

Question on Notice
No. 1015
Asked on Tuesday 7 August 2007

MR GIBSON asked the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport (MR FRASER) –

QUESTION:

With reference to recommendation number 23(b) of the Report of the Local Government Commission – volume 1 page 31 regarding the normalisation of Weipa Town—

- (1) What equity, debt and/or income (reported separately) will be transferred as a result of the normalisation of Weipa town and which Shire is the State Government considering moving the town to?
- (2) What are total budgeted administrative costs for this normalisation and what program will fund the costs associated with the transfer?

ANSWER:

No change has or will occur to Weipa through the present process.

Recommendation 23(b) of the Local Government Reform Commission report provides that the State Government progress negotiations with Rio Tinto regarding the 'normalisation' of Weipa Town.

Weipa currently operates as a 'mining town' under the management of Rio Tinto and in accordance with Queensland's *Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement Act 1957* (that is, it is not currently included in the area of a local government).

As per the Commission's recommendation, the State Government will enter into negotiations with Rio Tinto and other relevant stakeholders in an endeavour to negotiate a strategy to achieve the 'normalisation' of Weipa. Under the *Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement Act 1957*, the 'normalisation' of Weipa refers to the establishment of a Town Commission to exercise the powers of local government over the town.

The financial implications together with other issues for the State and the Weipa community, including determination of an appropriate local government area, will be considered as part of those negotiations.