

Weipa Town Authority

CORPORATE PLAN 2020-2025

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“Whatever the future direction and growth that our community wants it will not happen by accident, it needs to be guided and directed, through vision and commitment.”

Introduction

Welcome to the Weipa Town Authority (WTA) Corporate Plan for 2020-2025. This plan is the guiding document for the WTA members and staff and directs all our planning and service delivery.

I want to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land upon which we all live, and I pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. Working together we can shape the future so that it benefits all people.

A plan like this only comes together because of the hard work, passion and commitment of so many people, including Rio Tinto and WTA members who have generously provided input, expertise and collaboration in the development of the WTA Corporate Plan 2020-2025. A plan envisions the best way forward across all the areas to make a vibrant community through delivery pathways including infrastructure, economy, liveability, development, growth and environment.

2020 has been disrupted by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. An event that has impacted our nation to the extent that this virus has, forces us to be always prepared, flexible and adaptive and yet still strive to live the best life that we can. We can still choose how we want our community to be, the seed of opportunity often lies in the heart of all adversity.

Some aspects of a community are a constant like water supply, sewerage, waste management, roads and infrastructure. These are the bones of our community upon which all the rest grows. And just like a body our community is a living growing entity which is not static, change is something that is happening all around us and to us, and if we are honest change is part of us.

The foundation and mainstay of this community has been the mining of bauxite, and while the mine will be here for the foreseeable future, mining is changing and moving further away from the township. As land use changes, development opportunities arise for traditional owners and also the investment and diversity of industry across the Western Cape.

The Weipa Port is a vital piece of transport infrastructure as the only deep water harbour between Cairns and Darwin (without the Great Barrier Reef). There is opportunity to re-purpose and diversify use of the port to ensure viability and sustainability into the future.

The continued sealing of the Peninsula Development Road, the upgrade of our regional airport, the installation of state-of-the-art medical equipment (CT scanner) in Weipa are all catalysts contributing to the growth of Weipa as a Regional Centre. To make the most of this growth opportunity we need to continue providing infrastructure and services that support the demand driven by change.

The WTA believes that revitalisation and development of the Weipa Town Centre is a significant enabler for the Region. This project aims to enhance the current Nanum shopping district creating a community and government hub with local Government offices, commercial office space, new community facilities and social spaces to improve amenity and inject much needed energy and confidence into this area.

Whatever the future direction and growth that our community wants it will not happen by accident, it needs to be guided and directed, through vision and commitment. This plan is part of that journey and I am happy to commend this plan to you.

Michael Rowland
Chair
Weipa Town Authority

Pictured: Michael Rowland (left) with Stretch Noonan, Chair Weipa Local Disaster Management Group and Deputy Chair Weipa Town Authority.

Our Vision

A diverse, connected and sustainable community; the hub of the Cape's unique lifestyle.

Our Mission

To deliver strong, accountable and inclusive leadership that meets the needs of the community.

Our Values

Integrity
Excellence
People

Value
Engagement

"The pathway forward for Weipa is through strong leadership and partnerships with government, business and residents"



Service excellence

Positive experiences for our customers and great services to our community.



A vibrant, connected, resilient community

A community working together to develop and maintain the unique Weipa spirit.



Partnerships and collaboration

Partnerships and strategy to support the development and growth of the region.



A thriving, diverse economy

A diverse and prosperous economy offering employment, training and lifestyle options.



Community infrastructure

Quality community infrastructure that supports a liveable and sustainable community.

Performance Pathways

- Excellence in governance
- Branding for pride and consistency
- Capability and leadership framework
- Performance framework
- Staff training plan
- Safety first

Delivery Pathways

- Healthy and active community
- Community garden
- Connected pathways
- Shady open spaces
- Vibrant community events programme
- Community grant support
- Regular engagement with community

Strategic Pathways

- Investing in relationships – government, regional, stakeholders
- TCICA participation
- Regional Alliance Strategy
- Business Networks
- Regional approaches to disaster management

Strategic Pathways

- Investment attraction
- Tourism/destination planning and attraction
- Town planning
- Policy support for small/home business
- Research and development opportunities

Delivery Pathways

- Long-term financial and asset management planning
- Regular asset review
- Safe and reliable water and wastewater
- Sustainable natural environment
- Contemporary and appropriate technology
- Assets meet endorsed standards

Who are we?

Weipa is a vibrant and dynamic coastal community located on Albatross Bay on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula, in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The township sits around 200km south of Australia's northern tip and about 800km north west of Cairns. Despite the distance from other major cities, the Weipa township contains most of the facilities and conveniences of modern living.

