



  
**Aurukun**  
Shire Council

**Community Safety Plan**



 **AURUKUN**  
Aboriginal Shire Council

*Cover: L-R Gail Wikmunea Thomas Yunkaporta.*



## MAYORAL FOREWORD



Dear Residents of the Aurukun Shire,

On behalf of the Aurukun Shire Council, I wish to first and foremost acknowledge the *Wik, Wik Way* and *Kugu Peoples*, and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

As part of my Council's commitment to improving community safety in the Aurukun Shire, as your Mayor, I am pleased to present Aurukun Shire Council's Community Safety Plan (CSP).

In developing our CSP, we listened to you, our valued community residents, as well as our community stakeholders, to better understand your views and perceptions of community safety in our Shire, and to hear what you believed Council should be doing to improve your safety and your perceptions of safety here.

This CSP has been developed on the assumption that Governments, both State and Federal, will continue to assist the Aurukun Shire as well as the other 18 discrete Indigenous communities in Queensland to achieve self-determination, whilst at its core acknowledging that change must be led by the community itself, under the current and future leadership of your local Council. We take this responsibility very seriously.

I and your elected Councillors are honored and committed to advocating improvement in your standard of living and wellbeing, including your safety as residents of the Aurukun Shire. It is intended that this CSP will guide the conversation within Council (and within Government more generally) and provide enhanced focus during strategic planning for our region, for many years to come.

On behalf of my Council, I sincerely thank you for your contribution to this important community initiative, and to the Council's response that shall flow out of it. Your Council welcomes any feedback you may have as our response continues to evolve.

Mayor Keri Tamwoy

## OUR INTENT

This CSP has been developed by us, the Aurukun Shire Council, upon wider consultation with you (our community residents) and the community stakeholders listed below.

The intent of our CSP is to identify **Action Areas** for us to focus on in our future strategic planning (including our Corporate Plan, Annual Operational Plans and annual budgets), to improve your safety and your perceptions of safety in our Shire.

This CSP has been funded by the Queensland Government as represented by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP), and forms part of the Queensland Government's *new approach* to alcohol management in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland, applying its *Local Thriving Communities* strategy.

We have however taken this opportunity to take a more holistic approach to addressing community safety via our own unique CSP, considering both alcohol management and wider community safety concerns common to our Shire.

The **Action Areas** identified in this CSP, as suggested by you, will likely evolve into specific operational and capital actions of Council and incorporated formally within Council's strategic plans and budgets. Some operational and capital actions suggested by you, are provided later in this CSP.

Individual respondent responses have been deidentified to protect your privacy.

It is not intended that our CSP provide an exhaustive list of all our policy and operational/ capital responses to community safety concerns in the Aurukun Shire, however it will highlight focus areas raised by you. The Action Areas identified shall provide compelling support for consideration by us in our future Government funding submissions, as well as our future budget and strategic planning deliberations. However, we cannot provide any guarantee of specific action, which shall be subject to factors such as current community circumstances, priorities and need, legislative responsibility, availability of funding, availability of staff and resources, and technical feasibility etc.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - ACTION AREAS

Following our engagement with you, we have endorsed the following **Action Areas** to focus our response to your community safety concerns.

1. Leadership
2. Community Education
3. Surveillance
4. Security
5. Drug and Alcohol Management
6. Freight
7. Infrastructure
8. Transport
9. Policing
10. Vulnerable Groups
11. Provider Performance
12. Animal Control
13. Money Management
14. Community Services
15. Tenancy Management
16. Employment
17. Town Planning
18. Telecommunications
19. Local Laws

## OUR COMMUNITY



*Rhonda and Amanda Woolla preparing for cultural activities.*

Our people have inhabited these lands for thousands of years. Many of our residents are Traditional Owners of the lands in this region. The traditional homelands of the *Wik*, *Wik Way* and *Kugu Peoples* lie in and around the Aurukun Shire. The community has a rich tradition in cultural practice. The predominant language is *Wik Mungkan* with remains of other dialects still spoken. There are five (5) spiritual clan groups in Aurukun: *Apalech*, *Winchanam*, *Wanam*, *Sara* and *Puutch*. There has been a long-standing history of conflict between these clans, which is often reported to be the driver of unrest within community.



