

## **Ardyaloon key points**

This report provides information about Ardyaloon's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Ardyaloon. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Ardyaloon. It begins by providing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

## **Background community information**

### **People and language**

- In 2006, the population of Ardyaloon was estimated to be 275 people, of whom 243 (88%) were Indigenous.
- The people of Ardyaloon are predominantly members of the Bardi Jawi language groups.
- In 2006, 48 per cent of Ardyaloon's Indigenous residents were aged under 20 years and those aged 50 years or more made up just 9 per cent of Ardyaloon's population.

### **Population projection**

- The Indigenous population of Ardyaloon is projected to increase by 35 per cent, from 243 in 2006 to 328 in 2026.
- The population projections for Ardyaloon indicate that by 2026 the greatest proportional increase will be in the post-working age (aged 65 and above) population, which is expected to double from 3 to 6 per cent over the next 20 years.

### **Geography**

- Ardyaloon is located on the northern tip of the Dampier Peninsula, 220 km from Broome along Cape Leveque Road.

## **Community strengths**

### **Local employment initiatives**

- Ardyaloon has made use of the abundant natural resources in the region through the development of some small-scale employment opportunities.
- Local employment initiatives have included artefact manufacture, small-scale campground enterprises, a hatchery, fishing, tourism, mining and a ranger program.

### **Child and family support**

- The Ardyaloon community places a strong emphasis on child and family support.
- The community has set priorities to maintain, expand and increase the operational capacity of the childcare centre and early childhood services.

### **Community involvement in school**

- One Arm Point Remote Community School has a strong cultural studies program combining language and culture. The program receives a high level of support and input from the community.

- The school is undertaking an initiative to document language and cultural knowledge, and develop support materials and resources.
- There are nine Indigenous teachers employed at the school, including Aboriginal and Islander education officers, who provide a strong community presence in the school.
- An edible garden project is valued and supported by children and the community.

### **School attendance**

- One Arm Point Remote Community School's average attendance is around 80 per cent.
- Attendance is strongest during the wet season as mobility is restricted when the surrounding unsealed roads are cut off.

### **NAPLAN results**

- The 2009 NAPLAN results indicate that the majority of Year 3 and Year 7 students at One Arm Point Remote Community School achieved at or above the national minimal standard (NMS) in all domains.
- Students in Year 3 performed best in the reading and numeracy domains of the NAPLAN tests with all students achieving at or above the NMS benchmark.
- Students in Year 3 and Year 7 for all domains, and in Year 5 for most domains, performed at or above the NMS. In comparable schools, the majority of students failed to meet the NMS.

## **Challenges facing the community**

### **Employment**

- The proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 in Ardyaloon who had a job (the employment rate) was 58 per cent in 2006.
- In the same year, Ardyaloon had an Indigenous unemployment rate of 10 per cent, which is the same as the Broome Indigenous Region.
- This probably reflects the take-up of Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) in the region. The 2006 Census identified that 38 of 56 employed people in Ardyaloon were CDEP participants. For some age groups, CDEP accounted for all employment.
- If CDEP is not included as employment, the Indigenous employment rate in 2006 drops to 19 per cent, which is half the non-CDEP Indigenous employment rate for Western Australia (38%), and around one-quarter of the total national rate (71%).
- Since 2009, a total of 10 jobs have been converted from CDEP through Australian Government funding in Ardyaloon.<sup>1</sup>
- A challenge is to improve employment pathways by addressing educational attainment (particularly literacy and numeracy), pre-vocational skills development, training and employment.
- Currently there are no trade apprenticeship programs for young people in the community.

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<sup>1</sup> Six of these jobs are shared between Ardyaloon and Beagle Bay.

## **Education**

- In 2006, Ardyaloon's Indigenous population had comparatively low rates of educational attainment and qualification when compared to the Australian population in general.
- The proportion of Indigenous 20- to 24-year-olds at Ardyaloon who had attained Year 12, or a Certificate II or equivalent, was 39 per cent in 2006. This is lower than the national Indigenous rate of 47 per cent and less than half the total Australian rate (83%).

## **Crime**

- There were 282 offences recorded in 200 incident reports during 2004 to 2009 in the Dampier Peninsula.
- During this period, the greatest number of these offences as recorded by police were acts intended to cause injury (24%), followed by property damage (17%) and unlawful entry (15%).
- A significant proportion of these offences were recorded as alcohol related, especially with regard to assault (60%).
- In the period 2004 to 2009, domestic violence was identified as a factor in 20 per cent of offences and was found in half of all acts intended to cause injury.

