

Rio Tinto Community Forum Tom Price

3rd June 2008

56 attendees

Coles Supermarket

Coles are struggling to provide the range of goods and the perishables are of poor quality.

Individuals need to contact Coles directly.

Infrastructure

When asking the Department Of Land Administration or the Shire what is being done to address the housing issues, the common response is we're waiting on an assessment of infrastructure, i.e. sewerage, water, power.

Rio Tinto is currently the provider and is working with the Shire and State Government to plan for the

Hospital Action Group

There are only four members left on the Hospital Action Group. If anyone is interested please contact Lee Cooper on 9189 2116

Availability of Land

Tenders up for land are to be developed by a tourist operator, what is happening?

The State Government has called for tenders to develop the site.

House and Town Services

Maintenance is slow to respond, is anything being done about this?

Yes the contract has been reviewed. Residents are asked to use the 1800 number and follow up regularly if there is no action.

Are the new kitchens and bathrooms for new starter houses or will they be extended for existing houses? People are unhappy because they are going home to a place that was new 40 years ago but nothing is done properly.

New housing standards are in place and capital has been approved. Rio Tinto is now going to be upgrading kitchens, bathrooms, laundries as part of the new housing standards.

I had someone round to look at my cupboard doors and they are not going to replace them, they're going to fix them.

Rio Tinto is now working the new housing standard and will ensure these standards are met.

What we were shown when we did the tour and what we ended up with is not the same; the reality is pretty different. Our needs changed so we wanted to downsize. We've watch people move out of duplexes and they've been left empty.

Empty houses are empty for a reason; they could be under scope to be done up, some up for major refurbishment and some major maintenance. Rio Tinto recognises the housing issue and is addressing the housing policy.

Sell the houses to your employees and that would solve all of your problems. Let's make ours a proper town; not a mining town.

Small business can't grow because of the current housing problem; we can't employ people.

There are no plans to reintroduce the home ownership program at this time.

Childcare

Can we access before and after school care?

Rio Tinto will investigate.

I understand the facility itself doesn't have the rooms to support the number of children. I quit teaching because I couldn't find child care. You're losing teachers, nurses, and Coles staff because you don't have the infrastructure in place.

I've been on the list for 14 months and I'm still fifth placed.

Rio Tinto has had a discussion with the Shire and the Education Department in relation to the facility. The issue continues to be licensing.

Water Strategy

Why do you spend thousands of litres of water at the mine washing down trucks and then you are trying to get the towns people to cut down on their water use?
Is Rio Tinto licensed to take a certain draw out of the bores and has that run out or have the bores themselves run out?

Rio Tinto acknowledged the valid point made by the community regarding water use. We have a water committee onsite specifically considering a number of strategies to address water issues and also have a Department of Water Strategy working on a business wide solution.

Rio Tinto is considering recycling waste water and low maintenance gardens.

Will the new water strategy mean that our town will become less green? It is one of the biggest selling points when people come to town.

Water is an important issue and a constraint to growth in certain locations. Rio Tinto is working with the State Government on a regional water strategy.

Retention of Employees

Pay rises seem to be inequitable; new people are getting them over people who have been in the business for many years. How are you going to keep staff?

The recent pay rises were a result of a review that Rio Tinto conducts regularly. If you have any concerns or questions please contact your supervisor or HR advisor.

Cycleway to the Mine

With all the health and wellbeing programs around town a cycleway will be a safe way for people to exercise. It's not safe riding on the road.

Rio Tinto would support a working group to address this issue.

Street Lighting

Street lighting has always been an issue in Tom Price, the streets are pitch black and it is very unsafe, it is a cause for the increase in vandalism. It is also decreases accessibility to services for the elderly and the disabled. Is lighting a Rio Tinto or Shire responsibility and what is being done to fix it?

Response from Rio Tinto and a Shire representative:

Rio Tinto has taken on the maintenance of the street lighting on behalf of the Shire, in an informal agreement. A sustainable solution must be sought between us and the Shire.

The Shire has responsibility for the physical structures (lighting) but it doesn't have the specialised equipment or staff to deal with the problems. The Shire has identified the need to do an audit of the lighting in the town to establish where extra lighting is required. This is a priority in our strategic plan.

There is a lot of vandalism with the lighting and the same lighting system is put in. Can we look at more vandal proof fittings?

We will raise the question of vandal-proof fittings with utilities.

Communication

Rio Tinto used to put out a magazine, production was stopped when company information was put in the local newspaper. Now the newspaper is not running there is little communication between Rio Tinto and the community. Can a magazine be re-established?

An inland newsletter is now operational.

Allied Health Services

Health service staff has been bumped off flights by Rio Tinto employees. Access to flights has been cut down to Monday and Friday which has reduced our client base by 30% that we can see (6 clients down from 17). It is a three month trial but it is already having an impact on the health services.

Rio Tinto is working with Karratha Flying Services and the Health Department to resolve this.

Is there a possibility of an Allied partnership?

The plane charter is being addressed as part of the new contract.