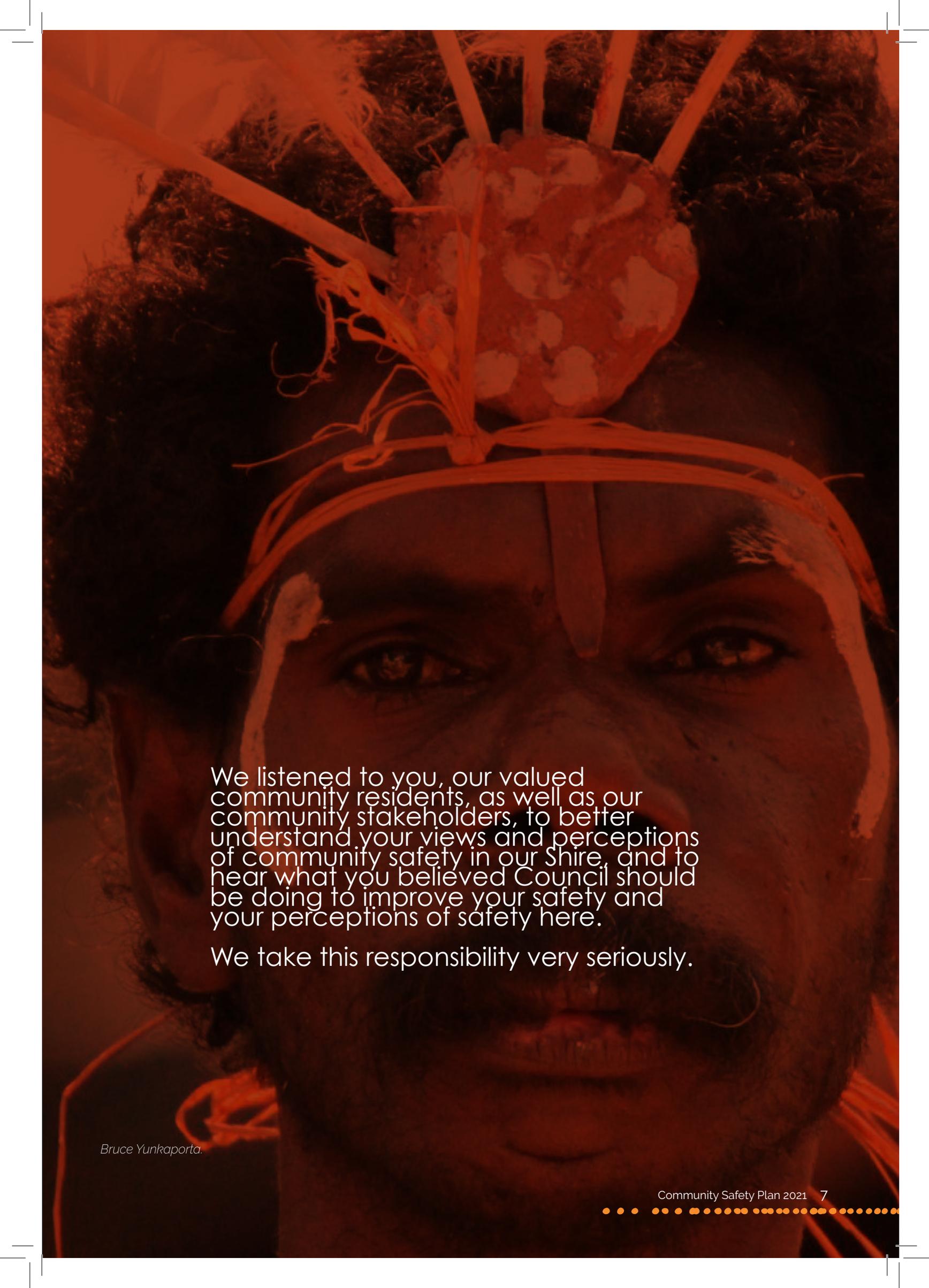
Aurukun was established as a Presbyterian mission (formerly known as the Archer River Mission Station) in 1904. Aboriginal people were relocated from large surrounding areas to the mission settlement over several decades. Today's township is on the site of the original mission.

The traditional language of our people is still the predominant language in our township. Aurukun is one of the few communities that maintains its traditional language in day-to-day use.

The Queensland Government proclaimed the Shire of Aurukun on 22 May 1978 and granted the new Council Aboriginal Land Lease No.1 for 50 years. On 18 September 2013, Aurukun saw a long-awaited land-transfer come to fruition. Our Land Lease No. 1 was cancelled, and 750,000 hectares of land became Aboriginal Freehold with two (2) Trustees; We became Trustee of the township and the reserve lands, and the Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC was made Trustee of the balance of the Council Lease and the four State Reserve lots. Both Trustees are responsible for co-managing the land held in trust on behalf of the community members.

We have been operating since 1978 as a Local Government, providing local government related services to the community. We are presently represented by a Mayor and four Councillors, elected every four (4) years.

