



**2010-2020**

**NORTHERN PENINSULA AREA**

*community plan*

## DOCUMENT AMENDMENT RECORD

NPARC MANAGEMENT PLAN				DOCUMENT NUMBER		
Page	Issue Date	Rev.	Description of Amendment	Prepared By	Checked by	Approved by
	3/12/2010	A	Issue for Council review	PL	KJ	KJ

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## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY PLAN

### About the making of this plan

This community plan is the result of consultation with the Injinoo, Bamaga, New Mapoon and Seisia community forums and feedback gained from Public meetings held to inform this plan and the NPA Local Indigenous Partnership Agreement. A separate meeting was held with the Apudthama Land Trust. This consultation was carried out in accordance with Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council's *Community Engagement Policy*.

### What is the purpose of the Plan?

This plan captures the vision of the community, and will act as *the* reference for Council actions in the future. Council will also refer various funding bodies to this Community Plan when they have intentions of carrying out work in the community.

### What do we mean when we say 'the Community'?

Along with the people who live in the NPA, there are organisations who work in the NPA and a large number of tourists who come to the NPA for a short time during the winter months. **This community plan is about the people who live in the NPA.** However, it is essential to also consider the other stakeholders in Council's planning.

### What do we mean when we say 'sustainable'?

The term *sustainable* comes up fairly often in this plan. What we mean by it is that **the activity in question can be carried on indefinitely**. This is meant especially in terms of the environment – i.e. that future generations have the same environment to care for and use, but can also be meant in terms of finances – i.e. that spending can be carried on into the future, or in terms of industries and employment – that the industry/employment can continue indefinitely.

### Philosophy behind the Strategies in this Community Plan

- The population of the NPA is small and our resources are limited. We therefore must keep our strategies simple.
- Because the majority of our funding comes from grants from the State and Federal Governments, much of our strategy will be dependent on grants or will focus on creating the best environment for grant money to be effective.
- A lot of strategic planning for the area has been conducted, and so we will rely on that planning where it is current and relevant.

## COMMUNITY VISIONS AND VALUES

### Community Visions

The community has clear visions for where it wants to be in the future and how it could be achieved:

- “A healthy and educated community”
- “Growth at our speed”
- “We want fairness in our community—services shared equally between the townships”
- “We want our culture promoted and our history recognised”
- “Our community is trained and has the capacity to do things well”
- “Every new house should have a rainwater tank and solar hot water installed”
- “We want a say in what happens in our community”
- “We don’t want to be reliant on the government”
- “With different cultures, we must develop together”
- “We want to be recognised for our achievements in the community”

### Council Vision

“Prosperity for our community and our people.”

### What the Community Values

Residents have said they value the following things about living in the NPA:

- “The best of both worlds—the sea at our doorstep and the outback as our back yards”
- “The history of the community”
- “Elders and leadership”
- “Our families”
- “The easy and natural lifestyle – no hustle and bustle”
- “The open plan of our towns”
- “The closeness of the community”
- “The comfort, stability and security”
- “That we’re not very commercialised”

- “The best fishing in the country”
- “A safe place for tourists to visit”

## A PICTURE OF THE NPA

### A very brief history of the NPA

The traditional peoples of the Cape York area have inhabited it for thousands of years, and the various groups have long been related to each other via inter-marriage. As well as the Cape York mainland, the islands closest to the mainland were also considered part of the peoples' land. The peoples were dugong hunters, warriors, and skilled seafarers, amongst other things.

European contact began in the 1840s, although it wasn't until 1864 that a Queensland Government base was set up at Somerset. The Jardine family was one of the most prominent of the European families in the area. From the establishment of the base in 1864 to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Aboriginal population is estimated to have fallen from around three thousand to just over two hundred.

The Injinoo community was the first township in the area, and was formed by three of the traditional groups of peoples of the area – Red Island (Gudang, Yadhagana and Wathathi-Whitesand people), Seven Rivers people, and MacDonald River (Gumathi) people. It was established early in the 1910s, without government intervention. Missionaries from the Anglican Church arrived at the settlement in 1923. Injinoo means 'Small River'.

In 1949 Bamaga was founded by people from the Torres Strait Island of Saibai. They had first emigrated to Muttee Head, near the mouth of the Jardine River, in 1947, after determining that the mainland held a better future for their people. The Saibai leader was Bamaga Ginau, hence the name of the township. The first families to arrive were those of Mugai Elu and Tumema Sagakauz. Seisia was established in 1951 when more people moved from Saibai, and the name (given in 1977) comes from the first letters of the brothers Sagaukaz, Elu, Ibuai, Sunai, Isua and Aken.

In the early 1960s, people from Mapoon were forcibly moved (after some had voluntarily moved) to form the township of New Mapoon, so that mining could be carried out around Mapoon. The original name of the area where New Mapoon is situated is 'Mandingou', which means 'Place of springs'. Mapoon had been established in 1891 by Moravian missionaries on behalf of the Presbyterian Church. Some people returned to Mapoon in the 1970s to re-establish a community there.

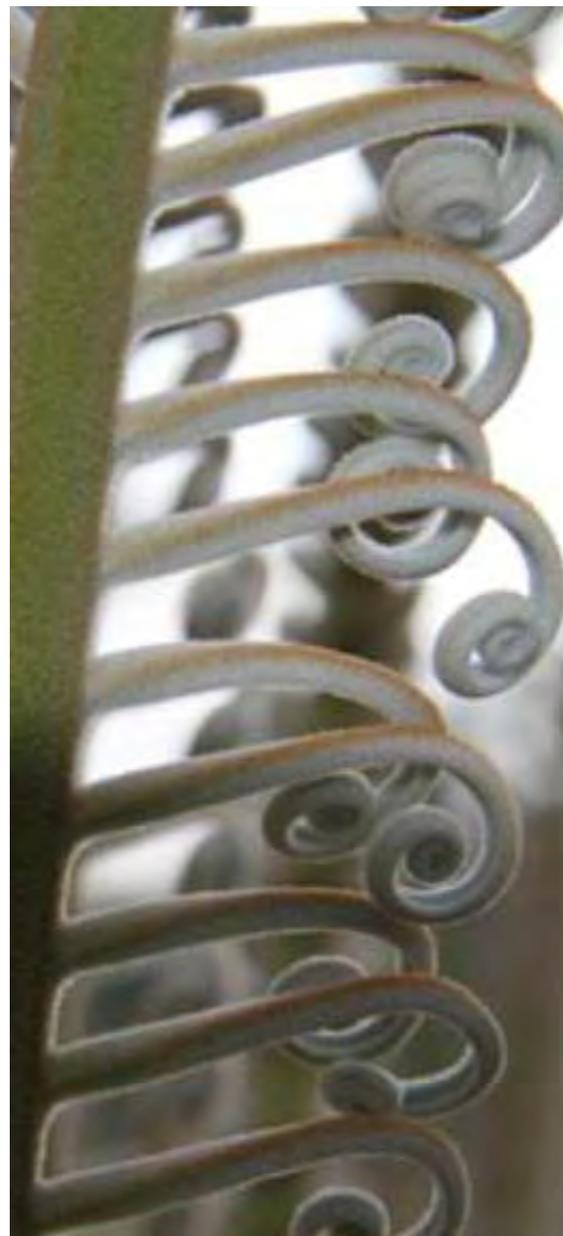
In 1963, Umagico was established when people from the Lockhart River Mission were resettled. In the 1970s, people from Moa Island in the Torres Strait were also moved to Umagico.



In the mid 1980s, the five townships were each given ownership of a parcel of land containing their township via a Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT). In 2008, the five councils of the townships were amalgamated into the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council.

### A Calendar for the NPA

Month	Activities
January	Wet season Turtle season "Our Australia" Day
February	Wet season Turtle season
March	Dry season
April	Dry season ANZAC Day
May	Dry season
June	Dry season Laura Dance Festival Games with Torres Strait
July	Dry season Squid season Cairns Show NAIDOC week
August	Dry season Squid season NPA Show
September	Dry season
October	Dry season
November	Dry season Dan Ropeyarn Football Carnival
December	Wet season Turtle season



## Community Profiles



## Bamaga

### Estimated 2010 Population

1048

The largest of the townships of the NPA, Bamaga was established in 1949 after flooding and freshwater issues on the island of Saibai in the Torres Strait forced the residents to relocate to the Australian mainland.



The Bamaga Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) of about 6,600 hectares was given to Bamaga Island Council for the benefit of the people of Bamaga in 1986. The duty to ensure the land is used for the benefit of the people of Bamaga is now with the NPA Regional Council.

