



THE  
**KIMBERLEY**  
REGIONAL GROUP

# KRG Annual Report 2024-25



## Acknowledgments

*Kimberley Regional Group members would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which they work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. They pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.*

*Kimberley Regional Group members would like to acknowledge and extend their gratitude to the Premier of Western Australia, Ministers, Directors General, State, Federal and Local Government Departmental Officers, Industry Body members, and private sector representatives who have attended Kimberley Regional Group meetings in the 2024-2025 year or who have assisted with, or provided a forum for challenges and opportunities facing the Alliance to be addressed.*



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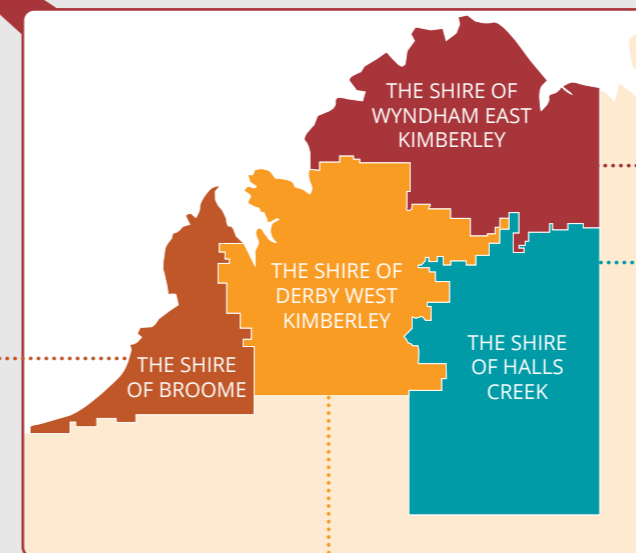
## THE KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) of local governments is an alliance of the four Shires of the Kimberley in northern Western Australia, being the Shire of Broome, the Shire of Derby West Kimberley, the Shire of Halls Creek and the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley.



### The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley covers some 112,066km<sup>2</sup> and includes Wyndham Port, the town of Kununurra and the Ord River Scheme. The region is home to 7.5k people. It is renowned for its unspoilt natural beauty and attractions including the eastern end of the Gibb River Road, El Questro Wilderness Park, Lake Argyle, as well as conservation and marine parks.



### The Shire of Halls Creek

The Shire of Halls Creek has significant resource sector opportunities including, gold, copper and dysprosium. With a population of around 3.6k people, with 74 percent identifying as Aboriginal, the Shire covers an area of 133,046km<sup>2</sup> including large Aboriginal communities, the World Heritage listed Purnululu National Park, Wolfe Creek Meteorite National Park (Kandimalal) and Lake Gregory (Paruku) along with notable pastoral interests.

### The Shire of Derby West Kimberley

The Shire of Derby West Kimberley has a population of around 7.1k people and covers approximately 119,731km<sup>2</sup>. Spanning from Derby on the coast to Fitzroy Crossing and beyond, the Shire includes much of the Fitzroy River (Martuwarra) catchment along with popular tourist attractions such as the western end of the Gibb River Road, Tunnel Creek, Windjana Gorge and the Horizontal Falls.

### The Shire of Broome

The Shire of Broome covers approximately 56,000km<sup>2</sup> and has a coastline of 900km stretching across much of the Dampier Peninsula and including the world-famous Walmanyjun Cable Beach. Home to 17k residents, the Shire also caters for an impressive 205k visitors each year.

## FOREWORD

DAVID MENZEL KRG CHAIR

It has been a significant and productive year for the Kimberley Regional Group, marked by strong collaboration between member councils and a continued focus on advocating for better outcomes for Kimberley communities.



Throughout 2024-25, the KRG remained firmly focused on its key priorities: improving housing supply, strengthening community safety, addressing funding inequities facing regional local governments, and ensuring the Kimberley's voice is heard in State and Federal decision-making.

The work undertaken during the year reflects the shared commitment of member councils to work collectively on challenges that no single local government can address alone.

