

Community Profiles

The key socio-economic data in this section are presented across the following areas by community:

- demographic data and trends;
- education, employment and training;
- health;
- housing and tenure;
- social investment; and
- community involvement.

The communities for which this information is presented are Newman, Marble Bar and Gooda Binya, Nullagine and Irrungadji, Punmu, Jigalong, Parnngurr, Kunawarritji and Warralong.

1 Newman

The town of Newman is one of the most isolated settlements in Australia, located 1,186 km north of Perth and approximately 380 km driving distance from the Project mine site. The Project is accessible from Newman via sealed and unsealed roads to Jigalong, and a secondary road through the Karlamilyi National Park.

Newman was established in 1968 by the Mt Newman Mining Company, after a large deposit of iron ore was discovered in 1957, which later became the BHP Billiton mine. With the increase in demand for iron ore, the town of Newman is embarking upon a further expansion phase. This is expected to increase the permanent population and swell FIFO workforce numbers in the town.

1.1 Population

Newman currently has a permanent population in excess of 7,000 people. The age characteristics of Newman are consistent with those of the wider Pilbara region, with approximately 70% of the population of workforce age and just 1% of the population being over 65 years (ABS, 2007d; 2007b).

1.2 Education, Employment and Training

A slightly higher percentage of Newman children were attending pre-school (5.7%) and primary school (28.5%) compared to the Pilbara and Shire averages of 4.4% and 25.3% respectively (2007a; 2007b; 2007d). BHP Billiton has been instrumental in addressing service provision needs in the childcare area through their Education Memorandum of Understanding with the State Government (Agreements, treaties and negotiated settlements project [ATNSP], 2006).

Unemployment in Newman is low (1.4%) and almost 50% of the workforce in Newman is employed in the mining sector. Of those employed, 43.6% earn \$1,000 or more per week compared to the Shire average of 36% (ABS, 2007d; 2007a). The median weekly income in Newman is \$1,095. This is moderately higher than the Shire and Pilbara averages which are just below \$900 (ABS, 2007d; 2007a; 2007b).

1.3 Housing

Home ownership is lower in Newman (5.5%) compared with the Shire of East Pilbara and Pilbara region averages (ABS, 2007d; 2007a; 2007b). This is likely due to a lack of housing stock available for purchase, and high house prices in the Pilbara generally. Like other mining towns, the population is transient with over a quarter of the population residing at another address one year prior to the last census count (ABS, 2007d).

The average advertised house purchase price in Newman during March 2012 was \$1,003,625. The average advertised weekly rental cost during March 2012 was \$1,668 (PDC, 2012).

With existing high rental and sale costs for housing in Newman, future major development within the Shire is likely to increase pressure on accommodation availability and housing affordability.

1.4 Community Infrastructure

The township has reasonable levels of community infrastructure relative to the Pilbara, including a shopping mall, a number of hotels and restaurants, residential and commercial areas, several schools, a swimming pool and football oval. In addition the town is serviced by a regional airport.

1.5 Remoteness and Community Involvement

Newman has a remoteness index rating of 'remote', as a result of restricted access to goods and services and opportunities for social interaction (DoHC, 2001).

A higher rate of volunteering occurs in Newman compared to the Shire and Pilbara region and the 'Matched Giving Program' initiated by BHP Billiton contributes to Newman's voluntary contribution (BHP Billiton, n.d.).

2 Marble Bar and Gooda Binya

Marble Bar is situated 218 km southeast of Port Hedland and approximately 350 km from the Project site, accessible via main and secondary roads. The town is named Marble Bar after a form of jasper which settlers originally mistook as marble. The town is well known for its very hot and arid climate, with average maximum summer temperatures exceeding 45°C. Gooda Binya is the Indigenous community situated 2.6 km west of Marble Bar (Department of Planning [DoP], 2009). Gooda Binya is also known as Goodabinya, and Murturkarra (Department of Indigenous Affairs [DIA], 2011a).

2.1 Population

Marble Bar has a large Indigenous population with over two-thirds of the 193 residents identifying as Indigenous (ABS, 2007e). In 2008, the population of Gooda Binya was 49 (DIA, 2011a). Compared with other populations in the Shire and Pilbara, Marble Bar has a high proportion of residents in the over 65 year age group (8.8%) (ABS, 2007a; 2007b; 2007e). However, this percentage is less than the WA average (12.1%) (ABS, 2007c).

2.2 Education, Employment and Training

In contrast to the WA average (42.5%) (ABS, 2007c), the number of people in Marble Bar who have completed Year 12 is approximately 20%, marginally lower than the Shire and Pilbara averages (ABS, 2007a; 2007b; 2007e).

The unemployment rate in Marble Bar is 12.3% (ABS, 2007e). This is significantly higher than the Pilbara rate of 3.2% (ABS, 2007b).