In recent times, there has been a movement to re-establishing the community outstations during the dry season, which has assisted greatly with preserving community culture. These outstations are now governed by our local people.



We listened to you, our valued community residents, as well as our community stakeholders, to better understand your views and perceptions of community safety in our Shire, and to hear what you believed Council should be doing to improve your safety and your perceptions of safety here.

We take this responsibility very seriously.

*Bruce Yunkaporta.*

# OUR APPROACH

Our approach to development of our CSP comprised three (3) stages:

## 1. Stakeholder Engagement

Our CSP project was officially launched at a 14 October 2020 Interagency Meeting hosted by us and attended by many community stakeholders. Emails were sent by us to over 50 community stakeholders advising them to participate via completion of a 41-question online survey, with a one-hour follow-up interview with Dr. Chris McLaughlin of culturev8, who has assisted us with our CSP development (conducted either in person, or via video/teleconference), to further expand upon answers given in the survey. 18 stakeholders engaged in the survey and follow-up interviews, comprising:

1. Cameron Herbert Constructions Pty Ltd
2. Cape York/ Gulf RAATSICC Advisory Association Inc.
3. Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

4. Queensland Police Service
5. Office of Liquor and Gaming
6. Cape York Employment
7. Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
8. Mookai Rosie Bi-Biyan
9. APN Cape York
10. Island and Cape Supermarket
11. Remote Youth Justice and Transition 2 Success Program
12. Queensland Corrective Services
13. Glencore Energy Commodity Resources
14. Aurukun Shire Council
15. Department of Housing and Public Works
16. Department of Education
17. Cape York Land Council (for and on behalf of the Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC).
18. Parents and Citizens Youth Centre (PCYC) Aurukun

*Stakeholder engagement was open between 1 October and 30 November 2020.*



*Apunipima staff with Mayor Keri Tamwoy.*

## 2. Resident Engagement

A 45-question community resident survey was developed and made available exclusively to Aurukun community residents both online and in paper form via Aurukun-based community services (eg. Council Office reception, Chiveree Centre, Childcare Centre, Sam Kerindun Business Centre). Support was provided by our staff at each facility to assist community residents to complete the survey. On 13 November 2020, we hosted a pop-up stall at the Sam Kerindun Business Centre in Aurukun, attended by Mayor Keri Tamwoy, Bernie McCarthy (CEO), Alan Neilan (Director Community Services) and Dr. Chris McLaughlin (culturev8), to assist community residents to complete the survey.

Overall, 28 community residents participated in the survey.

*Resident engagement was open between 1 October and 30 November 2020.*

## 3. Research and community verification

We reviewed available crime and community safety statistics in Aurukun, undertook research into the current Government policy framework pertaining to alcohol management and community safety, and undertook a comparative study to capture approaches undertaken in other like-communities, each to frame the perspectives expressed by you in this research.

To verify the accuracy of our interpretation of the perspectives expressed by you, following close of surveys and interviews in December 2020, we developed a consolidated draft and placed it out for a further 30 days' community consultation between January and February 2021, prior to our formal endorsement.



*Seated L-R Les Pootchemunka, Hazel Pootchemunka, Keith Woolla, Rhoda Woolla, Delora Taisman.*

## RESPONDENT SUMMARY

In this section, we will summarise the combined resident and community stakeholder survey and interview responses and provide a general summary. This quantitative and qualitative data does provide context to the **Action Areas** selected. Responses shall be summarised by surveyed topic, namely:

1. General Community Safety
2. CCTV
3. Security Guards
4. Alcohol and Drugs
5. Safety on the Roads
6. Policing
7. Vulnerable Groups
8. Other

*Deidentified survey data from the resident and stakeholder surveys are available for supplementary download at [www.aurukun.qld.gov.au](http://www.aurukun.qld.gov.au).*

### 1. General community safety

Between 60-70% of all combined respondents considered crime to be a **major problem** (a lot of crime) in Aurukun, with the remaining 30-40% believing it is a **moderate problem** (some crime). A majority of residents considered that over the past 12 months, crime levels had **remained the same** in Aurukun, with a majority of stakeholders considering it has **increased**. Respondents perceived that Aurukun has a **greater level of crime** than any other Western Cape community, with the majority of respondents having personally witnessed crime.

60% of residents generally feel **safe** in Aurukun Shire, with 40% feeling generally **unsafe**. That said, when asked how fear of crime impacted how they lived their lives in Aurukun, 50% of residents surveyed said it had **moderate impact** (slight change of lifestyle for safety) with 28% saying it has a **major impact** (significant change lifestyle for safety). A conclusion available from this data is that residents largely reduce their exposure to community safety risks by substantially changing their lifestyles to suit.



