



BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

**ABN 88194 280 330
BELYUEN COMMUNITY
Community Mail Bag 18
Darwin 0801 NT**

BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

**Also known as
BELYUEN SHIRE**

DRAFT SHIRE PLAN 2010-2011

Council Contacts

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Introduction

The Belyuen Community is located on the eastern side of the Cox Peninsula. It is 128 km from Darwin on the Cox Peninsula Road. Belyuen is also accessible by ferry from Cullen Bay to Mandorah and a mini bus to Belyuen which is approximately 18kms.

BELYUEN COUNCIL STRIVES TO:

Improve the lifestyle and quality of life of the residents of Belyuen; and

Involve the community in decisions that affect their lives.

Belyuen specific strategies:

- Work to be done on community infrastructure that removes health risk and danger with Australian and Territory Government support;
- Belyuen people have a say in the future of local government and how that will continue to deliver services and support the residents;
- Council help support and create local jobs for residents;
- Local activities that encourage residents to be involved in strengthening their local cultural beliefs for all ages and gender, recreational and sporting activities that build a healthy lifestyle and a fun community that residents enjoy;
- Working with funding agencies to create commercial opportunities that give the residents jobs and bring money into the community to support all other activities that the Community would like to do;
- Clean and beautify the community to ensure the country is cared for and the community looks good and residents are proud;

- Young children, teenagers, women, men and elders are safe, healthy and cared for.

The Local Government Act 2008 (Act) Part 3.2 requires that each council has a municipal or shire plan. This plan is integrally linked with the Regional Management Plan. Together these plans make up the planning and service delivery framework for local government at the local and regional level.

The municipal or shire plan is to contain a service delivery plan, annual budget and a long term financial plan.

The provisions of Part 3.2 of the Act require that council review and revise its municipal or shire plan before 31 July each year. This enables each council to formally consider its service delivery to the community in the light of any current or emerging challenges and opportunities and whether it has the most appropriate administrative and regulatory framework to achieve its service delivery operations.

The Shire Plan is an important document for the Belyuen Community. It sets out what the Community can expect from Council operations including engagement with Council to ensure the community resident's aspirations and needs are documented within the plan to the extent that council can service those needs and support community activities funded and overseen by a range of valued service providers.

Challenges for Belyuen Shire 2010-2011

The three main challenges are:

1. Determining the best option in regard to council amalgamation with current options being
 - a) joining with Darwin City Council; or
 - b) amalgamation with Coomalie and the incorporated areas of Dundee and Bynoe; or

c) any other combination that might come out of the proposed consultancies.

At the start of 2010/11 Council had already commenced serious discussions with Darwin City Council as it was clear from community meetings and workshops that amalgamation with Darwin City Council was a preferred choice. Council will keep talking with Darwin (and Wagait) to see what may be the best.

2. Assisting the community to position itself for the future development of the Cox Peninsula (ongoing).

Council and the Belyuen members are aware that major development will take place on the Cox peninsula when the Kenbi Land Claim is finalized. Through Council run workshops and community meetings it has been clearly expressed that the community want to be a part of that development whether through employment, business opportunities or service provision.

Council will continue to look at potential business opportunities that can benefit from the development such as mechanic workshop, market garden and art and craft. Council will also continue to support and initiate skills based training to build up community member's skills which will assist in gaining employment that will result from the development.

3. Council has undertaken a zero based exercise for 2010-2011 budgets. The exercise has identified a number of shortfalls in Government's (both NT and Federal) funding to Council to carry out their services.

If government departments and agencies were to provide the services themselves they would have to budget not just for wages but accommodation, office space, vehicles, communications to name just a few.

Local Government in remote communities have been 'propping up' Government services for a long time.

The challenge for 2010/2011 is to have both Governments acknowledge these shortfalls and provide Council with enough money to cover the real costs.