Just over 50% of the population earn up to \$999 per week (ABS, 2007e). The median weekly income is \$542 which is less than the Shire and Pilbara, but higher than the State average of \$500 (ABS, 2007a; 2007b; 2007c).

The majority of Marble Bar residents are employed in the construction and education and training industries (ABS, 2007e).

2.3 Housing

In 2008 there were 15 houses in Gooda Binya, one of which was vacant (DIA, 2011a). Home ownership is higher in Marble Bar (28.6%) than the Shire and the Pilbara (ABS, 2007a; 2007b; 2007c). Approximately 57% of the population are renting. This is reflective of the transient nature of the population, with just 46% of people residing at the same address one year prior to the 2006 census (ABS, 2007e).

2.4 Community Infrastructure

Marble Bar is a typical remote Pilbara town with basic community infrastructure, which includes a licensed restaurant and cafes, swimming pool, clinic and playground. The town also has a popular truck stop.

There are unsealed tracks throughout Gooda Binya and the community can be accessed via two unsealed roads (DoP, 2009).

2.5 Remoteness and Community Involvement

Marble Bar and Gooda Binya have a remoteness index of 'very remote' due to limited accessibility to goods and services and opportunities for social interaction (DoHC, 2001).

Like other small Pilbara towns with a mining presence, Marble Bar has a reasonably high level of volunteering (21.8%), which is above the Shire, Pilbara and WA averages (ABS, 2007a; 2007b; 2007c).

3 Nullagine and Irrungadji

The town of Nullagine is located 200 km north of Newman and 110 km south of Marble Bar. It is 1,364 km northeast of Perth on the edge of the Nullagine River. Nullagine is approximately 440 km from the Project site and is accessible via main road (gravel) to Marble Bar. The Indigenous community of Irrungadji is situated northwest of Nullagine (DoP, 2001). Irrungadji has also been known as Nullagine

Town Reserve, Nullagine and Yirrankadji (DIA, 2011b). The town was originally established due to gold mining in the late 1800s.

3.1 Population

Prior to World War II the population of Nullagine was around 1,500. With the decline of gold mining in the region, the total population of Nullagine is now 218. Approximately 50% of the population identified as Indigenous (ABS, 2007f). According to census data for 'place of enumeration' the population in Nullagine is 342 (ABS, 2007f). In 2008 the population of Irrungadji totalled 150 people (DIA, 2011b).

3.2 Education, Employment and Training

Of the permanent population in Nullagine, just over 20% completed Year 12; while 7% have completed a postgraduate degree and 22.8% a bachelor's degree (ABS, 2007f). Considering the existing low levels of education in the Nullagine community, it is likely local employment initiatives developed for the Kintyre Project will incorporate work readiness and life skills training into the recruitment process.

Nullagine has a high unemployment rate of 28.2%. Of those employed, mining is the main industry of employment, with machinery operators and drivers being the most common occupation (ABS, 2007f).

Like the Shire and Pilbara, a high proportion of people earn \$1,000 or more per week (34.7%), with a disproportionate number of people earning less than \$399 per week (ABS, 2007a; 2007b; 2007f). The median weekly individual income is also low at \$325 (ABS, 2007f).

3.3 Housing

The median household size in Nullagine is 3.4 persons (ABS, 2007f). Of the 43 dwellings in Nullagine, the majority are being rented (53.5%). In 2008, Irrungadji had 17 houses all of which are occupied (DIA, 2011b). Community Infrastructure

Nullagine is fairly typical of many remote Pilbara towns. It has an airstrip, basic sporting facilities, a playground and tennis court. A community hall and library are also available for public use.

3.4 Remoteness and Community Involvement

Nullagine and Irrungadji are considered 'very remote' according to the remoteness index, and locationally disadvantaged with little opportunity for social interaction (DoHC, 2001).

Nullagine has low levels of volunteering (9.4%) compared with the Shire (20.5%) and Pilbara averages (21.6%) (ABS, 2007a; 2007b; 2007f).

4 Punmu

Punmu, also known as Lake Dora (DIA, 2011c), is a remote Indigenous community situated approximately 380 km from Jigalong (which is the nearest populated location), and is 1,210 km northeast of Perth. The Punmu community is located approximately 200 km from the Project site and

accessible via a secondary road. ABS data is limited for the community of Punmu, due to its small population size.

4.1 Population

In 2008, the population of Punmu was 130 (DIA, 2011c). Punmu's population has a low proportion of people aged over 65 years, which is indicative of Indigenous populations that have shorter life expectancy rates when compared to non-Indigenous populations.

4.2 Education, Employment and Training

Education levels are lower in Punmu than the Shire and Pilbara. 12 people had completed post-secondary education but all were non-indigenous and likely to be professionals from other parts of WA living in Punmu for employment.

