

# **YARRABAH ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL**



## **CORPORATE PLAN**

**2012 - 2016**

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
<b>Message from the Mayor</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Shire Profile . . . at a glance</b> .....	<b>2-4</b>
<i>Map of Region</i> .....	<i>2</i>
<i>Map of Locality</i> .....	<i>3</i>
<i>Map of Shire</i> .....	<i>4</i>
<b>Our Direction</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Objectives</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Corporate Structure</b> .....	<b>7-8</b>
<b>Our Challenges</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<i>Arts and Cultural Development</i> .....	<i>9</i>
<i>Community Development and Human Services</i> .....	<i>9</i>
<i>Disaster Mitigation</i> .....	<i>9</i>
<i>Economic Development</i> .....	<i>9</i>
<i>Environmental Management</i> .....	<i>10</i>
<i>Housing Policy</i> .....	<i>10</i>
<i>Public Health Management</i> .....	<i>10</i>
<i>Infrastructure Development, Maintenance and Replacement</i> .....	<i>10</i>
<i>Population Change and Development</i> .....	<i>11</i>
<i>Regional Issues</i> .....	<i>11</i>
<b>Other Considerations</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<i>Corporate Services</i> .....	<i>11</i>
<b>Contacting Council</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Councillor Portfolios</b> .....	<b>12</b>

## Message from the Mayor . . .



Firstly, I would like to thank the outgoing Mayor and Councillors for their efforts over the past term in representing the people of Yarrabah.

I congratulate Councillors who were elected this term and to thank the people of Yarrabah for their confidence in electing me as Mayor. Council will continue to engage good governance practices and principles in performing our roles and responsibilities as your elected practices and principles in performing our roles and responsibilities as your elected representative.

I also take this opportunity to thank those who contested the Council elections this term, it is clear Yarrabah has a depth of quality leaders to draw on in future years.

On behalf of Council I welcome Jeff Jenkins who was recently appointed as the CEO and look forward to working very closely with Jeff to achieve positive outcomes for Yarrabah Shire and our residents.

A tough decision early in this Council's term has been taken to restructure at senior management level within the Council administration. This restructure is important and timely to consolidate our workforce to achieve efficiencies in service delivery given the severe budget cuts imposed by the newly elected Newman State Government. Council's operational funds have been reduced and this trend will continue into future years based on the current grim financial forecast which is not only impacting on us as a community but more broadly as well.

Council is committed to self-determination. We will continue the good work of the previous Council in respect to Block Holder interest/leases, native title issues, good governance and importantly strategic planning.

In order for our local government shire to be sustainable into the future, town planning is important for future development. Council will be embarking on this early in the new financial year. This document will be critical to developing a Stronger, Healthier, Safer and Sustainable community for our residents.

Council is committed to working with governments at all levels and importantly with non-government agencies to develop and strengthen partnerships for improved and sustainable outcomes. We are committed to good governance, sound decision making and financial accountability.

Finally, on behalf of Council I would like to thank all council employees for their commitment to doing their best to improve for the livelihood and the lifestyle in our community.

