



**THE
KIMBERLEY
REGIONAL GROUP**

Meeting Minutes
April 2025

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1. Meeting Open: 10:20am

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

2. Attendance and Apologies

Name	Shire / Council / Organisation	Method
Members		
Cr Malcolm Edwards	President, Shire of Halls Creek	In Person
Cr Chris Mitchell	President, Shire of Broome - Chair	In Person
Cr Peter McCumstie	President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Zoom
Observers		
Jeremy Hall	A/CEO, Shire of Broome	In Person
Tamara Clarkson	CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	In Person
Vernon Lawrence	CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	In Person
Susan Leonard	CEO, Shire of Halls Creek	In Person
Executive Support Team		
Paul Rosair	Principal, NAJA Business Consulting Services	In Person
Michelle Mackenzie	Principal, Mira Consulting	In Person
Jane Lewis	Principal, Redit Research	Zoom
Rebecca Billing	Administrative Assistant, NAJA	Zoom
Presentations		
Michele Pucci	Director Regional Development, KDC	Zoom
Janine Hatch	Director, RDA	Zoom
Josh Lowrie	Assistant Director, Australian Bureau of Statistics	Zoom
Apologies		
Sam Mastrolembro	CEO, Shire of Broome	
Cr David Menzel (Chair)	President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	
Cr Tony Chafer	Deputy Shire President, SWEK	

3. Disclosures, Conflicts and Declarations of Interest:

Financial Interest / Impartiality			
Member	Item Number	Item	Nature of Interest
Nil			

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	
The Minutes of the Kimberley Regional Group held on 21 February 2025, as published and circulated, were confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.		See Attachment 1 – Matters Arising and Outstanding Business	
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	See Attachment
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 1 Matters Arising and Outstanding Business

Date / Item	Action / Progress	Responsible
Administrative Matters		
11/10/2024	Review of KRG Strategic Documents Action 1. Develop a framework and consolidate the KRG strategic documents 2. Executive Team to schedule a workshop to develop a new KRG Business Plan in 2025 Status/Progress 1. In Progress. 2. In Progress.	Executive Team
21/02/2024 & 23/08/2024	Action: 1. Developing Northern Australia: Executive Officer to work with Dr Allan Dale regarding CRCNA. 2. Executive Officer to invite Grey Mackay from the Land Alliance to the October KRG meeting to present on bushfire issues in the Kimberley. 3. Members to inform the Executive Team of the attendees from each Shire who will be attending the Developing Northern Australia Conference 22-24 July 2025 in Cairns Status / Progress: 1. In Progress. 2. In Progress. 3. In Progress: email sent to Shires. Refer General Business	Executive Team
State and Federal Government Election Strategy		
4/10/2023 & 23/08/2024	Action: 1. 20/06/2024 – Executive Team to execute election advocacy, communications & engagement plan for 2025 State and Federal elections 2. Executive Officer to reach out to the Federal candidates to arrange a briefing on March 5th and update members once confirmed. Status / Progress: 1. In Progress. 2. Complete. Meeting held with Karen Wheatland, Labor candidate for Durack and KRG Chair and Secretariat	Executive Team

Advocacy Strategy Management & Maintenance of Social Housing		
16/02/2024	Action 1. Executive Officer to develop a template for members to populate to support the advocacy strategy. Status / Progress: 1. In Progress.	Executive Team
Kimberley Housing Roundtable 2024		
23/08/2024 & 11/10/2024	Action 1. Executive Team to progress next steps from the Roundtable with each Shire, in partnership with Housing Australia, the Department of Communities, Development WA, the Housing Supply Unit, WA Department of Treasury, and non-government agencies. Status / Progress: 1. In Progress: Shires have been asked for project timeframes with a response from one Shire received. 2. A submission under development which brings together information requested by government including population projections, housing demand data, pipeline schedule, project governance and investment request. Refer to item in Agenda.	Executive Team
Review of Financial Assistance Grants		
23/11/2023	Action: 1. Executive Officer to distribute the report to key stakeholders, upload it to the KRG website, issue a media release, and create a LinkedIn post. Status / Progress: 1. In Progress.	Executive Team
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Investment Package		
23/11/2023	Action: 1. Executive Officer to proceed with the development of the desktop published Executive Summary of this document for advocacy purposes. Status / Progress: 1. In Progress.	Executive Team
Benchmarking		
23/11/2023	Action: 1. Spreadsheet to be sent for 2023/24 Actuals and 2024/25 Budget.	Executive Team / Members

	Status / Progress: 1. On Hold: Discussed at the February 2025 meeting and project paused in order to incorporate data from the 2024/25 financial year.	
Shared Services		
20/06/2024	Action 1. Executive Officer to action a stocktake of current state / any planned enterprise initiatives across the 4 shires as a prelude to determining opportunities for collaboration. 2. Executive Officer to organise a quarterly meeting with CEOs to progress workshop. Status / Progress: 1. In Progress. 2. In Progress: This was discussed at the Strategy Workshop. 3. Time has been scheduled at the Halls Creek April 2025 meeting to discuss this with the CEOs.	Executive Officer / CEO's

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.

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.

First Point of Entry (FPOE) Broome – Federal Government announced February 2024 that work will be undertaken for the enhanced FPOE status for Broome. Funding allocated in the WA State Budget. January 2025 First Point of Entry Status granted by Federal Government for Wyndham. State Labor election commitment to invest \$15.5M to upgrade facilities at Wyndham and Derby ports.

North West Defence and Border Security – April 2024 letter sent to State and Federal Government expressing concern. Response received from the Minister for Home Affairs on the 7th July.

Planning Reform: EO monitoring reform status and will advise accordingly as issues arise

Local Government Elected Members Association with Tranche 2 Reforms: EO to monitor and advise accordingly

Aviation White Paper initiatives – the Aviation White Paper includes 56 policy settings for the direction of the Industry. The centrepiece is an independent Aviation Industry Ombuds Scheme and a new Charter of Customer Rights. Other initiatives include airlines having to show cause when flights delayed, disability standards and workforce and climate change initiatives. In relation to regional aviation – the government is responding to Rex Airlines voluntary administration and funding programs for remote airstrip upgrades and regional airports extended. The Productivity Commission will hold a review into regional airfares.

Resolved
Media and Communications Policy and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Letters of congratulations to new State Ministers
Audited statements circulated
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
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
Submissions to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding & the Senate Inquiry.
WA LEMA Review endorsed by SEMC August 2023 – uploaded on SEMC website
Emergency Services position paper endorsed 23 November 2023 meeting
Priority Action List – feedback provided by members, E.T allocate resources from contract hours
SDWK & SoHC provided bridge issues to EO. KRG wrote to State and Federal Government
State and Federal Government Election Strategy, RAI Summit 2024, position papers on website
Kimberley Housing Roundtable – Broome 29 July 2024
Advocacy Strategy Management & Maintenance of Social Housing - endorsed April 2024 meeting
SDWK provided Infill Housing and Investigations Report
Regional Volunteering Strategy 2020 endorsed at individual council meetings. EO actioned
RCAWA approved KRG to use the benchmarking template.
Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability submitted 30 May 2024
Tanami Road Funding – KRG Media release issued, SoHC leading work on a Activation Strategy
Relationship with Kimberley Development Commission
Alcohol Restrictions: EO monitored changes in alcohol restrictions and advised accordingly
Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability - EO presented at the Public Hearing 28 August 2024
EO Contract Renewal – Feedback discussed with Secretariat & new arrangements implemented
FBT Housing – A position paper developed, and advocacy being undertaken on this issue
Submission to Clearing Legislative Reform submitted 22 nd December 2024
State & Federal Government Election Strategy – Canberra meetings Nov 2024 & 50 packs reprinted
Review of Strategic documents - status update on actions in the Business Plan at Feb 2025 meeting
Meeting held in Sydney with the CEO of Housing Australia as part of the visit to Canberra 2024
Financial Assistance Grants Position Paper developed based on the review and used for advocacy
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Investment Package endorsed at February 2025 meeting
Shared Services meeting held with CEOs to discuss next steps 30/07/24. Discussion focussed on staffing challenges opportunities to explore together finance and enterprise platforms

5. Correspondence

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Secretariat

Attachment 2: Department of Communities, Regional Housing Workshop Team

Attachment 3: Ms Divina D'Anna MLA, Member for the Kimberley; Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Attachment 4: Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West

Attachment 5: Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure

Attachment 6: Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne

Attachment 7: Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier

Attachment 8: Hon Whitby MLA, Minister for Police; Road Safety; Tourism; Great Southern

Attachment 9: Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Sport and Recreation

Attachment 10: Hon Stephen Dawson MLA, Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley

Attachment 11: Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne

Attachment 12: Nick Sloan, CEO WALGA

Attachment 13: Cr Karen Chappel, President WALGA

Note: Correspondence considered of an administrative nature, such as meeting invites etc, will not be tabled unless they contain important information

Correspondence In	
Date	27/03/2025
From	Department of Communities, Regional Housing Workshop Team
Topic	Kimberley Region Housing Workshops
Attachment	2
Correspondence Out	
Date	24/03/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	Ms. Divina D'Anna MLA, Member for the Kimberley; Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier
Topic	Congratulations on re-election and appointment as Parliamentary Secretary Premier
Attachment	3
Date	24/03/2025

From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West
Topic	Congratulations on your appointment
Attachment	4
Date	24/03/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure
Topic	Congratulations on your appointment
Attachment	5
Date	24/03/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
Topic	Congratulations on your appointment
Attachment	6
Date	24/03/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier
Topic	Congratulations on your re-election
Attachment	7
Date	24/03/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Police; Road Safety; Tourism; Great Southern
Topic	Congratulations on your appointment
Attachment	8
Date	24/03/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Transport; Sport and Recreation
Topic	Congratulations on your appointment
Attachment	9
Date	24/03/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley
Topic	Congratulations on your appointment
Attachment	10
Date	03/04/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG

To	Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
Topic	Review of the Financial Assistance Grants
Attachment	11
Date	03/04/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	Nick Sloan, CEO WALGA
Topic	Review of the Financial Assistance Grants
Attachment	12
Date	03/04/2025
From	Cr David Menzel, Chair KRG
To	Karen Chappell, President WALGA
Topic	Review of the Financial Assistance Grants
Attachment	13

Resolution/s		Action(s) / Budget Implications	
The Correspondence was received and noted, and the Executive Officer was directed on a response, if required.		Nil	
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 2 Correspondence In: Regional Housing Workshop Team; Department of Communities; Kimberley Region Housing Workshops

From: Regional Housing Workshops <regionalhousingworkshops@communities.wa.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 27 March 2025 2:41 PM

Subject: Kimberley Region Housing Workshops - Department of Communities

OFFICIAL

Dear Stakeholder,

We are pleased to invite you to an upcoming **Housing Workshop for the Kimberley Region**, hosted by the Department of Communities. We will be running face-to-face workshops in **Broome, Derby, Kununurra, and Halls Creek** and trust you will be able to attend in one of these locations.

As part of the response to Recommendation 71 from Infrastructure WA's *State Infrastructure Strategy: Foundations for a Stronger Tomorrow*, the Department of Communities is developing place-based Regional Housing Plans. These plans will guide housing priorities across Western Australia with a 10-year outlook, ensuring strategic, evidence-based outcomes for each region.

The Kimberley workshops are part of a broader series happening across WA, concluding in mid-2025, gathering input from key stakeholders with knowledge and experience in housing delivery, management, and provision to shape the Regional Housing Plans.

Why Your Participation Matters:

Your insights and perspectives are crucial to understanding the unique housing challenges and opportunities in the Kimberley region. The workshops will focus on the following key themes:

- Current housing challenges and opportunities.
- Key drivers of change affecting housing in the region.
- Collaboration opportunities between government and stakeholders.

Workshop Location and Dates:

- **Kununurra:** Tuesday, 13 May (9am - 1pm)
- **Halls Creek:** Wednesday, 14 May (10am - 1pm)
- **Broome:** Monday, 26 May (12pm - 4pm)
- **Derby:** Tuesday, 27 May (11am - 2pm)

All Kimberley workshops will follow the same agenda, and it is recommended that each organisation only attend one session. The content for each will cover the entire region and discussions will not be limited to the location it is being held.

RSVP Details: If your organisation is interested in participating, could you please confirm your attendance by replying to this email with the name and position of your chosen representative/s, and your preferred workshop location by Friday, 11 April. You will then be sent the calendar invitation.

A note that these workshops will be held in-person and will not be hosted online. If you are unable to attend and wish to provide input, we are offering online 1:1 sessions, so please get in touch to organise a meeting.

Catering: We will be providing a light lunch during the workshop, so please advise us of any dietary requirements. If, after you have registered, you find you are no longer able to attend, we would appreciate your notice so we can update the catering order.

We look forward to your participation and valuable contribution to this important discussion.