Employment and income data are not available for Punmu.

4.3 Housing

In 2008, there were 25 houses, two of which were abandoned (DIA, 2011c). The dwelling types in Punmu are all separate houses. This indicates a household size of 5.6 people per household (DIA, 2011c). Weekly rent is up to \$49. The median household population size is reflective of extended family structures in Indigenous communities. Four houses in Punmu which are utilised by non-community / members / Staff (DIA, 2011c).

4.4 Community Infrastructure

Punmu has the level of community infrastructure typical of other Pilbara communities and towns of its size, including an arts and culture centre with an administration office, a store and café where hospitality courses are run, bush tucker garden, and recreational facilities such as an oval and basketball court.

4.5 Remoteness and Community Involvement

No ABS data are available to measure community participation within Punmu. However, the remoteness index classifies Punmu to be 'very remote', due to its location, its limited accessibility to goods and services and opportunities for social interaction (DoHC, 2001).

5 Jigalong

The Jigalong Community is located approximately 1,070 km north/northeast of Perth, and 520 km southeast of Port Hedland. Jigalong is located approximately 240 km from the Project site, accessible via a secondary access road. Jigalong has a pastoral lease and five outstations, namely Walgun, Billanooke, Puntawari, Ngalkanginya and Robertson Range. One hundred and thirty kilometres to the east is the well known 'Canning Stock Route', and alongside the community is the Rabbit Proof Fence which sits next to the 165 km long Jigalong Creek that is fed by Pickering & Watch Point Creeks (Taylor Burrell Barnett, 2011).

5.1 Population

The population in Jigalong totals 200 (DIA, 2011d), with approximately 93% being Indigenous. The population stood at 299 in 2001, 271 in 2006 and 200 in 2008 (DIA, 2011d).

The Jigalong community can be characterised as having a young population, with approximately one-third of people aged between 0 and 4 years. Household characteristics in Jigalong are in contrast with other areas in the region. For instance at the 2006 Census, Jigalong registered 28.3% of families as one-parent families (ABS, 2007g).

5.2 Education, Employment and Training

Approximately 58.5% of those attending an educational institution are enrolled at primary school in Jigalong (ABS, 2007g). This is in contrast with the Shire, Pilbara and WA averages (ABS, 2007a; 2007b; 2007c). Education achievement is generally low, with only 10% having completed Year 12 (ABS, 2007g).

Jigalong has an extremely high unemployment rate of 46.5% and low levels of income. The median individual income is \$224 a week, with 82.2% of the working population earning up to \$399 per week (ABS, 2007g).

5.3 Housing

In 2008, there were 56 houses in Jigalong and an additional 12 houses for non-community members / staff. The Indigenous community household density is approximately 3.5 (DIA, 2011d).

5.4 Community Infrastructure

Jigalong provides a relatively good selection of services and support to the community including the Illawarra Store & Takeaway, Jigalong Council Office, a workshop and fuel supply, Jigalong Community School, the Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service, Diabetes 'Dialysis' Treatment Facility, a cultural centre, visitors accommodation, a women's and childcare centre, Multi-Function Police Facility (MFPF), adult education Pundulmurra College TAFE campus an oval, basketball court, sealed internal roads, 1,200 m airstrip and a 25 m chlorinated pool (Taylor, Burrell, Barnett, 2011). The community also has a 650 kw capacity power station, water supply with 450 kL ground storage and 150k L on elevated header tanks and a deep sewer system.

5.5 Remoteness and Community Involvement

Jigalong is considered 'very remote' on the remoteness index (DIA, 2011d). Jigalong also has low levels of volunteering at only 2.3% (ABS, 2007g).

6 Parnngurr

Parnngurr, also known as Cotton Creek (DIA, 2011e) is a remote West Australian Indigenous Community which is situated on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert and located 370 km east of Newman and approximately 80 km from the Project site accessible via a secondary road.

No specific housing, education, economic or health data were available from ABS to afford the development of a socio-economic profile of the Parnngurr community.

6.1 Population

In 2008, Parnngurr was home to 111 people (DIA, 2011e). However, the population can vary from between 300 to 500 people during lore time and for sporting carnivals (Planning Commission of Western Australia, 2007).

6.2 Housing

In 2008, there were 18 occupied houses, 11 vacant houses and ten abandoned houses in Parnngurr. In addition there are five non-community members / staff houses (DIA, 2011e).

6.3 Community Infrastructure

The community infrastructure in Parnngurr appears to be consistent with other remote Indigenous communities in the Shire, with a basic level of infrastructure available to the community.

6.4 Remoteness and Community Involvement

Parnngurr is considered 'very remote' on the remoteness index (DIA, 2011e). No data were available on community involvement.

7 Kunawarritji

Kunawarritji is a community situated approximately 600 km east of Marble Bar and 165 km from Punmu. Kunawarritji is also known as Well 33 in reference to its location along the Canning Stock Route (Hames Sharley, 2004).

