

Rio Tinto Community Forum Pannawonica

29th May 2008
84 attendees

Rio Tinto

Future of the Town

Recycling is going backwards in Pannawonica.

The Community Advisory Group has taken this on as a project and have found that the cost of collecting and transporting is not cost or carbon credits effective.

Medical

Shift workers can't access the medical centre after hours and are not able to get medicine on the same day.

The hours open will not be increased, however if there is an out-of-hours emergency medical service will be made available. If any non-urgent medical assistance is required out-of-hours this will incur a \$50 fee. A pharmacy is now available for all common medicines and a 24-hour turnaround for any medicines not in stock.

Could a second doctor be made available?

No, it is not feasible considering the population.

Can we get dental care?

No, it is not a priority.

Who makes the decisions about how Gemini works?

Contract is negotiated between Gemini and Rio Tinto.

Work Rosters

What is happening with the rosters?

The new rosters have now been released will be implemented November 2008.

Town Infrastructure

The footpaths are too narrow and at an alarming angle. Do they meet Shire specs?

All footpaths meet current guidelines however some are currently being replaced and others will be addressed in the Wandoo Project budget.

Street lighting is inadequate.

Housing and Towns Services will complete an audit with a view to address this issue.

Are we able to have shelters at the bus stops?

Housing and Towns Services will consider options available.

What is happening to the playground at the oval? Is has been roped off for months.

The sand has been replaced and the playground is now open.

When are we going to stop getting power black outs?

Unfortunately the power tripped out. Rio Tinto found the fault and it has now been rectified.

Can you schedule the maintenance for the cooler months, not in summer?

As the power outage was not a planned event Rio Tinto are unable to schedule the maintenance however we are conducting an audit and another transformer will be installed to minimise future disruption.

Houses have been flooded. Initial inspections have taken place but no follow up.

The project to fix the drainage is not a small project. A plan will be in place by the last quarter of 2008 to address these issues.

There's a lack of cash in tills. Can we get an ATM?

This is still under consideration.

Residents are encouraged to contact infrastructure through the Help Desk (1800 992 777) to discuss individual issues.

Patios

When can I get reimbursed for a new patio?

The policy is still in draft form waiting for approval. It has been proposed that reimbursements will be paid on completion of work providing all conditions are met. Details will be made available to employees once the policy is approved.

Shop

Shift workers can't access the supermarket. Are the hours able to be extended?

Rio Tinto will look at the opening times and extended hours.

Some stock items are missing. Is the supermarket able to stock more lines?

In the transition from ESS to ISS some stock items may have changed. If you have an item you would like the shop/deli to carry please speak to the staff.

The doors to the supermarket are dangerous.

The doors have been replaced with clear doors.

Bursary

The bursary policy is currently under review.

Town Infrastructure

It appears that some divisions get houses when other employees are unable to, is there differing policies within the divisions?

Housing is allocated according to policy by the housing committee.

Can we get Colourbond fences, especially if our houses are next to access laneways?

There is a fencing allowance as part of Wandoo with existing fencing to be evaluated.

Do they have to be cyclone rated?

Yes, fences must be cyclone rated.

Is there an allocation for storage?

The new housing policy proposes reimbursements for works on houses including outdoor storage which will have to meet all approval processes.

Airport

How are you going to stop the noise from the jets impacting on our lives?

There will be flights twice a week, arriving between 6.30 and 7.00am with the night shift team on the return flight. Rio Tinto is working with the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure the requirements are met in relation to noise levels.

Can we go on the flights to Perth?

Due to a range of obligations and legal requirements Rio Tinto is looking at all options available with flights to Perth. We are also considering other options including food, freight and papers with these flights. Updates on this will be communicated as they come to hand.

Childcare

Many mothers would like to go to work but are unable to get childcare.

Rio Tinto is aware of some issues with childcare and is working with Children's Services Support Unit and the Pannawonica Child Care Centre to address them. The biggest challenge continues to be recruiting/retaining qualified early learning staff. We have early learning specialist scholarships providing assistance with training and expenses. If you would like further details please contact our partnerships project officer on 9143 5313.

Bus Charter

The bus is now running on Saturdays and there are plans to also have it operating one weekday.

Kindergarten Building

When will the kindergarten building be ready? The parents with kids ready to start are all anxious.

The building is now on site and operational.

Fuel prices

What was the email about with fuel prices? It costs us \$90 round trip in fuel to go to Karratha, it's not equitable.

Prices at the bowsers in Pannawonica will go up. Karratha prices will be the benchmark and we have committed to offer fuel at either the Karratha fuel watch price or cost price, which ever is cheaper. The cost will go up in three to four incremental rises to January 2009.

Kerbside Collection

The kerbside collections stopped last week.

In the transition from ESS to ISS dropped from the scope of work. It was an oversight and will be rectified immediately.