

Quarterly Report for RDA Pilbara 1st January to 31st March 2018

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Pilbara is committed to achieving regional growth, economic diversification, job creation and development across the Pilbara. The following demonstrates the work achieved by the RDA Pilbara committee and employees during the period of 1st January to 31st March 2018:

- **Regional Development Australia Pilbara Chair Appointment**

On the 2 March 2018, Federal Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government, the Honourable Dr John McVeigh MP announced the Chair role for Regional Development Australia Pilbara. Ms Fiona White-Hartig was successfully reappointed to this role for the Pilbara region until December 2020.

RDA Pilbara under the leadership of Fiona will continue to support and advocate for economic development and diversification across the region in line with the new focus for the organisation as articulated by the Federal Government in 2018.



- **Regional Growth Fund**

In early March 2018, the Honourable Dr John McVeigh MP, Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government, announced the opening for initial applications to the \$272.2 million Regional Growth Fund. RDA Pilbara disseminated this information to all key stakeholders through advertising on the website, electronic news and the local media newspapers.

The Regional Growth Fund will provide grants of \$10 million or more for major transformational projects which support long-term economic growth and create jobs in regions undergoing structural adjustment. RDA Pilbara will provide letters of support to project proponents.

- **Submission: WA Camp School Closures**

RDA Pilbara has submitted a letter of concern regarding the proposed closures of WA Camp Schools to the Minister for Education, Hon Sue Ellery MLC. This letter outlined the positive qualities and activities that the Pilbara Camp School offers to school groups, sporting groups, government and community organisations.

- **Project Collaboration - Lithium**

RDA Pilbara in partnership with RDA Perth and Curtin University will investigate the establishment of a lithium processing plant in Western Australia. The project aim is to facilitate between industry and the various tiers of government to define and implement the establishment of a specialised industrial precinct in Kwinana for the downstream processing of resources into advanced materials and other value-added products for commercial use across integrated storage technologies.

- **West Pilbara Communities for Children Initiative**

The West Pilbara Communities for Children Initiative funded by Department of Social Services and facilitated through RDA Pilbara currently funds seven Community Partners to deliver programmes and children’s activities across the West Pilbara. Current discussions are underway to negotiate future programmes being offered for 2018/2019 financial year.

Through this funding, RDA Pilbara was also able to support the delivery of Drumbeat training to 19 attendees from all Community Partner organisations. These trained attendees will now be able to deliver this evidence-based social and emotional learning programme to the community.



- **WA Regional Development Australia Executive Officers Meeting**

In February 2018, eight WA RDAs met to discuss current projects and collaborations. This meeting was held in Perth and invited guest speakers Roban Clarke from AusIndustry and Nigel Grazia, A/Deputy Director, Industry and Economic Development, representing the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Nigel provided an opportunity for the WA RDA network to understand the current projects that the State Government are prioritising and to learn where better collaboration can be met between the State and Federal Regional Development bodies.

- **Northern Regional Development Australia Alliance**

The Northern Regional Development Australia (RDA) Alliance is comprised of eight RDA Committees whose regions make up Northern Australian. This network, representing three jurisdictions from the Gascoyne in WA across the Northern Territory to Gladstone in Central Queensland, has been meeting regularly and providing input to the Australian Government on issues pertaining to Developing Northern Australia. This has included the development and delivery of the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia and the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund.

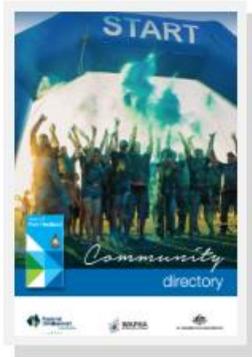
- **Northern Australia Insurance Inquiry - ACCC**

RDA Pilbara has been able to contribute significantly to the community consultation on Northern Australia Insurance Inquiry and the report developed by RDA Pilbara on the Cost of Insurance is the source document for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

- **Resource Industry Information Exchange**

RDA Pilbara continues to meet regularly with key leaders from Rio Tinto, Chevron, Woodside, Roy Hill, FMG and BHP to provide support and information being exchanged.

- **Community Breakfast with Peter Kenyon and Launch of Town of Port Hedland Community Directory**



This successful partnership event, held in late March, between RDA Pilbara and the Town of Port Hedland saw over 45 attendees enjoy the presentation from guest speaker Peter Kenyon, Bank of I.D.E.A.S. Peter's presentation was about Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) and the principles of appreciating and mobilising individual and community talents, skills and assets and it being community driven rather than development driven by external agencies.

The breakfast event also saw the launch of the Town of Port Hedland Community Directory which provides contact details for community groups, government departments, disability services, Aboriginal organisations, sports clubs, schools and facilities that support the local community.

- **Northern Australia Investment Portfolio**

RDA Pilbara continues to promote the North Western Australia Investment Portfolio produced in 2016 and is working collaboratively with the Northern RDA Alliance to produce this Portfolio for Northern Australia.

- **Northern Australia Building Energy Efficiency Project**

RDA Pilbara is working collaboratively with the Northern RDA Alliance on the Northern Australia Building Energy Efficiency Project (NABEEP) which will enable the quantitative modelling of trajectories for the climate zones of Northern Australia. This project will benefit policy makers by providing a robust evidence base to support the establishment of best practice building regulations relevant to the unique climate of the northernmost parts of Australia.

RDA Pilbara works closely with a wide range of organisations across the Pilbara and will continue working in collaboration with all stakeholders and strategic partners when undertaking research and developing strategies that support a sustainable economic future for Pilbara communities.

For more information relating to any of the above mentioned projects please contact Diane Pentz, Chief Executive Officer via email: ceo@rdapilbara.org.au or visit the RDA Pilbara website for regular news updates: www.rdapilbara.org.au.