## **Health**

- Over the five-year period from 2003–04 to 2007–08, after adjusting for age differences, the observed number of hospital separations for assault for Indigenous Australians in the Broome statistical local area (SLA) (which includes Ardyaloon) was 25 times the national average.
- Over the same period, Indigenous people in Broome SLA were hospitalised for diabetes and alcohol-related conditions at a rate seven times higher than the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- Indigenous Australians in Broome SLA were more than four times as likely as other Australians nationally to be hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health during 2003–04 to 2007–08 (after adjusting for age differences).
- During the period 2005–2007 the Indigenous age-specific fertility rate for Broome SLA in the 15–19 year age group (139.5 live births per 1,000 women) was four times the non-Indigenous rate (33.1 live births per 1,000 women).

## **Accessibility**

- The main access road to Ardyaloon is in poor condition and is frequently closed during the wet season.
- A need was identified for a bus service from the northern Dampier Peninsula area to Broome to provide transport for people without four-wheel drive vehicles.
- Poor accessibility impedes service provision, particularly services provided to the community from Broome.
- Freight costs are high, increasing food and everyday living expenses.

## **Potential issues with service delivery**

### **Education**

- One Arm Point Remote Community School provides Kindergarten–Year 12 services to the Ardyaloon community and a small number of students from a local outstation.

- There is a demand for improved infrastructure due to the inadequate state of some early childhood, primary/secondary school and staff facilities.
- There are currently no dedicated vocational education and training (VET) facilities available within the Dampier Peninsula.
- The secondary schools program needs strengthening, particularly with regard to VET. A challenge is to address the lack of links between secondary education and training pathways.
- Delivery of an appropriate range of VET courses is not feasible without a suitable facility to fit the requirements.

### **English as a second language teaching**

- The overwhelming majority of children are exposed to the traditional language Bardi in their homes.
- The school linguistic environment comprises various combinations of Bardi, Aboriginal English, Kriol and to a lesser extent Standard Australian English.
- None of the teachers at One Arm Point Remote Community School have English as a second language training.

### **Emergency services**

- The Ardyaloon community is not adequately resourced or trained to respond appropriately to emergencies, hazards and accidents.
- The only emergency response is provided by the Bardi Jawi rangers, who have a second-hand water trailer. While there is a fire truck at the Lombadina–Djarindjin airport, the availability of this equipment in an emergency has not yet been negotiated.

### **Aged and disability services**

- Due to the projected increase in the post-working age (65 years and above) population, there is a need to ensure that there are adequate aged care services and facilities available to meet the needs of this population.
- Residential and respite care for the aged is not available in Ardyaloon. Aged care services in Ardyaloon extend to only very basic Home and Community Care program-type assistance.
- Support for the disabled is limited. Assistance with equipment and home conversion as well as respite (let alone more comprehensive care) is limited.

### **Municipal and essential services**

- The standard of some services falls below that of the comparison community of Marble Bar.
- Environmental health activities, staff accommodation, lighting, sporting facilities, animal management, solid waste removal, landscaping and dust control are all areas in need of improvement.

### **Water supply**

- The water supply in the community is not reliable and sustainable. The current rate of water consumption is estimated at 2,500 litres per person per day.
- Saline intrusion is already occurring due to the reduced availability of water as a result of high consumption.

## **Waste disposal**

- Management of the landfill site is not adequate. This site poses major environmental health challenges for the community.
- As it stands, the community will require a new landfill site within a year. Currently there is no available land for this application.

## **Community facilities**

- The maintenance regime of community facilities is not sufficient. It has resulted in some of the facilities being in poor condition.
- The oval, community hall facilities, cemetery and public toilets on Middle Beach are notable areas for attention.
- The supermarket (store), playgroup (early childhood) centre and administration building appear to be in adequate condition.

## **Significant new investments**

### **Investments in education**

- One Arm Point Remote Community School is expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership.
- Through the Building the Education Revolution program the school has been allocated \$1.75 million for a new assembly area/basketball court and for the refurbishment of fencing.

### **Investment in families**

- Funding has been approved for a Locational Supported Playgroup and an Indigenous parenting support service.

### **Investment in housing**

- In Ardyaloon under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, one new dwelling is being constructed and six are being refurbished in 2009–10.