### Council Services

- Council offices
- Indigenous Knowledge Centre
- Community Justice Centre
- Kindergarten
- Cemetery
- Health and community care facility
- Women's shelter
- Council Workshop
- NPA water treatment plant
- Rural Fire Brigade
- Bamaga Heritage Centre
- NPA Airport
- Bamaga Nursery
- Boxing shed
- Garbage collection and rubbish tip
- Bamaga Farm
- Community hall and sports centre
- Swimming pool and gymnasium
- Sports field including lighting
- Playgrounds
- Basketball, tennis and volleyball courts
- RIBS radio

### Non-Council Services

- Shopping centre
- Canteen
- Bamaga Resort
- Child day-care centre
- Hospital
- Schools
- Ambulance
- NPA Ergon Energy Powerhouse
- NPA police station
- Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service Office
- Bakery
- Fast food store
- Public house
- Churches
- Private fuel outlet
- Shipping agents
- Private construction plant hire
- Bamaga Enterprises Community Services
- Service Station
- Centrelink

## Injinoo

### Estimated 2010 Population

339

Injinoo is home to the traditional people of the area. The Apudthama Land Trust, based in Injinoo, is the representative body of all the traditional owners of the NPA.

The Injinoo Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) of about 79,500 hectares was given to Injinoo Aboriginal Shire Council for the benefit of the people of Injinoo in 1986. The duty to ensure the land is used for the benefit of the people of Injinoo is now with the NPA Regional Council



### Council Services

- Council offices
- Council workshop
- Community Hall
- Youth Centre
- Community Ranger office
- Women's Resource Centre
- Day care Centre
- After-school care
- Cemetery
- Jardine River Ferry
- Boat Ramp
- After School Care
- Injinoo Justice Centre
- Attambaya Outstation
- Indigenous Knowledge Centre
- Playground
- Camping Ground
- Community Health Centre
- Concrete Batching Plant

### Non-Council Services

- Canteen
- Service Station
- Church
- P-5 (Preschool to Year 5) School

## New Mapoon

### Estimated 2010 Population

308

New Mapoon was established in the early 1960s after the inhabitants of (Old) Mapoon were forcibly removed to make way for mining interests.



The New Mapoon Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) of about 9,400 hectares was given to New Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council for the benefit of the people of New Mapoon in 1986. The duty to ensure the land is used for the benefit of the people of New Mapoon is now with the NPA Regional Council.

### Council Services

- Community Health Centre
- Council offices
- Council workshop
- Youth Centre
- Family Resource Centre
- Cemetery
- Football field and volleyball court (including lighting)
- Basketball courts
- Playgrounds
- CDEP depot
- Laundromat
- Arts and crafts centre

### Non-Council Services

- Day-care Centre
- Church
- Ice and tackle shop
- Loyalty Beach Resort
- Nai-Beguta Agama community services
- Store
- State Emergency Services (SES)
- Croc shop

## Umagico

### Recorded 2010 Population

298

Umagico was originally established in 1963 for people resettled from Lockhart River Station, and includes Torres Strait Islander people from Moa Island, who settled there in the early 1970s. It is also called Alau.



The Umagico Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) of about 5,300 hectares was given to Umagico Aboriginal Shire Council for the benefit of the people of Umagico in 1986. The duty to ensure the land is used for the benefit of the people of Umagico is now with the NPA Regional Council.

### Council Services

- Community health centre
- Council offices
- Council workshop
- Cemetery
- Rural transaction centre
- Arts & Crafts centre
- Day care centre
- Aka Tessie Piccanini centre
- Sports oval
- Playground
- Sports and recreation centre
- Camping grounds
- Community Police
- Umagico Lodge
- Women's Resource Centre
- Supermarket

### Non-Council Services

- Church
- Canteen
- Service station
- Nursery

## Seisia

### Recorded 2010 Population

180

Seisia is the access point to the NPA from the Torres Strait, and was established from people breaking away from Bamaga.

The Seisia Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) of about 180 hectares was given to Seisia Island Council for the benefit of the people of Seisia in 1987. The duty to ensure the land is used for the benefit of the people of Seisia is now with the NPA Regional Council.



### Council Services

- Community Health Centre
- Council offices
- Community Hall
- Wharf
- Barge/Boat Ramp
- Regional Transaction Centre
- Indigenous Knowledge Centre
- Council workshop
- Sports field
- Playground

### Non-Council Services

- Mechanical engineering workshop
- Sheet metal fabricators
- Church
- State Emergency Service (SES)
- Supermarket
- Fast food outlet
- Flight West office
- Taxi service
- Restaurant
- Service station
- Laundromat
- Slaughterhouse and meat processing facility
- Tour operators and fishing guides
- Camping ground
- Resort accommodation
- Caravan park

## Stakeholders

A large number of organisations contribute to the life of the people of the NPA, through practical work or by providing advice or funding. The most major of these is listed below.

### Commonwealth Government

- Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)
- Indigenous Business Australia (IBA)
- Tourism Australia (TA)
- Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)
- Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) – especially the Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC Cairns)
- Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
- Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (DITRD LG)

### Queensland Government

- Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS)
- Queensland Department of Communities (DOC) – especially the Remote Indigenous Land and Infrastructure Program Office
- Queensland Department of Community Safety
- Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI)
- Queensland Department of Education and Training (DET)
- Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM)
- Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP)
- Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)
- Queensland Department of Health (QH)
- Queensland Department of Public Works
- Tourism Queensland
- Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ)

### Other

- Apudthama Land Trust (Injinoo Apudthama Indigenous Corporation)
- NPA/TS Area Consultative Committee (ACC)
- Council of Australian Governments (COAG)

- Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council
- Bamaga Enterprises
- Seisia Enterprises
- Nai Beguta Agama
- Cape York Peninsula Development Association Inc. (CYPDA)
- Cape York Peninsula Regional Advisory Committee
- Cape York Land Trust
- Cape York Peninsula Scientific and Cultural Advisory Committee Northern Peninsula Area Development Group (NPADG)
- Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)
- The Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA)
- Torres Strait Natural Resource Management (TSNRM) Reference Group
- The Northern Peninsula Area Chamber of Commerce (formerly the Northern Peninsula Area Development Group (NPADG)), which consists of: ICC, IBA, TSRA, ILC, DEWR, ATGIS, DEEDI, DITRDG, DET, DIP, TMR, DPW, ACC, Tourism Queensland, TTNQ and the Aduphama Land Trust.

### Expected Demographic Changes

The population changes in the NPA as babies are born, people pass away, move to the NPA, or move away from the NPA. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has a history of population data for the townships of the NPA, and NPARC has a record of the population too, which it keeps for managing the allocation of houses.

To plan for our future, we need to estimate the number of people who will be living here in the future.

Because the NPARC data is considered more accurate, it has been used as the basis of estimating the future population of the NPA – where the projections start from. But because there's not a history of Council data (because amalgamation happened only in 2008), the growth rates that the ABS has calculated from its data have been used, with a few modifications. The forecast populations are shown in Table 1.

The overall population growth rate for the NPA is expected to be around 1.4 %, which is less than the Australian average, and may be attributable to people moving away from the NPA because of a lack of employment opportunities.

The projections show that the overall population of the NPA will have increased by around 40% in the next 20 years.

Aside from the numbers of people in the NPA, the ages of people and the proportion of singles to couples, and in which townships they live will be important in the years to come.

