

Yarrabah Community Safety Plan Review

Update 2026



In 2025, Yarrabah Shire Council worked with culturev8 (a local engagement organisation) to ask residents and local services about their views on community safety.

We listened to what people are concerned about and the changes they want to see.

Thank you to everyone who took part. We deeply respect your voices and are honoured that you shared your thoughts and stories. Your feedback has shaped the findings and recommendations in this review.

This update provides a summary of our findings across **7 Action Areas** and details for what happens next.

Crime and Policing

1

- Noise, late-night parties and antisocial behaviour affect everyday safety, especially at night
- Incidents linked to youth boredom, overcrowding and limited local jobs
- Need for a stronger response to ongoing issues (noisy houses and domestic and family violence)

Alcohol and Other Drugs

2

- Many feel the Alcohol Management Plan (AMP) is not improving safety or reducing crime
- Concern police time is pulled from noisy houses and domestic and family violence
- Support for stronger action and considering AMP changes, including a tavern option

Young People, Families and Vulnerable People

3

- Overcrowding and late-night parties disrupt sleep and school routines
- After school and evening boredom can lead to risky behaviour
- Need practical, no shame support and clearer school to work pathways

Employment and the Economy

4

- Real local jobs and pathways into Cairns and Gordonvale are needed
- Barriers include transport, blue cards, basic tickets and vacancy advertising
- Support for local enterprise and small businesses

Roads and Infrastructure

5

- Safe roads, lighting and walkable paths support everyday safety
- Reliable transport is essential for work and appointments
- Overcrowding linked to conflict, health impacts and lower school attendance

Environment

6

- Streets and parks influence safety and pride
- Roaming dogs stop children and Elders from walking and exercising
- Litter and broken infrastructure signal neglect

Service Coordination

7

- Yarrabah has strong community leadership and local services that are committed to doing the work
- Clear call for community members, services and stakeholders to work together, and share responsibility
- Opportunity to strengthen coordination so partners stay connected, build on what is already working, and deliver consistent outcomes

Working Together

Over the coming weeks, Council will work in collaboration with the Jabu Mugay Yarrabah Leaders Consortium (JMYLC), community organisations and key stakeholders, to begin putting the recommendations into action. We invite the community to walk with us towards a safer, healthier and more prosperous future.



From left to right: Dr Chris McLaughlin, Culturev8; Michael Miller, CEO, YASC; Ailsa Lively, CEO, Gindaja (representing JMYLC); Cr Daryl Sexton, Mayor, YASC; Cr Hezron Murgaha, YASC; Dominique Charpentier, Grants and Governance Officer, YASC; Cr Michael Sands, YASC; Ross Andrews, JMYLC Executive Project Officer.