Meeting Minutes

South Cape York Catchments Inc. Executive Committee Meeting
6.00 pm Thursday 24th of July, 2025 Cooktown Office

Acknowledgment: *"We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands where we meet, pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging – and we acknowledge the important and practical role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within communities both in Queensland and across the nation."*
Chairs Welcome:
Apologies – Denis Kelly
Attendance: Pete McKenzie, *Chair* Kath Shurcliff, *Vice Chair* Brad Guy, *Treasurer* John James, *Secretary* Jason Carroll – Board Advisor Jessie Price-Decle – CEO
Declaration of conflict of interest: None
Minutes from previous meeting: Moved: Brad Guy, Seconded: Kath Shurcliff
Matters arising from the Minutes: Sale of Suzuki – done Renovations of office – begun and ongoing CYNRM hosting agreement – ongoing
Relevant Correspondence in /out: No correspondence to the Executive Committee.
Reports:
Treasurers Report: Project expenditure discussed. Moved: Brad Guy, Seconded: Pete McKenzie.
CEO's report: - Three highlights from the last three months: Youth trip to Orpheus Island, Melsonby & Laura Rangers to Darwin for the World Archaeological Conference, quick and under budget delivery of two Cyclone Jasper Environmental Repair Program projects.
Operations Mangers Project report – Held over to evening presentations at Nature's Powerhouse for AGM.
General Business:-
Report on actions from last meeting. **Action:** Tender process sale of Jimny after damage – **Finished** **Action:** Discussion with CYNRM to be had and lease drawn up and signed. – **Ongoing**

Action: Denis to organise and begin renovations in office – **In progress**
Action: Denis to move ahead with Appenate – **Done**

113 Charlotte Street -

Cape York NRM lease update
We are still finalising the accounts for both organisations (Telstra). SCYC holds $6,000 of bond as rent to now. Jessie to follow up with CYNRM about whether their Telstra account is closed.

Property Management
Renovations ongoing and look great. Space is already more useable.

Banking

Move: To make the current CEO, Jessie Price, an Administrator on all five of the South Cape York Catchments Westpac bank accounts, and to have her issued with a Debit Card attached to Westpac Community Solutions One
BSB: 034-155 Account number: 234448
Moved: Brad Guy Seconded: Peter McKenzie

SCYC Polycraft boat
The polycraft outboard motor has seized and it would cost more than it's worth to repair it. Boat mechanic has suggested better value to replace it. Executive discussed multiple options:
Option 1: $10,000 for new outboard from SCYC vehicle funds
Option 2: Gift boat with trailer to Normanby Corporation as is.
Option 3: Sell the polycraft as is.

On the basis that SCYC gifted a vehicle to the Melsonby Land Trust last year, SCYC will gift the boat to Normanby Aboriginal Corporation.
Moved: Pete McKenzie, Seconded: John James, All in favour?: Yes

Blue Moon Donation to Normanby Aboriginal Corporation for Bush Beef initiative
SCYC has been asked to accept a philanthropic donation on behalf of Normanby AC which does not have DGR status.
Blue Moon sent through a contract that did not outline deliverables.
Motion: SCYC will accept the donation on behalf of Normanby Aboriginal Corporation if Blue Moon Trust includes firm deliverables in the contract so SCYC and Normanby AC can be sure of what needs to be done with the funds.
Moved: Pete McKenzie, Seconded: John James

New projects for consideration:

Cyclone Jasper Environmental Repair Program – Healthy Waterways Package

This package has not been announced yet, but SCYC staff, Cape York Water Partnership, landholders, Traditional Owners have worked together to design two projects – one that SCYC could apply for at Viola Reith and Brad Smith's property in Rossville, and one that CYWO could apply for at Rick Lockyer's property at Trevathan.

Motion: That SCYC move forward with preparing a Healthy Waterways project at Viola and Brad's property that revegetates 5 hectares of creek with native trees, and potentially also undertakes maintenance of pockets along the Wallaby Creek riparian zone that are naturally revegetating (assisted natural revegetation).

