

# Mapoon

Mapoon (also known as Marpuna) is approximately 960 kilometres northwest of Cairns and 90 kilometres north of Weipa. It was declared a Deed of Grant in Trust in 1998. The estimated resident population of Mapoon was about 260 people at 30 June 2007. The average annual growth rate from 2002 to 2007 was 3.7 per cent.

The community is made up of Mpakwithi, Taepithiggi, Thaynhakwith, Warrangku, and Yupungathi people who are the traditional owners of the entire Mapoon Shire. Tjungundji are the traditional owners of the Mapoon community site. Aboriginal people removed from the Gulf region under past government policies, and South Sea Island people from Samoa, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

## Services to the community

Community services in Mapoon include a health care centre, visiting child safety services and support, community justice group, an ambulance service (from Weipa), employment services, a Home and Community Care service, and college campus to Year 6.

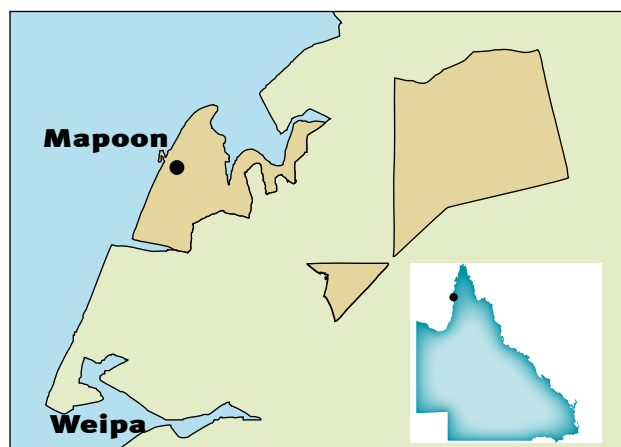
There is no police station in Mapoon; police services are provided by police stationed in Weipa. The Queensland Government also provides funding support for the proposed early childhood centre, a Sport and Recreation Officer, counselling and support services, and domestic violence prevention and justice programs.

An Alcohol Management Plan commenced in Mapoon on 14 April 2004 (see Table 1).

The Government Champions for Mapoon are Michael Walsh, Chief Executive Officer, Major Hospitals Project Office, and Warren Hoey Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Plantation Queensland.

## Key initiatives

Several economic development opportunities are being progressed with the Mapoon community as a signatory to the Western Cape Regional Partnership Heads of Agreement. Aurukun and Napranum are also signatories to the agreement with CHALCO (Aluminium Corporation of China).



A Local Indigenous Partnership Agreement is being negotiated that will focus on the development of an early learning centre, alcohol and drug initiatives, land and sea matters and home ownership.

The Department of Housing has recently undertaken property assessments in Mapoon. Completion of factory-built houses is anticipated in early 2009.

The Aggression Replacement Training program - an intensive 10 week program that aims to reduce the risk of young people committing violent offences - is being delivered to young people in Mapoon.

The Mapoon community has received \$100,000 to fund local community activities in recognition of its willingness to reduce alcohol consumption and related harm.

