Chapter 2. Carpentaria Shire

Mayoral Statement

The Carpentaria Shire continues to position itself as the place of importance for the Gulf region and is continued to being recognised by governments, investors and tourists alike.

At present the towns of Karumba and Normanton are experiencing keen industrial and residential land sales at steadily increasing prices, government and private infrastructure commitment and proposals, developer interest and improved services to this region.

There are incredible advantages to being located in a part of Australia that has an abundance of various resources tenements scattered throughout. At the same time, it’s recognised that Carpentaria Shire is located in a prime position to capture the flow on effects of these activities by having port facilities with easy access to Asia via the Gulf. These advantages are great for Queensland and even greater for the Carpentaria Shire.

We are also resilient and hard working folk who are used to our climate and the challenges of relative isolation. We have prospered in these conditions and are very proud of this region and what has been achieved. Council wishes to seek further growth and prosperity and is keen to encourage and attract new people and businesses to the Carpentaria Shire.

Why not come and take a look for yourself. There’s plenty of history, outback adventures, fishing and tourist opportunities to take in as well.

I commend this Investment Document to you and on behalf of the Councilors and citizens of the Carpentaria Shire invite you to visit us in this special part of Australia.

Cr Fred Pascoe
Mayor
History

The Carpentaria Shire encompasses the traditional lands of the Kurtijar, Gkuthaarn and Kukatj People. These people have lived on and practiced their cultural beliefs for some 60,000 years on the land we now know as the Carpentaria Shire.

1860’s – 1900

1860 - Burke and Wills transcontinental expedition
1861 - Captain Norman sent to the Gulf of Carpentaria in search of Burke and Wills
1867 - Landsborough and Phillips sail Norman River, Norman settlement founded
1868 - Town of Norman proclaimed
1870’s - Karumba, originally called Norman Mouth was established as a telegraph station with a link to Cardwell
1883 - Carpentaria Divisional Road Board is constituted and covered the Townships of Normanton, Cloncurry and Burketown. Burns Philp (general merchandisers) commenced trading
1886 - Normanton was constituted a municipality under the name of Borough of Normanton

With the advent of the early European explorers, closely followed by the spread of pastoralism, the local Indigenous People were eventually forcibly removed from their traditional lands. With the discovery of gold and the pastoral industry under way this was the boom period for Normanton. Gold was transported from Croydon, copper from Cloncurry, the railway line was connected from Croydon to Normanton and the town also boasted a meatworks, a Supreme Court, School of Arts, hospital, school, government offices, two newspapers, several churches and twice weekly shipping services.

1900’s – 1940

From the early 1900’s the local indigenous people relocated to large “Station Camps” which were established on the large Gulf properties. Predominately these camps were made up of the people from the area where the stations were established. These people became a cheap labour force who developed the pastoral industry into the dynamic industry it is today. Prior to the 1967 referendum Aboriginal people that came into the township of Normanton were excluded from the town at night, with the Gkuthaarn and Kukatj people establishing a camp close to where the Gulfland Motel is now situated and the Kurtijar people establishing a camp on the northern banks of the Norman River alongside the Goose Lagoon.

1920’s - Erection of the Qantas hangar now used as the Brooker Schneekloth airport terminal
1927 - Qantas made the first flight from Normanton to Cloncurry
1930’s - Karumba became the base for the Empire Mail service where flying boats carried mail and passengers landed while en route to Asia, Europe and Brisbane

1940’s – 1980

1940’s - During World War II the area became a large supplier of beef
1950’s - Several Aboriginal Reserves were established which saw the closure of the camps established camps and indigenous people forced onto the reserves
1955 - Electricity services were laid
1960’s - Discovery of banana prawns in Karumba
1965 - Reticulated water supply was installed to replace the town well
1966 - Captain W.H. Norman Bridge completed at a cost of £204,000
1967 - Referendum was held giving Aboriginal people the same rights and wages as Non-Indigenous people
1968 - Normanton Centenary
1974 - Norman River flooding
1980 to present:

1982 - The last people moved off the Aboriginal Reserves and moved into the township of Normanton proper. Today the descendants of these tribes live in Normanton along with people from the Croydon and Mapoon areas.

1996 - Aboriginal reserve land handed over to the Normanton Aboriginal Lands Trust, Thawil Thuddawaarn Pikew. The land includes two aboriginal cemeteries, one traditional burial ground and the reserve in which the Gkuthaarn, Kukatj, Kurtijar and Koko Berrin people lived during the period of 1940’s to 1970’s.

