

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION – Yarrabah Foreshore

RESPONSE

- Reports concerning the consumption of alcohol in public places along the Yarrabah foreshore are dealt with on a case by case basis. I assure you that these reports are treated seriously by the local police service.
- In considering the appropriate action to be taken, local police are mindful of the possibility that police action against offenders may later manifest into other problems, including disturbances and domestic violence.
- Local police continue to monitor community concern about this issue and work with those who congregate on the foreshore to drink to ensure that no harm is caused to themselves or the community.
- Local police strictly enforce the Yarrabah Alcohol Management Plan to ensure consistency across the community.

BACKGROUND

- At the most recent negotiation table a concern was raised by a member of the Yarrabah community that local police were not prosecuting persons drinking in a public place on the Yarrabah foreshore.
- As there is no diversionary facility available for those affected by alcohol, Police are concerned that enforcement action may lead to disturbances or domestic violence as a result of alcoholics suffering withdrawal symptoms or attempting to acquire more alcohol.
- Police continue to work with the people concerned to ensure compliance with the Yarrabah Alcohol Management Plan, and minimise the risk of trouble and/or harm amongst the group and towards the greater community.
- Under the Yarrabah Alcohol Management Plan, the possession of liquor in the restricted area is limited to:
 - nine litres (1 carton of 24 x 375ml cans) of beer, any strength; or
 - nine litres (1 carton of 24 x 375ml cans) of pre-mixed spirits; or
 - two litres of wine; or
 - a combination of beer and pre-mixed spirits not exceeding nine litres.

- The restriction applies not only to individuals but is the maximum amount that can be transported in a vehicle, boat or aircraft regardless of the number of passengers.

Contact: Mark Jackson
Department: Police
Telephone: 4030 7177
Date: 5 July 2007

RTI RELEASE

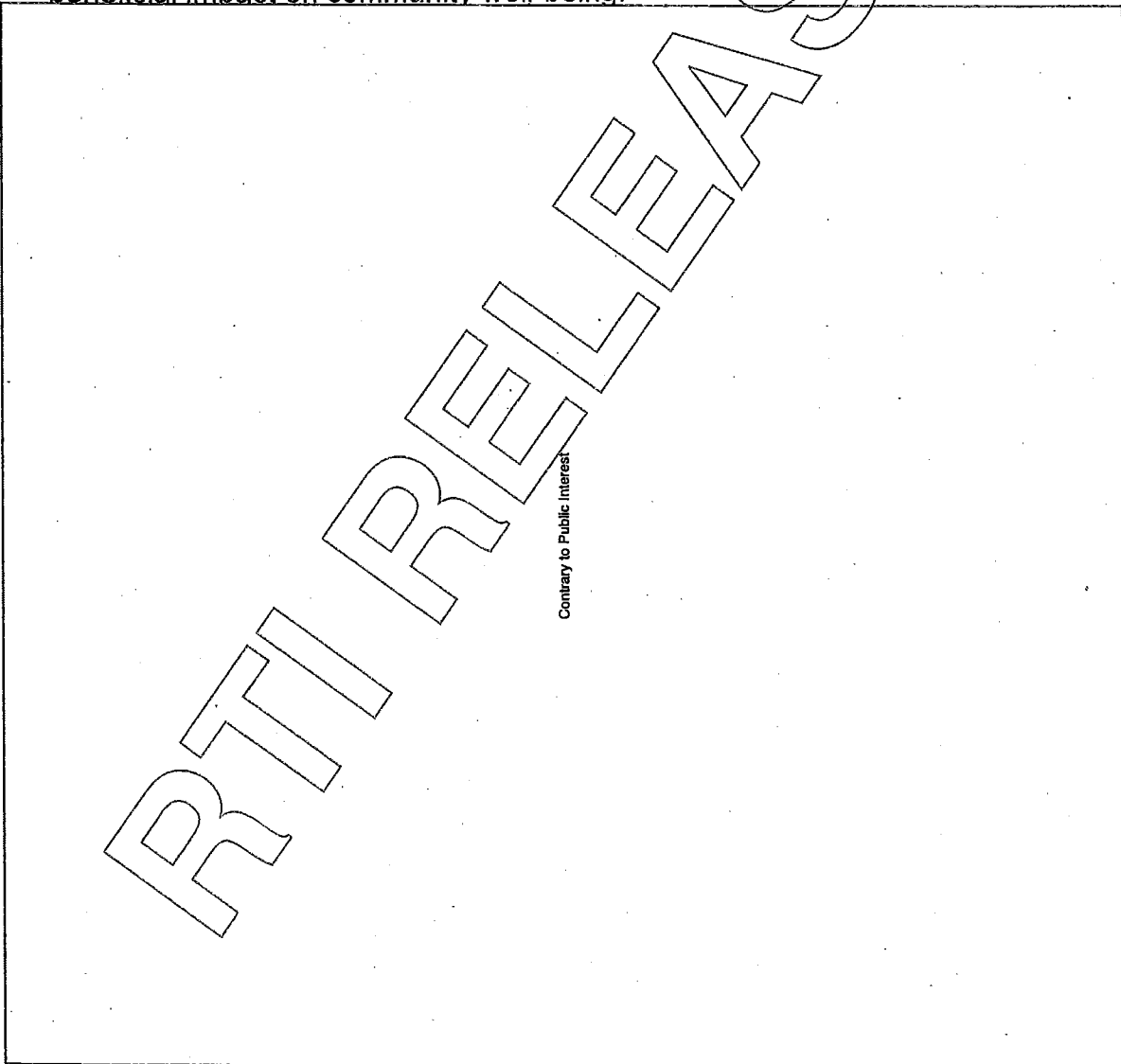
INDIGENOUS ALCOHOL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT – Yarrabah Community