As a mediator, I had to go into massive street fights of 100 people or more. There were fights everywhere (men and women). There were spectators surrounding the fights. I couldn't go into the middle in fear for my own safety. I had to identify who were fighting and find prominent Elders of families and clans involved who could talk them down. Each person involved was separated. Most fights start from attempts to uphold clan honor. Crowds gather and create immense pressure and expectation for altercations. In my opinion, many crowds actually start fights; not so much the individuals who are pressured to get involved." - Aurukun resident



70% of combined respondents considered that anti-social behavior was a **major problem** (always happens) in Aurukun, with the remaining 30% considering it a **moderate problem** (sometimes happens). A majority of stakeholders considered anti-social behavior to have **increased** over the preceding 12-month period, with a majority of residents considering it had **stayed the same**.

The highest incidence of witnessed crime by respondents over the past 12-months were with respect to (in order of prevalence):

1. Disorder/ shouting/ swearing/ fighting in public
2. Drunkenness/ Street Drinking
3. Anti-social driving (speeding, dangerous driving, hooning, loud music)
4. Loud music
5. Rubbish and litter lying around
6. Car crime (incl. theft/ unlawful using of a motor vehicle/ unlicensed driving)
7. Domestic Violence/ abuse

8. Sly grog
9. Youth disorder/ crime
10. Noisy neighbors.

A majority of resident respondents **always worry** about these listed community safety issues.

Over 70% of residents feel **safe** during the day in Aurukun (out and about and at home) and during the night (at home), with over 50% feeling **unsafe** at night when out and about in community.

There is a generally **high** incidence of reporting crime to police by combined respondents (77 – 83%), with most opting to **speak to on-duty police officers** and via **attendance at the local police station**. Most respondents considered police to be **somewhat responsive** to **very responsive** regarding reported crime. Likewise, most respondents considered Queensland Health/ Ambulance activation in the case of emergencies to be between **somewhat responsive** and **very responsive**.



L-R: Ida Bowenda, Sosha Bowenda, Justine Blowhard.

## 2. CCTV

A majority of combined respondents considered CCTV investment in Aurukun to be **somewhat effective to not very effective** in deterring crime and increasing perceptions of safety.

Cameras are widely regarded to be an **ineffective** deterrent against crime (even by law enforcement officers), but an effective tool for police enforcement (evidence gathering).

Blind spots in CCTV has been widely reported by Council officers, monitoring Security Guards and QPS, as well as its ineffectiveness against certain lighting conditions, and some cameras regularly being offline due to use of existing inferior copper electrical wiring (requiring upgrade).

*“CCTV is not a deterrent against crime. But it does assist police with prosecutions.” - Aurukun resident.*

## 3. Security guards

A majority of combined respondents considered security guards (both Council and State Government) to be **moderately effective to quite effective** in deterring crime and increasing perceptions of safety.

Most respondents considered that having the presence of security guards was an effective crime deterrent.

*“Security guards definitely deter anti-social behavior.” - Aurukun resident.*



*Robert Woolla with Arnold Yunkaporta.*

#### 4. Alcohol and drugs

Combined respondents overwhelmingly considered alcohol to be a **major influence** in accidents in the home, anti-social behavior, road traffic incidents and violent crime and disorder in Aurukun. Drugs were identified to be a more **moderate influence**, with Marijuana identified as the only drug readily available in Aurukun.

From 2002, Alcohol Management Plans were implemented across Queensland's 19 discrete Indigenous communities, covering 15 Local Government Areas, including the Aurukun Shire. Their aim was to reduce alcohol-related violence and harm, particularly against women and children. They included restrictions on the types and quantities of liquor permitted in the Local Government Area, along with offences for breach. Aurukun's Alcohol Management Plan imposed a zero-carriage limit, effectively rendering it a "dry" community.

55% of stakeholder respondents and 74% of resident respondents considered the Aurukun Shire Alcohol Management Plan to be **not very effective** in reducing alcohol and drug-related crime in Aurukun. Many respondents anecdotally considered that enforcement of sly grog laws were greatly complicated by so many entry points into Aurukun (including via bush, rivers and sea) and so many sources of alcohol (ie. over 1200 liquor-licensed venues alone in Cairns).

