



WEIPA
TOWN AUTHORITY

NEW RESIDENT WELCOME PACK

Welcome to Weipa

CONTENTS

Welcome to Weipa	3
Acknowledgement of Country	4
Living in Weipa	5
WTA Facilities	11
WTA Services	12
Community Events and Activities	13
Animal Management	14
Disaster Management	15
Local Tips	16
Final Checklist	18
Tourist Map	19

WELCOME TO WEIPA

On behalf of the Weipa Town Authority and the entire community, I would like to extend a warm heartfelt welcome to our patch of paradise.

Moving to a new place can be both exciting and challenging, but we want you to know that you are not alone. For most people, moving to Weipa means moving away from your nearest and dearest, but Weipa is the kind of tight-knit community where strangers become friends, and friends become family.

People typically move to Weipa for the work, and stay for the lifestyle. From our stunning natural landscapes to our rich cultural heritage, there's so much to explore and experience here. Whether you're interested in outdoor adventures, community events, sports, or simply getting to know your fellow residents, there's something here for everyone. We encourage you to immerse yourself in our community, get involved, and make lasting friendships and memories.

This Welcome Pack is full of handy information while you are getting to know your way around the community. You can also find more information on our website, or contact our friendly staff who are always happy to answer any questions you may have.

Once again welcome to Weipa! We're thrilled to have you here and look forward to getting to know you.

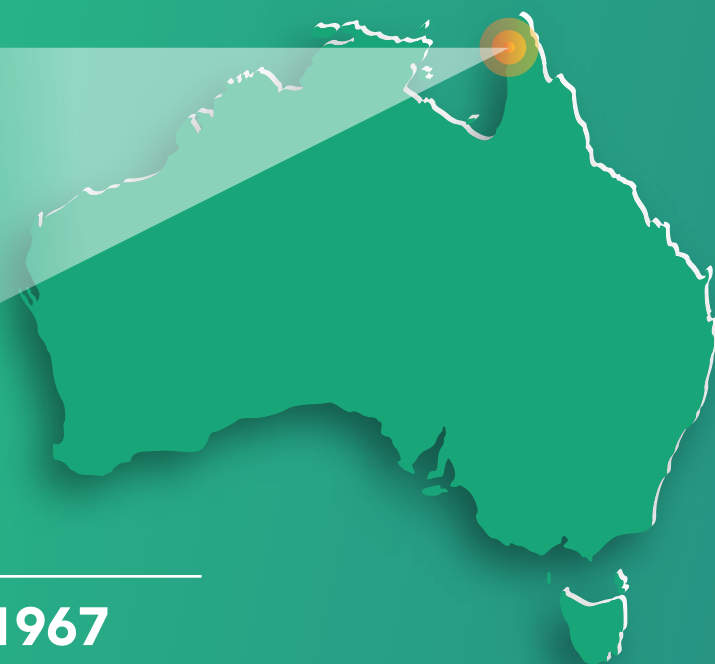
Jaime Gane

Chairperson
Weipa Town Authority



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Weipa Town Authority (WTA) respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Alngith People and we pay our respects to Elders past and present, and to the young emerging leaders. We also extend our acknowledgement to all the Aboriginal members of the Anathanguyth, Ankamuthi, Peppan, Taepadhighi, Thanikwithi, Tjungundji, Warranggu, Wathayn, Wik and Wik-Waya and Yupangthi Traditional Owner groups, of this Western Cape region.



AREA: 11KM²



ESTABLISHED: 1967



POPULATION: 4,097*

** Population as at 2021*

LIVING IN WEIPA

Weipa is a vibrant, sustainable coastal community of approximately 4,100 residents, located in Albatross Bay on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula, in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The Township sits around 200km from Australia's northern tip and roughly 800km from Cairns by road (or 1.5 hours flying time by air). Despite the distance from other major cities, Weipa Township serves as the regional hub for the Western Cape York Region and contains all the facilities and conveniences of modern living.

On average, Weipa receives 2,051mm of rain annually, with 97% of this falling in the wet season (December – March). Average temperatures are between 19 degrees and 36 degrees all year round.