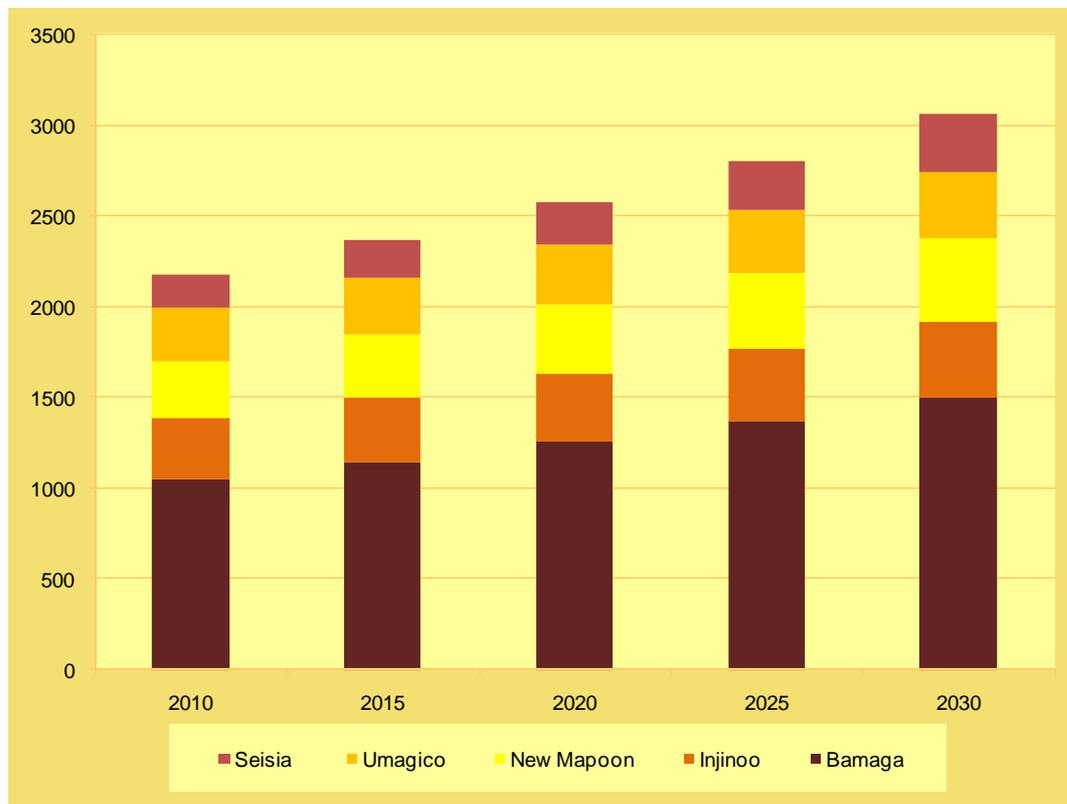
The ABS data for the NPA shows that compared to the Queensland average, the NPA has a much higher proportion of young people.

**Table 1 Projected populations and growth rates**

	Recorded	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	2004-2009 (ABS)
	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Growth Rate
<b>Bamaga</b>	1048	1146	1253	1370	1497	1.80%
<b>Injinoo</b>	339	356	374	394	414	1.00%*
<b>New Mapoon</b>	308	342	379	421	467	2.10%
<b>Umagico</b>	298	313	329	346	364	1.00%*
<b>Seisia</b>	180	207	237	272	313	2.80%
<b>NPA Total</b>	<b>2173</b>	<b>2364</b>	<b>2573</b>	<b>2802</b>	<b>3054</b>	<b>1.40%</b>

\* Growth rates assumed because ABS rates were lower than 1.0%

Figure 1 Recorded and Projected NPA Population Graph



### Challenges facing the NPA

There are a number of challenges facing the region now and over the coming years. These include:

- Resolution of land tenure issues
- The high cost of living due to our population size, reliance on imports, and distance that goods need to be transported
- Significant and complex transportation requirements due to our region being remote
- Securing and maintaining basic infrastructure for our communities
- Maintaining viable communities - the lack of opportunities, particularly in employment, means many of our young people are moving away from the region
- Low health and education standards and outcomes. As with many remote Indigenous people, our region has lower than average standards in health and education delivery and achievements. For the long term development of the region, these two areas require significant improvement

- Care for our environment while growing businesses. In addition, preparing for and adapting to the effects of climate change
- Lower employment rates than the Australian average. To improve our economic well-being we need to create meaningful employment that will result in real wealth creation, increased self-esteem and greater responsibility for our people
- Building back our culture
- Being well-represented politically.

### Why is our economic situation poor?

For economic growth in a capitalist system, it is generally agreed that certain conditions need to be in place: private property rights; education and training so that skills needs are met; strong institutions (such as consistent and stable government policy, and the enforcement of law and order); and access to capital (for instance, having money or being able to get bank loans). Environmental resources also play a role, and having trading partners is also vital.

A quick look at history shows us that these conditions have never been in place for any decent period of time. Education has never been of a high standard and is still not of a high standard in the NPA. Any capital we had other than the environment was erased with the coming of the Europeans, and for a century following that, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were not even treated as citizens. In general, we still do not have much in the way of our own capital, and nor can most people access loans, because we have little to be able to secure them with. We haven't been able to accumulate capital because of the lack of employment, which stems from the lack of economic growth – a vicious circle. Land tenure issues have limited the development of a private property system. Government policy has varied wildly, and seems to change with every election. Welfare has provided an important safety net to some people, but others have come to rely on it, falling into a dependence on government benefits, with little other choice. Currently, we are burdened by government regulations that may suit big cities like Brisbane, but hampers the growth of small businesses in the NPA that haven't got the ability to cope with so much 'red tape'. The recent Wild Rivers legislation means that we can't benefit from our natural environmental resources to build capital like the rest of Queensland has done for the last century and is still doing today.

When we consider this history, we are entitled to ask: is it any wonder there has not been much economic growth in the NPA? But we have people hungry for employment, thirsty for skills, minds full of plans for businesses. At the same time, we are in a unique position at the tip of Cape York, with tourism a huge potential industry, and the region having a lot of untapped natural resources, not to mention a lot of smart people who could become professionals, if the opportunity was there for them. We are creative and artistic and our cultures are of interest to many people - we could benefit from these advantages, too. If

higher government helps us achieve the necessary conditions for economic growth, and if we put our own efforts in, our future should be very bright.



### Introducing the Planning Themes

Taking the challenges that face the NPA, we can identify a number of themes to use in planning for our future. These are described below.

The **Built Environment** covers housing, parks and gardens, public buildings, telecommunications and transport.

The **Natural Environment and Land Use** covers preservation of our environment, adaptation to environmental changes, how we use the land we have, and the legal issues surrounding our land.

**Enterprise Development** focuses on the establishment of enterprises within the NPA, and fostering conditions that can aid the growth of enterprises.

**Employment** focuses on ways that the level of employment in the NPA can be raised.

**Youth, Education and Training** focuses on schooling, leadership and mentoring, workplace training and parenting.

**Community Liveability** covers the cost of living, health and wellbeing, and safety and justice within the community.

**Culture and Sports** covers the facilities for, and participation in, cultural activities and sports, as well as traditional knowledge and languages and the preservation and recognition of cultural sites. Culture includes dance, stories, music, radio and art.

**Representation and Accountability** covers how the community is represented politically, how we have a say in what happens in our community, and how Council is accountable.



## PLANNING THEMES: STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

### Built Environment

The Built Environment covers housing, parks and gardens, public buildings, telecommunications, and transport.

#### What's the situation?

- Housing is overcrowded, and the population continues to grow. There are currently almost 5 people per house, compared to the national average of around 2.5. The number of people per house in our community has been increasing, while nationally it's decreasing. While some people prefer to live in big households, and they are happy and healthy, others would prefer to live in smaller households.
- The choice in housing is limited. Elderly people may want to live alone in houses where there is disabled access, or young parents may want their own place. A great mix of housing is required.
- The lack of available housing for temporary residents – people coming to perform services in the NPA – sometimes discourages people from coming, and so limits the services on offer in the NPA.
- Mobile phone coverage in the region is very limited. This is bad for emergency scenarios, for economic development and for the everyday quality of our lives.
- Internet connectivity in the region is very limited, the quality isn't very good, and the National Broadband Network project of the Federal Government does not go anywhere near the NPA.
- The remoteness of the NPA and the current state of the transportation network means transportation to the area is expensive and inconvenient, limits tourism, and makes our goods expensive.
- The population density of our communities means that public transport is expensive to run. There's no public transport.
- There are problems in sorting out land tenure/lease issues for building anything or for giving businesses leases. This retards development and economic growth.
- There is a lack of planning for how we want our townships to look, and we are missing the chance to make our townships look really good.
- There is a lack of street lighting and paved footpaths, making it unsafe for pedestrians during the day and for all traffic at night.
- There may be challenges resulting from changes in the climate in the region – more intense rainfall, rising sea levels, longer periods without rain, changes in what flora

and fauna thrive in our area etc. This may place an added strain on our infrastructure.

- There is no development approval process.
- Funding for projects for infrastructure and housing comes from the State and Federal Governments, and so we are dependent on them for our future, limiting the control we have over the built environment in our community.
- People would like to see a sustainable energy supply.
- Neither Injinoo nor New Mapoon has easy access to a supermarket or anything more than the most basic items for sale.
- The roads that lead to the NPA are of poor quality, meaning freight is transported by sea. Food might be cheaper and fresher if there was a good road leading to the NPA from regional centres like Cairns, and such a road might also lead to more tourism.
- It is expected that a bridge over the Jardine River will be built within the next ten years.
- Community infrastructure such as boat ramps, lighting, shops, jetties, swimming pools, footpaths, barbeques, playgrounds and camping grounds are desired.
- There has been little consideration in the past about how we move within our townships – apart from getting from township to township, we'd like to make a plan for walking and bicycle paths within our communities.
- The airport is in a fairly poor state and is unfit for the future.

