



Appendices

Appendix C – Biographies of Commissioners and the Registrar

Family Responsibilities Commissioner

Commissioner Tammy Williams

Tammy Williams was appointed as the FRC Commissioner on 2 September 2019. Since her appointment she has been working hard to apply her own work culture and extensive business acumen to Commission operations. Commissioner Williams leads by using an adaptive and authentic leadership style drawn equally from both her professional and lived experiences as an Aboriginal woman.

Tammy Williams is a Murri woman from the Guwa people near Winton and the Wangan and Jagalingou peoples of central Queensland. She was awarded a law degree from the Queensland University of Technology in 2001, after which she was admitted as a Barrister to the Supreme Court of Queensland and High Court of Australia in 2002. She is a highly experienced professional who has worked successfully within and outside government. She has a great understanding of the Commission and welfare reform communities, having acted as the Director-General for the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships in the past, and as such, a member of the FR Board.

Deputy Commissioner Rodney Curtin

Deputy Commissioner Rodney (Rod) Curtin was born and raised in Cairns and completed his secondary education at St Augustine's College. He attained a Bachelor of Law degree through the Queensland University of Technology and was appointed a Barrister-at-Law to the Supreme Court of Queensland and the High Court of Australia in 1987. Deputy Commissioner Curtin's practice has been predominately in the jurisdictions of Family Law and Criminal Law. His experience has involved the conduct of circuits in the Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait regions for more than 25 years. Over the years he has been called on to conduct many seminars

and training sessions for students at James Cook University, the Department of Education and Family Court counsellors on family law and domestic violence issues. Deputy Commissioner Curtin has also mentored young solicitors and field officers attached to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service.

Deputy Commissioner Curtin is passionate in the pursuit of access to justice services for Indigenous people. He advocates for the advancement of programs to provide better resources and achieve better outcomes for Indigenous people who appear before the courts. Deputy Commissioner Curtin has been involved with the Cape York Peninsula Youth Justice Program and has been a strong advocate for Juvenile Justice issues. His service to the Indigenous communities has been acknowledged as dedicated and compassionate, having an in-depth knowledge of the cultural and social issues of people within those communities. Rod's original appointment as Deputy Commissioner from July 2010 expired in December 2019. He was reappointed to the role in July 2020. Deputy Commissioner Curtin advises that he thoroughly enjoys his work, the most rewarding aspect of which has been his association with the Local Commissioners. Their dedication and tireless persistence in striving toward creating a better community and setting a wonderful example for the next generation has been inspirational.

Appendices



Local Commissioners

Aurukun

Commissioner Edgar KERINDUN OAM (Sara Clan) was born and raised in Aurukun and is a traditional owner of the area. Commissioner Kerindun previously held the position of Engagement Officer at Queensland Health until his election as a Councillor for the Aurukun Shire Council in 2012. He held the position of Councillor for a further eight years during which time he was also appointed as the Deputy Mayor for the last four years until 2020. Aurukun Commissioner Kerindun decided not to stand as a candidate in the 2020 Local Government elections. On 26 January 2015 Aurukun Commissioner Kerindun was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of his services to the community. He was one of the original Community Police Officers in Aurukun and continues to promote justice and rehabilitation for ex-offenders. Together with his partner, Aurukun Commissioner Doris Poonkamelya, they have in their care three children from their extended family. Commissioner Kerindun has a strong belief that if you show respect to everyone, everyone will have more respect for you.

Commissioner Doris POONKAMELYA OAM (Putch Clan) was born at the Kendall River Outstation and her family moved to Aurukun when she was a child. Commissioner Poonkamelya retired as a senior health worker from Queensland Health in 2009 where she worked for 29 years. On 26 January 2015 Aurukun Commissioner Poonkamelya was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her services to the community. From 2016 to 2020 Aurukun Commissioner Poonkamelya was a Councillor for the Aurukun Shire Council, deciding not to stand as a candidate in the 2020 Local Government elections. She is a founding member of the Aurukun Community Justice Group and is also deeply committed to education as the pathway to employment and a promising future for young people. As a carer for Child Safety Services, Commissioner Poonkamelya believes in ensuring a safe environment for children to grow and mature.

Commissioner Ada Panawya WOOLLA OAM (Winchanum Clan) was born and raised in Aurukun, leaving the community to attend boarding school and later Cairns Business College. From 2012 to 2020 Aurukun Commissioner Woolla held the position of Councillor in the Aurukun Shire Council, deciding not to stand as a candidate in the 2020 Local Government elections. Upon election to the position of Councillor for the Aurukun Shire Council in April 2012 she retired from her position as a Recognised Entity, where she worked to assist families and children in Aurukun.

In September 2014 Aurukun Commissioner Woolla was appointed to the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland. The Taskforce was established by the then Premier Campbell Newman and was chaired by the Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO, former Governor-General of Australia. On 26 January 2015 Aurukun Commissioner Woolla was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her services to the community.

In September 2018 she was appointed to the Queensland First Children and Families Board. The Board was established to oversee the implementation of *Our Way – A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017 – 2037* and *Changing Tracks – An action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017 – 2019*. Commissioner Woolla is also a foster and kinship carer, an office bearer in the church, a founding Member of the Aurukun Community Justice Group, and a respected mediator and community Elder. Her support for the education and training of young people is well recognised and together with her husband, Dereck Walpo, she strives to improve opportunities for her community.