Importantly, this year also provided opportunities to see tangible progress from long-standing advocacy. The KRG has consistently championed the sealing of the Tanami Road as a critical inland freight and economic corridor, and it was encouraging for members to see construction works advancing during the April 2025 meeting hosted by the Shire of Halls Creek.

Seeing this project move from advocacy to delivery reinforces the value of sustained, evidence-based regional leadership.

The Group continued to strengthen relationships with governments, agencies and industry partners, recognising that collaboration is essential to achieving long-term change. Engagement through forums, summits and targeted meetings ensured Kimberley priorities remained visible, while reinforcing the role of local government as a trusted partner in regional development.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication of fellow Presidents, councillors, CEOs and the Executive Team, whose efforts underpin the work outlined in this report. Their collective leadership has ensured the KRG remains focused, united and outcomes-driven.

As we look ahead, the challenges facing the Kimberley remain complex, but the foundations laid this year position the Group well to continue advocating for fairer funding, improved infrastructure and stronger, more liveable communities across the region.



## OVERVIEW

PAUL ROSAIR KRG EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The 2024-25 year was characterised by a high level of activity, with the Kimberley Regional Group undertaking coordinated advocacy, stakeholder engagement and project development in support of its strategic priorities.



A major focus of the year was preparing the Group for effective engagement ahead of the State and Federal elections. This included the development of a comprehensive advocacy package comprising position papers, an investment prospectus and a pipeline of priority, shovel-ready projects. Together, these materials provided a clear, evidence-based articulation of the challenges facing the Kimberley and the practical solutions local governments are ready to deliver.

Stakeholder engagement intensified throughout the year, including targeted meetings in Canberra in November 2024 with Ministers, Shadow Ministers, advisers and senior officials. These engagements enabled direct discussion of issues such as housing supply, community safety, Financial Assistance Grants and local government sustainability, and positioned the KRG as a constructive and informed regional partner.

Housing advocacy was a significant area of work. The Kimberley Housing Roundtable, held in Broome in July 2024, brought together over 50 stakeholders from across government, industry and the community sector. Outcomes from the Roundtable informed the development of the Kimberley Housing Pipeline, which continues to be refined through ongoing engagement with Housing Australia, State agencies and delivery partners.

The KRG also supported the commissioning and progression of key projects, including the Financial Assistance Grants review and the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Investment Package, ensuring these initiatives were grounded in data, stakeholder input and regional context.

Across the year, the focus remained on translating advocacy into practical, well-supported proposals. This approach has strengthened relationships, increased the visibility of Kimberley priorities and laid a solid platform for continued engagement and reform in the year ahead.



## OUR VISION

Our Vision is to maintain and enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley for its people and the world, focusing on the key pillars of Place, People, Prosperity and Performance. We advocate for the policy settings and seek sustained and increased investment into the entire region in order that it may deliver growth and prosperity

### PLACE

- » NORTHERN WESTERN AUSTRALIA
- » LAND AREA 425K KMS<sup>2</sup>
- » GATEWAY TO ASIA: 12KMS OF COASTLINE FACING ASIA
- » 6 TOWNS AND 150+ ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

### PEOPLE

- » RESIDENTIAL POPULATION: 39,000
- » 40% ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS
- » OVER 425,000 TOURISTS P.A.

### PERFORMANCE

- » \$7.66B ANNUAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT
- » \$4.432B GROSS REGIONAL OUTPUT
- » 3000 BUSINESSES
- » 26,869 PEOPLE IN THE LABOUR FORCE

### PROSPERITY

- » INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL AIRPORTS
- » THREE PORTS
- » GROWING RESOURCES SECTOR - CRITICAL METALS, OIL AND GAS, GREEN TECHNOLOGIES
- » VIBRANT AGRICULTURE, PASTORAL AND AQUACULTURE INDUSTRIES
- » UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
- » MAJOR TOURISM DESTINATION
- » BURGEONING ABORIGINAL CULTURAL ENTERPRISES