### How do we want it to be?

The visions we have as a community for our future are:

- No overcrowding of houses.
- A range of housing types to choose from.
- Broad coverage of telecommunications.
- A sustainable, local electricity supply.
- A community with good transport links – within the NPA and to other areas.
- Parks and streetscapes are well looked after and add beauty to the community.
- Communities are well planned.
- Better airport facilities.
- A bridge over the Jardine River, and a good road leading to the NPA.
- Better community infrastructure.
- No high-rises, but development appropriate for our environment.

### What will be the indicators of success?

We will know we are achieving our goals if by 2020, the NPA is a place where:

- There is adequate housing for all members of the community, both in terms of numbers of houses and their quality.
- Housing lots to meet expected demand for the next five years are demarked and serviced.
- There is a mix of housing types to choose from.
- Energy is sustainable and locally produced.
- Parks add beauty to the community.
- There is mobile telephone coverage.
- Most people have easy access to the internet.
- A bus system runs between the townships of the NPA.
- The transport system is not a bottleneck to tourism.
- The transport system enables the provision of adequate fresh food.
- There is adequate transport signage.
- There is a town plan in place for the long term development of the townships, including a transport plan.
- There is a development approval process in place.
- There is a modern airport terminal.
- A bridge has been built over the Jardine River to replace the current ferry service.
- There are sufficient boat ramps with lighting along our coast for the use of the whole community.
- There are a variety of shops in each community.
- All cemeteries are fenced.
- Moving around by bike and foot within townships is easy.

### What is already being done?

- Council has submitted a list of around 30 projects to the Major Infrastructure Program that is jointly funded by the Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning, and the Torres Strait Regional Authority, asking for funds for roads, drainage, sewerage, subdivision and coastal protection infrastructure, as well as planning studies.
- Council's Engineering Services Department completed work on the Jardine River Ferry refurbishment, and carried out beautification works on Injinoo Cemetery. It also added street lighting to Injinoo Lookout Park.

- Council has a program for repairing roads and other infrastructure.
- Negotiations with mobile telephone services have begun.
- Cemetery fencing is being constructed by the CDEP workforce.
- Council has made preliminary steps to introduce a development approval process.
- Planning for subdivision works in Injinoo and Bamaga is currently underway, and it is expected more will be carried out in the other townships in the next year or two.
- Council has been lobbying for more funds to improve the airport.

**How can we get there?**

**Built Environment Strategy 1**

<b>What</b>	Explore all grant options and lobby for infrastructure, public buildings and planning, including upgraded telecommunications, community and transport infrastructure
<b>Why</b>	The NPA cannot afford to pay for infrastructure itself
<b>Who</b>	NPARC seeking funding from and participating in programs by DoC, MIP, FaHCSIA and other funding bodies
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

**Built Environment Strategy 2**

<b>What</b>	Push for a mix of housing types to be built in the NPA
<b>Why</b>	There are currently few options for people seeking anything other than a large house with three or more bedrooms. People would appreciate more options in housing.
<b>Who</b>	NPARC to lobby DoC Program Office
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

**Built Environment Strategy 3**

<b>What</b>	Institute a bus service in the NPA for residents in addition to the service that there currently is for school students
<b>Why</b>	Car ownership is limited, taxis are very expensive, and people need to travel between the different townships of the NPA to access the different services spread throughout it.
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	When funding is secured

#### Built Environment Strategy 4

<b>What</b>	Fence all cemeteries
<b>Why</b>	Cemeteries are of high cultural importance but in some cases are not fenced, leaving them open to disturbance by stray animals.
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	2011

#### Built Environment Strategy 5

<b>What</b>	Apply for funding for planning for our streetscapes and transport within the NPA
<b>Why</b>	We don't have these plans currently and if we had them they could be used to improve the look and feel of our communities and how easy it is to get around them
<b>Who</b>	NPARC seeking funding from and participating in programs by DoC, MIP, FaHCSIA
<b>When</b>	When funding is secured

#### Built Environment Strategy 6

<b>What</b>	CDEP workers to carry out beautification works around the NPA
<b>Why</b>	This will make the NPA look better and allow CDEP workers to take pride in their work
<b>Who</b>	CDEP workers under instruction from NPARC
<b>When</b>	2011 and then ongoing

#### Built Environment Strategy 7

<b>What</b>	Upgrade the NPA airport
<b>Why</b>	The terminal building is not comfortable, and the runway requires work
<b>Who</b>	NPARC applying to State and Federal aviation authorities
<b>When</b>	When funding is secured

## Natural Environment and Land Use

The Natural Environment and Land Use covers preservation of our environment, adaptation to environmental changes, how we use the land we have, and the legal issues surrounding our land.

*“Land and Sea is our bread and butter”*

### What's the situation?

- Permission to build houses and other physical items is hampered by land tenure issues, meaning that infrastructure and development works vital to the economy are sometimes stymied.
- Traditional owners have to deal with three different local governments about land.
- There isn't any plan in place for how we want our townships to look.
- We don't have a good idea of what natural resources on the land we could benefit from (sustainably) for our economic development.
- We have a limited fishing industry that we'd like to expand while keeping it sustainable. Presently, there's no fisheries management.
- Our ranger program, which covers 600 kilometres of coastline and the traditional lands of the people native to our area, is expanding, and it is a very successful program. We currently have 11 rangers, and funding to move to 17 between 2012 and 2013. We believe we need 30 to properly act as guardians of our land and sea, however. The expansion and even the continuation of the program is dependent on grant funding. Our rangers have 12 month work plans and each year decide on what needs to be done in the following year.
- There may be challenges resulting from changes in the climate in the region – more intense rainfall, rising sea levels, longer periods without rain, changes in what flora and fauna thrive in our area etc.
- The land boundaries of the NPA have not been updated since amalgamation, and some of the NPA assets are actually located outside of the currently recognised borders. This makes management of assets and planning of any future works a bit harder.
- The surveying information for the NPA is inaccurate, making development harder.
- Tourists can sometimes leave a lot of rubbish laying around or damage native flora.
- Mosby Creek is in a poor state, with a lot of rubbish in it and clay and oil also polluting it.
- The coral quays are a particularly sensitive part of our environment.

- There are no by-laws protecting our local environment.

### **How do we want it to be?**

The visions we have as a community for our future include:

- The environment is recognised and protected as a key to our future sustainability.
- The community adapts to any changes in the environment.
- Land tenure, land boundaries and survey information is no hindrance to development.
- We have the information to plan for any sustainable utilisation of our natural resources.
- Visitors are respectful in regards to rubbish and care for local flora.

### **What will be the indicators of success?**

We will know we are achieving our goals if by 2020 the NPA is a place where:

- Wildlife stocks are managed so that they are sustainable.
- Any impact from rising sea waters and coastal erosion is managed in a satisfactory manner.
- A ranger system, where park rangers are suitably trained and resourced, is in place to care for the land and sea environment and wildlife of the NPA.
- Land tenure issues for foreseeable future development are resolved.
- Land boundaries are clarified and simplified.
- Survey information is modern and accurate.
- There are by-laws in place that protect the environment.

### **What is already being done?**

- The ranger program is in place.
- There are plans to do some survey work in 2010 and 2011.
- NPARC has applied for funding for a coastal protection program for Seisia to protect it from rising sea waters and a king tide/cyclone event.
- Council has been doing preparatory work to sort out land tenure issues.

