

This week Napranum Mayor Roy Chevathen tells us what's going on over his way...

Napranum Council is looking forward to 2009 and hopefully some of our planning and submissions will help us to keep moving forward.

Firstly Council confirmed the appointment of Margaret Barnes as CEO in January, after she was acting in the position for the past six months or so.

We've got auditors coming in next week so she's been pretty busy preparing for that.

There's always an issue for us attracting and retaining staff, even though we are close to Weipa, so we're very pleased to have her on board.

A few weeks ago Council started a steering committee made up of representatives from all the different organisations working in our community.

We're keen for everyone, government and non-government as well as the community to be involved in that, including the new Mens' Group that has recently started up.

We felt that everybody looks for funding to do different things but if we all get together we can help each other and work a bit better.

Council has also been working on developing the old school at Jessica Point, it's vacant at the moment and it's a pretty big area.

That's something previous Councils have looked into as well.

We want it to be a service hub for the community so all the government and non-government organisations are all in the one place, and also to develop a library and cultural centre.

At the moment all our services are scattered, but we'd rather be in the one area so communication can start flowing.

And if we are successful the current Council building would

then become more of a retail area.

We're all excited and pretty hopeful about the Jessica Point project,

we hope to know about that by end of March.

This week we are also holding meetings with government about funding for developing a diversionary centre to support the AMP.

That will mean we can get people into doing things like art and trying to get them away from alcohol.

One of the things we are most proud of is the success we are having with our Land & Sea Protection ghost net project at Pennefather.

They are doing a fair bit up there, the wet has affected them but last month alone they reported rescuing more than ten turtles.

The two rangers involved carry out regular beach patrols up to Dyfken Point and beyond, working with AQIS at times, depending on what they find or see.

Their work also includes weed control and a regeneration project.

In other things, the council is also looking forward to working with the Western Cape Communities Trusts executive officer, Georgina Richters and her administrative team, who has been in the process of visiting communities to run information sessions about the Western Cape Communities Coexistence Agreement.

As the Councils representative on the trust and as a community member, I am looking forward to having them in Napranum so that the communities will also be informed.

Roy Chevathen

Mayor

Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council

Mum's the word over Chinalco-Rio Tinto deal investigation

The Federal Government won't discuss its investigation into Chinalco's proposed \$19.5 billion investment in Rio Tinto Group.

The Foreign Investment Review Board, part of the treasury department, is considering the proposal and must make a recommendation to Treasurer Wayne Swan, who can block the transaction on so-called national interest grounds.

"We will be consulting within government both nationally and at a state level, we will be considering the details of that application with the Foreign Investment

Review Board," Treasury general manager of foreign investment Patrick Colmer told the Senate Economics Committee in Canberra last week.

"We do have, particularly with these proposals, a lot of potentially sensitive commercial information, we treat all proposals as commercial in confidence."

Australia may hold an inquiry to scrutinise potential acquisitions by Chinese state-owned companies led by Aluminum Corp.'s investment in Rio.

China, the world's biggest consumer of raw materials, is stepping up purchases

of mineral producers in Australia, taking advantage of a 36% plunge in commodity prices last year.

"Rio Tinto is a dual-listed company and is two entities, one which is registered in London and one which is registered in Australia," Colmer said when asked how Australia could impose conditions on the transaction.

"It also has significant assets and businesses in Australia and businesses and assets of a company can be subject to foreign investment review irrespective of where the actual company is registered."

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