



**THE
KIMBERLEY
REGIONAL GROUP**

Meeting Minutes

19 April 2024

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1. Meeting Open: 2:50pm

Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the different lands on which people meet today, and paid respect to all the Elders past, present and emerging.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Members		
Cr David Menzel (Chair)	President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Peter McCumstie	President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Cr Trish McKay	Deputy Shire President, Shire of Halls Creek	Zoom
Observers		
James Watt	Director Corporate Services, Shire of Broome	Zoom
Cr Geoff Haerewa	Deputy President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Amanda Dexter	CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Musa Mono	Acting CEO, Shire of Halls Creek	Zoom
Vernon Lawrence	CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Zoom
Executive Support Team		
Paul Rosair	Principal, NAJA Business Consulting Services	Zoom
Michelle Mackenzie	Principal, Mira Consulting	Zoom
Jane Lewis	Principal, Redit Research	Zoom
Rebecca Billing	Administrative Assistant, NAJA Business Consulting Services	Zoom
Presentations		
BBY	CEO, Christy Hawker	Zoom
Co-operative Research Centre for Northern Australia (CRCNA)	Chief Scientist CRCNA and Professor of Tropical Regional Development, The Cairns Institute and James Cook University, Dr Allan Dale	Zoom
Hon. Louise Kingston	Member for the South West Region. Shadow Minister for Regional Cities; Climate Action; Tourism	Zoom
Apologies		
Sam Mastrolembo	CEO, Shire of Broome	
Cr Chris Mitchell	President, Shire of Broome	

Cr Desiree Male	Deputy Shire President, Shire of Broome	
Cr Malcolm Edwards	President, Shire of Halls Creek	
Cr Tony Chafer	Deputy Shire President, SWEK	
West Kimberley Empowered Communities	COO, Mala Haji-Ali	

3. Disclosures, Conflicts and Declarations of Interest:

Financial Interest / Impartiality

Member	Item Number	Item	Nature of Interest

4. Minutes of the last meeting

Item for Decision

Submitted by: Secretariat

Attachment 1: Matters Arising and Outstanding Business

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Resolution/s		Action(s) / Budget Implications	
<p>That the Minutes of the Kimberley Regional Group held on 16 February 2024, as published and circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.</p>		<p>See Attachment 1 – Matters Arising and Outstanding Business</p> <p>Note: Treasurer's report will be provided at the June meeting.</p>	
Moved:	Shire of Deby West Kimberley	Responsible:	See Attachment
Seconded:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried: 3/0			

Attachment 1 Matters Arising and Outstanding Business

Date / Item	Action / Progress	Responsible
Resilience and Recovery		
15/06/2023	<p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Team will seek to engage with the WALGA Working Group on behalf of the KRG Members note that the KRG will make a written submission to the two inquiries taking into consideration the State Emergency Services Minister's advice Members approve the drafting of an Emergency Services position paper <p>Status / Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In Progress: Information sought from WALGA on how local governments can have input into the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Review. 2a. Complete: A submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding was lodged to the Review team and a submission lodged with the Senate Inquiry. 2b. Complete: The WA LEMA Review, progressed by the WA Local Government Association and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, was endorsed by SEMC in August. The plan has been uploaded to the SEMC website - https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/lema-review-project-outcomes 3. Complete: The Position Paper was endorsed 23/11/2023 and the revised Paper on the 19th April 2024 	Executive Officer and CEO SDWK
Priority Action List		
15/6/2023	<p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> KRG members to provide any feedback to the Executive Team before 7/7/2023. Executive Team allocates resources from contract hours to implement. Executive Team scope out project costings for additional consultancy work as required <p>Status / Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Complete In progress <p>Note an updated on the Priority Action List is a standing item on the KRG agenda. See Item 13.</p>	Executive Team

Date / Item	Action / Progress	Responsible
Administrative Matters		
21/02/2024	<p>Action: Executive Officer to work with Dr Allan Dale regarding CRCNA</p> <p>Status / Progress: In Progress. Dr Allan Dale to present to the members. See item 10</p>	Executive Team
State and Federal Government Election Strategy		
4/10/2023	<p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Executive Team to work on providing materials and methodology for the election strategy. 2. Executive Team to proceed on developing the election strategy in accordance with the proposal tabled 23/11/2023 3. 16/02/2024 – Executive Team to follow up with Shire of Derby regarding projects for the Investment Prospectus 4. 16/02/2024 – Kimberley Disaster Resilience to be used as the flag ship project on the front of the Prospectus 5. Executive Officer negotiating with Liz Ritchie, CEO, RAI to attend the August 13th-15th Summit in Canberra <p>Status / Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete 2. In Progress. See Item 16 3. The Derby West Kimberley advised projects would be received following the meeting on the 19th April. 4. Disaster resilience has been included at the front of the Prospectus as a flag ship project. Also a new section on Closing the Gap has been included. 5. Emails sent to members regarding interest in attending and email sent to Liz Ritchie regarding sponsorship opportunities. A proposal has been received and the Executive Officer is liaising with Liz Ritchie on this proposal and will bring it to the KRG for consideration. 	Executive Team
Kimberley Development Commission Funding Proposal		
4/10/2023	<p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further research is to be conducted into the KDC data funding proposal before a decision is made 2. Letter to be sent to the KDC requesting a meeting to discuss the outcomes of the research and other regional issues 3. A copy of the letter sent to KDC to be sent to Cr Geoff Haerewa to follow up. 	Executive Team

Date / Item	Action / Progress	Responsible
	Status / Progress: 1. In Progress 2. Letter sent. No response received as yet 3. Complete. Letter sent to Cr Geoff Haerewa 27/02/2024.	
Kimberley Housing Roundtable		
16/02/2024	Action 1. Executive Team to write to the Kimberley Development Commission seeking \$10,000 towards the cost of the Kimberley Housing Roundtable 2. Executive Team to write to Regional Development Australia Kimberley seeking up to \$5,000 towards the cost of the Kimberley Housing Roundtable 3. KRG committed \$5,000 at the February 16 th meeting. Status / Progress: 1. Letter sent 26/02/2024. KDC approved \$10,000. See Item 9 & Correspondence. 2. Letter sent 26/02/2024. RDA Kimberley approved \$2,500	Executive Team
Advocacy Strategy Management & Maintenance of Social Housing		
16/02/2024	Action 1. Executive Officer to develop a strategy and discuss at the April 2024 meeting. Status / Progress: 1. Strategy developed. See Item 11.	Executive Team
Alcohol Restrictions		
16/02/2024	Action Executive Team to work with RCAWA and Hotels Association (AHA) on advocacy and submission letter. Status / Progress: AHA has shared their Show Cause notice for Broome which with our BDR submission and position paper on management of alcohol and drugs will form the basis of a joint advocacy letter / submission to government from KRG, RCAWA and AHA.	Executive Team
Kimberley Volunteer Resource Centre		
16/02/2024	Action Members to take the Regional Volunteering Strategy 2020 to their individual council meetings for endorsement and to report back to the Executive Officer to action a whole of KRG endorsement.	Members

Date / Item	Action / Progress	Responsible
	Status / Progress: Email reminder with copy of the Volunteering Strategy sent to members on the 6 th of March 2024.	
Review of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs)		
23/11/2023	Action: SWEK is running a procurement process and has issued an RFQ Status / Progress: Procurement process complete. NAJA engaged to undertake this project and start date TBC.	Vernon Lawrence
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Investment Package		
23/11/2023	Action: SWEK is running a procurement process and has issued an RFQ Status / Progress: Procurement process complete. NAJA engaged to undertake this project and start date TBC.	Vernon Lawrence
Benchmarking		
23/11/2023	Action: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Team to approach RCAWA and request the use of the benchmarking templates. Executive Team to email CEO's requesting a contact to send the spreadsheet to start collecting the information. Status / Progress: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete: RCAWA approved KRG to use the benchmarking template. In Progress: Emails sent and information received from Broome and SWEK. Derby working on providing the information by the 19th of April. Follow up email sent to Halls Creek 05/04/2024. 	Executive Team / Members

Watching Brief

Aboriginal Heritage Act: Now pending Department updates on rescinded legislation. On 15 November 2023, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* was restored as the legislation that manages Aboriginal heritage in Western Australia some amendments drawn from feedback from consultation. Approval is only required where there is potential for any harm to an Aboriginal site.

WA Development Index – response received from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. To be raised with the new Minister for Local Government.

Banned Drinkers Register – Legislation passed. KRG media release issued and picked up in local papers. Implementation and outcomes will be monitored.

State government funding to support young people in the Kimberley. Cr McCumstie is the KRG observer member on the Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee (AYWSC) and will provide updates as required. Note the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group (ARRG) has been undertaking media expressing disappointment at the lack of government commitment to implement recommendations of reports into youth suicide in the Kimberley. New \$4M community-led Immediate Response Night Space (IRNS) service for young people in Broome. There is no overarching youth justice strategy for the region.
Tanami Road funding – Letter sent to Minister Catherine King on 28/05/23. Response received. Commonwealth confirmation that the project would proceed and an additional \$200M funding announced 16/11/2023. KRG media release issues and picked up in local papers. Shire of Halls Creek leading work on a Tanami Activation Strategy.
First Point of Entry (FPOE) Wyndham and Broome - Minister King announced in February 2024 that work will be undertaken for the enhanced FPOE status for Broome. This includes working with Border Force and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
North West Defence and Border Security – April 2024 letter sent to State and Federal Government expressing concern.

Resolved

Media and Communications Policy and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Letters of congratulations to new State Ministers
Audited statements circulated
KRG meeting dates set and circulated
Service Level Agreement
Policy Position Papers
Investment Prospectus 2023/24
Lord Mayors Distress Relief Funding
MOU finalised and signed
Insurance Costs relief as a result of flood impacts
Potential tourism opportunities for total eclipse events, provided by Kym Francesconi
Regional Road Group: Shire allocations
KRG Website and LinkedIn profile - operational
BBY and WKFEC invitation to present to KRG
National Housing and Homelessness Plan submitted 20/10/2023. Published DSS Engage Website
Service Level Agreement Assessment – 5% increase endorsed 23/11/2023
July – September quarterly report – 23 November 2023 meeting.
Simplified Governance Compliance Papers – endorsed 23 November 2023 meeting
Regional Road Group Road Projects Funding Allocation – wrote to WALGA outlining KRG's position
Emergency Management Policy Position – Wrote to Matt Reimer DFES
Members advised Cr Mitchell of their response to the Regional Road Group Project grant funding
Ministerial notes 15/02/24 – Minister Papalia, Minister Beazley, Premier. Sent to members 26/02/24
Requirements for the Deputy Chair position clarified and stands endorsed as per November 2023

5. Correspondence

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Secretariat

- Attachment 2: Correspondence In:** Chuck Berger, CEO, Kimberley Development Commission
- Attachment 3: Correspondence In:** Luke Boshier, Head of Program, Strategy and Impact Housing Australia
- Attachment 4: Correspondence In:** Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government
- Attachment 5: Correspondence Out:** Chuck Berger, CEO, Kimberley Development Commission
- Attachment 6: Correspondence Out:** Janine Hatch, Director, Regional Development Australia Kimberley
- Attachment 7: Correspondence Out:** Luke Boshier, Head of Program Strategy and Impact Housing Australia
- Attachment 8: Correspondence Out:** Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier
- Attachment 9: Correspondence Out:** Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Regional Development
- Attachment 10: Correspondence Out:** Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government
- Attachment 11: Correspondence Out:** Hon Richard Maries, Hon Clare O'Neil, Hon Pat Conroy, Hon Matt Keogh, Hon Madeleine King, Hon Kristy McBain, Hon Paul Papalia, Ms Divina D'Anna

Note: Correspondence considered of an administrative nature, such as meeting invites etcetera, will not be tabled.