## How can we get there?

### Natural Environment and Land Use Strategy 1

<b>What</b>	Hold discussions with all relevant parties, including the Apudthama Land Trust and Traditional Owners, to facilitate the resolution of land leasing and tenure arrangements for development
<b>Why</b>	Physical and economic development is currently limited by these issues
<b>Who</b>	NPARC, Apudthama Land Trust, Traditional Owners, DERM, DoC Program Office
<b>When</b>	2011 – 2013

### Natural Environment and Land Use Strategy 2

<b>What</b>	Explore all grant options for extending the park ranger program
<b>Why</b>	The NPA cannot afford to pay for the park ranger program itself
<b>Who</b>	NPARC applying to DERM and other funding bodies
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Natural Environment and Land Use Strategy 3

<b>What</b>	Apply for funding for a study into the highest sustainable rate of fishing in the area
<b>Why</b>	We want to preserve the natural environment but increase our fish catches; NPARC does not have the resources to pay for such a study itself
<b>Who</b>	NPARC applying to DERM and DEEDI
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Natural Environment and Land Use Strategy 4

<b>What</b>	Apply for funding for a study into available natural resources that could be sustainably utilised
<b>Why</b>	We want to preserve the natural environment while developing new industries; NPARC does not have the resources to pay for such a study itself
<b>Who</b>	NPARC applying to DERM
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Natural Environment and Land Use Strategy 5

<b>What</b>	Encourage, and then co-operate with State and Federal authorities in work to simplify land boundary issues and to modernise survey information
<b>Why</b>	We want to resolve these issues to aid development
<b>Who</b>	DoC with the encouragement and co-operation of NPARC
<b>When</b>	2010-2011

### Natural Environment and Land Use Strategy 6

<b>What</b>	Issue Jardine Ferry passengers with information leaflets about where they can camp in the NPA
<b>Why</b>	This will hopefully reduce the areas where tourists litter, so that it becomes easier to clean up
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	2011

### Natural Environment and Land Use Strategy 7

<b>What</b>	Clean up Mosby Creek and implement measures to stop further pollution of it
<b>Why</b>	It will be good for the environment and better for the community to look at
<b>Who</b>	NPARC with assistance of the community
<b>When</b>	2011

### Natural Environment and Land Use Strategy 8

<b>What</b>	Assist the DoC Program, DERM, and the Land Trusts Office in sorting out land tenure, leasing and planning issues so that housing can be built and leases become available for small business
<b>Why</b>	Land tenure, leasing and planning issues are an obstacle to housing being built and to economic development
<b>Who</b>	Land Trusts, Community Forums, NPARC, DoC Program Office and other state and Commonwealth government agencies
<b>When</b>	2010-2011

### Natural Environment and Land Use Strategy 9

<b>What</b>	Introduce by-laws that prohibit certain activities that lead to pollution of the environment
<b>Why</b>	There are currently no by-laws and therefore no way of protecting our local environment
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	2011-2012, and then ongoing

### Enterprise Development

Enterprise Development focuses on the establishment of enterprises within the NPA, and fostering conditions that can aid the growth of enterprises.

*"We're sitting on a gold-mine!"*

#### What's the situation?

- Because of the uncertainty regarding leases, it's difficult to get loans from banks, because banks want a high degree of certainty and assurance when they give out money.
- There is little infrastructure in place for people who would like to start up small shops. People generally do not have the capital to fund the infrastructure, though



they might be able to get together the money for stock.

- There are quite a few people who have planned out businesses, a lot of the time with the help of Council, and are just waiting for the right opportunity (usually dependent on funding) to start it off. Some people would like more assistance in business planning.
- The NPA has the potential to become a big tourist destination, but that potential is largely untapped at present. Some of the un-tapped potential includes:
  - Heritage sites and traditional culture, including arts and crafts.
  - The scenic sites of Vrilya Point, Somerset, Muttee Head, Archer Point, Gilma's Point, the Tip, and the Jardine River.
  - Bird-watching (in .the wet season).
  - Fishing
  - Camping grounds and other higher-end accommodation.
  - There not being a tourism brochure or website for the NPA as a whole.
- The NPA has natural resources that could be sustainably utilised to provide employment and prosperity in the area. Such opportunities include:
  - Fishing (and seafood processing plant).
  - Cattle (and abattoir).
  - Sawmilling.
  - Farming.
  - Aquaculture.
- Businesses who want to start up in the NPA find the problems surrounding land tenure/leases a major discouragement, and this is limiting the development of enterprises.
- Transportation expenses are high, and a problem for businesses wanting to start up.
- A potential business is a freight company.
- Another potential business is a zoo.

### How do we want it to be?

The visions we have as a community for our future include:

- Current industries, such as tourism and fishing, having an expanded but sustainable base.
- Sustainable new industries are established.
- Ample employment and training opportunities exist.
- Coffee shops and nurseries (amongst other shops) are spotted throughout the NPA.

- People have fair access to capital so that they can start businesses.
- There are stable State and Commonwealth policies that set favourable conditions for the growth of businesses and that give some certainty to anyone interested in investing in the NPA.
- Future industrial and commercial areas are already planned.

### What will be the indicators of success?

We will know we are achieving our goals if by 2020 the NPA is a place where:

- There is financial and in-kind support for start-up businesses in the NPA, including being able to get loans from banks.
- There is council infrastructure in place for small businesses that would like to lease small shops.
- The fishing industry is well established, sustainable, and profitable.
- The tourism industry is mature and profitable.
- The construction industry is mature and profitable.

### What is already being done?

- In 2007, the Indigenous Development Group produced an NPA Economic Development Implementation Plan, which is being implemented co-operatively by the Northern Peninsula Area Development Group (now the NPA Chamber of Commerce).
- NPARC has been identifying its unused assets (i.e. office space and unused buildings) and is offering them for lease to businesses.
- The Local Indigenous Partnership Agreement (LIPA) has been in place since 2009, and involves the State and Commonwealth in the economic development of the NPA. This has taken precedence over the Economic Development Implementation Plan.

### How can we get there?

#### Enterprise Development Strategy 1

<b>What</b>	Participate as necessary in the actions of the NPA Economic Development Implementation Plan and LIPA
<b>Why</b>	The plan is comprehensive and was the result of much study
<b>Who</b>	NPADG and LIPA parties with NPARC co-operating
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Enterprise Development Strategy 2

<b>What</b>	Hold discussions with all relevant parties, including the Apudthama Land Trust and Traditional Owners, to facilitate the resolution of land leasing and tenure arrangements for development
<b>Why</b>	Physical and economic development is currently limited by these issues
<b>Who</b>	NPARC, Apudthama Land Trust, Traditional Owners, DERM, DoC Program Office
<b>When</b>	First half of 2011

### Enterprise Development Strategy 3

<b>What</b>	Set up a business start-up capital fund for businesses wishing to start in the NPA
<b>Why</b>	Providing financial support will encourage the start-up of businesses
<b>Who</b>	NPARC with assistance from DEEDI and possibly some banks
<b>When</b>	2012

### Enterprise Development Strategy 4

<b>What</b>	Investigate and facilitate micro-finance programs that could include the NPA
<b>Why</b>	Providing financial support will encourage the start-up of businesses
<b>Who</b>	NPARC and possibly micro-finance organisations
<b>When</b>	2013

### Enterprise Development Strategy 5

<b>What</b>	To include zones for industrial development as well as other commercial activities in the NPA Planning Scheme
<b>Why</b>	Allocating such land will smooth the process of businesses coming into the NPA
<b>Who</b>	NPARC working with DoC Program Office
<b>When</b>	2010/2011

### Enterprise Development Strategy 6

<b>What</b>	To lobby for funding to establish shop infrastructure for businesses wanting to set up shops in the NPA
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<b>Why</b>	Obtaining funding to build such infrastructure will reduce capital costs for potential start-up businesses in the NPA
<b>Who</b>	NPARC lobbying DIP, DEEDI, DITRDLG, DEEWR and FaHCSIA
<b>When</b>	2010/2011

#### Enterprise Development Strategy 7

<b>What</b>	Establish paid campsites at Somerset and on the west side of the Cape
<b>Why</b>	To attract more tourists and encourage the flow of money into the NPA
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	2011-2012

#### Enterprise Development Strategy 8

<b>What</b>	Develop an NPA tourism brochure and website
<b>Why</b>	To attract more tourists and encourage the flow of money into the NPA
<b>Who</b>	NPARC in conjunction with Tourism Queensland and Tourism Tropical North Queensland
<b>When</b>	2012-2013

## Employment

Employment focuses on ways that the level of employment in the NPA can be raised.

*“We would love more employment opportunities”*

### What’s the situation?

- There is a low rate of employment relative to most other parts of Australia, which means household income is lower, and families have fewer resources for educating their children. A lack of employment can also lead to social problems.
- Most employed people in the area either work for the Council or for Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) – there are few private businesses and few industries. CDEP is not often viewed as helpful to people, but rather as restrictive.
- Lack of opportunity results in people leaving the area.
- There is a problem with local employment. On one hand, outside contractors come in to do a lot of the housing work that locals are trained to do, and it feels unfair when there is a high rate of unemployment in our area. On the other hand, there is a perception that workers from our area are unmotivated and sometimes poorly trained.
- There are numerous obstacles to the growth of enterprises, which in turn limits the growth in employment opportunities. These obstacles to the growth of business are described in the ‘Enterprise Development’ theme.
- Housing construction is expected to be strong in the coming 10 years, and there has to be the people to build the houses. These can come from outside the area, or from the NPA. An agreement is currently in place with QBuild that 20% of the housing construction workforce is local indigenous. However, this target seems often not to be met, and there are no penalties for not meeting it.