Commissioner Dorothy POOTCHEMUNKA (Winchanum / Aplach Clans) was born, raised and educated in Aurukun, and now has 10 children, 16 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Commissioner Pootchemunka's interests span the full spectrum of traditional activities including fishing, camping and the customary female craft of basket weaving using Pandanus and Cabbage Palm leaf. Her baskets are on display in national galleries in



Appendices

Australia and overseas. Aurukun Commissioner Pootchemunka is also a registered Wik interpreter and her expertise is utilised within the court system and by the Department of Human Services. Commissioner Pootchemunka became an Aurukun Local Commissioner on 4 March 2010. She views education as the key to employment and encourages all students to make the most of their education and training to enhance future job opportunities.

Commissioner Vera KOOMEETA OAM (Aplach Clan) was born in Aurukun and attended primary school in Aurukun. She continued her studies at PGC and Scots College in Warwick completing Year 10, and then obtained a qualification in community teaching from Technical and Further Education (TAFE) in Cairns. From 2012 to 2020 Aurukun Commissioner Koomeeta held the position of Councillor in the Aurukun Shire Council, deciding not to stand as a candidate in the 2020 Local Government elections.

On 26 January 2015 Aurukun Commissioner Koomeeta was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her services to the community. She is a Justice of the Peace (Magistrates Court) and a registered interpreter as well as a member of the Aurukun Community Justice Group. As the representative of her clan group she is involved in several committees and holds positions on a number of boards. Aurukun Commissioner Koomeeta's experience assists in her ability to make independent and informed decisions as a Local Commissioner. When not working, she can be found spending time with her three grandchildren, camping and fishing. She also enjoys painting in her spare time.

Commissioner Keri TAMWOY (Putch Clan) although born in Cairns has lived her entire life in Aurukun. Commissioner Keri Tamwoy met her husband, Gerald Tamwoy, when they were 17 years old and they have raised their six children in Aurukun.

Commissioner Keri Tamwoy is a qualified mediator and has in previous years run the mediation program in Aurukun which has been a huge success in bringing families together to resolve issues without resorting to violence. Commissioner Keri Tamwoy considers the

mediation program to be a valued service in Aurukun.

Aurukun Commissioner Keri Tamwoy has previously worked as the Office Manager for the Aak Puul Ngantam Ranger Program, and also as an Administration Officer in her husband's business. Commissioner Keri Tamwoy became an Aurukun Local Commissioner on 1 January 2018. At the Local Government elections conducted on 28 March 2020 Commissioner Tamwoy was elected Mayor of the Aurukun Shire Council. She is extremely committed to supporting the Wik people of Aurukun and empowering them to grow and improve their community into the future.

Commissioner Keri Tamwoy enjoys fishing and camping when she can find the spare time, or just a quiet day at home watching movies with her three grandchildren.

Commissioner Dereck WALPO (Kiadilt Clan) was born and raised on Mornington Island. After completing his schooling on Mornington Island, he completed boarding school in Warwick Queensland. Commissioner Walpo then moved up to Cape York where he met his partner of 40 years, fellow Commissioner Ada Woolla of the Winchanum Clan. Commissioner Walpo has worked in various positions across Aurukun, including in plumbing, as a road worker and machinery driver before finding work in the health system and becoming the Team Leader of the Wellbeing Centre. He recognises the importance of mental health support and the need for these services to support remote Indigenous communities such as Aurukun. From 2012 to 2020 Commissioner Walpo held the position of Mayor in the Aurukun Shire Council, using his authority to work towards improving social norms and helping the community of Aurukun grow. Commissioner Walpo has two children and nine grandchildren and enjoys spending the weekends with his grandchildren fishing and hunting. Commissioner Walpo became an Aurukun Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022. He wants to use his new role as a Local Commissioner to further improve social norms and encourage parents to take a bigger role in their children's education.

Appendices



Commissioner Kemuel TAMWOY (Putch Clan) was born in Cairns and raised in Aurukun and is passionate about Aurukun and preserving the Wik culture. On 28 March 2020 Aurukun Commissioner Kemuel Tamwoy was elected to the position of Councillor in the Local Government elections. He values this role very highly along with the responsibility of being seen as a leader at such a young age. His hope for the future is that he can stay in this role and continue to help shape Aurukun for the better.

Commissioner Kemuel Tamwoy began his schooling at the Aurukun State School where he now works and completed years 8 – 12 at Brisbane Boys' College. Commissioner Kemuel Tamwoy currently holds the position of Manager, Student Attendance Officer at the Aurukun State School, encouraging education as a pathway to help shape the future leaders of Aurukun. He understands the importance for the Aurukun children to continue their education at boarding school as he did. His former roles also include working at his father's earth moving business. Aurukun Commissioner Kemuel Tamwoy has three sisters and two brothers and enjoys fishing and being in the boat in his spare time. Commissioner Kemuel Tamwoy became an Aurukun Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Commissioner Waynead WOLMBY (Wanum clan) was born in Cairns and grew up in Aurukun. He is passionate about Aurukun having local decision-makers and leaders paving the way for Aurukun. Commissioner Wolmby completed prep – year 7 at the Aurukun State School and then travelled to Brisbane to complete years 8 – 12, boarding at Marist College Ashgrove. Commissioner Wolmby has two younger brothers and two younger sisters. He aims to be a good role model for his siblings and the younger generation of Aurukun. Aurukun Commissioner Wolmby currently works at the Aurukun State School to help support the children of Aurukun. Commissioner Wolmby is passionate about staying fit and has competed in several marathons across Australia thanks to the Indigenous Marathon Foundation. He has been lucky enough to be selected to travel to Athens in November 2022 to compete and represent the Indigenous Marathon Foundation and Aurukun.