Moved: Brad Guy, Seconded: John James

Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program – 2x new positions for Melsonby

1x Woman Ranger and 1x Youth Engagement Ranger

Country Needs People has approached SCYC and offered to pay for our staff time preparing this application.

Motion: That SCYC apply for two new positions in the Melsonby Ranger program.

Moved: Kath Shurcliff, Seconded: Pete McKenzie

Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program – New program for Gamaay/Waymburr Traditional Owners

Gamaay/Waymburr have requested that SCYC and Cape York Water Partnership consider auspicing and supporting them to submit an application for a small ranger team (2 rangers and a coordinator).

Motion: That SCYC work with Gamaay/Waymburr Traditinoal Owners and Cape York Water Partnership to develop an application, and SCYC potentially submit the application and be the auspicing organisation.

Moved: Pete McKenzie, Seconded: John James

Melsonby Indigenous Protected Area

Country Needs People approached the Melsonby Rangers and SCYC to notify us that IPA applications will open again soon, and that Melsonby would be a strong candidate. Again, Country Needs People has offered to cover the costs of SCYC staff preparing an application.

Motion: That SCYC support the Melsonby Land Trust to apply for an IPA agreement.

Moved: Kath Shurfliff, Seconded: Brad Guy

Landscape Repair Program – Gullies

Cape York NRM has requested we continue the Gully Prioritisation project with field surveys of gullies in areas that have known gullies, but there is no data for the individual

gullies. Jeff and our team do have time to undertake this work, and Jeff is interested in continuing this work.
Motion: That SCYC extends the Gully Prioritisation Project with a series of field surveys and collection of LiDAR.
Moved: Pete McKenzie, Seconded: Brad Guy

Completed events:
- Youth Engagement highlights:
- Orpheus Island trip with Mentor Program
- CALM students camp to Melsonby
- Country University Centre Students Fair
- Holy Spirit and QPWS – Mt Cook Walking Track
- Riverbend Tours Community Grant – 2x seagrass trips with Cooktown State School
- Normanby Music Boot Camp

- Community Engagement:
- North Shore Clean Up
- Cook Area Fire Management meeting
- Darrba On-Country Partners Workshop
- Juunjuwarra Gully Meeting

Planned Events:
Youth Program Activities Oct – Dec 2025:
- Walker bay marine debris and clean up monitoring with Cooktown School (Dec)
- Holy Spirit class to North Shore with Gaamaay Traditional Owners
- Weed control works at Alligator Creek
- Rossville State School trip on Riverbend Tours

Community Events Oct – Dec 2025:
- Walker Bay Clean Up

Jess to represent Eastern Cape York at Reef Resilience Workshop in Townsville.

Staff Updates
James Dobson will be on extended leave until January 2026 on secondment to QPWS Joint Management – James and his family will be relocating to Cairns in one month, and this was a good opportunity to get his foot in the door with QPWS. Katie Greaves will be able to take up some of James' workload, but we will likely need to recruit another field office if we continue to do erosion management projects.

Kyle Sanderson will be leaving in December to relocate back to the Sunshine Coast after his wife was offered a job at her old school. Kyle has coincidentally had someone reach out interested in being involved in our Youth Program.

Motion: That SCYC employ Brandon Walker on a casual basis to attend 2-3 youth trips with Kyle.
Moved: Kath Shurcliff, Seconded: Pete McKenzie

Community donation request–
Would the SCYC Executive Committee like to sponsor an Environmental Award for school leavers at Cooktown State School? A bursary or a gift (laptop, tablet etc.)?

Motion: To work with Cooktown State School to determine an appropriate award for a school leaver at the end of year awards ceremony.
Moved: Kath Shurcliff, Seconded: Pete McKenzie

Closing:

Next meeting: February 2026, date TBD

Meeting Closed: 5:25pm

Signed by Chair:

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