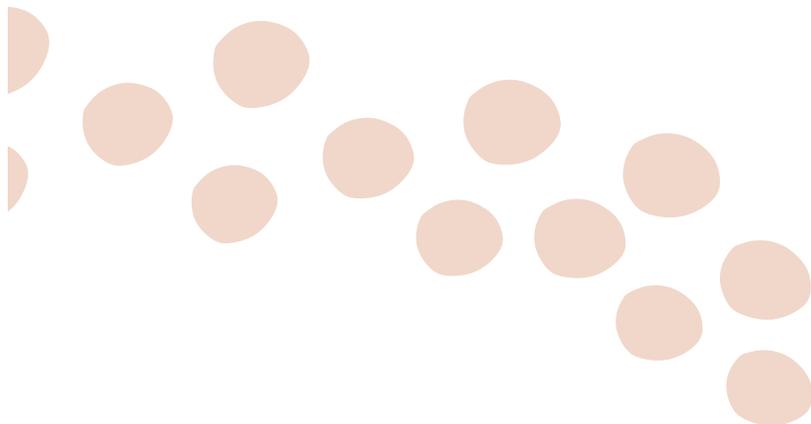
We have considered previous Queensland Government reports relating to the effectiveness of these Alcohol Management Plans.<sup>1</sup> The Queensland Government's *new approach* retains carriage limits and commits to co-design of coordinated initiatives with Indigenous communities to reduce demand; target illicit alcohol (sly grog and homebrew); build community capacity and readiness; and promote a healthy culture and attitude towards alcohol including through liquor licensing options. The new approach embraces potential changes to carriage limits on a case-by-case basis, subject to community and Government agreement. Co-designed CSP's are a key aspect of the new approach, being a guide to key action areas, community priorities and responsibilities to improve safety and wellbeing. The new approach will be largely influenced by the Queensland Government's *Local Thriving Communities* strategy, demonstrating a commitment to reframing its relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples towards co-design of community solutions through community led development.

Respondents generally agree that the Alcohol Management Plan is not working to prevent alcohol entering the community. It was anecdotally suggested as part of this research that prohibition and enforcement may not be the answer in Aurukun. Current sly grog fines, detection strategies and prosecution seem largely ineffective in stemming the flow of alcohol into Aurukun. Alternative models might be trialed.

It was generally reported by stakeholders that those under the influence of drugs (Marijuana) exhibited less aggravated behavior than those under the influence of alcohol.

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<sup>1</sup> Dept Queensland Treasury and Trade, *Alcohol Management Plan Review – Breach of alcohol restrictions in Indigenous communities and associated contact with the criminal justice system* (2013); Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, *A New Approach to Managing Alcohol* (2019).



## 5. Safety on the roads

The top five (5) issues of concern identified by combined respondents on the roads (from highest to lowest) were:

1. Anti-social driving of motor vehicles (speeding, dangerous driving, hooning, loud music)
2. Anti-social driving of motorbikes and quadbikes (speeding, dangerous driving, hooning and loud music)
3. Speeding motor vehicles
4. Drink driving
5. Drug driving.

**Young drivers** were the demographic identified as posing the greatest risk to themselves and others on the roads, followed then by **motorcyclists (including quadbikes)** and **recreational drivers**. Although a majority of combined respondents felt **safe** walking on the roads in Aurukun, many felt **unsafe** (40%+).

Respondents were generally unhappy with the sufficiency of lighting in the Aurukun township, with a majority considering the township **unlit** to **slightly lit**. It is understood that approximately 200 lights are managed by Ergon Energy and 100 lights managed by Council. Council lights are reported to be repaired promptly, however Ergon Energy lights can take up to six (6) months to be repaired once reported due to Ergon Energy irregularly having tradesmen onsite.

The absence of an Indigenous Drivers Licensing Unit based in community has resulted in a greater focus by police on infringements over education and licensing. A local permanent solution has been widely suggested by respondents.

“

“Even on-duty Community Police Officers need to ring the local police station number to report active crimes. There should be live communications (via walkie talkies etc) and some level of proactive coordination.” - Aurukun resident.

## 6. Policing

We presently have eight (8) Community Police Officers. The QPS has a policy of not discussing its own policing numbers, however does consider its policing numbers to be sufficient.

A majority of combined respondents consider that our Community Police Officers contribute **poorly** to **averagely** in addressing identified community safety concerns. Respondents considered Queensland Police Service to contribute between **average** to **well** in Aurukun. The perception is that the Community Police Officers are **poorly** to **averagely** resourced. Respondents answered similarly with respect to Queensland Police Service resourcing (notably in the face of complex sly grog enforcement conditions). Notwithstanding, combined respondents considered the combined police presence in Aurukun to be **quite visible**. Stakeholders (88%) were much more likely to know the name of the Queensland Police Service Officer in Charge over community residents (50%).