1998 - Karumba connected to Carpentaria Water Supply

2008 - Reduction in Councillor numbers from nine to five and removal of the division system

2012 - From the Quadrennial Elections, change in Councillor numbers from five back to seven

Key Facts

Shire Population: 2186 (as at 30 June 2012). The 2011 Australian Census records the percentage of total indigenous persons as 39.9% of the Normanton population and 36.6% of the total Shire population. The Shire has a population density of 0.034 persons per square kilometre and a median age of 34.2

Towns:
- Normanton (population approx. 1400),
- Karumba (approx. 580)

Land Area: 64,403 square kilometres

Council Employees: 85 full time equivalent staff

Federal Electorate: Hon Bob Katter MP (Member for Kennedy)

State Electorate: Hon Rob Katter MP (Member for Mount Isa)

Length of Roads: 2285 kilometres of roads within the Shire, consisting of:

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<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Sealed</th>
<th>Unsealed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council Roads</td>
<td>1670km</td>
<td>44km</td>
<td>1626km</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Roads</td>
<td>615km</td>
<td>342km</td>
<td>273km</td>
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I’d never been [to Normanton] so it was an opportunity for me to see another part of Australia that I had never seen and a different style of landscape really from what I’ve known. I loved my time in Normanton, it was really fantastic. I’d go back, if there was a job there, I’d go back. The locals .... were so friendly .... everyone was just really welcoming.

Carla Ramland, Student of Landscape Architecture
Building Approvals

Recent commercial development includes the Central and North West Queensland Medicare Local centre, pharmacy, Queensland Ambulance centre upgrade, communications tower (broadcasting).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>Type of Applications</th>
<th>Value of Work</th>
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<tr>
<td>20010 / 2011</td>
<td>New dwellings - 9 Dwelling extensions/alterations - 8 Domestic shed - 4 Industrial sheds - 5 Commercial developments - 3</td>
<td>$6,862,161</td>
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<td>20011 / 2012</td>
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<td>$6,170,590</td>
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Council has been and is currently undertaking a number of major projects and developments since the 2012 / 2013 financial year, including the recent upgrades to the Karumba Airport, Karumba Sewerage project and upgrades to the Normanton Water Reservoir.

Special Projects

Council is currently pursuing the following projects and developments on behalf of the community: Karumba seawall, future water supply and reticulation infrastructure, transport infrastructure, waste disposal, power upgrades, telecommunications, Karumba Port improvements, further land development, drug and alcohol centre, Be EnGulfed Monsoon Experience tourism development and the Mutton Hole Wetlands project.

Council Contact

Please contact Chief Executive Officer, Bob Owen, or Mayor Fred Pascoe, for any enquiries regarding investment or development on 07 4745 2200.
Health Services

Carpentaria Shire boasts a number of health services and a permanent local GP. These services include locally-based and fly-in-fly-out services. Most services are significantly subsidised, bulk billed or free.

Locally based health services include:

- Normanton Hospital
- Karumba Clinic
- Central and North West Queensland
  - Medicare Local
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Community Development Officer with Mental Health Team
- Family Support Worker
- Community Health - Health Workers
- Home and Community Care (HACC)
- CentaCare Counselling Service
- Normanton Surgery - Doctor Chris Gilford
- Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATODS) - Community Based Worker
- Pharmacy - Normanton and Karumba
- Occupational Therapist
- Cultural Liaison Officer
- Mental Health Nurse

Fly-in-fly-out services include:

- Psychologist
- Dietician
- Podiatrist
- Speech Pathologist
- Dementia Advisor
- Continence Nurse
- Diabetes Educator
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
  - Child and Maternal Health Nurse - weekly
  - Rural and Remote Women’s Health Doctor - every three months
  - Intern Psychologist - 4 days every month
  - Training and Capacity Building - monthly
  - Child Health - weekly
- Community Health
  - Australian Hearing Service
  - Mobile Women’s Nurse
  - Podiatrist
  - Dietician
- Queensland Health
  - Psychologist
  - Psychiatrist
  - Mental Health Workers
- Dental - a Queensland Health Dentist visits every 2-3 months
- Optometrist - visits approximately every three months.

(I came) to escape the rat race from Cairns and Port Douglas. I lived in Port Douglas for 25 years, it was a sleepy little town like Karumba and then grew into a very busy tourist town, so Karumba was the next step.

(I like) the lifestyle, the sunshine, the beach, the people. It's very relaxed. There is a lot of opportunities. It's at the beginning of its growth in tourism and if you are coming for business opportunities there's lots here and if you're coming for a quiet lifestyle its ideal for that too.