Correspondence In	
Date	06/03/2024
From	Chuck Berger, CEO, Kimberley Development Commission
Topic	Kimberley Housing Roundtable
Attachment	2
Date	06/03/2024
From	Luke Boshier, Head of Program, Strategy and Impact Housing Australia
Topic	Kimberley Housing Roundtable
Attachment	3
Date	10/04/2024
From	The Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government
Topic	Key issues and actions raised at the meeting
Attachment	4

Correspondence Out	
Date	26/02/2024
From	Michelle Mackenzie, Executive Support, Kimberley Regional Group
To	Mr Chuck Berger; CEO; Kimberley Development Commission
Topic	Kimberley Housing Roundtable
Attachment	5
Date	26/02/2024
From	Michelle Mackenzie, Executive Support, Kimberley Regional Group
To	Ms Janine Hatch; Director; Regional Development Australia Kimberley
Topic	Kimberley Housing Roundtable
Attachment	6
Date	01/03/2024
From	Michelle Mackenzie, Executive Support, Kimberley Regional Group
To	Luke Boshier: Head of Program, Strategy and Impact Housing Australia
Topic	Kimberley Housing Roundtable
Attachment	7
Date	14/03/2024
From	Paul Rosair, Executive Officer, Kimberley Regional Group
To	The Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier
Topic	Key issues and actions raised at the meeting
Attachment	8
Date	14/03/2024
From	Paul Rosair, Executive Officer, Kimberley Regional Group
To	The Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Regional Development
Topic	Key issues and actions raised at the meeting
Attachment	9
Date	14/03/2024
From	Paul Rosair, Executive Officer, Kimberley Regional Group
To	The Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government
Topic	Key issues and actions raised at the meeting
Attachment	10
Date	10/04/2024
From	David Menzel, Chair, Kimberley Regional Group
To	Hon Richard Maries, Hon Clare O'Neil, Hon Pat Conroy, Hon Matt Keogh, Hon Madeleine King, Hon Kristy McBain, Hon Paul Papalia, Ms Divina D'Anna MLA
Topic	Kimberley Defence and Border Force Response
Attachment	11

Resolution/s		Action(s) / Budget Implications	
That the Correspondence be received and noted, and that the Executive Officer be directed on a response, if required.		Nil	
Moved:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Responsible:	
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	
Carried: 3/0			

Attachment 2 Correspondence In: Kimberley Housing Roundtable

From: EO <eo@kdc.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:04 PM
To: Michelle Mackenzie <michelle@mira-consulting.com.au>
Cc: Chuck Berger <chuck.berger@kdc.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Kimberley Regional Group Housing Forum - KDC Grant Agreement

Good Afternoon Michelle,

The KDC Board have recently approved funding of \$10,000 to the Kimberley Regional Group, towards a Kimberley-wide Housing Forum. Please find grant agreement attached for your review, signing, and return, along with an invoice with the amount plus GST.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if we can assist further at this time.

Kind regards,

Lexi Drygan
Executive Officer

7 Ebony Street, Kununurra WA 6743
PO Box 620, Kununurra WA 6743
M: 0429 999 395
eo@kdc.wa.gov.au | kdc.wa.gov.au



Attachment 3 Correspondence In: Kimberley Housing Roundtable

Hi Michelle,

Thanks again for the conversation we had last week and for this information.

A Roundtable with the relevant local governments and other stakeholders you've listed seems very useful from our perspective. Housing Australia would be pleased to attend. Just for your info, I wouldn't be able to do the week of 8 April as I'm already committed to another event in the NT. No doubt scheduling's always going to a bit tricky, but let us know where you land on proposed timing.

In addition to attending, we are also happy to contribute to the drafting of background materials around how Housing Australia can be part of the response to the housing needs and opportunities in the region.

On other support, I'm discussing this internally to see if there is an opportunity to support in some way. I will come back to you soon on that. It's not something we have done before, so I'm not sure where we will land at this stage. But will let you know as soon as I can.

On the agenda and attendees - I don't have any specific feedback. I thought it looks right from where I sit. Minderoo is the only other group I thought might be interested and helpful (Cronje or Louise), but there might be reasons you want to not have them in this particular Roundtable.

Housing Australia is most interested in the really practical part of where we go from here, how we form up a solid proposal for government (WA Gov, Housing Australia, and others) and what would be in it. That to me is the outcome of the after lunch sessions, and you might want to think about whether there's benefit in having a bit more time for that really practical pipeline and next steps discussion. I suspect there's also a subset of the overall attendees who could talk more intensively about what that looks like (the 4 LG CEOs, yourselves, KDC, us plus the Indigenous NGOs that are keen to move forward). But maybe that's a follow up conversation a week or so later with a smaller working group (or a conversation the next morning, depending on people's availability given travel/flights/etc).

Hope that helps!

Will let you know on the support front when I can, and keep us in the loop on potential/confirmed dates.

Thanks again.

-Luke

Luke Boshier

Head of Program Strategy and Impact | Housing Australia

M: 0407 020 841

E: luke.boshier@housingaustralia.gov.au

W: www.housingaustralia.gov.au



Attachment 4 Correspondence In: Key Issues & Actions raised at Meeting



Hon Hannah Beazley MLA
Minister for Local Government; Youth;
Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

Our Ref: 84-00482

Mr Paul Rosair
Executive Officer
Kimberley Regional Group

Email: michelle@mira-consulting.com.au

Dear Mr Rosair

MEETING WITH THE KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP

Thank you for your letter dated 14 March 2024 following up matters discussed with the Kimberley Regional Group (the Group) in our meeting of 15 February 2024.

I note the Group's comments regarding the Commonwealth Financial Assistance (FA) Grants and appreciate the Group's views that the population component of the FA Grants can have a detrimental impact on grant funding allocated to regional local governments. I acknowledge your advice that the Kimberley Regional Group has commissioned a review of the methodology.

I am advised by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) that FA Grant allocations to Western Australian local governments are determined by the WA Grants Commission, in line with the National Principles developed under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (the Act).

Under section 11(2) of the Act, WA local governments or associations, including Local Government regional groups, can make submissions to the WA Grants Commission, regarding matters related to the FA Grants, including the allocation methodology. Should you wish to make a submission, please contact the WA Grants Commission, by email on Grants.Commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au or by phone to (08) 6552 1673.

I also note The Group's feedback regarding local government audits undertaken by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG).

I am advised that in 2022-2023 financial year, 133 local government audits were completed by the OAG, on time. I understand that this represents a progressive improvement on previous years.

However, I am also aware that some local government audits were not received by the OAG due date and, therefore, could not be finalised by the OAG in time to meet Council reporting deadlines.

As you rightly note, the OAG is an independent body and I do not have any legislative authority to intervene in its operational or administrative decisions or processes. The DLGSC has advised me that the OAG has recently appointed an Engagement Team Leader to assist local governments with matters such as those you have raised.

The OAG's Engagement Team Leader can be contacted by phone on (08) 6557 7500. If you have any issues contacting the Engagement Team Leader via telephone you can also refer your queries by email to admintas@audit.wa.gov.au.

As you note, I am unable to attend the Kimberley Regional Group and Regional Capitals Alliance joint forum in June 2024, but I wish you all my best for a successful event.

Thank you once again for raising these matters with me. It was a pleasure to meet with you, and I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you to achieve positive outcomes for the region and its communities.

Yours sincerely



Hon Hannah Beazley MLA
Minister for Local Government; Youth;
Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

10 APR 2024

Attachment 5 Correspondence Out: Kimberley Housing Roundtable



Mr Chuck Berger
Chief Executive Officer
Kimberley Development Commission
PO Box 620
Kununurra WA 6743

Via email - chuck.berger@kdc.wa.gov.au

26 February 2024

Dear Chuck

Kimberley Housing Roundtable

Congratulations again on the production of the Kimberley Residential Housing and Land Snapshot 2023. This is an important piece of work that will help inform discussions and planning to respond to housing issues across Kimberley communities.

Increasing housing supply is a key priority for the Kimberley Regional Group. We are keen to work with the Kimberley Development Commission and other key stakeholders to develop practical solutions to facilitate shovel ready housing projects across our region.

As discussed, we are keen to build on your Kimberley Housing Snapshot and to host a Kimberley Housing Roundtable which will bring together Federal, State and Local Governments along with the non-government sector and industry to discuss housing challenges and to identify collective opportunities to increase housing supply. To that end we have developed a Draft Agenda and a list of agencies to be invited to attend, and a budget for holding this event.

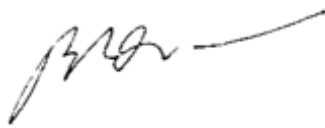
The Housing Roundtable concept was discussed and endorsed by members at the KRG's February meeting, and I have been tasked, in tandem with Michelle Mackenzie, to progress the event.

We would welcome the opportunity to partner with the Kimberley Development on the Roundtable. To that end, we would appreciate your feedback on the objectives of the Roundtable, draft agenda and stakeholder list. Also, we respectfully ask if you could provide \$10,000 towards the cost of holding the Roundtable. The Kimberley Development Commission would be acknowledged for their support of this event with its branding on all related materials. We are reaching out to Regional Development Australia, Kimberley for their input and to see if they could also provide financial support for this event.



I look forward to hearing from you regarding the Kimberley Housing Roundtable event and if you are able to support this endeavour. In the meantime, if you have any queries please contact Michelle Mackenzie, Executive Support for the Kimberley Regional Group on 0419 931 819 or michelle@mira-consulting.com.au

Yours sincerely



Paul Rosair
Executive Officer
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach – Kimberley Housing Roundtable Proposal

Attachment 6 Correspondence Out: Kimberley Housing Roundtable



Ms Janine Hatch
Director
Regional Development Australia Kimberley
PO Box 653
Broome WA 6725

Via email - j.hatch@rdakimberley.com.au

26 February 2024

Dear Janine

Kimberley Housing Roundtable

Congratulations on the work that Regional Development Australia Kimberley is doing to drive positive economic and social impact across Kimberley communities.

Increasing housing supply is a key priority for the Kimberley Regional Group. We are keen to work with Regional Development Australia Kimberley and other key stakeholders to develop practical solutions to facilitate shovel ready housing projects across our region.

As discussed, the Kimberley Regional Group are keen to host a Kimberley Housing Roundtable which will bring together Federal, State and Local Governments along with the non-government sector and industry to discuss housing challenges and to identify collective opportunities to increase housing supply. To that end we have developed a Draft Agenda and a list of agencies to be invited to attend, and a budget for holding this event.

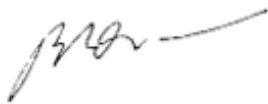
The Housing Roundtable concept was discussed and endorsed by members at the KRG's February meeting, and I have been tasked, in tandem with Michelle Mackenzie, to progress the event.

We would welcome the opportunity to partner with Regional Development Australia Kimberley Development on the Roundtable. To that end, we would appreciate your feedback on the objectives of the Roundtable, draft agenda and stakeholder list. Also, we respectfully ask if you could provide up to \$5000 towards the cost of holding the Roundtable. Regional Development Australia Kimberley would be acknowledged for their support of this event with its branding on all related material. We are reaching out to the Kimberley Development Commission to see if they could also provide input and financial support for this event.



I look forward to hearing from you regarding the Kimberley Housing Roundtable event and if you are able to support this endeavour. In the meantime, if you have any queries please contact Michelle Mackenzie, Executive Support for the Kimberley Regional Group on 0419 931 819 or michelle@mira-consulting.com.au

Yours sincerely



Paul Rosair
Executive Officer
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach – Kimberley Housing Roundtable Proposal

Attachment 7 Correspondence Out: Kimberley Housing Roundtable

Hi Luke

It was great to catch up with you and the opportunity to pilot a new approach to delivering social and affordable housing supply in the Kimberley would be brilliant. Our thin markets, lack of a strong community housing presence and the additional costs of housing construction and operations make it difficult to attract investment to deliver the homes needed.

As mentioned, housing is a key priority for the Kimberley Regional Group and the KRG are keen to work with other agencies to address housing issues. We've been discussing with the Kimberley Development Commission and Regional Development Australia Kimberley hosting a Kimberley Housing Roundtable as a first step to align effort to deliver the homes needed across our region. We've approached both bodies for funding support and input into the agenda. We would love to have strong engagement with Housing Australia for this event and if you are able to attend that would be brilliant. Also, it would be great to get your input into the agenda so that the Roundtable hits the mark.

Also as discussed, any assistance that you could provide for the Roundtable in terms of assisting with a background paper for attendees, facilitation for the Roundtable event or funding to enable non-government attendees to participate would be very welcome.

