



**Cossack Reinvigoration masterplan
Consultation series.**

**Attendees at the community meeting held at Roebourne Community Hall on Monday 13
March 2006**

Stuart	Otto	Phillip	Palmer
Lorraine	Thrift	Jo	Pritchard
Dennis	Lockhart	Danny	Brown
Jackie	Shaw	Clint	Mill
Aileen	Sandy	Corbet	Mill
Jill	Churnside	Kerry	Churnside
Sissy	Lockyear	Brenda	Simmonds
Barry	Pat	Wilfred	Hicks
Brian	Steels	Chris	Coomber
Stanley	Warrie	Trevor	Solomon
Pat	Longland	Mort	Wignall

Keith and Glenn from Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation filmed the meeting

Project team

Nerida	Moredoundt	Shontay	Cardew
Helen	Grzyb		

Mort Wignall, Director Corporate & Community Services, Shire of Roebourne, opened the meeting, then handed over to Nerida Moredoundt, Project Team Leader at Palassis Architects who facilitated the meeting. Nerida provided an overview of the Cossack Masterplan project, how people's views will be included in working out the best future for Cossack, and then invited the meeting to discuss their views.

The meeting worked as a single group and undertook a wide-ranging discussion about Cossack, how it is seem and what should happen in the future.

Cossack Masterplan

A joint project between the Department of Housing and Works, the Shire of Roebourne and the Heritage Council of WA

Community focus group series

Points from the discussion were:

- Leave Cossack as it is.
- What is the motivation to develop? Homogenise it with caravan parks and other tourist facilities.
- Cossack is a unique and beautiful place, with plants, animals, fishing. Leave it as it is.

- In the 50's and 60's the place was running down – don't want this to happen again - then voluntary groups and Pilbara Iron contributed to help stop the deterioration at Cossack.
- How can the heritage buildings be sustained?
- Don't want Cossack to be another Broome or Port Samson
- Cossack is great for the family hanging out on the pier – at what point does (redevelopment) start and where does it end – possibly family hanging out will stop?
- So unique – do not put another hotel there
- Fantastic place for fishing, boating.
- It is a great place to live – landowners just want to be able to live there for ever – even to die there.
- Not against people living there, but resorts, motels etc will take away what Cossack is about.
- Is there a limit on the number of blocks?
- What is 'development'?
- Currently the Shire of Roebourne spends around \$200,000 each year to keep Cossack.
- Current blocks are for sale – a high risk investment at this stage.
- Are there going to be any considerations for local people to be able to live out there – social housing?
- Roebourne caravan park operates at 60% capacity, so why do we need a new caravan park in Cossack, when there are options at Roebourne, Harding River Caravan Park. Limit what is sold to benefit all.
- Target a different tourist market for any future caravan park.
- Compare 200 tourists who stay 3 nights to 600 who only stay 1 night.
- Be an attraction to the area – with benefits to other current businesses.
- Since 1996, The Shire of Roebourne has been the custodians of Cossack
- Mixed social housing should be considered.
- There should be ongoing increased business activity.
- Tourists should be shown authentic indigenous art. Currently 200 people visit Cossack in the tourist season – how many more, at what cost?
- Where are all the new tourists going to stay?
- How many houses do you need out there to pay enough rates to cover the Shire's \$200,000 annual expenditure – at what cost.
- Link development at Cossack with the new Roebourne Cultural centre.
- Needs to be a living town, generate income and interest in the area.
- Future needs to not exclude people fishing there with their family.
- Where does development end?
- Cossack is unique compared to Karratha, Damper, Wickham.
- Don't have a hotel in Cossack.
- Have lots of recreational activities.
- Cossack isn't a ghost town – is a thriving community now.
- Motels, resorts, caravan parks will take away from what Cossack is.
- It's better for government to spend their money on restoration.
- Over emphasis on housing at Cossack - is not sustainable
- Locals like to do night time fishing from the wharf, and crabbing.

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- Current seating and the BBQ area at Cossack are disgusting- why do locals have to wait for tourists to arrive to get new seats?
- There is room for everyone, there won't be a mass of people going to Cossack all at once.
- Make linkages between Cossack and the beautiful buildings in Roebourne.
- What is the number of people who can visit Cossack without damaging the environment?
- There is a risk of over development. Realistically the land available for development is quite limited.
- Need to tell the aboriginal story - by aboriginal people.
- Animals at Cossack – dolphins in the bay, turtles in the tide, kangaroos. At mud creek, there are crabs, black bream, catfish, yellow tails.
- There is bush medicine plants and trees at Cossack.
- Sandflies are worse at Cossack when the rain comes.
- People living in Roebourne and Cheeditha can't get services completed in the town eg housing – haves/have nots.
- Social justice – equality of access
- Imbalance between what's happening in Roebourne (ie lack of maintenance, buildings) as compared to the wealth potential at Cossack.
- Roebourne is a living town that needs health facility and other improvements.