

Building our Regions

Kowanyama Mechanical Workshop Upgrade



Funding*

Total project cost	\$110,560
BoR funding	\$100,560
Council funding	\$10,000

The community of Kowanyama, 600km north-west of Cairns in the south-western region of the Cape York Peninsula, has a population of approximately 1,200 people.

Road access is only possible for four to five months of the year—in the dry season—and weekday flights to and from Cairns service the community throughout the year.

Manager of Grants and Business Development at Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, Jacqui Cresswell, says the region’s remoteness and lack of rate base means the council relies heavily on funding from all levels of government for development projects.

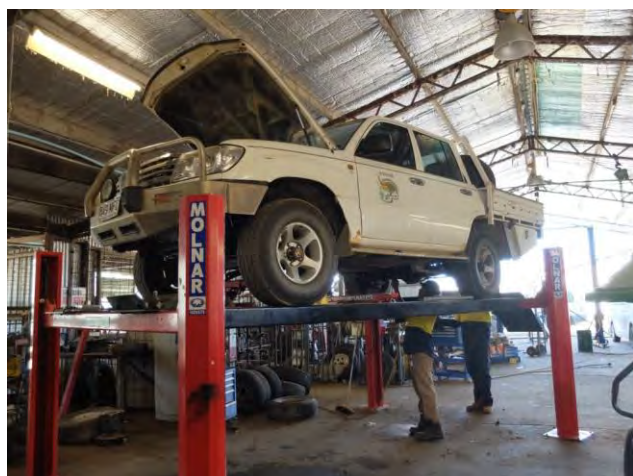
“To address the financial constraint council applies for grant funding, such as Building our Regions, to progress plans and comply with regulations,” Jacqui says.

“In 2015, council was fortunate enough to receive \$100,560 from the Queensland Government under the Building our Regions program for much-needed repairs to the community’s mechanical workshop.

“The roof was rusted and leaked during times of heavy rain, while the electrical wiring was sub-standard. These two issues combined to cause a number of electrical fires—which fortunately did not spread throughout the community—and posed safety hazards for staff.

“Council successfully completed the project, which included new wiring and a new roof, within the set timelines and now has a Workplace Health and Safety-compliant building where employees can safely complete their tasks.

“With the safety issues now resolved, council hosts interested schoolchildren and Work for the Dole participants, and is attempting to recruit mechanical apprentices.



Staff at work



“During the seven months of the ‘wet’, where the median temperatures are in the high 30s and humidity above 90 per cent, the workshop is the only place to get a vehicle serviced. The installation of insulation in the new roof has assisted in making these busy working times much more bearable for the employees.”

Four contractors and two council workers were employed on the project, which supports the ongoing employment of up to six employees in the workshop, and the 115 council employees who use the vehicles (boats, cars, trucks, rubbish truck, school bus, cranes, graders, etc) now serviced in the workshop.

* Funding amounts referenced are as approved.