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

WTA acts in the role of Local Council for the Weipa Town Area on behalf of RTA Weipa Pty Ltd (Rio Tinto).

The services supplied and maintained through the WTA are those supplied by local councils throughout Australia, including road maintenance, water supply, town planning, waste services, parks, ovals, sporting facilities, library, an aquatic centre and community events.

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

Rio Tinto owns and operates the Weipa bauxite mine, holding three leases which span 3,860 square km of western Cape York.

RTA Weipa Pty Ltd governs the Weipa Town Area and can exercise certain powers and rights of a Local Council by virtue of the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Ltd Agreement Act 1957 (Qld) and the Comalco Aluminium Corporation Pty Ltd Agreement.

The WTA vision and mission continues to define the overall objectives of the WTA Members and guide the day-to-day performance and priorities of the WTA team. You can read more about the vision on our website.

LIVING IN WEIPA

Weather and Climate

The tropical/monsoonal climate gives hot, wet summers and mild dry winters. The average rainfall is 2051 mm, with 97% of the rainfall occurring between November and April.

The seasons can be divided into just two, the 'wet season', between November and April and the 'dry season', between May and October. Minimum and maximum temperatures range, on average, from 18-30 degrees Celsius in July and 24-33 degrees Celsius in December.

Travel

Air travel to Weipa is via the daily QantasLink service, or through charter flights. Road access is via the Peninsula Developmental Road. This road is unsealed and may be closed during the wet season.

A twice-weekly barge service between Cairns and Weipa generally operates year-round, even during the wet season. To get around town, contact the Weipa Taxi Service, Ma's Rides or hire a vehicle from one of the two car rental companies at the airport.

Community Directory

A list of service providers and local businesses can be found on the Weipa Town Authority community directory which is located on the website.

Scan for more information

www.weipatownauthority.com.au/Living-Here/Resident-Information/Community-Directory



Western Cape Chamber of Commerce

A wider list of businesses in the Cape can be found through the Western Cape Chamber of Commerce. This comprehensive directory is available on their website, providing detailed information about various local enterprises across the region.

Scan for more information

www.westerncapechamber.com.au



Education and Child Care

Weipa prides itself on being a great place for families to live. There are a number of childcare options that provide a range of services, such as accredited day care, kindergarten and prep programs.

- Cape Kids Childcare Centre
- C&K Kindergarten including Pebbles Playgroup
- Home Family Daycare
- Weipa Community Care, Cape Youth Connect – OSHC

Weipa Town Authority offers a series of First 5 Forever sessions during the school terms. The days and times of these sessions can be found via the Hibberd Library Facebook page. There's also regular opportunities for parents and bubs to catch up and socialise at the Weipa Community Care Association.

Primary school and High school (Grades Prep-12)

Weipa has one state college, the Western Cape College Weipa Campus and a Catholic school, St Joseph's Parish School. Western Cape College is the largest P – 12 school in the Cape, with a campus that's divided into two sections. Prep – Year 3 (and Special Education Unit) and Years 4 – 12. The school also caters to residential boarders. St Joseph's Parish School opened in 2016 for years Prep to 6. This school is operated by the Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns.

Private tutoring is also available within the community from various tutors outside school hours. Before and after school care including vacation care is also provided through Weipa Community Care Association.

Weipa Town Authority offers after school and school holiday program activities for school aged children including sports and pool activities at the Weipa Aquatic & Sports Precinct and craft activities at the Hibberd Library. Information around these programs can be found via the Weipa Town Authority Facebook & WASP Facebook pages and WTA website.

Vocational and Tertiary Education

For anyone looking to access tertiary or vocational training, there are some great options. In Weipa, students at Western Cape College have access to vocational training programs, while a range of apprenticeships, traineeships and university scholarships are also provided locally. Other tertiary education options include studying as an external student through T.A.F.E or James Cook University who offer rural and remote health programs.

A limited number of courses are offered intermittently by local providers, such as First Aid and Boat License courses.