I look forward to your feedback on the Roundtable and how the KRG can work with Housing Australia to support your mandate to deliver new homes across the Kimberley region.

Kind regards

Michelle

M: 0419 931 819

Michelle Mackenzie

E: michelle@mira-consulting.com.au

Principal, Mira Consulting

W: mira-consulting.com.au

Associate, NAJA Business Consulting

A: PO Box 621 Halls Creek WA 6770

Attachment 8 Correspondence Out: Key Issues & Actions raised at Meeting



The Hon Roger Cook MLA
Premier
13th Floor Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth 6005

Via email – wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au

14th March 2024

Dear Premier

Meeting with the Kimberley Regional Group

Thank you for meeting with the Kimberley Regional Group. We really appreciated your time and the opportunity to discuss key areas of interest. This letter is following up on key issues and actions from the meeting.

Financial Assistance Grants

As mentioned, the formulaic rigidity, including the population component of the Commonwealth allocation of local government financial assistance grants, has a detrimental impact on grant funds to regional local governments. We are commissioning a piece of work to examine the allocation methodology and would be pleased to provide you with a briefing and a copy of this work once completed with a view to seeing how this can be addressed.

Natural Disaster Resilience

Please find attached a copy of the Kimberley Regional Group's Emergency Management Position Paper. We would be pleased to learn more about the Committee of Government that you mentioned is looking into disaster resilience, along with the work undertaken by the Framework for Collaborative Resilience that is being progressed across Northern Australia.

Water infrastructure to facilitate new homes

As mentioned, Shires have land and investment ready for new housing, but a lack of water infrastructure is delaying development. It would be appreciated if you could raise this issue with the Minister for Water with a view to having this issue addressed as a priority by the Water Corporation.

Kimberley Regional Group and Kimberley Zone
459 Albany Hwy Victoria Park | 0419 930 467 | info@naja.com.au



20 June Forum – Kimberley Regional Group and Regional Capitals Alliance of WA

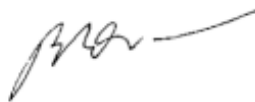
The Kimberley Regional Group and Regional Capitals Alliance, an alliance of WA's ten regional centres, are hosting a joint forum in Perth on the 20th June. The forum will bring together Mayors, Presidents, CEOs and senior executives from across regional Western Australia and also Director's Generals and Cabinet Ministers, both Federally and State. It will be a great opportunity to meet with regional leaders in Perth to discuss the critical issues facing local government and their communities. We cordially invite you to attend this forum and a formal invitation will be sent to your office.

Collaborative Forum between State, Local Government, and the NGO sector to discuss community safety and crime.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with your government and the NGO sector on a deep piece of work to address systemic issues that are driving crime in the Kimberley, in particular youth crime. Whilst there is a collection of government led justice initiatives to our knowledge there is no overarching Kimberley strategy to holistically address the root causes of community safety and crime issues identified in government and Coronial reports. Without a clear roadmap initiatives are fragmented, unaligned and government investment is not maximised. Your concept for a new collaborative forum would be a positive step to collectively address this Kimberley wide issue.

Thank you again for meeting with us. The Kimberley Regional Group looks forward to working with your government and further exploring how we can work together to deliver positive outcomes across the Kimberley region and our State.

Your sincerely



Paul Rosair
Executive Officer
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach - Emergency Management Position Paper



Kimberley Regional Group and Kimberley Zone
459 Albany Hwy Victoria Park | 0419 930 467 | info@naja.com.au

Attachment 9 Correspondence Out: Key Issues & Actions raised at Meeting



Hon Don Punch, MLA
Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing
7th Floor Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Via Email – Minister.punch@dpc.wa.gov.au

14 March 2024

Dear Minister

Meeting with the Kimberley Regional Group

Thank you for meeting with the Kimberley Regional Group. We really appreciated your time and the opportunity to discuss key areas of interest. This letter is following up on key issues and actions raised at the meeting.

Financial Assistance Grants

As mentioned, the formulaic rigidity, including the population component of the Commonwealth allocation of local government financial assistance grants, has a detrimental impact on grant funds to regional local governments. We are commissioning a piece of work to examine the allocation methodology and would be pleased to provide you with a briefing and a copy of this work once completed with a view to seeing how this issue can be addressed.

Natural Disaster Resilience

Please find attached a copy of the Kimberley Regional Group's Emergency Management Position Paper. We would welcome the opportunity to learn more about the Committee of Government that you mentioned is looking into disaster resilience, along with the work undertaken by the Framework for Collaborative Resilience that is being progressed across Northern Australia.

Water infrastructure to facilitate new housing supply

As mentioned, Shires have land and investment ready for new housing, but a lack of water infrastructure is delaying development. It would be appreciated if you could raise this issue with the Minister for Water with a view to having this issue addressed as a priority by the Water Corporation.

Kimberley Regional Group and Kimberley Zone
459 Albany Hwy Victoria Park | 0419 930 467 | info@naja.com.au



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Thank you again for meeting with us. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Kimberley Development Commission are key partners in realising our vision. We look forward to working with you to deliver positive outcomes across the Kimberley region and our State.

Yours sincerely



Paul Rosair
Executive Officer
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach Emergency Management Position Paper



Kimberley Regional Group and Kimberley Zone
459 Albany Hwy Victoria Park | 0419 930 467 | info@naja.com.au

Attachment 10 Correspondence Out: Key Issues & Actions raised at Meeting



The Hon Hannah Beazley MLA
Minister for Local Government; Youth; Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development
Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth 6005

Via email –Minister.Beazley@dpc.wa.gov.au

14 March 2024

Dear Minister

Meeting with the Kimberley Regional Group

Thank you for meeting with the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG). We really appreciated your time and the opportunity to discuss key areas of interest. Also, we appreciated a greater understanding of your priorities within your local government portfolio. This letter is following up on key issues and actions raised at the meeting.

Financial Assistance Grants

As mentioned, the formulaic rigidity, including the population component of the Commonwealth allocation of local government financial assistance grants, has a detrimental impact on grant funds to regional local governments. We are commissioning a piece of work to examine the allocation methodology and would be pleased to provide you with a briefing and a copy of this work once completed with a view to seeing how this can be addressed.

Local Government Audits by the Office of the Auditor General

As raised the quality of audits, their timelessness, the lack of fee transparency and the cost of audit, along with the drawdown of staff time to assist audits undertaken by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG), are of significant concern to the Kimberley Regional Group. This issue has been raised directly with the Office of the Auditor General by Councils, the KRG and WALGA.

As discussed, a recent cost of audit by the OAG for the Shire of Wyndham was \$63K a 50 percent cost increase from previous audits. The audit cost for the Shire of Derby West Kimberley was \$80K and for the Shire of Broome \$130K. The OAG refuses to provide a breakdown of their fee structure, despite this being an obligation of private audit firms. Their service to all Kimberly Councils has been inadequate. Council staff have had to spend considerable time hand holding inexperienced

Kimberley Regional Group and Kimberley Zone
459 Albany Hwy Victoria Park | 0419 930 467 | info@naja.com.au



audit teams training them in the fundamentals of local government accounts. This costs Councils considerable time and resources. For two Shires the audit was late requiring a special meeting of Council to adopt the audit, and meant that the audit could not inform the budget process. This is unacceptable.

Whilst we understand that the Office is independent and impartial, these are significant issues that need to be addressed by the OAG. It would be appreciated if you could raise this issue so that there is transparency to local governments who are required under legislation to use the OAG for their audits.

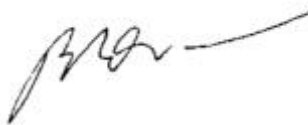
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Whilst we understand that you are unable to attend the forum, we would welcome a member of your staff attending. It will be a great opportunity to meet with regional leaders in Perth to discuss the critical issues facing local government and their communities. We hope that somebody from your office is able to attend.

Thank you again for meeting with us. The Kimberley Regional Group looks forward to working in partnership with you across your portfolios to deliver positive outcomes across the Kimberley region and Western Australia.

Your sincerely



Paul Rosair
Executive Officer
Kimberley Regional Group



Kimberley Regional Group and Kimberley Zone
459 Albany Hwy Victoria Park | 0419 930 467 | info@naja.com.au

Attachment 11 Correspondence Out: Kimberley Defence & Border Force Response



Hon Richard Marles MP
Minister for Defence
E: Richard.Marles@aph.gov.au

Hon Clare O'Neil MP
Minister for Home Affairs
E: Clare.ONeil.MP@aph.gov.au

Hon Pat Conroy MP
Minister for Defence Industries
E: minister.conroy@dfat.gov.au

Hon Matt Keogh MP
Minister for Defence Personnel
E: Matt.Keogh.MP@aph.gov.au

Hon Madeleine King MP,
Minister for Northern Australia:
Minister.King@industry.gov.au

Hon Kristy McBain MP,
Minister for Regional Development,
Local Government and Territories:
minister.mcbain@mo.regional.gov.au

Hon Paul Papalia MLA
Minister for Defence Industry
Minister.papalia@dpc.wa.gov.au

Ms Divina D'Anna MLA
Member for the Kimberley
Divina.Danna@mp.wa.gov.au

10th April 2024

Dear Ministers

Kimberley Defence And Border Force Response

The Kimberley Regional Group is an alliance of the fourth Kimberley Shires being the Shire of Broome, Derby West Kimberley, Halls Creek and Wyndham East Kimberley. In light of recent boat arrivals into the Kimberley we write to request increased Defence and Border Force resources in the Kimberley to better protect Australia's north-west coast.

The increase in people seeking asylum in the Kimberley including at the Mungalalu -Truscott Airbase in April 2024, Beagle Bay in February 2024 and Truscott in November 2023 shows how vulnerable the north-west coast is to foreign incursions. These arrivals, which seem to be well informed, targeting isolated, populated areas of the Kimberley coast exposed enormous security risks, including bio-security risks, to the nation.

We are extremely concerned at the risk of rabies, foot and mouth disease and lumpy skin disease entering Australia through unauthorised arrivals. This would have a devastating impact on our environment, agricultural and pastoral industries. We would appreciate being briefed on the border force and quarantine protocols in place to mitigate risk from introduced diseases and pests.

The Kimberley Shires, along with the four Pilbara local governments, are members of the North West Defence Alliance (NWDA), established to drive action for a greater defence presence on Australia's Northwest. This includes an increase in personnel, better utilization



of defence assets and increased surveillance and hardware capability. Our region is the source of around 50 percent of Australia's export value. We believe it is in the national interest for increased investment in North West defence and border forces to act as a deterrent to foreign incursions and to protect Australia's agricultural, pastoral and resources sectors.

With the current geo-political climate, it is likely that foreign incursions to our region will increase. The Kimberley Regional Group would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can work with the Federal and State government, in partnership with the North West Defence Alliance and Aboriginal communities, to support an increased Defence and Border Force presence in our region.

We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any queries regarding this request, please contact our Executive Officer Mr. Paul Rosair on 0419930467 or paul@naja.com.au.

Yours sincerely



David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

*c. North West Defence Alliance
Senator Dean Smith, Senator for WA
Hon Melissa Price MP, Member for Durack*

6. Formal Presentations

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

To provide a forum for guests to address the KRG on relevant topics.

Attendees

Time	Name	Position	Organisation
2.40 – 2.55pm	Dr Allan Dale	Professor of Tropical Regional Development	CRC Northern Australia The Cairns Institute, James Cook University
3:00 – 3:15pm	Christy Hawker	CEO	BBY
3:45 – 4:00pm	Hon Louise Kingston	Member for the South West Region. Shadow Minister for Regional Cities; Climate Action; Tourism	Western Australian National Party Opposition

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:	Budget Implications			
<table border="1"> <tr> <td> People Place Prosperity Performance </td> <td> Advocate Partner Promote </td> <td> Facilitate Fund Monitor </td> </tr> </table>	People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor	Nil
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor		
Resolution/s	Action(s)			
For noting	TBD			

7. 2024/25 Investment Prospectus

Item for Decision

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 12: 2024/25 Kimberley Investment Prospectus (attached separately)

Purpose

To confirm the Shire projects for the Investment Prospectus 2024/25.