### **Investment in water and wastewater services**

- As part of a \$51.7 million funding program (by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts announced on 23 April 2010), Ardyaloon and Warmun will receive a total of \$11 million in funding to develop and implement proposals for improvements to the water infrastructure.

### **Investment in access roads**

- The Roads to Recovery program has allocated funding of \$360,000 to Ardyaloon during 2009–10 to 2013–14 that will improve 5.6 km of Cape Leveque Road.

## Beagle Bay key points

This report provides information about Beagle Bay's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Beagle Bay. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Beagle Bay. It begins by providing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

## Background community information

### Geography

- Beagle Bay is located near the western coast of the Dampier Peninsula, approximately 130 km by road north of Broome.
- The Dampier Peninsula is home to the people of the Jawi, Bardi, Nyul Nyul, Jabirjabirr, Nimanburu and Ngumbarl language groups.
- As well as the main community of Beagle Bay, there are 39 smaller communities and outstations that may use services located at Beagle Bay.

### People

- The resident population of Beagle Bay in 2006 was estimated to be 260 people, of whom 238 were Indigenous (91%).
- In 2006 50 per cent of Indigenous residents in Beagle Bay were aged under 20 years compared to 27 per cent for the Australian population.

### Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Beagle Bay is projected to increase from 238 people in 2006 to 320 in 2026, an increase of 35 per cent.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 (the working-age population) is projected to increase by 37 per cent from 151 to 207 people over this period.
- The greatest proportional increase is expected to be in the post-working age population (65 years and above), which is projected to double from 8 to 20 people between 2006 and 2026.

## Community strengths

### Language, culture and tradition

- The people of Beagle Bay maintain strong links to traditional Aboriginal languages, culture, art and practices.
- The community of Beagle Bay has had an association with the Catholic Church through the Catholic mission and school for over 100 years.
- The old mission church is a very popular tourist attraction that brings many visitors into the community.
- The function of the women's group is very important to women at Beagle Bay and allows women to be strongly represented in the community.

- Nyul Nyul is the traditional language of the area and is spoken to varying degrees within the community. Kriol is the first language for Beagle Bay school students.

## **Education**

- Twenty-five per cent of Beagle Bay's Indigenous population aged 20 to 64 have attained at least a Certificate II level of education, comparatively higher than the Indigenous population in the region (19%), state (17%) and total Indigenous Australia (22%).
- The attendance rate of students at Sacred Heart School in Beagle Bay is typically 80–85 per cent.
- Attendance rates have increased over recent times. This is possibly due to a state-funded school bus service which allows students living in outstations to have better access to educational facilities.

## **Infrastructure and facilities**

- Much of the infrastructure in Beagle Bay meets the base level standards and is reliable. For example, power, roads, telecommunications, water and waste disposal services all meet the standards with only minor disruptions.

## **Challenges facing the community**

### **Employment**

- In 2006 over 70 per cent of Beagle Bay's working-age Indigenous population were employed. The overwhelming majority of these positions were Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) jobs.
- If the figure is adjusted so that CDEP positions are not considered as employment, Beagle Bay's Indigenous employment rate is 14 per cent, less than one-third of the national Indigenous rate (42%).
- Since 2009 a total of 18 jobs have been converted from CDEP in Beagle Bay, through Commonwealth Government funding.<sup>2</sup>
- Median personal weekly incomes in 2006 for people in Beagle Bay were three-quarters those of Indigenous people nationally.

### **Health**

- Over the five-year period from 2003–04 to 2007–08, after adjusting for age differences, the observed number of hospital separations for assault for Indigenous Australians in the Broome statistical local area (SLA) (which includes Beagle Bay) was 25 times the national average.
- Over the same period, Indigenous people in Broome SLA were hospitalised for diabetes and alcohol-related conditions at a rate seven times higher than the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- Indigenous Australians in Broome SLA were more than four times as likely as other Australians nationally to be hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health during 2003–04 to 2007–08 (after adjusting for age differences).
- During the period 2005–2007 the Indigenous age-specific fertility rate for Broome SLA in the 15–19 year age group (139.5 live births per 1,000 women) was four times the non-Indigenous rate (33.1 live births per 1,000 women).

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<sup>2</sup> Six of these jobs are shared between Ardyaloon and Beagle Bay.