LIVING IN WEIPA

Health and Medical Care

Weipa residents have access to a range of medical services and clinics through the Weipa Integrated Health Service (the Weipa Hospital). They offer inpatient hospital, palliative, respite and residential aged care plus visiting specialists and health care clinics and a 24 hour emergency department. Further details about their services can be found on their website.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service is available to transport any patient who cannot be cared for by the Weipa Hospital to Cairns. Additionally, the RFDS is available to assist anyone experiencing non-acute mental health problems. This service can be accessed by calling (07) 4040 0444 or emailing mhadmin@rfdsqld.com.au.

Weipa Primary Health Centre provides private GP services. For more information or to make an appointment call 4014 6937.

Weipa Community Care Association (WCCA) provides crisis accommodation, support and programs for women, men and children in crisis. Information relating to the services WCCA provides can be found on their Facebook page.

Vet Care

Tableland Veterinary Service provides care for animals in Weipa offering a Monday-Friday service with a 24/7 after hours triage service. Please visit their website for further details.

Local Facilities

The majority of everyday goods and services are available at Weipa. The main shopping hub at Nanum contains a wide range of retail shops while industrial services and supplies can be found in Evans Landing. These include:

- Woolworths
- Hardware store
- Butcher
- Bottle shop
- Pharmacy
- Newsagency
- Post Office
- 4WD, camping & fishing store
- Bakery
- Bait and tackle store
- Travel agency
- Clothing and variety stores
- Furniture and electrical
- Real estate offices

Online shopping is available with various freight companies providing transportation services by plane, barge and truck.

There are a variety of dine-in or takeaway options in Weipa including hotel and motel restaurants, Weipa Community Care centre, bakery, food truck vendors, Weipa Bowls Club and Carpentaria Golf Club.

Sports & Leisure

Our region boasts some of the last untouched wilderness of Australia with stunning beaches, out-of-the-way waterholes and camping destinations. With around 35 sports clubs and community groups to choose from, the Weipa locals love their sport and recreation. You will find plenty to choose from including BMX, go-karts, cricket, netball, golf, lawn bowls just to mention a few.

There are paths throughout Weipa that are popular for walking and cycling. Most of Weipa is accessible by these paths from Rocky Point through the town centre and out to Evans Landing. Lake Patricia is also a popular recreational area with picnic tables, BBQs, public toilets and a playground. Weipa has cricket and football ovals, a lawn bowls club, a 9-hole golf course, dirt kart track, horse owners club, bow shooting range, rifle range and pottery club. You may need to be a member of a club to access some of these facilities.

Whether it be for personal fitness or training for organised sports, exercising is a popular activity in itself, there are multiple exercise stations situated at various points along the path. Utilise the solar lit pathway along Central Avenue, allowing you to safely exercise early mornings or evenings. An added advantage is that there are no hills to contend with – just the occasional headwind!

Weipa is home to a number of sporting groups and organisations. Including Junior Rugby League, Soccer, Netball, Dirt Karts, BMX, Touch Football. Weipa Parkrun is a free, fun and friendly weekly 5km community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you. 7am every Saturday morning at Nanum pathway.

There are also a number of providers that offer Yoga and Art classes throughout the year. More information can be found on the Weipa Town Authority website.

Scan for more information



LIVING IN WEIPA

Weipa Aquatic and Sports Precinct

Opened in 2021, this world class recreation facility featuring 3 professional-grade tennis courts with lights, 3 squash courts, a netted indoor pitch for cricket and soccer, a fully equipped gymnasium/fitness centre, yoga/dance studio, creche, kiosk as well as accessible bathroom and change room facilities. Known by locals as 'the WASP' the centre encompasses the Weipa Storm Surge Shelter which is used for indoor sports and community events and Weipa Aquatic Centre which features a 25m pool and toddler paddling pool.

Camping

There are numerous local camping destinations including Mapoon, Pennefather and Wenlock River. Majority of the camping spots require permits from the local Aboriginal communities surrounding Weipa so it is advisable to contact the community councils or applicable landowners group prior to leaving to gain the appropriate permit.

Boating & Fishing

Boating and fishing are very popular pastimes in Weipa, with many people owning small boats. A public boat ramp is situated adjacent to Evans Landing Wharf. This ramp has a walkway and floating pontoon alongside to facilitate safe launching and boarding of small boats. There is also a second boat ramp at Rocky Point.