In summary

- The Kimberley Regional Group agreed to update the Investment Prospectus as part of the State and Federal Election Strategy.
- Councils were asked in December 2023 to review their projects and delete, update or include new projects.
- The Shires of Broome, Halls Creek and Wyndham East Kimberley have updated their projects. We are awaiting information from the Shire of Derby West Kimberley regarding their projects – projects from the current Prospectus have been included in the document in the absence of updated information.
- With the State and Federal government's focus on building community resilience, the Prospectus has an introduction outlining the need for investment to build disaster resilience across the Kimberley and framed individual projects as contributing to stronger and more resilient communities.
- Also included in the Prospectus is a section on how the projects contribute to Closing the Gap.
- A draft designed Prospectus is attached. Once feedback has been received from the KRG a final proofread will be undertaken by the Executive Team and it will proceed to publication.
- The final document will be available for the June 2024 Forum and will be used as an advocacy tool for the KRG election strategy. The document will be uploaded onto the KRG website.

Background

As above

Details

The following is a summary of projects in the current Investment Prospectus and projects for the updated Prospectus.

Shire	Project in 2022/23 Prospectus	Projects for 2024/25 Prospects
SoHC	Tanami Road Upgrade	Tamani Activation Plan
SoHC	Blueberry Hill Housing Project	Social and Affordable housing
SoHC		Zero Depth Water Splash Pad
SoHC		A Cultural Centre and Multi-Purpose Evacuation Facility

SWEK	East Kimberley Regional Airport and Business Precinct	East Kimberley Regional Airport and Business Precinct
SWEK	Kununurra key worker housing and accommodation	Key Worker Housing Kununurra
SWEK	Wyndham Boat Ramp Foreshore Redevelopment Facility	Wyndham Boat Ramp Foreshore Redevelopment Facility
SDWK	Derby Wharf Precinct Masterplan and Redevelopment	TBA
SDWK	Fitzroy Crossing Multipurpose Complex Masterplan and Redevelopment	TBA
SDWK	Great Northern Highway to Looma Road reconstruction and reseal	TBA
Broome	Sanctuary Road Broome – Caravan Park, Key Worker and Over 55s	Cable Beach Foreshore Redevelopment
Broome	Broome Boating Facility	Broome Boating Facility
Broome	Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre Redevelopment	Regional Resource Recovery Park

Risk

Reputational: The Prospectus is not contemporary or reflective of need.

Financial: Lack of agreement on key Kimberley projects, and alignment with government priorities, may reduce government’s confidence to invest.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications			
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>People Place Prosperity Performance</td> <td>Advocate Facilitate Partner Fund Promote Monitor</td> </tr> </table>		People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Facilitate Partner Fund Promote Monitor	Up to \$3,600 has been approved for updating Prospectus including updating the text and graphic design work. Up to \$1,000 has been allocated for printing costs.	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Facilitate Partner Fund Promote Monitor				
Resolution/s		Action(s)			
That the Kimberley Regional Group members discuss the draft Investment Prospectus and advise of changes required.		SDWK CEO to provide the Executive Team their updated project information as a priority.			
Moved:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Responsible:	SDWK		
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	April		
Carried:	3/0				

8. Kimberley Housing Roundtable

Item for Decision

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

To decide on a location and possible dates for the Kimberley Housing Roundtable.

In summary

- The KRG endorsed hosting a Kimberley Housing Roundtable at the February 2024 meeting - The Roundtable is a key part of the Housing Advocacy Strategy
- The Kimberley Development Commission (KDC) has approved \$10K towards the Roundtable and Regional Development Australia (RDA) \$2.5K.
- Housing Australia is strongly supportive and whilst they cannot provide funding support, they have agreed to provide in kind support by preparing a Background Paper and engaging the Nous Group to facilitate the Roundtable and contribute to the Report and Recommendations that arise from the Roundtable.
- Housing Australia have to deliver 40,000 new homes across Australia under the Housing Australia Future Fund Facility and National Housing Accord Facility
- They see the Roundtable as a key step to increase government investment in housing across the Kimberley and are keen to use this initiative to start discussions on a new approach to increase government investment in the Kimberley through a Kimberley Housing Investment Strategy.
- Decisions need to be made by the KRG to guide the Roundtable's logistics.

Background

As above

Details

A number of decisions need to be made by the KRG on the Roundtable's logistics. These include:

Location

- A location is needed that is cost effective and will facilitate attendance by State and Federal government agencies and attendees from across the Kimberley.
- The NAJA team will work with the Shire where the Roundtable is being held on logistics such as a venue, catering, Welcome to Country etc.

Date

- The Roundtable needs to be held on a date that doesn't clash with key Kimberley events. Also the date needs to provide time for attendees to plan their travel and accommodation and to include travel time during working hours. Also there needs to be enough time for a background paper to be written and disseminated to attendees.
- The findings of the Roundtable can inform the State and Federal election strategy.

The following events need to be considered when choosing a date for the Roundtable:

- 15 May Executive Officer back from leave
- 17 May Ord Valley Muster, Kununurra
- 20 June Joint KRG / RCAWA Forum, Perth
- 29 June - 14 July School Holidays
- 2 - 4 July ALGA National General Assembly, Canberra
- 5 July Mowanjum Festival, Mowanjum
- 7 - 14 July NAIDOC Week
- 13 - 15 Aug Rising Regions Forum Canberra
- 17 Aug - 1 Sep Shinju Matsuri Festival, Broome
- 24 Aug Broome Cup
- 26 - 28 Aug Developing Northern Australia Conference, Karratha
- 28 - 30 Aug Kimberley Economic Forum, Kununurra
- 30 - 31 Aug Taste of the Kimberley, Kununurra

Based on available dates, holding the Roundtable the week of the 3rd or 10th of June could be considered. The date of the Roundtable will need to be confirmed with Housing Australia and the facilitator for their availability.

Risk

Reputational: if the Kimberley Housing Roundtable is not a success

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p>People Place Prosperity Performance</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p>Advocate Facilitate Partner Fund Promote Monitor</p> </div> </div>		<p>\$10K granted by the Kimberley Development Commission</p> <p>\$2.5K granted from Regional Development Australia Kimberley</p> <p>\$5K allocated by the KRG</p> <p>Housing Australia is providing a facilitator The Roundtable budget will be recalibrated reflect income.</p>	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<p>1. That the KRG note the progress of the Kimberley Housing Roundtable and</p> <p>2. Possible dates and location to be decided out of session</p>		<p>Executive to liaise with members out of session to discuss and decide on the date and location for the Kimberley Housing Roundtable and EO to report back to the KRG.</p>	
Moved:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	3/0		

9. Co-operative Research Centre Northern Australia

Item for Discussion with Dr Allan Dale Professor of Tropical Regional Development

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

To provide an overview on work being done by the Co-operative Research Centre for Northern Australia on an Enabling Infrastructure Package to activate the White Paper for Developing Northern Australia.

In summary

- The KRG received a presentation from the Executive Officer on the work of Dr Allan Dale, Professor of Tropical Regional Development at Jame Cook University and the Chief Scientist for the Co-operative Research Centre for Northern Australia. (CRCNA)
- The CRCNA is undertaking an Emerging Analysis for the refreshed White Paper for Developing Northern Australia
- A focus of the CRCNA's work is the development of an Integrated Enabling Infrastructure Package which will:
 - Improve East-West Connectivity
 - Link Equity of Access to Indigenous and Remote Communities
 - Lead to More Open Supply Chains into the Indo-Pacific
- Professor Dale will present to the KRG on CRCNA's work on the White Paper refresh.
- The KRG's Investment Prospectus has reflected the work of the CRCNA for an Integrated Enabling Infrastructure Package to build social and economic resilience across the Kimberley.