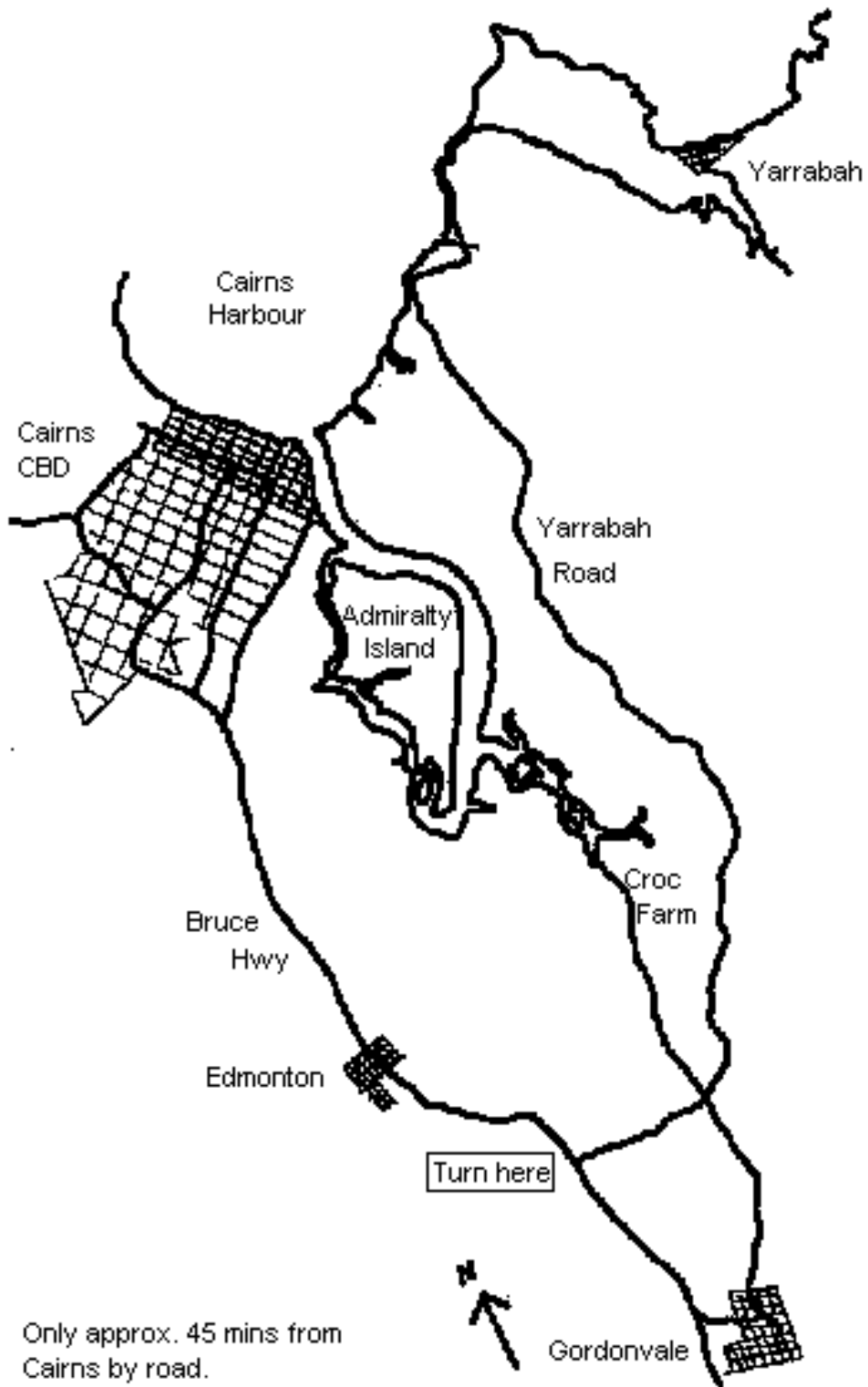
Errol Neal  
Mayor

# Shire profile . . . at a glance

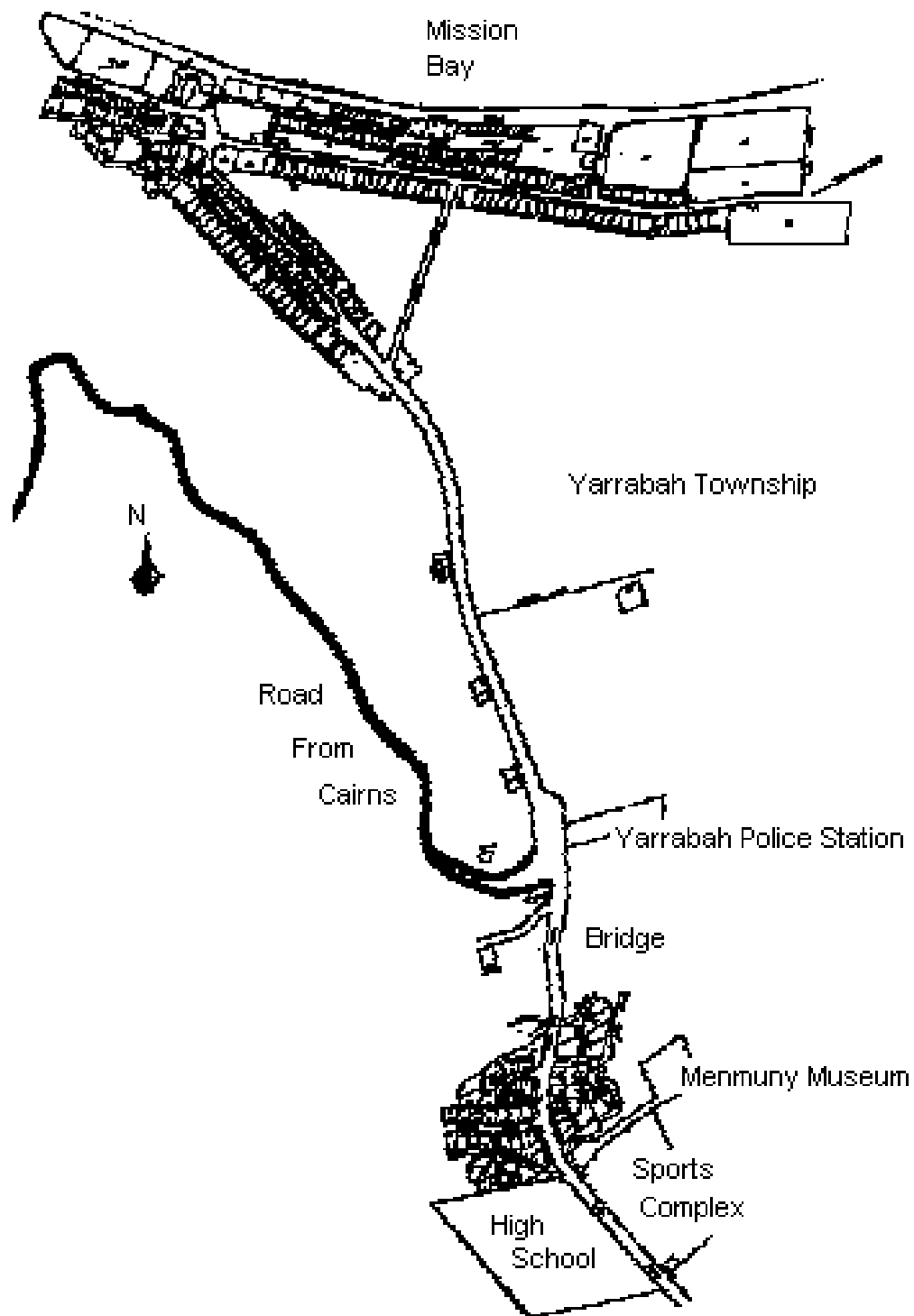
## Map of Region:



