



FROM THE CHAIR

Well Weipaites what can I say? Once again we have been hit in the solar plexus as the redundancies roll out. I guess we all knew it was on the cards as the economic downturn world wide, rolled into our remote little corner of the globe.

To those of you who leave Rio Tinto or our local contracting firms, I wish you all the best and can assure you that the Weipa Town Authority is doing everything it can to lobby the State and Federal Governments into doing the right thing and provide the town with a stimulus package which all other towns in Australia have already received (*see below for details of plan*).

This would enable local projects to get underway and provide employment to those affected. In the economic crisis Weipa finds itself in, this is the "right" thing to do.

Some possible short term projects could include: walking tracks with exercise stations, completing the bike tracks, footbridge over the ditch to the football field, pedestrian crossing to the new hospital, funding for marketing Weipa, skate park, barbecue areas, beautification of the lakes area, tourist information centre, completion of the cemetery, boardwalks along the foreshore, funding to employ a sport and recreation officer, heritage trail, better signage.

Larger infrastructure projects in our town could include: Stage 2 of the Sports Complex/ Events Centre, Marina, water slide and diving pool in our pool area, accessible kennels and pound, new boat ramp at Evans Landing, council chambers, low risk detention centre, resealing of some key roads, refurbishment of the airport, museum/arts centre.

Town Office Staff have advised that they have projects sitting on the shelf ready to go. These include Stage 3 Kerb & channelling, Intersection upgrades, Weipa water upgrade, Stage 2 critical sewer upgrade and Assembly Hall and Convention Centre upgrades. These were scheduled for '09 but we received no capital budget this year.

When we are successful in securing a stimulus package, tenders would be called from Weipa contractors.

I urge all residents to pressure our politicians to give back to the community, funding that we have been missing out on for a very long time from both State and Federal governments. In a democracy all people should be treated equally whether they live in the South East corner or Weipa

Some contacts with e-mail addresses include,

Jason O'Brien, State Member for Cook:

cook@parliament.qld.gov.au

Jim Turnour, Federal Member for Leichhardt:

jim.turnour.mp@aph.gov.au

Desley Boyle, Queensland Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships:

localgovernment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Steven Robertson, Queensland Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade:

naturalresources@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Anna Bligh, Queensland Premier and Minister for the Arts:

thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au

Easter will be over when you read this and I hope that everybody enjoyed a break from routine

Carrie Gay

Chair, Weipa Town Authority

Email: chairweipatown@live.com.au

Ph: 4069 7763 Mob: 0488 697 765

10 April 2009

WATER USAGE

As we commence the dry season, residents are reminded to conserve water whenever possible. Sprinklers should only be used from 6am-9am and 6pm-9pm each day.



TOWN WORKS

WTA is currently beautifying the garden beds on Central Avenue (between York and McLeod).

OVERDUE PROPERTY RATES



Property rates for January to June 2009 were posted in February and due for payment 3rd March. If you have not received your rates notice it may be because we don't have your **postal address**.

Unpaid accounts accrue interest at 11% pa.

When paying your rates by direct debit, please include your **name and property assessment number**. DON'T simply say 'rates' because we won't know who you are! We currently have three payments that we are unable to allocate due to lack of payee details.

WTA MEETINGS

Town residents are encouraged to attend the WTA monthly meeting held every 3rd Friday, 8.30am – 1.00pm in the Council Chambers (Hibberd Centre, Rocky Point).

Next Meeting: 17 April 2009

WTA ELECTED MEMBERS

Carrie Gay (Chair) - Mob: 0488 697 765

Peter Miller (Deputy) - Mob: 0428 697 722

Shane Bousen - Mob: 0429 818 322

Peter Graham - Mob: 0427 697 535

WEIPA EXCLUDED FROM THE FEDERAL

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN

Despite a commitment from Anthony Albanese that the Federal Government will 'invest in every single community right across the country' (see below) the Government has chosen to exclude Weipa from the Economic Stimulus Plan.



**The Hon. Anthony Albanese
MP – Federal Minister for
Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and
Local Government**

The Rudd Labor Government's unprecedented Nation Building and Economic Stimulus Plan will invest \$1.2 billion to improve the safety of our roads and the quality of life within our local communities...

On top of these investments in the road network, we're spending \$800 million on the largest community infrastructure program in Australia's history. These funds will be used by local government to build major community infrastructure such as town halls, libraries, community centres and sporting facilities.

Construction of this vital community infrastructure will commence almost immediately and be mostly completed within two years.

No part of Australia will be immune from the impacts of the global recession. That's why our Plan will invest in every single community right across the country.

As well as supporting jobs in the short term and putting in place the infrastructure vital to Australia's longer term economic health, our Plan will make your community a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Transcript from:

http://www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au/community_infrastructure.htm