### How do we want it to be?

The visions we have as a community for our future include:

- Ample employment opportunities exist.
- There are employment choices.
- We are our own professionals.
- There is strong local employment in house building.

### What will be the indicators of success?

We will know we are achieving our goals if by 2020 the NPA is a place where:

- Council is not the main employer in the area.
- The rate of employment is comparable to the national average for remote areas.
- The majority of the housing construction workforce is local and indigenous.

### What is already being done?

- NPARC is involved in a range of programs to promote the growth of employment in the region. The main programs are the Local Indigenous Partnership Agreement (LIPA) and the Indigenous Development Group produced an NPA Economic Development Implementation Plan, which is being implemented co-operatively by the Northern Peninsula Area Development Group (now the NPA Chamber of Commerce). NPARC has also been identifying its unused assets so that they can be leased to businesses, which will require staff.

### How can we get there?

#### Employment Strategy 1

<b>What</b>	Participate as necessary in the actions of the NPA Economic Development Implementation Plan and LIPA
<b>Why</b>	The plan is comprehensive and was the result of much study
<b>Who</b>	NPADG and LIPA parties with NPARC co-operating
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

#### Employment Strategy 2

<b>What</b>	Push for 60% of housing construction workforces in the NPA to be local indigenous, and for there to be penalties in place if this is not met
<b>Why</b>	To increase Indigenous employment in the NPA
<b>Who</b>	NPARC lobbying QBuild and the DoC
<b>When</b>	2011-2012 then ongoing

### Employment Strategy 3

<b>What</b>	Ensure workforces for infrastructure projects in the NPA are largely made up of local and indigenous people when possible
<b>Why</b>	To increase Indigenous employment in the NPA
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Employment Strategy 4

<b>What</b>	Push for higher schooling standards
<b>Why</b>	So that people are more highly skilled and more ready for work
<b>Who</b>	NPARC lobbying DET
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

## Education and Training

Education and Training focuses on schooling, tertiary education and workplace training.

*“A year 12 education here is like a year 6 education in other parts of the State – the schooling level is disappointing”*

*“We want our community to be trained and to have the capacity to do things well”*

### What's the situation?

Education and training, not just for young people, but also for adults, are absolutely vital in attaining prosperity. The current situation in respect to education and training are:

- A number of education and training forums operate in the NPA.
- If people want tertiary education they need to travel to Cairns if the course isn't offered by correspondence.
- There are limited workplace training opportunities, meaning that people find it hard to gain skills.
- The TAFE that was in the NPA has recently closed down, though some courses are still provided by teachers who travel to the NPA. However, a trades and hospitality centre is to be established in Bamaga by 2012.
- There is no available tertiary education in the area.
- School facilities are basic, and the standard of education is low.
- Teachers who come don't tend to stay, so it's hard to build relationships.
- Kids tend to miss more school than they should, although the perception in the community is that the situation is improving. Statistics show that school attendance actually dropped from around 75% in 2006 to at around 60% in 2009, compared to the state average of 90%.

### How do we want it to be?

We want the NPA to be a place where:

- Education facilities are of a high standard.
- State government provides high quality educational facilities and opportunities.
- Universities provide off-campus training opportunities here.
- Local workers are well trained and are able to gain good experience.

### What will be the indicators of success?

We will know we are achieving our goals if by 2020, the NPA is a place where:

- People are well trained and have had a fair amount of work experience.
- There is a student to teacher ratio in line with the other regional centres
- School attendance and retention rates are steadily increasing to eventually be in line with other regional centres
- Standard of years 10 and 12 are comparable to other regional centres
- Teachers are well qualified

#### What is already being done?

- Council lobbies the State and Commonwealth governments whenever possible about schooling, tertiary education and training services.
- Council is introducing mentoring schemes in its workplaces.

#### How can we get there?

##### Education and Training Strategy 1

<b>What</b>	Lobby, at every opportunity, for State and Federal agencies to improve the standard of schooling in the NPA
<b>Why</b>	The schooling level is extremely poor
<b>Who</b>	NPARC and all sections of the community
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

##### Education and Training Strategy 2

<b>What</b>	NPARC to allow for as much on-the-job training as possible
<b>Why</b>	We want our community to be more highly skilled
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

##### Education and Training Strategy 3

<b>What</b>	Introduce mentoring programs throughout NPARC
<b>Why</b>	Younger workers would benefit from having someone to guide them in their careers
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	2011-2012 then ongoing

## Community Liveability

Community Liveability covers the cost of living, health and wellbeing, and safety and justice within the community.

*“Being remote is a double-edged sword. Tourists are attracted by the remoteness but living costs are very high.”*

*“We’d like to be able to reward our youth when they show good behaviour”*

*“People move away from the NPA because some medical facilities aren’t available here”*

*“We’ll feel safe when we feel in control of the community”*

### What’s the situation?

- There’s so little in the way of entertainment in the NPA. Young people sometimes end up causing trouble because there is nothing else to do.
- The cost of living is very high. Families supplement what they can buy with what they can catch fishing and hunting – traditional foods. Fishing and hunting also provide exercise. Healthy food is expensive because most food is shipped in.
- The average lifespan of people in the community is much lower than the average for Australia as a whole.
- The consumption of liquor and drugs can be a problem. A Liquor Accord was recently agreed.
- The NPA landfill has reached the end of its life and is an eyesore.
- The sewerage system is generally in a poor condition and requires a lot of work to get it into an acceptable state.
- Workplace health and safety standards are not as high as in other places in Australia.
- There are problems with mental health, particularly amongst men.
- Access to health services, particularly dialysis, is difficult; people must go elsewhere.
- Older people in particular have trouble getting any exercise.
- The Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Services (ATODS) unit of the Queensland Government is working in the NPA, helping out those who have problems with these substances.
- There’s a problem with stray dogs, and to a lesser extent pigs and horses.

- Statistics for the number of hospital admissions due to assault-related conditions shows that the NPA has a rate of admissions between 4 and 12 times that of the Queensland average. However, people generally tend to consider themselves safe within the community.
- State police tend to live only in Bamaga, and people feel that the State police are not sufficiently culturally trained.
- There are people within the community who can remember having their homes burnt down when they were forced to relocate to the NPA.
- The Community Police play an active role in the community.
- Justice groups are running in the community.

### How do we want it to be?

The visions we have as a community for our future include:

- Our life expectancies have risen significantly.
- There is affordable access to healthy food.
- There is a positive feeling in the community about health and wellbeing.
- Drug and alcohol problems are significantly reduced.
- There are adequate preventative health programs.
- Every community has reasonable access to dialysis and other common treatments.
- Aged people are well cared for and there are adequate facilities for doing so.
- There are fitness programs for older people.
- We have a community ready to respond to emergency situations.
- There is a dramatic reduction in alcohol-related violence and drink-driving incidents.
- We have a community where everybody feels safe.
- The traditional culture of “every child is my child” is strong.
- We want the police to be culturally aware and respected.

### What will be the indicators of success?

We will know we are achieving our goals if by 2020, the NPA is a place where:

- There is a reasonable level of home ownership.
- Our public health infrastructure is of a good standard.
- Alcohol and drug problems aren't any worse than anywhere else in Australia.
- Workplace health and safety incidents aren't any more frequent than anywhere else in Australia.
- Stray animal problems aren't prominent.

- We have access to hospital and medical facilities, such as dialysis, that are comparable to other Australian remote areas with similar populations.
- Community farming is widespread and provides a lot of the food that the community eats.
- Health problems, especially lifestyle diseases, are decreasing because of preventative health programs.
- There is a high awareness of health issues within the community.
- There are specific groups being run for the mental health, men and women.
- Aged community members can remain in their community because we have the resources to care for them as their needs increase.
- Council has an emergency response plan in place for bushfires and floods, which the community is aware of.
- The rate of crime is no higher than the Australian average.
- State police live amongst the communities and undergo extensive cultural awareness training.

#### What is already being done?

- The Federal Government is running its 'Closing the Gap' program, with one of the goals being the improvement of health of Indigenous people.
- Under the LIPA agreement between the Department of Communities and NPARC, a community farm has been set up to grow some fruit and vegetables.
- Council has been running an Animal Management Program in recent years which is having some success.
- Council has secured funding for a new HACC centre.
- There is a Men's Shed running.
- There are Women's Resource Centres.
- Council has been running an Animal Management Program in recent years which is having some success.
- Council is establishing a Local Disaster Management Group.
- Justice groups are running in the community.
- There are plans for what we would do in the case of severe bushfires or severe flooding.