Background

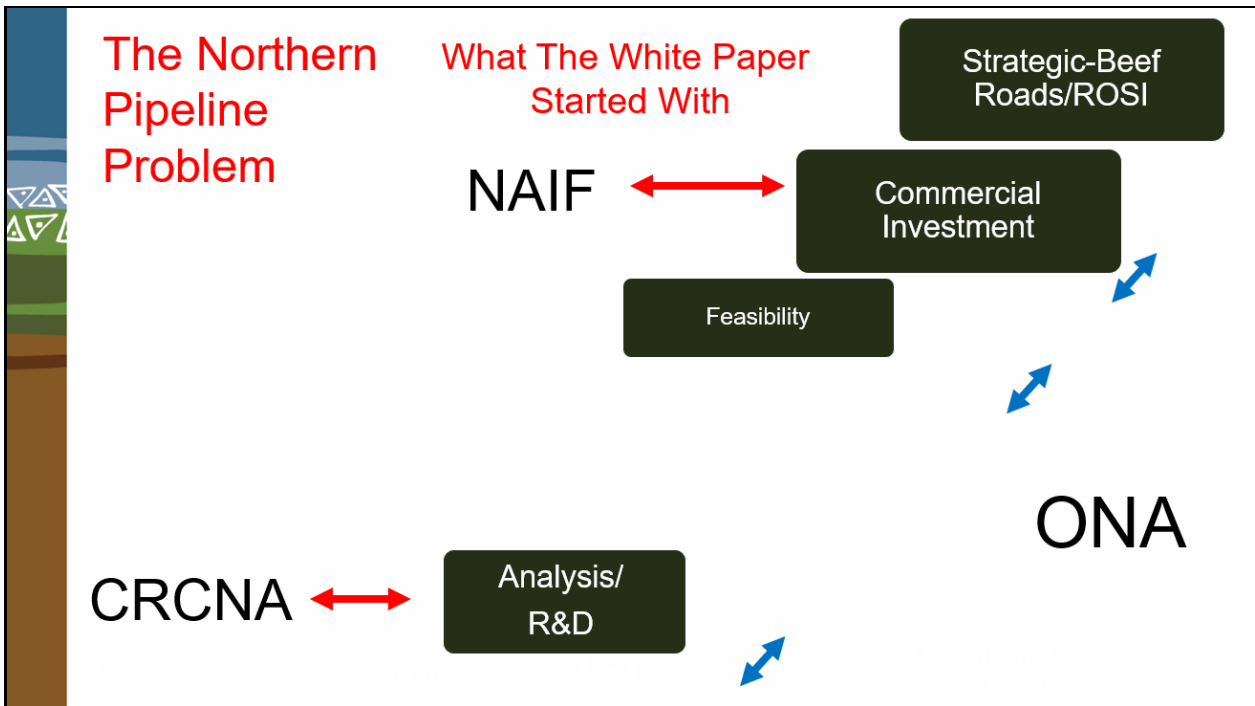
- As above

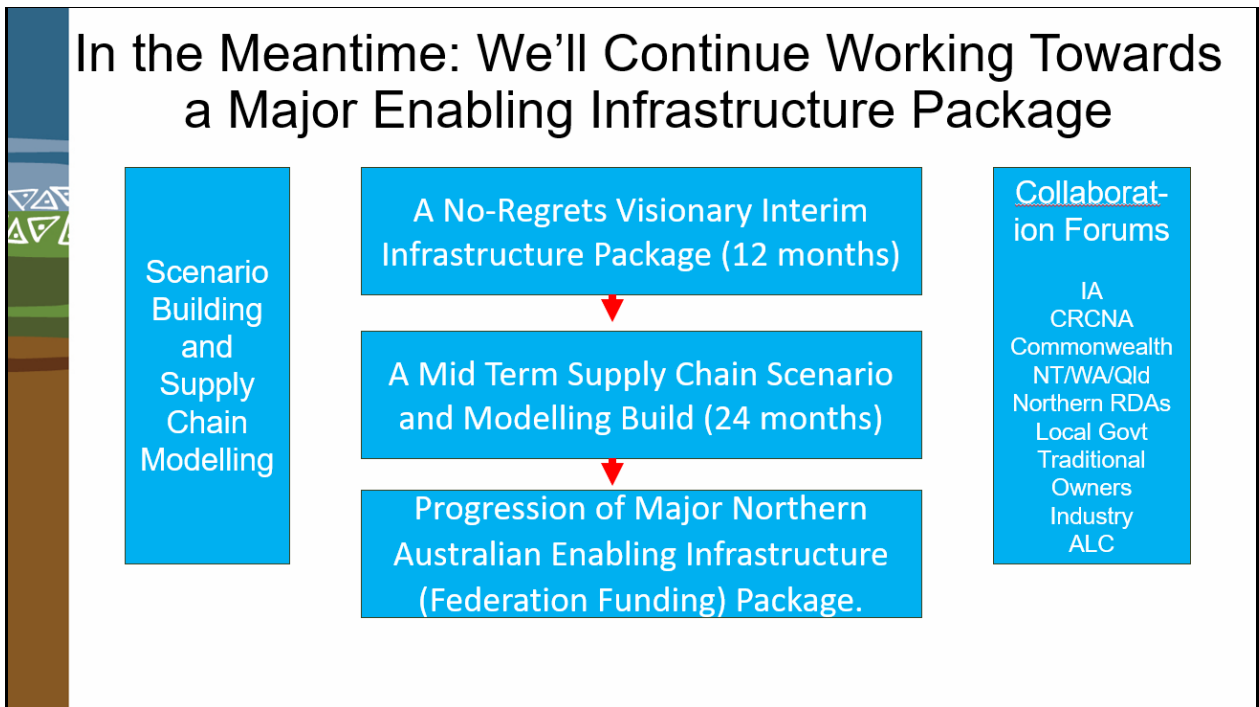
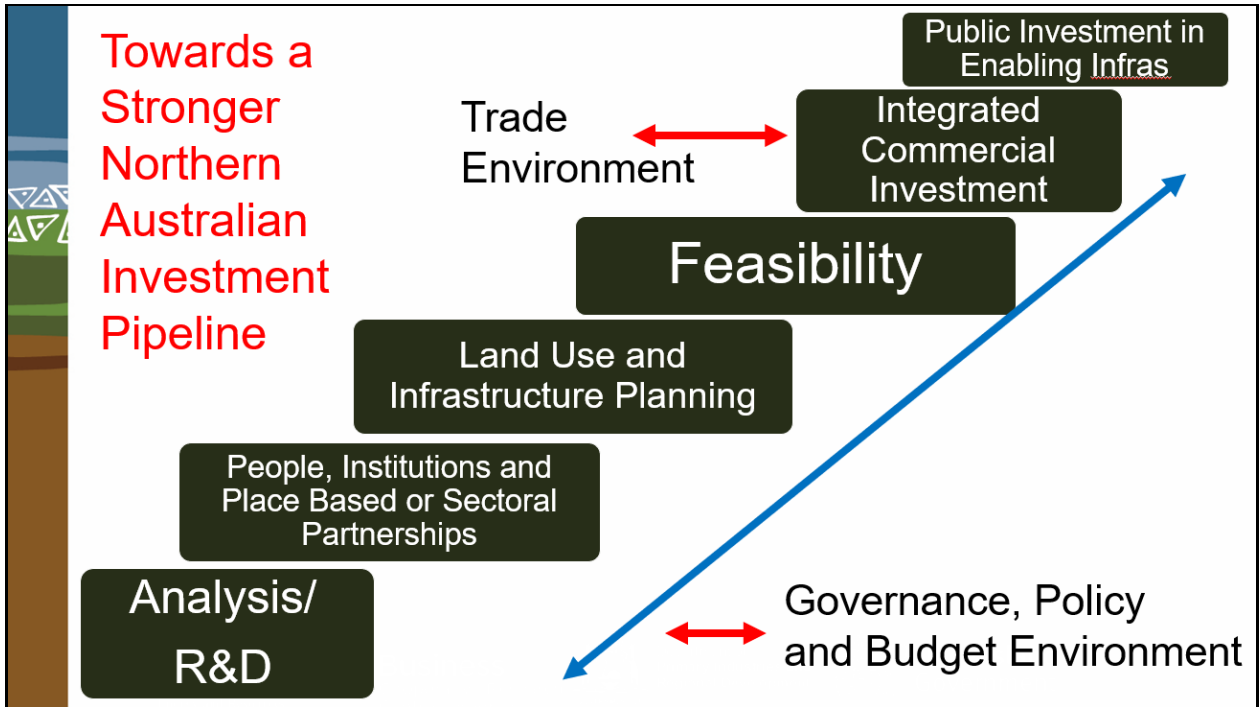
Details:

See powerpoint presentation below:

CRCNA's Emerging Analysis for White Paper Action Plan Refresh

Allan Dale, CRCNA Chief Scientist





Focus of an Integrated No Regrets Enabling Infrastructure Package

1. Improving East-West Connectivity
2. Linked Equity of Access to Indigenous and Remote Communities
3. Leading to More Open Supply Chains into the Indo-Pacific



Map From NWQ ROC

Emerging Key Design Principles of a No-Regrets Package?

- Emerging east-west integrated transport infrastructure pack with: (i) communications cover; (ii) EV charging cover; (iii) targeted access improvement to remote Indigenous/rural communities; (iv) multi-user line of sight to Indo Pacific supply chains; (v) defence and (vi) disaster resilience.
- Is increase East-West-North Ferry and Barge Transport worthy?
- Delivery models that build on the CYIP regional experience.
- Work with ONA, Qld, NT and WA Government and build on previous Forum outcomes. Open up discussion to wider cross Northern Forum.
- Aim for 80/20 shared budgetary influence (Commonwealth/Jurisdictions).
- Start longer term foundations for integrated supply chain modelling.
- CRCNA, Development Commissions, ROCs, REDOs, RDAs and IA work closely.
- Can be Transformational and Complex Project with strong First Nations work.

Risk:

Reputational: Without linking to the work of CRCNA our advocacy may be weakened

Financial: Without engaging with the CRCNA Kimberley investment opportunities may be missed

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications				
<table border="1"> <tr> <td> People Place Prosperity Performance </td> <td> Advocate Partner Promote </td> <td> Facilitate Fund Monitor </td> </tr> </table>	People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor		Nil	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor				
Resolution/s		Action(s)				
<p>That the KRG support the Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia’s work for activating the White Paper for Developing Northern Australia.</p>		Executive Officer to work with Alan Dale on progressing KRG’s involvement in developing the White Paper.				
Moved:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Responsible:	Executive Officer			
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	As appropriate			
Carried:	3/0					

10. Advocacy Strategy Management and Maintenance of Social Housing

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 13 – Advocacy Strategy

Purpose

To discuss an advocacy strategy for better management of public housing by the Department of Communities.

In summary

- The Shire of Broome at the February 2024 KRG meeting raised concerns with the management of public housing by the Department of Communities, in particular the cyclone/fire and public health risk of homes due to accumulated rubbish, lack of maintenance and the state of disrepair.
- The state of the homes leads to poor health outcomes for tenants i.e. rheumatic heart diseases
- The KRG resolved that the Executive Officer develop a strategy for discussion at the April 2024 meeting
- An 'inside track' advocacy strategy has been developed to work with the government to support better housing outcomes for tenants and communities in Kimberley.
- If the approach of working positively behind the scenes with government to get increased action and investment is not successful, the approach can be reviewed to see whether an 'outside track' more public facing advocacy approach will deliver the outcomes sought.

Background

- Local government has powers under the Public Health Act WA, Health Local Laws, the Local Government Act, and the Emergency Management Act in relation to serious and material public health risks and habitable homes – however the Crown is not bound by many of these powers.
- Property and tenancy management (i.e. collecting of rent / housing inspections) is either undertaken by the Department or outsourced to an NGO - up to four inspections can be done annually although generally only one per year is undertaken.
- The management of maintenance is outsourced by the Department of Communities through a head maintenance contract with tenants having to contact a 1800 number to log maintenance issues. This arrangement is seen as inadequate and funding for maintenance does not meet need.

- To support tenants who find it difficult to maintain their tenancies, the Department of Communities funds the THRIVE program. Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation has the contract for THRIVE across the Kimberley.
- The lack of investment in social housing and preventive and reactive maintenance by government contributes to poor public housing.
- Community housing organisations provide an alternative to government property and tenancy management and maintenance. They take an integrated approach and research by the Productivity Commission shows they deliver better outcomes for tenants and communities.
- Increasing the footprint of community housing providers across the Kimberley could assist with better social housing infrastructure and service standards.

Details

Department of Communities support for social housing tenants.

The Department of Communities THRIVE program for Aboriginal housing and public housing tenants aims to assist tenant to improve their life skills, increase their ability to manage their household independently and participate in their community.

Nirrumbuk Environmental Health and Services co-ordinate a consortium of THRIVE providers across the Kimberley. Consortium providers include:

- Winun Ngari's in Derby
- Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation in Fitzroy Crossing
- Jungarni Jutiya in Halls Creek
- Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation in Kununurra and surrounds.

The key services THRIVE providers offer include:

- Referral and opt in basis
- Tailored case coordination and management that addresses the wider needs of client
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate support
- Direct support provision
- Regular home visits
- Support service navigation and referral facilitation assistance. Potentially providing the opportunity for the greater community services sector to play its part.

Department of Health Aboriginal Environmental Health program

The Department of Health has funded environmental health activities in remote Aboriginal communities for many years. The program was reviewed in 2022 with the recommendation that WA Health commits to sustained investment for ongoing funding of the AEH Program. The Department has advised that it will work closely with the Aboriginal health sector and environmental health service providers to co-design the program moving forward, including its focus, expectations, outcomes and reporting requirements – all of which will be reflected in future contract tenders and terms.

Advocacy Strategy for Discussion

The advocacy strategy is attached. The Advocacy Strategy is ‘inside track’ working behind the scenes in partnership with other Kimberley organisations for action by government. If this approach is not successful it can be reviewed to see if a more publicly facing approach asking for government action will deliver the outcomes sought.

Risk

Reputational: without an agreed strategy and tactics advocacy effort may be unaligned and opportunities to drive change lost.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> People Place Prosperity Performance </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Advocate Facilitate Partner Fund Promote Monitor </div>	TBA	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
<p>That the KRG support the proposed advocacy strategy to support the better management and maintenance of social housing in the Kimberley.</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SDWK to provide Executive Team with the work that they have progressed. 2. EO to develop a template for members to populate to support the advocacy strategy. 	
Moved:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Responsible:	Executive Team / SDWK
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	3/0		

Attachment 14 Advocacy Strategy

Public Housing Management and Maintenance Advocacy Strategy

Draft for discussion

April 2024



*Advocacy is about getting
someone to do something.*

The Democracy Centre

Our strategy

- Building evidence on what needs to change and how that change can happen
- Developing collective action
- Facilitating on the ground solutions that can be progressed by government
- Being positive – selling the benefits to government and stakeholders
- Linking into pre-election strategy seeking ongoing government commitments

Context

- Homes managed by the Department of Communities are poorly maintained and are not compliant with cyclone and public health risks
- Sub standard homes lead to poor health outcomes for residents – ie rheumatic heart disease
- Public housing property and tenancy management (i.e. collecting or rent / housing inspections) is undertaken by the Department of Communities or outsourced to a NGO
- Housing maintenance is outsourced by the Department of Communities via a head maintenance contract – this contract is under review
- To support tenants the Department of Communities funds the THRIVE program - Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation has the contract for THRIVE across the Kimberley.

Thrive program – tenancy support

Nirrumbuk lead a consortium providers –

- Winun Ngari's - Derby
- Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation - Fitzroy Crossing
- Jungarni Jutiya - Halls Creek
- Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation - Kununurra and surrounds.

THRIVE services

- Referral and opt in basis
- Tailored case coordination and management that addresses the wider needs of client
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate support
- Direct support provision
- Regular home visits
- Support service navigation and referral facilitation assistance.

Local government - powers don't bind Crown

- **Health Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1911 – Houses unfit for habitation.** The Crown is not bound by the Health Act so Dept Communities are not bound by orders
- **Health Local Laws** (these might vary across the local government authorities). Disease risk, harbourage of pests, waste and rubbish. **Provisions for containing food and wastes, measures to eradicate cockroaches, cleanliness, rats and other vectors of disease.**
- **Public Health Act 2016 – General public health duty.** The Crown is bound by this legislation, but it is not fully enacted.
- **Local Government Act 1995.** (The Crown is generally NOT bound - **Unsightly properties provisions**)
- **Emergency Management Act 2005.** This act binds the Crown but at least in Shire of Broome, Environmental Health Officers are **NOT** authorised under this Act. Some provisions apply to cyclone areas. **Local government has power to destroy dangerous vegetation or premises in a cyclone area (under certain conditions).** Not all Kimberley local governments might be deemed cyclone risk.