## **Youth**

- The average age of people in Beagle Bay in 2006 was 19 years. Almost 25 per cent of people were aged between 15 and 24, compared to 14 per cent for the total Australian population.
- Youth who are engaged in employment or education are less likely to engage in criminal activity and are more likely to have positive outcomes throughout their lives.
- The proportion of 15- to 24-year-olds in Beagle Bay engaged in full-time employment or study was 24 per cent in 2006, compared to 44 per cent of all Indigenous Australians in that age group.

## **Education**

- Beagle Bay residents do not have access to a childcare facility and child care tends to be irregular and informally provided.
- The majority of children in Years 3, 5 and 7 participated in the NAPLAN tests in 2009.
- Students performed best in numeracy, with 75 per cent of Year 3 participants achieving at or above the national minimum standard (NMS).
- In the literacy domains of the NAPLAN tests the majority of students did not reach NMS.

## **Community safety**

- In the Dampier Peninsula, there were 282 criminal offences recorded in 200 incident reports between 2004–05 and 2008–09. Almost one-quarter related to 'acts intended to cause injury'—aggravated and non-aggravated assault.
- Thirty-two per cent of the offences were identified as alcohol related.
- Between 2004–05 and 2008–09, the majority of criminal court cases in the Dampier Peninsula resulted in a fine having to be paid; over the five-year period only 4 per cent of cases resulted in imprisonment.
- There is no emergency response capacity in Beagle Bay.

## **Housing and recreation**

- There was a high overcrowding rate of Indigenous dwellings in Beagle Bay in 2006 (58%), with 18 households experiencing overcrowding.
- This is double the regional rate and four times higher than the national and state rates for Indigenous Australians.
- There are basketball courts but no formed oval, swimming pool or library within the community. Apart from internet available only to students, there is no public internet access available.

## **Potential issues with service delivery**

### **Accessibility**

- The main access road to Beagle Bay is mostly unsealed and can be closed for at least 48 hours, approximately three times per year, because of wet and muddy conditions.
- This issue may result in the community being inaccessible during particularly wet times, which may pose problems with access to emergency and health services.



## **Municipal and essential services**

- A local governance structure is desirable so that services and infrastructure can be managed internally, needs and issues can be identified and frameworks can be established to improve services within the community.
- A critical shortage of trained local staff is a major problem for maintaining an adequate standard of environmental health and animal management.
- The sewerage infrastructure meets the base level standard; however, the wastewater ponds are constantly overflowing and leaking poor-quality effluent into the environment.
- The community needs additional accommodation facilities for teachers and the sporting facilities do not meet the base level standard.

## **Education facilities**

- The classrooms across all levels of the school are considered too small for optimal use. A number of the primary classrooms have maintenance issues.
- There are currently no dedicated vocational education and training facilities available within the Dampier Peninsula.

## **English as a second language teachers**

- Kriol is the first language for all students at Beagle Bay. Kriol presents quite specific challenges in a teaching situation because aspects can appear to be the same as Standard Australian English.
- Teaching in Kriol often includes tasks to teach about the differences between Kriol and English. Only one of the 16 teachers at the school has training in English as a second language.

## **Health services**

- Lack of lighting at the airstrip restricts emergency services after dark to the transfer of patients via road to Lombadina for a Royal Flying Doctor Service flight to Derby Hospital.
- Disability support services are provided on an intermittent basis by visiting support workers.
- Currently there are minimal mental health services—adult as well as a children's mental health support is required.

## **Victim support and community safety services**

- The Marnja Jarndu Women's Refuge in Broome has a mobile outreach service that extends its work of providing accommodation, advocacy, support groups and awareness raising to the Dampier Peninsula.
- There is a women's community centre in Beagle Bay; however, it is currently dilapidated and not in regular use.

## **Significant new investments**

### **Investments in education**

- Beagle Bay's Sacred Heart School is expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership.
- Through the Building the Education Revolution program, funding of \$850,000 has been allocated to Beagle Bay for a new school library, a storeroom, Reading Recovery and the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme.

### **Investments in housing and infrastructure**

- In Beagle Bay under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, 10 new dwellings are being constructed and five refurbished during 2009–10.
- Funding is now available for a Locational Supported Playgroup and an Indigenous parenting support service. Selection of service providers is underway.

### **Investments in roads**

- The Roads to Recovery program has allocated funding of \$360,000 to Beagle Bay during 2009–10 to 2013–14 to improve 5.6 km of the Broome to Beagle Bay road.

