



CARPENTARIA SHIRE  
*Outback by the Sea®*

## **ADVOCACY ACTION PLAN**

*February 2023*

*It's a great place to work,  
live and play*





Adopted by Council at General Meeting held in Normanton on Wednesday 15 February 2023

[www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au](http://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au)

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Carpentaria Shire Council would like to respectfully acknowledge the Gkuthaarn, Kukatj and Kurtijar peoples as the traditional owners of the lands and waters that form the Region. Council pays its respect to elders' past, present and emerging and welcomes the ongoing role that indigenous people play within the Carpentaria community.



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## Message from the Mayor

Your Councillors and I are committed to ensuring we are representing the interests of the ratepayers and residents of the Shire when we are attending meetings and briefings with Commonwealth and State Government Ministers and when we are attending regional association meetings like the North West Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC) and the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (WQAC) and Regional Workshops held by the various Commonwealth and State Government Departments.



From time to time the Council is afforded the opportunity to participate in regional meetings, like the North West Minerals Provenance Economic Diversification Strategy and we take every opportunity to ensure the opportunities available in the Gulf are made known to those in attendance.

Some of the items covered in the Carpentaria Community Plan 2012-2022 were items that are progressed through the advocacy efforts of the Council, on behalf of the community. Now that 2022 has rolled past we wanted to pick those Focus areas up in this Advocacy Action Plan to ensure they were not lost, and Council will continue to advocate on behalf of the Communities.

Your Council is committed to providing a good quality lifestyle in the Gulf and we often need the other levels of Government to provide the additional services that also contribute to that quality lifestyle. Councils with their very limited rate base are not able to be all things to all people and while we often become the providers of last resort we cannot control those important things like health, education, and aged care.

We wanted to let the community know what they can expect from the Council in relation to our advocacy efforts on your behalf and we encourage you to hold us to account.

Jack Bawden  
**Mayor**









## Introduction

Carpentaria Shire Council is committed to best representing the ratepayers and residents of the Shire.

Carpentaria Shire is located on the Savannah Way in North Western Queensland in the south eastern region of the Gulf of Carpentaria. The region is uniquely placed to offer residents and visitors opportunities and experiences in lifestyle, holidays, employment, and investment opportunities. Carpentaria Shire has a friendly, laid-back lifestyle and is a place where children still ride their bikes down to the river to go fishing after school without parents having to worry as they would in larger towns and cities.

Carpentaria Shire is the traditional country of many Indigenous groups, and the townships of Normanton and Karumba are the traditional land of the Gkuthaarn, Kukatj and Kurtijar people.

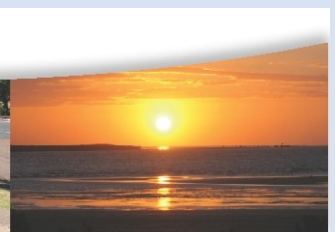
The Shire covers an area of approximately 65,000 square kilometres and has a population of 1,974. The countryside ranges from vast inland plains to mangrove forests, deltas, and saltpans along the coastal areas of the Gulf.

Carpentaria Shire has a diverse industry base with agriculture, fishing, mining, tourism, and government administration providing most of the Shire's income. Normanton is the region's government and administrative centre.

Much of the Shire's commercial activity comes through Karumba, which has an active port based around export of zinc and lead and live cattle to Asia. It also has a substantial fishing industry that targets prawns, barramundi, Spanish mackerel, salmon, and mud crabs.

The region offers good infrastructure and facilities, with sealed access roads, well-serviced airports, developed freight routes, primary and secondary schools, medical services, recreational and sporting facilities, and the standard infrastructure expected in a modern community.

This Advocacy Action Plan sets out what the Council will do in relation to those matters which the Council has no jurisdiction. Those things like education, health, aged care, which are the responsibility of the other levels of Government, but those things that also matter most to members of the community and ultimately ensure we have a good quality of life and access to services that people in larger populated centres take for granted.



## Strengthening our Region

### Regional representation

Your Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer are represented on the NWQROC and the WQAC and regularly attend the meetings, they also attend the annual WQAC Assembly and the Annual Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference.

### Regional Priorities and Opportunities

Council released an updated document in May of 2022 which identified the Regional Priorities and Opportunities for investment in the Gulf which can be shared with Ministers, State Government Senior Executives and representatives from the larger economic development organisations.

The document can be found on the Council website under the Economic Development Strategy section under the Development and Planning Tab.