At such a young age Commissioner Wolmby wants to encourage education in Aurukun for the upcoming leaders and to preserve the Wik culture. Commissioner Wolmby became an Aurukun Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Coen

Commissioner May Mary KEPPLE OAM (Wik-Munkan Clan) is a Justice of the Peace (Qualified). Commissioner Kepple has had a variety of positions in retail and sales and enjoys painting on canvas. As an accredited foster carer since 2007 she remains committed to the welfare of children, ensuring they receive opportunities for self-development and a bright future. From February 2014 to 2018 Commissioner Kepple worked with Cape York/Gulf Remote Area Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Care (RAATSICC) as a Community Recognised Entity and Advisor. On 23 December 2021 Coen Commissioner Kepple retired from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General as a Member Elder where she was responsible for providing court support to the Justice Group Coordinator and clients, and networking with other stakeholders to advocate for clients in relation to referrals, programs and activities.

On 26 January 2015 Coen Commissioner Kepple was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her services to the community. Commissioner Kepple spends her weekends on country with her daughter and grandchildren passing on culture and the ways of the Elders.

Commissioner Elaine Louise LIDDY OAM (Lama Lama Clan) was born in Cairns. She is a fluent Umpithamu language speaker and has contributed to the dictionary of the Umpithamu language. Coen Commissioner Elaine Liddy has been pivotal in establishing the Lama Lama Rangers who live and work on her Lama Lama homelands of Port Stewart and is now a full-time Cultural Heritage Adviser Team Leader. She is a Justice of the Peace (Qualified) and is a highly respected leader of the Lama Lama Clan. On 26 January 2015 Coen Commissioner Elaine Liddy was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her services to the



Appendices

community. Commissioner Elaine Liddy devotes her spare time to the care of her homelands, and to passing on tradition and culture to future generations.

Commissioner Alison LIDDY (Lama Lama Clan) commenced with the Commission on 14 May 2015. Coen Commissioner Alison Liddy was born in Cairns and completed most of her schooling in North Queensland. Furthering her educational qualifications, Commissioner Alison Liddy attained a Certificate III in Indigenous Community Service and Primary Health Care. She has held many positions over the years, working in administrative roles as an Indigenous Health Worker with the Coen Primary Health Care Centre, Community Engagement Officer with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and Apunipima Cape York Health Council at the Coen Wellbeing Centre. Coen Commissioner Alison Liddy is currently employed as the Junior Ranger Coordinator and Administrator for the Yintjinnga Aboriginal Corporation and the Lama Lama Ranger Service. Working locally in Coen for many years and being involved in the community has enabled her to gain a broad understanding of the issues that affect those living in Coen. Her interest in becoming a Local Commissioner was inspired through her sister, Elaine Liddy, who has been a Coen Commissioner since the commencement of the Commission in 2008.

Commissioner Maureen LIDDY (Lama Lama Clan) also commenced with the Commission on 14 May 2015. Coen Commissioner Maureen Liddy has worked extensively with families and children across Cape York. She taught at a number of schools in the far north, including Bloomfield River State School where she became the Acting Principal. She was the Coen State School Principal for some five years and then was the Hope Vale State School Principal. For four years in Hope Vale she was seconded to the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Cape York Strategy Unit as part of the Government Champions Program where she coordinated the Negotiation Tables throughout Cape York between the communities and their Government Champions. She resigned

as the Principal of Hope Vale State School and took on the role of Transition Officer for the Department of Education, assisting in moving children from primary schools to secondary schooling, and even further education.

Since 2010 Coen Commissioner Maureen Liddy has held several positions including with Cape York Partnership as a manager involved with the academy schools and teachers, with the RFDS in Coen as a Community Development Officer and later Services Coordinator, with Apunipima Cape York Health Council as Team Leader, with Good to Great Schools in the role of Community Partnership Engagement Manager, and more recently as Implementation Manager with Pama Futures. Commissioner Liddy has now transitioned to the position of Opportunity Hub Leader with Cape York Partnership and has returned to live in Coen.

On 26 January 2019 Coen Commissioner Maureen Liddy was awarded the Cook Shire Citizen of the Year in recognition of her work to improve the lives of Indigenous people in the Cook Shire. She holds a Graduate Diploma in Education and is a member of the Coen Justice Group, the local Sports and Recreation Association, and the Advisory Committee to the Cook Shire Council. Commissioner Maureen Liddy's personal interests include spending time with her family, camping, fishing, reading, four-wheel driving and meeting people.

Doomadgee

Commissioner Christopher LOGAN (Garrawa Ghuthaarn / Takalaka Clans) was born in Normanton and educated at Normanton State School to Year 10 after which he moved to Doomadgee. Doomadgee Commissioner Christopher Logan is married to Eleanor Logan, herself a Local Commissioner, and together they have had three children of their own, raised another two from a young age, provided foster care for many more and have 16 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Commissioner Christopher Logan's working life has included employment as a stockman, carpenter, Community Police Officer, a storeman at the

Appendices



Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council and work at the Doomadgee retail store. He was a Councillor from 1992 to 1994 with the Doomadgee Aboriginal Council and Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council Deputy Mayor from 2008 to 2012. He has also driven trucks and has run the night patrol for the Doomadgee community. For many years Doomadgee Commissioner Christopher Logan was involved with the State Emergency Service and was second in charge. His strong belief in education and the importance of children attending school every day led in 2013 to his commencement in the initial role of School Attendance Supervisor at the Doomadgee State School, working directly alongside the Doomadgee State School Principal. He then went on to hold the position of Indigenous Education Leader at the Doomadgee State School until 2019. Commissioner Christopher Logan played rugby league for the Doomadgee Dragons from 1989 to 2007, captaining the side from 1989 to 1994, and was the club chairperson from 2008 to 2014. He loves to spend his weekends taking his grandchildren out bush, camping, hunting and fishing.