Kind regards

Regional Housing Workshop Team

Affordable Housing Supply and Community Housing
Strategic Housing and Asset Policy, Planning and Business Development
Housing and Homelessness - Department of Communities

Attachment 3 Correspondence Out: Ms Divina D'Anna MLA; Member for the Kimberley; Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Congratulations



Attachment 4 Correspondence Out: Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West; Congratulations



The Hon Don Punch MLA
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West
Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005

Via email – minister.punch@dpc.wa.gov.au

28th March 2025

Dear Minister

Congratulations

On behalf of the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) of Local Governments, congratulations on your appointment as for Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; and the South West.

The KRG can only achieve our vision to enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley, through strong partnerships with government, business, the community sector and local communities. Our partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and government are a critical if we are to close the gap and drive positive social and economic change and opportunity for all. To that end the Kimberley Regional Group have developed a pre-budget submission which outlines some of our key regional priorities. This is enclosed for your consideration.

The Kimberley Regional Group looks forward to working with you in your new portfolio and to delivering great outcomes across our region and for the State. Mr. Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer will be in touch to progress a time to meet.

Congratulations again on your appointment. We look forward to working with you.

Your sincerely



Cr David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach./

Attachment 5 Correspondence Out: Hon John Carey MLA; Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure; Congratulations



The Hon John Carey MLA
Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure
Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005

Via email – minister.carey@dpc.wa.gov.au

28th March 2025

Dear Minister

Congratulations

On behalf of the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) of Local Governments, congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; and Health Infrastructure.

The KRG can only achieve our vision to enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley through strong partnerships with government, business, the community sector and local communities. Our partnership with government is a critical if we are to harness and to drive positive social change and economic opportunities for all across the Kimberley region. To that end the Kimberley Regional Group have developed a pre-budget submission which outlines some of our key regional priorities, including a suite of housing initiatives. This is enclosed for your consideration.

The Kimberley Regional Group looks forward to working with you to deliver great outcomes across the region and for the State. Mr. Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in touch to progress a time to meet.

Congratulations again on your appointment. We look forward to working with you.

Your sincerely



Cr David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach.

Attachment 6 Correspondence Out: Hon Hannah Beazley MLA; Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne; Congratulations



The Hon Hannah Beazley MLA
Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth 6005

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

28th March 2025

Dear Minister

Congratulations

On behalf of the Kimberley Regional Group of Local Governments, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Local Government; Youth; and Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development.

The KRG can only achieve our vision through strong partnerships. The WA Government is a key partner in driving our vision, and this partnership is a critical if we are to harness and to build on the social and economic opportunities across the Kimberley region. To that end the Kimberley Regional Group have developed a pre-budget submission which outlines some of our key regional priorities. This is enclosed for your consideration.

The Kimberley Regional Group would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, to discuss your policy priorities and how we can work in partnership with you to deliver great outcomes across the Kimberley and the State. Mr. Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in touch to progress a time for us to meet.

Congratulations again on your appointment. We look forward to working with you.

Your sincerely



Cr David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach

Attachment 7 Correspondence Out: Hon Roger Cook MLA; Premier; Congratulations



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

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

28th March 2025

Dear Premier

Congratulations

On behalf of the Kimberley Regional Group of Local Governments, I would like to congratulate you on your re-election.

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) is an alliance of the four Shires in the Kimberley, being the Shires of Broome, Derby West-Kimberley, Halls Creek, and Wyndham East-Kimberley. Our vision is to maintain and enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley for its people and the world. Collectively we support positive outcomes across the Kimberley through improved social and economic opportunities for all.

The KRG can only achieve our vision through strong partnerships. Thank you for your election commitments for new investment in the Kimberley. These are very welcome. Building on these initiatives, the Kimberley Regional Group have developed a pre-budget submission which outlines some of our key regional priorities. This is enclosed for your consideration.

We look forward to working with you and your government to drive positive social outcomes and economic outcomes across the Kimberley region. The Kimberley Regional Group would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, to discuss your policy priorities and how we can work in partnership. Mr. Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in touch to progress a time to meet.

Congratulations again on your re-election. We look forward to working with you.

Your sincerely



Cr David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach

Attachment 8 Correspondence Out: Hon Reece Whitby MLA; Minister for Police; Road Safety; Tourism; Great Southern; Congratulations



The Hon Reece Whitby MLA
Minister for Police; Road Safety; Tourism; Great Southern
Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005

Via email – minister.whitby@dpc.wa.gov.au

28th March 2025

Dear Minister

Congratulations

On behalf of the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) of Local Governments, congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Police; Road Safety; Tourism; and the Great Southern.

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) is an alliance of the four Shires in the Kimberley, being the Shires of Broome, Derby West-Kimberley, Halls Creek, and Wyndham East-Kimberley. Our vision is to maintain and enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley for its people and the world. Collectively we support positive outcomes across the Kimberley through improved social and economic opportunities for all.

The KRG can only achieve our vision through strong partnerships with government, business, the community sector and local communities. Our partnership with government is a critical if we are to harness and to drive positive social and economic opportunities across the Kimberley region. To that end the Kimberley Regional Group have developed a pre-budget submission which outlines some of our key regional priorities, including a community safety and crime prevention package. This is enclosed for your consideration.

The Kimberley Regional Group looks forward to working with you to support your portfolio and to deliver great outcomes across the region and for the State. Mr. Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in touch to progress a time to meet.

Congratulations again on your appointment. We look forward to working with you.

Your sincerely



Cr David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach.

Attachment 9 Correspondence Out: Hon Rita Saffioti MLA; Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Transport; Sports and Recreation; Congratulations



The Hon Rita Saffioti MLA
Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Transport; Sport and Recreation
Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005

Via email – minister.saffioti@dpc.wa.gov.au

28th March 2025

Dear Deputy Premier

Congratulations

On behalf of the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) of Local Governments, congratulations on your appointment as Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Transport; and Sport and Recreation.

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) is an alliance of the four Shires in the Kimberley, being the Shires of Broome, Derby West-Kimberley, Halls Creek, and Wyndham East-Kimberley. Our vision is to maintain and enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley for its people and the world. Collectively we support positive outcomes across the Kimberley through improved social and economic opportunities for all.

The KRG can only achieve our vision through strong partnerships. Thank you for your election commitments for new investment in the Kimberley. These are very welcome. Building on these initiatives, the Kimberley Regional Group have developed a pre-budget submission which outlines some of our key regional priorities. This is enclosed for your consideration.

The Kimberley Regional Group looks forward to working with you to support your portfolio and to deliver great outcomes across the region and for the State. Mr. Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in touch to progress a time to meet.

Congratulations again on your appointment. We look forward to working with you.

Your sincerely



Cr David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach.

Attachment 10 Correspondence Out: Hon Stephen Dawson MLC; Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley; Congratulations



The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation;
Medical Research; Kimberley
Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005

Via email – minister.dawson@dpc.wa.gov.au

28th March 2025

Dear Minister

Congratulations

On behalf of the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) of Local Governments, congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; and the Kimberley. The four Kimberley Shires are delighted that you have been appointed to this important role.

The KRG can only achieve our vision to enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley through strong partnerships. Thank you for your election commitments for new investment in the Kimberley. These are very welcome. Building on these initiatives, the Kimberley Regional Group have developed a pre-budget submission which outlines some of our key regional priorities. This is enclosed for your consideration.

The Kimberley Regional Group looks forward to working with you to deliver great outcomes across the region and the State. Mr. Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer will be in touch to progress a time to meet.

Congratulations again on your appointment. We look forward to working with you.

Your sincerely



Cr David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach

Attachment 11 Correspondence Out: Hon Hannah Beazley MLA; Minister for Local Government; Disability; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne; Review of the Financial Assistance Grants



The Hon Hannah Beazley MLA
Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth 6005

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

3rd April 2025

Dear Minister

Review of the Financial Assistance Grants

Further to our discussion, please find attached research commissioned by the Kimberley Regional Group on the Financial Assistance Grants.

Financial Assistance Grants are an important source of revenue for many rural and regional local governments due to their limited rate base, remote location and dispersed populations.

As the value of the Financial Assistance Grants continue to diminish, the costs and responsibilities of local government have risen sharply. This has a direct impact on the amenity and liveability of rural and regional towns and communities. The research that we commissioned examined the grant methodology. It has put forward a suite of recommendations for the State and Federal government in terms of the pool of funding and its distribution in order to improve the grant model and deliver better outcomes. A copy of this research along with our Position Paper is attached for your consideration.

The Kimberley Regional Group would welcome the opportunity to brief you and your office on this research and the recommendations. Mr. Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in touch to progress a time for us to meet.

Your sincerely



Cr David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach

Attachment 12 Correspondence Out: Nick Sloan; CEO WALGA; Review of the Financial Assistance Grants



Mr Nick Sloan
CEO
WALGA

Via email - NSloan@walga.asn.au

3rd April 2025

Dear Nick

Review of the Financial Assistance Grants

Please find attached research commissioned by the Kimberley Regional Group on the Financial Assistance Grants.

As you are aware, Financial Assistance Grants are an important source of revenue for many rural and regional local governments due to their limited rate base, remote location and dispersed populations. As the value of the Financial Assistance Grants continue to diminish, the costs and responsibilities of local government have risen sharply. This has a direct impact on the amenity and liveability of rural and regional towns and communities.

The Kimberley Regional Group commissioned this research to better understand the grant methodology and what improvements could be made in terms of the funding and its distribution, in order to improve the grant model and deliver better outcomes. The research has a suite of recommendations for the State and Federal Government. A copy of this research, along with our Position Paper, is attached.

The Kimberley Regional Group would welcome the opportunity to brief you on this research and to discuss how we can work in partnership with WALGA to drive positive change to the Financial Assistance Grants.

Mr. Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in touch to progress a time for us to meet.

Your sincerely

Cr David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach

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

Attachment 13 Correspondence Out: Karen Chappell; President WALGA; Review of the Financial Assistance Grants



Ms Karen Chappel
President
WALGA

Via email - president@walga.asn.au

3rd April 2025

Dear Karen

Review of the Financial Assistance Grants

Please find attached research commissioned by the Kimberley Regional Group on the Financial Assistance Grants.]

As you are aware, Financial Assistance Grants are an important source of revenue for many rural and regional local governments due to their limited rate base, remote location and dispersed populations. As the value of the Financial Assistance Grants continue to diminish, the costs and responsibilities of local government have risen sharply. This has a direct impact on the amenity and liveability of rural and regional towns and communities.

The Kimberley Regional Group commissioned this research to better understand the grant methodology and what improvements could be made in terms of the funding and its distribution, in order to improve the grant model and deliver better outcomes. The research has a suite of recommendations for the State and Federal Government. A copy of this research, along with our Position Paper, is attached.

The Kimberley Regional Group would welcome the opportunity to brief you on this research and to discuss how we can work in partnership with WALGA to drive positive change to the Financial Assistance Grants.

Mr. Paul Rosair, our Executive Officer, will be in touch to progress a time for us to meet.

Your sincerely



Cr David Menzel
Chair
Kimberley Regional Group

Attach

6. Financial Report

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Vernon Lawrence, KRG Secretariat

To be tabled at the July Meeting

7. 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
10:45 - 11:00am	Michele Pucci	A/CEO	KDC
11:00 - 11:30am	Janine Hatch	Director	RDA Kimberley
11:00 - 11:30am	Josh Lowrie	Assistant Director	Australian Bureau of Statistics

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
KDC Presentation That the Executive Team 1. Develop a brief scope of works for KDC for funding (20K) to progress the Kimberley Housing pipeline. 2. Work with the KDC to explore innovative solutions for the Kimberley that may attract government investment interest.		EO to reach out and invite Hon Melissa Price MP to a KRG meeting. EO to keep KRG members informed about any upcoming meetings with politicians. Members to notify the EO if they wish to attend accordingly. KDC Presentation: EO to write to Minister Dawson to raise key issues: - GROH need to build homes in town - Status of existing stock – Shire of Broome work: - Issue is contrary to requirements under the health act – risk for Local Government - Investment needed to ensure assets are safe and habitable - Push costs onto local government - Shires do fire breaks, cyclone clean ups and rubbish collection RDA Presentation: Shires to circulate ABS job roles when advertised through networks.	
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	Executive Officer
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

8. Kimberley Regional Group Annual Report 2023-24

Item for Decision

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 14: KRG Annual Report 2023-24 (separately attached)

Purpose

To approve the Kimberley Regional Group Annual Report 2023/24.

In summary

- The Kimberley Regional Group approved the production of an Annual Report 2023/24
- The Report highlights the opportunities of the Kimberley and the achievements of the KRG: it will be loaded on the KRG website and used for marketing and advocacy purposes.

Background

- As above

Details

- As per the attached Annual Report.

Risk

Reputational: Without an Annual Report, the work of the KRG may not be understood by stakeholders.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG approved the KRG Annual Report 2023/24 for release.			
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	
Carried:	4/0		

9. Position Paper Rates Exemptions

Item for Decision

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 15: Rate Exemption Position Paper April 2025 Final Draft

Purpose

To approve a Position Paper on Rates Exemptions

In summary

- The financial impact of rates exemptions, including for charitable purposes, has been an ongoing issue for WA Local governments.
- WALGA has a policy position calling for a review of rate exemptions, particularly those for charitable purposes, to clarify the definition of a charity and ensure fair and equitable distribution of rates among all property owners.
- Given the impact on local government of State and Federal housing policy to support the growth of the community housing sector, who as charities are exempt from paying rates, a position paper on rates exemptions has been developed.
- This was sent to WALGA for their input and their suggestions have been incorporated
- The policy priorities in the position paper align with WALGA's advocacy positions.