## How can we get there?

### Community Liveability Strategy 1

<b>What</b>	Participate as necessary in the actions of the Closing the Gap initiative
<b>Why</b>	Most health-related services are the responsibility of either the State or Federal Governments, who already have a program of actions
<b>Who</b>	FaHCSIA with the co-operation of NPARC
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Community Liveability Strategy 2

<b>What</b>	Establish community farms around the area
<b>Why</b>	This will help provide more fresh and healthy food for the community
<b>Who</b>	NPARC with assistance from local people
<b>When</b>	2010-2013

### Community Liveability Strategy 3

<b>What</b>	Continue the program of stray animal eradication and animal registration programs
<b>Why</b>	Stray animals are a significant problem in the community
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Community Liveability Strategy 4

<b>What</b>	Promote awareness of health issues in the community
<b>Why</b>	Being better informed, people might try to access health services, or change any unhealthy habits in their lives
<b>Who</b>	NPARC with assistance of Queensland Health and the people of the NPA
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Community Liveability Strategy 5

<b>What</b>	Give priority to establishing preventative health programs through Community Health Centres
<b>Why</b>	Because most health problems faced in the NPARC are preventable.
<b>Who</b>	Community Health Centres with assistance and support of Qld Health, Department of Health & Aging and the NPARC
<b>When</b>	2011

### Community Liveability Strategy 6

<b>What</b>	Introduce fitness programs for the aged in the community
<b>Why</b>	In general, aged people currently don't get a lot of exercise
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	2011 and then ongoing

### Community Liveability Strategy 7

<b>What</b>	Council continues its stray animal eradication program
<b>Why</b>	Stray animals are a significant problem in the community
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Community Liveability Strategy 8

<b>What</b>	Council gives consideration to housing for State Police officers to live in each township
<b>Why</b>	Local people feel they would have better relationships with State Police if they lived across all the townships
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Community Liveability Strategy 9

<b>What</b>	Institute a Community Watch program within the community
<b>Why</b>	So promote safety within the community
<b>Who</b>	NPARC and the people of the NPA
<b>When</b>	2011 and then ongoing

### Community Liveability Strategy 10

<b>What</b>	Support the Liquor Accord
<b>Why</b>	The Liquor Accord aims to reduce alcohol related problems in the community
<b>Who</b>	The people of the NPA, State police, ATODS
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Community Liveability Strategy 11

<b>What</b>	Bring in and support a Crime Stoppers program
<b>Why</b>	To reduce crime with the participation of the community
<b>Who</b>	The people of the NPA, State police, ATODS
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

## Culture and Sports

Culture and Sports covers both the facilities for, and participation in, cultural activities and sports, as well as and the preservation and recognition of traditional knowledge, languages and cultural sites. Culture includes dance, stories, music, radio and art.

*“We want to build back our culture”*

### What's the situation?

The NPA has a mix of very vibrant cultures and there is active participation in both culture and sport. The following points summarise the present situation:

- Knowledge of traditional languages and lore is declining as elders die out.
- There is little in the way of original language naming of places.
- There's good participation in sports, but we'd like more participation and better facilities.
- There's no register for the deceased that people can access in the community.
- There is little in the way of signage for sites of high cultural importance. People would like sites of high cultural importance to have signs explaining their significance.
- There is no museum for historical artefacts and cultural information. In Injinoo, for example, people would like the site of the old village protected, and a museum set up to preserve important artefacts and describe traditional ways and language groups. This could be visited by tourists.
- There is no stage for dancing.
- There is no cinema.
- Churches play a big role in the communities but church buildings are generally in need of repair.
- There is a feeling that teachers coming into the community need more cultural awareness training.
- There is a horse-riding culture in the NPA, but no centre for horse-riding.
- An NPA radio station is up and running, although there's only 4 hours per day of local material.



- Sport and recreation services are now run by the Policy Citizen's Youth Club, instead of by NPARC.
- People would like to see more facilities for traditional arts and crafts.
- A lot of people like to garden in the NPA.

### **How do we want it to be?**

The visions we have as a community for our future include:

- The NPA cultures are promoted and its diverse histories recognised.
- Traditional practices and languages are alive and well.
- Maps of the area have original language names.
- There is broad participation in sports.
- A record of the deceased is kept.
- There's a cinema to compliment the Indigenous Knowledge Centres.
- There's broader internet access.
- Visitors are more culturally aware.
- Sports and culture give our children plenty of things to occupy them.

### **What will be the indicators of success?**

We will know we are achieving our goals if by 2020, the NPA is a place where:

- There is broad participation in sports.
- There is broad participation in cultural activities.
- There is a strong awareness and knowledge of traditional culture.
- The dance troupes from the NPA are recognised internationally.
- The community has the sporting facilities it desires.
- Cultural sites are recognised and protected.
- Indigenous languages are promoted.
- Oral stories are recorded.
- There is a register of the deceased that people can access.
- A museum has been set up and the old village of Injinoos is protected and signed.
- There is a stage for dancing.
- There is a small-scale cinema that runs in one or several of the community halls.
- Church buildings are in a good condition.
- There's a feeling in the community that visitors are culturally aware.
- There is a horse-riding centre.

- There are good facilities for arts and crafts.
- There are 8-12 hours a day of local material on the radio.

#### What is already being done?

- The NPARC is working with the State Library to set up a website with historical material relating to the NPA.
- Traditional Owners are consulted on matters relating to land and culture.
- Negotiations are ongoing for the AFL to set up a youth centre in New Mapoon.
- The NPA radio station was put on air in 2009, and another announcer will soon be employed.

#### How can we get there?

##### Culture & Sports Strategy 1

<b>What</b>	Apply for funding for a museum/keeping place in Injinoo
<b>Why</b>	The NPA does not have the resources to fund such works itself, and people feel that there is a strong need for a museum/keeping place
<b>Who</b>	NPARC applying to DET and FaHCSIA
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

##### Culture & Sports Strategy 2

<b>What</b>	If supported by the greater community, include a register of the deceased on the NPA history website that is being commissioned.
<b>Why</b>	People would like to see a register kept for historic purposes
<b>Who</b>	NPARC working with the State Library of Queensland
<b>When</b>	2011-2012

##### Culture & Sports Strategy 3

<b>What</b>	Erect signs for areas of high cultural importance
<b>Why</b>	People would like to see their culture recognised, especially by visitors
<b>Who</b>	NPARC with the help of local people
<b>When</b>	2011-2012

#### Culture & Sports Strategy 4

<b>What</b>	Apply for funding to restore churches
<b>Why</b>	Churches are important to the community but church buildings are in a state of disrepair
<b>Who</b>	NPARC applying to DIP, DOC and FaHCSIA and the relevant church/denominational offices.
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

#### Culture & Sports Strategy 5

<b>What</b>	Seek funding for the building of a site for dancing
<b>Why</b>	Dancing is an important part of the cultures of the NPA and there is currently no site designed for dancing
<b>Who</b>	NPARC applying to DIP, DOC and FaHCSIA
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

#### Culture & Sports Strategy 6

<b>What</b>	Purchase a mobile dance stage for use throughout the NPA and if our dance troupes go on tour
<b>Why</b>	Dancing is an important part of the cultures of the NPA
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

#### Culture & Sports Strategy 7

<b>What</b>	Set up an arts and crafts centre in Injinoo
<b>Why</b>	Our culture is important to us, and another arts and crafts centre might help us economically, too
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Culture & Sports Strategy 8

<b>What</b>	Engage another local radio presenter to deliver local material on the radio
<b>Why</b>	People appreciate having local material on the radio
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	2010-2011 then ongoing

### Culture & Sports Strategy 9

<b>What</b>	Establish a horse riding area/rodeo/saddle club
<b>Why</b>	Horses are a big part of life in the NPA and there is currently no centre for horse riding
<b>Who</b>	NPARC applying to DIP, DOC and FaHCSIA
<b>When</b>	2012-2013

### Culture & Sports Strategy 10

<b>What</b>	Expand the Dan Ropeyarn Cup to 16 teams
<b>Why</b>	Rugby league is a big part of NPA life, and the Cup is very popular. Expanding it so that more teams visit the NPA will help promote the region and provide more entertainment for local people
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	2012 and then ongoing

### Culture & Sports Strategy 11

<b>What</b>	Expand the services offered at Indigenous Knowledge Centres, including the introduction of internet cafes.
<b>Why</b>	Indigenous Knowledge Centres should be areas where people come to learn, relax and socialise
<b>Who</b>	NPARC with assistance from the State Library and potentially other funding bodies such as DOC and FaHCSIA
<b>When</b>	2012 and then ongoing



## Youth

Youth covers childcare, parenting, the problems facing young people, and leadership.

