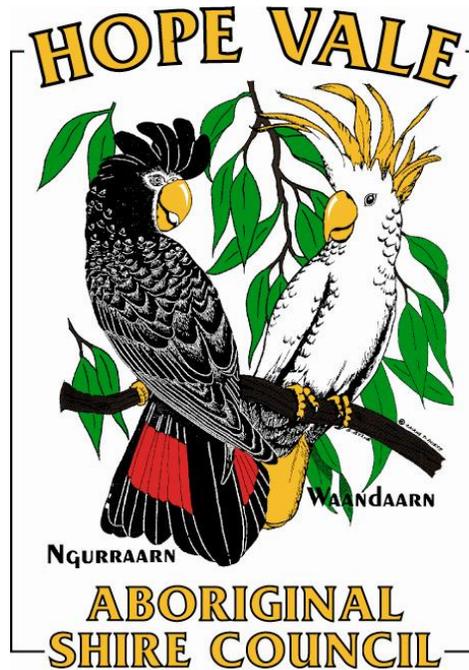


# Hope Vale Shire Council Community Safety Plan

*2011 and Beyond*



**A strong, vibrant, proud, productive and prosperous community  
- where all people feel valued and safe!**

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## Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council's Community Safety Plan

The Hope Vale Shire Council's Community Safety Plan *2011 and Beyond* outlines how we will adopt a strengths-based approach to community safety that builds on the strength, pride, beauty and richness of our unique and ancient people, values, lore, customs and culture and maximises opportunities for local social, cultural, recreational, educational and economic growth and development.

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## Mayor's Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Hope Vale Shire Council's *Community Safety Plan 2011 and Beyond*.

This Plan has been developed in response to a recent spate of vandalism and crimes in our community, and in the interest of building and sustaining the future safety of our children, our people and our community as a whole. Whilst we recognise the recent instances of vandalism and crimes perpetrated within our community were relatively minor in nature, we acknowledge their potential to escalate if positive steps are not taken and appropriate actions are not developed.

Council recognises the fundamental importance of demonstrating leadership and taking full ownership and responsibility for the development of local-specific solutions that address core historical and modern-day problems, issues and challenges and ensure the long-term safety and sustainability of our community.

Through this Plan, Council's aims to adopt a strengths-based approach to community safety that builds on the strength, pride, beauty and richness of our unique and ancient people, values, lore, customs and culture and maximises opportunities for local social, cultural, recreational, educational and economic growth and development.

Our Vision is to ensure that Hope Vale remains a strong, vibrant, proud, productive and prosperous community - where all people feel valued and safe.

This Plan is designed to compliment existing plans relating to road safety, injury prevention, disaster and emergency management and focuses on the delivery of long-term sustainable change across the following Key Result Areas:

- Building a real and sustainable local economy
- High quality education
- High quality social and community infrastructure, programs and activities
- Crime prevention and control
- Collaboration and partnerships

Council will work in partnership with our Bama people, local community organisations and government and corporate stakeholders to foster a positive whole-of-community energy and spirit that works together for the common good, safety and future of our children, our people and our community.

To our Bama people and local community organisations, I present this Plan to you and welcome your participation, support and feedback.

To our key government and corporate sector stakeholders, I encourage you to embrace our Plan and work in collaboration and partnership with our Council to ensure its successful implementation.

**Greg Mclean**  
Mayor, Hope Vale Shire Council



## Our Community

The Hope Vale Aboriginal community is located on the south-east side of Cape York, 46 kilometres north-west from Cooktown and 367 kilometres north from Cairns. Our community, set in a picturesque ancient country with giant rocks and stunning views, is the gateway to one of the most spectacular sand dune environments on Cape York and home to the world famous Nugal rock arts sites.

Our community covers an area of 110,000 hectares of land and includes 33 outstations, most of which are only occupied during the dry season. Our population fluctuates from between 850 through to 1000 on annual basis, with approximately 94% of the population being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

The original township of Hope Vale was built in 1949 however, our original community extends back to 1886 when the Lutheran Church first established a mission at Elim Beach, Cape Bedford. During World War II Aboriginal people who were living in the Hope Valley and Cape Bedford areas were moved to Woorabinda and in 1949 surviving members were transferred back to the newly established Lutheran mission.