Commissioner Elaine CAIRNS (Waanyi Lardil Clan) moved to Doomadgee from Mornington Island in 1969. She completed her junior education at Doomadgee State School before moving to Malanda to complete years 9 and 10. A mother of six, grandmother of 18 (with one on the way) and great grandmother of eight, Commissioner Elaine Cairns has firm ties to several clans within the community and derives great joy from her extended family. A strong Indigenous woman, Doomadgee Commissioner Elaine Cairns worked as a cleaner and receptionist at the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council, served as Deputy Mayor from 2004 to 2007, acted as Mayor for six months in 2007 and was a Councillor from 2012 to 2016. Previously Doomadgee Commissioner Elaine Cairns spent one and a-half years as a chef at the Doomadgee Hospital and nine and a-half years as a Centrelink agent before becoming a Councillor. She has also been involved with the Strong Women's Group (formerly known as the Indigenous Women's Forum) since 2004. In her capacity

with the group she has travelled across Australia taking a stand against domestic violence towards Aboriginal women. Her view that strong Indigenous women can make a difference to the communities in which they live drives her ambition to contribute to building a better future for Doomadgee's children. Commissioner Elaine Cairns loves reading, gardening and spending time out bush, fishing and camping. As a hobby she also enjoys composing and writing poems and songs.

Commissioner Kaylene O'KEEFE grew up in Mount Isa before moving to her parents' home town of Doomadgee in 1990. Married to Dwayne O'Keefe since 2001, Commissioner O'Keefe is a mother of three daughters. Her past employment has included time working at the local store, in accounts at the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council and as a Family Support Worker with RAATSICC. Since 2018 Doomadgee Commissioner O'Keefe has been involved with the Strong Women's Group and has mentored Indigenous women. Commissioner O'Keefe hopes that her role as a Local Commissioner with the Family Responsibilities Commission will enable her to play a significant part in improving outcomes for Doomadgee families. Commissioner O'Keefe enjoys camping, fishing and spending time with her family, in particular her young grandson.

Commissioner Eleanor LOGAN (Waanyi / Gangalidda Clans) grew up in Doomadgee, before moving to Banyo College in Brisbane to complete Year 11. Commissioner Eleanor Logan continued to further her education, gaining a Certificate III and a Diploma of Children's Services, and trained in the area of Aged Care Management. Recognising the need for a support network for young mothers in Doomadgee, Commissioner Eleanor Logan was instrumental in forming a playgroup for young mums. She was a Councillor with the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council from 2008 to 2012. Married to fellow Doomadgee Commissioner Christopher Logan, she says family is her priority. She has fostered many children and is presently fostering two young



Appendices

boys. Doomadgee Commissioner Eleanor Logan is currently the Director of the Doomadgee Child Care Centre. When not working she enjoys camping, fishing and spending time with her 15 grandchildren and two great grandsons.

Commissioner Guy DOUGLAS (Waanyi / Gangalidda Clans) has always lived in Doomadgee, apart from a year spent completing his education at Atherton State High School. He has worked as an Aboriginal Health Worker, Senior Community Worker, Police Liaison Officer, Project Worker at Save the Children for the Doomadgee Deadly Homes Program and Health Services Manager for Gidgee Healing. Doomadgee Commissioner Douglas is currently employed at Save the Children as the Senior Community Worker. In this role Commissioner Douglas provides education and support to male community members and assists with facilitating programs that Save the Children run including the Young Dad's Program.

Commissioner Douglas is married to Cecilia, is father to six children and they have five grandchildren. Commissioner Douglas, along with his wife, has spent many years volunteering with young people in the community and as a leader of the local Brethren Church. He is also a board member of the Doomadgee Health Council. When he is not busy coaching the local women's softball team, 'The Bushfires', he likes nothing better than to go back out on country to hunt, fish and camp. Doomadgee Commissioner Douglas is a firm believer that education must begin at home from a young age to form a strong foundation for the future.

Commissioner Isabel TOBY (Waanyi / Gangalidda Clans) was born in Doomadgee and has lived most of her life there. Married to Christopher Toby, Isabel has three sons, one daughter and five grandchildren, with one on the way. Having not had the opportunity to attend boarding school herself, Commissioner Toby was determined that her own children would not miss out on a good education and has sent each of them to boarding school to further their studies. One of her sons is currently in his third year of a carpentry apprenticeship. Commissioner Toby

would also like her grandchildren to follow in the same steps to ensure they receive the education they deserve. Doomadgee Commissioner Toby has worked at Centrelink, the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council, Job Futures and as a teacher aide. She is currently employed as a Team Leader to Family Support Workers at Save the Children where she has worked for ten years. She enjoys helping her community to ensure a positive future for their children and families. Commissioner Toby commenced as a founding Local Commissioner for Doomadgee in August 2014 until 8 June 2017. She has since re-joined the Commission as a Local Commissioner on 1 November 2019.