Please ensure your boat has all the necessary safety gear on board and plenty of water. Tell someone where you are going, as mobile service can be limited. Use VHF Channel 16 for distress or emergency. Weipa has a Volunteer Marine Rescue Service.



WTA FACILITIES

Weipa Aquatic and Sports Precinct

Facilities include gymnasium, tennis courts, squash courts, 25m pool, toddler pool, indoor cricket/soccer pitch, kiosk, creche, group classes. Programs offered include youth nights, active after school programs, school holiday programs and fitness challenges.

Scan for more information



Hibberd Library

Facilities include book borrowing including 'Locals Only' collection, computer and printing facilities, free WIFI, Cape York Collection and access to the Rural Libraries Network. Hibberd Library hosts multiple programs throughout the week which include Wiggle & Giggle, Rock 'n' Rhyme, Storytime and Saturday morning craft sessions.

Kumrumja Centre

Located in Kumrumja Park, this is a multi-purpose, semi-outdoor entertainment centre. Sound equipment, visual equipment and furniture is available for hire at this facility. In the cooler months, you can attend movie nights hosted by WTA.

Weipa Storm Surge Shelter

The Weipa Storm Surge Shelter contains a non air-conditioned indoor sports court and two air-conditioned meeting rooms.

Venue Hire

Weipa Town Authority has a number of venues, facilities and equipment that can be hired by local residents for meetings, social events or entertainment.

Parks and Playgrounds

Weipa Town Authority maintains a variety of parks, playgrounds, sports ovals and open spaces for visitors and locals to enjoy. Weipa has Andoom oval and the cricket oval as well as two larger destination parks, Hibberd Park at Rocky Point, and Lake Patricia. In addition, a skate park can be found at Rocky Point, along Hibberd Drive. We also cater for your furry friends and have a clean fenced dog park which is located in Rocky Point.

WTA SERVICES

Have Your
Say / Report
An Issue



Rio Tinto is responsible for the administration of the town, which it carries out through the Weipa Town Authority (WTA). The WTA acts in the role of Local Authority, with staff that one would normally associate with a local council.

The services supplied and maintained through the WTA are similar to those supplied by local councils throughout Australia, and include town planning, garbage collection, parks, ovals, libraries and public swimming pools.

Our website contains information about all of our services and any queries can be directed to our friendly customer service team.

The WTA office is located on Hibberd Drive at Rocky Point and the office is open Monday – Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm. Our services include:

- Rates
- Local Laws
- Animal Registrations & Management
- Environmental Health
- Disaster Management
- Library Services
- Waste Services
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Planning & Development
- Public Works
- Community Events
- Citizenship Ceremonies



Contact Us

6 Hibberd Drive
Rocky Point
Weipa QLD 4874

PO Box 420
Weipa QLD 4874

P: (07) 4030 9400

E: admin@weipatownauthority.com.au



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Weipa Town Authority offers a calendar of community events for residents and visitors to enjoy. Each year Weipa hosts the annual Weipa Rodeo, Weipa Fishing Classic and the Weipa Running Festival only to name a few. Our online Community Events Calendar is updated regularly and showcases all of the upcoming events. Be sure to head on over to our Facebook page to keep up to date, or alternatively, you can find our event calendar on our website.