The mission continued operations until 1986 when a deed of grant in trust was made in favour of the Aboriginal community. The township has a store, a hotel, a primary school, an impressively steeped Lutheran church and a Cultural Centre from which Aboriginal elders offer guided tours to some of our community's famous rock art sites.

The Hope Vale Shire, formed in 2004, is administered by the Hope Vale Community Council.

## Our People

Hope Vale is the proud home to the following Aboriginal clan groups:

**Bintha Warra**

**Dharrpa Warra**

**Dingaala Warra**

**Gamaay Warra**

**Ngaatha Warra**

**Nguyumbarr Warra**

**Nguyumbarr Nguyumbarr Warra**

**Nukgal Warra**

**Thaniil Warra**

**Thitharr Warra**

**Thuppi Warra**

Each clan group mostly speaks Guugu Yimidhirr and other related languages as well as English.

# What we will do to sustain community safety

## Rationale and Approach

“Safety is a dynamic state in which hazards and conditions leading to harm (intentional and unintentional) injury) or fear of harm are prevented or controlled. Safety promotion is the process used by individuals, communities, governments and others to develop and sustain safety. The process of safety promotion includes efforts to modify structures and behaviours to create safe and supportive environments.”<sup>1</sup>

In general terms, community safety means preventing, reducing or containing the social environmental and intimidatory factors that affect people’s right to live without fear of crime and impact upon their quality of life.

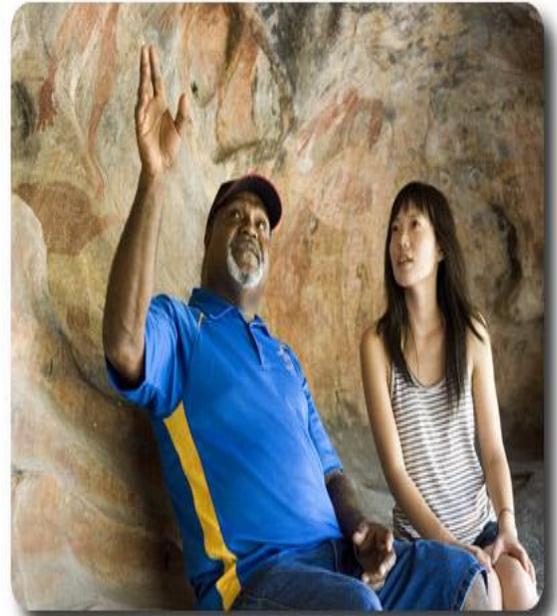
Cases of crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour that impact upon many communities throughout Australia can generally be linked to a range of other social and economic factors. These include: high unemployment, poverty, poor education levels and standards, poor health, limited localised economic growth opportunities and sub-standard social and community infrastructure, programs and activities.

In an Australian Aboriginal community context, levels of crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour, are often magnified as a direct result of the ongoing negative impacts of colonisation, and because of ongoing mistreatment, general social ignorance and apathy toward the need to address the real problems that confront communities on a day-to-day basis.

The historical displacement and forced removal of people from their traditional lands resulted in the disruption and breakdown of spiritual connection and sense of belonging, lore, custom, culture and family kinship systems along with cultural values, obligations and responsibilities. These factors, combined with current high levels of unemployment, limited opportunities to participate in, and or, generate real economic growth, overcrowding (as a result of limited housing), poor social and community infrastructure and general mistrust and apathy toward the importance and value of education, continue to result in high levels of intergenerational psychological trauma, scaring, oppression and poverty. This then becomes manifest through boredom, poor health, confusion, anger, bitterness, fear, lack of individual and community confidence, pride and self esteem, frustration and interpersonal and cultural conflicts across whole communities.

These factors often become more intensified through alcohol and substance abuse, resulting in increased levels of crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour and subsequent increased levels of fear and insecurity across whole communities.

