



WEIPA
TOWN AUTHORITY

WTA Members General Meeting

AGENDA

Held at the Council Chambers, WTA Office
On Wednesday 10 December 2025
at 10:30 am

GENERAL MEETING

Agenda

Wednesday 10 December 2025

ATTENDANCE

Present and History

- Members

...

- History

	July		August			September		October		November		December	
	W	M	W	*	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M
	16	30	13	19	27		17	08	29	26	26		10
Jaime Gane	P	AA	AA	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	X	
Geoffrey Robins	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	A	P	P	P	X	
Trent Gordon	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	A	X	
Tacita De Toumouer				P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	X	
Jackie Malacoola	A	A	P	A	A	X	P	P	A	A	A	X	
Tim Ryan	Ap	P	Ap	P	Ap	X	P	P	Ap	P	P	X	
Nick Preece	P	P	P	P	Ap	X	Ap	A	Ap	Ap	Ap	X	

- Guests

NIL

- WTA Staff

...

Not Present

- Absent

...

- Apology

...

- Approved absence

NIL

OPEN MEETING

The General Meeting opened at ... am.

Traditional Owners Acknowledgment

We begin today by acknowledging the Alngith people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to Elders both past and present. We thank the First Australians for generations of careful custodianship of the land on which we live, work and play.

1. MINUTES

1.1. General Meeting – November

The October WTA Members General Meeting took place on Wednesday 26th of December 2025 at 9:19 am. The minutes are attached as Appendix 1.

To discuss this motion, can we have a mover and a seconder.

Moved:
Seconded:

Recommendation

It is recommended the WTA Members adopt the minutes of the General Meeting on 26 November 2025 as a true and accurate record.

Resolution 2512-1

Affirmative:

Negative:

CARRIED / DENIED / DEFERRED / INVALID

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1. Bereavement and condolences

A minute of silence may be observed out of respect for community members who have recently passed away.

TBD

2.2. Conflict of interest

WTA Members are asked to consider any Material Personal Interest (MPI) or Conflict of Interest (COI) issues that may arise due to items listed on the agenda.

TBD

2.3. Travel Applications

WTA Members are asked to consider any travel plans so that all travel and reimbursements can be pre-approved by WTA (Pol-014 Member Expenses Reimbursement Policy).

NIL

2.4. Acknowledgement of Absence - Applications

WTA Members are required to have all absences pre-approved by WTA resolution (POL-010 Member Remuneration Policy).

NIL

2.5. Community Engagement

WTA Members are asked to consider what community engagement activities are needed or what has occurred.

i) Reflection – Christmas Markets - 29 November 2025

WTA hosted Christmas Markets on Saturday the 29th of November. WTA Members attended this event.

... *Reflection*

ii) Reflection – Christmas Tree Lighting – 1 December 2025

WTA hosted the Community Christmas Tree Lighting event on Monday the 1st of December at Eat Street. WTA Members attended this event.

... *Reflection*

3. QUESTIONS

3.1. Public attendance

i) **NIL**

3.2. Member questions

i) **NIL**

3.3. Answers to previous questions

i) NIL

4. CORRESPONDENCES

4.1. Correspondence

i) IN – Department of Police and Emergency Services - Amendments to Disaster Management Arrangements – READ

Appendix 2.1 is a letter from Minister for Police and Emergency Services regarding amendments to Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements through the Disaster Management Amendment Regulation 2025.

ii) IN – Department of Agriculture, Fishers and Forestry - Response Letter – READ

Appendix 2.2 is a letter from Senior Director of Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry regarding the letter of support for Tropical North Queensland Drought Hub sent on the 30th of October 2025.

4.2. Petitions and joint letters

NIL

4.3. Deputations and delegations

NIL

5. CHAIR REPORT

Jaime Gane to present the Chair's report.

6. WTA REPORTS

6.1. Superintendent

i) Superintendent's Report

Tobias Rissman to present the Superintendent's Report.

6.2. Other

NIL

7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

7.1. Corporate Services

i) Monthly Financial Report – November

A financial report was prepared capturing the financial performance of WTA for the month of November. This report is attached as Appendix 3.

To discuss this motion, can we have a mover and a seconder.

Moved:
Seconded:

Tobias Rissman to present the November WTA Financial Report.

Recommendation

It is recommended the WTA Members accept the monthly financial report for November 2025.

Resolution 2512-2

Affirmative:

Negative:

CARRIED / DENIED / DEFERRED / INVALID

ii) Principal Cycle Network Amendment

On the 7th of November 2025, WTA received a letter from the Director-General of Department of Transport and Main Roads to endorse the updated Principal Cycle Network. The letter and map showing the amended network are attached as Appendix 4.

To discuss this motion, can we have a mover and a seconder.

Moved:
Seconded:

The amended Cycle Network Plan shown in appendix 4.2 extends past the Weipa Town Boundary. WTA clarified with the Department the endorsement of the network will not hold WTA to complete worked outside of the Town Boundary.

Recommendation

It is recommended the WTA Members endorse the presented amended Principal Cycle Network.

Resolution 2512-3

Affirmative:

Negative:

CARRIED / DENIED / DEFERRED / INVALID**7.2. Planning and Works**

NIL

7.3. Community Services**i) Animal Management Strategy**

WTA has reviewed and updated the Animal Management Plan 2015-2019.

To discuss this motion, can we have a mover and a seconder.

Moved:**Seconded:**

Renee Williams to present the Animal Management Strategy 2026-2030.

Recommendation

It is recommended the WTA Members adopt the Animal Management Strategy 2026-2030, effective 1 January 2026.

Resolution 2512-4

Affirmative:

Negative:

CARRIED / DENIED / DEFERRED / INVALID**ii) Additional Animal Permit Policy**

Residential properties within Weipa have a maximum of 1 or 2 dogs, depending on the property type, permitted without an additional animal permit. Currently there is no maximum limit on the number of dogs allowable under an additional animal permit. Stemmed from the

Animal Management Strategy 2026-2030, POL-037 has been developed to impose a number on the maximum number of dogs allowed under an additional animal permit.

To discuss this motion, can we have a mover and a seconder.

Moved:
Seconded:

Renee Williams to present POL-037 Additional Animal Permit Policy.

Recommendation

It is recommended the WTA Members adopt POL-037 Additional Animal Permit Policy, effect 1 January 2026.

Resolution 2512-5

Affirmative:

Negative:

CARRIED / DENIED / DEFERRED / INVALID

iii) WTA Australia Day Awards

Every year, WTA hosts an Australia Day Dinner where certain members of the community are recognised for their achievements and contributions. There are 3 award categories:

- **Citizen of the Year** – Citizens aged 19 yrs and above who have made a significant contribution to the (1) social and wellbeing, (2) sports and recreation, or (3) culture and arts of the community.
- **Youth Citizen of the Year** – Citizens aged 18 yrs and under who have made a significant contribution to the (1) social and wellbeing, (2) sports and recreation, or (3) culture and arts of the community.
- **Community Spirit Award** – Either individual citizens or local organisations whose selfless efforts have helped improve the lives of others and/or those who have helped build community spirit, resilience, and identity.

The nominees for the 2026 Australia Day Awards have been attached as Appendix 7 (CONFIDENTIAL).

To discuss this motion, can we have a mover and a seconder.

Moved:
Seconded:

Meeting closed at xx to discuss the award recipients (confidential).

To close the meeting, can we have a mover and a seconder.

Moved:

Seconded:

WTA Members to discuss the Australia Day Award nominations and decide the award recipients.

To reopen the meeting, can we have a mover and a seconder.

Moved:

Seconded:

Meeting re-opened at xx.

Recommendation

It is recommended the WTA Members support for the Australia Day Awards to be awarded to the recipients as discussed.

Resolution 2512-6

Affirmative:

Negative:

CARRIED / DENIED / DEFERRED / INVALID

7.4. Sports and Recreation

NIL

7.5. Other

NIL

8. URGENT MATTERS

8.1. Motions

NIL

8.2. Notices

NIL

9. CONTINUATION OF ITEMS

9.1. Adjourned items

NIL

9.2. Debates

NIL

10. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

NIL

11. MEETING SCHEDULE AND TRAINING

11.1. Training and Conferences

- Headquarters Joint Operations Command and Headquarters 2nd (Australian) Division – 3 February 2026 10:30 am
- Joint Standing Committee on Northern Australia inquiry on Emerging Industries in Northern Australia – Sometime in May to June
- Developing Northern Australia (DNA) Conference – 17-19 August 2026
- Local government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference – 19-21 October 2026

1.1. Workshops

- 10 December 2025 – After General Meeting
- 11 February 2026 – 10:30 am
- 11 March 2026 – 10:30 am
- 1 April 2026 – 9:00 am
- 13 May 2026 – 9:00 am
- 10 June 2026 – 9:00 am
- 15 July 2026 – 9:00 am
- 12 August 2026 – 9:00 am
- 9 September 2026 – 9:00 am
- 14 October 2026 – 10:30 am
- 11 November 2026 – 10:30 am

11.2. General Meetings

- 10 December 2025 – 10:30 am
- 28 January 2026 – 9:00 am
- 25 February 2026 – 9:00 am
- 25 March 2026 – 9:00 am
- 22 April 2026 – 9:00 am
- 27 May 2026 – 9:00 am
- 24 June 2026 – 9:00 am
- 22 July 2026 – 9:00 am
- 26 August 2026 – 9:00 am
- 16 September 2026 – 9:00 am

- 28 October 2026 – 9:00 am
- 25 November 2026 – 9:00 am
- 9 December 2026 – 10:30 am

11.3. Date Claimer

- WTA Christmas Lights Competition – 9-10 December 2025
- WTA Australia Day Awards Dinner – 21 January 2026
- WTA Easter Markets and Community Showcase – 28 March 2026
- WTA Sunset Markets – 2 May 2026
- Weipa Fishing Classic – 5-7 June 2026
- WTA Sunset Markets – 1 August 2026
- Weipa Rodeo – August 2026
- WTA Sunset Markets – 5 September 2026
- WTA Disaster EXPO – 10 October 2026
- WTA Christmas Markets – 19 November 2026
- WTA Christmas Tree Lighting – 1 December 2026

MEETING CLOSE

The General Meeting closed at ... am.

ENDORSEMENT

These Minutes were confirmed this ...day no... day of ...month... ...year....

The Members listed as present in these Minutes are considered eligible for the Meeting Fee.

Chair

Superintendent Weipa Township



WEIPA
TOWN AUTHORITY

WTA Members General Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

Held at the Council Chambers, WTA Office
On Wednesday 26 November 2025
at 9 am

GENERAL MEETING

Draft Minutes

Wednesday 26 November 2025

ATTENDANCE

Present and History

• Members

Geoff Robins

Tacita De Tournouer

Jaime Gane

Tim Ryan

• History

	July		August			September		October		November		December	
	W	M	W	*	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M
	16	30	13	19	27		17	08	29		26		10
Jaime Gane	P	AA	AA	P	P	X	P	P	P	X		X	
Geoffrey Robins	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	A	P	X		X	
Trent Gordon	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	X		X	
Tacita De Tournouer				P	P	X	P	P	P	X		X	
Jackie Malacoola	A	A	P	A	A	X	P	P	A	X		X	
Tim Ryan	Ap	P	Ap	P	Ap	X	P	P	Ap	X		X	
Nick Preece	P	P	P	P	Ap	X	Ap	A	Ap	X		X	

• Guests

NIL

• WTA Staff

Tobias Rissman – Superintendent Weipa Township

Nicky Perriman – Supervisor Corporate Services

Renee Williams – Supervisor Communities

Kai-ishya Thompson – Governance Officer

Not Present

• Absent

Jackie Malacoola

• Apology

Nick Preece

• Approved absence

NIL

OPEN MEETING

The General Meeting opened at 9:19 am.