Advocacy approach – inside or outside track

Inside track: *The 'inside track' works within established means of appealing to decision makers and includes engaging in consultation and other practices that allow direct communication between stakeholders and policymakers/decisionmakers. The aim is to guide, inform and motivate decisionmakers through a more internal exchange of information, ideas and negotiation.*

Outside track: *The 'outside track' or public facing campaign uses publicly broadcast attempts to achieve policy or social change, including media, advertising, public conferences, social media, dedicated websites, calls to action to engage stakeholders and the broader public, and even rallies and protests.*



Inside track strategy

- Develop a solution with key stakeholders
- Get the bureaucrats on side
- Get the Minister’s office on side
- Supports a whole of government agenda – ie closing the gap
- Credible, well-crafted solutions.
- Positive messaging
- Get support from Aboriginal corporations



Our theory of change

Resources	Activities	Outputs	Outcome	Impact
<p>KRG Members</p> <p>KRG Executive</p> <p>Partner agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the scale of the issues in each Shire • Meet with Nirrumbuk to understand pressures in supporting tenants • Determine cost estimates to address the immediate clean up issues • Discuss with the Department of Communities their pressures re clean ups, maintenance and healthy homes, and how they would like to address identified issues. • Meet with the Dept of Health to understand pressures on the Aboriginal Environmental Health Program • Brief Aboriginal organisations to see if they would like to undertake joint advocacy. • Develop costed proposal to inform advocacy and write to DGs and Ministers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos from each Shire that demonstrate the issue and rough estimate of the number of houses that need to be cleaned up • A rough estimate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To fund clean-up of yards to standard satisfactory to by 2024/25 cyclone season • Of additional funding to support tenants to maintain their homes • For ongoing maintenance • A rough estimate for increased investment in the Aboriginal Environmental Health Program • Letter with proposal to Department of Communities and Ministers for Housing, Health and Emergency Management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better health for tenants • Safer communities during natural disasters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability and disadvantage is reduced.

Our Target			
WA Department of Communities / Minister for Housing			
Outcome			
New investment to clean up public homes to meet emergency management and health requirements.			
Tactic	Who	Additional resources	Week ending
Shires to take photos of public homes with cyclone/emergency management and public health risks in each shire – estimate how many homes per Shire and rough cost to make compliant immediately – and for ongoing maintenance	KRG Members	N	
Meeting with Nirrumbuk to understand their issues re tenant support across region and funding needed to provide support to clean up yards / make homes healthy	KRG Executive	N	
Determine best way to do clean up i.e. Funding for Dept of Communities to manage, the Shires, or Nirrumbuk/tenants and if Shires could contribute incentives	KRG members		
Meet with the AMS and key Aboriginal organisations to get their support	KRG Executive	N	
Meet with the Kimberley Executive Director Communities and DFES to proposal and get their input into the proposal and the funding needed for ongoing maintenance of homes	KRG Executive	N	
Meet with the Aboriginal Environmental Health Branch to understand funding shortfall for	KRG Executive	N	
Develop a joint proposal to government with cost estimates	KRG Executive	N	
Develop costed proposal with a clear ask to the Director General Communities, Health, Emergency Manager and Ministers.	KRG Executive	N	
Include proposal in pre-election strategy	KRG Executive	N	



Measuring success

- % of Aboriginal corporations working with KRG
- New funding and support from government
- If this inside track advocacy is not successful, consider an outside track advocacy approach – i.e. publicly facing campaign seeking government action

11. Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 14 – Framework for the KRG Submission

Purpose

To provide information on the new House of Representatives Standing Committee inquiry into local government sustainability.

In summary

- The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport has been tasked to inquire into and report on local government sustainability.
- The inquiry was adopted on 21 March 2024 following a referral from the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Catherine King MP.
- The Committee is seeking written submissions by 3 May 2024 from organisations and individuals that provide recommendations relating to any or all of the inquiry's terms of reference.
- It was agreed out of session discussion by the KRG Chair and the secretariat that the KRG should put in a submission raising long standing sustainability issues and solutions to address these.
- The proposed framework for the submission is attached for discussion
- The submission will be progressed by the Executive Team, who will seek information from member Councils as required, and will liaise with WALGA to inform the submission.
- An extension of time has been sought from to lodge the KRG submission.
- Out of session endorsement for the final submission will be sought from KRG members prior to lodging the submission.

Background

The committee Terms of Reference are as follows: *The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport will inquire into and report on local government matters, with a particular focus on:*

- *The financial sustainability and funding of local government*
- *The changing infrastructure and service delivery obligations of local government*
- *Any structural impediments to security for local government workers and infrastructure and service delivery*
- *Trends in the attraction and retention of a skilled workforce in the local government sector, including impacts of labour hire practices*
- *The role of the Australian Government in addressing issues raised in relation to the above*
- *Other relevant issues.*

Committee members are:

- Chair - Mr Luke Gosling OAM MP – Australian Labor Party - Solom NT
- Deputy Chair - Mr Tony Pasin MP – Australian Liberal Party - Barker SA
- Mr Colin Boyce MP Liberal National Party of Queensland, Flynn QLD
- Hon Scott Buchholz MP Liberal National Party of Queensland, Wright QLD
- Ms Lisa Chesters MP Australian Labor Party, Bendigo VIC
- Dr Helen Haines MP Independent, Indi VIC
- Mr Rob Mitchell MP Australian Labor Party, McEwen VIC
- Ms Tracey Roberts MP Australian Labor Party, Pearce WA
- Ms Joanne Ryan MP Australian Labor Party, Lalor VIC
- Mr Tony Zappia MP Australian Labor Party, Makin SA

The only Western Australian sitting on the inquiry, Ms Tracey Roberts, was the former Mayor of the City of Wanneroo, President of the Western Australian Local Government Association and Vice President of the Australian Local Government Association. Details on the inquiry can be found at - https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Regional_Development/Infrastructure_and_Transport/Localgovernmentsustaina.

Details

The proposed framework for the KRG submission is attached for discussion and input.

Risk

Financial: That the sustainability issues facing KRG Members are not addressed without an evidence-based submission.

Reputational: Without providing a submission, the KRG may not be seen as a powerful voice for the region or for local government.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications				
<table border="1"> <tr> <td> People Place Prosperity Performance </td> <td> Advocate Partner Promote </td> <td> Facilitate Fund Monitor </td> </tr> </table>	People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor		Nil.	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor				
Resolution/s		Action(s)				
<p>That the KRG</p> <p>1.Support the framework for the KRG submission into the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability;</p> <p>2. Provide case studies to illustrate the points made in the submission; and</p> <p>3. Note that the submission will be circulated for out of session endorsement. The end date for submission is the 31st May 2024.</p>		<p>Members to send through case studies to illustrate the points made in attachment 14 the framework for the KRG submission to the Executive Officer.</p> <p>Executive Officer to circulate draft submission to members out of session for feedback prior to finalising the submission by the 31st May.</p>				
Moved:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Responsible:	Members / Executive Officer			
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	31 st May 2024			
Carried:	3/0					

Attachment 14 Framework for the KRG Submission

Inquiry for Local Government Sustainability Framework for KRG Submission

1. About the Kimberley Regional Group

2. The outcome we seek from the inquiry

3. Changing infrastructure and service delivery obligations

Increased level of service

- We are required to provide these services to attract and retain a workforce through increased community amenity and liveability.
- Council case studies that illustrate the range of services that generally are not provided by metropolitan Councils.
 - Affordable and key worker/staff housing
 - Airports
 - Cultural Centres
 - Emergency Evacuation Centres
 - Community safety and crime prevention initiatives

Increased cost of providing services

- The cost to build and to maintain assets in the Kimberley 60 percent higher than metropolitan areas.
- Average employee expenses are higher than the metropolitan areas due a range of incentives to attract and retain staff.
- The increase in the provision of infrastructure coupled with inadequate funding of asset maintenance has significant long-term financial implications reduces the useful life of our infrastructure
- Need for increased support to enable us to reduce operating costs through green technologies such as battery and solar technology.
- NGO funding pressures – pull out / seek Council for support

4. Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs)

The pool of FAGs funding

- Full equalisation, either vertical or horizontal is currently unachievable because the Commonwealth is not putting sufficient funds in the pool. In the first instance, the issue is not the method of distribution but measures to increase the size of the funding pool.
- Quote work by SDWK
- The Australian Local Government Association, and WA Local Government Association have long been prosecuting the case that at a minimum FAGs is restored to 1 percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue. We support this.

Recommendations

1. That as a minimum Financial Assistance Grants are restored to 1 percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.
2. That consideration is given of a top up FAGs funding which is distributed to Councils with a limited revenue bases.
3. That FAGs funding remains untied.

CPI Indexation

The quantum of the Financial Assistance Grants is indexed annually in line with changes in population and the Consumer Price Index.

The WA Regional Price Index (RPI) contrasts the cost of a common basket of goods and services at a number of regional locations to the Perth metropolitan area.

Recommendation

1. That a Regional Price Index is used to inform the annual indexation of FAGs in rural and remote Australia.

Commonwealth distribution formula

- The population component of the Commonwealth allocation of local government financial assistance grants, has a detrimental impact on grant funds to regional local governments as there is no representation of need in this funding allocation. It is not equitable as Councils in different States are brought up to different fiscal levels.
- The impact for Kimberley Councils of the distribution of general purpose grants between States on an equal per capita basis does not recognise the differences between local government's capacity to raise own source revenue and their different expenditure needs. This has a negative impact on Kimberley Councils due to our very low population density, relatively long lengths of road per capita, relatively high proportion of people in remote areas and people with high levels of unemployment and income support.

Minimum grant

- The intent of the minimum grant national principle is to allocate local governments with a minimal grant as they are seen as advantaged and effectively able to support themselves. The minimum grant represents an artificial constraint on the methodology of distributing FAGs which is not aligned with equalisation principles.
- WA's high number of rural local governments which means the State average service level which local governments are compared against, is far lower in WA than other States. This means that all metropolitan local governments are seen as above average. If comparing this to other States, they have local governments within their metropolitan areas that are considered as needing a grant due to the higher average level of service.

Recommendation

5. That the distribution of FAGs funds is not solely on a per capita allocation but informed by the principle of relative need
6. That the minimum grant requirement is removed
7. A floor placed into the methodology to assist the most disadvantaged local governments.
8. That there is funding certainty for Councils in the allocation of their FAGs grants.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Under the National Principles Financial assistance shall be allocated to local governments in a way that recognises the needs of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders within their boundaries.

Closing the Gap

- The Aboriginal population is significantly higher than the national average
- The Kimberley level of disadvantage is significant
- Level of income support / unemployment
- Council services are critical to close the gap

5. Important role of other grants

- Important. Issue – competitive – time taken to apply and be assessed
- Challenge of providing financial / in kind support for smaller Councils
- Often Level of funding not commensurate to need
 - RADS
 - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Project extended as it gives Councils flexibility to spend where the community needs the funds spent.

6. Own source revenue

Rates

- Kimberley local governments have insufficient revenue-raising capacity to maintain or upgrade their significant infrastructure holdings or provide the level of services that their communities desire
- ALGA state nationally, local government derives nearly 90 percent of its revenue from its own sources (including rates and services charges)¹, This is not the case for Kimberley Councils where own-source revenue-raising capacity – outline reasons
- Council rates are the single most important source of own-revenue for local governments. In the Kimberley rates fare poorly in the context of providing a growing source of revenue to match growing community demands for services. The returns from rates from Councils with a smaller geographic area are far greater per square kilometre than for Kimberley Councils.

¹ <https://alga.com.au/policy-centre/financial-sustainability/>

- Method of calculating rates - Gross Rental Value (GRV) or Unimproved Value (UV) - rates in non-rural areas of Western Australia are based on the net rental value of the land, while rural land is predominantly assessed on the unimproved capital value.
- Rate exemptions - Some State government agencies do not fully compensate councils for mandatory exemptions and concessions, despite the State governments being responsible for them.