Our Council recognise that if these negative factors are left to remain constant and unresolved, community safety will remain an extremely difficult challenge. We also recognise that a sad and appalling cycle of oppression, that has affected many Aboriginal communities throughout Australia, will continue to affect the modern-day and future lives of our people.



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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organisation definition of safety drafted at an Internal Seminar on Safety and Safety Promotion, Quebec, 1998.

Hope Vale Council is not prepared to allow our children, our families and our community as a whole, to continue to fall victim and or remain subject to appalling cycles of oppression.

Our Council understands how our past (individually and a community as a whole) affects our present thinking, feeling and behaviour and we also accept that to be treated poorly in one's past, will almost inevitably result in one's thinking, feeling and behaving poorly in one's present.

We acknowledge and accept that it is our responsibility, in partnership and collaboration with our entire community and our key government and corporate stakeholders, to show leadership and take full ownership and responsibility of our community safety challenges.

We will demonstrate our leadership and take ownership and responsibility for our challenges by identifying core local problems and issues and developing of local solutions that deliver long-term sustainable change and ensures the current and future safety of our children, our families and our community as a whole.

## Aim

Adopt a strengths-based approach to community safety that builds on the strength, pride, beauty and richness of our unique and ancient people, values, lore, customs and culture and maximises opportunities for local social, cultural, recreational, educational and economic growth and development.

## Vision

Hope Vale is a strong, vibrant, proud, productive and prosperous community - where all people feel valued and safe.

Our Community Safety Plan *2011 and Beyond* represents an expression of our leadership, self determination and ongoing commitment to taking full ownership and responsibility for the safety of our children, their families and our community.

Our Plan focuses on measures that seek to:

- Embrace our traditional values of caring, sharing and respect for our land, our people and our environment to sustain respect, support, strength, pride and unity across all clan groups and in all community environments;
- Reduce our 70% unemployment rate by building a real and sustainable local economy;
- Keep our children proud and grounded in thier ancient and evolving lore, custom and culture while promoting the value and importance of high quality education for their future;
- Align educational excellence, within the school system, with the importance of human excellence<sup>2</sup>;



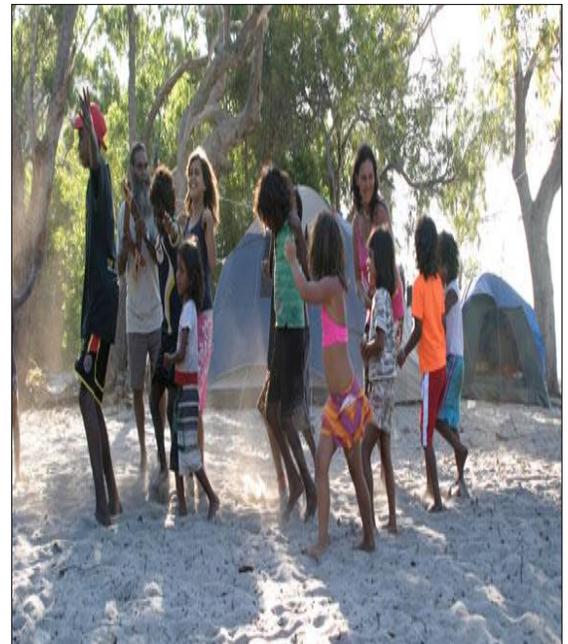
<sup>2</sup> Human excellence – embedded in lore and custom (roles, responsibilities and behaviours relevant to men's and women's business) to help children (young boys and girls who enter school) grow into, and behave as proud, caring, respectful, considerate, responsible and dignified adults (young men and women when they leave school).

- Reduce boredom by increasing participation and involvement in high quality social, cultural, recreational and sporting infrastructure, facilities, programs and activities;
- Build parent and family pride, strength, dignity, capacity and healthy outlooks on life through the provision of quality programs and activities for Elders, men, women, children and families, (specifically targeting high-risk and or vulnerable groups);
- Promote responsible approaches toward the consumption of alcohol through innovative programs and activities designed to prevent, reduce or contain alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Keep Hope Vale beautiful by promoting community pride and positive image, through innovative local activities and initiatives and participation in state, national and international Safe Community awards and initiatives (such as Tidy Towns Australia Award);
- Include accurate evaluation mechanisms which move beyond statistical rhetoric to ensure accountability and the delivery of tangible change;
- Promote collaboration and partnerships that build and sustain a whole-of-community and stakeholder shared responsibility, commitment and support; and
- Maintain alignment and active participation in state, national and international Safe Community networks.