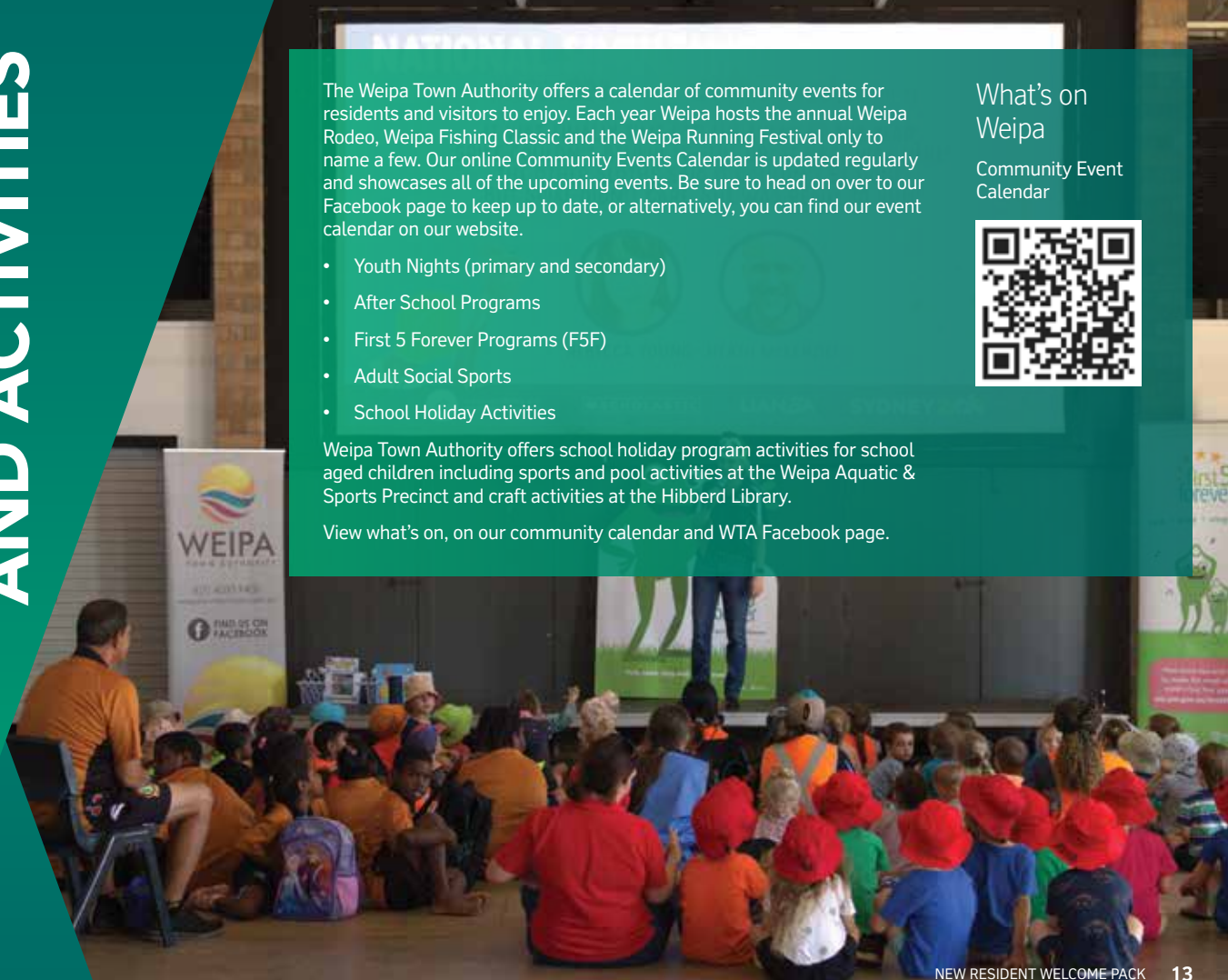
- Youth Nights (primary and secondary)
- After School Programs
- First 5 Forever Programs (F5F)
- Adult Social Sports
- School Holiday Activities

Weipa Town Authority offers school holiday program activities for school aged children including sports and pool activities at the Weipa Aquatic & Sports Precinct and craft activities at the Hibberd Library.

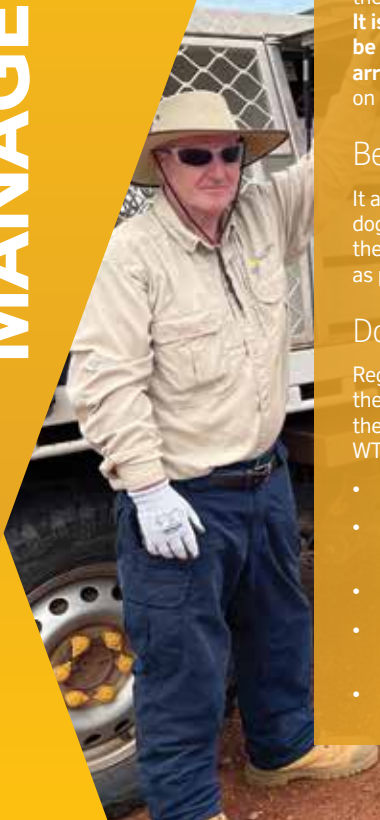
View what's on, on our community calendar and WTA Facebook page.