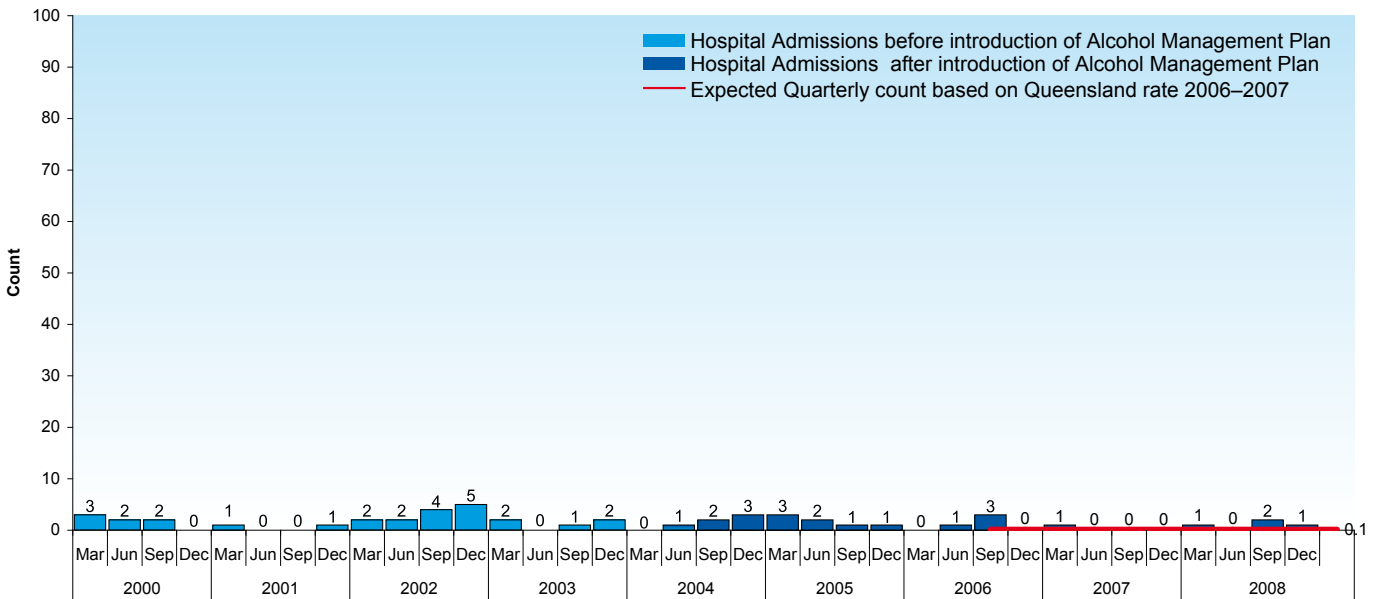
In November 2008, the government announced that there will be no change to the existing carriage limit for Mapoon at this time. The maximum amount of alcohol a person can have in the Mapoon Shire will continue to be two litres of wine (unfortified) and 22.5 litres (2 x 30 can cartons) of light or mid-strength beer and nine litres (1 x 24 can carton) of premixed spirits (up to 5.5 per cent alcohol/volume) OR two litres of wine (unfortified) and 33.75 litres (3 x 30 can cartons) of light or mid-strength beer.

The package of additional services to support alcohol reform in Mapoon includes health treatment (drug and alcohol) and diversionary services. A men's program commenced in December 2008.

## Hospital Admissions for Assault

There were four hospitalisations for assault reported in the 12 months to 31 December 2008. The expected count is less than one per year (estimated by applying the 2006-07 Queensland rate to the population count of Mapoon in 2007).

**Figure 33: Quarterly number of hospital admissions for assault, March quarter 2000 to December quarter 2008, Mapoon (a)**



(a) These data are limited due to a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.  
Source: Queensland Health, unpublished data