Map of Locality:



Map of Shire:



**Area:** 156 square kilometres

**Population:** 2,587 (2012 Census)

**Rateable Valuation:**

All land in the Shire is Deed of Grant in Trust tenure under the Trusteeship of the Council. As there are two Native Title claims there is the possibility of tenure change in the future.

**Assets under Council Management:** \$92,000,000.00

**Climate:** Tropical

**Length of Roads:** 50km

**Number of Staff:** 117 (updated 30/6/2015)

**Investment in Shire:** \$17m Community Health Centre  
 \$1.2m Water and Sewerage Upgrade  
 \$1.6m Swimming Pool  
 \$1.2m Skills Training Centre and Rural Transaction Centre  
 \$84,000 Initial Town Planning Scheme  
 \$60,000 Waste Management Strategy Development  
 \$3.6m Housing Repair and Maintenance  
 \$4.2m New Housing Construction and Major Upgrades

## Our Direction

***Vision:***

To improve the quality of life for the Yarrabah Community

***Mission:***

Through the practice of good governance and strong leadership, the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council aims to:

- Provide quality services
- Be accountable
- Advocate on community issues
- Be fair and equitable
- Provide quality representation on issues affecting the community
- Accommodate change
- Foster growth
- Promote success in a friendly and culturally sensitive environment
- Comply with all legislative and statutory requirements

In a friendly and culturally sensitive environment.