*“We’d like to be able to reward our youth when they show good behaviour”*

*“I want my kids to have the chance to go overseas, experience the world”*

*“We want our kids to reach their full potential”*

### What’s the situation?

People under 20 make up something like 40-45% of the NPA’s population, and are, of course, our future. The challenges we have in respect to youth are:

- There’s so little in the way of entertainment in the NPA. Young people sometimes end up causing trouble because there is nothing else to do.
- There is a lack of role models for young people, and a sense of lack of opportunities in the region.
- Alcohol and drug problems affect young people.
- The social problems in the NPA and the deprivation in some area of life cause huge problems for some young people. There was a recent report of a six year old attempting to commit suicide.
- Teachers who come don’t tend to stay, so it’s hard to build relationships.
- Kids tend to miss more school than they should, although the perception in the community is that the situation is improving. Statistics show that school attendance actually dropped from around 75% in 2006 to at around 60% in 2009, compared to the state average of 90%.
- Youth that do show leadership potential and drive move to Cairns for opportunities.
- Council runs services for young people in need of a place to stay.
- Nai Beguta Agama, NPA Family and Community Services and Bamagau Kazil provide youth services to the communities in their respective areas.
- The PCYC currently runs sport and recreation services; Council has no control.

### How do we want it to be?

We want the NPA to be a place where:

- The traditional culture of “every child is my child” is strong.
- The youth of today provide a better future for tomorrow.
- The youth of today believe in a better future for themselves and their community.
- The youth of today carry on the cultural traditions of the community.
- Community organisations have a strong involvement in the community.
- Education facilities are of a high standard.
- Our community’s youth have a sufficient selection of activities to occupy them.

### What will be the indicators of success?

We will know we are achieving our goals if by 2020, the NPA is a place where:

- There is a well established and successful system for youth development.
- There is a student to teacher ratio in line with the other regional centres.
- School attendance and retention rates are steadily increasing to eventually be in line with other regional centres.
- Standard of years 10 and 12 are comparable to other regional centres.
- Teachers are well qualified.
- Youth feel themselves safe and with a bright future.
- Youth have a good knowledge of indigenous traditions and actively participate in them.
- There is a horse riding centre for kids.
- There are youth centres that all young people can access.
- Youth don’t turn to trouble for entertainment.

### What is already being done?

- Council lobbies the State and Commonwealth governments whenever possible about schooling and youth services.
- Council runs the Social and Economic Development Service (SEDS) for 12-25 year olds with a particular emphasis on helping them engage with the community and with activities that will enhance their economic future.
- Nai Beguta Agama, NPA Family and Community Services and Bamagau Kazil provide youth services to the communities in their respective areas.

### How can we get there?

#### Youth Strategy 1

<b>What</b>	Lobby, at every opportunity, for State and Federal agencies to improve the standard of schooling in the NPA
<b>Why</b>	The schooling level is extremely poor
<b>Who</b>	NPARC and all sections of the community
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

#### Youth Strategy 2

<b>What</b>	Ensure as far as possible that children are attending school
<b>Why</b>	School attendance is very low
<b>Who</b>	Parents of children in the NPA
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

#### Youth Strategy 3

<b>What</b>	Apply for funding for a horse-riding centre to be built in the NPA
<b>Why</b>	There is a culture of horse-riding in the NPA, and on top of that parents would like a way to reward their children
<b>Who</b>	NPARC applying to DIP, DOC and FaHCSIA
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

## Representation and Accountability

Representation and Accountability covers how the community is represented politically, how we have a say in what happens in our community, and how we hold Council to account.

*"We feel we are quite well represented by Council"*

*"Everyone comes up here and has a crack at making things better, and at the first sign of difficulty they disappear"*

### What's the situation?

- We are five former independent communities now forced to be one community.
- The system of local government has been forced upon us as a community, and doesn't really suit our traditional ways of governing ourselves.
- We have limited resources to share between the five townships, and getting a fair balance isn't easy.
- The community is regularly consulted when there are plans and studies in the community.
- Council publishes its annual report and its financial statements each year.
- State and Commonwealth agencies run various projects in the NPA, but often find the difficulties too great, and leave, washing their hands of responsibility.
- Community Forums can have input into Council matters through the 'Divisional Officers' – a representative Council staff member that each township has. The Divisional Officers relate information and concerns to the Deputy CEO.
- The Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) is providing help for the setting up of Indigenous Corporations.
- The 'Wild Rivers' legislation has been foisted upon the NPA by the State government, and many people are very unhappy at this.

### How do we want it to be?

- Council represents and treats the people of the community equally.
- Representation suits traditional structures.
- Services are fairly shared between the townships.
- The community is involved in decision making.
- State and Commonwealth agencies carry their projects through (in consultation with the community) until they achieve results.

### What will be the indicators of success?

We will know we are achieving our goals if by 2020, the NPA is a place where:

- The community believes in the accountability and efficiency of the Council.
- The community is represented in a way that corresponds to its feeling of identity.
- Community services are fairly distributed.
- The community is involved in decision making.

### What is already being done?

- Community consultation is frequently carried out.
- Indigenous Community Volunteers has been providing training in governance to organisations in the area, including Council.
- We have made this Community Plan.

### How can we get there?

#### Representation & Accountability Strategy 1

<b>What</b>	Council to review the Community Plan annually, with the involvement of the community at least every five years
<b>Why</b>	So that the Community Plan remains relevant and reflective of people's desires
<b>Who</b>	NPARC and the community
<b>When</b>	Annually

#### Representation & Accountability Strategy 2

<b>What</b>	NPARC carries out the actions in its Governance Plan
<b>Why</b>	To ensure that NPARC continues to be accountable
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	2011-2012 and then ongoing

### Representation & Accountability Strategy 3

<b>What</b>	Council to facilitate Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) transfers in the interest of the people
<b>Why</b>	The State Government is requiring transfers of the DOGITs to Land Trusts, and NPARC is the current trustee of the DOGITs
<b>Who</b>	NPARC working with DERM, the Apudthama Land Trust and the Cape York Land Trust
<b>When</b>	2010-2012

### Representation & Accountability Strategy 4

<b>What</b>	To represent community in negotiating with State and Commonwealth governments
<b>Why</b>	Being a 'small fish', Council must be especially vocal and strong to get good outcomes for the people of the NPA
<b>Who</b>	NPARC
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

### Representation & Accountability Strategy 5

<b>What</b>	To foster volunteering in the community
<b>Why</b>	People will feel they have more input into the community, and more responsibility for it
<b>Who</b>	NPARC encouraging community members
<b>When</b>	Ongoing

## Stakeholder Participation

The various stakeholders work in different areas of our planning themes. A map of where each stakeholder has an interest in shown below:

Stakeholder	Community Planning Theme							
	Built Environment	Natural Environment and Land Use Planning	Economic Development	Health and Wellbeing	Culture and Sports	Youth	Community Safety and Justice	Representation and Accountability
Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council								
Cape York Peninsula Development Association Inc. (CYPDA)								
Cape York Peninsula Regional Advisory Committee								
Council of Australian Governments (COAG)								
Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS)								
Queensland Department of Communities (DOC)								
Queensland Department of Community Safety								
Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI)								
Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)								
Indigenous Business Australia								
Queensland Department of Education and Training (DET)								
Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM)								
Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)								
Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)								

Stakeholder	Community Planning Theme							
	Built Environment	Natural Environment and Land Use Planning	Economic Development	Health and Wellbeing	Culture and Sports	Youth	Community Safety and Justice	Representation and Accountability
Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP)								
Queensland Department of Public Works								
Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (DITRDLG)								
Injinoo Apudthama Indigenous Corporation								
Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)								
People of the NPA								
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC)								
Northern Peninsula Area Development Group (NPADG)								
Queensland Health (QH)								
Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)								
TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit (LSMU)								
The Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA)								
Torres Strait Natural Resource Management (TSNRM) Reference Group								
Torres Strait Peninsula Regional Advisory Committee								
Tourism Australia, Tourism Queensland, and Tourism Tropical North Queensland								
NPA/TS Area Consultative Committee (ACC)								
Nai Beguta Agama								
NPA Family & Community Services								
Bamagau Kazil								

## HOW THIS PLAN CAN BE UPDATED AND WHO REVIEWS IT

### Reviewing the Community Plan

This plan will be in force until 2020, or earlier if we decide to adopt a new one. Every year, NPARC will review the Community Plan. At least once every five years, the community will be part of the review process in line with Council's *Community Engagement Policy*.

### Changing the Community Plan

Council can make minor amendments and corrections to the Community Plan at any time. To make a major change to the plan, the community will be engaged as part of a review process and Council must pass a resolution adopting the change.