

Quarterly Report for RDA Pilbara 1st July to 30th September 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 July to 30th September 2018.

- **RDA National Forum**

On the 16th and 17th August 2018, RDA delegates were welcomed to Canberra for the 2018 RDA National Forum. The theme of the Forum was 'Collaborating and networking to grow regional economies' and included sessions on the future trends of regions and how to leverage off this to grow regional economies.

Fiona White-Hartig, Chair of RDA Pilbara presented on the importance of working collaboratively and the way this is successfully being achieved with the Northern RDA Alliance.



There were around 170 attendees across the two days from 52 RDAs and staff from the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

The formal dinner was hosted by Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government John McVeigh. The Minister said the event was a great opportunity for RDA committees to connect and share ideas of how to bring innovation and economic investment to regional Australia.

- **Northern RDA Alliance**

RDA Pilbara, whilst in Canberra for the RDA National Forum, attended a meeting held by the Northern RDA Alliance. This Alliance comprises of eight RDA committees located in northern Australia and meets to explore common interests and issues and to prioritise the most significant policy and investment opportunities for the development of Northern Australia. This meeting provided an introductory opportunity for the new and existing Chairs and Directors of Regional Development/Executive Officers of these eight RDAs.

- **Building Better Regions Fund – Round Three**

RDA Pilbara advertised via an E-News Alert, Facebook and Website update the announced on the 27th September 2018 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP the opening of Round Three of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF).

A key component under Round Three is that up to \$45 million has been earmarked for tourism related infrastructure projects that will help stimulate local economies by investing in the tourism sector. This sector is vital for regional and remote communities, creating jobs, stimulating new business and sustaining long term economic growth.

There are two streams of funding available under the program:

- Infrastructure Projects Stream is for projects which involve the construction of new, or the upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure.

· Community Investments Stream is for projects involving community activities including, new or expanded local events, strategic regional plans, or leadership and capability strengthening activities.

West Pilbara Communities for Children Initiative

Department of Social Services (DSS) recently visited Karratha to experience the current programmes being delivered through the West Pilbara Communities for Children (WPC4C) Initiative. Over four full days Peter Ryan, Margaret Kerr and Hazel Freeborough attended the WPC4C Committee meeting, Community Partner meeting and programmes throughout Karratha, Dampier and Roebourne such as Drumbeat, Safe Space, Parent-Child Mother Goose, Footy Fundamentals, Exploring Together, Friends for Life and Fun Friends.



Extensive conversation was had regarding the successful outcomes of these programmes and DSS commended RDA Pilbara for the ongoing good relationships between the Community Partners and RDA Pilbara as the Facilitating Partner.

Future visits will be scheduled to include Tom Price and Onslow.

For more information on these programmes please contact RDA Pilbara on (08) 9144 0651 or officemanager@rdapilbara.org.au.

- **RDA Pilbara Ministerial Meetings**

Diane Pentz, CEO of RDA Pilbara attended the Western Australian Government hosted Community Cabinet reception in Port Hedland in August. This reception was well received and saw Honourable Mark McGowan, MLA, Premier of Western Australia and all State Cabinet Ministers in attendance.



- **Mobile Phone Black Spots Nominations**

RDA Pilbara advertised on the 17th September via E-News, Facebook and Website updates the Federal Governments call for mobile black spot nominations from local, territory and state governments as well as Federal Members of Parliament to identify locations for the next round of the \$220 million Mobile Black Spot Program.

- **Cost of Doing Business in the Pilbara 2018**

The draft Cost of Doing Business in the Pilbara 2018 review is underway, and a final document will be available by the end of October 2018.

- **Forums and Meetings**

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

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.