Background

- The draft paper was circulated to Shire CEOs on the 28th February 2025 for input. Feedback has been incorporated into the paper.

Details

- As above

Risk

Reputational: Charitable organisations, support rate exemptions.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor	Approximately \$500 to design and to print the position paper	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG 1. Endorsed the Position Paper Rates Exemption April 2025. 2. Approved \$500 to design and to print the Position Paper.		Executive Team to proceed with designing and printing the Rates Exemptions Position Paper.	
Moved:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Halls Creek	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 15: Rate Exemption Position Paper April 2025 Final Draft

POSITION PAPER

RATE EXEMPTIONS – April 2025

ABOUT THE KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) is an alliance of the four Kimberley Shires, being the Shire of Broome, the Shire of Derby West Kimberley, the Shire of Halls Creek and the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley. Our Vision is to maintain and enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley for its people and the world. Collaboratively the group seeks to drive positive impact across the region through improved social, economic and cultural outcomes. This paper is designed to highlight the issues as known to Local Government at the time of writing and the potential pathways that are supported.

CONTEXT

Rates contribute to the delivery of important local government services and facilities including roads, libraries, recreational facilities, community services, public health, and town planning. When properties are exempt from rates, the shortfall in revenue must be made up by other ratepayers or by cutting back on services. Rates in the Kimberley are high relative to the WA average. This is impacted by the remote location and size of the local government districts requiring Councils to deliver service over long distances.

How are rates calculated

The rates payable to a local government is determined by three factors: the method of valuing the land; the valuation of the land and improvements; and the rate in the dollar applied to that valuation by the local government. The Minister for Local Government determines the method for land valuation, and whether the unimproved value (UV) or gross rental value (GRV) of the land applies according to legislation and rating policy [LG Act s.6.28]. The Valuer-General values the land in line with the Valuation of Land Act 1978¹.

Councils generally impose a uniform general minimum for all rate categories in the recognition that every property receives some minimum level of benefit of works and services. Councils can set differential rates according to zoning, land use, whether the land is vacant or a combination of these [LG Act s.6.33]. Differential rates ensure that every ratepayer makes a reasonable contribution to the rates burden. *Subject to the Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferrals) Act 1992*, a local government may at the time of imposing a rate or service charge or at a later date resolve to waive a rate or service charge or resolve to grant other concessions in relation to a rate or service charge.

Each year, the costs and revenues of Council services and facilities are determined, and the net cost equals the amount required from rates. The amount required from rates to balance the budget is then divided by the total valuations to give a rate in the dollar. The rate in the dollar is then multiplied by the valuation of each property which gives the rates payable. Rates are subject to a minimum payment set annually by Council.

Rate exemptions

The Local Government Act provides that all land is rateable unless it is listed as exempt. Councils are required to keep a rates exemption register. Broome has around 5,150 GRV Residential properties in total. An examination of the Shire of Broome's rate exemption register

¹ <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/rates-setting>

indicates that there are 513 exempt properties, of which 198 are Shire properties, 194 crown properties and 121 have charitable status.

Exemptions for Pensioners

For example, pensioners, if they meet the eligibility criteria, are entitled to claim a rebate capped to an annual maximum amount by the State Government. Holders of a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card and the WA Seniors Card receive the same rebate as pensioners. Acknowledging the budgetary impact of offering these concessions to Councils, the WA Government provides funding to local governments to cover the cost of these rebates.

Exemptions for Charitable Purposes.

Section 6.26(2)(g) of the Local Government Act provides a rates exemption for 'land used exclusively for charitable purposes'. 'Charitable purposes' is not defined in the Local Government Act 1995 or other statutes; rather charity is defined at common law. Determinations by the State Administrative Tribunal indicate: *the condition that to be charitable a purpose must tend to benefit the public is satisfied if the purpose tends to the benefit of the public at large or a class or section of the public*².

Rate exemptions provide a significant financial benefit for charities and supports them to deliver services for their members or the public. Local governments recognise that many charities provide important services with limited funding and if required to pay rates, it may impact on their ability for them to provide those services. Unfortunately, this rate exemption has expanded to include the commercial activities of charities. For example, charities that offer aged housing, independent living units and lease for life homes often qualify for rate exemptions even when residents are required to purchase the right to occupy their unit, at market value, and pay maintenance.

The WA State Government, including the Department of Housing is not obliged to pay local government rates. The Department of Housing has historically, and continues to make, rate payments to Local Government for social housing. This practice recognises that public housing tenants consume and benefit from Local Government services and facilities.

Properties leased by the Department of Housing to organisations with charitable status such as community housing organisations (CHOs) are exempt from paying rates. Over recent years, the Department of Housing has increased the devolving management of social housing to charitable providers. State and Federal government housing policy is supporting the growth of housing provision through the community housing sector. This provides considerable risk to local governments in terms of lost rate revenue. Local government discretion may be exercised but only to the extent of assessing: If the land is used exclusively for a purpose consistent with s.6.26 provisions, and if only a portion of the land is used exclusively for a s.6.26 purpose, what proportion, with exemption only applying to that proportion.

Local governments welcome an increase in social housing to meet community need. However, for local governments such as the Kimberley where there is high percentage of social housing, they are often the communities that can least afford to underwrite the cost of rate exemptions. This contributes to an increasing divide in the level of services and facilities for communities with most need. The estimated lost rate revenue for properties leased / owned by community housing organisations equates to approximately \$222K per year. In recognition of the impact of rate loss, some CHOs pay rates, and others have MOUs with local governments outlining financial contributions. However, many seek rate exemptions. It is only the rates which are exempt. They must pay for Council fees and charges such as waste collection.'

² Rates and Charitable Land Use Exemption Applications, Best Practice Guidelines, WALGA and WA Rates Officers Association, Nov 2021.

There is a key role for State and Federal Government to ensure that rates are received for social housing properties, ensuring that local governments do not unreasonably lose critical income to provide services and facilities.

Exemptions for Land used or held by the Crown (State Government) for a public purpose.

Local governments do not have the authority to levy rates on unallocated Crown Land in Western Australia. Also, Government Trading Entities (GTEs) are exempt from local government rates under the Government Trading Enterprises Act 2023. Section 150 of the Act states that land vested in, or under the care, control, or management of a GTE, and used or reserved exclusively for the performance of the GTE's functions is not rateable. Only if a GTE leases or lets land vested in it, or under its care, control or management, the land is by reason of the lease or tenancy rateable land³. However, there is provision in Section 151 that requires GTEs to pay an amount to the WA Government equivalent to the local government rates that they would have been liable to pay but for the exemption. The rates are kept by Treasury as consolidated revenue.

Projects under State Agreement Acts.

A State Agreement is a legal agreement between the WA Government and a proponent of a major project⁴. They generally pertain to specific industries or large-scale projects and are designed to provide long-term certainty for the proponents and ensure that the projects contribute to the economic development of Western Australia. They are negotiated on a case by case basis and generally the proponent does not pay local government rates. A report by the Office of the Auditor General 2024 on the Management of State Agreements found that the social and community benefits delivered by State Agreements are not transparently reported⁵. There are three State Agreements in the Kimberley covering the Argyle Diamond Mine, Ord River Hydro Energy Project and North West Gas Development (Woodside), but with development pipelines there may be future agreements developed. Argyle Diamond mine paid around \$12,000 in rates per annum when its estimated operating budget was \$420 million per year.

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure local governments receive appropriate rate income to enable them to provide services and facilities to enable their communities to flourish.
- To provide a robust framework to determine which entities qualify for a rate exemption and which should not and why, and how local governments are compensated for lost revenue.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Equity: Fair tax treatment regardless of property ownership.
- Fairness: Rate income is received by local government to ensure that the burden of maintaining local government assets is borne equitably by all property owners.

³ https://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/wa/consol_act/gtea2023347/s150.html?form=MG0AV3

⁴ <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-jobs-tourism-science-and-innovation/state-agreements>

⁵ https://audit.wa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Report-3_Management-of-State-Agreements.pdf

POLICY PRIORITIES

- That the WA and Federal Governments include in lease agreements for the management of social, affordable or transitional housing a contractual obligation for the payment of local government rates, regardless of the provider's charitable status, as recognition of the services that local governments provide to housing tenants.
- That the WA Government
 - Amend legislation so rate equivalency payments made by Development WA and other Government Trading Entities are made to the relevant Local Governments instead of to the WA State Government.
 - Amend the *Local Government Act 1995* to clarify that Independent Living Units should only be exempt from rates where they qualify under the *Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997*;
 - Either:
 - a) amend the charitable organisations section of the *Local Government Act 1995* to eliminate exemptions for commercial (non-charitable) business activities of charitable organisations; or
 - b) establish a compensatory fund for Local Governments, similar to the pensioner discount provisions, if the State Government believes charitable organisations remain exempt from payment of Local Government rates.
 - Undertake a broad review into the justification and fairness of all rating exemption categories currently prescribed under Section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
 - Ensure that resource projects covered by State Agreement Acts pay Local Government rates.

10. 2028 Eclipse Strategic Planning Working Group - KRG Representative

Item for Decision

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 16: Draft Terms of Reference 2028 Eclipse Strategic Planning Working Group
Attachment 17: Eclipse Presentation

Purpose

To appoint a KRG representative to the Kimberley Development Commission Regional Working Group for the 2028 Eclipse Strategic Planning.

In summary

- The Kimberley Development Commission (KDC) have invited the KRG to nominate a representative for the Regional Working Group for the 2028 Eclipse Strategic Planning.
- The role of the Regional Working Group is to maximize local impact, ensuring planning is driven by local context and needs. The Group will:
 - Provide regional expertise across workstreams
 - Lead local decision-making
 - Interface with community
 - Advise the Eclipse Taskforce
- The RWG will consist of:
 - Director, East Kimberley – Kimberley Development Commission (Chair)
 - Kimberley Superintendent – Department of Fire and Emergency Services
 - Regional Manager Kimberley – Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
 - Regional Manager Kimberley – Main Roads
 - Chief Executive Officer – Regional Development Australia, Kimberley
 - Chief Executive Office – Australia's North West
 - Representative – Kimberley Regional Group
 - Representative – Kimberley Chambers Collective
 - Representative – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Regional Digital Solutions
- It is anticipated that the Working Group will meet monthly online or in Kununurra

Background

- A total solar eclipse (TSE28) will pass across mainland Australia on July 22, 2028.
- TSE28 will follow a path across the Kimberley, into the Northern Territory, and across New South Wales before leaving mainland Australia.
- The remote North West and the East Kimberley offers a unique value proposition as it will experience the longest duration of totality (darkness) across the eclipse path, has the highest chance of clear skies, and has low light pollution.
- Eclipses offer significant opportunities for immediate and longer-term economic benefits when comprehensive and timely planning adequately considers and prepares for the visitor influx and community impact.

- In preparation for the Eclipse, the KDC and Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley commissioned a demand study, which suggests that 25,000 visitors across a range of tourism market segments will likely want to travel to East Kimberley to view the eclipse.
- The demand study does not approximate expected visitation; factors such as accommodation capacity, tourism operator readiness, viewing site accessibility, transport options, and event marketing will underpin actual visitor numbers and overall economic success.
- The KDC's engagement with industry stakeholders has revealed that operators are already receiving requests from inbound tour operators to mobilise international visitor groups in their hundreds to view the event.
- In November 2024, KDC received cabinet endorsement for the following:
 - Development of the 2028 Kimberley Eclipse Taskforce
 - Resourcing requirements to support the work of the taskforce may be considered in the 2025-2026 budget process
 - Minister for Regional Development to provide a report back in April on the progress of the work of the Taskforce
- In December 2024, KDC received \$250,000 from the Regional Development Leverage Fund for the development of strategic planning activities for TSE28
- The timely establishment of a 2028 Kimberley Eclipse strategy will be critical for ensuring the region can adequately plan. Finalising workstreams and procuring services for each strategic component will be immediate priorities.
- The KDC is preparing to undertake the strategic planning activities for TSE28 under the advice of the Kimberley Eclipse Taskforce- comprised of KDC as the lead agency, and the Departments of Jobs Tourism Science Innovation, Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and Treasury with other departments (Premier and Cabinet, Fire and Emergency Services, Planning Lands and Heritage, Health, Main Roads, Primary Industries and Regional Development, Water Corp) invited to participate when required
- The Kimberley Eclipse Taskforce held its first meeting on 4 March 2025.
- Actions from the first taskforce meeting were:
 - To progress with establishment of the Regional Working Group
 - To progress with the preparation of scopes of works for each strategic workstreams
- The Minister for Regional Development is required to report to the Tourism Investment Committee of Cabinet in April 2025 on the progress of strategic planning. The Eclipse Taskforce will assist with the preparation of this report.

Details

- The Eclipse Presentation attachment provides further information on the opportunities afforded by the Eclipse.