Traditional Owners Acknowledgment

We begin today by acknowledging the Alngith people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to Elders both past and present. We thank the First Australians for generations of careful custodianship of the land on which we live, work and play.

1. MINUTES

1.1. General Meeting – October

The October WTA Members General Meeting took place on Wednesday 5th of November 2025 at 8:04 am. The minutes were attached as Appendix 1.

Moved:	Geoff Robins
Seconded:	Tacita De Tournouer

Resolution 2511-1

Affirmative: 4

Negative: 0

The WTA Members adopt the minutes of the General Meeting on 5 November 2025 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

The Members carried the motion with no comments.

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1. Bereavement and condolences

A minute of silence may be observed out of respect for community members who have recently passed away.

A moment of silence was held for the passing of a member of community.

2.2. Conflict of interest

WTA Members are asked to consider any Material Personal Interest (MPI) or Conflict of Interest (COI) issues that may arise due to items listed on the agenda.

NIL

2.3. Travel Applications

WTA Members are asked to consider any travel plans so that all travel and reimbursements can be pre-approved by WTA (Pol-014 Member Expenses Reimbursement Policy).

NIL

2.4. Acknowledgement of Absence - Applications

WTA Members are required to have all absences pre-approved by WTA resolution (POL-010 Member Remuneration Policy).

See Urgent Motions – Item 8

2.5. Community Engagement

WTA Members are asked to consider what community engagement activities are needed or what has occurred.

i) Planning – Christmas Markets - 29 November 2025

WTA is intending to host Christmas Markets on Saturday the 29th of November. WTA Members are expected to attend this event.

Action: Jaime Gane and Geoff Robins to attend.

ii) Planning – Christmas Lights Competition - 9-10 December 2025

WTA is intending to host a Christmas Lights Competition commencing on the 8th of December. WTA Members are expected to vote for the properties with the best Festive display and 'Santas Summer Adventure' display. WTA Members are expected to vote.

Voting will be ongoing on the 9th and 10th of December.

Action: All Member to vote for the best houses in the respective categories.

iii) Planning – Christmas Tree Lighting - 1 December 2025

WTA is intending to host the Community Christmas Tree Lighting event on Monday the 1st of December at Eat Street. WTA Members are expected to attend this event.

Action: Jaime Gane to attend.

3. QUESTIONS

3.1. Public attendance

i) NIL

3.2. Member questions

i) **NIL**

3.3. Answers to previous questions

i) **NIL**

4. CORRESPONDENCES

4.1. Correspondence

i) **IN – Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service - Occupational Violence – READ**

Appendix 2.1 is a letter from Chair and Acting Health Service Chief Executive, Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service regarding occupational violence occurring in their facilities.

The Members noted the letter with minimal comments.

ii) **IN – Department of Premier and Cabinet - Public Service Medal – READ**

Appendix 2.2 is a letter from Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet regarding nominations for the Public Service Medal.

The Members noted the letter with no comments.

iii) **OUT – WTA Member - Letter of Support – READ**

Appendix 2.3 is a letter from WTA Chairperson regarding support to the Tropical North Queensland Drought Hub for the continued maintenance of two distinct drought hubs in Queensland.

The Members noted the letter with no comments.

iv) **IN – WTA Member – Resignation Letter – READ**

Appendix 2.4 is a letter from WTA Deputy Chairperson regarding his resignation as a WTA Member.

The Members noted the letter with minimal comments.

v) **OUT – WTA Member – Letter of Support - READ**

Appendix 2.1 is a letter from WTA Chairperson regarding support to Weipa Camping Grounds for a project submitted under the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

The Members noted the letter with no comments.

vi) IN – Department of Transport and Main Roads – Principal Cycle Network Amendment - READ

Appendix 2.6.1 is a letter from Director-General of Department of Transport and Main Roads regarding endorsement of the updated Principal Cycle Network. Appendix 2.6.2 shows the amended cycle network.

WTA is engaging with the department to clarify the endorsement of a network outside the Weipa Town Boundary. The decision to endorse the network will occur in the coming months.

The Members noted the letter with minimal comments.

4.2. Petitions and joint letters

i) NIL

4.3. Deputations and delegations

i) NIL

5. CHAIR REPORT

Jaime Gane presented the Chair's report.

6. WTA REPORTS

6.1. Superintendent

i) Superintendent's Report

Tobias Rissman presented the Superintendent's Report.

6.2. Other

NIL

7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

7.1. Corporate Services

i) Monthly Financial Report – October

A financial report was prepared capturing the financial performance of WTA for the month of October. This report was attached as Appendix 3.

Moved:	Tim Ryan
Seconded:	Geoff Robins

Tobias Rissman presented the October WTA Financial Report.

Resolution 2510-2

Affirmative: 4

Negative: 0

The WTA Members accept the monthly financial report for October 2025.

CARRIED

The Members carried the motion with minimal comments.

ii) 2026 Member Meeting Dates

The dates for all General Meetings and Workshops are decided and relevant dates published, before the year commences. In recent years, WTA Member meetings have occurred in the mornings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Two different calendars were attached as Appendix 4.

Moved: Tacita De Tournouer**Seconded:** Geoff Robins

Previously, Queensland school holidays were taken into account when determine the relevant WTA Member meeting dates, with the preference of no meetings occurring during school holidays. Two options for Member meeting dates have been supplied.

Resolution 2511-3

Affirmative: 4

Negative: 0

The WTA Members approve the Workshop and General Meeting dates for 2026 as follows:

Workshop:

11 February 2026

11 March 2026

01 April 2026

13 May 2026

10 June 2026

15 July 2026

12 August 2026

09 September 2026

14 October 2026

11 November 2026

General Meeting:

28 January 2026

25 February 2026

25 March 2026

22 April 2026

27 May 2026

24 June 2026

22 July 2026

26 August 2026

16 September 2026

28 October 2026

25 November 2026

09 December 2026

CARRIED

The Members carried the motion after some discussion.

7.2. Planning and Works

NIL

7.3. Community Services

NIL

7.4. Sports and Recreation

NIL

7.5. Other

NIL

8. URGENT MATTERS

8.1. Motions

i) Acknowledgement of Absence – Jaime Gane

An absence request was submitted by Jaime Gane on 25 November 2025.

Moved:	Geoff Robins
Seconded:	Tacita de Tournouer

An approved absence was requested by Jaime Gane for a short period. She will miss 0 meetings on for a personal holiday. Absence was submitted in the prescribed form. The absence will be during disaster season.

Resolution 2510-4

Affirmative: 4

Negative: 0

The WTA Members approve for Jaime Gane to be absent from 11 to 16 December 2025 due to a personal holiday. Geoff Robins will act as Chairperson during this period.

CARRIED

The Members carried the motion with minimal comments.

Member Robins noted he would be out of range in morning of the 11th of December but would be available for the rest of the period.

ii) Acknowledgement of Absence – Jaime Gane

An absence request was submitted by Jaime Gane on 25 November 2025.

Moved:	Tacita De Tournouer
Seconded:	Geoff Robins

An approved absence was requested by Jaime Gane for a short period. She will miss 0 meetings on for a personal holiday. Absence was submitted in the prescribed form. The absence will be during disaster season.

Resolution 2510-5

Affirmative: 4

Negative: 0

The WTA Members approve for Jaime Gane to be absent from 23 to 30 December 2025 due to a personal holiday, on the provision the Peninsular Development Road (PDR) is open and drivable. A clear escalation process and requirements for all Members will be put in place to manage the absence in the event a disaster occurs during this period.

CARRIED

The Members carried the motion after some discussion.

8.2. Notices

i) **NIL**

9. CONTINUATION OF ITEMS

9.1. Adjourned items

i) **NIL**

9.2. Debates

i) **NIL**

10. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

i) **NIL**

11. MEETING SCHEDULE AND TRAINING

11.1. Training and Conferences

NIL

1.1. Workshops

- 10 December 2025 – After General Meeting

11.2. General Meetings

- 10 December 2025 – 10:30 am

11.3. Date Claimer

- WTA Community Christmas Markets – 29 November 2025
- WTA Community Christmas Tree Lighting – 1 December 2025
- WTA Christmas Lights Competition – 9-10 December 2025

MEETING CLOSE

The General Meeting closed at 10:24 am.

ENDORSEMENT

These Minutes were confirmed this ...day no... day of ...month... ..year....

The Members listed as present in these Minutes are considered eligible for the Meeting Fee.

Chair

Superintendent Weipa Township



Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Appendix 2.1

Ref No: 2025/10585 JF

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15195 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7150
Email police@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

21 November 2025

Mayor Jaime Gane
Weipa Town Authority
jaime.gane@weipatownauthority.com.au

Dear Councillor

I am writing to you to advise of recent changes to Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements through the Disaster Management Amendment Regulation 2025 (the Amending Regulation), which is scheduled to commence on 1 December 2025.

Queensland is the most disaster affected state in Australia, emphasising the importance of ensuring Queensland's disaster management arrangements are performing optimally. These arrangements are based on a tiered system that operates at a local, district and state level. At the local level, local governments are responsible for managing events in their local government area through Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs) established under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

The role of LDMGs includes ensuring that disaster management and disaster operations are prepared, planned and implemented in their relevant local government areas. The Disaster Management Regulation 2014 (the DM Regulation) assists LDMGs to meet their statutory functions through outlining how a LDMG operates.

Currently, section 10 of the DM Regulation outlines that the chairperson and the deputy chairperson of a LDMG are the persons appointed by the relevant local government for the local group to be the chairperson and deputy chairperson. This section also provides that the chairperson must be a councillor of a local government.

The Amending Regulation will amend section 10(2) of the DM Regulation to provide that the chairperson of a LDMG must be the Mayor of the relevant local government, or a nominee of the Mayor of the relevant local government who is a councillor of the local government. The Amending Regulation will commence on 1 December 2025.

This amendment will ensure optimal communication and information sharing by LDMGs with other agencies and the community. Importantly, the amendment will align with section 4 of the DM Regulation, which provides that the Premier is the chairperson of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee.

These changes will have no impact upon the vast majority of LDMGs in Queensland, as generally, the chairperson of a LDMG is also the Mayor of their respective local government.

.../2

The Amending Regulation will have an impact upon those LDMGs whose current chair is not the Mayor of their respective local government. In these circumstances, upon the Amending Regulation commencing on 1 December 2025, the incumbent chairperson will no longer be able to continue in that role unless they are nominated as the chairperson by the Mayor of the relevant local government.

I would request that you notify the Assistant Commissioner, Emergency Management and Coordination Command, Queensland Police Service, via SDCC@police.qld.gov.au if there is any change to the position of chairperson of your LDMG as a consequence of the Amending Regulation.