User charges

- have to balance competing efficiency and equity concerns along with the community's ability to pay for access to services.
- Many services are 'mixed goods', that is, they have characteristics of public and private goods – difficult to balance the liability for a service apportioned between the individual through user fees and the wider community through rates given the high levels of income support

7. Fiscal policy

- Fringe benefit relief
 - mortgage interest for Kimberley owner occupied homes can be salary sacrificed with 100% FBT exemption
- Tax offsets for remote living
 - eligibility for remote area housing salary sacrifice for rental and home ownership is reviewed to support staff attraction and retentions
 - Tax incentives specifically for remote regions such as reductions in luxury vehicle tax for 4x4 vehicles

8. Impact of Regulatory Reform

- a. Federal legislation
- b. State legislation

Federal

- Community Development Program - Federal changes to CDP program impacted significantly. People no longer had to work for their benefits.

State

- Examples – Audit, Puppy Farming, ESL Levy

12. Kimberley Regional Group Priority Action List

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 15 Status Report, KRG Prioritised Action List

Purpose

To provide a status update on the progression of action items.

In summary

- The Priority Action List for 2023/24 was developed from a November 2022 workshop, and presented to members for feedback and become a standing item on the agenda
- The Executive Team is allocating resources to drive actions, and scoping out project costings for additional consultancy work as required.
- This paper provides a status update on priority actions.
- It must be noted that the priority actions do not preclude other activities from occurring, in particular seizing opportunities as they arise.

Background

As above

Details

As above

Risk

Operational: Without agreement on the priority work to be progressed by KRG members and the Executive Team opportunities may be missed

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
<p>People Place Prosperity Performance</p>	<p>Advocate Partner Promote</p> <p>Facilitate Fund Monitor</p>	Additional consultancy money to progress some actions to be considered after a scope of works has been presented for endorsement	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
1. That the KRG notes the progress of the action items		EO to commence preparations for a strategic workshop to be held later in the year which will also refresh the priority action list as a result.	
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	3/0		

Attachment 15 KRG Prioritised Action List Status April 2024

Ongoing	Complete	On track	Pending	Behind
Type of Activity	Actions		Within contract scope	Status Update
Facilitate and partner	Develop a collective Kimberley Housing Investment Strategy and pitch that outlines what's been done to date and future opportunities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of priority projects Cost to deliver these homes and partnership opportunities. Funding strategy to implement identified projects. 		No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Advocacy Strategy endorsed at November 2023 meeting. Housing Roundtable a key step in developing a collective Kimberley Housing Investment Strategy. Roundtable endorsed at February 2024 meeting
Facilitate and Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host a Kimberley Housing Roundtable 		No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$10K received from KDC \$2.5K received from RDA Kimberley Housing Australia agreed to participate and to provide in kind support
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Maintenance Advocacy Strategy 		Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy to be developed for KRG endorsement
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tanami Activation Strategy 		No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KDC is leading this work Likely a funding application for a precinct plan will be lodged

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KRG will continue to liaise with KDC and Shire of Halls Creek • Activation strategy is included in the Investment Prospectus and Election Strategy
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the KRG land policy and strategy • Advocate for policy changes to the transfer of Crown land to freehold for the provision of housing, with savings allocated for headworks or other activities to facilitate development. 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted paper to be updated
Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a joint project to quantify shire expenditure on vandalism/property crime. • Develop a Local Government community safety package for Ministers Winton, Carey and Papalia – i.e., Street lighting (LED), CCTV, infrastructure, policing, child centred – preventative services and wrap around services. 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of works endorsed at November 2023 meeting. • RFQ released by SWEK for consultants • NAJA engaged to undertake this project and start date TBC.
Improve performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving performance by learning from others (Benchmarking Project) • All services provided to improve efficiencies and learning from others 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmarking project endorsed at November 2023 meeting. • Emails sent to CEO's requesting a contact for the information. • Information received from SWEK and Broome. Derby working to provide information by the 19th of April.
Monitor and Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop scope of works and commission research to understand the funding shortfall facing Kimberley Councils to inform an advocacy strategy for increased financial assistance (FAGS) from state and federal government. 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of works endorsed at November 2023 meeting. • RFQ released by SWEK for consultants. • NAJA engaged to undertake this project and start date TBC.
Advocate	Execute Pre-election strategy		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather government election priorities 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review government commitments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Investment Prospectus 2024 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding allocated by KRG. • Information sought from Councils. Item of April 2024 agenda. for endorsement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop pre-election summary document 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop pitch and layout
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop communication and advocacy plan 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key messages / key stakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Pre-election document 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint meeting in Perth

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake advocacy 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings in Perth and Canberra
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential summit with Regional Australia Institute, 14-15 August, Canberra 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAJA negotiating reduced conference package and opportunities
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission to the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability. 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission Framework on the April 2024 agenda for discussion and input. Submissions due 3rd May 2024.
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of mental health services. Expansion of family and domestic violence services. Expansion of aged care services. Health facilities that are fit for purpose in Aboriginal communities. 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data needed – an opportunity to lead joint advocacy with NGOs
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for whole of family approach and wrap around services to be located in the Kimberley. 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll into pre-election strategy. Benchmarking exercise to assist with this.
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a stakeholder engagement, communications and advocacy strategy in line with the Policy Papers 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll into pre-election strategy.
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop advocacy strategies to encourage economic diversification including mining; tourism; agriculture; defence; creative Industries; small business; Indigenous business growth 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing advocacy and engagement
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for MOG initiatives around better place based regional service delivery to be progressed. 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing advocacy and engagement.
Advocate Facilitate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update KRG Investment Prospectus 	90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop White Paper with clear positions 	Yes	<p>Complete – Instead of White Paper individual Position Papers Developed-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosperous and Diverse Economy Housing Management of Alcohol and Other Drugs Juvenile Justice Community Safety and Crime Prevention Provision of Government Services Emergency Management
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase support for mitigation measures, infrastructure replacement to be more resilient. Removal of the distinction between ordinary and additional costs in NDR payments. 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Submission endorsed and submitted. Senate Inquiry submission endorsed and submitted. EM Policy Paper endorsed and submitted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined contracting and procurement processes, surety to payments, and immediate access to NDR funds. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These points included in submissions and EM Policy Paper.
Facilitate and Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strong relationships with NHFIC (National Housing Finance Investment Corporation), Development WA and the Department of Communities – invite CEOs to KRG meeting to discuss partnership opportunities. 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHFIC, now Housing Australia, attended November 2023 meeting. Will be engaged through Housing Advocacy Strategy.
Advocate	<p>Develop a stakeholder engagement and communications plan, and advocacy strategy, to drive the actions identified in the Housing Policy Position, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State and federal social and affordable housing investment programs target the Kimberley Community housing partnerships. The DPLH support Shires to review housing needs in each town. Changes to Government Regional Officer Housing and Home Ownership Subsidy Scheme policies Government incentives for new supply Changes to finance lending practices for home purchase 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item for November 2023 meeting
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission to Aviation Green Paper 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission endorsed at November 2023 meeting and submitted
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review KRG Governance Documents 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance documents endorsed at November 2023 meeting.
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission to National Housing and Homelessness Plan 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission lodged based on Housing Policy Position
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Port of Entry Status 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters sent to State and Federal Government Ministers – continued to be raised in meetings with government. Expanded FPOE status being progressed for Broome

13. Around the Grounds

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

This session provides an opportunity for members to share information of a local or regional nature that may provide opportunities for collaboration or may serve the purposes of sharing a learning that could impact the region as a whole.

In summary

- Since the inception of this agenda item in February 2023, two events were deemed major enough to steer discussion: the floods and the Canberra visit.
- For this meeting, it has been left to each Shire to introduce a topic/s of their choice that they deem relevant for the group. It is the intention that each Shire can hold the floor for up to 5 minutes, after which the item can either be followed up out of session or raised as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Issues discussed

Bridge issues

SDWK raised that there either is or likely to be a significant “weight restrictions” placed on the Willare Bridge, and we assume Minnie. This is causing issues between West and East Kimberley and further to the NT.

The Shire of Halls Creek raised issues with the closure of the Tanami Road due to flooding and the Stuart Creek Bridge being underwater. The remote communities of Mulan, Billiluna and Balgo have been cut off by road for weeks with people being stuck in Halls Creek contributing to chronic overcrowding of homes. This work needs to be prioritised as part of the Tanami Road upgrade.

SWEK raised issues regarding bushfire management across the Kimberley and advised that Grey Mackay from the Land Alliance heads up a group of key players in this space. He has funding to facilitate coordination and communication with key stakeholders like shire Rangers, Indigenous Rangers, Pastoralists and DFES Staff. It was suggested that Mr Mackay present at the October KRG meeting.

Risk

Operational and reputational: if key issues facing KRG members are not understood by the KRG.



Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor
Resolution/s		Action(s)
For information only		<p>SWEK and SoHC to send through bridge issues to the EO. The KRG write to State and Federal Government raising these issues.</p> <p>That Grey Mackay from the Land Alliance be invited to the October KRG meeting to present on bushfire issues in the Kimberley.</p>

14. KRG Position Papers

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 16: Position Paper – Management of Alcohol and other Drugs (attached separately)

Attachment 17: Position Paper – Community Safety and Crime Prevention (attached separately)

Attachment 18: Position Paper – Housing (attached separately)

Attachment 19: Position Paper – Juvenile Justice (attached separately)

Attachment 20: Position Paper – Prosperous Diverse Economy (attached separately)

Attachment 21: Position Paper – Provision of Government Services (attached separately)

Attachment 22: Position Paper – Emergency Management (attached separately)

Purpose

That the Kimberley Regional Group notes the refreshed set of Position Papers which will be used for advocacy as part of the State and Federal Election Strategy.

In summary

- In February 2023 the Kimberley Regional Group endorsed six position papers with a seventh paper on Emergency Management endorsed in November 2023 -
 1. Management of Alcohol and Other Drugs;
 2. Community Safety and Crime Prevention;
 3. Housing;
 4. Juvenile Justice;
 5. Prosperous Diverse Economy;
 6. Provision of Government Services; and
 7. Emergency Management
- The Position Papers are located on the KRG website and have been used to inform KRG submissions to government, and for advocacy purposes and have been well received.
- The Position Papers have been refreshed to ensure that they remain contemporary.

Background

As above

Details

Minor changes have been made to most Position Papers. The context of the Housing Position Paper has been changed to align with the Kimberley Development Commission's Residential Housing and Land Snapshot November 2023 and to include advocacy points relating to the eligibility for remote area housing salary sacrifice for rental and home ownership and the salary sacrifice and FBT exemptions of mortgage interest for Kimberley owner occupied homes. The Management of Alcohol and Other Drugs has been updated to reflect changes to Banned Drinkers Legislation.

Risk

Reputational: lack of alignment on key policy positions across the Kimberley Shires and engagement and advocacy is not evidence based.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor	\$720 allocated for graphic design and printing costs.
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
That the KRG notes the refreshed Position Papers.		Refreshed Papers to be uploaded onto the KRG Website	
Moved:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Responsible:	As required
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	As required
Carried:	3/0		

15. Election Strategy

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

To provide an update on the Kimberley Regional Group State and Federal government election strategy.

In summary

- The KRG endorsed an election strategy at the November 2023 meeting – the aim of the strategy is pre-election commitments for new investment in Kimberley infrastructure and services
- Up to \$7600 was allocated by the KRG towards this strategy.
- This paper provides a progress update of the election strategy
- The State and Federal Government 2024/25 budgets will be announced in May 2024. These budgets will inform the KRG election requests.