Risk

Reputational: If the Kimberley Shires do not co-ordinate activities to maximize economic opportunities associated with this significant event

Financial: The Eclipse may be an opportunity to prosecute the case for new investment in regional tourism infrastructure and services.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor			
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG nominated Vernon Lawrence as the representative for the KDC Regional Working Group for the 2028 Eclipse Strategic Planning		1. EO to write to Minister Dawson regarding the Tanami Road opportunities 2. EO and KRG Members to develop a list of priority projects for consideration by the Eclipse Working Group	
Moved:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Responsible:	Executive Officer and KRG Members
Seconded:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 16: Draft Terms of Reference 2028 Eclipse Strategic Planning Working Group



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2028 Eclipse Regional Working Group – Terms of Reference

1. Background and Purpose

On the 22nd of July 2028, the Kimberley will experience a total solar eclipse lasting approximately 5 minutes. The event is expected to stimulate significant regional visitation, including international and domestic inbound tourism. Such mass tourism events bring several challenges, but also present significant opportunities for regional development.

The Kimberley Development Commission (the Commission, KDC) has been endorsed by the Tourism Investment Committee of Cabinet (TICC) to convene a taskforce to coordinate scoping and planning for the Eclipse event. The 2028 Eclipse Taskforce will provide strategic advice to the KDC as lead agency on resourcing, planning, and delivery of the Eclipse event. Under this Taskforce, a Regional Working Group will be established to guide workstream development to ensure regional needs are considered.

These terms of reference outline the Regional Working Group's objectives, powers, composition, terms of membership, meetings, quorum, duties and responsibilities of the group and its members.

2. Definitions

RWG refers to Regional Working Group

KDC, or the Commission, refers to the Kimberley Development Commission

DFES refers to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services

DBCA refers to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservations and Attractions

ANW refers to Australia's North West

KRG refers to the Kimberley Regional Group

RDA refers to Regional Development Australia

DPIRD refers to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

3. Statements

3.1. Objectives

The RWG will:

- Facilitate cross-regional collaboration and engagement at the delivery and stakeholder engagement interface
- Provide strategic direction to ensure that the 2028 Eclipse project aligns with State policy, relevant State frameworks, the Regional Strategic planning documents, and maximises Regional economic benefit
- Act as an advisory body for decisions surrounding areas such as strategic planning, project management, and resourcing requirements

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3.2. Powers of the Regional Working Group

The RWG is responsible for providing appropriate and timely advice and decisions on matters relevant to these terms of reference to ensure informed decision-making by the Commission with respect to project management. It provides high-level strategic guidance to the lead agency, ensuring alignment with project goals and outcomes and regional priorities.

The RWG does not have executive powers or authority to implement actions in areas over which the Commission has legislative responsibility and does not have any delegated financial responsibility. The RWG does not have any Commission management functions and cannot involve itself in management processes or procedures, including the contract management of third-party consultants, as this is the responsibility of the Commission under current funding provisions.

3.3. Composition and membership

The RWG will consist of:

- 1) Director, East Kimberley – Kimberley Development Commission (Chair)
- 2) Kimberley Superintendent – Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- 3) Regional Manager Kimberley – Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- 4) Regional Manager Kimberley – Main Roads
- 5) Chief Executive Officer – Regional Development Australia, Kimberley
- 6) Chief Executive Office – Australia's North West
- 7) Representative – Kimberley Regional Group
- 8) Representative – Kimberley Chambers Collective
- 9) Representative – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Regional Digital Solutions

Each member may delegate a proxy to attend an RWG meeting in their place, provided the Chair is advised in writing or via email at least 3 days prior.

All members have equal voting rights, and decisions are made based on the consensus of the members present.

If consensus cannot be reached, the Commission reserves the right to enact alternate decision-making methods, with input from the RWG members and consideration of the risks to project outcomes, costs, scope, and timelines. The matter may be referred to the XXXX for a final decision if no resolution is found.

3.4. Terms of Membership

The Commission appoints member organisations of the RWG. Members of the are appointed until:

- a) The person no longer holds the office by which the person became a member; or
- b) The person resigns from membership of the RWG; or
- c) The Commission provides written notice otherwise.

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If a member no longer holds the office by which they became a member or resigns, the respective organisation must appoint a replacement to maintain continuous representation.

3.5. Meetings

The group shall meet **monthly, with meetings held on the XXXXX of each month**. Additional meetings shall be convened at the discretion of the RWG Chair, or upon request of the Commission's project manager.

Meetings will be held online via Microsoft Teams unless specified otherwise. Attendance in person at the Kimberley Development Commission, 7 Ebony Street, Kununurra, is optional.

If the RWG Chair is absent, unable, or unwilling to perform the Chair's functions, or the Chair's office is vacant, then a Deputy Chair may be nominated to perform the functions of the Chair.

If the RWG Deputy Chair is absent, unable, or unwilling to perform the functions of the Chair, or the office of the Deputy Chair is vacant, then members present must choose one of themselves to perform the functions of the Chair.

3.6. Quorum

The quorum necessary for the transaction of business shall be at least 50% of members, including the Chair. A duly convened meeting of the RWG at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all or any of the authorities, powers, and discretions vested in it or exercisable by the RWG.

Proxies, if approved by the Chair, will have the same decision-making powers as that of the member they represent.

3.7. Meeting recording

Meeting outcomes and actions will be distributed to members within one week following the meeting. Members will reply within one week of receipt of the outcomes either agreeing with or providing comment to enable progression of agreed actions.

3.8. Observers and presenters

Observers / guests may attend a meeting with the Chair's approval.

A person, either internal or external to the public sector, can make a presentation if invited or approved by the Chair in advance.

3.9. Administrative Support and Reporting

The KDC shall provide secretarial and administrative support to the RWG as follows:

- Call for agenda items with supporting papers at least one week in advance
- Notify the Chair of proxies and additional attendees / guests
- Prepare and distribute the agenda and supporting papers for each meeting
- Record the meeting outcomes and distribute action outcomes to members

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- Coordinate and facilitate completion of actions to ensure the maximum effectiveness of subsequent meetings
- Maintain communication networks as required
- Manage the membership of the group, based upon direction from the Chair

3.10. *Duties and Responsibilities of the RWG*

The duties and responsibilities of the RWG will be to:

Oversight and Strategic guidance

- Provide input into and endorse the project management plan for the 2028 Kimberley Eclipse strategic planning project including governance and workstream structures
- Review and provide feedback on key project documents, including reports, requests for tender, consultant outputs, and technical assessments
- Provide input into and endorse workstream lead agencies and organisations

Stakeholder Representation and Engagement

- Represent the interests of relevant stakeholders, the Region, and the State to ensure broad representation and consideration in decision-making
- Actively identify and seek leveraged funding and private investment into the project
- Ensure that key stakeholders, are informed of the progress of the project

Risk Management

- Review and provide advice on project risks and mitigation strategies
- Propose actions to address risks should they arise, including adjustments to project timelines or resource allocations as necessary

Resource Allocation

- Endorse the Commission's use of funding provided by DPIRD and any other financing that arises across the project in alignment with the agreed budget, timelines, and milestones, as well as distribution across workstreams
- Identify opportunities to supplement project resourcing, both financial and personnel
- Collaborate on submissions for budget allocation toward the projects' ongoing delivery

Conflict Resolution

- Assist in resolving any conflicts or issues arising throughout the project.

General Conduct

- Act in the best interests of the State and Region, apply sound judgement, and maintain confidentiality of all discussions unless authorised to disclose information
- Express opinions constructively and openly, raise issues that relate to RWG responsibilities and pursue independent lines of enquiry
- Contribute the time required to adequately service the project

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3.11. Confidentiality

All electronic and written information, and discussed matters and opinions, are considered confidential.

4. Review

RWG members will have the opportunity to review the Terms of Reference on an annual basis, to provide optimal effectiveness.

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APPENDIX 1 – Proposed Governance Structure

2028 Eclipse Planning Governance

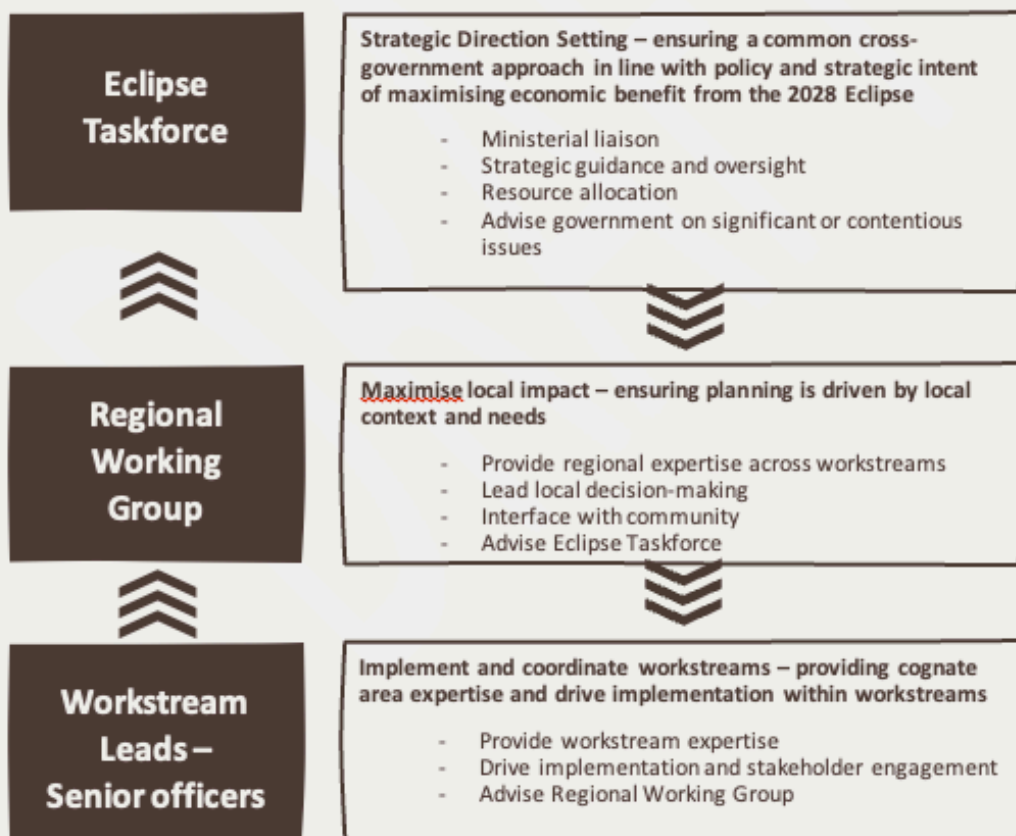
The governance structure involves three levels bringing together the ~~intergovernment~~ taskforce, regional working group, and expertise within workstreams as outlined below:

Kimberley Development Commission will be lead agency and project manager across all levels of governance

2028 Eclipse Taskforce Core Membership

KDC (Lead Agency), JTSI, DBCA, Treasury

Other departments (DPC, DFES, DPLH, Health, Main Roads, DPIRD, Water Corp) invited to participate when required



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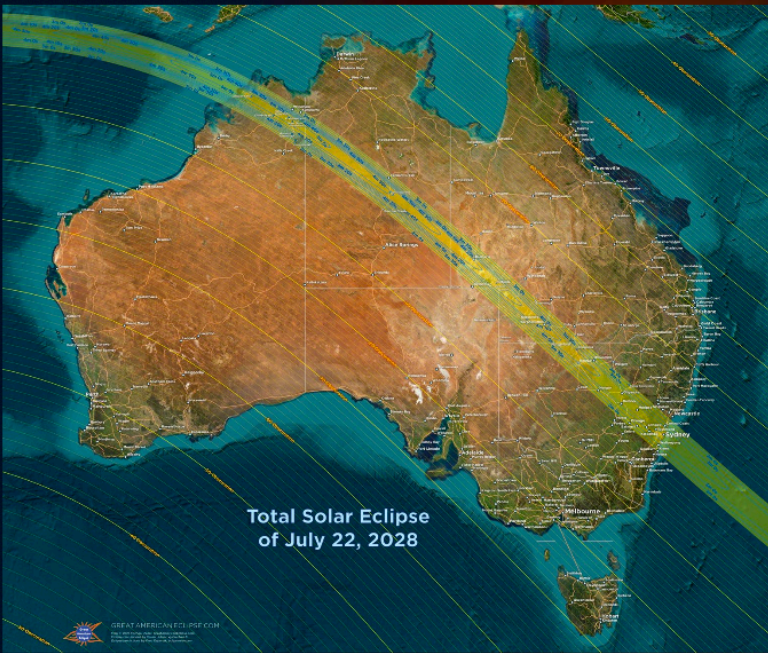
Issued by: Senior Regional
Development Officer

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Attachment 17: Eclipse Presentation



2028 KIMBERLEY ECLIPSE



Total Solar Eclipse
of July 22, 2028



Saturday 22nd
July 2028



11:00am



5m 10s

The complex block contains a map of Australia with the eclipse path highlighted in yellow and green. To the right, it lists the date, time, and duration of the eclipse, accompanied by icons for a calendar, clock, and stopwatch.