## **Fitzroy Crossing key points**

This report provides information about Fitzroy Crossing's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Fitzroy Crossing. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Fitzroy Crossing. It begins by providing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

## **Background community information**

### **People**

- The estimated population of Fitzroy Crossing in 2006 was 1,018 people, of whom 733 were Indigenous.
- Of the Indigenous population, 42 per cent were aged under 20 years.
- Fitzroy Crossing is on the traditional lands of the Bunuba language group. There are 32 smaller Aboriginal communities in the Fitzroy Valley, which are the traditional lands of four main language groups: Bunuba, Gooniyandi, Walmajarri and Wangkatjungka.
- A 2009 survey of this wider Fitzroy Valley area (including Fitzroy Crossing) found a total Indigenous population of 3,565. This population was composed of people involved in various patterns of mobility: a stable core of 2,679; a mobile core of 94; an active periphery of 163; an inactive periphery of 342; and 287 people whose status was unknown.<sup>3</sup>

### **Population projections**

- The Indigenous population of Fitzroy Crossing is projected to increase from 733 people to 1,028 people between 2006 and 2026.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 (the working-age population) is projected to increase from 440 to 652 people over this period.
- A very large increase is expected in the number of Indigenous people aged 50 and over, which is projected to nearly double from 92 people in 2006 to 172 people in 2026.

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<sup>3</sup> The stable core was composed of people who counted the Fitzroy Valley as home, and stayed there most of the time. The mobile core was composed of people who move in a circular way between a community that is within the region and one that is outside the region. The active periphery were people who were present at the time of survey on a temporary visit from somewhere else, and people who were not present at the time of the survey but who were nominated as people who came to stay on a regular basis. The inactive periphery were people who were not counted during the survey, but appeared in administrative datasets as having once been present in the Fitzroy Valley.

- The changing size and age composition of the Indigenous population of Fitzroy Crossing will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and aged care and health services.

## **Geography**

- The town of Fitzroy Crossing is located in the Fitzroy Valley in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and is built on the banks of the Fitzroy River. The town is 2,512 km north of Perth by road.

## **Community strengths**

### **Language, culture and tradition**

- The Fitzroy Crossing community has a strong connection with the traditional culture of the region, and with programs that actively support the preservation of the arts, language and culture and encourage learning and education in younger generations.
- The Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre is regarded as one of the most important facilities in Fitzroy Crossing. It houses two Aboriginal art galleries and library and provides tourists with an insight into the cultural history of the region.

### **Community leadership**

- Fitzroy Crossing has been the focus of a community/government partnership under the Fitzroy Futures Forum. This forum operates in collaboration with government agencies to coordinate services and engage community groups on issues of community development, governance and social reconstruction.

### **Safety**

- The Marninwarntikura Fitzroy Women's Resource Centre operates a women's shelter that provides accommodation for women escaping family violence and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- There is a community justice group established under the Western Australian Aboriginal Justice Agreement. The group has developed a local justice plan and works with a range of agencies to develop strategies to reduce offending and contact with the justice system.

### **Youth**

- A project funded by the Sporting Chance Program in Fitzroy Crossing is the Fitzroy Valley Girls Sporting Academy, delivered by Madalah Ltd. The academy began operations in 2010, supporting approximately 80 Indigenous girls. In the 2009–2012 period the academy will receive a total of \$537,000 in Sporting Chance Program funding from DEEWR.

### **Alcohol restrictions**

- Alcohol restrictions have been in place in Fitzroy Crossing since 2007 and have had a range of positive effects on the community.
- An evaluation of the effects of the alcohol restrictions in the 12 months following their introduction found that the benefits of the restrictions have

included reductions in the severity of domestic violence, the severity of wounds inflicted in general public violence, public drinking, anti-social behaviour and humping, and the amount of alcohol consumed.

- The evaluation of the effects of the alcohol restrictions in the 12 months following their introduction also found that in 2008, police reported a 28 per cent reduction in the average number of alcohol-related tasks undertaken each month, allowing police to take a more proactive community safety approach.
- In the same evaluation other benefits found to result from the liquor restrictions have included better care of children and more attention being paid to their health and wellbeing, increased recreational activities, more money being spent on food and clothing rather than on alcohol, and increased effectiveness of a range of services in the area.

## **Challenges**

### **Employment**

- In 2006, the percentage of Indigenous people in Fitzroy Crossing aged 15 to 64 who had a job (the employment rate) was 70 per cent. The overwhelming majority of these were Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) positions.
- If CDEP is not included as employment, the Indigenous employment rate in Fitzroy Crossing in 2006 drops to 23 per cent, which is approximately one-half the national Indigenous rate excluding CDEP (42%).