Lyn Heath, Karumba
Education and Early Childhood

- Normanton State School - Prep to grade 10
- Gulf Christian College - Prep to grade 7
- Carpentaria Kindergarten
- Karumba State School - Prep to grade 7
- Normanton Child Care Centre - catering for 29 children aged six weeks to school age
- Karumba Children’s Centre - catering for 21 children aged six months to five years
- Mount Isa TAFE Lower Gulf Campus - Normanton.

Sport and Recreation

There are many places of historical interest in the Shire and many spots to enjoy the great outdoor environment on offer. These include: the old goal, Burke and Wills Camp 119, cultural heritage sites, the historic Burns Philp building and railway station, the Gulflander train, crocodile spotting and bird watching, wetlands, fishing, coastal beaches, and Karumba’s Barramundi Discovery Centre.

Carpentaria Shire offers residents a number of high quality sporting facilities. In addition there are many clubs that residents can join. These facilities include:

- Pool
- Ovals
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Indoor Sports Centers
- Cricket facilities
- Gyms
- Shooting
- Golf
- Lawn Bowls
- Rodeo/Camp Draft and Horse Sports

Sporting Clubs:

- Gun Club
- Swimming Club
- Rugby League
- Cricket Club
- Bowls Club
- Golf Club
- Ladies Fitness
- Carpentaria Horse Sports
- Normanton Rodeo Association

Retail and Financial Services

Normanton and Karumba are serviced by a number of retail and financial operators. Normanton has a Westpac Bank and the town has three ATMs. Karumba Post Office is the Westpac Bank agent and the town also has three ATMs.

Most food and grocery items that can be obtained in larger coastal centers can be purchased or ordered into Normanton. Products that are produced locally and in season, such as seafood and beef, will usually be cheaper than in metropolitan areas.

I was after a lifestyle change and just career opportunities. So I’d finished uni, had done a six month contract and was looking for something different to enhance my career. I like the freedom of lifestyle. There is not as many boundaries as living in the city. There are more open spaces, more things you can do. You can go out fishing, catch a one metre barra and have it for dinner for the next week. You can’t help but get into the fishing. Definitely give it a go, it’s definitely worth coming up here. The lifestyle is fantastic, there is no sitting on a train for an hour going into the city each day. It’s a five minute trip. Everyone’s really friendly, there’s a really good sense of community.

Anne Pleash, Normanton
Retail Services include:
• Grocery shops
• Hardware
• Electrical
• Video shop
• Plant nurseries
• Pharmacy
• Post Office
• Rural supplies - stock feed, gardening etc.
• Butcheries
• Clothing
• Fish markets
• Bottle Shops
• Fishing, tackle and boating.

Religious Services
• Anglican Church
• Catholic Church
• Assembly of God
• Church of Christ
• non-denominational church - Karumba

Climate

Many people think Northern Australia is uniformly hot and humid, but this is not always the case. Carpentaria Shire residents enjoy warm days, cool winter nights, relatively low humidity and dry winters. Maximum temperatures are higher than on Queensland’s east coast, but not as high as areas such as Mt Isa, which is hotter than Normanton throughout the summer months. Karumba, located on the coast, has lower temperature maximums than Normanton.

The Shire enjoys cool winter nights, with mean minimum temperatures cooler in both Normanton and Karumba in winter than in Cairns. Normanton has a July mean minimum of 15.2 degrees, and Karumba 14. The Shire also enjoys lower humidity year-round, compared to east coast cities such as Cairns and Brisbane. Humidity drops particularly in winter, with Normanton experiencing humidity levels 30% lower than Cairns in August.

As with most of Northern Australia, rains begin to fall in November/December, mainly through afternoon and evening storms, before the monsoon brings the bulk of the regions rain from January through to April. However average rainfall is much less than on the east coast in Cairns and rain periods tend to be shorter in duration. Our Shire also experiences one of the world’s most interesting climatic phenomena - the Morning Glory. Although more pronounced in western parts of the Shire, is a rolling cloud which stretches up to 1000 km long and is usually 900 metres deep. Rolling onto land in the morning, it looks and behaves much like an ocean wave.

I came to Normanton for the lifestyle. Professionally, the opportunities are endless and personally, there's nowhere more relaxing and friendly. So after I finished uni, it was the obvious choice.
If you are into anything outdoors, here is the place for you. Instead of sitting in a traffic jam, you're sitting in a tinny catching barra! The freedom is incredible, the people are friendly and there is a strong community feel. We also have some of the most breath-taking country up here.
Normanton, where the memories last as long as the friendships that are formed...forever!
Mark Quadrio, Normanton

I live in Normanton for one particular reason: I enjoy the lifestyle. Why? Good people, stunning landscape and far away from the hustle and bustle.
Michael Armstrong, Teacher