OFFICIAL

SESSION OUTCOMES



1. Provide feedback of the key elements from the demand report
2. Seek early feedback from stakeholders
3. Lay foundations for a framework to commence planning processes
4. Establish next steps

Those joining on Teams can use the Q&A feature to present questions and feedback throughout the session

BACKGROUND

Work so far

1. SWEK and KDC commissioned demand study from Swift Marketing Solutions and Tina Smitherman consultants
 - Visitor demand forecasted at ~25,000 and visitor segments identified
 - KDC have shared the report with Minister for Regional Development

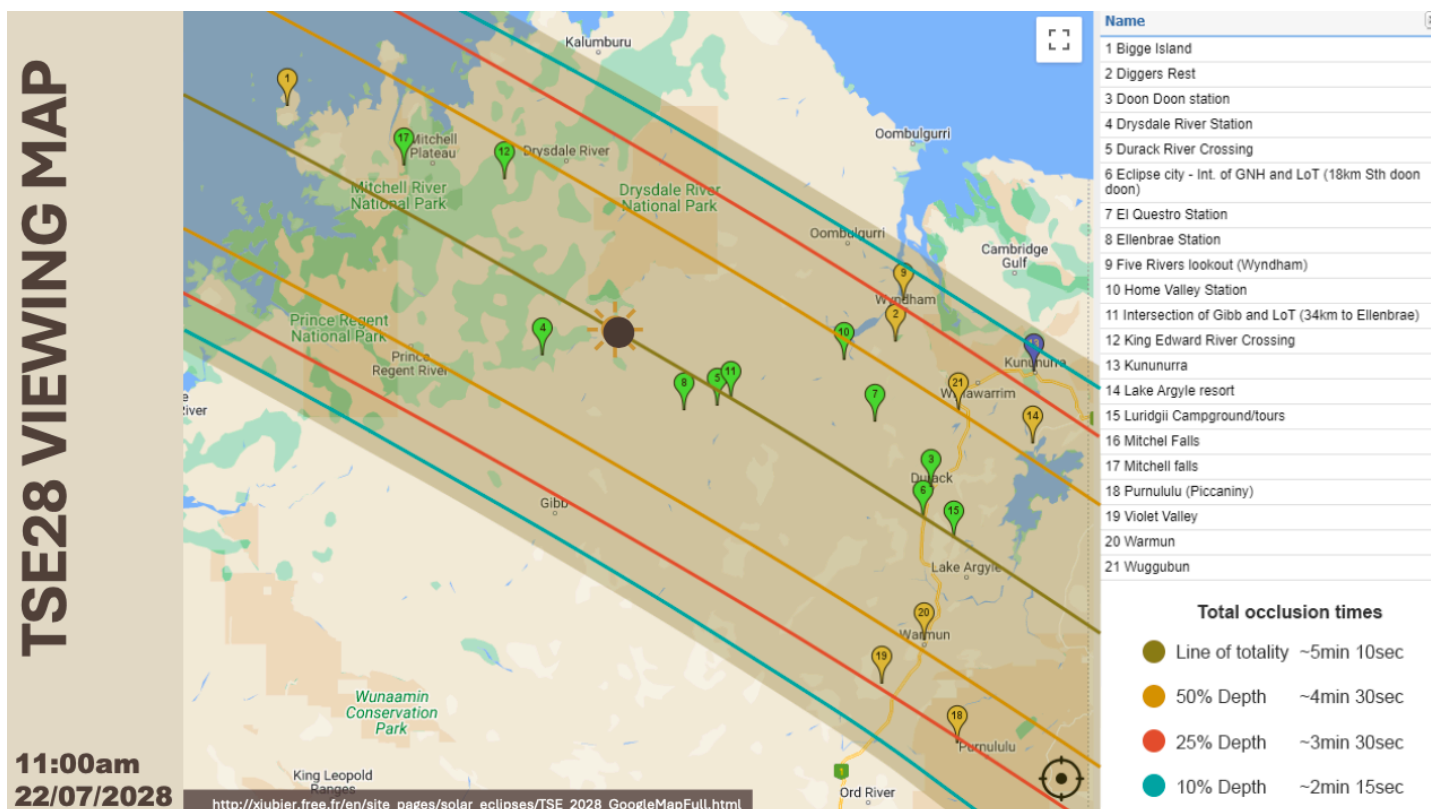
The event

- TSE28 presents a significant opportunity for economic growth and tourism development
- Forecasted demand lays foundation for the essential early planning and implementation strategic initiatives/actions

Peak Season

Most of the Kimberley's ~400,000 annual visitors come from April – October utilising ~3,000,000 visitor nights and spending nearly \$200mil. The Eclipse falls at the height of peak season.

Tourism WA Insights and Planning – May 2024



VISITOR PROFILES



Who are they?

Media

International & local
news agencies
National
newspapers and
magazines
TV
Online

Eclipse Enthusiasts

Dedicated chasers –
Will be seeking
maximum viewing
under LoT - Ellenbrae
station

Day trippers

Residents
Regional tourists
Fly in fly out
Curiosity seekers

Essential service personnel

Additional staff
Police
Emergency services
Hospital staff
(Exmouth additional
150 workers based on
20- 25, 0000)

Cruise passengers

True north
Silversea's
Ponant
Coral Expeditions
The Kimberley quest
Seabourne cruises
*Others would
consider scheduling*

DEMAND FORECAST



SHIRE RESIDENTS

7,664

ESSENTIAL
WORKERS/MEDIA

500



DAYTRIPPERS

WITHIN 500km

4,570

FIFO*

4,000



CRUISES

4,550



OVERNIGHTERS

14,000

>25,000

VISITORS WANTING TO TRAVEL TO SWEK FOR ECLIPSE VIEWING*

*Actual visitation will depend on capacity and access

COMPARISON

ECLIPSE	FORECAST	MATERIALISATION
Cairns, 2012	25,000	65,000
Ningaloo, 2023	50,000+	18,000

Swift Marketing Solutions and Tina Smitherman Consultants - APRIL 2024

2028 KIMBERLEY ECLIPSE

STRENGTHS

- Highest duration of totality across path
- Multiple accommodation/viewing options (spread crowds)
- High chance of clear skies (compared to rest of path)
- Late morning totality time (sun is high)
- Weekend eclipse (supports day-trippers)
- Cruise ship access to path
- Low light pollution
- Natural viewing environment
- Nearby service hub (Kununurra)

CHALLENGES

- Accommodation capacity
- Peak tourist season (Capacity limitations)
- Ability tourism operators to provide rates and firm bookings arrangements as far out as possible (to ITO and FIT)
- Path passes across Australia including Sydney
- Environmental protection
- Infrastructure limitations
- Remote area access

Case Study: CAIRNS 2012

**2 Minutes of Totality and
the best viewing location
in the world**

**Economic assessment
predicted 25,000 visitors
Actual visitation was
50-60,000**

**Predicted benefits (\$75mil
and 383 jobs) were ~doubled**

**Marketing & communication
strategies were effective**

**Existing infrastructure meant
local council outlay was small
(\$57,095)**

**“The solar eclipse will be one of those events that people will
look back on in 20 years’ time – everyone who saw it will
remember where they were on November 14, 2012.”
–Cairns Regional Council Acting Mayor**

Case Study: NINGALOO 2023

**Measurable benefits and
costs were left on the table**

**Outcomes were met, but
more could be done**

**Forward planning could have
resulted in more benefits
without more risk**

Reconsider risk tolerance

**Planning needs to consider
benefits and how they’ll be
measured**

**Delayed planning meant the
full suite of possible benefits
were not achieved**

**Visitation and tourism
opportunities were missed in
planning**

**Particularly cruises and
international ITO’s**

**Focus on strict risk
management left benefits
unrealised**

Case Study NINGALOO 2023 – Stakeholder perspectives

Governance structures established too late – impacted broader benefits

Initial demand estimate was optimistic and led to risk-focused approach

Public events were well-planned, family-friendly, well-attended

Visitation would have been higher if public safety wasn't the planning priority

Delayed planning impacted ability to attract international visitors

Decision to not allow cruise travelers to disembark was a missed opportunity

'Local greed' (price gouging) was seen to scare off visitors (*whether actual or perceived*)

Communications infrastructure upgrades enabled global reach

PREPARATION TIMELINE

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Visitation projections ✓ State Government aware of Eclipse planning ✓ Key stakeholders recognised ✓	Infrastructure and capacity assessed, and solutions planned Coordinator appointed Establish governance structure and working groups Implementation strategy Accommodation strategy Webpage with links to operators Media strategy	Industry briefings and workshops Activation and activity planning Logistics planning and emergency management Resources for events secured Infrastructure work begins	Media countdown and promotion Final activation event planning Purchase of promotional equipment (glasses) Program of activities commences	Finalise emergency management plans Final preparation Event delivery

What is missing?
What is needed NOW?

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

DIFFERENTIATION

- The Kimberley's unique value proposition
 - Eclipse Duration
 - Weather
 - Natural environment
 - Existing tourism profile
 - Cultural intersect with astro-tourism
- Challenges of remoteness
 - Capacity to support visitation
 - International air accessibility
 - Attracting people away from Sydney/Alice springs
 - Lack of infrastructure

BRANDING

- Long-term brand is well established
 - Ancient landscapes
 - Open spaces
 - Untouched beauty
 - Iconic drives
 - Culturally-rich
 - Last frontier
- Kimberley Eclipse branding should leverage existing regional branding

LEGACY

- Long-term community goals should leverage eclipse
 - Town precinct development
 - Aboriginal workforce participation
 - Accessibility upgrades
- Assessment of infrastructure requirements should be undertaken
 - What is required for the event only?
 - Temporary sites
 - What permanent infrastructure could be leveraged?
 - Airport/services
 - Town precincts
 - GRR upgrades

Dr Kate Russo – Community Eclipse Planning

LEGACY OPPORTUNITIES

Permanent Infrastructure:

- Camping with Custodians
- Precincts in service centres – e.g., Kununurra Welcome to WA centre, Wyndham historical precinct
- Road upgrades (Gibb River Road)
- Air services into Kununurra (Dom. and Int.)
- Upgrades to Gibb River Road amenity
- Accessibility upgrades (cruise tourism, inbound travel)

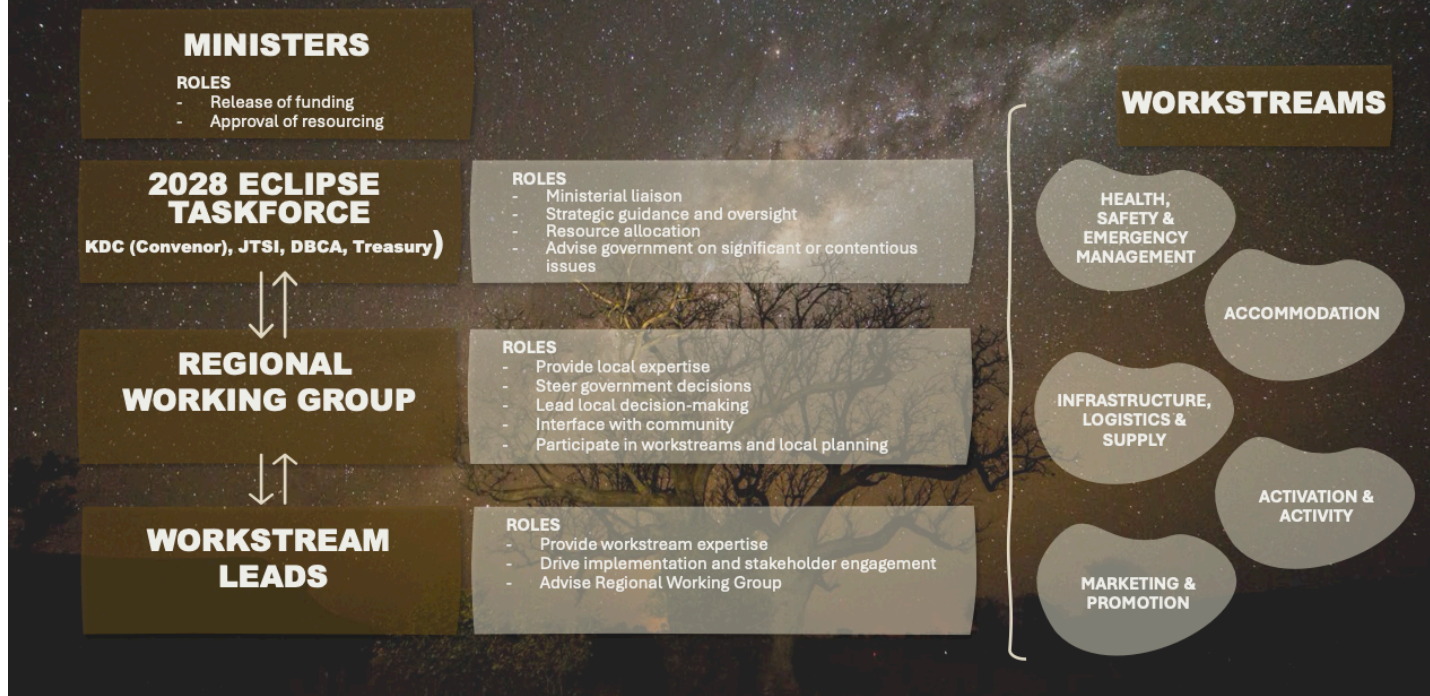
Product development:

- Dark Sky tourism

POTENTIAL WORKSTREAMS



PROPOSED PROJECT GOVERNANCE



WHERE TO?