### **Education**

- Attendance at Fitzroy Valley District High School in 2009 was 62 per cent.
- The proportion of Indigenous people aged 20 to 24 in Fitzroy Crossing who had attained Year 12, or Certificate II or a higher qualification, was 38 per cent in 2006. This is around two-thirds of the Indigenous educational attainment rate for Australia for this age group (47%), and around half the equivalent total national rate (83%).
- The proportion of Indigenous 15- to 24-year-olds engaged in full-time education or full-time employment in Fitzroy Crossing was 16 per cent in 2006. This is around one-third of the Indigenous national average (44%), and around one-fifth of the total national rate (72%).
- The majority of students from Fitzroy Valley District High School (a Kindergarten to Year 12 school) did not meet national minimum standards in NAPLAN tests in 2009.
- The school's vocational education and training facilities are adequate for entry-level courses but inadequate for delivery of industry-standard programs in any field, particularly hospitality, and building and construction.

## Community safety

- In 2008–09 there were 636 offences in Fitzroy Crossing recorded by police, representing a 13 per cent increase compared to 2007–08.
- Nearly one-fifth of offences in 2008–09 were acts intended to cause injury (19.3%), and unlawful entry made up a further 15.6 per cent.
- In Fitzroy Crossing between 2004–05 and 2008–09, there were 875 alcohol-related offences—36 per cent of all offences. Of the alcohol-related offences where the offence type is known, 55 per cent related to assault.
- Sixty-seven per cent of all assault offences in Fitzroy Crossing from 2004–05 to 2008–09 were domestic violence related.
- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the statistical local area (SLA) of Derby – West Kimberley (which includes Fitzroy Crossing) were hospitalised for assault at a rate 36 times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- Between 30 June 2004 and 31 December 2009, in Fitzroy Crossing 52 juvenile community-based orders were commenced, 34 were successfully completed and 12 orders were terminated.

## Healthy homes and environmental health

- At Fitzroy Crossing, 29 per cent of Indigenous households experienced overcrowding in 2006. This was around twice the national Indigenous rate of overcrowding (14%), and around 10 times higher than the total national rate (3%).
- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the Derby – West Kimberley SLA were more than six times as likely as other Australians nationally to be hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health (after adjusting for age differences).
- Fitzroy Valley has high rates of trachoma. It is also anecdotally indicated that rates of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder in the valley are significantly higher than in the general community. A study is being undertaken to determine the extent of the problem in Fitzroy Valley.<sup>4</sup>
- Overcrowded housing has contributed to poor environmental health outcomes, with up to 15 people per house. Diseases such as scabies, trachoma, skin diseases and gastric ailments are common.

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<sup>4</sup> 'Marulu: The Lillilwan Project' was initiated by the Fitzroy Valley community and will pool the expertise of paediatricians, allied health professionals and social workers from the George Institute for International Health, University of Sydney and Nindilingarri Cultural Health Services. It is being supported by a grant of \$1 million from the Commonwealth Government.

## **Potential issues with service delivery**

### **Accessibility**

- Fitzroy Crossing is located on the Great Northern Highway. During the wet season frequent road closures restrict access to Fitzroy Crossing, sometimes for weeks at a time.
- In 2006 the Commonwealth Government committed AusLink funding to Main Roads WA to upgrade sections of the Great Northern Highway between Fitzroy Crossing and Gogo. However, at present there is no timeframe or estimated date of completion for this upgrade, which would provide access to Fitzroy Crossing during the wet season.

### **Water supply system**

- Water Corporation provides water to Fitzroy Crossing town, and a single connection to Mindi Rardi and Kurnangki communities. The communities of Parakupan, Burawa and Junjuwa have water sourced from bores, piped into tanks for treatment and then articulated throughout the towns.
- Water consumption is high (1,000 litres per person per day) and could be reduced with ongoing maintenance of water systems in housing to address leaking and faulty taps/pipes.
- There is potential for improvement in the quality of supply and consistency of maintenance and monitoring by connecting all of the town communities in the area to the Water Corporation's system.

### **Municipal services**

- The provision of municipal services in Fitzroy Crossing is generally adequate, meeting base level standards.
- For the outlying communities around Fitzroy Crossing many municipal services are not adequately provided, and this gap is sought to be bridged by Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation.
- There is no formal animal management plan for Fitzroy Crossing or outlying communities, and these communities would benefit from increased resourcing for animal management.