## BUSINESS PLAN OBJECTIVES

OUR PILLARS		
	OUR PEOPLE	OUR PLACE
OUR GOAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A vibrant community based on equity, inclusion and opportunity for all.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our region will become a leader in creating a sense of place and liveability whilst preserving history, culture and our unique environment.</li> </ul>
OUR OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substance abuse and associated harm is reduced.</li> <li>Kimberley regional health outcomes improve</li> <li>Crime is reduced both across the region and by location</li> <li>Towns are vibrant and inclusive with strong participation and volunteering culture</li> <li>School attendance improves with a higher number of students graduating year 12</li> <li>Fit for purpose housing is available to meet individual and community needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our towns provide a variety of public spaces that welcome local residents and visitors with shaded spaces and safe access.</li> <li>Our streets are safe day and night and leverage smart technology</li> <li>We have liveability attractors including sufficient and fit for purpose recreation areas, aquatic facilities, libraries, sporting facilities and a variety of leisure experiences.</li> <li>Our regional character endures across generations with culture and a sense of place preserved in our architecture and locations.</li> <li>A reduced ecological footprint for the region.</li> </ul>

## BUSINESS PLAN OBJECTIVES

OUR PILLARS		
	OUR PERFORMANCE	OUR PROSPERITY
OUR GOAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a collective, we will support the delivery of excellence in governance and service delivery that is relevant and of value.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential of the Kimberley as a strong and diversified economy is realised with benefits retained in the region and the opportunity to participate available to all.</li> </ul>
OUR OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shire resources are maximised.</li> <li>Shire processes are streamlined and efficient.</li> <li>The region is well placed to be responsive and adapt to change.</li> </ul>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kimberley region is prosperous with a diversified and sustainable economy.</li> <li>Local businesses and jobs are enhanced through opportunity created through private and government investment.</li> <li>Unemployment is reduced with less people dependent of welfare.</li> <li>Infrastructure is fit for purpose and mitigates the isolation of the region for Australian markets whilst maximising proximity to Asian and international markets.</li> <li>Our infrastructure is protected from known and potential threats.</li> </ul>

## KEY PRIORITIES 2024-25

### OUTPUTS:

#### POSITION PAPERS

- Federal Assistance Grants
- FBT Housing
- Rates Exemptions
- Land Tenure Reform

#### PROJECTS

- Federal assistance Grants
- Community Safety and Crime Prevention Package
- Housing Pipeline (inc. roundtable)

#### ELECTION ADVOCACY

- Investment Prospectus
- KRG Election Package

#### SUBMISSIONS

- Federal Budget
- State Budget
- Clearing Regulations
- Local Government Sustainability
- Aviation White Paper

## KEY PRIORITIES 2024-25

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS REVIEW

During the year, the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) commissioned an independent review of the Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) to examine their effectiveness and impact on the four Kimberley local governments. The review was informed by stakeholder engagement, data analysis and modeling of alternative funding scenarios.

The review was initiated in response to ongoing concerns that the current FA Grant framework does not adequately reflect the operating realities of regional and remote local governments. While the responsibilities and service expectations placed on local governments have grown significantly over time, the revenue-raising capacity of Kimberley councils remains constrained. As a result, grant funding continues to play a critical role in enabling councils to deliver essential services and maintain infrastructure across vast geographic areas with high service delivery costs.

The review found that the overall value of FA Grants has declined in real terms over time and that existing indexation arrangements do not sufficiently reflect the cost pressures faced by local governments, particularly in remote regions. It also identified challenges associated with the timing and payment cycle of grants, which can create uncertainty for financial planning and budgeting.

In addition, the review highlighted structural inequities in the way funding is distributed between states and within Western Australia, with current arrangements favouring population-based allocation rather than relative need.

A key focus of the review was the application of national principles, including the minimum grant provisions, and the methodologies used by the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission. Modeling demonstrated that targeted adjustments to these settings could improve equity and better align funding outcomes with service delivery needs, particularly for regional and remote councils.

The findings of the review provide an evidence-based foundation for future advocacy. KRG member councils will use the outcomes and recommendations to engage with the Australian Government, the Western Australian Government and relevant agencies, advocating for reforms that improve the fairness, sustainability and effectiveness of the Financial Assistance Grants system. Through this work, the KRG aims to support stronger long-term outcomes for Kimberley communities and ensure local governments are better equipped to meet the needs of their regions.