What information is needed now?

Are there any community concerns?

Is there anything that has been missed?

11. Kimberley Housing Pipeline

Item for Discussion

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

To provide an update on the Kimberley Housing Pipeline Project and to generate discussion on the content of a submission to the State and Federal Government and decide the next steps .

In summary

- The Kimberley Housing Pipeline is an outcome of the Housing Roundtable which was held in Broome on the 29th July 2024.
- Housing Australia requested an indicative list of shovel ready Kimberley projects which was provided in September 2024
- The Pipeline is a co-ordinated package of works across the Kimberley.
- The pipeline has been updated to reflect a state election commitment for the Water Lily Place project in Kununurra, and a significant housing project being developed in Fitzroy Crossing by Leedal Pty Ltd.
- A Kimberley Housing Pipeline Submission is in development which brings together information requested by the WA Government including projected town growth, housing demand data, project governance and risk, and project timeframe to understand case flow requirements. Also, case studies from Council business cases will be included in the submission.
- To that end, a template seeking project time-frame information was sent to Councils on the 22nd January and the 13th March 2025 seeking project information.
- The Kimberley Development Commission is assisting with economic data for the submission.
- Discussions with the Federal Minister for Housing and Housing Australia staff indicate they are giving thought to a rural and regional funding round.

Background

- As above

Details

The State and Federal Government have requested information for the Housing Pipeline submission. This includes -

- Population projections for each Shire
- Housing Demand Data
- The Project schedule over the life of the pipeline to inform project cashflow
- Project governance
- Project risk

This information is being progressed in partnership with each Shire and the Kimberley Development Commission.

Risk

- **Reputational:** If there are no outcomes from the Kimberley Housing Roundtable
- **Financial** – If opportunity to capitalize on government housing investment is not realized

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG noted the progress of the Kimberley Housing Pipeline Project and took into consideration matters raised by the KDC during their presentation.		Refer item 7 Formal Presentations	
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

12. Federal Budget 2025-26

Item for noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

To provide a brief overview of the Federal Budget from a Kimberley perspective.

In summary

- On 25 March 2025, the Australian government delivered the 2025-26 federal budget.
- The budget was built around the pillars of cost of living, economy, education, equality, health and housing.
- No new local government programs announced
- Retained key funding programs including Financial Assistance Grants, and increased funding for Roads to Recovery and the Black Spot Program and the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure program¹.
- \$33 billion plan to make buying and renting more affordable and to accelerate the construction of new homes. This includes \$4.5 billion for States, Territories and Local Government to address local infrastructure backlogs and meet housing targets.
- Commitment to ensure the major banks continue to operate over 800 of their branches in regional and remote Australian until at least 31 July 2027.
- There were no significant, specific funding commitments for the Kimberley
 - In education, there's an additional \$1 million to support the operation of the new Manjali Studio School, a secondary boarding school for First Nations students in the Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges²
 - Increased spend on the Australian Border Force - \$84.5 million over four years from 2025-26 to boost Australia's border security, including \$74.9 million to address illegal fishing in Australia's northern waters and support prosecutions. More biosecurity officers and ABF staff will also be stationed at Perth Airport and seaports in Wyndham and Dampier³.
 - WA promised an additional \$650 million in Commonwealth funding for infrastructure projects, which isn't in the budget, and won't be available until after 2029,
- This is a pre-election budget. With the election called for the 3rd May 2025, there is the opportunity to put forward to all sides of parliament investment opportunities in the Kimberley as per the KRG pre-budget submission.
- The Executive Officer was interviewed on the Kimberley ABC breakfast program and provided a KRG response to the Federal Budget

¹ <https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/c-king/media-release/investing-roads-and-rail-build-australias-future>

² <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-26/federal-budget-what-is-in-it-for-wa/105095238>

³ <https://www.watoday.com.au/politics/western-australia/the-budget-reveals-17-1-billion-in-new-road-and-rail-funding-only-a-fraction-of-that-is-heading-west-20250325-p5lmgo.html>

Background

- As above

Details

In terms of the KRG pre-budget submission whilst some national policies and funding commitment may benefit the Kimberley, there was minimal alignment with the KRG requests. These are outlined as follows –

Local Government Sustainability

- Request - Increase Financial Assistance Grants to 1% CTR, reform indexation and distribution
- Budget - No mention of FAG reform or increased pool
- Outcome - None

Defence of North West

- Request - Increased military presence and infrastructure upgrades
- Budget - Increased spend on the Australian Border Force - \$84.5 million over four years from 2025-26 to boost Australia's border security, including \$74.9 million to address illegal fishing in Australia's northern waters and support prosecutions. More biosecurity officers and ABF staff will be stationed at Perth Airport and seaports in Wyndham and Dampier⁴ No mention of defence investment in NW WA
- Outcome - Partial

Housing & FBT Reform

- Request - \$244.6M housing pipeline; FBT exemption for remote area housing
- Budget - Broader housing incentives, Help to Buy expansion, no FBT reform
- Outcome - Partial

Community Safety

- Request - \$48M for local diversion, surveillance, by-laws
- Budget - No Kimberley-specific crime prevention funding
- Outcome - None

Regional Economic Development

- Request - \$190M+ across Tanami Road, business parks, tourism
- Budget - No place-based or Kimberley-targeted funding
- Outcome - None

Transport

- Request - \$112M across 4 airports, Derby wharf upgrade
- Budget - No rural aviation or Kimberley transport projects
- Outcome - None

⁴ <https://www.watoday.com.au/politics/western-australia/the-budget-reveals-17-1-billion-in-new-road-and-rail-funding-only-a-fraction-of-that-is-heading-west-20250325-p5lmgo.html>

Disaster Resilience

- Request - \$106.6M for evacuation and resilience centres
- Budget - General DRF continuation; unclear regional allocation
- Outcome - Minimal

Community Amenity

- Request - \$100M+ for boating, splash parks, resource recovery
- Budget - No funding for community or recreational infrastructure
- Outcome - None

Key Findings

- Missed Opportunity for Place-Based Equity: The budget does not prioritise regional or remote place-based funding, overlooking the Kimberley despite clear, shovel-ready proposals.
- No Reform on Remote Area Housing: National housing strategies are urban-focused; the FBT reform request, critical for staff retention in remote areas, was not addressed.
- No Targeted Disaster Resilience for the Kimberley: Despite recent events (e.g., Fitzroy flooding), the Kimberley was not directly referenced in DRF or infrastructure resilience announcements.
- Local Government Funding Reform Ignored: The sustainability of remote councils was not addressed despite repeated calls for reform to FAGs.

Recommendations for ongoing advocacy

Pursue Dedicated Federal Partnership

- Engage Treasury and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) for a Kimberley-specific regional funding agreement under existing place-based investment streams.

Seek Disaster Readiness Fund Earmarks

- Secure commitments for projects such as Broome Recreation Centre and Halls Creek Civic Centre within DRF announcements.

Push for Housing Reform

- Continue progression of Kimberley Housing Pipeline to secure allocation of housing funding.
- Partner with other remote jurisdictions to advocate for FBT reform and targeted housing incentives in the next budget or mid-year review.

Emphasise National Economic Relevance

- Reframe defence and infrastructure asks as national economic and security priorities—strengthen link to exports, minerals, and border protection.

Use this Mismatch for Leverage

- Highlight the disconnect between the Budget and regional need to strengthen future bids and negotiations.

Risk

- **Reputational:** Advocacy for new investment is a core role for the KRG

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor		Nil	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG noted the outcomes of the Federal budget for the Kimberley.			
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

13. Election Strategy Update

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

Purpose

To provide an update on the outcomes of the Kimberley Regional Group State Election Strategy and to provide an update on the Federal government election strategy.

In summary

- The KRG endorsed an election strategy in November 2023 meeting with the aim of gaining election commitments for investment in Kimberley infrastructure and services.
- Up to \$7,600 was allocated by the KRG towards this strategy.
- An Election Advocacy, Communications and Engagement Plan was endorsed in June 2024.
- Stakeholder engagement was discussed at the KRG October 2024 workshop
- The Investment Prospectus 2024/25, a pre-election submission which incorporates the Kimberley Housing Pipeline, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package and updated projects and costs, and the Position Papers were used to inform advocacy .
- WA Labor was elected – its Vision for the Kimberley outlines over \$80M of election commitments.
- Divina D’Anna, MLA is the re-elected Member for the Kimberley and a Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier.
- The Hon Stephen Dawson, MLA is the Minister for Regional Development and Minister for the Kimberley
- In June 2025 the WA post-election budget will be handed down – this provides an opportunity to put forward projects for investment consideration.
- The Federal election will be held on the 3rd May 2025

Background

Advocacy, Communications and Engagement Plan

The KRG endorsed the following strategy. The is presented to enable the KRG to note progress.

Action	By When	Channel/ Tool	Status
Position papers onto website	7 June 2024	Linked in Post	Complete
Prospectus onto website	20 June 2024	Linked in Post	Complete
Formally Launch Prospectus	29 August 2024	Kimberley Economic Forum • Overview by KRG Chair • Media release • Linked in Post	Complete

Meet with key stakeholders in Canberra	August 2024	Meetings in Canberra at RAI National Summit and parliamentarians	Complete
Distribution of Prospectus and Position Papers to key stakeholders - Invite Prime Minister, LOOP & Premier and LOOP and invite them to visit Kimberley	Sept/Oct 2024	Letter to key stakeholders with copy / link to documents	Complete
		Information on Council social media	On track
		CEO emails to Council staff	On track
		Information in Council social media / comms	On track
Meet with key stakeholders in Perth	Ongoing	Executive officer / Members	Ongoing
Opinion Piece for West Australian and The Australian	Jan/Feb 2025	Opinion Piece under Chair's name was submitted to the West but not run to date This will be submitted in the lead up to the June 2025 budget.	Complete
Host journalist tour of Kimberley	Nov - Feb 2025		Paused
Meetings in Canberra	Nov 2024	Meet with Federal parliamentarians	Complete
Highlight projects on Linked-In	Oct – April 2025		Ongoing
Host Election forum/s - Kimberley State Candidates & Federal Candidates (note these could be online or in person)	Feb 2025	Shires to host forum	Paused
A pre-election document which incorporates the Housing Pipeline, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package and updated projects and costs.	February 2025	A pre-election submission to the State and Federal Government has been produced for advocacy purposes.	New Initiative - complete

Details

Kimberley funding commitments

The following is an overview of Kimberley funding announcements or commitments at the time of preparing this agenda paper.

Projects contained in the KRG Infrastructure Prospectus 2024 2025

Project	Funded/Commitment
Wyndham Boat Launching Facility	Federal funding
Walmanyum Cable Beach Foreshore Redevelopment	State funding
Fitzroy Eastern Flood and Fire Resilience Hub	Federal funding
Fitzroy Crossing Multipurpose Complex and Evacuation Centre	WA Labor Commitment
Zero Depth Water Splash Pad, Halls Creek	WA Labor Commitment

Other Government funding announcements

State

- \$1.4M to upgrade emergency service responses in the East Kimberley

Federal (including rPPP and Growing Regions funding)

- First Port of Entry Status – Wyndham
- \$19.6 million for the Wyndham Multi-Purpose Community Hub in East Kimberley,
- \$1.9 million for concept planning and an implementation strategy for the Kununurra Nganjileg lambagem 'Riverbank Recreation' waterfront precinct
- \$13.2 million for the Wyndham Community Boat Launching Facility

State Election – Key things of note

- Divina D'Anna, MLA is the reflected Member for the Kimberley and a new Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier.
- The Hon Stephen Dawson, MLA is the new Minister for Regional Development and Minister for the Kimberley

Voting results

The full results for all districts are loaded on the WAEC website. The full distribution (all preferences counted) Kimberley gave Divina D'Anna 6751 (64%) and Darren Spackman 3791 (36%). Things of note include-

- Darren Spackman (Independent) received the highest number of first preference votes in Kununurra
- Millie Hills (National) and Divina D'Anna (Labor) tied for first preferences in Halls Creek
- Divina D'Anna (Labor) received the highest first preference votes in all other polling booths
- Low voter turnout on the mobile polling booths with only 1076 votes were received

Kimberley WA Labor Government Election Commitments - \$80.502M

WA Labor Vision for the Kimberley Document⁵, outlined election commitments, with additional commitments promised during the election campaign. Kimberley election commitments are on the Kimberley MLA's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DivinaDAnnaKimberley>. The following commitments were made:

Whole of Kimberley - Total \$23.997M

- \$8M infrastructure upgrades at remote community schools
- \$15.5 M Upgrade Derby and Wyndham Ports
- \$407K for 20 additional CCTV cameras – 6 in Broome, 4 in Kununurra, 4 in Halls Creek and 3 in Fitzroy Crossing - (as part of a \$22.5M Statewide Crime Package)
- Supplies for women's refuges and safe houses
- \$45K for all Kimberley animal welfare organisations
- \$45K for basketball competitions across the Kimberley