7.1 Population

Kunawarritji's population during 2008 was reported to total around 56 people (DIA, 2011f). New services are said to have encouraged population growth in Kunawarritji, with elderly persons from Punmu and Parnngurr moving to the community. The population can reach 700 to 1,000 people during times of cultural business. Population movement is common between Kunawarritji, Punmu, Warakurna, Jigalong and Parnngurr (Hames Sharley, 2004).

7.2 Education, Employment and Training

Funded by the State and Federal government, Kunawarritji's primary school Rawa Community School, is an outstation school of the Rawa School in Punmu. The school emphasises bilingual and bicultural education. There are no high schools or further education providers in Kunawarritji (Hames Sharley, 2004).

There are limited options for employment in Kunawarritji. A large number of residents are employed through the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP). CDEP's responsibilities in Kunawarritji include rubbish collection, shop duties, office duties, Indigenous education and providing assistance to the elderly (Hames Sharley, 2004).

The community operates a camping ground which is well utilised by tourists due to its proximity to the Canning Stock Route. The community charges tourists for accommodation provided and generates additional income through the sale of arts and craft (Hames Sharley, 2004).

Mining revegetation programmes have also created the demand for the collection of seeds. This has created employment opportunities where people with a good knowledge of native flora collect and sell the seeds (Hames Sharley, 2004).

7.3 Housing

During 2002, ATSIIC funding enabled the community to purchase two houses from the Telfer mine. Between 2002 and 2004 a single men's accommodation facility and two new houses were built in Kunawarritji. In 2008 there were 17 houses and a population of 56. This indicates at 2008 an average population density of 3.3 per house (DIA, 2011f). Accommodation for non-Indigenous staff in town is provided by employers (Hames Sharley, 2004).

7.4 Community Infrastructure

Kunawarritji may be accessed from air, Kiwirrkurra Road and the Canning Stock Route. There are no sealed roads in Kunawarritji..

Community facilities include a clinic staffed by one nurse, a shop which receives deliveries once a month, a primary school, a workshop, a sports oval, a community laundry, visitor's facilities and a recreation centre (Hames Sharley, 2004).

7.5 Remoteness and Community Involvement

Kunawarritji has a remoteness index of 'very remote' due to limited accessibility to goods and services and very limited opportunities to interact (DIA, 2011f).

8 Warralong

Warralong is a community situated approximately 110 km south-east of Port Hedland and 60 km north of Marble Bar (Taylor Burrell Barnett, 2006). Abandonment of Strelley Station in 1984 moved the Strelley/Nomad community to Woodstock and Warralong. Following a review of the Strelley/Nomads organisation in 1993, the Warralong Aboriginal Corporation (Warralong) was established. Warralong now receives funding independent of the Strelley/Nomads. Warralong may also be known as Karntimarta, Mirtunkarra, Mirtunkurra (DIA, 2011g).

8.1 Population

The population of Warralong in 2008 was 155 (DIA, 2011g). Children aged 6 to 17 years account for 42% of the population, whereas adults aged 18 to 55 years account for 32% of the population.

8.2 Education and Training

Warralong's school is an Aboriginal Independent Community School called Strelley Community School which emphasises bilingual and bicultural education. The school caters for 70 pre-school to

high school aged children. The school is staffed by three full-time non-Indigenous staff and five part-time Indigenous staff (Aboriginal Independent Community School, 2009).

8.3 Housing

Significant overcrowding requiring immediate action in Warralong was reported during 2006 (Taylor Burrell Barnett, 2006). In 2008, there were 16 occupied houses, one of which had been abandoned. In addition there were three occupied temporary houses and one occupied house where non-Community staff reside (Department of Indigenous Affairs, 2011g). With an average population density of 8.6 per house (Department of Indigenous Affairs, 2011g), overcrowding is potentially an issue. In 2006, the community expressed the urgent need for three additional houses (Taylor Burrell Barnett, 2006).

8.4 Community Infrastructure

The Indigenous community is managed by Pilbara Meta Maya, who provide essential services, housing management, in-home practical support and environmental health services (Pilbara Meta Maya, 2011).

The primary facilities in Warralong are the school and health clinic. The homestead is used as a community centre where women engage in arts and crafts. There is also an un-grassed sports oval. The Community must travel to Marble Bar or Port Hedland to access additional services (Taylor Burrell Barnett, 2006).

Roads within Warralong are unsealed. Marble Bar and Port Hedland may be accessed via unsealed roads and the Great Northern Highway (Taylor Burrell Barnett, 2006).

8.5 Remoteness and Community Involvement

Warralong has a remoteness index of 'very remote' due to limited accessibility to goods and services and opportunities to interact (DIA, 2011g).

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