## KEY PRIORITIES 2024-25

### HOUSING ADVOCACY AND HOUSING PIPELINE

Housing continues to be one of the most significant challenges facing Kimberley communities. During the year, the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) strengthened its leadership role in housing advocacy, bringing together governments, industry and the non-government sector to progress practical, regionally led solutions.

In July 2024, the KRG hosted the Kimberley Housing Roundtable in Broome, attended by more than 50 representatives from local, State and Federal government, Housing Australia, industry bodies, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and the community housing sector. The Roundtable provided a forum to share information, examine barriers to housing delivery and identify opportunities to increase social, affordable and key worker housing across the region.

Discussions confirmed that the Kimberley faces unique and persistent housing challenges, including high construction costs, limited access to finance, land and infrastructure constraints, and extremely low rental vacancy rates. These factors have resulted in severe housing shortages, overcrowding and difficulties in attracting and retaining workers, impacting service delivery, economic development and community wellbeing.

A key outcome of the Roundtable was agreement to develop a coordinated Kimberley Housing Pipeline as a collective, place-based response. The pipeline brings together housing projects identified by each Shire and partner organisations, with a focus on shovel-ready developments and a staged program of works over the next five years. The pipeline includes a mix of social housing, affordable rental, key worker accommodation and opportunities to support home ownership, aligned to projected population growth and workforce demand.

Throughout the year, the KRG worked closely with Housing Australia, the Western Australian Department of Treasury Housing Supply Unit, the Department of Communities, DevelopmentWA and other partners to refine the pipeline and respond to requests for project information. This included providing details of priority projects for consideration by Housing Australia and supporting discussions on how funding and delivery models could better respond to the realities of regional and remote markets.

The Kimberley Housing Pipeline provides an evidence-based platform for advocacy. KRG member councils will use the findings from the Roundtable, the pipeline and supporting analysis to engage with State and Federal governments, Housing Australia and other agencies, advocating for targeted investment and policy settings that support increased housing supply in the Kimberley. Through continued collaboration and advocacy, the KRG aims to improve housing outcomes and support the long-term liveability and prosperity of Kimberley communities.





# Securing Our Communities

## Kimberley Community Safety and Crime Prevention Investment Package

**MAY 2025**



### COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Community safety remains a critical priority for the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG), with crime and anti-social behaviour continuing to impact community wellbeing, workforce stability and economic confidence across the region. During the year, the KRG took a coordinated, evidence-based approach to strengthening its advocacy on community safety and crime prevention.

The KRG commissioned the development of Securing Our Communities: Kimberley Community Safety and Crime Prevention Investment Package. The work was informed by crime data analysis, local government expenditure reviews, stakeholder engagement and community consultation, including input from police, businesses, service providers and residents across the Kimberley.

The research confirmed that Kimberley local governments are increasingly required to respond to crime-related issues, often diverting significant own-source funding to replace damaged assets, increase lighting, install CCTV and fund patrols. This growing expenditure places pressure on council budgets and reduces capacity to invest in other essential services and infrastructure safety.

A key outcome of the work was the development of a comprehensive Community Safety and Crime Prevention Investment Package. The package adopts a layered approach, combining early intervention and youth diversion with environmental design, public infrastructure and targeted local government initiatives. It draws on evidence-based frameworks including criminogenic needs analysis, justice reinvestment principles and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), recognising that prevention, rehabilitation and place-based responses are critical to achieving long-term outcomes.

The package identifies a suite of priority initiatives aimed at improving safety and confidence in Kimberley towns. These include enhanced street lighting, expanded public CCTV networks, increased community safety and crime prevention officers, youth diversion and engagement programs, support for local businesses and residents to improve security, and measures to strengthen local by-laws and community governance arrangements.

Importantly, this work provides the KRG and its member councils with a shared evidence base and a clear framework for advocacy. The findings and investment priorities outlined in the package will be used by KRG members to engage with State and Federal governments, police and funding agencies, advocating for coordinated investment and policy settings that better support community safety outcomes in the Kimberley. Through continued collaboration and advocacy, the KRG aims to contribute to safer, more connected and more resilient Kimberley communities.