<https://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/development-and-planning/economic-development-strategy>

### Advocacy Updates

Council will include on its website any updates in relation to its advocacy efforts. Documents that relate to those efforts will also be made available for members of the community.

<https://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/advocacy>

Our efforts will be best served when we all speak as one voice, working together for the overall benefit of the Region is important. This is part of the reason that the NWQROC and the WQAC are getting more recognition.



## Strengthening our Economy

### Improve Road Network

#### What our communities need

A road network that is not cut for long periods of time due to flooding and natural disasters.

#### What Council will do

Lobby the State and Commonwealth Governments for additional funding for the road network. State Roads within the Shire need widening and bitumen sealing to improve access.

### Improve Transport – Air Linkages

#### What our communities need

A reliable schedule between Karumba and Cairns. Quicker decisions in implementing additional services when the roads are cut due to flood waters.

#### What Council will do

Lobby for more air services to the Karumba airport and lobby for reduced airfares to make the region more accessible.

### Improve Transport – Bus Linkages

#### What our communities need

We need transport options to the closer centre of Mount Isa. Most people taken from the Gulf communities for health reasons are taken first to Mount Isa. Locals need a public transport service to be able to visit sick relatives and family members, would also assist with shopping for items not available locally.

#### What Council are doing

Lobbying for a bus service to Mount Isa, have been lobbying Translink since 2016.

### Infrastructure supporting business

#### What our communities need

We need reliable power and high-speed internet connectivity to support business now and provide for future business growth into the future.

#### What Council are doing

Lobbying to improve power, broadband, and mobile phone coverage for the region.

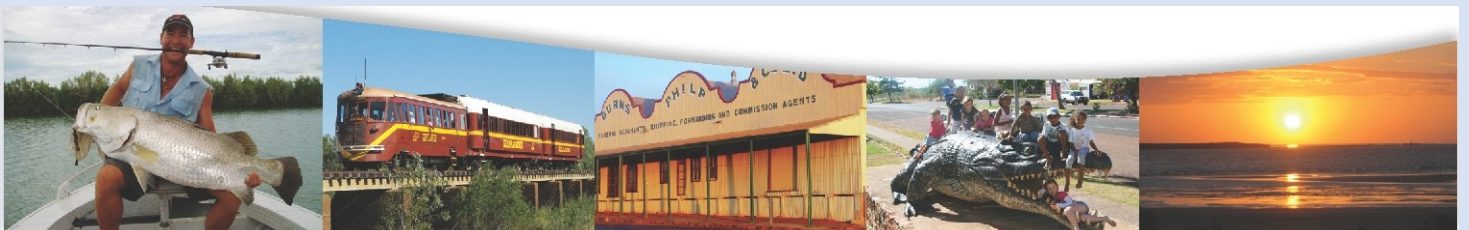
### Focus on the Future

#### What our communities need

We need to do everything we can to ensure that our region's future (our children) receive the best education possible and can transition from school to work.

#### What Council will do

Lobby the State Government to improve the educational options for the youth of the Gulf communities and assisting the community members efforts for better access to TAFE courses and the use of the TAFE facility.





## Strengthening our communities

### A safe environment

#### What our communities need

We need to ensure that the region remains a safe place for families and lobby to retain police numbers.

#### What Council are doing

Lobbying the State Government to ensure that Police numbers are maintained, and engage with the local Office in Charge to ensure regular policing is carried out within the Communities.

### Health Services

#### What our communities need

Increased opportunity to have more visiting specialists such as dentists, dermatologists, and physiotherapists.

#### What Council will do

We acknowledge that while the region has good health services for the size of our population, we continue to lobby the State Government to ensure these are maintained, new services are considered, and upgrades are planned and implemented and attempt to get the State and Federal agencies working together.

### Housing

#### What our communities need

We need to increase the housing stock in Normanton including: -

1. attracting more funding for public housing
2. encouraging more new private houses to be built by planning further land releases over time.

#### What Council will do

Lobby the State and Commonwealth Governments to assist with increasing housing stock for the community to access. We have worked with the WQAC and the State Government to develop a Local Housing Action Plan. <https://www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/advocacy>

Investigate rent to buy scheme for Council staff to purchase housing from Council.

### Quality Education

#### What our communities need

We need better utilisation of the TAFE facility. Can it be used to provide additional schooling for the region so that children in the region can complete schooling to Grade 12 without leaving the Carpentaria region if they want to.

We need to establish Normanton as a training hub for the region providing a range of training and development opportunities that will support employment outcomes.

#### What Council will do

Lobby the State Government for improvements to education opportunities for youth in the Gulf.