## Persons Convicted (breaches of section 168B of the *Liquor Act 1992*)

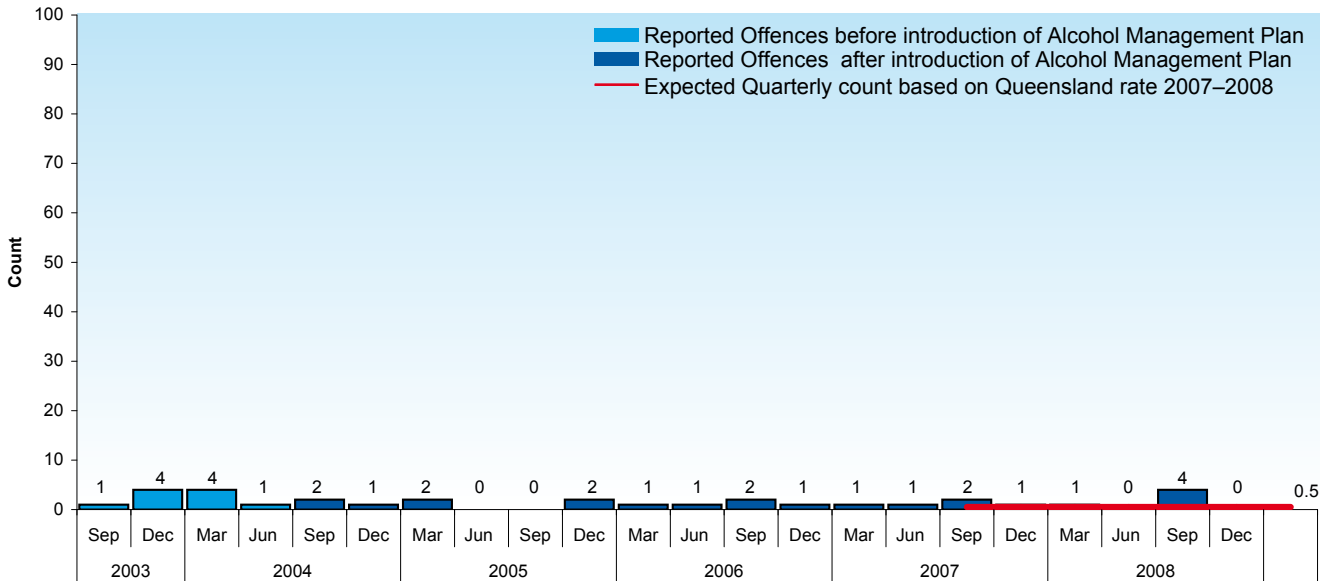
Since the introduction of the Alcohol Management Plan, there has been a total of 25 persons convicted of 26 breaches of alcohol carriage restrictions in Mapoon. In the December quarter 2008, no convictions for alcohol carriage offences were recorded (individuals convicted are not necessarily residents of the community).

## Reported Offences Against the Person

With the exception of the September quarter 2008 where there were four reported offences against the person, quarterly counts in Mapoon

have been low throughout the reporting period. In 2008 there were five reported offences against the person in Mapoon. There were no reported offences in the December quarter 2008.

**Figure 34: Quarterly number of reported offences against the person, September quarter 2003 to December quarter 2008, Mapoon**



(a) These data are limited due to a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.  
 (b) Please note - Prior to September quarter 2003, Mapoon was reported as part of Weipa division.  
 Source: Queensland Police Service, unpublished data

## Child Safety

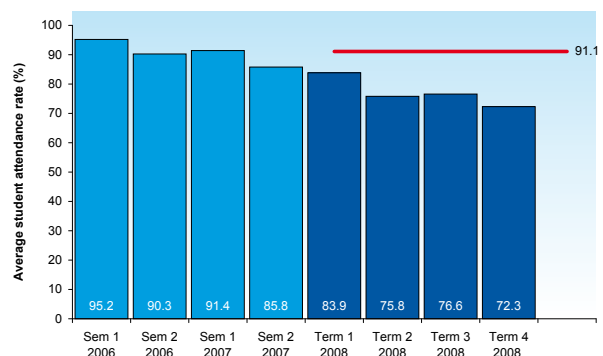
In the December quarter 2008, no Mapoon children were subject to a substantiated notification of harm or admitted to finalised child protection orders.

## School Attendance

In term four 2008, the average student attendance rate at Western Cape College - Mapoon was 72.3 per cent, continuing the trend of declining attendance throughout the year from the high point achieved in term one 2008 (83.9 per cent).

\*Fourth term data have been calculated using 34 of a possible 39 school days due to incomplete attendance data at the time of collection

**Figure 35: Average student attendance rate, preparatory to year 6, semester 1 2006 to term 4 2008, Western Cape College (Mapoon Campus) (a)**



(a) These data are limited and must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report. Source: Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts, unpublished data