THE  
**KIMBERLEY**  
REGIONAL GROUP

# Kimberley Regional Group

## Enhancing the rich diversity & liveability of the Kimberley



### KEY PRIORITIES 2024-25

#### ELECTION STRATEGY ADVOCACY PACKAGE

In 2024–25, the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) developed and released a coordinated advocacy package to support its engagement with both State and Federal governments. The package was designed to present a unified, evidence-based voice on the priorities of Kimberley local governments and to strengthen advocacy ahead of key policy and funding decision points.

The advocacy package brought together several complementary elements. A high-level overview articulated the role of the Kimberley's regional centres and communities in supporting economic development, service delivery and population growth, while highlighting the unique challenges associated with remoteness, cost pressures and infrastructure deficits.

This was supported by a suite of detailed position papers addressing priority policy areas including housing, community safety and crime prevention, financial assistance grants and local government sustainability. Each paper outlined the scale of the challenge, provided evidence drawn from regional data and stakeholder engagement, and set out practical, place-based solutions aligned to existing government priorities.

In addition, the KRG compiled a Kimberley investment pipeline, identifying priority and shovel-ready projects across housing, community infrastructure, safety initiatives and essential services.

This pipeline was designed to demonstrate the Kimberley's readiness to partner with government and deliver tangible outcomes where investment is available. An accompanying investment framework outlined clear principles for partnership, emphasising collaboration, long-term planning and coordinated funding across agencies and levels of government.

The rationale for developing the package was clear. Kimberley local governments play a critical role in supporting communities, regional economies and service delivery, yet face persistent structural challenges related to funding equity, housing supply, community safety and workforce attraction and retention. By consolidating its priorities into a cohesive advocacy package, the KRG enabled decision-makers to clearly understand both the challenges facing the region and the practical solutions already identified by local governments.

The rollout of the package included targeted briefings and meetings with Ministers, Shadow Ministers, senior officials and policy advisors at both State and Federal levels. These engagements provided an opportunity to present key priorities, advocate for coordinated and bipartisan approaches to regional investment, and position the KRG as a constructive and trusted partner in shaping long-term outcomes for the Kimberley.



## MEETINGS

Over the 2024/25 period, the KRG convened every second month, some in person and some via video link. Attendances included:

### Members (as at June 2025):

- Cr David Menzel (Chair), President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
- Cr Peter McCumstie, President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley
- Cr Malcolm Edwards, President, Shire of Halls Creek
- Cr Chris Mitchell, President, Shire of Broome

### Observers:

- Cr Geoff Haerewa – Deputy President, Shire of Derby West Kimberley
- Cr Melanie Virgo – Councillor, Shire of Broome
- Cr Brett Angwin – Councillor, Shire of Derby West Kimberley
- Cr Brian Ellison – Councillor, Shire of Derby West Kimberley
- Cr Tony Chafer – Deputy Shire President, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
- Sam Mastrolembo – CEO, Shire of Broome
- Jeremy Hall – Acting CEO, Shire of Broome
- Tamara Clarkson – Acting CEO / CEO, Shire of Derby West Kimberley
- Susan Leonard – CEO, Shire of Halls Creek
- Vernon Lawrence – CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

### Visiting Speakers

- Divina D’Anna MLA – Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier
- Shane Love MLA – Leader of the Opposition, Nationals WA
- John Hutchison – Superintendent, Kimberley District Office, WA Police
- Michele Pucci – Director Regional Development, Kimberley Development Commission
- Janine Hatch – Director, Regional Development Australia
- Josh Lowrie – Assistant Director, Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Peter Webster – CEO, BBY
- Pav Sivaneswaran, Housing Australia
- James McGovern – Manager Governance & Procurement, WALGA

## KRG ON THE ROAD

August 2024, Regions Rising National Summit, Canberra.

The 2024 summit was titled “The New Frontier” and explored how regional Australia is evolving in response to growth in regional living, workforce shifts, infrastructure needs and economic transitions (including energy and net-zero transition). KRG Chair, David Menzel had the opportunity to be part of the panel addressing housing issues across the Kimberley. Whilst in Canberra, the group also took the opportunity to meet with Federal Ministers at Parliament House as part of the stakeholder engagement and advocacy actions of the KRG’s Election Strategy.