Should your office require further information, Ms Bianca Stone, Chief of Staff, is available on (07) 3719 7150.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Purdie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Purdie MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Appendix 2.2

File ref: MC25-002237

26 November 2025

Ms Jaime Gane
Chair
Weipa Town Authority
6 Hibberd Drive
WEIPA QLD 4874

jaime.gane@weipatownauthority.com.au

Dear Ms Gane

Thank you for your letter of 30 October 2025 to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Julie Collins MP, concerning the recent Drought Hubs review Minister Collins has asked me to thank you for your correspondence and to reply on her behalf.

In relation to your comments on the Hubs review and next phase of the drought hubs program, the Government is considering the review recommendations to inform the design of the new program. As previously announced, the new program will be delivered through an open competitive grant program that is planned to open by the end of March 2026.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the Minister's attention.

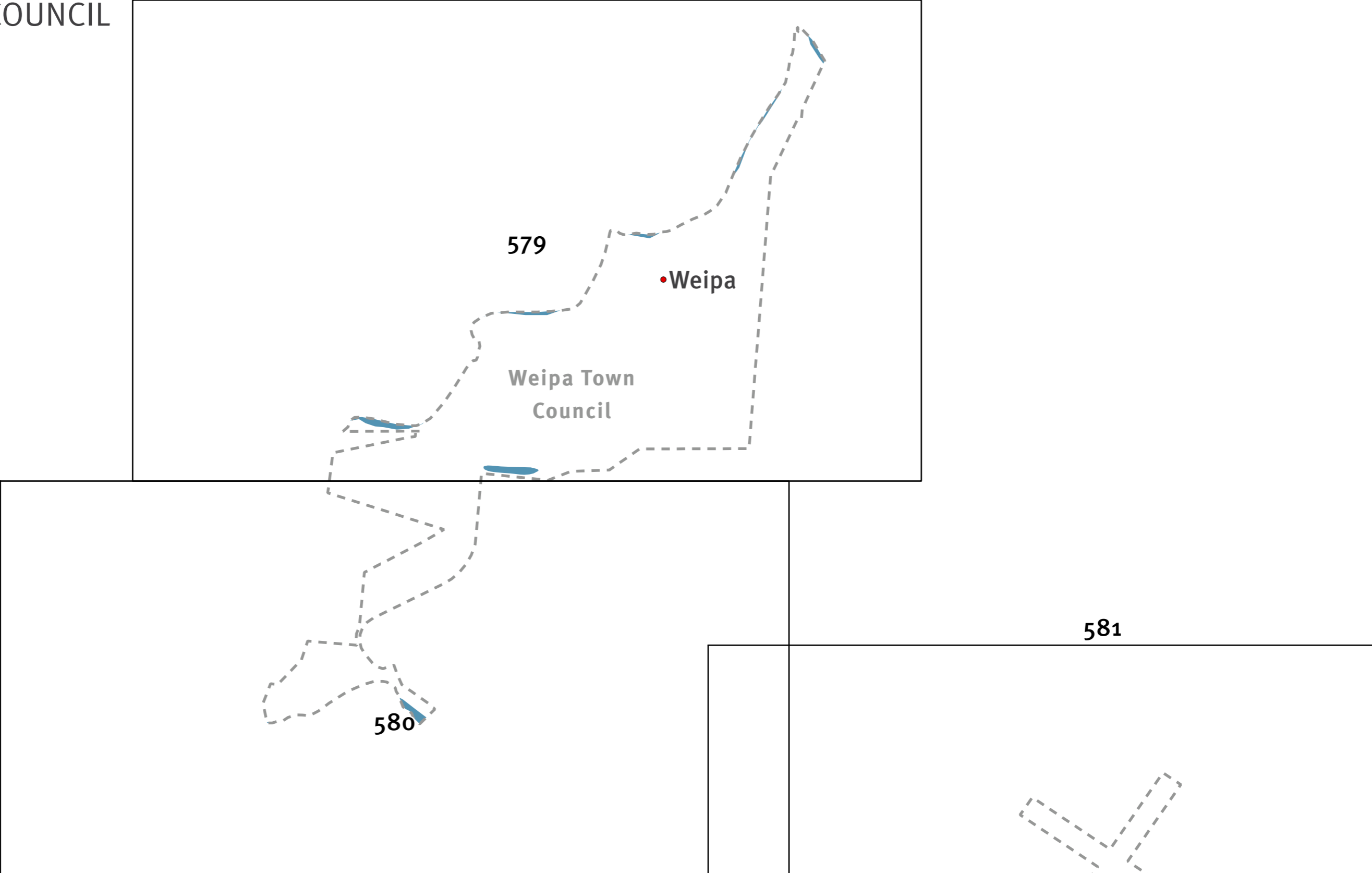
Yours sincerely

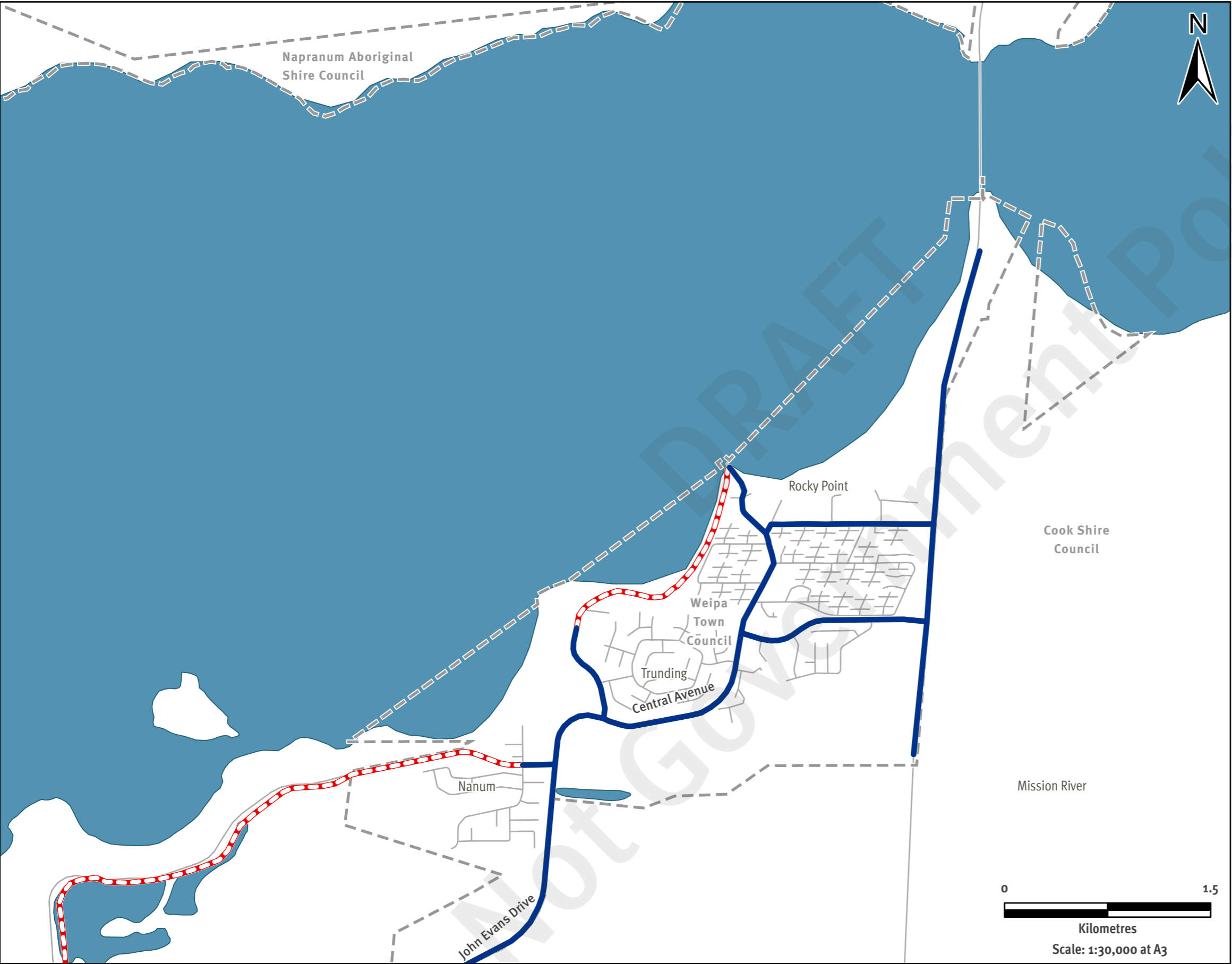
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Toyne'.

Chris Toyne
Senior Director, Innovation and Adoption Branch
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Queensland Principal Cycle Network

WEIPA TOWN COUNCIL





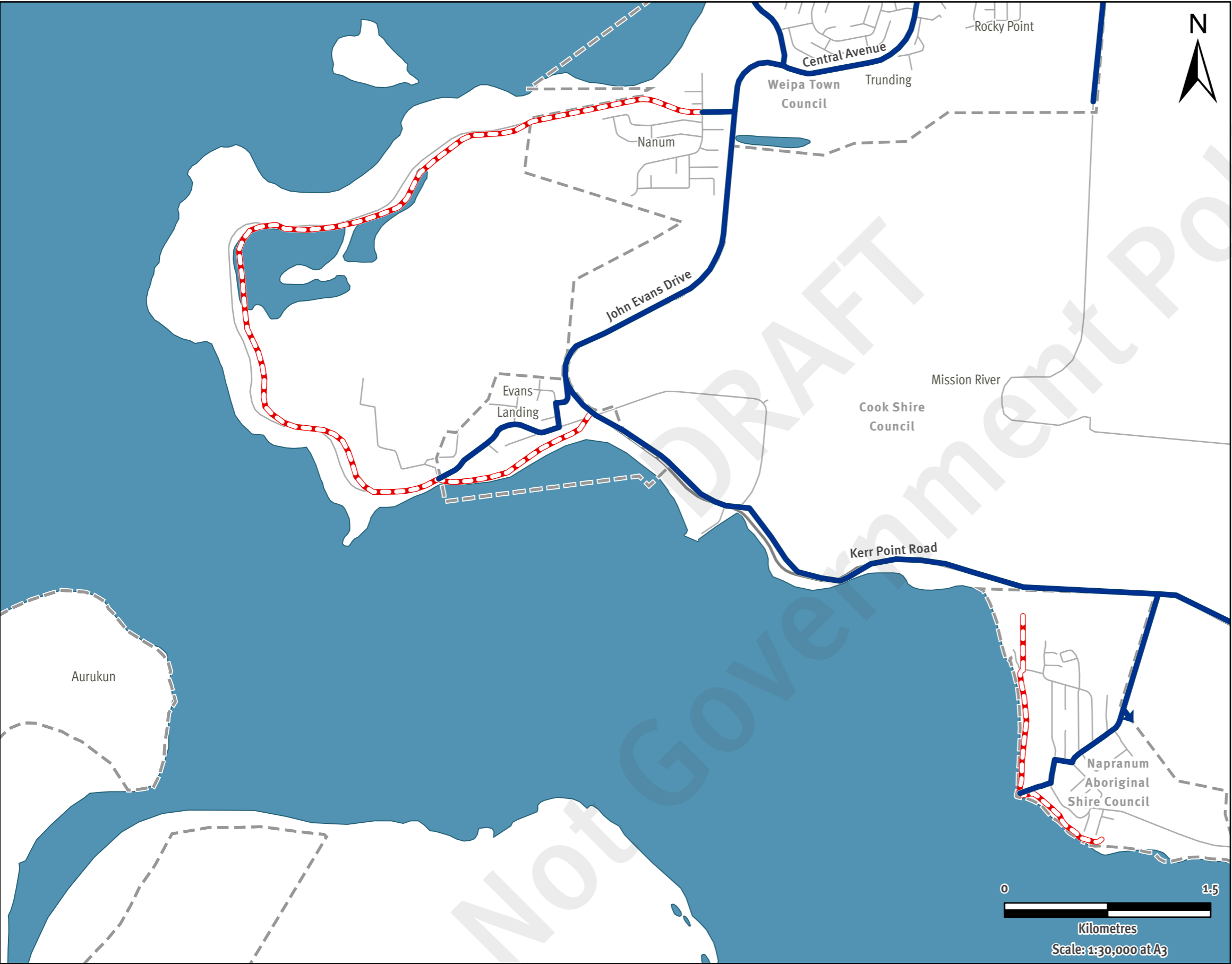
Queensland Principal Cycle Network **Map 579**
MISSION RIVER
WEIPA TOWN COUNCIL

The routes shown are indicative and exist to guide further planning that will determine the precise routes and design of cycle facilities.