What's on Weipa

Community Event Calendar



ANIMAL MANAGEMENT



In 2008 the State Government introduced the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*. Section 44 and 46 of this Act requires that animal owners register their dog within their Local Government Authority. All dogs that are kept within the Weipa Township and are aged three months or over must be registered with the Weipa Town Authority (WTA) each year. **It is a requirement that all cats and dogs must be registered with the WTA within 14 days of arriving in Weipa.** Registrations expire each year on July 1 and must be renewed by June 30.

Benefits of registration

It allows for quick and easy identification of your dog should it be wandering at large. This allows the WTA to return your dog to you as soon as possible.

Dog registration fees

Registration fees vary according to the status of the dog and any concessions that may apply to the owner. These fees are set each year by the WTA. The WTA offers:

- Discounts for desexed dogs.
- Free registrations for puppies up to 12 months of age.
- Pro-rata registration.
- Reciprocal registration (free transfer from other councils).
- Discount for pensioners.

Limit of dogs on premises

There is a limit to the number of dogs that can be kept on a property:

- One dog in a unit.
- Two dogs in a house.

If you would like to house more than this allocated number of dogs you must apply for an additional dog permit with WTA.

How to register your animal

You must submit a completed registration form along with the allocated fee to the WTA. This can be done face to face, by visiting the Town Office. You can download a registration form online, by heading to www.weipatownauthority.com.au. Once you pay your new registration fees you will receive a dog tag that must be displayed on your dog's collar at all times.

After hours drop off pens

WTA has after hours drop off pens for wandering or lost animals. The pens have water and contact information to notify our local laws officers. These are located at the animal impound facility on the corner of Kerr Point and John Evans Drive, Evans Landing.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

How to stay safe and be prepared

Disaster Dashboard

The Weipa Local Disaster Management Group is responsible for keeping Weipa residents safe and informed and are on hand to coordinate responses as required during natural disasters.

It is the responsibility of local residents to stay informed and be prepared. The best way to do this is accessing the Weipa Disaster Dashboard on the Weipa Town Authority website. This is where you can access weather warnings and latest news for our region and stay informed about local announcements, warnings and notifications.

Weipa Storm Surge Shelter

The Weipa Storm Surge Shelter (WSSS) provides a last-resort evacuation option for residents who are at risk of being affected by storm surge and have no other shelter arrangements. The WSSS has a maximum capacity of 800 pax and evacuees only have about one square metre of seating space and all belongings (food, water, medications and clothing) must fit in a small bag under a seat.

Get Ready Queensland

Get Ready Queensland provides detailed information about all aspects of dealing with natural disasters. They offer a wide range of resources, advice and checklists to assist Queensland residents including how to understand your risk, how to prepare a household emergency plan and what you need in your emergency kit.

The Weipa Town Authority holds a Get Ready Disaster Expo at the start of the wet season where residents can learn more first hand from our emergency services.

We urge all Weipa residents to regularly reflect on and re-assess their Get Ready plan to ensure we are able to cope with natural disasters that may impact our region including cyclone, flooding and storms.

www.getready.qld.gov.au

Scan for more
information



[disaster-dashboard.
weipatownauthority.
com.au/](http://disaster-dashboard.weipatownauthority.com.au/)



LOCAL TIPS

If in doubt, reach out to a local

As in most remote and regional townships, local knowledge is key to understanding everything from shopping days to fishing spots to weather warnings.

We urge all new residents to get involved in the local community as soon as possible – join a sporting or community group, meet your neighbours, come along to a community event or simply pop into the WTA office or library.

Social Media

Social media is a great way to stay connected to your local community, we suggest you follow these pages:

- Weipa Town Authority (facility information and community updates)
- Rio Tinto Weipa (power outages and closure to country)
- Cape York Weekly

There are a number of Facebook groups that are active within the community including Secrets of Weipa and Weipa Local.

