

# Cape York News

Your Voice on the Cape

Wednesday 13 September 2017

Edition 30 - \$2 inc. GST

EDITORIAL | M: 0477 450 558 | E: editor@capeyork.news | ADVERTISING | P: 1300 088 000 | M: 0419 828 639 | E: admin@capeyork.news

The first sod was turned on Tuesday for a project that is poised to be the biggest non-mining development in Weipa since the Nanum shopping complex was built in the 1980s. Construction on the new Western Cape Communities Trust administration building will start next week and is due to be finished in May next year. The site was visited on Tuesday by Elders and Traditional Owners from the region, who gathered with dignitaries from the WTA, Rio Tinto and Napranum for the sod turning ceremony.



**WEIPA'S  
BIRTHING  
UNIT CALL  
PAGE 5**



**SINGER  
OFF TO  
THE USA  
PAGE 6**

## PDR labelled unsafe by truck drivers Highway to hell

By MATT NICHOLLS

POLICE are urging Cape residents driving on the Peninsula Developmental Road to take extra care, especially during the school holidays.

The PDR is badly damaged in some sections, particularly between Archer River and the Aurukun turn-off, which has been used by dozens of trucks on a daily basis as part of Rio Tinto's Amrun project.

One truck driver rang the *Cape York News* to voice his concern.

"You've got to do a story on how bad the road is at the moment," he said on Sunday.

"Some sections are unsafe to be driving on at any speed."

The truck driver was a contractor for the Amrun project and asked not to have his identity revealed.

The responsibility to fix and maintain the road is with the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

The *Cape York News* emailed the department's media team on Monday morning, but the Brisbane-based office

did not respond in time for deadline.

The main question put to the department was: Is TMR going to do any work on the PDR before the school holidays?

While some residents have pointed the finger at Rio Tinto, blaming the mining company for the bad state of the road, the *Cape York News* understands that a deal was made between Rio Tinto and the state government before the truck movements began this year.

As part of the deal, the Department

of Transport and Main Roads is to fix and maintain the PDR and Rio Tinto is to pay the bill.

Rio Tinto said it did not want to comment on the PDR issue.

Sources said the mining company was furious with the department over its handling of the road and had made multiple attempts to get the government to do maintenance on the PDR.

Earlier this month, a motorcyclist hit a dust hole near Coen and was hospitalised with serious head injuries.

*Continued - Page 2*



**SCHOOL  
SPORTS  
PAGE 29**

when **experience** matters...

**Safe - Professional - Reliable - Competent - Efficient**

Personnel Transfers • Sling Load • Aerial Survey • Film and Photography  
Mining and Exploration • Remote Operations • Culling • Incendiary and more



weipa & cape york **bookings** (07) 4081 8820 [www.gbr.com.au](http://www.gbr.com.au)

 **gbr** helicopters  
commercial services