Commissioner Dawn APLIN (Waanyi Clan) was born in Burketown. She moved to Doomadgee as a young child where she attended the Doomadgee State School until she completed Year 7. She then moved to Malanda to attend the Malanda State High School to complete years 8 and 9. After she completed her schooling Commissioner Aplin moved back to Doomadgee and commenced working. Commissioner Aplin's work experience includes working for the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council as a Pay Clerk for 11 years and for the Community Development Employment Projects program as a Sign-up Officer. Since 2016 Commissioner Aplin has been working at Save the Children. Commissioner Dawn Aplin has five children, three boys and two girls, is a grandmother of 18 grandchildren and a great grandmother of two great-grandchildren. She enjoys fishing in her spare time as well as going out on country with her family to camp and hunt. Commissioner Aplin feels committed to helping young parents in the community and this is what inspired her to become a Local Commissioner.

On 1 November 2019, the appointment of Dawn Aplin took effect as an FRC Local Commissioner. Coupled with her employment at Save the Children, Commissioner Aplin sees her work as a Local Commissioner as being extremely important in aiding and guiding young families in the community.

Appendices



Commissioner Wendy TAYLOR (Lardil / Gangalidda / Garrawa Clans) was born in Doomadgee where she attended Doomadgee State School as well as School of the Air, whilst living on an outstation. Commissioner Taylor later attended school in Malanda where she completed years 8 – 10. After completing school, Commissioner Taylor returned to Doomadgee where she commenced working in various positions in the community. She worked at both the Doomadgee shop and the Doomadgee State School for a couple of years each and is currently working at the Doomadgee Childcare Center where she has been since 2000. Commissioner Taylor spends her personal time fishing, hunting and collecting bush tucker with her friends and family. She is a mother of five children and grandmother of 18 grandchildren. Commissioner Taylor became a Doomadgee Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Commissioner Lila CAIRNS (Waanyi Clan) was born at Gregory Downs Station. She attended school in Burketown and Doomadgee before moving to Brisbane to complete year 9, and then to Malanda to complete year 10. After completing school, Commissioner Lila Cairns returned to Doomadgee where she held various positions in the community. She has managed both the aged care facility and the local bakery, worked in the local store for five years, held the position of receptionist at the Doomadgee Rural Hospital for 15 years, and worked as a health worker for 10 years. Commissioner Lila Cairns has four children, 12 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. In her spare time, Commissioner Lila Cairns enjoys time with her family fishing, camping and spending time outside. When she is not enjoying the great outdoors, she likes to attend church and participate in Christian conventions held throughout the state. Commissioner Lila Cairns became a Doomadgee Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Commissioner Virginia Grace COLLINS (Waanyi / Gangalidda / Garrawa Clans) was born in Mt Isa, before moving to Doomadgee when she was a young girl. Whilst in Doomadgee, Commissioner Collins attended Doomadgee

State School. After completing school, she commenced working in Doomadgee in a number of different roles, some of which included the Doomadgee Retail store, the Woman's Shelter and the Community Development Employment Projects office. Commissioner Collins then worked for MMG Century Mine in Lawn Hill for 10 years before working in the Northern Territory. She later moved back to Doomadgee where she worked at the Doomadgee Roadhouse as well as the Doomadgee State School. Since 2020 Commissioner Collins has been employed by the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council. Commissioner Collins is a mother of two boys and is eagerly waiting to become a grandmother. She enjoys going out bush camping and fishing, as well as reading and spending time with family and friends. Commissioner Collins became a Doomadgee Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Hope Vale

Commissioner Victor Patrick GIBSON OAM (Binhthi / Bulcan Clans) worked as a Student Case Manager for Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy (CYAAA) in Hope Vale for three years until his retirement. He has served his community in many diverse roles advocating for his people on many levels. In doing so he has encouraged young people to become the leaders of tomorrow. He has been an active member of the Hope Vale Men's Group supporting the young and encouraging the role and merits of cultural and community activities. Commissioner Victor Gibson has devoted much of his working career to Hope Vale, assisting to build up his community. In the past he has served as Deputy Mayor and Councillor.

On 26 January 2015 Hope Vale Commissioner Victor Gibson was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of his services to his community.

Commissioner Victor Gibson retired from his role as a Hope Vale Commissioner on 30 June 2022. He remains a keen supporter of the FRC and continues to advocate for his community with humour, laughter and the wisdom gained from being a strong Guugu Yimithirr Bama.



Appendices

Commissioner Priscilla GIBSON (nee BOWEN)

a Guugu Yimithirr speaking woman has ancestral heritage to Daarrbra, Bagarmugu, and Birragumba from her grandfather George Bowen (Emerson) who was removed from his homeland (Proserpine area) to Cape Bedford Mission after the closure of Mari Yamba Lutheran Mission.

She has skills and qualifications in early childhood education, having established a centre in her hometown of Hope Vale, later acquiring the 'George Bowen Memorial Kindergarten', and assisting it to achieve accreditation under the Childcare and Kindergarten Association. Commissioner Priscilla Gibson holds a Diploma in Nursing, Nutrition and Advanced Practice in Aboriginal Health, and a Graduate Diploma in Health Promotion, Counselling and Referral Skills. She has served on various boards as a Director, worked with the TAFE College in Cairns in the position of Program Manager for the Community Ranger Program, Local Coordinator for the FRC, Coordinator for the Well Being Centre and Senior Parenting Practitioner with Cape York Partnership. Commissioner Priscilla Gibson and her husband Commissioner Victor Gibson perform strong community engagement roles by providing opportunities for social gatherings through concerts, Yarning Circles, contributing to the Young Leaders Program and opening their door as foster carers for the community.

Commissioner Priscilla Gibson states, "Culture and my family is important to me. It is the embodiment of my existence and that of my ancestors and descendants."