It was considered that Community Police officers are important for the collation of community intel and community relations, although are often conflicted due to family ties and are less effective in enforcement and intervention, which is deferred to QPS and Security Guards.

There is a general feeling amongst respondents that minor infractions are tolerated more in Aurukun than other parts of Cape York given the incidence and severity of crime in Aurukun, with policing and community service providers more generally, perceived to exhibit a much higher tolerance threshold than would be expected elsewhere.

Prior to 2009, the Community Police reported to QPS, but since then have reported to, and been fully funded by, the Council.



L-R: Irene Pootchemunka ,Patrick Bell, Mollie Karyuka.

## 7. Vulnerable Groups

A majority of combined respondents considered that Aurukun presently embraced community diversity and supported vulnerable groups (ie. Youth, disabled and the aged) **average to well**, with a similar combined response with respect to how well government agencies (Federal, State and Local) and support services delivered services which reflect current community safety needs.

Many respondents discussed significant pressure being placed on children by peers and older family members and members of other clans creating divisions at an early age. Forming crowds often create immeasurable pressure on young people to engage in altercations. In many instances, it is reported by

community stakeholders that youth involved in altercations generally do not have an argument with their opponents, other than factional differences. Instead, they report undue influence of family members who encourage these altercations to honor clan groups.

*Local school attendance was reported to be at 22% as at October/November 2020.*



*Fred Kerindun.*

## Other Concerns

Other areas of community safety concern raised by combined respondents included:

1. Waste Management - garbage and litter
2. Animal Management- dangerous dogs wandering at large
3. Gambling – money management / discretionary spending
4. Childcare – operating capacity
5. Tenancy Management – conflict mitigation
6. Town Planning – conflict mitigation
7. Employment – limited employment opportunities
8. Telecommunications – limited bandwidth and slow internet speeds



Living here is very similar sometimes to living in a warzone and affects a child's brain development permanently" – Aurukun resident.



# ACTION AREAS

Through your survey and interview responses, the following 19 **Action Areas** have been identified to help us improve your safety and your perceptions of safety in Aurukun.

## 1. Leadership

- a. *Establish regular Council-hosted town square/ community meetings as an effective means of communicating with community on matters such as the Aurukun Shire vision, education and general community updates.*
- b. *Establish as a standing agenda item at Interagency Meetings, for “good news stories” for joint media release to improve national profile of Aurukun.*
- c. *Promote cultural immersion experiences to tourists to improve national profile of Aurukun and improve employment opportunities.*
- d. *Host regular community events and activities to promote improved engagement between community service providers and Aurukun residents. Community events and activities should offer options, stimulation and a healthy community rivalry to de-escalate underlying community tensions, and reduce resulting youth crime, including but not limited to:*
  - (i) Youth programs (day and night) – 15 to 25 age-group;
  - (ii) Sporting/ competition events (darts etc);
  - (iii) Holiday and after school programs;
  - (iv) Movie nights;
  - (v) Video arcade/ gaming center;
  - (vi) Community gardens;
  - (vii) Concerts;
  - (viii) Community BBQ's;
  - (ix) Education sessions;
  - (x) Christmas lights competitions.
- e. *Implement regular scheduled meetings with Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation (RNTBC) to enhance coordination on matters such as Aboriginal land management.*
- f. *Establish and promote “safe places” at our community facilities to improve community engagement.*
- g. *Advocate the primacy of Council as peak body for township coordination and representation.*
- h. *Establish clear Council commitments, expectations and values to counter the rising perception of normalisation in Aurukun of topics such as:*
  - (i) Domestic violence
  - (iii) Drug and alcohol dependence

## 2. Community Education

- a. Formally adopt Wik Kath Min Community Values Statement 2018 and advocate for effective adoption by lead agencies working in Aurukun and integration into all community programs.
- b. Advocate for community and cultural awareness training to be mandated for all long-term new arriving staff and contractors entering Aurukun.
- c. Advocate for education to be provided to community on effective use of social media (ie. Facebook/Twitter/Tik Tok/ Instagram) to reduce the incidence of community unrest (ie. via O-Hub).

## 3. Surveillance

- a. Acknowledge the effectiveness of CCTV in Aurukun for enforcement over deterrence, whilst advocating for a new deal including divestment of the function to the Queensland Government who are more adequately funded and stand to gain more from, the technology than Council (eg. QPS).
- b. Obtain funding to expand CCTV into “black spots” and upgrade copper wiring.