⁵ <https://www.rogercook.com.au/media/cook-labor-government-doing-what-s-right-for-the-kimberley>

The following breaks down the election commitments per Kimberley Shire

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley, \$12.665M	Shire of Halls Creek, \$4.115M
• \$5M Water Lily Place Housing Project Kununurra • \$5.9M Kununurra Night Space • \$120K to upgrade Kununurra Picture Gardens • \$75K for a new bus for the Port Wyndham Crocs Football Team • \$1.5M over 4 years - Kununurra PCYC (as part of PCYC Statewide Package) • \$50K for Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation Training and Works loader • \$20K for Kalumburu Community Resource Centre	• \$4M Zero Depth Water Splash Pad, Halls Creek • \$25K to the Jungarni Jutiyya Community Resource Centre Halls Creek (part of a Statewide CRC Package) • \$15K to Yura Yungi Medical Service to support seniors in Halls Creek • \$75K to Warmun Eagles Football Club Team Bus
Shire of Broome, \$16.070M	Shire of Derby West Kimberley, \$24.260M
• \$500K for planning towards Yawuru Cultural Center, Broome • \$11M towards a modern clinic for Broome Aboriginal Medical Services • \$2M to plan for low to medium detox center Broome • \$1.5M over 4 years Broome PCYC (as part of PCYC Statewide Package) • \$250K for Men's Safe Space in Djarindjin Community • \$30K to Goolarri Media Enterprises for archiving equipment • \$500K for a business case to plan for a future passenger terminal in Broome⁶ • \$5K Broome Volunteer Fire and Rescue • \$5K for Sisters of St John of God Heritage Centre • \$30K for Jalygurr-Guwan Early Years Learning Centre upgrades • \$100K for Yawardani Jan-ga Equine Assisted Learning program • \$50K for Kimberley Stolen Generations Portraits Exhibition • \$50K for St Marys College for new play areas • \$50K for Bidyadanga men's space	• \$5.3M to expand dialysis unit at Fitzroy Crossing • \$8.7M towards Derby Wellness Centre • \$10M Fitzroy Crossing Multipurpose Complex and Evacuation Centre • \$50K for a community works tractor in Looma • \$10K for Kandiwal Community School Supplies • \$150K for upgrades MWW safe night space Fitzroy Crossing • \$50K towards medical equipment for the Derby Mobile Health Clinic

⁶ <https://www.rogercook.com.au/media/future-proofing-broome-port-and-tourism-into-the-kimberley-and-wa>

Federal election

The Federal Election is on the 3rd May 2025. Karen Wheatland (Deputy Mayor City of Melville) is the Labor Candidate, Bailey Kempton (Small business owner Geraldton) the Nations Candidate for Durack and Brendan Sturcke (Emergency Services Officer Perth) the Greens candidate. Melissa Price (current Member for Durack) is the Liberal Candidate.

In the 2022 Federal election the Liberal Party retained the seat of Durack, with a 9.22% swing against them. Labor won 26 of 29 booths across the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne regions.

Meetings will be scheduled with candidates, putting forward the case for investment outlined in the 2025/26 State and Federal Budget Submission.

Risk

- **Operational and Reputational:** without the execution of an election strategy, opportunities to drive the KRG's policy and advocacy agenda may be missed.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor			
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG noted 1. The outcome of the State Election Strategy. 2. That the WA post-election budget will be handed down in June 2025 and further advocacy opportunities will be progressed including meetings with new Ministers 3. That opportunities to advocate for investment will continue during the Federal election campaign.			
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

14. 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.

Background

As above.

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		TBD

15. Kimberley Regional Group Priority Action List

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Team

Attachment 18: Status Report, KRG Prioritised Action List

Purpose

To provide a status update on action items.

In summary

- The Priority Action List 2023/24, developed November 2022, is a standing agenda item.
- Priority Actions do not preclude other activities or seizing opportunities as they arise.
- This list will be updated when the new business plan is developed.

Background

- As above

Details

- As per the attached action list

Risk

Operational: Without agreement on the priority work opportunities may be missed.

Link to Key Pillar/s and Strategies:		Budget Implications	
People Place Prosperity Performance	Advocate Partner Promote Facilitate Fund Monitor	Additional money to progress some actions to be considered after a scope of works is presented for endorsement	
Resolution/s		Action(s)	
The KRG noted the priority action list progress.			
Moved:	Shire of Broome	Responsible:	Executive Team
Seconded:	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Due date:	As appropriate
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 18: KRG Prioritised Action List Status April 2025

Legend

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		No	- Housing Advocacy Strategy endorsed November 2023 - Discussion with Housing Australia to develop of a 5-year Kimberley Housing Pipeline - Discussion with the WA Treasury Housing Supply Unit who support the pipeline approach - Pipeline projects identified by each Shire. - Submission in development which incorporates information requested by government including population projections, demand data, the pipeline and investment schedule, project governance and risk.
Advocate	Housing Maintenance Advocacy Strategy		Yes	Strategy to be developed for KRG endorsement
Advocate	- Review 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	Paper scheduled for June meeting
Improve performance	Improving performance by learning from others (Benchmarking Project)		No	- Benchmarking project endorsed November 2023 meeting. - Templates provided to Councils for input and awaiting a response - This project was paused at the February 2025 meeting to incorporate 2024/25 Shire data.
Advocate	Undertake Pre-election Advocacy		Yes (unless Canberra)	Election strategy being executed
Performance	Explore Shared Services Opportunities		No	- CEOs met 30th July - Time scheduled in April 2025 to progress.
Advocate	- Expansion of mental health services. - Expansion of family and domestic violence services. - Expansion of aged care services.		Yes	An opportunity to lead joint advocacy with NGO sector

	Health facilities that are fit for purpose in Aboriginal communities.		
Advocate	Advocate for whole of family approach and wrap around services to be located in the Kimberley.	Yes	Rolled into election strategy. Benchmarking exercise to assist with this.
Advocate	Develop advocacy strategies to encourage economic diversification including mining; tourism; agriculture; defence; creative Industries; small business; Indigenous business growth	Yes	Ongoing advocacy and engagement
Advocate	Advocate for MOG initiatives around better place based regional service delivery to be progressed.	Yes	- Ongoing advocacy and engagement. - MOG Reform in WA underway post 2025 Election.
Advocate	Submission to the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability.	Yes	- Submission Framework on the April 2024 agenda for discussion and input. - Submission lodged 30th May 2024 - Attended public hearing August 2024.
Advocate Facilitate	Gather government election priorities	Yes	Reviewed government commitments
Advocate Facilitate	Create Investment Prospectus 2023		Complete
Advocate Facilitate	Create Investment Prospectus 2024	No	- Funding allocated by KRG. - Information obtained from Councils. - Item of April 2024 agenda. for endorsement
Advocate	Develop pre-election summary document	No	Complete
Advocate Facilitate	Develop communication and advocacy plan	Yes	Key messages / key stakeholders
Advocate	Develop White Paper with clear positions	Yes	- Complete – Instead of White Paper Position Papers Developed- - 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	• Increase support for mitigation measures, infrastructure replacement to be more resilient. • Removal of the distinction between ordinary and additional costs in NDR payments. • Streamlined contracting and procurement processes, surety to payments, and immediate access to NDR funds.	Yes	• Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding Submission endorsed and submitted. • Senate Inquiry submission submitted. • EM Policy Paper submitted. These points included in submissions and EM Policy Paper.
Facilitate and Partner	• 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	• NHFIC, now Housing Australia, attended November 2023 meeting. Will be engaged through Housing Advocacy Strategy.
Advocate	Develop a stakeholder engagement and communications plan, and advocacy strategy, to drive the actions identified in the Housing Policy Position, i.e.: • 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	• Endorsed November 2023 meeting
Advocate	• Submission to Aviation Green Paper	Yes	• Submission endorsed at November 2023 meeting and submitted
Performance	• Review KRG Governance Documents	Yes	• Governance documents endorsed at November 2023 meeting.
Advocate	• Submission to National Housing and Homelessness Plan	Yes	• Submission lodged based on Housing Policy Position
Advocate	• First Port of Entry Status	Yes	• Letters sent to State and Federal Government Ministers – continued to be raised in meetings with government. • Expanded FPOE status progressed for Broome • Wyndham First Port of Entry Status Federally approved 17 January 2025
Advocate	• Defence and Border Security		• Letters to Ministers • Support for North West Defence Alliance

Advocate	Alcohol Management – Letters and submissions on the Banned Drinkers Register	Yes	Submissions made on proposed changes to the Banned Drinkers Register
Advocate	Potential summit with Regional Australia Institute, 14-15 August, Canberra	Yes	- NAJA negotiated reduced conference package and opportunities - KRG sponsor of National Summit recognised through branding and dedicated session.
Facilitate and Partner	Host a Kimberley Housing Roundtable	No	Held in Broome July 2024.
Advocate	Launch Pre-election document	Yes	Formal launch at August 2024 Kimberley Economic Forum.
Advocate	Tanami Activation Strategy	No	- Application lodged by KDC for precinct funding under rPPP was not successful - Activation strategy is included in the Investment Prospectus and Election Strategy
Advocate	Financial Assistance Grants	No	- Research report endorsed Feb 2025 - Advocacy actions progressing.
Partner	Develop a joint project to quantify shire expenditure on vandalism/property crime.		Partner
Monitor and Advocate	Research on the Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) methodology with recommendations for changes to the funding allocation.	No	Scope of works endorsed at November 2023 meeting.
Advocate	Develop a stakeholder engagement, communications and advocacy strategy in line with the Policy Papers	Yes	Complete

16. Executive Officer Report

Item for Noting

Submitted by: Executive Officer

Attachment 19: EO Report March 2025

Purpose

To update the KRG on the Executive Officer services provided for the period March 2025 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)	
The Executive Officers Report was received and endorsed		As per Outstanding Actions	
Moved:	Shire of Halls Creek	Responsible:	
Seconded:	Shire of Broome	Due date:	
Carried:	4/0		

Attachment 19: EO Report – March 2025

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	13
Strategic Planning	Implementation of the KRG Prioritised Action List	15
Advocacy Strategy Management of Social Housing	In Progress	-
General Stakeholder Engagement	Ongoing – see Stakeholder list	16

Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Purpose
KRG members	Developing Northern Australia Conference 22-24 July 2025 Cairns
KRG Secretariat	Agenda items, advocacy discussions, finance administrative matters
Kevin Wheatley, Business Partnerships Manager, Developing Northern Australia, Dr Allan Dale, Professor of Tropical Regional Development, The Cairns Institute	Developing Northern Australia Conference 22-24 July 2025 Cairns
Karen Wheatland, Labor candidate for Durack	KRG 2025 Election Priorities Briefing
Hon. Melissa Price MP, Federal Member for Durack	KRG 2025 Election Priorities Briefing
Millie Hills, Nationals WA candidate for the Kimberley	KRG 2025 Election Priorities Briefing
Divina D'Anna MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier.	KRG 2025 Election Priorities Briefing, Congratulations on re-election and appointment as Parliamentary Secretary

Stakeholders	Purpose
Sarah McGowan, Strategic Business Manager, Nature Play WA	Meeting to discuss Nature Play WA's Strategic Vision
Wayne Bergmann, Leedal Pty Ltd	Proposed housing development Fitzroy Crossing
Brodie Ward, Director Kimberley Development Commission	KRG Representative on the Regional Working Group for the 2028 Eclipse Strategic Planning.
Regional Development Australia Kimberley Board	Rates exemptions for community housing Disaster relief funding arrangements and reimbursement issues
Michele Pucci – A/CEO Kimberley Development Commission	Kimberley housing demand data Population projections Kimberley towns
Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West	Congratulations on your appointment
Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure	Congratulations on your appointment
The Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne	Congratulations on your appointment EO met with Hannah Financial Assistance Grants
The Hon Roger Cook, Premier	Congratulations on your re-election
Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Police; Road Safety; Tourism; Great Southern	Congratulations on your appointment
Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Sport and Recreation	Congratulations on your appointment
Hon Stephen Dawson MLA, Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley	Congratulations on your appointment
Shannon Wood, Manager Board Governance and Reporting WA Grants Commission	Grant Commission membership, process for making a submission on Financial Assistance Grants.
Nick Sloan, CEO WALGA	Review of the Financial Assistance Grants

Stakeholders	Purpose
Cr Karen Chapel, President WALGA	Review of the Financial Assistance Grants

Time Allocation

Historic Contract: September 2022 – August 2024

Name	Contract Hrs.	Actual Hrs.
Paul Rosair	670	663.5
Michelle Mackenzie	462	441.25
Jane Lewis	564	499
Support	92	131

Current Contract: September 2024 – August 2025

Total 1-Year Contract: 864 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 24	25	32	22	23	26	7	5	8
Oct 24	25	37.5	22	24.75	26	46	5	10
Nov 24	25	36.5	22	9.5	26	10	5	12
Dec 24	15	15.5	11	11	14	3	2	3
Jan 25	15	19.5	11	47.50	14	49.5	2	3
Feb 25	25	24.5	22	19.25	26	3	5	10
Mar 25	25		22		26		5	
Apr 25	25		22		26		5	
May 25	25		22		26		5	
June 25	25		22		26		5	
July 25	25		22		26		5	
Aug 25	25		22		26		5	
TOTALS	130	165.5	110	135	132	118.5	24	46
OVERALL CONTRACT: 396 ACTUALS: 465								

Note: A one-off payment was made by the KRG to reconcile outstanding hours to the 29th of February 2024.