***Values:***

*Respect for Aboriginal Culture (Cultural integrity)*

*Honesty*

*Leadership*

*Accountability*

*Openness and transparency*

*Sustainable growth policies*

*Diligence*

*Fairness and equity*

*Organisational loyalty and recognition*

*Adaptability and flexibility*

*Responsible Environmental management*

*Effective communication and consultation*

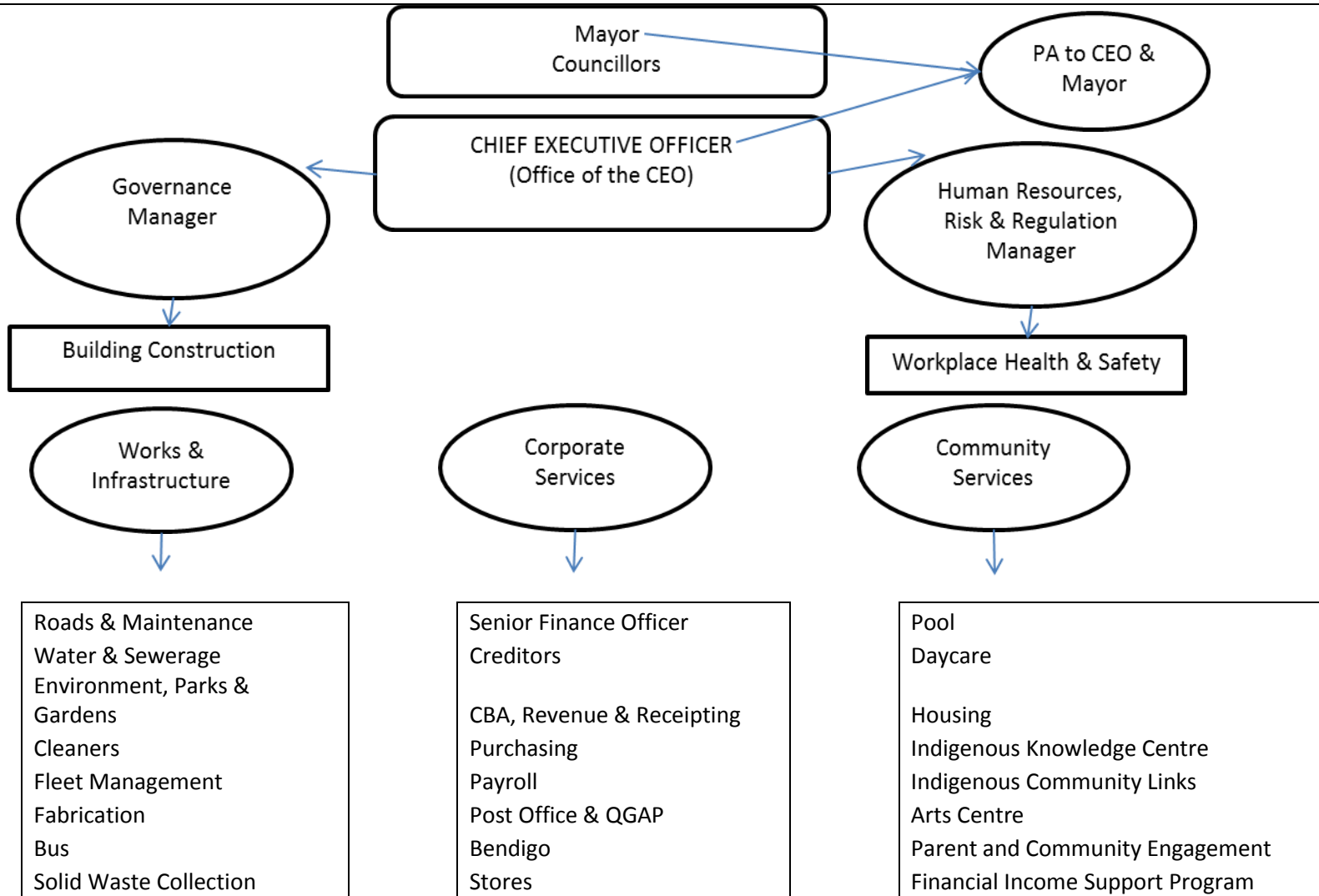
## Objectives

1. **Shire Growth, Management, Economic Development and Promotion**  
To work cooperatively with the community and other stakeholders to encourage and promote sustainable and manageable growth in the Shire
2. **Financial and Resource Management**  
Increase the quantity and quality of resources available for Council
3. **Community Development, Recreation and Culture**  
Provide community, cultural and social services within a safe and healthy environment which encourages community ownership, commitment, participation and investment
4. **Municipal Services**  
Ensure that core services provided are planned and designed to an appropriate and sustainable standard and essential and routine maintenance to Council infrastructure is programmed and delivered
5. **Business Enterprise**  
Foster business opportunities for Council to provide housing, infrastructure and related services for the community
6. **Transitional Impacts**  
Consider contingency arrangements in housing and local government reforms.

### Function Areas

The Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council provides over fifty (50) services to the community through its areas.







Cr Errol Neal  
Mayor



Cr Mark Wilson  
Deputy Mayor



Cr Henry Miller



Cr Bevan Walsh



Cr Malcolm Canendo

## Our Challenges

As required by the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Regulations, the Council has considered its role in relation to the following matters when identifying the local and regional issues affecting its area for the life of this Corporate Plan and beyond:

### **Arts and Cultural Development**

Council operates an Arts Crafts and Cultural Centre, and supports community based activities which focus on promoting and preserving indigenous culture. Council is committed to enhancing the ongoing viability of arts crafts and culture in the Shire.