## 4. Security

- a. Acknowledge the effectiveness of security guards in Aurukun in the deterrence of crime, whilst advocating for a new deal including central funding and coordination of all security personnel for Aurukun, in conjunction with Community Police, the QPS and Government security guards.
- b. Enhance security guard patrols by inclusion of a second vehicle patrol (including increased night patrols).
- c. Advocate via interagency meetings the adoption of interagency best-practice principles, systems and support, including but not limited to:
  - (i) vehicle safety protocol;
  - (ii) lockdown circumstances and procedures;
  - (iii) drug and alcohol diversionary programs (See also Action Item 5 (Drug and Alcohol Management)).
  - (iv) Early Warning System for disaster management and community safety concerns, with automated text-message functionality.
- d. Investigate funding options for a pay-per-use secure lock-up facility, manned 24-hours with security, along with a transit bus service to and from (See also Action Area 8 **(Transport)**).

## 5. Drug and Alcohol Management

- a. *Coordinate a holistic review of the Aurukun Shire Alcohol Management Plan, including fulsome community and service provider engagement, to understand and assess alternate alcohol management options for responsible sale and consumption of alcohol in Aurukun, including via trials (ie. one-off event permits/ restricted liquor permits/ hotel license etc).*
- b. *Advocate via interagency meetings for Aurukun community service providers and employers (including Council) within the Aurukun Shire to better acknowledge drug and alcohol dependence and offer diversionary support.*

## 6. Freight

- a. *Advocate with freight operators and third-party vendors (ie. Crisco) servicing the Aurukun Shire, to reduce restricted and/or prohibited items entering community (ie. alcohol and quadbikes etc) **(See also Action Area 19 (Local Laws))**.*

## 7. Infrastructure

- a. *Prioritise footpath installation within the township/ CBD to ensure community members (especially the children and the elderly) have safe passage between service and education facilities.*
- b. *Undertake a lighting audit in conjunction with Ergon Energy and identify and improve lighting in "black spots" around the Aurukun township.*
- c. *Investigate alternate methods of street light repair and maintenance on Ergon Energy poles to reduce outages and current delays (ie. Ergon Energy agency arrangement with Council to undertake urgent repairs and maintenance, or divestment of street lights/ poles to Council).*

## 8. Transport

- a. *Advocate for permanent driver's licensing capacity in Aurukun in furtherance of a new policing approach – engagement (education) over enforcement (infringement) (See Action Area 9 (Policing)).*
- b. *Investigate the provision of a transit bus to operate throughout the Aurukun Shire to ensure community members and workers can move safely around community and facilitate increased work and school attendance.*

## 9. Policing

- a. Advocate with the QPS for a policing approach which embraces engagement (education) and discretion over enforcement (infringement).
- b. Undertake a feasibility study with the QPS to absorb Community Police Officers into the QPS policing model (as has occurred in the Torres Strait), for more seamless policing and community safety coordination. This will also provide greater career progression and training opportunities for local Community Police Officers.
- c. Advocate to the Queensland Government and QPS for a review of consumer sly grog fines as considered to be set too low compared with the sly grog market price of alcohol for consumers (ie. \$450 per 700ml bottle of Bundaberg Rum) and as such, are not acting as a deterrent.
- d. Investigate the possibility of imposing a youth curfew to deter loud music and antisocial behavior after dark **(See also Action Area 19 (Local Laws))**.
- e. Engage with the Justice Group Mediation Services to promote a more early-intervention/ de-escalation approach to community safety in the Aurukun Shire.
- f. Investigate options for increasing patrols by Community Police Officers, as opposed to being stationed only at strategic locations (ie. supermarket/ business precinct), including mode of transport (ie. bicycles/ scooters etc).
- g. Consider in the recruitment of vacant Community Police Officer positions, coverage over the five (5) Aurukun clans, with both male and female representation.
- h. Lodge a formal complaint with QPS as to why Police Link call centers are not knowing where Aurukun is and being unable to transfer calls to local police station in a timely manner, with a view to improving crime reporting.
- i. Establish an interagency taskforce to investigate options for reducing the financial distress caused by gambling circles and public nuisance (loud music and hooning) in the Aurukun Shire **(See also Action Items 15 (Tenancy Management) and 19 (Local Laws))**.

## 10. Vulnerable Groups

- a. Advocate for tailored and locally-staffed programs to address vulnerable groups in Aurukun (not SEQ-centric). When community lockdowns occur and residents need support, service providers generally leave community.
- b. Advocate for the provision of standardised conflict resolution training to community service providers (in early intervention and de-escalation). This might be offered by the Justice Group Mediation Service.

## 11. Provider Performance

- a. Advocate for key performance measures to be implemented for community service providers servicing the Aurukun Shire, with 360-degree review and accountability.