RESPONSE

- Alcohol Management Plans introduced under the Meeting Challenges, Making Choices strategy are a key element of my Government's response to the 2001 Cape York Justice Study findings.
- Reducing the supply of alcohol through restrictions and licence conditions was an immediate intervention, which was the first phase of my Government's long-term plan for reducing alcohol and substance misuse.
- My Government is now progressing demand and harm minimisation strategies for these communities through the implementation of the Alcohol and Other Substances Demand Reduction Program.
- I am aware that the view held by some people in Yarrabah is that the current alcohol restrictions have had little beneficial impact on community well-being. This Government is committed to continuing to improve our response to these issues.
- The Department of Communities and the Liquor Licensing Division will soon be presenting recommendations from the review of alcohol restrictions in this community and will be seeking your feedback.
- The Government seeks your participation in this process and welcomes you to communicate your ideas about what is required in the next phase of our response to alcohol and other substance abuse in Yarrabah.

BACKGROUND

- Alcohol restrictions were introduced in Yarrabah through the Alcohol Management Program on 6 February 2004.
- Yarrabah currently has an alcohol carriage limit of:
 - nine litres of beer (24 x 375 ml cans); or
 - nine litres of pre-mixed spirits (24 x 375 ml cans); or
 - two litres of wine; or
 - a combination of beer and pre-mixed spirits not exceeding nine litres (24 x 375 ml cans).
- The Department of Communities commenced a review of the restrictions in May 2005. The report was completed in May 2006. The Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and Community Justice Group did not provide any comment on the alcohol management review report. However, during the review process, the general consensus in the community was the alcohol restrictions had little beneficial impact on community well-being.



Contact: Dominic Iennison
Department: Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development
Telephone: 3224 8273
Date: 6 July 2007

YARRABAH COMMUNITY JUSTICE GROUP FUNDING PROPOSAL

RESPONSE

- In 2007-08, my Government has committed \$3.4m in grant funds to Community Justice Groups. This commitment ensures that the 41 funded groups receive between \$80,000 and \$95,000 depending on their responsibilities in relation to Alcohol Management Plans.
- Yarrabah Community Justice Group will receive grant funds of \$95,000 in 2007-08 from my Government in recognition of their on-going quality work toward reducing the over-representation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system.
- In the current year, my Government will continue to develop and implement a training strategy for all Community Justice Groups and establish a State-wide Community Justice Group Reference Committee to bring together groups from each region along with representatives from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Legal Service, Legal Aid Queensland, the judiciary and Government Departments.
- We have committed \$500,000 in the current year to provide for these training and development opportunities.
- My Government will continue to work closely in partnership with Community Justice Groups so that they will be able to better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crime victims and offenders.
- We are committed to assisting these Groups to deliver the best possible services to the communities they represent.

BACKGROUND

- The Government first established Community Justice Groups in 1993 as a response to the recommendations contained in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.
- The transfer of responsibility for Community Justice Groups from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General occurred on 1 July 2006.
- These groups support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims and offenders at all stages of the legal process.
- Yarrabah is a statutory Community Justice Group with Alcohol Management Plan responsibilities.
- Yarrabah is to be allocated \$95,000 for 2007-08, an increase of \$15,000 from 2006-07.
- Some Community Justice Groups also receive funding from other Queensland Government agencies, and the Australian Government for local level initiatives, such as night patrols.
- At the Yarrabah Negotiation Table in April 2007, the Community Justice Group presented a proposal requiring funding of \$366,350 for programs and activities including: court support, gaol visitations, mediation, youth conferencing, support for kids at risk and juvenile justice. This represents a fully-funded approach to service delivery whereby the community justice group would be supported by full-time paid employees and members would receive sitting fees.
- Previously, the model for providing community support to Indigenous persons involved in criminal justice processes has been one of a group of local volunteers assisted by a paid co-ordinator, who is an employee of the Group, plus a modest additional contribution to provide for office and administrative expenses such as telephones, stationery, electricity and (in some cases) rent and transport/vehicle costs.

Contact: Peter Kent
Department: Justice and Attorney-General
Telephone: 3239 0980
Date: 6 July 2007

- P 18221

Tracking No. 118611

Premier's briefing note

Governance

Title: Yarrabah Community Cabinet – Community Issues

Date: 18 July 2007

1. Recommendation

- That you **note** the issues identified below in preparation for the Community Cabinet to be held at Yarrabah on 22-23 July 2007.

