

# 3.17 Mareeba Indigenous Community

## Our Community Vision

In 2021 the Mareeba community accepts and recognizes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage and diversity, ensuring equitable and successful access to education and employment for the prosperity and good health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Mareeba District Population: 10,407  
Mareeba Indigenous Population: 1447  
(13.9% of total pop.)

ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents



Mareeba Indigenous Community Plan Workshop, 7th June 2011

**Community Priorities** – This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

### 3.17.1 Employment and training

- (i) Encourage and support students to complete education.  
Families, Mentors, Elders, Schools, Community Organisations
- (ii) Investigate options for linking training to job outcomes:
  - Continue to identify local skills shortages
  - School based traineeships and apprenticeships linked to local skill shortages.  
Registered Training Organisations, Employer Groups, Schools, Dept of Education and Training, Employment Service Providers, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc, Australian Government
- (iii) Investigate options for developing business and jobs including cultural tourism.  
Registered Training Organisations, Employer Groups, Schools, Mareeba Chamber of Commerce, Employment Service Providers, Dept of Education and Training, Australian Government, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
- (iv) Identified Indigenous Community Engagement and Development Officer position to be established to strengthen links between Council and Indigenous groups and assist Indigenous people to capitalise on employment opportunities within local government.  
TRC

2012 - 2013

2013 - 2016

### 3.17.2 Appropriate housing

- (i) Review Indigenous housing including:
  - Rent levels
  - Location of housing across town
  - Design of new and existing housing to be culturally appropriate
  - Target groups including elderly.  
Community Housing Providers, Dept of Communities, Indigenous Community
- (ii) Promote and encourage more Indigenous home ownership including "rent to buy" program.  
Queensland Government, Australian Government
- (iii) Provide tenancy support services to assist people to retain their tenancy and conduct community education about tenancy rights and responsibilities.  
TRC Home Stay, Tableland Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service, Mareeba State High School
- (iv) Develop suitable models of accommodation for people in crisis including hostel accommodation.  
Community Housing Organisations, Indigenous Community, Dept of Communities, Australian Government

2012 - 2013

2013-2016

### 3.17.3 Culture arts and heritage

- (i) Fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders flags alongside the Australian flag at Council offices.  
TRC
- (ii) Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan to recognise Traditional Owner Groups; include Traditional Owner Groups in decision-making and develop protocols.  
Muluridji Elders, TRC, Indigenous Community
- (iii) Reclaim and revive cultural knowledge practices and traditional languages:
  - School cultural programs
  - Community workshops
  - Screen Indigenous films
  - Teach cultural child rearing practices to young people and young parents
  - Cultural cooking of foods.  
Aboriginal Corporations and Traditional Owner Groups, Schools, Indigenous Community and Health Services, Queensland Government, Australian Government
- (iv) Explore cultural tourism opportunities to employ Indigenous workers.  
Indigenous Community, Indigenous Organisations, Queensland Government
- (v) Investigate feasibility of establishing an Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Entertainment Centre:
  - Museum
  - Promote local traditional heritage
  - Youth activities
  - Community events
  - Indigenous business opportunities to showcase Indigenous talents
  - Story telling.  
Community, Muluridji Traditional Owners, TRC, Queensland Government, Australian Government

2012 - 2013

2013 - 2016

### 3.17.4 Health services and facilities

- (i) Explore feasibility of expanding Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre:
  - Mobile health services and outreach
  - One stop shop model
  - Dental service.  
Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre
- (ii) Deliver more drug and alcohol intervention programs integrated with existing community support services.  
TRC, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, Queensland Health, Churches
- (iii) Promote the Wuchopperen Dental Van in the community.  
Wuchopperen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Centre
- (iv) Lobby to increase rebate for General Practice medical services to encourage bulk billing in rural practices.  
Community, FNQ Division of Rural General Practice, TRC, Australian Government
- (v) Conduct healthy eating programs.  
Queensland Health, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre
- (vi) Lobby for more aged care packages for in home care to enable Indigenous Elders to live in their own homes for longer.  
TRC, Mareeba District Elders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation
- (vii) Review maternity services to include higher level of cultural service delivery and closer links with mental health services.  
Mareeba Hospital, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, Queensland Mental Health Service
- (viii) Upgrade Mareeba Hospital to deliver more services.  
Queensland Health
- (ix) Investigate option of developing Indigenous aged care homes:
  - Models
  - Location
  - Culturally appropriate
  - Suitable level of care and support.  
Home and Community Care, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, Developers, TRC, Mareeba District Elders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Corporation
- (x) Investigate feasibility of establishing a Rehabilitation Centre or "dry out" centre.  
Queensland Health, Indigenous and Community Support Services, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, Indigenous Community

2012 - 2013

2013 - 2016

2016 - 2021

### 3.17.5 Emergency/crisis accommodation

- (i) Explore appropriate models of accommodation and related support services for people in crisis without secure, stable housing including:
  - Emergency accommodation for itinerant people
  - Hostel and safe house for women and children experiencing domestic violence
  - Hostel services for men
  - Safe house for young people
  - Homeless people.  
Mareeba Homelessness Coordination Network, Community Housing Providers, Indigenous Service Providers, Community Service Providers, Churches, TRC, Dept of Communities
- (ii) Lobby for funding to establish new accommodation and support service models for people in crisis.  
Mareeba Homelessness Coordination Network, Community Housing Providers, Indigenous Service Providers, Community Service Providers, Churches, TRC, Dept of Communities

2012 - 2013

2012 - 2013

2013 - 2016

### 3.17.6 Youth venues and activities

- (i) Assist young people to run youth led activities and events and find ways to better utilise existing facilities and venues.  
Mareeba Youth Service, Churches, Community, PCYC
- (ii) Investigate better options for public transport including transport to the Drive In Movies.  
Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network, Public Transport Providers, Community Transport Providers
- (iii) Continue Families First As Teachers program.  
Mareeba State Primary School, Families
- (iv) Open up public access to Plowman's Crossing and install public amenities and picnic area.  
Community, TRC
- (v) Investigate option of developing an after school program for high risk children so they can be safe from 3.30pm to 10pm.  
Indigenous Community, Community Service Providers
- (vi) Investigate option of opening a theatre/cinema in Mareeba.  
Community

### Community Participation

The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 29% of the Mareeba district Indigenous population aged 15 yrs and over participated in developing this plan.