4069 3690

Monday to Thursday 8:00AM - 5:00PM

Closed for lunch 12:00PM - 1:00PM

Friday 8:00AM - 12:15PM

New Mapoon IKC: 4048 6619

Monday to Thursday 8:00AM - 5:00PM

Closed for Lunch 12:00PM - 1:00PM

Friday 8:00AM - 12:15PM

Bamaga IKC: 4090 4138

Monday to Thursday 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Friday 8:00AM - 12:15PM Umagico IKC: 4048 6914

Monday to Thursday 8:00AM - 5:00PM

Closed for Lunch 12:00PM - 1:00PM

Friday 8:00AM - 12:15PM

Injinoo IKC: 4048 6610

Monday to Thursday 12:00PM - 5:00PM

Friday 8:00AM - 12:15PM

Centrelink and postal services

Umagico and Seisia

Monday to Friday 8.30am-10.30am

Waste transfer station

Monday to Friday 7:00AM - 6:00PM

Saturday - Sunday 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council—NPARC New Mapoon Office: 4048 6600

Bamaga Office: 4090 4119 Umagico Office: 4048 6902 Injinoo Office: 4048 6802

Monday to Thursday 8:00am - 5:00PM

Friday 8:00AM - 12:15PM

Umagico Supermarket: 4048 6920

Monday to Friday 8:00AM - 7:00PM

Thursday 8:00AM - 8:00PM

Saturday to Sunday 8:00AM - 2:00PM

Service station Injinoo: 4048 6819

Monday to Friday - 8:00am to 6:00pm

Saturday and Sunday - 8:00am to 5:00pm

Jardine River Ferry

Open 7 Days

1st May to 31st October—7am to 6pm

1st November to 30 April—8am—5pm

Pool: 4069 3659

Monday to Thursday - 6:00AM - 7:00AM &

9:00AM - 5:00PM

Closed for lunch 12:30PM - 1:30PM

Friday - 6:00AM - 7:00AM & 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Saturday - 2:00PM - 5:00PM

Sunday CLOSED