2. Issues

- Residents were supportive of the Commonwealth Government's recent intervention in Northern Territory indigenous communities, although they were unclear over the program's objectives or how they would be achieved.
- There was no perceived need for a similar scale intervention in Queensland, as residents believe that the Government is currently taking action to address alcohol abuse and neglect of children in Cape York communities.
- Perceptions of the success of Queensland's Alcohol Management Plans remain mixed. There are reports of reductions in alcohol-related violence in some communities; but also difficulties arising from confirmed drinkers bringing their problems into townships across the Far North, where they can continue to obtain alcohol.
- The Cairns residents included in this research displayed scant knowledge of conditions at Yarrabah, based mostly on local media reports and hearsay from other residents. The issues of most immediate concern to them were:
 - the apparent neglect of animals at Yarrabah (featured in a Cairns Post story);
 - the condition of housing in the community

3. Background

- Small scale qualitative research is undertaken with local residents as part of an on-going program to inform and support Community Cabinet meetings.
- In this case, the research was conducted with residents of Cairns.

4. Consultation

- Not applicable

Mal Grierson
 Mal Grierson
 Acting Director-General

18.7.07

✓
 → NMS
 8/23/7

Sarah Partosh

From: Kathrin Jensen
Sent: Friday, 7 October 2011 11:49 AM
To: Lisa Coker
Subject: FW: PREMIER WELCOMES ELECTION OF INDIGENOUS MAYORS AND URGES THEM TO STICK WITH ALCOHOL REFORMS

From: Shelley Woods
Sent: Thursday, 20 March 2008 11:48 AM
To: Kathrin Jensen
Subject: FW: PREMIER WELCOMES ELECTION OF INDIGENOUS MAYORS AND URGES THEM TO STICK WITH ALCOHOL REFORMS

From: statements@qld.gov.au [mailto:statements@qld.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 17 March 2008 2:40 PM
To: Shelley Woods
Subject: PREMIER WELCOMES ELECTION OF INDIGENOUS MAYORS AND URGES THEM TO STICK WITH ALCOHOL REFORMS

Premier
The Honourable Anna Bligh
17/03/2008

PREMIER WELCOMES ELECTION OF INDIGENOUS MAYORS AND URGES THEM TO STICK WITH ALCOHOL REFORMS

Premier Anna Bligh today welcomed the election and re-election of Mayors for the State's 17 Indigenous Councils.

"I congratulate everyone elected on Saturday to represent their local community," Ms Bligh said.

"Now we can get down to continuing the hard work of improving the lives of people living in our Indigenous communities.

"In the past two months we've made good progress in our plans to tackle the drinking problem which is rampant in some communities.

"I urge the Mayors - old and new - to stick with this vital reform.

"I look forward to getting down to business with the Mayors to ensure we crackdown on binge drinking, tighten up alcohol restrictions and get on with delivering help to more people trying to kick their alcohol and drug habits."

Ms Bligh said since the beginning of this year the Government and Indigenous councils had agreed to:

- tougher alcohol restrictions in all communities with some to go dry;
- divestment of community canteens from council ownership;
- a \$100M support package from State and Federal governments to provide better drug and alcohol treatment and support;
- four communities have agreed to be part of the historic welfare reform trial.

"The legislation to support the Families Responsibilities Commission (FRC) was passed by Parliament last week," Ms Bligh said.

"The FRC will deliver the welfare reform trial in Aurukun, Hope Vale, Coen and Mossman Gorge from June 1st.

"This trial links welfare payments to the care of children.

"It is designed to help parents and other carers sober up, stay sober and get on with looking after their children.

"While the trial is underway, we will be pushing ahead with our plan to dramatically cut the amount of alcohol being consumed in all Indigenous communities.

"One of the decisions of the February 15 Ministerial Indigenous Roundtable held in Cairns was that a team of senior government advisers would visit each and every community to identify new restrictions.

"Those visits will begin early next month.

"They will allow the Mayors and councils to sit down with us and decide how we can tighten up alcohol restrictions, community by community.

"We all know the damage alcohol abuse is wreaking in many communities and I urge the Mayors and councillors to continue the hard work to make things better for the women and children living in their towns," the Premier said.

Monday March 17, 2008

Media contact: Premier's Office - 3224 4500

Snapshot of Indigenous Council elections.

There are now 15 Aboriginal Councils and 2 Torres Strait Islander councils. Interim results indicate that:

- Four mayors likely to be returned - Aurukun (close result), Mapoon, Hope Vale, Wujal-Wujal.
- Minimum of eight new Mayors likely to be elected - Cherbourg, Palm Island, Yarrabah, Mornington Island, Pormpuraaw, NPA, Lockhart River and Napranum.
- No official results have been posted for Torres Shire, Torres Strait Islands Regional Council, Woorabinda, Doomadgee and Kowanyama.

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