Disclaimer: While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, Transport and Main Roads and/or the State Government makes no representation or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which you might incur as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason.

- LEGEND**
- Principal Route
 - Future Principal Route
 - Tourism Route
 - Major Airport
 - Railway Station
 - Railway Line
 - State-controlled Road
 - Major Road (Locally-controlled)
 - Other Local Road
 - Local government boundaries
 - Urban Area
 - Recreation / Open Space
 - Waterway / Waterbody

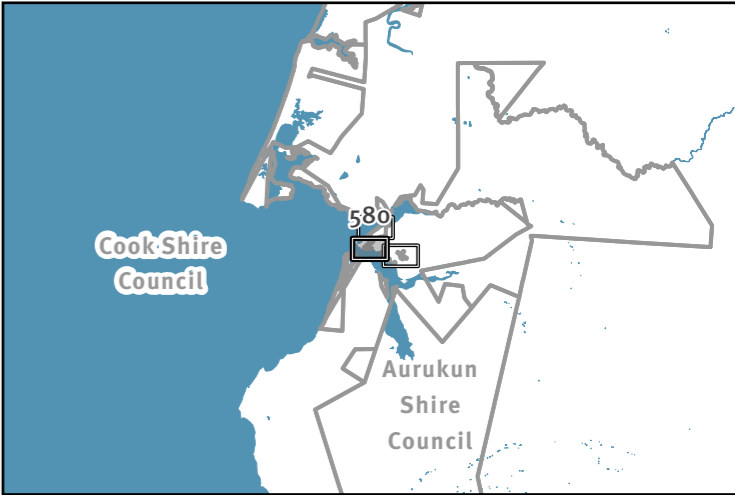


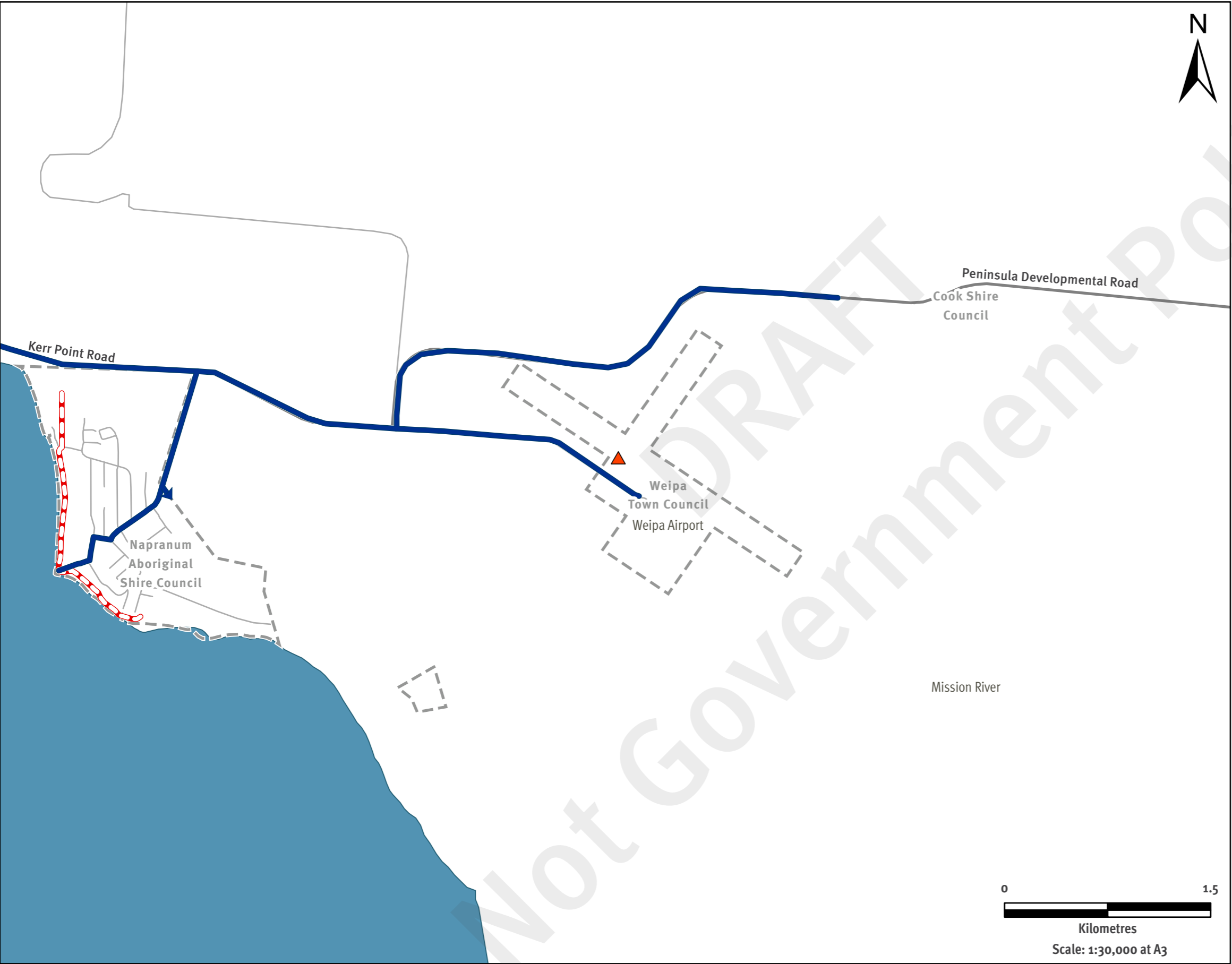


The routes shown are indicative and exist to guide further planning that will determine the precise routes and design of cycle facilities.

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- LEGEND**
- Principal Route
 - Future Principal Route
 - Tourism Route
 - Major Airport
 - Railway Station
 - Railway Line
 - State-controlled Road
 - Major Road (Locally-controlled)
 - Other Local Road
 - Local government boundaries
 - Urban Area
 - Recreation / Open Space
 - Waterway / Waterbody

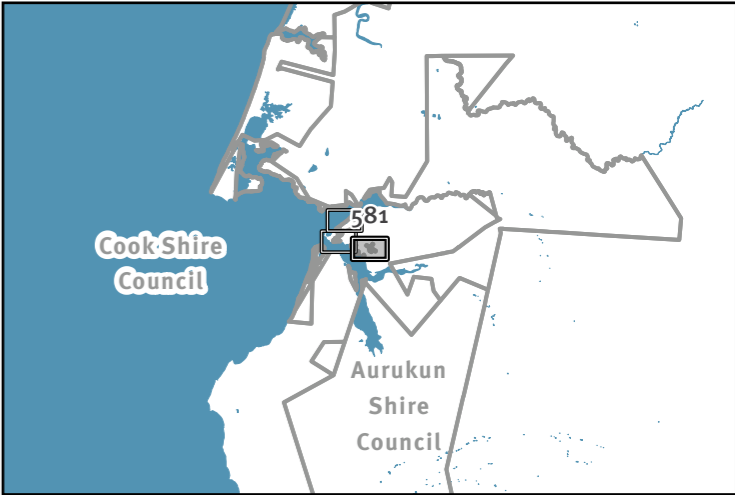




The routes shown are indicative and exist to guide further planning that will determine the precise routes and design of cycle facilities.

Disclaimer: While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, Transport and Main Roads and/or the State Government makes no representation or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which you might incur as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason.

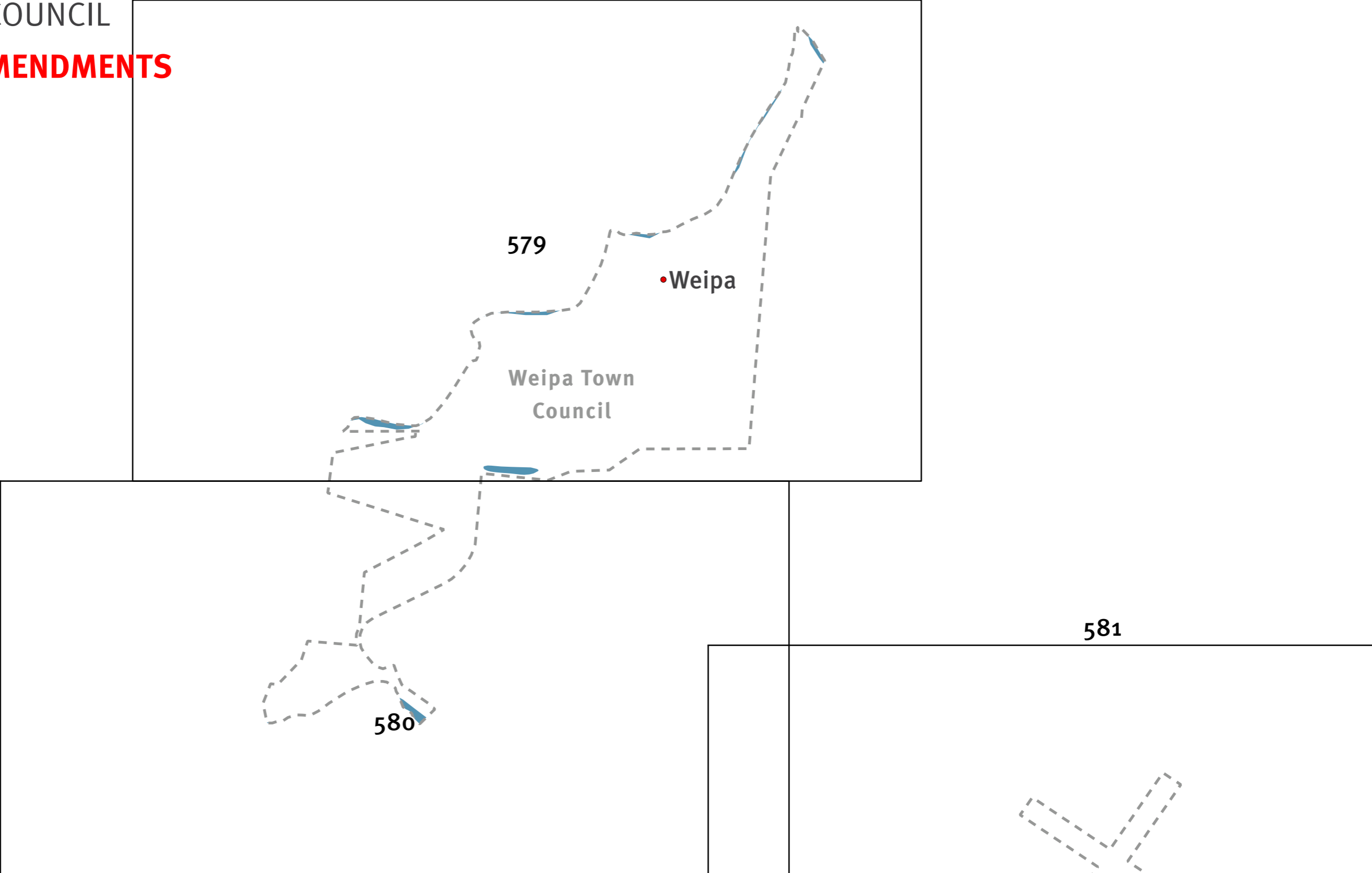
- LEGEND**
- Principal Route
 - Future Principal Route
 - Tourism Route
 - Major Airport
 - Railway Station
 - Railway Line
 - State-controlled Road
 - Major Road (Locally-controlled)
 - Other Local Road
 - Local government boundaries
 - Urban Area
 - Recreation / Open Space
 - Waterway / Waterbody