## 12. Animal Control

- a. Enhance Council's animal control service to further reduce dogs wandering at large and dog attacks as well as increase owner animal management responsibility (**see also Action Area 17 (Town Planning)**).

## 13. Money Management

- a. Consult with residents and community service providers on the feasibility of trialing the Federal Government's Basics Card in Aurukun to assist with financial management by residents (and reduce discretionary spending currently being spent on drugs, alcohol and gambling).

## 14. Community Services

- a. Establish a Council service-level for the aesthetic standard of its facilities to set an example in community and undertake necessary R&M to meet that standard. Consider community murals as an uplifting, vibrant and collaborative community-led option.
- b. Achieve effective, regular and reliable rubbish collection services and control litter in the township.
- c. Improve operating capacity for Council's childcare center to enable maximum child attendance and enable parent attendance at their workplaces.
- d. Establish and promote a Council community grants program to provide financial support to community organisations with the aim of improving safety and perceptions of safety in the Aurukun Shire.

## 15. Tenancy Management

- a. Advocate to the Department of Housing and Public Works for the improvement of tenancy management and housing allocation practices to reduce prospects of conflicts between neighboring residents.
- b. Advocate to the Department of Housing and Public Works for them to do more (as Tenancy Manager) in relation to enforcement of tenancy conditions to reduce public nuisance (such as loud noise, overgrown allotments, harboring vermin etc) and also gambling.

## 16. Employment

- a. Advocate for more targeted engagement with Community Development Program (CDP) provider(s) and major employers in the Aurukun Shire to improve employment opportunities by providing purpose to presently unemployed residents and reduce environmental factors which may lead to increased crime and associated community safety concerns.

## 17. Town Planning

- a. *Review Council's Town Plan to reduce prospects of conflicts between neighboring residents, considering ergonomic and aesthetically-pleasing (whilst robust) designs, and sufficient spacing between allotments, with dog fencing mandatory.*

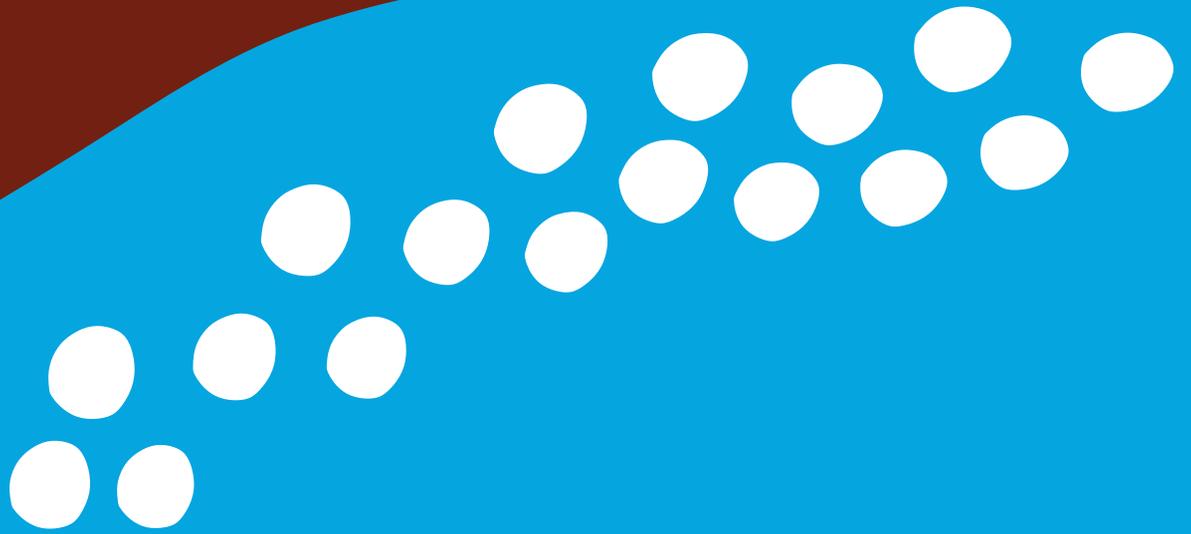
## 18. Telecommunications

- a. *Advocate to the State Government and Telstra for an upgrade of bandwidth to improve internet speeds in the Aurukun Shire.*

## 19. Local Laws

- a. *Undertake a targeted community safety/ law and order Local Law review, with particular attention to areas such as:*
  - (i) Regulation of types of vehicles on local government-controlled areas and roads (ie. quadbikes and motorcycles);
  - (ii) Youth curfew;
  - (iii) Gambling;
  - (iv) Public nuisance (loud music and hooning).





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