### **English as a second language teachers**

- An increased focus on support for English as a second language students is required in professional development programs. While the school has several programs addressing language awareness and incorporating effective teaching strategies, more support and professional development opportunities for teachers would be of benefit, especially considering the ongoing high levels of staff turnover.
- Recruitment and retention of staff are of paramount importance and the school needs to be actively involved in this process in order to create a positive culture consistent with the retention and development of staff.

## **Health services**

- At present there is a need for more education for the residents of Fitzroy Crossing on health issues such as diabetes (there is a very high rate of dialysis treatment required, and availability of this treatment needs to be increased to meet demand), poor nutrition, trachoma, and health issues that can arise from living in overcrowded conditions.
- The effects of decades of alcohol abuse (such as foetal alcohol spectrum disorder and long-term poor health outcomes) are still developing and presenting in the Fitzroy Crossing community, and there is scope for more investment in the current clinical services to help address these issues.

## **Victim support and community safety services**

- Fitzroy Crossing community members seeking victim support and assistance would generally need to access services in Broome or Derby. Two-thirds of assaults in 2008–09 were domestic violence related, indicating a possible need for increased services for victims in the community.
- There is no night patrol currently operating in Fitzroy Crossing, following the cessation of the Marralla patrol in 2003–04. There is no community warden scheme in the town.

## **Significant new investments**

- A Children and Family Centre will be established in Fitzroy Crossing through the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development.
- A new TAFE centre is planned for a site adjacent to the school. Kimberley TAFE has undertaken a community consultation process regarding the nature of the new facility.

In Fitzroy Crossing under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, eight new dwellings are being constructed and 19 refurbished in 2009–10



## Hall's Creek key points

This report provides information about Halls Creek's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Halls Creek. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Halls Creek. It begins by providing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

## Background community information

### People

- The population of Halls Creek in 2006 was estimated to have been 1,335, of whom 1,092 (82%) were Indigenous.
- Nearly 40 per cent of the Indigenous population were aged under 20 years in 2006.
- The Aboriginal people of the Halls Creek area are the Kija and Jaru people.

### Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Halls Creek is projected to increase from 1,092 people in 2006 to 1,515 people in 2026.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 (the working-age population) is expected to increase by 49 per cent over this period, from 653 to 970 people.
- There is expected to be a large increase in the number of people aged 50 and over, which is projected to nearly double from 136 to 252 between 2006 and 2026.
- The changing size and age composition of the Indigenous population of Halls Creek will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and aged care and health services.

### Geography

- Halls Creek is situated along the Great Northern Highway, on the edges of the Great Sandy and Tanami deserts.
- As well as the main community of Halls Creek, there are 65 Aboriginal communities within the Shire of Halls Creek that may use services located at Halls Creek.
- Halls Creek has a hot and dry climate with a wet season between October and March.

## **Community strengths**

### **Language**

- Approximately 28 languages are spoken within the shire. The main languages spoken are Kriol, Jaru, Kija, Gooniyandi, Walmajarri, Kukatja, Wanyjirra and Ngardi.

### **Economic development**

- Argyle Diamond Mine is two hours' drive from Halls Creek and provides employment opportunities for community members.

### **Infrastructure and facilities**

- There is an extensive range of recreational and sporting facilities in Halls Creek, including a comprehensive aquatic and recreation complex, basketball courts, a football field, established sporting associations and programs including a football academy, golf course and rodeo.
- The power supply system and roads in Halls Creek meet base level standards.

## **Challenges facing the community**

### **Employment**

- The proportion of Indigenous people in Halls Creek aged 15 to 64 who had a job (the employment rate) in 2006 was 41 per cent. This is similar to the national Indigenous employment rate of 48 per cent.
- However, if this rate is adjusted so that Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) positions are not considered as employment, the Halls Creek Indigenous employment rate is 23 per cent, compared to a national Indigenous employment rate of 42 per cent.

### **Education**

- The percentages of tested students in 2009 who achieved national minimum standards in NAPLAN tests at Halls Creek District High School (a Prep to Year 12 school) were generally similar to or higher than the percentages in statistically similar schools, although significantly lower than national averages.
- There is a strong focus on attendance at Halls Creek, with several initiatives beginning to make headway. School attendance at Halls Creek District High School in 2009 was on average over 60 per cent for Years 1 to 10.
- The school actively tries to engage and involve the local community. The Clontarf Halls Creek Football Academy is a Sporting Chance Program currently working to support the engagement of 55 Indigenous boys in schooling, to improve their education, training and employment outcomes.