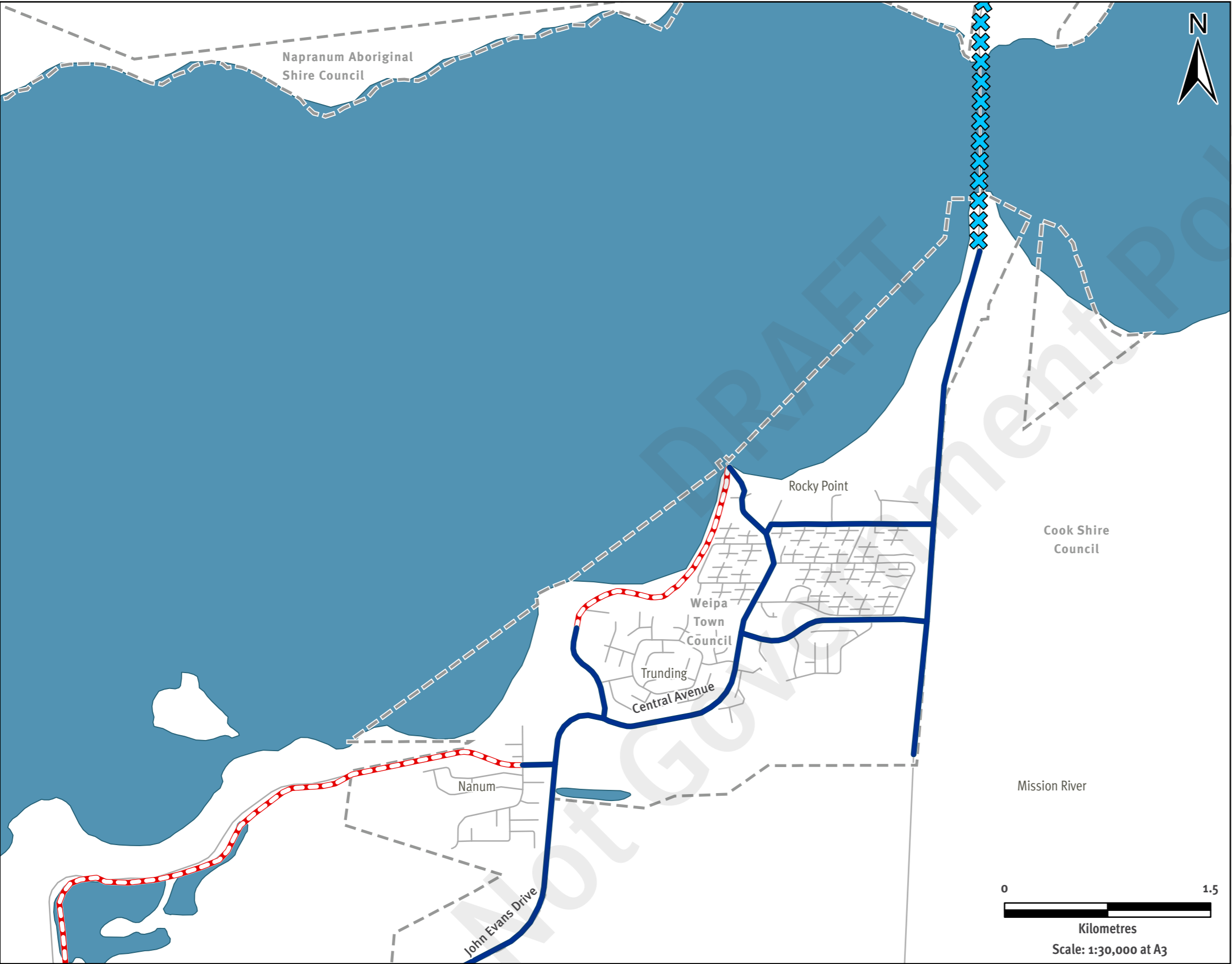


Queensland Principal Cycle Network

WEIPA TOWN COUNCIL

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS





MISSION RIVER
WEIPA TOWN COUNCIL

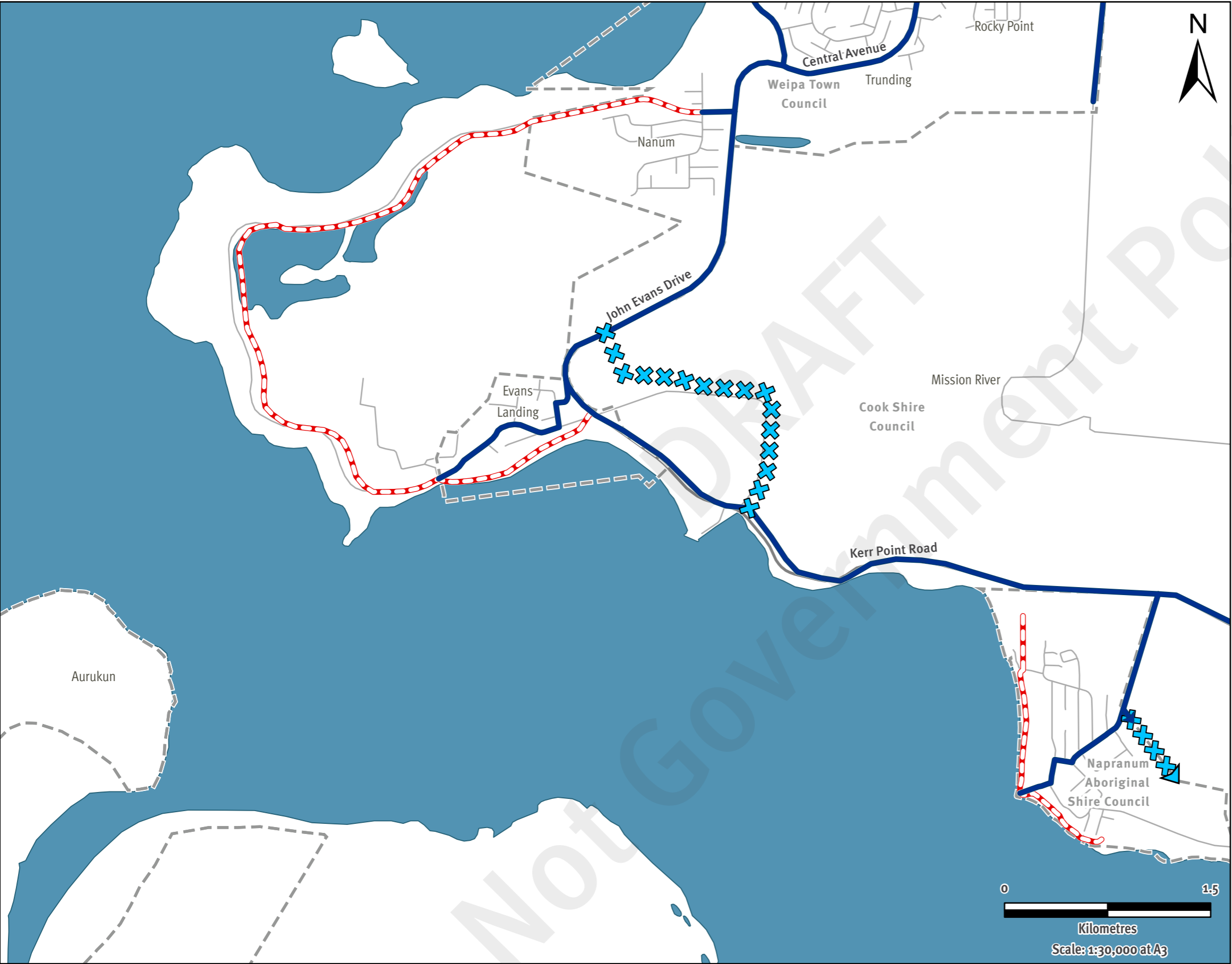
The routes shown are indicative and exist to guide further planning that will determine the precise routes and design of cycle facilities.

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LEGEND

Major Airport	Principal Route
Railway Station	Future Principal Route
Railway Line	Tourism Route
State-controlled Road	Principal Route Addition
Major Road (Locally-controlled)	Future Principal Route Addition
Other Local Road	Tourism Route Addition
Local government boundaries	Principal Route Deleted
Urban Area	Future Principal Route Deleted
Recreation / Open Space	Tourism Route Deleted
Waterway / Waterbody	





Queensland Principal Cycle Network

Map 580

WEIPA

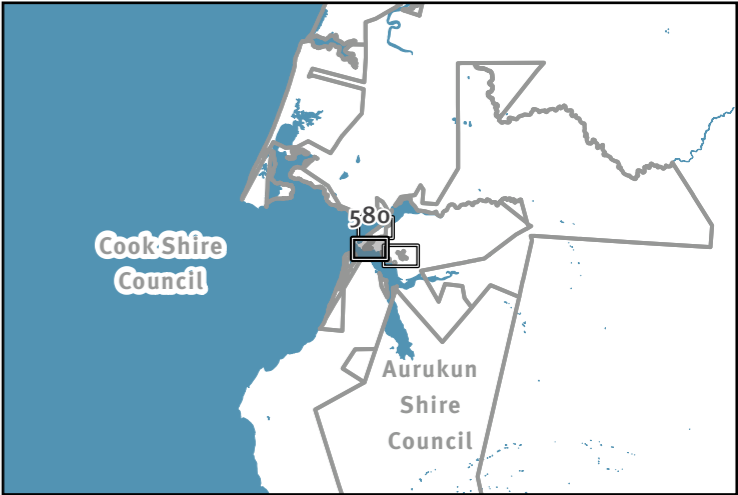
WEIPA TOWN COUNCIL

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LEGEND

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ▲ Major Airport | — Principal Route |
| ● Railway Station | ➡ Future Principal Route |
| —+— Railway Line | —●— Tourism Route |
| ▬ State-controlled Road | —●— Principal Route Addition |
| — Major Road (Locally-controlled) | ➡ Future Principal Route Addition |
| — Other Local Road | —●— Tourism Route Addition |
| --- Local government boundaries | ××× Principal Route Deleted |
| ▨ Urban Area | ××× Future Principal Route Deleted |
| ▨ Recreation / Open Space | ××× Tourism Route Deleted |
| ■ Waterway / Waterbody | |





Weipa Town Authority

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

2026–2030



Area: 11km²



Established: 1961



Population: 4,097*

* Population as at 2021

Weipa Town Authority

Foreword

Pets play an important role in our homes and community by providing companionship, opportunities for socialisation and exercise, and fostering community connections. It is well known that pets contribute to both physical and mental well-being while offering unconditional love to their owners.