Council is committed to delivering a quality library service through continued development and support from Queensland State Library.

### **Community Development and Human Services**

Council presently provides a wide range of services that enhance the amenities for the community, taking a whole of community approach in delivering services to all ages and wide interests. Council will plan and extend services and facilities to the whole of the community.

### **Disaster Management**

Council is committed to ensuring effective risk management and initiating and co-ordinating appropriate disaster management processes. Council will continue to play a lead role in co-ordination of services at the time of any disaster, in accordance with the adopted Counter Disaster Management Plan.

### **Economic Development**

Council is committed to fostering the development of economic opportunities through business partnerships and accessing external funding sources that will provide economic drivers in the Shire.

The Deed of Grant in Trust tenure of the whole of the Shire, and the existence of two Native Title Claims are barriers to immediate major external investment. However, the Council is optimistic that following establishment of consent Native Title determinations or formulation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA), opportunities may arise for significant investment in the Shire, particularly tourism and retail.

The Draft Planning Scheme currently being prepared will be a tool for enabling sustainable business in the Shire.

**Environmental Management**

Council acknowledges that the Shire is constrained by being situated in one of the most pristine environments in Australia, with half of the Shire contained in the World Heritage Listed Wet Tropics Area and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Decisions taken by the Council in relation to future development will take into account the high environmental and cultural heritage values of the region.

Council will take action with its own operations to minimise environmental risk.

**Housing Policy**

Council acknowledges that it has a key, central advocacy and service delivery role in the provision, maintenance and management of housing in its area.

Council will continue its role in service delivery mechanisms in the areas of housing asset and tenancy management.

Council is committed to delivering private ownership of housing to the residents of Yarrabah and developing accommodation models that positively impact on availability and affordability of accommodation in the Shire.

**Public Health Management**

Council will continue its role in public health management in the community through environmental health service provision, Environmental Health Worker and Animal Control programs.

Public Health Services delivery by community organisations will continue to be fostered and facilitated.

**Infrastructure Development, Maintenance and Replacement**

Council manages assets valued at \$92,000,000, and has a Shire Asset Management Plan that provides direction and focus to the Council's operations in the area of infrastructure maintenance and replacement.

Council recognises that it faces significant challenges in funding a high standard of maintenance of its assets, but intends to seek out all available sources of external funding to assist in this regard.

A significant proportion of Council's assets is housing stock. Council will conduct regular reviews of all fees, levies and charges in light of increasing costs and recognition of whole-of-life cycle costing of infrastructure.

### **Population Change and Development**

The Council believes that the Shire will continue to grow in population over the next decade, and this will be accompanied by appropriate development.

The Draft Shire Planning Scheme is intended to reflect the areas within the Shire that are suitable for development and the standard of development that is appropriate.

The Council is committed to sensitive, planned, sustainable and culturally appropriate development.

Council recognises that a significant proportion of its community is young people, and that future service delivery will need to be aligned to this demographic.

### **Regional Issues**

The Council recognises it has a role to play at a Regional level and will maintain full membership of the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) and will join with other regional local governments on issues that advance the area as well as the Yarrabah community.

In addition, Council is a committed member of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) which addresses issues affecting Councils across the State.

## **Other Considerations**

### **Corporate Services**

#### **Scope for Regional Co-operation**

Council is a member of FNQROC and actively participates in the business of that organisation.

A number of opportunities for regional resource sharing have been identified and Council will assess the applicability of those opportunities.

#### **Corporate Governance**

Council is committed to the principles of good governance and fully complying with the separation of roles of councillors and staff as required by the Local Government Act 2009.

#### **Council's People**

Council recognises that its staff is its greatest asset and is committed to investing and supporting its people to deliver the highest quality of services in a culturally appropriate way.

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council wishes to be recognised as an 'Employer of Choice' and attract and grow staff through providing interesting and challenging jobs in a supportive, healthy and safe work environment.

## Contacting Council

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YARRABAH Q 4871

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Email: [council@yarrabah.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@yarrabah.qld.gov.au)

## Councillor Portfolios

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Mayor Errol Neal	Media, Native Title, Community Issues with a watching brief across all portfolios
Deputy Mayor Mark Wilson	Housing, Environment and Client Change, Infrastructure and Municipal Services
Cr Henry Miller	Law and Order, Elders and Young People, Employment
Cr Bevan Walsh	Transport, Art and Culture, Health
Cr Malcolm Canendo	Family Issues, Education and Training, Sports and Recreation
Full Council	Land Use Development, Planning, Native Title, Housing