

## About Doomadgee Council

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The original Mission, known as 'Old Doomadgee' was established in 1931 close to the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Following a cyclone the mission was moved to its current site on the Nicholson River in 1936.

In 1983 the Queensland Government assumed responsibility for the administration and management of the then Doomadgee Mission.

In 1984 the Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984 was enacted which established the Doomadgee Aboriginal Community Council which operated for 26 years.

In July 2010 under the Local Government Act 2009 the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council was established.

The Council is represented by a Mayor and 4 Councillors who are elected every 4 years.

## Doomadgee Today

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Our Population is 1405(667 Males 50.5%, 622 Females 49.5%) based on the 2016 Census. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 91.9% of the population.

Some key statistical indicators of our community are:

- *We have a very young community. The median age in Doomadgee is 21 years*
- *Children aged between 0-14 made up 38.5% of the population and people aged 65 and older made up only 2.5% of the population.*
- *34.5% of people were attending an education institution. Of these 57.2% were in Primary, 25.3% in Secondary*

(quickstats.census.abs—Doomadgee 2016)

## Our Commitment To Visitors

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***Ways we can help you when you come onto our Community:***

- *Introduce you to our Engagement Officer;*
- *Meet with you at the Council Office;*
- *Provide the most up-to-date information possible;*
- *Willingness to answer your questions to the best of our knowledge;*
- *Provide links to other Community support services;*
- *Ensure you are advised of any 'Cultural Situation' that may impact on you, your team or your work during your visit to Community;*
- *Information about Community Events and whether it is appropriate for you to attend;*
- *Provide a welcoming and inclusive attitude.*

## Your Commitment To Community

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- ***Utilize the services of our Engagement Officer for local knowledge and advice;***
- ***Follow local Cultural Protocols;***
- ***Be mindful of your spoken and body language;***
- ***Make connections as you get to know people;***
- ***Interact with openness and respect;***
- ***Become part of our Community.***



**Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council**

**275 Sharpe Street  
DOOMADGEE QLD 4830**

**Ph: 07 4745 8351**

**Fax: 07 4745 8390**



## Cultural Awareness

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### Our Shire

Our people have inhabited these lands for thousands of years. Many of our residents are Traditional Owners of the lands in this region. The traditional homelands of The Gangalidda and the Waanyi people lie in and around the Doomadgee Shire. There are also Garrawa and Yunjulla people, as well as a range of people from Indigenous nations across Australia who have made Doomadgee their home.



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## Our Region & Our People

### OUR LOCAL TRIBES

We have five (5) main tribes that make up our local Community. These include:

- Waanyi
- Gangalidda
- Garrawa
- Yunjulla
- Mingginda

### OUR COUNTRY

Our Country reaches North to the sea and the coastline of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Our lands go West to the Northern Territory border (130km) and East to past Burketown (100km).

Our Southern border reaches past Rivers Leigh.  
(Approximately 186,300 ha)

By road to Mt Isa is 630km and to Cairns 1035km.



## Our Language & Communication

### SPOKEN LANGUAGE

Most of our people speak English while some of our Elders speak only their own tribal language.

Some people speak 'Aboriginal English' which is a combination of English and Tribal Language mixed together.

Communication with Elders and other people of standing in the Community must be respectful and courteous at all times.

### BODY LANGUAGE

Body Language is a vital part of communication with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Body Language is 'read' or interpreted long before your mouth opens to speak!

While on Community you need to be very aware of your personal body language while making sure to be aware of the body language of others you are interacting with.

### TRADITIONAL NAMES

The use of 'Bush Names', 'Skin Names', 'Tribal Names' and 'Dreamen' is very common amongst Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island people. These names may refer to adults, young people and students.

Often people in the Community will be known by a different name to that recorded on forms and documents.

The use of the titles 'Aunty' and 'Uncle' when addressing a recognized Elder is a sign of respect of their age, their knowledge and their standing within the community.

### VISITING HOMES

If you need to do Home Visits as part of your community visits, please access the Council's Engagement Officer, for permissions or support until you have established a relationship with the individual, family or parents you need to visit and interact with.

## Cultural Protocols

Cultural Protocols are extremely important to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People.

You must follow these protocols at all times while on Community.

### Sorry Business

The Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council has very clear rules when 'Sorry Business' happening in Community. These include:

- You can not disturb families who are going through 'Sorry Business'
- If it is the day when someone passes away or the day of a funeral all services close early with the exception of the Hospital, Police, Aged Care and DASC (Employee Optional)
- You are not permitted to leave your accommodation during the time of a funeral
- If you have connections with the family and would like to pay your respects or attend a funeral, PLEASE talk to the Council Engagement Officer who will advise and assist you
- If you are with other Services Groups on Community their Services Management Team should advise you on these matters

### CONTACT:

**DAVID ESCOTT**

Community Liaison Officer

Mobile: 0439 089 344

Phone: 07 4745 8351

E: david.escott@doomadgee.qld.gov.au