## Guiding Principles

The following principles are designed to underpin and guide our approach:

- All people have a right to feel safe and live without fear or harm in their own home and in their own community;
- As part of the world's oldest continuous living culture, we are responsible for keeping our people, community and ancient and evolving culture strong, healthy and proud;
- Our lore, customs and values do not tolerate abuse against women or children, and nor do they tolerate abuse and or disrespect toward the wisdom of our Elders;
- Strong local economies deliver opportunity, create wealth and build individual and community image, pride, confidence and self esteem;
- Access to quality education is the fundamental building block for our children's future
- Bama people have the right to expect the same quality of social and community infrastructure, programs and activities as that of all Australians;
- Community safety is the shared responsibility of our Council, our key stakeholders and our community as a whole; and
- Our children are the future of our people, community and culture - as adults and as parents, we are their most significant role models.



# Our Community Safety Key Result Areas

The Hope Vale Community Safety Plan *2011 and Beyond* is focused on delivering outcomes across the following Key Result Areas:

## 1 Building a real and sustainable local economy

### Objective

To build a real and sustainable local economy that reduces our 70% unemployment rate and ensures that local people are actively employed in suitable government and non-government positions and or locally owned and operated businesses.

### Strategies

- Maintain a proactive focus toward the training, development and retention of local people into employment in all government and non-government organisations operating in our community.
- Maintain a proactive focus toward business training and development and maximise commercial opportunities for real economic growth for local individual and clan groups in areas of: *farming and agriculture, aquaculture, cultural and eco-tourism, healing, clean energy, transport, building construction and maintenance, mechanical, pastoral and other viable industries.*

## 2 High quality education

### Objective

To prepare our children for their future through high quality education and continued access to cultural programs and activities that keep them proud and grounded in the strength, beauty, richness and wisdom of their people, values, lore, customs and culture.

### Priorities

- Maintain high expectations for educational performance among Hope Vale's children and families and across the education sector and strive for higher than national average school attendance rates.
- Actively promote the value and future importance of quality education among children and their families.
- Ensure the active participation and involvement of parents in the education of their children to ensure better understanding and engagement with the system and process.
- Ensure the active participation and involvement of Elders and continue to integrate quality cultural, language and human excellence programs and activities into the education curriculum.



- Ensure the ongoing provision of high quality student support and tutoring programs for children (particularly low performing and or children at risk).
- Ensure the ongoing provision of positive high quality school-based cultural, sporting, social and recreational programs, activities and events for children and their families.
- Establish and maintain a Hopevale Tertiary Scholarship Fund to support local students into quality TAFE and tertiary education.
- Establish and maintain a local Aboriginal Parents and Citizens Association to provide ongoing support, advice and direction, increase participation of local volunteers and act as a conduit between the school and the broader community.

### 3 High quality social and community infrastructure facilities, programs and activities

#### Objective

To sustain high quality social and community infrastructure<sup>3</sup> facilities, programs and activities, covering all genders and ages across all environments and situations, commensurate with that of other Australian communities.

#### Priorities

- Ensure the highest safety measures and quality standards are maintained for all public and private places and environments.
- Ensure equity of access to all community social and community infrastructure facilities, programs and activities.
- Ensure the provision of affordable rental housing and home ownership options for all families, residing or wishing to reside, in Hopevale.
- Maintain respect, pride and a strong sense of place across all clan groups to sustain a physically safe and attractive community neighbourhood (public and private places) and town centre.
- Maintain an effective, viable and accessible public transport system for local residents.
- Maintain quality road access, signage and street lighting into and throughout the community.
- Maintain an effective animal management program.
- Maintain an up-to-date Community Disaster and Emergency Management Plan.