17. General Business

Item	Responsible	Comments /Actions Arising
KRG Canberra Trip	CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	- Executive Team and KRG Secretariat to work on possible dates for the Canberra visit and report back to the Members - KRG members to advise the key stakeholders they would like meetings with in Canberra
KRG Executive Assistant attendance at a 3 July development workshop in Perth with the Regional Capitals Alliance of WA	Executive Officer	Opportunity for collective professional development for Executive Assistants in Perth.
Shared Services	Executive Officer	A meeting to be organised out of session with the CEOs
2025 Developing Northern Australia Conference, Cairns, 22-24 July 2025.	Executive Officer	Tickets have been secured for 2 KRG members from each Shire. RDA Kimberley members have agreed to be included in the KRG package.
North West Defence Alliance - KRG Representative	Executive Officer	KRG Secretariat to advise North West Defence Alliance that Geoff Haerewa is no longer a Councillor and that the KRG is working through a process for a replacement representative, and that the Alliance will be advised of the KRG representative in due course
Raised by the Shire of Carnarvon - Vote of no confidence in Government Handling of Children at risk	A/CEO, Shire of Broome	Refer Attachment 20 and 21 Executive Team to draft a response.

Shire of Derby West Kimberley: Level of uncertainty regarding the state of the Council	CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Executive Officer to work with the CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley to draft a letter to the DLGSC / Minister requesting that the Department move swiftly to resolve/address the Shire of Derby West Kimberley issues which is also having an impact on the operations of the KRG.
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Attachment 20: Shire of Carnarvon Email

Subject: I250313-259251 - FOR THE ATTENTION THE MAYOR/PRESIDENT - REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Greetings from the Shire of Carnarvon.

The Shire of Carnarvon Council is seeking your support to bring attention to the Government's current failures to address the ongoing issues of child neglect. We as a Council feel that the needs of these children are not being addressed by the State and the Government needs to be held to account.

The Shire of Carnarvon endorsed a Vote of No Confidence at the February 2025 Council Meeting (refer attached), and I am respectfully requesting that you consider putting this, or a similar motion to your Council and also to your WALGA Zone Meeting.

Please feel free to contact me on 0438 911 465 should you wish to discuss further.

Regards and thank you for your consideration.

Eddie Smith

Shire President

<https://carnarvon.wa.gov.au/>

P: (08) 9941 0000



The Shire of Carnarvon acknowledges and respects the Yinggarda (Carnarvon) and Baiyungu (Coral Bay) as the traditional custodians of the lands where we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging. The Shire of Carnarvon is committed to honouring the traditional custodians' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

"Disclaimer by the Shire of Carnarvon":

This email is private and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise us by return email immediately, and delete the email and any attachments without using or disclosing the contents in any way. The views expressed in this email are those of the author, and do not represent those of the Shire of Carnarvon unless this is clearly indicated. You should scan this email and any attachments for viruses. The Shire of Carnarvon accepts no liability for any direct or indirect damage or loss resulting from the use of any attachments to this email.

Attachment 21: Shire of Carnarvon Ordinary Council Meeting Item



**SHIRE OF CARNARVON ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – FEBRUARY 2025
URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER OR BY A DECISION
OF THE COUNCIL**

**JUSTIFICATION FOR A VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT HANDLING
OF CHILDREN AT RISK**

Systemic Failures in Child Protection Services

Despite multiple inquiries highlighting systemic neglect, governments have reduced funding for frontline child protection services in regional areas like Carnarvon, increasing the risks for vulnerable children.

Failure to Implement Key Inquiries & Royal Commission Recommendations

- The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2017) made over 400 recommendations, many of which remain unimplemented at both State and Federal levels.
- The Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory (2017) exposed widespread abuse in juvenile detention centres, including Don Dale, yet key reforms have been ignored.

Overrepresentation of Indigenous Children in Out-of-Home Care

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are 10 times more likely to be in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children (AIHW, 2022).
- The Family Matters Report (2023) highlights the increasing rate of Indigenous child removals despite government commitments to reduce these numbers.
- The failure to invest in early intervention and community-led solutions has exacerbated intergenerational trauma and the breakdown of family structures.

2. Youth Justice System in Crisis

High Rates of Youth Offending

- Well documented evidence of young offenders who have over 400 counts of offending prior to turning 15
- In WA, NT, and QLD, Indigenous children make up over 80% of those in detention, reflecting the at risk environment they live in
- Rather than addressing the root causes of crime, governments continue to rely on punitive detention measures, leading to a revolving-door justice system that fails to rehabilitate young offenders.

3. Failure of Government Programs & Service Reductions in Regional WA

The Failure of Target 120 and Other Youth Programs

- Target 120, a key WA Government initiative aimed at reducing youth crime, has failed to produce meaningful results, particularly in towns like Carnarvon, Broome, and Derby.
- Reports from community leaders indicate that youth crime continues to rise in regional areas, despite Target 120's presence, due to insufficient funding, lack of wraparound services, and inadequate community engagement.
- Government data itself shows that the program has failed to meet its goals, with increasing youth reoffending rates and ongoing community safety concerns.

Cuts to Youth Services & Early Intervention Programs

- The closure or reduction of youth programs, family support services, and mental health resources in regional WA has worsened the crisis for at-risk children.
- In Carnarvon, Broome, and other regional towns, the withdrawal of crisis support, diversionary programs, and rehabilitation services has left vulnerable children with nowhere to turn.
- No service operates past 5pm in these towns with systemic at risk youth. Services shut when they are needed most.
- The State Government's own cuts to regional service delivery have resulted in a loss of essential youth outreach services, forcing more children onto the streets without supervision, support, or protection.

4. Rising Youth Crime and Social Breakdown in WA

Escalating Youth Crime in Regional WA

- Carnarvon, Broome, Derby, and other regional WA towns have seen a significant rise in youth crime and antisocial behaviour, directly linked to the failure of government intervention programs.
- Local businesses, police, and community members report that children as young as 7 or 8 years old are frequently seen roaming the streets at night, engaging in criminal activity, or placing themselves in dangerous situations due to a complete lack of supervision or support.
- The government response has been reactive, focusing on punitive measures rather than addressing the underlying social and economic issues leading to youth crime.

Impact of Service Reductions on At-Risk Youth

- Withdrawing or reducing regional services has directly contributed to child neglect, family breakdown, and increased youth crime.
- The lack of safe spaces, crisis accommodation, and after-hours support in places like Carnarvon has created a crisis where children are left to fend for themselves on the streets.
- Overburdened police and local services are being forced to pick up the slack, despite having neither the funding nor resources to provide long-term solutions.

5. Mental Health and Social Welfare Failures

Severe Underfunding of Youth Mental Health Services

- Indigenous youth suicide rates in WA remain among the highest in the world, yet mental health services continue to be critically underfunded in regional communities.
- In 2023, the WA and NT Children's Commissioners warned of a growing mental health crisis among at-risk youth, with governments failing to address the root causes of despair, trauma, and self-harm.

- Without proper mental health interventions, at-risk youth are left in crisis, further increasing their vulnerability to criminal behaviour, substance abuse, and violence.

Housing Crisis and Family Instability

- The lack of social housing and crisis accommodation in regional WA has worsened child neglect and homelessness, forcing more families into unstable and unsafe living conditions.
- Domestic violence and substance abuse remain leading causes of child protection interventions, yet government support services for affected families have been reduced.
- Governments have ignored repeated warnings from community leaders that the housing crisis is directly linked to rising youth crime and child protection concerns.

Conclusion: A Vote of No Confidence is Justified

RECOMMENDATION

The Council of the Shire of Carnarvon, representing its community and acknowledging the escalating crisis of children and youth at risk in our region and across Australia:

- 1. Approves a Vote of No Confidence in the State and Federal Governments for their systemic failure to address the worsening crisis affecting vulnerable children and youth, leading to increased crime, social breakdown, and harm to our communities.***
- 2. Condemns the Government's ongoing neglect and failure to act on well-documented inquiries, expert recommendations, and community-led solutions that could have prevented the crisis from reaching its current state.***
- 3. Demands urgent and immediate intervention, including:***
 - o A full-scale overhaul of the current youth intervention strategies in WA, including the failed Target 120 program, and an urgent redirection of funding to community-led initiatives that actually work.***
 - o The immediate restoration and expansion of essential youth services that have been cut from regional WA, including mental health, diversion programs, crisis housing, and family support services.***
 - o An increase in frontline service resources in regional areas, including Carnarvon, to address the youth crisis with a combination of enforcement and prevention, rather than reactive policing alone.***
 - o The establishment of a dedicated Regional Youth Crisis Response Taskforce, in consultation with local governments, Aboriginal community organisations, and law enforcement, to implement a real and measurable strategy to tackle this crisis.***
 - o The State and Federal Governments to formally report on the progress of previous inquiries, royal commissions, and policy commitments, ensuring transparency and accountability on their failures to act.***
- 4. Urges the State and Federal Governments to recognise that their current approach is failing, and that without decisive action, they will continue to abandon the most vulnerable children in our communities, further fuelling crime, social collapse, and intergenerational harm.***

MOTION

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OCM 01/02/25

Moved: Cr Dudley Maslen

Seconded: Cr Paul Kelly

The Council of the Shire of Carnarvon, representing its community and acknowledging the escalating crisis of children and youth at risk in our region and across Australia:

1. *Approves a Vote of No Confidence in the State and Federal Governments for their systemic failure to address the worsening crisis affecting vulnerable children and youth, leading to increased crime, social breakdown, and harm to our communities.*
2. *Condemns the Government's ongoing neglect and failure to act on well-documented inquiries, expert recommendations, and community-led solutions that could have prevented the crisis from reaching its current state.*
3. *Demands urgent and immediate intervention, including:*
 - *A full-scale overhaul of the current youth intervention strategies in WA, including the failed Target 120 program, and an urgent redirection of funding to community-led initiatives that actually work.*
 - *The immediate restoration and expansion of essential youth services that have been cut from regional WA, including mental health, diversion programs, crisis housing, and family support services.*
 - *An increase in frontline service resources in regional areas, including Carnarvon, to address the youth crisis with a combination of enforcement and prevention, rather than reactive policing alone.*
 - *The establishment of a dedicated Regional Youth Crisis Response Taskforce, in consultation with local governments, Aboriginal community organisations, and law enforcement, to implement a real and measurable strategy to tackle this crisis.*
 - *The State and Federal Governments to formally report on the progress of previous inquiries, royal commissions, and policy commitments, ensuring transparency and accountability on their failures to act.*
4. *Urges the State and Federal Governments to recognise that their current approach is failing, and that without decisive action, they will continue to abandon the most vulnerable children in our communities, further fuelling crime, social collapse, and intergenerational harm.*

FOR: Crs Eddie Smith, Burke Maslen, Marco Ferreira, Luke Vandeleur, Paul Kelly, Dudley Maslen and Adam Cottrell

AGAINST: Nil

ABSENT: Cr L Skender

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 7/0

Attachment 22: 2025 Meeting dates

CEO Ringaround

In Person Meetings

Zoom meetings

State Council

Month	Meeting	Date	Time	Location
May	State Council meeting	7/5/25	-	East Metropolitan Zone
June	Kimberley Zone Only	20/6/2025	9:00am – 10:00am	Zoom
	KRG CEO Ringaround	26/6/2025	8:30am - 9:00am	Zoom
July	KRG Meeting	3/07/2025	11:30am – 2:30pm	City of Vincent (TBC)
	Government Forum		15:00pm – 17:00pm followed by networking session until 18:30pm	
	Dinner		19:00pm - 21:30pm	Le Vivant or similar
	State Council meeting	2/7/25	-	WALGA

Month	Meeting	Date	Time	Location
August	CEO Ringaround	8/8/25	8:30am – 9:00am	Zoom
	Kimberley Zone	15/8/25	9am – 9:45am	Zoom
	KRG		10:00 – 12:30pm	
September	State Council meeting	4-5/9/25	-	Goldfields Esperance Country Zone
	CEO Ringaround	18/9/25	8:30am - 9:00am	Zoom
	WALGA Local Gov Convention	22-24/9/25		
	Planning Session plus KRG only meeting	25/9/25	8:30am – 1pm	Perth
	CEO Ringaround	14/11/25	8:30am – 9:00am	Zoom

Month	Meeting	Date	Time	Location
November	Kimberley Zone	21/11/25	9am – 9:45am	Zoom
	KRG		10:00 – 12:30pm	Zoom
December	State Council meeting	3/12/25	-	WALGA

Meeting Closure: 12:29pm