Rich in both natural beauty and cultural heritage, this region of the western Cape York Peninsula features stunning beaches, unspoilt wilderness and unrivalled fishing making Weipa the ideal base to explore the Cape's many attractions. It is home to several different Traditional Owner groups, each contributing to the unique diversity of the area.

The Weipa region is extremely rich in bauxite, with much of the surrounding land around the township leased to the mining company Rio Tinto. Rio Tinto Weipa is a major contributor to the regional economy, making significant investments in local infrastructure.

However, as mining operations move away from the Weipa township and across the region, opportunities present for new economic growth, the diversification of industry, encouragement of new markets and the need for innovation across all sectors in Cape York.

Our Approach

To meet its vision for a diverse, connected and sustainable community; with Weipa as the hub of the Cape's unique lifestyle, Weipa Town Authority will deliver strong, accountable and inclusive leadership and support for Weipa, both now and into the future.

WTA recognises the interconnection between its activities and the rest of the Cape York Communities. Weipa will build on it's natural place as a service hub and facilitate access to government and community services as well as supporting education, research, recreation and employment.

By actively engaging with stakeholders across the region, Weipa will grow as the heart of a vibrant and connected Cape York Community.

This will be achieved through strategic land use, business development, the revitalisation of the town's land and infrastructure and the attraction of government and corporate investment. The growth of tourism will also serve to facilitate improved amenities for both residents and visitors.

"By actively engaging with stakeholders across the region, Weipa will grow as the heart of a vibrant and connected Cape York Community."





Service Excellence

Positive experiences for our customers and great services to our community

2020-2025 PRIORITY

Continuous excellence across all aspects of WTA service delivery and governance.

PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS

- Excellence in governance
- Branding for pride and consistency
- Capability and leadership framework
- Performance framework
- Staff training plan
- Safety first

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Analysis of complaints and service data and trends
- Number of complaints or requests for service
- On-time performance for waste collection
- Staff turnover

Weipa Town Authority understands that what we deliver and how we deliver our services directly impacts the daily experience of residents and visitors. We strive for excellence in service to support customer experience and create value.

People

Our people value is enacted through our commitment to service excellence. It is respect for our people – those in the community, our customers and stakeholders and also within our organisation.

We consider safety and wellbeing in all that we do.

We actively seek, listen to and respect all views in our decision-making.

Service Culture

Service excellence can only be delivered where there is a service culture. We foster a service culture throughout the organisation by:

- Ensuring our people are ready and able. This means that we provide ongoing training in leadership and business management to support high performing teams;
- Consistently reiterating our commitment to great governance practice, developing policies and guidelines which are clear and make compliance easy; and

- Building staff pride and commitment to quality through recognition strategies, communication and the branding of public and project works we undertake.

Monitoring and reporting to community

Service excellence means flexibility, regular monitoring and adjustment as required. We will develop, apply and monitor performance targets and indicators for all major activities, benchmarked against similar organisations.

Communication and access

To deliver excellence, we must understand community needs and impacts. We will communicate regularly and openly with the community seeking their views and feedback.

We will ensure that the community has regular access to all of us, as Members, to discuss matters of concern or interest.



Pictured L to R: Weipa Street sign, WTA and RTA Representatives, Hibberd Library History Display, Town Office.



A vibrant, connected and resilient community

A community working together to develop and maintain the unique Weipa spirit

2020-2025 PRIORITIES

- Sports Centre operations
- Events that connect community
- Playgrounds

DELIVERY PATHWAYS

- Healthy and active community
- Community garden
- Connected pathways
- Shady open spaces
- Vibrant community events programme
- Community grant support
- Regular engagement with community

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Community connecting events (minimum 2 per year)
- Encourage full utilisation of new sports centre
- New or improved pathway works each year
- New trees planted annually

We will support and enhance the community spirit and cooperation that makes Weipa a unique place to live and a great place for families of all ages. Community health and wellbeing is foremost in our endeavours. To support them, we will provide amenities to encourage healthy lifestyles, opportunities for connection and education for life.

Facilities, activities and events

We will offer a range of targeted events and activities which bring community members together in culture, sport and celebration. This includes recognising, supporting and valuing our community volunteers.

WTA will continue to provide essential services and infrastructure to meet the needs of the community, adapting as the community grows. Including:

- Creating a town centre,
- Continuing focus on sport and recreation facilities, underpinned by a sport and recreation plan, and
- Investigating opportunities to enhance the youth precinct.

Health and wellbeing

We will enable active transport by connecting footpaths and cycleways to key facilities and potentially between Weipa and Napranum.