Some tips from the locals...



Always have some drinking water and non-perishable food on hand at home – storms are unpredictable and can cause unexpected electricity interruptions.



The power supply may cut out unexpectedly, ensure you have appropriate supplies for cooking, food preparation and household living including gas BBQ/cooker, torches and generator if possible. Visit the Rio Tinto Weipa Facebook page for regular updates regarding power outages.



It's important that cultural customs are recognised, including Welcome to Country ceremonies when required and respecting closure of country. Out of respect for a passing, it is common that an area of land connected to the Traditional Owner Group affected will be closed, with no access. After a period of time, determined by the Traditional Owner Group, the land can be opened in a culturally appropriate way.



Explore nature but be safe – be aware of crocodiles and always carry adequate drinking water – Weipa is hot and humid most of the year!



Bin collection is Monday & Thursday in Nanum, Trunding and Evans Landing. Tuesday & Friday in Rocky Point and Golflinks. Please ensure that bins are on the kerbside by 6am. There is also free landfill access with several recycling options onsite such as green waste, cardboard, scrap metal and e-waste. 10c cans / bottles can be recycled at the local recycling centre at Evans Landing.



There is no street service for post, all residents require a PO box.



The Local Fare Scheme (LFS) is an airfare discount of up to \$400 for return air travel administered through participating airlines that operate regular transport flights in the region. Eligible residents are those who can demonstrate they have lived locally for a minimum of 3 years. To redeem the airfare discount, residents must apply for a Letter of Eligibility through their local Council or Authority. Airfares booked under the scheme must be booked through a local ticketing agent.

Scan for more information

Change to www.weipatownauthority.com.au/Living-Here/Resident-Information/Local-Fare-Scheme



FINAL CHECKLIST

Have you...



Registered your animal with the WTA?



Arranged a PO Box?



Followed the Weipa Town Authority Facebook page
(facility information or community updates)?



Followed the Rio Tinto Weipa Facebook page
(power outages and closure to country updates)?



Followed Cape York Weekly
(Weipa and surrounds information)?



Prepared an emergency kit for 'wet season'?



Welcome to Weipa Tourist Map



- 1 Hibberd Centre
Weipa Town Authority
Hibberd Library (Free WiFi)
Weipa Community Care Centre
- 2 Weipa Storm Surge Shelter
- 3 Weipa Aquatic & Sports Precinct (WASP)
- 4 Kurrumja Park
- 5 Rocky Point Boat Ramp
- 6 Youth Precinct & Cricket Oval
- 7 Weipa Police Station
- 8 Hibberd Park
- 9 Anchorage Weipa
- 10 Memorial Square
Weipa Magistrates Court / QGAP
- 11 Western Cape College
- 12 Fuel Station/ Service Centre
- 13 St Josephs Parish School
- 14 Andoom Oval
- 15 Carpentaria Golf Club
- 16 Weipa Bowls Club
- 17 Rio Tinto Community Relations
- 18 Putts Palms
- 19 Albatross Bay Resort
- 20 Sunset Beach
- 21 Weipa Caravan Park & Camping Grounds
- 22 Potable Water Fill Point / RV Dump Point
- 23 McNamara Shopping Centre/ Post Office
- 24 Heritage Shopping Centre
- 25 Heritage Resort
- 26 Weipa Parkrun
- 27 Mobile Vendor Park
- 28 Weipa Integrated Health Service
- 29 Lake Patricia Picnic Area
- 30 Waste Transfer Station
- 31 Gongbung Beach
- 32 Cultural Centre
- 33 Evans Landing Boat Ramp
- 34 Evans Landing Industrial Estate
Fuel Station
Hardware
Auto Mechanics
Car Hire
Car Wash
- 35 Humberg Wharf
- 36 Lorim Point Ship Loader
- 37 Weipa Bicentennial Community Park



WEIPA TOWN AUTHORITY

6 Hibberd Drive, Rocky Point
Weipa QLD 4874

PO Box 420
Weipa QLD 4874

P: (07) 4030 9400

E: admin@weipatownauthority.com.au

w: www.weipatownauthority.com.au