Background

As above

Details

Election strategy actions and timetable status update

The following is a status update of the pre-election strategy

Action	When	Material Required / comments	Status update
Gather federal and state priorities for the Kimberley	January 2024	Research undertaken.	Complete
Update Investment Prospectus	March 2024	An item to endorse the Prospectus is in the April 2024 agenda papers.	Awaiting information
Refresh Position Papers	March 2024	An item to endorse the updated papers in in the April 2024 agenda papers.	On track
Develop an Election Summary document to front the election pack	April / May 2024	2-4 page document summarising Kimberley statistics and compelling election asks from the prospectus and position paper. To be finalised after State and Federal Government budgets are handed down.	On track

Action	When	Material Required / comments	Status update
Develop key messages and a communication plan	May /June 2024	Under current contract	On track
Develop an advocacy and engagement plan	May / June 2024	Under current contract	On track
Launch Pre-Election document	June 2024	Potential to launch at the 20 June Perth Joint Forum with the RCAWA.	On track
Undertake advocacy and engagement	July 2024 – March 2025	Need to link this with KRG Canberra visit	TBD

Risk

Operational and Reputational: Without a pre-election strategy, opportunities to drive the KRG’s policy and advocacy agenda may be missed.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications			
<table border="1"> <tr> <td> People Place Prosperity Performance </td> <td> Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor </td> </tr> </table>	People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		Up to \$7,600 plus GST has been allocated towards the documents for the election strategy.	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor				
Resolution/s		Action(s)			
That the KRG note the progress of the election strategy					
Moved:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Responsible:	-		
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	-		
Carried:	3/0				

16. Executive Officer Report

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Officer

Attachment 23: EO Report March 2024

Purpose

To update the KRG on the Executive Officer services provided for the period January 2024 inclusive.

Background

The attached report provides information about the services provided, activities undertaken and time allocation over the past two months.

Details

As in included attachment.

Risk

Nil

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote	Facilitate Fund Monitor	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
That the Executive Officers Report be received and endorsed			
Moved:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Responsible:	
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	
Carried:	3/0		

Attachment 23: EO Report – March 2024

Project Work / Activity

Refer to business arising and KRG action lists for all activities the Executive is working on.

Project / Activity	Status	Item
Administrative Matters and Meetings	Ongoing	-
Website and social media	LinkedIn posts continuing	-
State and Federal Government Election Strategy	Implementing Strategy	15
Strategic Planning	Implementation of the KRG Prioritised Action List	12
Advocacy Strategy Management of Social Housing	Implementing Strategy	10
Kimberley Housing Roundtable	Funding received and roundtable progressing	8
Office of Northern Australia White Paper	Dr Allan Dale to present to the members.	9
Submission to the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability	Framework for the submission in the April 2024 Agenda Papers.	11
General Stakeholder Engagement	Ongoing – see Stakeholder list	16
Benchmarking	Preparation of material	-

Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Purpose
Chuck Berger, CEO KDC	Election Strategy, Investment Prospectus, Kimberley Housing Roundtable Tanami Activation Strategy
Janine Hatch, Director, RDA Kimberley	Kimberley Housing Roundtable
Luke Boshier, Head of Program, Strategy, Impact Housing Australia	Kimberley Housing Roundtable
KRG members	Investment Prospectus, Housing Australia Funding, Regional Precinct Funding
KRG Secretariat	Agenda items, advocacy discussions, finance administrative matters
Anthony Kannis, Director General, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	KRG matters update
Louise Kingston, Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Regional Cities, Tourism	Presentation to members at the April meeting
Allan Dale, Co-operative Research Centre Northern Australia (CRCNA) Chief Scientist	Northern Australia White Paper Action Plan Refresh
Liz Ritchie, CEO, Regional Australia Institute	Regions Rising 2024 National Summit Canberra 13th-15th August
Paul Ferrante, Manager Regional North, DevelopmentWA	KRG matters update
Tim Fraser, Executive Director Local Government, DLGSC	KRG matters update
Michael Andrew, Membership & Licensing Manager, Australian Hotels Association	Joint advocacy letter / submission to government from KRG, RCAWA and AHA
David MacLennan, CEO, City of Vincent	20th June 2024 Government Forum

Time Allocation September 2022 – March 2024

Total 2-Yearly Contract: 1,728 Hours: Monthly from 8th of the month to 7th of the next month

	Paul Rosair		Michelle Mackenzie		Jane Lewis		Support	
	Contract	Actual	Contract	Actual	Contract	Actual	Contract	Actual
Sep 22	32	34	20	18	23	29	4	2
Oct 22	32	22	20	8	23	24	4	1
Nov 22	32	40	20	36	23	28	4	0
Dec 22	15	12.5	10	26.25	10	1.5	2	0
Jan 23	15	19	10	11	10	36	2	0
Feb 23	32	15.5	20	9	23	25.5	4	0
Mar 23	32	34	20	9.25	23	14.5	4	0
Apr 23	32	19	20	9.5	23	24	4	0
May 23	32	35	20	23.5	23	18.5	4	0
June 23	32	37.5	20	21.25	23	27	4	0
July 23	32	46	20	14.25	23	45	4	0
Aug 23	32	54.5	20	35	23	58	4	6
Sep 23	29	34.5	22	21.25	26	13	4	0
Oct 23	29	30	22	27.5	26	25	4	8
Nov 23	29	26	22	14.75	26	41.5	4	4
Dec 23	15	18	11	12.50	14	6.5	2	10
Jan 24	15	12	11	12	14	5	2	13.5
Feb 24	29	35.5	22	22.75	26	17	4	11.5
Mar 24	29	28	22	22.25	26	9	4	12
TOTALS	525	553	352	354	408	448	68	68
OVERALL		CONTRACT: 1353 ACTUALS: 1423						

Note: as can be seen from the hours above, there has been a lot of time invested in determining the KRG strategic agenda, getting a prospectus in place, organising the governance documents, producing policy papers, writing submissions, organising and attending external meetings as well as the general running of the KRG and Zone meetings. With 63 hours over budgeted time, the Executive Team has negotiated for these hours to be paid out to reset the baseline of monthly hours.

The Executive Team have laid the foundations for future work, which will entail some core hours, and hours that will be deemed as project work outside of core hours. Moving forward the allocation of core and non-core hours will be managed acknowledging that some project work (whether completed by NAJA as extra work or by an external supplier) cannot be accommodated within budgeted Executive Officer hours.

17. General Business

Item	Responsible	Comments /Actions Arising
Canberra Visit 2024	Vernon Lawrence	Place holder calendar invite sent for 13-15 th August 2024 to align with Regional Australia Institute. 3 attendees confirmed.
Guests / representatives to be invited to the Zone or KRG meetings in 2024	Members	Executive Team requested by CEO group to bring this topic up for discussion. Who the members would like to have reports from on a regular basis at the Zone meetings. Currently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WALGA • Regional Development Australia • Kimberley Development Commission • Australia's Northwest • DLGSCI • Roads – position currently vacant
June Forum	Executive Team	Invitations have been sent to 66 people (Federal Ministers, State Ministers, Departments, Local Government and Industry and Peak bodies). Room booked at the City of Vincent.
Regions Rising 2023 National Summit Program	Executive Team	Proposal received from Regional Australia Institute (RAI) for attendance by KRG. Executive Officer discussing proposal with RAI prior to presenting to KRG for consideration.
Alan Dale Northern Australia Refresh	Executive Team	Presentation to April 2024 KRG Meeting. See Item 10
Hon Melissa Price MP KRG Meeting request - Member for Durack	Executive Team	Melissa Price has expressed interest in attending a meeting.
Housing and Childcare Lobbying	James Watt, Shire of Broome	Attachment 24 – Housing and Childcare Advocacy The KRG supported progressing this work and the EO will update the action list and come back to the KRG with a proposal on how to progress this.
Government Kimberley Resilience Package	Executive Team Michelle Mackenzie	Here is the link to the media statement: New multimillion-dollar program to build Kimberley resilience - Read more here

Attachment 24 Housing and Childcare Advocacy – Broome email

Good morning guys,

I hope you are both well?

I've been meaning to table this one for a while, but time has escaped me!

As you are aware, the 2 biggest issues we are facing in the Kimberley are housing and childcare. As Local Government, we are not immune to these challenges and it is significantly impacting staff attraction and retention.

To that end the Shire of Broome has recently resolved to construct 5 staff houses, from borrowings (outside of our annual budget process). We currently own 8 houses and are hoping to reach 18 over the next few years.

We currently offer salary sacrifice to our staff for rental. If staff rent through the private market directly, they can salary sacrifice with 50% FBT exemption. If the Shire holds the headlease and subleases to the employee, they can salary sacrifice with 100% FBT exemption. We used to offer the latter to just level 5 and above, but I have opened it up to all staff a couple of years back. There is a bit of an admin burden, but we really don't have many staff taking up the offer – I think due to lack of understanding of the benefit.

We also offer salary sacrifice for home owners. Mortgage interest can be salary sacrifice with 50% FBT exemption. There has been much discussion over the years as to whether the mortgage principal can also be salary sacrificed. We were doing this some 12 years back but killed it due to uncertainty on the legalities. Ideally, if we could lobby the federal govt to open this up to 100% FBT exemption for both interest and principal – it would make a massive difference.

Further to this, I attended a salary sacrifice workshop last year, and there was some discussion on salary sacrificing of childcare expenses. My understanding is this could only be done if the Shire ran the childcare and employed the childcare workers direct. I feel there may be opportunities to clarify this or consider other models.

I'm wondering if there is some work we could do here through the Kim Zone, which could lead into a lobbying effort in Canberra later in the year....

My thoughts:

1. Can we seek some tax advice on the status quo regarding eligibility for remote area housing salary sacrifice for rental and home ownership (clarifying eligibility (or not) for mortgage principal repayments)
2. Can we undertake some case study modelling to understand the impact of increasing the FBT exemption from 50 to 100%? Possibly lobbying opportunity.
3. Stamp Duty – could we lobby to have exemptions for stamp duty in remote areas?
4. Can we seek tax advice on the current eligibility of childcare expense salary sacrifice options
5. Can we consider some case studies and modelling on childcare provision to lobby for appropriate changes

Let me know your thoughts,

Thanks

Sam



Sam Mastrolembo | Chief Executive Officer

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Attachment 25 2024 Meeting dates

CEO Ringaround

In Person Meetings

Zoom meetings

State Council

Month	Meeting	Date	Time	Location	Notes
February	CEO Ringaround	9/2/24	8.30am – 9.00am	Zoom	
	Dinner	15/2/24	6.30-9.30pm	Perth - TBD	Parliament sitting 13-15 Meetings to be organised
	Kimberley Zone	16/2/24	9-10.30am		
	KRG		10.30am-12.30pm		
March	State Council meeting	6/3/24	-	WALGA	
April	CEO Ringaround	12/4/24	8.30am – 9.00am	Zoom	
	Kimberley Zone	19/4/24	1-2.30pm	Zoom	
	KRG		2.30am-4.30pm		
May	State Council meeting	1/5/24	-	North Metropolitan Zone	

CEO Ringaround

In Person Meetings

Zoom meetings

State Council

Month	Meeting	Date	Time	Location	Notes
June	CEO Ringaround	13/6/24	8.30am – 9.00am	Zoom	
	KRG	20/6/24	9-10.30am	City of Vincent	
	Kimberley Zone		10.30am-12.00		
June	Government Forum	20/6/24	12 – 2pm	City of Vincent	
	Dinner		6.30-9.30pm	Le Vivant or similar	
July	State Council meeting	3/7/24	-	WALGA	
August	CEO Ringaround	8/8/24	8.30am – 9.00am	Zoom	
	Kimberley Zone	15/8/24	1pm - 2.30am	Zoom	
	KRG		2.30pm – 4.30pm		
September	State Council meeting	5-6/9/24	-	South West Country Zone	

CEO Ringaround	In Person Meetings	Zoom meetings	State Council
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Month	Meeting	Date	Time	Location	Notes
October	CEO Ringaround	3/10/24	8.30am – 9.00am	Zoom	
	KRG	10/10/24	9am - 5pm	Shire of Halls Creek	Travel
			9 – 11.00am		Strategic Planning
			11.30-3pm		Meeting and lunch
			3-5pm		Tour
			6-10pm		Dinner
	11/11/24	9am - 5pm	Travel		
November	Kimberley Zone	15/11/24	1-3.30pm	Zoom	
December	State Council meeting	4/12/24	-	WALGA	

Meeting Closure: 5:00pm