Management of parks, gardens, coastal reserves and foreshores will focus on active and passive use, protecting cultural and natural heritage.

Provision of shade using native flora in urban areas will be a priority.

Establish a community garden to ensure a supply of fresh vegetables, promote a healthy lifestyle and foster community connection.

Leadership includes an important role in education and the WTA will continue to invest in community education with a focus on mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Safety and amenity

We will partner with police on community and public safety initiatives that engage community and address issues such as anti-social behaviour.

We seek to improve community amenity through a reasonable and equitable local laws system. We will encourage community pride via community education initiatives such as an anti-litter campaign.

Engaged community

We will undertake regular engagement with the community through a wide range of modes to test ideas and affirm needs.

We will also communicate our decisions through varied channels targeting all segments of the community so that the whole community can be part of our development.



Pictured L to R: Clean Up Australia Day Event 2019, Magicians in the Hibberd Library, Girl's Night In 2020, Weipa Junior Cricket Club.



Partnerships and collaboration

Partnerships and strategy to support the development and growth of the region

2020-2025 PRIORITIES

To advocate for –

- Becoming a Local Government Entity (Normalisation)
- Education and training opportunities
- Research and development opportunities
- Transport expansion – roads, marine and airport services.

STRATEGIC PATHWAYS

- Investing in relationships – government, regional, stakeholders
- TCICA participation
- Regional Alliance Strategy
- Business Networks
- Regional approaches to disaster management

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Representation of Weipa at regional and state forums
- Appropriate levels of engagement of stakeholders
- State and Federal relationships
- Partnerships and connections with local business and community groups.

Weipa Town Authority will strive to provide a leadership role for community and across the Western Cape, and leverage local skills and resources to support regional development for the benefit of the community.

Advocacy for the community

We cannot do it all alone and will need support from others to make Weipa the place our community aspires to be. We will advocate for the shared needs of the Cape through relevant regional and community leadership groups, including the Torres and Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance (TCICA).

Cape Development

Weipa is perfectly placed to be the hub for Western Cape economic, social and cultural activity. WTA will map stakeholder needs, developing understanding of varied interests in order to build effective, collaborative relationships with neighbouring councils and others in the development of regional economic and liveability strategies that include:

- new and emerging partnerships opportunities,
- priorities for infrastructure, resources and services,
- opportunities for co-branding promotion and support, and
- combined community, cultural, sport and recreation programmes.

Business networks

WTA will facilitate business and industry networks by leveraging relationships across the Cape and through Governments and by providing information for business and prospective business investors.

Disaster Management

WTA has effective disaster management plans and practices in place. We will continuously review the plans and support effectiveness through ongoing community education.

We will coordinate with neighbouring councils and other entities, ensuring consistency and cooperation across the region.



Pictured L to R: Governor-General Hurley and Mrs Hurley in Weipa, Torres and Cape York Indigenous Councils Alliance, Regional Development Australia, Weipa Local Disaster Management Group.





A thriving, diverse economy

A diverse and prosperous economy offering employment, training and lifestyle options

2020-2025 PRIORITIES

- Transition to Local Government Entity
- Investment attraction
- Diversification of investment and business

STRATEGIC PATHWAYS

- Investment attraction
- Tourism/destination planning and attraction
- Town planning
- Policy support for small/home business
- Research and development opportunities

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Commitment to procurement locally
- Increased number of locally based businesses
- Support for new capital investments in Weipa
- Ongoing support for new research and innovation

To improve service to the community and sustainability for all, we will foster a more diverse economy which includes varied commercial activities, a thriving small business network and a tourism sector.

Economic investment and diversification

The WTA acknowledges that economic opportunities in a broader sense will arise through:

- Sealing of the Peninsula Development Road,
- Weipa as a western facing Queensland port,
- Marine and transport industry growth as mining moves further away from Weipa,
- Potential for space and defence expansion.

WTA will actively work to facilitate greater economic diversification by providing enabling infrastructure, policy and support including:

- Home-based businesses,
- Through the Weipa Town Planning Scheme, continue to provide leadership for the appropriate use and development of land,
- Infrastructure that is future proofed and purpose built to support Weipa's long term outlook.

Tourism

- Partnerships to expand tourism including eco-tourism, cultural experiences, self-drive tourism, fishing and adventure travel.
- We will align marketing, signage and collateral with the Western Cape brand and seek funding for visitor information centres and other supporting activities.