<sup>3</sup> Social infrastructure can be broadly categorised as: health; individual; family and community support; education; arts and culture; information; sport and recreation; housing; community development; employment and training; legal and public safety; emergency services; and public and community transport. S. Casey, *Establishing Standards for Social Infrastructure, 2005*, UQ Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre, University of Queensland, Australia, 2005.

# 4 Crime prevention and control

## Objective

To prevent, reduce and or eliminate crime, violence, vandalism and anti-social behaviour in Hopevale.

## Priorities

- Ensure that all future public infrastructure and environmental planning and development focuses on the safe design, creation and maintenance of liveable environments which encourage the use of public spaces as centres of community life rather than places for criminal activity.
- Ensure strict adherence and compliance with traditional Lore and local shire and state laws relating to all criminal offences and behaviour (including crime and violence linked to domestic violence, vandalism, irresponsible alcohol consumption, substance abuse and anti-social behaviour).
- Maintain a positive police presence throughout the community and ensure the provision of regular night patrols.
- Ensure the ongoing provision of high quality awareness programs and activities in an effort to mitigate crime, violence, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
- Actively encourage youth and children (particularly, those who are vulnerable or at risk) to become interested parties in their own future and their community's future through participation in educational, recreational and vocational programs and activities.
- Actively encourage clan groups to become interested parties in their own future and their community's by standing united and working together for the common good and future of their children, their families and their community as a whole.
- Ensure the ongoing provision of conflict resolution programs and activities that improve the social skills and abilities of local people to mitigate and or avoid interpersonal and cultural conflict.
- Ensure the ongoing provision of quality relationship, parenting and healing programs and activities that promote responsible approaches to alcohol consumption, healthier outlooks on life, strengthen families and reduce levels of psychological trauma and scarring.
- Provide safe place facilities, programs and activities for Elders and at risk groups (in particular, women and children affected by domestic violence and abuse) to ensure their absolute safety.
- Ensure the provision of quality programs and activities that focus on the successful reintroduction of offenders back into the community and the prevention of recidivism.



# 5 Collaboration and partnerships

## Objective

To work in collaboration and partnership with our community and key government and corporate stakeholders for the common good, safety and future of our children, our people and our community.

## Priorities

- Maintain alignment and active participation in all state, national and international Safe Community networks.
- Ensure that all community safety priorities (contained in this Plan) are aligned to relevant existing state and national government planning initiatives and actioned in all future state government Round Table Forums.
- Actively pursue the development of new partnerships with key government and corporate stakeholder groups to ensure the successful delivery of quality outcomes against key priorities contained in this Plan.
- Develop local community safety collaboration and partnerships initiatives and events that actively promote the need to work together for the common good, safety and future of our children, our people and our community.



## Monitoring and Reporting

Council will establish a Hope Vale Community Safety Committee comprising of members from the following Hope Vale-based community, government and non-government stakeholder groups:

- Shire Council
- Elders
- Youth Leaders
- Queensland Police
- Hope Vale Primary School
- Hope Vale Men's and Women's Groups
- Hope Vale Hospital
- Other key State and Federal Government agencies

The Committee will be responsible for the development of an Annual Hope Vale Community Safety Action Plan, aligned to the Key Result Areas and Priorities contained in this Plan, and the ongoing management, monitoring, auditing and reporting of projects and activities.

## Measuring our success

The Hope Vale Community Safety Committee will conduct bi-annual community safety audits and provide timely progress reports to Council.

Bi-annual community safety audits will measure key performance and improvements across the following broad areas:

- Reductions in the local unemployment rate.
- School attendance, participation and performance improvement levels.
- Number of locally owned and operated businesses established.
- Reductions in the number and seriousness of domestic violence cases dealt with by police.
- Reductions in the number and Instances of general crime, violence and anti-social behaviour cases dealt with by police.
- Level of positive feedback provided by community members and government and corporate stakeholders.

As an integral part of the annual Action Plan development stage, the Community Safety Committee will also ensure that specific performance measures for success are developed and aligned to individual priorities contained in this Plan.

These specific performance measures will also be monitored and reported on as part of the bi-annual safety audit process.