Weipa promotes responsible pet ownership through state and local laws, along with proactive programs that encourage registration, desexing, microchipping, and effective pet management. Owning a pet is a long-term commitment and a privilege, but it also comes with significant responsibility.

The Weipa Town Authority (WTA) plays a vital role in maintaining a safe and liveable town for all residents. Through a range of services and effective local laws, WTA ensures that pet owners uphold responsible ownership practices that support community safety and well-being.

As Weipa continues to grow and evolve, it is essential to review and update our animal management policies and local laws to reflect the changing needs and expectations of residents. This strategic plan provides a dedicated roadmap to proactively address emerging trends and challenges in animal management.

Across Queensland, there have been too many instances of pets, particularly dogs, causing harm or injury. In response, the state government has introduced stricter legislation to enhance public safety. This plan aligns with these legislative changes and reinforces our commitment to ensuring the safety of all residents while promoting responsible pet ownership.

I am proud to say that the WTA team and our stakeholders are dedicated to achieving the best outcomes for our community. It is with great pleasure that I present the Weipa Animal Management Strategic Plan 2025–2028, a plan that aligns with WTA's strategic direction and reinforces our commitment to a safe and healthy environment for all.

Jaime Gane

Chairperson

Weipa Town Authority

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1. Executive Summary

The Weipa Animal Management Strategic Plan 2025–2028 establishes a structured framework to promote responsible pet ownership, enhance public safety, and improve community well-being. Developed through comprehensive stakeholder consultation, it outlines key challenges and strategic responses to ensure a harmonious and pet-friendly community.

Key Objectives:

- Increase pet registrations by 20% over the next three years, boost microchipping rates by 15%, and encourage desexing through targeted incentive programs to reduce stray populations.
- Strengthen enforcement of pet management laws to reduce public nuisances and safety risks.
- Improve management of off-leash areas and provide better resources for pet owners.
- Collaborate with local veterinarians, shelters, and enforcement agencies to strengthen animal management practices and support effective rehoming efforts

Strategic Approach:

- Educate the community on responsible pet ownership through targeted campaigns.
- Implement proactive inspections and enhanced enforcement to address non-compliance.
- Implement noise-monitoring technology in high-complaint areas by 2026 and improve pet identification through microchipping and registration compliance.
- Foster partnerships with key stakeholders to support effective animal management.

This strategic plan reflects the Weipa Town Authority’s commitment to creating a balanced, safe, and pet-friendly community, ensuring a harmonious coexistence between residents and animals.



2. Introduction

Pet owners play a crucial role in ensuring the health, well-being, and care of their animals. Many households in Weipa own pets, and recent changes to tenancy laws and other services have made pet ownership more accessible. These changes allow more people to enjoy the companionship of pets within the community.

However, owning a pet comes with significant responsibilities. Legislation and strategies – such as the Weipa Animal Management Strategic Plan 2026–2030 – help pet owners meet their obligations to both their animals and the broader community. Responsible pet ownership contributes to community safety, neighbourhood amenity, and positive animal welfare outcomes.

This strategic plan ensures that domestic pets, particularly cats and dogs, are managed safely and responsibly, with minimal impact on the community and environment. It builds on previous reviews of Weipa’s animal management laws, ensuring they remain relevant, effective, and aligned with community expectations and evolving legislation. Through this strategic plan, the Weipa Town Authority (WTA) reaffirms its commitment to fostering a safe, harmonious, and pet-friendly community.



3. Purpose of the Weipa Animal Management Strategic Plan 2025–2028

The purpose of this strategic plan is to promote responsible pet ownership and encourage long-term behavioural change within the Weipa community through education, awareness, and enforcement. By doing so, the WTA aim is to support the safety, well-being, and liveability of the Weipa township.

The strategic plan addresses animal management which focusses on the health and wellbeing of the community. It is different from animal welfare which focusses on the health and wellbeing of the animal. Under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*, all animal welfare matters are investigated and managed by the RSPCA.



4. How this Strategic Plan was developed

4.1 Strategic Alignment

This strategic plan aligns with the Weipa Town Authority's (WTA) Corporate Plan, which aims to create a safe and liveable community. The Corporate Plan sets the vision and priorities for Weipa Township, focusing on enhancing the quality of life for residents through the services WTA provides.

By fostering a safe, healthy, and accessible community, this s strategic plan directly supports the goals of the Corporate Plan. Like the Corporate Plan, the Animal Management Strategic Plan is centred on the concept of community, working to promote a secure and liveable environment for residents, visitors, and pets alike.

4.2 Alignment with Community, Partner and Stakeholder Contributions

This strategic plan aligns has been developed in close collaboration with the community to ensure it reflects local concerns and priorities. Through the Have Your Say engagement platform on the WTA website, residents were encouraged to provide feedback, contributing to the strategy direction.

4.2.1 Community Consultation

Key Stakeholder Engaged

In addition to community feedback, input was sought from key internal and external stakeholders to strengthen the Plan's effectiveness:

Tableland Veterinary Service: Tableland Veterinary Service operates a local practice in Weipa, offering veterinary care, training, and advice for all animals. They provide a full range of products for pets and livestock and offer expert guidance to support responsible pet ownership.

Cape Animal Protection Shelter (CAPS): As a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisation, CAPS provides temporary refuge and rehoming services for abandoned, stray, and unwanted dogs. WTA relies on CAPS to assist in rehoming animals, and efforts are underway to formalise an agreement outlining the process for transferring animals into their care.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF): DAF oversees animal welfare in Far North Queensland and works closely with the RSPCA. Any animal welfare concerns are directed to DAF for investigation and action.

Queensland Police Service (QPS): QPS supports WTA in animal welfare investigations, enforcement actions, and the seizure of animals, when necessary, under Local and State legislation.

Neighbouring Councils: Collaboration with regional councils strengthens animal management efforts. WTA engages with:

- Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
- Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
- Aurukun Aboriginal Shire Council

4.2.2 Key Consultation Insights

In October 2025, the Weipa Town Authority (WTA) conducted an online community consultation survey to support the development of the Animal Management Strategic Plan 2026–2030. The purpose of the consultation was to better understand community awareness, satisfaction, and priorities regarding the management of animals within the Weipa township.

Community Engagement Summary

Weipa Town Authority values the important role pets have in our community, providing friendship and improving the health and wellbeing of many residents. Our goal is to ensure that all residents and pets can live harmoniously and safely together in our vibrant community.

In October 2025 we asked you for feedback to help develop and shape the 2026–2030 Animal Management Plan. The purpose was to better understand community awareness, satisfaction, and priorities regarding the management of animals within our community.



75

Valid Survey Responses Received

What We Learned

Our Focus Area

68%

PET OWNERS
68% of participants are pet owners.

32%

NON PET-OWNERS
32% of participants are pet owners.

65%

OF RESPONDENTS
are aware of current animal management laws.

"Wandering dogs. I no longer take my dogs for a walk solo as they've been attacked multiple times by wandering hunting dogs."

– Weipa Resident

"Education campaigns would be a great way to build community, dogs do bark, help for some residents that are having issues would encourage some tolerance."

– Weipa Resident

"Stronger enforcement, more penalties to hold people accountable."

– Weipa Resident

Local Concerns

Top 3 local concerns identified by our survey participants.



01.
WANDERING AND STRAY DOGS



02.
BARKING DOGS



03.
ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE

Community Pet Education

Top 3 education topics identified by participants.



DESEXING EDUCATION



PET OWNERSHIP LAWS & REGULATIONS



LEASH AND REGISTRATION RULES

5. Our Vison, Goals and Objectives

5.1 Vision: “Your Pet Your Responsibility”

“To create a safe, responsible, and pet-friendly community through effective animal management and responsible pet ownership.”

5.2 Strategic Pillars

- **Enhanced Public Safety:** Ensuring pets are managed responsibly to protect residents, visitors, and other animals.
- **A Future-Ready Approach:** Adapting to emerging challenges and legislative changes to maintain best-practice animal management.
- **Sustaining Liveability:** Supporting a clean, safe, and pet-friendly environment that benefits both pet owners and the broader community.
- **Collaboration and Advocacy:** Partnering with stakeholders, local organisations, and government bodies to strengthen responsible pet ownership initiatives.

5.3 Goals

- Promote responsible pet ownership to ensure a harmonious and safe community.
- Enhance public safety and reduce nuisances through effective animal management.
- Encourage compliance with animal management laws while supporting positive pet-owner relationships.

5.4 Objectives

1. Promote Responsible Pet Ownership

“Indicators of Success”

- All dogs and cats are registered, with a significant increase in the number of animals microchipped and desexed.
- Reduction in enforcement and prosecution cases related to irresponsible pet ownership.
- Responsible pet ownership initiatives are supported and delivered across Weipa.

2. Ensure Pets Are Appropriately Controlled and Contained

“Indicators of Success”

- Reduced instances of cats and dogs causing public nuisances (wandering, attacking, barking).
- Fewer animals requiring impoundment.
- Decrease in enforcement actions related to uncontrolled pets.

3. Improve Animal Identification and Reunification

“Indicators of Success”

- Fewer unidentifiable or unwanted cats and dogs.
- Increased proportion of wandering or impounded animals reunited with their owners.

4. Encourage Voluntary Compliance with State and Local Laws

“Indicators of Success”

- Reduction in enforcement actions as more residents comply with animal management laws.
- Increase pet registrations by 20% and microchipping rates by 15% within the next three years.
- Reduce animal nuisance complaints by 10% within two years through increased community education and enforcement

5. Ensure Fair, Efficient, and Humane Interventions

“Indicators of Success”

- Minimised complaints regarding WTA’s animal management intervention.



6. Legislative Framework – Animal Management

The *Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Ltd Agreement Act 1957* (Comalco Act), under Clause 45, grants Rio Tinto the authority to perform local government functions in Weipa. In accordance with this legislation, Rio Tinto and the Weipa Town Authority (WTA) have established the Weipa Town Authority Management Protocol, which defines the services WTA provides to the community in alignment with the *Local Government Act 2009*.

The WTA has in place an Enforcement Policy that aligns with the Corporate Plan’s approach to delivering service excellence. The policy advocates for voluntary compliance with the law and articulates how WTA will approach this. This strategic plan supports this policy position with a strong focus on education, engagement and partnership.

The WTA has a statutory obligation to administer, monitor, and enforce compliance with various State and local laws related to animal management across the Weipa Township. E.g.

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 and Regulation 2019*
- *Weipa Town Authority Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018*
- *Weipa Town Authority Local Law No. 2 Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2018 and Subordinate Local Law No. 2*

The framework has Strategic Links to Other Legislation and the WTA must ensure the strategic plan does not breach the requirements of other legislation. Such as *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* and the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011*.

The following provides an overview of the legislation that is key to the WTA’s management of Animals (Cats and Dogs) in the Weipa.

Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008:

This is the Primary legislative document that directs our animal management services. It provides a mechanism for the WTA:

- to address domestic animal related matters and concerns to respond to or act on complaints/incidences,
- enforce compliance, and
- collect revenue through fee-based services such as registration, to be expended in a manner that contributes to the promotion and encouragement of responsible pet ownership.

The purpose of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* is to:

- provide for the identification of cats and dogs,
- provide for the registration of dogs and if adopted, cats,
- provide for the effective management of regulated dogs,
- promote the responsible ownership of cats and dogs, and
- prohibit the ownership of and particular dealings with dogs of particular breeds.

Weipa Town Authority Local Law No. 2 Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2018

The purpose of this local law is to regulate and manage the keeping and control of animals in the Weipa area in a way that:

- balances community expectations with the rights of individuals,
- protects the community against risks to health and safety,
- prevents pollution and other environmental damage, and
- protects the amenity of the local community and environment.

The Aims of this local law the Local Law is to:

- protect the community from risks of injury and damage,
- prevent animals from creating nuisances or risks to human health and safety,
- minimise environmental harm or nuisance caused by animals and preserve local amenities, and
- ensure animals are kept and used in ways that respect the rights, expectations, and enjoyment of the community.

7. What Does Responsible Pet Ownership Look Like?

Your Pet Your Responsibility: The Weipa community is encouraged to not only comply with their regulatory requirements but to foster “Responsible Pet Ownership” this involves:

- Ensuring your cat or dog is registered by the time they reach 12 weeks of age.
- Ensure your pet wears a collar with a registration tag and a contact number.
- Have your cat or dog microchipped and keep your contact details up to date so they can be returned to you if lost.
- Consider desexing your pet to prevent unwanted litters, reduce roaming, and benefit their health – speak to your vet for more information.
- Keep your pet appropriately vaccinated and protected from ticks, worms, and fleas.
- Take responsibility for your pet’s behaviour both at home and in public, including managing barking and other anti-social behaviours.
- Only allow your dog off-leash in designated off-leash areas. Regardless of whether your dog is on or off-leash, ensure they are under effective control at all times.
- Effective control means your dog should be restrained on a leash and held by a person physically capable of managing them.
- Use off-leash areas appropriately – remember, not all dogs are suited or safe to be off-leash.
- Regularly check your pet’s enclosure or fencing to ensure it is secure and appropriate for safely containing your pet.

The importance of responsible pet ownership

While most pet owners act responsibly, ensuring their animals are well cared for and appropriately managed, there are instances where irresponsible pet ownership can have serious consequences for the broader community.

Why Responsible Pet Ownership Matters

Irresponsible pet ownership can lead to various challenges, including:

- **Safety risks** – incidents such as dog attacks, threatening encounters, or unrestrained livestock on roads.
- **Community amenity concerns** – uncontained animals roaming in public areas, creating disturbances.
- **Road safety hazards** – animals on roads causing accidents.
- **Nuisances** – excessive barking, and poor animal hygiene.
- **Environmental impacts** – threats to local wildlife and ecosystems.

These issues not only affect individuals but also the overall wellbeing of the Weipa community. The impacts can be categorised as follows:

Social Impacts

- Risks to public safety, including injury or, in extreme cases, loss of life.
- Reduction in community amenity, affecting Weipa’s reputation and appeal.
- Increased fear among residents, discouraging the use of public spaces and designated pet areas.
- Escalation of anti-social behaviour by pets and their owners.
- Public health concerns due to animal-related hygiene issues.
- Disruptions to service providers accessing properties.
- Increased frustration and complaints from residents.

Environmental Impacts

- Harm to local wildlife, including injury and loss of native species.
- Spread of animal-borne diseases such as Parvovirus and Feline Influenza.
- Increased presence of pests, parasites, and other health hazards.

Financial Impacts

- Loss of revenue due to unregistered pets.
- Increased demand on WTAs resources to manage complaints instead of proactive initiatives.
- Delays in responding to service requests.
- Reduced ability to fund and implement community programs.



8. Key Issues and Challenges

“In this section, the key issues are identified, and the strategic responses outline the WTA’s approach to addressing each challenge.” The WTA will adopt the following them when addressing each of the key issues:

Key Issue 1 – Animals not being under effective control

Key Issue 2 – Unregistered dogs

Key Issue 3 – Unidentified cats and dogs

Key Issue 4 – Unwanted cats and dogs

Key Issue 5 – Animal noise nuisance

Key Issue 6 – Animal management policies and procedures

Key Issue 7 – Community education and awareness



Key Issue 1 – Animal not under effective control

These dogs account for the majority of animals impounded by the WTA and generally have escaped under, over, or through a fence, gate or property boundary and have not been under the control of their owner or keeper. Animals not securely enclosed, wandering or not under effective control may result in:

- attacks causing physical injury to a person,
- emotional impacts on the victim, dog owner and families,
- attacks on animals (pets and livestock) causing injury or death,
- rush or menacing attacks causing fear,
- motor vehicle accidents,
- spread of disease (such as Parvo Virus and Feline HIV) and parasites,
- propagation of unwanted litters,
- fouling of footpaths and properties,
- disturbance or nuisance in the neighbourhood.

The impact of an attack or experiencing aggressive behaviour from an animal is not only immediate but often results in lasting physical and emotional trauma. While dog attacks and complaints about aggressive dogs are received anecdotal evidence suggests that the number of complaints is not indicative of the actual incidences occurring. This may be due to:

- victims may not report attacks or aggression because of the potential ramifications for themselves, their families or friends,
- owners and victims may settle through agreement to provide compensation, payment of vet/medical bills etc,
- organisations such as hospital, police and vets not having established clearly defined reporting or recording mechanisms linking with the WTA,
- people accepting attacks and aggressive behaviours are natural (dogs chase cats, and dogs guard properties etc.).

STRATEGIC RESPONSES (SR)

SR 1.1 – Dog Attacks and Aggressive Dogs to be Given Priority Attention

The WTA l will ensure dog attacks and aggressive dogs continue to be given priority attention.

The WTA will:

- respond immediately to dog attacks,
- Dogs surrendered due to an attack will be subject to a behavioural assessment and an owner notification process before any euthanasia decision is made. A 24-hour cooling-off period will still apply, but appeals will be accepted and reviewed by WTA before action is taken,
- regulated dog declarations and penalties will be invoked according to the circumstances and legislative requirements,
- aggressive dog complaints will be given investigation priority to reduce WTA risk of exposure to the potential of the aggressive behaviour, subsequently resulting in an attack causing injury or even death,
- inform customers of the outcome of investigations and WTA actions in relation to dog attacks and threats of attack – subject to privacy considerations.

8. Key Issues and Challenges (continued)

SR 1.2 – Dog Off- Leash Areas Will Be Effectively Managed

Dog off-leash areas are valued by the community and provide the opportunity for owners to exercise and socialise their dogs.

The WTA will:

- require dogs to be under effective control within off-leash areas and be on-leash in transit to and from the facility,
- design off-leash areas to separate large and small dogs and to minimise nuisance to the adjoining community,
- include dog off-leash areas and their access routes in rostered local law patrols,
- use dog off-leash areas to publicise activities relating to dog training, behaviour and barking control to encourage voluntary compliance,
- alert users of dog off-leash areas to region wide disease outbreaks,
- attach to regulatory signs “Manners” for owners and their dogs using the off-leash areas to encourage appropriate behaviour and voluntary compliance.

The Local Laws Unit will continue to provide advice and guidance as to suitable locations and designs for future off-leash areas.

SR 1.3 – Wandering Animal May be Returned On first Offence

The WTA will:

- return free of charge non-aggressive dogs found wandering to their owner on the first offence prior to being impounded when the dog is registered and microchipped and where the “owner is able to be contacted and available to secure the dog immediately”,
- provide the owner advice as to the requirement to contain the dog at all times and arrangements will be made to conduct a gate and fence check with the owner to ensure the dog can be secured on the property in future,
- if impounded and the dog is a “first impound”, the dog may be released free of charge – but only if the dog is registered and microchipped, is claimed within one day and it has not been previously returned to the owner, otherwise normal Animal Management Centre release procedures will apply.

Other animals found wandering may be returned to their owner prior to being impounded where the owner is able to be contacted and available to secure the animal immediately.

Key Issue 2 – Unregistered Dogs

The *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* places a mandatory requirement for dogs over 12 weeks of age to be registered with the relevant local government/authority.

The *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* also places a mandatory requirement on the owner of a dog to give notice of changed information to the Weipa Town Authority within seven days of the change.

“Return to sender” registration notices received following the annual mail out of renewals indicate a number of owners do not update their personal address details with the Weipa Town Authority. This impacts on Weipa Town Authority ability to reunite animals with their owners.

“Delays in the payment of annual animal registration fees have resulted in the WTA needing to allocate significant resources to follow up with non-compliant owners, increasing operational pressure.”

STRATEGIC RESPONSES

SR 2.1 – Community Education

The WTA will:

- educate the community on the need to register and microchip all dogs,
- educate the community on the need to keep name, address, phone numbers and email information up to date at every interaction with the WTA.

SR 2.2 – Enable Efficient Data Management

The WTA will:

- conduct data cleansing of all unpaid dog registrations to confirm resident contact details,
- review its information technology systems and consider the use of emerging technology.

SR 2.3 – Encourage Timely Animal Registration

The WTA will:

- offer incentives, such as fee reductions, to encourage timely annual registration of animals.
- advise owners on the consequences of late registration payments,
- inform owners of the legal consequences of failing to register their animals, including potential penalties and enforcement actions.

SR 2.4 – Inspections and interventions will be conducted

The WTA will:

- conduct periodic systematic inspections for unregistered dogs in accordance with legislation and available staffing resources,
- encourage voluntary compliance through an initial notice and compliance period before infringement action is considered.

SR 2.5 – Impounded Dogs Not Released Until Registered

The WTA will:

- ensure all dogs owned by Weipa residents will not be released from the pound until they are registered.

(Note: Where the owner of the dogs are not Weipa residents pound release fees will apply)

Key Issue 3 – Unidentified Cats and Dogs

The *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* places a mandatory requirement for cats and dogs to be microchipped before they are supplied (given away, sold, exchanged) and for a person who is the owner of or becomes an owner of a cat or dog to have the animal microchipped before 12 weeks of age.

The Act also requires the owner of a cat or dog to give notice of the changed information within seven days of the change.

For example - ownership transfer of the cat or dog must be supplied to the original microchip provider to be able to ensure an animal is returned to its owner. Many animals cannot be reunited with their owner as the microchip details are not up to date, particularly the current owner’s name and phone number.

Local Laws Officers carry microchip scanners and are able to identify the owner of a cat or dog if the animal is microchip details are up to date.

8. Key Issues and Challenges (continued)

STRATEGIC RESPONSES

SR 3.1 – Community Education

The WTA will:

- ensure emails and mobile numbers are collected at the point of registration and explore emerging technology to publicise cat and dog microchipping requirements and the need to keep records up to date,
- promote key messages via communication channels including social media, encouraging owners to microchip their cats and dogs,
- develop a process to ensure owners are reminded to update the microchip details of their cats and dogs when moving to a new house or changing telephone numbers,
- ensure microchipping information is provided to new or relocating residents.

SR 3.2 – Use of Incentives to Encourage Microchipping

The WTA will:

- consider offering a fee based microchipping service and investigate the training and qualifications needed by staff for this implementation,
- implement compulsory microchipping of impounded cats and dogs at the WTA pound in line with the requirement of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* and local laws.