## KRG ON THE ROAD

### November 2024 Canberra visit.

As part of the State and Federal election strategy, KRG members travelled to Canberra. They held advocacy meetings with:

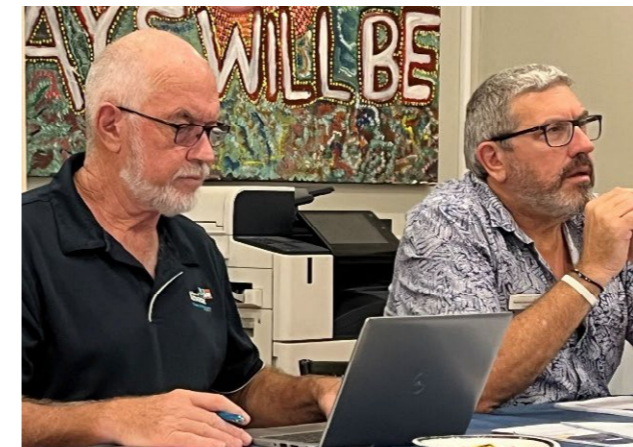
- Hon. Melissa Price MP, Federal Member for Durack
- Senator Matt O'Sullivan, Senator for WA
- Hon. Michael Sukkar MP, Federal Member for Deakin, Shadow Minister for Social Services, NDIS, Housing, Homelessness
- Hon. Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- Phoebe Drake, Senior Adviser to the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister
- Kate Gurbiel, Policy Adviser, Cecilia Tan, Senior Adviser, of the Hon. Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia
- Senator Glenn Sterle, Senator for WA
- Yasmin Truong, Early Childhood Adviser for the Hon. Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Youth
- Hon. Patrick Gorman MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister, Assistant Minister to the Attorney-General, Assistant Minister for the Public Service
- Karmil Nguyen, Adviser of the Hon. Clare O'Neil MP, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness
- Senator Perin Davey, Deputy Leader of the Nationals in the Senate, Deputy Federal Leader of the Nationals
- Senator Susan McDonald, Senator for QLD, Liberal National Party



## KRG ON THE ROAD

### April 2025 Shire of Halls Creek.

As part of the KRG meeting held at Halls Creek, members had a Shire tour which included a trip out to see the work being done on the sealing of the Tanami Road to the NT border. The KRG long advocated for this new inland freight route corridor from southern and inland Australia, and it was wonderful to see the project progressing



## KRG ON THE ROAD

### May 2025, Kimberley Economic Forum, Broome.

Well attended by members of the KRG, the forum was a great opportunity to hear about innovations in the AI, renewable energy, housing, mining, transport and tourism areas and the positive outcomes of remote Aboriginal community management through community leadership and community empowerment.



## STAKEHOLDERS

In addition to attendances at KRG meetings and Canberra meetings already acknowledged, the following Government and industry representatives had engagements with KRG representatives and Executive Officer regarding their portfolios and alignment with the KRG agendas.

### State Government (WA)

- Hon Don Punch MLA – Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West
- Hon John Carey MLA – Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure
- Hon Hannah Beazley MLA – Minister for Local Government; Youth; Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development
- Hon Stephen Dawson MLC – Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research; Minister Assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development; Jobs and Trade
- Shane Love MLA – Leader of the Opposition; Leader of The Nationals WA
- Millie Hills – Nationals WA candidate for the Kimberley

### Federal Government & Parliamentary Offices

- Hon Melissa Price MP – Federal Member for Durack
- Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy – Minister for Indigenous Australians
- Hon Claire O’Neil MP – Minister for Housing
- Hon Kristy McBain MP – Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and the Territories
- Hon Josh Wilson MP – Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy
- Hon Patrick Gorman MP – Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister; Assistant Minister for the Public Service

- Hon Madeleine King MP – Minister for Resources
- Dr Helen Haines MP – Independent Federal Member for Indi
- Senator Bridget McKenzie – Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
- Senator Anthony Chisholm
- Senator David Pocock – Independent Senator for the ACT

