

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2021, a year in which we will see significant change, developments and opportunities throughout the Pilbara Region.

RDA Pilbara would like to welcome to Nerida Kickett, who was appointed as Chair in early January 2021. I look forward to working with Nerida over the coming years to enhance economic opportunities across our Region.

The RDA Pilbara team and I have been busy working with and travelling to the wider community across the Pilbara Region including Port Hedland, Onslow, Tom Price and Newman. I am looking forward to working with local governments and community groups in 2021.

The Building Better Region Funds (Round 5) applications closed on Friday 12th March after being extended by 1 week and we have had a great selection of applications from through. I wish the best of luck to everyone who submitted an application.

Congratulations to The Shire of Ashburton on the success of the Opening Ceremony for the Pilbara Regional Waste Management Facility in Onslow. Thank you to Nola Marino and all other attendees for attending this ceremony.



Tony Simpson, RDA Pilbara CEO; Deanne Renting, Chevron Production Manager; Honorary Bill Johnston, Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Energy and Industrial Relations; Honorary Nola Marino, Assistant Minister for Regional Development; Kerry White, Shire of Ashburton President; Kenn Donohoe, Shire of Ashburton CEO

RDA Pilbara attended the Regions Rising National Summit in Canberra last week. The conference focused on re-building regions after COVID-19 and it was great to catch-up with other RDA's around Australia.



Peter Long, Mayor for City of Karratha; Nerida Kickett, RDA Pilbara Chair; Honorary Alex Hawke, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs; Tony Simpson, RDA Pilbara CEO; Ryan Hall, City of Karratha Director of Development Services

There are many exciting Grant opportunities available across the Pilbara Region and I encourage local business' to apply should it be of benefit to you. Further details are below:

What: Securing Raw Materials Program

Closes: Wednesday, 24th March 2021

For more information: www.business.gov.au/srmp

The Securing Raw Materials Program (SRMP) provides funding of up to **\$5m** for businesses relocating to regional areas, partnering with a regional research institution and undertaking research into, and development of, innovative and locally sourced raw material supplies (including establishing new suppliers or products and value-adding to existing known supplies). The eligibility for the Securing Raw Materials Program is quite broad with details in Section 4 of the Guidelines. Although Section 5.1 of the Guidelines states "Projects in the minerals extraction and traditional energy production sectors are not eligible for grant funding", this Section also speaks to how research can support eligible activities.

What: Cooperative Research Centres Projects (CRC-P) Grants

Closes: Thursday, 25 March 2021

For more information: www.business.gov.au/crc-p

The Cooperative Research Centres Project (CRC-P) grants program provides funding for short-term research collaborations to develop a new technology, product or service. The funding is aimed at short-term (up to 3 year) industry-led research collaborations with at least two Australian industry organisations and one Australian research organisation that focus on the National

Manufacturing Priorities. Regional CRC-Ps must be based in regional Australia, with at least one Australian industry partner relocating from a capital city for the duration of the project.

What: Business Events Grant Opportunity

Closes: Tuesday 30th March 2021

For more information: <https://www.business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/business-events-grants>

Grants from **\$10,000 to \$250,000** are available to Australian businesses, to ease the financial pressures faced by business event organisers. This funding will cover:

- the cancellation costs of planned events due to COVID-19 outbreaks
- provide incentives for Australian Businesses to participate as buyers/sellers at pre-approved events from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 and
- promote Australian business capabilities to a domestic audience.

For example, In the case of Australian designers, grants may include production costs for runway shows, digital content and trade showrooms, travel and accommodation expenses for media and buyers, and activation and promotional collateral for participating sponsors.

What: Incubator Support Initiative – Expert in Residence

Closes: Applications can be submitted at any time

For more information: <https://www.business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/incubator-support-expert-in-residence>

Grants from **\$5,000 to \$10,000** of matched project funding is available for Australian incubators to gain expertise and provide services to help start-ups in international markets. The grant provides incubators with the opportunity to nominate experts that have the skills and experience to increase the capacity of the incubator while working directly with the program's start-up to improve their chances of international commercial success.

What: Commercialisation Fund

Closes: Thursday, 30th June 2022

For more information: <https://www.amgc.org.au/projects/>

The Fund will foster projects that bring industry and researchers together to commercialise new manufacturing products and processes.

To be eligible, you must:

- Have an Australian Company Number (ACN)
- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Be non-tax-exempt
- Be registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- and be an entity incorporated in Australia, including start-ups and a trading corporation, where your trading activities form a sufficiently significant proportion of the corporation's overall activities as to merit it

being described as a trading corporation or are a substantial and not merely peripheral activity of the corporation.

Grants between **\$100,000 and \$1 million** are available, which must be matched by industry.

The Commercialisation Fund will run over an 18-month period. The first round of funding, which is open, will provide \$20 million while a subsequent round will deliver the remaining \$10 million.

Please get in contact with the team on (08) 9144 0651, ceo@rdapilbara.org.au or officemanager@rdapilbara.org.au if you would like the opportunity to meet with RDA Pilbara.
