



INFORMATION BROCHURE 2008/09

Weipa is governed by Rio Tinto Alcan (RTA) by virtue of the provisions of the *Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement Act 1957 (Qld)* (Comalco Act) as if it were the local authority for the Weipa Town Area.

The Weipa Town Authority (WTA) developed originally from the Weipa Citizens Advisory Committee, which was established by RTA in 1997 to assist RTA with the governance of Weipa. The Authority, which acts as though it were a local council, has a chair (akin to a Mayor) and Authority Members (akin to Councillors), and is a creation of RTA in the exercise of its governing rights under the Agreement.

In essence, the WTA endeavours to operate and function as though it were a local government constituted and established under the 1993 Local Government Act (LGA).

The following services are provided by WTA to the Weipa community:

- General Administration including reception duties, financial management, cashier facility, debtors, creditors, maintenance of records systems, etc;
- Library;
- Water treatment, storage & distribution;
- Sewer collection, treatment, disposal & recycling;
- Liquid trade waste disposal and treatment;
- Garbage recycling & disposal;
- Maintenance / operation of Roads, stormwater drainage systems etc;
- Facilitation of economic development, tourism and diversification of industry;
- Town planning functions;
- Building certifications, approvals and inspection functions;
- Environmental health;
- Pest & noxious weeds control;

- Asset management including establishment of databases, ongoing condition monitoring, replacement;
- Playgrounds, open spaces and recreational areas including all existing facilities;
- Provision of community buildings & public conveniences;
- Animal Control
- Formulation, implementation, enforcement and continual monitoring of local laws;
- Swimming Pool;
- Representation of the Weipa community;
- Ongoing application of government funding;
- Commitment to ongoing employment of indigenous persons;
- Utilising recognised population prediction forecasting techniques to effectively plan for the ongoing development of Weipa and ensure that infrastructure remains suitable for the communities needs;
- Seek requests from the community for financial assistance;
- A commitment to working with police agencies to seek means to minimise and reduce crime through opportunities such as Neighbourhood Watch;
- Encouragement of community pride through programs such as tidy towns, adopt a street;
- Implementation of education programs which promote recycling of garbage, recycling of sewer effluent, and conservative use of water resources;
- Disaster Management

These functions are provided and funded through rates, charges and services from the community, as well as RTA funding.

WEIPA TOWN AUTHORITY PEOPLE / MEETINGS

WTA Members:

Chairperson:	Carrie Gay	4069 7763
Deputy Chairperson:	Peter Miller	4069 7526
Authority Members:	Peter Graham	4069 7535
	Shane Bousen	4069 7535
Traditional Owners:	TBA	
Rio Tinto Alcan	Karen Gill	4069 8938
Representatives:	John Graham	4069 8675

Weipa Town Office Staff

Chief Executive Officer:	Ian Pressley OAM	4030 9400
Director, Corporate & Financial Services:	Joanne Jacobson	4030 9406
Director, Planning & Infrastructure Services:	Joan Stratton	4030 9400
Administration Officer:	Maria Wehlow	4030 9401
Contracts & HSE Officer:	Steve Lugsdin	4030 9400
Finance Officer:	Andrea Cardenzana	4030 9407
Librarian:	Patricia Bassett	4030 9408
Local Laws Officer:	Tim Wells	4030 9400
School Based Trainee:	Evan Krall	

WTA Meetings

Meetings of the Weipa Town Authority are held in the Council Chambers on the third Friday of each month from 8.30 am, and on the first Friday of each month from 3pm. The meetings are open to the public. Correspondence for the meetings closes on the Tuesday of the week prior to the meeting, to allow Council officers sufficient time to prepare reports.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Minimum Rate Levy: Property owners are advised that a minimum general rates levy will be charged from July 2009. Property owners who have purchased additional land which borders their residence should note that they have 12 months to amalgamate the parcels and thus avoid paying a minimum rate levy on both properties in 2009/10.

Building: Building permits must be obtained prior to the commencement of any structure/building work within the Weipa Town Boundary.

Town Planning: An Advisory Development Plan for Weipa Town is in force and Weipa Town Authority consent is required for most land / material usage changes.

Dogs: All dogs located within the town boundary must be registered. Annual registration expires 30 June. Residents are allowed up to 2 dogs per house and 1 dog per flat/unit. A permit may be granted for an additional dog per house or flat. [NB All dogs previously registered "as life of dog" must now be registered on an annual basis.]

Overgrown Allotments: Vacant allotments in the Weipa Town Authority are required to be maintained in a clean and tidy state and owners are requested to make arrangements to ensure that their lands are kept tidy and free of long grass. Any costs incurred by the Weipa Town Authority in clearing private land, when the owners fail to heed a Notice requiring them to do so, is a cost incurred by the owner and Weipa Town Authority will take action to recover costs.

Rubbish Dump: The town dump is managed by Cleanaway. Operating hours are Mon-Fri 6am-6pm + Weekends 7am-5pm. Domestic waste is free of charge if conveyed in a car boot or a single axle trailer. Please respect our environment and use the dump for the disposal of all rubbish. Enquiries should be directed to Ph: 4069 8231

Green belt areas: Private vehicles should not be driven in parks or on green belts without permission. Weipa Town Authority will pursue restitution for any damage caused.

Watering: Watering of yards can only be carried out between 6.00am-9.00am, and 6.00pm-9.00pm each day. Please conserve this valuable resource at all times especially during the dry season.

Noise: All complaints regarding noise should be directed to the Weipa Police. Please keep in mind that your neighbours may do shift work.

Hibberd Library

Mon - Fri 9.00am - 4.30 pm
Thur 4.30pm - 7.00 pm

Membership is free for residents of Weipa Town. The library offers a wide range of fiction, non-fiction, reference, periodicals, children's books, and videos. Photocopying and internet access is also available.

The Cape York Collection is located in the library and contains history and reference materials relating to Weipa and surrounding areas on the Cape.

Aquatic Centre: The Pool is open 7 days: 6am – 11am + 2pm – 6pm. [Closed for cleaning Tuesday 6am – 11am]

Issues, Concerns, Complaints: All issues, concerns, or complaints should be lodged in writing to the WTA via the website or in person to the town office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / POLICY DOCUMENTS

The following documents/policies are available on the WTA Website or from the Weipa Town Office:

- Financials: *WTA Financial Statements 2007/08* and *WTA Annual Budget 2008/09*.
- Operational Plan: *2008/09 Operational Plan*
- Property Rates & Charges: *WTA Revenue Policy 2008/09* and *WTA Revenue Statement 2008/09*
- Other Fees & Charges: *WTA General Fees and Charges*