SR 3.3 – Enforcement of Microchipping Legislation

The WTA will:

- continue to require owners to observe legislative requirements in relation to microchipping,
- take enforcement action where required.

Key issue 4 – Unwanted Cats and Dogs

The principal cause of unwanted animals is the failure of owners to desex cats and dogs.

Dogs not desexed are, more likely to be involved in bite related incidents. The volume of unwanted animals being impounded means an increasing rate of euthanasia, which is distressing to the community and especially to the veterinarians and WTA staff who must deal with the final act.

STRATEGIC RESPONSES

SR 4.1 – Community Education

The WTA will:

- conduct regular promotions to encourage responsible pet ownership including desexing,
- ensure through an ongoing program of education the community is aware of cat and dog ownership responsibilities and ownership is regulated and infringement penalties apply.

SR 4.2 – Use incentives to Encourage Desexing

The WTA will:

- continue to offer reduced registration fees for desexed and microchipped dogs (rewarding responsible owners),
- continue to offer desexing and microchipping incentives for qualifying persons,
- ensure the schedule of animal management fees and charges.

Key Issue 5 – Animal Noise Nuisance

It is natural for dogs to bark, as this is the way that dogs communicate with people and other animals.

Dogs bark for various reasons and small amounts of barking is acceptable. Nuisance barking occurs when a dog barks persistently and disturbs the peace of the neighbourhood regularly and for lengthy periods of time. Nuisance barking occurs for a variety of reasons including boredom, loneliness, anxiety, ongoing neighbourhood disturbances, pain, attention seeking, lack of food or water and/or excitement.

It is acknowledged this is becoming a greater problem in Weipa with owners working away on seven days on/ off roster and only having in place an arrangement for some to attend their residence and feed and water the dogs daily the dogs.

The first the owners may know about their dog’s excessive barking in their absence, is a complaint from a neighbour or contact from the WTA.

The value and importance of neighbourhood conversations cannot be underestimated in the resolution of barking nuisances.

Where dog owners show empathy and consideration by altering their day-to-day routines to attempt to solve the barking, better outcomes are achieved. Otherwise, the WTA is required to undertake a comprehensive and impartial investigation to gather sufficient evidence to confirm that excessive barking is occurring, and the complaint is not a vexatious one.

This process takes time, during which community frustration about the noise nuisance can result in complaints of WTAs perceived lack of a timely response and even altercations between neighbours.

STRATEGIC RESPONSES

SR 5.1 – Community Education

The WTA will:

- promote through its website helpful tips and advice about controlling nuisance barking,
- provide information materials in neighbourhood areas where complaints of barking are prevalent.

SR 5.2 – Progressive Intervention

The WTA will:

- develop guidelines to enable Local Laws Officers to exercising discretion when handling first offences,
- adopt an operational approach of seeking to encourage compliance from animal owners in the first instance where the matters concerned do not involve risks to public health and safety or blatant or repeated disregard for WTAs local laws and relevant legislation,
- Work with Weipa retailers to enable the community to more easily access technology to manage the behaviour of barking dogs,
- Research technologies to enable the monitoring of barking dogs.

8. Key Issues and Challenges (continued)

Key Issue 6 – Animal Management Policies and Procedures

Animal Management policies and procedures set the framework for officers to follow in conducting their operations in a consistent, reasonable, transparent and effective manner.

Adherence to well established procedures provides officers and WTA with direction and the ability to confidently defend allegations of legal or regulatory violations.

STRATEGIC RESPONSES

SR 6.1 – Review Animal Management Policies and Procedure

The WTA will:

- review all existing policies and procedures and create new policies and procedures in response to continuous improvement and emerging trends in animal management and consistent with the Animal Management Strategic Plan.
- assess and implement instruments including but not limited to:
 - Animal Management – Desexing Policy
 - Animal Management – Surrendered and Unclaimed Animals Policy
 - Animal Management – Impounded Cats and Dogs Registration and Microchipping Policy
 - Animal Management – number of allowed animals & criteria for keeping animals Policy.
- review the Schedule of Fees and Charges in response to any policy change,
- identify emerging risks in animal management and create or update Workplace Health & Safety instructions ensuring alliance with WTA safety first message.



Key Issue 7 – Community Education and Awareness

Ensuring the community is adequately informed of responsible pet ownership obligations is an essential element of animal management.

Effective communication of information and engagement with key stakeholders is critical in improving animal management knowledge in the community and helping the future generations

STRATEGIC RESPONSES

SR 7.1 – Community Education

The WTA will:

- develop a comprehensive Community Education Program scheduling appropriate events and promotions to occur for the duration of the strategic plan commensurate with available funding,
- provide information to new residents to reinforce responsible pet ownership and compliance with State legislation and WTA local laws,
- ensure the currency and accuracy of promotional materials which are available on WTA public information sources,
- use relevant media to promote legislative and local law requirements and to remind pet owners about responsible pet ownership,
- continue to develop a responsible dog ownership campaign to ensure that; owners understand the risks of owning a dog, the community knows what is required of individual dog owners,
- the community participates in defining irresponsible dog ownership as unacceptable,
- owners take action to meet community expectations, report information to WTA so that the Local Laws Officers can respond and under appropriate actions.



9. Strategic Plan Implementation Review, Performance and Reporting

To monitor and measure the effectiveness of the implementation of this strategic plan, the WTA will prepare and maintain an Action Delivery Plan incorporating operational requirements aimed at successfully progressing the strategic responses.

The operational actions will be assigned appropriate indicators so performance against the desired outcomes can be regularly assessed. Appropriate reporting frameworks will be put in place to ensure management can monitor performance and adjust operational effort.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW AND REPORTING

An annual review on the strategic responses of this strategic plan will be undertaken to ensure that;

- it aligns to the objectives of Weipa Town Authority's corporate and operational plans,
- it identifies and reflects changing priorities, operational capacity and the legislative framework,
- the outcomes are achievable and align with community expectations,
- it has been afforded adequate financial and staffing resources.

An annual update on the performance of this strategic plan will be presented to the WTAs members each year. Identified and emerging priorities will be highlighted for inclusion in the Action Plan for the following year.

Conclusion

The successful delivery of Animal Management services is an issue that impacts the whole community. This Plan paves the way towards cementing behaviour change across our community of pet owners to increase accountability and an understanding of their animal keeping obligations to help shape a safer, liveable city.

Acknowledgements

The Weipa Town Authority acknowledge and thank all the organisations and individuals who assisted in the development of this strategic plan. A number of stakeholders, both internal and external, along with a range of residents (both pet owners and non-pet owners) have graciously provided their thoughts, ideas and feedback to ensure the Plan meets the needs of the Weipa Township.

How to report animal management related matters

The Weipa Town Authority relies on residents to report animal management matters so we can investigate and take appropriate action. To report an animal management concern at any time, residents should:

- Call the Weipa Town Authority on 07 40309400
- Use the Weipa Town Authority online or 'Submit a Request/Report an Issue' tool

Emergency calls received after hours will be redirected to our on-call response team for immediate response.

Any information people report will be treated confidentially in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld).



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Additional Animal Permit Policy

POL-037**VERSION:**
0.3**EFFECTIVE FROM:**
1 January 2026**REVIEWABLE FROM:**
October 2026**INTENTION:**

Weipa Town Authority (WTA) regulates and manages the keeping and control of animals within the Weipa town boundary. To ensure public safety, amenity, and responsible pet ownership, WTA regulates the maximum number of animals permitted at a property.

This policy establishes principles and conditions for the assessment and issue of permits for additional animals at residential properties under WTA Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2018 and WTA Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018. This policy supports the objectives within the Animal Management Strategy 2026 – 2030.

SCOPE

This policy applies to applications to keep more than:

- two (2) dogs at a residential property
- one (1) dog in a multi-residential complex (unit or duplex).

DEFINITIONS

Multi-Residential Property: Any complex, unit, or duplex with multiple dwellings on a single allotment

Permit: A written approval issued under Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018 to keep animals beyond the number permitted without approval

Residential Property: A property zoned for residential use within the Weipa Township

POLICY**1. General Requirements**

- 1.1. A permit is required to keep more than two (2) dogs at any residential property or more than one (1) at any multi-residential property.
- 1.2. With an approved permit, a maximum of four (4) dogs may be permitted at a residential property.

Additional Animal Permit Policy

- 1.3. All dogs kept under a permit must be registered and comply with containment and welfare standards.¹

2. Permit Conditions

- 2.1. Permits will be issued for a maximum period of 12 months and require renewal prior to expiry.
- 2.2. Permit holders must:
- maintain fencing and containment requirements
 - ensure no substantial nuisance (barking, roaming, or aggression) occurs
 - notify WTA of any change in animal ownership or property occupancy
 - allow inspection by an authorised officer when requested.
- 1.2. Additional reasonable conditions may be imposed to ensure community amenity and safety, and animal welfare is maintained.

3. Assessment Principles

- 3.1. The following principles will be considered when assessing permit applications:
- number, species, breed and age of the proposed and existing animals at the property
 - capability of the property for keeping the proposed and existing animals
 - yards must be fully fenced and provide adequate shade, shelter, and space for exercise
 - welfare and living conditions
 - potential impact on surrounding areas, including nuisance, inconvenience and annoyance
 - applicant's history of compliance with animal management legislation.
- 3.2. A permit may be refused, or additional conditions imposed, if:
- the property is unsuitable for the number of animals proposed
 - previous unrectified undue nuisance, welfare, or registration breaches exist
 - amenity, safety or environment of the surrounding area would likely be impacted.

4. Assessment Process

- 4.1. Applicants are to submit properly made applications with relevant evidence to support the above principles, including:
- descriptions or photographs of each animal
 - diagrams or photographs of the yard and enclosure
 - neighbour consultation form (optional but encouraged).
- 4.2. Applications will be assessed with a recommendation presented to Supervisor Communities for final approval.

¹ See *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (Qld), *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (Qld), WTA Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2018 and WTA Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018.

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- 4.3. Applicants will be advised in writing of the decision and, if applicable, any additional conditions.

5. Compliance

- 5.1. WTA may conduct yard inspections at any time, within reason, to ensure compliance with all permit conditions.
- 5.2. Permits may be suspended or revoked for repeated breaches of permit conditions.
- 5.2.1. Time may be given to rectify any breach, depending on the severity or impact of the breach.
- 5.3. Breaches of permit conditions may also result in impoundment or prosecution under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (Qld) or WTA Local Laws.
- 5.4. Ongoing breaches of permit conditions may result in permit refusal for a period of time determined by WTA.
- 5.4.1. Permits may be refused for 6 months, 12 months or 18 months, determined with reference to the degree of and willingness to rectify breaches.

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LEGISLATION AND COMPLIANCE

- *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)*
- *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 (Qld)*
- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Qld)*
- *WTA Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2018*
- *WTA Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018*
- Rio Tinto HSE-A-001 *Health, Safety, Environment, Security & Communities Policy*

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Animal Management Strategy 2026–2030
- Animal Management Operations Manual
- Pound Facility Manual
- Compliance and Enforcement Framework
- Relevant application forms

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, consult with Communities Supervisor.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Endorsed by	Date released	Description of Amendment
1	Superintendent; WTA Members	January 2026	Creation of policy to impose a framework for additional animal permits and to reflect the Animal Management Strategy 2026-2030.

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