On 1 November 2019, the appointment of Priscilla Gibson took effect as an FRC Local Commissioner.

Commissioner Doreen HART OAM (Binhthi / Bulcan Clans) was selected as a Cape York representative for the 2015 Emerging Leaders Program hosted by Jawun. In 2021 Commissioner Hart with the support of her workplace completed her Certificate III in Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care and will soon enrol for her Diploma in Mental Health. Her former roles include

Engagement Officer for Cape York Empowered Communities Backbone Organisation, Community Development Officer with Living Change at the Wunan Foundation, Chief Executive Officer for the Apunipima Cape York Health Council and Housing Officer for the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council. She has recently retired from her position as Team Leader/Service Provider with Apunipima Cape York Health Council. Local Commissioner Hart is a Justice of the Peace (Qualified) and a member of the Thurrbill Community Justice Group.

On 26 January 2015 Hope Vale Commissioner Hart was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her services to the community.

Commissioner Cheryl Florence CANNON is a strong, determined and motivated Indigenous woman from Hope Vale. Commissioner Cannon loves the precious time she spends with her family including 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild and pottering around home tending to her garden. She has had a career in education across Cape York, teaching and in leadership roles within a number of schools. After a brief retirement, Hope Vale Commissioner Cannon's commitment to education had her employed as a Student Development Officer at the Hope Vale Campus of CYAAA. Her role involved engaging community people to be more active within the school community, in addition to providing support for school attendance and incorporating cultural aspects within the school. In 2021 Commissioner Cannon commenced a new role as Education Coordinator of CYAAA Hope Vale Playschool which is a learning environment for children aged 0 to 4 years. Learning is focused on literacy, language and maths, delivered in fun and enjoyable activities for children and their parents.

She joined the Commission as a Local Commissioner in Hope Vale in August 2014, and thoroughly enjoys the experience. As a Commissioner for Hope Vale, Cheryl's vision and values run parallel to that of the wider community and she is willing to set in motion responsibilities that bring about change for the positive future of Hope Vale.

Appendices



Commissioner Erica DEERAL (Gamaay / Waymbuurr Clans) retired from her position of Administrative/Accounts Officer with the Hope Vale Campus of CYAAA in 2019. She enjoyed working at the school and seeing school attendance improve so that young children can obtain an education to better their futures. Prior to this Hope Vale Commissioner Deeral held administrative positions with the North Queensland Land Council and Cook Shire and Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Councils. She also held a role in the live performance and re-enactment of the landing of Captain Cook and his interactions with the Guugu Yimithirr Bama at the Cooktown and Cape York Expo 2021.

She attended Hope Vale State School, Cairns West State School, Trinity Bay High School and the Cairns Business College. She is a traditional owner, a Director of the Hope Vale Congress Aboriginal Corporation, and also a Director of her own Gamaay Warra family business. In 2022 she was elected as Deputy Chair of Gungarde Community Centre Aboriginal Corporation.

Commissioner Deeral is a mother of two sons and grandmother of five granddaughters and one grandson. Commissioner Deeral became a Hope Vale Local Commissioner on 20 October 2011.

Commissioner Selina KERR-BOWEN is married to Ronald Bowen from the Thuupi / Dharrba Warra Clans of Hope Vale. Commissioner Kerr-Bowen has two children and one adopted son from the many children that she and her husband cared for over the years while being kinship carers. Both of her sons graduated from Peace Lutheran College in 2013. Her daughter Nancee-Rae is currently schooling at St Patrick's College in Townsville. She is striving to also graduate secondary school, like her older brothers, Warwick and Coleridge. Commissioner Kerr-Bowen has lived in Hope Vale for the majority of her life, only leaving to complete her secondary schooling in Brisbane where she graduated from Hendra High in Nunda. After leaving school her former jobs have included being an Assistant Manager for the local food store, an agent for the Commonwealth Bank in Hope Vale, a Parenting Consultant where she delivered the Triple P program for Cape York Partnership, and a

Councillor from 2016 to 2020 with the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council.

Hope Vale Commissioner Kerr-Bowen commenced with the Commission on 14 May 2015 and feels good parenting is vitally important. She would like other parents to also enjoy the close relationship and respect from their teenagers that she has with her children. Today Commissioner Kerr-Bowen and her husband commit their time as General Carers, raising children placed into Child Safety. Commissioner Kerr-Bowen has recently undertaken, and greatly enjoys, organising functions for women in the community for Mother's Day and International Women's Day.

Commissioner Robert GIBSON (Bulgun Warra / Aba Yeerrkoya Clans) was born and raised in Brisbane and is one of six children. His family, though originally from Hope Vale, moved to Brisbane to access medical treatment for his eldest brother. Commissioner Robert Gibson attended Zillmere North State School and in 1982 completed Year 12 at Aspley State High School. He continued his tertiary studies at TAFE prior to attaining a boilermaker apprenticeship at the Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Army Barracks.

In 1984 he was happy to return to his family's homeland of Hope Vale and secured employment as a Deckhand at Cape Flattery until 1991. Following his work at Cape Flattery Commissioner Robert Gibson gained employment with the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council as a Debtor's Clerk/Administration Officer. In 1993 he was elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council. After completing a Certificate of Justice Studies, Community Policing at Innisfail's TAFE he was employed as a Police Liaison Officer in Mossman from 1996 to 1999, later transferring to Hope Vale.

Commissioner Robert Gibson has been Director and Deputy Chair for both Alka Bawar Aboriginal Corporation (Bathurst Heads) and Kalpower Aboriginal Land Trust. These positions included the sourcing of funding and planning for on country development. On 1 November 2019 the



Appendices

appointment of Robert Gibson took effect as an FRC Local Commissioner.