Government services and research hub

- Strong and deep relationships with the Federal and State governments will be a focus of WTA activity, ensuring that we have support in addressing challenges and that the community is provided with appropriate services as Weipa is recognised as the hub of the Western Cape.
- We will promote the benefits of Weipa as a base for aquaculture and other research fields, assisting relevant bodies to identify opportunities.

Innovation

We will support and invest in research and feasibility for new and expanded local industry. Examples -

- Space infrastructure
- Biofuels
- Agriculture
- Aquaculture
- Native products e.g. honey
- Timber harvesting.



Pictured L to R: PDR and Construction of Weipa Sports Complex.



Community infrastructure

Quality community infrastructure that supports a liveable and sustainable community

2020-2025 PRIORITIES

- Smart water meters
- Energy efficiency programme roll-out

DELIVERY PATHWAYS

- Long-term financial and asset management planning
- Regular asset review
- Safe and reliable water and wastewater
- Sustainable natural environment
- Contemporary and appropriate technology
- Assets meet endorsed standards

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Completion of capital works programme
- Investment in long-term asset management/replacement
- Reduction in electricity and water usage
- Water quality reporting

Infrastructure is the foundation of any community and the decisions around infrastructure provision and management are critical for a community's long-term outlook.

This means that the infrastructure meets the needs of the community or organisation at a cost that can be sustained.

Water management

We will provide leadership and public guidance to foster the sensible use of water resources.

The WTA will provide a framework for reasonable water usage, measure per capita consumption and reduce water wastage through technology solutions.

Sustainable asset management

We will work to secure a sustainable financial base through solid asset management with the implementation of a long-term financial and asset management plan and regular asset review.

We will consistently work towards alternative financial and revenue growth strategies (including potential for public/private partnerships and investment and grant funding opportunities).

Sustainable operations

Our services will be delivered through responsible management and operations that minimise resources and waste.

We will review environmental training and the notification procedures adopted.

We will consistently seek improved energy efficiency in WTA facilities and will investigate opportunities for grey water and storm water capture and re-use.

Environmentally responsible

Much of what the community loves about Weipa is the natural amenity. We will work to preserve this, ensuring that our activities consider the sustainability of our region, from ecological, social and environmental perspectives. This means:

- Acting to mitigate climate risks
- Offering a progressive environmental approach via development of a climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy,
- Working with stakeholders on natural resource management including weeds, pests and conservation of our biodiversity,
- The inclusion of planning controls in the town plan which enshrine climate responsive design as a condition of build,
- Seeking grants for alternative energy projects,
- Installing public amenities and providing services to preserve natural amenity and manage and reduce waste, and
- Incorporating culture and history into projects and programmes.



Pictured L to R: Dogs enjoying the Weipa Dog Park, Grand Opening of Dog Park, Rocky Point Boat Ramp, Upgraded Kumrumja Centre & Parklands.



Our planning processes



Weipa Community Plan

2012-2022

Identifies community values and priorities



WTA Corporate Plan

2020-2025

Sets strategic direction and key projects



WTA long-term Financial & Asset Management Plan

Five yearly review

Outlines income and expenditure projections, infrastructure and asset management



WTA Operational Plan

Annual

Itemises work programme and performance measures



WTA Operating Budget

Annual

Staff and project funding



WTA Capital Budget

Annual

Asset Investment

The WTA Members

The Weipa Town Authority (WTA) acts in the role of Local Council for the Weipa Town Area. This is carried out on behalf of RTA Weipa Pty Ltd, with all the powers and resources of a local council in Queensland.

RTA Weipa Pty Ltd (RTAW) governs the Weipa Town Area by virtue of the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement Act 1957 (Qld) and the Comalco Aluminium Corporation Pty Ltd Agreement.

The services supplied and maintained through the WTA are those supplied by local councils throughout Australia, and include road maintenance, water supply, town planning, garbage collection, parks, ovals, sporting facilities, library and aquatic centre.

The WTA is comprised of four elected Community Representatives, two Rio Tinto appointed representatives and one appointed Traditional Owner representative.

The WTA has a Chair (akin to a Mayor) and Members (akin to Councillors).

The WTA endeavours to operate and function as though it were a local government constituted and established under the 2009 LG Act. The WTA meets once per month and makes decisions on local government matters, such as town planning, community development, infrastructure, services and local government rates and charges.

WTA Members



Michael Rowland
Chair
Weipa Town Authority



Stretch Noonan
Chair Weipa Local Disaster
Management Group and
Deputy Chair



Dave Donald
Member



Jaime Gane
Member



Aaron Schleich
RTA Representative



Jackie Malacoola
Traditional Owner (Alngith)
Representative



Fiona Kruger
RTA Representative



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