### **Youth**

- The Shire of Halls Creek has the youngest average population and is the fourth fastest growing shire in Western Australia. The Halls Creek population has a

young age profile, with one-fifth of the Halls Creek Indigenous population aged between 15 and 24 years.

- Attainment of Year 12, or Certificate II or higher post-school qualifications, by Indigenous 20- to 24-year-olds in Halls Creek was 35 per cent in 2006, well below the national Indigenous attainment rate of 47 per cent.
- Eighteen per cent of Indigenous youth aged 15 to 24 years were engaged in full-time study or employment in Halls Creek in 2006, compared to the statewide Indigenous rate of 38 per cent.

## **Health**

- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the Halls Creek statistical local area were hospitalised for assault at a rate nearly 49 times higher than the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- From 2005 to 2007, the Indigenous age-specific fertility rate for mothers aged 15 to 19 in Halls Creek (134.5 per 1,000 women) was nearly eight times the total Australian population rate (16.9 per 1,000).

## **Community safety**

- Between 2004–05 and 2008–09, approximately half of all offences were recorded as alcohol related. This included over 80 per cent of assault offences.
- Over the same period, 62 per cent of assault offences in Halls Creek were indicated by Western Australia Police to be domestic violence related.
- Eighty-seven per cent of domestic violence-related incident reports were alcohol related.
- However, the total number of offences recorded in Halls Creek was 867 in 2008–09, representing a decrease of 33 per cent on the number in the previous year. This decrease likely reflects substantive changes within the community, including the development and implementation of restrictions on alcohol that came into force on 19 May 2009.

## **Housing**

- Fifty per cent of Indigenous households in 2006 experienced overcrowding in Halls Creek. This is three times the rate for Indigenous households nationally (14%), and over 15 times higher than the total national rate (3%).

## **Childcare**

- The existing childcare facility in Halls Creek has inadequate capacity, with a substantial waiting list.

## **Potential issues with service delivery**

### **Infrastructure**

- The Halls Creek sewage treatment system is reaching its capacity and is a restraint to further expansion of the town.

- Halls Creek is currently experiencing a water shortage due to low bore levels and high levels of consumption.
- In July 2010 it was announced that five new bore sites about 6 km east of Halls Creek had been identified that could be established as water production bores. A further two bore sites identified two years ago have also become viable as production bores because of their close proximity to the five new sites. These new sources of water will allow for about 250–300 new services in Halls Creek, on top of the 470 supplied through the existing borefields.
- There is a need for an increase in the number of public phones available.

## **Schooling**

- While some school buildings are new, the majority are at least 30 years old. The power and water supply are ineffective. Inadequate air conditioning at the school is also a significant issue in a town where, for much of the year, temperatures are frequently above 40°C.
- Of 30 teaching staff, the school has five teachers who have training in English as a second language, yet Kriol is the first language for almost all Indigenous students at Halls Creek.
- Staffing is an important issue impacting on the quality of education provision, and there are challenges in recruiting and retaining quality teachers in Halls Creek.
- The high-priority needs of boys are being addressed by programs such as the Clontarf Halls Creek Football Academy; however, similar programs focused on the engagement needs of girls are required.

## **Youth services**

- Due to the high percentage of the Indigenous population who are young people in Halls Creek, youth services in Halls Creek will need to be maintained and will require further development and resources in the coming decade if they are to meet the needs of the growing youth population.
- There will also be a need to coordinate all services targeted at the youth population, whether those services are funded by health, recreation, arts, justice, education, training or employment programs.

## **Health**

- More could be done to raise public health awareness in Halls Creek. Although there are a number of Commonwealth and state public health programs, these are uncoordinated and many are not well supported.

## **Significant new investments**

- Through Building the Education Revolution program funding, \$2.6 million worth of committed projects and funds have been allocated to Halls Creek to refurbish and build classrooms for Warlawurru Catholic School and Halls Creek District High School.

- These two schools are also expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership.
- A Children and Family Centre is intended to be operational by 2011 at the Halls Creek District High School. The school is actively involved in the consultation process around establishment of this facility.
- In Halls Creek under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, 19 new dwellings are being constructed and 30 refurbished in 2009–10.