Commissioner Robert Gibson has been blessed with two daughters and one grandson who live in the Cooktown and Hope Vale area. Fishing and camping have been a big part of his life and he has a new-found hobby of carpentry in constructing planter boxes.

Commissioner Kathryn Dora GIBSON (Thuubi/Dhaarrba/Biri Gaba Clans), or Dora as she prefers to be called, is currently employed by My Pathway as an Activity Supervisor and works at the newly established Hope Vale Community Activity Hub.

She is married to Trevor Gibson from the Bulgun/Bintha clans, and has four children, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren of whom she is very proud.

She has had a career in education which spanned almost 40 years, initially in administration at the Hope Vale State School and then as a teacher-aide. After years as a teacher-aide, she was encouraged to study for her teaching diploma. She graduated with a bachelor degree, which was special as she graduated together with her daughter Tamara. Within her teaching role, she was seconded as a multi-lit teacher for two years, also holding down many acting-principal positions, the last being at Coen State School. She retired from teaching in 2012.

In 2013 Commissioner Dora Gibson applied for and was successful in acquiring a role as the Education & Youth Support Officer for the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, a position she held for four years. In 2018 she was offered a position with My Pathway at the Youth Hub in a similar role to her current role. This role focused on after-school and holiday activities at the hub for school children. Within this role she worked closely with the school, supporting them with incentives, and used the Hub to manage behaviour and improve attendance.

Commissioner Dora Gibson is passionate about keeping her language and culture alive and works tirelessly with her husband to run cultural programs in the community. Commissioner

Dora Gibson became a Hope Vale Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Mossman Gorge

Commissioner Loretta SPRATT OAM (Olkola / Lama Lama Clans) was born on Thursday Island but spent her infant years in Coen and Hope Vale. She remained in Hope Vale throughout her childhood until her late teens when she met Nathan McLean, a young man visiting from Mossman Gorge. Commissioner Spratt later moved to the Gorge where she resided for many years with Nathan before buying a house and moving to Mossman in February 2018. Mossman Gorge Commissioner Spratt has previously worked in the areas of sport and recreation. She has completed a Certificate III in horticulture, discovering her true passion in life, and is currently employed by Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku Aboriginal Corporation (BBNAC) propagating and using native plants and trees in landscaping.

On 26 January 2015 Mossman Gorge Commissioner Spratt was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her services to the community. She has a keen interest in art and a love of reading and continues to learn new skills to complement her Local Commissioner role in the community. Mossman Gorge Commissioner Spratt continues to work closely with young people and the women of her community to promote strong, healthy and supportive families. On weekends she likes to spend time with her nieces and nephews fishing, enjoying the natural beauty of the Daintree area, reading and particularly gardening at home.

Commissioner George ROSS-KELLY (Kuku Nyungkul / Kuku Yalanji Clans) was born and raised in Mossman where he attended Miallo State School and Mossman State School. He is the eldest of two children and is proud to be fluent in the Kuku Yalanji language which he has passed down to his children and grandchildren.

In the mid-1980s Commissioner George Ross-Kelly became a resident of the Mossman Gorge community during which time he was employed as a bus driver, providing transport

Appendices



for community residents to shop in Mossman and to go on country excursions which included camping and fishing trips. Further positions held included a role as Supervisor of the landscaping and gardening unit of BBNAC, and Team Leader in the Woodwork Unit of the Mossman Art Centre which afforded him the opportunity to indulge his hobbies of woodwork and using a lathe.

He returned to bus driving in 2004 when he commenced employment with Country Road Coachlines – a service running from Cairns to Cooktown. In 2006 he returned to working closer to home with FNQ Bus Lines which provided a school bus run for the Mossman Gorge and Newell Beach areas.

Mossman Gorge Commissioner Ross-Kelly joined the FRC as a Local Commissioner on 1 November 2019. He finds his role with the FRC enriching as it enables him to use his skills and aptitude to communicate with community members, providing support and empathy. He is empowered by the opportunity to learn new skills.

His weekend activities include fishing at Newell Beach and Rocky Point and camping in the Daintree and Roseville/Cooktown areas with his family.

Commissioner Daphne CREEK (Kuku Nyungkul / Southern Kaantju Clans) was born and raised in Mossman where she attended Mossman State School and Mossman State High School. She is the youngest of two children and is a proud mum of six children. In 2012 Commissioner Daphne Creek purchased her first home with her husband and sons.

Working as a health worker in the late 1990's immersed Commissioner Daphne Creek into the Mossman Gorge community whilst linking families with support services. Early in 2003 saw Commissioner Daphne Creek embark on her career with BBNAC. There she has worked in many roles including administration, finance and payroll and as housing manager.

Weekends include spending time with family and enjoying a meal together. Gardening and quiet times at home are also important to Commissioner Daphne Creek.

Commissioner Daphne Creek became a Mossman Gorge Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Commissioner Helenia CREEK (Nyungkul and Southern Kaantju Clans) grew up in Mossman and attended Mossman State High School. She comes from a big family with five siblings. She also has four of her own children, and now has two grandchildren.

Commissioner Helenia Creek has worked across a wide range of services in Cape York over the years including: assistance/coordinator for the Goobidi Karrakay Karrakay Playgroup; Outside of School Hours Coordinator; she worked at the Jawunkarra Family Support Service; and O-Hub Manager at Cape York Partnership. Her work experience has brought her an array of interpersonal skills, and in particular the ability to communicate with all age groups with respect and understanding. Commissioner Helenia Creek has volunteered much of her time to the community as a board member of Goobidi Bamaga Community Advancement Co-operative for ten years, helping with the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) events and other community events.

