

Rio Tinto Community Forum Paraburdoo

4th June 2008

74 attendees

Airport

What will you do with the Paraburdoo airport?

In the future, the Paraburdoo airport may be reduced in capacity but will still be used for general aviation and charter aircraft.

Have you considered the social impact of shifting the airport?

Rio Tinto is acutely aware that the airport is the second biggest employer in the town and is in discussion with the airport staff and community members who will be affected by any move of aviation services to Tom Price. It is a possibility that people will move out of the town and it is something that Rio Tinto is trying to work through with the relevant people.

Will Rio Tinto provide a bus service and will it be free?

The bus service business model under consideration would be provided free of charge. Rio Tinto plans to set the bus service up as part of the whole new airport package in consultation with the community and their needs. Identified concerns to be considered include return journeys if the plane is delayed and service considerations for boarding school students and their families.

Will the new airport have facilities to sit down and get something to eat?

A new terminal would be a vast improvement on the terminal at Paraburdoo. A café has been included in the proposed design.

Qantas regularly oversell flights because Rio Tinto has block bookings on the flights and don't always take up the full quota. Is it possible to ask Qantas not to oversell the planes?

It is a standard aviation procedure to oversell seats on flights from all locations. Rio Tinto is unable to change this.

Has consideration been made that the value of property in Paraburdoo will drop and what is Rio Tinto doing to show that it wants people to stay in town?

Rio Tinto will look into the ramifications of property values being affected as part of the risk management process.

Further information about the airport can be found on the pamphlet produced by Rio Tinto and available from your community development liaison officer.

Housing

Are housing improvements going to be addressed?

Infrastructure has a planned housing upgrade schedule and is working closely with operations to put this in place.

What sort of completion time are you looking at with the houses (\$5000-\$10 000 refurbishment)? Are the refurbishments for the whole town or new starters?

We are planning to have refurbishment turnarounds of 5-6 weeks. We will be starting with empty houses but anticipate that the refurbishments will include older occupied houses.

Does Spotless have supervision in town?

Spotless has two supervisors in town who are company representatives.

Calls are being logged up to three months before work is being done and trades people are arriving while the tenant is at work, how is this being addressed?

Part of the restructuring process is addressing issues with our help desk arrangements to ensure messages are addressed in a timely fashion.

What opportunities are there for non Rio Tinto workers to access housing in town?

Given current accommodation challenges this is unlikely.

Volunteers

Is there a possibility of having some input to help volunteers run the clubs in town more effectively? People have limited time and expertise and we all seem to be recreating the wheel every time we do something.

Rio Tinto considers this a fantastic idea for the community partnerships program which is based on building community capacity – if you would like to be involved please contact the Communities team.

Communication

Rio Tinto said they would communicate information from last year's forum to us. I didn't receive any information.

Information from the community forums is posted on the website and updated regularly (www.riotintoironore.com). Addresses are being taken at this forum to send minutes directly to people who want a more personalised response.

Child Care Facilities

Can before and after school care be included in the scope for the new child care centre? We would like to be in one professional centre; it makes more sense and makes it more viable for families and we are willing to do the licensing. When will the new facility be built?

Rio Tinto will raise the opportunity for before and after school care to be included in the project. Compliance issues changed in May and this may impact on current design.

Will Rio Tinto continue to fund before and after school care?

The current funding arrangements for the Out of School Holiday Care pilot program finish at the end of the year. Rio Tinto continues to be in close consultation regarding ongoing funding. The community needs to support the service to ensure sustainability. The undertaking has always been long-term viability and we will carefully consider our commitment to establish the centre and provide support.

Bursary

The Rio Tinto rebate is from 13 years old but Qantas charge adult prices from 12 years. Do you know if that has been bought into sync with each other?

Will the new policy be adjusted annually?

We don't have a high school in town so we can access the bursary. If there is a high school in Paraburdoo would we still be able to access the bursary?

Is the bursary open to non-Rio Tinto personnel? Wouldn't it be in the best interests of the company to look after your service providers?

The first draft of the revised bursary policy is being presented in the next few weeks to senior management. Rio Tinto has split it into two policies, a study policy and bursary policy. Age disparity is one of the issues that has been raised within the policy.

If there is a high school accessible in the town you would be encouraged use that high school; the bursary could be 'at risk' if a high school was located in Paraburdoo.

This is a Rio Tinto (bursary) policy; however we will discuss the possibility of extending it to others within the community during the policy development.

TAFE

Rio Tinto pays \$3000 to \$4000 for training that is available locally for \$500. TAFE is available to train and will bring in trainers. There are signs up and TAFE has sent emails to Rio Tinto.

Rio Tinto will consider training opportunities immediately and thanked the TAFE representative for bringing the situation to its notice.

Caravan Park

Two years ago at the community forum Rio Tinto said that Gumala was about to sign a contract to start operating at the caravan park. If we do get one are we going to have permanent residents?

The Shire of Ashburton has put this to tender.

High School

A survey is being put into the school newsletter asking for an expression of interest from the community to push for the re-opening of the high school.

The community is asked to fill in the survey and support the idea.

*** see bursary note.

Medical Care

Why has no one raised the issue of health care? Health is our main issue and no one has brought it up.

General discussion followed regarding health services and a call for residents to make their needs known to their local member. The most appropriate place for these discussions is with the Community Advisory Group.

This town's services have declined considerably.

Through the Pilbara Industries Community Council, a submission was made for significant investment in the community but unfortunately it did not get through. During the process however the State Government has recognised the issue of health care in the Pilbara and has committed to action in the region.

Policing

I have a problem with the response time. I was told it was 30 minutes. Is it likely that we could get the licensing back in town?

Response from Paraburdoo police officer:

Often we are assisting other stations in the region. If an officer is on leave, jobs are responded to immediately, if we feel it is safe to go on our own. If we have something serious we have to wait for someone from Tom Price. During the day response time is around 35 minutes, at night we're subject to 80km speed limit on roads so it's more like an hour.

How many hours are you spending here a week now?

The police are here 40 hours a week unless they have to go away. Tom Price knows if we have to go and they have extended their patrols. We are also here during weekends and public holidays.

Is it likely that we could get the licensing back in town?

We've spoken to the Shire about taking over the role of licensing in town. They are currently in discussion with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure around the viability of this.