### Regional & Development Agencies

- Michele Pucci – Acting CEO, Kimberley Development Commission (KDC)
- Brodie Ward – Director, Kimberley Development Commission (KDC)
- Regional Development Australia Kimberley
- Regional Australia Institute
- Liz Ritchie – CEO

### Housing, Infrastructure & Industry

- Housing Australia
- DevelopmentWA
- WA Department of Treasury – Housing Supply Unit
- Department of Communities (WA)
- Wayne Bergmann, Leedal Pty Ltd

### Research, Advisory & Sector Organisations

- Kevin Wheatley – Business Partnerships Manager, Developing Northern Australia
- Dr Allan Dale – Professor of Tropical Regional Development, The Cairns Institute
- Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Community, Environment & Cultural

- Sarah McGowan – Strategic Business Manager, Nature Play WA
- Warren Mundine, Nyungga Black Group Pty Ltd

## KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP REPRESENTATIVES AS OF JULY 2024



**Shire of Halls Creek**

President  
Malcolm Edwards

CEO  
Sue Leonard

**Shire of Derby and West Kimberley**

President  
Peter McCumstie

CEO  
Tamara Clarkson

**Shire of Wyndham and East Kimberley**

President  
Cr David Menzel

CEO  
Vernon Lawrence

**Shire of Broome**

President  
Cr Chris Mitchell

CEO  
Sam Mastrolembo

**Executive Team**

Executive Officer  
Paul Rosair

Deputy Executive Officer  
Michelle Mackenzie

Executive Assistant  
Jane Lewis

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK PAUL ROSAIR KRG EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Economic conditions in 2024-25 continue to reflect a mixed outlook across Australia and Western Australia, with regional impacts particularly pronounced in remote regions such as the Kimberley. Nationally, economic growth is forecast to moderate to around 1.5-2.0 per cent, with inflation easing towards the Reserve Bank's target band, but interest rates remaining elevated for much of the year. While employment remains resilient, cost-of-living pressures continue to constrain household spending, particularly in regional and remote communities.**

Government services, tourism, resources and agriculture remain the backbone of the regional economy, with public sector employment playing a disproportionately large role compared to metropolitan areas.

Tourism activity in the Kimberley has continued its post-pandemic recovery, with visitation approaching pre-COVID levels; however, growth remains constrained by limited aviation capacity, high travel costs and a shortage of short- and long-term accommodation. Housing supply remains the most critical economic bottleneck. Vacancy rates across Kimberley towns remain well below 1 per cent, significantly limiting workforce attraction and project delivery, despite strong demand across both public and private sectors.

Western Australia continues to outperform the national economy, supported by strong demand for mineral and energy exports and sustained public infrastructure investment. WA recorded population growth of approximately 3.0 per cent in 2023-24, the strongest of any State, driven by interstate and overseas migration. Labour market conditions remain tight, with unemployment consistently below 4 per cent, creating ongoing workforce shortages across construction, health, community services and local government.

Infrastructure investment continues to provide an important economic stimulus. Major projects, including the Tanami Road upgrade, flood recovery works and disaster resilience programs, are improving freight efficiency, regional connectivity and long-term economic resilience. However, high construction costs, logistics challenges and workforce shortages continue to impact delivery timelines.

The Kimberley region, while benefiting from State-wide economic strength, continues to face unique structural constraints. The region supports a population of approximately 40,000 people, dispersed across a vast geographic area, with a significantly higher proportion of Aboriginal residents than the State average.

Overall, the Kimberley economy is expected to experience steady but constrained growth in 2024-25. Addressing housing supply, workforce availability and transport connectivity will remain critical to unlocking the region's economic potential and ensuring that growth translates into improved liveability and sustainable outcomes for Kimberley communities.



# KIMBERLEY Annual Report 2024-25

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**Shire of Broome:** [sam.mastrolembo@broome.wa.gov.au](mailto:sam.mastrolembo@broome.wa.gov.au)

**Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley:** [vernon.lawrence@swek.wa.gov.au](mailto:vernon.lawrence@swek.wa.gov.au)

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