Outside of work she likes to keep very active with lots of sports including rugby league, basketball, netball, touch football and swimming. Her interests include continuing to learn her culture and she is passionate about empowering her people and community. Commissioner Helenia Creek became a Mossman Gorge Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Commissioner Zara RYAN (Yalanji / Nyungkul and Southern Kaantju Clans) was born in Cairns and raised in Mossman, where she completed school at Mossman State High School. She has three siblings and a young daughter.

Working part-time whilst completing her secondary studies, Commissioner Ryan worked in a local café and for an Indigenous Family Support Service. Training and skilling herself with tools to grow and progress in January 2019 took Commissioner Ryan to Ayers Rock in a position as front office receptionist. With the ever-changing world in 2020, she moved back to



Appendices

Mossman to be closer to family. Commissioner Ryan has a very relatable perspective of growing up in the area as a young Indigenous person, assisting her ability to interact with clients in an authentic and genuine manner.

Having a love of all sports, at seventeen Commissioner Ryan was a representative in the under 18's Indigenous Australian Schoolgirl team. Her interests and passions include continuing to learn her language and culture, and performing and teaching her traditional dancing, which she wants to pass on to her daughter and the younger generation. Commissioner Zara Ryan became a Mossman Gorge Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Commissioner Jarrod KULKA (Kuku Yalanji Clan on his father's side and Wulgurukaba People on his mother's side) has lived in Mossman his whole life. Commissioner Kulka attended Mossman State High School, and afterwards went on to gain accreditations including a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management, Chainsaw Certificate, Construction White Card, and a Certificate III in Tourism.

Commissioner Kulka's background is in skilled manual work as a trainee deckhand, labourer, farmhand, fencing contractor, and he spent time working in the mines as a heavy truck operator. He then went into roles where he could use his strong knowledge of Indigenous culture – a Lead Tour Guide at Mossman Gateway and then a Cultural Awareness Teacher for Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation. He has taught cultural awareness to local businesses and visitors in the area, breaking down barriers and closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Commissioner Kulka's calm, stable and easy-going nature enables him to engage with clients respectfully and attentively.

Commissioner Kulka's hobbies and interests on the weekends include rugby league, fishing and hunting which is an important cultural tradition he wishes to continue. Commissioner Kulka became a Mossman Gorge Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Commissioner Julia-Ann (Julie) WILLIAMS (Kuku Yalanji Clan) was born and raised in Mossman where she attended both Mossman State School and Mossman State High School. Being one of 12 children, life has always been busy for Commissioner Julie Williams.

She has a passion for encouraging the health and wellbeing of her community. Stepping into the Local Commissioner role is something that seemed a natural progression for her. Having worked for many years in Mossman Gorge, improving people's lives is very close to her heart. Early in her career Commissioner Julie Williams worked as an Indigenous Student Support Officer and teacher's aide, nurturing, and encouraging youth. In 2009 Commissioner Julie Williams embarked on her role as a Youth Development Coordinator in Mossman delivering youth programs, and offering counselling and support to stabilise health and lifestyle.

Her commitment to improving the wellbeing of her community expanded to the role of Parenting Consultant in Mossman Gorge, working closely with many community members. Increasing her skill set then saw Commissioner Julie Williams move into the role of Community Support Worker, supporting families to address alcohol and drug problems. In 2016 Commissioner Julie Williams undertook a role of travelling into thirteen Cape York communities delivering a drug and alcohol program. In 2021 Commissioner Julie Williams felt that she needed to be closer to her family and country and returned to Mossman to undertake her role at Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, hosting a girls On Country Program.

When not immersing herself into community, Commissioner Julie Williams practices Bowen Therapy and Reiki, enjoys painting, camping and looking after her own wellbeing. Commissioner Julie Williams became a Mossman Gorge Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Appendices



Registrar Maxine McLeod

Maxine McLeod was appointed as the Registrar of the Family Responsibilities Commission on 22 January 2016, having acted as the Registrar/General Manager from 1 January 2015. Prior to this appointment Maxine was seconded to the Commission in November 2009 as the Registrar Support Officer. Upon the Commission migrating its human resource management and financial services in-house in 2012, Maxine was appointed as the HR and Policy Manager. In this role Maxine led the development and application of human resource and strategic/operational policies and procedures. In the role of Registrar Maxine is responsible for managing the registry and the administrative affairs of the Commission. A significant focus of the role includes the development and implementation of appropriate strategies to support the strategic capability of the Commission, introducing and implementing reforms and overseeing the operations of the registry.

Prior to joining the Commission Maxine was employed by the Department of Justice and Attorney General for a 17-year period, the last four years of which she spent as the Regional Operations Manager for the State Reporting Bureau.

Having been born and raised in Asia, Maxine has a keen interest in travel, enjoys cooking and is an avid reader and fisherwoman.

Community support staff

Local Registry Coordinators

A Local Registry Coordinator has been appointed for each of the welfare reform communities. The function of the Local Registry Coordinators is to support, at the local level, the operations of the Commission in the welfare reform community areas.

The Local Registry Coordinators are:

Aurukun:	Mr Bryce Coxall
Coen:	Ms Cara Marks (Acting)
Doomadgee:	Mr Brenden Joinbee
Hope Vale:	Ms Josephine Pinder
Mossman Gorge:	Ms Cara Marks (Acting)